

AD INFINITUM

President's Message

Fall 2008



Students: Securing the Future of Our Profession

For a lot of us, court reporting school is but a faint memory. We got through it, successfully passed either the CSR, RPR, or both, and then we were off on our merry way not spending another thought on school. Times were simpler then, or so it seemed, and our profession had plenty of fresh-faced court reporters to step to the plate and fill all the job vacancies that were available. That was then...this is now.

Now we have freelance agencies searching for reporters to cover their deposition work, we have county courthouses with job openings for official court reporters that they cannot fill, and to add to the mix, we have CART and broadcast captioning companies all vying for the same group of reporters in order to fulfill the mandates placed on them by the federal government. Needless to say, the days of old when there were more court reporters than work, has gone to the wayside, and we are left with a profession desperately seeking qualified reporters.

If you haven't thought much about the future of the profession that has enriched our lives in more ways than just merely income, I hope this article makes you sit up and take notice. Even more so, I hope it lights a fire under you to actually do something to help secure the future of our profession.



*President LeAnn M. Hibler
CSR, RMR, CRR, CCP*

How can you get involved? I actually have a few suggestions. The first thing we need to do is spread the word about all the great job opportunities that are available out there. We are not a dying profession. Quite the opposite. With the advent of computerized technology came the whole new world of real-time, which I still think is very exciting. Having the skill to capture the spoken word on a machine with so few keys and then producing that spoken word instantly on a computer is just amazing. Our clients and consumers think it is an irreplaceable service, and that's what we have to get across to students and guidance counselors in our high schools and even our junior high schools. The profession of court reporting utilizing machine shorthand is alive and well!

Now, as in the past, ILCRA members participate in career
(Continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE:

ILCRA Board and Committees	....2
Important ILCRA Dates	.....3
ILCRA Resolution a Success; Welcome New Members	.....4
Teaming Up in the Big Easy	.....5
Four-State Convention; Distinguished Service Award	..7
Outstanding Educator Award	.....9
Speed & Realtime Contests	.....10
Student Scholarship Winner	....12
Happenings at Great Lakes Regional Convention	.....14
Contributors to Diane Dorwart Scholarship Fund	.....15
Great Lakes Convention Photos	..16
New Student Mentor Chair	.....17
Newbie Thoughts on National Convention	.....18
Warship Built from WTC Steel	....20
Check Out Our Briefs	.....21
Ask Mr. Modem	.....23
Mr. Modem's DME	.....24
Contributors to ILCRA PAC	.....25
NCRA Board Nomination	.....26

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS:

Caption Colorado	.....8
Classified Ads	.....24
Colonial Insurance	.....13 & 22
Efficiency Reporting	.....28
Esquire Deposition Services	....21
Jensen Reporting	.....24
L&L Reporting	.....28
Lauri Carpentier, CSR, RPR	.....28
LMH Certified Reporting	.....28
RPM	.....5
Sonntag Reporting Service	.....12
Sullivan's Law Directory	.....20
Stenograph Corporation	.....9
Urlaub Bowen & Assoc.16
Vahl Reporting Service28
Victoria S. Dudeck, RPR, CSR	..28

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President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

day events at all levels of schooling; but we need to do more of it and we can only do it with our members' help on two fronts. First, members need to contact their *alma maters* or local schools and find out when career events occur and let ILCRA know so we can attempt to participate in them. Maybe approach the English departments at the schools and ask if we can have a speaker come in to class. I think you all know why I'm suggesting the English department. English is so essential to our everyday work.

Part two of this equation is actually volunteering your own time to assist ILCRA in visiting the schools. Some career events are set up with each profession having a table, and students go around and visit; or they may be set up more like a speaking engagement. Either way, ILCRA is positioning itself to be able to provide guidance and materials so you are not left out there on your own. We've even gone so far as to ask the National Court Reporters Association to assist in that respect. (Please read my NCSA article on [page 4](#).)

Another group of students that need the assistance of working reporters are students currently enrolled in court reporting programs. We really should provide as much support as possible to this group of students. They truly are our future. You may wonder how you can help in this arena. As working reporters, almost every day we are faced with new challenges, and we, as professionals, find appropriate solutions to perform our jobs. Any and all of those experiences are something a court reporting student

has not had. You may think that you don't know anything special to impart to these students because you do your job every day and there is nothing new.

I have to tell you that all of that is new to the student and they would love to talk with you and learn what life is like out there in the working world.

I challenge you to become involved in a student's life. Some court reporting programs require the students to have mentors. If you get a call from a student seeking a mentor, please seriously consider saying "yes." Also, ILCRA has an online mentor program in which you can be matched with a student to mentor. I personally didn't think I had the time to mentor a student, but I am now mentoring a student who one day is going to make an excellent court reporter. And I have to say, I do enjoy sitting down with her and chatting about various work situations.

As I write this article, it is September and just about all schools are back in session. I hope you decide to become involved with students at some level. Please contact ILCRA Executive Director Nancy Davis and give her your name and contact information so you can be called upon to participate at career events in your area. These



STILL NEED YOUR ILLINOIS CEUS FOR THE MAY 2009 RENEWAL DATE?

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seminar March 7, 2009
at South Suburban College
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in one day!**

usually start up after the first of the year. Or if you are interested in participating in ILCRA's mentoring program, go to our website at www.ilcra.org and click on the "online mentoring" link. Thank you so much!

—LeAnn

IMPORTANT ILCRA DATES

NOV. 1: RPR, RMR, CRR, CBC, and CCP Skills Exam at McCorkle Reporting, downtown Chicago; South Suburban College, Oak Forest (Chicago area), and Sparks College, Shelbyville.

NOV. 8: Executive Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Campaign County Courthouse, 101 E. Main, Urbana.

DEC. 20: CSR Examination, Chicago and Southern Illinois area. **Deadline for CSR application for December test is October 10.**

2009

FEB. 26: CSR Application Filing Deadline for April 2009 Test.

MAR. 7: Marathon Seminar, South Suburban College. Earn all 10 CE points before the May 31, 2009 deadline!

MAR. 14: Continuing Education Seminar, Lisle/Naperville.

APRIL 3: Continuing Education Seminar, Springfield.

APRIL 17-19: NCRA Midyear Conference, New Orleans

APRIL 18: CSR Examination, Chicago and Southern Illinois Area

APRIL 24: Continuing Education Seminar, Fairview Heights

AUG. 6-9: NCRA Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.

ILCRA's Resolution a Success at NCSA Meeting

By ILCRA Delegate LeAnn M. Hibler, CSR, RMR, CRR, CCP

Each year, prior to the National Court Reporting Association's annual convention a meeting is held of the National Committee of State Associations (NCSA). It is a time when state leaders of NCRA's affiliated associations have the opportunity to get together and share information regarding the activities in their own states. It is also a time when the state leaders have the opportunity to present resolutions to NCRA of things they'd like to see changed or implemented.

For example, this year's resolutions included California's proposal that NCRA not allow continuing education units to be issued 15 days before or after California's own annual convention in order to prevent competitors from offering CEUs during that time period. California also proposed that NCRA waive the requirement of having the RPR as a prerequisite for the CRR, but to add the RPR written knowledge test to the CRR. Ohio proposed that NCRA post the dates of their midyear conventions two to three years in advance so state associations can plan around them. And Washington proposed that NCRA begin to lobby the U.S. Congress in an attempt to

pass legislation to prohibit offshore outsourcing of transcripts. As you can see, a wide range of topics come out of this meeting.

For the past few years at our own board meetings, the ILCRA Executive Board has discussed the idea of putting together information for our members to use at career day events. These documents would be placed on our website for downloading. Unfortunately, this project has not come to fruition.

NCRA's website www.bestfutures.com is an excellent resource for the public seeking information about the profession of court reporting, but none of the documents are meant to be downloaded. Instead of reinventing the wheel, ILCRA decided to propose the following resolution to NCRA during the NCSA meeting: "Be it resolved that NCRA provide on their Web site downloadable documentation explaining the profession of court reporting for use by its members in their participation at career day events."

The resolution process starts well in advance of the NCSA meeting wherein the states' proposed resolutions are submitted to NCSA's Governing Committee on which our own Amy Haught sits. This committee reviews the resolutions and gives a recommendation either adoption or non-adoption. All resolutions are then presented at the NCSA meeting for discussion among the state leaders. This is where it gets a little nerve-racking when other states start picking apart your resolution. Once the discussion is complete, the attendees/delegates vote to adopt or not adopt the resolutions. Adopted resolutions then go on to the NCRA Board of Directors for a decision to adopt or not adopt.

I'm very happy to say that this year ILCRA's resolution was presented for adoption by the NCSA Governing Board, and then was unanimously voted for adoption by the NCSA delegates! Now we must await a decision by the NCRA Board of Directors who have the resolutions on their agenda for the November board meeting. Hopefully in the near future, Illinois reporters, as well as reporters across the country, will have another valuable tool to use in the pursuit of educating the public on the great profession of court reporting. Another example of your ILCRA membership dues hard at work!

ILCRA WELCOMES 15 NEW MEMBERS

NEW PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS:

Deborah R. Cohen-Rojas, *Lake Bluff*

Tina Dillon, *Chicago*

Michelle A. Fitch, *Belvidere*

Casey Martin, *Tinley Park*

Tara Moretti, *Chicago*

Jennifer D. Riemer, *Davenport, Iowa*

Patricia Schelli Ziehm, *Lisle*

Frances M. Ward, *New Lenox*

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Jamie Bickett (*Student*)

Charlene Carlson, (*Student*)

Kellie L. Christ, (*Student*)

Melissa Daniels (*Office Manager*)

Colleen C. Raynolds (*Student*)

Molly Sasajima (*Student*)

Jane Tuchscherer (*Student*)

Interpreters, CART Providers: Teaming Up in the 'Big Easy'

By LeAnn M. Hibler, CSR, RMR, CRR, CCP

This summer I had the good fortune of being asked to join a team of CART providers and work the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) conference in New Orleans. I had worked this conference once before, so I knew what I was in for.

This is a large conference with concurrent seminars, so each CART provider was assigned a seminar room that was theirs for the week. Fortunately, plenty of prep was provided ahead of time for most of the presentations, which eased some of the tension of having to provide overhead CART in front of such a large audience.

Being the NAD, the majority of the conference attendees and the presenters themselves were deaf and only used sign language to communicate. That fact alone made me feel totally out of my element. I might as well have been in a foreign country where I didn't know the language, because almost everyone around me was signing. Fortunately, although it has been a mere 10 years, I did take two sign language classes at my community college.

Now I'm not saying I can sign a complete sentence or read someone else's signs very well, but I remember a few things and I can fingerspell words. At the conference there were many times when an attendee or presenter would turn to me and start to sign their conversation. I was able to sign to them that I only knew a little bit of sign, and then we would go from there.

The NAD hired many, many sign language interpreters, and they were invaluable to the CART providers. As I said, many of the presenters would sign their presentations. How was I to understand what they were saying and then write it to the overhead screen? Interpreters to the rescue! Each seminar room was also manned by a group of interpreters who were positioned up front with the CART provider. As the presenter would sign, the interpreters would translate the signs into English sentences for me to then write to overhead.

In the past, I have had foreign language interpreters in the deposition setting. It was always pretty slow and easy because of the time it takes to

(Continued on page 6)

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Interpreters, CART Providers: Teaming Up in the ‘Big Easy’

(Continued from page 5)

translate from one language to the other and then back again. Not so with this type of interpreting. American Sign Language is not done in complete English sentences, quite the contrary, and the presenter is not waiting for the English translation to be complete before continuing on. The signing and the speaking are simultaneous; therefore, the interpreters would read a few signs and then recite a sentence often at high rates of speed so they could keep up with the presenter. *Yikes!*

I truly like working with interpreters because we really are on the same team. Although we each have our niche and work with different consumers, we often work side by side at events, even assisting one another in order to effectively perform our duties. I may ask an interpreter to help me understand someone’s deaf speech and they may look at my realtime output because they didn’t quite hear something that was said. So be kind to the interpreters!

I would like to share one little anecdote with you all. Yes, it involves my realtime not starting like it should have, but it taught me a lesson you all should know. The session was about audism. Haven’t heard of the word? I hadn’t either. In fact, looking just now, it’s not even in my *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary 11th Edition*. Sorry, folks. I still use my books! Googling the word “audism” defines it as “discrimination or stereotypes against individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.” Considering the topic of this particular seminar, I wanted to make sure everything was working correctly, which it was five minutes earlier, but when I went to write, nothing! Just my luck. Okay. Don’t panic.

I started to fiddle around with my computer to assess the problem. The presenter noticed what I was doing and asked if there was a problem with CART. I signed to her that there was. She inquired of the audience whether anyone needed CART. Apparently no one said they needed it, so she explained she would go ahead and introduce the film on audism she was about to show, which was captioned.

I decided I needed to reboot my computer. This is where the lesson comes in. I forgot I was still projecting, and if any of you have seen my desktop picture, it is a very, very close-up picture

of my cat yawning. As I started the process of shutting off my computer, laughter started to erupt from the audience. I looked up, the presenter looked at my screen, and there was my cat, larger than life, on the overhead screen! The presenter said, “This is what we look like when we are oppressed. Our fangs come out and we look really fierce!” My face turned shades of red and I signed “sorry” to the presenter, and in the end it worked out okay. Obviously it could have taken a turn for the worse depending on what picture I had on my computer.

All in all, it was an exciting week in the “Big Easy.” I loved the food. I loved the music. I



Scooter’s infamous desktop picture.

especially loved being in the company of the CART providers I worked with. But to be honest, I was ready to get home to a world I was familiar with. Attempting to communicate in sign language for a week was tough work. Especially on the last day when I was out in the hall on break and an attendee approached me and asked me how my equipment and realtime worked. That’s a difficult conversation to have in English, let alone trying to sign. I frantically looked around for an interpreter to assist, but no one was around. Argh! We managed to get through it, but it definitely tipped the scale for me and I was ready to go home.

Lessons to be learned: Sign language interpreters are our friends, take a sign language course, and be sure to remove any embarrassing pictures that might be on your computer!

Four-State Convention is a Hit!



During the weekend of October 3rd through the 5th, Schaumburg, Illinois was the place to be for more than 400 court reporters. Convention organizers from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin should pat themselves on the back for creating an exciting environment for learning, networking, and shopping. There was plenty to do for convention goers. The numbers are still being tallied as of this writing, but judging from the

buzz that was in the air over the three days, it was definitely a success! If you missed it, maybe in a few years you'll have the opportunity to experience it. If you attended, I hope one of your takeaways is that you met some great reporters from our neighboring states. Let's give a large round of applause to our Illinois convention organizers: Nancy Davis, Amy Haught, and Bonni Shuttleworth. Great job!

—LeAnn M. Hibler

ILCRA Presents Distinguished Service Award

Seymour Wolfe delivered this presentation speech at the Great Lakes Regional Convention.

As the last year's recipient of the honor of receiving the DSA Award, it is my distinct pleasure and honor to stand before you today in anticipation of presenting this year's distinguished service award. As you know, the DSA is the highest award given by the Illinois Court Reporters Association to a court reporter who has contributed exemplary service over many years to this profession we all know and love.

Before I continue, please join me as I thank the other members of the DSA Committee, Dee Connor Doubet and Judith Lehman, for their counsel, insight and input as we deliberated the contributions of each of this year's nominees. These choices are never easy, and I have appreciated their thoughts and input.

Now with no further ado, let me tell you something about this incredibly talented and devoted winner.

As for her experience, our recipient graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1979 with an associates in art and got that degree from a 3.855 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Our recipient began her court reporting career in May of 1981 at Mudrick, Witt & Levy Reporting Agency in Miami, Florida.

She worked there until January of 1986 when she returned to the Chicago area to be closer to her family. Our recipient then went to work for Wolfe, Rosenberg & Associates (currently



Seymour Wolfe with Jacqueline Timmons, DSA winner.

Esquire Deposition Services) in February of 1986 and has been there since.

Our recipient has earned the following licenses and designations: RDR, May of 1997; RMR, May of 1987; Illinois CSR, March 1985; RPR, 1981. Her NCRA leadership would be hard to top by most. Here are a few of the committees that she has been a part of and helped on numerous occasions:

Our recipient was a member of the NCRA Student Membership Committee from 1993-94; the NCRA Membership Telemarketing Committee from 1995 to the present, and chair of same since 1999; the NCRA Student Seminar Task Force in

[*\(Continued on page 8\)*](#)

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Distinguished Service Award

(Continued from page 7)

1997; NCRA Endorser of the Year 1998 to 1999; and Chief Examiner for several years. She also participated in the NCRA-NCRF Phone-A-Thon for several years. She co-chaired the NCRA-NCRF Silent Auction Committee in 2002. She was a member of the National Committee of State Associations Resolutions Committee in 2002, and an alternate of same in 2003. As if her participation in NCRA is not enough, our recipient has been very active on the state level. She has held the following offices of the Illinois Shorthand Reporters Association, currently ILCRA: Secretary, Vice President, President and Immediate Past President. She also served as a Northern Regional Representative of the Illinois Shorthand Reporters Association from 1995 to 1996. Our recipient has also been very active at her *alma mater*, Southern Illinois University, and won the distinguished award of Alumni of the Year in May of 2003, which is the highest award the alumni association can bestow.

After all of that, I am not quite sure where she could find time to write articles for the NCRA *Journal of Court Reporting*, The Illinois Court Reporters Association *Ad Infinitum* newsletter, the NCRA *RPR/RMR Written Knowledge Study Guide*, but somehow she finds the time.

She also attended the NCRA Leadership Seminar in Washington, D.C. in 1999 to 2000, and attended the NCRA Legislative Boot Camp seminars, including days on Capitol Hill speaking with legislators in 2000 to 2003.

And this summer during our NCRA Annual Convention held in Anaheim, California, our recipient was honored by NCRA by awarding her the professional distinction of Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters.

During the years that our recipient worked for my freelance court reporting firm, Wolfe & Rosenberg, our recipient would always go that extra mile to be part of our team and make sure that every assignment would be covered by going that extra mile. If it meant returning from a morning motion that lasted till 1:30 in the afternoon, and we need a last-minute afternoon deposition or court assignment covered, she would always be the first one to volunteer to help us out.

And so it gives me the distinct pleasure and honor to award the ILCRA 2008 DSA Award to not only one of my most professional peers, but also my good friend, Ms. Jacqueline "Jackie" Timmons.

Teresa Ozuna Receives Award of Excellence

By Nancy C. Davis, Executive Director

The winner of the 2008 ILCRA Award of Excellence to an Outstanding Educator of Court Reporters is Teresa Ozuna who teaches at Midstate College in Peoria, IL. Teresa began working for Midstate College October 18, 1990.

She began teaching speedbuilding classes when one of the other teachers went on maternity leave in 1999. Teresa graduated with an AAS in Court Reporting in November of 1998 and obtained her CSR in 2000. She established Ozuna Reporting Service in 2000 and was active in that firm until 2006 on a part-time basis. She became Director of Judicial Reporting AAS Program/full-time faculty in 2002 and obtained her CRI certification in 2002.

She earned a BS in Realtime Reporting with Judicial Reporting Concentration in February 2008 from Midstate College and currently is the coordinator of the Realtime Reporting BS Program/full-time faculty. She will celebrate having worked at Midstate College for 18 years this year.

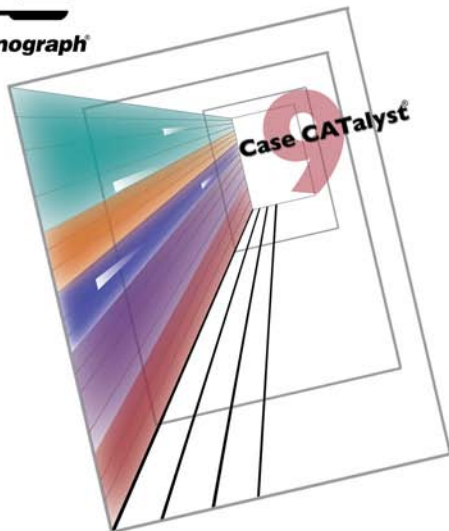
Congratulations, Teresa!



Teresa Ozuna of Midstate College (left) accepts ILCRA's Award of Excellence to an Outstanding Educator from Executive Director Nancy Davis.



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Exciting Competition for Speed, Realtime Trophies

By Bonni R. Shuttleworth, Committee Chair

Wow! This year's contest was an exciting, hold-your-breath "photo finish." As you will see, the scores were close. First, before going any further, I would like to thank the sponsors of the contests:

Sonntag Reporting for sponsoring the Speed Contest and Bienenstock Court Reporting & Video and Gramann Reporting, Ltd., for sponsoring the Realtime Contest. Thank you! Thank you!

Second, Teri Gaudet for her incredible before-the-contest preparation, dictation, and grading.

Third, all the wonderful people who graded tests: Terri Gaudet, Cecile Gordon, Bob Fields, Teri Kisler, Joan McQuinn, Amy Haught, Pat Byers, Nancy LaBella Seppi, Lyn Grooms, Tami Smith, and Teri Zimmerman. We could not have had all those tests graded in time without you. My heartfelt thanks and kudos to all of you!

Now, I know all of you are holding your collective breaths for the announcement of the winners. So, without further ado (drum roll, please) the qualifiers and winners in the Speed Contest. There were 18 participants and many of those were competing for the first time.

SPEED CONTEST:

Qualifiers in the Literary 220 wpm for five minutes

Jennifer Dunn, RMR, CRR, (IL) 99.909%
Diane Kraynak, CRR, RPR, CM, SCC, (MI) 99.636%
Donna Urlaub, RMR, CSR, (IL) 99.636%
Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, CSR, FAPR, RDR, CRR, (IL) 99.636%
Lorie Richmond, RMR, CRR, (IL) 99.182%
Glenn Sonntag, CSR, RDR, CLVS (IL) 98.727%
Darlene Fuller, CSR, RPR (MI) 98.545%
Julie Shane, RMR (IL) 98.545%
Bernice Radavich, CSR, RDR, CRR (IL) 98.545%
Jennifer Stake, CSR, RDR, CRR (WI) 98.273%
Rita Corson, CSR, RMR, CRR (IL) 97.273%
Kathy Cortopassi, CSR, RMR, CRR (IN) 96.636%
Paula Campbell, CSR, CRR, CCP (IL) 96.182%
Jennifer Costales, CSR, RMR, CRR (IL) 95.636%
Kelli Werner, CSR, RPR, CRR (MI) 95.273%
Kathryn Thomas, CSR, RMR, CCR (IL) 95.182%

Qualifiers in the Legal Opinion at 230 wpm for five minutes:

Diane Kraynak, CRR, RPR, CM, SCC (MI) 99.478%
Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, CSR, FAPR, RDR, CRR (IL) 98.783%
Donna Urlaub, RMR, CSR (IL) 97.478%
Glenn Sonntag, CSR, RDR, CLVS (IL) 96.957%
Lorie Richmond, RMR, CRR (IL) 96.957%
Julie Shane, RMR (IL) 95.304%
Jennifer Stake, CSR, RDR, CRR (WI) 95.00%

Qualifiers in the Two-Voice Testimony at 270 wpm for five minutes:

Diane Kraynak, CRR, RPR, CM, SCC (MI) 99.926%
Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, CSR, FAPR, RDR, CRR (IL) 98.889%
Donna Urlaub, RMR, CSR (IL) 98.741%
Lorie Richmond, RMR, CRR (IL) 98.000%
Jennifer Dunn, RMR, CRR (IL) 97.778%
Darlene Fuller, CSR, RPR (MI) 97.630%
Julie Shane, RMR (IL) 97.111%
Jennifer Stake, CSR, RDR, CRR (WI) 96.889%
Kathy Cortopassi, CSR, RMR, CRR, (IN) 96.593%
Glenn Sonntag, CSR, RDR, CLVS, (IL) 96.296%
Paula Campbell, CSR, CRR, CCP (IL) 95.407%
Bernice Radavich, CSR, RDR, CRR (IL) 95.185%

[*\(Continued on page 11\)*](#)



Realtime Contest participants vie for the 2008 trophy.

Exciting Competition...

(Continued from page 10)

Great Lakes Regional Convention Overall Winners:

First Place: Diane Kraynak, CRR, RPR, CM, SCC (MI) 99.680%

Second Place: Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, CSR, FAPR, RDR, CRR (IL) 99.103%

Third Place: Donna Urlaub, RMR, CSR (IL) 98.618%

Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest Winners:

First Place: Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, CSR, FAPR, RDR, CRR 99.103%

Second Place: Donna Urlaub, RMR, CSR 98.618%

Third Place: Lorie Richmond, RMR, CSR 98.046%

Congratulations to all of you! You are all a part of an historical occasion, the first-ever four-state convention. I hope you return next year for more fun and games. (Really, now, where can you go and have more fun than a speed contest?)

REALTIME CONTEST:

There were 29 participants in the Realtime Contest. (Hooray!)

Qualifiers at 180 wpm for five minutes:

Donna Urlaub, RMR, CSR (IL) 97.889%

Jennifer Schuck, RDR, CRR, CCP, CBC (AZ) 97.778%

Diane Kraynak, CRR, RPR, CM, SCC (MI) 97.667%

Kelli Werner, CSR, RPR, CRR (MI) 97.222%

Kathy Cortopassi, CSR, RMR, CRR (IN) 97.222%

Glenda Trexler, CSR, RPR, CRR (MI) 96.667%

Jennifer Dunn, RMR, CRR (IL) 96.000%

Suzanne Duda, CSR, RPR (MI) 95.444%

Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, CSR, FAPR, RDR, CRR (IL) 95.444%

Kelly Fitzgerald, CSR, RMR, CRR (IL) 95.000%

Jennifer Costales, CSR, RMR, CRR (IL) 95.000%

Realtime Contest Winner:

Donna Urlaub, RMR, CSR (IL) 97.889%

Applause! Applause! Applause to all of you! You are Olympian stars in the court reporting world. All of you take a bow and let me pat you on the back...pat, pat, pat.

See all of you next year in Springfield.



Contest winners show off their trophies. From left, are: Teri Gaudet, Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, Diane Kraynak, Donna Urlaub, and Bonni Shuttleworth.

ILCRA Awards Student Scholarships

Colleen C. Raynolds, a student at Mid-state College, Peoria penned the winning essay in ILCRA's 2008 Student Scholarship Contest. She received \$500, plus free registration and lodging at the Great Lakes Regional Convention.

Charlene Carlson, a student at South Suburban College in Oak Forest, placed second in the competition. She received \$300, and a free convention registration.

ILCRA is pleased to report that both students were able to attend the convention.

Colleen's winning essay appears at right.

Making Connections

By Colleen Raynolds

In all professions it is important to make connections. In the field of court reporting, it is even more prevalent. It is important for court reporters to not only make these connections in the courtroom, but to remember that in today's world, a court reporter's life does not need to be confined to the courtroom. Court reporters can take their skills and branch out to television stations and schools. Therefore, it is important to remember that the world of stenography goes full circle.

Making connections in the world of court reporting starts the first day of school. Student reporters should be respectful to teachers and their fellow classmates. There is great benefit in paying attention to the experiences of the teachers. Earning their respect will provide the opportunity to have their recommendations later. Your fellow classmates are prospective work colleagues. Thus, it is always wise to keep a good relationship with them.

Later, the student reporters move on to an internship. At this point, one decides whether to implement their skills in the courtroom, through television, or at a school. If they choose a courtroom, they will pursue the avenue of court reporting. If a television station is chosen, they will build their skills for closed captioning. When students intern with a school, they are probably implementing Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART).

After completing the internship, it is time to become a professional. Through the many connections that are attainable through school, internships, and even conferences, this next step should be easily achievable. The connections which are made throughout this process will last a lifetime. It is now time for the real fun to begin.

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* *Cancer Facts & Figures, American Cancer Society, 2000.*

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'Happenings' at the Great Lakes Regional Convention

By Amy Haught, Convention Committee Member

Q. What happens when you are driving down the road talking on your cell phone to one of your friends about what you are wearing for convention, only to look behind you and discover that your hanging clothes are not hanging in your car?

A. Rather than add two hours to your trip, you stop at the mall on the way. (And the rest of the story is that word travels so fast when you have a "blonde moment" that by the next morning even the NCRA Rep has heard about your blunder.)

Q. What happens when you arrive in your room and the heat is going full blast and it is 90 degrees on the thermostat?

A. You call the front desk and ask for Maintenance and head for the bar.

Q. What happens when you need to get ready in the morning and there's only room for one of you in the bathroom at a time?

A. Your roommate plugs her curling iron into the bathroom outlet but has to stand outside the door in front of the full-length mirror to curl her hair while you are putting on your makeup.

Q. What happens when you cross your legs in the CAT breakout training session only to discover several hours earlier you had cut your ankle shaving; and there is so much blood it looks like you've been struck with an axe; and you now have blood on your new Ralph Lauren pants that you bought at the mall after you forgot your clothes?

A. You go to the rest room, clean up your ankle and then put a wet piece of toilet paper on it to stop the bleeding. (Note: Will someone please bring Band-aids to the next convention?)

Q. What happens when you are the last person from your

association's board of directors to arrive at the business luncheon and the "board" table is already full?

A. You have a really nice lunch sitting at a table with the students.

Q. What happens when there is a purple ghostly-looking blob on your lunch plate and you have no idea if it is a fruit or vegetable or some hybrid?

A. You ask the waiter and he tells you it is leek ragout.

Q. What happens when two days seems like two weeks and you've run out of "nice"?

A. You learn there's nothing in life a couple of Cosmopolitans can't cure.

Q. What happens when 11 women put their heads together, their individual opinions aside, and work for the good of the profession?

A. The Great Lakes Regional Convention.



Cheryl Anne Farmer, Executive Director of MAPCR (Michigan Association of Professional Court Reporters) and Marie Pucel, MAPCR Officer.



Sunday morning session, "World Trade Center: The Moussaoui Trial."

ILCRA Thanks Contributors to Diane Dorwart Scholarship Fund

Amenta, Joe
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 Hibler, LeAnn M.
 Hincks, Jean M.



Fred R. Rosenberg (left) and Seymour L. Wolfe present check.

A HUGE THANK YOU! ILCRA extends a huge thank you to the principals of the former Chicago Metropolitan Reporters Association, most especially **Victoria E. Rock, Fred R. Rosenberg, Carole Bartkowicz** and **Seymour L. Wolfe** for the donation of \$17,108.88 to the Diane Dorwart Scholarship Fund. This money will be used for the sole purpose of assisting students, teachers and schools in Illinois in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Diane Dorwart Fund. For all of you who knew Diane, she would be and is honored.

Hooten, Amy L.
 Houlf, Patrice
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 Immke, Dora L.
 Ingham, Angela M.
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 Walsh, Susan G.
 Washington, Annette
 Weber, Allison D.
 Weber, Christine E.
 Wecke, Patti Dunn
 Wedeking, Jerry
 White, Patricia
 Weichman, Kevin J.
 Williams, Deborah J.
 Wolfe, Seymour L.



Anneliese Thomson, Karen Brynteson, and Norman Linnell present "The World Trade Center: Moussaoui Trial" session at the Great Lakes Regional Convention.



Donna Urlaub and Bob Fields confer in the speed contest room.



Lillian Morson delivers presentation on punctuation.



Teri Gaudet, Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, Bernice Radavich, and Glenn Sonntag take a break from the speed contest.

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Announcing New Student Mentor Committee Chair

By LeAnn M. Hibler, CSR, RMR, CRR, CCP

For the past year, ILCRA has been searching for just the right person to take over the duties as our Student Mentor Committee Chair. ILCRA President-Elect Jill Layton has been the chair for a number of years, but has asked to be relieved of her duties in light of the fact that she will soon become president.

The responsibilities of this position require coordinating the pairing up of students who would like mentors with working reporters willing to share their time and inspire these students to complete their schooling. The chair also works with our Illinois court reporting schools in an effort to spread the word about the program.

Jill has done an excellent job in the past, diligently striving to make sure every student who wanted a mentor was matched with a reporter. She also created flyers to distribute to the schools announcing the program as well as the student scholarship opportunities.

The torch is now being passed on to ILCRA member Joni Markel.

Joni has enthusiastically volunteered to become the program's new chair. She has been an official reporter in Champaign County for many years and I'm sure her experiences will benefit all students she has the opportunity to come in contact with.

Joni, the ILCRA Executive Board truly appreciates your generosity of volunteering your time to this important program. And we give a very special "thank you" to Jill Layton for volunteering her time over the last number of years as Student Mentor Committee Chair and continuing to make it a successful program.



Joni Markel

If you are interested in participating in this program, either student or reporter, you can contact Joni at jonimarkel@hotmail.com. Additional details about the program are on our website, www.ilcra.org.

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'Newbie' Thoughts on National Convention

by Kathryn A. Thomas, RMR, CSR-IL, CCR-MO

How often has a fellow colleague said to you, "You ought to volunteer for a particular committee for the state or national association"?

Let me ask it another way: How often have *you* said to a colleague, "You're good at this or that. Why not volunteer for something in our associations?"

By the cacophony of crickets, it's not happened too often, if at all. At least I've never heard or said it.

I begin with these questions because this year I made my first trek to the National Court Reporters Association Convention in Anaheim, California. As I mentioned that I'd be soon off to Anaheim, I got a standard response from my colleagues. "I've been to the National Convention X number of times, and it's encouraging to be around the giants of our profession." Something struck me as odd about that typical response. I then realized that in ten years of reporting, I've not heard one other reporter (besides the aforementioned giants) state a goal of becoming active in our associations, beyond attending seminars for CEUs.

As soon as I knew we were getting a stimulus check, I called dibs on it, saved up additional money, and Thursday afternoon my husband dropped me off at Lambert International Airport in St. Louis with instructions to "have a great time" and to "enjoy the convention to its fullest."

I'm just "Joe Blow Reporter," not one of the big dogs of our profession...yet. And, it is encouraging to be around so

many movers and shakers. Like Dan Clark said in his keynote speech, who you hang around with influences who you become. I agree. If you hang around with people who come to work, do a good job, go home, and never once consider improving their skills or making a difference, in all likelihood you'll probably go to work, do a good job, go home,



From top: Kathryn Thomas with "Big Dogs" — Mark Kislingbury, Melanie Humphrey Sonntag, and LeAnn Hibler.

and never once consider improving your skills or make a difference. (What's so appealing about *that* mindset?)

I want to improve my skills and make a difference. Heck, that's why I made the effort to come here! I was already caught up on my CEUs (look at my shiny RMR ribbon!) and I sure could have put the money I spent to other purposes (like the shiny new steno machine I'm coveting...can you tell I like shiny things?), but what can replace a four-day immersion in your chosen profession? Especially when you *love* said profession?

Some of this I write at the convention itself. It is 7:28 in the morning on Saturday, and I'm wide awake—since I'm still on Central time, I awoke bright-eyed and bushy-tailed at 5:30, darn it—and now I sit in the convention center lobby watching the place wake up.

The NCRA booths are fully staffed, and there are people using them, feeling free to ask questions face-to-face. Some reporters (like me) sit alone in the lobby, enjoying a bit of peace in the morning before the day's activities begin. Some chat with new friends.

I'm not naturally outgoing, so introducing myself can be a struggle. But here, and at other continuing education seminars, *everyone's* a new friend! It's okay to sit at a table full of people you've never met, because probably none of them has met each other before!

I do get to meet the "Giants"—people I look up to. People who make a difference. Online friends, folks who have

[\(Continued on page 19\)](#)

Newbie Thoughts...

(Continued from page 18)

struggled with the same problems as I. Folks who have overcome those struggles—and if they’ve overcome those obstacles, so can I! I collected pictures of me with some of this profession’s “Big Dogs” (and of course, my cellphone/camera battery died when I asked Mark Kislingbury for a picture).

Boy, have I ever stretched my mental picture of my professional future. Because for crying out loud, if others have passed the CRR, then *so can I!* If others can caption keynote speakers talking so fast you’d think their lips are on fire, so can I. Me. And, yes, *so can you!*

Addendum from later in the day: I just watched the Awards Session...all of you that placed so high in the Realtime and Speed contests have crazy mad skills, and it boggles my mind. I am envious. But if you all can do it, *so can I* (with more practice).

No, this is not a “paid advertisement” for NCRA. Yes, I know you’re too busy to volunteer. Or perhaps business is too slow and you can’t afford to volunteer. But writing this article didn’t take too long and didn’t cost very much.



Bonni Shuttleworth and LeAnn Hibler celebrate with newly-elected NCRA Vice President Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag (center).

Mentoring a student through e-mail doesn’t cost more than the Internet connection that you’re using anyway. There are opportunities that fit you. Keep your eyes open, and you’ll see them.

It’s now 7:48 on Saturday morning, and the lobby is filled and buzzing. Next to me, a student just introduced herself to an NCRA fellow and is currently

picking her brain. It’s exciting. We feed off of each other. We influence each other. What you do influences those around you.

I want to get to the next professional level. I want to get my CRR, CBC, and RDR. I have speed contests to win. I want to leave this profession better than I found it.

What do *you* want to do?



NCRA Director Judy Lehman, ILCRA President LeAnn Hibler, and ILCRA Past President Jackie Timmons share a photo opportunity with NCRA President Karen Yates (second from left).



Judy Lehman, Debbie Kriegshauser, Carolyn Kriegshauser, and Bonni Shuttleworth enjoy the music of Motown at NCRA convention in Anaheim.

Coincidence?

Warship Built with Steel from World Trade Center

By Jill M. Layton, President Elect

When I returned from the 2008 Great Lakes Regional Convention in Schaumburg, I checked my e-mails. What a coincidence that one of the e-mails I received contained pictures of the *USS New York*.

"It was built with 24 tons of scrap steel from the World Trade Center. It is the fifth in a new class of warship—designed for missions that include special operations against terrorists. It will carry a crew of 360 sailors and 700 combat-ready Marines to be delivered ashore by helicopters and assault craft. Steel from the World Trade Center was melted down in a foundry in Amite, LA to cast the ship's bow section. When it was poured into the molds on Sept 9, 2003, 'those big rough steelworkers treated it with total reverence,' recalled Navy Capt. Kevin Wensing, who was there. 'It was a spiritual moment for everybody there.' Junior Chavers, foundry operations manager, said that when the trade center steel first

arrived, he touched it with his hand and 'the hair on my neck stood up. It had a big meaning to it for all of us. They knocked us down. They can't keep us down. We're going to be back.' The ship's motto? *Never Forget*"

The reason it was such a coincidence is that the two sessions I attended on Sunday were presented by court reporters Karen Brynteson, Norman Linnell, and Anneliese Thomson. They were the reporters that reported the trial of Zacarius Moussaoui — the only person to be tried for the 9/11 attacks. The reporters in attendance at the sessions went from laughing at glitches that occurred during the trial — glitches that only court reporters would appreciate — to shedding a tear or two after listening to some of the phone calls made by victims of the 9/11 attack to their loved ones.

Karen, Norman and Anneliese gave an incredible Power Point presentation. They are truly an inspiration to court reporters everywhere.

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Check Out Our Briefs

by Nancy LaBella, CSR, RMR, CRR, ILCRA Vice President

As many of you know, Amy Haught, ILCRA's Immediate Past President, has been the author of the Amy's Briefs column in *Ad Infinitum* for the past six years. Amy has decided to step down and pass the torch. (Alert: cheap plug! Amy's Briefs are available in one handy CD for the low, low price of \$5. Just call ILCRA at 1-800-656-2467 to order.)

In an effort to keep the briefs coming, I have enlisted the help of my 25 co-workers here in the Federal Courthouse in Chicago. Yes, it takes 26 of us to fill the shoes of one Amy Haught. We hope to continue this column in the future, possibly with a different theme for each issue. But for now, it's time to:

MEET THE FOCRS* — OR AT LEAST THEIR BRIEFS

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 admonishmentPHORBT or PHORPLT
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 do you understand that, sirTKAOUPBDS
 excuse meSKAOUPL

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for what happens next



By Richard A. Sherman

SHRINK PHOTOS FOR EMAILING

Q. I've got a math-related question, Mr. M: I have a 1GB external drive with 16 pictures on it. I right-clicked the drive's icon in My Computer, selected Properties, and it shows that there is 752KB of used space and 959MB of free space. How many of the same size photos can I fit in the remaining free space?

A. Mr. Modem had to hose off his trusty, rusty slide rule for this one, so let's break it down: If you have 16 photos that consume 752KB (kilo-bytes) of space, that's an average of 47KB per photo. (That's right, 752 divided by 16). 959MB (megabytes) equals 959,000KB. So if we divide 959,000KB by 47KB per photo, we learn that 20,404 photos can be placed on the remaining 959MB of free space, give or take. As an added bonus, if you convert 20,000 photos to a slide show presentation and display each slide for five seconds, you'll have 277 hours, or more than 11 days of nonstop, family vacation slides. Be sure to invite your neighbors. I'm sure they'll be thrilled.

Q. How can I shrink photos? Sometimes the pictures people send me are too large and I'd like to reduce them down to something smaller. Thanks, Mr. M.

A. You can easily resize images to make them a more manageable size for emailing, Web posting, or other purposes online, without having to purchase or download any graphic editing programs. Simply go to the cleverly named ShrinkPictures.com Web site. You can reduce the size of images up to 6MB in size, in .jpg, .gif, or .png formats.

Q. Thanks for your wonderfully helpful weekly newsletter, Mr. Modem. Here's my question: I try and use ScanDisk and Defrag regularly. Sometimes I run the defrag first and other times I run ScanDisk first. Is it important to run ScanDisk before defragmenting or does it make any difference?*

A. Run ScanDisk first, for this reason: When you run ScanDisk, you are actually scanning the hard drive looking for surface errors or defects. If a bad sector on your hard drive is identified, ScanDisk will attempt to fix it, but in the event it cannot be fixed, that section of the drive will be isolated so that your computer will not attempt to save information to that defective area.

When you run Disk Defragmenter, your data is rearranged so that it is better organized which allows faster access to it. If you have a bad sector that it has not been isolated, data written to that area could be lost. Running ScanDisk before defrag will prevent this.

Note: ScanDisk is called Error Checking in Windows XP and Vista, and can be located by opening My Computer, then right-clicking the drive you want to check, which will usually be the Local Disk C: drive. Select Properties. On the Tools tab, under "Error-checking," click the "Check Now" button. Under "Check disk options," I always select "Automatically fix file system errors and "Scan for and attempt recovery of bad sectors."

Mr. Modem's weekly newsletter delivers helpful computer tips, great Web sites and his personal answers to your questions! Trial offer: Subscribe online using Promo Code 1146 and receive one free month with your six-month subscription (28 issues!) To view a sample issue or subscribe, visit www.MrModem.com.



NEWLY CERTIFIED REPORTER

Congratulations to **Angela Adesso-Phipps**, of Oswego, IL who became a certified Registered Professional Reporter as a result of the June 2008 written knowledge tests.





**Mr. Modem's DME
(Don't Miss 'Em)
Sites of the Month**

THE PAY PHONE PROJECT

Remember the good old days before cell phones, when you carried change in your pocket just in case you needed to stop and use a pay phone? (Yes, kids, there was a time when we didn't have cell phones.) The Pay Phone Project is a quasi-nostalgic site that has photographs, news, personal stories, and phone numbers of telephone booths and pay phones worldwide, just in case you want to place a call. And who can forget Ma Bell's tender words, "Please deposit another .20 for an additional three minutes." www.payphone-project.com

RMINDER WITH RMINDER

(somebody apparently forgot the "e"), you can receive voice and text reminders on your phone. A free account allows you to send eight reminders per month, with a weekly limit of two. As you

upgrade your account, more reminders are allowed, up to a maximum of 60 reminders for \$9 per month. Creating a reminder is as easy as typing what you want the reminder to say, scheduling the call, then entering the phone number. The phone will ring when scheduled, and you'll hear the reminder that you created, thanks to text-to-speech technology. www.rminder.com

SCOPITONES For the scant few who may be unfamiliar with the Scopitone, it is essentially a film jukebox that was invented in France in the early 1960's. Here you'll find information about this TV/jukebox hybrid, including an interesting NPR article, "The Rise and Fall of the Scopitone Jukebox," at <http://tinyurl.com/pbyj5>. On the site you can watch original Scopitone films and participate in an auction for a fully-functioning Scopitone! (Mrs. Modem doesn't want it in the house, so I won't be bidding.) <http://scopitones.blogs.com>

Classified Ads...

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- Well-established agency serving Springfield and Central Illinois for 30+ years. A great opportunity to step into a well-respected, successful business with great clients and experienced reporters. Send inquiries to Tim @ P.O. Box 216, Springfield, IL 62705 or call Tim @ 217-787-0563.
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YOU CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YOUR PROFESSION

Here's your chance to help lead the Association dedicated to advancing the court reporting and captioning professions.

NCRA's Nominating Committee is seeking reporting professionals to serve in leadership positions on its Board of Directors.

THE BENEFITS TO YOU

- A role in advancing your profession
- Exposure to a new world of professional and personal contacts
- The chance to exchange ideas and perspectives with other innovative thinkers in the reporting community
- The chance to strengthen your professional résumé or curriculum vitae

THE QUALIFICATIONS YOU BRING

- Demonstrated commitment to NCRA and the reporting community
- The ability to share your time and energy for the benefit of the profession
- Willingness to be accessible to the members
- The ability to weigh all sides of an issue objectively
- Experience with committee work

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE

Article III, Section 9 (c) of the NCRA Constitution and By-laws states, "Only Registered Members shall be eligible to hold an elective office of the Association."

SERVICE AS AN OFFICER (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

These positions, as a rule, are filled by those who have served or are currently serving on the NCRA Board. Since NCRA has a membership of 24,000 and a budget of nearly \$9 million, you can understand that service as a director is essential in order for the candidate to understand and fulfill the duties that come with such responsible positions.

WHO MAY RECOMMEND CANDIDATES

Only voting members of NCRA may submit individuals for candidacy. These include Registered, Participating, Retired Lifetime, and Honorary Members who have been verbatim stenographic reporters.

When recommending yourself or another for a directorship, remember that some of the criteria the Nominating Committee looks for are:

- Dedication and commitment to the profession
- Good team player
- Excellent communications skills
- Outstanding reputation and character
- Strong leadership



Board service is uncompensated and requires significant time commitments. Most expenses involved in Board service are reimbursable.

Now's your chance! If you are interested in serving or know someone who would make a great Board member, submit the Declaration of Candidacy/Candidate Recommendation form today!

THE ELECTION PROCESS

As provided in the Constitution and Bylaws, the Nominating Committee will meet at least 90 days prior to the August 2009 Washington, D.C. Convention to draw up a slate of nominees for the following offices of the Association to be elected at the Annual Members Business Meeting:

- President-Elect
- Vice President
- Secretary-Treasurer
- Three Directors (three-year terms)

MEMBERS OF THE 2008-2009 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: Kathy DiLorenzo, RDR, CRR, CBC

Members: Dolores (Dee) Doubet, RPR
Lillian Freiler, RMR
Cassy Russell, RPR, CRR, CCP
Christine Willette, RPR

Alternate: Mary Jones, RDR

TERMS OF OFFICE

No elected officer shall serve for more than one full term in the same office except the Secretary-Treasurer, who may serve for no more than three consecutive terms. Directors may only be re-elected if at least one year has elapsed since the end of their prior term.

DIRECTORS WITH TERMS EXPIRING IN 2009

William S. Greenley, RDR, Petaluma, Calif.
Richard Greenspan, FAPR, RMR, CRR, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
Teresa A. Kordick, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CBC, CCP, CRI, CPE, Des Moines, Iowa

Secretary-Treasurer R. Douglas Friend is eligible for renomination as Secretary-Treasurer during 2009–2010. All current Board members, including those directors whose terms expire in 2009, are eligible for election to higher office.

DECLARE YOUR CANDIDACY OR RECOMMEND A CANDIDATE

Take this opportunity to make a difference in the future of reporting. Declare your candidacy or send the names of your recommended candidates to Nominating Committee Chair Kathy DiLorenzo, RDR, CRR, CBC, c/o NCRA headquarters, postmarked no later than November 21, 2008.

Contact Laura Butler for further information at 800-272-6272.

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY/CANDIDATE RECOMMENDATION FORM

To: Kathy DiLorenzo, RDR, CRR, CBC, Chair
NCRA Nominating Committee
8224 Old Courthouse Road
Vienna, VA 22182-3808
FAX 703-556-6291

Print or type your own name and address below.

Membership ID No. _____



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

Yes No

Home _____ Office _____

I am declaring my candidacy for the office of _____

I am recommending the following individual for the office of _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Describe your qualifications to serve on the Board of Directors or explain why you support the recommended individual for service (attach additional pages as necessary):

Signed _____

Date _____

Copies of this form or your own personal stationery may be used to submit additional recommendations. **Recommendations close November 21, 2008.**

NCRA's 2008-2009 Board of Directors. Back row (l-r):

Front row (l-r): Kathy DiLorenzo, Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, Karen Yates, SueLynn Morgan, Doug Friend.

Second row (l-r): Adam Miller, Rick Greenspan, Kimi George, Teresa Kordick, Shirley Ann Hall, Tammie Shedd, Tami Smith, Judy Lehman, Bill Greenley, Mark Golden.

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