



FCRonline

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

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2012-2013 FCRA President

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By Sandra Estevez, CSR (CA), FPR,
2012-2013 President



President Sandra Estevez' Acceptance Speech

The theme of our conference this year is FACE YOUR FEARS. I chose this theme as conference co-chair because fear is such an interesting and powerful emotion.

We all experience fear in our professional lives every day, but it's how we use the fear that determines whether we succeed or just maintain.

Fear can motivate you to do amazing things that you never thought you could accomplish or it can paralyze and thwart progression, success or improvement.

Fear can make you say and do unflattering things or it can bring out the best qualities in people like strength, resilience, honor, and commitment.

My vision for this weekend was that we would all face our fears together, and take a look at what is holding us back from accomplishing some of our professional goals – both individually and as an association.

Once the nominating committee informed me that I was slated to take the role of President for the next year, I was very honored and excited to take on this challenge and to serve you all and be a part of the solution. I also realized that I would be facing one of my professional fears very publicly, which is a fear of public speaking.

But being a stubborn girl from the South, I refused to let fear get in the way of accomplishing my goals this year and helping you accomplish yours. I will use that fear as fuel and every time I speak publicly, I will feel more empowered and proud that I didn't let fear hold me back. And why? Because I love this profession and you just can't get better at what you do by staying in your comfort zone.

So don't let your fears hold you back from being the best possible reporters that you can be. Everyone in this room is capable of excellence and every one of us has accomplished something amazing. We are court reporters. We are a very talented, intelligent, passionate group of professionals.

My vision for this year is that we all become better individually, which will make us stronger as an association. That inevitably will have a positive impact on our profession and our professional image, which will fuel our success in seeing our plans of action through to accomplish the goals that we as a membership have voiced are so very important to us.

I would like to challenge everyone that is here today to take a minute and think about one professional goal that you would like to achieve by this time next year.

On your table in front of you, I have provided everyone with a goal sheet. Please take the time today to put into writing your individual professional goal that you are committing to.

We're going to put everyone's goals into a time capsule and at this time next year, we will open the time capsule, talk about what individual goals we set for this year and celebrate our successes!

Think of how strong our association will be if every one of us faces one of our professional fears, sets a goal and accomplishes it within the next year.

Whether you're a student trying to pass that last qualifier or a seasoned reporter that's never provided realtime services, this is the year to make those commitments happen.

Maybe your goal could be to mentor new reporters to ensure that the future of reporting is in good hands or to become active in our association.

How many people in the room today have never served on a committee for FCRA? Well, I can tell you, there's no better way to become a part of the solution than to volunteer on one of our state association committees. It's fun, informative, relevant and it's necessary to our future success.

So identify your goal, acknowledge what has been holding you back, put together your plan of action and go for it!!! It's time for us all to face our fears.

And in case anyone was wondering why you were given voodoo dolls at registration this year, these dolls are to serve as a good luck charm and a reminder of the year-long commitment that we're all making this weekend. So keep this reminder in your sight as you chip away at your goal this year, and remember that every goal we accomplish individually makes us all stronger as an association.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone that was in attendance at the Strategic Planning Session on Thursday. Thank you all for your professionalism, your knowledge and your insight.



By Christy Aulls Bradshaw, RPR, FPR
FCR Online Editor

The Florida Professional Reporter

Many of this magazine's articles are related to the 2012 FCRA Convention, which was a huge success and a fantastic conference. I think one of the best ever. As the theme suggested and the articles reflect, "Face Your Fears" really got us thinking and working on those fears.

Not unlike many of you, I had to face one of my fears too: Public speaking. This was the end of my first year on the FCRA Board, the Magazine Editor, and the FPR/Ethics Committee. I absolutely love the FPR and Ethics; it's addicting. I thrive on it. It was my main interest when interviewing in 2011 with the nominating committee. Of course, at that time, I had no idea I would have to present the FPR class! Yes, sitting up in front of my peers, new friends, and strangers, and actually speak. Not only had I never used PowerPoint...and had to pay a high school kid to help me learn enough to even see and change my slides...but I had never been in a position where I had taught or presented anything. Overall, I think it went well. I conquered my fear with much support from my fellow presenters (and a little help from Xanax) and I think I did better than I thought I would. We are always our own worst critic.

What is a Florida Professional Reporter? Why should you be a Florida Professional Reporter? I have had several reporters tell me that they don't understand the reason for nor the importance of taking the FPR. It is not "mandatory," it is not a "skills" test. So why do we need to take it? It's just more money to spend on something that doesn't really matter in our job. Well, that is so far from true. True, it is not a "skills" test, and, true, it is not "mandatory," but it is extremely important in being the best reporter you can possibly be.

How many of you know the differences of reading and signing in State versus Federal cases versus an Examination Under Oath? How many of you know that you CANNOT even ask about reading and signing in a Federal deposition? Or that if you DON'T ask about reading and signing in a State deposition, it is an automatic read? This is just one example of one topic that was covered in the most recent FPR class.

I first took the FPR in 2006, the first year it was given. I had been a business owner for four years and thought I was doing everything by the book. Well, let me tell you, it was a humbling experience, to say the least. I had no idea how much had changed and what laws, rules, and statutes had new additions. There was an immediate office meeting and new procedures implemented the next day.

In early 2011, I took the FPR refresher course to get the CEUs. And, again, I left there realizing how much had changed since I took the class in 2006, and once again had an immediate office meeting and new procedures implemented the next day.

Changes can occur every year in the Rules of Civil Procedure, the Rules of Judicial Administration and the Federal Rules. It is not the job of the attorneys to educate court reporters in the state of Florida on changes that occur that apply to the job of a court reporter. It is not the responsibility of court reporting agencies to educate the court reporters of these changes. You, as a court reporter, bear the sole responsibility of knowing the rules and changes that apply to you.

Reporters who work mainly for one agency have an advantage, I feel, because those offices do hold meetings when changes come to the attention of that agency. The overflow reporters, however, have a much larger burden; they do not always have the insight of an agency to keep them informed of recent changes.

As an agency owner, when I have a reporter call or send a resume looking for overflow work, the first thing I look at is whether they are an RPR and an FPR. If a reporter is an RPR, I know they have passed the skills test; if they are an FPR, I know they have an interest in the certification, even though it is not mandatory, and I know they are familiar with at least the basic rules, forms, and changes needed to do their job. I will use an FPR before using a reporter who is not an FPR. It is mandatory for my regular reporters to be an FPR, as it is with many agencies in Florida now.

FCRA was unsure how many reporters, managers, and students we would have register for this last FPR. This year FCRA went back to one conference a year rather than two. We were hoping for 50 people to register and ended up with 90. I think that says a lot. There were quite a few agency owners and reporters taking the class as a refresher course and I'm sure they too learned a great deal. I had quite a few people tell me how much they enjoyed the class and how much they learned. And most importantly...that I did not make a fool out of myself during presentation!!

Being a good reporter does not just mean you can write 225 words a minute or that you can produce a good transcript, it means that you have knowledge of your rules and procedures, and THAT is why you should want to be a Florida Professional Reporter!

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

FCRA Annual Convention

Hilton Altamonte Springs
Altamonte Springs, FL
July 19-21, 2013

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**FCRA
BULLETIN
BOARD**

2012 Annual Convention Seminar Highlights



I really enjoyed the conference and walked away inspired and excited about my profession. I can't wait for 2013!

Thanks to everyone for the tremendous effort in putting together last weekend. A great success.

Deborah H. Rodgers



2012 Annual Convention President's Party



2012 Annual Convention Highlights

President's Party



As a recent graduate, this by far has been one of the most exciting, professional, and inspiring events I have attended since I started school two and a half years ago. I learned so much, met many wonderful people, and I walked away with great memories.



One of them was having Jennifer call my name on stage at the President's Party and announce that I was a graduate! That was the best graduation party I could have ever had. I look forward to getting involved and informing more students to get involved!



Jessica Zuniga



2012 Annual Convention Highlights

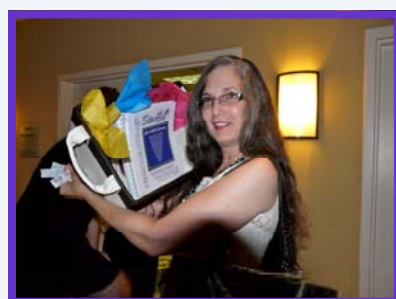
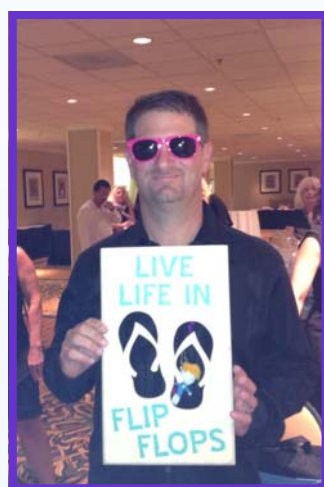


2012 Annual Convention Luncheon Highlights



2012 Annual Convention Highlights

Basket Extravaganza!



2012 Annual Convention Student Highlights

My name is Kimberly Hacker and I am a student at Atlantic Technical Center in Coconut Creek, Florida. I attended the annual convention this past weekend and found it to be very informative and encouraging. I know that I will be able to put to use all of the wisdom and knowledge going forward in the future. It is comforting to know that so many of you out in the field support, encourage, mentor and sponsor students.

I came away from the convention with a 'WOW' feeling! This is a great feeling to have heading back to class. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm.

I had an absolutely amazing time this past weekend! Thank you so much to everyone who made the convention such a fantastic experience! I was touched by the generosity and willingness to help us students by every person there.

It's inspiring to meet so many people who truly love what they do and it makes me want it even more!

I'm honored to belong to such an extraordinary organization and cannot wait to see you all again!

Cathy Carpenter



I just wanted to say thank you to Robin Merker, Lisa Brood, and everyone else who made this weekend such a rewarding experience for myself and the other students! I learned so much in those three days, and it was really refreshing to be around so many people who share the same passion for this profession.

I absolutely loved Margie's seminar! She clarified so many things that will be useful to me, especially as I begin my career. The FPR prep class was extremely helpful in that my CR school is a nationwide school that doesn't offer education on Florida's guidelines.

To all of the reporters who offered encouragement and kind words, I just want to say thank you! It was really inspiring to meet so many successful and respected professionals.

I can't wait to share about my experience with my fellow online CR students and encourage them to get involved. This past weekend was way more amazing than I could have ever hoped for! ♥

Kimmy Barker

The Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award

...is bestowed by FCRA upon a person who possesses exceptional qualifications and experience in the field of shorthand reporting, while contributing in a meritorious manner to the welfare of FCRA....

Service to the Association

Unbelievable REALTIME Writer

Smart

Altruistic

Never Says NO

Walks the Walk

Ambitious

Savvy Beyond Belief

Industrious

Leads by Example

Expert in Her Field

Willing to Go the Extra Mile

Scrupulous

Kicks Butt No Matter Where She Goes

Integrity

**EMDSA
2012**

Congratulations, Susan Wasilewski...simply the best!





51st Annual Conference, In One Word...AMAZING!

When tasked with the assignment of writing an article on the 51st Annual Conference which took place in Clearwater Beach the weekend of June 29-July 1, I simply did not know where to start to describe this extremely exciting event.

Starting off on Thursday the current FCRA Board of Directors along with very distinguished invitees were led by Tina Kautter and Dave Wenhold in a Strategic Planning Session. The Planning Session will help your FCRA board determine where FCRA is headed for the next five years and some of the goals we wish to attain.

Friday was an interesting day also where both the FPR and CAT training classes proved successful. We had Stenograph, Eclipse and Procat trainers on site, giving attendees training on newest developments in respective software tips.

Late Friday afternoon the Realtime Speed Contest took place. Approximately 12 participants competed for the title, eventually won by Dee Boeneau. Congrats to ALL who competed!

Saturday was a full day highlighted by the business meeting and some great speakers. In the morning we started off with the GTMO Team talking about the proceedings taking place in Guantanamo, Cuba, and the procedures the reporters had to go through to get clearance to work on this project. Saturday afternoon's session was presented by Margie Wakeman Wells, CRI. Margie taught us all we ever wanted to know about commas for working reporters, and the presentation was lively and highly informational. The attendees never imagined a seminar on commas could be so enjoyable.

Saturday also included the FCRA Business Meeting where awards were given out, new board members were sworn in as well as Sandra Estevez becoming the FCRA President.

Saturday afternoon we held an Info Exchange where the newly appointed NCRA CEO, Executive Director, and Nancy Varallo, NCRA Vice President, gave a presentation on the current state of NCRA. This session was immediately followed by Ed Varallo, six-time NCRA Speed Champion, giving a presentation entitled Shorthand for the 21st Century. Mr. Varallo inspired the audience by explaining how he is able to write shorter

and thus write faster. Ed also explained the benefits of providing drafts to clients and how to be a more efficient court reporter.

Saturday afternoon also saw the coronation of our first ever BasketXtravaganza where many convention attendees walked away with some beautiful baskets donated by members. There was over \$4,000 raised in this effort and many thanks go out to Holly Kapacinskas, Christy Bradshaw, Barb Donovan, Diane Emery, and Terri Becker for their time spent on this wonderful fundraiser.

Saturday evening was the President's Party where all in attendance wore black or white with the theme of "Face Your Fears." Marvelous Mark was the emcee and really got the crowd on their feet.

On Sunday we learned how Florida Notary Law affects court reporters in our profession. This interesting seminar led by Robert T. Koehler educated us on the new laws and how they affect us in the field. There were many questions from the audience on how to handle some potentially tricky situations we ALL may face.

Sunday afternoon's session was one of the best as Soni Dimond taught how to self promote with a soft touch. This was an interactive session and many members were called to the podium to use the techniques learned. This was a wonderful way to wind up the conference.

All in all it was a wonderful time in Clearwater Beach attended by approximately 280 members and 18 students.

Special thanks to Jennifer Gaul and Sandra Estevez for their hard work in putting this wonderful program together and to FCRA Staff for helping with all the details of the event.

We look forward to seeing you ALL in Altamonte Springs, FL, for the 52nd Annual Convention to take place July 19-21, 2013.

From an Office Manager's Perspective

By Dawn Leslie

I work for CAB Reporting, Inc. in Ocala, Florida. I run the desk up front, handle production, manage the calendar, and deal with many of the day to day tasks that a court reporting office would typically entail. My boss, Christy Bradshaw, wanted me to take the FPR class, followed by the exam, to increase my knowledge as a member of the CAB Reporting team as well as to be informed of the role of a court reporter and the rules and laws as they are enforced in the state of Florida. So I packed and got ready to head to Clearwater like many others.

"Face your Fears" was this year's annual FCRA Convention theme. I certainly did just that. I am not, how would you say, a good traveler. I don't like traffic, I don't like bumping elbows in stores, and I certainly feel out of place in a room full of qualified professional court reporters. How was it in Clearwater Beach's busy little town? A little uncomfortable. How about the conference rooms in the hotel? A little awkward. The traffic? A little intimidating, to say the least. But facing my fears was something I had to do as I carried my FPR study materials, which were neatly organized by subject in my blue binder, down the small elevator, past all the court reporter bodies, and into the large conference room. I found "my chair" in the very back right hand corner of the room. It was right by the door, the water, and my closest pal, Jennifer Little. I was finally comfortable enough to take a deep breath and relax. Fear of traveling and close quarters, conquered.

Next was the daunting task of facing the next eight hours of learning. Did I mention that another fear I have is of feeling stupid? Yup. Add that one to the list. I had to stare ahead and concentrate on every word coming from the front of the room. I don't retain well and my concern was that I would remember nothing by the end of the day. Luckily I had been studying for a few weeks ahead of time, but I

was sure I wouldn't remember anything regardless. The eight hours ended and I realized that there were several things I did recall and I was reciting them like a pro. Feeling stupid, conquered.

Now, the biggie — testing and actually looking stupid — the biggest of all the fears of the weekend. It's test time. I sat in a corner for 10 minutes and frantically reviewed my notes. Court reporters passed by me like balloons of confidence with the strings that were just out of reach. My boss leaned over me to wish me luck, and it was painful, as I couldn't even look her in the eye knowing that I was going to fail and let her down, again. Oh, yes, did I mention, I failed the FPR this past fall by one answer. Tell me that doesn't put the fear of the FPR in ya!

I set my blue binder bible down and took a seat in "my chair." My mind was rapidly processing information and my eyeballs were experiencing a decrease in visibility. My palms were sweaty and my fingers were shaking. I remember staring at the pencil lead of both pencils that lay neatly on the white tablecloth before me. I thought, how am I supposed to pass this test with those pencil leads, the shavings weren't peeled back far enough for me to be able to clearly mark my answers. I was happy to see that the erasers were in much better shape.

I glanced around the room several times at my fellow test takers. They all seemed so content as if they were getting ready to take a 90-minute moment of silence before Happy Hour. I was in my little corner wondering if Happy Hour would be so happy knowing I may not pass this test yet again. The announcements began, "don't write on the answer sheet until instructed," "do not fill out your test cover page until instructed," "remove all papers from the tables." It was time, time to focus, time to think, time to...wonder what in the world I was doing there.

Approximately 40 minutes later, I was walking what I call the "aisle of shame." It seemed to be a mile long. I handed in my paperwork and slipped out of the room with a shroud of doubt weighing on my shoulders. Fear of testing, kind of conquered. I mean, I did it, so that has to count. I went straight to my hotel room where my roommates anxiously awaited my arrival. I went straight into the bathroom and balled my eyes out. Red face, puffy cheeks, the works. A deep breath in, a cold water splash, and I pulled myself back together. The test was over! I had done it. The fear of failing and looking stupid was still lingering, but at this point, I had done what I could do and I could do no more.

What's the moral here? No, it's not that I was upset about having to face my fears. It's not that I was angry about the pencils and lack of lead peering at me. It wasn't even about the overpriced bag I purchased the night before the test in a crowded store. The moral is: Imodium is a perfect test buddy... wait, no, no that's not it, but it does help. The moral truly is you just have to go for it. You can't let your fears hold you back from achieving your goals and believing in yourself. Lean on your friends for support if you need to, but stand on your own two feet and walk straight towards that goal that may seem a thousand miles down the road. If you take the first step, you're on your way. Never mind the crowded rooms and feeling small. You are as strong as you believe yourself to be. I'm still waiting for my results, I'm still unsure, but I conquered several fears this past weekend and I'm feeling a little more confident in my ability to move forward.

And shortly after Dawn wrote this article...she found out that she did pass. She is officially a certified Florida Professional Manager! (Comment by Christy Bradshaw)

Students Are Our Future

By Robin Merker

Congratulations to all our students who came to take the FPR and attend convention this year. Over the past several months I have had email contact with many of you, so it was great to meet you in person. Several of you have since commented via Facebook and email that you were energized and encouraged by speaking with all of us, but what you need to know is how many reporters were thrilled to speak with you! You are our future and, after meeting you, we know the future's in good hands!

I want to thank Lisa Selby-Brood. Lisa served as Court Reporting Schools chair for many years prior to my tenure and her help and support during my first convention as CRS chair was invaluable. She helped host our students at the luncheon and made them feel welcome in every way throughout the weekend. Lisa also donated a Starbucks basket that was raffled off between the students, which included two packs of steno paper. As Lisa said, "One day you can show your children what reporters used to use!" One lucky student

won a copy of Margie Wakeman Wells' book and workbook, several won Depobooks, and, thanks to Sandy Narup's generosity, for those that didn't win anything in the drawing, they received tickets for the BaskexTravaganza. Barnes & Noble gift cards were handed out as well, because reading is so important to a reporter's success!

Our student mentoring program is now in full swing. Mentors are working reporters who remember what it's like being in school and want to ease your way. A mentor can provide that extra bit of encouragement or hint to get you through your speeds as you get closer to leaving school and can also be a helpful resource when you first start taking jobs out in the field. So if you want to make a Mentor Match – now's the time. Just contact me at rlmerker@att.net. As they say on the infomercials: We have mentors standing by!

Over the past few months, several students have asked where they can find practice material. Other than directing them back to their

school or NCRA or Realtime Coach, I really didn't know of any other options for them. However, while participating in FCRA's strategic planning session, it hit me: There's a file-sharing program called Drop Box to share photos and other files. So I have created a new Drop Box folder called Practice Audio, and that's exactly what it is. Working reporters are welcome to drop in audio of proceedings that are public record: trials, hearings, and depositions that we know are filed in court. Students are welcome to download the audio for their own practice. This audio is not at any particular speed. Some may seem slow and some may fly, so it may not be speed building per se, but it can help you build stamina and get you accustomed to what you'll hear once you graduate. If this sounds like something you'd like to try, all you have to do is email me and I will invite you to the Drop Box folder.

Remember, practice, practice, practice will get you through! Until next time...

Arlene P. Sommers Award for Outstanding Achievement in Education

By Sandra Estevez, CSR (CA), FPR, FCRA President

The purpose of the APS award is to honor with monetary gift each year the person or persons who, in the judgment of the Board of Directors of the Florida Court Reporters Association, or a special committee appointed by said Board of Directors, as a court reporting educator, has displayed the highest ethical and moral standards and who has made the greatest contribution during the fiscal year to the education of court reporting students.

The recipient of the award must be or

have been a teacher, tutor, or administrator engaged in a court reporting educational program in the state of Florida approved by said committee, or any other person who has made a significant contribution to the education of court reporting students.

FCRA is pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Arlene P. Sommers Award for Outstanding Achievement in Education was Court Reporting Instructor, Debra Hill, of Key College in Dania Beach.

Please join us in congratulating Ms. Hill on her inspirational work at Key College and continuing to encourage and motivate court reporting students in South Florida. The future of our profession relies on court reporting schools being able to graduate well-educated, motivated court reporting professionals. We applaud Ms. Hill for taking an active role in such an important part of our industry.



Congratulations... June 2012 FPRs

Anastacia Aaron
Heather Andrews
Terry Bankey
Kimberly Barker
Patricia Barreira
Janice Belcher
Blaire Benefield
Susan Bolton-Fliegelman
Gayle Bouterse
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May 2012 NCRA Test Results

Congratulations to the following Florida court reporters:

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTERS (RPR)

Allison Garret, RPR, Miami, FL
Ninette Long, RPR, Orlando, FL

CERTIFIED REALTIME REPORTERS (CRR)

Bobbie Jo Makowski, RPR, CRR, New Port Richey, FL
Jane Hagen-O'Brien, RMR, CRR, Port Orange, FL

CERTIFIED CART PROVIDER (CCP)

Kathryn Bentley, RPR, CCP, Palm Harbor, FL

CERTIFIED LEGAL VIDEO SPECIALISTS (CLVS)

Joel Freeman, CLVS, St. Petersburg, FL
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If you want to work with the best court reporters in Florida,
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(Reporter & Videographer Opportunities Available)

**JUST KEEP SWIMMING...
JUST KEEP SWIMMING!**

**Staying Afloat When
Transitioning from Student
to New Court Reporter**

Written by Jessica Zuniga



When I started court reporting school two and a half years ago, I truly plunged head first into a whole new world without really knowing how deep or shallow the water was. Never did I imagine the tidal wave of feelings I would experience throughout school, such as passing a test and feeling happy to soon after face the fear and challenge of a new speed. Then there was the storm that came with trying to pass my high speeds. I kept my head above water in school by staying positive, asking many questions, producing the best work I could, practicing many late nights while maintaining two jobs, and swimming forward towards my goal of graduating.

When I finally passed my last 225, I naively thought the waves would calm, and I could sit back and relax for a little while. I quickly realized there was a bigger fish to catch — the real world of being a new court reporter! Even though I was excited I had accomplished my goal of graduating, I quickly had this feeling come over me as if I was dumped in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean trying to figure out my way to this island where all the cool court reporters hang out. I had to think about purchasing my professional software, perfecting my resume, setting up interviews, networking, getting incorporated, setting up my home office...and the list goes on and on.

In the last couple of weeks from transitioning from student to new court reporter, the following five steps have been my life preserver in staying afloat in a sea of information:

1. Confide In a Circle of Key People: As a new reporter, we are all hungry to learn and have anyone in the field throw us a life vest. The reality is everyone has different personalities and styles of working. It can become very overwhelming when trying to figure things out at first and to have 100 different answers, which can leave you more confused than when you initially started. Having this circle of trusted professionals is great because you can go to them with any questions you may have. A smaller group of people also makes it easier for you to make up your mind on what makes sense for you.

Since there is a new level of stress and worries that will now come with the territory, it is good to confide in this circle of people because you can go to them to vent,

share your joys and frustrations, and maybe have a shoulder to cry on. This way you can prevent sharing too much information on an outlet like Facebook, or with students that you may not truly know. Your self-respect, integrity, and reputation are important components in marketing yourself as a new freelance reporter. One wrong statement or comment to the wrong person can cost you a potential job.

When seeking out your mentors and circle of key people, just think of it as being on a raft. You can only bring onboard a few people; otherwise, you will sink. This support group will help you paddle your boat and get you closer to your goals.

2. Get Organized: With so many things coming in every direction, I had to create a checklist on what I needed to get started in my freelance business. Of course, there are the newest and greatest digital recorders, microphones, laptops, etc. However, I have organized my checklist of new purchases in order of priority. Once I start working and making money, I can then afford to upgrade to newer versions. For now, I can purchase the most cost-effective items just to get me started. Even though I might feel at times I have to keep up with the Joneses, the reality is you know what you can afford and what you are comfortable with. Also, start keeping track of all your purchase receipts for tax purposes.

Another area to start organizing is the interview tools. This includes the resume, sample transcripts, letters of recommendation, and starter business cards. Immediately after passing my last test, I started putting together my resume and confiding in some of my circle of friends to assist me in proofreading it. I wanted to have the resume ready right away so I could email it or provide a hard copy to anyone who asks. Having a set of business cards with my general contact information has also been helpful when attending different mixer events or when interning. This is the point where we need to market ourselves, and having these tools organized will make it easier in getting the word out that we are recent graduates ready to work.

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SLEUTHING THE NET

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

FBI (FACEBOOK-IMPAIRED)

I hate Facebook.

Hate it.

I hate it mainly because, 1, every time I think I have it half figured out, they change it on me; and 2, because I haven't taken the time and energy to really learn and understand it; and 3, see 1.

I'd learned to accept an uneasy truce and managed to stumble around in it until they changed the view from "most recent" to "most popular." Most popular for whom? I'm a spreadsheet kinda gal. I need things to be tucked in their nice neat cells, in logical order. I'm the one who, when she's been out of town for a few days, methodically sorts all the newspapers chronologically so she can read them in order. Chronological order. Do you hear that, Facebook? Chronological order. (And who just called me anal???)

I honestly almost jumped ship with the Most Popular change, until a friend turned me on to "Better Facebook." (Now called "Social Fixer.") Oh, my! I can almost live with Facebook now, even though I still don't understand two thirds of how it works. But Social Fixer makes it easier to live with what I hate while I continue to bumble around and through what I don't understand.

One of my favorite features of Social Fixer is that just by moving your cursor on top of a picture, it

enlarges it in a preview bubble. No more having to even casually click on those tiny photos!



Another handy tool in Social Fixer is the ability to sort and filter posts – I mean your newsfeed – the way you want to see them (or not see them).



And themes/skins! Get rid of that boring look and dress your screen up!

And I love this line of a writer from a blog reviewer: "If you just can't stand the sight of the new Facebook Timeline anymore, you could start focusing on something a little less trivial, or you could try a browser extension to hide some of it. But **if it's actually hurting your eyes** then try Social Fixer, a browser



extension to hide some (but not all) of the new look Timeline."

Paul Boutin reviewed the program in the New York Times: "If you spend a lot of time on Facebook, you probably have a small list of petty gripes about the site's user interface. Why does Facebook show me posts I've already read? Can I break up my giant News Feed into smaller sections? And please, please, can someone make that scrolling ticker in the upper right corner stop moving before it drives me insane?"

It would be impossible to list all the custom settings you can set, turn off and tweak. (Impossible? Ummm... I haven't learned all of them yet – heck, I haven't learned what "normal" Facebook does across the board, never mind how Social Fixer can fix what I don't even know yet that I hate – so I say it's impossible. Anybody have a problem with that?)

But to give you an idea of not only how quickly you become used to the features you do use with Social Fixer, but also how seamless it all is, on my most recent computer reinstall, I forgot to load Social Fixer, and for days I kept wondering what the heck happened to Facebook, and if they've changed a bunch of things again, why haven't I heard anything about it? It wasn't really an in-your-face difference; more a sense of unease and that something subtle was wrong,

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ETHICS AND PROCEDURES CORNER

By Judy Everman, RPR, FAPR, CMRS, FPR

QUESTION: A deposition was scheduled with a court reporting firm and a cross-notice was sent out by opposing counsel to have our firm videotape it. We did so. After the deposition was over, my attorney advised me not to provide a copy of the videotape to the attorney that took the deposition. Feeling like that was not the correct thing to do, I told him I thought the rules required that one be furnished to opposing counsel upon request and if they paid for it. He said, No, there was no rule.

ANSWER: Well, he was right and wrong. He was right about no rule governing the videographer, but he was wrong about o/c's right to a copy. Having researched the civil rules right in our *Florida Manual*, there it was. It made the attorney

requesting the videographer the custodian of the original videotape -- not the videographer -- and further required that the attorney with custody of the original videotape to allow it to be viewed by opposing counsel or to provide a copy to opposing counsel contingent upon receiving payment therefor.

FLORIDA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

"RULE 1.310 DEPOSITIONS UPON ORAL EXAMINATION"

"(b)(4) **Any deposition may be recorded by videotape without leave of the court or stipulation of the parties, provided the deposition is taken in accordance with this subdivision.**"

"(D) **Custody of Tape and Copies.** The attorney for the party requesting the videotaping of the deposition shall take custody of and be responsible for the safeguarding of the videotape, shall permit the viewing of it by the opposing party, and, ***if requested, shall provide a copy of the videotape at the expense of the party requesting the copy.***"

"1992 **Amendment. Committee Notes.** Subdivision (b)(4)(D) is amended to clarify an ambiguity in whether the cost of the videotape copy is to be borne by the party requesting the videotaping or by the party requesting the copy. ***The amendment requires the party requesting the copy to bear the cost of the copy.***"

(Italics provided by writer.)



NEXT FPR EXAM COMING THIS FALL!

If you missed the FPR Course at the Annual Convention, be sure to sign up for the stand-alone course coming this Fall in Broward County. This Florida Rules & Ethics Certification Seminar will provide the critical information every Florida court reporter needs to know, including mandatory requirements for compliance with state and federal regulations that affect every aspect of our profession. The date and site of the Fall FPR will be announced soon. Watch your email or log on to www.fcraonline.org.

Facebook is an “Open” Book

By Lisa Selby-Brood



Following up on the article Dawn Leslie wrote in our last magazine, I'd like to take the topic of FACEBOOK a step further.

I've been chewing on this for awhile, ever since a couple months back when I saw something on TV. The news report was about medical students having to be instructed and even warned not to post things on Facebook. They were talking about posting pictures of actual medical procedures. That in itself sounds bad enough to me, but the problem came in when, as the report stated, "Say you're posting the picture of an operation on someone's arm. And say in the picture you can clearly see a very unique tattoo; a tattoo that could certainly identify that particular person. Well, guess what? You've just violated HIPAA regulations. Unless that patient gave you permission to post that, it's like opening up their medical file to the whole world that sees that post."

We've all heard the reports about the teachers who have lost their jobs because they started ranting on Facebook about their students. We've heard about it in other businesses too, where people just divulged a bit too much information. We've heard that the police are

now picking up violators of all types because they are stupid enough to post things on Facebook.

I've got to tell you, about six months ago I was about ready to drop my account. Things going on in my own little corner of the world that I really thought should have remained private were somehow getting posted by other people, and it really got me to thinking.

And someone said it on Facebook just recently, "What you 'like' on Facebook really says a lot about who you really are," or words to that effect.

Let's talk about our profession for a minute.

Say you did a depo, and you really impressed this attorney. Somehow or another he lost your card, but he remembered your name. So he thinks to himself, hmmm, I wonder if I can find her (him) on Facebook?

So he does a quick search, and he finds you. And I know, I know, people who are not your "Friends" are not supposed to be able to "see" your page, but like I said, we keep hearing reports of it all the time. And there you are, splashed all over your Home Page, "Oh, going out clubbing with my girls tonight!!!" Dress slit up to your navel

with a margarita in your hand.

Look. I'm in no position to tell anybody how to live; that's not what this article is about. What I'm saying is this: First impressions may be misleading, but they are lasting. If that did happen, is that the type of impression you would want to leave with a prospective client?

I'm speaking mostly to students and young reporters; the old guard really should know better.

What does your Profile picture look like? What types of things do you regularly "post"? What kind of LANGUAGE do you use when you do post things? Do you really think dropping the F-bomb is appropriate?

Your life is an open book on Facebook, and you need to remember that at all times.

And speaking of what we post, one quick note that I think bears mentioning, and that is content.

Back to the example of the medical students, be very, very careful about your content, and even getting too specific about work.

"Man, you should have seen the depo I just did! This stupid doctor, works in Tampa, he's a....."-- STOP. Stop right there.

You really don't need to be saying anything more about that deposition. (I had to catch myself doing it just the other day, and I thought to myself, what the heck am I doing???) I deleted the post quickly, and tried to keep my

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SLEUTHING THE NET



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especially as I was thinking that the idiots at Facebook turned off my very favorite feature, being able to quickly enlarge a picture by just waving my magic cursor. Boy, did I feel silly when I realized I needed to load Social Fixer – and, boy, was I glad to have it back!

One reason I love writing my column is that it stretches me and forces me to learn new things so I can sound halfway intelligent. As I started to wrap this up, I wandered the Social Fixer web site to see if there was anything else I should show you, and I didn't even know about this one, which addresses another of my FBI pet peeves:



"If a post you have marked as "read" has new comments, Social Fixer will automatically detect this, and (optionally) make the post visible again so you can see the new comments. You can even mute the post so new comments don't appear anymore or set a threshold of comments, so once a certain number are reached, no new comments are shown. This is useful for posts by Pages that get hundreds of comments quickly - they won't keep popping into your feed!"

Social Fixer works on all common browsers except Internet Explorer. It doesn't affect or change any other features of your browser, and just sits in the background waiting for you to need it. It's completely free, although the developer does ask for contributions.

I know that one of these days, I really do need to buckle down and master this beast, but until I do, Social Fixer tames the monster enough to keep me from running screaming into the night! Installation takes just minutes, and you can start right out of the box with a very short process of setup/preference screens, all of which you can change later as you learn about your new best friend!

www.socialfixer.com.

Facebook is an "Open" Book

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comments very general for the rest of the conversation.

Please, if you feel you need to vent about a job, or if you have questions, do it by Message or by e-mail.

Again, you don't know WHO could be looking at that post. The

attorney, or worse, the deponent.

I personally think Facebook has done more harm than good. Yes, I suppose in a hurricane or an earthquake, it has been a tremendous help in locating people. But the lives that have been wrecked and the damage done by unthinking, unfeeling

people, well, I think we all have a story to tell.

Try to remember with every picture, with every post, would I want my mother looking at this? (That does it for me.)

JUST KEEP SWIMMING...JUST KEEP SWIMMING!

Staying Afloat When Transitioning from Student to New Court Reporter

Continued from page 20

3. Network: Coming from a background in marketing and public relations, I understand the importance and value of networking. As a recent graduate, it is one of the main tools that will assist you in navigating through murky new waters. Once you gather your inner circle of key people, those people can also assist you in introducing you to others in the field.

As a student and recent graduate, it is also important to become involved with organizations such as Florida Court Reporters Association (FCRA) and National Court Reporters Association (NCRA). Having this membership as a recent graduate has been so helpful. I have been able to attend different mixer events. This has allowed me to make some new connections and, this, in turn, gave me the opportunity to be sponsored as a student at this year's FCRA annual conference. You also become more aware of the exams that each organization offers, such as the Florida Professional Reporter's (FPR) exam offered at the FCRA annual conference. Another exam that is very important for us as recent graduates or students in high speeds to take is the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) exam offered by the NCRA. Since we are still in the testing mode, it is important to try to earn these credentials right away. Another way to become involved is to participate in the committees that FCRA has to offer. You can truly make a difference by offering your passion and talents in a positive way.

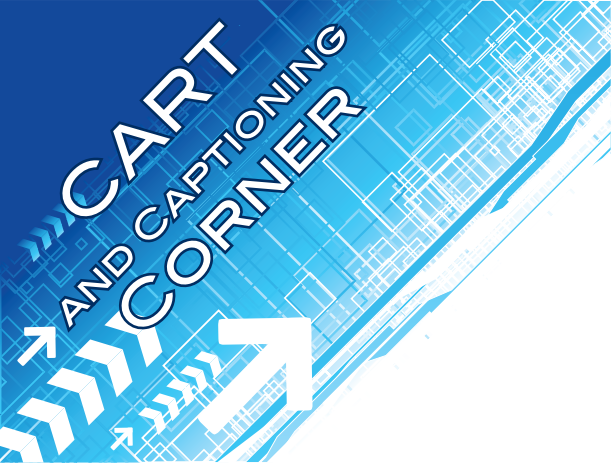
4. Intern as much as possible: I know that all of us as recent graduates would love to start out right away as a working court reporter making lots of money. We all dream of it, and it is okay to set our goals high. However, the real world is quite different. The days of getting hired before graduation are becoming quite slim.

Therefore, I have found that interning at different agencies has been helpful in networking with agency employees, building my confidence, getting more practice on my machine, meeting new reporters, and helping me learn more about each individual agency. I know it becomes difficult when we have friends at school asking what are we up to and where are we going to work. You might feel a little shy still saying you

are interning. However, I feel it is the smart thing to do; and it helps you to constantly stay visible. The more you intern, and take it as if you are the court reporter taking the job, you will realize that it will open new doors for you.

5. Stay focused: Just like an Olympic swimmer uses their mental focus to help them achieve the end point in a race, I feel as new court reporters, we have to stay focused on our goals while staying positive. I wake up some days with a ball of nerves, going through, "what if" scenarios. What if I am asked to read back and I don't have the information? What if I am late in arriving to a job? What if my machine stops working?... But very quickly I have realized that my toughest opponent is not out there somewhere, it is in my own mirror. When I stay focused and stop those battles inside my head, I realize I can do this. Meditation music and working out has also given me the energy to stay upbeat, positive, and excited about this new career that I am about to embark on. Staying focused also means forgetting about comparing myself to a recent graduate or anyone else. That is the biggest trap I can get myself into mentally. I just focus on the here and now and only my individual abilities.

Overall, I have learned in my transition that I wouldn't have finished school if I didn't have the motivation and perseverance to just keep swimming forward and remaining calm during those emotional storms. I have learned that I am not alone in the middle of the ocean. There are always lifeguards out there willing to give you a helping hand. I also realized I have had my life vest with me this whole time; I just needed to pull the string to inflate it. This life vest is representative of the tools we are equipped with as new reporters. Throughout our experiences working, this tool box will only keep expanding. I have also learned that in this field, I can't just wait for my ship to come in; I have to swim out to it. That is the only way to learn and keep bettering yourself. And just remember, no matter how scary, difficult, or challenging it becomes for us as new court reporters, all we have to do is hold on to our goals and just keep swimming!



Say What??

By Lisa B. Johnston, RMR, CRR, CCP, CBC

As court reporters, broadcast captioners, and CART providers, our hearing is extremely important. If we didn't have our hearing, we couldn't do our job making the record.

Being a CART Provider, I have learned so much more than I ever knew about the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. It's made me think about things in my everyday life that could affect my hearing.

There are many things in the world that generate enough noise to hurt your hearing. According to a recent study, it is estimated that nearly one in five Americans over the age of twelve have significant hearing loss.

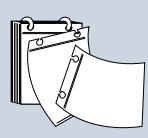
When you go to the movies or if you are at a concert, does the volume seem REALLY loud to you? Why sit there being uncomfortable?? If you're bothered by it, wear earplugs. I carry earplugs in my purse everywhere I go. I'm not embarrassed to pull them out and discreetly

put them in my ears if I feel the movie or show is just too loud. How silly, you say? At least I'm not in agony. Have you ever seen "The Blue Man Group?" One of my favorites of all time, but holy cow, is it loud!! I enjoy it so much more and the earplugs do not hinder the entertainment of the show one bit.

How about when you're working out or cleaning the house with your iPod playing your favorite tunes? Lower the volume! Continued exposure to noise above 85 decibels (dB) can cause hearing loss. Even a one-time exposure you experience in your life can harm your ears permanently.

When blow-drying your hair, put the earplugs in. A hair dryer can generate 60-95 decibels; a leaf blower, 110 dB; a lawn mower, 65-95 dB. You motorcycle lovers for sure grab your earplugs – decibels range from 95-110.

Protect your hearing – it is such a valuable asset. Your ears will thank you!



FCR Online Deadline Dates

(Winter) Nov/Dec/Jan	Oct. 5, 2012	(Summer) May/June/July	April 5, 2013
Publication Date	Nov. 12, 2012	Publication Date	May 12, 2013
(Spring) Feb/Mar/Apr	Jan. 5, 2013	(Fall) Aug/Sept/Oct.....	July 5, 2013
Publication Date	Feb. 12, 2013	Publication Date	Aug. 12, 2013

FCRA welcomes the following new members

(Includes all members who joined as of August 6, 2012)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

NAME	CITY	SPONSOR
McMillan, Clay	Orlando	Sandra Dawkins

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Bain, Sharon.....	Sarasota.....	Susan Riesdorff
Barreira, Patricia.....	Ocala.....	Christy Bradshaw
Bartholomew, Kimberly.....	Tallahassee.....	Sandra Nargiz
Chin, Judith.....	Tallahassee.....	Sandra Nargiz
Cupelli, Denise.....	Boca Raton.....	Sandra Estevez
Dezell, Lori.....	Tallahassee.....	Sandra Nargiz
Fabrikant, Heidi.....	Jacksonville.....	Melanie D. Simpkins
Gilroy, Sarah.....	Tallahassee.....	Sandra Nargiz
Hance, Valerie.....	Tampa.....	Susan Riesdorff
Hehn, Karen.....	Treasure Island.....	Susan Riesdorff
Klein, Irene.....	Ft Myers.....	Mari Temple
Langston, Jo.....	Tallahassee.....	Sandra Nargiz
Lanosa, Patricia.....	West Palm Beach.....	Jennifer Gaul
Lefler, Jerry.....	Tarpon Springs.....	Diane Emery
McConnell, Dawn.....	Jupiter.....	Robin Merker
Nelson, Debra.....	Pembroke Pines.....	Sandra Estevez
Pekerol, Anita.....	Tallahassee.....	Sandra Nargiz
Richardson, Robyn.....	Sarasota.....	Donna Kanabay Harvey
Wheeler, Christine.....	Tallahassee.....	Sandra Nargiz
Williams, Connie Marie.....	West Palm Beach.....	April Goldberg

STUDENT MEMBERS

Burke, Theresa.....	Pembroke Pines.....	Debra Hill
McMullen, Marcia.....	Sarasota.....	Jeff Moody
Walsh, April.....	Weeki Wachee.....	Carol Patnode

FCRA MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL!!!



**15 MONTHS
FOR THE
PRICE OF
12!!!**

If you are not a current member of FCRA, you can join now and enjoy membership benefits for 15 months while only paying for 12 months. In addition to receiving the FCRA magazine and other important communications, remember that only members enjoy the reduced registration fee at all FCRA continuing education offerings, starting with the October 2012 FPR Course! (See page 22 for more info on the FPR Course.) This introductory offer is for new members only. To join, [click here](#).

ATTENTION ALL QUALIFIED FLORIDA CART PROVIDERS!

CART Committee Chair Gayl
Hardeman would like all qualified
Florida CART providers to send her
your e-mail address and experience
and training in providing CART to your
consumers.

Please e-mail your information to:
Gayl Hardeman, RDR, CRR, CCP, FPR
CART Committee Chair
gayl.hardeman@gmail.com



PROOF PERFECT

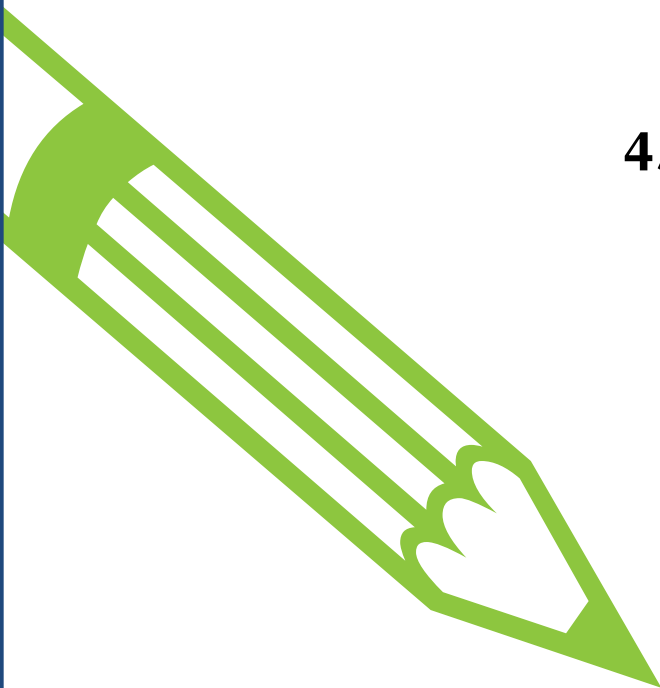
Jane Goldberg, Proofreader

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954-968-5784

Cell: 954-681-9687





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Court Reporters Association

*Name (Please print) _____

*Company _____ Owner Co-owner Manager

*Mailing Address _____

*City/State/Zip _____ NCRA # _____ NVRA # _____

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

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

*E-mail address _____ Website 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.)
- 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
 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.

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) _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED FOR:

Membership Dues \$ _____

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

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Check # _____ MasterCard VISA AmEx

Account # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Amount to charge: \$ _____

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