Editorial by Tom Starland, Editor and Publisher COMMENTARY

The Cold Hearted Editor

Our deadline for submitting articles for *Carolina Arts* is always the 24th of the month (at 5pm) prior to when your exhibit, festival, or other visual art related event begins. It's simple and I've said it a thousand times and it can be found throughout each issue we publish. So why are so many people surprised when I tell them their e-mail is late when it arrives at 9:30pm on the 24th or at 9am on the 25th?

Frankly, people have all the time in the world to write their press releases and get them to us - well before the deadline arrives. Right now I've got articles for exhibits that don't start until April, May, and June sitting in holding bays. I got one for this October. In fact, on the 24th of February I received more articles about exhibits taking place in April than I did for ones taking place in March. Some people are that organized and disciplined. They've got their act together.

There are some folks out there that think the deadline is a game. They try and see how late they can send their e-mail in but still make it before the deadline.

There is another group of folks who know they missed the deadline as they start their e-mail out with that statement, "I know this is late but... or I know the deadline has passed, but I was hoping...".

And there are some who just can't accept the whole idea of a deadline. They've probably been late for everything in life.

This last deadline caught a lot of folks off guard as if February has less days leading up to the 24th of the month than other months. When in reality the only folks the short month of February affects is Linda and I. We have less days to finish putting the publication together than most other months. And believe me the four days February leaves compared to the seven days in March is a big difference.

The people who sent us press release on time and our advertisers expect us to have the publication ready to be launched the evening before the 1st of the month - not the 2nd of the month or 3rd of the month.

Some months I can look the other way and fit someone in who was maybe even a day after the deadline has come and gone, but in February - there just isn't enough time to deal with folks who can't make the deadline even after we issued a warning not to be late in February due to the short month.

So some folks end up thinking I'm cold hearted by telling them they are too late. Do I enjoy it? No, but I don't mind letting them know they should have worked to send it sooner. People who extend their deadlines are not doing anyone any favors.

I know you - the person reading this doesn't need to be reminded of the fact that the deadline for our April issue of *Carolina Arts* will be Mar. 24th at 5pm. It's the people who don't read our publication who need to know that, but after all, they're just using us to give them free publicity. They don't bother to read our publication, but it's so important to get in it. I'm hoping they just take their time.

ArtFields© 2015

ArtFields[©] 2015 starts April 24 and continues through May 2, 2015, in Lake City, SC. Make plans now to visit for at least one day if not more. There will be a lot of interesting works of art on display and maybe even a few you'll like. And, if you really find something you like - you can take it home - most of the work is for sale. You didn't know that? It's true.

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