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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

By Christy Bradshaw, FPR,
2016-2017 President



You've Come a Long Way, Baby!

As I sat down to write this article, it occurred to me that this would be my last article written as your FCRA President. It is hard to believe that our conference is less than three months away and I will be passing the tiara on to Lori Bundy! While trying to come up with a topic, the first thing that came to mind is that I still can't believe how far I have come since I began this career.

Like most of us, I had the absolute love for the machine from day one in school. I could not keep my hands off of it. When I hit 160 words a minute, however, things changed. I developed a stutter on the machine. My teachers had never seen it before. I would get so nervous testing that my fingers would just freeze. I would write the same stroke over and over and just couldn't get past it. It was devastating. I finally had a friend hypnotize me and between that and the doctor prescribing me medicine (the good stuff) to test, I FINALLY made it to 225.

My first six months reporting, I had to wear scarves because I would break out in hives every time I swore in a witness or had to read back. Those of you who know me well have seen those hives once or twice at least.

When I moved to Jacksonville in 1998, three years out of school, I began taking harder jobs and started to get some confidence under my belt. In 2000, when I started my business, I felt the urge to take the RPR and prove to myself, and my clients, that I could get that certification. I once again struggled with the testing. Mainly nerves, as before, of course (and hives), but I finally got it. It is amazing how much confidence passing that test can give you. I instantly saw a difference in my writing and clients would often tell me what a difference they noticed in me. I was really starting to come into my own.

Around 2004, I started attending career days at some local high schools and was asked to sit on the board of a local school's Law & Government Program, which I did for eight years. It has been so rewarding. I began to realize there

was so much more to this career besides just the reporting. I loved the interaction with the students and they loved seeing the machine. Even though we did not have paper in our machines any longer, I always took my machine with paper so I could write their names and they could take it with them. That seemed to be the highlight for them.

When I decided to serve on the FCRA board, I never, ever dreamed that I would one day be president. It just wasn't even in my thoughts. I was going to serve on a few committees and the board and bow out quietly. Well.... I learned quickly that that is not what usually happens. The next thing I knew, I was president elect and then I was giving a speech as the incoming president. How did this happen? And I gave my speech with no hives at all. I was completely shocked and amazed at myself.

When I look back at the experience I have gained through this career, it is absolutely amazing. Not only have I enjoyed being a freelance reporter, I have owned my own court reporting agency and mentored students. I have attended NCRA Legislative Boot Camp in Washington D.C. and had the opportunity to lobby on Capitol Hill on the Courthouse Security Act and the Interstate Notary Act, both of which are still in the works today. I have spoken to my local county bar association. This past February I went to Tallahassee for our very first "Hill Day" and lobbied for certification for court reporters in the State of Florida. I met with the Attorney General's Office regarding our notary/ID oath issues. Court Reporting has been so much more rewarding than I ever thought possible.

Don't ever sell yourself short on what you think you can accomplish and what this career will hold for you. The sky is the limit. You can do whatever you put your mind to. I am proof of that! I went from a shy, small-town court reporter to president of the Florida Court Reporters Association and have loved every minute of it!





*By Richard S. Scire, RPR,
FCRA Central Director &
FCR Online Editor*

Message from the Editor

Spring has definitely sprung and Florida court reporters are ever blooming with success! If Pablo Picasso's saying that "Action is the foundational key to all success" is true, then we are undoubtedly springing forward on the right path to victory with the actions we are taking.

In this issue we take a closer look at our latest successes. You will get updated on the groundbreaking trip to the capitol on Hill Day as well as see some of the achievements and celebrations of Court Reporting and Captioning Week and how it was even bigger than last year thanks to all the reporters, students, and teachers of our court reporting schools.

FCR Online's "Member Spotlight" is featuring the legendary Gayl Hardeman. I had the pleasure first of hearing Gayl's voice on my RPR practice tapes in court reporting school over 20 years ago during the 1990s and then was lucky enough to have her as my substitute teacher during one memorable and educational summer. Now, whether it is through a Case Catalyst training session, an FCRA convention seminar, or

just catching up over drinks in Sarasota, I always welcome the influence, wisdom, and friendship of Gayl Hardeman and I hope you will too when you read about her extensive career and busy life.

If you went to the NCRA convention last year in Chicago, you may have learned about Nancy Varallo's "A to Z" pilot project. If you haven't heard of the program yet, you are sure to find it innovative.

We have another new feature to FCR Online that I am calling "Second Flash." After speaking to several members, the monthly Flash articles can easily be missed when life happens. Since there are three Flash issues in between the triannual FCR Online issues, I have included them in this issue to make it easier to get caught up on what you may have missed.

Finally, this issue is dedicated to the memory of Jonathan D. "Rus" Weathers, who served as FCRA President in 1986. Rest in Peace, Mr. Weathers, and thank you for your service.

Important Announcements



The Diamante writer has retired after eight years of faithful service! Long live the Diamante! Stenograph will continue to support and service customers' Diamante writers for another five years. Pre-owned Diamante writers are available for purchase for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for all of your comments regarding the Diamante's retirement. We are very pleased and proud to hear how much you have enjoyed the Diamante and agree that it has been an amazing writer for the last almost eight years. Our policy regarding maintenance and service after discontinuation is rooted in our desire to consistently provide world class quality and service. With that being said, we have heard and understand your concerns and, thanks to your feedback, have decided to revise our policy. We will now service the Diamante for a minimum of five years following the last date of manufacture, and will continue to provide service for as long as we are able to source parts and provide you with the level of service that you have come to expect from Stenograph in terms of quality, timeliness and cost.

Stenograph is committed to its customers and the profession. Our intention is and will always be to provide high quality and innovative products with unparalleled service and support. We value your business and look forward to supporting you throughout your careers.



March 31st was World Backup Day! We shouldn't be waiting a whole year to backup and hurricane season is just around the corner. Now is good time to not only back up your files but perhaps create a schedule to do so more frequently. Remember not to leave all your backups in one place!

Save the Date

Let's Party - Crime & Punishment



While this year's convention in West Palm Beach from June 23-25 will be a blast, the Saturday night party on June 24 will be a killer—literally! Take a step back in time with your colleagues and friends to the roaring 1920s and solve a murder during the party!

Things take a turn for the gutter at Mafia Don Lou Zar's juice joint when someone is put on ice! The crowd is chock full of potential suspects. Jealous, jilted lovers, a rival Mafioso, and a pair of undercover feds make an appearance at this speakeasy and not a single person is muttering a word! Help find out who's on the level and who's on the lam by trading clues with your guests, gathering information, and solving the crime before the murderer hotfoots it out of there!

Dress for this night of murderous mayhem, includes flapper dresses, zoot suits, feather boas and headbands, pinstriped suits and fedoras. If you aren't feeling that jive, you can dress as a private detective to help solve the crime. Just don't frame the wrong guy!

Register Today at [fcronline.org!](http://fcronline.org)



Jonathan D. "Rus" Weathers

Jonathan D. "Rus" Weathers lost his battle with metastatic melanoma of the right lung the end of February, 2017. He was born November 24, 1945 in North Carolina. After growing up in Florida and Texas, he graduated high school in Seagoville, Texas and soon after joined the United States Marine Corps, serving four years. Upon his Honorable Discharge, he came back to South Florida, met his future wife, Bonnie, went to business school in Pompano Beach, graduating from the court reporting program.

In 1972 he and Bonnie opened their first office together as B & R Court Reporters in West Palm Beach, which in time they changed to Weathers & Associates, Inc. In about 1983 Rus opened another court reporting agency named All Florida Reporting, Inc. and together they operated both companies concurrently until June of 2016. He and Bonnie have been living in Colorado since 2013.



In the 1980s he donated much of his time to the Florida Court Reporting Association (FCRA), eventually becoming President in 1986. He was an initiator, chaired, co-chaired and assisted in writing, compiling and publishing the Florida Manual, a comprehensive manual on reporting in Florida. After his Presidency with FCRA, he served on several committees for the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), including a three-year appointment on the NCRA Board of the Academy of Professional Reporters (BPAR).

Awards he was most proud of were NCRA Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters - 1989 and FCRA Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award - 1990. Even though he had not learned how to write realtime, in 1989 he volunteered, doing the best he could, for the West Palm Beach Chapter of SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing People) writing realtime for their monthly meetings.



He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Bonnie; mother, Louise Weathers of Georgia; sister, Margaret Benton of Florida; sister, Marion Trinkner of North Carolina; sister, Laura Marshall Gibson of Georgia; brother, Professor Frank W. Weathers, III of Alabama.

A celebration of life gathering of family and friends will be held in the near future. Memorial donations may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607-1435 or St. Jude children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

To express condolences and/or make donations, visit PalmBeachPost.com/obituaries.

Court Reporting & Captioning Week and Passion for the Profession

Court and deposition reporters, captioners, and students made an even bigger splash this year for National Court Reporting and Captioning Week than last year. Governor Rick Scott signed a proclamation again this year for Florida Court Reporting & Captioning Week. With our week occurring during the same week of Valentine's Day, the time could not have been more perfect to showcase our "Passion for the Profession."

Here is the proclamation and a look at some of the shining stars with our coveted poster and passion.



Second Judicial Circuit Official Court Reporters: (left to right) Susan Bryant, Veronica McClellan, Janyce Booth, Linda Cunningham, Julie Doherty, Judy Hussey and Johana Kesterson.



FCRA Board Member Tracy Howard Finan with Kim Smith Sanders, Official Court Reporter, 1st Circuit, Walton County, Defuniak Springs.



First Circuit, MC Blanchard Courthouse, Pensacola, FL. Pictured from left to right are court reporters Tracy Howard Finan, MariaAnna Bowers, Sharon McMurrain, and Scopists Ellie Westbrook, Cindy Walker, and Managing Court Reporter Emily Cooksey.

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Court Reporting & Captioning Week and Passion for the Profession

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Flagler County Courthouse celebrates with Paulita Kundid, Vince the Bailiff, Regina Nunnely (Public Defender), and Louise Pomar (Court Reporting Manager)



Fourth Circuit stars with FCRA Treasurer Cathy Morrow, Matthew McKinney, and FCRA Director at Large Peggy Casper in Duval County, Jacksonville.



12TH CIRCUIT COURT REPORTING TEAM



Stenos celebrate profession

The Official Court Reporters are an integral component to the criminal justice system. That's why we're joining the department and celebrating the 10th Annual Court Reporting & Captioning Week, beginning February 11. According to the National Court Reporters Association, stenographers have been recording the spoken word for more than 100 years. A stenographer's work is not limited to a courtroom. They serve the deaf and hard-of-hearing community through captioning and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services, as well as closed-captioning during TV broadcasts. To learn their craft, stenographers attend school between two and four years. In order to become certified, a stenographer must type at least 225 words per minute (wpm). The holder of the Guinness Book of World Records was checked in at 360 wpm.

DID YOU KNOW?
A stenographer machine has 23 keys. The left side of the keyboard begins a word; the right side ends the word; and the bottom one contains the vowels. The number bar creates a number.

TALE OF THE TAPE

BY THE NUMBERS

- 57,322** Number of transcript pages printed in 2016 (Circuit-wide)
- 3,349** Number of hours Official Court Reporters logged in a courtroom in 2016 (Circuit-wide)
- 55,000** Average number of keystrokes a court stenographer types during an eight-hour trial

NOTABLE STENOGRAPHERS

- Charles Dickens** — Yeah, the man who penned *Oliver Twist*. Experiment, was a court reporter. And, he based that novel on a trial he reported.
- Harvey Kattell** — You may know him from the movies, but he was a court reporter in NYC for 10 years.

Atlantic Technical College had an Open House in honor Court Reporting & Captioning Week. Court Reporting Instructor Susan Dian Willams, CRI, at Atlantic Technical College also scheduled taking the reporting students to attend a VOP Hearing at the Broward County Courthouse with criminal attorney Kevin Kulick in Broward County on Thursday, February 16, 2017. This included a tour of the Broward County Courthouse. On Tuesday, February 14, 2017, Valentine's Day, the "LOVE FEST" event took place where former graduates came to visit the students in the classroom and speak to them. It was a reunion with students from the past who shared their experiences with the present students and it was all about the love for Court Reporting.



Twelfth Judicial Circuit Official Reporters with two of their Felony Circuit Court Judges. From left to right: Stacey Bryant, RPR; Honorable Charles Roberts; Michael Sciré, RPR, CMRS; Richard Sciré, RPR; Honorable Debra Johnes Riva; Hilda Gaeta, RPR.



FCRA President-Elect and Official Reporter Lori Bundy with Official Reporter Jeff Thomas at the U.S. District Courthouse in Fort Myers.

By Lori Bundy, RMR, FPR, CRR,
2016-2017 President-Elect

Who Knew Court Reporters Could Lobby?



On February 15, 2017, the Florida Court Reporters Association, along with Mark Pinto and Allison Carter from the Fiorentino Group, stormed the Capitol in Tallahassee for FCRA's first ever Hill Day. Our lobbyist had a jam packed schedule for us

as we entered the Capitol on Wednesday morning.

The first meeting was with Senator Keith Perry. Senator Perry was surprised that reporters were not licensed or certified in Florida, and he recognized the importance of having standards in place. Some discussion was had and questions were asked by his staff member about the use of recording equipment as opposed to stenographers. Of course, we were fully prepared to discuss the topic and gave numerous reasons and examples as to why stenographers are the superior method of producing an accurate record. While the meeting was brief, Senator Perry expressed his support of the profession and a willingness to work with our lobbyist in the future.

Next, we met with Andrew Fay. He is an attorney with the Office of Attorney General Pam Bondi. Christy Bradshaw, FCRA's President, did a fantastic job of inquiring about clarification of the notary laws in Florida. Do reporters have to physically look at a deponent's license before swearing them in? With new technology, can a notary swear someone in via videoconferencing? These are just a couple of examples of the questions we had for Mr. Fay. His office will work on an advisory opinion for FCRA, and hopefully we will have an answer before the annual convention this year.

Since the rotunda is a focal point of the Capitol, FCRA took the opportunity to set up a booth from 12:00 – 3:00 to bring attention to Court Reporting and Captioning Week. The Florida Channel even stopped by and did an interview. Sharon Velazco did a wonderful job of "playing" the court reporter for the camera and even teaching the interviewer how to write on the machine. We also had a surprise visit from State Representative Cynthia Stafford, who is an attorney and a staunch supporter of court reporters. She was happy to see us there lobbying for the profession.

The afternoon was filled with more meetings. We met with Representative Larry Metz. Representative Metz is also



an attorney, and he was very interested that court reporters in Florida do not have to be licensed. We shared with him the law that is already on the books and made a great contact for our efforts of certification. He was puzzled by the fact that the existing legislation is worded as a mandate, and yet it has been placed on hold and allowed to languish.



Also in the afternoon we met with Representative Heather Fitzenhagen, an aide to Senator Greg Steube. Both, again, we unaware that court reporters in Florida are not licensed. The FCRA

members educated on the importance of certification, not only for record purposes, but also the important job we have of keeping confidential records properly to comply with HIPAA laws.

The last meeting was with Senator Audrey Gibson. We were told that this meeting is important and to have "all hands on deck." We presented her with the laws that are already on the books about certification. She had tough questions for us, but thankfully our lobbyist was there to answer what

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By Michael A. Scire, RPR, CMRS

Twinspiration: "Twin Powers Activate!"

Although it may be a cliché coining such phrases as "double trouble" or "dynamic duo" when referring to a set of identical twins, for Richard and I, we learned early in our careers the benefits of having an identical twin who has the same skills and in the same profession. Why wouldn't we use it to our advantage, especially while strengthening our roles in the courtroom? We court reporters are superheroes after all.

It was a busy court day approximately 17 years ago. I was in my first year of reporting while Richard was in his second year. We were both working for Metzger Court Reporting in Punta Gorda at the time. The firm held the court contract, which covered all criminal and family courts. While most of the judges were wonderful to report, there was one that was rather difficult. Whether it be court personnel, attorneys, or even his assistant, he was unpleasant and downright miserable to everyone.

For the sake of this article, I'll affectionately refer to this judge as "Judge Monster." He would often be reprimanded for literally throwing files at the clerk. Sometimes the files would hit her in the head and other times they would land all over the floor. To get along with him, it was best to be timely and don't talk to him unless he talked to you, which was only about twice in the three years I reported his courtroom. He would on numerous occasions conduct two different proceedings in two different courtrooms simultaneously forcing his court reporter to bounce around from courtroom to courtroom with him. While he would travel through the coveted secured back hallway, the freelance reporters would travel through the common area front hallway, all while hoping to get to the courtroom before he did because he wouldn't wait on anyone, even the court reporter, to get started.

Having been there several months, Judge Monster didn't know that Richard and I were actually two different people. So on this particular day, Judge Monster bounced back and forth between two courtrooms with two different trials and eventually added a third courtroom into the mix when he overloaded his docket. Richard ran after the judge at each recess not knowing which of the other two courtrooms they would go to next. It was like a game show as he tried to figure out which door had the prize of sanity behind it.

As luck would have it, my courtroom down the hall unexpectedly wrapped up early. I already knew Richard was running around like a headless chicken, so I caught him in the hall during one of his relays and said, between the two of us, we can cover all three courtrooms and turn the tables on Judge Monster for a change. So we did just that. Judge Monster came racing in through the back doorway of Court-

room C where I was now already there waiting on him. His puzzled facial expression was evident as he wondered how the reporter got there before him. He looked around the room as though he thought he somehow wandered back into Courtroom A.

After about ten minutes, Judge Monster called for a ten-minute recess and scurried out the back door of the courtroom, this time racing to Courtroom B where Richard was already there waiting on him. Richard received a similar puzzled facial expression from the Judge. After a half an hour later, Judge Monster took another recess in Courtroom B and headed out the back door, this time going to Courtroom A where I was already set up and ready to go. By this time the attorneys in each of the courtrooms grew impatient of constantly waiting on the Judge and the overabundance of recesses. This time when the Judge took the Bench, I figured I may as well have a little fun with this. As Judge Monster entered Courtroom A, again looking in my direction with a puzzled expression, I simply glanced down at my watch and sighed, implying I too shared the attorneys' displeasure of waiting on the Judge.

Eventually three courtrooms dwindled down to two and was much more manageable for Richard and me. We still kept up the charade of being just one reporter. Judge Monster would continue to run back and forth for several more hours into the night. At times he would even leave the Bench of one courtroom just to return to the same courtroom, almost as if he was testing to see how it was the reporter knew when to stay in one courtroom or run over to the other.

He eventually learned we were twins several weeks later. It would be several years later that karma would come around and he was eventually removed from the bench.

Some good things came out of that experience, however. It was my first experience of teamwork as a court reporter. As freelancers, it's easy to think in the term of "me" or "I." Whether you have an identical twin or not, thinking in terms of "we" and "us" is so much more fun and creates more opportunities for success. Yes, we court reporters are superheroes, but every once in a while, it is more than okay to share the cape.

Michael can be reached at mscire@jud12.flcourts.org.

By Tammy Milcowitz

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Gayl Hardeman, RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CCP, FPR, CRI, CRC



In this day and age, when we are hearing more often than we would like of the closing of yet another court reporting school, be it online or a physical school, there is an emerging school in Tampa, Florida for court reporters and CART and broadcast

captioners, with simultaneous online and real, live, in-person classes in her classroom. It is a school for newbies who would like to get into this profession, as well as those who are already in the profession with the desire to tweak their skills and retrain for entry into the realtime reporting or captioning worlds. Who, you might ask, would open such a

school in today's fledgling market? None other than Gayl Hardeman. That's who.

Let me share a bit about Gayl with you. She is, I'm sure you will agree after reading about her, one of THE most amazing and qualified people in our profession. Her background is extensive and her experience vast. Gayl was born into a family of educators. Her father, a Ph.D, was a professor at the University of Tampa, and her mother was a middle school teacher. It seems appropriate to say that teaching is in Gayl's blood, as evidenced by the fact that she graduated from the University of South Florida with a BA in English education with minors in humanities and business education. At the young age of 20, Gayl became a high school English teacher.

That very same year, the age of 20, Gayl's career path took somewhat of a turn after being introduced to steno by Thelma Dreyer. While continuing as a high school English teacher, Gayl was intrigued enough with steno to take theory at night at the vo-tech school, then weekly lessons with a tutor, learning the machine and becoming proficient enough that, at the young age of 21, she became a full-time court reporter for Thelma Dreyer's firm. She took and passed the Florida CSR certification exam (yes, they did have certifications back then!), and the following summer went to her first NCRA Convention in Seattle, WA, and took and passed the RPR and two legs of the RMR. They let

you take them both at the same time back then, and Gayl took advantage of that. She completed her RMR certification six months later, at 22.

A year later, at the age of 23, Gayl was offered a job at a firm in Tampa called Independent Reporting Service. It was a small court reporting firm at the time, and she helped double the size of the firm after becoming a partner less than a year after she started working there, training the firm's typists to be notereaders to speed production.

As I said, teaching is in Gayl's blood, so it's inevitable that education once again drew her back into its grasp, and in 1973 she opened the GHK School of Notereading and Court Reporting. She published a book, "GHK Notereading: Twelve Weeks to a Career," in 1975.

In 1978, Gayl married Ed Varallo. In Tampa, they opened the tenth computer translation installation in the country, where her trained notereaders became "computer scopists." She sold her GHK School of Notereading and Court Reporting to the Princes when she and Ed moved to Delaware to be near his children in 1982, and she worked as a reporter with Ed and Jack White in Wilmington. That same year she received the Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award for her contributions to reporter education from the Florida Court Reporting Association.

In '84, Gayl "retired" from court reporting when she sold her half of Independent Reporting Service to her partner, Anne Sierra. She had longed to study French, so she attended Berlitz School in Philadelphia, traveled to France, and lived with a family for a month, speaking only French. She tried out for a musical and got the lead role of Annie Oakley, in *Annie, Get Your Gun* and enjoyed community theater for ten years. She was director of religious education at a large church, and enjoyed being stepmom to Ed's teenagers and in 1985, mom to their newly adopted baby, Andrew.

In '87, when Andrew was two, they moved to Boston for Ed's work. CART came into being in Boston, and Gayl -- not one to "stay away" for too long -- fell in love with CART, got her speed



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Who Knew Court Reporters Could

Continued from page 10



we could not. Mark has a lot of follow-up work to do with her office, but she was very interested in knowing why certification has not been funded.

After a very productive day of lobbying, we enjoyed a networking time at Carlton Fields hosted by FCRA and organized by Tracy Finan. Several local reporters attended, along with our lobbyist and FCRA board members. After stepping out of our normal jobs as reporters and firm owners for the day, I can truly say how thankful we are to our lobbyist for taking on our fight each and every day, meeting with people in Tallahassee that make and enforce laws that affect our lives in such a significant way, and following up so that nothing is forgotten about.

Our lobbyists are the out-of-sight-out-of-mind people that FCRA has employed to reinforce our position with the issues at hand that affect our livelihood. They have a deep understanding of our interests and have strong communication skills to communicate our goals and objectives. Thank you, Fiorentino Group, for all of your hard work and for actively working for FCRA and the challenges that we face in our profession.

The inaugural Hill Day was a success. With any new venture, we learned things we should and should not do next time. We hope next year YOU will come join us during Court Reporting & Captioning Week in Tallahassee to address important issues that we face in this wonderful career that we have chosen. See you on the Hill!

Lori Bundy can be reached at loribundy@yahoo.com.

Member Spotlight...

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back, built up her dictionary, received training from MCRA and MCDHH, and re-emerged happily as a Boston CART captioner.

Once again, the teacher in her just couldn't stay down, so she trained other reporters to become CART captioners for the now-bursting demand from Boston universities and the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. When Ed published his "Realtime Writer's Manual," she wrote a companion prefix-suffix practice guide in 1995 called "The Reminder" to help others make the transition from court reporting into the CART world. For her CART training efforts, she received the Massachusetts Court Reporters Association's Jane Griffin Distinguished Service Award.

In 1995, when she returned to Florida, she worked for long-time friend Jack Boenau at AmeriCaption and learned broadcast captioning. In 2001 to 2002, she worked in Australia as a broadcast captioner and captioned news of the 9/11 terrorist attacks from Sydney. Upon her return to Tampa, she became a CaseCATalyst trainer and wrote the online CART course for Stenograph.

In 2005, she opened her own CART business, Hardeman Realtime, Inc., d/b/a HRI-CART Excellence, becoming the first remote CART vendor for the MCDHH. She trained more reporters to become CART providers and soon had a staff of seven. She was inducted as a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters the same year.

Gayl has obtained the following certifications: RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CCP, FPR, CRI and CRC. She served on the FCRA board in the '70s and '90s and was its president in 1980. She was appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in 2013, and in 2016 served as its Chair. She has been on numerous NCRA committees throughout the years, has dictated many exams and practice tapes, and has spoken on both the State and National Level.

In 2016, she married Michael Agostinelli, experienced CEO and businessman, who now runs the busy HRI CART Excellence, and in April they opened the Hardeman School of Court Reporting and Captioning. They currently have 21 students studying steno -- and word of the students' success is getting out. These graduates will know their stuff!

Whew! Did I not say that Gayl is amazingly qualified? I think we should all applaud her for a long and productive career and her commitment to the education of others, as well as her commitment to our profession. She truly cares about the future of this profession. I encourage you to spread the word about her school in Tampa, the Hardeman School of Court Reporting and Captioning. She is an incredible lady, and, just like her parents, an educator for the ages.

Visit <http://www.hardemanscr.com/> for more information.



By Donna Kanabay, RMR, CRR, FPR

Sleuthing the Net



Our hapless editor, Richard Sciré, has been pounding on me for, oh, a month now, about my deadline. “Deadline” is kind of a loose word for, get the darn thing in as soon as you can, please, but no later than ... (a date which passed two weeks ago.)

I’ve got excuses. I’ve been sick (true.) I’ve been reallllly busy at work (only partially true; we’ve been slow the last week, but) I’ve been sick (true. Still. I relapsed a bit last week.) I spent the whole weekend on FPR/Manual/Ethics Committee type stuff and projects, including a four-hour videoconference meeting on Saturday (true). I can conjure up more if given the time, but in the time it would take to do that, I could probably slam out an article about *something*...

So it hit on me last night to look over my old articles and see if any are recyclable. A lot are pretty stale technically, so they really would need some reworking. But in light of the above, this one felt perfect.

So, Editor Richard, this was a few years before your time, and hmmm... if you’d read it at the time, you may have declined the honorable, important position you now hold.

I’ll try to be good from now on, I really will!

Sleuthing the ‘Net Behind the Scenes of Your FCRA Magazine or We Got Nut & Honey

Today is April 6th. All day long. The deadline for submission of our columns for the magazine was yesterday. It’s not your editor’s fault. She gave us all ample warning(s) weeks ago, as the editor always does – both your new editor, Christy Bradshaw, and the previous editor, Louise Pomar – and indeed, every editor since the beginning of time. It must be part of their job description. So it’s not the editor’s fault. I said that already, though, didn’t I?

A couple days before the completely-forgotten-about deadline, one of the magazine’s regular contributors had e-mailed me, saying words to the effect of, “I’m dry. Do you have any ideas?” I replied, with great empathy and sympathy, along the lines of, “Gosh, hon, I’m dry, too. Want to trade columns and maybe we can each approach our topic with a fresh eye for the next edition?” Actually, that’s not what I said. What I really said was, “LOL, are you freakin’ kidding me??? I have nothing, either.”

Yesterday, the deadline, April 5th, our intrepid editor sent out her usual “yoo-hoo – where’s your Stuff, everybody”?

What followed went something like this. The names have been deleted to protect the guilty (okay, this first one is me, hereinafter referred to as “Slacker 1.”

Slacker 1: “Haven’t got a thing, Christy. If I can have over the weekend, I might be able to scrape something off of my shoe and turn it into an actual article, but I’ve been nuts-busy the last couple weeks, 1; and 2, I’m freakin’ dry. I need to wander the ‘net aimlessly to find something that grabs me that I can do something with.”

It proceeded thusly, for the entire day:

Slacker 2: “Well said, Slacker 1. That’s been my problem as well. Thank goodness for [XXX]! Thank you, [XXX].”

NonSlacker: “Bunch of slackers, my article has been written and is being proofread and will be submitted today. I wrote about [topic] na na na boo boo. Drop everything you are doing in your real life, work life, family life, religious life, and get these articles done. What is wrong with you people?? Where are your priorities???”

Slacker 1: “Whoever’s within arm’s-reach distance, somebody slap [her/him], please.”

Slacker 3: “I have 15 people coming for [holiday] tomorrow night and this is my second full day of cooking. Saturday morning will be devoted to figuring out and finishing an article. How coherent it will be after the mandatory four glasses of wine, I don’t know.” (I think to myself, she drinks wine in the morning, never mind four – 4!—glasses? Not wanting to be judgmental, I head to the wine cellar, figuring it might help get the creative juices flowing. Oh, wait. She means the evening before for the [holiday] company! Or DOES she???)

NonSlacker: “Isn’t volunteer work rewarding? Once again, MY article is done.”

Slacker 3: “You just like living dangerously, don’t you? Remember, I’m not that far away.”

Slacker 1: “[She/He] really is Pushing It isn’t [she/he]...”

Peripheral Observer: “Oh, awesome, all of this is in writing now and when something mysteriously happens to [XXX], the courts will have no problem using these emails as evidence ;-) GREAT, now I’ll be in the courtroom! ha ha”

NonSlacker: “Have a great holiday weekend everyone (while you write YOUR articles) because MINE is DONE, did I mention that already???. If you need me, I will be [leisure activity of choice], come find me!!”

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Sleuthing the Net

Continued from page 14

Slacker 3: "YES, you DID mention it, more than once, I might add."

Obviously, our editor, who is also a slacker: "I am off tomorrow, will be sleeping in... and then probably writing my article. I expect to have at least some articles that I can get proofed this weekend rather than Monday at work... Obviously that doesn't apply to you, [XXX]; you think of us while [leisure activity of choice]!"

NonSlacker: "Thanks [XXX], you enjoy your day "off" as well. Attached is my article that is being proofread by [XXX] about [topic]."

Slacker 3: "Maybe we should chuck the articles and as soon as [XXX] mysteriously disappears we can publish the email string...."

Slacker 1's mental note: Or should I submit a photographic essay of my dogs or something?

Well, to include this next part, I'm afraid some identities will have to be disclosed. But the president won't mind since he's so bleepin' proud of being the only one in the entire crowd that met deadline:

NonSlacker-who-is-our-president: "Does the disappearance of the current president mean that the Immediate Past President jumps back into the position??? Careful what you wish for, Robin!!"

Slacker 1: "Time for popcorn and a comfy chair to settle back to watch the show. Volley to u Robin."

Slacker 4: "Okay, you guys are a riot. I agree with [Slacker 3]: You could publish this string of emails for a very amusing article. Sorry to chime in so late, but I was in [relates recent adventure of reporting overseas] I suppose I could write about my trip, if you think anyone would be interested."

Slacker 1: "I was just about to say, your contribution is written! And I seriously *am* considering taking the thread, judiciously editing it, removing the names of who wrote what, and seeing if I can turn it into Something..... On second thought, Christy, if there was ever a skeleton for the editor's column, this thread is it!"

Intrepid Editor: "YOU would be the perfect person to turn this into an article. What goes into "Forcing" us to write articles."

Slacker 1: "Ooooooooooooooooookay, but it sure seems tailor-made for the editor to poke fun at the pulling teeth of getting your contributors to contribute -- um -- timely <G>. Speak now or forever hold your peace. (It may not work. I need to fiddle with it and see how it goes. And somehow I need to inject a relationship to my column's internet topic.)"

So that was easy. I've never written my column so fast in my -- oh. I didn't do the part about trying to actually tie it into topic, did I...

Sigh.

To my surprise, a quick Google on "editors trying to meet their deadlines" yielded some interesting results:

"Are Deadlines A Lost Cause?"

"Whether you're a journalist trying to meet deadlines or an editor who needs writers to make them, deadlines are a constant of the profession. Having been on both sides of the equation - as an editor and a freelancer - it's never easy. As a journalist, I'd rather pull an all-nighter than blow a deadline, but as an editor I'm fine with giving deadline extensions -- as long as I know before that deadline has come and gone that it's necessary."

"Better communication between journalists and editors is key. As one editor put it, 'Editors need to have regular conversations with their reporters, coaching a little bit each time. This is quite different from the traditional: "Look, I gave you the assignment two weeks ago. Today is the deadline and I want that story!" As central as deadlines are in doing our work as a news organization, there always got to be a back-up plan because whether you like it or not, someone is going to miss his/her deadline.'" (Hey, we resemble that remark!)

This is a touching tribute by a reporter to his first editor. It really has nothing to do with deadlines, per se, but it's lovely, so I decided to include it anyway.

Easy does it: Last deadline for my first editor.

"Old editors never die, they just trade in their typewriters for a computer and write from home. Gordon Parker would have liked that line. 'Good stuff!' he'd say when he liked one of my stories. He was my first editor when I broke into this crazy newspaper business. Gordon died a few weeks ago. For 35 or 40 years or more, he was a member of the Fourth Estate. If he were still here, Gordon would have edited out that part. 'Just call me a newspaperman,' he'd say."

I could go on and on down this interesting little trail, but maybe I can tie it up this way:

Court reporters are often mistaken to be "newspaper reporters" by laypeople. Happened to me just the other day in the halls of a local courthouse while chatting with a "civilian."

And are there any two professions *more* plagued by the dreaded deadline??

Hah. How's *that* for a full-circle tie-in on my topic!



Machine Shorthand: A to Z

An Introduction to Stenographic Theory

By Karla Sommer & Mary Bader



Lindsay Jaeger, Karla Sommer, Kortney Weilep, and Mary Bader

We are happy to introduce Kortney Weilep and Lindsay Jaeger! They both successfully completed WCRA's Machine Shorthand: Steno A to Z, An Introduction to Stenographic Theory program. We are also very excited to share with you that by the time this article goes to print, Kortney will have already begun her court reporting schooling!

Leading this program was an enlightening and rewarding experience for us. As court reporters, we are trained to listen and not to teach. We gained as much knowledge by leading this program as the participants did by participating in it.

Just to give you a bit of background, Nancy Varallo developed and debuted this "A to Z" pilot project about a year ago. WCRA was very fortunate to be given the opportunity to offer this program in Wisconsin. It is designed to be an eight-week class, meeting once per week, and limited to ten participants. Each student is provided a steno machine as well as a binder which includes information on a very basic shorthand theory. They are encouraged to practice two hours a day. By the end of the program, participants should be capable of writing nearly all of the letters of the alphabet on the steno machine, long and short vowels, many words, and how to use the number bar. Recognizing there are different theories being taught at different schools, the program is very careful not to include outlines in the curriculum that could be a potential conflict with any future theory used in a

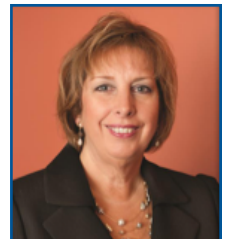
traditional court reporting program.

As we both lived in the Central Wisconsin area, we made the decision to offer this program in Wausau on eight consecutive Saturdays. We selected Saturdays to allow out-of-town participants to attend. We began marketing it in July, and on our first day of the program in September we had seven participants. As most of us know, court reporting is not an easy program. By the fourth class we were down to two participants. We completed the program materials in seven weeks with Kortney and Lindsey successfully finishing the program.

We urge anyone reading this article to consider leading this program in your area of the state. Be a part of generating new students and future professional reporters. The program is available and ready to be shared. In fact, NCRA is planning a major rollout of the Steno A to Z Program in conjunction with Court Reporting & Captioning Week. Even more exciting news is that the state of New York is very close to implementing this program as an option as a summer school class in a number of high schools, as is a school in the D.C. area as well. We are all familiar with the current shortage and anticipated future shortage of reporters. The Steno A to Z Program is a way for all of us to have a positive impact on the future of the court reporting profession!

We would like to thank Nancy Varallo for developing this innovative program that she has now donated to NCRA, NCRA for their support and promotion of this program, MATC for providing the steno machines, and Northcentral Technical College in Wausau for providing the meeting room.

If you are interested in starting this program in your area, feel free to contact us at the emails below. We would be happy to help in any way we can! Together we can make a difference!!!!
Mary Bader, marypat.42797@gmail.com,
Karla Sommer, sommerkms@gmail.com





What makes you happy? Go ahead, stop for a moment and think about that. Everyone has a different answer. Some will have to really think and some have no answer at all. Is it your family? Maybe it's your spouse or significant other or your friends. It could be your kids or your clothes or your job or maybe it is money. There are hundreds of answers to that question, but it is an important question to ask yourself and to be able to answer. One great answer is life.

Life makes you happy – your life.

You have put yourself in the middle of this amazingly beautiful place called life and what envelopes you is everything you have wanted, needed, chose, worked for, and intended. Your home, your job, your car, your friends and family, children, pets, your life. The cool thing about your life is that it's just yours. No one else has a life like yours. You live it, love it, change it, laugh at it, share it, dislike it - whatever you want to do - you own it. Many people never really think about that. The tendency is to go from day to day living life with repetitive motion. Wake up each day, shower, dress, grab a bite to eat with their coffee, go to work, do what's expected of them, go home, eat dinner, and after a few hours of hopefully doing something enjoyable, go to bed. All throughout those days, most people never notice the miracles that are occurring all around them. That cozy bed you wake up in every day - take a moment to feel the enjoyment that it gives to you. The warm sparkling, clean water and fresh smelling soap in your shower is a gift. That big clean, fluffy towel that dries your amazing body and brings a smile to your beautiful face in the mirror is what abundance feels like. The beautiful clothes you choose to wear speak to who you are, how you feel, and how you present yourself. The hot steaming coffee aroma that rises to you and your sunny-side-up eggs gazing up at you from the pan - yellow googly eyes greeting you with a silly, nourishing smile. Wow! You haven't even left the house yet.

Each and every day is overflowing with things that are designed to bring happiness into your life.

Step outside, the sky, that amazingly beautiful sky is always there to remind us of our enormous abundance. Different shades of blue, sometimes with animal or face-shaped clouds, sometimes just transparent misty clouds and occasionally ashen, moody skies, giving notice of sweet, refreshing rain. We see the trees and the flowers and birds - So much to enjoy.

The interesting thing about life is that we tend to take it for granted. We overlook all of the amazing gifts that surround us each and every day. We overlook the beauty while we rush to the next appointment or meeting. Our minds are focused on other things, things that have happened in the past or are going to happen in the future. So the present moments, the moments that surround us with peace and beauty and magic beyond expectation are ignored. The choice is ours to either overlook or embrace what life has to offer. Each and every second that ticks by holds miracles, beauty, and a life filled with abundance. Take time to look for the good.

The more we realize what abundance feels like, the more it will pour into our lives. The choice is yours. Life is yours to live, to create, to choose your thoughts, words, and actions. Choose to live a life that's good. Open your eyes to the present moment and see it, feel it. Live your dreams. Live an abundant life, your life, a life of happy moments each and every day.

Lori Collins is an entrepreneur residing in Sarasota, Florida, where she and her husband have owned and managed Real Estate, improvement and investment companies, and also maintain on-going projects in the film industry, both locally and nationally. Lori's life mission is to use her knowledge and experiences to make a positive difference in the world and she continues to do that through her writings.



By Robin Merker, RPR, FPR



Student Corner

As I enter my 33rd year of reporting, I find myself doing something I swore I'd never do once I got out of school – practicing! Why am I doing that? Don't I write enough every week? No, apparently not.

But I'm not talking about speed practice. At this point, I'm talking about something I call job preparation and stress elimination.

You see, when we come out of school, everything is new and unfamiliar so we add words to our dictionary by the hundreds as we edit each job. Then there comes a balancing point, where almost everything you hear is in your dictionary and dictionary building slows down – unless you become adventurous and head out into uncharted territory. I'm talking construction cases, asbestos cases, human rights cases, medical malpractice cases, any case where there's a specialized vocabulary. Why in the world would anyone, new or seasoned reporter, walk into something like that without getting all the information you can beforehand?

Nowadays, we have so many tools at hand. The easiest is the Internet. When you are going to take the deposition of a professional, such as a doctor or engineer, simply by search-

ing for the witness' name, you may find plenty of information, including the witness' own website. If you are taking your first medical deposition, why can't you search the doctor on the internet? You may be able to pick up the curriculum vitae, name of the practice, procedures performed, etc. That way you don't walk into an ophthalmology depo with no way to write any of the vocabulary.

Or, better yet, ask your office for other depositions that have been done in the case so that you can either read through them, or feed them directly into your software to pull words and phrases out to make your life easier and add to your confidence at the job. At that point, all you need is to practice the words and phrases for a few minutes, and you're ready to go!

While you may not see me speed practicing, you will always see me "prep" practicing – it reduces stress, builds confidence, cuts down on edit time, and makes me generally a happier person!

Happy Reporting!

2017 Annual Convention

June 23-25, 2017 • Hilton West Palm Beach • West Palm Beach, Florida

Hotel reservations: (561) 231-6001 • Room rate: \$150 (plus tax) single/double
Hurry...call today! Hotel reservations should be made before May 12, 2017, to guarantee rate and availability.

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN...CLICK HERE

Visit www.fcraonline.org to register online and to view the program! Take advantage of the early bird registration rates and register by June 2, 2017.

Murder Myster Dinner

President's Party • Saturday, June 24, 2017 • 7:30 - 11:00 pm

Enjoy live entertainment and great fun getting clues to solve a murder mystery! Don't miss this one-of-a-kind, exciting event!

Earn up to 1.95 CEUs, full day of Case CATalyst, Eclipse, and half-day ProCAT software training, FPR certification course available, Realtime Training, Realtime contest, networking, social events and more.



Promoting Us and Educating Them

By Richard S. Sciré, RPR, Editor, Central Director

National Court Reporting and Captioning Week is just around the corner. While we may want to take this time to celebrate being us, it is really our opportunity to promote and educate who we are and what we do. Last year, FCRA ran a successful campaign, as we plan to do again this year, telling everyone who we are and what we do. Governor Rick Scott even signed a proclamation for Florida Court Reporting and Captioning Week.

For my twin brother, Michael A. Sciré, RPR, CMRS, and I, we never shy away at the chance to talk about our profession whenever possible. We ultimately know we are giving a voice to our otherwise silent profession, which is why we jump at the chance to speak wherever and whenever we can. We as a whole often talk about which ages to target to promote court reporting and captioning but we are a viable topic for all ages.

Every year for the last 12 or so years, in the month of December, Michael and I speak to the third grade class that visits the courthouse in Sarasota. The class belongs to past Teacher of the Year, Melissa Owens, of Bay Haven Elementary School, wife of Judge Andy Owens. The students decorate the



Michael explaining the machine



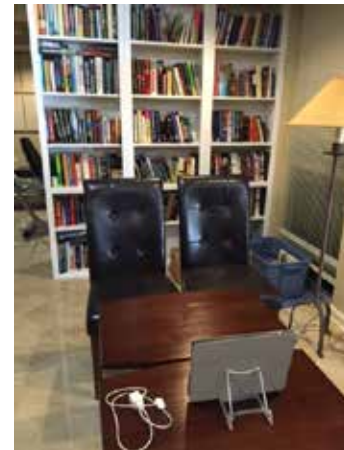
Explaining Realtime to the children

Christmas tree in the lobby, sing carols, and then go to a courtroom to learn about the judicial system, hearing from the judge, a prosecutor, a defense attorney, the bailiffs, and the court reporters. Some years the children are fascinated with the fact that we're twins, oftentimes believing the judge's joke that the Twelfth Judicial Circuit requires all the court reporters to look alike. Other years, the inquiring minds are fascinated with our realtime technology and find the humor in the fact that only we can call

someone a “PWEUG/TKUPL/SKWRERBG” and know what it really means in our steno notes.

Our favorite speech of sorts was last September when we did a radio interview for Stenographers World Radio. It was a beautiful Saturday morning. The live interview was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. While this was an audio interview, we were requested to video record it in some way so that Stenographers World can have a video feed as well. That sounded easy enough until the morning of the interview. The condo in which we live, and affectionately refer to as “Twinspiration,” has been under a major renovation for the better part of a year now. The construction crew is behind schedule and has started working on Saturdays. I can’t remember the last time I slept in or woke up on a Saturday on my own without the sounds of jackhammers. My new normal is waking up with the crew staring at me sleep through our ninth floor windows waving at me. We should be used to that by now as I’m certain they’ve been flashed by every person in the 18-story building at one point or another.

It was just our luck that the construction team was working on our terrace that morning. The loud noise made conducting the interview at Twinspiration impossible and we had less than an hour to figure out where to relocate where it would be quiet and we would be uninterrupted. We made our way to the club room of our home in One Watergate Tower, located in downtown Sarasota, and set up in front of the newly-created reading nook. It was all coming together like a talk show setup complete with coffee mugs. Then ten minutes before airtime, the jackhammers started at the pool area directly behind the club room and nosey neighbors started coming in to see what we were up to. We had no control over the jackhammers but we found a polite and respectful way to get rid of the neighbors who wished us well with the interview and went on their merry way. With a little faith and a prayer, the jackhammers stopped with five minutes to spare and the workers stayed silent for the duration of the interview. For the next hour, other curious neighbors passing by were waved away kindly and they obliged our subtle requests. The rest of the interview went off without a hitch. It was fun to say the least. Hopefully we inspired and motivated the way we aspired. People called in with questions and comments. We didn’t know the commercials were live so hopefully our goofiness during that time wasn’t apparent. Stenographers World was delighted with the presentation as well. We have been invited back to conduct future seminars.



"Talk Show" Setup in Club Room



*Richard & Michael Sciré
Stenographers World Radio Interview*

Something happens when you give back and encourage others in our stressful profession. Your batteries get recharged while you’re recharging the batteries of others. We can commiserate with one another but we should mostly get empowered. More importantly, however, we are giving the loud voice our silent profession needs. Instead of talking about the shortage of reporters our profession faces, our proactivity of getting the word out and standing strong together is what keeps us thriving. I encourage all reporters and captioners and scopists to not only find their individual and collective voices, but to find the forums with which to use them.

National Court Reporting and Captioning Week is February 11th through the 18th. Let’s make it an even stronger year than last and let’s keep it going throughout the year wherever and whenever we can.

Sheridan Technical College and the FBI

By Aurora M. Joslyn, CRI, FPI



In recognition of Court Reporting & Captioning Week, February 11-18, 2017, students, graduates, faculty, and guests of the court reporting program at Sheridan Technical College toured the Benjamin P. Grogan and Jerry L. Dove Federal Building, the FBI's new facility for the Miami Division in Miramar, Florida.

The new 380,000 sq. ft. facility houses nearly 1,000 FBI employees in a centralized, collaborative, and secure workplace; LEED Gold certified with sustainability features: an extensive conservation system, solar panels, preserves a pristine natural habitat; and saves taxpayer dollars.



The building was named in honor of Miami FBI Special Agents Benjamin Grogan and Jerry Dove, who were killed over three decades ago, on April 11, 1986, during a gunfight with two violent bank robbers in one of the deadliest shootouts in FBI history.

Our tour was led by Jeff Green, Community Outreach Coordinator, FBI Miami.



Inside the lobby is a three-panel memorial display that tells the story of the "1986 FBI Miami Shootout."

The display included audio recordings of actual 911 calls, radio transmissions by the FBI agents, and video news footage of the FBI shootout with bank robbers in the Suniland section of Miami on April 11, 1986. Two agents, Ben Grogan and Jerry Dove died; five agents, including Gordon McNeil, John Hanlon, and Ed Micelles were seriously wounded.



Pictured on the tour is Erica Barrios, Joy Desharnais, Aurora Joslyn, Karen Meltzer, Robin Merker, Sarah Merker, Shelby Neifeld, Julie Nelson, Brian Mahecha, Jared Orozco, Maria Puentes, Carol Singh, Kathy Smith, and Alicia Stone. Photograph by Monica Joslyn.

Please enjoy the video in honor of Sheridan Technical College's visit to the FBI's new facility.



Send me an



By Richard S. Sciré, RPR

Court Reporting & Captioning Week is upon us. While now is the time to promote and showcase our reporting and captioning professions in the workforce, we should also reflect on the multiple ways we can thrive personally, professionally, and collectively.

One way is to become an NCRF Angel and donate to the National Court Reporters Foundation. I became an NCRF Angel donor during an NCRA Convention a few years ago. I am ashamed to say that I didn't really know all NCRF did until I spent time at the booth in the exhibit hall. Knowledge really is power. The more I learned, the more I wanted to be a part of it and give back to the profession that has been so good to me. The beautiful pin and delicious luncheons at the annual conventions are added perks also.

NCRF raises funds throughout each year to support the court reporting and captioning professions through philanthropic activities funded through charitable contributions. They have developed such programs as The Legal Education Program, educating law students, judges, and attorneys, on making a record as well as teaching them the value of stenographic reporting and technology; The Student Initiatives Program, which has funded several scholarships, grants, and student memberships; CART Services Program, which supports organizations with grants like the Association of Late-Deafened Adults; and The Oral Histories Program including the Veterans History Project.

Through the Oral Histories Program, NCRF has submitted more the 3,800 transcriptions to program partners, such as the Library of Congress, during the nine years of the program's



inception. NCRF has also provided funds for NCRA's participation in the International Federation for Information Processing (Intersteno).

What makes the achievements and success of NCRF so noteworthy, however, are the people who make it happen. Henry Ford said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." That holds true for every career and our seemingly-silent profession is not exempt from the success of teamwork. When we come together, we are not so silent after all.

Don't just take my word for it though. Here are some of NCRF's proud Angels and why they wanted their halos and wings.



When asked the question why I'm an Angel, I can think of many reasons. Having experienced a wonderful career, I'm proud to "Give Back" to the hand that fed me so well.

Reporting has been an amazing career choice for me personally. I started my career at age 18. By age 20 I was flying across the U.S. reporting on special assignment for a major US corporation. As my career progressed, I was fortunate to have visited and worked in over 30 countries, taking testimony of leaders of business and

entertainment, (including our current President.)

I have developed long-lasting friendships, learning things I never could have imagined at age 15 when I first came face to face with the odd-looking little machine. I'm doing all I can to encourage a new generation of reporters. If my high school had not hosted a career day, who knows where I'd be now.

Most reporters have unique experiences and opportunities that have enhanced their professional lives. Many reporters have the ability to "Give Back."

As an NCRF Trustee and Angel, I know the importance of our Foundation's programs: student scholarships, legal education and the Oral Histories programs, just to name a few.

Being an NCRF Angel is the best way I know of to "Give Back." I encourage everyone earn their halo!

Tammy M. Pastor, RPR (Ret.)

Years ago Forrest and Cindy Brown donated toward the renovation of NCRA's then-new headquarters building. At the time Forrest said, "Court reporting has been very good to me. It's made a nice living for my family for many years. The least I can do is give a little bit back."

When the Angels program started in 2005, I felt exactly the same way, and I've never found a better way to phrase it. I still get chills thinking about the many terrific friends and family members I've gained from "accidentally finding" this great profession so many years ago. Yes, the least I can do is give a little bit back for the fabulous living I've earned for several decades.

I've also been part of the Angels gathering committee since inception, and it's been a great way to meet new friends and, essentially, ask them to reflect on their good fortune, too, and share with our future professionals. I'm enormously proud of the great programs that the Foundation continues to put forth, and it truly is the "feel-good arm" of our national presence. To be part of awarding scholarships to future professionals, to help bridge the gap of first-year reporters, and see the ever-growing library of transcripts from oral histories is very motivating to me.



I've been a member of the lesser-known Legacy Society for many years, also. Someday I ***will*** quit gathering Angels here on earth, and I like the idea that part of my life insurance has been dedicated to helping the Foundation's programs continue. The Legacy Society is very easy to sign up for, and I'm SO glad that I'll be able to continue helping the Foundation after my career is finished.

Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC



I decided to become an NCRA Angel because I wanted to be a small part of a greater good. Angel donations go to scholarships for court reporting students and furthering the future of court reporters and captioners through technology. This profession has been so good to me. I'm blessed to be able to give to such a wonderful cause and to help make a difference to the profession that has made such a difference in my life.

Lori L. Bundy, RMR, FPR, RPR, CRR, CLR

Some years ago a National Court Reporters Foundation Angel told me about the philanthropic programs that NCRF implements and supports. When this leader asked me to become a Foundation Angel, I enthusiastically said yes and haven't regretted my decision for even a second.

I chose the option of making a low monthly contribution (\$83) to earn my "Angel Wings," and my contribution helps provide programs and projects that are beneficial to veterans, students of court reporting, hearing impaired Americans, emerging professional court reporters, and the judicial system of our country.



Debra K. Cheyne (right) with Angels Stephen Zinone and Nativa Wood

People ask why do professional court reporters and other individuals give to NCRF; what do we get out of it? The reason for me is simple: in a complicated and fast-paced world, the work we Angels do is just plain Good! That feeling, that knowledge, is Priceless!

Debra K. Cheyne, CSR, MA



My first Angel experience was at the NCRA convention many years ago. The President had asked all the Angels in the room to stand up. I had no idea what it was to be an Angel with NCRF. Fast forward several years and I was now being asked if I was an angel. A simple question, an easy answer, and an important commitment. Having been more involved with the foundation the last few years, I realize all the work that goes on behind the scenes. I love that my donation has contributed to the important programs such as the Oral Histories Program, the Student Initiatives program, and the Corrinne Clark Professionalism Institute. It's about giving back and being part of something professionally on a bigger level. Another perk for me personally is having always been referred to as "The Evil Twin," most of my life, I now get to be an angel!

Michael A. Sciré, RPR, CMRS

When asked why I am an NCRF Angel and why I am proud to be an NCRF Angel, I would simply answer in this fashion...

Being an NCRF Angel for 10+ years has allowed me to see firsthand all the positive programs that have been launched and I have also been able to see them prosper. Whether it be the Veterans History project where reporters have been able to preserve stories from some of our country's war heroes to providing many thousands of dollars in student scholarships to current court reporting students and potential reporters, I find these programs to be highly beneficial to our profession.



In addition to that, each year at the NCRA Annual Convention every Angel has the opportunity to enjoy lunch with the other Angels. This is one of my favorite convention events as I get to eat and converse with my colleagues, all of whom care as much about our profession as I do.

In short I am honored to be an NCRF Angel and I always wear my Angel pin proudly while among my peers at convention. If you are not already an NCRF Angel I highly encourage you to look into it and learn about all the good work that the Foundation is doing for our profession.

Rick Levy



To learn more about the Corrine Clark Professionalism Institute, the Legacy Society, the Major Gifts Program, The Oral Histories Program, the numerous scholarships and awards, and all about the National Court Reporters Foundation, including how you can become an Angel, please visit ncra.org and click on "The Foundation" tab. Donations are 100 percent tax deductible. Also, see the NCRF poster at the end of this article.

*"Angels are not any extraordinary beings with wings and a halo.
They are ordinary people living ordinary lives.
But they have special qualities that touch our heart and soul in special ways.
They are truly our best friends."*

Aarti Khurana

Together, in 2016, we supported the future of the profession, increased the visibility of the profession to the public, and preserved written records of important pieces of American and world history.



Purple Heart VHP Day hosted by NCRF

8 Purple Heart recipients interviewed at the 2016 NCRA Convention & Expo in Chicago

Major media coverage of the event and court reporting profession in ABC7 Chicago, Atlanta Journal Constitution, Bend Bulletin, CBS Chicago, Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, PCMA Connect magazine, and WGN TV



New Hard-of-Hearing Heroes Project, an expansion of NCRF's work with the Veterans History Project, interviewing veterans with hearing loss through the use of CART captioning



Corrinne Clark Professionalism Institute articles and seminar helped students and new professionals transition to a successful career



Numerous Legal Education presentations given to attorneys, judges, and law students on the importance of stenographic court reporting

The Angels program continues to be a major source of support



66 record number of Angels signed up for 2017 at the 2016 NCRA Convention & Expo

We had a big 2016, but with your support, our 2017 will be bigger and better!



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.

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
 Non-reporters 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.

For Administrative Use Only

Date Rec'd _____ Ref # _____ Amount _____
Date Approved _____ Computer _____

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:

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Check # _____ MasterCard VISA AmEx

Account # _____

Exp. Date: _____

CVV: _____

Amount to charge: \$ _____

Authorized Signature _____

Billing Address: Same as above

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

***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.**



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