



TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

District News And Events

District Number 103

September 2020

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District Highlights

Toastmasters Leadership Virtual Institute is Coming

The D103 virtual TLI will be here before you know it! TLI is set for Saturday, November 7th. While details are in planning, two things are certain: 1) Pat Johnson, Past International President will be the keynote speaker; 2) the second round of club officer training begins then. Save the date and participate!

It's Dues Time, Baby!

Fall is here and the time is right for turning in your dues. Renew your membership in the next 2 weeks to help your club beat the October 1st deadline for a Distinguished Club point. And it keeps the club in good standing so club speech contest winners can compete at/; the next level!

Knock, knock. Who's There? Manny.

Manny Who?

Man(n)y D103 Toastmasters who are still pivoting to the Pathways Education program but feeling a bit uncertain how to do it. Never fear!!! Pathways Gurus are here!! They can guide you through the new features and functions to help you get your bearings. Soon you'll be growing your skills in speaking, communicating and leading with renewed confidence! Watch for online Zoom sessions.

District 103 Toastmasters Schedules District Council Meeting

Virtual Event Brings District and Club Leaders Together to Get It Done

Toastmasters District 103 leaders at all levels will convene on Saturday, September 19th, 10 am to decide on business at hand in assuring the District achieves its mission and goals, including recognition from Toastmasters International as a Distinguished District. Club Presidents and Vice Presidents Education join with the Trio, Division Directors and Area Directors to make it happen! Make plans to attend (or appoint a club member proxy). Look for your email invitation to register.



District 103



"Race to Distinguished"

District Leadership Announces Incentive Program for D103 Clubs!

Has your club created its Club Success Plan? The primary purpose of the Club Success Plan is to map out the route the club will take to win recognition from Toastmasters International as a Distinguished Club for 2020-2021. To set the pace District 103 Leadership has turbocharged the marathon event as a "Race to Distinguished" with an incentive program that will make your club burn rubber and your jaw drop!! Every club has a chance to vie for terrific prizes. Watch for more details coming your raceway soon. Start your engine to get on the leader board fast and furious!

How Many New Club Members Does It Take to Win a Smedley Award?

Answer: Only five new, dual, or reinstated members are needed, but they must join by September 30th, and their applications and payments must be received at Toastmasters International World Headquarters by then. Next question: How close is your club to reaching this goal? There's still time to win a coveted "Smedley Award" ribbon to display on your club's banner! Here's more good news: Qualifying clubs also earn a special discount code for 10% off the next club order from Toastmasters*!!! Winning clubs will be revealed online within a few weeks of the submission deadline. Note: The *addition of transfer and charter members does not count* toward "Smedley Award" credit.

* Discount code expires six months from the date of issue and is not valid with any other offer.

WOW! They Did It!

30 D103 Clubs Earn a "Super 7" Ribbon!!

"How?", you ask. By having all seven club officers trained during the first training period (June-August). Congratulations to these clubs in leading the way!

- Accenture Rising Voices Club #954025
- American Hospital Association Club #5565828
- AT&T Chicago East Toastmasters Club #1594170
- BCBS of Illinois Chicago 2 Club #1752928
- BP Toastmasters Chicago Club #3083657
- Brave Little Toasters Club #6920841
- Broadview Toastmasters Club #3303
- Chicago Speakeasy Toastmasters Club #953192
- ChiTown SpeakEasy Club #7240385
- Christ Universal Temple Club 2 #667117
- Deloitte Chicago Toastmasters Club #6021941
- Epiphany Toastmasters Club #7047067
- Gogo Toastmasters Club #1610593
- Hines Verbal Aces Club #9084
- Loop Trustmasters Club #1567875
- Maywood Toastmasters Club #687683
- Michigan Avenue Toastmasters Club #5762
- New Faith Toastmasters Club #1924297
- Oak Lawn Toastmasters Club #872531
- Orland Park Toastmasters Club #4871
- Park Forest Toastmasters Club #1717
- Pathfinders Toastmasters Club #2734
- Power Speakers Club #2606161



District #103
Chicago, IL

It's (Virtual) Open House Season!

Now is the perfect time for your club to plan and hold an Open House! Hosting an Open House is a great way to introduce visitors to your club and to Toastmasters. It's also an opportunity to add those five new, dual or reinstated members needed to earn a Smedley Award for your club! Plus, a *virtual* Open House can be even more fun and fruitful than ever. For instance, **Loop Trustmasters welcomed 53 guests to its recent Open House!!** The key is to plan and engage every club member with a role and responsibility to invite all the people they know. So, why wait? Check out these Open Houses!



ViewMasters Makes History! All Club Officers DTM

Chartered in 2012, ViewMasters Toastmasters Club started this year strongly with the teaming of seven Distinguished Toastmasters as club officers. Led by President Shanita Akintonde, their 2020-2021 vision is **L.O.V.E.**: Leadership, Openmindedness, Value and Excellence. The all-DTM officer team offers a wealth of leadership resources like mentoring to their club members. To learn more about the club, visit [ViewMasters](#).



Shanita Akintonde Club President
Bruce Chambers VPE & Treasurer
Amy Segai VP Membership
Sima Dahl Secretary
Kamaria Campbell VP Mentoring
Not Shown: Mandy Sha, VP Public Relations; Valerie Jencks, Sergeant-at-Arms

WAO Toastmasters Hosts Evaluation Workshop

At its club meeting on July 25th, WAO Toastmasters hosted a workshop "Create and Deliver Effective Evaluations" conducted by Stan Piskorski. Stan has been a Toastmaster for 35 years and is a founding member of D30 Windy City Professional Speakers – known for providing outstanding feedback to its members. He introduced his unique evaluation method – O-R-S – that enables speech evaluators to give targeted feedback, then coached the evaluators of two prepared speakers in using it. Everyone at the meeting benefited from Stan's guidance on giving evaluations. If your club members are interested in getting better at speech evaluation, Stan will be happy to help. Contact him at windycityspeakersstan@gmail.com.

WOW! They Also Did It!

Wait! There are Still More “Super 7” Clubs!

- Saturday Sunrise Club #8206
- Successfully Speaking Toastmasters Club #9584
- TransUnion Toastmasters Club #3063999
- Two-One-Nine Toastmasters Club #3288
- UOP Riverside Toastmasters Club #5365945
- West Suburban Toastmasters Club #930
- Wrightwood-Ashburn Overcomers (WAO) Club #771880

District Toastmasters Achieve DTM Award

Seven D103 Toastmasters attained the Distinguished Toastmaster award since July. Congratulations to these individuals for their perseverance and leadership!

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|--------------------------|---|
| • Valerie Lyons | Wrightwood-Ashburn Overcomers (WAO) |
| • Merry Wang | South Loop Speak Freaks Toastmasters Club |
| • Mary Szabo | BCBS of IL Chicago 1 |
| • Lee Hopkins | Broadview Toastmasters |
| • Gary Behrens | South Loop Speak Freaks Toastmasters Club |
| • Debra Blackmon-Parrish | Christ Universal Temple Club #3 |
| • Bessie Akuamoah | Bold Literary Talkers (BLT) |

Know Your Resources

Public Relations Manager Reimagines D103 PR

D103 Public Relations Manager, Valerie Smith, DTM, is aiming to ignite District 103 Public Relations from the bottom up with the Reimagine Plan for 2020-2021. The plan has four prongs in three phases. The prongs are 1) engaging club VPPRs; 2) redesigning the District website; 3) doing regular District PR campaigns; and 4) rejuvenating social media channels with the theme being ‘The Future of Leadership’. The three phases run quarterly from July – September, October – December, and January – March.

During the first phase, club VPPRs were sent a survey to find out what support they wanted from the District. That led to monthly VPPR Circle of Education Zoom sessions. The September meeting featured Courtney Jones, Copy Editor of the PR Committee, who shared numerous ideas on how to find, create and post creative content to attract target audiences. Valerie also gave a presentation about the importance of building a leadership brand through social media in the 21st century.

All D103 club VPPRs are invited to join the meetings to learn how to publicize their clubs. You will also gain new communication skills for performing your role! Contact Valerie at d103prnow@gmail.com for more information.

D103 Chief Judge Plans A Contest Revival

Chief Judge Gary Behrens, DTM, formed a Contest Committee with the goal of stimulating every D103 Toastmasters club to hold a club speech contest in 2020. For 2020-2021 District 103 will sanction two contests: the Toastmasters International Speech Contest and an Evaluation Speech Contest. Club speech contests should be conducted by the end of 2020 in order for contest winners to prepare for Area Speech Contest competition that begins in January 2021. The Committee is developing a three part program to motivate strong club speech contest participation:

1. an incentive program that encourages clubs to be proactive;
2. a guide mapping contest roles/tasks to Pathways projects; and
3. a series of training webinars for Contest Chairs, Chief Judges, and Contest Judges, culminating at TLI on November 7th.

Program details will be announced later this month. A presentation will be made by the Chief Judge at the District Council on September 19th.

Club Growth Director Focuses on Starting Clubs

D103 Club Growth Director Dionne Leggin, TC3, plans to expand the District's footprint by adding new clubs, including more corporate clubs. There are already several organizations and community groups eager to charter as Toastmasters clubs. She has assembled a strong team to help make her vision a reality.

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|------------------|-----------------------|
| • Michelle Adams | Club Extension Team |
| • Rohini Patel | Club Extension Team |
| • Mary Szabo | Club Extension Team |
| • Geri Tucker | Club Retention Team |
| • Dushun Mosley | Club Ambassador Chair |
| • Don Williams | Club Resource Chair |

You can help, too, by volunteering and spreading the word! Reach out to Dionne at dionneleggin@gmail.com with ideas and tips about people or organizations interested in starting a club. The Demonstration Meeting Team needs volunteers to take on meeting roles at prospective clubs. Club Sponsors are needed to guide them in the chartering process. Geri Tucker, DTM, is seeking experienced Toastmasters to serve as a Club Coach or Club Mentor. These are all great ways to fulfill the Leadership Excellence requirements for attaining Distinguished Toastmaster! You'll also help clubs gain or regain their footing so more members can realize and reap the benefits of Toastmasters!

Club Ambassador Program Pays Dividends

The Chair of District 103's Club Ambassador program, Dushun Mosley, DTM, has created a great plan to promote interclub relations and reward members who make the effort to visit other clubs during 2020-2021. By attending meetings of clubs outside their home Area, members can see different meeting formats and speaking styles that could improve their club's meetings and their own skills. Members can also earn points for participating in the other club's meeting as a speaker or functionary. All Toastmasters who submit 3 or more Club Ambassador [forms](#) by June 1, 2021, will receive a certificate of recognition. But wait – there's more!

- Member who visits the most clubs receives a TROPHY
- Member who earns most points receives a PLAQUE and is named D103 CLUB AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR
- Club with the most Club Ambassadors receives a PLAQUE

Contact Dushun Mosley at dmosley@eduteach.com for program details.