

GOVERNOR: Barbara Brackett, DTM

YEAR: 1998-1999

THEME: Yes You Can

Most Positive Accomplishments:

I felt that our District created a true team atmosphere. We set District goals that nearly everyone strove to accomplish, both in personal goals and the District goal of "Toastmaster Week Open House". As a result, we had 28 of 36 Area Governors achieve Distinguished or higher. 7 of 8 Divisions were Distinguished with 3 making Select Distinguished and 4 making Presidents Distinguished. Because of their success, District 39 was a Distinguished District at #16 in the world.

Those Persons Whose Help Highlighted My Year:

Watching my Area and Division Governors set personal goals, take on challenges and succeed far beyond anyone's imagination. All of the people on various committee's and projects who gave of their time, talents and abilities anytime they were asked. The wonderful bond of teamwork, friendship, affection, respect and comradely that Don Johnson, Ruth Maloney and Cynthia Weems and I all shared. We were all committed to one dream, one team, and dedicated to giving District 39 our very best. Finally, to two people who were my mentors that year. Marilyn Minden, who always was there to give my kind words of support and who always gave me a very thorough evaluation on every speech I made at the Executive committee meetings. She taught me grace. George Ott, taught me wisdom, discretion, kindness and courage.

My Favorite Memories:

All of the Executive Committee meetings. We had a theme every month and all of them were original and FUN. I especially remember our Halloween Costume party at our Tahoe Executive Committee meeting. Almost everyone was dressed up. Don Johnson came as a clown, Ruth Maloney came as a fortune teller, and Cynthia Weems also came as a clown. I came as a flapper.

Then there was Ruth. She came to a Division Contest in April dressed from head to toe including the ears as a white rabbit. There were also the times in her little red sports car, that when I looked over and the speedometer said 80, I just closed my eyes and held on.

As a final farewell and to show how much they loved me, they papered me. I had notebook paper, colored paper, shredded paper, note pads, and they even bought me a real live birch tree so that I could grow my own paper.

There are really too many memories to even begin to list. We worked so hard but we always had so much fun. I grew so much and I learned so much and there is no way to tell everyone just how much they have changed my life and touched my soul forever.

