

AD INFINITUM

ILCRA



SPRING 2011

President's Message

People Helping People

By Jill M. Layton, President

On February 1st of this year, drivers on Lake Shore Drive found themselves in the middle of a disaster — stranded in blizzard conditions. The news reports even claim some were stranded in their vehicles for up to 12 hours. Those who tried to reach the stranded motorists did so as quickly as possible, but winds of 60 to 70 miles an hour and snow falling at a rate of one to two inches per hour made rescue extremely difficult. Strangers helped strangers. They shared snacks, warmth, and comfort. In the aftermath of the storm, people still were helping each other. When talking about motorists trying to find their vehicles which had been towed from Lake Shore Drive, one newspaper reported, “One woman relied not on the city, but a stranger she’d met during the ordeal who happened to know a tow truck driver.”

While Chicago was battling the snow, other parts of Illinois were battling ice — inches of ice. Along with the heavy layers of ice came power outages. Thousands of homes were without electricity at the same time the temperatures were frigid. Shelters were opened for those who wanted to stay there to keep warm, eat, and sleep. Neighbors were checking on each other periodically. My home was out of electricity for

almost a full week. Fortunately I had enough firewood to keep a fire going at all times and keep the house warm enough so the pipes did not freeze (but my fingers and toes were so cold!)

Just a few weeks later, Mother Nature blew through Illinois again with severe thunderstorms. Again, thousands of homes were without power as electric poles were knocked down and power lines snapped.

People helping people - that is just who we are. It is the same in the reporting field but on a much smaller scale. We start with the recruitment process.



Icicles adorn hanging plant holder in Jill Layton's yard.

Many reporters volunteer their time to attend high schools to promote this great profession. We have members who attend the Spring Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling Conference to share with

(Continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE:

New Legislation	3
ILCRA Board, Committees.....	4
Call for Nominations	5
In Memoriam: Robert P. Fields	6
Student Scholarship Contest.....	8
Railroaded by a Kangaroo Court	9
ILCRA Committee Updates	12
ILCRA DSA Nomination Form	13
Mary Beth Rollins Retires	14
Outstanding Educator	15
Ask Mr. Modem	16
Mr. Modem's DME.....	17
Adventures in CART — Part 2	18
Tech Bit: Social Email	20
Dear Nancy.....	22
Sharing Skills at Lake Land	24
First Days on the Job	25
Check Out Our Briefs	28
Priceline Bidding; Word Ways....	29
Welcome New Members; F.Y.I. ...	30
Membership Application	31
What ILCRA Does	32

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS:

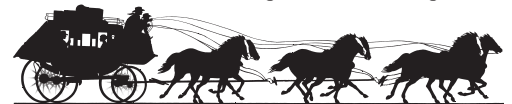
Cheetah International	17
Efficiency Reporting.....	12
Esquire Deposition Services	25
Jensen Reporting.....	11
Tracy Kunkel, Scopist	27
L&L Reporting	13
LMH Certified Reporting	20
Mosier Reporting Service	12
National Binding Company	28
RPM	23
Sonntag Reporting Service	19
Stenograph Corporation	14
Vahl Reporting Service	13
Wells Fargo	2

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President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

high school counselors and college admission representatives information about court reporting. As court reporting students gain speed and accuracy in court reporting school, reporters serve as mentors to these students providing answers to their questions and words of encouragement along the way. Who is better able to answer these students' questions than a court reporter!

As working reporters, we welcome court reporting students who are completing their internship hours. We welcome them into court and into depositions. We explain what we are doing and why. We share with them our enthusiasm and love for our profession giving them a renewed sense of excitement and eagerness to pass their test and

soon join us in the workforce. We gladly take the new reporter under our wing sharing tips and words of advice. We share with them the form we have invented to keep straight the names of the attorneys, names of the parties, exhibits, and unique names used in the hearing or deposition. We teach them the tricks of the trade for reporting meetings and conventions.

During our busy lives as court reporters, we also take the time to volunteer our time, sharing our experience and knowledge. We have reporters who serve on the CART Taskforce for the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission. We have reporters who serve on the Advisory Boards to court reporting schools. ILCRA members volun-

teer to assist at the testing sites. And we have reporters who serve their state association either as an executive board member or a committee member.

Those who volunteer by serving ILCRA as an Executive Board member or committee member do so because they believe in this profession and they believe in this Association. We truly appreciate the hours each one puts in towards the betterment of the Association and the profession. I thank each and every one of you for all of your time and your efforts, your ideas and your devotion. And I thank you for helping to create the court reporting community.

— Jill M. Layton, President

NEW LEGISLATION:

720 ILCS 5/32-8 was amended by adding Paragraphs (b) – (h) to 720 ILCS 5/32-8. Tampering with public records. Paragraph (a) reads: A person who knowingly and without lawful authority alters, destroys, defaces, removes or conceals any public record commits a Class 4 felony.

Two of the seven paragraphs added are as follows: (b) Public record expressly includes, but is not limited to, court records pertaining to any civil or criminal proceeding in any court.

(c) Any judge, circuit clerk or clerk of court, public official or employee, court reporter, or other person who knowingly and without lawful authority alters, destroys, defaces, removes, or conceals any public record received or held by any judge or by a clerk of any court commits a Class 3 felony.

— Submitted by Jill M. Layton, President

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

IMPORTANT ILCRA DATES

Check out our calendar
at www.ilcra.org
for up to date information

APRIL 15: ILCRA Court Reporting Services Seminar Four Points by Sheraton, Fairview Heights

APRIL 17: CSR Exam, Carbondale and Chicago area.

MAY 7: RPR, RMR, CRR, CBC and CPC Skills Exam at McCorkle Reporting, downtown Chicago; South Suburban College, Oak Forest (Chicago Area); and Midstate College, Peoria.

JULY 25-27: NCRA annual Conference, Las Vegas

SEPTEMBER 9-1: Grand Connection Convention with Illinois and Wisconsin, Lake Geneva, WI

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Melissa Clagg, Christina Pryor

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

Ad Infinitum is published quarterly by the Illinois Court Reporters Association, 41 SW Crescent Dr., Mt. Vernon, IL 62864. ILCRA assumes no responsibility for statements or claims made in Ad Infinitum. Subscription is included in annual membership dues paid by a member.

Statements of fact, opinion, and all advertisements are the sole responsibility of the author or advertiser alone and do not express the opinion or endorsement of ILCRA or anyone connected with ILCRA.

For advertising information: Nancy C. Davis, 41 SW Crescent Dr., Mt. Vernon, IL 62864. Ph: 1-800-656-2467 or (618) 242-2142, fax: (618) 242-2143, e-mail: Ilcraoffice@aol.com

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Issue	Pub. Date	Deadline	Issue	Pub. Date	Deadline
Fall	October 15	September 15	Spring	April 15	March 15
Winter	January 15	December 15	Summer	July 15	June 15

ILCRA CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominating Committee Chair LeAnn M. Hibler is now accepting nominations for the following ILCRA offices, and each position is for the 2011-2013 two-year term:

President-Elect

Vice-President

Treasurer

Secretary

Region One Representative (Freelance, CART Provider, or Broadcast Captioner)

Region Two Representative (Freelance, CART Provider, or Broadcast Captioner)

Legislative Representative

For purposes of this Association and Bylaws of this Association, *Region One* is defined as that region of Illinois consisting of the following counties: Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Henry, Iroquois, Jo 8, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, McHenry, Mercer, Ogle, Rock Island, Stephenson, Whiteside, Will, and Winnebago.

For purposes of this Association and Bylaws of this Association, *Region Two* is defined as that region of Illinois consisting of the following counties: Adams, Alexander, Bond, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Franklin, Fulton, Gallatin, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Henderson,

Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jersey, Johnson, Knox, Lawrence, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Mason, Massac, McDonough, McLean, Menard, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Peoria, Perry, Platt, Pike, Pope, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Richland, Saline, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, Stark, St. Clair, Tazewell, Union, Vermilion, Wabash, Warren, Washington, Wayne, White, Williamson, and Woodford.

The Executive Board meets approximately every six months on Saturday or Sunday in various locations throughout the state or online. We undertake a variety of projects with the work divided according to your ability and available time. *All candidates must have e-mail capability.*

Some characteristics of a great board member are a willingness to give of his/her time, the ability to have open discussions and to respect other's opinions even if they differ from his/her own, leadership qualities, professionalism, and business acumen. It is important that the Board is comprised of members from all areas of the court reporting profession.

You may nominate yourself or any other ILCRA member who is interested in volunteering time and talent in furtherance of the profession by filling out the form below and returning it to LeAnn M. Hibler. Also required is a written acknowledgement of a willingness to serve by the nominated candidate.

*This is the opportunity you've been waiting for!
Give something back to the profession that has given you so much.*

2011-2013 ILCRA NOMINATION FORM

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOMINATION PAPERS IS MAY 15, 2011.

Submit to: LeAnn M. Hibler, 3013 Harris Drive, Joliet, Illinois 60431

I recommend the following ILCRA professional member for consideration as a candidate for the office of:

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

I support the candidacy of this individual for the following reason: _____

Your Name: _____ Your Signature: _____

Your Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

In Memoriam

By Nancy C. Davis, Executive Director

It is with sadness that we report the death of Robert P. Fields. Bob was the 2000 recipient of the ILCRA Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Educator. He was born and raised in the Philadelphia area, where they are noted for their excellent educational system. He went to the University of Virginia, where he accelerated and received his B.A. in chemistry in three years. This was due to the U.S. then being in World War II. He was then sent by the Navy to Officers' Training School at Notre Dame University and became an ensign in the Navy. From there he was sent to the Naval Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado and studied the Cantonese dialect of Chinese, and had, in a year and a half, the equivalent of a high school education in Chinese.

World War II ended and he was sent to Washington, D.C. and worked for the Naval Security Agency as a linguistic cryptanalyst. During this time he also received his M.A. degree in Latin from George Washington/Georgetown Universities, as well as becoming a translator for the Naval Security Agency, not an interpreter, in 12 foreign languages, which along with his Latin and Greek, accounted for 14 languages, besides English, of which he had a fairly good reading knowledge.

After 10 years working for the government, he resigned and became interested in court reporting as a proofreader for a machine writer who did

work for some committees on the Hill. After a year, Patrick J. Sullivan of Sullivan Reporting Company of Chicago, brought him to Chicago to study at Chicago College of Commerce and to work for his agency. He studied with Mae Glassbrenner and Lucille Horstmeier, and soon started notereading for Sullivan Reporting Company. He began teaching night school at Chicago College of Commerce, in 1956 while being an office manager for Sullivan, and continued until he retired in 1987. Then he went to Grand Rapids, MI to live, but continued notereading for Sullivan via long distance.

In 1989, he came out of retirement and returned to Chicago and worked for Donna Urlaub as a scopist and consultant, as well as teaching full-time for Chicago College of Commerce, under new ownership as Career Colleges of Chicago. Over the years he gave several seminars, mostly on court reporting punctuation, for NCRA, ILCRA, and the Ohio Court Reporters Association, and he sat on several panels for court reporting-related functions.

Over the 47 years he was in this profession, he had, at the rate of at least 500 pages a week, either noteread or scoped more than a million pages of transcript. Bob, always said he loved every minute of teaching and being in the court reporting profession. We will certainly miss him and his winning smile.

Remembering Robert P. Fields

By Donna M. Urlaub, RPR, RMR, CRR

ROBERT P. FIELDS, 87, passed away on March 2, 2011. Bob taught court reporting at Chicago College of Commerce for 53 years, touching the lives and making a difference for all who had the good fortune of learning from him.

Although Bob was never my teacher in the formal sense, he was my mentor and dear friend, my supporter and cheerleader, authority on all things English/grammar/punctuation; he was pivotal to my becoming the reporter that I am today.

As a nervous 19-year-old graduate of the certificate program at Bryant & Stratton Business School I walked through the doors of Sullivan Reporting Company in 1969; little did I know that Bob would be a constant in my life for the next 42 years.

Without my realizing it at the time, Bob was always there, quietly guiding, mentoring, drying my tears when I returned from a horrible job; he always had my back.

Bob and I were together at Sullivan's for 15 years, where, before the advent of computer transcription, we traveled and worked as a team covering labor conventions. They were 14-plus-hour days, with a crew of reporters and typists, some more even-keeled than others; but Bob was the glue that held it all together.

After an ill-advised attempt at retirement to Grand Rapids, Michigan, Bob soon realized that an urban and urbane person such as himself did not do well away from the big city, after which he

(Continued on page 7)

Remembering Robert P. Fields

(Continued from page 6)

returned to Chicago, joined my fledgling firm by day, and resumed teaching at night.

Which started a whole new chapter in his life and mine. This lovely and elegant man, who never married, morphed into a father figure to me, Uncle Bob to my children, a member of my family. As anyone who is in this business knows, reporting can be all consuming; but with Bob at the helm, calm and serenity reigned supreme. There's an old saying, find something you love to do, and you'll never work a day in your life. Bob was the personification of this.

He scoped my work, answered the phone, scheduled assignments, proofread for and was the go-to person for the whole office, maintained an amazing filing system, all the while teaching nights and weekends. He loved every aspect of reporting, and never passed up a chance to help grade the RPR/RMR/CRR tests, and the Illinois and National speed contests. He had a deep and abiding need to be in the thick of it all, rubbing elbows with reporters and educators.

I always felt a great deal of pride in being able to say that Bob Fields was on our team, to have someone of his caliber working with us.

One of his saddest moments was the demise of Chicago College of Commerce and the door closing on his teaching career. But once a teacher, always a teacher; he continued to share his knowledge with every reporter on our staff, dispensing writing tips, analyzing notes, being the final word and expert on anything to do with punctuation and grammar, dictating to and grading papers for reporting students who worked at the office.

Until this past year, Bob came to the office seven days a week, dressed in a three-piece suit,

wearing a tie pin, shoes polished — the picture of sartorial splendor. His work ethic was second to none. For a man who was born in a time when the typewriter was king, he adapted to computer-aided transcription, first DOS, then, when I was convinced that this man who was in his late 70s would never be able to learn Windows, he did. Bob was almost giddy with delight over Google, and became quite a fan of email, especially the jokes.

About a year ago, spinal stenosis in his back began to affect Bob's ability to walk. First he went to a cane, then a walker, and I feared he was headed for a wheelchair. Although he was in great pain and it was difficult for him to perform the daily tasks that we all take for

granted, he came to work every day, yes, in his three-piece suit, never complaining, the epitome of stoicism, while never failing to ask after everyone else's needs, health, family, or to bestow a compliment on someone's attire.

So I guess it was only fitting that, although he died five days after surgery for a subdural hematoma, his last day was spent doing what he cherished most and being where he wanted to be: at his desk, in his office, surrounded by his memorabilia, his pictures, his books, and those who loved him.

Robert P. Fields: gentleman, gentle man, learned, thoughtful, intelligent, sartorial, friend, icon. Missed.



Donna Urlaub and Robert P. Fields enjoying each other's company at a holiday party.

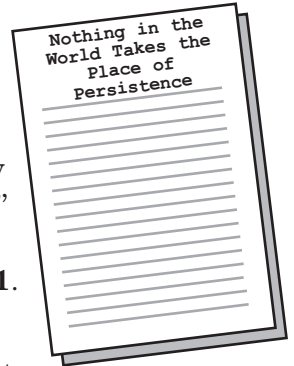


Court Reporting Students:

Win \$1,000 in ILCRA's Student Scholarship Essay Contest



STUDENTS, you could win \$1,000, plus a complimentary one-day registration to the Illinois/Wisconsin annual convention in Lake Geneva, WI on September 8 -11, 2011. The prize includes hotel accommodations for one night, round-trip mileage reimbursement and a one-year Associate Membership in the Illinois Court Reporters Association. The winner will become a member of the ILCRA Student Scholarship Committee for the following year. Second Place (\$500) and Third Place (\$300) will also be awarded.



To enter the contest, compose a one-page, typewritten, double-spaced essay answering the question, "Nothing in the world takes the place of persistence." Describe how this quote can be important to your success as a student.

Entries must be postmarked by July 15, 2011, and received by July 22, 2011. Submit to: Bernice Radavich , 27 Longwood Way Lemont, IL 60439.

REPORTERS: Please help an outstanding student by contributing generously to ILCRA's Diane Dorwart Education Fund. Demonstrate your encouragement to the reporters of tomorrow. Donations in any amount are greatly appreciated. Make your check payable to ILCRA and mail to: Nancy C. Davis, 41 SW Crescent Drive, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

..... **2011 ILCRA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

All entries must be postmarked no later than July 15, 2011 and received by July 22, 2011.

Student Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Home Address: _____

Your essay, the application, and teacher's certificate must be submitted together.

A one-page, typewritten, double-spaced essay on the topic, "**Nothing in the world takes the place of persistence.**" Describe how this quote can be important to your success as a student.

Instructor's Certificate: I hereby certify that the above-named student meets **all** of the following qualifications:

- has completed at least one year of attendance at this court reporting school,
- has successfully transcribed five minutes of testimony at 160 words per minute,
- is presently attending an Illinois court reporting school OR is an Illinois resident attending an out-of-state court reporting school.

Instructor's Name: _____ Title: _____

_____ Date: _____

(Instructor's Signature)

Name of court reporting school: _____

Submit application and attachments to:
Bernice Radavich
27 Longwood Way, Lemont, IL 60439

Railroaded by a Kangaroo Court

By Patti White

What started out as a surprise invitation to play baseball in the warmth of the winter sun in Tampa, Florida turned into a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I shared with newfound friends, die-hard Yankee fans, at the Inaugural New York Yankees Women's Fantasy Baseball Camp.

Our company, Good Sport Captioning, provides stadium captioning services for various sporting venues. One of our earliest clients was Busch Stadium in St. Louis, where I began captioning Major League Baseball in 2006, when the Cardinals defeated the Detroit Tigers in the World Series.

In 2010, our company started captioning remotely for Yankee Stadium in Bronx, New York. It was a challenging experience for me, getting up to speed on the names of all the present and past Yankee stars. Coming from St. Louis with a National League background, I had the experience of captioning Cardinal baseball and was familiar with the multitude of National League teams. Although our captions are of the public address announcements and not the play-by-play, I'm a true believer in putting yourself mentally into the game from a remote captioning position. Among the challenges for me with the Yankee assignment was to become knowledgeable concerning the make-up of all the American League rosters, the designated hitter rule and to grasp the nuances of a new venue.



Patti White suits up for the Bombers.

As I worked the 81-game home season for the defending World Series Champion New York Yankees, I found myself captioning repeated references to the Inaugural Yankee Women's Mini Fantasy Baseball Camp to be held in Tampa in 2011. Of course, I knew that the baseball men of the world had, for years, engaged in an almost migratory flight from northern locations bound for fantasy camp spring training fields in Florida and Arizona with an eye to sharing time on the diamonds with former greats. The promotional spot that I was captioning for the Yankees indicated the camp would feature former Yankee greats like Tino Martinez and Bucky Dent. I just couldn't help but wonder what a women's fantasy camp might be like.

As October approached, the Yankees were making plans for

another World Series run, and I was called into a conference with our Yankee Stadium supervisor. While discussing the post-season preparations, I mentioned my interest in the Women's Mini Fantasy Camp. Immediately, he asked if I'd be a guest of the Yankees at the inaugural event in January. My anticipation peaked as I checked the schedule, and enthusiastically responded, "YES!"

The Yankees' 2010 post-season started on a high note when they advanced over the Minnesota Twins in the American League Division best-of-five series. However, the Yankee fortunes failed when they lost in the American League Championship Series to the Texas Rangers, who went on to face the ultimate 2010 World Series champion San Francisco Giants. But with the baseball season over, I could now concentrate on my upcoming fantasy camp experience.

I made plans to start training with a local women's coach. Amanda, a scholarship-winning, four-year softball outfielder at Washington University, was as excited as I had been to learn about the inaugural camp and dedicated herself to getting me in shape. For six weeks, I put in several hours a week under Amanda's expert tutelage. As a softball coach, Amanda focused on changing my grip and strengthening my throwing arm by utilizing my lower body muscles, and she helped me "see the ball" as she pitched to me overhand — first

[*\(Continued on page 10\)*](#)

Railroded by a Kangaroo Court

(Continued from page 9)

inside and then outside the plate, mixing the pitches. Most of all, Amanda instilled in me confidence that long-lost softball skills could be revived and, more importantly, improved!

Throughout the holiday season, I kept my focus on baseball, and my husband surprised me with an X-Pro-Tex baseball batting glove as a Christmas gift. This glove, with its cutting edge technology and patented AIC (Advanced Impact Composite) material provided protection where I needed it most – wrist, palms, and hand. I loved it! And it made me feel like I had the arm of the Bionic Woman!

I arrived in Tampa on Wednesday, January 12, and was surprised how chilly the weather was. No, unfortunately, I hadn't packed my long underwear, but I had packed long-sleeved shirts, including a purple Colorado Rockies thermal shirt. I met a group of campers in the bar (imagine that!) the first night. They were as full of anticipation as I was

and were elated to leave the snow of New York behind for Florida's fantasy climate. I immediately bonded with an Assistant U.S. Attorney and a New York City police officer. I shared my court reporter-to-captioner story with them as they filled me in on the latest Yankee roster moves. There were 85 women registered for the camp, and there would be six teams slated for the three-day mini fantasy camp.

On Thursday, I put myself through one last independent workout and then relaxed at the hotel and prepared for the opening banquet to be held later that evening. I picked up the packet containing my team roster and the camp schedule. Then I met up with our Yankee stadium supervisor and his team of videographers, photographers and writers. This is when it dawned on me that I was about to "play a role" in a video that would be displayed on the Yankee Stadium "big board" this season promoting the 2012 New York Yankees

Women's Mini Fantasy Camp! The stage was being set, and I had a role to play! I thought to myself, "Okay, Patti, you've taken advantage of Amanda's training regimen; you're in the best shape of your life and you've been a dedicated Weight Watcher member for over a year. You can do this; you can do this!"

For the banquet that evening, we were transported via motor coach to the elegant Rusty Pelican, which features an incredible panoramic view of Tampa Bay. The Pelican is built bay-side, and much of the restaurant sits atop pilings that extend out over the water. It would have been a great place to just sit and gaze out into the bay, listening to the waves lapping at the pier below.

But on this night, I was focused on meeting my new teammates and playing some ball. Even though I was decked out in dressy business attire for the Rusty Pelican, I yearned for the crack of the bat, the smell of sweat and the taste of dirt. I was surprised when I learned that a captioner that I had befriended at the 2009 NCRA Convention, Tammy Milcowitz from Oldsmar, Florida, was also on our "Bombers" roster. She would become our starting catcher and eventually earned team MVP honors. The majority of my Bomber teammates were from the New York metro area, but there were also fans from Atlanta, Dallas, and of course, I was representing St. Louis!

We were introduced to our coach, Homer Bush, who played for the Yankees in 1997 and 1998

(Continued on page 11)



Railroaded by a Kangaroo Court

(Continued from page 10)

when the Yankees won the World Series. His athletic wife, Monica, would soon become our Bombers regular second basewoman and the star of the Kangaroo Court where players were “fined” for inappropriate attire or activity, with all proceeds going to the Steinbrenner Foundation, which gives monetary grants to youth groups, underserved populations and charities in the greater Tampa area. Monica’s “crime” was “sleeping with the coach,” which she brazenly admitted she had to do in order to gain the starting second base position! Other “defendants” had to face charges of wearing red cleats or, in my case, a purple shirt instead of the favored navy blue of the New York Yankees.

The following day we trained, learning from greats like three-time All-Star Bucky Dent, who conducted infield practice; eight-time All-Star Darryl Strawberry, who oversaw batting practice; and my favorite, Mick “The Quick” Rivers, a two-time World Series Champion center fielder, a speedster on the Yankee championship teams of the late ‘70s.

The last day featured the final game of our three-game set on the manicured George Steinbrenner Field. The fact that the Bombers finished 0-and-3 was overshadowed by the great friendships that were forged and the overpowering spirit of the late, great George M. Steinbrenner and his legacy that lives on through Yankee baseball.

Oh, and that video that the Yankees made? Look for it to be featured this season on the big board at Yankee Stadium, or on Yankees.com. Though I won’t receive an Oscar, I just might get the award for the most enthusiastic camper on the fantasy field.

What a memorable experience. Please forgive me, Fredbird, for I have flocked with the foe. You know, if I were to prick my finger right now, I don’t know if I would bleed Cardinal red or Yankee blue—probably some funky shade of PURPLE .

Hey, wait a minute! I was railroaded by that Kangaroo Court!! In my case, purple IS appropriate! Where do I appeal? Who’s in charge of the record?!!??



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ILCRA Committee Activity Updates

CART COMMITTEE

LeAnn M. Hibler, Chairperson

There has been no new activity within the committee, but there are some CART-related items to report.

ILCRA member Shelley L. Plate has completed the ILCRA Deaf and Hard of Hearing Sensitivity Training, the CART Technical Training, and internship and will now be listed on ILCRA's CART Provider List. Congratulations, Shelley, and welcome!

John Miller, Director of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission, (IDHHC), has decided to create a CART taskforce consisting of 5 members including a representative from an accredited college providing a CART curriculum, providers of CART services, and hard of hearing/late deafened individuals.

The taskforce will be exploring the following issues: regulation of the profession, setting standards in the profession, training and/or certification, and increased advocacy and education of legal obligations of public entities.

A letter from IDHHC went out to Illinois CART providers seeking volunteers for the taskforce with a decision to be made by Director Miller in March with the first meeting in Springfield to be held in April.

IDHHC is the governmental body that licenses American Sign Language interpreters in Illinois under the Interpreters for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007. If you are interested in seeing what the interpreters' current requirements are, you can educate yourself at www.idhhc.state.il.us.

ILCRA will be monitoring the work of IDHHC regarding CART certification and what it will mean for our members.

STUDENT/MENTOR COMMITTEE

Joni Markel, Chairperson

The requests for student mentors continue to come in. Due to the last request for mentors, I was able to fulfill the student requests at that time. I am always looking for new mentors, though, because it seems as though requests from students always come in groups!

I am always curious, after I put together a student with a mentor, how that relationship flourishes. If you are a student or a mentor, please email me at jonimarkel@hotmail.com and let me know. Thanks.

WEBINAR COMMITTEE

Nancy LaBella, Chairperson

The ILCRA Webinar Committee, consisting of Lyn Grooms, Stephanie Rennegarbe, Bonni Shuttleworth and Nancy LaBella, is actively gathering information on how ILCRA can start offering webinars as an option for its members to earn continuing education units. The committee is looking into different companies that we could work with to offer online seminars, as well as the logistics of setting up presenters to host the seminars



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Call for Nominations

ILCRA Distinguished Service Award

It is our pleasure once again to seek nominations for the ILCRA Distinguished Service Award. The purpose of this award is to encourage and recognize work amounting to distinguished service for the benefit of the reporting profession by individual members of ILCRA. That may include work as a member, committee member, officer of the Association, for *Ad Infinitum*, in state or local association affairs, or public relations.

We are seeking someone who has added to the quality of our profession, improved the manner in which it is perceived by other professionals or the general public, or who has helped our fellow reporters to focus on how they can better meet the demands of technology and the changing judicial system.

Take time now to nominate that special person who deserves recognition.

- ISRA/ILCRA
DSA RECIPIENTS**
- Traci Butz (1993)
 - Sally Cochran (1994)
 - Diane Dorwart (1995)
 - Mae Glassbrenner (1996)
 - Brenda K. Carlen (1997)
 - Carole A. Bartkowicz (1998)
 - Patricia S. Byers (1999)
 - Nancy J. Hopp (2000)
 - Deb Kriegshauser (2001)
 - Nancy Davis (2002)
 - Jerry Wedeking (2003)
 - Judith A. Lehman (2004)
 - Gary L. Sonntag (2005)
 - Dolores (Dee) Doubet (2006)
 - Seymour L. Wolfe (2007)
 - Jacqueline M. Timmons (2008)
 - R. Kent Evans (2009)
 - Patricia White (2010)



Nomination for ILCRA Distinguished Service Award

Name of Nominee: _____

Address _____

Nominated by:

Name _____ Phone: () _____

Address _____

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

Patricia White
774 W. Oak Drive, Glendale, MO 63122.
The deadline for nominations is July 10, 2011



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Lori A. Eder, CSR, RPR, RMR



Mary Beth Rollins Retires

By Jill M. Layton, President

Mary Beth Rollins of Sullivan began her career using an electric typewriter, carbon paper, and onion skin paper for her transcripts. When she retired as an official from the Sixth Circuit, she was providing a real-time feed for her judge. She definitely fulfilled the saying, You've come a long way, baby.

Mary Beth attained her CSR in November of 1976 the last time the test was given at 200

wpm. She was hired by a freelance firm out of Chicago and reported parole hearings at the prison. She began her career as an official for the Fifth Judicial Circuit, assigned to the Honorable William J. Sunderman in Coles County, in February of 1977. During her tenure in the Fifth Circuit, Mary Beth rotated between the judges and the various divisions. She left her assignment in the Fifth Circuit on April 30, 1992 and began working in the Sixth Circuit in Moultrie County, assigned to the Honorable Dan Flannell, on May 1, 1992.

Mary Beth has always been a supporter of her profession

and state association. She served the Illinois Court Reporters Association as Region 2 Representative, Treasurer, Vice President, President-Elect; and she served as ILCRA President from 2003-2005.

Mary Beth said one of the highlights of her ILCRA Board service was, "I had the privilege of being on the official court reporter committee to rewrite the rules and regulations governing official court reporters. This committee was presided over by Supreme Court Justice Thomas Fitzgerald and consisted of four official reporters: myself, Amy Quint, Pat Houlf and Vernita

[\(Continued on page 15\)](#)

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Mary Beth Rollins Retires

(Continued from page 14)

Allen-Williams. and five or six Chief Circuit Judges including Judge Robert Carter (LaSalle), Judge Barra (Peoria), Judge Tim Evans (Chicago) and Judge Robert Killander (DuPage County). It is my belief and hope that the results of the work this committee did will have a lasting and favorable impact on the official court reporter in Illinois for many years to come.”

Mary Beth felt every day on the job was enjoyable. She looked forward to going to work each and every day. Ironically, the most challenging days

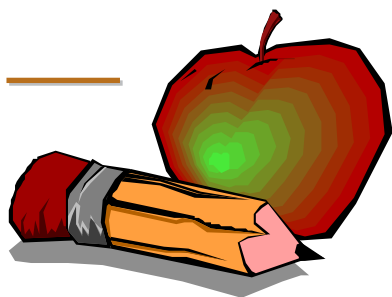
were her favorite days. She said, “There is nothing better than knowing you can produce accurate daily copy in a major trial. When the attorneys and/or the judges acknowledge your skill and talent, that’s just icing on the cake. Working in a rotating pool of reporters in Coles County and in a one judge/one reporter county in Moultrie County, the variety of cases has been a source of enjoyment. No two working days were ever the same!”

Mary Beth and husband George have been married

almost 34 years. They have two children, Coy and Georgia. Georgia just passed her CSR and is an official in Bloomington.

Mary Beth has not put away her steno machine just yet. She took a county stenographer position with Moultrie/Douglas Counties and works two days per week in each county. She enjoys making baby quilts in her spare time and gives them away as gifts. In the warm weather, you can find Mary Beth boating or golfing.

Enjoy your retirement, Beth!



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 July 10, 2011.

Although not required, 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 2011 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: _____ ph: () _____ email _____



By Richard A. Sherman

STUBBORN MAGNIFIER CREATES OVERSIZED PROBLEM

Q. I was excited to try the Windows Magnifier to help me read small print, but now I can't get rid of it. I've tried everything I can think of, but it won't disappear. How can I close it once and for all?

A. For those who aren't familiar with the Magnifier, Microsoft's somewhat verbose description is, a display utility that makes the computer screen more readable by creating a separate window that displays a magnified portion of the screen. Succinctly stated: It makes things larger.

To launch the Magnifier in XP, click Start > All Programs > Accessories > Accessibility > Magnifier. In Vista and Windows 7, click Start and in the Search field, type Magnifier.

To close the Magnifier, look for its icon on the Taskbar, at the bottom of your screen. Right-click that icon and select Close.

Q. I have a belt clip for my iPod that has a little flap cover that is held shut with a magnet. Could this magnet destroy all the songs I have in my iPod? Am I heading for a data disaster?

A. It's highly unlikely that it will cause any problems. There are never any guarantees, of course, but magnets capable of

wiping out data are very powerful, not the type that would be associated with a magnetic closure of the type you describe. I wouldn't have any qualms about wearing a stylish iPod belt clip (from the spring Nerdwear collection, I'm guessing), and if you haven't had any problems thus far, you're not likely to have any in the future.

Q. I have a Word document that was typed in ALL CAPS. I know that to get lower case I can click Insert and re-type the letters to change each word, but is there some way I can change the entire document at once? I tried the Find/Replace command, but that did not work. Thanks in advance for any suggestions you may have. I love your weekly newsletter.

A. Select (highlight) the text you want to change, then press SHIFT + F3 and keep pressing it to toggle between ALL CAPS, lower case, and Initial Caps.

Q. I had to install a new ink cartridge today, but I wanted to skip the print-testing pages because it wastes paper and ink. Nothing I tried worked. Is there any way to avoid that or am I caught in the ugly grasp of my printer?

A. Unless the ability to bypass that function exists with

your particular make and model printer, which you did not identify, in most cases there is no way to avoid that. Generally speaking, that type of print-and-align function is truly not a waste of paper and ink in the long run. This function enables your printer to continue to provide the best print quality possible.

I have several printers here and when I replace ink cartridges, it is accompanied by a symphony of beeps, boops, clanks, clunks and printing pages. As a card-carrying geek, I am, of course, obligated to examine the test-print sheets to confirm that everything is printing correctly. Not one to waste anything, I then use the test sheets as scrap paper to record my pithy thoughts or compose ransom notes, as needed. I would suggest going with the ink flow and be happy your printer is monitoring itself and maintaining its print quality.

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

ABANDONED RAILS Railroad lines have a unique and fascinating history. For better or worse, thousands of miles of track have been abandoned in the U.S. during the last 30 years. This site is dedicated to the preservation of the history of former railroad lines through interesting facts, pictures and articles. All-aboooooaaaarrrrrrrd!

www.abandonedrails.com

NATION HISTORY Geography buffs and world travelers will enjoy this site's concise histories of every country and non-sovereign territory on the planet. You can search for a specific nation by name or just browse its six regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania, and South America.

www.historyofnations.net

UNIVERSCALE If you have ever been to a planetarium, studied astronomy, or looked at the sky on a cloudless night, you know that the size of the universe is impossible to comprehend. In fact, if you think about it too intensely it can cause your head to explode. Universcale is a site that serves as an "infinite yardstick," placing objects into a scale that provides a better idea of the true vastness of the cosmos. It is an interesting online experience to watch the ever-expanding scale bring some perspective to the extremities of space, where the outer limits of the universe are an equally incomprehensible 100 billion light years away. Sit back, relax, and allow plenty of time for this Nikon-sponsored moving scale to display.

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Adventures in CART – Part 2

Help! I'm Having Technical Difficulties!

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



LeAnn M. Hibler

My “adventures” in this installment have to do with technical difficulties. I’ve had them in the past, but this time I was out of town. Last August I accepted a CART job assignment to be held a couple hours away from Joliet in Rock Island. Although it was for two weeks, I planned on coming home for the weekend in between.

Earlier that same month NCRA held its annual convention in Chicago. Like many of you, I don’t buy a new steno machine very often, maybe every 7 years, but I was ready to get one and I liked the look of Stenograph’s Diamante.

At the time one of the color choices was light pink which, if purchased, Stenograph would donate a portion of the sale to a breast cancer research foundation. I’m not really a pink person, but in light of the donation I decided to go with it. As a side note, Stenograph donated over \$26,000 to the cause!

There are a number of companies out there that produce a steno machine. Personally, I’ve always said that I would never buy a machine that did not have the digital screen where you could see the notes and English translation.

As a CART provider, it has happened in the past where my computer, my realtime cable, or my USB/serial adapter decided to quit working, and all my consumer and I were left with was my steno machine to read off of. It’s certainly not the best method for a CART consumer to get the information, but at least it is something.

My new Diamante arrived a couple days before I had to leave and I made the conscious decision not to take a new piece of equipment on the road, so I left it behind still in the box and off I went with my “trustworthy” equipment.

The first week went fine with no problems. It was a training session in a classroom-type setting and included a lot of small group activities. I got to know my consumer. He got familiar with CART which he had not used in the past.

All went well. Home I drove on Friday night, and that weekend the only thing I did with my equipment was turn on my computer for about a half hour and that was it. I didn’t go on the Internet. I didn’t load anything new. Basically I didn’t do anything to the laptop that would make it misbehave.

Back to my hotel Sunday night. I got up Monday feeling comfortable and confident with my location and the job. I got to the job site, hooked everything up as usual, and when I went to start realtime in my software, boom, an error message about the USB port. We were about to start in 10 minutes! I did some troubleshooting. I had extra cables with me so I changed out the realtime cables and the USB/serial adapter and still I got the error message. I called my software company Cheetah International and we just could not figure out the problem, and to add to my anxiety, the training session started.

So with a red face and a frustrated look, I had to explain to my consumer that realtime was not going to be scrolling on the laptop, and the best I could offer was to read off the top of my Mira steno machine. Elbow to elbow we sat, literally! And call me crazy but I still tried to give my consumer the same great service he had the week prior. So when it came to small group discussions, I stroked a new paragraph, wrote the first name of the speaker, then a colon, and then wrote what the person was saying.

While I’m doing all that, my head is spinning about what to do to solve my problem. Cheetah suggested it may be my hardware, meaning my steno machine or the computer. I knew I had the Diamante at home, but the easier route would be to borrow a machine. I recalled seeing a courthouse or two in Rock Island, so at break I Googled the courthouse, spoke to the court reporter supervisor, explained my dilemma and asked if maybe someone had an extra machine I could borrow. At least I’d know if it was the steno machine or not. No machine was available but the supervisor gave me the name and phone number of a freelance reporter in the area who might be able to help me. I left a message with her but I did not get a return phone call. She probably wondered who is this

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

Adventures in CART

(Continued from page 18)

stranger calling wanting to borrow a machine? A desperate stranger, that's who!

By lunch I knew I had to get my Diamante, so I called my husband and arranged for him to meet me after work somewhere down I-80. We were basically 2 hours apart, so we both headed out at the same time, drove an hour towards each other, and then talked on the cell phone

until we were both at the same interchange on the highway. As you can imagine, getting possession of the machine was only part of the solution. I still had to familiarize myself with it and then see if it would work with my software and solve my problem. Back to the hotel I went. I called Cheeta and we were on the phone for a couple hours. The realtime still didn't work; therefore, I had to get a current dictionary formatted for the Diamante and load it. The only good thing was that I had a bottle of red wine in my room!

She probably wondered who is this stranger calling wanting to borrow a machine?

Tuesday rolls around and when I go to the job site, everyone is wondering if I got it working. With my head hung low I have to admit defeat. Then my consumer walks in, takes one look at the pink machine, and then shields his eyes as if the

color was blinding him. I'm thinking, listen, buddy, at least you have this! He was joking, sort of. Apparently he's one of those guys who thinks

pink is for girls! Actually, reading off the Diamante was 50 times better than reading off the Mira. I didn't know this before, but you can adjust the font and also the contrast on the digital screen for ease of reading. At the end of the day my consumer was so nice. He actually told me he would be fine reading off the steno machine for the rest of the week. I thanked him but told him that it would not be acceptable in my view, plus the company who hired me would

(Continued on page 20)

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Adventures in CART

(Continued from page 19)

have my head if they knew I settled for that solution. Not going to happen.

So what needed to happen was to follow up on a suggestion from Cheetah and see if I could find a Wal-Mart and buy another computer. I had just bought this computer in March, but I was willing to do whatever it took to fix my problem. After we got done for the day I did find a Wal-Mart, applied for a Wal-Mart credit card, bought a computer interest-free for 12 months, had some dinner, then dragged myself back to my hotel room knowing what was still ahead of me, another night of me, my cell phone, my support person, and my wine. It took a couple hours to get everything loaded and tweaked, but we did get realtime to work on the new computer. Imagine how nervous I was when I was instructed to “start realtime.” Will it work? Won’t it work? But it worked!

Wednesday morning I now had two of everything. I didn’t want to leave it all in my hotel room for security reasons. I couldn’t leave it all in my car because of the heat of the day. So I dragged EVERYTHING back into the training session!

This was quite a unique job for me. I don’t work a lot of jobs that include travel, but when I do I fear I’ll forget something at home. It did make me thankful for having purchased a smart phone just prior to the job so I could Google “Rock Island courthouse” and “Wal-Mart” and then get driving directions. I was thankful for having 24-hour support through Cheetah International so I could load the software and dictionary onto the new computer.

And I was thankful to have a very understanding consumer. I’m doubly thankful for that!

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Tech Bit:

Social Email

By Gregg Marshall, CPMR, CSP

I live in my email. Probably 85% of my written communications with the outside world are done with email. I’d bet it’s the same for you.

I also do a little bit on social media, mostly LinkedIn with a little Facebook and Twitter thrown in. But I have many business contacts who are much more active on social media.

If you are in sales, you know that a big part of your selling job is establishing a relationship with your customers, especially if you are in the kind of sales that has the same customers over a long period of time. If you’ve read any of Harvey Mackay’s books, you know about the Mackay 66, a set of questions designed to help you get to know your customers better (www.harveymackay.com/tools/mackay66.cfm). In sales parlance it’s called building rapport.

There are tools to help you integrate your email usage with your clients’ social media activity. They are very useful to help you expand the range of inputs you have about what’s going on in your clients’ lives.

The first one I tried, but gave up on about a year ago because it lacked Outlook integration at the time, is Gist. They’ve since added Outlook integration as well as integration with Salesforce.com CRM. Gist (www.gist.com) takes your email contacts, your streams of emails sent and received, and your social media contacts and combines them into a single, consolidated database of the people you know and communicate with. Then, from the various social media, including blogs and some sites I normally don’t frequent, they create a dashboard of activity, even emailing you a summary if you want. Gist makes it possible to proactively keep up with your contacts, perhaps responding, or reaching out when appropriate.

I have to say I tried Gist, found it interesting but since it wasn’t integrated with Outlook not hugely useful since it was another step I needed to take to use it. I recently tried Gist again, and

(Continued on page 21)

Social Email

(Continued from page 20)

would find it useful in integrating various social media channels but found it hard to “tune” to present what is important to me. Its default settings highlighted people and companies I’m not sure were really relevant. But I’m sure that if I were to spend more time with it, letting it know what is important, its daily summary email would be much more useful.

The other tool I have been using for about a year, is Xobni (www.xobni.com). If you are wondering how they came up with such an unpronounceable name, it is inbox spelled backwards. I switched to Xobni because it integrated with Outlook before Gist had that option.

I have stayed with Xobni because it is really useful. One feature I wouldn’t have expected to use much, because it overlaps a feature built into Outlook, is its ability to index and search my Outlook PST files. That’s a big deal for me because I have pretty much every email I have sent or received since 2004 when I switched over to Outlook. Before you panic, at the end of each year I do an archive to push the emails from that year into its own PST file. I also travel a lot. So when I leave town, I use Microsoft’s free SyncToy (www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?FamilyID=c26efa36-98e0-4ee9-a7c5-98d0592d8c52) to copy my PST files onto my notebook. When I return, it’s the reverse back onto my desktop. That really messes with the indexing of both Outlook, driven by desktop search, and Xobni. But with Xobni, I can easily

tell it to reindex, “finding” all those emails sent/received while I was traveling.

Xobni works as an add-in to Outlook, adding a display pane to your main Outlook screen. I use a dual monitor arrangement on my desktop, leaving a whole wide-screen monitor dedicated to Outlook. There is enough real estate that I can have my folders on the left, my inbox along the top, a preview pane below that (99% of my emails I read in the preview pane), a Xobni panel to the right of the inbox/preview and finally my to-do panel on the very right.

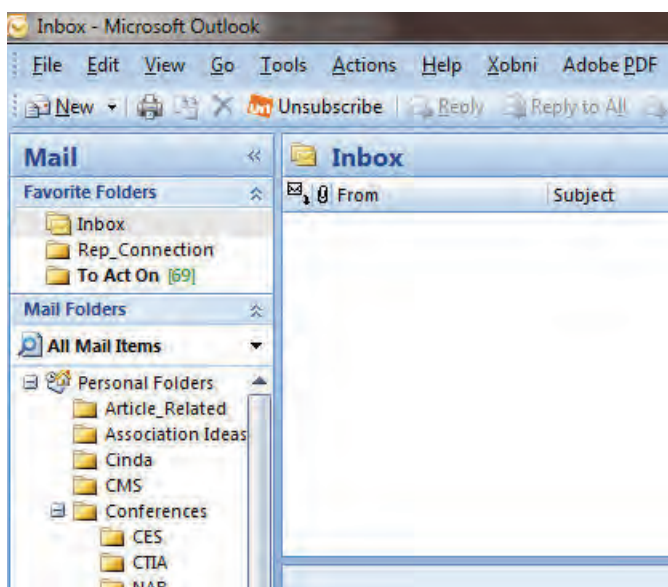
When I have an email highlighted, the Xobni panel shows a picture of the person (from one of the supported social media profiles), contact information, recent email conversations, files or links we might have exchanged, that person’s network (combined from all supported social media profiles) and a tabbed option to view that person’s various social media profiles (or twitter stream). In other words, a lot of information that I can use when communicating with them.

In my business to business use of Xobni, one “social network profile” that is interesting is the Hoovers profile of the company, derived from the person’s email domain. Obviously if you are communicating with someone using AOL or Gmail, that isn’t useful (or even populated), but otherwise you have basic information about the company as well as the person.

I like the way Xobni puts almost everything about a contact in one place whenever I am looking at an email to/from that person. I do miss Gist’s proactive notification, especially if it were turned better. I guess that’s one feature of Plaxo I find so useful. It alerts me about birthdays in my network letting me easily send eCards and giving me reasons to stay in touch with an extended network.

There are great tools out there to bring social networking into every day business communications, what tool, or group of tools, is working best for you? If you answered none, it’s time to try out one of these tools.

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





Nancy Varallo

Dear Nancy

Dear Nancy: My state association has filed a bill with the legislature which would require us to be licensed. Or is it certified? Our members say licensing and certification interchangeably. Do they mean the same thing?

Signed, Grandfather Me In!

Dear Grandfather Me In: When our state was considering licensing, I'd find myself wondering if some state legislature granted Agent 007 his license to kill. I'd fantasize about how useful it would be as some fast-talking expert tied my fingers in knots for hours on end. I'd have M rig up special exhibit labels for me that, when affixed to a document, released an invisible odorless neurotoxin just strong enough to slow down his speech. Never know what hit 'im! But I digress.

A license is a permit granted by a governmental body. It can be revoked if you fail to do something really important, such as pay your annual fee. A certificate is a credential you earn, such as your RPR. It can expire if you do fail to do something really important, such as meet your continuing education obligations.

Each state with licensing has different requirements. Typically, when licensure is passed, reporters are "grandfathered in" and don't need to be tested. The state won't put people out of a job who are already working. Reporters who don't have a CSR or RPR might have to prove they've worked as a reporter in that state. Once the grandfathering grace period has passed, any new applicant must meet the requirements of that state's licensing laws. Most states require that you possess the RPR. There may be continuing education requirements as well.

If you have any other questions, my name's Bond, Nancy Bond.

Dear Nancy: I took a deposition in which neither attorney in the case ordered a transcript. The expert medical witness is, two weeks later, demanding to sign the transcript. He is not will-

ing to pay for my time or expense of transcribing it. He's threatening to sue the owner of the firm if she doesn't send him a copy. Does the witness have that right, if neither party to the lawsuit wants it transcribed? Can I be forced to work for free?

Signed, What to do with a Whacky Witness

Dear What to do with a Whacky Witness: Hmm. Wish you had that license to kill too, huh? Lacking that solution, check out the Rules of Civil Procedure in your state. They probably say that once the transcript is prepared, the witness has 30 days to read and sign. If that's the language in your jurisdiction, tell the witness you will follow the rule. Put it in writing, and refer the witness to the attorneys in the case if he has further questions.

Don't be bullied.

If your local rules are ambiguous, talk to the attorneys in the case. It's their problem, after all, not yours. You aren't required to work for nothing – and you don't work for the witness. Maybe you would feel more sure of your ground if you consulted a lawyer. It's a legal question, and legal advice is what lawyers get paid for. We are court reporters; we get paid for our transcripts. And we don't have to work for free.

Dear Nancy In court the other day an attorney, trying to make his way through dense medical testimony, confessed to the doctor he was "nummah than a hake" when it comes to medical words. Say what? Isn't a hake a fish?

Signed, Buffaloed in Maine

Dear Buffaloed in Maine: A hake is a food fish, similar to cod, found in the waters of the North Atlantic off the coast of New England. It lives in really cold waters, hence it's numb. According to MollySmiles at www.city-data.com/forum/maine, the expression "number than a hake" means "really, really stupid". (Gotta love my quality references, eh?)

"Number than a hake" is a regionalism; you'll probably only hear it in Maine. But it loses its

(Continued on page 23)

Dear Nancy

(Continued from page 22)

local color if you ignore the wonderful Maine accent that produces “nummah than a hake.” As the down-easters say it, the accent is on num and the ah kinda trails off. Try it. With a little practice, you can even sound authentic yourself: “You can’t get theyah from heeyah.” The accent is on they and hee and the ah trails off. And can’t rhymes with want.

Local dialects can be fun to hear, but how should we transcribe them? A recent *JCR* article advises using the proper English spelling — unless the speaker was intentionally making a point of his mispronunciation, like Gotcha. You wouldn’t transcribe that as “Got you” cuz that’d miss the point and, frankly, look silly. So I’d opt for “nummah than a hake” in my transcript, because “number” just doesn’t cut it.

I’m sure the locals in Bah Habbah would approve!

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Sharing Our Skills at Lake Land Career Conference

By Kathryn A. Thomas, RMR, CSR (IL), CCR (MO)

Every year around the end of February, Lake Land College in Mattoon holds the Eighth Grade Career Conference. Eighth graders from area schools take a half day to explore various careers to jumpstart their thinking on the eternal question, “What do I want to do when I grow up?”

This year our profession was represented by Sarah Wilhoit on Thursday and Georgia Rollins and I on Friday. We set up at a table on the perimeter of the Field House gym, as were the other professions, and the sessions began with the students seated in the middle and watching the motivational speaker, “Chalk Guy” Ben Glenn, create a gorgeous landscape with chalk. (An aside: Volunteer for this just to watch his chalk painting. I’ve seen it six times now, and every single time I get teary-eyed from the beauty. Check him out at www.simpleadhdexpert.com if you’re intrigued.) After the presentation, the students must visit at least three booths and ask certain questions. For example, “What do you like most about your job?” “What classes should I take in high school to prepare for this career?”

Our booth was set up next to the bomb squad, and their rep brought grenades and pipe bombs. You can see his paraphernalia on the table behind Georgia in the picture to the right. (Needless to say, the TSA were NOT represented at this conference.) For the first half of the day, Georgia and I sat and watched the bomb squad’s line of interested students grow to stretch halfway across the gym. On the bright side, our lack of

customers gave us time to set up the projection screen so everyone could see our realtime.

Georgia did most of the talking while I realtimed her and the students, who, like, totally, like, freaked out because, like, what they were, like, saying was, like, appearing in big yellow letters for, like, the whole world to, like, see. (I write “like” with commas around it as LAO*EUK.) And Georgia did a wonderful job! She was dynamic and engaging, and the kids walked away from our booth understanding that court reporting and captioning is an amazing and valuable profession that just may be for them.

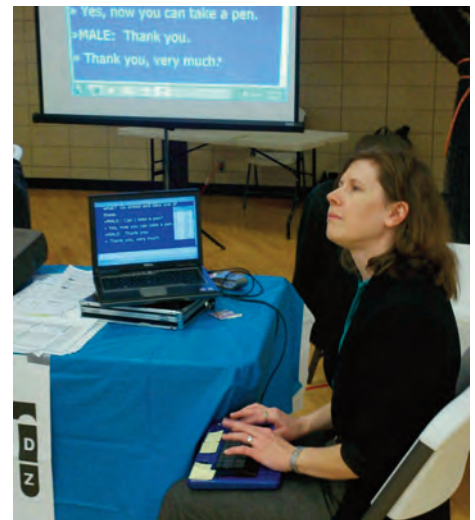
After the students left, we had a lunch break, after which we reset for a brand new bunch of eighth graders. This time I was able to CART the full session: the welcome, announcements, and Ben Glenn — and if you ever caption him, heads up. He likes to say “Sasquatch.”

Georgia and I could see several students’ heads turn towards our screen, and that definitely brought in some interested kids! A gaggle of four or five young men were tickled

when I told them that if I want the phrase “to a reasonable degree” to come up, I write TURD. They liked the idea of getting paid to caption sports games, whether on TV or in the stadium.

Afterwards, a mother and daughter expressed their appreciation to me because they recently came to the States, were learning English, and better understood today’s happenings because they could see my realtime. Thank ME? I thank THEM for the appreciation! That made this day extra special.

Don’t hoard your skill, everyone. Share it!



Kathryn Thomas realtimes for students.



Georgia Rollins chats with curious students — yes those are grenades on the table!

I am a
court
reporter.



No matter what *the title* says,

I started as a court reporter, and while admittedly it has been a little while since I took a deposition, I still know what it means to be a reporter. I understand the pressures and anxieties that come hand-in-hand with the amazing sense of satisfaction you get from delivering a great product after an all day deposition.

At Esquire, we know our base of reporters is our biggest asset. We also realize our industry is changing. We intend to lead that change, tapping into the country's largest base of reporters to help us shape the future of our industry.

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Student Advice:

Reporters Remember First Days on the Job

Have you ever had a conversation with a court reporting student who asked many questions starting with, "What if....."? As seasoned court reporters, we know that anything can — and does — happen! The students will be so nervous their first day on the job — whether it be as an official, a freelancer, a captioner, a CART provider, etc. Following are some submissions by fellow court reporters about the first day on their job. It just goes to show that we all have first-day jitters and anything can happen! But use your training, and you will be great!

Amy Quint (Official in 2nd Circuit):

I don't remember anything traumatic from the courtroom, but I definitely remember my first day on the job. The resident judge called me into his office to let me know what was expected of me (otherwise known as a lecture), including telling me not to wear blue jeans and cowboy boots on the job, even though I was dressed in a wool suit. He scared me to death and I wasn't sure I would ever be able to do anything to please him. Fortunately, first impressions aren't always accurate. This same judge became my fierce protector over the years, kind of like a second dad to me. After I was divorced, he said that all potential suitors had to be approved by him and he was going to prepare a pre-dating questionnaire! I felt like I lost my right arm when he retired, but we still remain in close contact. Interestingly enough, later I found out that his first-day-on-the-job lecture was routine and I wasn't singled out. He went through the same spiel with all the new court reporters in the circuit who worked in our county. Lucky for both of us, I survived the orientation and the first day!

Christina Basis-Prinzi:

After several days of shadowing experienced reporters, I felt ready to take my first deposition. It was also my 20th birthday. The owner of the agency was very understanding with newbies and had selected a simple fender-bender case for me. He told me that the client/attorney spoke clearly and at just the right speed. I was nervous, yet eager to get started. I arrived early, gathered all the spellings, and got my bearings. When the

(Continued on page 26)

First Days

(Continued from page 25)

proceedings started, our client lived up to my boss's assurances. My jitters were beginning to subside, and I became confident that my first deposition would be unremarkable. What we did not know was that the deponent had a profound speech impediment. I quickly learned that in our business you had to expect the unexpected, but I think that is what I love most about being a court reporter.

Vernita Allen-Williams (Official Reporter, ILCRA Reg 1 Rep):

My first day as a freelancer was preceded by a tour of the Loop in Chicago. I knew from my practicum experience to arrive ten to fifteen minutes before a deposition started. But what if you're unfamiliar with the area? A fellow court reporting student took me on a guided tour of the main offices I would be sent to. She also explained the north/south and east/west streets in the Loop.

Thanks to her, I was ready to go on Monday. Thanks to her, I was never late for a job.

Jill Layton (Official in 5th Circuit):

I started out in the courtroom as an official. When my husband was relocated, I began to freelance. My first deposition was in Arcola — I remember the attorney's office very well. I was pregnant with my first child. I even remember the dress I had on. I went to the restroom when I first got there. I walked out of the bathroom and was walking down the hall, brushed off the back of my dress and felt panty hose. That's right. Dress tucked into the top of my panty hose! That was 24 years ago — and to this day, you will see me brush the back of my dress often to make sure it is cloth I feel and not nylon!

Sarah Wilhoit (Official in 5th Circuit):

My first week on the job I worked with another reporter one county north learning the ropes. I guess she felt like I had passed because I was released to begin in my own county the following Monday. Monday came and I walked into the courthouse I would be working in and there were an awful lot of people hanging around, seemed a lot busier than the county I worked in the week before. I learned about five minutes later that we were having a jury trial.

I was 22 years old and had freelanced one year before taking this officialship. I had done okay as a freelancer but the atmosphere of the

courtroom was a little intimidating and I was pretty nervous anyway. Then when they said there was a jury trial...Oh, my goodness. I remembered thinking, okay, just sit there and do what they tell you, take down everything and you can figure out the rest of the stuff later. It went okay until the Jury Instruction Conference. Thankfully, it was just the attorneys, the judge and myself. I didn't have a visible meltdown, but an internal explosion was beginning to erupt. I had no clue what an IPI was, what they were actually saying and what I really was supposed to be doing.

I don't remember much of the trial after that, but I remember very clearly the conversation I had with my husband that night. It went something like this: "I have no idea what I'm doing and I have no business being in there. I just learned how to type fast! This is something important and they have me sitting in there taking it down. I am just going to have to quit. There is no way I should be doing this." Well, I didn't quit that week; another week passed and then another, and well, I am still an official. I finally figured it out. School prepares you for some of the job, but definitely not all. Unfortunately, there are just some things you have to figure out. I'm glad I did.

Linda Chesnut (Official in DeWitt County):

I started my freelance work in Chicago. I was green, green, green. Knew no one, knew nothing. This particular day I was sent to the Daley Center for a discussion in chambers. The room was about the size of the cubicles you see in cartoons. With about ten attorneys in the room, I turned on my tape recorder. The Judge immediately said he didn't allow tape recorders and I had to shut it off, which I did. It wouldn't have recorded anything anyway because then someone turned on the air-conditioner in the window. From that point on, all I could hear was the air-conditioner. I left that discussion terrified that they'd ask for a transcript. The lesson is — speak up!! It sure was my lesson for the day and one I never forgot.

This next one isn't my story, but thought I'd tell you anyway. The girl in question was a new, young reporter and also a little nervous. When she finished her deposition, she took a cab back to the office. The nice cabbie put her machine in the trunk of his cab. When she arrived back in

(Continued on page 27)

First Days

(Continued from page 26)

the office, it suddenly dawned on her that her machine was still in the trunk of the cab! A lot of tears and carrying on, but eventually she reached the cab company and got her machine back. I bet she never forgot her lesson either.

Courtney Goodner (Official in Vermilion County):

Oh, geez! I learned that I knew nothing! I thought I was so prepared. Let's just say Vermilion County is a little different than the interning I had done in the rest of the circuit. I was in a murder trial my first day. Welcome to the job! It had loads of expert testimony and I had no clue what any of it was. It was overwhelming. I was glad I was just training and not responsible for the record that day. I trained for a few weeks with another reporter and I remember how nervous I was the first day on my own. What if I mess up? What if I have to tell someone to stop, or speak up? What if I can't do it? I have great reporters in my office, and they still answer my questions five years later. I am still learning something new every day.

Tracy Grott (Official):

I don't have any great juicy or funny stories to tell about my first experiences freelancing or my first day on the job as an official...other than to say I was a bundle of nerves both "first" days, which is never uncommon when you're about to embark on new territory in any profession! The thing that sticks out for me as I began my freelancing career was getting back to my office after the first dep I took was over — before audio backup — and literally shaking in my shoes, telling my husband, "I hope I can read my notes! What if I can't read my notes?"

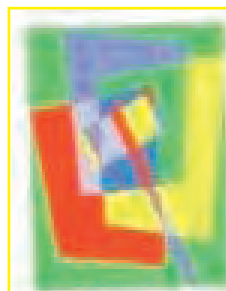
In all honestly, it can be very nerve-racking; sitting for hours on end in contentious depts, hanging on for dear life as attorneys battle it out or when a deponent gets their feathers ruffled and things are just flying, and nobody around you seems to notice it but you!! But there's good news! It does get better! And, as my husband still tells me today, "You were so nervous, but you were always able to get through those times just fine!" So, my words of advice would be to take many slow, deep breaths before you go in to the job, relax and BELIEVE IN YOURSELF and BELIEVE IN YOUR CAPABILITIES! It will be okay! And, if something trips you up, just make a short little brief to get you through, then either

during a pause in the hearing or at a break, write down what those briefs are that you came up with and the definitions for them and you will be fine!

Don't forget to be fearless and politely ask the parties to slow down or to speak one at a time or to repeat themselves if you need it. We're all human, and believe it or not, sometimes attorneys have a tendency to think that we are super-human and can take impossible testimony that is all garbled with everyone speaking over one another! Though we may be close to super-human, we all have our limits! So, never be shy or afraid to speak up!

We, as court reporters, have worked so very hard for what we've attained in order to be able to work in this profession. I think court reporters hold themselves accountable to even higher standards than what many judges may expect! It's ingrained in us, you know! There are ups and downs in any job, but court reporting is a passion for most of us, and we have been able to muddle our way through some very tough times, and undoubtedly, there will be more to come that we will trudge our way through, but I can guarantee the new reporters out there that if you can make it through court reporting school and pass the CSR, you will do just fine on the job! It's a learning process. It's a learning process from here on out! You will continue to learn something new nearly on a daily basis! I know I do! That's what keeps our jobs so interesting!

So, keep your positive attitudes as you transition from student to reporter and you will excel in everything you do...and I guarantee that you will look back in awe at everything you've accomplished as you continue to grow in your careers! Trust me, it feels really good when you see those accomplishments!



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CHECK OUT OUR BRIEFS

By Nancy LaBella, ILCRA President-Elect

Another installment of: “So what do these words and phrases have in common?” Not much, folks, except they have been used and/or created in the last couple of months by those who allow me to pick their brains for brief forms.

My challenge to you: Why not take a minute to send an e-mail with a topic you would like to see covered in our next edition of Check Out Our Briefs – even just a word you struggle with. We need your ideas! Contact me at labellaseppi@yahoo.com.

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Tech Bit:

Optimizing Priceline Bidding for Hotels

By Gregg Marshall, CPMR, CSP,

Back in Tech Bit 24 I mentioned Priceline as a low cost option for hotels, the negative being you don't know the name of the hotel until you "win."

I had recommended using two websites, www.biddingfortravel.com and/or www.better-bidding.com, which are forums where the members post their winning deals. Finding the relevant data is a bit of a challenge. I always felt there should be a better way to record winning bids, perhaps something like TripIt where you would forward your email confirmation.

A recent thread on FlyerTalk led me to www.biddingtraveler.com. I used it on a trip to Chicago in February and it did a great job, snagging me a three-star hotel for \$38 per night.

The process is neat because it is clearly capturing a lot of bidding data during each user's session. I have to presume that the more data the site gets, the more intelligent it will be able to be about bidding suggestions.

On the home page you input your destination, check-in and check-out dates. That leads to a map that looks like the Priceline hotel bidding page, but with different results. On the map showing zones, at the exact locations, are the hotels that have been won, their star rating and range of winning bids. Selecting a star level (and zones) shows recent losing and winning bids. Using that information, you select the zones in which you are willing stay, the minimum star level you want, and a minimum and maximum bid range (the site makes suggestions based on its history).

At that point, if you are using Internet Explorer, you have the option of using an autobid feature (it uses an active X plug in, so you can't have high security enabled). It asks for some of the information that you would enter into Priceline, then it takes over.

Or you can do it manually, which is the only option I got using Google Chrome. It opens Priceline in a frame (there's a biddingtraveler.com bar above the regular priceline.com web page). Each step of the way the bar tells you what to enter into Priceline.

What really differentiates Bidding Traveler is its clever use of "rebids." Anyone who has gotten into Priceline bidding knows that you can get an instant second (or third or fourth) chance to bid if you add a zone that doesn't have any hotels with the star rating you are trying for. Bidding Traveler takes the concept up a notch, mixing and matching zones in ways I would never have thought of, but giving many more rebids in a single session. For my Chicago trip, I was given up to seven tries, how many you get will be determined by your star choice and the zones available. Obviously the more tries, the smaller increments you can change your bid by, and the lower cost room you'll end up with.

I didn't know about the IE autobidding option because all I saw on the home page was the simple "let's get started." Perhaps a link to some help page somewhere would be useful.

It would be nice to see how many bidders' data points are being used for each zone, and, as the number rises, perhaps for each star level. The site

(Continued on page 30)

WORD WAYS

By Bonni Shuttleworth

A word about where these terms originated. I have a handout from Joe Pudlo dated March, 1997 which he titled "A Court Reporter's Vocabulary" and advised reporters to write the words stenographically and become familiar with them. So using his advice, I am going to share the terms with you. I will list them here and hope you look up the meanings before you check your answers in on [page 30](#).

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. AARP | 9. abstract of record |
| 2. abatement | 10. abutting sidewalk |
| 3. aberration | 11. abyss |
| 4. abeyance | 12. accede |
| 5. ab initio | 13. accouterment |
| 6. abject poverty | 14. accretion |
| 7. abrogate | 15. acetylene gas |
| 8. abscond | |



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F.Y.I. WHAT'S HAPPENING...

ILCRA thanks **Kris Ashenurst** for her years of service as ILCRA's Circuit Rep for the 9th Circuit. Kris retires as an official at the end of this month and moves on to new adventures. Thank you, Kris — and good luck! ILCRA thanks **Jill Tippitt** for accepting the position as Circuit Rep for the 9th Circuit.

ILCRA extends heartfelt condolences to **Lyn Grooms**, ILCRA Treasurer, on the death of her husband, Bob; and also to ILCRA member **Laurie Prickett** on the recent passing of her husband.

ILCRA extends condolences to **Teri Gaudet** on the recent loss of her mother.



Optimizing Priceline Bidding for Hotels

(Continued from page 29)

can't help if somewhere obscure doesn't have any data to aid in bidding, versus somewhere common like Las Vegas where it might get several hundred (hopefully thousand) winning bids to draw from.

This is a site that will only get better as more people discover it and use it. It is a perfect example of the wisdom of crowds. I hope if you use Priceline, you'll start using www.biddingtraveler.com.

Priceline bidding isn't always the lowest cost option. Sometimes I get a better deal on Priceline, sometimes on Hotwire and sometimes a regular site like Hotels.com. It pays to shop around.

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

Answers to Word Ways (from pg. 29)

1. **AARP** American Association of Retired People
2. **abatement** lessening or reduction
3. **aberration** deviation from the truth or a moral standard from the natural state or from a normal state or from a normal type
4. **abeyance** undetermined or incomplete state of affairs
5. **ab initio** from the beginning
6. **abject poverty** sunk to the lowest depths
7. **abrogate** to annul; to rescind; abolish by official action
8. **abscond** to hide, conceal, or absent oneself clandestinely, with the intent to avoid legal process
9. **abstract of** a condensed history of a case, taken from the trial court records and prepared for use by the appellate court
10. **abutting** adjoining; touching sidewalk
11. **abyss** a bottomless pit
12. **accede** to give one's assent
13. **accouterment** an accessory item of clothing or equipment
14. **accretion** growth or increase in size by gradual external addition, fusion, or inclusion
15. **acetylene** a colorless, highly flammable gas, used for metal welding gas and cutting

ILLINOIS COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

41 SW CRESCENT DRIVE, MT. VERNON, ILLINOIS 62864

618-242-2142 . 800-656-2467 www.ilcra.org

FAX: 618-242-2143 . E-mail: ilcraoffice@aol.com

If you are an Illinois State Official and wish to take advantage of the payroll deduction, call the 800 number above and a payroll deduction card will be sent to you for completion.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please type or print)

Please check address preferred for mail: Home Business

Name: _____ Date: _____

Home: _____
(Street Address) (Apt. #) (City) (State) (Zip)

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

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

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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER -- FOR COURT REPORTERS -- DUES \$95/YR

Primary Reporter: Freelance State Official Federal Official Captioner Hearing Legislative Industrial Commission
Primary Shorthand : (check only one) Machine Pitman Gregg Other _____
Support Services: Computer-Aided Conference Litigation Realtime Video Video Closed
Transcription Room Support Translation Conferencing Captioning

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

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NCRA Literary Legal/Jury Testimony Champion

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

Nonreporting Specialties: Attorney Notary Public

ASSOCIATE MEMBER -- DUES AS INDICATED (check one) Instructor - \$35 Student ---- \$25 Vendor ----\$45
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(Occupation)

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

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

Illinois Court Reporters Association Mission Statement:

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

WHAT ILCRA DOES FOR ILLINOIS REPORTERS

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