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CRA



ILLINOIS
COURT
REPORTERS
ASSOCIATION

FALL

2014

President's Message



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The 2014 ILCRA convention has come and gone, and I must say it was quite a busy time. We had a large turnout and it seemed that everyone had a good time. As always, convention time is a busy time. There is much to learn and absorb, but it seemed that the days moved swiftly and people were engaged. As I was putting my thoughts together for this edition of the *Ad In*, I am reminded of a saying that I saw in a college coach's office: "Meeting together is progress; working together is success." I hope all of you feel these words sum up our convention this year. It gave us a chance to interact with our peers throughout the state, and working together is imperative to our success.

For those of you who were unable to attend, you missed a lot of information. Our life coaches taught us how to strive for a balanced schedule between our personal and business lives. All of us who were there are going to work on the good habits Darcy Luoma and Shawn Preuss taught us. I can only speak for myself here, but I think I have a lot to work on.

We were fortunate to have NCRA Executive Director and CEO, Jim Cudahy, present the outlook of Court Reporting and the results of a study that was performed. The reality is that we need students to enroll in our programs, and we need them NOW! Spreading the word about the job opportunities is crucial for the success of our profession. We can't fill vacancies if we don't have future reporters. It's probably a concept that we've known for years, but now we have a study that lays it all out for us. We can't deny it any longer.

Our CART committee, led by LeAnn Hibler, shared many tips and information about the latest CART information. It is a strong leg of our field, and there is a big need for more CART writers. I encourage all of you to reach out to them if you're interested in providing CART. This committee is happy to share their knowledge with you.

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The ILCRA Board with NCRA President-Elect Steve Zinone



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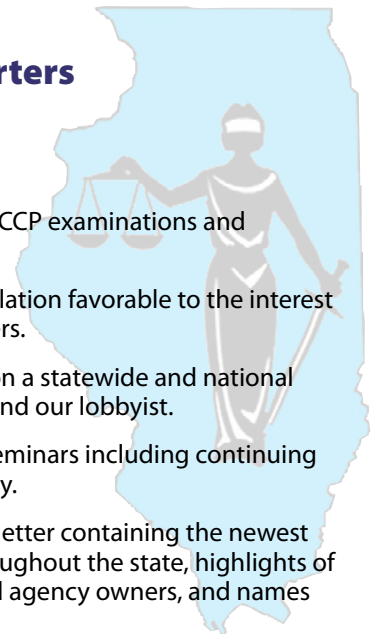
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For a listing of all committees and current committee members

[CLICK HERE](#)

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** *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** Student Scholarships, a Distinguished Service Award, an Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Educator, and conducts [speed contests](#) each year.
- **Provides** resources on the ILCRA website, including 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 website under "Find a Reporter."
- **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 Constant Contact which allows ILCRA to immediately be in touch with members via email.
- **Serves** the membership with the phone number 703-729-4861 and a [website](#).
- **Provides** an association management company to assist members.



ILCRA 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.

Distinguished Service Award Presentation

Bonni Shuttleworth

This DSA winner has served selflessly to promote the court reporting profession while serving on numerous NCRA Committees and ILCRA committees, serving on ILCRA's Board as president in 2005 and 2006 and as chairman of the Illinois CSR Board, as well as being a member of the Supreme Court Committee that dealt with revising and changing many of the Supreme Court Rules and Regulations in regard to the Court Reporting profession. This recipient also served on the state committee that revised the state formbook. This recipient has written many articles for the Ad In and has shared numerous briefs and phrases in those articles. This recipient also served as a liaison to the John A. Logan court reporting program and volunteered many hours to dictate to and educate the reporting students.

If you haven't already guessed, the ILCRA 2014 Distinguished Service Award winner is **Amy Quint**.

I would like two of Amy's family members to come in and share in this award as I continue to tell you about this year's Distinguished Service Award recipient.

Amy attended SIU-C Court Reporting School, and it was apparent to the instructors from the beginning that this candidate would be an exceptional student who would more than likely attain accolades, awards and certifications in the profession. Little did they anticipate this person would also go forward to provide service to fellow reporters, students and the court reporting profession. What or who inspired this reporter to go into the court reporting profession? Perhaps it was an uncle who was a judge and told her "it was a good field." Perhaps it was her aunt

who thought because this reporter, with her background in piano, would be a good candidate who would master the manual dexterity needed to master the profession. Maybe it was because the school was nearby. Whatever the reason, we in the profession are delighted and happy she chose to be part of this wonderful family.

Amy grew up on a farm near Metropolis (that she still owns) and attended a small country grade school and then graduated from Metropolis Community High School. Two words come to mind when thinking about Amy: music and faith. In fact, those two words still summarize her life. Amy was singing before she could talk. Her musical talent was inherited from the mother. Amy's family lived their faith on a daily basis and it became the same for Amy. Amy would conduct Sunday school classes for the dolls on the stairway in the grandparents' home. Singing and playing the piano were and still are constants in Amy's life.

Amy is a strong, funny, loving, smart and loyal person. She has many wonderful friends because she is a wonderful friend. She is generous and caring and fun to be around. She often does things with her friends' children and she is always ready to help others. She has two dogs, George and Gracie, who are her family along with her many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Amy is also an excellent chef.

Amy exemplifies another word—resilience. She has faced many challenges during her life and she has shown amazing strength and courage. During the illnesses and eventual deaths of her parents she was unwavering in her care for them. Her father died in 2009 and less than 3 years later she lost her mother. They were so proud of her and raised a remarkable daughter who honored them throughout their lives. She spoke and sang at both their funerals.

She is an avid supporter of harness racing as a horse owner and spectator. She is the proud owner of three pacers/trotters:



2014 DSA Winner Amy Quint with Bonni Shuttleworth

Southern Party, Band Alexis, and Party Dasher that she considers her children. Amy's four-legged child, Southern Party is "with child" making Amy a grandparent to a colt.

Amy has always had a passion for sports too. She loves the St. Louis Cardinals, the Indianapolis Colts, local high school football and follows college football and basketball as well as NFL games. She also attends sports events in her local community as well as Metropolis. One other note: Amy has acquired and loves her Mini that happens to be a stick shift. After many times killing the engine, she has conquered the challenge a stick shift offers.

For Amy to receive this award today is an added blessing. Today (Sept. 13) is her maternal grandfather's birthday. He died many years ago but because Amy is such a family-oriented person I know that makes this day even more special.

It is my privilege and honor to present the 2014 Distinguished Service Award to Amy Quint.



NCRA President-Elect Steve Zinone thanks Rita Corson and Pat Houlf for their service as ILCRA Board Members



NCRA CEO and Executive Director Jim Cudahy



Congratulations!

Maribeth Kopriva Receives Award of Excellence

ILCRA's 2014 Award of Excellence to an Outstanding Educator was presented to Maribeth Kopriva at our Annual Convention. Maribeth joined the faculty at Prince Institute - Great Lakes in 2011 and has taught theory, medical and legal terminology, deposition and courtroom procedures, as well as deposition and appellate transcription. Maribeth is a graduate of the Chicago College of Commerce's court reporting program, was a freelance reporter for many years in the Chicago area, and received her Court Reporting Instructor certificate from the National Court Reporters Association in 2011.

ILCRA received more nominations this year for the Award of Excellence than we have in many, many years. Deciding on the winner however was quite easy, as all the nominations were for Maribeth!

Just a few examples of the praise for Maribeth as stated by her students:

"She is a fine instructor - even an educator extraordinaire!"

"She is a great motivator."

"She has a passion for what she teaches."

"She spends countless hours helping students individually, before and after class."

"I know that once I'm out working, I will be the best reporter I can because of her."

"She recognizes each student as an individual and modifies her way of teaching to best benefit each student."

Our congratulations go out to Maribeth on being the recipient of the ILCRA Award of Excellence to an Outstanding Educator!



President's Message

continued from front page

Mike Miller shared his GITMO reporting experience, good and bad, and he also gave us some "Tough Love" about our work habits and practices. Just because we have been reporting for many years doesn't make us an expert in the field. Each day is a learning experience and we should strive for improvement each day. We all enjoyed Mike's colorful sessions and the laughs he gave us. Who would have thought that tough love could be so entertaining?

Jill Layton and many of the VHP committee members presented a session on the VHP Project and the success they have experienced. They encouraged everyone to participate in VHP Days and to ask Veterans they know if they would be willing to give an oral history. The Illinois VHP Project is one of the best and most successful in the country, and we are thankful to have Jill as our chair. There are many volunteers in our state who do a knock-out job with the VHP Days and we are so grateful for their dedication to this program. It is truly a rewarding experience for the reporters, and the Veterans are thankful for the opportunity. Please, everyone, consider doing an oral history. Freedom isn't free. Let's give back to those who gave for us. Check out the website for more information, or give Jill a call.

I had the pleasure of meeting Steve Zinone personally at NCRA Boot Camp last year. He is vibrant and passionate about the profession and he will be a wonderful President for NCRA. Steve took the time to visit with MacCormac College students and staff the afternoon before convention. The students were very appreciative of Steve's visit and had many questions for him. Steve is a straight-shooter and isn't afraid to address the many issues that we face. I am thankful that he attended our convention and shared many ideas and suggestions with us.

I hope that each of you who attended our convention will take heart in what we learned. Sure, we all need continuing education points, but more importantly it is a way for us to meet up with our fellow reporters. We are all busy with our professional lives, and we often forget how much knowledge we can gain from each other. Thanks to all of you who gave us your feedback, and we look forward to seeing you next year!

—Stephanie Rennegarbe

Thank you
to all the individuals,
firms and companies who supported
the 2014 ILCRA Annual Convention!
It was an incredible event and
we could not have done it without you!

Platinum Convention Sponsor



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Vernita Allen-Williams
Kathryn Thomas
Barbara Wichmann

Realtime Contest Sponsor



Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest Sponsor



Thank you!

Thank you to **Carole Bartkowicz** for her generous support
of the Diane Dorwart Scholarship Fund!

Thank you to **Donna Urlaub** of Urlaub Bowen & Associates
for her generous support of the Robert P. Fields Legacy Fund Scholarship!

Urlaub Bowen & Associates

Thank you to Pengad for donating our beautiful Convention folders!



Thank you to Stenograph for providing the Diamante writer for our auction!





Thank you!

Exhibitors



Please reach out to imatson@innovativeamc.com if you would like contact information for any of our exhibitors.

Thank you!

Student Sponsors

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Silent Auction Donors

There were many generous donors who brought auction items with them to convention. Please forgive us if anyone was inadvertently left off this list!

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**Kathy Burke from
Beijo Handbags**

Jean Busse

**Wendy Campbell from
Cookie Lee Jewelry**

Barbara Cash

Rita Corson

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**Bridgette O'Sullivan with
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**Pam Szczecinski and
Nancy LaBella**

Kathryn Thomas

Donna Urlaub

ILCRA Awards 2014 Student Scholarships

Bernice Radavich
*Student Scholarship Committee
Chair*

The 2014 ILCRA Student Scholarship winners were announced at the Annual Business Meeting on September 13. This year, we had entries from College of Court Reporting, MacCormac College, Prince Institute, South Suburban College, and Sage College.

I would like to thank the Student Scholarship Committee members for all their hard work. The Student Scholarship Committee members were Melissa Clagg, Tana Hess, and Lee Anne Marino. I'd also like to extend a special thank you to Tana for awarding the scholarships because I could not be present at the business meeting.

Once again, we chose the same topic that NCRA used for its essay competition, and the topic for this year's essay was: **"The Probable Secret of Success in Court Reporting School."**

The committee eventually chose the winning essay that you see here. The student wrote about the probable secret of success, which she defined as "confronting disappointing grades and gradual speed-building progress with unattempted techniques and a willingness to take a new approach."

On behalf of the ILCRA Board and the Student Scholarship Committee, I would like to personally thank each and every one of the students for applying for the scholarship this year.

In addition, I would also like to thank the Diane Dorwart Memorial Scholarship Fund contributors, who make these scholarships possible. Also, through the generosity of Illinois reporters, ILCRA was

able to pay the registration fee for three students to attend the annual convention. Thirteen other students were sponsored by their schools to attend.

ILCRA awarded three scholarships in this competition.

In first place was **Amy Krueger** from College of Court Reporting. Amy received a \$1,000 scholarship, a night in the hotel and a one-year associate membership in ILCRA. She will also become a member of the Student Scholarship Committee for next year.

Second place went to **Michael Hensley** from Sage College, who won a \$500 scholarship.

In third place was **Elisa Rizzo**, who attends Prince Institute. Elisa is the recipient of a \$300 scholarship.

Congratulations to the 2014 ILCRA Student Scholarship award winners!

Robert P. Fields Legacy Fund Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Donna Urlaub in memory of Robert Fields who passed away on March 2, 2011. Mr. Fields was a court reporting instructor for 53 years and was a teacher, mentor, and friend to many people. A monetary scholarship in Bob's name was awarded at ILCRA's Annual Convention this year in Oak Brook. The lucky winner was **Amy Krueger**, a student at College of Court Reporting. We were thrilled to have a high number of students

present at the Annual Business Meeting -- the only prerequisite for a student to be eligible to win the scholarship! Bob loved working with students and mentoring them after their schooling and would have been proud to see so many students showing their commitment to their future profession! Thank you, Donna, for your generous support of this scholarship and congratulations to Amy!

An Interview with the Hon. David A. Nuffer about his preference for Realtime

Published on Oct 7, 2014

An interview with the Hon. David A. Nuffer, a federal court judge in Salt Lake City, Utah, by Debbie A. Dibble, RDR, CRR, CBC, CCP. Judge Nuffer explains his introduction to realtime and why he has worked to incorporate realtime into the day-to-day workings of the federal district courthouse in Utah.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8d9mIVCd9E>

Thank You Student Sponsors!

Susan Kempf

Student, College of Court Reporting

Thank you so much to the ILCRA members who sponsored my student registration to the 2014 ILCRA annual conference! As an online student, staying in touch personally with working reporters has proven to be one of the most important aspects to staying motivated through the difficulties of speedbuilding and striving for certification. Being able to attend the same sessions as reporters was a wonderful experience, and everyone I met was warm and welcoming. The CAT User Training gave me some new tips and tricks to try with my practice transcripts, and the update from NCRA Executive Director Jim Cudahy was eye-opening and extremely valuable. The Coaching Skills for Enhanced Communication session gave me a greater appreciation and awareness of active listening techniques, and I am always happy to learn new things about CART from LeAnn and the other CART professionals (something I would love to do one day). Michael Miller's presentations were absolutely fantastic and gave me a high standard to aspire to one day when I become a working reporter. It is always amazing to me to witness the speed contest awards given at the luncheon – reporters at the top of the profession and the incredible speed and accuracy they achieve. And the work that Jill does with the Veterans History Project is so important and a true honor to have been a part of in the past. All of the sessions this year were excellent, and I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to attend. ILCRA has been a great support to me as a student in countless ways. One day I hope to return the favor as a working reporter. Thank you again.

**Congratulations to
Carole Bartkowicz**
for being recognized as a
Fellow by the
Academy of Professional
Court Reporters.

Winning Student Scholarship Award Essay

The Probable Secret of Success in Court Reporting School

Amy Krueger

Student, College of Court Reporting

"You cannot conquer what you will not confront." This statement is one of my favorite quotations of all time, which was written by a national speaker and author named Paula White. Her advice has stayed with me throughout my time as a court reporting student, and I often return to it when I lose sight of the truth. For me, it is a practical reminder amidst feelings of failure, hopelessness, and doubt that often permeate through a court reporting student's daily efforts. We can get so sidetracked by seemingly impossible tests and challenging assignments that it becomes second nature to believe we don't have what it takes to succeed. When every class is more difficult than the previous one, our natural tendency is to revert back to familiar patterns or habits which only have the ability to lead us to the same results as before.

In my experience, the probable secret of success in court reporting school is confronting disappointing grades and gradual speed-building progress with unattempted techniques and a willingness to take a new approach. As court reporting students, we sometimes get stuck in cycles of practice in such an automatic way that we don't consider alternatives. If the straight copy we're using isn't improving our dictionaries anymore, we could turn on the television and type what we hear on our favorite channel. If we feel alone in what we're trying to accomplish academically, we could reach out to an instructor.

We need to learn to analyze our individual struggles and habits critically and thoughtfully in order to transcend them rather than recycling our old solutions over and over again, which, if we were honest, perhaps never worked that well for us anyway. The probable secret of success in court reporting school is moving beyond our comfort zone or the fear of the unknown and strengthening our capacity for courage and personal growth. If we can confront the tendencies we have in school that are outdated and no longer beneficial, we can begin to conquer new tasks in confidence with revised strategies, untried methods, and a transformed hope.

Realtime and Speed Contests

Rita Corson

Speed and Realtime Contest Chair

We had a few new faces at this year's Speed and Realtime Contests. There were 13 contestants in the Realtime Contest and nine in the Speed Contest. Every contestant is a winner in my book. They each deserve to win!

First of all, I want to thank Donna Urlaub of Urlaub, Bowen & Associates for sponsoring the Realtime Contest.

Thank you also to Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag of Chicago Area Realtime and Court Reporting for sponsoring the Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest.

A big thank you to my committee: my right-hand woman, Theresa Hovick-Thomas; the two who did the dictating, Judy Lehman and Teresa Ozuna; and for all of you who stepped up to be my graders and monitors! I couldn't have done this without you guys!

Well, my biggest thank you goes to the contestants who make these contests so much fun and exciting.

The results were:

Realtime Contest

There are two parts to this test – 180 wpm Literary and 200 wpm Testimony. It takes 95% accuracy to qualify. That's only 45 errors on the 180 Lit and 50 errors on the Testimony. This year we had a slight change. The Testimony portion had to be written in mixed case, instead of in all caps as in previous years, which added to the difficulty of this contest. You will be amazed when you hear some of these percentages. These reporters blow me away!

The 180 Lit was a speech given by then First Lady Barbara Bush to the graduating class at Wellesley in 1990. We heard about giants, wizards, dwarfs, and mermaids. The qualifiers were:

The 180 wpm Literary:

Bernice Radavich – 96%
Kathryn Thomas – 97.33%
Donna Urlaub – 97.78%
Judy Walsh – 97.78%
Laura Kooy – 98.44%

The 200 wpm Testimony was a Statutory Summary Suspension hearing involving a defendant who supposedly shot at a house. Those contestants who qualified were:

The 200 wpm Testimony:

Bernice Radavich – 95.2%
Stephanie Battaglia – 95.4%
Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag – 95.8%
Donna Urlaub – 97.5%
Judy Walsh – 97.6%
Kimberly Smith – 98%
Laura Kooy – 98.2%

First, second, and third place medals were figured by averaging both scores.

The third place medal with a score of 97.64% went to Donna Urlaub.

Second place medal with a score of 97.69% went to Judy Walsh.

The first place medal and the winner of the Realtime Contest and receiving the Bonni Shuttleworth Realtime Traveling Trophy with a score of 98.32% went to Laura Kooy.

continued on page 13

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Donna Urlaub

took 2nd place in NCRA's Speed Contest in San Francisco in August. She also won the 1st place medal in the Literary component of NCRA's Realtime Contest.

Fast fingers indeed!



Realtime and Speed Contest

continued from page 12

Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest

I had nine contestants who fiercely competed against each other for the right to take home the Sally Cochran Speed Contest trophy. And compete they did! They take this very seriously!

The Speed Contest consisted of three takes - 220 wpm Literary, 230 wpm Legal Opinion, and 270 wpm Testimony.

The 220 Lit was a speech given to the Harvard graduating class by writer J. K. Rowling. Those contestants who qualified were:

220 Literary:

Jennifer Dunn – 95.82%

Donna Urlaub – 98.18%

The 230 Legal Opinion was an Illinois Supreme Court opinion regarding a defendant charged with manslaughter. Legal Opinions are always so hard. We only had one qualifier:

230 wpm Legal Opinion:

Donna Urlaub – 97.48%

The 270 Testimony was a murder trial of a defendant who stabbed a carnival worker at a county fair. We all learned how to play beer pong. Again, we only had one qualifier:

270 Testimony:

Paula Campbell – 97.26%

I awarded medals based on the highest percentage.

The third place medal with a score of 95.82% went to Jennifer Dunn.

Second place medal with a score of 97.26% went to Paula Campbell.

And the first place medal and the winner of the Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest and receiving the Sally Cochran Traveling Trophy with a score of 98.18% went to Donna Urlaub.

I am so in awe of all the contestants. They made me proud to be a part of this contest experience.

If you have never attempted a speed contest, why don't you sign up next year. It's exhilarating! And practicing for this contest can only improve your skills as a court reporter. See you next year!

Thank You!

Amy Quint

2014 Distinguished Service Award Winner

What an honor to be the recipient of this year's ILCRA Distinguished Service Award! To say it was a surprise would be an understatement. I had so many things going on the weekend of convention, that I was almost considering cancelling my registration because I wasn't sure how I was going to cram it all into one weekend. I had to leave early afternoon on Saturday to get to another Chicago suburb where my horse was going to be racing in her biggest event of the year. Looking back, I guess there were some signs that something was going on, but I was so busy that I didn't stop to put all of the pieces of the puzzle together!

I had no idea I had such sneaky colleagues working behind the scenes to make it all such a wonderful surprise event for me. Having my aunt and uncle there was a total bonus. My uncle is the person who encouraged me to go into court reporting in the first place. He was a judge when I was choosing a career path, and I told him I wanted to be an attorney but didn't want to spend seven years in college. He suggested that if I was interested in something in the legal field that I might want to try court reporting because it was a two-year degree at that time. He also suggested that I try to get a job as an official with the State and learn the trade and then go out on my own to freelance. But little did he know that I would like being an official so much that I would stay here 30-plus years and I'm still here.

Everything I've done for this profession has come back to me tenfold. And everything I have done has been with the assistance of a number of other people along the way, so I share this award with all of those that have worked so diligently alongside me. I always say if you have a court reporter friend, you have one for life. My time on the ILCRA Board connected me with people who became my friends that are now like family to me. And the work I have done for NCRA on committees and other things connected me with friends for life, as well.

So a big thank you to the DSA Committee, Bonni, Lyn & Beth, for your confidence in me and for working so hard to create a very special day for me. And thanks to my sneaky co-workers, Leslee Copple, Melinda Fowler, and Andrea James, for working "behind my back" to get my family involved in the event. Thank you to the outstanding Past Presidents of this association who mentored me along the way: Judy Lehman, Dee Doubet, Jackie Timmons, and Beth Rollins. And a huge thank you to my go-to gal when I was President and the lady who later became like a second mom to me, Nancy Davis. I wouldn't be where I am today without the support of all of these wonderful ladies. Lastly, a big thank you to all of the members of this association who have supported me along the way. I encourage all of you to keep working for this profession and keep supporting the work of ILCRA.

College of Court Reporting: #iheartccr (for 30 years!) and here's why...

In 1984, Kay Moody made a life-changing decision. That was the year she decided to take matters into her own hands and start College of Court Reporting (CCR) - no small task considering she had four children and money was tight. But, undaunted, she unselfishly brought three students into her living room and started teaching. Fast forward 30 years. Today, College of Court Reporting's President is her son, Jeff Moody, and Kay is in retirement. Okay, even Kay will tell you that's not entirely true. Her expertise is too important not to have her involved in the day-to-day operations, but she's supposed to be in retirement. Maybe. Someday.

So what's happened in 30 years? Well, the school moved to its current location in Hobart, Indiana, and grew to over 220 students. Additionally, the Indiana Board for Proprietary Education (BPE) and the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) granted CCR full accreditation. The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) granted CCR approval on November 1, 1987, and CCR was the first school to be certified by NCRA for its online program in 2006. CCR earned, through the U.S. Department of Education's Training for Realtime Writer's grant competitions, over \$540,000 in grant funding, which was used to provide scholarships and curriculum enhancement. A new theory was created along with an educator-based philosophy for teaching adult learners. Brilliant new cutting-edge technology was

introduced and now utilized by several court reporting schools across the country. CCR currently has 9 full-time administrators, several part-time administrators, and over 20 teachers, most of whom are Certified Reporting Instructors or are academic teachers with advanced degrees. Add this to the exceptional students who hail from not only around the United States but from around the world, and you have just a tiny look into how CCR grew over the last 30 years. Not bad. Not bad at all.

The most exciting change, however, is that since the school opened, there are 400+ alumni who walked out CCR's doors (or if they were online, their own door) to pursue their dreams. This article is really about them. In fact, it was written and created to honor and showcase some of our alumni from the past 30 years. CCR is honoring them, including those not mentioned, for their belief in what this field has to offer, as well as their passion, stamina, grit, and determination in completing the program. CCR also wants to showcase and honor them for their fortitude in keeping up with the profession by writing, CARTing, captioning, and transcribing their hearts out every single day.

CCR sends hearty congratulations to ALL of its alumni over the past 30 years. We wouldn't be here if you weren't, and we plan on continuing our quest to prepare and produce the best court reporters not only in the United States but in the world.

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Dear fellow dinosaurs, there's hope

Helen Ubiñas

Philadelphia Daily News

Posted: Tuesday, August 12, 2014, 3:01 AM

Reprinted from www.philly.com

THIS ONE GOES OUT to all the dinosaurs out there. And you know who you are, you musty mail carriers, you fusty farmers, you lumbering lumberjacks and yeah, you too, you neglected newspaper reporters. Or so says the labor studies that track the doomed in quickly disappearing jobs.

It takes a dinosaur to know a dinosaur. So when this newspaper dino spotted an "old school" stenographer at a "new school" technology journalism conference last month, I got curious.

And when I saw the rock-star reception Norma Miller and her fellow stenographers were getting at the conference put on by Knight-Mozilla's OpenNews project, I did what any terrestrial facing extinction would: I tracked her down in hopes of gleaning some survival tips.

But first I had to wait my turn behind a line of young, hip coders and developers who couldn't get enough of the 55-year-old mother from Vermont. Miller and two other stenographers' live transcriptions were linked to a live-stream page where attendees could follow every word as it was spoken. The tech-savvy were hooked.

When they weren't crowded around the stenographers, attendees took to Twitter to shower the stenographers with love: "Stenographers are the kings of #srccon [source conference]," tweeted Russell Heimlich.

"Coolest talk I've heard today was probably the 10-minute conversation I had with one of the stenographers. Blew my mind," tweeted Ryan Murphy.

"OMG y'all, the stenographers are the stars of #srccon," tweeted Laurie Skelly. "Everything old is new again."

From your lips to God's ears, you data scientist you. No offense, I told Miller when I finally edged a fanboy out of the way to get to her, but what is the deal? I would have expected some young, hip hacker or coder to be the star of the conference. And shouldn't there be an app for this?

The bubbly Miller laughed. Turns out she was just as surprised as anyone at her unexpected popularity among a group closer to her daughter's age.

Usually, she said, stenographers are the invisible record keepers, part of the woodwork. Another stenographer, Stanley Sakai, said they often have to beg for an extension cord.

And yet there they were at the Chemical Heritage Foundation on Chestnut Street, owning the joint. They were applauded. They were admired. They were high-fived - a lot. Attendees wanted to chat, and check out their machines. They wanted to know how fast they typed. Miller is certified for 240 words per minute, but she often does closer to 300 or more in bursts.

If you told Miller she'd one day be the belle of a tech

conference, she would have said you were nuts. After putting in 25 years in the courts, she saw the writing on the wall. Her profession was being pushed out in favor of cheaper methods and technology. It still is. A 2011 BBC News article asked: Is stenography a dying art?

By the early 1990s Miller started looking for other opportunities. She landed a "Cinderella" gig at the BBC as a television captioner. Since 2007 she's been doing real-time transcription for deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals in classrooms. She's gotten seven doctors through medical school, she proudly says.

This was her first tech conference. And while a colleague assured her she'd be in friendly territory - coders get us, she said - Miller wasn't sure what to expect. Certainly not the celebrity reception she got.

"I'm just basking in the glow," said Miller, who owns White Coat Captioning.

Dan Sinker heads OpenNews. He had a theory. "I think that people who like to build things on computers like to understand systems," Sinker said. "And so they are fascinated when they are suddenly faced with a system they don't understand. . . . And then I think there is just the hypnotic gratification of immediately seeing what you're saying."

Inviting the stenographers was Erika Owens' idea, after the program manager for the project heard other people raving about them at another conference.

"I think it makes the accessibility visible," she said. "And that gets people thinking about other places where this should happen."

Before we parted ways, I had one more question for Miller. Dinosaur to dinosaur, I said, any advice for the doomed? She smiled the smile of the knowing.

"We could have died out as dinosaurs and many of my colleagues did," she said. But, she laughed, "some of us are cockroaches and we've reinvented ourselves and made ourselves even better. It's taken some time for people to see the value . . . but it's happening."

Viva dinosaurs!

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Do your family members and you collect hotel-size toiletries when you travel and then not know what to do with them? See if your local VA can use them. If they cannot, Jill Layton would be glad to accept them as they are put in Blessing Bags for the homeless Veterans who are treated at the Illiana VA in Danville. You can send them to Jill, or save them up and give them to her at a seminar or convention!

A Note of Thanks

When ILCRA Veterans' History Project (VHP) Chair Jill Layton received a request from the Marshall, Illinois library for assistance in transcribing Veteran interviews they had recorded, she turned to the court reporting schools. In no time, emails from the students of the College of Court Reporting (CCR) came flooding in. Jill connected the students with the representative of the Marshall Library. Thank you to CCR — and a special thanks to all of the court reporting students who stepped up to volunteer for this project.

The Veterans History Project page on the ILCRA website will be updated soon with easy-to-follow directions and current forms. Please consider supporting this program!



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Court Reporting Students

Do you have a question you would love to have answered by a working judicial reporter, CART provider or captioner? We know you do, so here's your opportunity! Send in your need-to-know questions and watch this space for an answer from one of ILCRA's members.

Send your questions to imatson@innovativeamc.com by December 1, 2014, and start looking for answers in the Winter issue of the *Ad Infinitum!*

Questions will be published anonymously; however, please include your full name and e-mail address.

QUESTION AND ANSWERS

Q. Outside of the advice of practice, practice, practice, what is some extra advice that you wish you would have been told as a student that you think would have helped as you were working to get out of school?

Please note - this is the same question posed in the Summer issue. We received so many helpful answers that we needed to include the rest of them here.

A. I just got home from providing CART this summer to a student in a cadaver lab where they dissect real live dead people, and I sit RIGHT in the midst of the action, so the smell is still in my nostrils. Here's what's foremost in my mind right now:

Be flexible. Don't be a diva. Know your worth. Stand up for yourself and have confidence in yourself. But be willing to work with the consumer or customer so you can provide a better product, whether the product is a transcript, a live realtime feed, or captioning. Say YES to as many opportunities as you can. (Of course all this considering work-life balance and taking care of yourself, etc.)

A. When reading back, read from your raw notes OFTEN. This practice was very beneficial for me personally when practicing in school. Reading from my raw notes helped me stay in touch with my writing style, dragging, etc., and helped me correct slop or learn to adapt and edit accordingly.

I still try to force myself to do this when I'm practicing for a test, but it is a discipline, just like practicing. With immediate translation on our machines and writing realtime, we detach from our writing styles and aren't able to identify raw steno as quickly. Of course, I'm speaking from my own personal experience. I may be the oddball!

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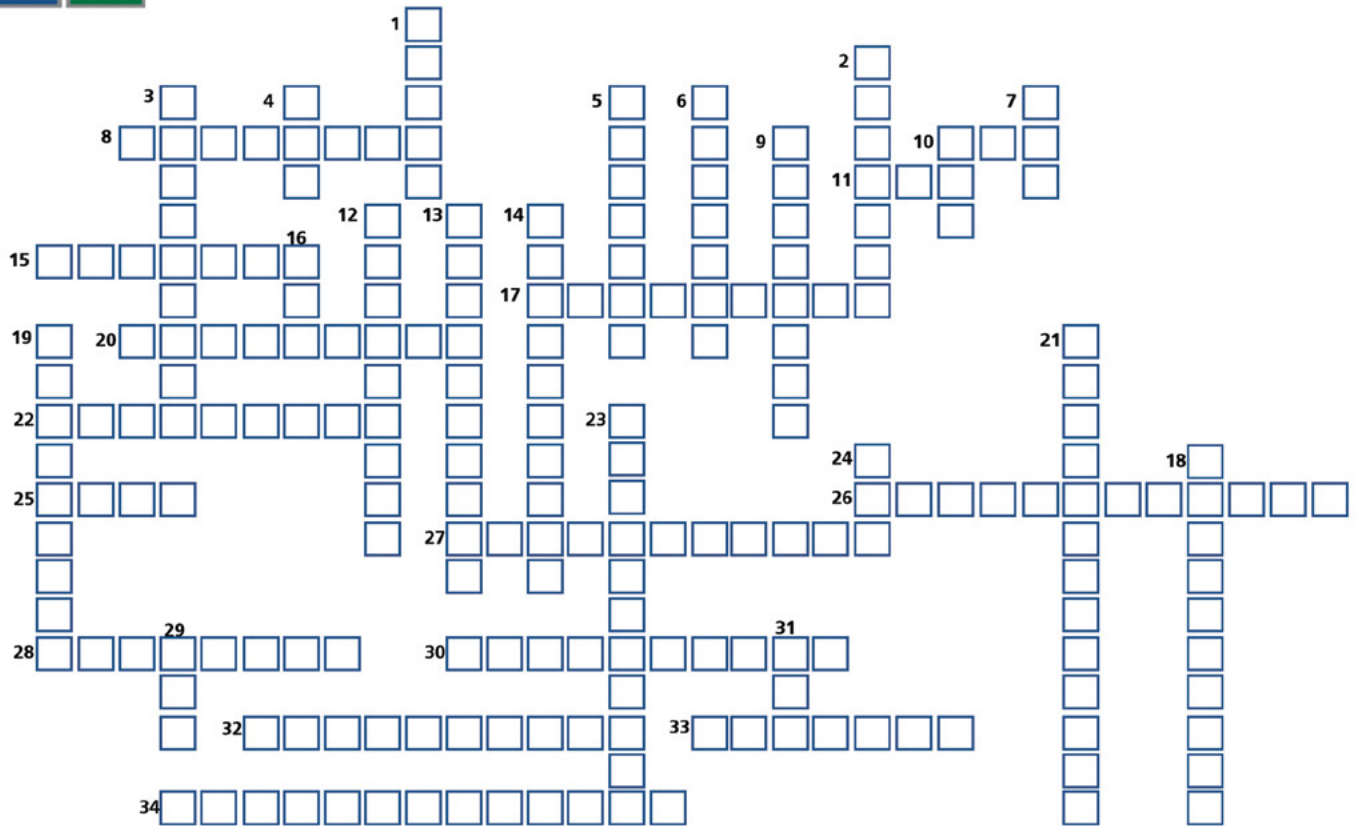
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ACROSS

- 8: One of the formal, usually written statements made by the two sides of a legal case in a court of law
- 10: Certified Broadcast Captioner
- 11: Certified Shorthand Reporter
- 15: A person who makes a statement in court or during a deposition about what he or she knows or has seen
- 17: Something that someone says especially in a court of law while formally promising to tell the truth
- 20: Used as an interjection by lawyers during trials and depositions when they think something is not fair or proper
- 22: A person required to make answer in a legal action or suit
- 25: A formal and serious promise to tell the truth or do something
- 26: Relating to a job that requires special education, training, or skill
- 27: The last eyes on your transcript
- 28: Of relating to, or suggesting a jail or prison
- 30: Online client storage of transcripts, exhibits, etc.
- 32: Out-of-court oral testimony of a witness that is reduced to writing for later use in court or for discovery purposes
- 33: The crime of telling a lie in court after promising to tell the truth
- 34: A person whose job it is to take verbatim proceedings in a court of law or deposition

DOWN

- 1: One who forms an opinion through careful weighing of evidence and testing of premises
- 2: The unlawful taking of personal property with intent to deprive the rightful owner of it permanently
- 3: Transferable to another's ownership
- 4: Registered Diplomate Reporter
- 5: A person who edits transcripts created by a court reporter
- 6: Document or object submitted to a court or office in the course of proceedings
- 7: Certified CART Provider
- 9: A writ commanding a person designated in it to appear in court to give evidence
- 10: Certified Realtime Reporter
- 12: A person who brings a legal action
- 13: Written, printed, or typed copy of words that have been spoken
- 14: To cause to be decided and settled in a court of law
- 16: Stated in context
- 18: Association or participation in or as if in a wrongful act
- 19: A tool used that matches audio to transcript, to listen to while reading the transcript
- 21: The usual way a particular criminal performs a crime
- 23: Illegal or dishonest activity especially by a public official or corporation
- 24: Registered Professional Reporter
- 29: Computer-aided transcription
- 31: Registered Merit Reporter

Court Reporting Crossword Puzzle Created and Shared by the Oregon Court Reporters Association.

(Answers on page 21)

Collection of jury excuses

Jill Layton

Being a small county, the jurors who want to be excused from jury duty send to my judge a letter why they are requesting to be excused. Some are for medical reasons, some are for work reasons, some are because they have moved out of the county or spend their winters in Florida. I have kept a collection of excuses which make us laugh. Please note: the spelling is exactly as it was in their letters!

"I don't mind setting on any jury but why let some plead the 5th and people waste their time on a jury when they have a living to make too."

"Mileage one way to courthouse: eight hours."

"I am not able for jury duty. Am under doctor's care for high blood pressure. Will soon be 87. That is too old to think well."

"Unemplode."
(Do you think the spelling errors on their job application made a difference?)

"I am going into the profession of cosmetolgy. I was called up to be on jury duty April through July. Around this time, I will be doing my clinictls."
(Good thing she doesn't have to spell in her profession!)

"He is in bad shape. Please forgive him. I am his wife."

"I am 80 years old and would not make a competent juror. Surely you can find someone younger."

"I don't have time and don't want to come serve on your jury."

"I would like to be executed. My class is Aug 14-18 in St. Louis. I would be glad to serve after that."
(I hate to tell him - if he is "executed," he won't be going to St. Louis either!)

The son returned the jury questionnaire for his 90 year old mother.

"My mother is wheelchair bound in the nursing home. It would be a nice outing though."

(Juror was 81 years old.)

"I feel I am to old to serve on a jury."

"I have an abnormality of the spine. This causes expensive pain when forced to stay in one position for more than a few minutes."

After a page-long list of excuses why he couldn't serve on a jury, one gentleman wrote: "Please let me know what you think about this situation."

"I am on social security disability as I have severe fatigue. Lately, I have been unable to stay up all day without a nap."

"I have irritable bowel syndrome, and I need to be near a bathroom as much as possible. I am the only person in my house in the daytime and have two bathrooms and still have accidents. I know this is gross, but I have to live with it."

This was all in one sentence:

"The reasons behind this request I feel are reasonable because I just gave birth to a new baby on December 1st this year, and I am breastfeeding her, and I don't pump so a sitter is not an option, and my husband is in Iraq so I would have difficulty finding a sitter for our two year old, and I am unable

to drive at this moment because of the so-recent birth I just gave."
(Whoa – take a breath!)

"As for being a juror at this time, I don't think my mind would be in the right place. Listening to details, facts and problems of someone else's is something I get enough of in my own life without trying to solve someone else's. I just don't think I would be a good juror at this time."

This was handwritten by a doctor:

"Please excuse Laurence from jury duty related to cirrhosis with complications starting 12/11/06 and indefinitely."

"I thought you should know that I am still on parole. I did not know if that would make a differents or not."

"I suffer from TIA's, am not 100% cognitive and also have urinary incontinence. It would be difficult to sit on the jury."

"I have no free time. Please excuse me from your jury list."

"I am asking to be excused from jury duty because I can not aford to loss money by not working. I wont be abel to pay my bills."
(I hope her job doesn't include spelling!)

"I take way too many laxatives."

"I intended to send this card in but I forgot about it. I don't think I belong on this as I forgot once I will probably forget again. That's the reason. You need younger people to serve on this."

"I can't hear very good or see to well, and I have trouble with my bowls after I eat."
(TMI)

"Please excuse my wife from jury duty. She just aint right in the head."

continued on page 21



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Jury excuses
continued from page 19

"I will be 92 years old. Don't you think I am to old for this kind of stuff. Please don't do this to me anymore. Take my name off of everything. I don't need to be worried like this."

Would you want this person as a juror sitting on your case making a decision?

"I was instructed to draft you this letter by the circuit clerk. I have a revoked license, single, live by myself in the country meaning I alone must pay all my bills whenever I can get work. Also I am in the middle of plans to moving to California at a last minutes notice due to a supposed child that I had fathered about nine years ago so I'll have to have a paternity test done." (Hmmm, do I hear a country song here just waiting to happen?!)



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