

D56 MESSENGER

WE BUILD NEW CLUBS AND SUPPORT ALL CLUBS IN ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE



District 56



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DISTRICT DIRECTOR NEWS

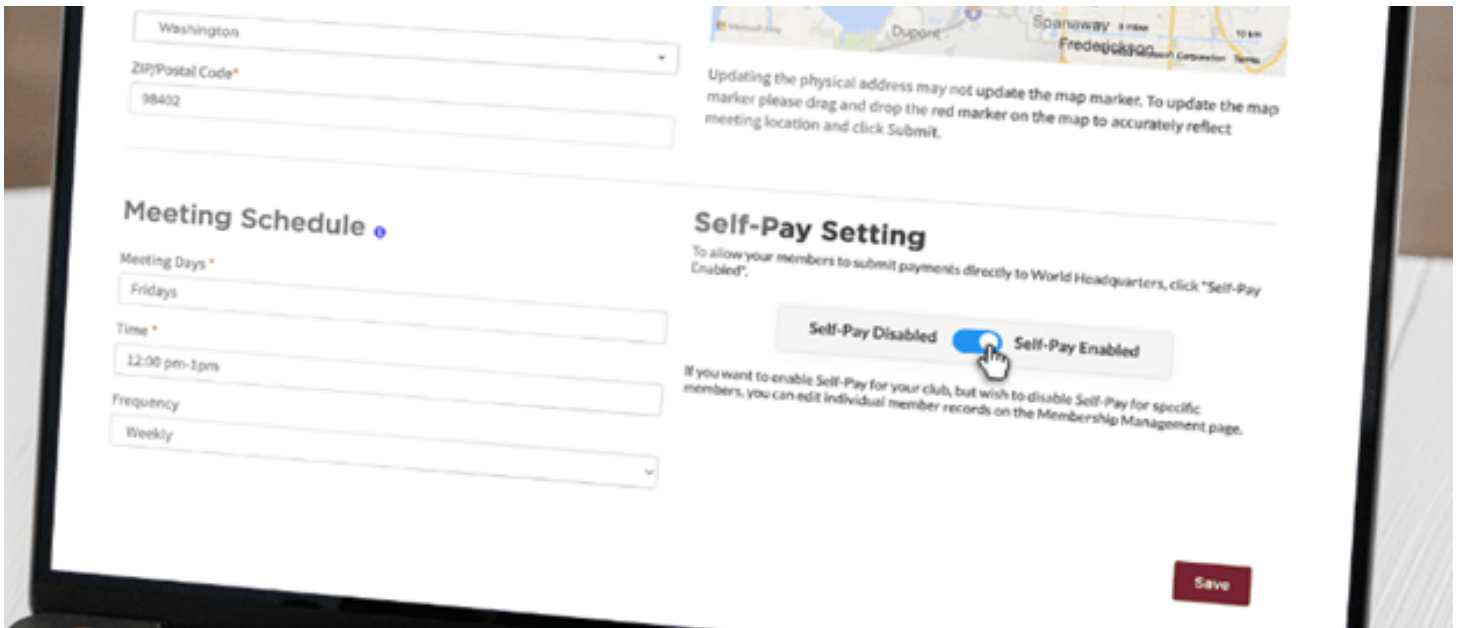
D56 CONTESTS AND RENEWALS GO TECH

Chandra Munagavalasa, DTM, District Director

Greetings District 56 Toastmasters!
I hope you and your family are doing well.
First of all, I would like to congratulate our Division N Director Dara Griffith and the Division N Area Directors for conducting the first ever District 56 Area Hybrid Speech Contest. It takes a village to put together a hybrid speech contest. I would like to thank all the functionaries and everyone else who worked hard to make this happen. There have been seven speech contests completed so far and even more to go. If you are interested in attending any of the speech contests, please visit our District 56 website for the upcoming speech contest schedule.

<https://toastmastershouston.com/calendar/>

Dues are due on March 31, 2023. If you have not paid your dues yet, please do so as soon as you can. If you or your fellow club member is a speech contest contestant, in order to be eligible, it is required that both the contestant and the contestant's club are in good standing. Toastmasters International is pleased to announce that after a successful pilot, Self-Pay is now available for all clubs to offer to their members. I would like you and your members to experience this easier, more intuitive way of submitting international dues payments.



If your club decides to use this feature, a club officer needs to enable Self-Pay for your club. To do so, your club officer needs to

- Log in to My Home
- Navigate to the Club Contact and Meeting Information page
- Select the toggle button in the Self-Pay Setting section
- Click “Save” at the bottom of the page

You may have heard me say this several times before about your club being a sustainable quality club. We all joined Toastmasters to become more effective communicators and leaders. We are staying with our clubs because they provide a valuable service and meet our individual needs. For our clubs to continue providing this valuable service and meeting all our club members' needs, it is essential them to be a quality sustainable club. A quality club environment is the single most important factor in membership retention.

It is a great honor and a pleasure to serve our great District.

PROGRAM QUALITY DIRECTOR NEWS



[Click here to register now](#) and get your All-Access 2023 tickets today.

District 56 Spring Conference prices are:
 Until April 10: Early Bird Price \$100
 April 11-20: Regular Price \$120
 April 21-30: Last Opportunity \$150
 ** Limited tickets are available. **



Holiday Inn | Energy Corridor Eldridge
 1112 Eldridge Pkwy, Houston, TX 77077

Please check on the District 56 website for additional information.

ALL STARS & D56 CONTEST SPEAKERS SHINE BRIGHT

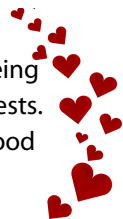
Sharla Ozen, DTM, Program Quality Director



Our District 56 Speakers are shining brightly at the district speech contests. The contests are filled with amazing speakers and engaging speeches. If you have missed the area contests, you still have time to hear those contestants progressing on to the division contests, starting this week.



Thank you to clubs sending contestants to the speech contest. Thank you to contestants for being willing to participate in the district speech contests. Thank you, Contest Officials, for putting on a good show allowing our members to SHINE!



All contests dates are scheduled on the D56 Calendar.

2022 -2023 CLUB ALL STARS AWARDS



Join me in celebrating all the All Stars clubs who had all 7 of 7 Club Officers Trained for both Round 1 and Round 2. During the 2023 Spring District Conference all these clubs will be presented with the Super 7 Club pin and each Club Officer will receive an individual Super 7 pin.



7 of 7 Club Officers Trained Round-2

- ANICO Articulators Toastmasters Club
- Blue Frog Toastmasters Club
- C & F Leaders Club
- Clear Lake Communicators Club
- Cy-Fair Super Speakers Club
- Determined To Master Speaking
- Dining Out Toastmasters Club
- Firm Speakers Toastmasters Club
- Health Wealth and Happiness Toastmasters
- High Noon Club
- Houston Methodist Toastmasters
- Master Evaluators
- Medically Speaking Toastmasters Club
- Pearland Toastmasters Club
- Pensadores de Houston
- Southeast Houston Toastmasters
- Spirited Speech Masters
- Storytellers
- Successfully Speaking Toastmasters Club
- Sugar Land Toastmasters
- Talking Bull Club
- THE Tomball Toastmasters
- True Blue Talkers



Members Matter Most!



DISTRICT 56



ALL STARS

7 OF 7

Club Officer Trained
Round 1 & 2

- ★ Blue Frog Toastmasters Club
- ★ C & F Leaders Club
- ★ Cy-Fair Super Speakers Club
- ★ Determined To Master Speaking
- ★ Dining Out Toastmasters Club
- ★ Firm Speakers Toastmasters Club
- ★ High Noon Club
- ★ Houston Methodist Toastmasters
- ★ Master Evaluators
- ★ Medically Speaking Toastmasters Club
- ★ Pearland Toastmasters Club
- ★ Pensadores de Houston
- ★ Southeast Houston Toastmasters
- ★ Spirited Speech Masters
- ★ Storytellers
- ★ Successfully Speaking Toastmasters Club
- ★ Sugar Land Toastmasters

REMAINING CLUB GROWTH INCENTIVES, WHY RENEW NOW, MARKETING MONDAYS, AND WINNERS

Elizabeth Ruiz, DTM, Club Growth Director

3 CLUB GROWTH DIRECTOR INCENTIVES

1 - March Madness Winners

- Blue Crew TM Club
- ConocoPhillips Toastmasters Club
- Dance and Toast Masters Club
- Fluor Toastmasters Club
- Greenway Plaza Toastmasters
- Katy Toastmasters Club
- Kingwood Toastmasters Club
- Power Speakers
- Speaking Of Shell Toastmasters Club
- Talking Heads Club
- Totalenergies Speakers
- Wordcrafters Club

View all past incentives and winners [HERE](#).



TOASTMASTERS
FEBRUARY 1–MARCH 31

3 - Open House Challenge GOING ON NOW

- 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 Elizabeth Ruiz at cgd@tmd56.org to qualify
- Offered to the first 50 clubs



**Member
Renewal
Challenge
2023**

**Deadline
March
15
Wednesday**



**MARCH
Madness**

TOASTMASTERSHOUSTON.COM/INCENTIVES/

CLUB CENTRAL IS OPEN

RENEW DUES NOW

2 - Talk Up Toastmasters Membership Building Award GOING ON NOW

- 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

TOASTMASTERS DISTRICT 56

OPEN HOUSE CHALLENGE

To Enter:
Conduct an Open House
Send the Open House flier and the name of at least 2 new member names to Club Growth Director, Elizabeth Ruiz
cgd@tmd56.org

Challenge ends March 31, 2023
The first 50 clubs to submit will win a Toastmasters International Gift Certificate

REMAINING CLUB GROWTH INCENTIVES, WHY RENEW NOW, MARKETING MONDAYS, AND WINNERS

Elizabeth Ruiz, DTM, Club Growth Director



WHY DO MEMBERS RENEW?

Toastmasters has so much to offer. A few reasons members renew:

- Global Community
- Credibility and Affiliation
- Resources and Experts
- Global Visibility
- Common Vision, Purpose and Goals
- Power to Influence
- Connections and Social Capital
- To Maintain Access to Base Camp / Pathways
- Training and Leadership Skills
- Networking

Renew your membership now or by March 31, 2023, to retain your membership benefits through September 30, 2023. [RENEWAL DUES FAQs](#)

Delinquency may result in the club losing its good standing, which has consequences such as contest eligibility, voting, and participation in Distinguished Club Program (DCP). [SEE GUIDE](#)

Toastmasters can help to boost career, business and personal life. Renew your dues now.

Track your club's daily progress to submit 8 or more membership renewal payments through Club Central before April 1, 2023, from this [Toastmasters Dues Collection Leaderboard](#).

CLUB STATUS GUIDE

Verified complete: mm/dd/yyyy

- Minimum payments have been made. Your club is in good standing. The payments must be postmarked by the deadline for your club to score the DCP goal #10.

Low: Minimum Requirement not yet met

- Less than eight payments have been made. Your club will not be in good standing if the minimum payments are not made by the deadline.

Ineligible: Minimum Requirement not yet met

- Less than three renewals have been made. Your club will not be in good standing if the minimum payments are not made by the deadline.

Renewals not here

No payments have been made. Your club will not be in good standing if the minimum payments are not made by the deadline. The club is at risk of automatic suspension.



What is the minimum renewal requirement for clubs?

Per Policy 2.0: Club and Membership Eligibility, the minimum renewal requirement is eight paid members - at least three of whom were members of the club during the previous renewal period.

When do I have to pay my dues to remain in good standing and retain access to Base Camp?

- To remain in good standing and maintain access to Base Camp, your dues payment must be received by World Headquarters on or before September 30/March 31 to maintain uninterrupted access to Base Camp/Pathways.

REMAINING CLUB GROWTH INCENTIVES, WHY RENEW NOW, MARKETING MONDAYS, AND WINNERS

Elizabeth Ruiz, DTM, Club Growth Director

District 56

JOIN OUR NEXT MICRO **MARKETING MONDAYS**

NEW MARKETING TIP EACH WEEK

EVERY MONDAY 8-8:30 PM

REGISTER NOW

JOIN US

bit.ly/3DIN4yy

37 MARKETING MONDAYS SESSIONS PLANNED

Join District 56 Club Growth Director, Elizabeth Ruiz, and Club Growth Team on Mondays, through June 2023, from 8:00 PM - 8:30 PM Central Time, for 30 minutes on Zoom for a different micro-marketing session each week to help clubs thrive!

Check out past sessions:

- 2.27.2023 Club Marketing Guides
- 2.20.2023 Positive Psychology Marketing
- 2.13.2023 YouTube Marketing
- 2.6.2023 Video Marketing Strategy
- 1.30.2023 Tried & True Strategies for Membership Growth
- 1.23.2023 Fingerspitzengefühl Marketing
- 1.16.2023 Prioritize Retention
- 1.9.2023 Strategic Marketing
- 1.2.2023 Influencer Marketing
- 12.26.2022 Social Media Marketing

Marketing Mondays can help your club's marketing efforts, add new members, and set them up for success on their Toastmasters journey.

Register HERE Now!

Past Marketing Monday Sessions continued from the upper right column:

- 12.19.22 Content Marketing
- 12.12.22 Neurological Buzz
- 12.5.22 The Glue that Holds a Club Together
- 11.28.22 Get Your House in Order
- 11.21.2022 Nehemiah Way of Marketing Your Club
- 11.14.2022 Target Marketing
- 11.7.2022 Create a Memorable Message
- 10.31.2022 Pecha Kucha
- 10.24.2022 Behavioral Economics
- 10.17.2022 From Guest to Prospect to Member

1. Register in advance for Marketing Mondays

HERE

2. Once registered, open the confirmation email and click to save in your digital calendar, i.e., Google, Outlook, or Yahoo.

If you miss a Marketing Monday or want to go back to watch sessions, we have a shared Marketing Monday Google drive with recorded sessions, handouts, and more **HERE**.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

\$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE

Presented to: _____

From: _____

Club Number: _____ District Number: _____

Date: _____

Redeemable for merchandise from the Toastmasters International Store (www.toastmasters.org/shop) only. To redeem, mail this certificate to Toastmasters International World Headquarters along with your order for materials and check or credit card information if certificate does not cover entire order. Gift certificates are not valid at District stores.

[Signature]
Chief Executive Officer

Item: 6634

Each Marketing Monday we issue a challenge to take back to your club and try. Some challenges are contests where clubs may win up to \$100 per challenge.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE CLUB WINNERS!

Pecha Kucha

- 1st Place: Deerwood Toastmasters Club \$100
- 2nd Place: Houston Galleria Project Management \$50
- 3rd Place: City of Bryan Club \$25

Memorable Club Message

- 1st Place: Deerwood Toastmasters Club \$100

Get to Know Me Tag

- 1st Place: THE Tomball Toastmasters \$100
- 2nd Place: Dining Out Toastmasters \$50
- 3rd Place: Conroe Speaks Club \$25

DIVISION L

Michele Cuellar, DTM, Division L Director

On behalf of the Division L Team, I am excited to share that Division L Area Directors have worked very hard and diligently at visiting, encouraging their clubs to participate in the Division L Contest and completing their current clubs Area Reports at 100% by the end of February!

Division L Area Contest Winners

Evaluation Contest

L40: Jeremy Angus, EH3

L41: Kim Stengel, DTM

L43: Cathy Landry, DTM

L44: Venu Julapalli, PM1

International Contest Winners

L40: FNU Anita, PM3

L41: Winston Savice, LD4

L42: Jasmyn Lee, PM2

L43: Cathy Landry, DTM

L44: Maritza Aulestia, LD5

Division L will have their Division Contest on March 25th with the Contest starting at 9am.



L40: Jeremy Angus, EH3



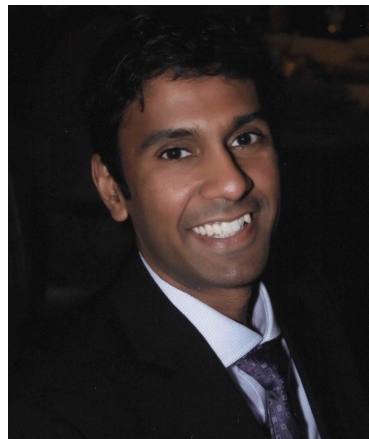
L41: Kim Stengel, DTM



L42: Jasmyn Lee, PM2



L43: Cathy Landry, DTM



L44: Venu Julapalli, PM1

DIVISION M

Akinlolu (Akin) Oni, DTM, Division M Director

Welcome to the Q1 2023 update of Division M. On behalf of the Division M Leadership Team (DMLT), I write to appreciate every member of our clubs for their unflinching support of our initiatives and their readiness to participate in the Spring 2023 Area & Division M contests. The Area Directors are completing their round 2 reports, and the Division is at 74% Club Visits complete as of the time of issuing this update. Area Council meetings are being held as frequently as practical.

IMPORTANT:

Dues Payment: Please pay TODAY! Thank you.

The Spring 2023 Contest is here - Members, please PLAN. PREPARE. PRACTICE. PARTICIPATE.

The DMLT and I cannot thank you all enough for continuously supporting our great Division and thereby living the Toastmasters dream!

Remember!

Lasting behavior change comes from the inside out. Who people really are, their values, and how they view the world, impacts how they engage and lead others.

What values will motivate your actions during the remainder of this TI Year? Ponder over this!

DIVISION N

Dara Griffith, DL5, Division N Director

Congratulations to Division N Area Contest Winners

Evaluation Contest

- N-20 Ron Sills of Talking Heads
- N-23 Leslie Davis of Katy Toastmasters
- N-22 1st – Adrian Castillo of Technip Energies
2nd – Kavitha Senthivelvan of Concophillips
- N-23 1st – Maximo Lopez of H-Town
2nd – Sai Asam of Blue Frog
- N-24 1st – Thejas Rajaram of Memorial City
2nd – Safia Ghani of KW Memorial

International Contest

- N-20 Ron Sills of Talking Heads
- N-23 Vaibhav Wadekar of Katy Toastmasters
- N-22 1st – Justin Williams of Technip Energies
2nd – Wilhelm Mwengi of Friedkin Group
3rd – Joseph Mathew of Aspen Tech
4th – Kavitha Senthivelvan of Concophillips
- N-23 1st – Sai Asam of Blue Frog
- N-24 1st – Carlotta Ford of Memorial City
2nd – Brandon Lara of KW Memorial

SHOUT OUTS

- To Becky Fields for accepting the challenge of being the Contest Chair for the Area and Division Contests this Year, and for the first time ever! Way to go, Becky! We appreciate you!
- Same kudos go to Harold Eaton, DTM, and Nishu Kurup for taking on the challenge of being the Chief Judge and Contest Toastmaster respectively for both the Area and Division contests this year. I am very proud of you, gents!
- To all other Spring 2023 Contest functionaries, I say a big thank you!
- To all contestants from Division M during the upcoming Area contests – Evaluation & International! Without y'all, we will have no contest this year. All the best to you all. Each of you is already a winner, just because you stepped up to compete.

March 11, 2023 DIVISION N AREA EVALUTATION & INTERNATIONAL SPEECH CONTEST





DIVISION O

Qiana Preston, DTM, Division O Director

On behalf of the Division O Leadership Team, well done, contestants and volunteers. You helped make our March 11, 2023 Evaluation and International Speech contest a success! Let's do it again at our April 1st, 2023 Division O Contest!

Congratulations to Division O Area Contest Winners

Evaluation Contest

- O10 1st Place: Anise Flowers, Dining Out
- O10 2nd Place: HPD Toastmasters
- O11 1st Place: Elizabeth Stephens, American General
- O11 2nd Place: Tamara Price, Find Your Voice
- O12 1st Place: Paul Bukowski, High Noon Club
- O13 1st Place: Javier Florez, Firm Speakers
- O13 2nd Place: Isabel Valensia, Cheniere

International Contest

- O10 1st Place: Anise Flowers, Dining Out
- O10 2nd Place: Theresia Olson, Talk is Cheap
- O11 1st Place: Chelsea Carswell, American General
- O12 1st Place: Amish Patel, High Noon Club
- O12 2nd Place: Douglas Holloway, Cougar Rhetoric
- O13 1st Place: James Johnson, Cheniere
- O13 2nd Place: Peter Contreras, Firm Speakers
- O13 3rd Place: Andea De La Torre, Talk of Downtown
- O14 1st Place: Christian Smerz, Word Doctors
- O14 2nd Place: Jenn Aguilar, Power Speakers

Thank You Division O Functionaries

Contest Chair: Marcia Hudgens, PDDG
Toastmaster: Jennifer Nelson
Target Speaker: Donna Stefanov
Timers: Courtni Hatton and D'Vere Thompson
SSA / Social Host: Elizabeth Moala-Page and Melissa Thomas
Chief Judge: Gail Lover, PDDG



DIVISION P

Fatimar Jones, DTM, Division P Director

DIVISION P ANNIVERSARIES



March 3, 2023, marked the 25th anniversary of Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Toastmasters. The club has met at the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Board Room since charter. Thirty-five Toastmasters, past and present, attended the event. Attendees included Founding President, Jim Sweeney; founding members Shari Sweeney and Richard Lehman; and Division Director Fatimar Jones. Ava Sloan, member for 22 years, led a fun-filled meeting. Guest speaker Kent Biggs, Toastmasters World Champion of Public Speaking Semifinalist, gave his championship speech entitled "Book of Dreams".

MORE DIVISION P ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary to the oldest club in Division P, JSC, which celebrated its 63rd anniversary in March.

Pearland Toastmasters celebrated its 26th anniversary in March.

The youngest club in Area P5, Friendswood Toastmasters will celebrate its 6th anniversary next month.

DIVISION Q

Brent Jatko, EC5, Division Q Director

On behalf of the Division Q Team, it's Contest Season again!
Please help other Divisions and they will help you.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Wordcrafters Club (Q50) for getting 5 new Members at the Open House held in February;
Houston Galleria Project Management Toastmasters (Q50) for getting 7 new Members;
South Main Speakers (Q50) for getting 5 new Members;
Determined to Master Speaking (Q50), 5 new Members;
A+ Toastmasters (Q51), 6 new Members;
Speak Up Houston Toastmasters (Q52), 5 new Members;
Greenway Plaza Toastmasters (Q52), 19 new Members; and
Spirited Speech Masters (Q54), 9 new Members.

DIVISION R

Srikkanth Madavan, PM5, Division R Director

Since March is Women's history month, I would like to take this opportunity to thank firstly the women ADs in Division R namely Jocelyn Williams (R60), Ellen Wieckzorek (R61) and Cynthia Abdon (R64) for doing a great job in their respective roles. Next, I would also like to thank all the women leaders in District 56 for their contribution to all the successes in District 56. Below is a quote from former first lady Michelle Obama:

"There's power in allowing yourself to be known and heard, in owning your unique story, in using your authentic voice."

San Felipe Plaza Toastmasters in area R63 conducted their first Open House in 2023. This event was attended by District 56 women leaders namely Elizabeth Ruiz (CGD), Sharla Ozen (PQD) and Michele Cuellar (Division L director). Also in attendance were Division Q Director Brent Jatko and Area R63 Director John Ness.

Upcoming focus for the division is the Area and Division International Speech and Evaluation contests. Division R will be following a hybrid format for both these contests.

- Area contest is on March 25 between 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM at Tracy Gee Community center.
- Division contest is on April 22 between 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM at Trini Mendenhall Community center.

Division R recognizes:

- The excellent service being provided by Harold Eaton and Roop Roy (AD R62) as Zoom Masters for the Area contest for other divisions in District 56.
- Dues Renewal: Pensadores Northwest (R62) and Blue Crew Toastmasters (R63) are leading Division R with 8 or more paid members.
- Daybreakers (R64), Professionally Speaking Singles (R63), Cy-Fair Super Speakers (R62) and 1960 North Houston (R60) are leading Division R as far as meeting the Membership goals. They added 4 new members to the club and also an additional 4 new members.



Don't forget to keep your club meeting time & location up to date on the District 56 website.

This is not a Toastmasters international requirement but it is a great PR tool for your club.

To update your club information [CLICK HERE](#).




San Felipe Plaza Open House

NOMINATED DISTRICT CANDIDATES


And the District 56 nominated executive candidates are:

2023-2024 Nominated District Executive Officer Candidates

The D56 District Leadership Committee has nominated the following members to be presented on the ballot for election at the May 2023 Annual Business Meeting.



Sharla Ozen
District Director Candidate



Elizabeth Ruiz
Program Quality Director Candidate

Club Growth Director
Nominated Candidates
Listed in Alphabetical Order by Last Name



Akin Oni



Qiana Preston



Jocelyn Williams

UPCOMING EVENTS



March 25
Division R Area Evaluation & International Contests
Division L Evaluation & International Contests

April 1
Division O Evaluation & International Contests
Division M Evaluation & International Contests

April 15
Division N Evaluation & International Contests
Division P Evaluation & International Contests

April 22
Division Q Evaluation & International Contests
Division R Evaluation & International Contests

May 5-6
2023 Spring Conference

2023-2024 Nominated Division Director Candidates

The D56 District Leadership Committee has nominated the following members to be presented on the ballot for election at the May 2023 Annual Business Meeting.



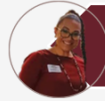
Division L
Luis Medina



Division O
Jennifer Nelson



Division M
Mary Jubb



Division P
Elizabeth Moala-Page



Division N
Samantha Traylor



Division Q
Erin Neyhart



Division R
Carolyn Charney

TOASTMASTERS
INTERNATIONAL

[Click here for the District Leadership Committee Report](#)

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@tmd56.org) (compassion@tmd56.org) to let us know.



PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

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

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