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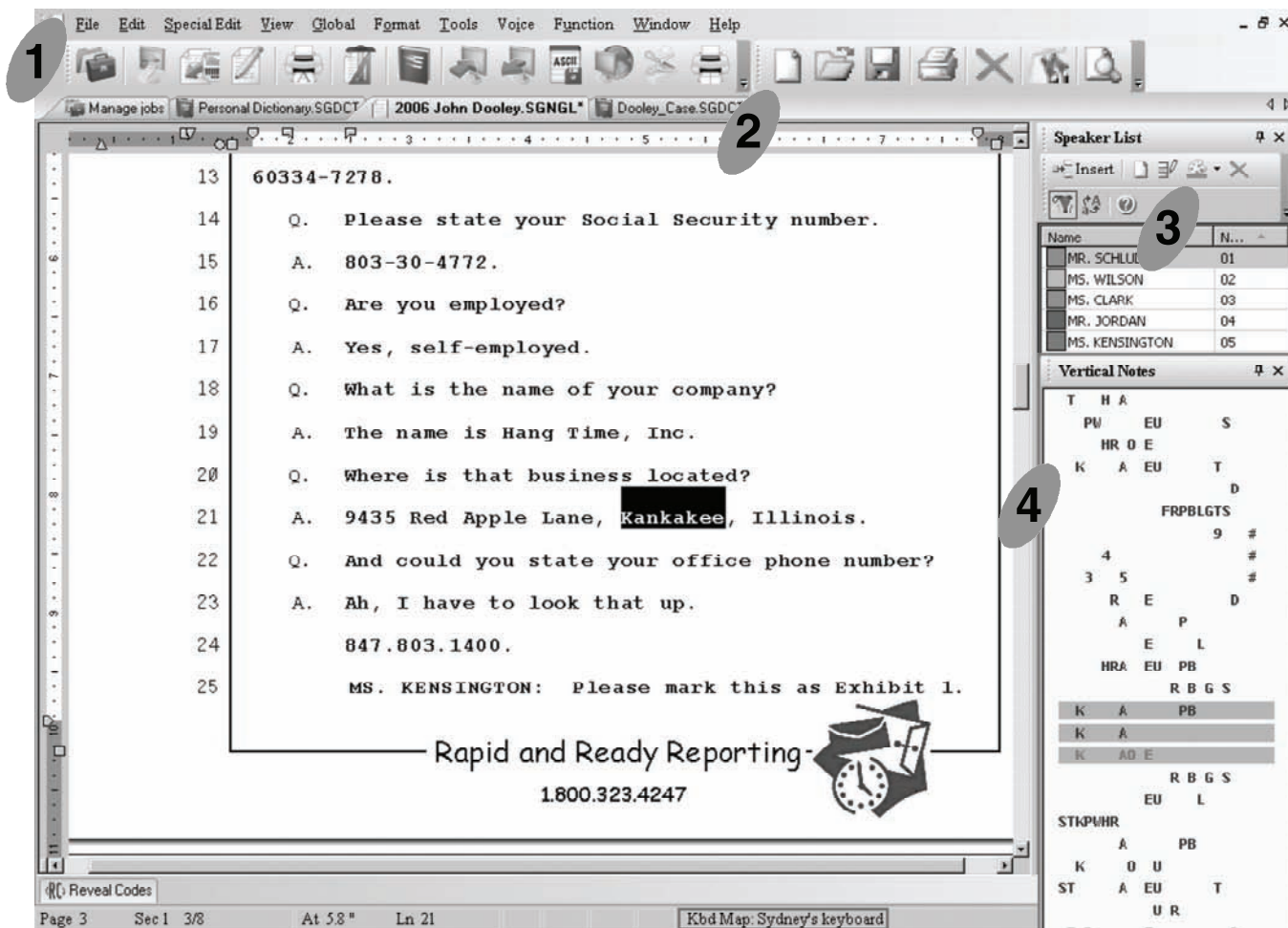
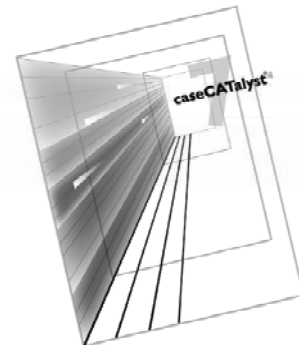
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By Teresa Durando, 2005-2006 President



A Vision Evolves Into Reality

What an exciting year. I can't believe my term has come to an end...not quite, but this is the last time I will write as President of FCRA. The year has been a busy one, but much has been accomplished.

In September of 2005 I wrote of having a vision of a stronger Association with more members. In July of 2006 we had 130 new members. On a more somber note, we had 119 non-renewals. Hopefully that's a trade-off we don't have to accept and we will continue to strive to bring that non-renewal number down.

I had a vision for a more knowledgeable and informed Association. We now have 176 new Florida Professional Reporters (FPRs) with a final 2006 certification being offered in Ocala at the Annual Convention. Congratulations to all of you!

I would like to extend a special thanks to Shirley King, who spearheaded this effort and without whose tremendous energy and knowledge of rules and ethics, the reality of this vision would not be realized.

Shirley, along with Judy Everman and Jennifer Gaul, rewrote, revised and updated the new *Florida Manual*, then prepared the course material, instructed and issued the inaugural FPR test. Cindy Bender, Paulita Kundid, and Susan Wasilewski soon joined the team of course instructors.

We're now looking for additional instructors. If you've passed the FPR and would like information on becoming part of the instructor team, please contact the FPR Oversight Committee Chair, Jennifer Gaul, at jgaul@uslegalsupport.com.

The new electronic *Florida Court Reporter* made its debut in June. What a coming out! The online magazine is spectacular. The color is a real enhancement. The editor, Louise Pomar, along with FCRA Headquarters staff members Elaine York and Wyn Bryant, worked tirelessly to turn this into a reality. The feedback from the membership has been extremely positive. This is a way for FCRA to provide the membership with more

up-to-date material. I'm sure Louise would enjoy hearing your comments on this electronic publication. She can be reached at lbp1958@aol.com.

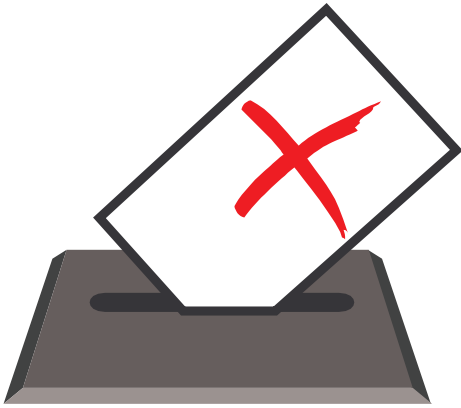
The Legal Aid of Broward County pro bono program is up and running. This is one of the ways FCRA is giving back to the local legal communities. In June the CART Committee, through Chair Tanya Ward English, provided CART services to The Florida Bar Judicial Luncheon pro bono and is looking forward to promoting this partnership in the future. You can earn FPR CEUs by providing pro bono services to an FCRA-approved pro bono program. This is something everyone can participate in with minimal effort and a maximum amount of satisfaction. Please contact the FPR Pro Bono Committee Chair, Deanna Boenau, at americaption@comcast.net, or visit FCRA's website at fcraonline.org for more information.

As you all can tell, this has been an exciting year! When I joined the FCRA Board of Directors in 1999 — for a one-year term — I never thought I would take the path to President. I never felt I was one of "those people" who could lead and effectuate change. But through the learning process of the Board and also the leadership training seminars provided by NCRA, I was able to succeed.

YOU can accomplish this, as well. It's time to get involved. Find a committee of interest to you and volunteer. You need not possess any special abilities, just the desire to give a little time and make a difference. In the process, hopefully it will have a positive impact on your personal life and build self-esteem. President Elect Cathy Phillips is looking for volunteers for the 2006/2007 year. Please contact her at cjphillips111@aol.com to sign up today.

Space will not allow me to thank everyone whose support and hard work made my vision a reality for all, but to the Board of Directors, Tina, Marna and staff at FCRA Headquarters, committee chairs and members, thanks for being part of a winning team!

By Louise Pomar, RPR, FPR, FCR Online Editor



Cast an Educated Vote!



There is a very important proposed bylaws change that we members will be voting on at our Annual Convention, October 27-29, in Ocala, Florida. As if you haven't seen it in print enough times by now, I feel compelled to give you the language one more time. The proposed bylaws change reads as follows: "ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP, SECTION 1. Definition: Membership in the Association shall be open to individuals who subscribe to and support the purposes of the Association and who are skilled in the area of verbatim reporting of proceedings by the use of shorthand method, either manually, by stenographic machine or mask/voice writing technology, as hereinafter provided."

Kanabay Harvey's article entitled "Revolution? Or Evolution?" presents her viewpoint, as well as others, in favor of voting for the proposed bylaws change. The article entitled "Excerpts from 2001 NCRA Convention —Proposed Bylaws Change Re: Voice Writers" expresses viewpoints in opposition of the proposed bylaws change that was being considered on the national level when deciding whether or not to make voice writers members of NCRA. I hope that you will find these articles food for thought in looking at both sides of this most important issue that we will be voting on in October. Join us at the convention in Ocala and make your vote count!

What I have attempted to do as editor is give you some thought-provoking viewpoints on the "pros" and "cons" of this proposed bylaws change. Donna

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR 2006

September 30..... LiveNote/RealLegal CLR Training Seminar, Orlando, FL. Contact Tim Nelson, tnelson@reallegal.com; 888-584-9988

October 27 Florida Rules & Ethics Certification Seminar, The Hilton Ocala, Ocala, FL (Before the Annual Convention). Contact FCRA Headquarters, 407-774-7880.

October 27 - 29..... FCRA Annual Convention, The Hilton Ocala, Ocala, FL. Contact FCRA Headquarters, 407-774-7880.

November 4..... RPR/RMR/RDR/CRR/CBC/CCP/CLVS Exam Day

Please notify Louise Pomar, Editor, lbp1958@aol.com, of any upcoming events that you would like to appear in the "Upcoming Events Calendar."

FCR Online Deadline Dates

Oct/Nov/Dec..... Oct. 5, 2006

Publication Date..... Oct. 15, 2006

Jan/Feb/Mar..... Jan. 5, 2007

Publication Date..... Jan. 15, 2007

Apr/May/June Apr. 5, 2007

Publication Date..... Apr. 15, 2007

July/Aug/Sept..... July 7, 2007

Publication Date..... July 17, 2007

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On the National Scene...

Reprinted from the April 16, 2004, edition of the Orlando Sentinel

OPINION

Raise interpreter standards

Our position: Reliable translations in court increase the chances of justice for all.

Suppose you're in criminal court and you want to plead guilty to stealing a toolbox but not the \$125,000 dump truck.

You enter your plea in your native language — Spanish — and an interpreter translates for the judge. But the translations are confusing and you get sentenced for the wrong crime.

It happened in Volusia County and without state standards to govern how court interpreters do their jobs it could just as easily happen in Lake County.

Two bills working their way through the state Legislature propose to set statewide standards for court interpreters. The effort is crucial to ensuring justice for all court users, regardless of their ability to speak English.

Thousands in Lake County need the assurances such standards would bring. A 2004 U.S. Census survey showed that an estimated 19,471 Lake residents, or about 7.8 percent, speak a language other than English at home. Census statistics also show that in Lake 5,914 residents, or about 3 percent, speak English less than "very well."

If the measures pass, interpreters could be required to pass a test, meet continuing education requirements and sign an oath agreeing to uphold a code of conduct — improvements that would help preserve the integrity of the courts.

Applicants would likely be charged a fee to become certified and to renew that certification. Also, the state would be authorized to hire workers for the program. But courts have an obligation to provide interpreters for indigent defendants to protect their due process and equal protection rights. The cost of not doing so is much higher than what the state and interpreters

might shell out to adhere to standards.

Currently, the state court system offers oral tests for interpreters who speak Spanish, Haitian Creole, Russian, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Arabic, Polish, Korean, Hmong, Laotian, and Mandarin. But a passing score nets only a certificate of qualification, not certification. And the tests aren't mandatory in some circuits.

Practices vary among the Florida courts regarding regulation of court interpreter services. Some larger circuits do well with a broad network of capable interpreters at the ready, but statewide standards would make it easier to have good interpreters in all judicial circuits.

It wouldn't be a perfect system. There could be some rarely spoken languages for which there would be no tests. Still, some minimum standards would be better than none.

The circuit that includes Lake has no staff interpreters. Instead, it largely contracts with freelancers and, based on positive past experiences, hopes for the best.

State standards would give the circuits something much more concrete to rely on than hope.

FCRA Editor's Note: See related article entitled "Inmate Happy to See New Court Interpreter Law" on page 8.

FCR Online Contributing Editors

Donna Kanabay Harvey

Shirley P. King

Catherine J. Phillips, RMR, CSMR, FPR

Richard A. Sherman (Ask Mr. Modem)



On the National Scene...

Reprinted from the July 3, 2006, edition of the Daytona Beach News-Journal

Inmate happy to see new court interpreter law

By Patricio G. Balona, Staff Writer

DELAND — Juan Ramon Alfonzo believes his five-year sentence is unfair because the state never proved he stole a dump truck.

But he considers his punishment bearable, mostly because his case prompted statewide changes concerning how court interpreters are hired.

During last month's trial, Assistant State Attorney Dennis Craig wanted Alfonzo to spend up to 30 years in prison for first-degree felony grand theft. But a jury found Alfonzo guilty of a lesser offense — third-degree grand theft — prompting Circuit Judge William A. Parsons to hand Alfonzo five years.

Despite his sentence, Alfonzo finds consolation because his case exposed the 7th Judicial Circuit's use of an unqualified interpreter for non-English speakers, he said by telephone from the Volusia County Branch Jail.

Earlier, Alfonzo was facing an any even bleaker fate.

The case of a botched interpretation — centered around the words "toolbox" and "dump truck" — caught the eyes of Florida legislators who passed a bill in May requiring court interpreters to be certified.

Gov. Jeb Bush signed the bill into law last week asking the Florida Supreme Court to set minimum standards and procedures for the certification, discipline and training of court interpreters.

And, on Thursday, the Florida Supreme Court obliged and announced it is adopting the Florida Rules for Certification and Regulation of Court Interpreters recommended by the Supreme Court Interpreter's Committee appointed in February 2003.

"I am certain they will now be very careful as to whom they drag in court as interpreters," Alfonzo said. "They will not want to go through the twists and turns again."

And Alfonzo's case did have its twist and turns.

In December 2004, Parsons sentenced him to 15 years in jail and 15 years' probation. But later that day, court officials learned that Marianne Verruno did not properly interpret for Alfonzo during his plea hearing in October 2004. Alfonzo thought he pleaded no contest to stealing a toolbox and was shocked when he discovered he was going to spend 15 years in state prison.

Verruno could not be reached for comment for this story and has declined to be interviewed for previous stories on Alfonzo's case.

Parsons reversed Alfonzo's sentence in December 2005 after a federally certified interpreter confirmed Verruno was not fluent in Spanish and that Alfonzo did not understand the proceedings.

Federally certified and qualified court interpreters are hailing Alfonzo's case as one that had a significant impact on lawmakers, said Agustin De La Mora, coordinator of the interpreters unit in the 9th Judicial Circuit, covering Orange and Osceola counties.

"It was a case that achieved notoriety," De La Mora said. "It brought to light the things that can happen when the judicial system does not have the manner to determine or verify the capacity of court interpreters."

Alfonzo had hoped his second chance in court would bring a not guilty verdict. During last month's trial, Craig told the jury the truck theft was planned and that someone drove Alfonzo to take the truck from the lot on International Speedway Boulevard near Daytona Beach. But the witness who saw the truck driving down Williamson Boulevard testified he did not see Alfonzo's pickup following the dump truck. The witness also said he did not see who was driving it.

Peter Ames, the attorney who defended Alfonzo, has filed an appeal. Because the case is not closed, Parsons declined to comment.

"Our appeal is because we feel we did not have sufficient time to investigate Mr. Alfonzo's case or we might have been able to refute the state's evidence



On the National Scene...

more completely," Ames said Friday. "I didn't think they proved their case. They did not have sufficient evidence to prove the charge of grand theft."

Claudia Villalba, Volusia County Courthouse Interpreters Unit supervisor and the first federally certified court interpreter hired by Volusia County, said the state Supreme Court's decision is good news. She is ensuring that interpreters are trained.

"It had to take a case like this to show the need," she

said in Spanish when she learned of the state Supreme Court's decision.

But despite all the positive changes occurring as he sits in jail, Alfonzo meditates on one thing: leaving prison to pursue a dream job.

"I am headed to Alaska to join the fishermen who go out and fish or catch crabs," Alfonzo said. "I need to make money to recover everything I lost during this ordeal."

Stenograph® Awarded Second U.S. Patent for Speche Communications®

On April 26, 2006, Speche Communications, a Stenograph company, was awarded its second U.S. Patent relating to its advanced textstreaming technology.

This latest patent (US 7,035,804) provides for the process of streaming text to the Internet; where the text is generated from a plurality of speech-to-text captioning software protocols, transmitted to the Internet without need for a serial redirecting device, and delivered to a parsing routine configured to automatically identify the file type and convert the protocol to any other, including ASCII or HTTP.

This newest patent supplements Speche Communication's original patent issued November 16, 2004 (US 6,820,055), whereby a text stream is delivered

via the Internet to a distinct and customizable viewing field, usually on a personal computer, separate from any multimedia player that may be streaming associated audio or video content. Combined, the two patents legally protect Speche's process for delivering text in realtime to anyone on the Internet.

In addition to contributions made to the legal and webcasting communities, Speche has become a fundamental component in addressing Rule 508 of the American Disabilities Act (ADA), providing equal access to the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities for content delivered via the Worldwide Web. The technology is being used by government agencies adhering to the ADA guidelines as well as by schools, businesses, and various other organizations.

Stenograph® Introduces Two New Student Writing Machines

On July 16, 2006, Stenograph, LLC, announced the addition of two new student-writing machines to their lineup of revolutionary products.

The two new student writers, the elan Cybra® and the Stentura Protege® will be unveiled on August 3, 2006, at the 2006 NCRA Convention in New York City, New York. "This is an evolutionary development of writing machines based on the success of the elan Mira® and the Stentura Fusion® machines," said John Wenclawski, President of Stenograph. Both the Mira and the Fusion have quickly become extremely popular in the court reporting community, and Stenograph hopes to build

upon that success with these new student writers that are modeled after them.

Both writers feature USB (Universal Serial Bus) connectivity and Bluetooth® wireless real-time. Also, the writers come with a one thousand dollar upgrade to a professional machine, which gives the student a great discount upon the completion of curriculum. "These writers give students the choice between a machine that uses paper, or a paperless model," Wenclawski continued. "Along with the choice between paper or paperless, there are other ways that students can personalize their machines."



On the National Scene...

Reprinted from the February 25-26 edition of the Waukegan, Ill., News-Sun

ER Gets Failing Marks in Illinois

The February 25-26 edition of the Waukegan, Ill., News-Sun reported that courts in Illinois are seeking reporters after many digital audio installations in various suburban Chicago counties were found to be inadequate replacements.

Staff writer Art Peterson wrote that court administrators had reduced court reporter staffing to minimum levels in many courts as electronic recording systems were installed.


"However, the technology has proven to be a failure

in some courts and mediocre in others, with bright spots only here and there, depending on which manufacturer's system is used." Peterson wrote, "On the McHenry County side of Circuit Court, half the courtroom systems were deemed failures; the Lake County side avoided installing the electronic systems.


"The Illinois Legislature recently removed court reporters from the oversight of the Supreme Court and shifted them to the chief judges of each circuit.

"Now the chief judges have the authority to bring staffing levels of human court reporters back up to at least adequate levels, and to use electronic recording where live court reporters are not available."

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Florida Court Reporters Association

PRO BONO PROGRAM

A GUIDE FOR REPORTERS

INTRODUCTION

For several years, studies have uncovered significant numbers of citizens who have civil legal needs they cannot pay for. Court reporters around the country are eager to help guarantee every citizen's right to equal justice under the law. To that end, the Florida Court Reporters Association has established a pro bono program.

WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED IN A PRO BONO PROGRAM?

Here are some possibilities: 1. Sometimes people need expert help. Reporters are experts who possess special skills. Your contribution can make a difference in whether or not someone less fortunate than you gets a fair shake from the legal system. 2. Pro bono work is widely recognized as a hallmark of true professionalism. You can help show that court reporters are responsible partners in the legal process. 3. You can make useful contacts in the course of your volunteer work. 4. It feels good.

I'VE DONE A DEPO HERE AND THERE ON A PRO BONO BASIS WITHOUT MAKING A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT. WHY SHOULD I BOTHER WITH THE FORMALITIES OF WORKING TOGETHER THROUGH A PROGRAM?

First, good for you! But there are a couple of reasons for working through a formal program. First, Bar programs screen civil pro bono applicants, so you're not likely to get burned. Second, working through a program gives you an "out" if you are approached directly by an attorney about doing a job free of charge. Third, a formal program gives us a way to track reporter participation and demonstrate our commitment.

WHAT ARE REPORTERS OFFERING IN THE WAY OF PRO BONO SERVICES?

The main reason for involving a reporter in any matter, of course, is to obtain an accurate record of a proceeding. In times past, a pro bono lawyer might have had to forego conducting depositions that would have been useful to his or her case because there was no money to pay for them. With reporters willing to contribute services at waived or reduced fees, pro bono attorneys have an added tool at their disposal to effectively pursue the cause of justice.

FCRA encourages reporters to volunteer whatever they feel comfortable contributing — a couple of hours a year, 50 transcript pages, waiver of appearance fee, or whatever. In any case, it is important for the reporter and the attorney involved in a particular case to know

what the reporter will be contributing so that no misunderstandings occur.

HOW CAN I BE SURE A LITIGANT IS TRULY INDIGENT?

FCRA encourages reporters to work only with established pro bono programs. Bar pro bono programs conduct thorough reviews of applicants to make sure they, in fact, qualify under the program's guidelines. After all, lawyers who contribute time and expertise do not like to be taken advantage of.

HOW OFTEN WILL I BE ASKED TO REPORT A PRO BONO PROCEEDING?

In general, you as a volunteer are in control of how much you choose to contribute. It's unlikely you will be asked to participate more than once a year. Encouraging your colleagues to participate is an effective way of ensuring the load is equally shared.

WHAT IF I RUN INTO A PROBLEM DURING A PRO BONO DEPOSITION?

Handle problems as you normally would. Then immediately report the matter to your pro bono coordinator.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE PARTY IS INDIGENT AND THE OTHER IS NOT?

You can charge normally for services provided to the non-indigent party.

IT ALL SOUNDS GOOD TO ME. WHERE DO I SIGN UP?

1. Fill out and return the pledge card.
2. Contact FCRA Headquarters at 222 S. Westmonte Drive, Suite 101, Altamonte Springs, Florida, 32714.
3. Contact the Pro Bono Coordinator, Deanna Boenau, americaption@comcast.net.

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. Work only through established pro bono programs.
2. CIVIL CASES ONLY.
3. Give only what you feel comfortable with and encourage colleagues to participate.
4. Fill out and return the evaluation form so that records may be maintained and credit given.

YOUR STATE COORDINATOR IS: Deanna Boenau, RDR, CRR, CBC, CCP, AmeriCaption, Inc., P.O. Box 50653, Sarasota, FL 34232, 941-359-8100 (office), americaption@comcast.net.



Florida Court Reporters Association

PRO BONO PROGRAM

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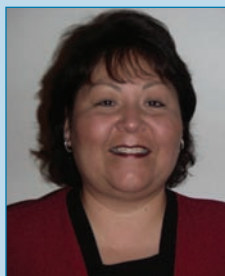
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Florida Court Reporters Association Nominating Committee Report

On June 2, 2006, the FCRA Nominating Committee, consisting of Rick Greenspan, Michael Wierzbicki, Robin Wierzbicki, Freida Williams, and Chair Louise Johnson met to interview the FCRA Board of Directors' candidates for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. After a day's worth of interviews and discussion, the 2006 Nominating Committee submits the following slate of nominees for consideration by the membership at the 2006 FCRA Annual Convention to be held at the Ocala Hilton, Ocala, Florida, on October 27 - 29, 2006:



PRESIDENT
Catherine Phillips, RMR, CMRS
Ocala, FL

Cathy earned an Associate in Business degree from Jones College, Orlando, Florida, in 1981. She worked for three years as a Deputy Official Court Reporter in Titusville, Florida. She moved to Ocala, Florida, in December of 1984 and has been a freelance reporter since that time.

Since 1988, Cathy, together with two partners, has been an owner of Accurate Reporting & Video Service, Inc. In 1999, she received her RMR designation and in 2005, she earned the CMRS. In January 2006, Cathy earned her FPR designation.

Cathy has worked on several FCRA local meetings and conferences held in the Ocala area. She was chair of the 2002 Mid-Year Conference, and served as Northern Director and Treasurer on the FCRA Board of Directors in the past, and currently serves as Vice President.



PRESIDENT-ELECT
Thomas Hughes, RDR, CRR
Plantation, FL

Thomas Hughes, RDR, CRR, graduated from the Stenotype Institute of Jacksonville in 1978 and has worked as a Deputy Official in the Felony Division of

the Circuit Court in Jacksonville, United States District Court in Columbia, SC, and has been a freelance reporter since 1985 in South Florida, and for two years he was a broadcast captioner for WPLG in Miami.

Thomas has served FCRA as a past Board member in the positions of Director At Large, Southern Director, and Secretary. He has served as Chairman of the Membership Committee, Testing Committee, FCRA Speed Contest Committee, a member of the Nominating Committee, and many other committees throughout the years.

Thomas has given seminars on realtime writing, realtime technology, medical reporting, how to pass the CRR Examination, mock CRR Examinations both for FCRA and STAR.

Thomas, presently, is the Chief Examiner for NCRA in Fort Lauderdale for the CRR Examination, and has served on NCRA's Realtime Contest Committee, Speed Contest Committee, and Test Verification Committee. He was also the Official Reporter for the NCRA 1997 National Convention in Orlando.



VICE PRESIDENT
Jennifer Gaul, CMRS, FPR
Aventura, FL

Jennifer graduated from Legal Career Institute in 1992 and started her court reporting career with Justice Reporting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as a freelance court reporter.

After the acquisition of Justice

Reporting by Esquire Deposition Services in 1998, Jennifer continued working as a court reporter until 1999 when she joined the management team of Esquire Deposition Services as Operations Manager. After being promoted to General Manager, Jennifer became a Certified Manager of Reporting Services through NCRA.

In April of 2003, Jennifer accepted the position of Vice President of Reporter Operations for Sclafani Williams Court Reporters in Tampa, Florida. She presently works for US Legal/Klein Bury.

Her service to FCRA includes past membership on several committees, Southern Director, and currently Jennifer serves as Treasurer.



SECRETARY
Sandy Narup, RPR, FPR
Port Orange, FL

Sandy graduated from Daytona Beach Community College with an Associate in Science degree in Court Reporting and began her reporting career in December 1989 with the firm of Narup, Vouvakis & Associates as a freelance and deputy official court reporter. She worked with Narup, Vouvakis for 14 years and currently is working for Volusia Reporting Company in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Sandy obtained her Registered Professional Reporter designation in May of 1997. She is also a Florida Professional Reporter.

Sandy has been a member of

Florida Court Reporters Association Nominating Committee Report

both the National Court Reporters Association and Florida Court Reporters Association her entire career. She has also been a member of the Society for the Technological Advancement of Reporting for over ten years.

Sandy currently is the Northern Director for FCRA, chairs the Fundraising Committee, as well as having served on the Membership Committee.



TREASURER
Susan Wasilewski, RPR, CRR, CMRS, FPR
Lakeland, FL

Susan obtained her court reporting training at Bay Area Academy of Business in Tampa, Florida, graduating in 1987. Prior to that, she attended St. Louis College of Pharmacy, the University of Central Florida, and Polk Community College in Winter Haven, Florida.

Susan's reporting experiences include civil and criminal trials, hearings, depositions, and private and public meetings. A realtime writer since 1994, she has provided realtime and CART services on many occasions. She and her family opened Wasilewski Court Reporting, LLC, in January of 2006. Other professional accomplishments include the successful completion of NCRA's Certified Manager of Reporting Services program, the Florida Professional Reporter course, as well as serving as a panel member providing FPR training. She is a certified RealLegal Binder Trainer, a Certified LiveNote Reporter, and enjoys providing Binder and LiveNote training to her clients.

Susan is a member of the National Court Reporters Association, the Society for the Technological

Advancement of Reporting, and the Florida Court Reporters Association. She joined FCRA's Board of Directors in 2002 and has served as Secretary for the association for three years.

A resident of Lakeland, Florida for over 25 years, Susan enjoys golfing with her husband, working alongside her family in the family business, and Florida's beautiful beaches.



CENTRAL DIRECTOR
Betty Sue Vincent, RDR, RPR, CRR, FPR, RMR
Gainesville, FL

Betty Sue's interest in court reporting began in 1965 at the end of her senior year in high school. Two students from the Jacksonville School of Court Reporting came to the high school and demonstrated machine shorthand and gave a speech about the profession. She was hooked.

In 1967, Betty Sue took her first job as a Deputy Official Court Reporter for the Fourth Judicial Circuit in Jacksonville, working for the firm of Dowling & Pattison. This firm covered all of the civil proceedings that came before the circuit judges and the capital felonies.

In 1977, Betty Sue moved to Gainesville to be a partner in a freelance firm. The partnership of Coffee & Vincent would last for another 18 years. In addition to working as a partner in the freelance firm, from 1979 to 1981 Betty Sue also took on part-time duties as an Official Court Reporter for the Eighth Judicial Circuit in Gainesville, covering felony depositions and court proceedings.

Betty Sue took a leave of absence from her Gainesville partnership for a total of eight years to

Proposed Bylaws Change

Paula Laws: I would like to make a motion that the board prepare a bylaws change of the membership definition to include voice writing, stenomask reporters, and I would ask that the Board prepare this motion or prepare the bylaws change and distribute it to the membership so that we can be educated on it, have discussion on it and be prepared to vote on it in June.

CURRENT BYLAW reads:

*ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP
Section 1. Definition. Membership in the Association shall be open to individuals who subscribe to and support the purposes of the Association and who are skilled in the area of verbatim reporting of proceedings by the use of shorthand symbols, manually or by machine, as hereinafter provided.*

PROPOSED BYLAW change to read:

*ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP
Section 1. Definition.: Membership in the Association shall be open to individuals who subscribe to and support the purposes of the Association and who are skilled in the area of verbatim reporting of proceedings by the use of a shorthand **method, either manually, by stenographic machine, or mask/voice writing technology,** as hereinafter provided.*

Nominating Committee Report (cont.)

accompany her husband to duty stations in New Orleans, Louisiana (1982 to 1985), Dallas, Texas (1985 to 1988), and Honolulu, Hawaii (1992 to 1994), where she worked as a court reporter. It was in 1982 that she first began using computerized translation.

In 1995, during a downturn in the industry, an opportunity came for Betty Sue and her partner to become full-time employees working as Judicial Court Reporters in Gainesville, to provide realtime translation to the judges and attorneys in criminal proceedings. Her position in the State Courts System was Manager of Court Reporting Services, responsible for the record in six counties, and the supervision of 17 employees: five Realtime Court Reporters, Eleven Digital Court Reporters and one Scopist. She retired from this position in 2006.

Betty Sue has been a member of NCRA and FCRA all of her career. She obtained the following certifications: Florida CSR in 1969, Certificate of Proficiency in 1972, Certificate of Merit in 1976, Louisiana CSR in 1983, Texas CSR in 1985, Hawaii CSR in 1992, Registered Diplomat Reporter in 1997, Certified Realtime Reporter in 1999, and Florida Professional Reporter in 2006.

Betty Sue and her husband, Lee, have four wonderful children: Rodney, Jeffrey, Julia and Wayne, and three terrific grandchildren: Lee, Jon and Jolene.

Hobbies include clogging, fishing, sewing, quilting, machine embroidery, and spoiling her grandchildren.

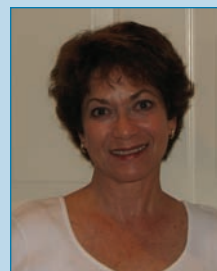


SOUTHERN DIRECTOR
Tanya Ward
English, RPR,
CRR, CCP, CBC
Fort
Lauderdale, FL

Tanya Ward English, originally from

Colorado, began reporting in 1986. She worked as an official reporter, a freelance reporter and was a founding partner in Florida Realtime Reporting and The Caption Crew. Tanya has extensive realtime experience in both litigation work and in working with the deaf. She received the FCRA Pro Bono award in 1995-96, and in 2004 was appointed by Governor Bush as the CART representative for the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, where she chairs the Information & Referral Committee. She also co-chaired the Licensure and Credentialing Task Force for Interpreters and CART Providers.

Tanya resides in Cooper City with her family and currently provides CART services primarily for deaf students in universities around South Florida. Tanya is a Certified Realtime Reporter, Certified CART Provider and a Certified Broadcast Captioner.



NORTHERN DIRECTOR
Susan Shelling,
RPR, CSR
Boynton Beach,
FL

Starting as a legal secretary in the late '60s Susan then began typing for court reporters. By 1974 she enrolled in reporting school, at night. While in school full-time and typing full-time, she started note reading.

After completing court-reporting school Susan worked in freelance, doing depositions, some work in Surrogate's Court in New York County, and then at Federal Court, Southern District of New York, where she did depositions, trials, hearings, and anything else that had to be done.

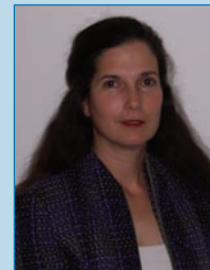
Susan became an Official Reporter in Supreme Court, in Brooklyn, New York, in 1982, where she remained for 12 years, reporting hear-

ings, trials, daily copy, whatever.

Carpal tunnel developed and Susan decided her days of writing three packs of paper a day and transcribing at night were over. Her husband, also a court reporter, decided to retire from Supreme Court, Brooklyn, and they moved to Florida in 1993, where they live with their three cats.

Initially Susan was scoping and teaching court reporting until her hands felt better, at which time she returned to free-lance reporting and is now working in Palm Beach County.

Susan holds the RPR from NCRA, and has most of her points towards a CM. She is also a CSR in New York.



DIRECTOR at LARGE
Robin Merker,
RPR, FPR
Lake Worth, FL

Robin Merker has worked as a freelance reporter in Florida for the past 21 years. She has also been a certified training agent for Stenograph for the past 3 years. Between the two, she is always working.

She holds a BA in English Literature from the University of South Florida and received her court reporting training from Charron Williams in Miami, Florida, and the Stenotype Institute in Hicksville, New York. She now has her FPR designation and has served one year as Director at Large for FCRA.

She is involved in her temple's new religious school and currently holds several positions, ranging from board member to president of the parent organization. She is married to Michael and they have 10 year old twin daughters, Sarah and Rachel, one dog, and two cats.

Her family looks forward to her involvement with FCRA as it will mean several trips away and everyone can use the break!

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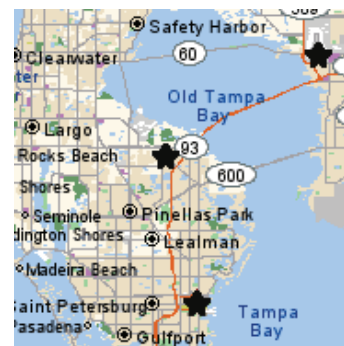
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By Donna Kanabay Harvey, RMR, CRR, EMDSA

Revolution? Or Evolution?

"I believe that we should include voice writers as members for the following reasons:

"Our schools, which have traditionally taught stenotypists, are teaching voice writers.

"Our problems are similar, if not the same.

"We have a certification law, and I believe it is important for them to have the knowledge to ensure some level of competency. The Supreme Court, long ago, told us there would be three forms of reporting recognized in the certification: Stenotypists, Voice and ER.

"There is a severe shortage of qualified stenotypists in the State of Florida.

"I have always been a proponent of constructive change. We can either sit by and let change surround us and take over, or we can embrace the change and be a part of making it healthy for the profession."

— Paula Laws, RPR, CMRS, FAPR, FCRA EMDSA; Past President FCRA; Past President NCRA; Originator of the 2006 motion to admit voice writers to FCRA.

In 2000, Jason Meadors of Colorado and I put forth a proposed amendment to the NCRA C&B to permit voice writers to apply for membership in our national association. We did so with the same beliefs that Paula enumerates, as well as for many other reasons. Jason and I felt uniquely qualified, individually and as a team, to speak to the issue.

Jason started his court reporting career in the Marines, where he was trained as a "stenomask" court reporter. In civilian life, having a family to support and understanding

the economic realities of the profession, he cross-trained to machine shorthand. In the late 90s, at an NCRA convention, he not only observed voice writer realtime technology, but tried it himself, using the "mask" for the first time in over 20 years. He was amazed to see even his rusty voice skills give him a passable translation. Further, he has always stated that the same exact mental processes are involved in speaking into the mask as in writing on the machine. Other court reporters we know who have practiced both methods agree.

Halfway across the country from Jason, in my family business in Florida, we had hired some voice writers, as we simply could not fill our courtroom contract with the available pool of machine writers, never mind good ones. While it was initially an act of desperation, we would not have done it if we did not have confidence in their skills. They sat in the same seats, produced the same transcripts, at the same rates, as our "real" court reporters — the machine writers.

To us, they are all just court reporters. Some of them were gold, some of them were brass. Just as with the many machine writers that have passed through our doors over the years.

Since the implementation of Article V, two years ago to the day as I write this, we have all seen the majority of our criminal courtrooms taken over not by the threatening voice writer, but by ER. And in most cases, it's not even "true" electronic recording — a method that has some validity, in certain venues, when done as advocated by its practitioners: One on one, with the operator in the courtroom, designating speakers, maintaining control, doing many of the mechanical tasks that court reporters have always been charged with. No, in many of our

circuits, the systems are remote — often monitored even offsite — with one operator/monitor responsible for four or more courtrooms. The monitors are even, sometimes, transcribing backlog while "monitoring" multiple courtrooms.

During the debates that led up to what Jason and I refer to as "The Battle of New Orleans," the vote on our proposed amendment at the 2001 national convention, one outspoken opponent of our motion stated that he would rather see ER take over our courts than grant voice writers admission to our national association. He said that eventually things would come full circle and that the courts would realize they'd made a terrible mistake and invite the live court reporter (presumably only stenographic) back in.

I asked him, "Where will they find these court reporters when they decide they want us back? Schools are closing left and right; the profession is shrinking; association membership is shrinking; reporters are leaving the profession because they can't make a living anymore as the market shrinks and becomes more competitive due to all these reporters who have been kicked out of their courtrooms. New students are not entering the schools because there's a smaller pie, largely because courtrooms are using fewer and fewer reporters. Where are all these reporters going to come from as our profession continues to spiral downward into oblivion?"

Well, he got his wish, at least in Florida. But I firmly believe that in one thing he was right: They'll come back. They always come back. ("They" being the court administrators.) Our profession, the profession of court reporting, needs to be ready for them when they do come back. If we limit ourselves, we will not have the resources from

Revolution? Or Evolution?

which to hire those live bodies to put back into courtrooms.

"Because speed-building may take less time, reporters in general will be seen as less skilled, with an attendant decline in salaries and fees. It's not really shorthand, and it's too easy to learn, so it must not be valid. It dilutes and demeans our practice and tradition. They're not as "good" as we are. They are a threat to reporting as we know it."

Sound familiar? These are some of the arguments that are often put forth by opponents to the idea of joining forces with different methods of keeping the record. However, these arguments were made in the 1910s and 20s when the newfangled stenograph machine made its appearance and the pen writers were "threatened" by them. The training period was shorter than for pen shorthand, and the machine writers so thoroughly trounced the pen writers at the national speed contests that the association actually voted to suspend the speed contest in 1927. The contests were not resumed until 25 years later, in 1952. By that time, of course, machine shorthand was mainstream, and the pen writers were dwindling in number.

Voice writers are now CAT-capable; they use the same software as we do; they are entering the CART and captioning markets. They are going through the same evolution from a manual means of producing the record (dictating and having the transcripts typed) to using CAT and then scoping their translation, or indeed "writing" in realtime. The final product is identical. It is a transcript.

My father used to tell me that the art of reporting was to be able to go into almost an autopilot mentality. "In the ears and out the fingers.

Don't let the brain slow you down." Voice writers work in exactly the same way. In the ears and out the mouth. Our pen-writing ancestors also wrote "in the ears and out the hand."

"If we don't change direction soon, we'll end up exactly where we're going." - Unknown

I personally know of two voice writers in Florida, former stenographic reporters, who are "in the closet" because they've had physical problems that forced them to stop writing on the machine. They were able to continue their chosen career by switching to voice writing. They continue to be members of, and support, FCRA and NCRA. But they know that if they are discovered, they will lose the privilege of membership in the associations they've belonged to all of their lives.

Any one of us could smash our hand in a car door tomorrow. I grew up in a court reporting family. I've worked at our family business all my life, and I intend to die working at our family business. I'm a court reporter. If, some day, I am forced to retrain to voice writing, I will still be the same court reporter I've been for nearly 30 years.

I believe that certification will someday be implemented in Florida, and our association continues its 40-year battle to make that happen. When it does, voice writers will be certified as well as stenographic reporters. Shouldn't we take steps to show Tallahassee that we're ahead of the curve?

Let's welcome our court reporting cousins into the fold and work together to save the profession that has been so good to all of us. Let's show good faith and a spirit of cooperation to those who

determine our fate. Let's be ready for them when they decide to "come back."

In 2000, Jason and I put up a web site with a great deal of information. I invite you to explore the fascinating history of our association and of our profession, and draw the parallels yourselves, at www.voicewriteramendment.com.

Please come to Ocala and listen to the interesting and informative programs that will be presented on Saturday morning before the business meeting. Please vote "yes" at the meeting. I truly believe our future depends on it.

"The difficulties encountered in making the machine acceptable"? Well, no criticism was voiced by members of the Bench and Bar to my use of it as an Official Court Reporter, but I did feel more or less ostracized by some shorthand reporters, who somehow or other could not seem to realize that Stenotype was merely another system for recording speech (with some obvious disadvantages in practical application) that posed no threat whatever to the competent shorthand court reporter, at least during his lifetime."

-NCRA JCR, Pioneering in Stenotype and the Coming of Age of the Stenotype, an interview with Walter W. Heironimus.

Excerpts from 2001 NCRA Convention: Proposed Bylaws Change Re: Voice Writers

The following are excerpts from the 2001 NCRA Convention in New Orleans when voting on whether or not to allow voice writers into the Association as participating, registered, student, honorary, associate and retired lifetime members of NCRA. The excerpts below are views in opposition of allowing voice writers in as members of NCRA and do not necessarily reflect the members' viewpoints at this time.

*See Donna Kanabay's article on page 18 which gives her point of view in favor of the proposed bylaws change that the members will be voting on at FCRA's Annual Convention in Ocala, FL which reads as follows: SECTION 1. Definition: Membership in the Association shall be open to individuals who subscribe to and support the purposes of the Association and who are skilled in the area of verbatim reporting of proceedings by the use of shorthand **method, either manually, by stenographic machine or mask/voice writing technology**, as hereinafter provided.*

SPEAKER: Good afternoon. Three amendments have been proposed for membership consideration.

The first amendment has been proposed by Annette L. Bean, Donna Kanabay Harvey, and Jason T. Meadors. The Constitution and Bylaws committee has reviewed the submission and find that the amendment was presented in a timely manner and in the proper form and has verified that the petitioners are voting members of the association. Notice to membership was provided well in advance of constitution and bylaw requirements.

Accordingly, because all requirements of the NCRA Constitution and Bylaws for presenting an amendment have been met, and as part of my duties as the Constitution and

Bylaws committee chair, I move that "Article II - Purposes" of the NCRA Constitution and Bylaws, which presently reads: "Definition: In the context of this document, stenographic verbatim reporting refers to that reporting technology by the use of symbols, manually, or by stenographic machine," be amended to the following language, by adding the word "verbally" after "manually" and before "or by stenographic machine," so that it would read, "Definition: In the context of this document, stenographic verbatim reporting refers to that reporting technology by the use of symbols, manually, verbally, or by stenographic machine."

The effect of this amendment would be to make voice writers who meet any other requirements of the membership class eligible for participating, registered, student, honorary, associate, and retired lifetime membership in NCRA. The rationale offered by the members proposing the amendment is as follows, and I quote: "Current voice writing technology allows its practitioners to engage in reporting practices in equivalent degree to practitioners of machine shorthand and in greater degree than practitioners of pen shorthand. Discriminating against and ignoring this practice within the NCRA structure is impractical, shortsighted, and unmindful of the realities of present-day reporting technology across many arenas."

* * *

MEMBER: Fellow members of NCRA, today is the day that will decide the future of court reporting not just for the entire NCRA but for the entire judicial system in the years to come. What we do here today (will) greatly impact the judicial system's ability to choose the best method of making

a record. Should the members of NCRA grant permission to NCRA to sanction this alternative method of making a verbatim record, here's what I'm convinced will happen.

Number 1. NCRA-approved schools will use this as a promotion to fill their schools with students to learn the new technology adopted by NCRA. When faced with the choice of going to school for three or four years as opposed to six or eight months to receive the same NCRA stamp of approval, no one will opt to learn the machine shorthand, and it will die.

Number 2. The funds we've amassed over the years will be neutralized tomorrow morning when these votes are counted. NCRA will no longer have the obligation to carry out the number 1 charge of the Constitution and Bylaws, and that is, to promote verbatim stenographic reporting technologies by the use of symbols, manually or by stenographic machine, over alternative reporting methods. You are being asked to change the number 1 purpose of our association's existence if you include this alternative method. There's been discussion about allowing voice writers in as associate members and I've heard the argument that we allow videographers. Our membership is made up of people who enhance our existence. If you think carefully about that you will realize that every member and associate membership category we have enhances the existence of the machine shorthand reporter. This is asking us to embrace a technology that could and would replace the existence of machine shorthand reporter(s). If, by some chance, they should evolve to be better, faster, cheaper technology than ours, they should win, and if and when that time ever comes, a machine shorthand reporter can go quietly

Excerpts from 2001 NCRA Convention: Proposed Bylaws Change Re: Voice Writers

into the night.

However, the association charged with promoting the existence of the machine shorthand reporter should be willing to continue that fight to the very end, and not attempt to change its Constitution and Bylaws to ensure its continued existence, in spite of what happens to its membership. (Applause.) The judicial system will never forgive us if we cause the best and most reliable time-tested method of making a verbatim record to become extinct because of what we do here today. Remember, this association is here for you. You're not here for the association.

* * *

MEMBER: Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Dan Olarnick. I'm called Danno online. Most of the people who are online know that I'm totally against this proposed amendment. I'm going to be quoting from our own association minutes of last year. In a statement from Gerald A. Jacobs, as quoted during last year's convention, "It should be noted that Mr. Jacobs was recognized as an expert in association law and writes that, 'Bylaws established continually, generally applicable policies or procedures basic to the structure and management of the association. They are intended to establish the most fundamental and unchanging aspects of the association. I state that the proposed amendment will alter the most fundamental and unchanging aspect of this association: Shorthand.'" (Applause.)

* * *

MEMBER: Gary Cramer from Chatsworth. I think it's important that we consider the bylaws -- proposed bylaw change. I will tell you right up front I'm going to vote against it, but it's very, very important that we

consider it. There are many officials particularly, perhaps many freelancers as well that will be faced with the decision about what to do about this issue at state and local level. For those of you who are going to run into this shortage, trust me, they're not closing any courtrooms for you. You're going to be faced with --

The reason not to refer it to the Constitution and Bylaws committee is because it is an important issue that needs to be debated, and, personally, I think it ought to be defeated. But it's important to debate it so that we'll know what the issues are around for those of you who are going to be faced with a shortage and have to deal with what's going to supplant or supplement you as shorthand reporters. (Applause.)

* * *

MEMBER: Curtis High from the great state of Texas. I like you all already. So far, all I've heard is that the solutions that these people have for our shortage is rapid reproduction of -- they want to solve our ills by just inundating with numbers, because they can reproduce in six months. Well, let me tell you, I -- in Texas, when this issue first came up, we wanted to make sure we came down here to New Orleans, that we represented Texas, all Texans that hold CSR licenses in the state, and we did an extensive poll throughout the state. We have 3,000 reporters. We got back 84% of our members and reporters in the state of Texas who said this is not a good idea. I trust that many people when that -- when the numbers come in that large. Personally, my biggest fear is that this will become a transition profession. People that will get into it will be on their way to something bigger, the MBA or a college degree. Their investment at the time in this profession will not be great

enough for them to treasure it, take care of it, and prolong it in the way that we do.

There's a late-night commercial that runs in my area that I see every now and then for a bartending school. It says I can graduate in three months, and I can make \$15,000 a year, plus tips. At this point, my only hope is that lawyers tip well. (Applause.)

* * *

MEMBER: My name is Jerry Callaway. I'm from Dallas. I had this great speech written but David stole it out of my room so I've got to wing it. I'm going to be very short. Last fall I attended a meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. There was a mask writer who is present today. She was attempting to give us a demonstration of realtime. I watched very carefully the day before the demonstration was to begin. She repeated at least four times the text that she was going to realtime for us the next day into her voice machine. I watched her the next day when she struggled, I would estimate that it perhaps translated 75%. Now, I was really kind of impressed because I didn't think it might do that much. But then there was a young lady in the room, she sat over to the right, and she said, "Ma'am, what if I just started talking to you, just like I'm talking now?" Mark's writing what I'm saying. She said, "Can you do realtime while I'm talking that you haven't practiced?" So she attempted to write what this lady said. She was speaking about the speed that I am speaking now. I was totally unimpressed with the product that I viewed. Yes, Marty, voice writing works because just about all they do is put another voice on the tape recorder instead of all the attorneys. But I have not been demonstrated that voice realtime is feasible yet. When it's feasible, then perhaps we should

Excerpts from 2001 NCRA Convention: Proposed Bylaws Change Re: Voice Writers

welcome them in. But I just do not believe that realtime, the way I've seen it demonstrated, is anywhere near as perfect as we were, or as Marty was when he first started realtime captioning, broadcasting, over the television. I have a great deal of respect for Doris Wong. I'm sorry that we have to disagree, but I -- I still believe very strongly that we need to continue as we're going. We've had shortages of reporters before. We can make up this shortage. We just have to make up our mind, and we working reporters have to get involved in our schools and help those schools train court reporters. (Applause.)

On the merits of which system is better, the answer is that we are today, here and now, the best system around. Not because the reporters say it, but because the users of our product, the bar and the judiciary say it.

So I ask, why do we want to bring it to our association, an inferior system of making the record? The answer is obvious -- we do not. If we embrace stenomaskers, we will be saying to the world that we, court reporters, say we are equals, and to prove it, they will say that they are a part of the National Court Reporters Association. Not only that, but we will have to use our resources to perfect their style of court reporting.

* * *

MEMBER: Ladies and gentlemen, we cannot take a chance on doing something that will have a negative effect on machine reporting as a career. If the proponents are wrong, this body here today will be signing a death certificate to a profession that has been good to us. Why should we take that chance? We can't take that chance, and I ask you to vote "no." It is too important

an issue to vote "yes" on when credible evidence to support their position is now presented to you.

* * *

MEMBER: I speak in opposition to the proposed amendment. First and probably the most important reason I suggest is that the proponents of this amendment have not investigated and therefore cannot sustain their burden when it comes to the question of reporter recruitment and the effect that having stenomaskers and voice writers in our association would have on our schools. If stenomaskers and voice writers were to be members of this association, they would surely say to prospective candidates, "Do not become a machine writer, become a voice writer, because you can become a voice writer in less time." If you vote "yes" to this amendment, you will be saying that voice writers and stenomaskers are the equal of a machine court reporter. I do not want to say that and I do not think you do, either.

* * *

MEMBER: I'm David Jackson, from

Dallas, Texas. And I'm haunted by the fact that not one good thing will happen to a current membership of NCRA if this amendment passes. For the past half century, this has been a competing method for the current members of NCRA, a method considered one step above ER. Every argument I've heard so far to allow them into NCRA could pay just as well for allowing tape operators. They keep saying that an association should be representing a profession, not a method. Up until now, this profession has been defined by its method. The first tape in a courtroom didn't redefine the profession of court reporting; it put the profession of court reporting at war with ER. Adoption of this amendment will be like inviting someone into your house, making all your assets available to them to help them attempt to achieve your level of ability so they can then go out in the marketplace and use your credentials to take your job and eventually (y)our house. If I'm wrong, and speech recognition gets to a point where it can exceed the capabilities of the machine reporter, the market should tell us it's time, not our own association.

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2006 MID-YEAR CONVENTION

By Catherine J. Phillips, RMR, CMRS, FPR

It's Time to Head to Ocala Again!

Mark your calendars to attend the FCRA Annual Convention in Ocala, October 27 - 29, 2006. We have an exciting lineup of speakers for you.

Friday, before the Welcome Reception, we will have our 2nd Annual Realtime Contest. Be sure to sign up on the registration form and don't forget to bring your equipment with you if you plan to participate. The winner's trophy is pretty impressive.

We have the privilege of having Carrie Snodgrass, RPR, as a speaker. For those of you who don't know her, Carrie is blind. She will tell her story of how she became a court reporter and how she works with her disability.

We have also invited Jason Meadors, RPR, and a current Director of NCRA, for a repeat presentation on the voicewriting issue that we

will be voting on at the Business Meeting. If you attended Sandestin, this will be similar, but we have added Chris Ales, who has worked as a voicewriter, to assist Jason in answering questions for us. I believe this session will help you make an informed vote, either way.

Jason will also conduct a session on "Cool Technologies at Hot Prices." Who doesn't like new gadgets?

Since Ocala has typically had a large attendance, we will be conducting vendor breakouts also. I'm sure the vendors will be excited to showcase what was revealed at the NCRA Annual Convention for those who were unable to attend New York in August.

I'm sorry to announce that the farm will not be available for the Saturday Night President's Party. They now are keeping the broodmares here

in Ocala instead of Kentucky and there are no available barns for us to use. But don't worry, we're working on something just as fun.

I'm really excited to let you know that we have lined up Gary Dudell, Ph.D. Dr. Dudell will speak to us on anxiety reduction. Dr. Dudell teaches at USF and has had experience with CART providers in his classroom, so he is familiar with what we do. What better timing for FCRA's members to have instruction on testing anxiety and how to reduce it the weekend before the NCRA November testing.

Once again, the Florida Professional Reporter (FPR) Seminar will be offered on Friday, October 27, for which a separate registration fee is required. The seating for the FPR is limited to 100, so please register early. Ocala is anticipated to fill up quickly.

Of course, we will have more for you once you get here, but hopefully this will whet your appetite and get you looking forward to coming to Ocala. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!**



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IN MEMORY OF FRED BUNCH

FCRA extends our sympathies to Past President Ann Mendenhall on the death this past June of her husband, Fred Bunch. Fred supported Ann enthusiastically during her years on the board. It was not unusual for Fred to walk into a board meeting accompanied by the most delicious smells from something he had freshly baked just for the board. His jokes are legendary and his smile always had a devilish tilt to it.

For those who did not know Fred, he had a Master's degree in music and was known in his younger days as "Mr. Jazz." He played with many of the big bands all over the country before settling down in Orlando with Ann. He played several different instruments and was a staple at Church Street Station in Orlando. In his later years, he joined the Disney World Band. He also performed in many of Disney's ensemble presentations.





CONGRATULATIONS...YOU DID IT!

Congratulations to the following reporters from around the State of Florida on achieving their new Florida Professional Reporter (FPR) designation in June of 2006 in Destin, Florida.

H. Allen Benowitz, RMR, RPR, CLVS, FAPR, CSR, FPR

Elizabeth W. Chorrushi, RPR, FPR

Pamela S. Connor, RPR, FPR

Rita Cortez, FPR

Jeri K. Cruse, RPR, FPR

Sandra J. Dale, FPR

Cynthia Dellcioppia-Hopkins, RPR, FPR

Marla Dieffenwierth, FPR

Trudie Downs, FPR

Lynn M. Durscher, RPR, CRR, FPR

Kimberly Delatte Edwards, CSR (LA), FPR

Susan D. Fox, FPR

Laurie L. Gilbert, RMR, RPR, CRR, CSR (GA), FPR

Deborah Hannah, RPR, FPR

Jill Hardy-Hobbs, CCR, FPR

Dana Keenan, FPR

Larry Kraubetz, RPR, CSR, FPR

Laura J. Landerman, RMR, CRR, FPR

Gayle A. Leikam, RPR, FPR

MaryLee B. Miller, RPR, FPR

Mary A. Neel, RPR, FPR

Jennifer Nichols, RPR, FPR

Peggy Owens, RMR, RPR, CSR (GA), FPR

Darlene G. Robison, RPR, FPR

Linda Word Staklinski, RPR, CMRS, FPR

Cynthia J. Stephenson Law, RPR, FPR

Nina Trawick, RPR, FPR

Michelle L. Voce, RPR, FPR

Many thanks to the June 2006 Florida Rules and Ethics Seminar panel members for their dedication and hard work:

Cindy C. Bender, RPR, FPR

**Judy Everman, FAPR, RPR,
CMRS, FPR**

Shirley P. King, RPR, CLVS, FPR



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Congratulations – You Did It!

Congratulations to the following reporters from around the State of Florida on achieving their new NCRA designations in May 2006:

RPR

- Alexander, Gretchen - Tampa, FL
- Eichstaedt, Terri - Port Orange, FL
- King, Nancy - Fort Lauderdale, FL
- McKinney, Janet - Weston, FL
- Rabinowitz, Mark - Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Rackard, Suzan - Fort Walton Beach, FL
- Srebro, Jesse - Tamarac, FL

CRR

- Belz, Jennifer - Miami, FL
- Graybosch, Mary - Palm Coast, FL

Stefanick, Andrea - Pompano Beach, FL

RMR

- Belsvik, Randall - Tampa, FL
- Foor, Beverly - Bradenton, FL
- Hansen, Elizabeth - West Melbourne, FL
- Langlois, Debra - Jensen Beach, FL

CBC

- Crowder, Theresa - Tampa, FL
- English, Tanya - Cooper City, FL
- Milcowitz, Tammy - Oldsmar, FL

CCP

- Johnston, Lisa - Palm Bay, FL
- Riddle, Margaret - Jupiter, FL





Q. In one of your answers a few months ago, you mentioned a program that sounded interesting, so I went to the Web site referenced to give it a try. When I clicked to download the program, I got a message with words to the effect, "This file can harm your computer if it contains malicious code." Reading that message frightened me. Is the program safe to download?

A. The message you're seeing is just Windows' way of attempting to protect you, though sometimes it is a bit overzealous. The appearance of that warning does not mean that the file is dangerous or harmful. Think of it as kindly, ever-caring Mr. Gates asking you to think about what you're doing. If I recommend a file or program in this column or in my weekly newsletter, you can rest assured that I've downloaded it, used it, and experienced no difficulties.

Q. I lost my font bar that appeared above the message area of my Outlook Express. I tried everything I can think of to get it back, but I can't figure out how to do that. Can you help, Mr. M?

A. The formatting toolbar (it contains the styles of font, size, bold, italics, etc.) is only visible when you click Reply to a message. So the next time you click Reply, if you don't see it, click View > Toolbars > Formatting Bar to display it.

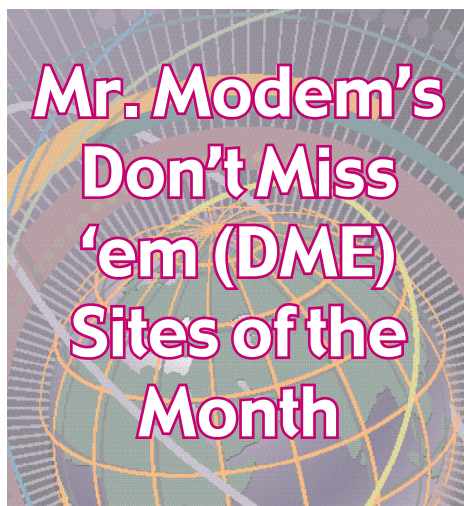
Q. Sometimes I get email that's nothing but words that are not related to each other. It's not trying to sell me anything; it's just a lot of meaningless words. Can you explain what these types of emails are about?

A. In a word, spam. Those seemingly nonsensical messages come from spammers attempting to circumvent spam filters by

trying to trick them, based on the rules used to identify and delete spam.

In essence, certain spam filters look for words most commonly used by spammers (e.g., vitamins, mortgage, prescriptions, Viagra, etc.), then compute the percentage of known spam words against the total number of words used. So spammers assume — and sometimes this actually works — that if they use a tremendous number of words, they can dilute the percentage of actual spam terms used, and if they can do that, their messages have a better chance of slithering past your (or your ISP's) spam filters in the future.

It's amazing to what lengths spammers will go in order to get you to open an email, so whenever you receive spam, never click any links in the message, never, EVER reply, and instead just delete it.



Consumer Search: Recipient of the coveted Mr. Modem "Squeal of Approval" award, this site provides consumers with fast answers about top-rated products, as well as an easy-to-use search engine to locate the best articles on any given product or service. The objective here is to reduce to minutes the time it takes to make an informed decision and thus an intelligent purchase. That's the theory, anyway. www.consumersearch.com

Herbal Safety: While many individuals buy herbal remedies from health food stores, trained herbalists, and even drug stores, it's important to be informed about the potency and potential interactions that natural medicines may have. This site, sponsored by the University of Texas, clarifies the therapeutic benefits attributed to specific herbs, and warns of any possible dangers linked with their use. www.herbalsafety.utep.edu

Memory Trainer: Exercises created

You Might be a Redneck Court Reporter If:

- Author Unknown

- If you use the pencil holders on your steno machine for cigarettes.
- If you wear your fishing vest on depositions because the pockets hold four steno pads.
- If you've ever bet your judge you could drink a six-pack and still report that FedEx guy.
- If you have six steno machines and only one works.
- If you have "ya'll" in your dictionary
- If you have a spittoon on the side of your steno machine.
- If your bailiff introduces the judge by saying "Ya'll git up, Bubba's comin'."
- If you've prescribed the jury charge and you call it up by writing "yadda yadda yadda."
- If you bought text enlarging software so you could edit with a hangover.
- If you have a brief for "(Witness nodding and belching)".
- If you had your wedding reported so you'd have the vows in writing.
- If you've ever taken your notebook computer to a service technician to get the cigarette ashes out of the keyboard.
- If the attorney called for a sidebar and you said, "Good idea, Judge! I'll have a mint julep."
- If you've decided to get into captioning so you can work in your underwear without the judge getting so upset.
- If you're related to the judge, both attorneys, and the defendant and don't see anything wrong with that.
- If you watch Deliverance and find yourself thinking, "How would you SPELL that?"
- If you've ever had a deposition interrupted by a husband saying, "I did NOT sleep with your cousin Sally. She's my SISTER, for chrissake!"

Don't Miss 'em (DME) Sites of the Month

Continued from page 30

to expand your mind (no, not like in the '60s), enhance your brainpower, develop and strengthen your... your... memory! That's it! A free, seven-day trial membership is available during which you can access a vast assortment of mental exercises and view your cognitive profile. Monthly memberships start at \$12.99. Partners in this site include the Discovery Health Channel, brain.com, and ThirdAge. The exercises are challenging, enlightening, and beneficial. Think of it as a personal trainer for your... your... www.happyneuron.com/gbhappyneuron

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(Includes all members who joined by July 12, 2006)

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Trawick, Nina.....	Shalimar	Richard Greenspan

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Lamoureux, Mary	Tampa.....	Richard Greenspan
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- ASSOCIATE MEMBER** \$60.00
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- VENDOR MEMBER** \$125.00
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?
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FLORIDA MANUAL: The guide to court reporting in Florida — sample forms, guidelines, and rules of court. Cost for members: \$35.00. Subscription to updates: \$10.00.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: Geographical and alphabetical listing of members on disk or via email. Cost to members: \$10.00.

LEGISLATIVE/LEGAL FUND: Your dues include only regular monitoring of legislative, regulatory, and administrative activity for things that could adversely affect the court reporting profession. Without member donations to this fund, the Association cannot pursue any legislative/legal activity and may not be able to protect our profession.

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 5% of your FCRA dues will be allocated to lobbying and political activities, and therefore are 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.

My signature below constitutes my consent to receive faxes, email, and other communications from FCRA or on behalf of FCRA.

Signature of Applicant Date

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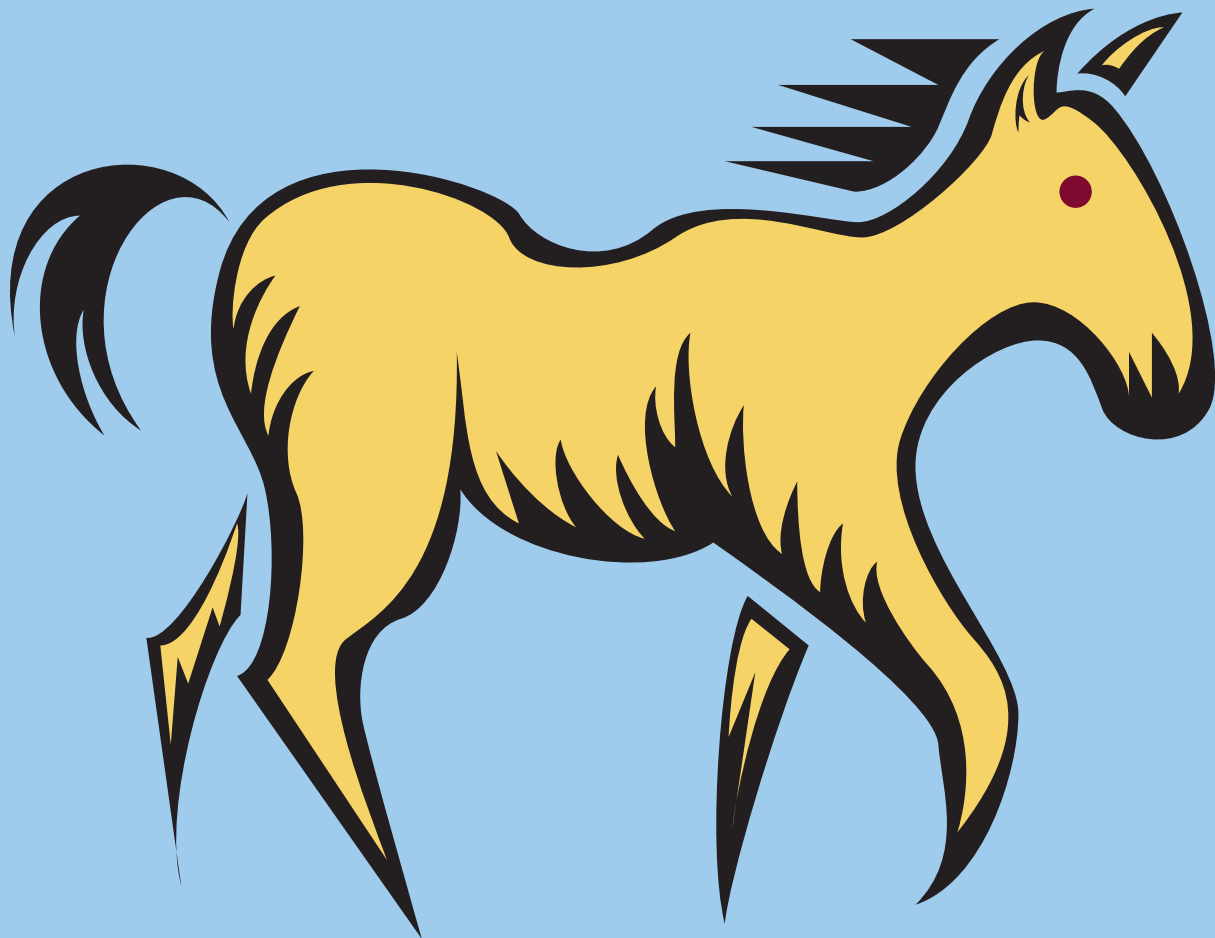
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