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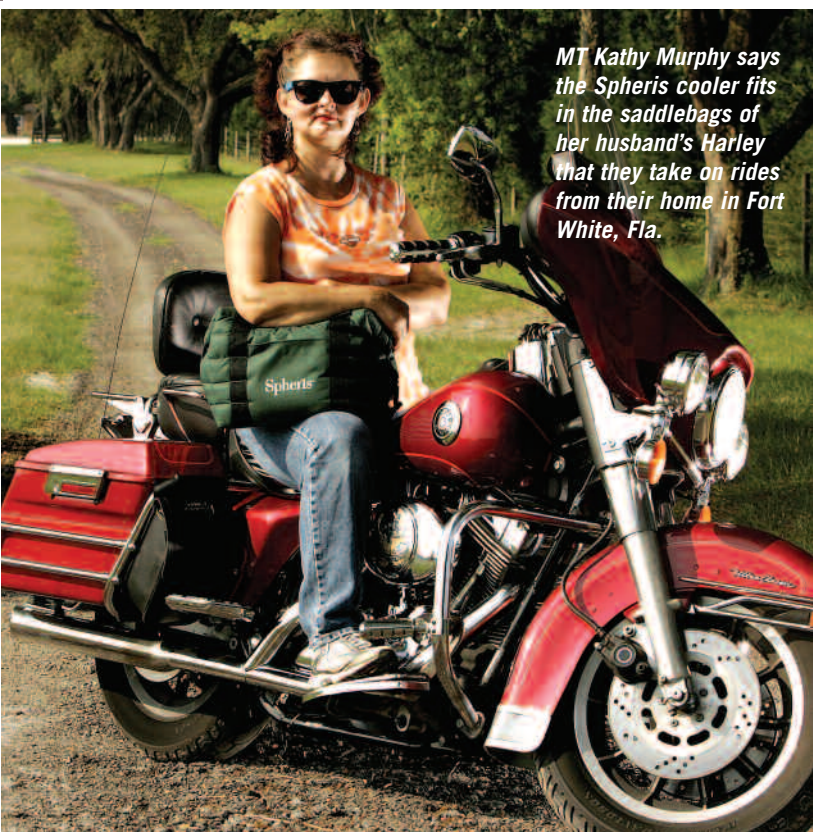
July/August
2005

SPHERIS CELEBRATES MTs

MT Week Gifts, Contests Showcase Transcriptionists' Critical Role

To celebrate National Medical Transcription Week (May 15-21), Spheris sent employees a "stay cool" package containing a cooler and sunglasses. But that gift was only part of the celebration. Special messages on the Spheris Intranet (today.spheris.com), e-mail contests and prizes carried the celebration through the week.

According to Spheris Vice President of Human Resources Perry Stahlman, "The various activities around MT Week are a small way to show our appreciation for those who serve as the backbone



MT Kathy Murphy says the Spheris cooler fits in the saddlebags of her husband's Harley that they take on rides from their home in Fort White, Fla.

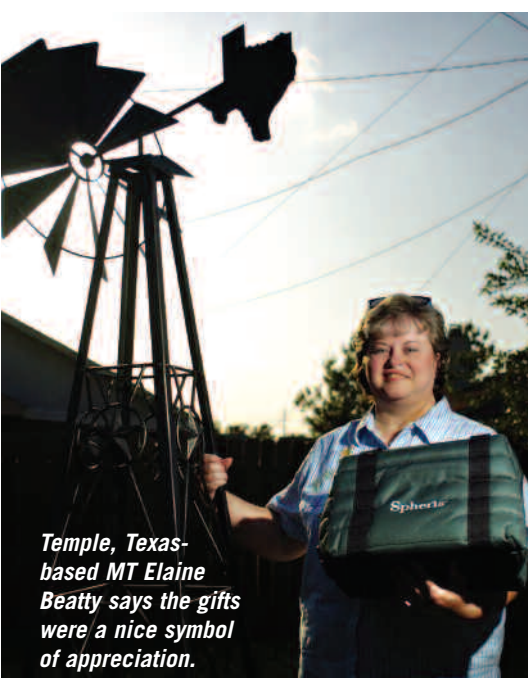
of our business. We are so dispersed geographically that it is difficult to regularly communicate our appreciation for all the hard work our MTs do. MT Week provided us with a good outlet."

The cooler and sunglasses were the brainchild of Event Planning Specialist Andie Sanders. Many

of the MT Week e-mail communications and platform-specific contests, which included the awarding of more than 200 reference books, came from the Spheris Employee Relations team of Scott Messer, Heather Steinfeld, Cathy Dundas, Meredith Hoffman, Anna Maddox and Jill Watkins.

"We started working on this a couple of

Continued on Page 4



Temple, Texas-based MT Elaine Beatty says the gifts were a nice symbol of appreciation.

MT SPOTLIGHT

SPEEDY FINGERS LEAD TO LEISURELY AFTERNOONS

Call it the flying fingers of fate. Fran Wessel didn't even know about the medical transcription industry when she worked as a clerk typist for a rehabilitation nurse, but she did pound out an extraordinary 120 words a minute on her IBM Selectric II. "The nurse I worked for was engaged to the professor and chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Miami," Wessel recalls. "He walked through my office one day to get to her office and when he saw me, stopped and said, very nastily, 'Don't you have anything better to do than play with your typewriter?'" When Wessel told him she was taking down dictation, the doctor scoffed. "Nobody types like that," he said.

Then he walked up to look behind her shoulder and saw that Wessel's furiously moving hands were, in fact, producing recognizable words, sentences and paragraphs. He asked her to become an MT. "I said, 'I can't even spell medicine!'"

That was in 1974, and Wessel, a native New Yorker who now lives in West Palm Beach, Fla., has been transcribing ever since. "I never went to school for medical transcription. The doctor taught me everything I know, and sent me to every department at the University of Miami medical school so I could learn all of the terminology."



Fran Wessel

HOMETOWN: Roslyn, New York

CURRENT RESIDENCE: West Palm Beach, Fla.

FAVORITE MOVIE: Phantom of the Opera

FAVORITE MEAL: Veal Francese – A Northern Italian dish of veal with mushrooms, and a lemon and white wine sauce

FAVORITE MAGAZINE: People

FAVORITE TV SHOW: Lost

PETS: Two dogs, Fred and Maggie, and a cat, William

After 12 years at the University of Miami, Wessel started her own transcription business with a partner, then started working solo out of her home. When one of her clients decided to go with a larger transcribing outfit, she thought it might be time to align herself with a company, as well. After intensive research, she decided to apply for a job with Spheris. She has been with the company for three years.

"Spheris is very fair to work for. The benefits are very good and I love the way I can accrue time off," she says. "I just went to Busch Gardens with some friends because of that policy."

Working from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wessel can attend to her two Shih-tzu dogs, Fred and Maggie, taking them out six times a day. Though her children are grown, she has granddaughters nearby. "If one of them is in a school play or getting an award, I'm able to run over to the school to see it," she says.

"This work has afforded me peace and serenity," she says. "Who thought that was possible in a job."



Fran Wessel's quick fingers give her time to care for her dogs, Fred and Maggie.