



District 63 Newsletter

In Memory of Ann Robey, 7/29/1950 - 2/22/2009



Ann Robey (left) and Jan Daigle (right) at the Fall Conference in Chattanooga in 2006.

On February 22th, our District Governor, Ann Robey passed away.

Ann joined Toastmasters in the summer of 2002 with the UnumProvident Toastmasters club where she had worked for many years. Ann had only been a Toastmaster for about 3 months when she was asked to be the President. She began giving speeches in October 2002 and received her Distinguished Toastmasters award in August 2006. *(continued on pg 2)*

Martiza Sword, Cracker Barrel's Home Office VP of Education, passed away February 1st.



We are also saddened to report the loss of a dear member of Cracker Barrel's home office club. VP of Education Martiza Sword had been recently diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease.

She put up a good fight, but succumbed to the illness quietly in her sleep on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009.

She will be missed by the entire Cracker Barrel family. ❖

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During that time she took on many other officer roles, mentored new members, gave speeches and encouraged others to do their best and reach for something higher. She always welcomed guests with a smile and made sure they had her number if they had any questions. She continued on in her efforts by becoming an Area and Division Governor. She mentored and sponsored new clubs, she co-chaired the District Conference in Chattanooga in 2006. She then decided to continue to climb the ladder by becoming the LT. Governor of Education and Training in 2007. In 2008 she was elected as the District 63 Governor and was serving in this role at the time of her passing.

Ann will always be remembered for her warm heart, generosity and dry sense of humor. She loved to knit afghans, renovate her house, continue her Girl Scout activities and spend lots of time with her children and grandchildren. Surviving her were her husband of almost 38 years, 2 sons, a daughter, lots of grandchildren, 2 brothers and 2 sisters.

In February 2007 Ann wrote a speech about how she would like to have her services conducted. It was read as part of her Eulogy along with 4 other Toastmasters presenting their cherished memories of her. The speech was titled: "Feel Free to Talk About Me". When you read it, you will understand her sense of family love and sense of humor.

Please take a few moments to remember her and her family in your prayers.

Contributions to her memory can be sent to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

From her friends:

Ann was so instrumental in my life, not only as a Toastmaster friend, but as a confidante. We walked the walk and talked the talk....and boy did we talk! From work to conferences to contest judging. We always had our opinions and they usually veered down the same lane. She was an inspiration to many and dedicated to the mission of Toastmasters. She was the best friend I have had here in the Chattanooga area and I will miss her terribly. As I said in the Eulogy: "She may have left her world, but she hasn't left ours...she will always remain in our hearts."

Jan Daigle, DTM
Unum Toastmasters

I'm moved by her speech. It is so much inspiring to me.

I know Ann as a fellow Toastmaster for over couple years now. I'm inspired by her for not only her seniority, but also for her determination and helping nature. Although she had achieved her DTM in toastmasters, she continued as a member and assumed responsible roles and designations in the Toastmasters International till she passed away. We surely miss her services at our club. Ann is one of the greatest persons I cannot forget.

My condolences to her family in this moment.

Subhash Darisipudi, CTM
Unum Toastmasters

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(In Memory of Anne Robey ... continued from pg 2)

Ann Robey was the first to tell me about SpeechCraft and the Unum Toastmasters club. She would occasionally drop by my cubicle, extend invitations to attend the meetings and encourage me to become involved in this life-changing organization. I think she must have recognized just how shy and scared I was and knew Toastmasters could definitely impact my life in a positive way. It was because of Ann's prompting that I gave my first speech four years ago and have continued to grow since then; currently serving as club President. To me, Ann was "Ms. Toastmaster" with shoes on! She put her words into action and freely shared her knowledge with those around her. Ann Robey was a special friend and will be greatly missed but her memory will live on in the lives of those who had the honor of knowing, serving and growing with her.

Debby Gignilliat, CTM/CL
Unum Toastmasters

As we travel though life's highway, every once in a while we are fortunate enough to meet someone who becomes a true friend. You know the type of friend I mean, one who is there for you no matter what. They encourage you when you begin a new challenge, listen to you when you have a problem, and are always there for you no matter what or how far they have to go.

It was my distinct honor to call Ann Robey, DTM such a friend.

I met Ann soon after joining Toastmasters while serving as the Co-Chair for the Hospitality Room at the 2006 Fall Conference in Chattanooga. I did not have a clue what I was doing. Ann was one of many Toastmasters that continually made herself available for any and all questions that I had. She was such a great Mentor that I continued to keep in close touch with her after the conference was over.

Ann was always the quiet type so it was several months after I became District 63s Area 32 Governor that she informed me that it wasn't often that someone actually volunteered to serve as a District Officer before being approached by one of the top 3. It was during the times we would ride together to the DEC meeting, a demo meeting or share a room at a conference that we got close and learned about our families, friends, and of course, Toastmasters.

Because Ann continually demonstrated her leadership, when she asked me if I would be willing to serve as District 63s Lt. Governor of Marketing, I had no problem saying yes. I don't think I even hesitated more than a few minutes to think about it. Ann always led by example. She was committed to doing what needed to be done to achieve her goals. She was dependable and open-minded, always willing to listen to what the members.

One of my favorite things about Ann was her ability to make me laugh....even when she informed me she did not agree with one of my suggestions. While planning this year's Spring Conference I sent Ann a suggestion for something I was considering. Before I even opened the email she sent in response she had called me to make sure I didn't take the email the wrong way. Of course the first thing I did while on the phone with her was to open the email, than started laughing real hard. What else could I do when the first words you saw were "ARE YOU CRAZY?" To say the least, I did not follow through with that particular suggestion.

Ann truly believed in Toastmasters and how it can improve its member's lives by offering ways
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to improve their communication and leadership skills. She gave 115% while serving as District 63 Governor and will be missed. Ann was a good speaker, great leader, and wonderful mentor. I was honored to be able to call her FRIEND!

Charlie Rosenquist, DTM
District 63, Lt. Governor, Education & Training

I was already a member of Toastmasters when Ann joined the UnumProvident Toastmasters club. I had the privilege to watch her grow from a new speaker who was terrified to stand up in front of a group to the accomplished speaker and storyteller she became through hard work and practice. Ann shared many great stories with us over the years about her family, friends and hobbies. Because I volunteer at the Tennessee Aquarium on the weekends, Ann frequently told me she was planning to take her grandsons to the Aquarium for a visit, or how much they enjoyed seeing the fish at the Aquarium. Ann would joke with me that she would love to sneak her fishing pole in to catch some of the trout in the Cove Forest exhibit. When we both became Area Governors we went to our first DEC meeting together. We showed up an hour early because we had forgotten about the time change, so we used the extra time to get breakfast and catch up with each other. It is amazing how much we learned about each other that year going back and forth to DEC meetings. In one speech, she shared with us her love of knitting and showed the club members several of the beautiful afghans she had made. She also told us that for a small fee she would make us one. I ordered a baby afghan from her for a friend who was having a baby girl. A few weeks later Ann delivered a gorgeous lavender baby blanket to me. That baby is now a little girl named Anna who is 4 years and that lavender baby blanket is her most treasured possession. She sleeps with it, uses it as princess cape and wraps her baby dolls in it, and though it has been washed many times it still looks brand new. Anna treasures the lavender blanket Ann made her, just as I treasure the memories I made with Ann as she shared her time and stories with me over the years.

Catherine B. Stoddard, DTM
Unum Toastmasters

If I had one word to describe Ann Robey it would be INSPIRATION. When I first joined Toastmasters a few years ago I remember asking Ann, "What is the key to becoming a Distinguished Toastmaster?" She looked at me and said, "Brent if I can do it, anyone can do it. You just have to stick to it."

A few years later as I received my DTM those words ran through my head and I remember the wisdom that came from Ann Robey. She was truly an inspiration to me and to others. Toastmasters has changed my life and Ann encouraged me to continue on with speaking and Toastmasters. Ann was an inspiration and a friend. She will be missed.

Brent Whitaker, DTM
Unum Toastmasters



Feel Free To Talk About Me

Written by Ann E. Robey in Feb, 2007

Father Flannigan went into an Irish pub and walked up to the first man he saw.

“Do you want to go to heaven?” he asked.

“Of course” said the man. “Then stand over by that wall”, said Father Flannigan.

The good father approached another man and asked, “Do you want to go to heaven?”

“Sure do” said the second man. “Then stand over by that wall.”

He approached a third bar patron and asked, “Do you want to go to heaven?”

To his surprise, the man replied “No!”

“No!” exclaimed the Father. “When you die, you don’t want to go to heaven?”

“Oh, yes, when I die. I just thought you were getting a group together to go now!”

Fellow Toastmasters and most welcome guests:

When I was young, the only concession I made to the idea of death was to prepare a will that stipulated who got custody of our children should my husband and I meet some untimely end together.

And though I don’t dwell on the subject, it does seem to be brought to my attention more often lately that I am sliding down the back of the hill now, and my demise grows closer with each day that I manage to avoid it. Just last week a classmate from high school called to tell me that the father of the girl who lived down the road from us had died. She said “our WWII veterans were dropping like flies.” My own father died on Christmas day in 2004.

Without boring you with the bizarre mechanisms of my mind, let me just jump ahead and tell you about the idea I had regarding my own passing. I want to have my visitation and memorial service before I’m too dead to enjoy them!

That’s right; I want to gather my family and friends together for a couple of days, have my neighbors bring trays of meat and casseroles to my house to feed them, and have them sit around and talk about me as if I am no longer here.

Think about it. What happens when someone close to you dies? The family and friends meet together at the visitation. First there is the “I’m so sorry” and “I know how much she’ll be missed” in the presence of the next of kin. Then small groups start to form in the other room. If you listen closely, you’ll soon hear laughter as they start telling stories. “Remember when Daddy shot Joey in the butt with the BB rifle”! “Remember that Halloween when Granny let her hair down, got dressed like a witch and jumped out from behind dogwood tree as we were going up to her door! I think I lost ten years off my life that night!”

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The stories will go on as long as anyone can bring something fresh to the conversation. The groups of people will grow and shrink, as family and friends drift in and out. After some time, the trip down memory lane veers into more recent history, as participants become reacquainted with those they haven't seen since the last funeral brought them together. They begin to talk about their children and grandchildren, what they've been doing in their own lives, moving back into the present.

I want to hear those stories again. I want to hear what people will be saying about me after I'm gone. I don't want to interfere or make anyone uncomfortable. I'll sit quietly; I want them all to feel free to talk about me.

I have a different motive for wanting to hold my memorial service while I'm still occupying my mortal body. Let me explain.

After my mom died, my dad sold the family homestead and moved to Oak Island, off the coast of North Carolina. He joined a new church, made new friends and had a new life there. When he passed away, the memorial service was on Oak Island. The only family from his prior life to attend was me, my two brothers and one of my sisters. There was basically a church full of strangers who came to give us comfort. I talked to my sister a couple of weeks later who had attended the service with me. She commented that the people who came didn't know the same man we did.

She was absolutely right! They knew the elderly man who worked part-time at Jimbo's store until Jimbo died of cancer and his son took over. They knew the man who spent summer mornings fishing at the Yaupon Beach pier. They knew the man who delivered Meals on Wheels on Christmas morning and was dead before he could get his potatoes cooked for dinner.

They didn't know the man who shot Joey in the butt with the BB rifle, or taught his children how to make blow guns out of bamboo and chinaberries. They didn't know the man who, though he denied it until the day he died, but in all probability did, push my oldest brother in the mud puddle on the way to school one morning. They didn't know the man who was banished from Granny's dining room one Thanksgiving when he threw a pig's tail across the table at my aunt Catherine.

They probably knew he had prepared for a cremation, but it's not likely many of them knew that his only other instructions for handling his remains were these: You can bury me at Belmont Abbey with Mama; you can throw my ashes off the pier into the ocean; or you can leave me sitting in the living room and say good morning to me every day! They didn't know the man who would have found it fitting that my sister took the remains and put them in a large fishing tackle box before putting him directly on Mama's vault at the cemetery.

So I want to be there for my memorial. I want to make sure they get it right! At least by having it early, I can make them do it again if I don't like the way it's done! I want to see my family laughing with remembrances of happy times. I want them to remember that I like to laugh. I like a good story. Let them tell the stories and the jokes while I still breathe. Then they can all go home. When I finally do move on, they'll get an e-mail letting them know to take me off their mailing lists.

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There is already pre-planning offered by funeral homes. I wonder how they would feel about having pre-services?

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting, walkers and handrails and new dental fittings, bundles of magazines tied up with string,

These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak, when the knees go bad,

I simply remember my favorite things, and then I don't feel so bad!

When the joints ache, when the hips break, when the eyes grow dim, then I remember the great life I had, and then I don't feel so bad! ❖

Area 51 Workshop News

By Maureen Proctor, Area 51 Governor, Area 51 Council Chair

It Only Takes a Spark....

Area 51 is located in the downtown Nashville Area and is made up of six clubs: Caterpillar, Goodwill, HCA Artful Articulators, HCA Creative Articulators, TSU Toasting Tigers, and TVR Red Cross. The Area 51 Council was created to represent and develop leadership from across the Area. This group met in September 2008 to determine what Toastmasters Topics could be presented to further educate the six clubs. After surveying the clubs, the top vote-getter was "How do we complete that Competent Leader Manual!"

On November 6, 2008, the first Area 51 workshop was held with the topic: **How to Navigate the CL Manual**. Little did we know that the material shared that night with about 17 participants, would light a spark that kept on burning all winter long! The success of that evening's training was shared at the November District 63 DEC meeting.

With thoughts of the Winter TLI coming up in January, the Division D Governor asked that this material be presented at that time. Area 51's VPPR Don Bittick created a Game Show approach to involve the audience, and this lively, interactive presentation was a hit! Next, Division B used it at their Winter TLI and then Region V International Director Mike Raffety shared it with the LGETS in other Region V Districts.

The little spark of an idea back in September turned into a nice, "toasty" flame by February.

The idea of helping the clubs in Area 51 didn't stop with the CL Manual. The second workshop was held on January 29, 2009. The topic: **Effective Evaluations**. Terri Schmidt and Don Bittick developed the agenda for the workshop and with Don facilitat

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ing, leaders from the Area took the roles of three types of evaluators: “The Whitewash”, “All Negative” and “Just Right” (the Balanced CRE Evaluation – Commendation, Recommendation, and Encouragement). JR Allen was the target speaker and evaluators Annamarie Collins, Debbie Grant, and Ellen Blix gave excellent performances as they took their respective roles seriously. Evaluation worksheets created by Terri Schmidt were provided and everyone went home with a new confidence for giving evaluations.

The success of these workshops, along with planned, future workshops, is possible because of the enthusiasm and willingness of experienced Toastmasters to share what they’ve learned. They are successful because of the excellent participation by those members who want to grow.

Special appreciation goes to the Area 51 Council for coordinating and presenting at the events: Dwan Avent, Don Bittick and Debbie Grant. ❖

Chattanooga Chatters Toastmaster’s Club #7902-63

“Growing and Learning”

by Linda McLean

Chattanooga Chatters Toastmaster’s Club #7902-63 obtained two new members that completed the Speechcrafter’s session last Fall after giving their required 3 speeches.

‘Chatters’ welcomes Marchelle (Chelle) Reeves and Sean Price. These new members have stepped up to the plate at our meetings this year filling roles of timer, grammarian, ah counter and evaluator. And, as always, they both always choose subjects for their speeches that both entertain and enlighten us!

The Winter TLI [Officer’s Training] at Unum was attended by our President, Kara Farris, Betty Jackson, Sergeant at Arms, Linda McLean, Vice-President Public Relations and LaTrenita McDonald, Treasurer. In addition to the motivating speakers, we were able to discuss the upcoming 2009 Spring Conference, ‘Sharing the Magic for 50 Years’, and sign up to help with the ‘Hospitality Room’. No excuses for not attending this conference April 17th & 18th as it is just down the street at the Chattanooga Choo Choo.

It’s always fun to see other clubs ‘in action’ which is why Sean Price and Linda McLean attended the BlueCross Hill toppers’ International Speech Contest [could the great Taco Lunch have had anything to do with it?]. The three speeches were excellent and I especially enjoyed the Hilltoppers from India and Trinidad as they articulate the English language so well... something that we all hope to accomplish through Toastmasters.

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On February 25th we had our Table Topics Contest. This is always a great challenge as you never know the question and our President, Kara, picked a good one! 'If you could go back to 10 years old, what advice would you give yourself?' Congratulations to 1st place, Linda McLean, 2nd place was LaTrenita McDonald, and 3rd place, 'Chelle' Reeves. Do you think that Linda [that would be me] won first place because she had to go back the furthest?

Our club is an 'open club' and we have about 5 members that are not BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee employees. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone who is looking for a club to join us. We currently meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 PM with our last meeting in the Lincoln Room at Eastgate on March 4th. As our location will be changing to Cameron Hill we may have to skip a meeting or two until we have a location pinned down. If you would like to join us, please e-mail Kara_Farris@bcbst.com for more information. ❖

Cracker Barrel's Home Office Club #649135

by Elizabeth Fisher

Cracker Barrel's home office club #649135 was host to the Humorous Speech Contest for district #63 on September 27th, 2008. Randy Cline of the Rivergate Club placed first and represented the Division at the District 63 Fall Conference in October. This was an important day for our club, as we were also presented with our first Distinguished Club Award. At the same event, VP of Education Rebecca Allen also received recognition for completion of her CC and CL. Cracker Barrel's club would like to thank all who attended and participated in this event. This was a fun event for all. ❖



VP of Education Rebecca Allen (above center) recently celebrated her 50th birthday on the run.... literally! Rebecca trained for months and on November 30th, 2008 completed the Space Coast Marathon in Cocoa Beach Florida. Congratulations to Rebecca on this amazing accomplishment, from all of your Toastmaster friends! ❖

Do You Remember When?

By Grant Fetters, Division B Governor



Division “B” membership drive. That’s right, membership drive. You’ve all gone to a “Demonstration Meeting” for Toastmasters, and you may have a handful of people interested in hearing what you’ve got to say, or they’ve come to find out more about Toastmasters. Well as far as demo meetings go I have been to good ones and I’ve been to bad ones. But they all have an opportunity to show what Toastmasters are all about to people who either need Toastmasters or are looking to improve their skills in public communications.

In my Division, I still run into people every day that ask that same question, “What is Toastmasters?” Well if you are asked that same question in the elevator, you have that person trapped for one whole minute. You have your chance to tell them everything you know and show them everything you have learned from being a member of the greatest public speaking organization in the world. WOW... then if they don’t go running and screaming from the elevator when the door opens, you’ve got them hooked. Now’s your chance... whip out that old crinkled up application you have stuffed in your wallet, (Somewhere???) and get them to sign on the dotted line and take their check, (for how much???)

When I was a kid I remember sitting in the living room at my Grandparents home and the old folks would sit around and tell stories of long ago and far away. They were serious at times talking about the hardships of coming to America and not knowing the language, and having to forge out an existence in the wilderness of a Michigan of long ago. How having to carry water from the stream in a bucket to the house so that there was water to drink, and water to wash with or cook with. Then the conversations would change to a modern time where my Aunt kicked in the car door of the 1936 ford that she drove while her husband, (my Uncle) went off to fight in the Great War. My aunt hated that car and was frustrated with her position in life and took out her anger on that car door. The stories they told on these occasions have stayed with me and I tell them to the young people in my own family, (or anyone that will listen). We all have a story to tell and people will come from far and wide to sit around and listen to the stories and enjoy to bonding time they have with the storyteller.

Storytellers are held in high regard because of the skill they possess and the imagination they share while telling a story. Anyone can spin a yarn, tell a story and if you can, we have an event for you to take part in. This event will help out Division “B” Toastmasters give one whale of a Demonstration Meeting. On April 4th from Noon till around 5:00pm. This is a Saturday so you can come and help out with our demo. The contest is open to the public with two different categories to tell their story. There will also be a Toastmasters class for current and past Toastmasters. The contest will run in Conjunction with the Dogwood Arts Festival in Knoxville Tennessee. The location is at Cokesbury Center, across from Cokesbury United Methodist Church on Kingston Pike, west Knoxville. We have a website, www.Story-Knoxville.homestead.com where there is plenty of additional information.

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If you are interested in competing in the contest you need to fill out an application and mail it to Grant Fetters the Chairman of the event. The application is available on the website. The Dogwood Arts Festival should bring into Knoxville thousands of people to see the Dogwood trees and to take part in this region's largest Festival. The Dogwood Arts Festival will run all month of April and beyond. We will have our storytelling event as one of the 40-50 event offered by the Dogwood Arts Festival committee. But, we will do our best to sell the Idea that Toastmasters is the best and most fun group of talkers in the Greater Knoxville area. Promote, promote, promote, the most important thing is to promote Toastmasters in the area and then Yes, we hope to have some fun telling and listening too a bunch of storytellers.

I hope to see you there.

Grant E. Fetters, Division "B" Governor
(423) 884-9195



April 2009 Dues Renewals

Membership renewals are due by April 1, 2009. Club officers will be able to submit renewals online through the Club Business page at www.toastmasters.org/clubbusiness starting the first week of March.

Important notes for processing membership payments:

- * Renewals can be submitted online, by mail or by fax.
- * Toastmasters International does not suggest submitting renewals by e-mail because it is not secure.
- * If paying by credit card, dues renewals can be paid online.
- * At least six members must pay dues; 3 must be renewing.
- * If paying by check, you can print the list with the renewing members checked and mail it, along with payment, to World Headquarters. Checks must be made payable to Toastmasters International. ❖

New Club

General Mills-Murfreesboro Toastmasters, #1277643-63, 01/21/2009, Murfreesboro
Watts-Up Toasters, #1293336-63, 03/24/2009, Knoxville

Forming Clubs

Dayton TN Prospective Club, Dayton, TN
Madison TN Prospective Club, Madison, TN

Division Speech Contest Schedule

International Speech and Table Topics Contests

Division A -- Thursday, April 2, 2009, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Eastman Employee Center Room 115, Kingsport, TN

Division B -- Saturday, March 28, 8:00 a.m., Pellissippi State College (Hardin Valley), Goins Auditorium

Division C -- Saturday, March 7

Division D -- TBD

Division E -- Thursday, March 26, 5:30 p.m., Caterpillar Financial

Division F -- Saturday, March 28

Upcoming Events

Storytelling Knoxville

Saturday, April 4th, 12 noon to 5:00 pm in the Cokesbury Center, across from Cokesbury United Methodist Church on Kingston Pike in Knoxville, TN.

www.Story-Knoxville.homestead.com

District 63 Spring Conference

April 17-18, 2009

Chattanooga Choo-Choo, Chattanooga, TN

http://www.d63toastmasters.com/Spring_Conference/Spring_Conference.htm

Celebrating 50 years of the District!

- Club Presidents and VP Educations, please plan to attend the District Council Meeting or designate another member of your club to serve in your absence. Your attendance is important in constituting a quorum at the meeting.

Important dates from April to June, 2009

April 17-18: District Spring Conference, Chattanooga Choo-Choo, Chattanooga, TN

April 30: Due to TI: Area Governor Club Visit Reports

May 1 – June 30: Recruit 5 members for the Beat the Clock Award

May 15: Due to TI: 3rd Quarter – Quarterly Treasurer’s Report

May 16: District Executive Committee Meeting (DEC), 9:30 – 1:00 CST,
Cumberland Mountain State Park, Crossville, TN

June 26-27: Region V Conference, Nashville Airport Marriot, Nashville, TN

June 21: Summer TLI, Tennessee Tech. University, Cookeville, TN

June 28 Due to TI: New Club Officer Lists, New Member Applications, Educational Completions

2008 - 2009 District 63 Officers		
District Governor:	Lt. Governor, Education & Training:	Lt. Governor, Marketing:
Allan Daniels, DTM spenseralley@msn.com	Charlie Rosenquist, DTM charlie_rosenquist@bcbst.com	Kristi Herring, DTM fishtalesd63@cpws.net

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The article submission deadline for the next issue is June 1, 2009.