

Florida Court Reporters
FCRA
Association

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By Janet L. McKinney, RPR, FPR, CLR,
2013-2014 President



Incoming President's Message

Thank you for placing your trust in me and giving me the opportunity to hold this coveted leadership role for the upcoming year. I pledge to you that I will do my very best to meet your expectations and keep our association moving forward.

We just watched a very heart-warming video tribute to our dear friend and colleague Thomas Hughes. I can say, without hesitation, that Thomas is the reason I am standing here today. He never missed an opportunity to tell me every time he saw me that I simply had to become a member of FCRA, and I do mean every time he saw me.

Those of us who knew Thomas knew firsthand how charmingly persistent he could be. But despite that fact, I didn't join just because he wore me down. He had a love for this association that went far beyond his wanting to bring in new members. He sold me because he talked about FCRA and the professionalism of its members with such passion that his passion was contagious. He made me want to join to find out firsthand what this association was all about. I know there are countless others of you out there right now who are smiling, fondly remembering how you were brought into the folds of FCRA by him or another member just like him.

It is an undisputed fact that the members of FCRA are the movers and shakers in our profession, and I am proud to be here standing with you. We are the ones doing the heavy lifting. We are the ones that are pulling the cart while so many of our fellow reporters only worry if there is enough room for them in the cart when the next new issue comes along that threatens their well-being and their livelihood, and they are searching for someone else to do something about it.

It is because of you our profession has managed, at times against staggering odds, to remain viable and valuable. The last few years have been turbulent ones not just professionally, but for FCRA as well. Our members have fought some tough fights and made some even tougher decisions, but we have emerged on the other side with a financially solvent association partnered with a lobbyist who, together with our members, won a battle that the naysayers assured us couldn't be won. They continue to have

our back on legislative matters, and to provide their guidance on relevant current issues as well.

After all we have accomplished I would love to be able to stand here and tell you we can relax this year. Unfortunately, I can't. This year brings new issues as e-filing is instituted and FCRA scrambles to attend Florida Courts Technology Commission meetings to be a presence and a voice in how these new procedures -- that are still in the development and implementation stage -- will impact all reporters across the state. At the same time we continue to search for a viable pathway to mandatory certification.

Although you have elected me to this important leadership position, I would ask you to partner with me, with the Board of Directors, and with your fellow members in the upcoming year. Your role is a simple one. Share your passion for your profession and your association by volunteering just a little of your time to serve on a committee. You will never be asked to do more than you can do, but it is important that we have members across the state engaged in the activities of FCRA and sharing your thoughts and ideas.

Share your passion for your profession and your association by spreading the word. Take every opportunity you can -- and I do mean every opportunity -- to speak to your colleagues about FCRA and the hard work it is doing on their behalf daily. Speak to them about the value of belonging to their state association where they can have a voice in the only forum that really matters.

We all know there is strength in numbers, so most importantly, speak to them about getting out of the cart and pulling their fair share of the load. Once we are all facing in the right direction, all we have to do is keep on walking.



By Christy Aulls Bradshaw, RPR, FPR
FCR Online Editor

What Do You Do to Relieve Stress?

How many of you have stress in your lives? If you said, "Not me," we all know you were lying. Most of us have stress both at work, at home, with parents, with kids...the list goes on. What do you do to relieve stress in your everyday life? Me, that's an easy one: I do yard work, mow, and plant plants. There is nothing I love more than spending my weekend on the mower, in the yard pulling weeds, planting plants...and when I get hot, I jump in the pool...and then start again. When I have a free weekend, it is not unusual for me to spend almost the whole weekend, sunup to sundown, in the yard.

I decided to poll my office and see what everyone here does to relieve stress. It just goes to show how different we all are. Here are the responses I got:

Dona, what do you do to relieve stress? Dona's response: "Exercise and play music." I have been on vacation with Dona before, and I can tell you that she is always our supplier of great tunes. A few years ago, she began running and it has become a great passion of hers. Whenever she has a bad day or a stressful week, she will run. Now, sometimes we can't find her to cover a depo, but at least when we do she is stress free.

Courtney, what do you do to relieve stress? Courtney's response: "I clean house." Yes, you heard it right... she cleans house. She will help her housekeeper clean. All of us in the office give her a hard time about this one. There are three things I DO NOT do: fill ice trays, empty the dishwasher and clean house. Shoes, purses and having a housekeeper are my three luxuries in life.

Darlene, what do you do to relieve stress? Darlene's response: "I go home and lie down." After a long day, especially a long day of reporting, going home and laying down on the couch for 30 minutes to an hour is what helps her regroup. Now those of you with kids, this may not be an option, but for those of us who only have dogs, like Darlene and I do, we have great company when we do lie down on the couch.

Dawn, what do you do to relieve stress? Dawn's response: "I clean." Yes, ladies and gentlemen, she said she cleans. There are two of them in the world and they both work in my office. What is wrong with this picture? I clean if I have to, but not for fun and not to relieve stress.

Betty, what do you do to relieve stress? Betty's response: "I put on my headphones and mow." Betty just happens to be my next door neighbor, and I have seen this firsthand. There are many weekends that she and I are mowing our front yards at the same time and one will have to pause momentarily for the other to go by. It's like an airport and we are waiting for

the runway. We wave at each other, laugh as we go by, and then sometimes meet at the pool after for a glass of wine.

Cathy, what do you do to relieve stress? Cathy's response: "Take a nap. I really like to just go lie down." Okay, so we have two of those in the office too. Now, if you asked my husband about me trying to take a nap, he would laugh. He says I have the metabolism of a lab rat. It is hard for me to sit still, let alone take a nap. I do, however, take a nap on Sundays. Isn't that supposed to be our "official" day of rest?

Jennifer, what do you do to relieve stress? Jennifer's response: "Certain in-the-mood songs will pull me out of a stressful time." She also said that she will use her Hula Hoop. That is an interesting one. Now, the music I can relate to. I use music when I have to have blood work done; I get so stressed, my ears will ring and I get dizzy, but if I listen to Dancing Queen by Abba, it all goes away.

Judy, what do you do to relieve stress? Judy's response: "Honestly, I don't get stressed. I just take a deep breath and let it go." I know you are probably all thinking, yeah, right! Well, Judy has worked for me in the office for four years now part time, and I have to say that in those four years I don't think I have ever seen her stressed. She worked in nursing for years and she said that in that field, you just have to learn to let it go and not get stressed. It has certainly worked for her.

Having polled everyone in my office, I think it is very interesting that there are two who mow, two who clean, two who sleep or relax, one who listens to music, and one Lone Ranger who does not get stressed. What does all of this say about our personalities? Well, the two that clean are the two in the office that are always more on the go than the rest of us... that's a polite way of saying hyper! The two who relax or sleep are the two calmest personalities in the office. Myself and Betty, who mow...I'm not really sure what that says about us. Jennifer is always very calm and the fact that she can still use a Hula Hoop is quite impressive. Judy is probably the one who keeps the rest of the office from losing it day to day. She truly is our calming spirit.

It is important for every one of us to have something to relieve that day-to-day stress in our lives. Whatever YOU do to relieve stress, just make sure you do it OFTEN. Our lives will never be totally stress-free in court reporting, so we do what we can to make it manageable.

If any of you need suggestions on what to do to relieve your stress, my advice would be to contact Judy; she seems to be doing better than most...however, she is not a court reporter.

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**FCRA
BULLETIN
BOARD**



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

Outgoing President's Speech at the 2013 Annual Convention

As my presidency comes to a close and I reflect on the past 13 months, I am very proud of the job we've done as an Association, as a Board and as committee members.

My vision for the 2012-2013 term was that we would all become better individually, which would make us stronger as an Association and a profession. I challenged the membership to face their fears. I asked each of you to identify a professional goal, set an action plan and then go for it!

Many of you filled out goal sheets of where you would like to be professionally by this year's conference. I followed up with each of you in the last several weeks and am ecstatic at the number of reporters and reporting students who are either still pursuing or have accomplished their professional goal for this year.

The two most prevalent goals were students working towards graduating from court reporting school and working reporters beginning their journey of learning to write realtime — both very relevant goals that are of paramount importance to our profession. If you accomplished your face-your-fears professional goal this year, thank you for making our association and our profession stronger and better than ever.

So besides working on our individual professional goals, we also accomplished many goals as an Association. According to our membership survey, FCRA members continue to support and seek mandatory certification. In October we held a Board Information Exchange to educate our Board members on the history of certification. Many thanks to Jennifer Gaul for compiling 50 years of certification efforts into a brief and informative PowerPoint. It was a great educational tool to help bring us all current on what efforts have been made in the past, so we have a clear direction moving forward. Thank you, Jennifer.

Last fall, we held our first standalone FPR. Our goal going forward is to conduct two standalone FPRs, one in the Fall and one in the Spring in different parts of the state, in addition to the FPR given at each Annual Conference. Thank you to Paulita Kundid and the Ethics Committee for all your hard work in conducting our Fall FPR.

The Membership Committee held Information

Exchanges across the state this year with two goals in mind: to increase membership and to educate reporters on the history of certification. As a result of our Information Exchanges we signed up 35 members from around the state. Thank you, Committee, and to our many sponsors that helped make our exchanges a success.

Our Schools Committee, led by Robin Merker, has developed a mentor match program and was successful in reaching out to schools and encouraging students to become involved in FCRA and the importance of networking and continuing education as a reporter. Great job, Robin and Committee.

Our Technology Committee, led by Janet McKinney and Holly Kapacinkas, completed a total renovation and redesign of the FCRA website. Our new website is a work of art as a result of that committee's hard work and dedication. Thank you, Janet, Holly and KMG for a job well done!

Our Conference Committee, led by Jennifer Gaul, planned another top notch Annual Conference. And unless you've ever planned a conference, you cannot imagine how much time, energy and creativity goes into planning an informative, fun, value-packed three-day weekend. Jennifer and Lori Bundy, you did an excellent job. Thank you for all your hard work and congratulations.

Board Members Holly Kapacinkas and Barbara Donovan attended Legislative Bootcamp in Washington, DC, this year, where they received extensive training in how to interact and effectively communicate with politicians and lobbyists. That training will prove to be very important in their future roles with FCRA. I know it helped me immensely this year in preparing for our meeting with the Supreme Court. Great job to both of you.

In the Spring, FCRA was asked to teach a seminar at the University of Miami, College of Law. I would like to thank Rosa Naccarato and Rick Levy for doing such an outstanding job. Rosa and I had the privilege of teaching 30 third-year law students on how to make a good record and Rick realtimed the entire presentation. We made a great team, and, I

Continued on page 10

Take a Look at Our New Look

By Holly Kapacinskas, RPR, CRR, FPR



If you haven't visited the FCRA website lately, you're in for a treat. The website has gone through a complete transformation and was rolled out at FCRA's Annual Convention on July 19, 2013. Not only have the appearance, layout, and functionality changed, but you'll find that a lot of new content has been added as well. In building this new site, it was FCRA's goal to make the website more inviting, informative, user-friendly, and interactive. Here's what's new:

APPEARANCE

FCRA's new appearance is much bolder and more professional. The dark background and vibrant colors make the site more interesting and pleasing to the eye. The tabs in motion on the home page give a quick overview of the main sections and invite the user to delve deeper into the website. Photos scroll across several tabs to showcase the most important part of FCRA — its members.

LAYOUT

The layout of the site has been streamlined and simplified, making navigation easier. Each main tab is carefully laid out to make items easy to find. The navigation menus are static, meaning that they remain stationary throughout the exploration of the section being navigated. There's no having to hit the back button to find a previous page. Quick links in the left column under the menus allow quick access to often-used areas or items FCRA wants to draw to the attention of its members.

Main tabs are not cluttered with too much content, resulting in pages that scroll forever. The meat of the content is neatly organized within the sub-menus of each main tab.

CONTENT

There is so much new content, it's not possible to list it all here, but here are some highlights:

Continued on page 9

FCRA's New Look...

Continued from page 8

One of the most notable additions is that we have included a section for attorneys. The Attorney tab is chock full of information helpful to lawyers when dealing with court reporters: how to hire a qualified court reporter; how to make a better record; information on realtime, CART, and captioning, gift-giving, and more. Attorneys will be able to find a reporter in our searchable Professional Directory. Please help FCRA in letting the attorneys and legal professionals that you work with on a daily basis know that this resource is available to them.

Speaking of the Professional Directory, all members are listed in the directory. Firms are invited to place premium ads in the directory to advertise their services to attorneys. Advertisement in the directory is open to members only. FCRA wants to direct business to our members.

On the advertising note, the new website contains a marketplace for classified ads. This is a FREE service to our members, so you are invited to place an ad if you have anything for sale or are looking for a job, scopist, etc. Firms can also advertise job postings here for a small monthly fee.

Check out the Events tab to see what's happening in the near future. You can see what's happening at a glance by looking at the FCRA calendar. From this tab you'll be able to see if there's an upcoming convention, FPR seminar, or information exchange.

Got a favorite brief or need a brief? Head over to the Steno Swap section of the Members or Students tabs.

Need to get in contact with your Florida legislators about an issue affecting you or the court reporting profession? You'll be able to find a list of the legislators in your area as well as link to a page where you can e-mail them directly.

The FPR tab contains everything you would possibly need to know about the Florida Professional Reporter. Have you run across a situation on the job you don't know how to handle? From the FPR Tab you will

now be able to e-mail the FPR Committee for guidance.

Members, through a secure log-in, will be able to view the FCR Online magazine, E-Flashes containing legislative updates, and FCRA Board minutes. There's information on gift-giving and a database of articles written on the topic that can be used to help educate attorneys on the practice.

Students have their own section of the website too. Here our students can find information on the profession, our mentoring program, the importance of being an FCRA member, and more. We invite our students to participate in the Steno Swap as well. Sometimes the best briefs come from our students.

FCRA's new website also contains ads from vendors who provide products or services that are helpful to our members. We encourage our members to do business with the vendors who are supporting our association.

FCRA would like every one of you to check out YOUR new website at www.fcraonline.org. The website will be continually updated, so please bookmark it as an Internet Favorite and check back often.

Lastly, we would love to hear from you about what you think. We welcome comments and/or suggestions, so please feel free to contact Janet McKinney, jjwor@msn.com, or Holly Kapacinskas hollykap@att.net.



Outgoing President's Speech at the 2013 Annual Convention

Continued from page 7

believe, a lasting impression on the soon-to-be lawyers. Thank you both for your support in that very relevant project.

Our Government Relations Committee, led by Melanie Simpkins, working in conjunction with our lobbyist firm, The Fiorentino Group (TFG), monitored all things related to or that could affect reporters happening in Tallahassee, including protecting the budget proviso language directing rates for criminal reporters.

Additionally, Government Relations Chair, Melanie Simpkins, FCRA lobbyists Bo Bohannon, Mark Pinto and Marty Fiorentino, along with Previous Chief Justice, Major Harding, Executive Director of the Florida Bar, Jack Harkness, Past President of the Florida Bar, Hank Coxe and myself met over a period of months to put together a presentation for the Florida Supreme Court. Our goal is to ask the Supreme Court to reinstate the Mandatory Certification and Regulation of Florida Court Reporters rule. Our initial appointment with the Supreme Court was to be held on June 12th, and is being rescheduled to sometime after August when the Supreme Court reconvenes. We look forward to making our presentation to the Supreme Court and will keep you all posted on the outcome of that meeting.

Thank you to Donna Kanabay, Holly Kapacinskas and Paulita Kundid for attending some of the FCTC meetings this year and keeping us all apprised on the status of E-filing as that will be a work in progress for years to come.

I would like to thank Tina Kautter, Dave Wenhold, Lynn Hupp, and the entire FCRA staff for all you do.

We really could not accomplish what we do each year without your help, advice, and expertise.

Also, many thanks to Renatta Cochran for your advice and counsel throughout the year.

Thank you, Rick Levy, for stepping into the role of Secretary this year. That's a tough position and you did a great job. Thanks for being such a team player.

Christy Bradshaw, great job on the FCR magazine this year. Another tough job, well done.

I'd like to thank the Board and all the Committee members for your volunteer time and efforts this year. I am very, very proud of all of your accomplishments.

To Thomas Hughes, thank you for your support these last four years. I met Thomas when I was first being interviewed to join the Board, and he came up to me after my interview and said, "Honey, you're gonna be President in four years." And I said, "What? No!!! There is no way." And he just smiled and said, "You'll see." Turns out he was right. So thank you, Thomas, for believing in me from the very beginning. You will be missed.

In closing, I'd like to thank the membership for allowing me the honor of serving as your President. It was an enriching and educational experience that I will always cherish.

And to our incoming President, Janet McKinney. Janet, I know that you're going to be a great President and leader. As I pass the tiara to you, I know with confidence that I am leaving the membership in good hands. Have a wonderful year. Thank you, all.



I met Thomas when I was first being interviewed to join the Board, and he came up to me after my interview and said, "Honey, you're gonna be President in four years." And I said, "What? No!!! There is no way." And he just smiled and said, "You'll see."



2013 Annual Convention Photo Highlights





2013 Annual Convention Photo Highlights





2013 Annual Convention Photo Highlights





2013 Annual Convention Photo Highlights





2013 Annual Convention Photo Highlights





2013 Annual Convention Photo Highlights





2013 Annual Convention Photo Highlights





2013 Annual Convention Photo Highlights



2013 EMDSA Recipient: W. Thomas Hughes, RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, FPR

By Janet L. McKinney, RPR, FPR, CLR



The EMDSA is our Association's most prestigious award and the highest honor we can bestow upon a court reporter in the state of Florida.

The year's recipient was W. Thomas Hughes. Thomas was born on February 6, 1955, in Anderson, SC. On April 18, 2013, at the age of 58, he

finally lost his courageous battle with cancer, but not before he left his mark on our profession and everyone who had the good fortune to have known him.

After graduation from high school, Thomas moved to Jacksonville, where he attended and graduated from the Stenotype Institute of Jacksonville Beach. He worked as a court reporter in various venues including Jacksonville, FL; Columbia, SC; and Fort Lauderdale, FL. His final place of employment was at Veritext in Miami where he worked from September 2007 to April 10, 2013, when he reported his final deposition.

Thomas had been a member of NCRA since 1978 and served in many capacities over the years. He was a

past member of the NCRA Speed Contest Committee, Realtime Contest Committee, Testing Verification Committee, and was Past Chief Examiner for the RPR/RMR/CRR examinations. He also served as the Official Reporter for the 1997 NCRA Convention in Orlando.

On the homefront, Thomas joined FCRA in 1979. He held a variety of positions on the Board of Directors over the years including Southern Director, Secretary, Vice President, President Elect, and finally President from 2007-2008. His specialty was realtime reporting which he had been doing since 1993. In 2007 he implemented the FCRA Realtime Speed Contest which he personally dictated for many years.

Thomas was an amazing piano player who never had a lesson as a child and could not read a single note of music. His greatest loves were cooking, boating, entertaining friends, his pets, and a great one-liner. He was funny, full of southern charm, and managed to make a lifelong friend out of everyone he met.

For the countless hours of volunteer time he selflessly spent promoting and giving back to a profession he loved, we are proud to name W. Thomas Hughes as our 2013 Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award winner. He was truly FCRA's goodwill ambassador.

2013 Arlene P. Sommers Award Recipient: Susan Dian Williams

By Janet L. McKinney, RPR, FPR, CLR



The Arlene P. Sommers Award for Outstanding Achievement in Education is presented to a person who is or has been a teacher, tutor, or administrator engaged in a court reporting education program in the State of Florida approved by the Arlene P. Sommers Award Committee, or any other person who has made a significant

contribution to the education of court reporting students.

FCRA is proud to announce this year's recipient of the Arlene P. Sommers Award is Susan Dian Williams. Susan began her career as a court reporter in 1987. After a long and successful career as a reporter Susan decided to turn her attention to teaching. She spent one

year with Key College in Dania, Florida from 2009-2010. In 2010 she joined the faculty ranks of Atlantic Technical Center in Coconut Creek, Florida where she still teaches today.

There are many teachers out there, but the ones who truly make a difference are those that "teach from the heart," which is how one of her students described her when nominating her as this year's recipient, as well as "genuinely caring, kind, supportive, uplifting, and invested in all aspects of her students' lives."

FCRA is proud to have such a deserving recipient this year and three of her students attended the Annual Convention to watch her receive this prestigious teaching award. Again, congratulations to Susan Dian Williams, 2013 APS Award winner for a job well done!

Realtime Competition Got You Nervous? You Got This!

By Tammy Milcowitz, RMR, CRR, CBC, CCP

Last July during the NCRA convention in Philadelphia I found myself in a room filled with people I was sure were the people who SHOULD be in that room, who DESERVED to be in that room, and who were good enough to be in that room. What in the world was I doing in a room filled with speed champions, real-time competition champions, and CART providers and captioners, who I was certain were much better than I? I felt intimidated and scared, and my hands were shaking so badly that I thought there was no way I would ever even hit one key right. Why in the world had I committed to doing this real-time competition? Why, oh why, I asked myself! I should be on the tour of the city with my husband and son right now! That would be much more fun!

As everybody in the room settled into their positions and got ready to take the exam, things quieted down, and my breathing became more shallow. The testing proctor gave us a sample dictation so we could get used to her voice and get a feel for the speed at which the test would be dictated. After the sample dictation I felt not quite so scared, thinking to myself, "Well, that didn't seem to be too bad, but surely it's going to be more difficult than that!"

Okay. It's time now for the real thing, the 200 word per minute literary dictation in the real-time competition. "Breathe, Tammy, breathe." My very good friend, Mike Cano, had given me that advice before the test. "Don't forget to breathe," he said.

The dictation started and all seemed to be going okay. I did not dare to think how good I seemed to be doing because we all know what happens when we do that. Then a word was dictated and I didn't understand the word! "What in the world did she say?" I had a split second to figure something out, so I just finger spelled the word that I thought I heard, thinking, "Oh well, there's a mistake for certain!" The rest of the exam seemed to "fly by" at a snail's pace! Whew! That one was over.

Now the test that REALLY had me scared, the Q&A. Now, I must preface this by saying that I hadn't done a lick of Q&A for, oh, probably 10 to 11 years. I did re-familiarize myself with the Q&A rhythm that I used to have, but I was certain that that "rhythm" was long gone. It had gone out the window about ten years ago, just prior to the birth of my son.

I was feeling a little less shaky after the literary dictation because I felt pretty good about how I had performed on that dictation; however, this one, Q&A, 225 words per minute... seriously? Ha! I had low expectations for how I would do. I told myself, "Well, at least you're doing this and you can say you've participated in a real-time competition." You know, one of those "Been there

done that" kind of deals.

Again, a sample dictation was given so we could hear the speed and listen to the two voices that would be giving the dictation. "Breathe, Tammy, breathe." And then the words, "Ready? Begin," and we were off to the races. I don't know if I had any clue as to how I had performed on this test. Truly, I don't really even recall breathing. As I prepared the files for printing, I was trying to recall any mistakes I knew for certain that I had made and any mistakes that I possibly could have made, but my mind was a blur.

As I handed my test paper in, I sighed a big sigh of relief. "Whew! I'm done! I did it and I lived to tell about it!" I even had time to go join my husband and my son on the tour of Philadelphia!

Saturday at the luncheon, I, of course, was anxious to see if I would at least place. Given the names of the people with whom I had taken the test, I had no expectations of anything other than maybe placing. After all, THEY take the test year after year, right? They are certainly the ones that are going to do so well.

As the names were read of the people who had placed in the literary dictation, I listened. No mention of my name. "Oh, well," I thought, "that's okay." Then the third and second place winners' names were announced. Still, no mention of my name. When she said for first place in the literary there was a tie, things kind of blurred as I heard my name mentioned. "Tammy Milcowitz!" My friends at the table whooped and hollered, and my mouth fell open. No way! I made my way up to the front of the room in a daze. I couldn't believe it!

Coming back to my table, I couldn't suppress the smile on my face. I was so excited!

Next, the Q&A results. Again, I listened as the names were read of the people that had placed. No mention of my name. That's okay, I tied for first in the literary. Then I heard my name mentioned as the third place winner for the Q&A! Wow! I guess I hadn't quite lost my "rhythm" after all! I again went up to receive my award in a daze.

Upon returning to my table, I couldn't wait for this luncheon to be over so I could call my husband and my son, who were enjoying the day at the famous Philadelphia Zoo, to tell them how I did. I wasn't sure what was going on now, but something was being explained about the examination. I asked one of my friends what was being said, and he tried to explain to me, but I didn't quite understand. Something about taking the total of the two tests and there being a winner or something. I

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Why Should You, as a Student, Join FCRA?

By Robin Merker, RPR, FPR

You may be asking yourself that as you struggle to pay tuition, carve out time for school and practice, and keep up with all the other responsibilities in your life. Why not just wait till you're working?

Well, here's why in no particular order!

1. FCRA directly supports our students with:
 - a. A mentoring program for that one-on-one support.
 - b. Student Sponsorships to help defray the cost for students attending convention.
 - c. A placement committee to help reporters find employment.
2. At various times and places throughout the year FCRA holds Reporter Info Exchanges, but it's not just for reporters. Students are always welcome! It's your opportunity to meet reporters in the area, learn what's going on in the state affecting reporters, and what FCRA is actively doing. It's also an opportunity for FCRA to hear from you and the concerns and interests you have.
3. Education and certification opportunities:
 - a. The Florida Professional Reporter (FPR). This seminar and exam will empower you to feel confident and knowledgeable as you take your first steps as a professional working reporter. It is given at the convention, as well as other times throughout the year and the state.
 - b. Through the Testing Committee, FCRA runs the NCRA testing sites around the state so you can achieve the national certifications you need as a successful reporter.
 - c. Software training and seminars covering all aspects of reporting at FCRA's Convention.
4. Social Networking at the Florida Court Reporters Association on Facebook. Here's your opportunity to connect more informally with each other and stay informed on the latest happenings around the state.
5. Student membership is your gateway to becoming a successful reporter. It keeps you connected, encouraged, and informed as you progress through school.

Lastly, never diminish the importance of being part of something bigger than you. Your membership and participation gives back to the profession as a whole. When FCRA's Government Relations Committee is up in Tallahassee promoting the profession, legislators want to know how many care enough to be counted. Simply by joining, you are going on record as supporting your profession.

Realtime Competition Got You Nervous? You Got This!

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didn't know. As I settled in to try to focus on what was being said, I heard my name called again. "Tammy Mil-cowitz!" What? It turns out I had won the overall competition! I had a total of nine errors, three in the literary and six in the Q&A, for a total percentage of 99.583. I can't describe the shock and amazement that I felt as I walked up yet a third time to receive my award.

The reason I have explained that whole experience to you is because that is an experience I never thought I would have. I had never taken that test before nor did I ever think that I could ever pass it. I see the same names

year after year taking the test, so my thought has always been nobody else could possibly ever win that test. But I am here to tell you that you can. You don't have to be the "Speed champion of the decade" to participate in that competition. Anybody can do it, and anybody can do well. I encourage everyone to take that step and sign up. Sign up for the state competition or sign up for the national competition, it doesn't matter. Make it a goal and go for it. Don't be intimidated by the process or the people. If you are writing real-time, you have the skills. Try it! You might like it, and you just might surprise yourself!

Reporting Anecdotes: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

By Barb Donovan Frank, RMR, CRR, FPR, Donovan Court Reporters

Court reporters are exposed to interesting cases and people throughout their careers. Those experiences can vary from the type of case you're involved in to the broad spectrum and idiosyncrasies of the people you meet from all walks of life. We've learned to read people's body language and become a good judge of whether someone is lying or telling the truth, not only in our jobs, but in our day-to-day lives. We all have many experiences and stories we can share. Here are some of my most memorable anecdotes from almost 40 years of reporting and managing my own firm.

Reporters have a unique opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. Sometimes our paths cross with famous people such as Christine Whitman, John Kerry, and Hillary Rodham Clinton, as I did. These are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities you wouldn't have otherwise.

We may even be lucky enough to actually meet famous people and spend time with them, as I did when reporting a player arbitration between a famous Major League baseball pitcher and his agents. It's even better when they give you complimentary seats in a sold-out stadium in the year they win the World Series!

The Canadian rock band, Rush, spent days in my office in deposition. All the members autographed memorabilia for my son who was thrilled, to say the least.

There are often opportunities for travel. I was particularly fond of a trip I took to cover depositions in Barbados. The case involved a dispute over counting of keystrokes for a large international medical transcription company. Employees were suing to have the space bar considered a compensable keystroke. I sat in a conference room looking out at the Atlantic Ocean while the case settled. Needless to say, I spent the entire trip having fun sightseeing and sunning myself on the beach.

Sometimes the cases we are involved with gain national recognition, such as the murder trial of Steven Benson in 1985. Benson was charged with the double murder of his mother, tobacco heiress Margaret Benson, and his brother and the attempted murder of his sister. Steven Benson had hoped to inherit the \$10 million Margaret Benson received from her father. He rigged the family car with a pipe bomb instantly killing his mother and brother and severely burning and disfiguring his sister. He was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences (minimum 50 years) and an additional 37 years for attempted murder and arson.

I've also had some frustrating experiences. One time the chief judge sent me home at the lunch recess in the middle of trial to change into a dress instead of the pants I was wearing. This was in 1976, so I'm thankful times have changed!

I've also been stuck reporting until 1 a.m. in the morning. It was before a three-person arbitration panel, one of the members being a local judge who insisted on finishing so he could go on his hunting trip the next morning. I felt invincible after writing for so long and was sure I could pass the NCRA speed contest as fast as everyone was talking. Unfortunately, at the end of the evening the entire top of my right hand was completely numb. This was the beginnings of what ultimately ended up being the first of three carpal tunnel surgeries, two on the right hand and one on the left.

For those of you who are mothers, you can probably relate to this situation I found myself in. How do you explain to five out-of-town attorneys who want to catch their flights back home why you can't work through lunch? "I'm sorry, gentlemen, but I need a break to pump breast milk because I'm leaking." I had to tell them. They ended up being the nicest, most understanding and accommodating men. Whew!

We've all reported in interesting locations. This particular deposition was noticed at the home of a prominent Naples real estate investor and businessman whose home was under foreclosure. He was vindictive and would not allow the attorneys into the home to take his deposition but afforded them the choice of either the garage, which had no furniture to sit on, or by the pool. We were forced to the pool. I sat on a chaise lounge chair which was far too low for me to position my steno machine at the right height. To make things even more interesting, it was a very windy day, and with each stroke I made, the steno paper would blow out of the tray into a long paper trail. The attorneys ultimately were forced to halt the deposition.

A very memorable doctor's deposition I reported took place at the Ritz-Carlton in one of their hotel rooms. The witness and the attorneys all had their backs to the window which not only overlooked the Gulf, but also the north wing of the hotel. I sat facing them and watched as a woman came out onto the balcony, sat straddled on the man's lap, and they started kissing. The woman got

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Food for Thought...

Brought to you by *mental_floss*

English has changed a lot in the last several hundred years, and there are many words once used that we would no longer recognize today. For whatever reason, we started pronouncing them differently, or stopped using them entirely, and they became obsolete. There are some old words, however, that are nearly obsolete, but we still recognize because they were lucky enough to get stuck in set phrases that have lasted across the centuries. Here are 12 lucky words that survived by getting fossilized in idioms.

WEND: You rarely see a “wend” without a “way.” You can wend your way through a crowd or down a hill, but no one wends to bed or to school. However, there was a time when English speakers would wend to all kinds of places. “Wend” was just another word for “go” in Old English. The past tense of “wend” was “went” and the past tense of “go” was “gaed.” People used both until the 15th century, when “go” became the preferred verb, except in the past tense where “went” hung on, leaving us with an outrageously irregular verb.

DESERTS: The “desert” from the phrase “just deserts” is not the dry and sandy kind, nor the sweet post-dinner kind. It comes from an Old French word for “deserve,” and it was used in English from the 13th century to mean “that which is deserved.” When you get your just deserts, you get your due. In some cases, that may mean you also get dessert, a word that comes from a later French borrowing.

EKE: If we see “eke” at all these days, it’s when we “eke out” a living, but it comes from an old verb meaning to add, supplement, or grow. It’s the same word that gave us “eke-name” for “additional name,” which later, through misanalysis of “an eke-name” became “nickname.”

SLEIGHT: “Sleight of hand” is one tricky phrase. “Sleight” is often miswritten as “slight” and for good reason. Not only does the expression convey an image of light, nimble fingers, which fits well with the smallness implied by “slight,” but an alternate expression for the concept is “legerdemain,” from the French *leger de main*, “literally, “light of hand.” “Sleight” comes from a different source, a Middle English word meaning “cunning” or “trickery.” It’s a wily little word that lives up to its name.

DINT: “Dint” comes from the oldest of Old English where it originally referred to a blow struck with a sword or other weapon. It came to stand for the whole idea of subduing by force, and is now fossilized in our expression “by dint of X” where X can stand for your charisma, hard work, smarts, or anything you can use to accomplish something else.

ROUGHSHOD: Nowadays we see this word in the expression “to run/ride roughshod” over somebody or something, meaning to tyrannize or treat harshly. It came about as a way to describe the 17th century version of snow tires. A “rough-shod” horse had its shoes attached with protruding nail heads in order to get a better grip on slippery roads. It was great for keeping the horse on its feet, but not so great for anyone the horse might step on.

FRO: The “fro” in “to and fro” is a fossilized remnant of a Northern English or Scottish way of pronouncing “from.” It was also part of other expressions that didn’t stick around, like “fro and till,” “to do fro” (to remove), and “of or fro” (for or against).

HUE: The “hue” of “hue and cry,” the expression for the noisy clamor of a crowd, is not the same “hue” as the term we use for color. The color one comes from the Old English word *hew*, for “appearance.” This hue comes from the Old French *hu* or *heu*, which was basically an onomatopoeia, like “hoot.”

KITH: The “kith” part of “kith and kin” came from an Old English word referring to knowledge or acquaintance. It also stood for native land or country, the place you were most familiar with. The expression “kith and kin” originally meant your country and your family, but later came to have the wider sense of friends and family.

LURCH: When you leave someone “in the lurch,” you leave them in a jam, in a difficult position. But while getting left in the lurch may leave you staggering around and feeling off-balance, the “lurch” in this expression has a different origin than the staggery one. The balance-related lurch comes from nautical vocabulary, while the lurch you get left in comes from an old French backgammon-style game called *lourche*. Lurch became a general term for the situation of beating your opponent by a huge score. By extension it came to stand for the state of getting the better of someone or cheating them.

UMBRAGE: “Umbrage” comes from the Old French *ombrage* (shade, shadow), and it was once used to talk about actual shade from the sun. It took on various figurative meanings having to do with doubt and suspicion or the giving and taking of offense. To give umbrage was to offend someone, to “throw shade.” However, these days when we see the term “umbrage” at all, it is more likely to be because someone is taking, rather than giving it.

SHRIFT: We might not know what a shrift is anymore, but we know we don’t want to get a short one. “Shrift” was a word for a confession, something it seems we might want to keep short, or a penance imposed by a priest, something we would definitely want to keep short. But the phrase “short shrift” came from the practice of allowing a little time for the condemned to make a confession before being executed. So in that context, shorter was not better.

Read the full text here: <http://mentalfloss.com/article/51150/12-old-words-survived-getting-fossilized-idioms#ixzz2XtrOsP6H>

The Second Time Around

What is it like to return to court reporting after a 17-year hiatus? One woman's journey.

By Lisa Selby-Brood, RPR

Anybody who meets me for the first time should probably not ask me, "How long have you been court reporting?" unless they have a few minutes. It is not a short answer.

Actually the short answer would be 11 years, plus 3. But then if you asked me when I went to court reporting school and I said 1980-1982, then you'd really be confused.

So here's the long version. I went to court reporting school in 1980. This was back in the day when it took about two years. Yes, CAT was out there, but it was just getting started. I wrote on paper (still do, actually) and dictated my notes on reel-to-reel tapes handed over to a typist. I never used a tape recorder for backup. I loved what I did, and the ins and outs of school is an article for another day.

I started working in 1982 for a small freelance firm in Columbus, OH. I worked until spring of 1985 when I was expecting my son. I can remember standing in the office with my big belly, watching the top two reporters who were just getting onto computer. It was the "Baron" thing, I think. I understood very little, but it was of no consequence as my life was baby booties and cribs at that point, and I had already made the decision that I was not going to try to do this with children. I wanted to stay home with my baby and enjoy motherhood so I traded in my steno machine and briefcase for a diaper bag, and left court reporting, I assumed for good.

Fast forward five years. I now had my beautiful son who was the joy of my life, and we had moved to Florida. I wanted to homeschool my son, so we set out on that adventure. I never regretted that decision. I had a wonderful time homeschooling all through the '90s, from kindergarten to about 10th grade. (I can't take credit for his math skills, but my son's English skills were top notch.)

I never forgot court reporting. Well, I should say I never forgot steno. I would sometimes sit in church and before I realized it, I was stenoing the sermon in my head. All I knew at this point was "it's all computerized. You have to have software, and it will set you back about \$10,000." So much for that. But one day, when my son was about 14 or 15, the forces that be somehow, in a very roundabout way, dropped court reporting back into my lap.

Still homeschooling, I looked for any and all opportunities for my son to apprentice in just about any way I could. Someone we knew had some videotapes he needed transcribed, and he said to my son, "just play the tape and start typing." Simple enough. Ha ha. My kid lasted about 10 minutes.

I should back up. It was the year 2000, and we had just purchased our first computer. Actually, my husband had installed some Pergo flooring for this man, and the computer was a bit of a barter. We had made it all through the '90s without one in our home. Amazing. I didn't even know how to turn it on. Anyway, my son kept trying to start and stop this tape and type at the same time. It wasn't working. I can remember the moment. I was standing over his shoulder and I said, "Honey, you can't do this with a keyboard, you need a steno machine." (Cue the 'Hallelujah' chorus.) I need a steno machine, I said to myself. And that was the beginning of my adventure. Our local steno repair man sold me a non-computerized version for a couple hundred bucks. When I said I needed steno paper to practice he said, "Try Kanabay Court Reporters; they're about 5 minutes from here." So I went there, told them what I was doing, offered to buy some steno paper from them and the lady said, oh here, just take an armful! I didn't know it at the time, but I had just met my future boss.

Well, one of my bosses. I had not met Donna Kanabay. This was her sister Sandi. In the meantime, however, I had done the first thing I recommend to every student I mentor, and that was checked out my state association. Back then, there was a type of chat board thing where you could post e-mails. I posted something along the lines of, "Anybody want to walk the dinosaur?" That's what I was calling myself. I got an e-mail back from Donna. So, tell me a little bit about yourself.

As I tried to research what had happened to court reporting in the last 15 years, I saw just how much I had to learn, and how much I didn't know. It was clear to me I would have to figure out this "computer thing" if I wanted to get back into the business. And so I was drug, kicking and screaming, into the 21st century. I picked up a Stentura 8000 through EBay, bought the student version of software, and set about learning computerized steno, while trying to get my speed back at the same time.

I keep getting ahead of myself. When I first got the manual machine, believe it or not, I had found in one of our storage sheds an old practice tape. I thought I had gotten rid of everything, but there it was on the floor. To me, it was a sign. It was a 180, so I threw it in a cassette player and started writing. Surprisingly I got a fair amount of it, so I figured as near as I could judge, I was writing at about 160 wpm. I thought that was pretty darned good for not having touched a steno machine in over 15 years.

I did the initial dictionary myself. How I figured that

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To Run or Not To Run: Is There Any Question?

By Rosa Naccarato, FPR

So it started with a simple phone call to a City of Aventura commissioner.

Me: "Hi, Commissioner! How are you? I was wondering if you could help me get two tickets to the cultural center as an auction item for an upcoming fundraiser."

Commissioner: "Theater tickets? Oh. I thought you were calling to tell me you're running for commissioner. There are two open seats, you know."

Me: "What?????"

Commissioner: "Come on! You'd be a great commissioner. You've lived in Aventura a long time, you've always been active in the City, and you know a lot of people." And so it began.

That phone call was the first of a thousand more to come. My next call was to who would become my campaign manager. Bob Levy is a longtime lobbyist, public relations specialist and political campaign manager, and he told me that he thought I should do it, he would work with me, and now we needed a treasurer. I knew just who to call: A very well-known, long-time client who lived in Aventura. Turns out that would be the easiest part of being a candidate. As far as the rest, it's true that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. One of my friends who had run for state representative warned me. She said, "Brace yourself. Your greatest surprises will come from strangers, your biggest disappointments will come from your closest friends, and most of the people who say they will help you will, in fact, do nothing." She was absolutely correct.

The first challenge, of course, was raising money. It took eight months and significant effort to raise \$21,000. I will always remember the 80-year-old woman who didn't know me, had never met me, but she went to my website and donated \$1. That dollar meant that she would vote for me! I will also always remember the stranger who met me once, believed in me, and donated \$500. I was absolutely stunned. Conversely, very close friends whom I had known for more than 15 years, that certainly had the means to help, donated \$25 or nothing at all. The first lesson was: Don't take it personally.

For many years I had been active in county government, having been appointed by a Miami-Dade commissioner to a county advisory board, serving for almost 12 years. Serving on that board gave me innumerable opportunities to meet senators and state reps and mayors and commissioners, so many of whom enthusiastically encouraged me and said they would help me win when I told them I had filed. In the end, the reality was that very few of those who said they would endorse me actually did. All of a sudden, the response became, "Well, you know, I'm going to have to stay out of this because if your opponent wins, I'll have to work with him and that would be

awkward if I support you." Really? What happened to all that enthusiasm when I told you I was going to run? Ultimately, I was able to secure some great endorsements, the proudest one being from former Florida CFO Alex Sink, but I was hugely disappointed by many women in office, some of whom I had strongly supported when they ran. Lesson number two: Politicians are very fickle and self-serving.

Running for office was truly the hardest thing I have ever done, from standing in front of Publix all day every weekend for two months meeting and greeting shoppers, to speaking at 10 candidate forums, to campaigning at the polls for 12 hours a day for eight days straight during early voting.

It was also one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. Standing in front of Publix every weekend, I met so many interesting people. Speaking at candidate forums immensely broadened my public speaking skills and completely eliminated any nervousness that ever existed. Suddenly, when you're competing for votes, all fear goes out the window and is replaced by determination. And standing at the polls all day created a bond with other candidates as we all started to look out for each other in various ways from making sure everyone stayed hydrated to sharing our sun block. It also was a unique opportunity to meet many prominent leaders, such as former Governor Charlie Crist and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz. Their support and encouragement, even though it was brief, gave us all the boost we needed to keep going.

Most significant of all was the amazing, unexpected support I received, including from friends from the FCRA. Paulita, Holly and Christy, thank you all so very much for supporting me. And I will never forget the day Jennifer Gaul brought me a sandwich. Jennifer was super-supportive as well, including working with me at the polls on two occasions, and one day she showed up unexpectedly with a turkey sandwich, because she knew I was always there by myself and that it was difficult to leave during peak voting hours. That was the best turkey sandwich I had ever had because it came with a huge side of caring. Lesson number three: Be grateful for all the wonderful people in your life.

Even though I did not win the election, I do believe in the process and believe that we have a responsibility to try to make a difference and become engaged in shaping our future. I do not regret running and I have certainly been personally enriched in so many ways by the experience. We do live in the greatest country in the world that allows everyone to have the same opportunity to run for office and to become a small part of history by having their name on a ballot. No matter what, we are all part of the process by exercising our right to cast our ballot. So every time there is an election, be sure to get out there and vote! Someone is counting on you.

SLEUTHING THE NET



By Donna M. Kanabay, RMR, CRR, FPR

Social Media and the Information Age

The week of April 15th, 2013 will live long in our consciousness. When I say "our," I mean the entire United States, if not the world. And I also mean the members of FCRA.

There are two reasons for this:

First, April 15th was the day of the Boston Marathon Bombing, which dominated our lives right up through the unfolding-before-our-eyes events of the capture of the second suspect. That evening and the next morning, as I watched the news and videos of the events when the first suspect was killed, I kept expecting to see CTU Agent Jack Bauer run across the screen, sure that I was watching a real-life episode of the television show "24" unfold.

The second reason is that it was that same week that FCRA members' attention was diverted from Boston by the sad news that FCRA Past President W. Thomas Hughes had died.

What do these two completely unrelated events have in common?

Social media and the Internet played a huge role in both.

Long before FCRA HQ could get an E-Flash out to the membership, news of Thomas's death traveled at the speed of light around the halls

of Facebook and through e-mails.

And of course, Facebook and Twitter not only quickly got the word out about the Boston Marathon Bombing, but it helped the authorities focus their efforts.

While it's been nearly three months since these two events, several times recently, I've found myself reflecting on the technology that played such a strong role in those events, as well as elsewhere in our everyday lives. When my mind wanders during a deposition, as I observe attorneys multitasking with their smartphones, iPads and laptops, I think back to when I was a child, a time that my friends and I dreamed of being able to carry gadgets around with us like we saw on TV, never really imagining that we'd live to see it. I marvel at the age that I've grown up in. If we had the one other thing I truly crave – a transporter – I'd say, Star Trek Has Arrived! In fact, the inventor largely credited with making the first handheld cellular phone call, Martin Cooper, says that Captain Kirk was his inspiration for the 'communicator.'

So with these thoughts in my mind the last couple of months, I came across an article that jarred me: "Internet Armageddon?" The author, Robert Samuelson, says, if he could, he would "repeal the Internet." He

explains, "It is the technological marvel of the age, but it is not -- as most people imagine -- a symbol of progress. Just the opposite. We would be better off without it. I grant its astonishing capabilities: the instant access to vast amounts of information, the pleasures of YouTube and iTunes, the convenience of GPS and much more."

He claims that the Internet's capacity for damage, in the form of cyberwar, far outweighs its advantages.

"Hackers might disarm military units. U.S. guns, missiles and bombs may not fire, or may be directed against our own troops," also painting a specter of social chaos from a full-scale cyberassault. There would be no electricity, money, communications, TV, radio or fuel (electrically pumped). In a short time, food and medicine distribution systems would be ineffective."

The article goes on to talk about stealing trade secrets, international espionage (especially timely today while Edward Snowden, as of this writing, is still in limbo in an airport in Russia, threatening to release more secret documents,) – aerospace, defense, energy/oil & gas, pharmaceutical and financial Web sites all are vulnerable, to varying degrees.

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SLEUTHING THE NET: Social Media and the Information Age

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"What's unclear is how 'infrastructure' systems (electricity grids and the like) have been penetrated and, on command, might be compromised."

"In the mid-1980s, most of these systems were self-contained. They relied on dedicated phone lines and private communications networks. They were hard to infiltrate. Since then, many systems switched to the Internet. 'It's cheaper,' says James Andrew Lewis, an Internet expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The architects of these conversions apparently underestimated the risk of sabotage."

You can find the entire article here: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2013/07/01/internet_armageddon_119031.html

The comments are on both sides of the extreme, as well as some in the middle:

"Get a grip. The Big Scary Internet might be the Wild West in some ways, but the genie has been let out of the bottle and luddites are

never going to 'repeal' it. People need to get a clue about how to protect their systems. Anyone who ventures unprotected into the dark alleys deserves what will happen to them. But that is no reason to advocate destruction of what is arguably mankind's greatest achievement to date. The availability of knowledge that the internet provides far outweighs any risk."

"The loss of the internet would cause economic collapse."

"Mr. Samuelson has written an excellent article... exposing what most people outside the Pentagon are still unaware of. America is at tremendous risk, militarily speaking."

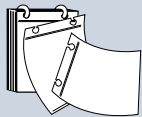
"You're kidding, right? The US is the world's most aggressive cyberwarfare practitioner. Duqu, Stuxnet, Flame. All weapons that look to have been developed by the US. These overblown fears of Chinese hackers are just attempts for the US military to convince politicians to increase the funding of cyberwarfare and grab more control over the internet as a whole so they can

police sites like wikileaks. In the age of cyberwarfare, it's not China who the world is afraid of. It's us."

I can see both sides of this discussion (and the middle.) Of course there are risks. What inventions that shift the sands of time don't come with risks? It's a question of balance. Beefing up and maintaining security and using reasonable precautions yields probably the same end result (or, "risk," as air travel: It's safe, but Stuff Happens.

"I'm happy we're at a point in our relationship where you have told me about all the things I had already read about you on the internet." - anon, from an Internet jokes site

If it's all the same to you, Mr. Samuelson, I'd like to keep my "handheld device that has access to the entire knowledge base of mankind that I mostly use to debate complete strangers about unimportant topics!" (From a post seen on a Facebook site, so I can't take credit for it.)



FCR Online Deadline Dates

(Winter) Nov/Dec/Jan	Oct. 5, 2013	(Summer) May/June/July	April 5, 2014
Publication Date	Nov. 12, 2013	Publication Date	May 12, 2014
(Spring) Feb/Mar/Apr	Jan. 5, 2014	(Fall) Aug/Sept/Oct.....	July 5, 2014
Publication Date	Feb. 12, 2014	Publication Date	Aug. 12, 2014

ATTENTION ALL QUALIFIED FLORIDA CART PROVIDERS!

CART Committee Chair Lisa Johnston 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:
Lisa Johnston, RMR, CRR, CCP, CBC
CART Committee Chair
lisaprovidingcart@gmail.com



Reporting Anecdotes: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Continued from page 22

up and walked back into the room. Then the man stood up, but his robe wasn't tied or closed. It was wide open! Back then my eyesight was much better than it is now, and I could see way more than I wanted to. Meanwhile, the doctor was testifying, and I was too embarrassed to stop the proceedings and explain my distraction. Did I drop any strokes? Not saying.

Within a matter of several days, I found myself in another deposition again facing the windows in a law office. This time the attorney who owned the office building was also facing the windows reclining in his chair. A homeless man was standing in front of the window which acted as a mirror, and the man proceeded to pull "something" out of his pants. I'm sure the attorney facing the windows

saw exactly what I was seeing, but he didn't flinch or say a word. They say bad things happen in threes. Thank God the third event never happened!

We all have our "stories" that we can share. But how many occupations give you the opportunity to meet such a wide range of people that we encounter solely because of our job; that give you an opportunity to travel; that afford us a free education from experts on a multitude of topics; to have your heartstrings pulled by people you don't even know; to be awestruck by famous people; or felt someone's pain? Court reporters have listened to the life experiences of so many others. How has court reporting touched your life?

The Second Time Around

Continued from page 24

out I do not know. I remember something that I read saying, "Once you program in the initial basic dictionary, you should be translating at about 92-93% accuracy." I thought, gee, that sounds pretty good. So I put in all the basic stuff, excitedly loaded my dictionary onto my Stentura, sat down for the very first time and expected to see perfect translation pop up on the little screen in front of me. It wasn't translating. Hardly anything! I couldn't believe it! What had I done wrong?? I wrote, "HOT SHOTS" and it didn't translate! On the phone to tech support. I

explained my problem. After a very pregnant pause the tech support person said, "Uh, ma'am, the words don't pop up automatically. You have to put words and word parts into your dictionary." I said, "How many words and word parts?" Another pregnant pause. "All of them." I said, "I see. Thank you very much." At this point I was wondering exactly what I had gotten myself into. I would come to learn that I had just finished the easiest part. The hardest part was yet to come.

FCRA welcomes the following new members

(Includes all members who joined as of May 1, 2013)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

NAME	CITY	SPONSOR
Bishop, Danny.....	Jacksonville	Marie Splane
Foskett, Jessica.....	Orlando	Merritt Hill
Garcia, Maria	Orlando	Merritt Hill
Matteo, Mike	Orlando	Merritt Hill
Togola, Melissa	Orlando	Bobbie Barrett

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Alen, Dania.....	Miami	Rosa Nacarrto
Alicea, Jazzmin	Miramar	Tamara Piderit
Andersen, Emily.....	Altamonte Springs.....	Jill Percy
Bunn, Beth.....	Inverness.....	Susan Wasilewski
Casper, Peggy.....	Jacksonville	Cynthia Mattox
King, Heather.....	Jacksonville	Stacia A. Harper
Kling, Mary	Tallahassee.....	Lisa D. Freeze
Magrisso, Edmee.....	Miami	Rosa Naccarrto
Maltz, Leah	Jacksonville	Amy Yarbrough
Masters, Elizabeth Meade	Jacksonville	Amy Yarbrough
McMahon, Tabitha	Atlantic Beach.....	Amy Yarbrough
Quintana, Jennifer.....	Miami	Jeannie Sanchez
Reid, Ana	Lakeside, CA.....	Sandra Estevez
Rundell Murphy, Cathy	North Bay Village	Rosa Naccarrto
Sloan, Aurora.....	Cooper City.....	Jeannie Sanchez
Varkonyi, Edward	Palmetto Bay.....	Sandra Estevez
Votta, Kimberly Anne	Surfside.....	Sandra Estevez

STUDENT MEMBERS

Bryant, Brandy	Ocoee	Susan Wasilewski
Changcoco, Mark.....	Jacksonville	Amy Yarbrough
Coleman, Katrina.....	Jacksonville	Amy Yarbrough
Cooney, Leah.....	Cary, NC	Susan Wasilewski
Dail, Jr., Edward.....	Jacksonville	Susan Wasilewski
Dilworth, Peter	Orlando	Susan Wasilewski
Faulkner, Jocelyn	Winter Springs	Meridith Knepper Carsella
Lindfors, Kristin.....	Deland	Susan Wasilewski
Massey, Kathy.....	Fleming Island	Amy Yarbrough
Merrickes, Torrence.....	Orange Park	Amy Yarbrough
Olds, Ronnie.....	Jacksonville	Amy Yarbrough
Perry, Kirsten.....	Orlando	Susan Wasilewski
Phillips, Patricia	Jacksonville	Amy Yarbrough
Pruett, Laura	Orlando	Kathi Palacios
Rivera, Wendy	Jacksonville	Amy Yarbrough
Rojas, Yoseline	Orlando	Susan Wasilewski
Rowe, Melissa	Fleming Island	Amy Yarbrough

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HMMMM...

FUN BREAK

Home-Office Yoga Moves

Having trouble disconnecting from your workday? Dream of freedom while you strike these poses. ● FROM BuzzFeed



1 Savvy social networking **Blogasana**

Bow Pose provides relief from your practically permanent laptop hunchback. Hold the position for 10 to 30 seconds, then switch sides.



2 Deep breathing on conference call **Callasana**

Mountain Pose improves breathing and focus during high-stress moments. Feel your feet on the floor, and take deep breaths.



3 Still working in bed **Pajamasana**

Plow Pose stretches the back, waking up your spine. Lie on your back and bring your legs straight up in the air and over your head until your toes touch the bed.



4 Late-night deadline **Exhaustasana**

Child's Pose relieves tension in the back and shoulders when you're still up at 3 a.m. writing a memo. Remember to hold this pose until you start Final Savasana and/or sleep.

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRICE BAUM

SAVE THE DATE

SO WE SEE YOU IN SANIBEL NEXT YEAR!



Florida Court Reporters Association
53rd ANNUAL CONVENTION

JUNE 6 ~ 8, 2014

SANIBEL HARBOUR MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

P.S.....the room rate is unbelievable — \$129 a night!!!
You will not want to miss this convention!



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!

*E-mail 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.)

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.

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: \$ _____

Authorized Signature _____

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Make check payable to FCRA and mail to FCRA Headquarters, 222 S. Westmonte Dr, Ste 101, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
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