

# AD INFINITUM

Summer 2008

*President's Message*

## Making Connections



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

**B**efore being sworn in as President of ILCRA last September, I pondered about how I might be most effective in the position. One of the greatest challenges for this association is to retain its current members, or even better, to increase the numbers of its membership.

Myself, I'm a people person. I think the best form of communication is face to face or on the telephone. It just provides the best means of understanding what is being said on both sides of the conversation, unlike email which can often be misinterpreted. I've decided to make every effort to get out amongst the reporters in Illinois and do sort of a meet and greet, and hopefully through some personal contact, I might encourage nonmembers to join. It also gives me the opportunity to thank our current members for their support.

This spring, the State of Illinois Court Reporting Services office partnered with ILCRA and conducted three identical seminars across the state. These seminars were for the Official reporters to attend to further their continuing education. This is something that is done every year by the state, but this is only the second year of partnering with ILCRA. These seminars are open to all court reporters in Illinois, and although there is no charge for the State of Illinois employees, there is for anyone else who might attend. One of the tasks ILCRA has taken on for these seminars is to pay the fees and apply to the National Court Reporting Association for its approval to give continuing education credits to its members. NCRA will only allow CEUs to be given if the seminars are open to all types of reporters, and not just a certain group.

There are few events in the state where there is a large gathering of court reporters in the same place. ILCRA's annual convention being one of them. I decided to hit the road from Joliet and attend all three of these CRS/ILCRA seminars in Oak Brook, Springfield, and Mt. Vernon, because it was a perfect opportunity for me to make some connections with folks I had never met, and also reacquaint myself with others.

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## ILCRA 2007/2008 COMMITTEES

### **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

#### **Auditing Committee:**

Carole Bartkowicz, Chair; and Rita Corson

#### **Budget Committee:**

Lyn Grooms, Chair; Nancy Davis, Jill Layton, LeAnn M. Hibler, and Nancy LaBella

#### **Continuing Education Committee:**

Nancy C. Davis, Chair; Dee Doubet, and Bonni R. Shuttleworth

#### **Freelance Committee:**

Denise Mills, Chair; and Sarah Paszkiewicz

#### **Legislative Committee:**

Dee Doubet, Chair; Stephanie K. Rennegarbe, Kathy Nielsen, and Pat Houlf

#### **Membership Committee:**

Nancy LaBella, Chair; Stephanie K. Rennegarbe, Seymour Wolfe, and Glenn Sonntag

#### **Nominating Committee:**

Amy B. Haught, Chair

#### **Officials Committee:**

Joan McQuinn, Chair; Vernita Allen-Williams, Melissa Clagg, Jenny Danley, and Mary Speed

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

**Bylaws Committee:** To be activated when necessary

#### **CART Committee:**

Lyn M. Grooms, Chair; Robert Griffith – ORS, Rose LaBerdia, Catherine A. Rajcan, and Cindy Jenkins

#### **DSA Committee:**

Seymour Wolfe, Chair; Dee Doubet, and Judy Lehman

**Elections Committee:** To be activated when necessary

#### **Ethics Committee:**

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#### **PR/Marketing Committee:**

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#### **Speed Contest Committee:**

Bonni R. Shuttleworth, Chair; Teri Gaudet and Theresa Hovick-Thomas

#### **Student Scholarship Committee:**

Bernice Radavich, Chair; Nancy McClarty, and Retha Meyerhoff

**Student Mentor Chair:** Jill M. Layton

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

## President's Message

*(Continued from page 1)*

I also took the opportunity to meet ILCRA committee members that were attending. Our committee members are selected by ILCRA presidents and are retained from year to year. We do not start out with a clean slate with each president; although, each president has the option to make committee changes. As is human nature, I mostly know the court reporters in my geographic area, but I think it is important that we have people on the committees from all across the state. So I set out to meet as many committee members as I could. I really enjoyed meeting everyone. And I say "thank you" from the entire ILCRA board for serving in those capacities.

I have made some changes to our committees all in an effort to spread out the duties so current members aren't serving on multiple committees, but also just as important, to bring in some new names and faces and fresh ideas.

I think it is important to get different perspectives from across the state. If you received a phone call out of the blue from me, I have appreciated your candor about serving on a committee, and if you have said "yes," I hope you will feel the time you commit is worth it.

I feel that I am open to new ideas, open to discussions on how things might be improved, even open to frank conversations that may not always be pleasant. I would ask that you pick up the phone and give me a call if there is something you'd like to discuss, even if we've never met. I'm here for you, our members.

And I might add, I'm even here for nonmembers. But as

you pick up the phone to call me, or anyone on our board [see [page 2](#)], please realize that what ILCRA is, is a resource. And if you are using the resource, it would only be right to also become a member and support that resource. I was thinking the other day about reporters in our state that are not members. How are they staying informed as to changes in our profession?

Between the time I write this and the time it is published, ILCRA's dues renewal period will have come and gone. We really need every member to renew their membership. Or better yet, to recruit new members. We as reporters in Illinois need to watch out for ourselves and our state. Having a healthy, viable state association is extremely important in these changing times. Please join me and the ILCRA Executive Board in moving this association forward into the future. Your input is essential!

I'd like to end by saying, "Mark your calendars for October 3-5, 2008," which are the dates for our annual convention. I'm sure you've heard by now that it will be a joint convention with the state associations of Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. This is generating a lot of talk and excitement across the country and I think it's going to be lots of fun. It will be like a mini NCRA convention! ILCRA's share of the proceeds will be determined by the number of Illinois reporters that attend. So bring your friends, stay overnight in Schaumburg, and have a time to remember. See you there!

— LeAnn

## IMPORTANT ILCRA DATES

**JULY 24-27:** NCRA Convention, Anaheim, CA

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

**OCT. 3-5:** Illinois Annual Convention – Great Lakes Convention, Schaumburg

**OCT. 10:** CSR Application Filing Deadline for December 2008 Test

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

**DEC. 20:** CSR Examination, Chicago and Southern Illinois area. Deadline for CSR application for December test is October 10.

### 2009

**FEB. 26:** CSR Application Filing Deadline for April 2009 Test.

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

**MAR. 14:** Continuing Education Seminar, Lisle/Naperville.

**APRIL 3:** Continuing Education Seminar, Springfield.

**APRIL 17-19:** NCRA Midyear Conference, New Orleans

**APRIL 18:** CSR Examination, Chicago and Southern Illinois Area

**APRIL 24:** Continuing Education Seminar, Fairview Heights

**AUG. 6-9:** NCRA Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.



# MAKING CONNECTIONS

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## October 3-5, 2008

### **Hyatt Regency Woodfield**

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Be sure to mention Great Lakes Regional Convention to obtain special rates.

Registration will be available on the website soon.

[www.greatlakesconvention.com](http://www.greatlakesconvention.com)

Registration brochures will be mailed in May.

### **PRELIMINARY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**

#### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3**

Speed and Realtime  
Contests

CAT Vendor Training  
Workshops

Lillian Morson on  
Punctuation

Professional Breakout  
Sessions

Welcome Reception

#### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4**

More Speed  
and Better Realtime  
by Alan H. Brock

Survival in a Changed  
Environment  
by David Wynne

Marketing  
by Kathy DiLorenzo

Real Events, Real Emotions  
by Heidi Thomas

Town Hall Session with  
NCRA Rep.  
by Kathy DiLorenzo

Steno Swap  
by Melanie Sonntag

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5**

World Trade Center:  
The Moussaoui Trial  
by the reporters who  
reported it

# Executive Board Conducts Strategic Planning Meeting

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

As President I felt it important to try to plan for ILCRA's future, so in April, a day after our Executive Board meeting, I conducted a strategic planning meeting with the Executive Board. We spent half a day brainstorming with each other to come up with action items to be conducted in six-month, 12-month, and longer time frames. The categories covered were freelance, officials, students, teachers and schools, CART, captioning, and membership. It was a lively discussion and we came up with quite a few ideas to be pursued. Unfortunately, we had so many short-term items to accomplish, we did not come

up with anything further out than a year. Strategic planning should be done on a periodic basis, so hopefully another session will be conducted and we can do more long-range planning.

I'm very excited about what came out of this meeting. A number of the tasks will be conducted by ILCRA committees, so first I had to make sure the committees had a full complement of ready, willing, and able volunteers.

I appreciate the patience of my fellow Board members. Their hard work during the strategic planning meeting will not be futile, and I hope all of them and all of you, the members, will be pleased with the outcomes.

— LeAnn

## With Sympathy...

ILCRA wishes to extend condolences to Ron Hopper on the death of his daughter, **Lauren R. Hopper** on April 16, 2008. Ron was a court reporter in the 8th and 7th Circuits for many years and is now retired.

ILCRA also extends condolences to **Lauri Ruff** on the death of her husband, Mike, on May 23, 2008. Lauri is a grand jury reporter from Bloomington and a former Official Court Reporter from the 9th Circuit.



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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



By Joan McQuinn, CSR, RPR, CMRS, Chair – Officials Committee

The official court reporters in the state of Illinois ended Fiscal Year 2008 on a high note. All three official court reporting groups in the state received a 12-month retroactive cost of living adjustment (COLA) as well as a four-percent salary increase to offset the pension deduction effective July 1, 2008.

Fiscal Year 2008 started out on a grim note for court reporters when on August 23, 2007, Governor Blagojevich used line-item veto to slash the budget approved by the Illinois General Assembly.

The budget submitted contained a line item for salary increases for court reporters. Included in the budget was a four-percent salary increase to offset the pension deduction implemented July 1, 2008. The reporters were to begin paying the four-percent pension previously paid by the State. In essence, the Governor's budget provided the reporters with a four-percent salary reduction.

Illinois chief judges rallied behind the reporters, and hired their own lobbyist who introduced a bill to restore the items vetoed in the court reporting budget.

The chief judges' lobbyist in concert with the Union representative from Cook County and

ILCRA's lobbyist were successful in having House Bill 4163 filed November 1, 2007. On that date, the bill was referred to the House Rules Committee. Due to the efforts of the Illinois official court reporting community, in total there were 44 co-sponsors of said bill.

On January 10, 2008, HB-4163 unanimously passed the House and arrived in the Senate on February 14, 2008. HB-4163 was read in the Rules Committee February 20, 2008, and assigned to Appropriations on April 17, 2008. In May, several more senators recognized the importance of this action and joined as co-sponsors. Unfortunately, HB-4613 never made it out of Appropriations.

On May 23, 2008, the executive committee of the court reporting services employees met to review the Fiscal Year 2008 budget expenditures through April 30, 2008. During this process determination was made that sufficient funds existed in the budget to cover the retroactive COLA and the four-percent increase mentioned earlier.

I would like to thank the Official court reporters who are ILCRA Circuit Representatives for their support in passing along information to the reporters in their circuits.

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# NCRA NewsFlash...

## SECOND CASE CHALLENGES DEPO FEES

In the last issue we reported on a California appellate court ruling that trial courts in the state have limited authority to set fees for deposition transcript copies for non-ordering parties when there is no contractual agreement. Shortly after that NewsFlash, the New Jersey Appellate Court ruled in another case involving deposition transcript fees. The New Jersey ruling held that the federal rules of civil procedure preempt New Jersey court reporting laws and regulations and that a deposition taking place in New Jersey in a federal case can be reported by someone who is not certified by the state. However, the court said, federal rules do not preempt claims against a reporter or reporting company on matters not dependent on the statute and administrative regulations governing shorthand reporting.

## NCRA ISSUES CAPTIONING GUIDELINES

The NCRA Captioning Community of Interest has issued a document with captioning style and format guidelines for U.S. television programming. The 62-page document provides guidance for independent realtime captioners on a multitude of style and formatting issues, including parentheticals, obscenities and other sensitive words, scripting, musical notes and lyrics, slang and poor grammar, and much more. The guidelines are meant to complement the guidelines that some captioning companies require their captioners to follow. The Community of interest notes that when captioning companies have guidelines in place for their captioners, the captioning company guidelines take precedence.

## WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR CELL PHONES?

A member recently contacted NCRA Headquarters wondering who should be responsible for telling deposition participants to turn off their cell phones. The Freelance Community of Interest Committee gave the following replies:

“Personally, I think it is a professional courtesy, that each person is responsible for as an individual. It's not part of ‘making the record,’ so I don't feel it is a reporter's responsibility. The only exception to this would be if it's a video using wireless mics that may have some interference from a BlackBerry, for instance, in which case it would be the responsibility of the videographer.”

“Most of my depositions also involve a videographer, so the videographer will just mention to the

participants that if their BlackBerry is on vibrate that will interfere with the audio portion of the video. When I report a depo without a videographer, I never mention to turn off cell phones. Occasionally they ring, however. Personally, I'd rather leave the turning off of cell phones to each individual. I know in court the bailiff announces to turn off cell phones and there's a note posted at the courtroom door. “

“I have never told anyone to turn off their phone. I leave it to the attorneys if they want to instruct

*(Continued on page 8)*



## In Memoriam:

### *Thomas G. McEnery, Jr.*

ILCRA wishes to express condolences to the family of **Thomas G. McEnery, Jr.** who died on May 21, 2008. Tom was a state official court reporter for 20 plus years and a supervisor at 26th and California for many of those years. After retiring as a state official he freelanced at Urlaub, Bowen and Associates for several years, where he was working at his death.

### *Charles Davis McCorkle, Jr.*

**Charles Davis McCorkle, Jr.**, 83, died on May 30, 2008 after an illness. Charlie owned the freelance firm of McCorkle Reporting in the downtown Chicago area. His loss is felt throughout the court reporting community as he was a pillar of knowledge and a resource for many court reporters. He hoped everyone would remember him for his strength, courage and leadership. Our condolences to Charlie's family and associates who will be continuing the McCorkle Reporting business as Charlie would have wanted.

# NCRA NewsFlash

*(Continued from page 7)*

anyone to do that. My logic says it's their party; they run it the way they see fit. I also have had the videographer ask everyone to at least put phones on vibrate or away from the mics."

"Since a depo, although usually orderly (ha), is somewhat less of a formal proceeding than, say, a proceeding in court, common courtesy should carry the day. It is the practice around here for everyone to monitor their own phone use, and no announcement is made. Of course, the exception would be when there is an issue with possible interference when a videographer is present. In that case it's up to the videographer to raise the issue. How about suggesting they put their phones on 'stun' so it's actually painful to receive a call?"

## **A BATTLE OF ATTRITION:**

We often hear about courts shifting to electronic recording because of budget issues. But did you know when courts also look at the issue of replacing court reporter separate from the issue of budget? When the current court reporter is retiring. We need you to do your part to help put an end to this battle attrition.

NCRA's ER (Electronic Recording) Task Force was created in 2005 to help address ER issues that both official and freelance court reporters are currently facing. ER is spreading into the marketplace and is replacing court reporting positions in both the courtroom and freelance setting. One of the causes of this move to ER is that key decision-makers (judges, county commissioners, court administrators) are replacing

retiring court reporters with electronic recording systems. If you care about the court reporting profession and its continuation, approaching retirement age does not give you the license to walk away from this issue. It is your responsibility to help NCRA maintain these jobs in the courtroom for future generations. Here are some ways you can help curb this relentless tide:

Apathy is at the heart of the problem. Don't let your coworkers develop a "Well, I'm close to retirement so at least I'm safe" attitude or an "It's not my problem" stance. Educate them on the ripple effect this sort of attitude can have on the profession as a whole.

Always update your technology and skills even as you near retirement. If your skills, transcript production, customer service or technology start to falter, then the key decision-maker (judge, county commissioner, court administrator) holding the purse strings may decide that an audio or video recording system may be a better replacement for you when you retire.

Provide realtime all the time. This is the main advantage the court reporter has over any electronic recording system. The electronic recording system does not provide a voice-to-text translation. Provide realtime; if your skills are not up to par,

practice! The future of the profession in the courtroom rests on your shoulders.

Mentor a new court reporter. You have the experience these young individuals entering the profession so desperately need. Share your wisdom and experience. Encourage realtime from the beginning and encourage certification and continuing to stay on top of the latest technology.

Promote teamwork by holding monthly meetings to discuss issues the court reporters are dealing with in your area.

Educate key decision-makers on the value of utilizing a court reporter compared to electronic recording. A continuous flow of information on the value only a court reporter can provide, such as demonstrating realtime daily in the courtroom, will help curb the pattern of replacing retiring court reporters with ER.

NCRA cannot stress strongly enough, that it is time for every court reporter to step up to the plate regardless of years of service. Help us fix the problem of attrition for future court reporters and the profession.

If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to raise with NCRA's ER Task Force, please contact Nate Smith at [nsmith@ncrahq.org](mailto:nsmith@ncrahq.org) or 800-272-6272, extension 165.

**STOP BY FOR A 'VISIT'**

**V**isit the ILCRA forum at [www.ilcra.org](http://www.ilcra.org) and read any of the threaded messages, reply to any of the threaded messages with your own message and/or start a new thread with a message of your own!



# ILCRA Amends CART Qualifications

The Illinois Court Reporters Association has amended the CART qualifications previously developed for CART providers. The ILCRA CART Committee in conjunction with the State of Illinois Department of Rehabilitative Services developed the initial set of criteria when the CART Committee was first formed. The CART Committee felt it was necessary to fine tune those minimum criteria at this time because of the increasing number of National Court Reporters Association CCPs (Certified CART Providers).

After careful consideration, the CART Committee submitted its recommendation to ILCRA's full board at its April, 2008 meeting, and the Board of Directors has adopted the committee's suggestion.

Qualifications for CART Providers in the State of Illinois, as now recognized by ILCRA, are as follows:

The Illinois Court Reporters Association has developed the following criteria which a CART Provider in the State of Illinois must meet in order to be placed on our list of qualified providers.

1) Illinois CSR (Certified Short-hand Reporter) and NCRA CCP (Certified CART Provider)

**OR:**

2) Illinois CSR with ILCRA-sponsored or recognized Deaf and Hard of Hearing Sensitivity Training, ILCRA sponsored or recognized CART Technical Training, *and* four hours of CART internship or related work experience

Only professional members of our association who have met the qualifications set forth above are eligible to be placed on ILCRA's qualified CART Provider list. The CART Committee and the board agree that membership in ILCRA is necessary in order to receive this member service which amounts to a free advertisement for CART services.

Those of you who are currently providing CART services and who meet the criteria listed *and* who are members of ILCRA, *please* contact Nancy Davis, ILCRA Executive Director, to request that your name be placed on ILCRA's CART provider list. It's a free advertisement for your services, one of the many perks of being a member of this association.

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## Federal Government Predicts Excellent Job Opportunities in Court Reporting

For the first time ever, employment prospects in the court reporting profession have been projected by the federal government to grow “much faster than average,” reflecting “excellent” job opportunities “as job openings continue to outnumber jobseekers,” the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) said. Ironically, the government’s estimate comes at a time when NCRA said the number of schools taking part in its certification programs and their graduates have steadily declined over the decade.

Almost 1,000 students graduated from more than 100 NCRA-certified schools in 1996. Ten years later, NCRA said only 62 certified programs across the U.S. graduated fewer than 360 court reporters.

The “Occupational Outlook Handbook 2008-2009,” recently released by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, said court reporter employment will grow by 25% through 2016, because of “increasing numbers of civil and criminal cases” coupled with federal telecommunications legisla-

tion that requires television captioning and the increasing demand for real-time communication access for people who are deaf and hard of hearing under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“Our efforts to increase the number of court reporters and training opportunities are beginning to pay off,” says Mark Golden, CAE, NCRA’s executive director. “Last year, nine new schools opened to teach court reporting, while maintaining high performance standards and a challenging academic curriculum. Yet we still have a long way to go before the supply even starts to meet the demand.”

To further meet the future need for court reporters, NCRA is reaching out to potential students at [www.bestfuture.com](http://www.bestfuture.com).

In addition, legislation now before Congress calls for competitive grants to train captioners and reporters who specialize in realtime and CART. .

*Excerpt From [www.ncraonline.org](http://www.ncraonline.org). Contact: Pete Wacht, [pwacht@ncrahq.org](mailto:pwacht@ncrahq.org)*

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# What Is the Vitality of the Freelance Court Reporting Profession and Do Its Members Really Care?

By Catherine A. Rajcan, CSR, RDR, CRR, CCP

**F**rom the *Oxford American Dictionary* let us consider the definitions of viability versus vitality:

*Viability*: “feasible; practicable”; “capable of living or existing in a particular climate.”

*Vitality*: “liveliness; animation”; “the ability to sustain life”; “the ability to endure and to perform its functions.” Reflect on these definitions.

To me, the first suggests “just getting by” — it could even be applied to someone who is comatose — while the latter states with confidence a liveliness, a strength, utilizing one’s capabilities.

The reporter who does not take pride in his/her work product, manner of dress, or interacting professionally with others within the work environment does not exemplify the essence of vitality crucial to evoking a positive impression of our career among the public.

In the 1980s when I was a neophyte reporter, of course excited about my fledgling career, I would scoff at being questioned by the occasional person as to the uncertain survival of my profession in light of, initially, tape recording, and later speech recognition. I thought surely not in my lifetime, despite technological advances, will my peers and I be replaced by automation. However, over the past few years I have been developing

grave concerns for the health of our beloved profession — for many of us truly love what we do — and have come to realize that the questioned viability, and continued marketability, of our valuable skills are most in danger not from the trajectory of electronic recording (analog or digital) *per se*, but from the inertia in our own ranks.

It is my belief that by individually strengthening our personal commitment to our profession, actively participating in positive public relations regarding court reporting as a career, and sharing our experiences and best practices among ourselves and with court reporter students, we can achieve a renewed vitality that will attract high quality individuals who will want to pursue a career in court reporting.

The skills we utilize in providing verbatim reporting in the freelance sector, based on a sample survey performed by myself, provide our respective households either primary or sole incomes 48% of the time, as contrasted with providing supplemental income 51% of the time.

Court reporting was reported in the *Occupational Projections and Training Data* for “high-wage, high-growth occupations” as having median annual earnings of \$42,920 with a relatively low educational requirement, by comparison with other high-growth occupa-



Catherine A. Rajcan

tions, of only a “postsecondary vocational award” and a projected growth in employment of 14.8% through 2014.

Many reporters have become very selective on which assignments they will accept, oftentimes turning down work for which they are qualified. Forty-four percent of survey respondents indicated they turn down opportunities for jobs based upon the low-income potential of the assignment, lack of control/decorum at the proceedings, or other reasons. One reporter, however, eloquently expressed the ultimate basis upon which not to turn down jobs for which she/he is qualified: “It makes me, in my opinion, a well-rounded reporter who is exposed to a variety of work. I learn more from not limiting my work.”

In light of the fact that 82% of the recent survey respondents

[\*\(Continued on page 12\)\*](#)



## What Is the Vitality of the Freelance Court Reporting Profession...?

*(Continued from page 11)*

cited financial benefit as the primary reason for continuing to work as a reporter, it is ironic that when I previously performed another anonymous survey inquiring if the reporters who work with me would be more inclined to cover trials or motions if they were to receive a monetary bonus at the end of the year for doing so, virtually all respondents declined the incentive.

Jackie Timmons, past president of ILCRA and current PR representative for the organization, stated “we’re court reporters,” and at times an agency may need to assign one reporter to both “the 3:00 [deposition and] the 10:30 motion” to achieve total calendar coverage. Timmons also indicated she is personally aware of attorneys “that have gone under...Federal Rule 30” and “tape recorded or video recorded” proceedings and asked reporters to transcribe the recording.

Rule 30(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure states as follows: “The party taking the deposition shall state in the notice the method by

which the testimony shall be recorded. Unless the court orders otherwise, it may be recorded by sound, sound-and-visual, or stenographic means...Any party may arrange for a transcription to be made from the recording of a deposition taken by nonstenographic means.”

We can easily see the logical connection attorneys will make between not being able to engage a willing court reporter to cover a particular assignment and opting instead to, under the rule, tape record the proceedings.

Once this practice becomes more commonplace, the slippery slope effect may result in mass decline in volume of work for all litigation court reporters nationally. According to the National Court Reporters Association, “the ranks of court reporters and students of this profession continue to grow thin” (*Graduation Trends*). “The number of schools taking part in NCRA’s certification programs and their graduates

*(Continued on page 13)*

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## What Is the Vitality of the Freelance Court Reporting Profession...?

*(Continued from page 12)*

have steadily declined” from approximately “1,000 students” graduating from “more than 100” certified schools in 1996 to “fewer than 350” graduates from 62 certified schools in 2007 (*Court Reporters Face Diminishing Ranks*). Fully 88% of the reporters surveyed have been reporting for 15 or more years. When you combine the closing of schools with the reduced number of new entrants into the field and the increasing percentage of working reporters having worked 15+ years, clearly by necessity the more experienced reporters are needed to help provide coverage not only for assignments overall, but also for the subjectively less desirable assignments in particular.

We each may encounter jobs that are not at our ideal comfort level, but those are precisely the times at which we demonstrate we are much more than note-takers or can produce a much better transcript, in realtime nonetheless, than those produced from a mechanized sound recording

device. This is our opportunity to demonstrate we deserve the higher-than-average wages we earn and that we can effectively manage the proceedings to facilitate the creation of the most accurate record, which in turn results in the best evidence of what transpired on that occasion in history.

Frederick Marks in his column “Marks on Professionalism” quoted Alistair Cooke: “A professional is a person who can do his best at a time when he doesn’t particularly feel like it.” Marks suggests developing a “Statement of Professionalism” and states that this quality “comes from within.” I would agree that the desire to manifest the trait does come from within, but that is not to say it cannot be inculcated and nurtured in those who are our mentees, protégés, or even fellow contemporaries.

The following is a proposed “Statement of Professionalism” I have developed, adapted from Marks’ version:

*(Continued on page 14)*

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## What Is the Vitality of the Freelance Court Reporting Profession...?

*(Continued from page 13)*

### STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONALISM

1. We will use discretion and maintain confidentiality with regard to information to which we have been privy in performing our duties.
2. We will abide by the rules of ethics of our organizations as well as the state and federal rules which govern our profession.
3. We will treat others with honesty and respect.
4. We will act fairly in dealings with internal as well as external clients.
5. We will expect our independent contractor reporters, subcontractors, and vendors to act equally as fairly, ethically, honestly, professionally and diligently as we do.
6. We will accept assignments for which we are qualified, fulfilling our responsibility to society in producing an accurate record, and toward preserving the essentiality of our profession.
7. We will continually seek to maintain the skills we possess and hone new ones which keep us at the forefront of technology and service in our field.

Sandra Chandler, in writing for Office Pro on behalf of the International Association of Administrative Professionals asked her peers: “How can you, as a career-minded...professional, help in ‘Shaping the Future’ of your chosen profession?” In considering a few of her suggestions I have adapted the concepts to the court reporting profession. Self-promote: Place a news release in your local newspaper when you pass a test for a professional certification. This provides good PR for both yourself and the vitality of our chosen career.

Chandler suggests professionals “mentor and train others – show them the advantages of pursuing a career” in your field. We must take the initiative, as working reporters, to speak at a local junior high or high school for a career day or during the week of Law Day, May 1, each year.

To our fellow reporters I would propose: Don’t just reap the monetary benefits of a career as a court reporter; practice altruism. Exemplify professionalism and give back to the community through *pro bono* work; speak well of the occupation to inspire young adults to become the future generations of our profession; arrange a visit to a local court reporting school to inspire and motivate the future reporters. Next Chandler recommends that her peers “approach all projects with a high level of integrity and professionalism.” Professionalism dictates that when we are reporting a deposition we do not comment to the client about their infrequency of ordering a write-up and whether or not they are going to request the transcript; nor do we interrupt repeatedly for spellings, breaking the rhythm and train of thought of the questioning attorney, when we could just as easily obtain the names at the end of the proceedings; nor do we comment on who “scored points” in the day’s proceedings, weigh in on the veracity of the witness, or prophesize on the outcome of the dispute.

**“To our fellow reporters I would propose: Don’t just reap the monetary benefits of a career as a court reporter; practice altruism.”**

Another consideration proffered by Chandler is to “bring greater value to your [client] by...being actively involved in professional associations.” The benefits we gain directly, and our clients indirectly, from being involved in our professional organizations are numerous and priceless. Be creative in developing incidental value-added services to the client. For example, adding the phone numbers of counsel present to the appearance page will make our transcripts that much more valuable as the go-to, close-at-hand reference point for all participants in the related proceedings.

Lastly, Chandler encourages her peers to “consider attaining professional certifications.” Reporters have several options available to expand their skill sets and become more sought after by a larger client base; for example, the RMR, CRR, CCP, RDR or CBC certifications. Keep stretching yourself, keep learning, keep improving. *Ancora imparo* is Latin for “I am still learning.”

*(Continued on page 15)*



## What Is the Vitality of the Freelance Court Reporting Profession...?

*(Continued from page 14)*

Be a well-informed, well-dressed, professionally acting participant, one who meets or exceeds the same qualities as evidenced by the others involved in the proceedings. If you want to receive work from a high caliber of clientele, then you have to demonstrate in action, word, and appearance that you possess the same distinctive characteristics.

Ellen Courter in “The Flip Flap Flop” conveys that a dress code is really about helping people communicate effectively and eliminating distractions” (28). Our fellow philologists, librarians, certainly would not be seen “flip-flopping” through the library – talk about creating a distraction! As freelance court reporters we may find ourselves, within the same week, working in a courthouse, a prestigious law office, at a meeting in a corporate setting, at a conference, providing CART at a university or company, or on a construction site. Be sure your attire is accepted in your particular

work environment; but above all, dress professionally. If you don’t look like you pay attention to how you are “put together,” you will not look like you are conscientious.

We are a service profession; and as Courter states, “It’s about the customer, the environment, safety issues, branding and appropriateness” (28). There are ways to adapt fashions into your own professional style without throwing caution to the wind and breaching propriety. Spaghetti straps and décolletage necklines have absolutely no place in our work environment – especially when we are daily bending over our machines to set up our equipment, read notes, and break it back down. The deposition or court setting is not the place to try to achieve that glossy bare-legged fashion magazine look. Also, closed-toe shoes are best — no need to display your most recent bold venture into bright polish from a pedicure or the

*(Continued on page 16)*

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## What Is the Vitality of the Freelance Court Reporting Profession...?

*(Continued from page 15)*

toe ring you picked up on vacation. And a covered midriff should go without saying.

Last-minute call-ins are not uncommon. If you plan on “working in” on a particular day and work at or near home where you could run to your closet and quickly change, definitely dress more casually. For those of us who office too far from home to make a five-minute stop to switch to appropriate work attire, dress each

day at the office as if you might be called out to the office of one of your “A List” clients.

Seymour Wolfe, seasoned professional reporter and long-time agency owner, relayed the story of the advice he gave a young reporter who had recently passed the state CSR test: “If you want to make money, you take anything and everything that they offer you. Don’t turn it down. Even if it’s a motion or two or three motions a week, take it. Because they will compensate you in some other better jobs if you help them out.’ He has turned out to be one of the best reporters they have. And he said he never envisioned making the kind of money he’s making, [and it is] because of that attitude.”

Additional rules of thumb provided by Compton include: “Skirt lengths should be no more than one hand-width above the knee”; “Heels should be no higher than two inches; toes [of shoes] should be closed”; “Keep your hair sleek and off your face”; and makeup should be “clean and natural. Avoid heavy eyeliner or evening lipsticks” (13-14).

Michele Compton, author of “Dress the Part,” puts it bluntly: “A person’s choice of clothing provides a critical first glimpse into who we are and what we believe is important, or not important. While we all have many aspects to our personality, not all aspects belong in the workplace” (14).

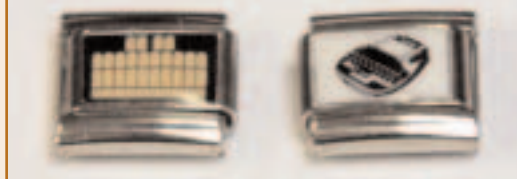
Ask yourself: What have you done for your profession lately? (Hint: accepting only select assignments does not count.) Seventy-nine percent of surveyed reporters indicated they have previously experienced a period in their reporting careers where personal/family responsibilities have reduced their availability to work the number of hours they otherwise would have. Forty-seven percent of surveyed reporters indicated they are currently experiencing a period in their reporting careers where personal/family responsibilities are reducing their availability to work the number of hours they otherwise would.

Of course we can all understand and respect our neighbors’ decision to step out of the work force for periods of time to attend to

*(Continued on page 17)*

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## What Is the Vitality of the Freelance Court Reporting Profession...?

*(Continued from page 16)*

personal/family commitments and priorities; but a free-market society such as ours cannot be sustained if large numbers of its employable workers are opting to spend minimal time working in favor of engaging in hobbies, recreation or socializing; apparently dabbling in their careers just when it is convenient.

As freelance court reporters, we are fortunate indeed to have professional careers that provide us better-than-average earnings and at the same time allow us to accomplish much of the work from home on a schedule which may be easily adaptable to our own individual personal needs. Additionally, we are uniquely fortunate in that we can step away from reporting to attend to personal matters, rejoin the ranks at a later point in time, and quickly return to providing services at the same income level without reduced earning potential due to our time away.

Knowledge of the flexibility of the freelance reporter to choose the number of hours per week

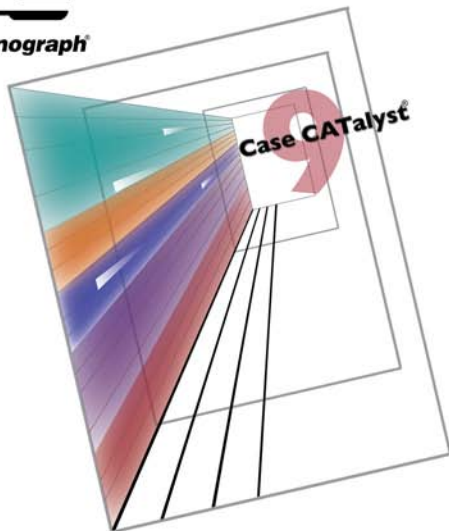
to work outside the home combined with the aspect of the job which allows the transcription to be done from home may result in increased enrollment of students who realize court reporting can provide working mothers the best of both worlds. We must be vigilant to be the personification of well-rounded business professionals notwithstanding the fact that, for many of us, the majority of our work is accomplished from our respective homes.

A lackadaisical attentiveness to the image we project only serves to diminish the regard held for us by our clients and the public at large. In the provision of a verbatim record, personal commitment and attention to client needs will always beat out automated technology on the bases of efficiency, accuracy and responsiveness.

Let us redouble our efforts to maintain the integrity of our profession and create a *tour de force* of sorts to recharge the vitality of our membership today and for the future.



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# Sometimes One Word, Sometimes Two

**D**o you have trouble discerning whether a word is one word or two words? Below are some of the words spoken in everyday language, thus appearing in our transcripts. Reporters have asked me about these words often enough that I felt it worthy to present in this article. I attempt to give you hints that may help you in choosing the correct word.

You should be able to insert the phrases in your sentence in place of the word to know if it's going to work. An example would be: I don't want to play anymore (any longer) versus I don't want any more (any additional) food.

**almost:** nearly

**all most:** all (everyone in a group) most

**already:** previously

**all ready:** all (everyone in a group) ready

**altogether:** entirely

**all together:** all (everyone in a group) together

**always:** at all times

**all ways:** by all methods

**anymore:** any longer (You can replace "anymore" with "any longer")

**any more:** any additional (You can replace "any more" with "any further")

**anyone:** anybody

**any one:** each of them

**anytime:** whenever

**any time:** any amount of time (also: two words after the preposition "at" as in "at any time")

**anyway:** in any case

**any way:** by any method

**awhile:** adverb (You may have to wait awhile. "Wait is the verb" Wait what? Wait awhile.)

**a while:** noun (Object of the preposition "for." You may have to wait "for" a while. I ran into him a while back.)

**everyday:** ordinary (everyday routine. You can replace "everyday" with "ordinary.") adj.

**every day:** each day (each day of the week)

**everyone:** everybody

**every one:** each person in a group

**indifferent:** not caring one way or the other

**in different:** in other (in other words)

**indirect:** not direct

**in direct:** preposition in plus the adjective direct

**into:** implies "entry" or "change of form"

**in to:** "in" is an adverb, and "to" is a simple preposition

**maybe:** adverb (You can replace "maybe" with "perhaps")

**may be:** verb

*(Continued on page 19)*

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## Sometimes One Word, Sometimes Two

*(Continued from page 18)*

**nobody:** no person

**no body:** no group (Spell it as two words when it is followed by “of”)

**none:** singular pronoun

**no one:** often used in place of “none” to stress the singular idea

**onto:** preposition; implies movement toward and then over.

**on to:** to go further

**someday:** unspecified day

**some day:** used as an object of the preposition. (Set up a meeting for some day next week.)

**someone:** two words when these pronouns are followed by an “of” phrase or are used to mean one of a number of things.

**some one:** one individual

**sometime:** some unspecified time

**sometimes:** now and then

**some time:** a period of time

**upon:** (Can replace “upon” with “on”)

**up on:** “up” is part of the verb phrase and “on” is the preposition

**whatever:** any (ie. whatever topic you choose)

**what ever:** (“Ever” as an adverb. What ever made you decide to do that?)

**whoever:** (Anyone who made such a statement )

**who ever:** (“Ever” as an adverb. Who ever made such a statement?)

Oddly enough, the following words have been seen in more than one transcript over the years, and I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention that you should never, ever use the following :

**alot** (just plain wrong)

**alright** (while some dictionaries will list it, this is not accepted as correct)

**irregardless** (redundant. It’s “regardless”)

**every since** (It’s “ever since”)

**just assume** (It’s “I’d just as soon”)

**I use to** (It’s “I used to”)

**At lease** (It’s “At least”)

**Doggy Dog** (It’s “dog-eat-dog”)

**Wah-lah** (It’s “voila”)

*Reprinted from The Record Times*

## Newly Certified Illinois Reporters

Congratulations to these newly certified reporters from Illinois who achieved the following certifications as a result of the April 2008 written knowledge test and the May 2008 skills test. Please note that the Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR) does not contain a written test and the Registered Diplomat Reporter (RDR) does not contain a skills test.

### REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTERS (RPR)

**Deanna Amore**, *Roselle*

**Carla Campbell**, *East Alton*

**Isabella Chiovari**, *Downers Grove*

**Deborah Cohen-Rojas**, *Lake Bluff*

**Anca Hrisca**, *Chicago*

**Jeffrey Stupak**, *Naperville*

### REGISTERED DIPLOMAT REPORTER (RDR)

**Kathy Reumann**, *Rock Island*

### REGISTERED MERIT REPORTERS (RMR)

**Colleen Conway**, *Chicago*

**Kathryn Thomas**, *Caseyville*

### CERTIFIED REALTIME REPORTER (CRR)

**Teri Hopwood**, *Bethalto*

**Joni Markel**, *Urbana*

**Gary Schneider**, *Wheaton*

*Note to former RPRs who are retesting:* If you passed the RPR exam to become recertified, you must contact the Department of Certification and Testing at (800) 272-6272 to ensure that your record and certification are accurately updated.

*June 2008 Test Results* The list of certified members as a result of the June RPR, RMR, RDR, CBC and CCP written knowledge tests were still being validated by the Professional Examination Service at the time of this publication. Please check the NCRA website, [www.ncraonline.org](http://www.ncraonline.org) for results.

## John A. Logan College to Offer Realtime Captioning Technology Program

In August, 2004, John A. Logan College was extremely pleased to receive the helms of the Captioning Technology program from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Dr. Brenda Erickson, professor at John A. Logan, spearheaded the campaign, offering an associated applied degree in Judicial Reporter and a Scopist Certificate in the Realtime Captioning Technology (RCT) program at John A. Logan College. A second associate degree in applied science, Broadcast Captioner/CART, Communication Access Realtime Translation Provider, is scheduled for approval by the College's Curriculum and Instruction Committee in fall 2008.



*Dr. Brenda Erickson*

The college is committed to supporting the RCT program. John A. Logan has invested initial funding of approximately \$40,000, to jump start the Realtime Captioning Technology program and to train future realtime captioners and CART.

John A. Logan has dedicated several classrooms, captioning labs, and a simulated courtroom to their future building expansion project scheduled for completion in fall 2010.

### **RCT PROGRAM**

Beginning in August, 2008, John A. Logan College will offer the RCT 160 Realtime Theory I and RCT 161 Realtime Theory I lab courses on campus. Students will learn StenEd Theory approved by NCRA and evaluated by CASE. Methods of learning theory will consist of textbooks, audio tapes, CDs, GlobalCat software, hands-on instruction, and dictation.

[\*\(Continued on page 22\)\*](#)

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## John A. Logan College to Offer Realtime Captioning Technology Program

*(Continued from page 20)*

The RCT program curriculum is designed to acquire certification through NCRA. This program follows the Council on Approved Student Education (CASE), General Requirements Association Minimum Standards (GRAMS). In addition to general education courses, the RCT courses include:

- RCT 100 Skillbuilding Lab
- RCT 160 Realtime Theory I
- RCT 160 Realtime Theory I Lab
- RCT 260 Realtime Theory II
- RCT 261 Realtime Theory II Lab
- RCT 270 Realtime Vocabulary
- RCT 271 Realtime Vocabulary Lab
- RCT 280 Realtime Skill Development
- RCT 281 Realtime Skill Development Lab
- RCT 200 Medical Development
- RCT 250 Grammar and Punctuation
- RCT 290 Judicial Procedures
- RCT 291 Realtime Speedbuilding I
- RCT 293 Realtime Speedbuilding II
- RCT 298 Practicum (Judicial)

The program will temporarily discontinue the distance learning courses for new students in order to reevaluate the online teaching methods and materials.

### CHALLENGES FACING REALTIME JUDICIAL STUDENTS

There are several challenges judicial reporting students face. For some it is the financial cost of the equipment and software. A brand-new steno machine can cost more than \$1,400. There are other costs to consider such as textbooks, supplies, tuition, fees, association membership(s), and computer and printer expenses. To assist students with some of their challenges John A. Logan has purchased several steno machines to loan to students, free of charge, for a semester or longer, if required.

Another foreseen challenge that faces students is speed development and learning machine shorthand theory. Students must learn theory well enough to increase speed development. This task is stressful and overwhelming especially for students who have jobs and maintain family matters. Students will have to use their classroom and spare time wisely to learn machine shorthand theory inside out and to develop the required speed necessary to continue in the program.

The national and state mentoring programs are an excellent resource to assist students. Professional reporters can play an important role in a student's life by sharing their personal stories on how they prevailed through difficult times. Students are encouraged to take ownership of their educational careers and play an active role in learning the realtime court reporting profession. They can do this by getting involved in their state and national associations. Networking with other students and professional reporters will help motivate students to work harder, practice more, and reach their goals.

### PRACTICE HINTS?

There have been so many excellent practice tips shared by court reporting educators over the years to help improve writing techniques and to increase speed for students and professional reporters. Nothing has changed in the practice game! *Practice! Practice! Practice!* Students should practice theory backward and forward; practice finger drills; practice reading back from paper or electronic notes; practice writing difficult material; practice comfortable material; most importantly—never stop practicing!

## ILCRA WELCOMES 9 NEW MEMBERS

### NEW PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS:

- Deanna Amore**, *Roselle*
- Amanda L. Grasher**, *Belleville*
- Robin Roberts**, *Pekin*
- Michael P. Snyder**, *Downers Grove*

**Tina Stevenson**, *Mendota*

### NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

- Kimberly N. Chambers**, *Student*
- Susan M. Kempf**, *Student*
- Michelle A. Monti**, *Student*
- Bethany Scales**, *Student*

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The need for cancer insurance is very real. According to statistics, in the U.S., men have a one-in-two lifetime risk of developing cancer, and for women the risk is one in three.\* Everybody knows somebody who has had cancer, and this disease affects all age groups.

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

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*for what happens next*





by *Richard A. Sherman*

## **'HELP! MY PC WON'T START'**

**Q. I recently moved my desktop computer. When I tried to start it, nothing happened. It won't turn on. Any help would be appreciated, Mr. M.**

A. First, remove then plug the power cord into the back of the computer. Make sure it's inserted securely. Likewise, make sure it's plugged into the AC or power strip or whatever your source of power is. Also, be sure that the outlet it is plugged into is functional. Try plugging in a lamp to confirm that it is. Do the same thing if you're using a power strip or surge protector, just to be certain everything is functioning independently.

Next, check the back of the computer in the area where you plugged in the power cord. Look for a switch with a little horizontal line on one end and a little circle on the other. The line means "On," so make sure that it is turned on. It's very easy, when moving a computer, to accidentally toggle that switch to the "Off" position.

If the power switch is on, and everything is plugged in securely, the electric outlet is working, as is any power strip or surge protector, and you still can't start your PC, then it's time to contact a reputable computer repair service and have them check it out. It may require something as simple as replacing the system's power supply unit.

**Q. Is there a way to configure Word so it will automatically leave two blank spaces after a period at the end of a sentence?**

A. Yes, you can do that, though one space after a period is the standard these days. Years ago, it was two spaces, but for most publications today, one space is preferred.

Microsoft Word does not provide an ATS (automatic two-space) setting, but you can configure Word's grammar checker to note any spacing anomalies. To do that, click Tools > Options > Spelling & Grammar tab > Settings button. Use the "Spaces required between sentences" drop-down list to establish how many spaces you would like between your sentences, followed by OK to close the Grammar Settings dialog box, then OK to close the Options dialog box.

The grammar checker will flag any sentences that do not conform to your spacing preference by displaying a green wavy underline. When you right-click that line, you'll be able to correct the spacing for that occurrence.

**Q. I know this is probably a stupid question, but what does "URL" stand for?**

A. First and foremost, there are never any stupid or silly questions here in Mr. Modemville. For most of us, Geekspeak is not our native tongue, so if you encounter a word and you're just not sure what it means, "Ask Mr. Modem."

Having said that, depending who you ask, URL stands for either "Uniform Resource Locator" or "Universal Resource Locator." I was always a uniform kind of guy since my days in the Boy Scouts, so I prefer "Uniform Resource Locator." A URL is the unique address of a resource on the Internet. A "www" URL, commonly called a Web address, appears in the Address bar near the top of a Web browser. For example, the full URL or Web address for my Web site is <http://www.MrModem.com>, though URLs are typically shortened to [www.MrModem.com](http://www.MrModem.com) or even [MrModem.com](http://MrModem.com).

## Salaries That May Surprise You

**A**n ILCRA member recently notified the office that on the home page of msnbc.com was a highlighted box that was entitled "Salaries for Five Professions that May Surprise You." The number one listing was court reporting. They listed the salary at \$59,000. The other four were paramedics, astronomers, fashion designers and elementary school principals.

The website is [www.careerbuilder.com](http://www.careerbuilder.com) if you would like to check it out.



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

**CRAFTZINE** A project-based, online magazine dedicated to do-it-yourself crafts. The Projects section gives crafting a modern makeover, mixing traditional art with modern elements such as technology, recycling, the use of creative materials, and toxic waste (just kidding). Lots of free information is available on the site, though visitors are encouraged to enter a paid subscription. [www.craftzine.com](http://www.craftzine.com)

### **HISTORIC TALE CONSTRUCTION KIT**

Whether you are a history buff or just trying to look busy at work, this site lets you create your own story from the Middle Ages, complete with warriors, beasts, and shamans. When finished, you can submit it to the site so others can view it, or email it to annoy as many friends as possible. The process is a bit like writing your own comic strip in individual frames. <http://tinyurl.com/t3xe>

### **NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY DIGITAL GALLERY**

You don't have to live in the Big Apple to experience one of the most impressive libraries in the world. The New York Public Library Digital Gallery Web site provides visitors with free access to half a million digitized items from its collection. <http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital>

*Mr. Modem's weekly newsletter delivers helpful computer tips, great Web sites and his personal answers to your questions! Trial offer: Subscribe online using Promo Code FREEMO and receive one free month with your six-month subscription (28 issues!) To view a sample issue or subscribe, visit [www.MrModem.com](http://www.MrModem.com).*

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# Board Meeting Highlights

## ILCRA Executive Board Meeting • Saturday, April 12, 2008

**Present:** LeAnn M. Hibler, President; Jill Layton, President-Elect; Nancy LaBella, Vice-President; Judy Mosier, Secretary; Lyn Grooms, Treasurer; Dolores (Dee) Doubet, Legislative Representative; Joe Rickhoff, Region One Representative; Seymour Wolfe, Region One Representative; Melissa Clagg, Region Two Representative; Stephanie Rennegarbe, Region Two Representative; Amy B. Haught, Immediate Past President; Nancy C. Davis, Executive Director; and Bonni Shuttleworth, Educational Liaison.

**Also present:** Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, and Dwight “Cap” O’Keefe, ILCRA Lobbyist.

Minutes of Board Meeting held September 9th, 2007, in Tinley Park were approved.

(M1) Motion made to ratify email votes regarding bylaws changes and loan to PAC fund. Motion seconded and carries.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Nancy Davis reports that Mega Seminar will be at South Suburban College on March 7, 2009. Discussed five-year contract option in Springfield for the Annual Convention.

### TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer’s report presented by Lyn Grooms approved as submitted. Discussed Quick Books availability for Audit Committee.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Legislative Committee:** Report presented by Dee Doubet. Pension Legislation for State Officials discussed. Senate bill SB1871 and House bill HB4163 were discussed.

**Budget Committee:** Report presented by Chair Lyn Grooms.

**Membership Committee:** Report presented by Chair Nancy LaBella. Efforts will be made towards renewals and new members, i.e., flyer, incentives, and presence in court reporting schools.

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

**CART Committee:** Report by Chair Lyn Grooms.

(M2) Motion made to amend CART qualifications for ILCRA’s CART provider list. Motion seconded. Motion carries.

**Student Mentor:** Report given by Chair Jill Layton. Need new student mentor chair. Discus-

sion regarding scholarship application being available online.

### NCRA-RELATED ACTIVITIES:

Test sites and helpers discussed for upcoming test date.

**Annual Convention** (Anaheim, CA July 24-27, 2008) National Committee of State Associations: (NCSA) Meeting, Anaheim, Delegate to be LeAnn Hibler. NCSA proposed resolution: for NCRA to add downloadable career day documents on their website.

**NCRA Leadership Conference**, Reston, Virginia, November 14 and 15th. Possible attendees Jill Layton, Nancy LaBella or Stephanie Rennegarbe.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Feasibility of a student network discussed.

Discussion concerning need for detailed document outlining duties/activities of the executive director.

*Rule Book for Officials and Freelancers* waiting for approval for what’s been submitted thus far and then will reactivate committee.

Discussion regarding whether the *Ad Infinitum* newsletter should be for members only.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Fundraising: 50/50 raffle discussed for the multi-state convention. Ideas for 2010 convention discussed.

Discussed reimbursement policy for meals of board members and non board members.

Strategic Planning Meeting discussed.

(M3) Motion made to purchase a color laser printer for ILCRA use. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

(M4) Motion made to adjourn board meeting. Motion seconded. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00



## NOTICE:

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



## A Note from Your State Association:

The Illinois Court Reporters Association holds itself out as a premier sponsor of continuing education events. An attendee of an ILCRA-sponsored event can be assured of acquiring the advertised number of continuing education units since ILCRA adheres to all requirements of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and the National Court Reporters Association in order to provide these CEUs. All fees are paid by ILCRA, not the attendee.

Should you decide to attend a non-ILCRA-sponsored event to acquire your CEUs, it is recommended that you contact the IDFP and/or NCRA to ensure that the program is fully sanctioned by these two regulatory bodies. See below for their contact information.

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation: (217) 785-0800.

National Court Reporters Association: (800) 272-6272.

## 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 two-day conference and one-day seminars including continuing education and the latest in reporting technology.
- Co-hosts and pays for NCRA continuing education units for the three Court Reporting Services Seminars. ILCRA also provides personnel in connection with those continuing education credits.
- Publishes the *Ad 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.
- Provides on the ILCRA website, a membership directory which includes the CSR Act, Court Reporters' Act, Rules and Regulations of the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation, Transcript Act, and ILCRA Bylaws, as well as member information.
- Awards a Student Scholarship, a Distinguished Service Award, an Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Educator and conducts speed contests each year.
- 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 a court reporters network through our ListServe program which allows ILCRA to immediately be in touch with members via e-mail.
- Serves the membership with an 800 phone number, 1-800-656-2467 and a website [www.ilcra.org](http://www.ilcra.org).
- Provides a full-time staff person, our Executive Director, to assist members.

## WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS CARD!

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

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