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ad infinitum

SPRING

2014

President's Message



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I have sat in the President's seat for approximately six months now, and have received many calls and questions that cover a variety of topics. This profession is faced with daily situations and challenges that make us sometimes want to throw in the towel. We all know, however, that we will grab our writers, continue on, and face another challenge all too soon. It seems to be the cycle. Even though we feel like we are the only ones who have difficulties in our jobs, if we take a look around we will see that others are faced with challenges in their jobs, too. Sometimes we just need to talk with someone else who experiences the same problems we do, and we feel much better after that.

Official job openings are happening in various parts of the state and country. We are seeing the retirements of our friends, and people are needed to fill their spots. It amazes me how difficult it is to find reporters to fill these spots. No, these job openings are not in every circuit in our state, but my point is simply that we need people to fill job openings all the while student recruitment and successful completion seems to be declining.

Are you proud of the profession you're in? Can you honestly say that you have tried to encourage students to get into the field of Court Reporting, Captioning or providing CART? When people ask you what your career is, do you say it with enthusiasm and speak confidently about what you do? Do you talk passionately about the job, describe in detail what you do and encourage others to look into it? If not, then why? Is it because it is easier just to sit back and do nothing?

We are a tightknit community and we all know the challenges and changes that have fallen on us. These issues cannot be denied and we know they are there. We continue to educate our clients of the critical role we play, we advocate for testing and certification because we all know how important it is and we want to be the best we can be. We have

had success, flexibility, met numerous people from all circles of life, and continue to learn each day. No, the job isn't easy. If it was easy then everyone would do it.

When someone asks us what we do, we need to show them the passion that we feel for our job. We need to be optimistic. We all know that young people love technology, so let's explain the evolution of the technology into this business and how we have adapted and changed and will continue to do so. Think of yourself when you first got into this career and explain how it has changed. Share what grabbed you when you were deciding which career path to take and what made you want to give this profession a try. These are the things that still interest prospective students. Oh, sure, our own children understand what we do, but do their friends? I bet not. Take the time to explain it. The passion will appear if you do.

Retirements will continue to occur in all aspects of Court Reporting, Captioning and CART. The question is, do we feel enough pride for the jobs that we do to encourage new students to enter this field? I think we do! Spread the work and encourage others to join in and give it a try. Throwing in the towel because things aren't the way they used to be cannot be an option. If we take that route then we are sure to fail. Let's grab someone and share the passion of what we do and continue as a strong group with loud voices so that we can have a promising future for those who continue to do it long after we are gone. Better yet, take the time to volunteer at a Career Day at your local school. We must spread the word. If we don't, we are doing a disservice to the profession that has been so good to us.

—Stephanie Rennegarbe

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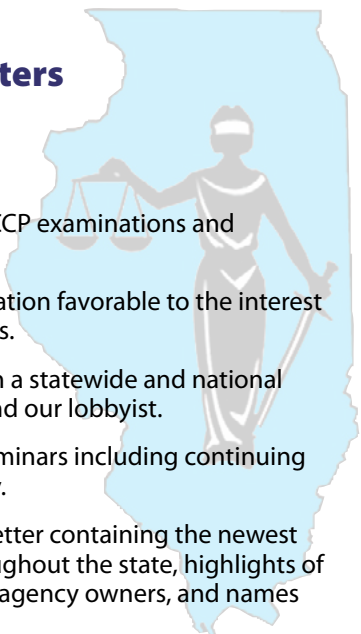
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For a listing of all committees and current committee members

[CLICK HERE](#)

What ILCRA Does for Illinois Reporters

- 
- **Works** to maintain your right to be certified.
 - **Administers** the RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CBC, and CCP examinations and publishes the dates of the tests in *Ad Infinitum*.
 - **Monitors, promotes, and lobbies** to pass legislation favorable to the interest of court reporters, captioners and CART providers.
 - **Monitors** legislation affecting our professions on a statewide and national basis through both our Legislative Committee and our lobbyist.
 - **Sponsors** an annual conference and one-day seminars including continuing education and the latest in reporting technology.
 - **Publishes** *Ad Infinitum*, a quarterly online newsletter containing the newest up-to-the-minute reporting developments throughout the state, highlights of board meetings, advertisements of vendors and agency owners, and names and telephone numbers of ILCRA officers.
 - **Serves** as an affiliated state unit of the [National Court Reporters Association](#).
 - **Offers** members significantly reduced rates for the conventions and seminars.
 - **Awards** Student Scholarships, a Distinguished Service Award, an Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Educator, and conducts [speed contests](#) each year.
 - **Provides** resources on the ILCRA website, including the CSR Act, Court Reporters' Act, Rules and Regulations of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Transcript Act, and ILCRA Bylaws. It also includes officers' names and contact information as well as Committees and Committee Members. ILCRA Member Information is included on the website under "Find a Reporter."
 - **Offers** an Online Student Mentor Program.
 - **Promotes** student recruitment.
 - **Organizes** letter-writing campaigns on issues affecting our professions.
 - **Sends** representative members to legislative boot camps, leadership conferences, and the national convention for training and education.
 - **Provides** reporters for demonstrations on request and attends career days throughout the state.
 - **Provides** free CART brochures to its members.
 - **Provides** a court reporters network through Constant Contact which allows ILCRA to immediately be in touch with members via email.
 - **Serves** the membership with the phone number 703-729-4861 and a [website](#).
 - **Provides** an association management company to assist members.

ILCRA MISSION STATEMENT

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

2014 ILCRA Annual Convention

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Illinois Court Reporters Association Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago – Oak Brook in Oak Brook, Illinois, during the ILCRA Annual Convention. During the annual meeting, awards will be presented and reports will be given. The time of the meeting will be announced in the next issue of *Ad Infinitum*, and the room where the Luncheon/Annual Meeting will be held will be posted at the convention.

The ILCRA Executive Board meeting will be held in the ILCRA President's Suite at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago - Oak Brook in Oak Brook, Illinois, during the ILCRA Annual Convention. The date and time of the meeting will be announced in the next issue of *Ad Infinitum*, and the room number will be posted at the convention.

Student Scholarship Award

Court Reporting Students, You could win \$1,000, plus a complimentary one-day registration to the 2014 ILCRA Annual Convention in Oak Brook, Illinois, on Saturday, September 13, 2014. The prize also 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) prizes will also be awarded, and those winners will also receive a complimentary registration to the convention on September 13.

[CLICK HERE](#) or [VISIT ILCRA WEBSITE](#) for the application form. Applications are due by Friday, August 8, 2014 and the winners will be announced at the Annual Convention.

Distinguished Service Award

ILCRA Members, Nominations are now being accepted for the 2014 ILCRA Distinguished Service Award.

[CLICK HERE](#) or [VISIT ILCRA WEBSITE](#) for the form. Nominations are due by Friday, August 8, 2014 and the winner will be announced at the Annual Convention.

Court Reporting Students, Do you know an outstanding educator? Nominations are now being accepted for the 2014 ILCRA Award of Excellence.

[CLICK HERE](#) or [VISIT ILCRA WEBSITE](#) for the nomination form. Nominations are due by Friday, August 8, 2014 and the winner will be announced at the Annual Convention.

ILCRA Call for Nominations

Nominating Committee Chair Nancy LaBella is now accepting nominations for the following ILCRA office. **Nominations are due by May 30, 2014.** This position is for the 2014-2016 two-year term:

Region Two Representative (Official)

[CLICK HERE](#) or [VISIT ILCRA WEBSITE](#) for the nomination form.



National Court Reporting & Captioning Week

By Shannon M. Frey, CSR, RMR, CRR

On February 19, 2014 I was on a lunch break during a trial when I got an email from JCRweekly alerting me to all the celebrations and happenings going on during National Court Reporting & Captioning Week. I couldn't help but feel somewhat guilty as I had done nothing beyond trying to make a record of the proceedings as usual. Suddenly I sat straight up, got a smile on my face, and had an idea. I marched fast-paced back to the courtroom and asked the bailiff if I could possibly have a moment with the Judge before we commenced the proceedings for the afternoon. He said he would see what he could do. Five minutes later I found myself in chambers standing in front of a patiently waiting Judge to hear what I had to say.

Having not put much thought into this whole situation, I just jumped in the saddle and took off. It went sort of like this: "Judge, did you know that this is National Court Reporting Week?" The very polite, tolerant Judge: "Why, no. That is very nice." The slipping-in-the-saddle Court Reporter: "Have you ever received a real-time feed from a court reporter where you get the testimony live?" The somewhat interested Judge: "No, never." The trot-to-gallop Court Reporter: "Well, because of this special week in court reporting, I would like to provide you with instantaneous testimony right to an iPad on your bench. Would that be something you would be interested in?" The now very curious judge: "Absolutely. What do I need to do?" The I'm-on-a-roll Court Reporter at full-out gallop: "Just be at your bench five minutes before the afternoon session

and I will show you a few simple commands you can use that you might find helpful. Please be advised that there will be some "untranslates" and possibly some mistakes in translation. This is a rough and not a final version." The totally pumped Judge: "I understand. Let's do it!"

As everyone started streaming into the courtroom, my thoughts went to, Everything so far has been fairly uneventful and now I am going to write live? This is a no-write trial. I didn't prepare for real-time. The blood started pumping loudly in my ears and I was thinking, oh, no, do I have all of the names globaled? What were my briefs again? What was I thinking!!! Too late now; done, done, and done.

Back in session. Of course the first few minutes are always a terror, but when I looked over and saw the Judge following the real-time, not typing his own notes, and smiling profusely, I was so proud that I could be a part of that moment. At the end of the day after counsel and the witnesses left the courtroom, I informed the judge that I could email the rough testimony right then to him. He was in awe. He said, "I did not have to take notes. I could watch the demeanor of the witnesses and the attorneys. There was no need for reading back questions. Everything" (well, almost) "was there. You have spoiled me!" The proud Court Reporter: "Well, Judge, maybe what you should do is talk to the powers that be here in this courthouse and tell them that you want a real-time reporter in your courtroom." The motivated Judge: "Great idea!"

Thank you NCRA for shooting off the email and for all the wonderful things you do for our profession. You make me want to be a better reporter!



Join the conversation!

Visit and "like" our Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Illinois-Court-Reporters-Association/147418091950835>



In Sympathy

ILCRA extends its sympathies to **Pat Houlf**, ILCRA Education Liaison, Peoria, IL, on the loss of her father, Donald Houlf.

ILCRA also sends condolences to **Dee Doubet**, past ILCRA President and Board member, Hanna City, IL, on the loss of her mother, Maxine Payne.

Out and About



College Visit

ILCRA President-Elect Vernita Allen-Williams and member Lisa Reyes visited students on March 25 at South Suburban College.



Court Reporting Instructor LaTherese Cooke with ILCRA President-Elect Vernita Allen-Williams.



Court Reporting Instructor LaTherese Cooke and ILCRA member Lisa Reyes.



"Down But Not Out"

Court Management Services presented "Down But Not Out" to official reporters on April 4 in Fairview Heights.

Pictured left to right are presenters Stacy Wilson, ILCRA President-Elect Vernita Allen-Williams, and Katie Schroeder.

Calling All Court Reporters!

ILCRA is putting together a Career Day slide show to communicate to high school students the incredible and exciting career that is Court Reporting, and we need pictures that showcase all the wonderful possibilities that exist! Do you have a picture of a reporter with the sailboats on Lake Michigan in the background? How about one of someone working at an out-of-state or even out-of-country assignment? Does anyone have photos of the many beautiful courthouses in the state? What about images of a captioner at a ballgame or of a CART provider and their consumer? Any picture that shows a reporter at work in the various capacities could be the one that entices a student to look into the court reporting field! You never know what will spark their interest!

Send your pictures in jpg format to Jill Layton at jill.laytoncsr@gmail.com by July 1st so that the slide show can be ready for the next event. The final presentation also will be added to the Career Day Kit on the Resources page on the ILCRA website for all members to use.

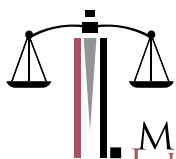
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NEW COLUMN!

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

Send your questions to Imatson@innovativeamc.com by **June 1, 2014**, and start looking for answers in the Summer edition of the *Ad Infinitum*!

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

Case CATalyst® PC to MacBook® Conversion Chart

The following MacBook keys can be used to match the PC functions.

<u>PC Function</u>	<u>MacBook Keys</u>
Alt	Option key
Ctrl	Control key
Windows	Command key
Backspace	Delete
Delete	Fn + Delete
Delete a word	Fn + Control + Delete
Advance doc page	Fn + Control + ↓ or ↑
Advance screen page	Fn + ↓ or ↑
Beginning of doc	Fn + Control + ←
End of document	Fn + Control + →
Beginning of line	Fn + ←
End of line	Fn + →

Provided by Anthony Frisolone, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CBC, CRI, CSR. Anthony is an Official Court Reporter with the United States District Court - Eastern District of New York, as well as a speaker and Stenograph Certified Case CATalyst Trainer. He can be reached at afrisolone@aol.com.

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Veterans History Project

By Linda D. Snyder, RMR

The Illinois Secretary of State and the Illinois State Library in Springfield held the Veterans' History Project at the Adams County Courthouse and the Illinois Veterans' Home in Quincy, IL, on March 26, 2014. Eighth Judicial Circuit Official Court Reporters and one freelance reporter volunteered their time to transcribe the interviews of 21 veterans. (June Otte, Kent Evans, Rita Corson, Jane Borrowman, Linda Snyder, Lori Peters, Cindy Waibel, Kathy Genenbacher and Shannon Niekamp.)

I was pleasantly surprised at how many responses we had for the first event. Probably the most exciting of all interviews had to be that of Mr. Raymond Barnes. Our newest reporter, Shannon Barnes Niekamp, transcribed the history of her grandfather,



a World War II veteran. When asked why he participated in the event, Mr. Barnes said it was because Shannon had asked him, and he would do anything for her.

It was a very meaningful day, in

that the flags displayed on the Adams County Courthouse lawn were donated by courthouse employees in honor and in memory of loved ones who had served in the military. We had 31 flags on display, and it made for a very patriotic day.

Throughout the event, Official Court Reporter Rachel Boylen photographed uniforms, medals and maps, and scanned pictures for the veterans at the courthouse. All items brought to the project were digitally preserved for their historical value.

All local news outlets covered the event, and the Adams County Bar Association donated their time as interviewers for the event.

The next VHP will be held on May 28, 2014.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at 217-277-2123.



ILCRA member Colleen Eitermann at the Great Lakes Naval Base during a presentation to the Young Marines who volunteered during our VHP Day back in November. These young men arrived at 6 a.m. to set up and serve breakfast to participating veterans.

Check out our Briefs

By Nancy LaBella, CSR, RMR, CRR

After breaking my left wrist this winter, I became acutely aware of the stress we can put on our hands by using the number bar with high frequency. Thanks to my colleagues, I was reminded of an alternate way to write “the early years,” which I am sharing with you. The moral of the story: Improvise whenever you can to make your job easier – and less painful!

2000	TWOU	Freddie Mac	TPREBG
2001	TWOPB	future(s)	TPAOUT(S)
2002	TWAO	GAAP	TKPWA*P
2003	TWAOE	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles	TKPWA*P/TKPWA*P
2004	TWOUR	institution	STAOUGS
2005	TWAOEUF	invest	SREF
401(k)	TPROEUBG	investor	SREFR
audit(ed)	AUD(TD)	investment	SREFPLT
beyond the scope	PW-TS	leverage	HREFRPBLG
Bloomberg	PWHRERG	liquidity	HREUBG/WAOED or HREUBG/TKEU
broker/dealer	PWROEL	portfolio	POERT
CDO	KROD	scheme to defraud	ST-D
collateralized debt obligation	KROD/KROD	SEC	S-BG
CME	KREPL	Securities and Exchange Commission	S-BG/S-BG
Chicago Mercantile Exchange	KREPL/KREPL	segregate(d)	STKPWAEUT(D)
collateral	KHRAL or KHRARL	segregation	STKPWAEUGS
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Court Reporter Retiring After 33 Years

By Shelly Akins

Previously printed in The Rushville Times on February 19, 2014. Reprinted with permission.

For 33 of the last 40 years, Rita Corson has been the Schuyler County court reporter.

"My husband retired four years ago and has been very patient," said Corson.

Her retirement date was supposed to be in June, but when she called to inquire about what steps she needed to take to retire, the state told her that she could use her sick days to retire early. With 130 sick days, Corson will retire as of Friday.

Even though she's retiring, she's not entirely leaving the court reporting world. Anytime there are requests for transcripts that she's compiled, she'll have to prepare and send them. She'll also work on a per diem basis when needed.

Corson began court reporting in December of 1974 after completing a year of court reporting school. She took seven years off starting in October of 1976 to stay at home with her four children.

Court transcripts are taken on a steno machine and then court reporters transcribe the steno notes into the official court transcripts. When Corson began reporting, there were no computers and very few people had copy machines.

Her stenotype machine printed out transcripts on long sheets of narrow paper that folded over as she typed. She then took these notes and transcribed them.

"I typed everything on onion skin paper," commented Corson. She placed carbon paper between the sheets to make copies.



Rita Corson while attending court reporting school

Starting in 1989, she was able to save her steno notes on floppy disks, eliminating the need for paper printouts of her notes.

Her current machine saves the notes on an SD card. She removes this card from the stenotype and inserts it into her computer. She has software on the computer that translates the steno notes into English versions of the transcripts. Then Corson goes through and edits them.

Also, she can email copies of transcripts to attorneys rather than printing them out and sending them through the mail.

After taking off the seven years with her children, Corson returned to court reporting. To practice, she watched *The People's Court* and transcribed the proceedings from that show.

For six years, she did freelance work taking depositions until a job opened in Schuyler County. "I got my old job back," she said.

Court reporters purchase their own equipment and supplies. This includes

everything from paper, to stenotype machines, to postage, to computer equipment and software.

The first version of the translating software Corson purchased cost \$15,000.

"I bought it instead of a van. We really needed a van, but I bought the program instead," commented Corson.

When she was typing transcripts, on a good day, she could do 70 pages. With the computer software, she can now print out and edit 150 pages a day.

She can also have unofficial transcripts ready for judges within minutes after taking the notes.

When Corson graduated from high school, she didn't have any intention of going to college. In fact, she didn't have any plans at all. "I thought I'd be a secretary," she said.

But her grandmother, Lavina Walton, had plans for Corson. The Friday after Corson graduated from high school, her grandmother told her that she'd enrolled Corson in court reporter school in Springfield and that classes started on Monday.

Lavina Walton worked with the County Clerk and heard that the current court reporter was having health problems. The judge at the time did not know where he was going to find another reporter.

"A lightbulb went off in Grandma Walton's head," said Corson. "Grandma paid the down payment for school and bought me a machine."

Corson's father co-signed a \$2,000 loan for the rest of her school.

So on Monday, Corson headed to school in Springfield. She rode with six ladies who worked for the state. Margaret Street was the driver.

She attended school for a year. After 10 months, Corson showed up to school and the doors were locked.

continues on page 16

Court Reporter Retiring

continued from page 15



Rita Corson today

"The school went bankrupt," she said. For two weeks, the teachers taught the would be court reporters in their homes. The school eventually reopened under a new name and Corson completed her studies.

"It was the hardest thing I did in my life," she said.

Corson started in a class of 23 students. Only three of them graduated.

To be a court reporter, there is a series of tests that you have to pass. These tests measure your word per minute speed and also the accuracy of your note taking. Currently, you have to be able to type 225 words per minute (on the stenotype machine) at a 95 percent accuracy to receive a court reporter's license.

Corson is only one of a few court

reporters who is certified in realtime court reporting. This is like typing for closed captioning and requires a different kind of accuracy than court reporting. In realtime reporting, you have to be able to type nuances between words such as there, their, and they're. What Corson types, shows up on a screen and the judge can immediately read it. With realtime reporting, the judge does not have to ask Corson to read back the transcripts, he or she can see it on a screen in English.

In her retirement, Corson is looking forward to spending time with her 13 grandchildren, traveling and quilting.

Her family is hosting a retirement open house at the Phoenix Opera House on March 22 from 2-4 p.m.

Join ILCRA

Membership with the Illinois Court Reporters Association has its privileges! As a member, you receive exclusive benefits, including:

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Discounted **ILCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION** and Seminar registration fees - a savings of \$100

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Winter Storming the Hill

By Kathryn A. Thomas, RDR, CCP

I don't think I realized the magnitude of this day until Sen. John McCain walked right by us like he was going about a regular workday – which of course is exactly what he was doing. That happened on the final day of NCRA's Legislative Boot Camp.

When you arrive for Boot Camp, after you wake up in your hotel room, finish your in-room coffee, take the elevator that IS working to the conference room level, and get your name tag, you become ensconced in a legislative bubble for three days. You will eat, breathe, and—yes—sleep politics. You'll dream about it.

My comfort zone does not include politics in any fashion. If I may honor the late great Harold Ramis by borrowing an analogy from the movie *Ghostbusters*, if my prior knowledge of this realm were represented by something the size of this Twinkie, the knowledge given over two days was the size of a Twinkie 35 feet long and weighing 600 pounds.

I've heard time and time again, and you probably have too, that Legislative Boot Camp is intense and exhausting, but it is empowering and worth it. I confirm that statement.

Once you register, you're randomly divided up into teams, and your team is your family for two days. My team was Team Delta.

Day One is learning about the game of politics, effective practices for grassroots campaigning, and techniques of communication, among other things. Just because it's dinner time doesn't mean your day is done, however. At dinner my team met and developed strategies for what awaited us on Day Two.

Day Two is roleplaying, and I'm not talking about Dungeons and Dragons. On

Day One we were given a fictional issue that our team had to fictionally tackle. So Day Two consisted of simulated meetings with mock senators, mock media, and even a mock Senate hearing. Yes, we were critiqued. No, it's not fun. Yes, it will help for the future. Better to make mistakes and stumble now, rather than when the real time comes.

Towards the end of Day Two I was paired up with MacCormac College student Treshanna Robinzine, also from Illinois. We compared schedules and started thinking about what the next day would bring. Again, dinner time is not break time. I spent the evening researching our Congressional representatives so we could know more about their perspectives.

Day Three is Capitol Hill Day, which started with a bit of a glitch. NCRA made appointments with the legislators' offices; however, due to the snowstorm, Congress was closed the previous day and started with a two-hour delay on this day. We were scheduled to meet with staff members for Rep. Bill Foster, Rep. William Enyart, Sen. Mark Kirk, and Sen. Richard Durbin. Our appointment with Sen. Kirk's office was originally cancelled, but thankfully they found time to fit us in.

NCRA Boot Camp members were given two issues to discuss at our appointments. We discussed the Courthouse Safety Act, which would enable rural and small courthouses to apply for surplus security equipment. All offices were amenable to supporting or cosponsoring this bill.

Some pending legislation is in the development stage which would, if passed, allow court reporters and court reporters ONLY to administer the oath when over state lines or administer the oath to witnesses remotely. No office wanted to offer opinions on that issue, since the bill has not been written yet.

Here's the bit about John McCain.

After our meeting at Sen. Durbin's



ILCRA Vice President Kathryn Thomas on the Hill

office, we decided to use the underground passages which connect the Senate and House offices, because my appointment with Rep. William Enyart's office was scheduled soon. These passages are not accessible to the public, so one of Sen. Durbin's office interns walked us down there.

I am extremely lousy at estimating ages, but this intern appeared to be between voting age and legal drinking age. It was fun to chitchat with him as we walked. He was a college student, here for the semester, and he and several other interns lived in one house together. He'd been working on the Hill for a couple of months.



MacCormac College Student Treshanna Robinzine on the Hill

We stopped at the midpoint of the tunnel, which really is more like a long, winding hallway than a “tunnel” tunnel. At the midpoint there’s a security desk to grant people access to the House side, the

Senate side, and also the Capitol building itself. Our intern could take us no further, so we three waited at the desk for the receptionist to issue our passes.

And then John McCain strolled by like it was nothing.

Neither Treshanna nor I said anything because we were still a bit stunned. I admit that this isn’t THAT spectacular of an anecdote, but former Presidential candidates generally don’t randomly appear in the course of my average day.

We asked our intern how long it took to get used to these big-time politicians just showing up suddenly throughout the day. He said, “About two months.”

We distributed all our packets. We made all our appointments on time. We feel all our meetings went well, and we said everything we needed to say. Time to relax a bit.

The final event of the day was a fundraiser at the Capitol Hill Club for Rep. Kevin Yoder, R-Kan, who is on the board of Gallaudet College. We all had a good time as we debriefed and shared stories about our adventures.

If you had asked me during Day Two if I was glad I attended Legislative Boot Camp, I’m not sure I would have answered positively. It is tough and intense, and it’s not something to attend just for the CEUs. But by the end of Day Three, I was definitely thankful that I participated. It’s one thing to think about helping the

profession, and it’s another to KNOW that I’ve helped in a concrete manner on a national scale and to KNOW that I can do this again.

After our experiences on the Hill, I fully believe that our representatives in Congress WANT to hear from us. Boot Camp educates us NCRA members about the best, most effective ways to communicate to them so our message can get past all the noise and chaff they are bombarded with daily. When our message is communicated effectively, good things can happen.



Kathryn with Rep. Kevin Yoder, R-Kan., who is on the board of Gallaudet College

ad infinitum

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