

Florida Court Reporters
FCRA
Association

FCRonline

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

MAY/JUNE/JULY 2014



Boot Camp attendees, NCRA Board members, and NCRA Government Relations Staff pose for a picture in front of the U.S. Capitol.

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



Spring Roars in Like a Lion

Spring has arrived, and I'm sad to say that this will be my final article as your FCRA President. The past ten months have definitely been a blur, and in two short months, my term will be over. I am thrilled, however, to report to you, our members, that FCRA has been involved in a flurry of activity since the holidays.

As you all know, in October 2013, FCRA representatives appeared before the Florida Supreme Court to ask that they reinstate Rule 13.010-13.190, Mandatory Certification and Regulation of Court Reporters, a Florida Rule of Court held in abeyance as of December 7, 1999.

As a result of that presentation, FCRA's certification efforts were placed on the agenda of the November meeting of the Florida Supreme Court and the Chief Judges from all circuits. The Supreme Court expressed their support for certification and asked for feedback and input from each Chief Judge. Chief Judges from around the state responded affirmatively to the Supreme Court with regard to the need for certification of court reporters.

All was relatively quiet in the ensuing months until March 26, 2014, when some members of the original presentation committee, Major B. Harding, Melanie Simpkins, Susan Wasilewski, and Marty Fiorentino, our lobbyist, met with Heather Telfer, Rules of Judicial Administration, Florida Bar Subcommittee C, to discuss certification and answer questions.

On April 11, 2014, FCRA's committee was invited to attend a telephonic meeting with the members of Subcommittee C. At this meeting, a workgroup was formed to draft proposed certification language (based on existing Rule 13.010) to be presented August 1, 2014, to the Rules of Judicial Administration, Subcommittee C. Melanie Simpkins, Government Relations Chair, and Sanford Solomon, Esq., member of Subcommittee C, will serve as co-chairs.

Members include Sandi Estevez, Immediate Past President; Susan Wasilewski, Past President; Major B. Harding, Former Supreme Court Chief Justice; Jack Harkness, Executive Director of the Florida Bar; Hank Coxe, Esq., The Fiorentino Group; and Donna Kanabay.

The work that has been done so far is but one small step down a very long road. Much remains to be done. We are pleased that we have been invited to participate in the process, and each of you can rest assured that we will continue to do our best to repre-

sent our members and our profession as this initiative moves forward.

Major Harding and Hank Coxe will be joining us at our Annual Convention Information Exchange on Saturday, June 7, 2014, to present an update on FCRA's certification efforts and their continued involvement moving into the future.

On the e-filing front, your e-filing taskforce, Paulita Kundid, Holly Kapacinskis, Donna Kanabay, and I, continue to attend and monitor both the Florida Courts Technology Commission meetings, as well as the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers' monthly meetings, which we were invited to attend after our presentation to the FCTC in October. We are working hard to stay abreast of the latest discussions and developments happening around the state, and remain vigilant in monitoring changes and policies that could potentially impact court reporters in the future. The next meeting of the FCTC is scheduled for May 14-15, 2014.

And, it's that time of year again. Membership Information Exchanges took place across the state in five cities between April 23 and May 8, Ocala/Gainesville (co-hosted by Christy Bradshaw, Cathy Phillips, and Kelly Owen), Jacksonville (hosted by Amy Yarbrough), Ft. Lauderdale (hosted by Rosa Naccarato), Ft. Myers (co-hosted by Lori Bundy and Barb Frank), and Tampa (co-hosted by Donna Kanabay, Cindy Clark, and Susan Riesdorff). The events were a huge success due in large part to the hard work of not only the members who hosted the events, but also the many volunteers who lent a hand pulling it all together. The excitement was high, the conversation lively, and as you can see, there was much to talk about. As President, I was pleased to see so many new members who decided to climb out of the cart and instead start pulling it with their like-minded peers. On behalf of FCRA I wish to extend a heartfelt "Welcome!"

I can't believe all that is happening. And, was I right when I said it has definitely been an action-packed few months? I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the upcoming convention in Sanibel, June 6-8, 2014, where I hope to have even more to report. Stay tuned!



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

Court Reporting: How My Dreams Came True (Sort Of)

When I was a child of ten, if you had asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, I had high ambitions. I wanted to be challenged. Using my omniscience that invariably accompanies youth, I knew I was surely destined to be daring, and that I would definitely be a legend. First on my list of chosen professions was to be Wonder Woman, known for her bravery and resilience, as well as her ability to rise to whatever the occasion demanded. (I also wanted the invisible plane to whisk me away, as needed.) It didn't matter that the rest of my class called me four-eyes, and that my green, "stop sign"-shaped glasses were an absolutely necessary fashion/medical accessory. I knew the potential for greatness was there.

My second career choice, surprisingly, given my stated propensity for boldness, was to be a librarian, where I could exert the commanding power of an adult frown from behind my green glasses, and I could vocalize the guilt-inducing, almighty "Shhhhh!" on those violators of the revered silence in my book kingdom.

I fantasized that to be a librarian was a position of such importance, I would be happily ensconced in an oak-paneled stone manor, large rooms containing innumerable floor-to-ceiling, row after row stacks of aged, dusty, musty books; shelves filled with my favorite selection of authors like Judy Blume and the Grimm Brothers, and JR Tolkien, once I discovered his fantasy world of the Hobbit.

Come to think about it, at the time, I could have easily imagined myself wearing those glasses in any of my desired professions. I remember that I secretly thought Wonder Woman would have been entitled to a lot more respect and crime-fighting ability if she had had those forest green spectacles in lieu of the Lasso of Truth -- although I'm sure a large part of that rationale was because when I practiced my enthusiastic albeit clumsy Wonder Woman twirl in front of my dresser mirror, the only way I could see how it compared to my screen idol's was if I had my green glasses on. Otherwise, it was just a shadowy blur of color; copper red hair floating wildly around the whirling dervish, scrawny form of a ten-year-old girl. So obviously, the glasses were just as necessary for the job as the Lasso of Truth.

At ten years old, my concept of intellectual power and confidence was limited to the typical arsenal of an elementary student; glasses, a ballpoint pen that boasted four colors with a "click," and a spiralbound notepad I happened to keep as close as my Holly Hobbie purse.

I admired my father, who was a writer, and would sit and watch him write for hours. I have often said he was my first favorite author. Attempting to follow his example, I

found myself scrawling my own commentaries and worldly observations of my personal, limited view of my surroundings. Yes, I was/am a self-confessed nerd and, as parents are prone to do, my father encouraged my career dreams and life ambitions, always telling me I could be anything I set my mind and pen to.

Now, in looking back and gauging my progress, I have successfully raised a family, put one son through college, and am sending another off to school this fall, so the superheroine facet of the quad is an almost-given accomplishment. I would ascribe the lack of complete fulfillment to the fact that I was stuck driving a minivan to jobs, seminars, and retreats because the "invisible" airplane seems to have always been in the shop whenever I needed to get away. Or, perhaps it was the fact that my jaded sense of adult reality and responsibility made it invisible to even me.

As for my ambition of controlling a book-filled atmosphere, technically, I suppose that came true, as well, because as a court reporter, I am a librarian, of sorts. A lot of my depositions have been in the elegant, conservative law libraries of various firms where, in addition to those sitting with dignity on their shelves, I am often surrounded by words which are madly swirling and hurled through the air all day long -- and most of them are not of my choosing. And even then, I am responsible for ensuring they are recorded and kept in their proper order, and are easily accessible, either to be viewed immediately or stored for later perusal.

I find it amusing that, as an adult, my most-visited library "stack" is not in the preferred Adventure or Fairy Tales sections, but rather in Contracts and Commercial Disputes, with an occasional chemical or drug catalog thrown in.

And, aside from the deposition settings, there is no quiet library with soft carpeting, a room tinged with the faintest



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**FCRA
BULLETIN
BOARD**

Court Reporting: How My Dreams Came True (Sort Of) *Continued from page 5*

hint of timelessness where I can leisurely wander through and touch the leatherbound volumes that hint of imagination. Instead, I am usually moving at a frantic pace through my current job-of-the-day's vocabulary, and scrolling through the helpful but constantly-updating links that tend to pop up on my computer.

Then I guess whichever angel was in charge of penning the rest of my destiny indulged their own mischievous sense of humor. I, as a child, had also envisioned myself as a news reporter/talk show diva. At ten years old, I knew that, just as I directed the one-sided conversations with my then-captive audience (literally captive, as I held onto whichever of my many pets I could grab and subdue for the five-minute monologue), I believed I could interview famous and infamous people, have intellectually challenging dialogues, all the while giving my lofty opinion on their personal lives and political views. I pictured myself interviewing my guests wearing my same green stop-sign glasses as I wore then. So what better joke to play on someone who loves to talk than to seat them in a corner of a room for hours at a time, forced to write the words of others, and only being asked to speak when it is a narration of what someone else in the room already said?

And, post proceeding, I have generally found they are only interested in my opinion if it concurs with their own, that their case is a sure win.

In retrospect, I guess it all comes full circle, though, because I just may have the last laugh. I have reached that point in my life that, as I see it, I feel that I have practically fulfilled my dreams. Yes, my superheroine "mom" days are over. My daredevil activities consisted of planning the boys' swim lessons immediately after what I assumed would be the time court would finish, and then careening at breakneck speed (seatbelts on, of course!) across town to get them

there in legendary time by any mother's standards.

At that point in my life, my nights were filled with transcripts, homework, and worrying -- a natural byproduct of working challenging jobs and raising two boys, (one of whom was quite randy, but has thankfully, finally settled down with a wonderful girl!) Now my sleep-deprived nights are devoted to taking on even more challenging cases and, of course, writing!

And, where my thoughts were once expressed in scribbles in a notepad "borrowed" from my father, scrawled with one of his favorite pens (which I also "borrowed"), I now get to use my newly found extra time to do research online for my writing as well as go through the old "tomes" stored in my mind. I have my own mental library filled with different now-comical mishaps that I have endured; both personally and professionally. I, as many of you, have lived through and heard enough fodder to make up soap operas that would long live on in sitcom/drama serialdom! These incidents are all carefully cataloged and brought up for review on occasions such as the writing of this article.

So as I reflect with my mind's eye on the quirky fulfillment of my life's ambitions, my "careers" of Wonder Woman, word librarian, and court reporter/talk show hostess/writer, I can, tongue-in-cheek, say that life truly is a series of comedic tragedies; we make our plans, hope for the best, and adapt to the lifestyle changes as they come. But then if and when our worst fears are realized -- whether the mishap be a child left at soccer practice or a laptop left at soccer practice (both immediately retrieved) -- those occasions usually draw the biggest laughs when we are able to reflect on them through the thickened veil of time -- or the imaginary grown-up, green "stop sign" glasses of our memory.

Interim Bylaw to be Voted on at the FCRA Business Meeting, June 7, 2014

Charter and Bylaws Committee Chair, Teresa Durando, has informed us that the FCRA Bylaws do not conform to how we vote for the Board of Directors. The Charter and Bylaws Committee has recommended amending Article VIII Section 2 of the Charter and Bylaws to include the following language: "If there is but one nominee for each office, the election may be held by voice (voting cards).

The justification for this comes from Robert's Rules of Order which reads as follows: "A nominating ballot cannot take the place of an electing ballot in an organization whose bylaws require elections to be held by ballot." "If the bylaws require the election of officers to be by ballot and there is only one nominee for an office, the ballot must nevertheless be taken for that office unless the bylaws provide for an exception in such a case." This amendment will allow for better compliance with Robert's Rules of Order. Please be prepared to vote on this amendment at the business meeting.



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2014 NCRA Legislative Boot Camp



By Christy Aulls Bradshaw, RPR, FPR

Those of you who know me know how difficult it is for me to speak in public and in front of large crowds. So when asked if I wanted to attend this year's Legislative Boot Camp, even though I really wanted to attend, the thought of it was terrifying. From the point in early December of last year when I was asked, through booking my flight, and up until I left on February 28 to fly out there, my mind would not turn off.

The week of February 24 began with my nerves really kicking up, knowing I was flying out on Friday, the 28. Then, on Wednesday, the 26th, I woke up with a horrible sinus infection. First time I have been sick in over three years, mind you; I was not happy. I was so sick Thursday night that I considered not going, but knew I would regret it. So I boarded the plane with my medical mask and meds and suffered the flight out there with my head feeling like it would explode.

D.C. is such a great place to visit. Aside from being there for Boot Camp, Rosa Naccarato, my Florida Boot Camp companion and good friend, and I took the opportunity to doing a great deal of sightseeing. We went to several of D.C.'s great museums, took a trolley tour of the monuments and the White House, and walked and walked and walked all over. We had a great time.

Getting on to Boot Camp: Did I mention how nervous I was? Well, Sunday morning we checked in at 7:30 a.m. and we were immediately separated. They purposely separate you from your state "person" you go out with to take you out of your comfort zone. You check in and meet your team.

I was Team Golf. From Sunday morning I sat with, ate with, talked to, strategized with and associated with all of my Team Golf members. Among my team members were five other officers from five other state court reporting associations. We were all there for the same reason. Coincidentally, I was seated with Kristi Johnson. There was an article in our last magazine about Kristi being paralyzed in a shooting and finishing court reporting school. She is an absolutely incredible person and I was honored to meet her and be on her team.

On Sunday, we were coached by Dave Wenhold, Adam Finkel and Brandon Schall on Grassroots Lobbying and what to expect on Capitol Hill. We met Ed Johnson, RPR, CRR, who is a court reporter for the House of Representatives. Talk about an interesting job! We heard from Nancy Varallo, our current NCRA President, Sarah Nageotte, Debra Dibble, and Karen Teig, who are all on NCRA's board. They all told stories about their experiences

at Boot Camp and how it has helped them in their court reporting careers and board work.

At the end of the day Sunday, we were given a "mock" scenario that we would be working with our team on and would present before a panel on Monday afternoon. At that point, at 6:30 Sunday evening, all of the NCRA board members took on a role and were "in role" if we passed them in the hall or saw them in a restaurant. Nancy Varallo was no longer our NCRA President, she was a senator we were trying to convince to vote our way on our upcoming presentation. It was fun.

We were all exhausted, but we had a working dinner and had to come up with roles for ourselves to play in our mock presentation the following day. The role I ended up playing was that of a court reporting agency owner, which I think I did pretty well with. We had an independent contractor court reporter, a university employee who was in charge of the CART program for that university, a City Hall employee, a scopist, a teacher from a local court reporting school, and myself, the agency owner.

On Monday we spent the morning going from "mock" meeting to meeting, ten minutes each, and then we would have just five minutes to get to our next meeting on another floor. If we were late, they told us about it. We played our roles and tried to convince each person in each meeting to vote our way... and they gave us hell. It was fun and really interesting. We were critiqued on our weaknesses and praised on our strengths.

Monday afternoon, we presented before a panel. Mind you, the panel was made up of all of our NCRA board members, Dave Wenhold, and Adam Finkel, but they were still in role. We had ten minutes to present, all the while the panel would be talking, reading a newspaper, getting up and walking around...purposely trying to distract us. This was meant to be the worst case scenario we could possibly think of, and it was. At one point during my presentation, all but ONE panel member had walked away, so we were presenting with nobody there. We didn't really know what to do, so we just kept on going. We survived.

After all teams finished, the panel told each team how we did, both good and bad. It was a great learning experience. For me, I think the most important thing I learned was that no matter how nervous I get, I CAN DO IT. I still break out in hives, but I can do it! After it was over, I asked Dave Wenhold if he could see me break out in

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2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

In April 2014, the FCRA Nominating Committee met to interview the FCRA Board of Directors candidates for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. After interviewing several candidates, the 2014 Nominating Committee, chaired by Sandra Estevez, CSR (CA), FPR, submits the following slate of nominees for consideration by the membership at the FCRA 2014 Annual Business Meeting to be held at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa, Fort Myers, Florida, on Saturday, June 7, 2014.



PRESIDENT
Holly Kapacinskas, RPR, CRR, FPR
DeBary, FL

Holly Kapacinskas, RPR, CRR, FPR, graduated in 1982 from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, with a B.A. in music (flute performance) and a minor in business. While in college, she spent time studying music at the Hochschule fur Musik in Vienna, Austria. Upon graduating from college, she went to work in sales for Xerox Corporation in Chicago, IL. She married Len, her husband of 30 years, in 1984. Upon leaving Xerox in 1986, Holly became a flute teacher, as well as an orchestral and freelance musician in the Chicago area. Holly moved to the Orlando area in 1989. Upon moving to Florida, she was a stay-at-home mom and part-time student at Seminole Community College, studying computer programming. Holly entered court reporting school at Daytona Beach Community College in 1994 and graduated in 1995. She has been a reporter with Volusia Reporting Company in Daytona Beach for 17 years. She received her RPR designation in 1996 and CRR and FPR designations in 2006. Holly has been an adjunct instructor for court reporting students at Daytona Beach Community College. She has also served a 3-year term on the Florida Bar Grievance Committee, served as FCRA Central Director, FCRA Secretary, Vice President and is currently FCRA President-Elect. She is Fundraising Chair and serves on the FPR, Budget & Finance, EMDSA, APS and Government Relations Committees. She served on NCRA's Ethics First Committee and Strategic Alliances Task Force. She lives in DeBary with her husband Len and their two sons, Sam and Alex.

moved to Florida in 1982 where she accepted her first job as a freelance reporter. She currently resides in Weston, Florida, with her husband and son, and is a longstanding member of NCRA and FCRA. In 2009 she was elected Secretary/Treasurer and served two terms. She also served one term as Treasurer and one term as President-Elect. She is completing her term as 2013-2014 President. Her involvement in FCRA over the years has been a very rewarding experience which has provided an avenue for her to give back to the profession she loves. She looks forward to and is excited about the opportunity to continue to serve the Association and its members in the upcoming year!



PRESIDENT-ELECT
Rosa Naccarato, FPR
Miami, FL

Rosa Naccarato is a Court Reporter and Consultant with Goldman, Naccarato, Vela & Associates LLC, a division of Apex Reporting Group in Miami, Florida. She is a graduate of the Broward Community College, with an AS Degree in Court Reporting. Rosa is a member of the Florida Court Reporters Association, having served as Director, Treasurer and Vice President. She is a member of NCRA and Zonta International, Miami Lakes Chapter. Her interests include politics, world travel, cooking and Oenology.



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Janet McKinney, RPR, FPR, CLR
Weston, FL

Upon graduation from the Academy of Court Reporting in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1978, Janet became an official reporter in the Geauga County Court of Common Pleas. She and her husband

2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT



VICE PRESIDENT
Christine A. Bradshaw, RPR, FPR
Ocala, FL

Christy Aulls Bradshaw is a graduate of Eustis High School and the Institute of Specialized Training, in Casselberry, FL, with an AS in Court Reporting. She began her career as a court reporter in 1995 in the Citrus County area, later reporting in Gainesville and Jacksonville before starting CAB Reporting in Ocala in October of 2000. She is a member of NCRA (since 1994) and FCRA (since 1995). She served as Editor of *FCROnline* and as FCRA Treasurer. She has been on the Board of Directors for the Law & Government Program



TREASURER
Cathy Morrow, FPR
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Cathy attended Brookhaven College, Dallas, Texas, 1984 and Penn Foster University, Scranton, Pennsylvania, 2008. She currently works as an official court reporter in the 4th Judicial Circuit. Her husband and she formed ISS, LLC in 2005, providing IT services to Federal, State and local governments, as well as banking and private corporations. Prior to her work in the Information Technology Industry, she worked in hotel management for 10 years. She has been a member of FCRA & NCRA since 2008, and is a member of the FCRA Ethics and Government Committees, and served as FCRA Director. She is a member of the National Notary Association. She is very involved with BEAM, the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry and has been on their Beach Ball Committee for the last 3 years.



SECRETARY
Lori Bundy, RMR, CRR, RPR, FPR, CLR
Naples, FL

Lori Bundy started attending Brown College of Court Reporting in January of 1993. She received her Certified Court Reporter certification shortly before graduation in November, 1995, and began working in the Atlanta area. In 1998 she moved to Naples, Florida, and works for Veritext Legal Solutions. Lori is a member of NCRA and FCRA and has served as Director and Secretary

of FCRA. Lori enjoys singing in her church choir and being a mom.



NORTHERN DIRECTOR
(Two-year Term ending 2016)
Amy Marie Yarbrough, FPR
Jacksonville, FL

Amy Yarbrough attended Stenotype Institute of Jacksonville and received a Basic Machine Shorthand Diploma in 2011. She has a BA in Anthropology from the University of North Florida and was a High Honors Graduate in the Career Step Medical Transcription Certificate Program. She is a CART Provider at the University of North Florida and Florida State College at Jacksonville, specializing in Chemistry, Biology and Medical. She is President of North Florida Reporting, Inc and has worked as a Hearing Reporter, Medical Transcriptionist and Legal Assistant. She is a member of NCRA and FCRA and enjoys biking, running, weightlifting, the outdoors and healthy living.



CENTRAL DIRECTOR
(One-year Term ending 2015 – fulfilling the second year of a two-year term due to a vacancy in the position)
Sarah Gilroy, RPR, CRR
Tallahassee, FL

Sarah Gilroy attended the Stenotype Institute of Jacksonville, and graduated in 1982. She started her court reporting career in Tallahassee in 1982, working as a Freelance reporter, covering primarily civil depositions and court work. She has been employed at Accurate Stenotype Reporters since 2002. She is a member of NCRA and FCRA. She provides pro bono services when requested and enjoys traveling, gardening and spending time with family and friends.



SOUTHERN DIRECTOR
(Two-year Term ending 2016)
Matthew J. Martinez, CSR (CA), FPR
Miami, FL

Matthew Martinez went to court reporting school at Cerritos College in Los Angeles, California. He completed the court reporting program there and qualified for the state exam. Prior to taking the California exam, he went to Downey Adult



2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

School to further prepare himself for the state test. He became a California Certified Shorthand Reporter in 2007. Matthew freelanced and worked as a pro tem in court in Los Angeles and San Diego for three years until he accepted an officialship in El Centro, California, where he worked as an official from 2010 to 2012. In the summer of 2012 he came to Miami and has been working there since then. He is a member of both the NCRA and FCRA.

currently works for Veritext Miami. She is a member of NCRA and FCRA. She was active in VCRA (Virginia) serving as Membership Database Creator, Newsletter Editor, Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President and President.



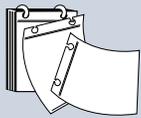
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
(One-year Term ending 2015)
Carol Hill Williams, FPR, RMR, CRR, CPE, CMRS, CRI
Miami, FL

Carol Hill Williams attended Central Pennsylvania College and received an AA in Court Reporting in 1980. She has worked in Virginia and Florida and



DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
(One-year Term ending 2015)
Sharon Velazco, RPR, CLR, FPR
Miami, FL

Sharon Velazco is currently the editor of the *FCROnline* magazine and graduated from Ward Stone College of Court Reporting in 1994 and received her RPR in 2004. She worked as a Legal Secretary prior to becoming a court reporter. She currently works for US Legal Support in South Florida. Her interests include her family, music (vocal, bassoon & composition), Creative Writing and Religious History/Comparative Religion.



FCR Online Deadline Dates

(Fall) Aug/Sept/Oct.....	July 5, 2014
Publication Date	Aug. 12, 2014
 (Winter) Nov/Dec/Jan	Oct. 5, 2014
Publication Date	Nov. 12, 2014
 (Spring) Feb/Mar/Apr	Jan. 5, 2015
Publication Date	Feb. 12, 2015
 (Summer) May/June/July	April 5, 2015
Publication Date	May 12, 2015

Florida Court Reporters Association 2014 Annual Convention
Light a Torch • Ignite a Fire

June 6-8, 2014
Sanibel
Harbour
Marriott
Resort & Spa
Fort Myers,
Florida

**SEE YOU
IN FORT
MYERS!!**

Unity of Purpose, One Strong Chain, No Weak Links, Holding Strong

By Rick Levy, RPR, FPR

To my FCRA friends and colleagues, as I sit down to write this article, I reflect back on where FCRA was, where FCRA is, and most importantly, where FCRA is headed. Many of us have lived through the history of FCRA and the many obstacles we have overcome and the challenges we have conquered. In case you were not on board with us during those times, I will simply point to the recent events of digital reporting, JAC budgetary constraints, FCRA membership decline, and negative media publicity of the profession, just to name a few.

I only mention the past to emphasize how FCRA, its members, and the profession as a whole have been able to persevere and survive during very difficult times. As an industry, it seems as though we are constantly in the crosshairs of one or multiple factions of society either trying to reduce our rates or, even worse, eliminate existing jobs. While these outside factors are not going away any time soon, I can only hope that no new challenges arise as a potential threat to a profession and career that I have been fortunate enough to be a part of for the last 16-plus years.

Now, why do I mention these factors that have threatened our profession? Simply to remind us that we have been able to overcome these threats to continue to exist and thrive to be the best we can possibly be. There are a few simple reasons why we have continued to exist and prosper, and I will only reflect on the recent past, since many of us look at the here and now. As an industry and as a state association, we have always come together and felt a sense of unity. We all know that feeling of seeing another court reporter in the courthouse or hearing about a friend or family member who had an encounter with a court reporter, or simply seeing a news story where a court reporter is mentioned, or watching television coverage of a trial and mainly noticing the court reporter in the background. How about when we are watching a movie and a courtroom scene emerges and we see a steno writer pounding away on the machine, and feeling a sense of pride, really for no apparent reason. The reason is simply that we, as court reporters who have attained the level of professionalism that we all have -- whether we just graduated from school, have the RPR or FPR designation, or for those who have gone above and beyond by attaining RMR, CMR or CRR credentials -- we all feel like we are linked together in a special, bonding kind of way. It is that "bond" that we all feel that has allowed us, as a profession, to keep the course and overcome the abovementioned obstacles.

Whether you work for the same agency or a competing local agency, there is a sense of pride and unity that we, as court reporters, feel. It is also because of that bond that we are able to help each other out in times of need. Have you ever needed a power cord for your machine and luckily, another reporter was close by and had an extra? Have you ever needed help with a transcript and had a colleague or friend step up to the plate because they were familiar with

the terminology that you had never encountered? Have you ever needed a brief or needed help with a steno outline and reached out to a social media page or an online forum and had your issue resolved in a matter of minutes, if not seconds? Have you ever needed help with your CAT software while working on an expedited transcript and, lo and behold, someone was there who had successfully overcome the exact same issue you were dealing with?

It is because of the unity of purpose, because of the strong bond we as court reporters have that we have been able to not only survive, but we have thrived in today's very difficult climate.

From an association standpoint, we need to also embrace this feeling of UNITY and come together and show strength in numbers. This is not a membership article, nor is it meant to in any way look down upon those who have chosen to not partake in FCRA membership. I am simply suggesting that we are all a better profession as well as a better state association if we are able to come together, have a common mission and, of course, have power in numbers. We all know that in life and in career choice, a group of like-minded thinkers can accomplish tasks and overcome obstacles when our forces are joined.

There IS strength in numbers, and we are only as strong as our weakest link. We, as FCRA and its members, must hold strong in what we believe in, must urge others to jump on board, and must educate our co-workers on the importance of FCRA and the importance of the missions we are trying to accomplish.

In conclusion, I only hope that as we move forward and face more challenges from the outside, that we continue to strengthen our bond, continue to educate the outside forces, and continue to move in the direction of professionalism. Individually, we can do great things for our profession by providing great service to our clients, by embracing the latest technology, and by promoting our skills. But together, we can help fight alternate technologies from taking over our profession, we can fight legislation attempting to reduce our rates, and we can fight local and state government as they seek to replace us as court reporters with machines that they believe can create an adequate record at a reduced price.

In closing, I look forward to FCRA and the court reporters in our wonderful state of Florida coming together as a whole and accomplishing wonderful things. Nothing is easy nor is anything guaranteed, but I can promise you that if we work together for a common goal, then great things can and will happen.

Thank you for jumping on board and being what I consider to be a critical piece of the puzzle, and that is a being an all-important MEMBER OF FCRA!!!

Student Corner: Sitting In

By Robin Merker

As a student, sitting in for the first time is an exciting and daunting process. You are so much closer to your goal, everything is coming together – and then it hits you – what in the world is going on? This is way different than school. All these people are talking and none of it is the vocabulary I'm used to, they're interrupting each other, and don't even start about their grammar. This is crazy! How is the reporter next to me getting all this? Why is she so calm????

Here's the reality: Everything you've learned in school is necessary and vital to your success as a court reporter. A new court reporting student asked me: Will everything I learn in school be focused on becoming a court reporter or will I be learning "useless stuff?" The fact of the matter is you absolutely need everything you learn in school, but there's so much more you need to know to be successful. The first step to getting that knowledge is to soak up every moment of your internship. Ask questions. Pay attention not only to what you're writing, but also to how the reporter is handling the attorneys, the judge, the witness, and the other people in the conference room

or courtroom. Observe how the reporter sets up and breaks down the writer, laptop, and peripherals.** Ask how the reporter prepped for the job, what information is available.

And once you take that first paying job, don't stop asking questions of the reporters around you. That includes random reporters in elevators! You will find most reporters are eager and willing to help you any way they can with anything from directions to a judge's courtroom to a brief for that pesky multi-syllable phrase that you can't write the same way twice. Just ask!

FCRA can help even further by connecting you with a mentor who can give you that behind-the-scenes guidance to get you the rest of the way to becoming a confident reporter. Just contact me at Rlmerker@att.net and we'll make a Mentor Match for you!

**Tip of the day: Set up as much of your equipment as you can before you bring the writer out. Get your laptop up and running. Why? Because once the attorneys see the writer, it's like Pavlov's dog – they're raring to go even if it's early!

2014 NCRA Legislative Boot Camp

Continued from page 8

hives from the podium; he said, "You sure do get yourself worked up, don't you?" I take it that was a yes!

Monday night, Rosa and I went out for a very nice, relaxing dinner and began to prepare for Tuesday's day on Capitol Hill. We would be presenting real issues to real senators and congressmen and/or their staff members. Our issues were the National Notary Act, which would allow a court reporter, in their role as a notary, to administer an oath over state lines. The oath only, no other notarial acts. Our second issue was the Courthouse Safety Act, which would allow for excess equipment purchased by the TSA, not used but kept in storage in Texas at the tune of \$4 million a year, to be used in courthouses in rural areas where there was currently no security. Sounds simple and sounds like common sense, but the Feds do not like to share their money with the State.

Rosa and I met with Senator Bill Nelson's assistant, Senator Marco Rubio's assistant, my local congressman, Richard Nugent, who we met with personally, and Rosa's local congresswoman's staff, Debbie Wasserman Schultz. The highlight for both of us had to be meeting Moisés, who was the intern for Senator Marco Rubio. Moisés was about 23 and had just moved to D.C. from Miami. Moisés

had lunch with us and took us on a private tour of the Capitol. We went on the underground trams from the Senate buildings to the Capitol, toured a good portion of the Capitol, and then he took us in the underground tunnel which goes from the Capitol building to the House buildings and made sure we knew where we were going to our next meeting. It was an experience of a lifetime. Everyone we met was so nice, so welcoming, and made us very much at ease. Especially me, the nervous one!

Tuesday evening we went to a fundraising event where we mingled with all of our teammates, the other teams, and our NCRA staff and Dave, and just had a great reception and a great time.

Wednesday, Rosa and I had one last day of sightseeing, one last great meal, and flew home on Thursday.

Overall, I cannot say enough about the experience. It is brutal, it is exhausting... but it is such an accomplishment and such a rush being on Capitol Hill. If you ever have the opportunity to go, do not pass it up. I would go again in a minute if the opportunity arose. If I can do it and survive, you can.

Florida Court Reporters Association
2014 ANNUAL CONVENTION
June 6,7 & 8
Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa

HELP US HELP OUR STUDENTS!

Please, we're beggin' for donation gifts for the student goodie bags and raffle!
Any treat you 'chews', new and gently used....

This year we will once again treat our students to a weekend of inspiration, motivation, and an opportunity to meet and mingle with the who's who of the reporting community in Florida.

All dollars contributed will be pooled together and divided between our students who attend to help defray the cost of their weekend. Please visit the FCRA website for a sponsorship form.

If you have an old machine or other slightly used equipment that is collecting dust in your closet, why not do a little spring cleaning and donate it to our student raffle!

For more information on how you can help make this a memorable weekend for our students, email:
Robin Merker at rlmerker@att.net
Jennifer Gaul at jgaul@uslegalsupport.com





SLEUTHING THE NET

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

NOT SO MAGIC (JACK)

One day not too long ago, my office passed a phone message along to me. The caller was a Gus Webber, calling about my “account with the Florida Department of Revenue.” The number he left was 727-588-6997. I was busy at the time and didn’t give it much thought right then, but I remember being conscious of that little ding-ding alarm bell way in the back of my brain. “Department of Revenue? What account with the Department of Revenue? And why would somebody be calling about it? Don’t most official communications from a government agency come in the mail?”

I put what I was doing aside, and Googled the number. This is what I came up with:

7275886997|091.co.in

091.co.in/091/mobile_number/7275886997 ▼

Actual location of 7275886997 mobile number in India.

Are you kidding me? Now the dirtbags are hijacking local numbers??

And this wasn’t the only “hit;” it was the first in a long line of listings relating to India.

Even more interesting: As I wrote this, I was curious, so I plugged the number into Google again, and I got nothing. Just a “who called us” lookup link, and a list of various businesses that have 727-588 numbers, all of which appear to be legitimate local businesses, at least at a glance. So I can only assume “Gus” has darted back into the slimy cave he crawled out of.

After immediately alerting everybody in my office to the scam, and reminding them never to give out any information, I dug more deeply into the question.

From the June 8, 2012, *Sun Sentinel*:

http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2012-06-08/news/fl-hollywood-house-scam-20120605_1_area-code-magicjack-phone-number

Overseas scammers make most of fake local area codes

June 8, 2012 | By Lisa J. Huriash and Barbara Hijek, *Sun Sentinel*

HOLLYWOOD Scammers from overseas could try to con you out of money using a new trick — calling from what you think is a local area code, prosecutors warn.

The story goes on to describe several instances of people receiving calls from local area codes and they’re scam calls from overseas.

“In all of the cases, the callers were using MagicJack, a telephone device made by a company with corporate headquarters in West Palm Beach. The device can be plugged into overseas phones so calls can be made using a U.S. area code. It is intended to allow somebody abroad — such as an American student in Europe — to make calls to the U.S. at a local rate.”

Following the usual Internet rabbit trails, I found a much more recent article, February of 2014:

<http://800notes.com/forum/ta-97219e249ee2fc8/fake-irs-agents-and-magicjack-numbers>

Fake IRS agents and MagicJack numbers: The IRS has seen a recent increase in local phone scams across the country, with callers pretending to be from the IRS in hopes of stealing money or identities from victims.

These phone scams include many variations, ranging from instances from where callers say the victims owe money or are entitled to a huge refund. Some calls can threaten arrest and threaten a driver’s license revocation. Sometimes these calls are paired with follow-up calls from people saying they are from the local police department or the state motor vehicle department.

The article goes on to list the various tricks, including “Scammers ‘spoof,’ or imitate the IRS toll-free number on caller ID. They may even be able to recite the last four digits of your Social Security number.” (Now that’s beyond scary!)

There are many articles describing how MagicJack is being used in scams.

No matter how these crooks try to reach out of you, however, whether it’s snail-mail, e-mail, an 888 phone call, or a local area code phone call; no matter what their story is — they’re from the government; they’re from the police and there’s a warrant for your arrest; your Great Aunt Susie has lost her wallet and passport in some dream city in Europe — the same rules apply:

Don’t tell them anything!!



Join us for the annual
Realtime Competition!
FCRA Annual Convention
Friday, June 6, 2014
5:30 p.m.

Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa

The highest combined score wins the 2014 FCRA Realtime Speed Contest. Prizes will be awarded for Literary and Jury Charge winners.

So tweak that dictionary, work on those difficult fingerings, practice accuracy at speed, and come compete in a "fun run" with your peers!

Write these 50 words in 15 seconds with a maximum of 2 errors at 96% percent accuracy at 200 wpm.

FCRA Literary Contest Sample:

"Last month the defendant turned 60 and he continues to file appeals. Multiply this paperwork by 400, and that's what faces the state. On both sides of each marathon death penalty case, taxpayers usually get stuck with the legal bills. That won't change, either, unless somebody rips up the constitution."

Write these 55 words in 15 seconds with a maximum of 3 errors at 96% percent accuracy at 220 wpm.

FCRA Jury Charge Contest Sample:

"Members of the jury, you have now heard and received all of the evidence in this case. I am now going to tell you about the rules of law that you must use in reaching your final verdict. Afterwards the attorneys will present their final arguments and you will then retire to decide your verdict."

\$25.00 entry fee

You must be able to output
ASCII to a flash drive.

Results will be announced
Saturday, June 7 at the
Awards Luncheon.



Questions?
Write to the Chair,
Gayl Hardeman:
gayl@gaylhardeman.com

THE LAST WORD....

Source: A Writer's Reference, Diana Hacker

ON THE JOB

WORDS THAT SOUND ALIKE (HOMONYMS):

Accept, Except: Accept is a verb meaning to receive. Except is usually a preposition meaning excluding. I will accept all the packages except that one. Except is also a verb meaning to exclude. Please except that item from the list.

Affect, Effect: Affect is usually a verb meaning to influence. Effect is usually a noun meaning result. The drug did not affect the disease, and it had several adverse side effects. Effect can also be a verb meaning to bring about. Only the president can effect such a dramatic change.

Allusion, Illusion: An Allusion is an indirect reference. An illusion is a misconception or false impression. Did you catch my allusion to Shakespeare? Mirrors give the room an illusion of depth.

Capital, Capitol: Capital refers to a city, capitol to a building where lawmakers meet. Capital also refers to wealth or resources. The capitol has undergone extensive renovations. The residents of the state capital protested the development plans.

Climactic, Climatic: Climactic is derived from climax, the point of greatest intensity in a series or progression of events. Climatic is derived from climate; it refers to meteorological conditions. The climactic period in the dinosaurs' reign was reached just before severe climatic conditions brought on the ice age.

Elicit, Illicit: Elicit is a verb meaning to bring out or to evoke. Illicit is an adjective meaning unlawful. The reporter was unable to elicit information from the police about illicit drug traffic.

Emigrate from, Immigrate to: Emigrate means to leave one country or region to settle in another. In 1900, my grandfather emigrated from Russia. Immigrate means to enter another country and reside there. Many Mexicans immigrate to the U.S. to find work.

Hints: Emigrate begins with the letter E, as does Exit. When you emigrate, you exit a country. Immigrate begins with the letter I, as does In. When you immigrate, you go into a country.

Principle, Principal: Principal is a noun meaning the head of a school or an organization or a sum of money. Principle is a noun meaning a basic truth or law. The principal taught us many important life principles.

Hint: To recognize the spelling of Principal first think of yourself as a greedy opportunist. You definitely would want to be a pal of anyone who is in a position of power or anything to do with money. This principal has pal in it.

Than, Then: Than is a conjunction used in comparisons; then is an adverb denoting time. That pizza is more than I can eat. Tom laughed, and then we recognized him.

Hints: Than is used to compare; both words have the letter a in them. Then tells when; both are spelled the same, except for the first letter.

There, Their, They're: There is an adverb specifying place; it is also an expletive. Adverb: Sylvia is lying there unconscious. Expletive: There are two plums left. Their is a possessive pronoun. They're is a contraction of they are.

Fred and Jane finally washed their car. They're later than usual today.

Hints: If you are using there to tell the reader where, both words have h-e-r-e. Here is also a place. If you are using their as a possessive pronoun, you are telling the reader what "they own. Their has h-e-i-r, which also means heir, as in someone who inherits something. Both words have to do with ownership. They're is a contraction of they are. Sound out they are in the sentence and see if it works. If it does not, it must be one of the previous versions.

To, Too, Two: To is a preposition; too is an adverb; two is a number. Too many of your shots slice to the left, but the last two were right on the mark.

Hints: If you are trying to spell out the number, it is always t-w-o. Two has a w which is the first letter in word. The opposite of word is number. Too is usually used as also when adding or including some additional information. Whenever you want to include something else, think of it as adding; therefore you also need to add an extra o.

Your, You're: Your is a possessive pronoun; you're is a contraction of you are. You're going to catch a cold if you don't wear your coat.

Hints: Sound out you are in the sentence. If it works in the sentence it can be written as you're. If it sounds awkward, it is probably supposed to be Your. EXAMPLE: You're shoes are muddy. "You are shoes are muddy" does not work, so it should be written as: Your shoes are muddy.

WORDS THAT DON'T SOUND ALIKE BUT CONFUSE US ANYWAY:

Lie, Lay: Lie is an intransitive verb meaning to recline or rest on a surface. Its principal parts are lie, lay, lain. Lay is a transitive verb meaning to put or place. Its principal parts are lay, laid.

Hint: Chickens lay eggs. I lie down when I am tired.

Set, Sit: Set is a transitive verb meaning to put or to place. Its principal parts are set, set, set. Sit is an intransitive verb meaning to be seated. Its principal parts are sit, sat, sat. She set the dough in a warm corner of the kitchen. The cat sat in the warmest part of the room.

Who, Which, That: Do not use which to refer to persons. Use who instead. That, though generally used to refer to things, may be used to refer to a group or class of people. I just saw a boy who was wearing a yellow banana costume. I have to go to math next, which is my hardest class. Where is the book that I was reading?

PROBLEM PHRASES:

Supposed to: Do not omit the d. Suppose to is incorrect.

Used to: Same as above. Do not write use to.

Toward: There is no s at the end of the word.

Anyway: Also has no ending s. Anyways is nonstandard.

Couldn't care less: Be sure to make it negative. (Not I could care less.)

All walks of life: Not woks of life. This phrase does not apply to oriental cooking.

Chest of drawers: Not chester drawers.

For all intents and purposes: Not intensive purposes.

“SING OUT, LOUISE!”

By Anthony Trujillo, RMR, CRR

I don't claim to be an expert or a consultant in court reporting. I've only been doing this four years. It's not my job to tell agencies how to run their businesses. It's not my job to prescribe to good, hard-working people how to reinvent the wheel. But at the end of the day, I've given my life to this profession because it's been good to me. It's saved me from poor career decisions in the past and has blessed me with the joy of when I go to bed at night, no matter how many people treat me like an overpriced data entry clerk, no matter how many failures I have committed in one day, I have a gift, a skill that no one can take away from me. That being said, I feel it's my duty to give back to my profession by giving my perspective (however limited) on what has helped me grow into a realtime writer in a very short time and having the satisfaction of having the RMR and CRR designations after my name. It's due to facing three very strong enemies that plague this profession. Ego, indifference, and fear.

EGO: Sitting in cattle-call hearings has given me a sample of all different ranges of experience in reporters, from the glitter-bathed ice princess who got hired even before she graduated just because she was hot and could make attorneys drool as a desirable fixture during trials, to the hardened workhorse who dictated her notes and sent them to a typist when polyester pantsuits were all the rage and people smoked in the courthouse. The fact of the matter is, no matter how long you've been in this business, the key to success lies in staying open to learning and having an insatiable desire to get better. I never approach a job thinking to myself that this meaningless 30-page

worker's compensation transcript is beneath me. Rather, I see it as an opportunity to go back to the basics. No job is ever beneath me. Chances are, I grow more as a writer from the horrible assignments at an orthopaedic doctor's office at 7:30 in the morning where I want to kill myself in a coffee-induced rage, as opposed to the delightful 140 word-per-minute business litigation deposition on the top floor of a bank building downtown. Swallow your pride. Get over yourself. Chances are, you didn't write as well as you thought in that simple work comp. If this job were that easy, everybody would be doing it. Own your mistakes. Be nice to people along the way. No one can do this alone.

INDIFFERENCE: It becomes very easy to lose the passion as the years wear on. As with weightlifting, growth in your muscles comes from muscle confusion. You have to switch up your routine or else you plateau. Doing the same thing causes an indifference that is extremely dangerous to any artist (I like to call reporters artists). Ego causes indifference and is closely linked. If you feel like the same thing has worked for the past 30 years and you refuse to change because you want to retire, because you get on your high horse and feel like you're the court reporting guru extraordinaire and don't need the change, go back to what sparked you to get into this business in the first place. What was it about court reporting that turned you on all those years ago? Obviously, something in you worked that has contributed to your longevity thus far. Now is the time to celebrate all those years and grow even more. There are more mountains to climb and new accomplishments to be made.

FEAR: Change and growth are upsetting and difficult processes. I was blessed to work for an agency that encouraged their reporters to do realtime demonstration to their clients. Even before I was CRR-certified, my boss challenged me to dive into the deep end and start hooking up. If your work is at the readable level to do realtime, why not take the plunge? You don't have to start it all next Monday. Let's say you have a good witness that day, the pace is at a good clip, your tran rate is looking good. Tease the attorney with a little realtime cleavage. Show them your screen. That's how I started. The performance energy actually fuels you to look at your writing, make adjustments. Trust me, after you start teasing them with it, you'll never go back. Don't feel hung up that because you haven't passed your CRR (yet), you're not good enough. Everybody, including Kislingbury himself, has had days where they have, for lack of a better word, sucked. Sing out, Louise! Nobody's expecting you to be perfect. If you passed your speed tests to get through school, to get your RPR, you can do this now.

ACTION: When you're at your steno machine, picture it like driving a car. Your screen is your rearview mirror. If you're looking back all the time, you'll slam into the car ahead of you and get into an accident. But if you keep the past (and your mistakes) in perspective, just like in the rearview mirror, keep looking forward, floor it, and drive into the sunset. Before you know it, you'll be the best that you can be because you've learned from the past, stopped to help people along the way, and worn a smile despite all odds.

FCRA welcomes the following new members

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

NAME	CITY	SPONSOR
McEnroe, Nancy	Astoria, NY	Susan Wasilewski
Sotillo, Melissa	West Palm Beach	Catherine Dore

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Baynes, Linda	Naples.....	Barbara Curry
Castillo, Richard	Geneva.....	Susan Wasilewski
Costello, Darla.....	Naples.....	Barbara Frank
Rotruck, Clara	Tallahassee	Nicole Mazzara
Young, Chrishaun.....	Jacksonville	Lawanda Brown

STUDENT MEMBERS

Faircloth, Ginny	Coral Springs	Susan D. Williams
Guyton, Tamala	Pembroke Pines.....	Debby Kirshen
Lavandera, Amanda	Hallandale	Atlantic Technical Center
Ramos, Carlyn	Port St Lucie	Carolyn Shepard
Steigman, Marnie.....	Boca Raton	Robin Merker



WHILE VANA LOU DREAMS...

(One day my mommy will make the connection; she does her best writing at my dream's direction!)

DIRTY LAUNDRY

By Sharon Pell Velazco

Bring me your dirty laundry, sir, and while I promise not to tell, it's sure to be good fodder for a book I plan to sell.

I will guard your reputation, and no one will ever know your date of birth, how much you're worth,

now raise your right hand, let's go!

Do you swear to tell the truth, kind sir

(so later, I needn't fact check)

and when counsel speaks, don't interrupt,

or this transcript will be a wreck.

Please try to speak at a moderate pace when you're giving a sordid detail to quote verbatim dialogue will help my book to sell!

And though the purchasers are sitting HERE, with agendas of their own, in their Armani suits and Prada shoes

even THEY respect the throne

of an impartial judge, and carefully chosen jury of your peers,

who will use their collective common sense

to evaluate what you say HERE.

Sure, they'll hear expert testimony, and the facts, carefully review,

but they will put their greatest weight

on what is said today by YOU!

So please know, as we sit in this stuffy room,

I pass no judgment on what you say

I'm recording for posterity your words for a later day.

And though I wear a slack expression as I stare at the empty wall, my fingers hang on your every word I truly am enthralled...

And the details of your dilemma keep me listening with rapt attention, but I would be quite shameless, sir, if I failed to mention that while I love justice, and am oh, so proud of the role my ethics play, your sworn words will be the book I hope to sell TODAY!!!



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Court Reporters Association

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

*Company _____ Owner Co-owner Manager

*Mailing Address _____ Website: _____

*City/State/Zip _____

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

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

*Email address _____ Secondary Email Address _____

*METHOD OF REPORTING: Stenographic Voicewriter Gregg Pittman Other _____

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

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

*Asterisk indicates required information.

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

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

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

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBER \$90.00
This category is open to the following (please check one):
 Teachers of shorthand reporting
 Individuals officially connected with a school or college conducting shorthand reporting course - **School Name & Location** _____
 Non-member individuals retired from active shorthand reporting
 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 CD:
__ copies @ \$75.00 each
(Includes 7% sales tax + handling) _____

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Check # _____ MasterCard VISA AmEx

Account # _____

Exp. Date: _____

Amount to charge: \$ _____

Authorized Signature _____

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

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



Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Form

Participating Membership Only

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

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

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

INSTALLMENTS: Plan is payable by credit card only. Check payments will not be accepted.
All payments will be automatically processed as outlined below.

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

Member Name: _____

Member Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

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

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

Signature

Payment Method:

Master Card Visa American Express

Billing Address: *(If different from above)*

Account #: _____ Exp Date: _____

Cardholder's Name / Signature

Submit by Email

Print Form