

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

ISSUE 4 | NOVEMBER 2022

**YONELA
MOTLOUNG**

**DISTINGUISHED
THROUGH
SERVICE**

EDUCATIONAL

**REV UP YOUR
MEETINGS**

**EVENTS AND
ENTERTAINMENT**
HALL OF FAME AWARDS
THUNDERCON 2023

LEADERSHIP
TAKING CHARGE:

YOUR FIRST **100** DAYS
ON THE JOB

**16
PAGES**



REDEFINING LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA



CONTENTS

01

EDITORIAL

Note from the Managing Director
From the District Directors Desk

02

LEADERSHIP

Club Leadership - Vice President Education
Integrating Toastmasters Into Everyday Life
Leading Women Series - Nikki Quinn
Distinguished Through Service
From Contest Champion to Presidency
Taking Charge : Your First 100 Days on the Job
Intellectual Courage for Improvement

03

EDUCATION

Contest Preparation - Table Topics
Be Open to Feedback
Pathway Spotlight - Effective Coaching
Managing a Difficult Audience - Pathways Project
Self Leadership in Toastmasters
Member Spotlight : Malebogo Bakwena
Member Spotlight : Mbute Andreas
Experience of a VPE : Martha Mpakula

04

EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Mauritius Toastmasters Week
Hall of Fame Awards
Three-Time Club Growth Recipient : Raj Trilochum
Zambezi's 365th Meeting
Thundercon 2023

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NOTE FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR



“

I intend to continue until I get the mission accomplished.

”

As the end of the year slowly approaches, I normally get excited about the upcoming holidays and at the same time maybe feel a bit sluggish about accomplishing my goals. Being the avid reader that I am, one of my main yearly goals is to read several books each year. The closer the end of the year gets, it seems the less stamina I have to complete my goals; especially when I realise that I am lagging behind in achieving my goals. I even start second guessing myself as to whether I will accomplish the goal or not. To help revive and motivate me to get to the finish line, I am focusing on completing short books for now, as a way to keep the motivation alive. As Helen Keller said, “I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.” **I intend to continue until I get the mission accomplished.**

Our issue this month is filled with stories that will help revive your goals as we approach the end of the year. We look at steps to follow on self-leadership and also hope that you will be motivated by the success stories of the various members in our District who are excelling against all odds. How do you integrate Toastmasters into your daily life? Find out more inside...

Take inspiration from this issue and just know that, eventually, everything connects - people, ideas and objects. Here's to inspiration and motivation as the year concludes. Cheers!

Leya Musunga

FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S DESK

Let's practice for 2023.

At some point, I was sporty. I knew before a race, or tournament, our coach would get us into a strict training programme. It was more intense than the races and tournaments we eventually participated in. His words, “Rather over prepare than be underwhelming!” These sessions would prepare us for the race or tournament that we wanted to win. It was clear what his intention for us was. He would leave no stone unturned to ensure our win was secured, ahead of the game or tournament. I believe that is what instilled a winning mentality that I have. Anyway, I wonder how things could be different if we applied the same regime that my coach exposed us to. I wonder how different our January personal results would be if we used the time



Andrew Tsuro, DTM
District 74 District Director

now to prepare for the upcoming year. Would it give you a head-start as it would for me?

I thought of this a few days ago while stuck in the pits of “I wish I had...” and again, remembered that ‘if wishes were horses, beggars would ride.’ I committed to concurrently work on my outstanding goals for this calendar year but spare 30 minutes a day, consistently to work on my goals for 2023. So, if you don't get hold of me between 23H00 – 23H30... know that I am getting a head-start for the year ahead.

Let's practice for 2023, together!

LEADERSHIP

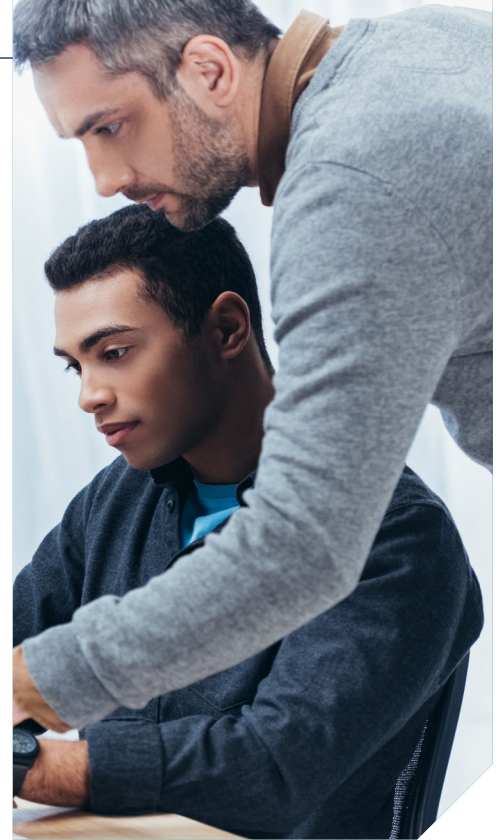
CLUB LEADERSHIP

VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION

At any given time around the world, a Vice President of Education (VPE) is organising a Toastmasters meeting. The Vice President Education is the custodian of the Toastmasters meeting and the educational function, tasked with organising, coordinating and ultimately preparing the meeting programme. The VPE provides assistance with navigating Base Camp, completing projects and submitting educational awards. The role empowers members with the necessary skills required to engage with multiple individuals, synchronise roles, manage time and ensure the ultimate success and completion of the meeting events:

skills with real world applicability. As new Toastmasters, members might not appreciate the intricacies of organising a meeting or the skills that come with it. The leadership roles can be adopted at the beginning of the Toastmasters year and the successful completion of the role can give credit towards the Distinguished Toastmaster award.

Wame Namponya



INTEGRATING TOASTMASTERS INTO EVERYDAY LIFE

I had a busy week this October in which I had to travel to Victoria Falls for a speaking engagement and later in the week, moderate a session during a pan African conference. I took the opportunity to host a sundowner for fellow Toastmasters in the city, which would be a great way to pitch a short educational about Toastmasters to the members of this "new kid on the block". Throughout the week I tapped into the many great skills I have learnt in my Toastmasters journey in order to make each engagement profoundly effective and impactful.

Research

I went through many pages of information on the topics that would be the subject of discussion for all three occasions. This enabled me to have wide ranging information

such that when the audience had questions to ask, I was equipped to answer, and for the panel discussion, I had enough information to help me to ask pertinent questions to enrich the discussions. I enjoyed collecting information, arranging it for use and having it within hand for delivery.

Collaboration: Team cohesion and alignment

For all three occasions, I took time to have more than one debrief session with the teams I would be working with. For the panel session, we had a team debrief at least 10 days before, agreed on a session strategy, then followed up with constant deliberations on a WhatsApp group created for the panel session. Team alignment eliminates unnecessary programme glitches which may impede the smooth flow and even quality of delivery.

Active listening

Throughout the conference my ears, and consciousness were sharp. I listened to understand and inevitably the Toastmaster

evaluator in me emerged. At the high tea, the Q and A session was interesting and I had to consciously listen to understand and not listen to respond. The engagements were therefore very productive. At the sundowner, my guests had much to say about their Toastmasters journeys so far. As they shared, I understood better their ambitions and the barriers that we need to eliminate in order to make their level to level experience fulfilling and rewarding. Active listening was also key for the panel moderation as I had to summarise each speaker's presentation and give key points as a means to seamlessly move from one panellist to the other.

Creative audience engagement

For the panel session, I did two things to engage the audience and create a memorable hook. One, I showed a video that was highly controversial but effective in bringing out the 'problem statement' that the panel was assigned to address. The video was both humorous and informative and put the discussion into context. The

second was that I launched a survey about the topic before the session and then showed the results as I introduced the panel. This exercise enabled the audience to co-create the content of the session together with the panellists which gave them vested interest in the session.

The total experience of drawing skills from the practice that I get from Toastmasters was as highly fulfilling as it was exciting. I enjoyed the week and to make it more valuable, I requested feedback from some colleagues. The pointers for improvement that were shared were highly valuable for future engagements; all thanks to the awesome world of Toastmasters.

Tsungie Manyeza



Tsungie Manyeza



TAKING CHARGE: YOUR FIRST 100 DAYS ON THE JOB

The first hundred days refers to the beginning of a leading politician's term in office. The concept was pioneered by Franklin Roosevelt with an aim to turn around the fortunes of America. Suppose you've been hired into a leadership position at a new organisation or been promoted into a new job in a different division or section of your current organisation. What should you focus on first? We are going to look at twenty-five suggestions in the next couple of issues. In this issue we look at the first eight:

Watch the cash Undoubtedly there are people in your new organisation with cheque-writing authority. Get a grip on that immediately to prevent any last-minute sweetheart deals or payment of extravagant invoices from consultants and vendors. This is especially important in closely held or family concerns, where relatives may be drinking from the cash flow stream.

Declare a decision-making moratorium Publicly announce a moratorium of a reasonable length, say ninety days, during which you will not make any important decisions. In particular, don't make any promises. Make it clear that you intend to spend this time listening and learning. Of course, if a wing is on fire, you have to act on that immediately.

Don't listen to complaints about your predecessor. This can lead into a swamp, and you don't want to be mired there.

Spend time with the really important people. These include your private secretary and the receptionist. They likely are tuned into the organisation's central nervous

system and can help you understand some of the current dynamics. They can also help you understand the unwritten norms of the organisation.

Get to know some old-timers Get a list of respected people who have recently left the organisation. Take them to lunch and listen. They will likely be quite responsive, especially if their retirement income is connected to the company's future financial performance. They also may know where the bodies are buried and where new veins of gold may be found.

Establish relationships with customers, constituencies and allies Go along on sales calls, have lunch with clients, stay close to the marketing staff, get to know your advertising agency, visit regulators if appropriate, pay attention to your research staff, get acquainted with your major stakeholders, and of course, perhaps foremost, stay close to your board of directors. Understand where your flanks are and protect them.

Develop a few trusted internal confidants Most new leaders implicitly or explicitly develop around them a small core of people - usually no more than two or three - that they can trust unquestionably. Organisational proximity will have a great deal to do with who is chosen to be in this group, as will psychological chemistry. Executive secretaries often play this role, as do experienced direct reports. They can help you understand the organisation's culture, including sacred cows to watch out for. Select the core group carefully; acting too quickly and choosing the wrong people inevitably leads to trouble.

Noma Muzunze

FROM CONTEST CHAMPION TO PRESIDENCY

Siphosenkosi Jedidiah Kadzutu - the 2020-2021 Division Z public speaking champion - joined Toastmasters with just one aim; to become the public speaking champion of the world, of which he says, "that's still work in progress." When contest season came around, he actually didn't want to enter the competition as he had entered it the previous year and ended as a runner up. His mentor, Tsitsi Mphofu, encouraged him to sign up for the Club contest and challenged him to practise his speech 100 times for the Club round, which she then had him increase to 150 times for the Area competition and by the time the Division contest came around, he took it upon himself to practise the speech 200 times. "It was crazy, I was literally practising wherever and whenever I got the chance," he shared.

By the time the Division contest came, he realised that his mindset had changed. "I stopped being in competition with the contestants and I decided to become my competition. When my mindset got into this zone, I believe that I had now grasped the real purpose of

the competition," Sipho revealed.

Siphosenkosi was recently elected as the youngest ever President of the Executive Toastmaster Club in Zimbabwe. It's been an interesting and exciting ride thus far and a great achievement for him since he took up the role during a very tough time, not just in Zimbabwe but the world over. "We are just coming out of Covid and a lot of Clubs have been shaken and a lot of structures that used to be there have either changed or are now non-existent. So, the transition from Covid to trying to bring back things to how they were before is no small task." Sipho has previously served as Vice President Public Relations.

Noma Muzunze



INTELLECTUAL COURAGE FOR IMPROVEMENT

We are living in a time of information overload and how we use this information matters and determines how effective we are in the different facets of life. I recently attended a Toastmasters club meeting and the Toastmaster of the day before inviting the general evaluator said, "receive the evaluation feedback with an attitude of gratitude." I thought to myself... that takes another level of courage! What if I don't agree? We all need feedback in life, constructive criticism on what we think we know if we are going to improve. Accepting some feedback and working them requires courage.

It may not always be in a Toastmasters setting, but every leaders knowledge or performance will be challenged. It could be through different leadership situations that you face and you'd have to let go of the traditional way of thinking to a more modern approach that you're uncomfortable about. To improve you will need a type of courage known as intellectual courage and it's very necessary in redefining leadership.

Intellectual courage is the willingness to learn and expand our horizons. This is a type of courage that's in decline in a world where everyone is retreating into information bubbles, and overdosing on confirmation bias.

In practice, intellectual courage can mean being willing to tackle difficult concepts, asking questions when you're confused, risking making mistakes, and being willing to challenge beliefs or ideas you'd previously held. It means being inspired to learn and question what you encounter, and giving your honest opinion even if it makes you feel uncomfortable. It means being a critical thinker, rather than just a passive recipient of knowledge. It's the opposite of intellectual arrogance, where people are so convinced of their intellect they become closed-minded and biased, unwilling to accept they might be wrong. If you are going to make improvements in your functions as a leader, I recommend intellectual courage because where others grumble you'll be humble.

Clinton Kadochi

In this series, we highlight the professional challenges and aspirations of women who serve in Toastmasters. From a woman who says, "If I hadn't ended up in the professional career that 'chose me,' I would have loved to work in the fashion industry," this is Nikki Quinn's journey as a leading woman. She is 3x DTM and the current Region 11 Advisor, supporting Toastmasters leaders in Africa and the Middle East.

Naturally curious, always probing, researching answers and reading, Nikki's latest find is Blinkist. Check it out! A Toastmaster for 15 years, she has made lifelong connections and true friends along the way. Nikki works with a global Data & Marketing Insights company. A vegetarian, who is also an avid traveller, Nikki has been to 57 countries, 17 in Africa, enjoying outdoor activities, cooking, keeping fit and spending time with her supportive partner, Steve.



Nikki Quinn DTM
Region 11 Advisor

Leading Women Series

NIKKI QUINN

Looking back on your past Toastmasters experience, could you share your stories of success as a leader?

I have had greater success in my career at work with Toastmasters supporting me in stepping up, showing up, helping me get the best out of my team and giving them the opportunity to excel!

During COVID, I became a candidate for new employment because of my technical skills and knowledge, but I know that the interviewing and influencing skills, I honed in Toastmasters, clinched the deal. In two years, I have since empowered my then struggling team and we have delivered on our KPIs while I support individuals in my team from strength to strength. I've learnt humility, being a more effective team player, holding others accountable and trusting my team to get it done.

What challenges have you encountered while dealing with people in and outside Toastmasters?

There will always be challenges when dealing with people, and of course we learn to deal better with these challenges in Toastmasters.

No two individuals are the same, not everyone's opinion, goals and envisioned future is the same and often there is a gap between expectations and that

gap is the cause of most challenges.

Toastmasters has taught me to listen, ask rather than tell and to understand different communication and leadership styles and value systems when dealing with challenges.

What is the faith that supports you to face these challenges?

The fact that I have the resource to counter a challenge in my toolbox gives me faith. That resource is often people in my network, failing which, an article or a book on my bookshelf!

What qualities do you think are most important in leadership?

Being a leader requires a plethora of skills and qualities, communication is critical, being a role model, able to motivate and inspire and foster future potential. Find your style and be authentic.

What do you think are the biggest challenges ahead for the next generation of female leaders?

I daresay the challenges of the next generation of leaders are not specific to females. Knowing that leadership always comes with challenges, future challenges and obstacles will certainly not have been faced by past leaders.

Faced with anticipating what the next change will be, managing it and adapting, leaders

will still have to lead people, but also balance that with artificial intelligence tools and robots, which come with other newer, unknown challenges while continuing to promote diversity, inclusion and ensuring intergenerational collaboration.

What is your perception on re-defining leadership on a world scale?

The world is at a crossroads and everything is changing at the rate of knots; not just in leadership. Unfortunately, there has not been enough focus on leadership development, let alone on redefining it! We need to replace traditional models and develop new models and systems that include everybody, that are flexible and can be adapted as the situation and needs change. I have no doubt that the world will survive and will continue to change!

Martha Mpakula



Yonela Motloun, a member of Central Centurion club in South Africa since 2019, recently attained the highest educational award in Toastmasters International, that of Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM). A mum of twin boys, a career woman and a career coach, she loves to travel, meeting up with friends or watching movies with her boys. We recently caught up with her to get to know her better.

May you please share your Toastmasters journey, the highlights and how you ended up becoming distinguished. -

In 2018, I got an opportunity at work to go to Switzerland for a short-term assignment. It was while I was there that it dawned on me that I needed to build my self-confidence and become a

Yonela
Motloun

**DISTINGUISHED
THROUGH SERVICE**

better speaker and communicator. I saw this as the ladder that would take me to my career goals. I then joined Central Centurion in 2019 but I never really intended to become a Distinguished Toastmaster. I just had a heart for people and wanted to serve them. In my service, I became Club president in 2020/2021. I later got involved in Club quality as district Club quality chair. It is through this "service" that I realised that I'd actually done enough to earn the DTM award. I then just put all my projects in and got the award. Funny how it came together in a rather unplanned way!

What advice would you give someone who is on the fence, considering to join Toastmasters and is not sure? - Self development is a personal responsibility. The world will not give it to us. It's part of self love and really choosing yourself over all other priorities shouting for your attention. Being in an environment that positively affirms you while teaching you

how to be a better communicator, speaker and leader is the best gift of love one can give to themselves. There's never a right time to get started.

As you take up your new office, how do you see yourself redefining leadership going into the future? - I've

come to learn that a heart of service will give you influence beyond imagination. I've just taken up the role of Assistant Division Director in the Club Growth office for Division Y. I never thought I'd start a Club in my life as I found it to be quite tedious, but my heart to serve has brought me here. In fact, that's how I'm redefining my leadership; being able to step into roles that I'm not so comfortable with and defining a new way of self leadership despite the discomfort. My intention is to transfer this thinking to the team I work with.

Lastly, what word of advice can you give

Toastmasters currently leading at various levels from Club to District? - Always

understand that your role has impact and reach beyond what is in your immediate

"work so hard and achieve goals as if this is the last thing you'll ever do"

surroundings. You are helping shape destinies, giving people new hope and little by little changing the world. When you see yourself through that lens, you will not be deterred by anything. People not showing up to Club meetings will not discourage you because you'll know that your mission is much bigger than that. The way people treat you is 90% of the time based on how they see life, not you. Never take things personally. Lastly, work so hard and achieve goals as if this is the last thing you'll ever do. Your legacy will live on for generations to come!.

Tsungie Manyeza

EDUCATION

CONTEST PREPARATION - TABLE TOPICS

The District 74 contest season normally commences in the third quarter of the Toastmasters year.

During this time, Clubs, Areas, Divisions and Districts are engaged around the clock to ensure that they hold contests that are consistent with and in line with Toastmasters International standards. For the contest speaker though, I dare say that your preparation starts months in advance.

To write a winning international speech, deliver a persuasive Table Topic and/or an effective, meaningful evaluation takes months and months of preparation. Below are some tips on how you can prepare for the Table Topics contest season.

The Table Topics session entails a 1-2 minute speech on a given topic. The speaker is required to answer the question whilst also adapting.

- 1. Take up a Table Topics speaking role at every opportunity.** The conventional Toastmasters programme has a Table Topics session at every meeting. Take up the opportunity at as many meetings as possible to practise by participating in the Table Topics session. This will help you become more effective at answering questions and aligning your thoughts in a short period of

time.

- 2. The power of stories.** Stories have a fantastic way of carrying a message forward, even in 1-2 minutes. Have a set of stories that can easily be adapted to deliver a message to any Table Topic. Anecdotes and personal stories are always easier to adapt because they are lived experiences. Also always have a set of quotations handy.
- 3. Research.** There are a number of known methods and tricks that can be used in answering a Table Topics question such as using the PREP method (Point, Reason, Example and Point), the time method where you answer the questions with reference to the past, present and the future. Research these methods and become comfortable with them so that you choose the right method depending on the question that you are asked.

Answering a Table Topic can be daunting, however, with the right preparation you can get one step closer towards a winning Table Topics speech.

Wame Namponya

PATHWAY SPOTLIGHT - EFFECTIVE COACHING

Division M Director Robert Salijeni recently completed the Effective Coaching Pathway which equipped him with the necessary skills to become an accomplished public speaker and coach. In embarking on the Effective Coaching path, he had the intention of learning the skills necessary to become a thought leader capable of greatly impacting the lives of others through coaching them to actualise their dreams. Accordingly, he saw this Path as an opportunity for him to sharpen his coaching skills.

his journey.

The Art of Life says to never lose the kid in you, so always be committed to a cause regardless of any challenges you encounter along the way. In the end Mr Salijeni used his relentlessness to reach the end of the marathon as a winner and challenges all Toastmasters to believe in their abilities with a "yes, I can do it attitude" because if he could do it, why can't you?

Wame Namponya

He had the opportunity to work on a High-Performance Leadership project which required him to assemble a guidance committee and a project team, with one team tasked with explaining the objectives of his project and the desired results to be achieved on completion of the project and the other tasked with helping him to handle different assignments of the project respectively. These two committees helped him to understand the power in unity buttressing the African proverb that, "If you want to go faster, go alone, but if you want to go further, go together."

He was elated when together with these two committees, he successfully accomplished and met the objectives of the project. He noted that it took him time to use all the leadership skills to listen to other people's contributions and appreciate their efforts. To see himself excel at the end of the project was a great milestone in



Robert Salijeni
Division M Director

BE OPEN TO FEEDBACK

Every once in a while, certain service providers may request feedback as to how the customer perceives their service offering and what suggestions one may have so as to enhance the customer experience. Giving and receiving feedback, whether at corporate or individual level, is an essential part of growth and development.

Organisations that are open to feedback stand a higher chance of retaining and gaining new customers or clients as they are perceived as listening and adaptable organisations. The same can be said of individuals who are constantly seeking feedback so

they can improve certain aspects of their life. Many people and corporates are not comfortable when it comes to receiving feedback because they do not understand the purpose and value of feedback and at times view feedback as "an attack". Feedback is simply information as to how one's actions or performance is perceived by another. Whether in business or personal life, openness to feedback helps us to become more self aware and see ourselves through the lenses of others.

Rudo Masango

MANAGING A DIFFICULT AUDIENCE - PATHWAYS PROJECT

The Managing a Difficult Audience project is the perfect manual on how to expertly and professionally deal with all manner of difficult audiences. In my line of work, I facilitate training, moderate discussions and host events. The probability of encountering difficult audience members in any of my presentations is very high. Difficult audience members can at times disarm and distract the speaker if the speaker is not adequately prepared to handle such situations. If, like me, your manner of work involves a lot of presentations, I implore you to not shy away from this particular project. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much confidence you will gain in dealing with a difficult audience through merely taking on this project.



Rudo Masango

EDUCATION SEGMENT

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - MALEBOGO

BAKWENA

Malebogo Bakwena from Eloquent Toastmasters in Botswana has been a member for one year and is currently serving as the President of the Club. She joined Toastmasters as she wanted to learn how to better articulate herself. Being a good

role model to young girls is what keeps her motivated. Her dream is to be a paid speaker in the future.

Leya Musunga



Malebogo Bakwena

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT MBUTE ANDREAS

Mbute Andreas, a Toastmaster from Tarantaal Toastmaster Club in Namibia, joined Toastmasters after losing out on a prestigious scholarship because of her inability to eloquently express herself at the interview stage. "I realised that I needed to work on my public speaking, lose my fear of speaking in front of an audience and build up my confidence." She has been a member of the Club since June 2020 and has found that Toastmasters is a safe space to practise public speaking.

Stories of the past - especially those stories that relate to the olden times - are what make Mbute laugh. "My late grandmother was my best storyteller. I enjoyed spending time with her."

She hopes to become a better version of herself in the future, "I want to be

able to introspect and do a mental count of all the self-work that I have done. When I am the best version of myself, I can grow in the different areas of my life," she concluded.

Leya Musunga



Mbute Andreas

SELF-LEADERSHIP IN TOASTMASTERS

The Toastmasters International values - service, respect, excellence and integrity - cannot be achieved without self-leadership. Our District Leadership - led by DTM Andrew Tsuro - is calling for us to redefine leadership in Africa. How do we redefine leadership in a whole continent if we have not grasped or achieved leadership of self?

Self-leadership is therefore the first level of leadership. According to Dr Mavis Ureke, this means, "Accepting responsibility and taking accountability for being the best version of yourself." As a leader, the first person you need to lead is yourself. Ask yourself, is this the best that I can do or be? How can I use my abilities for the greater good? How can I serve better in Toastmasters?

Steps to self-leadership in Toastmasters:

- Have a plan - write your vision (break it down in a manner that meets your needs);
- Have an accountability partner;
- Attend the majority of meetings;
- Take note of how others conduct their roles and learn;
- Visit other clubs, share experiences and learn;
- Take up meeting roles often;
- Take up a leadership position;
- Explore the Toastmasters International website often;
- Keep learning and growing;
- Put lessons learnt into practice;
- Allow growth to be over a period of time;
- Set aside time for reflection and rejuvenation; and
- Always remember your why!

Remember - Self leadership requires discipline, commitment, focus and perseverance.

EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



MAURITIUS TOASTMASTERS WEEK

A week of Toastmasters, attended by District Director, DTM Andrew Tsuro and Club Growth Director, DTM Zivai Matondo, was held in Mauritius from 25 to 30 September 2022. The week started off with the two being welcomed by the Division B Director, DTM Ravin Papiah and his team. In a welcome meeting the honoured guests met the Area Directors, Division team

and Presidents of the various Clubs. The District Director was privileged to appear on the locally broadcast television channel and he also held a press conference sharing the benefits of Toastmasters where he said, "We are on a mission to make the Toastmasters experience prominent! Let's redefine leadership in our continent and I am grateful to all our partners like RadioPlus OnAir who are supporting us in making this mission possible."

Global Rainbow Foundation Toastmasters Club was launched during this amazing week. In addition, all the Corporate Clubs had a special meeting filled with keynote speeches followed by dinner.

A Gala was held on the 29th of September where all the Clubs in Mauritius celebrated the various awards they had achieved. Andrew Tsuro reiterated in his message that relationships are empty without food and drink. He was grateful that their relationship had been cemented. He was thankful for everyone who made the trip a memorable one. Zivai shared as to how our voices are powerful; they carry messages and create brands. We should choose to step up, stand out and be taken seriously to increase our value.

Sarah Jane Ip Kwong

HALL OF FAME AWARDS

Toastmasters in Southern Africa came together on Saturday, 29 October, to celebrate all the winners on the Golden Quarter Hall of Fame Awards night. In the famous words of Dr. Ralph C. Smedley, "we learn best in moments of enjoyment." With a Jazz Vintage theme, it was a night to remember as the District celebrated the best emissaries, the Smedley award winners, members who had levelled up by completing 2 or more levels of their Pathways educational programmes and so much more. With the 60's music playing to entertain the audience, it was a great night of recognition for all the award recipients.

Leya Musunga

THREE-TIME CLUB GROWTH RECIPIENT: RAJ TRILOCHUM

During the just held Hall of Fame Awards, Raj Trilochum was awarded the Club Growth Award for assisting to charter three Clubs, namely Polytechnics Mauritius, Tsingy Toastmasters Club and CRS Toastmasters Club of Madagascar. A founding member of The Oracle Toastmasters Club since 2020, he says that he has done everything that Toastmasters has to offer within the Club and at times wore multiple hats during a meeting. When asked about the process he takes when starting up a Club he said, "I tend to make sure that the prospective members understand what they are getting into and then I speak to them individually to see what their pros and cons currently are, in both their personal and professional lives and then explain how Toastmasters will be of benefit to them for their professional and personal growth." According to Raj, some valuable lessons learnt during the process includ-

ed putting aside one's corporate leadership hat and wearing the NGO leadership hat and to realise that time is a commodity used differently by different individuals; thus one needs to adapt in order to gain people's trust and make the relationship work. Communication proved to be a challenge sometimes, "even though we are in the realm of communication; some messages do not go as intended." Raj therefore made use of WhatsApp in order to connect with Presidents and Club executives in his Area so as to smoothly create a dialogue with members.

A key highlight of his Toastmasters journey so far is visiting a combination of over 20 Clubs in two months, a task that was undertaken with various members from his Club. The experience brought the Club members closer together and at the same time broadened their horizons with bags full of new skills.

In the words of the wise Yoda (from Star Wars), "There is do or don't, there is no try." If your goal is to open new Clubs, reach out to Toastmasters International and you will definitely be helped - that is the beauty of Toastmasters.

Leya Musunga



Raj Trilochum

ZAMBEZI'S 365TH MEETING

EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT SEGMENT

The anticipation for Zambezi's 365th meeting on the 29th of October, 2022, themed, "One Year Around the Sun" with the co-theme "Something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue" was in the air long before the day actually occurred.

Zambezi Toastmasters, founded in 2005, is considered the oldest thriving Club in Zambia, Division M, District 74 and this milestone meeting was a build-up of consistent intentionality including the raising of hands to serve, showing up every 2nd and 4th Thursday from the period of chartering. It showed in the constant reaching out to new members to begin their personal individual Toastmasters' journey or walking hand in hand with members who may be struggling to find balance. It showed in the consistency of the meetings; whether 4 members showed up or 50 people packed the room.

This was not only a celebration but a culmination of the old and new; "A day to reflect on how far we've come and recognizing the shoulders of giants that we've stood upon; yet, dreaming and investing in the bright future that lies ahead for this monumental Club."

The celebrations kicked off at 2pm, at Eden Haus, Middleway, Kabulonga in Lusaka beginning with a crowd favourite, speed networking. Thereafter, Mutinta Phiri, graced the audience with a maiden and impactful icebreaker commencing the beginning of her Toastmasters' journey.

What would Zambezi Toastmaster's 365th meeting be without hearing from its legacy and charter members? What a treat it was to hear the voices of Toastmasters who in one season or the other planted seeds of inspiration; gave candid evaluations and feedback that made a generation of members do better and grow. Many members today are still standing upon these invaluable giants' shoulders. Many of them have gone on to do amazing things such as curating TEDx Lusaka events and founding various organisations. The pride and joy of being associated with this monumental Club was evident as each legacy and Past President spoke about their favourite memory associated with the Club, and as one ended their address, "once a Toastmaster, always a Toastmaster!"

How does one keep attendees on the edge of their seats? Table Topics of course! Guests had the opportunity to get a feel of the importance of garnering the skills of speaking off the cuff, with an interesting twist of Zambezi trivia by the Table Topics master. Thereafter, more speeches were given, and not forgetting the auspicious loyal Toast by past Area Director and president Lulu Lumbiwe that will remain in our hearts forever. We then danced, cut cake and danced some more.

As the sun set, it was evidently difficult to close off the meeting, but attendees were assured that we will celebrate again at Zambezi's 20th anniversary event on the horizon and what a day it will be! Igt was indeed a day to remember. But until then, let us all; old, new and borrowed, start at the very beginning, at day one starting again, showing up for our Clubs and ourselves and be moulded into the leaders and speakers that stand the test of time.

For Club and Country, Cheers to Zambezi Toastmasters Club!

Liseli Muyenga



THE FIRST TOASTMASTERS DEBATE CLUB

SOUTHERN AFRICA TOASTMASTERS

We Are Excited To Announce Our Venue For

THUNDERCON 2023

ELEPHANT HILLS HOTEL

(Victoria Falls Town, Zimbabwe)

DATE : 4TH-6TH OF MAY 2023

THEME: CULTURE INFUSION CULTURAL DIVERSITY

REGISTER

The Thunder of the Mosi-Oa-Tunya is LOUD! Can you hear that? Thundercon is calling, this time from the Tourist city of Victoria Falls Town, Zimbabwe. All Toastmasters and non-Toastmasters are invited to physically attend the Toastmasters Conference of Southern Africa comprising of 12 countries. Thundercon will be packed with great presentations from outstanding speakers on leadership and public speaking, profound master classes, great cultural infusion and diversity, exciting activities and networking opportunities. **YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS OUT!** Register in advance using the link: <https://www.maycon.co.za>



District 74 | Southern Africa

November Club Anniversaries

A

- Breaking Barriers Toastmasters (1)

E

- Chuckle 'n Chirp Club (29)
- Stellenbosch Club (35)

H

- Woodmead North Toastmasters (6)

I

- Hatch Johannesburg Toastmasters (16)

P

- Kloof Toastmaster Business (7)
- Royal Dolphins Ballito TM Club (3)

S

- Northriding Toastmasters (3)

New Clubs

Beyond Infinity Toastmasters

Charter Date	10 November 2022
Location	Centurion
Division	I

Step Up and Above Toastmasters

Charter Date	10 November 2022
Location	Pretoria
Division	A



Triple crown

Achieve 3 Educational awards in a single year

Name	No	Levels
Abegail Mabone, MS3	3	MS1 , MS2 , MS3
Andrew Kendall, SR5	4	MS4 , MS5 , PI1 , SR5
Andrew Tsuro, DTM	3	EC2 , DTM , EC1
Angella G. Masikini-Phiri, PI5	3	PI3 , PI4 , PI5
Carmen Swartbooi, IP2	3	IP1 , IP2 , PWMENTORPGM
Daniel Erasmus, PM3	3	PM2 , PM3 , PWMENTORPGM
Devin J. Pearson, PM2	4	IP3 , IP4 , PM1 , PM2
Dilshaad Rajabalee, DL4	4	DL2 , DL3 , DL4 , PWMENTORPGM
Dorothy Chanakira, DTM	3	TC3 , EH5 , VC4
Erica B. Mackay, LD1	3	EH3 , EH4 , EH5
Fannie Olivier, PM3	3	PM1 , PM2 , PM3
Gerald Pietersen, IP4	3	IP3 , IP4 , VC4
Houmadevi Vadeevaloo-Basoanah, EC5	4	EC3 , EC4 , EC5 , PWMENTORPGM
Jan B. Hlatshwayo, DL5	3	DL5 , PWMENTORPGM , DL4
Joanne Schmitt, DTM	3	MS1 , MS2 , VC5
Joselyn Matizanhau, SR2	7	PM1 , PM2 , PM3 , PM4 , PM5 , SR1 , SR2
Kobie Lottering, DL3	3	DL1 , DL2 , DL3
Lame Mthethwa, IP3	3	IP2 , IP3 , PM2
Lubabalo Tybosch, PI2	4	MS5 , PI1 , PI2 , PWMENTORPGM
Martha Kgonodi, MS2	4	PM4 , PM5 , MS1 , MS2
Mekelaye Nghaamwa, EC3	4	EC3 , LD1 , LD2 , PWMENTORPGM
Memory Mwale, PM4	3	PM2 , PM3 , PM4
Mmatsiana E. Makgoba, IP3	3	IP1 , IP2 , IP3
Mzonjani Nkomo, EC2	3	PI4 , EC1 , EC2
Natalie Thomas, TC5	8	DL1 , DL2 , DL3 , DL4 , DL5 , LD1 , LD2 , LD3
Njabulo Thela, DTM	3	EH1 , PM5 , PM4
Nompumelelo Mavuso, LD5	3	LD3 , LD4 , LD5
Norma E. Daniels, VC4	4	VC1 , VC2 , VC3 , VC4
Paballo Mere, VC5	3	VC3 , VC4 , VC5
Petro Erasmus, EC2	3	EC1 , EC2 , PWMENTORPGM
Sandra Dickason, MS2	3	MS1 , MS2 , TC2
Segametsi Moumakwa, EC4	5	EC1 , EC2 , EC3 , EC4 , PWMENTORPGM
Stanley Phiri, SR3	3	SR1 , SR2 , SR3
Stella Farai Mhiribidi, PI2	3	PI1 , PI2 , PWMENTORPGM
Tanyaradzwa Madzimbamuto, VC4	4	VC1 , VC2 , VC3 , VC4
Thato Majela, PM5	3	PM3 , PM4 , PM5
Virginia Hlatshwayo, SR3	3	PWMENTORPGM , SR2 , SR3
Vyankoj S. Mulloo, IP3	3	IP1 , IP2 , IP3
Will G. Scott, PM3	3	PM1 , PM2 , PM3



TOASTMASTERS SOUTHERN AFRICA
(DISTRICT 74)

IN LOVING MEMORY



David Lewis Cairns
07.02.1939 - 11.10.2022



Mubitana Chileshe Mubitana
19.01.1972 - 16.11.2022



Mubu Delorne Mubu
09.01.1996 - 19.11.2022

