

AD INFINITUM

President's Message

Goings On Around the State

Spring 2008



Well, it's time for me to address the membership in an article for the spring *Ad Infinitum*. I have to admit that writing articles as president was something that made me a little uneasy, since I'm certainly no author. Fortunately, in the past I have been inspired by some topics and the words just flowed. In this edition, I thought we'd chat about some of the goings on in the state over the last few months.

Spring is in the air and it's time for career events at area high schools. This is a prime opportunity for ILCRA to step forward and spread the word about the viable careers that come out of our profession. I think at one time or another during our own schooling, we've come across a naysayer espousing untruths about the demise of court reporting as we know it. With the advent of certain technologies, it gives these people further fodder to predict our demise. Fortunately, we have embraced technology and it has opened new doors and new career paths for people with steno machine skills. A court reporter can go to a courtroom and create a verbatim record, to a deposition suite and provide a realtime feed to attorneys, to a classroom or a board room and provide communication access for a deaf or hard of hearing participant, or never leave the house and provide broadcast captions for millions of Americans all the



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

while wearing the proverbial bunny slippers. How can this not be a viable career option?

We personally need to spread the word about court reporting. We simply can't rely on career counselors or next door neighbors. When ILCRA gets notified of the opportunity to participate in a career event, we make every attempt to do so. Sometimes it's board members that attend. Sometimes we are able to recruit the membership to help as well. I would like to personally thank the following ILCRA members for using their valuable free time and volunteering on our behalf to promote the profession of court reporting over the last few months: **Melissa Clagg** who attended the 8th Grade Career Conference in Savoy in January, **Georgia Rollins** and **Kathryn Thomas** who attended the 8th Grade Career Conference at Lakeland College in February, and **Jackie Timmons** and **Judy Mosier**

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

President's Message

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who will be attending a conference of the Illinois Association of College Admission Counselors in May. Also, I understand that **Brenda Engele** along with **Stephanie Rennegarbe** were ready to volunteer at Nashville High School's career event but, unfortunately, this year there were no students interested in the profession. I, too, attended a career night at Maine High School in March where an estimated 2,000 students and parents attended. Also, in April, Romeoville High School has a career event which I will attend unless **Catherine Rajcan** volunteers for me which she did last year. So, again, "thank you" one and all on behalf of the court reporters in Illinois for taking time and sometimes money out of your day in order to promote what is one of the greatest professions out there.

ILCRA also has been actively working towards the passage of a piece of legislation in Illinois that will remedy an unintended pay cut for the state's official court reporters which occurred when the governor made his budget cuts last fall. I've been very pleased at the grass roots efforts made by many reporters in our state. I especially want to thank **Joan McQuinn**, Chairperson of ILCRA's Officials Committee. As part of Joan's duties I have asked her to send out mass emails to a group of official reporters we call "Circuit Reps." These call-to-action emails are ILCRA's way of contacting the state's official reporters and alerting them of the need to call legislators and ask for their support for our bills. To all the Circuit Reps who are also ILCRA

members, "thank you" for taking the time to pass the word along. Without your help, we surely would not be as successful as we have been with the legislation thus far.

Unfortunately, this year Illinois had to experience its own college campus shooting. My heart goes out to all of those affected by the Northern Illinois University shooting. I didn't know anyone personally that was injured or killed, but I do know some of the CART providers that are on the NIU campus on a daily basis. This world can be very unpredictable, and, unfortunately, our profession can literally place us in the line of fire. I have asked ILCRA members **Becky Dawson**, **Ann Pellican** and **Pam Wixom** to write articles and share with the rest of us their experiences about that fateful day and how it has affected them. (See their articles beginning on [page 9](#).) Fortunately, none of them were working in Cole Hall at the time of the shooting. So "thank you" Becky, Ann, and Pam for sharing.

I hope you are all enjoying the spring. We certainly were ready to be done with winter. In closing, I would like to remind our membership that the members of the ILCRA Executive Board are no different from the rest of you. We are busy, working reporters, yet we have made a commitment to further the interests of this association. Please don't hesitate to contact any one of us. I would like to think we are friendly, approachable, and concerned about your questions, comments or suggestions. This is your association. Stay involved!

— *LeAnn M. Hibler*

In Memoriam:

PAUL P. MARZANO, age 51, Federal Official Court Reporter, long-time State Official, and ILCRA member died on March 10, 2008. Paul is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, parents, siblings and many nieces and nephews.

The court reporting community has lost a great friend. Our condolences go out to his friends and family.

IMPORTANT ILCRA DATES

APRIL 26: CSR Examination, Chicago and Southern Illinois Area. Application filing deadline: February 27, 2008.

MAY 2: Continuing Education Seminar, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon.

MAY 3: RPR, RMR, CRR, CBC and CCP Skills Exam at McCorkle Reporting, downtown Chicago; South Suburban College, Oak Forest (Chicago area) and Sparks College, Shelbyville

JUNE 20: Deadline for CSR Application for August test.

JULY 24-27: NCRA Convention, Anaheim, CA

AUG. 16: CSR Examination, Chicago & Southern Illinois area

OCT. 3: Illinois Annual Convention – Great Lakes Convention, Schaumburg

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

DEC. 20: CSR Examination, Chicago & Southern Illinois area. October 10, Deadline for CSR Application for December test

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

2008 Legislative Boot Camp

By Dolores (Dee) Doubet, ILCRA Legislative Representative

Team Delta – Atten-HUT!! Sound OFF – Blake, Miller, Bonafide, Doubet, Jenkins, Hunniston, Thomas, Zeve. To The Hill – MARCH!! YES, DRILL SERGEANT!!! HUT-2-3-4, HUT-2-3-4...

Well, maybe it wasn't as bad as all that, but at times the three days that 80+ of us spent in Virginia and Washington, DC February 24-26 seemed like a true boot camp. It had been quite a few years since I attended one of these intensive legislative seminars, but all of the memories soon came rushing back as we listened to our Drill Sergeant for the weekend, Dave Wenhold, and his assistants, Kerstin Roper and Nate Smith.

Our goal for this operation, should we choose to accept it, was to stump the Hill and convince our members of Congress to fund the mandates of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, allowing these dollars to flow to court reporting schools around the country as they try to train badly



Judy Lehman (left) and Dee Doubet pose in front of the Capitol.

needed captioners to fulfill the requirements of that Act.

I arrived in Alexandria a day early with plans to meet my cousin and his wife and to have a nice visit and enjoy some sightseeing with them. We had a busy, but good, afternoon visiting the Navy Memorial where I looked my dad up in the Navy Log, driving past most of the rest of the beautiful memorials for a brief peek, then on to their home and a wonderful dinner at a nearby restaurant. I felt very relaxed when they took me back to my hotel and was ready to face the morning's work.

It wasn't quite the crack of dawn when we got up on Sunday morning, but with the hour's time difference it sure felt like it to Judy Lehman and me as we hurriedly dressed and went downstairs to face the day. I met the rest of Team Delta at breakfast and learned that literally our team came from coast to coast – Oregon, New York, Delaware, New Hampshire, Mississippi, Maryland, Texas and, of course, Illinois. After a welcome and introduction by NCRA President Kathy DiLorenzo, we got down to business.

Drill Sergeant Wenhold led us through several hard hitting questions we would be expected to answer on the Hill: Why should the Federal Government pay to train court reporters? Shouldn't the Broadcasters pay to train captioners since they are the ones responsible for meeting the mandates of the Telecommunications Act? How many captioners are needed to meet the mandates of the Telecommunications Act and how many captioners are there now? Isn't this just another "pork" project — and on and on.

Then it was time for "Politics 101," where we were instructed on the nuts and bolts of how legislation is made. We learned how legislators' offices are set up, how many staffers each Senator or Congressman has, and what these staffers' roles are. A surprising fact to me was that, contrary to what I thought I had always known, it's much better to contact your Congressperson by email than it is to send a personal letter. Unfortunately, 9-11 and its aftermath have brought about this change. If you mail a letter to your Representative or Senator, he or she might not receive it

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2008 Legislative Boot Camp

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for 2-3 weeks, because it has to go through a cleansing process to make sure it is not contaminated with some deadly substance. When it's received in the office to which it was sent, it is more often than not in a decidedly unattractive state from this cleansing process; ergo, the preference for emails. An added plus is that emails are answered much more quickly than letters, but they really need to be personalized emails and not just forwarded, mass produced ones.

Next we spent some serious time familiarizing ourselves with NCRA's Federal initiative and the reasons for our being at this training. Assistant Drill Sergeants Roper and Smith outlined our goals and made sure we were conversant in the

issues so we would be fully armed and could tell the members of Congress why funding this mandated Act is so important to their deaf and hard of hearing constituents across the country.

In the afternoon we discussed grassroots campaigns and how to use them to our advantage, then had a panel discussion on ER around the country. Again, there was a sense of

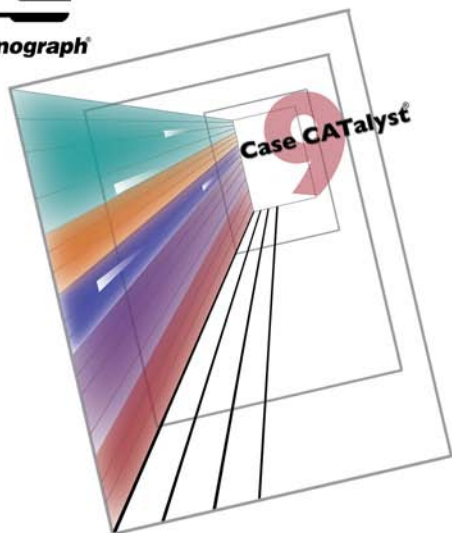
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Delta Team members, Dee Doubet, Melissa Blake and Lucretia Thomas enjoy a meal.



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2008 Legislative Boot Camp

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déjà vu as I recalled the efforts of your ILCRA board members when ER reared its head in Illinois several years ago. Some states are losing the battle; some are winning; some are keeping the status quo.

After our break, we were introduced to the scenario we had to prepare our teams for on Monday. It was our turn to put into action what we had learned so far and see if we could come up with a workable plan to convince the “committee members” of the urgency and need for this important legislative funding. Each individual team had its own working dinner that evening as we assigned roles to play the next day and went over the crucial facts we were to present. By 11:00 that night, our heads

were spinning as we finally said good night.

Monday morning brought the highly anticipated meetings for each of our teams. We went over our roles and subject matter once again at breakfast, chose a person from our team to be the lead speaker at our first hearing and away we went. By the time the first three or four committee hearings were over, we finally worked out most of our nerves and found our groove. I was so proud of my team – each person contributed to these scenarios, and if one person stumbled, there was another to jump right in with the correct information. We switched our lead person from one hearing to the next, and at the end of the day we had completed nine hearings and

answered some pretty hard hitting questions from the “committee members.”. Apparently we did well, because at the end of the day Team Delta was happy to join Team Echo as winners of the day’s competition.

Tuesday morning saw each of us dressed in our best business attire as we boarded two buses for “The Hill.” Drill Sergeant Dave and Kerstin briefed us along the way and gave us our schedules. Dave, Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, Judy Lehman and I had breakfast in the House cafeteria, then split up for our first meetings. I had a pleasant personal meeting with Rep. Ray LaHood and one of his staffers as I thanked him for his past support of the Training for Real-time Writers Act and the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and for being a cosponsor of authorization bill H.R. 1687. Melanie joined me about halfway through and we left with assurances that he would continue to support our issues.

On to our next meeting in Senator Durbin’s office. Judy joined us as we met with Dave Lazarus outside the Senator’s office. He listened as we detailed our issues and said he would tell the Senator about our meeting.

Next was a meeting with Alyssa Fisher in Senator Obama’s office. Personally, I was hoping to actually meet with the Senator, but for some crazy reason he felt he needed to be in Ohio readying himself for the next day’s presidential debate with Senator Clinton. We met with Staffer Alyssa instead and

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Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag and Dee Doubet meet with Representative Ray LaHood from Illinois.

2008 Legislative Boot Camp

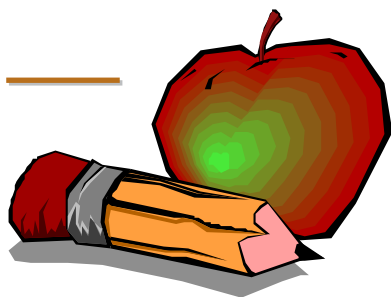
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had a very productive meeting. She was open and receptive to our requests and promised to pass them on to the Senator.

After our scheduled meetings we were on our own and decided to make unplanned visits to several other offices, leaving packets with the staffers as we went. When we were finally finished about 3:00, we decided to go to the Supreme Court building. It's a beautiful building and demands respect as one enters. Court was not in session, but we sat in on a tour along with about 50 junior high students.

By the time the tour was through it was time to walk to a local restaurant and be debriefed. Everyone was feeling pretty good about what we had accomplished that day, but we discovered there was one major problem – our feet. It seemed we had been walking for miles along cement sidewalks and marble floors, and even though we had been advised to wear comfortable shoes, our bodies were still complaining. So, instead of whining about it, although there was plenty of that, we came up with a creative solution for next year's Boot Camp —

massage therapists at the debriefing. With many people saying they would take advantage of a foot massage if it was offered, we decided it could be a very lucrative PAC fundraiser for NCRA. There was even a suggestion that Dave might be bribed to be the masseur. Hey, now THAT'S the ticket!



Do You Know an Outstanding Educator?

It is time once again to call for nominations for the ILCRA annual Award of Excellence to an outstanding educator.

The guidelines are:

1. The nominee must be or have been on the faculty of a court reporter training program.
2. Nominations must be received by August 1, 2008.

Although not listed above, it is helpful in the selection process if the nominee is an associate member of ILCRA. All applications submitted in previous years will be considered for the 2008 award.

Nominations may be submitted by students, fellow faculty, administrators, or ILCRA members to:

Nancy C. Davis, Executive Director
41 SW Crescent Drive, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Nomination for ILCRA Award of Excellence

Name of Nominee: _____

Address of Nominee: _____
Street City State Zip

School of Nominee: _____

Brief description of reasons why you feel this person should receive this award:

Your name: _____ Your telephone: () _____

**COURT REPORTING SERVICES — STATE OF ILLINOIS
AND ILLINOIS COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
2008 COURT REPORTING SERVICES SEMINAR**

MAY 2, 2008

Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon

..... • **PROGRAM AGENDA** •

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

CONCURRENT A.M. SESSIONS:

9:00–10:30 a.m. REALTIME This session is designed for the busy reporter wishing to get more done in less time. Topic includes speed building, a/k/a cleaner, faster realtime, a/k/a increased productivity. Presenter: Melanie Sonntag, a Registered Diplomat Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, and a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters.

9:00–10:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.–noon FINANCIAL PLANNING This session is designed to assist reporters in compiling strategies for their financial futures. Presenter: Rik Stone, a financial advisor from the firm of Robert Gordon and Associates.

9:00–10:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.–noon PERSONAL EFFECTS OF TRAUMA/STRESS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES This session is geared to the everyday stresses of reporting and will cover management techniques to combat the effects. Presenter: Sandra K. Vicari, Ph.D., LCPC. Dr. Vicari is a Clinical Assistant Professor with the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry.

10:30–noon FILE BACKUP, STORAGE & ORGANIZING This session will review the best ways to manage, backup and store steno notes for both paper notes and paperless writing. Presenter: Pam Szczecinski, Stenograph.

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. COACHING, MENTORING & TEAM-BUILDING SKILLS (all day session, Oak Brook only) This session will help supervisors gain the tools and skills needed to become a stronger, more confident leader who gets exceptional results through others. Presenter: Lisa Walker, Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center.

12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. GROUP LUNCH

CONCURRENT P.M. SESSIONS:

1:00–2:30 p.m. COURT REPORTING SERVICES INFORMATION SESSION This session will have information updates on court reporting services issues. Registrants for this session should submit any questions in writing prior to the seminar on the form enclosed in the registration packet. Presenters: Hon. S. Gene Schwarm, Chief Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Tammy Bumgarner, CRS Program Coordinator.

1:00–2:30 p.m. & 2:30–4:00 p.m. FELONY DUI This session will cover the process involved from arrest through sentencing in cases involving felony DUI convictions. Presenters: Office of the DuPage County State's Attorney, Office of the Sangamon County State's Attorney, Office of the Jefferson County State's Attorney.

1:00–2:30 p.m. & 2:30–4:00 p.m. COURTROOM SECURITY This session will cover issues of safety for reporters prior, during and after being in the courthouse. Presenter: Deputy Cory Orphan, Illinois Sheriff's Association

2:30–4:00 p.m. COMPUTER SOFTWARE TRAINING This session will allow reporters with the same software to get together and share tips to best utilize the software. Each group will have an appointed instructor or moderator. Bring your computers for the full benefit of this session. NOTE: Due to the different software that is utilized, only the groups with sufficient registration will be scheduled. If your software group is not available, you will be registered for either Felony DUI or Courtroom Security. Presenters: Pam Szczecinski, Stenograph; Julie Samford Davis, Eclipse.

4:00 p.m. SEMINAR CONCLUDES

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION see the ILCRA website www.ilcra.org or call ILCRA headquarters at 1-800-656-2467.

CART Providers Share Their Stories

ILCRA extends heartfelt condolences to all who were affected by the Northern Illinois University shooting on February 14, 2008. ILCRA members, Becky Dawson, Ann Pellican and Pam Wixom, are CART providers on the NIU campus. In the following three articles they share their experiences about that fateful day and how it has affected them.

NIU TRAGEDY ON 2/14/08

By Becky L. Dawson, CSR,
CART Provider



February 14th, 2008, was sunnier and a little warmer than it had been for weeks. I decided to walk across campus to my 2:00 class in Dusable at NIU, which took me right past Cole Auditorium, the site of NIU's devastating tragedy. Although it was windy, the sun felt good on my face. I had no idea what NIU would be facing at 3:06 that afternoon.

When the class that I was CARTing ended at 2:50, I packed up my equipment and made my way down from the fourth floor of Dusable. For some reason unbeknownst to me at the time, I felt absolutely compelled to walk a different way than the way that had taken me through the center of campus. This feeling was unbelievably strong. The right angle of the triangle made my walk a little longer as I headed straight for Lucinda Avenue, but the pull was so strong that I just went with it. I didn't realize until 11:30 that night that my alternate route had precluded me from walking past Cole Auditorium. Do you believe in guardian angels? I do.

As I was walking down Lucinda Avenue toward my

next class, I noticed an NIU police officer. I had an extra long time to observe his face because he was stuck in traffic. He had such a look of determination on his face.

Next I noticed a fire truck and an ambulance screaming down Russell Road. My first thought was that one of the pedestrian/NIU students must have gotten hit. It would not be unusual to send a fire truck, an ambulance, and a police officer to a tragedy like that.

As I was setting my equipment up for the next class, suddenly everyone's cell phones began to ring. It was the strangest thing for ten random students to all get phone calls simultaneously. I remember my hearing-impaired student saying, "Mom, I'm fine. Stay put. I'll let you know where I land." Somehow his mom knew about the tragedy even before the NIU students did. Next, a secretary from the Latino Center came in and said, "There is a shooter at Cole Auditorium. Some people have been shot. We don't know how many. The shooter is still at large. NIU is officially in lockdown. You may leave, but if you leave, you will not be able to get back in."

I remember looking at the glass doors of the Latino Center and thinking, what would preclude a crazy man with a gun from shooting through our "locked doors" if he chooses to? I asked my student what he

wanted to do, stay or leave. He said that he'd really like to get off campus to meet his mom who just happened to be in town. There was the adrenaline factor with the fight or flight response. My car was a block away and my student chose to wait at the Latino Center while I retrieved the car. Tons of people were already flooding the streets trying to get off campus. It took us about ten minutes to go two blocks. I nervously watched my rear-view mirror the entire time. It was my intent to get as far away from campus as possible. Within a half hour, my student's very appreciative mom met us at a grocery store on Highway 23.

I met my husband and another couple for dinner that night. After all, it was Valentine's Day, but I felt like I was just going through the motions. I was having trouble wrapping my mind around such a horrific event. I still can't believe it. Our friends invited us to their home to watch a movie, so we drove to their house. Before we started any movie, I wanted to check online for an NIU update. There was a picture on the website of a local newspaper of a girl with a gunshot wound through her forehead. The girl looked just like one of my students! That was enough to send me over the edge. I lost it! I immediately started to cry and told our friends I couldn't stay. I had to go home and call this particular

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NIU Tragedy

(Continued from page 9)

student and make sure she was all right. During the ride home I remember chastising myself about not being able to remember what she had been wearing that morning when I CARTed a class for her. “Did she have her gray NIU sweatshirt on or not?” I grilled myself. I couldn’t remember, and the more I couldn’t remember, the more I cried.

To my utter relief, my student was fine. I called another student whose phone number I had and she was also fine. Even though it wasn’t my particular student on the gurney, it was somebody’s sister, daughter, loved one.

There were a total of six people killed that day, including the shooter, and multiple, multiple wounded students physically as well as psychologically.

My student shared with me recently that she actually was one mouse click away from signing up for that particular class in Cole Hall. She decided against it since she didn’t want to carry 17 hours. There are only four CART providers at NIU, and since we always sit in the front row, the “what ifs” have been a little bit of a head trip for the four of us.

NIU has done an outstanding job post-tragedy. There was a week of healing where they had a staff meeting and multiple counseling sessions to help the staff work through their various issues. Even people that were not on campus at the time have been deeply affected by this tragedy. The counseling session for the CART providers and sign language interpreters was espe-

cially helpful, and we have all become even closer to each other than we were before. Each of us has a different way of dealing with this indescribable loss. Many of us have depended upon our individual faiths to see us through the worst times. We have counseled together, cried together, put flowers at the memorial crosses, had numerous lunches, and processed information about the shooter together.

It was a great privilege to attend the memorial service that NIU hosted and be able to sit with co-workers and hearing-impaired students. The CART services that Pam Wixom provided as well as the sign language by Luke and Michelle made the memorial service especially meaningful. (Pam, you were calm under pressure, and you are my hero forever!)

When classes resumed on Monday, there were counselors available in every single classroom in case students wanted to talk. Also, there were volunteer policemen in every building. I thanked every volunteer I saw, especially the policemen. There were alumni stations where they were giving out free food to students and staff. I personally met volunteer counselors from four different states who had come to assist NIU in its healing process.

There was a student in my Tuesday night class that just sat there and cried. The counselor finally was able to get this student to share a little. All the student could say was, “I was there. I was in the classroom when it happened.”

Those who were actually in Cole Auditorium as well as the family and friends of those injured or killed are the most impacted, and their devastation is exponentially more than ours, but anyone affiliated with NIU in any way will forever be bonded together. Life can be forever changed in an instant, and we should live each day like there is no tomorrow.

“Forward, Together, Forward.”

VALENTINE’S DAY, A DAY OF LOVE

*By Ann Pellican, CSR,
CART Provider*



It was a little over three years ago, and I decided it was high time to make a career change. After freelancing for 18 years, I was

burnt out with the legal side of our profession. Convinced that you *can* teach old dogs new tricks, I enrolled in a real-time class at Midstate College. Before long, a colleague informed me that Northern Illinois University was in need of another CART provider. Ready or not, I found myself taking all of the necessary steps to become a CART provider, and thus began my employment at Northern Illinois University.

Although I found my new position to be not only mentally, but also physically demanding, I quickly realized how this skill that I learned 20-plus years ago could be so rewarding. I have

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NIU Tragedy

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worked with several students and have managed to make close bonds with them. What started off to be a huge step out of an 18-year comfort zone now was beginning to feel like a good fit.

February 14, 2008, started off like every other day. The same hectic routine of getting myself up and ready for work, then stirring my three boys out of bed, making sure they eat breakfast, get cleaned up, and out the door on time with everything they need for school in hand. Then I start my one-hour trek from my home to NIU. Tuesdays and Thursdays are light days for me this semester. I CART a three-hour class with a student from India whom I have grown to love like a daughter. I brought her a Valentine's Day chocolate treat. I asked her if she knew what Valentine's Day was all about. She replied, "Yeah, it's the day you give flowers and candy." I assured her she was right, but the tradition of Valentine's Day stemmed from the patron saint of love, St. Valentine, and this is the day that we share our love with those we care about. With that, she gave me a hug and told me she loved me. How that moment would come back to haunt me!

Our lab ended at 12:15, and I started my one-hour trek back home. I picked up my kids at school, and then ran some errands. It was then that a fellow reporter called me to see if I was aware of what was going on at NIU. She said she had her TV on, and there was live coverage of a shooting on campus. I was shocked and in disbelief. My first thought was to call a fellow CART provider whom I knew was still on campus as well as my student from India whom I knew was working in one of the computer labs. I was also very worried that one of our sign language interpreters might have been in harm's way. I was very concerned about everyone's safety, as well as the children of close friends of mine who attend the university. When I returned home, I immediately checked my email. Our supervisor left a message that the university would be closed on Friday, and *all of our staff was safe!* What a relief it was to read those words!

(Continued on page 12)

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NIU Tragedy

(Continued from page 11)

For the next few days it seemed as if every waking moment was spent on the phone. I was overwhelmed at the outpouring of concern for my safety and well-being — family, friends, and co-workers just needing to hear my voice to know that I was okay.

As details began to be revealed, the reality of this horrible tragedy began to set in. My heart ached for the families and friends of the students who had been killed and injured. I empathized with the all of the students who were in Cole Hall and could only imagine the terror they had gone through.

At first I disassociated myself with what had happened. I wasn't in that classroom. This didn't happen to me. But when I started imagining myself going back to the classroom, especially the big lecture halls, I realized that this tragic event affected everyone who is in any way a part of the NIU community. It wasn't until late Saturday afternoon that we learned the university would

be closed the following week. This would be called "The Week of Healing."

On Tuesday of the next week, our office, which consists of sign language interpreters and CART providers, attended a counseling session for faculty and staff. This was our first day back on campus. After our counseling session, we walked across campus in the bitter cold to Cole Hall. Cole Hall was still barricaded off with yellow warning tape. We laid flowers under the warning tape, stood quietly, and breathed deeply. A building that only a few days before was bustling with a constant flow of students going in and out now was hallowed ground. Within minutes, we had a newspaper reporter asking questions, and almost at the same time there were TV cameras in our faces. They wanted to know our stories, why we were there, and our connection to this horrible occurrence. It seemed surreal that we should even have to be sharing

(Continued on page 13)

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NIU Tragedy

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our stories, just as it does right now as I write this article.

On Wednesday, we attended a counseling session only for our captioning and interpreting staff, a much needed session to share our shaken sense of security, our apprehension of returning to the classroom, the nightmares that seemed to be popping up, and the “what-ifs.” The week ended with a beautiful memorial service in which one of our very own CART providers was brave enough to caption for our hearing-impaired students.

The return to classes on the following Monday was a very difficult day for all. I saw tears, blank faces, and yet there was an uncanny sense of an awareness of every person you passed, a sense that we are all in this together, feelings that were never present before. It was eerily quiet in every class, something very unusual for a campus of 25,000 students. Five hundred fifty counselors from all over the country were in every class on Monday and Tuesday to offer their services and to also allow anyone who was inclined to share their thoughts, their fears, and their experiences.

As the week went on, things gradually seemed to return to some sense of normalcy. People were more at ease. There was conversation and even laughter, two things that were very much absent on the first few days of classes.

Now that a month has passed, the NIU community is healing and moving forward. I

wonder if my student from India will think of February 14 as a day of love or if it will forever be a memory for her of a day that a very troubled young man took his own life and the lives of five others. No one will ever know why. I don't think that question will ever be answered. If one lesson can be learned from an event like this it would be that one should never take anything for granted. We should be thankful for every day we are given, and we should be thankful for the people who are a part of our lives — every day is a gift, and every person is a gift. NIU will never be the same, but we will continue to move “Forward, together forward.”

A TRAGEDY ON CAMPUS

By Pam Wixom, CSR, CART provider



It was 2:45 on February 14th, and I was heading to my last three-hour class of the day. Class started as usual. At approximately 3:10, a male professor came into the room and told the class that there was a gunman on campus and we needed to get down in the back of the room, shut off the lights, lock the door and be quiet. There was approximately 20 students in the classroom. We all headed to the back of the room and sat down on the floor next to each other. I sat there quietly and started praying hoping we would all be all right and I would be able to get home to

my family. In all of the quietness, occasionally I would hear what sounded like door slams and just hoped it wasn't the gunman coming in.

Approximately 30 minutes later, I heard keys in the door and the same man walked in the room. He told us that there was a shooting in Cole Hall. He said we were allowed to try to use our cell phones and let our family know we're okay, but we were not allowed to leave the building because the campus was not secure.

Several of the students got on their cell phones and tried to find out exactly what was going on. I had not taken my cell phone into the classroom with me, so I was unable to contact my family. Reports kept coming in from the students saying five people were shot. And then it was seven. And then nine. And then 12. Quickly helicopters were hovering over campus. We could hear lots of sirens.

Approximately an hour later, there was an announcement over the intercom stating that campus was secure and we were able to leave. It was also stated that classes for the night were cancelled, buses were not going to be running, and classes would be cancelled on Friday. Knowing how scared I felt and knowing that my student was going to have to walk across campus, I offered him a ride to his apartment.

As I got to my car, I got my cell phone. I already had 10 messages. My phone started ringing again as I got into the car. It was my boss calling to

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NIU Tragedy

(Continued from page 13)

see if I was okay and asking me if I was leaving campus. I told him yes and asked how everyone else was. He told me that everyone from our office was safe. That was a relief.

It is a 45-minute drive for me to get home. My phone rang my whole way home with family and friends calling to check to make sure I was okay. I didn't even get a chance to listen to my messages until later on in the evening.

When I arrived at home, I checked the website of the captioning company I work for, and, of course, there was emergency coverage for the shooting at NIU. I went ahead and picked up 45 minutes of coverage, knowing that I would know lots about the story.

Later that night when I was prepping to caption my show at 10:00, I started feeling very nauseous. I contacted the captioning company, who knew I was at NIU during the incident, and told them I wasn't sure I was going to be able to do my news and asked for backup. They told me I should just take the night off considering what happened. I told them I would go ahead and do my show but

please have someone there ready in case I get sick.

The first story on the Ohio station I was covering was the shooting at NIU. It really started sinking in what had happened. They did not have a name of the shooter yet, but they did have the number of victims. I just couldn't believe this had happened.

After my half hour of news was over, I broke down and started crying. I kept checking the NIU website to find out the latest information. For the next few days, I could not stay away from the TV coverage. I even picked up the emergency coverage press conference when they were going to announce the shooter's name.

I called my boss on Saturday afternoon to check to see if he had any information about when we were to return to work. That was one thing they kept not reporting about. The reports were just that classes were cancelled until further notice. I thought perhaps my boss would have more information. And as the time kept getting closer and closer to thinking I might have to go back to work on Monday, the more anx-

ious I was feeling. He had no information. Later the NIU website reported that school was cancelled for the next week. I was so glad when I heard that. I knew I was not ready to go back to work yet.

The week after the shooting, the staff and faculty were asked to come to counseling sessions to prepare us to come back to work. The first meeting I attended, along with some of my coworkers, was on Tuesday. It was a step towards starting the healing process. There was definitely lots of emotion from everyone in the almost-filled auditorium. There was a counselor from Virginia Tech who spoke, and it was very comforting to have someone share his experiences from a similar situation.

After the meeting, my coworkers and I decided that it would be a good idea to go over to Cole Hall and pay our respects to the victims. We knew how hard it would be to have to walk past Cole Hall for the first time, so we wanted to do it before we actually returned to work. We all had some flowers to put by the memorial site. We had a moment of silence. We

(Continued on page 16)



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NIU Tragedy

(Continued from page 14)

also went over to the Martin Luther Commons area and signed the memorial boards they had placed there.

On Wednesday, there was a special meeting that we attended for just the CART providers and sign language interpreters with a counselor. This session was especially helpful. It validated our anxiousness of returning to work and being in the front of the classroom again, something none of us were looking forward to. It was very comforting to know that every one in that room was having the same apprehension.

During this whole week of trying to heal to come back to work, my co-workers and I stayed in very close contact with each other, making sure we were calling each other to see how we were feeling. We did a lot of hugging, too. The counselor said it was very helpful in the healing process if we supported one another.

As we returned to work on Monday, we all continued to check on each other and hug one another. The mood around campus was very somber. There

was a counselor present in every room, and at the beginning of class the counselor was informing everybody of the services available to anyone who thought they needed help. The majority of students had blank stares on their faces during class, as if they were not even there. Teachers could not get any class participation. The one thing that did stand out to me, though, was the kindness that everyone was showing to one another, even from complete strangers. For the first time when sharing an elevator with a stranger, they would ask how I was today. The outpouring of support from everyone in the community has been very helpful.

As time goes on, things seem to be getting somewhat back to normal. It's not quite as disturbing when a student, late for class, enters the front of the classroom after class has already started. I must say, I am still very aware of who is coming in that door. But I know with the support of my co-workers, friends, family and the whole community, we will get through this tragedy "Forward, Together, Forward."

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Please attach biographical sketch of person nominated and your reasons for said nomination. Send your nominations along with supporting material to:

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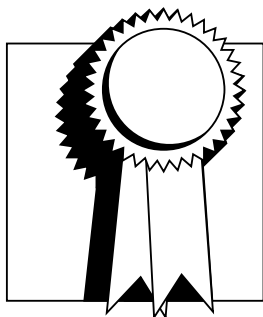
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(Continued from page 20)

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

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AMY'S BRIEFS

by Amy B. Haught, CSR, RMR, CRR, Immediate Past President

It's been six years since my first Briefs article for *Ad Infinitum*. All good things must come to an end. I've shared several briefs with you through the years, and I am sure I will continue to invent more with each passing day. However, I have decided it's time for new faces and new ideas for *Ad Infinitum*, so this will be my last column.

With the help of Nancy and Glennda Davis, I have compiled all of the data from the briefs columns for the last six years. There are 34 categories and over 800 briefs. That compilation has been burned to CDs and those CDs are for sale for \$5 each. All proceeds go to the Illinois Court Reporters Association. They will be available at the spring ILCRA seminars and at the Great Lakes Convention at the ILCRA sales table.

Now, let's have a little fun for our last column together. Unless another reporter happens to look over your shoulder while you are writing, no one knows what strokes you use to define any certain word or speaker designation.

So, if you are having a particularly boring day, why not spice things up a bit? When picking a stroke for speaker designation for that attorney that came in with his hair sticking straight up from the windstorm outside, use HAIR/HAIR to designate him speaking. If you are a CART provider and the instructor is an annoying sort, just enter PAIN/PAIN in your job dictionary as his or her speaker designation. Or, if one of the defendants has a little trouble keeping the pants of his jail uniform up over his back side, well, instead of the usual D+answer bank, why not use KRAK/KRAK when he chimes in? Yes, we all need to take our jobs seriously and maintain a professional appearance, but sometimes you need a diversion from the things our ears are subjected to.

One of our former State's Attorneys was a nice guy but just a little full of himself. Other folks in the courthouse often referred to him as "The Prince." So I carried that moniker through. Every time he spoke in court, I wrote PRINS/PRINS. No one was the wiser and I got a little chuckle out of it every time he spoke! Well, okay, no one was the wiser until I just published it in an article that is now available on the internet.

I hope you will continue to have some fun briefing. I'm going to leave you with a few brief forms that will hopefully bring a smile to your face.

- Osama bin LadenSLO*B
- Saddam HusseinSHA*IM
- Bill ClintonBLO*EN
- Michael Vick.....DO*G
- Donald TrumpD*UFPL (-FPL is mp)
- Britney SpearsTRA*RBD
- Michael Jackson.....FRAO*EK
- Prince CharlesAO*ERS
- irrelevantB*S
- you may proceedBA*BL

ILCRA WELCOMES 8 NEW MEMBERS

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- Leslee Cople, Benton**
- Brenda D. Gregory, Naperville**
- Janet L. Hamm, Jacksonville**
- Tierney Mackin, Shorewood, WI**
- Paula A. Morsch, Morton**
- Michele L. Thomas, Benton**
- Gina M. Zangara, Crystal Lake**

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.

Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest

1. Eligibility: Any writer of shorthand (pen or machine) who is a member in good standing of NCRA and ILCRA is eligible.
2. Tests: Five-minute tests will be dictated as follows:

TEST	SPEED	TRANSCRIPTION TIME
Literary	220 wpm	90 minutes
Legal Opinion	230 wpm	90 minutes
Testimony	270 wpm	90 minutes

3. Number of transcriptions permitted: One of each take.
4. Professionalism barred: Contestants must give to the ILCRA Board satisfactory assurance that they have not received, directly or indirectly, any remuneration or promise of remuneration of whatever character for entering or winning any part of this contest.
5. Entry fee: \$60.
6. Pre-registration: All contestants must submit their contest registration forms at least 30 days prior to the contest to ensure availability of adequate transcription facilities and familiarity with contest rules.
7. Awards: The contestant who qualifies on the three above tests with the highest average for the three shall be awarded the first-place plaque. Second- and third-place plaques will be awarded to those contestants who place second and third overall. Appropriate certificates will be awarded to any contestant who qualifies in any of the three speeds.

The contestant who qualifies in the three above tests with the highest average of those contestants who reside in Illinois will be awarded the Sally J. Cochran Traveling Cup. In addition, the first-, second-, and third-place overall winners will receive a medallion memorializing Gary L. Sonntag, as well as a certificate. No transcript will be rated that has more than five percent of errors.

8. Transcribing: A printer will be provided for contestants to use in transcribing. Otherwise, equipment for transcription is the responsibility of the individual contestant. Contestants are responsible for producing their own transcripts without assistance from another person. Those who type must type their own transcripts; those who use computer-aided transcription must perform their own translating, editing, printing and proofreading functions. In every sense, the contest transcripts must be the work product of the individual contestant. Any activities that call into question the integrity of a transcript may be reason for permanent disbarment from the Speed Contest.
9. Decisions: All decisions of the Speed Contest Committee and the ILCRA Board made under these rules, or such supplementary rules as may be found necessary at the time of the Contest, shall be final.

10. Continuing Education Credits: .4 CEUs are allowed by NCRA for each section of the speed contest in which the contestant qualifies. Qualification is based on transcription at 95% accuracy.



Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest Registration Form

Great Lakes Regional Convention • Hyatt Regency Woodfield, Schaumburg, IL
Friday, October 3, 2008 • 9:00 a.m.
Speed contest registration fee is \$60.

Name: _____ Phone: () _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Bus. Ph: () _____ Hm. Ph: () _____

Deadline for Registration is August 1, 2008

Please submit this form, along with your registration fee of \$60 to:
GLRC c/o MAPCR, P.O. Box 366, Pinckney, MI 48169
Or you may include registration fee with your convention registration.

ILCRA Announces Annual Realtime Contest

TESTING CRITERIA: Five minutes of literary material dictated at 180 words per minute.

ELIGIBILITY: Any writer of shorthand who is a member of ILCRA in good standing and who has attained at least RPR, CBC, or CCP status.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES BARRED: Contestants must give to the committee satisfactory assurance that they have not received, directly or indirectly, any remuneration or promise of remuneration of whatever character for entering or winning any part of this contest.

ENTRY FEE: Please register on the Great Lakes Regional Convention registration form. The fee as stated on the registration form shall be paid by the registration deadline. Fee to be paid prior to contest.

SEATING ARRANGEMENT: Seating shall be at the discretion of the chief examiner of the Realtime Contest.

QUALIFYING: Only one transcription will be permitted of each test. 95% and higher qualifies. In order to qualify, contestant must write realtime into a computer and, without editing, at the direction of a testing monitor, create an ASCII/text file on a 3.5" diskette, CD, or jump/travel drive. Those unable to produce such a file on a disk, CD, or jump/travel drive within five minutes of such request may be disqualified, at the discretion of the contest chair. After verification of ASCII file, contestant will be required to delete all components of the file, including audio, from hard drive and recycle bin. Realtime may be in either ALL CAPS or mixed case. No transcript will be eligible for consideration with less than 95% accuracy.

AWARDS: Winners and qualifiers will be announced during the Annual Conference business meeting and awards session. Medals will be awarded for first, second and third place, and an appropriate certificate to those who attain 95% or higher. The contest committee will publish/announce only names of qualifying contestants. CEUs: Per NCRA, qualifiers are eligible to receive .4

CEUs. An individual may only receive a maximum of .5 CEUs per 3-year NCRA cycle for any contests.

ALL COMMITTEE DECISIONS FINAL: The decisions of the committee made under these rules, or such supplementary rules as may be found necessary at the time of the contest, shall be final.

CONTEST MEDIA: All submitted disks, paper notes, and printed transcripts become the property of ILCRA and will not be available for participant review.

GRADING: Contestants will not be permitted to be present during the grading process. Transcripts will be marked for identification and corrected in such a manner that it will be

impossible to know whose work is being examined until after the grading has been completed. A check-off list shall be maintained indicating the submission or non-submission of a disk from each contestant.

ERRORS: Errors shall be determined by the current "What is an Error?" handout of NCRA realtime skills testing.

Incorrect or missing punctuation: Tell me what you did sir. (half point off)

Incorrect capitalization: I telephoned Mrs. stone. (half point off)

Untranslates or phonetics that are probably readable (by a layperson): I had an ace of /HARTS. (half point off) But she had an ace of /TKAOE-UPLDZ. (one point off) Her name was sinder ella. (half point off)

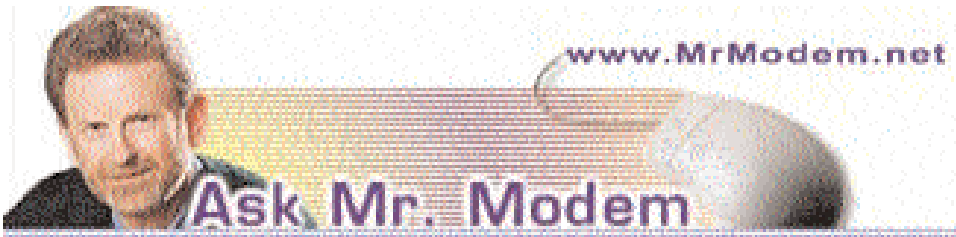
Wrong homophones: Did you eat the plumb? (half point off) I herd the doorbell ring. (half point off) Did you eat the /PHRUPL? (one point off)

Incorrect compounding or spacing: She grows roses in a regular green house. (half point off) The car would breakdown often. (half point off)

Word or words otherwise misspelled but can be deciphered or understood by a layperson: Did the rabbit eat the care ot? (half point off) Did the rabbit eat the indicator? (one point off)

Conflicts showing up will be a full point off: Was [there/their/they're] any cake left? (one point off) Yes, but [I/eye/aye] couldn't see how much. (one point off)

Register for the ILCRA Realtime and/or Speed Contests on the Great Lakes Regional Convention registration form to be mailed in May. All contestants for the ILCRA Speed and Realtime Contests will also be automatically competing for the Great Lakes Regional Speed Contest and Realtime Contest at no additional charge!
www.greatlakesconvention.com



by Richard A. Sherman

CREATE YOUR OWN NEWSPAPER

Q. I'm a news junkie and though many sites permit me to customize the type of news I want, I was wondering if there is any way to pull together news from various sources so I can just go to one place and see my favorite news items?

A. One of the oldest news sites on the Web is one that does permit you to do that in a clever way, and for free. The site is called CRAYON (www.crayon.net). The name is

an acronym derived from CRe-Ate Your Own Newspaper. After registering on the site, go to Your Paper's Settings where you can name your publication, give it a motto, select the page layout, graphics, and then select your news sources from a vast array of publications, news media, by topic or other criteria. Once you've made and saved all your selections, log-in and click "Read My Paper." It will be assembled and presented to you faster than you can holler, "Extry! Extry! Read all

about it!" If you're a news junkie, be sure to check out www.newser.com, also.

Q. When I click View > Details in a folder, is there any way I can keep that view so I don't have to re-select the Details view again with the next folder?

A. Theoretically, Windows will remember the View selected for each folder and will display it the same way each time the folder is opened. The operative word in the previous sen-

(Continued on page 27)

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Ask Mr. Modem

(Continued from page 26)

tence is “theoretically.” Sometimes Windows remembers, sometimes Windows doesn’t. I can relate.

You can encourage Windows to remember your View settings by first configuring a folder the way you want it to appear. Then, go to the Control Panel > Folder Options > View tab. For versions of Windows prior to XP, look at the list of options in the Advanced Settings section and locate “Remember each folder’s view Settings.” Click to place a check mark in front of this option, then click Apply > OK to save and exit. XP users, click the “Apply to All Folders” button, followed by Apply > OK.

Vista users, go to the Control Panel > Appearance and Personalization > Folder Options > View tab and click the “Apply to Folders” button. A less click-intensive method with Vista is to click the Start button and in the “Start Search” field, type “folder options.” Click Folder Options when it appears as a search result and you’ll be transported to the Folder Options dialog box.

Q. I’m divorced, but my married name appears in the From: field of email that I send using Outlook. I can’t figure out how to change the name people see when I send messages. Can you help, Mr. M?

A. You can easily change the

name that identifies you as the sender. The process is the same for both Outlook and Outlook Express: Click Tools > Accounts > Mail tab. If you have more than one email address, you will see them displayed in a list. If you only have one, it will be the only one displayed. (When it comes to stating the obvious, you can count on Mr. Modem.)

Click to select the account you want to change, then click the Properties button. The current name displayed on your email will appear in the Name: field, which you can edit to reflect your new name — or old name, as the case may be. When you’re finished, click Apply > OK to save your changes.



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

THE AMERICAN ROADSIDE This site is bumper-to-bumper full of entertaining roadside attractions, interesting destinations along scenic routes, and wonderful old "meat-loaf-and-taters" diners. Read articles, view the photo gallery, or buy books, t-shirts, and other American Roadside paraphernalia, all destined to end up in your junk drawer. www.theamericanroadside.com

ABOUT BIG NUMBERS Have you ever wondered how big an octovigintillion is? How about a tredecillion, or a quattuordecillion, or a million-jillion, or perhaps a penicillin? There are so many big numbers here that you'll have a splitting headache in no time. <http://tinyurl.com/yslq65>

BRAIN TRAINING BRAIN METRIX advises us that when it comes to our neurons, "use 'em or lose 'em." To help keep the ol' brain cells stimulated, BrainMetrix provides an assortment of cerebral games and exercises that will keep our minds sharp for... for... well, perhaps it's too late for me, but hopefully it won't be for you. Give your gray matter a vigorous workout by participating in any of a number of these mind-training exercises. <http://brainmetrix.com>

Mr. Modem's weekly newsletter delivers easy computer tips, great Web sites and personal answers to your questions! Trial offer: Subscribe online using Promo Code 1146 and receive a free month with your 6-month subscription (28 issues!) To view a sample issue or subscribe, visit www.MrModem.com.

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Lucinda Uphoff, Advantage Reporting Service, Peoria, IL

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NCRA NEWS

NCRA FILES BRIEF IN OHIO PAYMENT CASE

NCRA and the Ohio Court Reporters Association partnered on an *amici curiae* brief in a state court case wherein an attorney has refused to pay a reporting firm's invoice on the grounds that the attorney's client is the responsible party. The brief indicates that Ohio courts have generally held that "in the absence of express notice to the contrary, court officials and persons connected with the progress of the litigation may safely regard themselves as dealing with the attorney." The question of who is responsible for court reporters' fees is a matter of state law, and the answer varies from state to state.

The brief notes that Courts historically applied principles of strict agency to the question of liability for court reporting fees. The attorney requesting services from a court reporter was regarded merely as the client's agent in the transaction, and the client, as principal, was liable for payment. Thus developed the historical rule that an attorney is not liable for the court reporter's fees unless the attorney expressly assumed liability.

As litigation has evolved, however, the roles of attorneys and court reporters have expanded and changed. Although the historical rule may have been suitable in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it is unable to accom-

modate the realities of modern litigation. The modern attorney is no longer a mere agent of the client. The brief cites 20 cases and seven state statutes relating to the issue.

ATTORNEY, CLIENT FINED FOR DEPO BEHAVIOR

Fans of decorum in legal proceedings can rejoice. The March 5 *Legal Intelligencer* reports that a federal judge has fined an attorney and his client nearly \$30,000 for abusive behavior, vulgar language, and uncooperative responses to questioning during a deposition. In reviewing the transcript and a video of the deposition, the judge found that the depon-

(Continued on page 30)

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NCRA News

(Continued from page 29)

ent dropped no fewer than 73 “f-bomb” variations, several involving personal characterizations of opposing counsel. Deponent’s attorney was sanctioned for failing to control his client’s behavior.

WHEN ER COMES KNOCKING

When electronic recording (ER) comes knocking, do you have a plan? NCRA has heard from their members that many do not. In response to their pleas, NCRA has created a Warning Signs reference guide so that you know what to do when ER threatens your position in the official or freelance setting. This reference guide includes the top 10 warning signs that ER is encroaching on your marketplace and the top 10 reasons

your key decision-maker (judge, court administrator, or attorney) should utilize a court reporter. Finally, the document includes what to do if your area is being threatened by ER. This information was compiled by NCRA’s ER Task Force to help ensure that you, as a member of NCRA, are not alone when facing the ever-changing and competitive marketplace. These Warning Signs may just help you, a friend or a coworker keep your job down the road. So share this information; don’t sit on the sidelines and wait for ER to hit you.

DIGITAL SIGNATURE

V. ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE — WHAT’S THE BIG DIFFERENCE?

This article discusses the difference among digital signature,

electronic signatures, and PKI, and the possible misconceptions behind the usage of the terms. As the author notes, the terms digital signatures and electronic signatures should not be used interchangeably. (www.silanis.com/resource-center/articles/electronic-signatures-vs-digital-signatures.html)

E-LOCK TECHNOLOGIES LAUNCHES INSTASIGN, FREE ONLINE DIGITAL SIGNING SERVICE

InstaSign is designed to provide easy-to-use digital signatures, replacing physical ones. According to one of the E-Lock co-founders, instaSign will enable users to access digital signatures at any time free of charge. (www.elock.com/pr-instasign.html).

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STOP BY FOR A 'VISIT'

Visit the ILCRA forum at www.ilcra.org and read any of the threaded messages, reply to any of the threaded messages with your own message and/or start a new thread with a message of your own!



NOTICE:

There will not be a Call for Nominations for the ILCRA Executive Board this year. This is due to the bylaws changes enacted last year. Call for Nominations will only be every two years and will next occur in 2009.

COURT FUNNIES!

THE WITNESS OBJECTS!

ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY: At this point, Your Honor, we would ask the Court to recognize the witness as the defendant — I mean, as an expert.

THE COURT: Any objection?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: No.

THE WITNESS: I object. I don't want to be a defendant.

TAKE IT OUTSIDE!

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: I didn't get it. That's the type of — that's what the State has done throughout this trial.

STATE'S ATTORNEY: If Mr. X is going to accuse me of unethical behavior, can he please put it in the form of a motion?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: I am not accusing you

STATE'S ATTORNEY: That's exactly what you are doing, through the course of the trial, and we are going to have more than words if you continue.

—Submitted by
Amy B. Haught CSR, RMR, CRR
Immediate Past President

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- Sponsors an annual two-day conference and one-day seminars including continuing education and the latest in reporting technology.
- Co-hosts and pays for NCRA continuing education units for the three Court Reporting Services Seminars. ILCRA also provides personnel in connection with those continuing education credits.
- Publishes the Ad Infitum, 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.
- Provides on the ILCRA website, a membership directory which includes the CSR Act, Court Reporters' Act, Rules and Regulations of the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation, Transcript Act, and ILCRA Bylaws, as well as member information.
- Awards a Student Scholarship, a Distinguished Service Award, an Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Educator and conducts speed contests each year.
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- 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 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 website www.ilcra.org.
- Provides a full-time staff person, our Executive Director, to assist members.