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June 17-19, 2016

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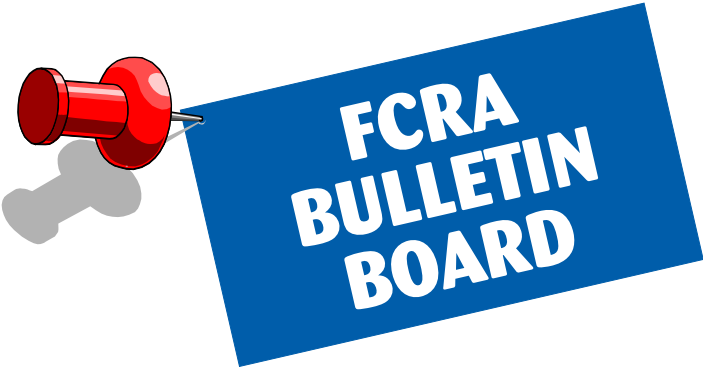
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FCRA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President

Rosa Naccarato, FPR
 44 West Flagler St • Miami, FL 33130
 rosie0057@att.net • W: 305-545-8434 • FAX: 305-325-8991

President Elect

Christy Aulls Bradshaw, RPR, FPR
 201 N Magnolia Ave • Ocala, FL 34475
 christy@fcreporting.com • W: 352-401-0080 • FAX: 352-620-8819

Vice President

Lori Bundy RMR, FPR, CRR, CLR
 561 31st St SW • Naples FL 34117
 loribundy@yahoo.com • W: 239-825-2086

Treasurer

Cathy M. Marrow, FPR
 550 Robles Ln • Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 infosyspecialists@gmail.com • W: 800-240-0815

Secretary

Sharon Velazco, RPR, CLR, FPR
 410 Alcazar Avenue • Coral Gables, FL 33134
 scribe3159@aol.com • W: 786-371-7438

Northern Director

Amy Marie Yarbrough, FPR
 1015 Atlantic Blvd • Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
 madamcourtreportertjx@comcast.net

Central Director

Richard Scire, RPR
 2002 Ringling Blvd, #404 • Sarasota, FL 34236
 rscire@jud12.ficourts.org • W: 941-861-7858 • FAX: 941-861-7924

Southern Director

Natalie Hartsfield, FPR
 854 Oxbow Road • Minneola, FL 34715
 natalie.hartsfield@aol.com • C: 407-965-7238

Directors at Large

Robin Deal, FPR
 670 Lambton Ln • Naples, FL 34104
 robindeal1@gmail.com

Michelle Smith, RMR, RPR, FPR, LCR, CCR
 2101 Northside Dr, Ste 203 • Panama City, FL 32405
 michelle.smith.cr@gmail.com
 W: 850-769-7178 • FAX: 850-763-5010

Immediate Past President

Holly Kapacinskas, RPR, CRR, FPR
 223 Caddie Ct • DeBary, FL 32713
 hollykap@att.net • W: 386-255-2150 • FAX: 386-668-2925

Editor

Sharon Velazco, RPR, CLR, FPR
 410 Alcazar Avenue • Coral Gables, FL 33134
 scribe3159@aol.com • W: 786-371-7438

Executive Director

Lynn Hupp
 222 S. Westmonte Drive, Ste. 101
 Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
 lhupp@kmgnet.com • W: 407-774-7880 • FAX: 407-774-6440

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FCR Online Deadline Dates

(FALL) AUG/SEPT/OCT/NOV
 Article Submission — July 5
 On-Line Publication — August 12

(WINTER) DEC/JAN/FEB/MAR
 Article Submission — November 5
 On-Line Publication — December 12

(SUMMER) APR/MAY/JUNE/JULY
 Article Submission — March 5
 On-Line Publication — April 12

By Rosa Naccarato, FPR,
2015-2016 President



You've Got to Get in the Game

About 20 years ago, I was going through a difficult transition both professionally and personally, and a very wise longtime client said to me, "The problem is that you're looking down. You've arrived at the top of the first level and you are looking down, when you should be looking up at the next level." He then wrote on his legal pad in big bold letters: "No pain, no gain, no guts, no glory." He tore off the page, handed it to me and said, "Remember these words."

I stuck that piece of yellow legal paper on the front of my refrigerator and kept it there for several years as a constant reminder of his powerful message. Those words completely changed my way of thinking and set me on a quest for self-improvement and always looking for ways to take my career to the next level.

Now, almost 21 years later, as I am wrapping up a term as president of FCRA, I feel like I have achieved another level in my professional life, and the most important message I could share with you from what I've learned so far is: You've got to get in the game in order to stay relevant.

The future of court reporting has been catapulted forward by technology, and the playing field is vast. From little things like being able to easily "Google" a spelling or a business name or a case cite or anything else you could possibly need to know, to being able to access online marketplaces to purchase anything that you could possibly need to have, the technology boom has now taken us to the next level, where endless services are available and being marketed directly to stenographers.

Our method of production has been so improved by technology that we have evolved what feels like 100 years from the days of when I started reporting and had to dictate my paper notes using a dictaphone, prepare a dog sheet (I have no idea where that term came from), drive the cassette tapes over to my typist for her to type up on a typewriter, drive back over sometime later to pick up the transcript that was typed on "erasable bond" paper, proof-read it, drive back to her house so she could make the corrections, come back and get it later, and then drive to the office the next day to turn in the transcript. All of you who have been reporting less than 25 years have no idea what I'm talking about, I'm sure.

Today, there are brand new stenograph machines on the market that are so advanced and so amazing they have a following on social media. There are ways to improve your skill with online Real-Time coaching, and interactive technology to help you efficiently improve speed and accuracy.

There is online training to become a captioner working from home. Reporters can now pursue the RPR through online testing. Production is now accomplished through e-mail and scanners and the ability to interact with your office through an online database. What all of this means, first and foremost, is that court reporting has steadily evolved and is now completely integrated with technology.

On a local level, I've seen that attorneys and legislators value who we are and what we're able to do. The majority of litigation attorneys prefer and often demand a qualified stenographer over any other type of methodology. The president of the Florida Bar said to me and I quote, "We love real court reporters, and I personally will not accept any other methodology." And as Real-Time reporting is becoming more mainstream, attorneys and judges are more in awe of what a stenographer is able to do with state-of-the-art technology. So as page rates become stagnant, instead of feeling defeated, we need to utilize technology to improve productivity. Anything that improves your skill and makes your output faster and more efficient puts more dollars back in your pocket.

If anyone really believes that court reporting is a dying profession, nothing could be further from the truth. We are in the midst of a technological shift, and it's all a matter of in which direction you want to go. What is required of a court reporter today is very different than when I started reporting three decades ago. We live in an information age and we are a need-it-now generation that relies exceedingly on technology.

Taking the time to explore what is available and investing a little money in yourself is the best way to stay in the game. If it means budgeting a few dollars each month to save enough to update your equipment or to pay for some training and budgeting the time to do the training, then that's what must be done, because it's vital to your success and future marketability. Investing in one's own professional betterment is one of the most secure investments a person can make.

During these last several years of board service, I have participated in going to the University of Miami to speak with third-year law students about why our methodology is preferred and how to make a good record, and the students and professor are always fascinated by the discussion. The professor thinks our information and our profession is so in-

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*By Sharon Pell Velazco,
FCR Online Editor*

Let's Dance

Everyone has their own reason for loving the convention. Some go for the networking, others go for the chance to relax and enjoy some vacay time. Still others go for our basket raffle, where everyone has a chance to win select goodies. Me? I go to dance at the president's party. Mind you, I don't dance well, but I DO dance with enthusiasm. I look forward to the music starting and the chance to get out there on the dance floor and vigorously flail my arms and legs in some semblance of syncopated rhythm. I am able to do so with such abandon only because I have made such wonderful friends at prior conventions, and they wholeheartedly support and forgive my

valiant efforts. These are the kind of friends I look forward to seeing each year because they encourage me to show my lighter side without fear of criticism or recrimination. And, we all know that what happens at convention stays at convention! Yes, court reporters make the best kind of friends, and I have made some of my best friends at our conventions! In June, I look forward to seeing those excited, familiar faces, and to meeting and making new friends, as well. So I encourage you all to attend, and when the lights go down and the music comes on, in the words of the legendary David Bowie, "Let's Dance!"

Court Reporting Can be Fun, and a Highly Creative Task!

By: Elliott Marshall, A.S., RPR

Hello to the many fine Florida working reporters, as well as the up-and-coming students of the profession. My name is Elliott Marshall, I have an Associates degree in science with a major in biology, and have been a past RPR for over three decades, and my experience in the reporting profession spans almost four and a half decades.

My second article has to do with becoming a creative writer, minimizing strokes and enjoying your daily tasks as a working court or deposition reporter, captioner, secretary, or whoever else that may be using a stenographic means of capturing the spoken word.

I will also write about and preach certain stress busters that every working reporter can use in their daily lives to increase productivity, avoid burnout and take complete control over busy schedules, deadlines and motor mouth speakers.

As written previously by yours truly; when I was introduced to the steno machine in school, I decided that I was going to make it easy on myself and try to write as many short forms (briefs), abbreviations and phrases I could to become a proficient reporter in less time than my peers. Guess what? I did, and it worked.

Throughout my thirty two years of being a working reporter, I have used many of these personal tricks of the trade to stay on top of the game, ahead of the curve and very rarely miss a word.... It's not whether you might drop in a heated discussion or argument... but it's how much you will drop that counts. And now, with the audio-synching writing machines,

there is no reason to fret and let these times ruin your day, shake your confidence and lower your self-esteem.

In the days before all of these luxuries and high-technology reporters would have their temples pound like a tympani drum, have hot flashes and get short-circuited in the gray matter, and possibly get finger-tied for a couple seconds.

The more mature reporters among us know the feeling. Trust me; to a fine and competent reporter, who valued a verbatim record, these times were stressful and damaging to our egos for a time.

Now let us segue into the creativity attendant to reporting; the power of the brain; concentration; retention; your reflexes and manual dexterity. I am going to spew out a couple of strokes that I have used in my writing style. By no means am I telling anyone reading this to totally change the theory you have been taught, but little nuances and post-it notes on the top of your writing machine can go a long way to make your very difficult task a bit easier in no time.

Here are some strokes that I would like you to not only consider, but I think, if you can easily grasp them, you will happily, and without hesitation, incorporate them into your long-term memory and permanent dictionary.

My first phrase is OUFBDZ. Now, you probably have no idea what that stands for, but if you were a "sports" captioner,

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You've Got to Get in the Game

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interesting that every year, at the end of our presentation, he's invited us back to speak to next year's class.

Our skillset really is impressive and unique. We need to keep sight of that and remember to bring a bit of self-confidence and self-esteem to the job every day. Stenographers are still the only ones who can capture the spoken word and instantly turn it into text. Unlike audio and video recordings, only a live reporter can quickly and accurately produce searchable, printable text.

On a more global level, in addition to the traditional aspects of court reporting, opportunities for Real-Time writers are increasing. Because of legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, mandating equal access to information for deaf and hearing impaired Americans, and the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which mandates that the top 25% of media outlets nationwide must provide closed-captioning or risk being hit with escalating penalties in the tens of thousands of dollars, more job opportunities are becoming available.

The Hispanic broadcasting market is rapidly expanding, and at present all captioning for this programming is being provided by overseas companies. The opportunity is just beginning for Spanish-speaking students and existing reporters to become closed-captioners as the demand grows and those jobs start becoming available here in the U.S. A stenographic language for Real-Time writing in Spanish has already been created and is currently being taught online.

A colleague recently said, "Maybe it's time to change the face of what we do. Maybe 'stenographer' is an outdated title and we should start calling ourselves Instantaneous Voice-to-Text Technicians." And maybe she's right. Maybe we've reached the top of one level and it's time to take it to the next level. But in order to do that, you've got to get in the game.

In addition to improving your equipment and skills, networking with other professional groups and being the only court reporter in the crowd is a subtle way to grow professionally. Being the only PTA mom or dad who is a court reporter or the only reporter who serves on a local community board or citizen's watch group is a great way to interact with people who are always fascinated by what we do and a great way to start building relationships that may lead to unknown opportunities later. You never know whose husband or wife or son or daughter or sister or brother is an attorney and a potential new client.

Attending events and fundraisers for local politicians is an extremely valuable networking tool and oftentimes serves as an opportunity to engage in discussion where you can advocate for the profession and create allies. And you're bound to meet a lawyer or two in the group who just might be looking for a great court reporter.

Team-building is an important aspect of ensuring our future success, and interacting with your colleagues and making constant efforts to recruit them in order to build our FCRA team is another opportunity to get in the game.

One of my last acts as FCRA president was to attend NCRA Legislative Boot Camp in Washington, D.C., along with Vice President Lori Bundy, Secretary Sharon Velazco, and Past President now NCRA board director Rick Levy, where we received comprehensive and effective training on how to successfully lobby and advocate for whatever our issue may be. Then we actually went to Capitol Hill to lobby for a court-reporting specific issue: the reauthorization of the Training for Real-Time Writers Grant as part of the Higher Education Act.

In doing so, we four average-citizen court reporters from Florida met with Congresswoman Ileana-Ros Lehtinen and several legislative aides of other Florida members of congress and senators at the same time as other average-citizen court reporters from across the country were meeting with their congressional representatives and senators.

To say that was an experience that left me in complete awe does not do it justice, and at the end of the day, what resonated most with me was one of my favorite Margaret Meade quotes that was highlighted in our training: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

That day on the Hill, we advocated, furthered awareness and formed legislative allies. And as we identified closed-captioning happening right there on their television screens and explained that that was all being done by court reporters, their look of fascination and interest reminded me once again just how cool our job really is and how impressed everyone is by what we do. Of course, we left with no guarantees, but we certainly created a positive impression and definitely shed some light on the importance of keeping the grant in the HEA.

As part of our Hill day, NCRA board member and congressional court reporter Michele York invited us to come observe as she reported a congressional hearing. About a dozen of us sat there and watched the process, and I was filled with such a sense of pride to see the court reporter right up at the front, playing an integral role in the process. As I watched her sitting there so professionally poised and gracefully writing the important proceedings before an appropriations committee, as they heard testimony on issues related to healthcare for our armed forces, I was so inspired

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Dear Anonymous Person Who Nominated Me for Board Service:

Thank you.

The FCRA Annual Convention in Clearwater Beach in June will mark the end of my service on the FCRA Board of Directors. It was a little over seven years ago that you threw my name in the hat to serve this great association. It came as quite a surprise to me. Although I had been a long-time member of FCRA, I had never contemplated becoming a part of the board nor thought I had the talent or leadership skills to help run a statewide organization. It may have seemed like a small gesture to you at the time, but your belief in me set me on a seven-year path that has enriched my life tremendously and allowed me to serve a profession I love. I am extremely grateful.

I write this letter not only to thank you but, also, to encourage others to provide that same nudge to someone they know by nominating them to the FCRA Board of Directors. One of my last duties as immediate past president is to chair the FCRA Nominating Committee. I love the fact that my last focus of board service will be one of looking to the future and helping to select the people who will evolve into the association's leaders of tomorrow.

I can remember my first board meeting as if it were yesterday. I felt like the Nominating Committee must have made a mistake. I didn't know anything. What could I possibly contribute? If anyone had told me then that I would help lead one of the biggest fundraising efforts in FCRA history that would allow us to fight for reporters in Tallahassee, I wouldn't have believed it. If they had said I would help to create a website from scratch or learn how to advocate for the court reporting profession in Washington, D.C., and Tallahassee, I

would have been incredulous. If anyone had told me I would be helping to put on FPR seminars that work to raise the quality of reporting in Florida, I would have done my best Amy Poehler SNL impression — “Really!?!” And if they told me I would one day stand up and address the membership as FCRA president, I probably would have fainted on the spot.

The most enriching part of board service by far, however, has been the friendships I have made around the state and country. My fellow board and committee members, past and present, have been my inspiration, my role models, and my sanity. I leave my board service a stronger person, a better communicator, more connected to my fellow colleagues, and more in love with our wonderful profession.

What I didn't realize when you nominated me was that I didn't need to have the most talent or the best leadership skills; I just needed to have passion, dedication, and a servant's heart. Leadership skills evolve by watching and learning from those ahead of us on the continuum. Board service has taught me leadership skills and so many other lessons that I may never have acquired had it not been for your “small” gesture of throwing my name in the hat.

Thank you.

*Holly Kapacinskas, RPR, CRR, FPR
FCRA Immediate Past President*

You've Got to Get in the Game

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by the fact that our United States government chooses to utilize stenographers to report these high-priority proceedings, as well as so many other aspects of the operation of our government. Another compelling reminder that ours is the preferred methodology.

After soaking up all that I've experienced and witnessed as your president this past year, and having worked with such a devoted, insightful, positive-thinking, creative board, I have never felt more exhilarated about the future of reporting globally and locally, and I wish I could bottle my exhilaration and give it to each and every one of you as my parting gift.

But instead I will end by saying, being in this role has been an exceptional and fulfilling exercise in personal growth. I have formed strong friendships for life and I have been so deeply enriched by all of it. I will continue to eagerly serve FCRA in any way I can, and I offer my assistance to everyone if there is ever anything I can do to help you accomplish your goals. I infinitely admire all of you for the skill that you possess, and I wholeheartedly wish you every success in making an effort to get in the game!

Fondly,
Rosa Naccarato, FPR, President

Nominations for Arlene P. Sommers Award for Outstanding Achievement in Education

- Has an outstanding educator played a role in your reporting career?
- As a student, has a teacher's leadership and dedication helped motivate you to achieve your goals?
- Has a fellow teacher's example helped you to become a better teacher?
- As an administrator, do you want to show your appreciation and admiration for your outstanding educator?

If so, you have the opportunity to see that that teacher is given the recognition he or she deserves by nominating him or her for the Arlene P. Sommers Award for Outstanding Achievement in Education. (Guidelines are set forth below.)

Nominations must include biographical data that lists outstanding achievements in and out of reporting, the number of years in reporter education, special interests and talents,

publications and awards, etc. Humorous stories about your nominee are also appreciated.

Nominations must be received by Christy Bradshaw, christyb@fcreporting.com or by fax: 407-774-6440 by APRIL 29, 2016. Students, fellow faculty members, administrators, or FCRA members are all eligible to submit nominations.

Arlene P. Sommers Award for Outstanding Achievement in Education

I. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Those teachers, tutors, or administrators engaged in a court reporting educational program in the State of Florida approved by the award committee, or any other person who has made a significant contribution to the education of court reporting students.

II. NOMINATIONS

- To be emailed to Christy Bradshaw, christyb@fcreporting.com, Committee Chair for forwarding to the Arlene P. Sommers Award Committee.
- Nominations must be received no later than April 29th.
- Nominations may be made by teacher, student, school administrator, or by any member of FCRA.
- Nomination to be in letter/resume format, accompanied by support documentation.

III. SELECTION

Nominations to be considered by the Arlene P. Sommers Award Committee by the June Board meeting, and the selection is to be made by the committee with the approval of the FCRA Board.

IV. AWARD

- Recommendation by the committee to FCRA Board to select the recipient.
- The recipient will receive, in addition to the monetary gift, a physical award.
- Recipient of this award and the school shall be notified no fewer than 30 days prior to the announcement/presentation of the award at the Annual Convention, if possible. If not, notification can be made by mail immediately following the Annual Convention.
- Free Convention registration for recipient.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2016-2017

President-Elect (One-year term beginning 6/18/2016)	Northern Director (Two-year term beginning 6/18/2016)
Vice President (One-year term beginning 6/18/2016)	Southern Director (Two-year term beginning 6/18/2016)
Secretary (One-year term beginning 6/18/2016)	Director-At-Large (One-year term beginning 6/18/2016)
Treasurer (One-year term beginning 6/18/2016)	Director-At-Large (One-year term beginning 6/18/2016)

Qualifications and qualities to look for in potential FCRA officers and directors:

LEADERSHIP

1. Interest
 - a. Concern
 - b. Conviction
 - c. Dedication
2. Objectivity
3. Decision Making Capabilities
4. Knowledge and experience
5. Reliability
6. Ability to inspire

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAITS

1. Courtesy
2. Humility
3. Friendliness
4. Tact and diplomacy

ABILITY

1. Communication skills
2. Initiative
3. Professional image
4. Maturity
5. Association experience

I recommend the following FCRA member for consideration as a potential candidate for service on the FCRA Board of Directors:

Candidate Name: _____

Board position I think this candidate is best qualified for (optional): _____

I support the candidate for the following reasons:

May the Nominating Committee contact you by phone if further information is needed about the candidate?

- Yes Office Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
- No

FCRA Member Name _____ Date _____

Please submit your nominations to Holly Kapacinskas at hollykap@att.net no later than April 15, 2016.

[Submit by Email](#)

[Print Form](#)

(Please complete this form for additional potential candidate recommendations.)

Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award

The Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award shall be bestowed by FCRA upon a person who possesses exceptional qualifications and experience in the field of shorthand reporting, while contributing in a meritorious manner to the welfare of FCRA; and has served the Association in at least two (2) of the following categories:

- (1) Served the Association with active participation on committees and/or on the Board of Directors of the state association.
- (2) Contributed to the profession in areas of teaching, editing of publications or other contributions which have been designed for the advancement of shorthand reporting.

- (3) Contributed important books, papers or other written material dealing with the profession.
- (4) Contributed seminars for the state association for members, such seminars having received the approval of BAPR for continuing education points.
- (5) Aided in the advancement of the profession by working in liaison with The Bar, the media, judicial groups, and/or educational institutions.

Please submit all nominations to Christy Bradshaw, christyb@fcreporting.com by April 29, 2016, to be awarded at the 2016 Annual Convention.



Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award Nomination Form

*Deadline is
April 29, 2016!*

I, _____, hereby nominate _____
to receive FCRA's EMDSA Award for the following reasons: (Please include criteria nominee has met. Use separate page if necessary.)

Mail this form to Christy Bradshaw, RPR, FPR, EMDSA Committee Chair,
201 North Magnolia Ave • Ocala, FL 34475
Email: christyb@fcreporting.com • **DEADLINE: APRIL 29, 2016**

Court Reporting Can be Fun, and a Highly Creative Task!

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you could use it for the phrase “out of bounds.” OUF=out of/BDZ=bounds. I used it many times when practicing football games... Which happen to be great for numbers and names. So there you have a three syllable phrase written in one stroke, and it makes sense.

They say the average human reflex time is .3 seconds... although I believe reporters have shaved a fraction of a second here and there just by nature of dutifully practicing high-speed tapes, or the news, or four-voice proceedings, just as an example.

Taking the theory one step further, if you can write three words in .2 to .25 seconds, how many words... using creativity and a set system.... can you actually tally up in one full second? Five? Seven? Maybe 8-9? That could easily work out to Certificate of Merit speeds or maybe even a speed champion.

Another creative and useful stroke I have used many times is THIFG. THIV-ING. Can you guess what it is if I stated that it was a yearly holiday when we usually eat turkey? TH=Thanks/IFG=giving. MEMD=Memorial Day; LAIBD-Labor Day. And for those devil's advocate naysayers, if MEMD is “memorialized” or “memorized,” then just add a half stroke asterisk. The same for LAIBD LAIB=Labor/D=day. If you might use it for “labored,” so just keep the keys down and half stroke an asterisk with your right index finger. It works fine. Try it! Write these words out a few times, in rapid fire, and write the whole kit and kaboodle on a post-it and let it sink in.

It should be noted, so as not to get confused, that when you write with the asterisk the longer iteration of the phrase/brief should be entered in your mind and permanent dictionary. When you see the asterisk, it means more, more equals phrase, brief. By using this method, the confusion factor will not enter into the equation.

I can speak from experience on this subject; for it was relayed to me by the Stenograph Corporation that my 160,000 entry dictionary contained less three-strokers than anybody they had seen that needed a repair or some other work on a master dictionary.

Now I am going to throw out some more, just for good measure, and I will not give the answers, but you can supply them by submitting them in the next edition of the FCRA

magazine. They are: AULD; FOURTD; SUPT; THAUFD; LEM-SKUTH; QWAUB;THAETD; THAINTD;AOEUGSZ; THAUKD; JAIND; JOEVRD. There they are... a dozen magical short forms/briefs, abbreviations and phrases that come up mostly E*FRD (every day). Lets see how well you do. And no cheating.... LOL. They must come from your mind.

Now a little relaxation. As most of you know by now... or will come to learn... reporting is a fairly stressful undertaking. That is not to say that reporters cannot manage this burden, but it does have to be considered and reckoned with. Pilates, photography, running, walking, paddle boarding, meditation, acupuncture, massages, chiropractic adjustments, boating, swimming, hobbies and interaction with your peers is of utmost importance. Get together and tell your war stories and your proud accomplishments. Trade writing styles, have a glass of light wine... get out there, and do not be a shut-in.

My old friend and reporter, Carl Daitch... in reporter heaven now.... had a wife who was a travel agent. She advised me that at the most, 90 days of the reporting life was enough time between taking long weekends, or getting away from the grind. I found out she was spot on in her assessment. A nice 3-4 day cruise can be a great way to unwind. Work it into your schedule. It most definitely is necessary.

I would also caution all reporters against excessive drinking, smoking weed too much and too often, definitely lay off recreational drugs, try to work out, eat right and get enough REMS. If you walk into a proceeding in a compromised state, you'll most likely make a compromised record.

So, in closing, I hope you will report smarter, use creativity, cut down on your strokes and use a writing style and system that works for you. Remember, if you take a split second to think how to write any word, you're already behind the eight ball. Stay ahead of the curve. Network, go to the FCRA seminars and conventions... even go national if it moves you. And do not forget about charging those batteries every day and night and take sojourns that you are interested in.

Well, it's 5:05 a.m., and time to practice what I preach. Good luck to all, and happy reporting for all during your whole career.

Student Corner

By Robin Merker, RPR, FPR

As I sit writing this article – and today's the deadline for it! – I am in a hospital waiting room. When I was in school so much discussion centered on taking hearings and trials in court, and depositions in lawyers' conference rooms. Sometimes we discussed meetings of various types that would need to be reported. However, the reality is so varied, that I never know where I'll find myself from one week to the next! So, as a heads up, here's where you may find yourself taking depositions and statements outside of what you'd probably think of: Schools, hospitals, doctors' offices, jails, private homes – including a particular expert who insists all depositions be taken at his residence! Restaurants, gas stations – yes, really! Pharmacies, condo clubhouses – hopefully you'll have a nice view of the water while you're writing. And the list goes on and on.

So be prepared – have tip money in case you need to use valet parking. Make sure you have ID with you and not in the car, because hospitals now require it and for those of you who wear high heels, you don't want to slog back into the wilds of the parking lot just to retrieve it! Carry something to eat with you – that morning depo that you thought was a basic

witness and two attorneys could turn out to be all day with seven attorneys who don't want to take a long enough lunch break to enable you to get something to eat. Unfortunately, that's a scenario that happens more than we'd like – the not getting to eat lunch part, not the seven attorneys – sorry!

So as you begin your Fantastic Journey as court reporters – be flexible, be prepared, and carry a sense of humor with you everywhere!

And there's no better way to kick start your own Fantastic Journey than by joining us at FCRA's Annual Convention. It's just around the corner, and that means great opportunities to learn, connect, and have fun! You can immerse yourself in your future profession as you start your own Fantastic Journey!

*P.S. Whether you're sitting for the FPR, or getting some software training Friday, you'll have time to attend the 2nd Annual FCRA Student Luncheon. Join your FCRA Board of Directors and members of the Court Reporting Schools Committee for nourishment and encouragement – we promise you a good helping of both!



Join us June 17-19, 2016 at the FCRA Annual Convention for a weekend of focused instruction, continuing education, and professional development. Beginning on Friday morning you will be immersed in all things court reporting. You can choose to attend our all-day software trainings such as What's New in Case CATalyst Version 17, Tips for Experienced Case CATalyst Users, Wine Down Friday - Tips for Beginner and Intermediate Case CATalyst Users, Eclipse Software Training, ProCAT Software Training or attend our one-day seminar which will cover Florida's Rules of Court as they apply to court reporters in depth, as well as showing how the NCRA Advisory Opinions apply. Immediately after the class you may sit for the voluntary certification exam to earn your FPR designation. Cap off your day with our

Realtime Contest and Reporter Networking Happy Hour. The rest of the weekend is jam packed with exciting and relevant topics such as Going for the Gold - Nancy Varallo, Information Exchange, Cybersecurity and Breaches: How to Practice Good Cyber Hygiene - Sri Sridharan, Reporting on Capitol Hill: Witnessing History in the Making - Edward H. Johnson, The Journey to Health & Wellbeing - Lindsay Orth and Meghan Nowlin, and Unleashing the Realtime Superstar in You - J. Edward Varallo.

The convention will be held at the Hilton Clearwater Beach in Clearwater Beach, Florida. To register and for more information go to www.fcraonline.org or call 407-774-7880.

FCRA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

(Includes all members who joined as of April 6, 2016)

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

NAME	CITY	SPONSOR
Harris, Leila	Santa Rosa Beach	Freida Williams
Tropia, Diane	Jacksonville	Susan Wasilewski

STUDENT MEMBER

Merker, Sarah	Lake Worth	Robin Merker
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ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Quevedo, Susan	Fort Myers	Susan Wasilewski
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Musings from Vana Lou

Convention Anticipation

By: Sharon Velazco

While my mommy's busy writing
 about cases so exciting,
 I barely can refrain from biting
 her ankles to get attention.
 I see her face of concentration
 As she re-reads with some elation
 a witness's testimony (or fabrication),
 things I wish that I could mention.
 I'd truly love to share her stories,
 some tales of woe or boastful glories,
 but instead, I sit here, filled with worries,
 and quivering with restless tension,
 because flowers and bushes await my smelling,
 and that's more interesting than any retelling
 of private proceedings (although I'm willing)
 to attend FCRA's convention!
 And there you all I will regale
 with a funny story or sordid tale.
 so to see you all would sure be swell --
 If I could just get my mom's attention!





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.

I hereby make application for membership in the Florida Court Reporters Association and pledge myself, if accepted, to abide by the requirements of the Bylaws and Code of Professional Responsibility of the Association as they are now and as they may be amended in the future.

I understand that all applications are subject to review and approval by FCRA. All applicants must be sponsored by an FCRA member in good standing per FCRA bylaws.

Signature of Applicant Date

Name of Sponsoring Member (Please print or type)

How did you hear about FCRA? Code: _____ Other: _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED FOR:

Membership Dues \$ _____

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

One-year subscription
 to Florida Manual Updates
 ___ 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.

For Administrative Use Only

Date Rec'd _____ Ref # _____ Amount _____

Date Approved _____ Computer _____

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

Rev 11/2014



Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Form

Participating Membership Only

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

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

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

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

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

Member Name: _____

Member Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

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

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

Signature

Payment Method:

Master Card Visa American Express

Submit by Email

Billing Address: *(If different from above)*

Print Form

Account #: _____ Exp Date: _____

Cardholder's Name / Signature

Payment plan effective 10/20/13 for Participating Members only.