

AD INFINITUM

FALL 2011

President's Message

Is Your Glass Half Full or Half Empty?

By Nancy LaBella, President

While attending the National Court Reporters Association's Leadership Conference this past July, a presenter put a photo of a glass, partially filled with water, up on a screen. He then asked us what we saw.

Me? I am generally a glass half-empty person. Whether it is by nature, nurture, a half-empty gene perhaps, or that I have spent the majority of my life in the urban wilds of Chicago, I don't know. Whatever the reason, unless a glass is overflowing, I am likely to think it needs a refill.

Knowing I was among kindred souls, I expected to hear a chorus of, "A glass half empty," in response to the presenter's question. So imagine my shock when virtually everyone (okay, everyone but me) responded: A glass half full. Wow, I thought. Court reporters are really an optimistic bunch.

Since that day, I have pondered why that is so. And I thought this, my first message as ILCRA president, was a perfect opportunity to share my theory. Cue the drum roll: Court reporters are optimists because they have to be. Only an optimist would: enter a legal battlefield every day armed only with a writer; agree to record, verbatim, words uttered at the speed of light; dare to venture into the realtime world; be sure that a



Nancy LaBella

mumble (did she say shnurfs?) means something and comb through every online dictionary to determine what that is. These are just a fraction of the amazing feats court reporters do every day before lunch!

This is no cockeyed optimism, however. No one is clutching a quill and an inkwell, certain that these new-fangled machines are a passing fad. It is an attitude that enables us to adapt smoothly to changes in training, technology and work environment.

Did I say, *us*? Maybe I am really a glass half-full person too. In my years as a court reporter, I have seen the profession undergo dramatic change. (Though the rumor that I trained with a chisel and stone tablet is completely untrue!) And court reporters have risen to the occasion every time, acquiring new skills at a rapid

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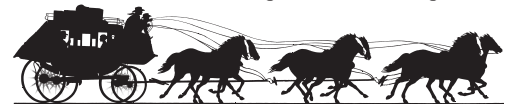
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President's Message

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pace, sharing their knowledge with colleagues and mentoring the newest members of our group. I am also confident that we will not only survive, but thrive, in the face of our current challenges, including the CSR Act facing Sunset in 2014 (more on that later), the influx of digital audio recording and the need to encourage young people to join our ranks.

I also know that the Illinois Court Reporters Association and its incredible board, which includes reporters with knowledge and experience in nearly every aspect of the profession, will be there to provide education, support and encouragement every step of the way. It is my privilege to serve as president of the Illinois Court Reporters Association, and I look forward to working with all of you, the talented, hard-working people who make this such a rewarding profession.

It looks like I'm a half-full person after all.

—Nancy LaBella

IMPORTANT ILCRA DATES

Check out our calendar at
www.ilcra.org

for up-to-date information

NOV. 5: RPR, RMR, CRR,
CBC & CCP SKILLS EXAM
MacCormac College, downtown
Chicago; South Suburban
College, Oak Forest (Chicago
Area); and Midstate College,
Peoria.

DEC. 17: CSR EXAM
Chicago and Southern Illinois
Area

APRIL 21, 2012: CSR
EXAM Chicago and Southern
Illinois Area

ILCRA Sends Delegates to NCSA Meeting

ILCRA was fortunate to have two Executive Board members present for this year's National Committee of State Associations (NCSA) Annual Meeting, Stephanie Rennegarbe and Nancy LaBella. The NCSA meeting was held in Las Vegas, during the NCRA Annual Convention in July.

NCSA is one of NCRA's most active committees, the purpose of which is to provide a forum for affiliate state associations (ILCRA being one of them) to exchange experiences, information and various points of view about matters of current relevance to the court reporting profession. Most importantly, NCSA provides guidance to the NCRA Board of Directors through the submission of resolutions.

Four resolutions were submitted to the NCSA body at this year's meeting, two of which were adopted. Resolutions which are adopted by NCSA are then forwarded to the NCRA Board of Directors for their consideration. The resolutions submitted suggest actions or direction which the NCSA membership believes the NCRA Board of Directors should take. NCSA resolutions are often the driving force behind changes in NCRA policies or procedures.

The two resolutions that were adopted by NCSA were:

Resolution 11-01, which advised that NCRA provide more funding to its governmental affairs department to create boilerplate language for state associations in regards to gift giving, third-party contracting, and ownership of the official court transcript. Resolution 11-02 advised that NCRA formulate a boilerplate advisory opinion question for individual court reporting state associations to ask of their state bar associations.

One of the benefits that NCSA provides to your state association is the ability of your board members to be present at the annual meeting and to be involved in the exchange of information that takes place with all of NCRA's affiliate associations. There is time allotted for discussion of Hot Topics, everything from issues facing state officials due to state budget cuts to policies established on gift giving.

Anyone attending an NCRA Annual Convention is eligible and encouraged to observe your national and state associations at work at the NCSA meeting. If you are able to attend, please take the opportunity to introduce yourself to ILCRA's NCSA delegate. We would love to see you there!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: This column is primarily for reader feedback on topics published in these pages. Items published here may be edited for such requirements as available space or to avoid duplication with other submissions. Please limit your submission to a maximum of 300 words. Submitting feedback to *Ad Infinitum* does not guarantee it will be published. Send comments for publication here to the editor or ILCRA's executive director as shown in the box on [page 4](#). *Please note:* we do not print anonymous submissions. If you would like your name withheld from publication, simply advise and we will do so. But you need to provide your name so we can verify that your submission is authentic.

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Award of Excellence Committee: Nancy Davis, Chair; Bonni Shuttleworth

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Officials Committee: Pat Houlf, Chair; Joan McQuinn, Melissa Clagg, Jenny Danley, Lisa Ciarrachi, Rita Corson, Barb Cash

Webinar Committee: Nancy LaBella, Chair; Lyn Grooms, Stephanie Rennegarbe, Pat Houlf

Website Committee: Chair; Sharon Stuckly.

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CART Committee: LeAnn Hibler, Chair; Catherine A. Rajcan, Cindy Jenkins, Bob Griffith, Janet Hamm

DSA Committee: Mary Beth Rollins, Chair; R. Kent Evans, Jacqueline Timmons

Elections Committee: *To be activated when necessary*

Ethics Committee: LeAnn Hibler, Chair; Glenn Sonntag (Bylaws), Pat Houlf (Legislative), Linda Chesnut, Seymour Wolfe

PR/Marketing Committee: Vernita Allen-Williams, Chair; Georgia Rollins, Sharon Stuckly, Deb Musielak, Tracy Gott

Speed & Realtime Contest Committees: Bonni R. Shuttleworth, Chair; Theresa Hovick-Thomas, Terri Kisler

Student Mentorship Committee: Joni Markel, Chair

Student Scholarship Committee: Bernice Radavich, Chair; Tana Hess, Melissa Clagg, Davee Followell

Student Scholarship Revamping Committee: Bernice Radavich, Chair; Tana Hess, Melissa Clagg, Bonni Shuttleworth, Nancy Davis, Joni Markel, Davee Followell

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Fall	October 15	September 15	Spring	April 15	March 15
Winter	January 15	December 15	Summer	July 15	June 15

We Are Here

By Jill Layton, Immediate Past President

As there was not enough time during the 2011 ILCRA Annual Business meeting for remarks, I said I would print them in this edition of the *Ad Infinitum*. I thank the members for their kindness shown to me as I served as president the last two years. Nancy LaBella will serve the Association and each member very well as the 2011-2013 ILCRA President.

Dr. Suess' book *Horton Hears a Who* tells the story of Horton the Elephant who, on the afternoon of May 15 while splashing in a pool located in the Jungle of Nool, hears a small speck of dust talking to him. It turns out the speck of dust is actually a tiny planet, home to a city called Whoville, inhabited by microscopic-sized inhabitants known as Whos and led by a character known as the Mayor.

The Mayor asks Horton (who, though he cannot see them, is able to hear them quite well because of his large ears) to protect them from

harm, which Horton happily agrees to do, proclaiming throughout the book that "even though you can't see or hear them at all, a person's a person, no matter how small." In doing so he is ridiculed and forced into a cage by the other animals in the jungle for believing in something that they are unable to see or hear.

His chief tormentors are Vlad Vladikoff, the Wickersham Brothers, and the Sour Kangaroo. Horton tells the Whos that, lest they end up being boiled in "Beezelnut Oil," they need to make themselves heard to the other animals. The Whos finally accomplish this by ensuring that all members of their society play their part. In the end it is a "very small shirker named JoJo" whose final addition to the volume creates enough lift for the jungle to hear the sound, thus reinforcing the moral of the story: "a person's a person, no matter how small."

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Remarks from ILCRA's Annual Business Meeting

(Continued from page 5)

I was very honored to serve the last two years as the President of the Illinois Court Reporters Association. Serving as president of your state association, in front of all your fellow comrades of the court reporting profession, can be a bit daunting. But the tasks were made easier due to the knowledge and wisdom of Executive Director Nancy Davis and the wonderful ILCRA Board of Directors. We made many decisions – some were easy decisions and some were decisions determined after weeks and weeks of discussions and debates – which we hope were beneficial to all members of ILCRA. The website was updated, and it continues to be updated and improved. Advertising policies were updated and adopted as well as COPE (Code of Professional Ethics) being updated and adopted. New member benefits were investigated and approved. Contacts were made with the Illinois State Bar Association and the Illinois Paralegal Association regarding gift giving. Students were encouraged, mentored, and sponsored. A monthly eblast called ILCRA Insid-

er was started, hoping to keep the members up-to-date on issues around the State of Illinois.

One of the main issues that ILCRA faces, along with many other organizations, is declining membership. Membership in your state association is so important. For approximately 30 cents a day, you have almost 24/7 contact with your state association – up-to-date information on issues affecting our profession, questions answered, concerns addressed, CEU points awarded – just to name a few of the benefits of your association membership.

So if any of you know any fellow reporters who do not belong to ILCRA and seem to be a shirker like JoJo, please encourage them to join and support their state association. We reporters of Illinois need every single voice to be heard, even the shirking JoJos, to create enough volume for everyone to hear that we are court reporters and our career is alive and well. We need to stand together, hand in hand as they do in Whoville, and shout We are here. We are here. We are here.

— Jill M. Layton, Immediate Past President

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ILCRA Presents Distinguished Service Award

Patricia White, ILCRA's 2010 DSA winner, presented the 2011 award at the Grand Connections Convention. Her speech appears below.

Take yourself back to your *very* first job interview, right out of court reporting school. How many interviews had preceded that *one* job, the one you'd dreamed about getting, the one you'd practice tirelessly for, night after night, to finally reach the speed where you could take and pass the CSR.

Your resume is impeccable. Your references have been reminded to expect *the call* and what to say when they get *the call*. They've posted *the job*, and you *both* decide to apply for the same position.

The first job candidate, who we'll call Classmate A, has scheduled her interview at the courthouse for 1 p.m., right after lunch, while Classmate B is given the earlier 11 a.m. interview slot. They're both elated at the fact that they've gotten their foot in the door for an interview and in the days leading up to the interview, tease one another about a potential arm wrestling contest with the winner accepting the coveted court reporting job, and the loser filing a disability claim—wait, that's later!

On interview morning, both candidates awaken bright and early, and put on a starched white blouse and skirt of extended length or *not*, pol-

ished shoes, and a meticulously pressed jacket. Add a spritz of perfume for good measure, and they're off.

In the spirit of camaraderie, both A and B decide to meet for lunch on that Thursday at noon and let fate take its course.

Classmate B was interviewed by the Chief Judge and four other distinguished judges at the courthouse at 11 a.m. sharp. They were impressed with her qualifications, her poise, and her experience and decided to hire her on the spot with no further ado. In an act of incredible selflessness, she advised them that they were also interviewing her fellow classmate at 1 p.m. and she felt it only right and fair that they follow through with that interview before making a final decision potentially jeopardizing the offer she had just received.

The two friends met and had an amicable lunch, discussing and dissecting the details of the interview and once again wished each other well. Soon classmate A was off to the courthouse for her 1 p.m. appointment, thinking the interview only a formality, since classmate B had already been assured of the job. Always looking to gain experience, she followed through with the interview process.

As the post-luncheon interview with the same five jurists drew to a conclusion, the Chief Judge rose from his seat, shook hands and said, Congratula-

tions, you're hired! You start next Tuesday. Classmate A was flooded with intense emotions, nearly losing her lunch on the spot, and this must have been painfully obvious to everyone in the room. Before she could speak, the Chief Judge quickly interjected, Oh, yes, and please call your friend and tell her we're hiring her, too.

Somewhere during the two hour interim, the judges had decided to fire a reporter who had been on suspension, in addition to replacing the retiring reporter so they could hire both classmates A and B. That was the beginning of a dream job, times two, for these BFFs from Sparks College.

At this time, can we welcome and congratulate classmate B, our Distinguished Service Award recipient for 2011, Mary Beth Rollins. (applause, cheers, thank-yous).



Mary Beth Rollins displays her Distinguished Service Award.



Robert P. Fields

Two Lucky Students Win ILCRA's Robert P. Fields Legacy Award

This was the first year — and won't be the last — of the Robert P. Fields Legacy Award, which was conferred at the Grand Connections convention held at the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, Lake Geneva, WI, September 9 - 11.

There were ten students in attendance at the convention — pretty good odds, I'd say. Prior to the convention, ILCRA had sent out an e-blast about the award. Whether that arrived in time for or caused any students to travel to Lake Geneva, I do not know; but either way, those who attended learned a lot, and had a 1 in 10 chance of winning a cash award of \$1,000 and \$500.

ILCRA held their business meeting on Saturday morning at 7:45. The names of the students in attendance were randomly pulled from a hat. The \$1,000 winner was Brooke Heine. She's 21 years old, from Pinckneyville, IL (near St. Louis). After going to school for nursing, then education, and not feeling it was the right fit, her aunt suggested court reporting school, and she's been hooked ever since. Brooke has been attending the John A. Logan School in Carterville for a year and a half. She's working on her 140 wpm in testimony. Brooke intends to use the money toward her spring semester tuition.

The winner of \$500 was Cheyenne Tate. She's 19 years old, born in Decatur, now resides in Carterville, also goes to John A. Logan. She went directly from high school to reporting school, is in the 100 wpm class, also plans to use her winnings for tuition. Needless to say, she was also thrilled to win the cash.

I spent some time talking to both girls about Bob, and sent them a copy of the "In Memoriam" that previously appeared in the *Ad Infinitum* and *Journal of Court Reporting*.

The night before the convention, I created a list for insertion in the program thanking the contributors for their generosity. I only wish Bob could be here to experience the outpouring of love in the form of not only money, but notes expressing gratitude that something is being done to honor Bob's life and all he did for students and

reporters, all of whom became friends. I mean, really, who didn't love Bob? At the convention, as word spread about the award, countless people sought me out to say how happy they were that something was being done in his name.

Somehow, in my original email, I neglected to mention the date of the convention this year — which is okay, because money continues to come in, and I welcome it. The plan is for there to be an annual Robert P. Fields Legacy Award, and there will be a bigger buzz about it in years to come as it becomes more well known. Next year we'll be meeting in Springfield, and it will be an Illinois-only event, probably attracting more students. I must say, it was impressive that the winners of this year's award traveled so far; and very gratifying to reward them for their efforts. I feel like we all won on this one. And Bob knows, I can feel it.

With deepest gratitude,
— Donna M. Urlaub



Donna Urlaub, center, with Robert P. Fields Legacy Award winners Brooke Heine, left, and Cheyenne Tate.

ILCRA Presents Student Scholarship Awards

By Bernice Radavich

The 2011 ILCRA Student Scholarship winners were announced at the ILCRA Annual Business Meeting in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, on September 10th.

We received a number of well-written essays on the topic of persistence. It was a pleasure for the committee members to read so many essays with good spelling, grammar, and punctuation, but that made the selection process this year especially difficult.

In the end, the committee chose the winning essay that you see here. The student spoke about a quote that was significant to her in her quest to become a reporter: "Persistence can grind an iron beam down into a needle." And she spoke about her iron beam being her long commute and practice time and the needle being her ultimate goal of becoming a professional reporter.

In first place was **Davee M. Followell** from John A. Logan College. Davee received a \$1,000 scholarship, a night in the hotel, registration for the Grand Connections Convention, and a free year's membership in ILCRA.

Second place went to **Thomas Noonan** from South Suburban College, who won a \$500 scholarship.

In third place was **Julie M. McCarron** from MacCormac College, who won a \$300 scholarship.

Congratulations to the 2011 ILCRA Student Scholarship award winners!

FIRST PLACE ESSAY

Nothing in the World Takes the Place of Persistence

by Davee M. Followell

As a court reporting student, nothing in the world takes the place of persistence. In my efforts to become a professional court reporter, I have had to overcome several obstacles. Two of my biggest obstacles were commuting a long distance to school and finding time to practice on my writer. Persistence is a continued effort to achieve a goal that you have set for yourself. My personal goal is to become a professional court reporter regardless of the obstacles I have to face.

My day starts with getting up and doing a normal morning routine. I load up my writer and make the hour-long commute to school to attend my two-hour speed building class. After class, I'm back in my car and on my way home to prepare for my eight-hour job. Immediately after work, I go home to practice for two hours on my steno machine, shower and go to bed. I am always saying, I wish I had about 32 hours in a day because 24 just aren't enough.

"Persistence can grind an iron beam down into a needle" is a quote that I believe describes my professional persistence. For me, the iron beam is my long commute and practice time and the needle is my ultimate goal of becoming a professional reporter. My persistence comes out on those long drives and practice times, but I push through with that huge desire in my heart to achieve my goal. If I were not persistent in my efforts, I would always feel the huge weight of the iron beam rather than the great satisfaction of knowing that I am a few steps closer to the lightweight needle and becoming the professional court reporter that I desire to be.

My parents have always told me that if something were easy, then everyone would be doing it. That is true in almost anything you want to do in life. Court reporting school is one of the hardest things I have ever had to achieve in my life, but I know with my continued efforts and persistence, one day I will achieve my goal that so many before me have.



Immediate Past President Jill Layton (left) presents first place student scholarship award to Davee Followell, a student at John A. Logan College.



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Pictured from left to right at the Grand Connections Convention in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin are:

1. Glenn Sonntag - ILCRA Convention Reporter, Bonni Shuttleworth, Nancy Davis, Glennda Davis.
2. President Nancy LaBella, with Jennifer Costales, winner of the Illinois Realtime Contest.
3. Immediate Past President Jill Layton, presents Lyn M. Grooms, former Treasurer, with a plaque for her service to the ILCRA Board.
4. LeAnn Hibler receiving plaque for her service to the ILCRA Board.
5. Paula Borio, Julie Samford
6. ILCRA Board members for 2011-2013, front row: Kathie Grove, Nancy Davis, Jill Layton. Second row: Rita Corson, Kathryn Thomas. Back row: Nancy LaBella, Stephanie Rennegarbe, Bonni Shuttleworth, Vernita Allen-Williams, Bernice Radavich, Deb Musielak, Pat Houlf, Angela Miller.

Grand Connections Speed and Realtime Contest Results

By Bonni Shuttleworth

First, we would like to thank **Sonntag Reporting Service, LTD**, for sponsoring the Speed Contest and **Urlaub, Bowen & Associates** for sponsoring the Realtime Contest. We appreciate your support and participation.

This year's convention was held in partnership with the Wisconsin Court Reporters Association at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. As in former years, this was an exciting and close contest as you will see from the scores. Without further ado, here are the results.

REALTIME CONTESTS

The Realtime Contest is 180 words per minute on literary material. This year's literary was a commencement speech by Alan Alda at his daughter's college graduation.

- Jennifer Costales98.1110%
- Fred Jeske95.00%
- Laura Kooy98.00%
- Tara Monthie96.4444%
- Julie Poenitsch97.6667%
- Bernice Radavich ..97.3333%
- Melanie Sonntag97.1111%
- Karla Sommer98.5556%
- Donna Urlaub98.00%

First Place in the Grand Connections combined contest was **Karla Sommer**.

Second Place in the Grand Connections combined contest was **Jennifer Costales**.

Third Place in the Grand Connections combined contest was a tie, **Laura Kooy** and **Donna Urlaub**. Congratulations to all the contestants! You are amazing realtime writers!

First Place in the Illinois Realtime Contest was **Jennifer Costales**.

Second Place in the Illinois Realtime Contest was a tie, **Laura Kooy** and **Donna Urlaub**.

Third Place in the Illinois Realtime Contest was **Bernice Radavich**.

GARY L. SONNTAG MEMORIAL SPEED CONTEST

Now on to the Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest:

220 words per minute Literary. The literary was a speech by Jerry Weintraub, a prolific movie producer, concert producer and manager of many famous musical acts.

- Paula Campbell96.3636%
- Bernice Radavich ..98.3636%
- Karla Sommer96.0909%
- Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag98.00%
- Donna Urlaub97.3636%

230 words per minute Legal Opinion. This was a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court regarding a manufacturers liability.

- Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag95.00%
- Donna Urlaub95.9130%

270 words per minute Two-Voice Testimony. This was about a worker who may have suffered from asbestos containing product/materials.

- Paula Campbell95.4074%
- Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag95.5556%
- Donna Urlaub98.8148%

First Place Grand Connections combined Speed Contest was **Donna Urlaub** with an

average percent of 97.36%.

Second Place in the Grand Connections Speed Contest was **Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag** with an average percent of 96.19%.

First Place in the Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest and awarded the Sally Cochran speed trophy was **Donna Urlaub** with an average percent of 97.36%.

Second Place in the Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest was **Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag** with an average percent of 96.19%.

Congratulations to all who competed in this year's contests!



Donna Urlaub displays her trophy.

State Leaders Gather to Learn, Share in Las Vegas

By Stephanie Rennegarbe

Nancy LaBella and I attended the NCRA State Leadership Conference held in Las Vegas in conjunction with the NCRA convention on July 27. It was a busy day with a great deal of knowledge being passed on to state leaders from all over the United States, including Hawaii.

We were welcomed by NCRA President Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag. With her bubbly smile and enthusiastic personality, she reminded us that we are in the greatest profession that so few people know about. It was the beginning of a fantastic day.

Our first speaker, Mark Levin, author of *Membership Development: 101 Ways to Get and Keep Members*, covered the topic of membership acquisition and retention in our state association. He shared with us the various ways to communicate with our target audiences — including the fact that we need to continue to provide our newsletters by electronic means, as well as hard copies so that all members of our state associations have the option of receiving the information in each of their preferred ways.

The next session was called “The Color of Money” and was

presented by Bruce Matthews and Wendel Stewart. Accounting isn’t always a strong point amongst steno writers, but he gave us some points to remember. For our state we are most fortunate that we have an executive director and an accountant whom we can rely on to know that our money is being tightly budgeted and watched closely.

“The Nuts and Bolts of Association Work” was covered by NCRA Executive Director Mark Golden, and NCRA General Counsel Jeffrey Altman. They reminded us that it is a good idea to have leadership

[\(Continued on page 14\)](#)

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Wounded Warrior Project Is Designated Grand Connections Charity

This year, the Grand Connections Convention Committee chose the Wounded Warrior Project as the convention charity. All during the convention donations were collected for this project.

The mission of the Wounded Warrior Project is to honor and empower wounded warriors and to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded warriors in this nation's history. The purpose is to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members, to help injured service members aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members.

Go to <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org> to discover all the ways that the Wounded Warrior Project is benefiting our injured men and women returning from war.

RAFFLE WINNER DONATES PROCEEDS!

Our 50/50 raffle winner was announced at the 9/11 tribute. The winner was **Therese Stevens**, who immediately donated her proceeds of \$400+ to the Wounded Warrior Project. What a wonderful thing to do, Therese!

2011 Leadership Conference

(Continued from page 13)

training for our State Board of Directors so that they can gain information firsthand on leadership skills and also various tips and pointers on board minutes and keeping them precise and to the point.

"Effective Use of Public Relations" was a topic covered by Tami Smith and Jim Cudahy. This seminar covered dealing with the media and journalists. We were reminded that we should not ignore the media when they call us, and that we should always want to be a part of the story.

Our last seminar topic was the "State of the States Report" presented by Dave Wenhold and Adam Finkel. We learned of the survey results regarding a number of questions that were sent out. These results gave us an overview of where our state stood in conjunction with the others. Basically, all of our state associations are facing the same concerns and issues. We are all in the same boat together, and this topic was a reassurance that we are not alone in the barriers we face.

We also learned that our State Association dues in Illinois are in the middle of the spectrum for all participating states in the survey. Our rate of \$110 per year is just 30 cents per day for a member. When you put things in that perspective, it's a small way to give back to a profession that has been so good to all of us!

And, finally, we were informed at the Leadership Training that NCRA will once again

hold Boot Camp in Washington, DC on February 26-28, 2012. Boot Camp is a chance to interact with other state association leaders and to go to Capitol Hill. In a nutshell, you will get a brief synopsis and training on interaction with lobbyists and the legislators. It's a great learning experience, and one that gives you a better understanding of how things really are on Capitol Hill. It is three days of fast-paced excitement, and anyone who would like to attend is encouraged to do so!

Our day at Leadership Training was quite busy, but an invaluable tool for us. We not only learned new and perhaps more effective ways of operation, but also learned that our State Association in Illinois is solid and strong. As board members we are always questioning ourselves and wanting to please all of our members even though it is impossible to do so.

We left this busy, interactive day with new information and reassurance that we are so very fortunate in the State of Illinois to have a knowledgeable executive director and passionate board members who truly care about the profession and our affairs. We must never be apathetic in an ever-changing profession.

For some people it may sound like a day of lectures, but I can truly say it was a day filled with education and I am pleased that I could attend. I hope I have the chance to go back next year!



By Richard A. Sherman

USE WIRELESS KEYBOARD WITH IPAD

Q. I bought a Bluetooth wireless external keyboard to use with my iPad. It's a great little keyboard, but I cannot get it to connect with the iPad. What am I doing wrong?

A. The iPad's integrated virtual keyboard is adequate for some typing, but for any significant amount of data entry, a real keyboard can't be beat. My personal favorite is a Logitech Bluetooth iPad Keyboard (\$69), but Apple makes an excellent wireless keyboard, also \$69 (what a coincidence) which is available from the Apple Store (<http://store.apple.com>). It can be a bit tricky to establish the handshake between iPad and keyboard, so let's walk through the process, step by step, in excruciating detail:

On your iPad, go to Settings > General > Bluetooth and make sure it is set to On. Next, turn on your keyboard using its power switch.

Return to the iPad's Bluetooth settings (Settings > General > Bluetooth) and after a couple of seconds you should see the cryptic words "Not paired," and your keyboard identified by name.

Here's the crucial, little-known, often-overlooked, hyphen-laden step: In the iPad's Bluetooth settings, tap "Not paired," and note the four- or six-digit number dis-

played. Type that number on your keypad, then press the Return key. Once the connection (handshake) is established, you will see the word "Connected" next to the name of your keyboard. You can then begin typing.

Once you finish using your Bluetooth device, be sure to return to Settings > General > Bluetooth and turn Bluetooth off. If you leave Bluetooth on and raise the iPad to your ear, like an iConch, the sucking sound you hear will be the charge departing your battery.

The next time you use your keyboard, turn on Bluetooth, turn on your keyboard and after a few seconds the word "Connected" should appear. At that point, you're good to go.

For oodles (it's a technical term) more iPad tips, my latest ebook series, *Mr. Modem's Top 50 iPad Tips, Volumes 1-3*, makes its debut on amazon.com this month.

Q. I somehow deleted the My Document icon from my XP computer. How can I get it back?

A. Right-click Desktop > Properties > Desktop tab > Customize Desktop button. Under Desktop Icons, place a check mark beside My Documents. If it already has a check mark, remove it, restart your computer, then return to the same area

and replace the check mark, followed by OK.

Q. How do I capture or save what appears on screen?

A. The key to capturing whatever appears on your monitor is the keystroke combination CTRL + PRINT SCREEN, sometimes displayed as the PRNT SCR N or PRT SC key.

Pressing the PRINT SCREEN key copies data to the Windows Clipboard, from which you can then paste it into another document or email message.

If you want to capture only the active window — the window in which you are currently working — and not any other window that might be lurking in the background, hold down the ALT key first, then press the PRINT SCREEN key.

When I create a screen shot of a window, or an error message, or some other dialog box, I paste it into Paint, which can be found under Programs > Accessories. You can, however, use any other graphics program as your pasting destination.

Mr. Modem's Top 50 Computing Tips, a life-altering five-ebook series, is just a download away on amazon.com! Each (only \$2.99) features 50 of Mr. M.'s greatest computing tips, all easy to understand, all written in Mr. Modem's entertaining and occasionally informative style.



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

WORLD EBOOK LIBRARY

The World Public Library Association is the world's largest eBook provider. Founded in 1996, the WPLA is dedicated to preserving and disseminating classic works of literature, serials, bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other reference works in a number of languages and countries around the world. Nothing by Mr. Modem yet, though. Pity. <http://netlibrary.net/view/about-us.aspx>

10X10 A fascinating site that takes an hourly photographic pulse of the world. When you open 10x10, you will see a grid of the top 100 world images for that hour, ranked in order of importance, reading left to right, top to bottom. Along the right edge of the screen are listed the corresponding top 100 words, one for each image. Move your mouse around the images and you will see which words match which images. Click any word or image to zoom in and see the news headlines behind the word. www.tenbyten.org/now.html

GET RELAXED Soothing sounds to help you feel more relaxed and less stressed. Choose from mellifluous melodies such as Eternal Hope, Midsummer Sky or Clear Water. Music is accompanied by a photo slide show, which I thought moved too quickly and kind of stressed me out, but perhaps that's just me. Better still, forget the slide show, minimize the window, and let this musical muscle relaxer play in the background. Ahhhhh..... www.getrelaxed.com

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ILCRA Committee Activity Updates

■ BUDGET COMMITTEE

Lyn Grooms, Chairperson

As Chair of the Budget Committee of the Illinois Court Reporters Association, I have submitted to the Budget Committee as a whole a proposed ILCRA 2012 Budget for consideration. Said submission to the Committee is in accordance with ILCRA's Bylaws, Article V. Standing Committees, Section 6, Budget Committee, which reads in part: "The Treasurer shall submit a budget to the other Committee Members no later than the September Board Meeting, for the following calendar year. The Committee shall then make any necessary changes and present the budget to the Executive Board for its adoption." The Budget Committee has formed a consensus as to a budget for calendar year 2012, and said proposed budget has been submitted to the Board of Directors for adoption. The submission to the Board is mandated by ILCRA's Bylaws, which reads in part in Article III. Officers Elections and Duties, Section 8, Treasurer, as follows: "The Treasurer shall chair the Budget Committee, which Committee shall be responsible for submitting an annual budget, in cooperation with the Executive Director, to the Executive Board for approval at the beginning of each fiscal year." In compliance with ILCRA's Bylaws, the 2012 Budget as presented to the Board of Directors has been adopted; said budget being in place prior to the beginning of Fiscal 2012.

■ FREELANCE COMMITTEE

Sarah Paszkiewicz, Chairperson

The Freelance Committee is currently taking a survey amongst agencies and reporters throughout the state in an effort to put together a format to suggest to reporters. We will be informing the board of the decision when we have it.

■ LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Pat Houlf, Chairperson

The Legislative Committee has been inactive other than closely monitoring the Court Services Budget and legislation seeking to change the pension and health insurance benefits for current state employees and retirees.

■ OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

Pat Houlf, Chairperson

The Officials Committee continues to work on student recruitment and legislation affecting Official Court Reporters.

■ PR/MARKETING COMMITTEE

Vernita Allen-Williams, Chairperson

The PR/Marketing Committee members have two scheduled career days on deck. The summer is usually a slow period. I'd like to schedule on-site career days during the summer for court reporting students next summer. Students already enrolled in court reporting programs also need our continued support. I don't want to leave them out of career day opportunities at nearby courthouses. I'm hopeful other chief judges will be as willing to host an on-site career day for court reporting students as my chief judge was.

Our courthouse will host Prince Institute's court reporting students in October for an on-site career day. We will start with a brief overview by our chief judge, Victoria Rossetti, of how our courthouse runs and perhaps a tour. The students will then go into various courtrooms with an official reporter and experience, perhaps for the first time, what a real working official has to deal with. We will end with a question/answer session between the officials and the students. I'm very excited and thankful for getting the referral from Tammy Bumgarner, yet another example of our successful partnership with Springfield.

Georgia Rollins is scheduled to host a career day on November 3, 2011 for 8th graders.

Your PR/Marketing Committee stands ready and willing to promote our profession and educate the public regarding choosing court reporting as a viable career choice.

■ STUDENT MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE

Joni Markel, Chairperson

When I took on this job, I was told that I would be lucky to have six or seven applicants for a mentor, but I am proud to report that we now have 66 students and court reporters joined together as student/mentor couples! As of now, we have a few reporters just waiting on a student to apply.

A suggestion that I have is that it would be interesting to hear about the relationships that have been formed through this process. Maybe we could encourage the paired couples to write an article in the newsletter and tell of their experience. (Note: Any student/mentor couples out there who would like to share their stories? E-mail Joni at jonimarkel@hotmail.com.)

Task Force Releases Final Wireless White Paper

The NCRA Wireless Task Force is pleased to announce that their white paper, titled “The Secure Delivery of Transcripts Using Wireless and Internet-Based Realtime Methods,” has been officially completed and publically released.

“This white paper is going to become the benchmark to judges, court administrators, IT professionals, and litigants demonstrating that wireless and Bluetooth realtime are 100% secure,” said Wireless Task Force Chair SueLynn Morgan. We have found that the majority of Federal and state courts have not yet broached the issue and the task force wanted to be proactive and provide some certainty to the multitude of court reporters that provide a much needed service in their courtroom on a daily basis.”

The task force has already had an objective source review the paper. Independent Security Expert Carl Davis, CEH, CISSP, MCSE, CCSA was contacted to offer his suggestions on ensuring that wireless realtime is both safe and secure for courts to use. Concluded Mr. Davis, “Concisely, I would

like to stress that the wireless technology promoted by the Wireless Task Force is safe and secure if used and implemented in a secure manner.”

The task force will also request to have the paper peer reviewed by COSCA and NACM’s working group on all issues technology, the Joint Technology Conference (JTC). If the JTC agrees to offer a peer review, it will give credibility to the content and provide assistance in distributing the final paper to a larger, more diverse audience so that individuals involved with the court system will understand the security of wireless and Bluetooth realtime.

In addition to Chairperson Morgan, Bill Weber, Sandy VanderPol, Julie Thomas, Jerry Kelley and Adam Finkel shared authorship of the white paper. The paper is available online, [click here](http://ncraonline.org/NR/rdonlyres/3149927B-96EB-4D09-8AC8-22C588EB28D4/0/Wireless-WhitePaperPortfolio_final.pdf) or go to: http://ncraonline.org/NR/rdonlyres/3149927B-96EB-4D09-8AC8-22C588EB28D4/0/Wireless-WhitePaperPortfolio_final.pdf

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CHECK OUT OUR BRIEFS

By Nancy LaBella, President

CALLING ALL BRIEF FORM KINGS AND QUEENS! Do you love coming up with briefs on the fly? Are you always trying to write shorter and, thus, smarter? Do your coworkers come to you for brief form suggestions? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, here is your opportunity to share your knowledge. I am ready to pass the baton.

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I started “Check Out Our Briefs” after Amy Quint retired from her brief duties three years ago. No wonder I am running out of ideas! If you would like to take over this fun and informative column in our newsletter, please email me at labellaseppi@yahoo.com. Just think how impressed your colleagues will be when they see your name in lights — or at least in black and white!

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While enjoying a Sunday Jeep ride with her husband, Jill Layton spotted this sign by a country cemetery and just had to take picture!



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Tech Bit:

Your Computer as the Cloud

By Gregg Marshall, CPMR, CSP

PogoPlug is a small, inexpensive (under \$100) device that turns an external USB hard disk into cloud storage you can access from any computer, either via a web browser or a small software download that turns your PogoPlug cloud into a drive on your computer (usually the P: drive).

PogoPlug recently introduced a video version of the PogoPlug that can share video and take care of converting it to the format the receiver needs in real time. Other than the internal changes, it still looks the same, albeit a bit more expensive.

Just this past month, I got an email from PogoPlug with a really exciting new option for PogoPlug cloud storage. A software version for Windows PCs that can turn your computer into a PogoPlug cloud storage server, no external hardware required.

One disadvantage of the PogoPlug hardware versions is they use external USB disk drives. My experience with external drives is they don't turn the hard drive off, ever. So leaving the hard drive spinning 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to be accessible via the PogoPlug can cause the hard drive to fail faster. But Windows can power a drive down when it's not being used, set up in your power profile setting.

Until this PogoPlug software, I used Microsoft's Live Mesh to let me access my computer in my home office, mostly to be able to copy any file from the computer to the PogoPlug where I can access it remotely. But with the PogoPlug software, I can add directories (or entire drives) to my PogoPlug cloud. So my home computer is not only part of my cloud now, but the two main drives on the network server which are mapped to drives on that computer.

What is perfect, the basic software to allow sharing is free. Just go to www.pogoplug.com and download the software. Installing it is easy. And configuring it is as easy as the hardware version. For a modest charge (under \$30), you can upgrade the software to include the video sharing of the upgraded PogoPlug hardware.

Gregg Marshall, CPMR, CSP, is a speaker, author and consultant. He can be reached by e-mail at gmarshall@repconnection.com, or visit his website at <http://www.repconnection.com>.

NCRA NewsFlash...

TASK FORCE ON CONTRACTING MEETS IN LAS VEGAS

NCRA's newest task force, the Task Force on Contracting (TFOC), met in person during NCRA's Annual Convention in Las Vegas. During this meeting, the task force discussed its charges for the 2011-2012 year, and it began some preliminary planning. The task force's charges include reviewing and evaluating past activities at the state and national level to govern third-party contracting activities, developing specific proposals for future action that will allow for effective enforcement of current laws, and working as a point of contact to assist NCRA's affiliate associations efforts to pass effective rules or legislation governing third-party contracting.

CHANGES TO THE CERTIFIED REALTIME REPORTER (CRR) EXAM

Beginning with the November 5, 2011, exam administration, the CRR skills test will be a two-voice question-and-answer at 200 wpm at 96% accuracy. As both freelance and official reporters primarily write Q&A material, the NCRA Board of Directors, along with NCRA testing committees, have determined that a Q&A test at a slightly faster speed would be the most relevant test content for judicial reporters. The RPR will remain a mandatory prerequisite for the CRR, while the Certified Broadcast Captioner (CBC) and Certified CART Provider (CCP) skills tests will remain straight matter at 180 wpm at 96% accuracy.

UPDATES TO NCRA ADVISORY OPINIONS OFFER GUIDANCE ON GIFT-GIVING POLICY

The NCRA Board of Directors approved a change to Provision 8 of the Code of Professional Ethics in March 2011, so that there is now a distinction between thank you (or marketing) gifts and incentive gifts (gifts given in direct exchange for future work).

The provision reads: Refrain from giving, directly or indirectly, any gift or anything of value to attorneys or their staff, other clients or their staff, or any other persons or entities associated with any litigation, which exceeds \$100 in the aggregate per recipient each year. Nothing offered in exchange for future work is permissible, regardless of its

value. *Pro bono* services as defined by the NCRA Guidelines for Professional Practice or by applicable state and local laws, rules, and regulations are permissible in any amount.

NCRA'S NEW CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Members will still be required to earn 3.0 units of continuing education each three-year cycle in order to maintain their certifications, and a minimum of two of those units must be earned in formal instructional activities that meet the requirements of NCRA's accrediting body, the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (ACCET). Up to one unit per cycle, however, may be earned for qualifying professional development activities. Visit NCRA's website at <http://www.ncraonline.org/certification/Continued> for specifics on the new program and for details on how to earn the new Professional Development Credits (PDCs).

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Nancy Varallo

Dear Nancy

Dear Nancy: I have prepared myself for interactive realtime. I think I'm ready. My agency owner, however, overlooks me for those jobs. How can I convince her I'm ready?

Signed, Overlooked

Dear Overlooked: You've got me humming John Fogerty's song "Centerfield":

Oh, put me in, Coach - I'm ready to play today; Put me in, Coach - I'm ready to play today; Look at me, I can be Centerfield.

A freelance office resembles a baseball team. There are the all-stars, the everyday players, and the bench — ready to fill in at a moment's notice. Bench players need to be ready every day, even though they aren't often called on.

You've worked to get yourself ready. Great! Remind the coach you're ready, and eager to get in the game. Show her you've attended realtime seminars. Get certified: CRR. (Of course, you already have the RPR.) Ask (don't demand) for the chance to prove yourself.

By the way, how do you know you're ready? A high tran rate is excellent, but what about accuracy? Punctuation? Ability to do global defines on the fly, so your interactive realtime steadily improves as the job progresses? Do you appreciate the value of prepping for a RT job? Make sure your agency owner knows you want prep material (the complaint, answers to interrogatories, a prior transcript) to look over so you can be prepared for the job. The lawyers you work for will be favorably impressed by your conscientiousness — and so will your boss. The best tool for testing your readiness is a red pen. Print out a draft and proof it. How many errors per page are there? It's a great visual aid to help you highlight areas that need improvement.

As a firm owner, I look to my all-stars when I assign realtime jobs. I know they will prep for the job, their software and hardware is up to date, and they will be able to assist the attorney getting hooked up, if need be. (And, trust me, you will be looked to by the attorneys to get them set

up and ready to go.) And my first-stringers have their certifications and take CE seriously. Their attitude? Always positive, confident, never whiny. They aim to please. The reporters on my bench lack one or more of these exemplary characteristics.

Talk to your firm owner; ask her how you can get off the bench. With the talent, skills, certifications, and the right can-do attitude, she'll want you in the line-up!

Dear Nancy: I'm a solid writer, but haven't provided realtime for attorneys. My firm now advertises that all its reporters are realtime-ready, on any job; the lawyers need only ask. Frankly, this scares me! You never know what a job will be like, and I'm not one to provide a service that isn't just so. But the message from the firm owner is clear: Be ready! Can you give me some advice to help me to be ready every day on my job?

Signed, Not Ready for Prime Time

Dear Not Ready for Prime Time: See Overlooked (above). She's looking for your job!

Your question actually highlights a dilemma agencies face: how to compete. If the best reporters distinguish themselves from all others by their ability to do interactive RT, and fast-turnaround drafts, then we (the agency) want to advertise that that's who we are. Hire us!

We take it as an article of faith that stenographic writers are superior to all other forms of making the record (voicewriters and Stenomaskers in particular) because of our ability to provide quality realtime output. Realtime has been with us for two decades. (My husband, Ed Varallo, published his *Realtime Writer's Manual* in 1992.) Students learn RT in school. You can't escape the many RT seminars on offer. NCRA has RT certifications. So every stenographic reporter is realtime ready, every day, on every job. Right?

Well, maybe not. Maybe some of us have been happy to let the firm's all-stars do the RT heavy lifting while we set the bar lower for

[*\(Continued on page 23\)*](#)

Dear Nancy

(Continued from page 22)

ourselves. But let me not place blame. Nevertheless, the uncomfortable truth is that too many reporters have not upped their game to meet the standards of the topflight court reporters of today. The all-stars in my agency look forward to arriving on a job and being asked, Can you hook up to me today? You bet! Extra bucks per page!

How to be RT ready on short notice? First, of course, you need to write cleanly. Then all things are possible. You can make yourself a clean writer by practicing — not for speed, but for clean execution. Practice a bit below your comfortable speed, until you can write that speed cleanly; then notch up your practice speed a bit, not more than 10 wpm. Clean writing is an acquired skill, and you can do it! Make sure you use enough briefs to cut down the many strokes you will have to write each day. Fewer strokes = fewer misstrokings = cleaner notes. Each time you work on a job in a particular subject-matter area (accident reconstruction, asbestos, banking & finance, construction, environmental), keep a discrete job dictionary containing entries, and special briefs, specific to that subject. They are then available to be looked over before any job you go on.

Ask for a prior transcript for every job you go to. Read it, and prepare your job dictionary before you get to the job. Create easy-to-write briefs for the vocabulary you see. No prior transcript? The Internet is a great place to research the case. Can't find the lawsuit? Research the company and read about its key players. What do

they manufacture or sell? Look up the witness. Is he an expert? GoogleScholar.com is a great resource to find scientific articles and literature references.

I know this sounds like a lot of work, but it's what our most competent writers do. For them, preparation is part of the job - every day. You wouldn't go to bed without brushing your teeth. Don't go to a job without preparing for it. Your notes will be cleaner, your editing time reduced - and your clients will be well satisfied. If the client is happy, your agency owner is happy. Sounds like a win-win to me.

Nancy Varallo, FAPR, RDR, CRR, owner of The Varallo Group, offers customized business development and administrative services to court reporters and reporting agencies. Nancy has been a court reporter since 1979, has trained hundreds of court reporters, and has fielded thousands of questions from reporters. Please ask your question at www.dearnancy.com.



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Vendor News

PRINCE INSTITUTE HONORS VETERANS

Great Lakes Campus Donates Veterans Oral Histories to Library of Congress

In observance of Veteran's Day, on Friday, November 11, Prince Institute Great Lakes Campus will bring area court reporters to the Schaumburg campus in order to preserve the life stories of veterans. All transcripts will be donated to the Library of Congress.

"Prince Institute wanted to partner with court reporters in our area to honor America's wartime veterans, who have sacrificed so much for our freedom," said Dave Wynne, Senior Vice President, Sales & Education. "Coordinating this effort to apply court reporting skills to preserve these accounts will serve as our contribution and our thanks to these heroes."

Court reporting students can also participate in the National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) program to receive free student membership if they transcribe two histories under the Oral Histories Program. Student membership includes a wealth of resources, including articles and information, a special student newsletter, networking, mentoring, job and career counseling, and online job referrals.

To learn more about Prince Institute and the Veterans History Project, please visit: princeinstitute.edu. Visit NCRF Oral History for additional information about the NCRF's Oral Histories Program.

STENOGRAPH ANNOUNCES NEW LUNAR WHITE DIAMANTE

Stenograph is pleased to announce that its popular Diamante writer is now available in a

new color, Lunar White. The writer is available immediately for purchase.

"The sleek white and gray tones of Lunar White Diamante are complementary to the sophisticated yet understated look of the writer", said Judy Wolf, Marketing Product Manager. "We anticipate the new color combination will appeal to both men and women."

To date, Stenograph's sales of the Diamante writer have exceeded 5,000 units in just under two years. The Platinum Gray and Blue Ice color options continue to be offered. For more about Stenograph, visit www.stenograph.com.

THE VARALLO GROUP UNVEILS ITS NEW NAME AND PRODUCT SUITE

Court Reporting & Management Services, LLC today announced its new name, The Varallo Group LLC, and a new suite of services, designed to help providers of court reporting and management services run their businesses more efficiently.

Varallo, a marquee name in court reporting, has a rich and proud history dating back to 1937. Today, Nancy Varallo, a veteran court reporter, industry educator, and business owner, carries on the Varallo tradition of excellence. As a provider of court reporters and management services to the industry, the new company name reflects the company's longstanding commitment to traditional values of quality, service, and accountability.

"It is a name people trust," said owner Nancy Varallo, "and that is important, because our clients entrust us with their clients."

(Continued on page 25)

Help a Veteran to Tell Their Story!

Prince Institute in Schaumburg is seeking Court Reporters to record the stories of Veterans and donate the transcripts to the Library of Congress. The event will take place on 11/11/11. Please contact Marc at 847.592.6001 to sign up or for more information and to earn CEUs!

CONFERENCE ROOM AVAILABLE



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FAX (847) 623-7597

Vendor News

(Continued from page 24)

Varallo is a Registered Diplomat Reporter as well as a Certified Realtime Reporter. She is also a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters and serves as a Director on the National Court Reporting Association Board. With more than 30 years of experience of owning and running her own businesses, Varallo determined that expanding her service offerings only made sense for her clients.

When we provide reporters and administrative support to our clients, we free them up to concentrate on growing their businesses, Varallo emphasized. Our new services only strengthen those efforts.

An overview of the suite of services offered by The Varallo

Group is available at www.The-VaralloGroup.com.

“Our management philosophy and ownership have not changed,” said Varallo, “but our new name reflects a commitment to the current needs of our clients and how we see them growing and evolving in the future.”

WHAT'S HAPPENING...

CONGRATULATIONS to ILCRA Board Member, **Rita Corson**, on the birth of her new granddaughter, Marley Jo, born August 24, 2011.

WELCOME NEW ILCRA MEMBERS!



PROFESSIONAL:

Lisa A. Blanks, *Buffalo, MN*

Carrie L. Brown, *Round Lake*

Michelle Buman, *Hanover*

Lynn M. Callahan Riddley, *Springfield*

Celeste D. Nicolls, *Waterloo*

ASSOCIATE:

Sherry L. Bolt (Retired)

Debbie Field (Instructor)

Therese Kahrman (Student)

Kimberly A. Pearce (Student)

Mary Jo Roper (Retired)

Trixie Schuzer (Student)

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Flag Flies Over Capitol on 9/11

Thank you to former ILCRA Board Member, **Lyn M. Grooms**, who made arrangements for a flag to be flown over the U.S. Capitol Building on 9/11/11. This was given to the winner of a drawing that was held during the tribute to 9/11 held on 9/11/11 at the Grand Connections Convention. The winner was **Mae Pittman**. Mae is a Federal Official in Chicago.



Become a Charter Member of Gallery of Shorthand

Dominick M. Tursi, has invited all members to become an early Charter Member of The Gallery of Shorthand. Charter Membership is available to those who enroll (a \$45 donation), before the end of 2011 and runs through December 2012.

The Gallery of Shorthand is on the verge of being declared a museum by the State of New York. This will make it the only museum dedicated to the shorthand profession — a wonderful tribute to all of us! For more information, visit <http://www.galleryofshorthand.org/> or contact Dominick M. Tursi, Gallery Director (631) 712-6108, e-mail: domtursi@email.com.

Newly Certified Illinois Reporter

Congratulations to Certified Realtime Reporter **Sherry Jones, RPR, CRR**, of Crete, IL who became certified as a result of the August 2011 exam.

COURT FUNNIES!

We had a gentleman...well, we had a male defendant who had been in the criminal system for years and had been in and out of prison many times. He didn't appear for court in the neighboring two counties, and he had outstanding warrants for both of those counties. He was set for jury trial in my county, and he did not appear.

A warrant was issued for his arrest in our county. Within two hours of issuing the warrant, we learned he had been in a motorcycle accident and killed just a few hours prior to our warrant being issued. Later, an attorney made the comment, "That's why he didn't appear in court. People who are dead usually don't appear in court too much."

You think?! How about people who are dead usually don't appear in court at all?!!!

*Submitted by
Jill M. Layton, Immediate Past President*

WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS CARD!

SURE! I'd be happy to place my name prominently before my fellow ILCRA members and drum up a little business while showing support for my state association. Please display my business card in the next four issues of Ad Infinitum. Enclosed is my card and a check made payable to ILCRA for \$100.

Name: _____ Ph:() _____

Address: _____

Mail to: Nancy C. Davis, Executive Director, ILCRA, 41 SW Crescent Drive, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

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Please check address preferred for mail: Home Business

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Courthouse or
Business: _____
(Name) (Street Address) (Suite #) (City) (State) (Zip)

Business Phone: () _____ Home Phone: () _____ FAX: () _____ E-Mail
Address _____

Female Date of Birth Previous ILCRA Member? If yes, by what name?
Male / / Yes No _____

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER -- FOR COURT REPORTERS -- DUES \$110/YR

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Primary Shorthand : (check only one) Machine Pitman Gregg Other _____

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Certifications: RPR RMR RDR CLVS CMRS CRR CRI CPE FAPR CBC CCP
CSR State(s) _____ CSR# _____ Other: _____

Speed Contest Participant: ISRA/ILCRA Literary Legal/Jury Testimony Champion
NCRA Literary Legal/Jury Testimony Champion

Degrees: Associates Associate of Business Associate of Science Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Business Adm. Bachelor of Science
Master of Arts Master of Business Adm. Master of Science Doctor of Philosophy Other: _____

Nonreporting Specialties: Attorney Notary Public

ASSOCIATE MEMBER -- DUES AS INDICATED (check one) Instructor - \$50 Student ---- \$40 Vendor ---- \$60
Retired ---- \$40 Other -- \$60 _____
(Occupation)

The dues year is July 1 through June 30. Annual dues, payroll deduction card or credit card information must accompany application.

Check enclosed, payable to ILCRA DISCOVER
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Members of ILCRA are required to adhere to ILCRA's Code of Ethics. If, as a member, you violate ILCRA's Code and your ILCRA membership is suspended or revoked, that information shall be published in the Ad Infinitum or other ILCRA Publications.

Illinois Court Reporters Association Mission Statement:

To maintain standards of excellence in verbatim shorthand reporting, to provide continuing educational opportunities and advocate technological advancements, and to promote a spirit of mutual assistance between the profession of verbatim shorthand reporting and its consumers.

WHAT ILCRA DOES FOR ILLINOIS REPORTERS

- Works to maintain your right to be certified.
- Administers the RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CBC, and CCP examinations and publishes the dates of the tests in Ad Infinitum.
- Monitors, promotes, and lobbies to pass legislation favorable to the interest of court reporters, captioners and CART providers. Monitors legislation affecting our professions on a statewide and national basis through both our Legislative Committee and our lobbyist.
- Sponsors an annual conference and one-day seminars including continuing education and the latest in reporting technology.
- Publishes the Ad Infinitum, a quarterly online newsletter containing the newest up-to-the-minute reporting developments throughout the state, highlights of board meetings, advertisements of vendors and agency owners, and names and telephone numbers of ILCRA officers.
- Serves as an affiliated state unit of the National Court Reporters Association.
- Offers members significantly reduced rates for the conventions and seminars.
- Awards a Student Scholarship, a Distinguished Service Award, an Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Educator and conducts speed contests each year.
- Provides on the ILCRA Web site, a Resource Manual which includes the CSR Act, Court Reporters' Act, Rules and Regulations of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Transcript Act, and ILCRA Bylaws. It also includes officers' names and contact information as well as Committees and Committee Members. ILCRA Member Information is included on the Web site under Member Listing
- Offers an Online Student Mentor Program.
- Promotes student recruitment.
- Organizes letter-writing campaigns on issues affecting our professions.
- Sends representative members to legislative boot camps, leadership conferences and the national convention for training and education.
- Provides reporters for demonstrations on request and attends career days throughout the state.
- Provides free CART brochures to its members.
- Provides a court reporters network through our ListServe program which allows ILCRA to immediately be in touch with members via e-mail.
- Serves the membership with an 800 phone number, 1-800-656-2467 and a Web site www.ilcra.org.
- Provides a full-time staff person, our Executive Director, to assist members.