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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015

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By Holly Kapacinskas, RPR, CRR, FPR,
2014-2015 President



Florida Court Reporters Count...Calling All Members

As court reporters, we **count**. Our job matters to our clients, to the judiciary, and to the public. Many people **count** on us in **countless** ways. Unfortunately, we are not **counted**. There is no registry for court reporters in Florida, so no one knows how many of us there are. Without this information, it is difficult, as a profession, to lobby for issues that concern us, and it may very well hamper our ability to replenish the ranks of Florida reporters who will be retiring in the next five to ten years. FCRA NEEDS YOUR HELP, and it will only take 10 MINUTES OF YOUR TIME to make a large impact.

In Sanibel I asked each of you to throw your log on the fire of FCRA to help fuel our success. Well, we need everyone's log on this **Florida Court Reporters Count** project. We figure that between all our members, we know every reporter in Florida. So here's your task:

Take a few minutes to write down every Florida reporter you know. You can either type it in an email to me, or you can fill out the form that follows this article, scan it, and email it to me at hollykap@icloud.com. Please list the reporter's name (please print legibly) and indicate whether the reporter is stenographic (S) or digital (D), freelance (F) or official (O). The information will be used only for **counting** reporters. We are not asking for contact information, so you can rest assured the information will not be used for any type of solicitation purpose. If you are one of the fifty reporters who already submitted names to me in Sanibel, you, of course, don't have to do it again. Those 50 reporters submitted 900 names! Just think how accurate a **count** we can get if 500 more of you participate!

One important reason we need an accurate **count** is because when we are talking to legislators about issues important to court reporters, the first thing they want to know is "How many reporters are in our state?" When we were in front of the Florida Supreme Court regarding certification, they asked how many reporters there are in Florida. Up to now, we have only been able to guess.

As a quick aside, I know many of our members are anxious for news regarding our certification efforts. The Florida Supreme Court has asked the Florida Bar Rules of Judicial Administration Subcommittee C to tweak/update the existing certification language and send it back to them. FCRA has submitted proposed language to Subcommittee C, and Subcommittee C has asked for an extension of time in which to accomplish the task

for the Florida Supreme Court, so we are currently in a holding pattern. Now back to **counting**...

Another very important reason we need to get an accurate Florida reporter **count** is because we will be working with NCRA in the ensuing months to correct some data that Ducker Worldwide published in their Industry Outlook Report regarding Florida. Because Florida currently does not have a registry or certification, Ducker Worldwide had to use modeling instead of real data for Florida, and FCRA believes that this led them to erroneously report that there would be a small surplus of reporters in Florida in five years. The report drastically underestimated the current number of Florida reporters and the amount of reporters that will be retiring in our state in the coming years. NCRA's CR Take Note campaign is targeting advertising for prospective students in the five states that have the most reporters. Currently, they do not have Florida listed in the top five. FCRA believes this to be in error. It's important that we correct this misconception if we are going to be successful in recruiting new people into the field here in Florida. Our future depends on it.

So please take ten minutes right now to help out our profession by submitting your list to me. When you're done, ask your colleagues to do the same. If I do not hear from you, I will be sending you an email reminder. If I still don't hear from you, I will be personally calling each and every member. And since I'm a busy working reporter, just like all of you, that may mean a 7 a.m. phone call! Of course, phone calling will take me months and months. If everyone takes ten minutes now, we can gather the information quickly. Can we **COUNT** on you? Help FCRA help you. We are trying to find out how many court reporters are in Florida. This will help us give a more accurate number to the Florida Legislature, Florida Supreme Court, and Florida Bar when talking with them about issues important to court reporters. Please take a moment to write down EVERY Florida reporter you can think of, FCRA member or not, freelance or official, stenographic or digital. This is strictly a counting exercise. No one will be solicited. Please scan and email to me at hollykap@icloud.com (or you can just type an email instead of using this form).

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Notes from North Florida: Anthony Trujillo, RMR, CRR, FPR, Amazes the Crowd at Stenotype Institute of Jacksonville Graduation

By Amy Yarbrough, FPR



"Let's do something cool," Gayl Hardeman encouraged her CART/Realtime committee. Thanks to Anthony Trujillo, mission accomplished!

Tony has once again proven himself to be one of the shining stars of our profession. On November 13th, he made the trip from Orlando to Jacksonville to provide realtime at the Stenotype Institute of Jacksonville's fall graduation ceremony, where seven students received their diplomas in court reporting.

Parents, students, and faculty were amazed. Tony's mastery of AccelerWriters is to be applauded. He appeared cool, calm, and collected. His passion for the profession shines like a beacon.

I had been asked to say a few words, and after working with trigger strokes the past few weeks, I thought it would be fun to incorporate some images into the realtime feed. Tony was able to make this possible with just a few dictionary entries. One of my favorite images appeared as I warned the grads of the dangers of being tardy to the courtroom: the oh-so-scary Judge Judy, a menacing look on her face, finger and thumb in the shape of an "L" on her forehead. And as I told the students about what a valuable resource FCRA membership is and how serious we take the profession, some of the silliest photos from last year's photo booth flashed across the screen, proving the sky is the limit when it comes to our amazing technology.

After a beautiful realtime feed, Tony said some charming and hilarious words of encouragement to the graduates. His energy and enthusiasm were contagious, inspiring everyone in the room. He emphasized to the graduating class how special their talent is, that they now possess a skill no one can take away from them. We could all use a daily dose of his positivity to remind us how exceptional we are.

The Stenotype Institute is beyond grateful for Tony's willingness to donate his time and talent to the graduation ceremony. His demonstration of the technology in addition

to the preparation that goes into a flawless realtime feed surely inspired the students in the room to work harder, practice longer, and learn more about the field they've chosen. I came to realize that showcasing his skill is an absolute labor of love for Tony.

Graduation ceremonies from court reporting schools are dynamic in their own right. I cannot imagine many other programs where only a handful of grads are recognized and given the chance to speak about their journey. It is easy to forget the challenges we faced, hardships we overcame, and the five-minute victories that were sometimes few and far between. At a time when enrollment is down and we are trying to draw national spotlight to court reporting as a career, it remains our duty to create the sparks that encourage court reporting students to ignite a fire.

BE A MENTOR

By Cathy Morrow, FPR

Grateful for the invitation, I was glad to be a part of the commencement ceremony for the Fall 2014 Stenotype Institute graduating class. Proud parents and friends were there to support our graduates. In addition to those in attendance, there were four graduating online students. Melissa Meisterhans, Co-Executive Director of Education at the school, beamed with joy as she proudly spoke of the accomplishments of each student. I couldn't help but think now it's our turn. As she presents each diploma she is also passing the torch.

I have always been a big proponent of giving back. As with any profession, we start with the basics and are given opportunities to grow as our profession grows. Today's world of court reporting is very technical and fast-paced. Our clients are no longer willing to wait ten days for a transcript. They want their information NOW. I believe it is incumbent upon those of us in the field to help transition students into the work environment. Think back to your own journey. Remember those who were there for you, who took time to teach and to encourage you, maybe even pass on a few writing tips, tricks of the trade. Mentoring is essential to our success.

On November 13, 2014, both Amy Yarbrough and Anthony Trujillo took time away from their busy schedules to give back. As I think back through my own experiences and remember the reporters who reached out to me, I leave you with this thought. It seems so apropos this time of year. In the fall, when you see geese heading south for the

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Student Corner

By Robin Merker

So much has happened since I last got to write a full column so here is an olio, a potpourri, a hodge-podge of items for your perusal.

This year's convention was amazing. We probably had the highest student attendance ever – 24 students in all! So there's the number to beat next year. There was an outpouring of goodies for all our students – no one left empty-handed. And, as usual, our firm owners and working reporters stepped up to the plate to make sure every student had the opportunity to attend "Hollywood Nights," our 2014 Annual President's Party.

Right now FCRA has 65 student members – count 'em! Congratulations to all of you. Getting involved as a student can only lead to success as a working reporter. You are the future of our profession!

Recently, the Court Reporting Schools Committee sent out a student email survey. If you did NOT receive the survey, please contact us ASAP at Rlmerker@att.net. We are trying to find ways to better serve you, our students, and completing this survey is integral to making that happen.

If you are close to graduation and planning to take the RPR – you will soon be able to take it in the comfort of your own home. In 2015 NCRA will be moving to online testing for the skills (speed) portion of the RPR. For those who have "test anxiety," this may be the perfect way to alleviate it. Stay tuned!

I had the pleasure of visiting Stenotype Institute of Jacksonville earlier this year and I look forward to visiting our southern schools, Atlantic Technical College, Sheridan Technical College, and Key College soon.

And for some practical writing ease, here's the brief of the decade as far as I'm concerned. If you're writing e-mail in two strokes, how about AOEPL? From there you will have AOEPLG, AOEPLD, and AOEMS. What could be easier? As always, credit goes to Joyce Bluteau for that one. According to my personal dictionary I have used AOEPL over 5000 times in the past four years. If I've done the math correctly, that's over 100 times a month! Can't beat that!

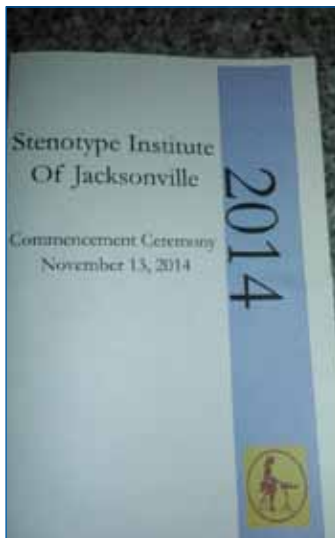
Keep practicing!

Notes from North Florida: Anthony Trujillo, RMR, CRR, FPR, Amazes the Crowd at Stenotype Institute of Jacksonville Graduation

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winter fly along in V formation, one might consider what science has discovered as to why geese fly this way. Each bird flaps its wings, creating uplift for the bird immediately following. A flock has a greater flying range in formation than a single bird would have on its own.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can reach a goal more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another. It is harder to do something alone than together. I wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season.

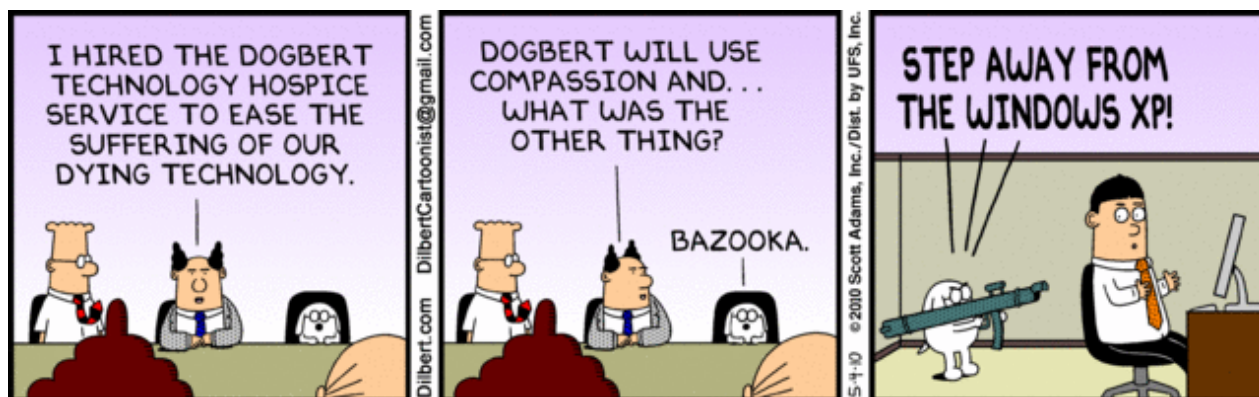


SLEUTHING THE NET



9 IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER

By Donna M. Kanabay, RMR, CRR, FPR • donna@kanabay.com



Now that I've planted an incessant "ear worm" song in my head (Three Dog Night. One Is the Loneliest Number. Get it??) now you, too, can hum it to yourselves all morning like I've been doing!

It's fairly recent news (as I write this,) but it's been all over the Internet, so I'm betting everybody knows by press time that Microsoft is skipping over Windows 9 and jumping right to Windows 10. Theories abound out there as to why, and so far Microsoft isn't talking. It seems Microsoft is the *only* "person" who's not talking, 'cause the rest of the world sure is.

From an article in the Windows Secrets newsletter: "I swear, there are yak herders in Tibet who are discussing Microsoft's decision to jump to Windows 10. It seems everyone has a theory."

A lot of people are suggesting that it's because there's concern that internal coding that starts with "9" will confuse computers into thinking Win95 or Win98. But I kind of like this one: "The farther we get from Windows 8, the better." (That might require MS to admit that they really blew it with W8, though. Any takers on that bet?)

Anyway, from this die-hard, "They're going to pry my XP out of my cold, dead fingers," I have to admit, a lot of what I've seen has convinced me that W10 might just be the Windows version that convinces me to finally make the move, even as I continue to carefully nurture my WinXP computers to try to keep them healthy and useable for as long as possible. That said, I'm thinking I should probably get a W7 machine while I still can – I'm a Toshiba fan and you can still get W7 laptops online from Toshiba, and at some good prices – because

if mine blows up, I refuse to go anywhere near W8. I've watched too many of my reporters have to make the leap in an emergency, and they're really struggling with 8.

Seriously, though, it does look like they've learned their lesson and some of the features of 10 really look great. Here's a video to whet your appetite: <http://www.technobuffalo.com/videos/windows-10-technical-preview-hands-on/>

"Windows 10 is everything we wanted Windows 8 to be. On the surface, Windows 10 looks a lot like a beefed-up Windows 7. That's partially right, and a big reason why the new software is so great. Where Windows 8 failed – and it failed in a lot of ways – Microsoft is hoping Windows 10 succeeds. For one, the tiled view is no longer forced on users, and there's a new and improved Start menu. Like, really improved."

"Company executives did not spell out the logic behind the numerical leap from the current version, except to say that the new version won't be just an incremental improvement. I guess they figured Windows 8 was so criminally awful that any version called Windows 9 would be judged guilty by association. Either that, or Windows 7 ate 9."

Adventurous, techy people can even download a preview OS and help Microsoft test it with the "technical preview." (And much as I love all of you, I don't love you enough to do it!)

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/preview>

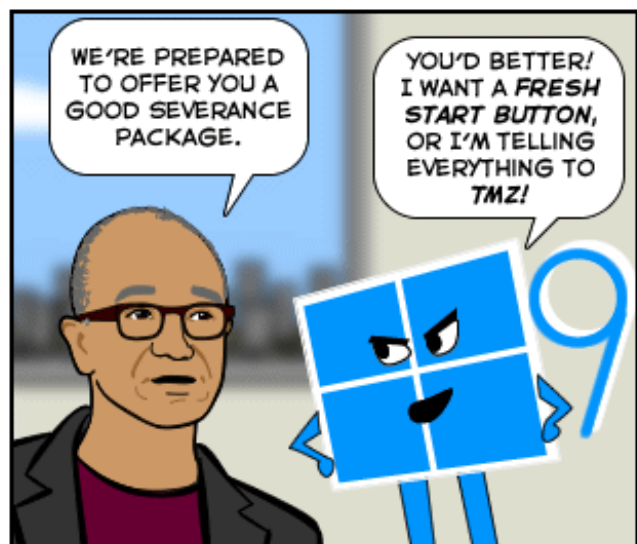
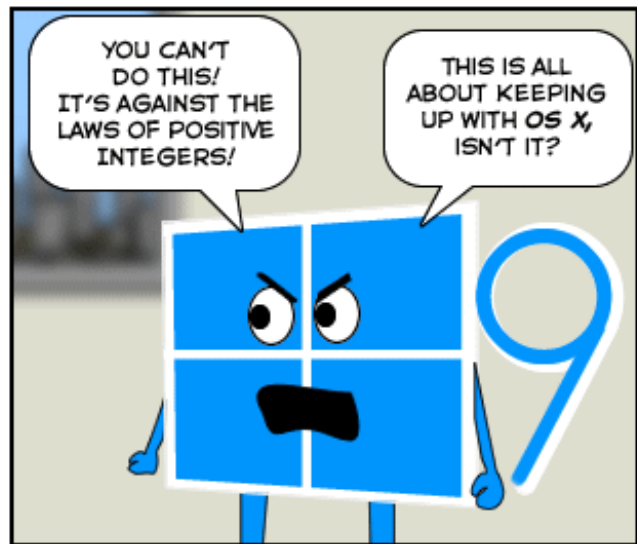
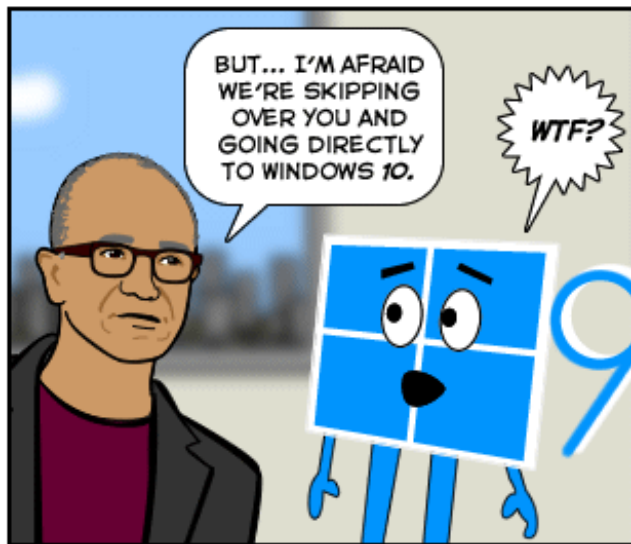
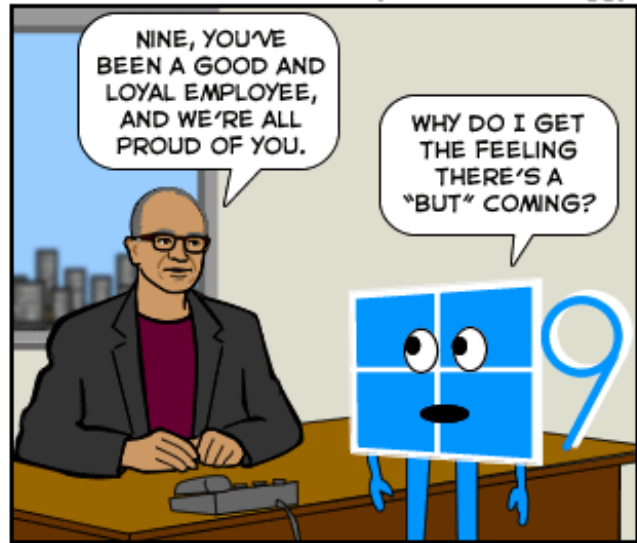
It should be interesting next year when W10 rolls out – if only to watch the jokes continue to fly around about skipping W9. It might even convince a die-hard like me that it's time to make a move.

SLEUTHING THE NET

Continued from page 8

The Joy of Tech™

by Nitrozac & Snaggy



FCRA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

(Includes all members who joined as of December 15, 2014)

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NAME	CITY	SPONSOR
Stafford, Melodie	Harrison Township, MI	Susan Wasilewski

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Chorrushi, Elizabeth	Tampa	Krystal Edwards
Ellison, Rhonda	Dade City	Susan Wasilewski
Overwise, Kimberly	Venice	Holly Kapacinskas
Sciré, Michael	Sarasota	Holly Kapacinskas
Sciré, Richard	Sarasota	Holly Kapacinskas
Stanley, Jami	Macclenny	Susan Wasilewski

STUDENT MEMBERS

Farley, Jessica	Sunrise	Susan D. Williams
Sandelis, Carolina	Miami	Susan D. Williams

●● NEW ●● FCR Online Deadline Dates

(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

(WINTER) DEC/JAN/FEB/MAR

Article Submission — November 5

On-Line Publication — December 12

Musings from Vana Lou



The Play

By Sharon Velazco

In lieu of opera glasses and hushed velvet curtains,
I take my place at the end of the conference table
and gape into the milieu of civil drama,
a welcomed, necessary guest.

Leaning forward, I become engrossed in the details of
the unfolding play, a chronicler of everyday lives.

The unpredictable score is a drone of questions and
answers, shuffling papers, accompanied by the muted,
stuttering staccato of my imperceptibly moving keys.
And although the lights never go down, and all attention
is focused on the speakers, my nonchalant expression is
the only mask I need wear to this interactive
performance. No one sees me, the spectator, watching
every detail with rapt attention.

Finally, after a noisy acapella chorus from the lead
players, the program closes to the sound of the
janitor's vacuum echoing from the darkened offices. The
actors rush off the stage, and I am packing up, alone
with my post performance reverie...

The Spectator



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Court Reporters Association

*Name (Please print) _____ NCRA # _____ NVRA # _____

*Company _____ Owner Co-owner Manager

*Mailing Address _____ Website: _____

*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.

I make application for Membership as a: (CHECK ONE)

PARTICIPATING MEMBER\$300.00
Open to anyone engaged in active practice of official or general court reporting by either stenographic or voicewriter method. (Please indicate method above.) **PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE**
 *Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Attached (Participating Members Only)

STUDENT MEMBER\$35.00
Open to any student of shorthand reporting who is endorsed by a court reporting training program instructor or director.

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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
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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 _____

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 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.