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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2015



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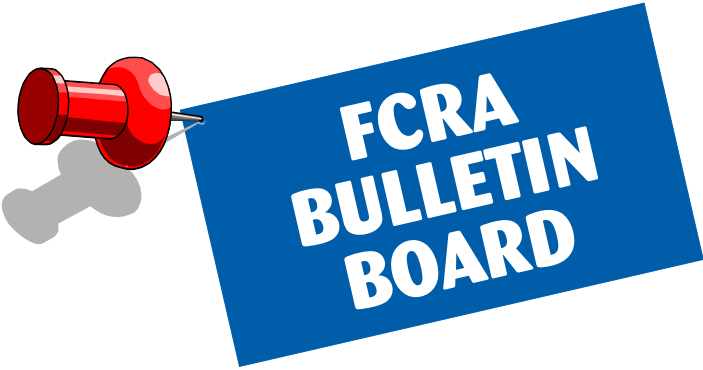
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By Rosa Naccarato, FPR,
2015-2016 President



Presidential Speech for 2015

Thank you for the honor to be your new FCRA president. It is a great privilege to stand before this room of extremely, exceptionally talented people.

The skill that each and every one of you possess is truly a talent. It's akin to an artist or a musician. It is not just a skill, it is not just a profession, and it's something that so many people cannot achieve. I don't need to remind you how many students started with you and how few of you finished. So, again, I salute you for possessing an incredible talent. You know, people are always fascinated by our profession. All you have to do is mention that you're a court reporter and the questions start, "Oh, you know, I've always wondered, how do you use that little machine? And how do you know what keys to press? There are no letters! And what do you do if you miss something and what do you do if you can't hear? You know I've always wondered how you do that job."

Nobody says that about lawyers. Nobody says that about doctors. Nobody says that about accountants. When I came back from the convention last year, one of my good friends asked me, "So how many court reporters were there?"

I said, "Oh, about a good 200 or so."

She said, "200 court reporters in one room? That's cool!"

And I thought, wow, again, nobody says that about a convention of doctors; nobody says that about a convention of lawyers, but yet everybody thinks what we do is cool.

And, in fact, that's what brought me to this profession. When I was 14 years old, a very serious incident happened on our property and someone was killed, and my parents were sued under their homeowner's insurance. I happened to witness the entire incident, so I had to give a deposition.

I went to downtown Miami with my mom and dad and, you know, here I am going into a room with six or eight lawyers and being questioned by all of them. Occasional outbursts of objections would happen. They would fight here and there, they would be getting along five minutes later.

And I'm watching this guy just sitting there at this little machine, cool as a cucumber, just writing down everything that's going on, and no reaction, no response.

And then when we went on a break, I got up and peered over at the machine and I'm thinking, what

is that? Here are these letters that mean absolutely nothing to me. And I thought at that moment, wow, what a cool job. This guy gets to sit here and listen to everything and be in the mix and, you know, I just thought it was really a cool job.

So here I am, 38 years later. In fact, tomorrow is the actual thirty-third year anniversary of the day I took my first deposition: June 14, 1982.

So it's truly an awesome feeling to have come full circle here like this and be standing here as your president. I cannot tell you how much that means to me and how seriously I take this position.

So here I am, 33 years later, and I still love this profession, I am still learning new things, and I am still impressed by what we do.

Court reporting still is challenging. All you have to do is join a few Facebook pages and every day, something new pops up on the record that a court reporter has never experienced before; and the posts start flying. Three days later, the reporter already got the job out, but they're still talking about, should it be a comma or a semicolon?

Only court reporters can debate punctuation for days and days and days. But that's because we care, and we want to do it right. We want to be perfect at what we do. You know, it's amazing what we do every day and how nobody has been able to replace us. As much as they want to try, they still cannot replace what a court reporter does. A court reporter uses all their senses, and there is no machinery that exists that can do that.

Did you know that the first American shorthand machine was invented in 1879 by a gentleman named Miles Bartholomew? Then, in 1933, the direct ancestor of the machine we used today was invented by Ward Stone Ireland. I know you've all heard that name. And since 1933 to this day, Stenograph continues to use the Ireland keyboard on their machines.

So imagine: it's been three-quarters of a century, and they still can't replace our methodology with technology. Think about how many things have evolved over the last 75 -- actually 82 years, and they still can't replace us. So our profession is still relevant, and it's still very much in demand -- if you're good at it.

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**By Sharon Pell Velazco,
FCR Online Editor**

"Finger Caps"

Our very own Anthony Trujillo made a recent post on Facebook which prompted this writing, and I'm sure every court reporter out there has a similar anecdote. Fifteen years ago, they told me not to bother with court reporting; that my paper notes would be an outdated thing of the past; that court reporters were going to be replaced by tape recorders. Well, good luck finding a reliable tape recorder/player these days! Not surprisingly, over the course of the last 15 years, I have seen many advances made in technology that have actually aided the court reporter in producing a transcript faster and more efficiently, helping the wheels of justice to turn quicker than ever before. I am STILL the keeper of the record, albeit I no longer have paper notes. I write to a tiny data disk, and my/our information is stored in various forms, even encrypted to the Cloud! I believe I can say with confidence that by the time the next speech-to-text innovation comes around, that particular upgrade will bring us yet one step closer to advancing the realtime record prepared by a mere mortal because we, the human record keepers who are constantly integrating ever-evolving technology with the human skills factor, will be adapting it to our unfathomable, limitless capabilities. I predict that innovations devoted to our skill set will get to the point that we, the court reporters, will be soundlessly, seemingly "writing in the air" with our nimble fingers. We will be wearing what look like tiny transparent thimbles on each digit, a signal wirelessly transmitting to random

viewing screens in the room and offsite. These "finger caps" will be programmed and specifically designed for use by us, the human court reporters, for what WE do; our ears taking in the spoken word, processing it in a millisecond for speaker identification, context, and speaker intent, and outputting the realtime record product in a perfectly punctuated format which will be simultaneously displayed for all to see -- regardless of accent, subject matter, terminology. And WHY will we flesh-and-blood beings always be a necessary part of the process? Because the human brain is a wonderfully complicated, sentient, fascinating, Divine-driven creation! So am I intimidated by the threat of my position being supplanted due to advances in technology? Of course not! I appreciate the evolution the advances bring! They give my role even more potential, which purpose is to serve society by keeping an accurate record of the events of our progress, for our future reference and our future progress. And, they make my life easier because I'm able to process that transcript faster and I can enjoy other human pursuits (like writing this article)! So Thank YOU, all you IT gurus, for your constant dedication to improving society's future, and thank YOU, Anthony Trujillo, for your Facebook post and the way it kindled MY imagination! Moral of the story: Embrace the benefits that advancing technology can bring to your ever-evolving career!



Congratulations to the 2015-2016 FCRA Board of Directors!

Left to right - pictured first row: Amy Yarbrough, Rosa Naccarato; second row: Robin Deal, Lori Bundy, Richard Scire, Christy Bradshaw, Michelle Smith; third row: Sharon Velazco, Holly Kapacinskis, Cathy Morrow.

Presidential Speech for 2015

Continued from page 4

Today, you heard Christina Lewellyn talk about our industry outlook, and the future is bright, but we still have to stay relevant by continuing to sharpen our skills and honing our skills, which brings me to the theme of our convention: Find Your Groove.

What can you do better to increase your value? You may be doing a good job, but are you doing the best possible job?

So what can you do? Is it updating your software? Is it finding out what your software can do that you didn't know it could do? Is it taking a class about how to make briefs or how to quickly produce a rough draft?

Is it becoming an RPR or an FPR, if you're not one already? Is it moving closer to learning realtime?

That's my personal goal, and since our last convention, I signed up for a few classes with Gayl Hardeman. I attended a course about how to make better briefs and briefs you can remember, and how to produce a quick rough draft. I cannot tell you how much my writing has improved, how my fatigue has been reduced, and my production has actually gone up. My only regret is it took me 33 years to learn something more. I really wish I had done it a long time ago.

I think sometimes, as court reporters, we become very complacent. We tend to focus on what's right in front of us and we don't look down the road a little bit. But in order to stay relevant, we must.

There is hardly a profession out there that exists that doesn't require continuing education, and yet we've been kind of flying under the radar for a lot of years. There's really been nothing that's been expected of us, and yet what makes us so exceptional?

There's not one profession that hasn't been affected by technology. So we've had our issues. But, again, think of all the things that have been replaced by technology and we're still standing.

I spent the last two years as membership chair, trying to figure out how do I drum up membership? How do I get people to get on board? And it finally dawned on me: There is no secret formula. It's grassroots. It's getting each and every one of you to help me bring in just one new member. If we have 180 people in this room, I could not bring in 180 strangers in two years, try as I might. And yet, if each and every one of you could really make a concerted effort to bring in one friend, just one member, and then if next year, we did it again – just one friend – we would have a thousand members in no time.

Right now we struggle to keep 585 members, and that's really sad, knowing how many people there are out there who are doing what we do, and we just haven't been able to bring them in.

You've got to have friends. You've got to have people in this business that you could go to. It's just a question of how much effort are we willing to make?

And I know the first question is, oh, what's in it for me? If I join FCRA, what does FCRA do for me? And your answer has to be, what are you doing for the profession? The profession has been good to you.

I know if court reporting was abolished tomorrow, I don't know what I would do to make the same amount of money I'm making now, have flexibility, have a job that I enjoy, that is challenging, no two days are alike. That's worth protecting, and that's the message you have to impart to your colleagues. It's not about what can be done for me; it's what can I do to give back? It's time to perform a selfless act.

If they don't think this association is strong enough, maybe they're part of the reason that it's not. You've got to work hard to convey that message. So now the question becomes: Are you willing to make that effort to help us build this association?

When I was out doing my little talks, I would often-times say, would you go to a doctor who didn't want to be a member of his medical association? Didn't want to know what the latest medications are on the market? Doesn't want to know anything about new equipment? Or, a C.P.A. who refuses to use accounting software?

Nope. I just want to do it the way I've been doing it for 20 years. Don't teach me something new. I'm going to do it longhand. I don't care if my colleague over there is getting out five times the returns as I am. I'm going to do it just like I've been doing it for 20 years.

Would you go to that C.P.A.? Would you recommend him to your friends? And I will guarantee you, his colleague who is using software is making a lot more money. So it's just a question of what are you willing to put in? I oftentimes say cheap is expensive. I could not say it better than what was printed in our convention program: In order to remain relevant, we need to continue honing our skills. We have to be willing to make an effort, and we must continue to take pride in our profession.

It's our responsibility to represent this profession well,

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Presidential Speech for 2015

Continued from page 6

because it's an investment in our future. You are the face of court reporting. You are the ground troops. You are the people out there each and every day interacting with lawyers, interacting with judges, showing them exactly what we can do.

It's not the ten people who sit up here on this board. You are the FCRA. Again, you are the face of this profession. And we all know that competent stenos are very much in demand. There is still no methodology that even comes close to doing everything that a court reporter can do, and yet sometimes we still feel threatened.

As you know, the FCRA is working very hard to safeguard our profession by pursuing our goal of certification. You heard a lot about that from Holly, and you'll hear a little bit more at our IE.

Some folks say, "We need to stop talking about it. We need to start doing." And that's where you come in.

We need you to help us build this association. Help us demonstrate the number of jobs affected.

Help us put those names on paper so that we can go to Tallahassee, so Marty can go to Tallahassee and say, "Look, we're talking about 2,000 jobs, we're talking about 3,000 jobs," because those are the numbers they want to hear in Tallahassee. They don't want to hear, "Well, you know, we've got 585 members, but we think there are 3,000 court reporters in Florida."

Because, let's face it, it boils down to revenue. So are they going to make all this effort for 500 people, or are they going to make all this effort for 4,000? It makes a difference to the State.

And, again, basic economics: If they're going to spend the money and spend the time, they want to know they're going to get licensing back from about 3- or 4,000 people, not 500. So if certification is important to you, then you have a responsibility here. You need to help us grow this association.

We have expectations every day. We have expectations from our government, from our family, from our employer, and you all have expectations from this board.

So now the question becomes, what can we expect from you? How are you going to help us? What are you going to do for this association? Are you willing to make a concerted effort to enroll a friend or two?

And, remember, when they ask, What's in it for me? You tell them, What have you done for the profession? Has the profession been good to you? Maybe it's time to give something back and perform a selfless act.

I know that since I've been a member, I've brought in four of my very dear friends, three of whom are here today: Cathy, Edmee, and Dania. Oh, and Marie! So four of my friends, and I'm really happy to have them here. I know they came all this way for me, and, thank you, ladies, I love you.

I love all of you, and I really have felt the love back from this association and it's very inspiring. It really makes you want to do more, do better, and just carry the ball and do what we can for each other. So at the end of the day, it's not about these ten amazing, brilliant, outstanding people on this board. It's about you.

It's about your future, your success, your income and your survival. And I assure you that we, as a board, take our responsibility very seriously. We know what's expected of us.

Once again, the question becomes: What can we expect from each of you? What are you willing to do for yourself? What are you willing to do for this profession? And, what are you willing to do for this association? Will you learn something new? Will you join a committee? Will you visit a school and help us mentor our students?

Will you go to law schools with us and help speak to law students about how to make a good record? Will you help us move closer to certification by helping us build this association? What can we expect from you? I'm very excited about what lies ahead for all of us and what lies ahead for this association, and I truly believe we can accomplish our goals if we work together.

So now go find your groove!



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Falling Off the Merry-Go-Round

By Ruthanne Esparza

One of my favorite quotes is from **Eckhart Tolle**. He says:

"Some changes look negative on the surface, but soon you will realize space is being created in your life for something to emerge."



Several years ago, I began to experience some changes in my life that turned my world upside down. I was at the top of my career as a deposition court reporter when I lost it all.

I'm sure we're all old enough here to remember the merry-go-rounds they used to have at all the parks. Well, now I believe they've been deemed unsafe - maybe numerous serious injuries happened over the years - but back in the day remember when you'd grab those bars, run as fast as you could and jump on, spinning and spinning, watching the world go by in fast motion?

Well, that's exactly what I felt over ten years ago in my career. I loved my job. I had never felt so competent; I made great money; I considered it a continuing education with all I learned every day. Then virtually from one day to the next, I got **tossed off that merry-go-round** while it was going at full speed.

You see, I literally started to experience a pain in the neck that wouldn't go away. I could not write on my steno machine or work on the computer, which was about 95% of my job description.

I spent the next two years determined to hop back on that merry-go-round. I had every imaginable medical procedure. Most women might consider having Botox injected in the wrinkles on their face; I actually had it shot in my neck, trying to relieve that pain.

I am a spiritual person, so I would look up and declare, "Okay, I get it, I get the lesson I'm supposed to be learning from this. Now I'm ready to go back to work!"

But God, the universe, life gave me a resounding **No!**

As the late great Steve Jobs said, "**You can only see the dots connected looking backwards,**" and I can now look back and see how all the dots connected perfectly for me to the place I'm standing in today.

Because as it turns out, life had something much grander planned for me than I ever could've imagined, which led me to be trained and certified as a **life coach** by some of the best minds in coaching and psychology: Tony Robbins, who virtually invented life coaching over 30 years ago; and the amazing Cloe Madanes, who's a world-renowned psychotherapist. I even had the opportunity to work for the training company, advising and coaching students from all over the world and all walks of life.

So a couple of takeaways from my experience is to continuously plug into the present moment and enjoy the present ride, as you never know when and how things will change - just that they definitely **will** change! After all, the only thing constant in life is change.

Secondly, the next time those seemingly negative changes come your way, stop and think about and know that there are **lessons waiting to be learned** and **gifts waiting to be received**; that the negative events could very well be creating space in your life for something wonderful and never-before imagined to emerge.

2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



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2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



A Ided Value for Students at Convention!

By Robin Merker, RPR, FPR

Recognizing that we had a number of students taking the FPR on Friday, all the students were invited to the President's suite for lunch. This gave our students the opportunity to meet and chat with several board members, including both our outgoing and incoming presidents, Pres. Holly Kapacinskas and Pres. Rosa Naccarato, in an informal, relaxed environment. After convention, several students took the time to comment on the experience as being extremely interesting and informative. Perhaps we're looking at the 1st Annual Student Luncheon???

As usual, we had many reporters sponsoring students financially through student sponsorships. And due to the generosity of our reporters and agencies, our students all went home with goodies ranging from rolling cases, laptop table & tripod, and laptop bags. Of course, none of the bags were empty, we had realtime workbooks, medical wordbooks, SD cards, and even a Stenocast system tucked inside the various bags!

For those students who could not attend this year's

convention, start making plans to attend next year's FCRA convention. Why? I can't say it any better than Jay Touro did:

"As a new member and *first time* Annual Convention participant I wanted to thank you for a wonderful and memorable experience. As a current student at Stenotype Institute of Jacksonville, I found the workshops, speakers and presenters to be helpful to me in terms of my potential career opportunities in the field of court reporting and look forward to learning from each of you over future years to come."

"I really appreciated and enjoyed the student luncheon held in the President's suite. It was informative and enlightening in terms of my future career and geographical options to work in the field upon my graduation from my current program. I look forward to seeing all of you next year in Clearwater Beach. Thanks once again to everyone for making my first convention a wonderful experience."

And thank you, Jay, for practically writing my article for me!

●● NEW ●● FCR Online Deadline Dates

(WINTER) DEC/JAN/FEB/MAR

Article Submission — November 5

On-Line Publication — December 12

(SUMMER) APR/MAY/JUNE/JULY

Article Submission — March 5

On-Line Publication — April 12

(FALL) AUG/SEPT/OCT/NOV

Article Submission — July 5

On-Line Publication — August 12

FCRA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

(Includes all members who joined as of July 31, 2015)

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NAME	CITY	SPONSOR
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Frost, Michael	Ft Lauderdale	Susan Wasilewski
Leonard, Nancy	Interlachen	Holly Kapacinskas
Meisterhans, Melissa	St Johns	Greg Smith
Moore, April	Jacksonville	Holly Kapacinskas

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Beumer, Linda	Jacksonville	Marianne Hedquist
Broomfield, Kelly	Jacksonville	Marianne Hedquist
Church, Anna	Jacksonville Beach	Janet Beason
Deal, Robin	Naples	Janet McKinney
Fisher, Mae	Orlando	Susan Wasilewski
Green, Rebecca	Ft Myers	Lori Bundy
Griffin-Johnson, Candice	DeLand	Elizabeth Pearson
Mann, Maleana	Ponte Vedra Beach	Susan Wasilewski

STUDENT MEMBERS

Bernarding, Susan	Fernandina Beach	Susan Wasilewski
Bleidt, Brittany	Ft Lauderdale	Susan Wasilewski
Lynch, Kristina	St Augustine	Susan Wasilewski
Staats, Verona	Astatula	Susan Wasilewski

Musings from Vana Lou



My Mommy Dreams

Her eyes are closed in dreamy thought,
and without reading my mommy's mind,
You'd think she daydreams of Hawaii,
or some other exotic clime.
But I, Vana Lou, know better,
because I see it all the time,
she hooks her writer to computer
and practices while I recline.
And while patiently I sit here,
but with captive anticipation,
and I wish we were smelling flowers
or some other of God's creation,
she's got her bunny slippers on,
and she listens to narration.
I would bet my last doggie dollar
RealTime Coach is her vacation!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Court Reporters Association

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*City/State/Zip _____

*Telephone: Home (____) _____ Office (____) _____ FAX (____) _____

CHECK ONE: OK to publish home phone number in directory. DO NOT publish home phone number.

*Email address _____ Secondary Email Address _____

*METHOD OF REPORTING: Stenographic Voicewriter Gregg Pittman Other _____

*TYPE OF REPORTER: Freelance Official Deputy Official Federal Teacher Student Other _____

*DESIG: CSR (List State(s) other than FL) _____ FAPR FPR RPR RDR CMRS RMR CLVS CRI CRR CPE

*Asterisk indicates required information.

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RETIRED MEMBER\$45.00
Open to any participating member in good standing who has retired from the active practice of shorthand reporting.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER \$90.00
This category is open to the following (please check one):
 Teachers of shorthand reporting
 Individuals officially connected with a school or college conducting shorthand reporting course - **School Name & Location** _____
 Non-member individuals retired from active shorthand reporting
 Anyone professionally associated with or employed by a member of FCRA whose application is endorsed by a participating member in good standing (**please print sponsoring member's name below where requested**)
 Anyone qualifying for Participating membership, but residing outside of Florida - State of Residence _____

VENDOR MEMBER.....\$500.00
Open to any firm or corporation engaged in selling products or services to FCRA members.

PRO BONO: Are you interested in donating time to the Pro Bono Program?
 Yes No

FLORIDA MANUAL: The guide to court reporting in Florida — sample forms, guidelines, and rules of court. Cost for members: \$75.00. Subscription to updates: \$25.00.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: Searchable geographical and alphabetical members' listing in Member's Only section of our website.

The dues year is November 1 through October 31. Annual dues must accompany application. Those joining in August, September, or October of a given year will be paid through October 31 of the following year. Dues payments are deductible by members as an ordinary and necessary business expense. In accordance with Section 6033(e) (2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, members of the FCRA are hereby notified that an estimated 10% of your FCRA dues will be allocated to lobbying and political activities, and therefore is not deductible as a business expense.

I hereby make application for membership in the Florida Court Reporters Association and pledge myself, if accepted, to abide by the requirements of the Bylaws and Code of Professional Responsibility of the Association as they are now and as they may be amended in the future.

I understand that all applications are subject to review and approval by FCRA. All applicants must be sponsored by an FCRA member in good standing per FCRA bylaws.

Signature of Applicant Date

Name of Sponsoring Member (Please print or type)

How did you hear about FCRA? Code: _____ Other: _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED FOR:

Membership Dues \$ _____

Florida Manual on CD:
 ___ copies @ \$75.00 each
 (Includes 7% sales tax + handling) _____

One-year subscription
 to Florida Manual Updates
 ___ subscriptions @ \$25.00 each
 (Includes 7% sales tax + handling) _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Check # _____ MasterCard VISA AmEx

Account # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Amount to charge: \$ _____

Authorized Signature _____

***Participating Members selecting the pre-authorized payment plan option will need to sign and complete the payment section of the pre-authorized payment plan form.**

For Administrative Use Only

Date Rec'd _____ Ref # _____ Amount _____

Date Approved _____ Computer _____

Make check payable to FCRA and mail to FCRA Headquarters, 222 S. Westmonte Dr, Ste 101, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
Telephone 407-774-7880 • FAX 407-774-6440 (for charge payments only) • www.fcraonline.org

Rev 11/2014



Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Form

Participating Membership Only

Please complete and return payment plan form and membership application to:

FCRA Headquarters
222 S. Westmonte Dr, Suite 101
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
Fax: 407-774-6440

The FCRA payment plan is available only through submission of this form and is not available online.

INSTALLMENTS: Plan is payable by credit card only. Check payments will not be accepted.

All payments will be automatically processed as outlined below.

First Payment	Processed upon receipt of this form	\$100.00
Second Payment	Processed 30 days after first payment	\$110.00
Third/Final Payment	Processed 60 days after first payment	\$110.00

Member Name: _____

Member Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Terms of the Agreement: I hereby authorize FCRA to process the fees for my participating membership in three credit card transactions. All transactions will be processed to the credit card provided on this form. The first payment in the amount of \$100.00 will be processed upon receipt. The second installment in the amount of \$110.00 will be automatically processed 30 days following the first payment. The third and final installment in the amount of \$110.00 will be automatically processed 60 days following the first payment. Check payments will not be accepted under this agreement. I understand there will be NO REFUNDS for any installment (partial payment) processed under this agreement. I also understand that FCRA membership will not be considered active until all three plan payments have been processed successfully. The full amount paid under this plan for my FCRA Participating membership dues will be \$320.00 which includes a \$20 administrative fee for processing multiple payments.

Please enroll me in the payment plan. I have included credit card information for all three installments below. I fully understand and agree to the Terms of the Agreement as stated above.

Signature

Payment Method:

Master Card Visa American Express

Submit by Email

Billing Address: *(If different from above)*

Print Form

Account #: _____ Exp Date: _____

Cardholder's Name / Signature

Payment plan effective 10/20/13 for Participating Members only.