

Hello Fellow Toastmasters and Friends,

I am Lydeisha (Li-Dee-Sha) Gossett (Gos-set). In 2022, during a virtual meeting at work, I answered a question posed by the facilitator. They followed up by asking, "What do you do?" My response at that moment was less than ideal—one of those answers only Table Topics could remedy. That experience encouraged me to reach out to a coworker who has since become a trusted friend and mentor. She invited me to attend a club meeting, which marked the beginning of a journey I didn't even know I needed. An invitation to Toastmasters introduced me to an environment that fosters growth, builds confidence, and connects individuals who are on similar paths.

By engaging in Pathways, participating in club meetings and accepting opportunities to serve alongside passionate members and leaders in roles such as Vice President Membership, Club President, Area Director, or Evening Toastmaster at the District's Annual Conference, I discovered that leadership is not about being the expert. It is about walking alongside others, allowing them the space to try, to learn, and to rise at their own pace. The support and encouragement I receive in this environment helps me develop confidence, resilience, and the courage to step forward even when the outcome is uncertain.

This spirit guides me as your Division D Director nominee. I am not here to impress, but to affirm: You belong here. You can grow here. You can become more than you ever imagined. My goal is to support our Area Directors with clarity and care, and to collaborate with the TRIO in a way that keeps our district grounded, connected, and moving forward together.

Beyond Toastmasters, I cherish time spent with my husband, creating memories with my family, and crocheting—my favorite creative outlet. Professionally, I have dedicated 17 years to the mortgage industry, a field that has taught me patience, empathy, and the importance of meeting people where they are.

At the heart of everything I do is a simple belief: We are all curating our best selves, one brave step at a time. I am here to walk that journey with you.

In Service,

*Lydeisha Gossett*

Nominee for Division D Director