



DISTRICT 56 2023 ANNUAL ELECTION EDITION



Chandra Munagavalasa, DTM
2022-2023
District Director, District 56

DISTRICT 56 SPRING CONFERENCE

Date: May 5 and May 6, 2023

**Location: Holiday Inn - Energy Corridor
1112 Eldridge Pkwy, Houston, TX**

District 56 celebrates the 65th anniversary of the district with our very first Hybrid conference.

DISTRICT 56
2023
DISTRICT 56
SPRING CONFERENCE

REGISTER NOW

FRIDAY MAY 5
5 PM - 10 PM

SATURDAY MAY 6
9 AM - 10 PM

HOLIDAY INN
ENERGY CORRIDOR
1112 ELDRIDGE PKWY
HOUSTON, TX 77077

ACT NOW!

Until April 10: Early Bird Price \$100
April 11-20: Regular Price \$125
April 21-30: Last Opportunity \$150
** LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE **

WWW.TOASTMASTERSHOUSTON.COM

The **District 56 Toastmasters Spring Conference** is May 5-6, 2023. Get your all-access Conference Tickets today. Hurry because space is limited.

Act NOW! [Click Here to Register and Buy Tickets](#)

April 11 - 20, 2023, Regular Price \$125

April 21 - 30, 2023, Last Opportunity Price \$150

Tickets include:

Full Access to the Conference

Friday - Dinner

Saturday - Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Events & Recognition:

- First-Timers Gathering
- Evaluation Speech Contest
- Keynote Presentation
- **Annual Business Meeting – May 6, 2023 @ Noon**
- The Communication and Leadership Award Presentation
- Education & Leadership Sessions
- Advanced & Specialty Club Presentations
- Club President's Award Presentation
- Hall of Fame Awards & Pathways Triple Crown Recognition
- DTM Ceremony
- Spanish International Speech Contest
- International Speech Contest
- Installation of Elected District Officers

We can't wait to see you there!

Conference Co-Chairs:

Roop Roy, DTM

Jennifer Guhlin, DTM



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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING INFORMATION AND PROTOCOL

Annual Business Meeting Date/Time: Saturday, May 6, 2023, starting at 12:00 pm
(Zoom online waiting room will be enabled to check-in registered district council members)
Holiday Inn- Energy Corridor, 1112 Eldridge Parkway, Houston, Texas 77077

Club Presidents and Vice Presidents Education are members of the District Council and carry the votes for their Toastmasters clubs. If either one is unavailable to attend the District Council Meeting on May 6, 2023 the one who is attending will be assigned both votes for the club.

To vote during the **District Council Meeting**, delegates must **register** their attendance at the business meeting prior to the deadline set in the instructions received via email from the District Director. There will not be any proxy assignments associated with the district elections. Club Presidents and Vice Presidents Education should expect to receive voting instructions via email from the district director by no later than two weeks prior to the date of the Annual Business Meeting. Check your email inbox and junk folder before requesting a replacement registration email.

Pre-register today, even if you do not know your availability. You **MUST** pre-register in order to be admitted into the meeting. By pre-registering, it allows us to calculate the necessary quorum prior to our meeting.

- **IMPORTANT: Register with the email address you wish to receive the voting ballot from during the meeting. Corporate email addresses are not recommended, as corporate security restrictions may prohibit access to your voting ballot.**
Registration Deadline: Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 6:00 pm (CDT). You **MUST** pre-register in order to be credentialed to cast your vote(s)

- The District Council meeting registration is available by invitation only to members of the district council.
- **Registration Link:** Look in the email from the district director to locate the registration link for district council members. This link is not published and is only for the district council members
- **Registration Deadline:** Thursday, May 4, 2023, at 6:00 pm (CDT). You **MUST** pre-register in order to be credentialed to cast your vote(s)
- **The Candidate's Showcase link** will be provided by April 24, 2023
- All District Council members will visit the District 56 website beginning April 24, 2023 to view the Candidates' Showcase video. This video includes short interviews with the nominated candidates who will be running for elective district offices.

Ensure your club's voice is heard by voting at the District Council Meeting on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at Noon. In person attendance is open to all members; however to vote, you must have a device to click your voting link and cast your vote when instructed by the district director.



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The District Leadership Committee presents the District 56 Nominated Candidates for the 2023-2024 Program Year

In offices where there are multiple candidates, candidate names are listed in alphabetical order by last name.

District Director Candidate	Sharla Ozen, DTM	Division L Director Candidate	Luis Medina, DL3
		Division M Director Candidate	Mary Jubb. EC3
Program Quality Director Candidate	Elizabeth Ruiz, DTM	Division N Director Candidate	Samantha Traylor, DTM
		Division O Director Candidate	Jennifer Nelson, DTM
Club Growth Director Candidate	Akinlolu (Akin) Oni, DTM	Division P Director Candidate	Elizabeth Moala-Page, IP4
		Division Q Director Candidate	Erin Neyhart, IP5
Club Growth Director Candidate	Jocelyn V. Williams, DTM	Division R Director Candidate	Carolyn J. Charney, DTM

RULES OF ORDER

The Chair (Presiding Officer) will require votes on certain items on the agenda.

- Voting on a motion can only be done by delegates with credentials.
- Before votes can be taken, motions must be made from the floor by a credentialed delegate.
- When making a motion, please raise your credential and wait to be recognized by the Chair.
 - Once acknowledged, please stand, state your name, the Club you represent, and the Club office you represent: President, Vice President Education, or if you are a district officer, state your name and the title of your district office as a member of the Executive Committee.
 - Then, please make your motion.
- Many motions presented may require a second.
- If you wish to make or second a motion, please raise your credential and wait to be recognized by the Chair.
 - Once acknowledged, please stand, state your name, the Club you represent, and the Club office you represent: President, Vice President Education, or if you are a district officer, state your name and the title of your district office as a member of the Executive Committee.
 - Then, make or second the motion.

- During the elections, the district director will present the name of the office and then the name of the nominee(s) for that office.
 - No nominations from the floor are allowed unless the floor candidate has been interviewed by the District Leadership Committee. If any delegate wishes to nominate someone from the floor who was interviewed by the District Leadership Committee and not placed in nomination by the nominating committee, he or she must be a member of the district council.
 - The delegate must raise his or her credential and wait to be recognized by the Chair.
 - Once acknowledged, please stand, state your name, the Club you represent, and the Club or district office you represent.
 - Then, simply state, "I nominate (First Name, Last Name) for the office of (District Officer Position)."
 - At the time of the floor nomination, the floor candidate must have previously signed the Officer Agreement and Release Statement and submitted it to the District Director.
- During the election segment of the business meeting, only nominees for office with 2 or more candidates will be given two minutes to speak to the delegates. The Chair will call the candidates in alphabetical order by their last names. Once all candidates for the office have spoken, the Chair calls for the vote for that office.



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DEFINITIONS

District Annual Business Meeting – The annual meeting of the district council where candidates for elective district officer positions are elected to serve in the upcoming Toastmasters term of office which begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

Business Meeting Delegate – Any credentialed voting member of the district council. A credentialed member is one who has registered [on or before the published registration deadline] with the voting registration link provided by the district director to each eligible voting member of the district council.

District Council – The district council is comprised of all district executive committee members plus all club presidents and vice presidents education that are also paid members in a paid club at the time of the District Annual Business Meeting.

District Executive Committee – The district executive committee is comprised of the currently serving district officers as follows:

- District Director
- Program Quality Director
- Club Growth Director
- District Administrative Manager
- District Finance Manager
- District Public Relations Manager
- Immediate Past District Director
- Division Directors
- Area Directors



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Role of the District Director

As the District Director, you are responsible for directly overseeing and managing the District's day-to-day operations, finances, and human resources. Fortunately, you have a team of District leaders to help you fulfill these responsibilities. You must empower your District leadership team to work together toward the District mission, while supporting each one in his or her development as a leader. Together with your District leadership team, you participate in District Leader Training, Mid-year Training, and online tutorials. To serve as District Director, you must have served at least six consecutive months as a Club President and at least 12 consecutive months as a Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, Division Director, or a combination thereof at the time you take office. Additionally, at the time of taking office, an elective officer must have been an active member of a Toastmasters club in good standing for the entire preceding 12 months, or has been a member for 12 consecutive months within that past three (3) years, in the District in which the officer shall serve. A member may only be a candidate for elective office in one (1) District at any given time. A member may only serve in one position within any District. A District Director may not be re-elected to the same office for a succeeding term.

Sharla Ozen, DTM Nominated Candidate for District Director



Why do you want to serve as District Director?

My favorite phrase in Toastmasters is, "Members Matter Most." Our focus in 2023-2024 will be on the members; retaining members, recruiting new members and engaging members. Our greatest resources in Toastmasters are our Toastmasters members! We encourage members to get the most out of their dues payments by going beyond the club to attend events outside the club to learn from other members.

What is your vision for your role in the next Toastmasters year?

We look forward to seeing members in person. We want every member engaged in networking sessions where people meet other Toastmasters and form lasting friendships. We support all clubs in achieving excellence and want clubs to not simply survive; we want all clubs to thrive. Get your family involved in Toastmasters with Youth Leadership and gavel clubs so that our youth will be able to become better communicators and leaders to build a better future. Let's make sure all members are engaged in Pathways and continuous learning. "Toastmasters offers all members many opportunities to engage with each other in the district and around the globe." "Toastmasters really do make the world a better place." My vision is to bring members together and put the FUN into every FUNCTION in District 56!"



DISTRICT 56

2023 ANNUAL ELECTION EDITION

Role of the Program Quality Director

As the Program Quality Director, you are responsible for all aspects of education and training within the District. This includes supporting quality club programming efforts, promoting the Distinguished Club Program, and planning and executing the District conference. Together with your District leadership team, you participate in District Leader Training, Mid-year Training, and online tutorials. To be Program Quality Director, you must have served at least six consecutive months as Club President and at least 12 consecutive months as a Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, Division Director, or Area Director. Once you serve as Program Quality Director for a full year, you may not be re-elected to the same office for a succeeding term. Additionally, at the time of taking office, an elective officer must have been an active member of a Toastmasters club in good standing for the entire preceding 12 months or has been a member for 12 consecutive months within that past three (3) years, in the District in which the officer shall serve. A member may only be a candidate for elective office in one (1) District at any given time. A member may only serve in one position within any District. A Program Quality Director may not be re-elected to the same office for a succeeding term.

Elizabeth Ruiz, DTM Nominated Candidate for Program Quality Director



Why do you want to serve as Program Quality Director?

There is much to do and we can accomplish our goals with a team. To serve in the position incorporating words like –Promoting, Supporting, Planning, Designing, Executing, Organizing, Participating, following through and Training, Training, Training with lots of FUN sprinkled into everything we do.

What is your vision for your role in the next Toastmasters year?

The excitement for training will become something that will spread through clubs, areas, divisions and the entire district. We want to build leadership pipelines beginning at the club level with all 7 club officers trained to assist the clubs with membership retention and growth. We envision all members becoming enrolled in Pathways, more members becoming eligible to compete in contests, to serve on the district teams and to interact with Toastmasters beyond the club environment. The atmosphere will be FUN for all who wish to participate in all of the Program Quality Team activities beginning right up front starting on July 1st, including but not limited to fundraising, conference planning, club officer engagement and training. We need YOU to be on the team; let's build our club quality and member engagement together. Let's have FUN in everything we do in the new year!



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Role of the Club Growth Director

As the Club Growth Director, you are responsible for all aspects of marketing, club-building, and member- and club-retention efforts within the District. This includes defining an overall marketing strategy for the District, developing outreach and retention efforts with existing community and corporate clubs, and penetrating new markets. Additionally, the Club Growth Director supports challenged clubs and helps them to become Distinguished. Together with your District leadership team, you participate in District Leader Training, Mid-year Training, and online tutorials. To be Club Growth Director, you must have served at least six consecutive months as Club President and at least 12 consecutive months as a Program Quality Director, Club Growth Director, Division Director, or Area Director. Once you serve as Club Growth Director for a full year, you may not be re-elected to the same office for a succeeding term. Additionally, at the time of taking office, an elective officer must have been an active member of a Toastmasters club in good standing for the entire preceding 12 months, or has been a member for 12 consecutive months within that past three (3) years, in the District in which the officer shall serve. A member may only be a candidate for elective office in one (1) District at any given time. A member may only serve in one position within any District. A Club Growth Director may not be re-elected to the same office for a succeeding term.

Akinlolu (Akin) Oni, DTM Nominated Candidate for Club Growth Director



Why do you want to serve as Club Growth Director?

I love Toastmasters International and I bring my very complete self to everything I do every day. I was invited to become a Toastmaster because someone thought I had something to offer a number of people. I got in here and found that more people have helped me more than I have helped people. Serving in this position offers me an opportunity to give back.

What is your vision for your role in the next Toastmasters year?

Bringing people together to market our district, bringing people together to study club health of existing clubs and study demographics of areas where we can start new clubs. I will be looking for ideas from the membership to build new clubs. I will look at the strength and the health of our clubs and work together with existing clubs to be able to stand on their own. The emphasis is on sustainability. My vision for you and for District 56 is no different from the purpose my role of Club Growth Director - marketing, club growth and building a community of committed Toastmasters. I want to focus on doing the right things over doing things right. Together we can form a more formidable district while driving a sense of togetherness towards becoming a strong sustainable district. Let us continue to live the Toastmasters dream.

Jocelyn V. Williams, DTM Nominated Candidate for Club Growth Director



Why do you want to serve as Club Growth Director?

I am humbled and excited to be a nominated candidate for Club Growth Director. I truly believe in the Toastmasters International mission of empowering individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. I have served as a successful Speechcraft Coordinator, Demo team member, Club Sponsor, Club Mentor and Club Coach. Serving in these roles as well as serving a Club Growth Team member for the past two years has been a privilege and great learning experience to prepare me for serving as Club Growth Director.

What is your vision for your role in the next Toastmasters year?

Imagine joining me in engaging the core of Toastmasters in District 56. Commit to seizing opportunities to demonstrate the ROI of Toastmasters to employers, individuals and organizations while retaining and recruiting members by meeting their expectations and needs. YOU are needed on the Club Growth Team. No commitment is too small. There is a place for YOU. I welcome the opportunity to connect with you to hear your ideas, needs and expectations. Together, we can ensure that District 56 achieves and maintains excellence. I humbly ask for your support. On May 6th, vote Jocelyn V. Williams for Club Growth Director.



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Role of the Division Director

As Division Director, your job is to lead and support the Division through the supervision and support of the Area Directors. One of your primary goals as Division Director is to ensure that each club achieves its mission and fulfills its responsibilities to its members.

To achieve this, you

- coordinate Division activities,
- set Division goals, and
- assist in the training of Area and club leaders.

To serve as Division Director, you must have served at least six consecutive months as a member of a District Council. The Division Director may be re-elected to one succeeding term.

Luis Medina, DL3

Nominated Candidate for Division L Director



Why do you want to serve as Division Director?

I want to serve as Division L Director and participate with Area Directors in supporting the clubs and growing members. When members grow and get better, the clubs get better, the area gets better and the division reaches program goals. I know members will learn from me and I will learn from them. Together we will grow and learn from our experiences.

What is your vision for your role in the next Toastmasters year?

Help members grow and adapt and become comfortable with changes and meet their goals in Pathways. Working with the Division L team of Area Directors, we will support clubs in achieving Distinguished Club recognition. We will do everything possible to make it the best year ever.

Mary Jubb, EC3

Nominated Candidate for Division M Director



Why do you want to serve as Division Director?

I want to serve as Division M Director to gain additional leadership development. When I first joined Toastmasters 5 years ago, I was looking for leadership development because I was not getting exactly what I wanted in my career. I found that, and more, in Toastmasters. I completed a leadership path and started working on the Effective Coaching path and, as a result, I was promoted to a new position at work. I get to work with people to help them learn what I do (I am a geologist). I enjoy seeing others learn and grow from their Toastmasters experiences.

What is your vision for your role in the next Toastmasters year?

I am excited about getting to know more people and help them reach their goals. I didn't know I could serve in this role until someone approached me to ask me to do it. I am excited about getting to see people in person and work with the Division M team. I am excited to have FUN, make new friends and help others become better Toastmasters, better community members and better leaders.



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Samantha Traylor, DTM **Nominated Candidate for Division N Director**



Why do you want to serve as Division Director?

I am excited to serve in District 56 as Division N Director. Our team is going to be a wonderful family. I have a special place in my heart for Division N as a member of 2 clubs in Division N. I have served as Area Director for 2 different areas in Division N.

What is your vision for your role in the next Toastmasters year?

Our vision is to have 100% distinguished clubs with documented club success plans and to bring clubs and areas together as one family. We will have committee positions available and invite others to come on board and become a team member. We are looking forward to having FUN and can't wait to have YOU on our team.

Jennifer Nelson, DTM **Nominated Candidate for Division O Director**



Why do you want to serve as Division Director?

To build an awesome team and build relationships with team members and the clubs in the division.
To help grow membership in low member clubs and partner them with high achieving clubs to accomplish more together.
To have more in person events and club meetings

What is your vision for your role in the next Toastmasters year?

To help area directors see where they are and what we can accomplish as a team. I think that will lead to a successful year for everyone.

Elizabeth Moala-Page, IP4 **Nominated Candidate for Division P Director**



Why do you want to serve as Division Director?

I joined Toastmasters in 2020 after visiting a club to listen to my sister give her Ice Breaker speech. I have received so much support from fellow members, mentors and leaders. Someone saw potential in me and that's why I am stepping into this opportunity. I am passionate about Toastmasters and the core values of Integrity, Respect, Service and Excellence.

What is your vision for your role in the next Toastmasters year?

As Division Director I will provide the same support to other leaders, clubs, members and guests. All that we need is already here. Toastmasters International has been around for 100 years; there's no need to re-invent a wheel. We just need to work together to perfect the processes. As Division Director I will give my all with respect and integrity. I am ready to serve in excellence.



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Erin Neyhart, IP5 Nominated Candidate for Division Q Director



Why do you want to serve as Division Director?

I said “yes” to serving because I had such a valuable experience as an area director. I want to build upon my leadership skills at the next level. I have gained so much and value the opportunity to give back.

What is your vision for your role in the next Toastmasters year?

As division director a primary goal is to transition from virtual to more in person meetings. I think that being able to speak well on a virtual platform is a good skill to have; however there is even more to be gained by speaking in front of an in person audience. In person is the way that Toastmasters was originally meant to be experienced. Navigating the transition from all virtual to hybrid or partially in person meetings is what my vision will be in the new year as a district leader.

Carolyn J. Charney, DTM Nominated Candidate for Division R Director



Why do you want to serve as Division Director?

I became a member in 2015 just to get my co-worker out of my office who was inviting me to a Toastmasters meeting. I saw a change in that person and after a few meetings I wanted to become a part of this life changing organization. I admit, I am scared and when we are scared we are about to learn. I want to step into the opportunity to learn and grow into the leader I want to become. I want to give back to this community of leaders that have given so much to me and my development.

What is your vision for your role in the next Toastmasters year?

My goal is to create an environment in Division R that's a supportive environment where people learn and have FUN. I want people to watch our leadership team and become excited about leadership and say “That's something I want to do!” I don't want to have to recruit people to take my place; I want people to be asking me “How do I do that?” “That's the next role I want to have.” It can be scary but it can also be FUN. We can learn and we can have a good time. DIVISION R – RISING STARS IN TOASTMASTERS DISTRICT 56! Come join the team, become uncomfortable, learn, grow, play, laugh and have FUN with the Division R team.



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**Location: Holiday Inn - Energy Corridor
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**District 56 Annual Business Meeting
May 6, 2023 – Noon**

Credentials Committee Report

Clubs Eligible X 2	=	_____
Quorum (1/3 of Clubs Eligible X 2)	=	_____
Presidents and Vice Presidents Education Represented	=	_____
District Executive Committee Members Represented	=	_____
Total Ballots Available	=	_____
Simple Majority (50% of the Total Ballots Available + 1)	=	_____

District Business

2023-2024 Club Alignment:	Approved	_____
	Not Approved	_____
District Budget:	Approved	_____
	Not Approved	_____
[Additional Topics, if applicable]:	[Position 1]	_____
	[Position 2]	_____



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DISTRICT 56

2022-2023 DISTRICT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The 2022-2023 District Leadership Committee was formed with one representative from each of our 7 divisions in District 56.

We acknowledge and thank the committee members for their service and dedication to the process of advancing qualified candidates.

District Leadership Committee Members

District Leadership Committee Chair

Pamela McCown, DTM, PID

Division L

Karen Pitts, DTM

Division M

Keith Romaine, DTM

Division N

Troy Rockett, PM 3

Division O

Tammie Rochester, IP 3

Division P

Cheryl Clark, PI 3

Division Q

David Bell, DTM

Division R

Kevin Chang, DTM