

# D56 MESSENGER

WE BUILD NEW CLUBS AND SUPPORT ALL CLUBS IN ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE



District 56



## DISTRICT DIRECTOR NEWS

### DCP - WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

Chandra Munagavalasa, DTM, District Director

You may have heard me talking about the Quality and Sustainable club several times. That's because a Quality club environment is the single most important factor in membership retention. How do you know your club is a Quality club? One way to measure is the Distinguished Club Program (DCP). The Toastmasters Distinguished Club Program (DCP) helps clubs provide their members with a consistently high-quality experience. I am sure most of you know where your club goals achievement may be found. If unsure, click on the link below and search for your club.

<http://dashboards.toastmasters.org/Club.aspx?id=56>

To be a Distinguished club, you need to achieve at least 5 goals. All clubs should achieve the training goal (which is a minimum of 4 officers attending the first and the second Club Officer training).

And if 8 members renew their dues (at least 3 of them should be renewing members) and the officers' list is submitted on time, the club will achieve the second goal. After this, your club only needs to achieve 3 more goals to become a Distinguished Club.

The best part is, for this Toastmasters year, Toastmasters has reduced the requirement for membership growth to achieve Distinguished Club status from 5 to 3 new members. To be eligible for recognition under the Distinguished Club Program, a club must end the Toastmasters year on June 30, 2023, with 20 or more members OR with a net increase of at least 3 members since the beginning of this Toastmasters year.

I wish you much success and hope your clubs achieve the Distinguished status. Happy Holidays and all the best to you in the year to come.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

DCP - What it Means to Me

Leading, Learning, & Growing Together

New Year, New Growth

Call for District 2022-2023 District Officer Nominations

Division Directors Slay the Holidays

Upcoming Events and More

# LEADING, LEARNING & GROWING TOGETHER!

Sharla Ozen, DTM, Program Quality Director



**Congratulations Storytellers Club - 1st club to have 7 of 7 Club Officers Trained (Round 1 & Round 2) 2022-2023.** At the 2023 Spring District Conference, Storytellers Club will be awarded the **Super 7 Club pin** and each Storytellers Club Officer will receive an individual **Super 7 pin**.

## 7 of 7 Club Officers Trained Round-1

- All Star Club
- Big Red Toastmasters
- Blue Frog Toastmasters Club
- C & F Leaders Club
- Cane Island Path Blazers Toastmasters
- CITGO VOICE
- Clear Lake Toastmasters Club
- Cougar Rhetoric
- Cy-Fair Super Speakers Club
- Deerwood Toastmasters Club
- Determined To Master Speaking
- Dining Out Toastmasters Club
- Energy Speakers
- Firm Speakers Toastmasters Club
- Frankly Speaking Toastmasters
- Heights Toastmasters Club
- High Noon Club
- Houston Methodist Toastmasters
- Houston Police Dept. Toastmasters
- H-Town Toastmasters Club
- LaPorte Toastmasters



- Marathon Speaks! Club
- Master Evaluators
- Medically Speaking Toastmasters
- Mente Abierta
- Missouri City Toastmasters Club
- Pearland Toastmasters Club
- Pensadores de Houston
- Pensadores Northwest
- Power Speakers
- Professionally Speaking Singles Toastmasters
- Southwest Project Management
- Spirited Speech Masters
- Storytellers
- Successfully Speaking Toastmasters Club
- Sugar Land Toastmasters
- Sugar Speakers Club
- Voice of Moses
- West Pearland Toastmasters
- Woodlands Toastmasters Club
- Word Doctors Toastmasters Club
- Young Professionals Southeast Toastmasters



## 2023 District 56 Toastmasters International Speech Contest

The District 56 Toastmasters International Speech Contest will feature: Evaluation Speech Contest, International Speech Contest and a Spanish Speech Contest \*. All Area and Division contests dates are scheduled on the D56 Calendar. Please start planning your club contests in January 2023 - February 2023 to participate.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### CLUB OFFICER TRAINING

Round 2  
2022 – 2023

#### CLUB OFFICER ROLES

- President – Advanced
- President – Fundamentals
- VP Education – Advanced
- VP Education – Fundamentals
- VP Membership – Advanced
- VP Membership – Fundamentals
- VP Public Relations
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Sergeant At Arms

Sign-up on the D56 Calendar:  
[toastmastershouston.com/calendar](http://toastmastershouston.com/calendar)



### DISTRICT 56 COT TRAINING DATES JANUARY 2023

- Saturday, January 21, 2023
- 9 AM – 11:30 AM
- Zoom Registration on D56 Calendar

- Tuesday, January 24, 2023
- 6 PM – 8:30 PM
- Zoom Registration on D56 Calendar

- Saturday, January 28, 2023
- 9 AM – 11:30 AM
- Zoom Registration on D56 Calendar

### FEBRUARY 2023

- SPANISH SPEAKING CLUB OFFICER TRAINING
- February 2023 - TBD
- Pending TBD
- Zoom Registration Pending

# NEW YEAR, NEW GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES, AND NEW INCENTIVES IN CLUB GROWTH

Elizabeth Ruiz, DTM, Club Growth Director

## 6 CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR INCENTIVES GOING ON NOW

### 1-8 is Great, Now Duplicate

- Minimum of 8 club members who renewed on or before September 30, 2022, renew their April 2023 dues by December 31, 2022, win prizes
- The first 8 members in a club who renew their April 2023 dues by December 31, 2022, win a Toastmasters branded surprise item
- Offered to the first 50 clubs

### 2 -Create a Memorable Club Message

- Clubs create a memorable short video about their club using one of the 8 classic storytelling techniques taught in the November 7, 2022, Marketing Monday session
- Qualified club videos submitted by January 1, 2023, will be uploaded to the District site and social media to vote on to win prizes
- For details and guidelines, watch the recording and read the handouts in the November 7, 2022, [Marketing Monday folder](#).

### 3 -Get to Know Me Tag – My Toastmasters Journey

- One or more members of a club create a Get to Know Me Tag video
- Qualified club videos submitted by February 1, 2023, will be uploaded to the District site and social media to vote on to win prizes
- For details and guidelines, watch the recording and read the handouts in the December 12, 2022, [Marketing Monday folder](#).

**MARKETING MONDAYS**  
NEW MARKETING TIP EACH WEEK

EVERY MONDAY 8-8:30 PM

**REGISTER NOW**

JOIN US

[bit.ly/3DIN4yy](http://bit.ly/3DIN4yy)

A laptop screen displays a video conference with multiple participants, illustrating the Marketing Mondays session.

Join us for marketing tips to bring back to your club to help retain members and increase membership  
Register now [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Play the Digital Toastmasters Game for Prizes

game.educaplay.com game pin 211396

### Take the District 56 Digital Game Challenge

- Top 10 members will win a Toastmasters branded prize
- Challenge ends on January 23, 2023
- To play, go to [game.educaplay.com](#) and type in pin 211396

Have some fun, test your knowledge now!

### 4 - March Madness

- Did you know Club Central is open to renew April 1 dues?
- There is an incentive to renew now
- Clubs that renew 100% of their July 1, 2022, base membership number by March 15, 2023, earn a Toastmasters Gift Certificate

Check your club's base on the Toastmasters International [Club Performance Report](#)

### 5 - Talk Up Toastmasters Membership Building Award

- Clubs that gain five new, dual, or reinstated members between February 1, 2023, and March 31, 2023, will receive a
  - Talk Up Toastmasters Award Ribbon
  - 10% discount from a TI store order
  - Toastmasters International Gift Certificate
- The members must pay for at least 6 months
- Offered to the first 50 clubs

### 6 - Open House Challenge

- Clubs that conduct an Open House between July 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023, add 2 or more new members on the day of the Open House will receive a Toastmasters International Gift Certificate
- Submit the Open House flyer and new member list to [cgd@tdm56.org](mailto:cgd@tdm56.org) to qualify
- Offered to the first 50 clubs

For more details visit our [incentive page](#) on the District 56 website.

ROUND 2 OF AREA DIRECTOR VISITS BEGAN DECEMBER 1, 2022

- Part of the District's mission is to ensure every club fulfills its responsibilities to its members.
- To achieve this, the District must establish and maintain positive, supportive relationships with each club.
- By visiting each club in their Area, Area Directors identify strengths and opportunities for improvement for their clubs, while also working to build and maintain positive relationships with the club.
- During the Area Director's visit, they will discuss the following topics with club officers:
- Club Success Plan
- Club's status in the Distinguished Club Program
- Upcoming/scheduled events
- Members interested in serving in leadership positions
- Goals or milestones for the club to achieve

WE NEED YOU - OPEN CLUB GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT

Want to earn your DTM while serving others?

- [Become a Club Sponsor](#)
- [Become a Club Mentor](#)
- [Become a Club Coach](#)

We are looking forward to the new year ahead with you. Club Growth is here to help the District grow by helping to build new clubs, strengthen existing clubs, and grow membership. Message Club Growth anytime at [cgd@tmd56.org](mailto:cgd@tmd56.org). Happy New Year!



[Click here](#) for an advice letter to Candidates

# DISTRICT 56 CALL FOR 2022 - 2023 DISTRICT OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Pam McCown, DTM, District Leadership Chair



Toastmasters District 56 is seeking nominations for District Leaders to serve for the upcoming 2022-2023 Toastmasters year.

Are you interested in nominating yourself or another member for a district leader position? The District Leadership Committee (DLC) is looking for you!

Serving in district leadership is yet another valuable opportunity for you to continue your journey of personal growth, while contributing your knowledge and skills in providing positive leadership to the members of District 56. The following district officers will be determined by election to be conducted during the Annual Conference Business Meeting on May 1, 2023:

- District Director
- Program Quality Director
- Club Growth Director
- Division L-R Directors (7 positions total)

Per Toastmasters International bylaws, members, including current members of the District Executive Committee, may self-nominate for District office, be sought out by the DLC, or be nominated by an individual member.

To be nominated, elected, and hold office, a member must meet the following requirements:

- Member in good standing of a Toastmasters District 56 club that is in good standing.
- Meet the qualifications of the position – [Click here](#)
- Complete and submit all required documentation.
- Submit a completed Candidate Biography form and high-resolution headshot photograph.
- Deadline for candidates to declare intent to run and be considered for nomination by the District Leadership Committee (DLC) is January 15, 2023

**Who Wants to be a Leader?**

**District Officer Nominations are Now Open**

**DISTRICT DIRECTOR**

**PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR**

**CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR**

**DIVISION L DIRECTOR**

**DIVISION M DIRECTOR**

**DIVISION N DIRECTOR**

**DIVISION O DIRECTOR**

**DIVISION P DIRECTOR**

**DIVISION Q DIRECTOR**

**DIVISION R DIRECTOR**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR INTENT TO RUN**

**JANUARY 15, 2023**

TO LEARN MORE CONTACT  
DISTRICT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Pamela McCown, DTM, PID  
[Leadership.Chair@tmd56.org](mailto:Leadership.Chair@tmd56.org)




# DIVISION L

Michele Cuellar, DTM, Division L Director

On behalf of the Division L Team, we would like to wish everyone a blessed holiday season and we look forward to reaching our Toastmaster's goals in the New Year 2023! As we plan on New Year's Resolutions and Goals, I challenge you to step out and participate in the Speech Contest!

Division L's Area Contest will be held on March 4th (Online only) and the Division L-Division Contest will be March 25th (Online only).

The winners from the Division L Contest will compete in the District Contest in May (Hybrid Contest) with the dates of the Spring Contest to be determined.



## KUDOS CORNER

### Division L

#### Pecha Kucha Club Challenge

- 1st Place - Deerwood Toastmasters

Area Director Visited 100% of their clubs & completed the reports

## DIVISION M

Akinlolu (Akin) Oni, DTM, Division M Director

On behalf of the Division M Leadership Team (DMLT), I write to appreciate every member and officer of our Clubs for doing their very best to keep the club going during the past 6 months. The Area Directors completed their Club Visits and turned in their reports on time. Area Council meetings are being held as frequently as practical.

We have a few challenges and I encourage y'all to let's come together and improve on our memberships, meetings attendance and focused club growth. We need at least 4 more clubs, to pay up, to bring us to the healthy base of 19 Clubs across the Division, and I know that I can count on y'all to make this happen. It is what we know how to do. It is why we are Division M. Thus, Let it be!

The Spring 2023 Contest is around the corner - Members, please PLAN. PREPARE. PRACTICE. PARTICIPATE.

The DMLT and I cannot thank you all enough for relentlessly living the Toastmasters dream!

## TEXAS-SIZED SHOUT OUTS

- To the Sugar Land Toastmasters Club for achieving President's Distinguished with the achievement of 9 Goals out of 10; and it is not 6 months into the current Toastmasters Year yet. They are leaders on every front – memberships, quality meetings, cub performance ..... CONGRATULATIONS, Sugar Land Toastmasters!!! Way to go, Team!
- To Becky Fields, AD M32, for completing the first Club Visit in Round 2 within Division M. She has also scheduled the remaining visits to be completed before the end of January 2023! That's the way to do it, Becky! Keep it up.
- To Area M33 and their AD, Sujatha Srikanth, for achieving 100% Paid Clubs compared to Base. Keep up the great work and let's finish strong during the second half of the TI Year, y'all!

## DIVISION N

Dara Griffith, DL5, Division N Director

### Division N Achievements

- Division N had 100% of Base Clubs Paid for October Renewals.
- Area N20 Talking Heads Club has achieved 6 DCP goals, has 21 members, and elected their new semiannual officers.
- Area N20 Speaking of Shell Toastmasters Club has achieved 2 DCP goals, has 20 members, and elected their new semiannual officers.
- Area N20 CITGO VOICE has achieved 3 DCP goals, has 16 members, and all 7 officers completed round one training.
- Area N20 True Blue Talkers has achieved 5 DCP goals, has 33 members, and elected new semiannual officers.
- Area N21 Katy Toastmasters Club has achieved 4 DCP goals and has 31 members.
- Area N21 Cane Island Path Blazer Toastmasters has achieved 2 DCP goals and all 7 officers completed round one training.
- Area N21 CONSOR Toastmasters has achieved 1 DCP goal and elected their new semiannual officers.
- Area N22 Technip Energies Toastmasters has achieved 2 DCP goals and has 25 members.
- Area N22 AspenTech Houston Toastmasters has achieved 2 DCP goals and has 23 members.
- Area N23 H-Town Toastmasters Club has achieved 3 DCP goals, has 8 members, and all 7 officers completed round one training.
- Area N23 Blue Frog Toastmasters Club has achieved 5 DCP goals, has 22 members, all 7 officers completed round one training, and elected new semiannual officers.
- Area N23 Phillips 66 HQ Toastmasters Club has achieved 4 DCP goals and has 19 members.
- Area N24 Memorial City Toastmasters has achieved 4 DCP goals and has 29 members.
- Area N24 KW Memorial Toastmasters has achieved 3 DCP goals and has 25 members.
- Area N24 (newly chartered) TGS Well Spoken has achieved 1 DCP goal and has 27 members.

### *Remember Your Why*

# DIVISION O

Qiana Preston, DTM, Division O Director

On behalf of the Division O Leadership Team, Outstanding O, my New Year cannot start without thanking you for your energy in 2022 to make Division O Outstanding. Expressing deep gratitude for your support. Best 2023 New Year wishes to you and your family. Our theme for 2023 is LEVEL-UP!

## Area Directors - Thank You!

Vincent Adams, Marcia Hudgens, Jennifer Nelson, Alessia Williams without you we would not have achieved 100% AD Reports and 100% Officer Reports on time.

## Goal Achieved - Officer Lists 100% Complete

### Club Anniversaries

- November: Houston Police Dept Toastmasters Club, Chevron MCBU Toastmasters Club
- December: Eagle on the Bayou, Heights Toastmasters Club, Hess Explorers Toastmasters



## KUDOS CORNER Division O

### DCP 6 Goals Met

- Dining Out Toastmasters Club
- Power Speakers

### DCP 4 Goals Met

- American General Toastmasters
- Firm Speakers Toastmasters Club
- Word Doctors Toastmasters Club

### DCP 3 Goals Met

- Heights Toastmasters Club
- Young Professional
- Find Your Voice Toastmasters
- High Noon Club
- Cheniere Toastmasters Club
- Hess Explorers Toastmasters

### DCP 2 Goals Met

- Easy Risers Club
- Talk is Cheap Toastmasters Club
- Downtown Houston Toastmasters Club

## Club Recognitions - Membership Level Up

- Great Job!: Firm Speakers Toastmasters Club Completed - 8 is Great + 8 is Great, Now Duplicate
- Tag You're It!: Clubs, level up by completing the - 8 is Great + 8 is Great, Now Duplicate Challenge

## Individual Path Recognitions – November Achievements

11/22/2022

- PM2 - Pamela McCown, DTM, PID

11/30/2022

- PM1 - Not Disclosed -VC5
- VC5 - Adam Hudd, DTM -PM2

# DIVISION P

Fatimar Jones, DTM, Division P Director

On behalf of the Division P Team, wishing you all a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!



## HOLIDAY CLUB DINNER

One of our oldest clubs in the District, Area P3, 62-year-old JSC Toastmasters Club, held their annual holiday dinner. Club members, Division P Area Director, Division Director, and Club Growth Director, joined in on the festivities in the photo above.

## SEMIANNUAL CLUB OFFICER REPORTS

Congratulations to our Division P semiannual club officer term clubs for submitting 100% club officer lists on time:

P1 Brazosport Club  
P1 Diamond Club  
P2 Boeing Club  
P2 Marathon Galveston Bay Refinery Toastmasters  
P3 UHCL Toastmasters  
P4 Mid-Pearland Toastmasters  
P4 Pearland Toastmasters  
P5 Clear Lake Communicators

## ROUND 2 AREA DIRECTOR CLUB VISITS

On December 1, 2022, Round 2 Area Director Visits began and are underway in Division P. Our Area Directors are looking forward to visiting you and your clubs.

## DIVISION P TEAM

Division P Director - Fatimar Jones DTM  
P1 Area Director – Vacant  
P2 Area Director - Ava Sloan DTM  
P3 Area Director – Pinar Sikes DTM  
P4 Area Director – Elizabeth Moala-Page  
P5 Area Director – Elizabeth Cambre

## KUDOS CORNER Division P

Almost Distinguished Clubs in Division P Clubs with 4+ DCP goals or needing more members to be distinguished.

The "members needed" properly accounts for the +3 net increase over July 1 base or at least 20 total.

Congratulations to these Division P Clubs for trailblazing Division P to Distinguished status. Well done!

### DCP 4 Goals Met

- Brazosport Club
- Diamond Club
- West Pearland Toastmasters
- League City Toastmasters

### DCP 5 Goals Met

- Pearland Toastmasters Club

### DCP 7 Goals Met

- Clear Lake Communicators Club

# DIVISION Q

Brent Jatko, EC5, Division Q Director

On behalf of the Division Q Team, I would like to wish everyone a peaceful and joyous holiday season. Thanks to all the Division Q members who helped lead Division Q to have the lowest number of unpaid Clubs in the District.

Congratulations to:

Medically Speaking Toastmasters  
Houston Galleria Project  
Management Toastmasters  
Greenway Plaza Toastmasters  
for meeting the membership requirements  
and for having met FIVE or more  
Distinguished Club Program Goals already!

Congratulations to:

Wordcrafters Club  
A+ Toastmasters  
Dance and Toast Masters  
Houston Methodist Toastmasters  
Spirited Speech Masters  
for meeting the membership requirements  
and for having met THREE or more  
Distinguished Club Program Goals already!

Congratulations to:

Determined to Master Speaking  
Talking Bull Club  
Speak Up Houston Toastmasters  
for meeting the membership  
requirements and for having met  
FOUR or more Distinguished Club  
Program Goals already!

## Club Anniversaries

Congratulations to Medically Speaking Toastmasters which will be celebrating the Club's 23rd anniversary next February 2023!  
Congratulations to Dance and Toast Masters which will be celebrating its 18th birthday December 27, 2022!

# DIVISION R

Srikanth Madavan, PM5, Division R Director

On behalf of the Division Q Team, I would like to wish everyone a peaceful and joyous holiday season. Thanks to all the Division Q members who helped lead Division Q to have the lowest number of unpaid Clubs in the District.

- Cy-Fair Super Speakers in Area R62 has 7 DCP goals met and has 26 members.
- Professionally Speaking Singles in Area R63 has 6 DCP goals met and has 25 members.
- Pensadores de Houston in Area R64 has 6 DCP goals met and has 23 members.

Congratulations to Daybreakers in Area R64 who set a record in Division R with the maximum member count at 32.

Shout out to San Felipe Plaza Toastmasters in Area R63 conducted a Virtual Fall Open House. Guest Speaker at this event was Division L director Michelle Cuellar who spoke on the advantages of joining Toastmasters.



District 56 1st and 2nd Place Pecha Kucha Winners



## Admin Moment

Jennifer Guhlin, PM5,  
Administration Manager

Happy New Year Club Secretaries! Did you know that you are one of your club's three Pathways Base Camp Managers? This designation allows you to facilitate member progress by verifying education, approving requests, and tracking progress on Base Camp. So start off the New Year right by verifying all completed levels have been successfully submitted in Club Central. Looking for another way to crush it in the new year? Get a jump start on April renewals by being prepared now to assist with membership dues collection and submission to World Headquarters. Wishing you all the best in 2023!



District 56 Demo, Open House, & In Person Meeting  
Congrats to Elizabeth Ruiz for DTM #4

#### VP PUBLIC RELATIONS RESOURCES



Sometimes, life gets in the way. If you or another Toastmaster encounters a life event (i.e., the birth of a child, marriage, divorce, family loss, loss of a job, moving to another state, diagnosed with major illness, etc.), please email our [Compassion Outreach Chair](mailto:compassion@tdm56.org) ([compassion@tdm56.org](mailto:compassion@tdm56.org)) to let us know.

**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!**

The information in this newsletter is for the sole use of Toastmasters members, for Toastmasters business only.  
It is not to be used for solicitation and distribution of non-Toastmasters material or information. This is a bimonthly publication.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

# Save THE Date

**Now - February**  
Club Officer Training (second round)

**December 31**  
Club officer list due to World headquarters  
(for clubs with semi-annual terms)

**January 21**  
Club Officer Training (COT-3)

**January 28**  
Club Officer Training (COT-4)

Every Monday Now - June  
Marketing Mondays  
8:00pm - 8:30pm

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

##### PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

- Newsletter Publisher - Melissa Atchley, DTM
- D56 Website - Open
- Social Media Team - Ellen Wieczorek (Chair), Holly Jahangiri
- PR Outreach - Cassie Brandley
- Google Space - Harold Eaton, DTM (Administrator), Amish Patel

