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SUMMER 2011



## President's Message

### Are You Prepared?

By Jill M. Layton, President

Are you prepared? No, I am not talking about the October, 2011 end of the world prophecy. I am speaking of emergencies and disasters.

On Monday, May 23rd, as we stepped out of court from the 2:00 hearing, the tornado sirens began to wail. This might not have had such an impact had the Joplin, Missouri tornados not have happened just the previous evening! My thoughts immediately went to the people of Joplin who were searching for loved ones. My daughter lives just a block away, so I called her and made her join me immediately as we stood in a basement with the rest of the courthouse employees. The other employees stood there with their purses in their hands. I had not thought to bring my purse with me. As we stood there wondering what was happening outside (no windows or cell service in the basement), I began to think of what I should have brought with me or things I should have done. My new Diamante, which had just been delivered, was sitting in the courtroom. It was so new I did not have insurance on it yet. I had backed up every month's notes onto my computer but had not backed them up onto CDs yet. Just like you — I know better than this. But I just had not taken the time to do so.

Disasters wait for no one. Disasters do not give you warning so you can get prepared. There were seven tornadoes

spotted near Toledo, IL, with three touch downs. These tornadoes appeared without any warning — with the sun shining minutes before the sky darkened and with the sun shining minutes after they were gone! Fortunately the twisters which had touched down went south of us in an area where there were no people, no animals, no homes, and no buildings.



Photo: Julian Huffman

*This is a photo of the second tornado to pass by the Cumberland County Courthouse in Toledo, IL. Jill Layton said, "The tornado sirens broke the silent afternoon air as the courthouse crew once again retreated to the pre-designated safest place in the courthouse. I have never had to take cover from tornadoes in 30 years of employment...and then it happened twice within two weeks!"*

Just a few months earlier, our County Health Department had each department fill out a paper of where they would take cover in case of a tornado. This caused each department to have discussions about where we would meet, which part of the courthouse was the safest for

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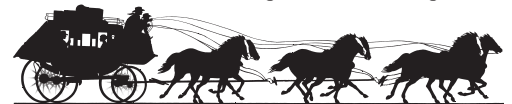
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## President's Message

*(Continued from page 1)*

all of us; and we knew exactly what to do.

Do you know where you would go in case of an emergency? When my children were little, we had discussions about each place to escape our home in case of fire or other disaster and where we would all meet. Do you have such a plan at work? Where will you go in the courthouse? Where will those in your office building take cover? Will you grab your wallet or some form of identification? If you are on the road to a deposition, do you know what to do? Are all of your files backed up in more than one place? (My steno notes are all backed up and stored in two places now!) Is everything labeled?

Whether the disaster is a natural disaster such as a tornado or flood or other disaster such as a fire or water pipes bursting, it will happen without a moment's notice. Are you prepared?

— *Jill Layton*

### IMPORTANT ILCRA DATES

Check out our calendar at  
[www.ilcra.org](http://www.ilcra.org)  
for up to date information

**JULY 25-27:** NCRA ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE, Las Vegas

**SEPT. 9-11:** GRAND CON-  
NECTION CONVENTION  
with Illinois and Wisconsin,  
Lake Geneva, WI

**NOV. 5:** RPR, RMR, CRR, CBC  
& CPC Skills Exam at McCorkle  
Reporting, downtown Chicago;  
South Suburban College, Oak  
Forest (Chicago Area); and  
Midstate College, Peoria.

## COURTHOUSE DISASTERS...

**B**elow, two ILCRA mem-  
bers share their experi-  
ences with minor court-  
house disasters. On [pg. 5](#), Traci  
Ackman, Official Reporter in  
Crawford County, (Robinson,  
IL) 2nd Judicial Circuit,  
recounts her experience with a  
major courthouse fire [ed.].

### FROM LISA FERNANDEZ:

We had a water fountain  
incident at the courthouse  
which flooded courtrooms and  
elevators recently. Haven't  
heard of it destroying anyone's  
machine — thank goodness!

### FROM RITA CORSON:

We had a courthouse disas-  
ter this year. The upstairs bath-  
room water sprung a leak, and

water ran all weekend unde-  
tected. On Monday, the offices  
below that bathroom were  
totally ruined by water! The  
offices were those of the county  
clerk and the state's attorney.

Luckily, my notes were  
stored on the opposite side of  
the basement and were not  
affected. Had they been, I  
would have lost all of my  
notes from 1974 through 1999,  
when I began to back notes up  
to an external hard drive. I  
keep a hard drive at home and  
one at work, so I have two  
backups of my notes. Both my  
home and the courthouse  
would have to be destroyed for  
me to lose my notes.

### An Open Letter to Chicago Area Officials:

**I**'m gonna miss you guys! This is my last year on ILCRA's  
Executive Board and it was because of my position on the  
board that I've attended the Court Reporting Services seminars  
over the past few years. I'm not an official reporter so I'm not  
required to attend, but I have to say, I've really enjoyed meeting  
all of you in either Oak Brook or Lisle. I don't know all of your  
names, but I can clearly see your smiling faces and recall the  
friendships I've made while at these seminars.

Yes, I could still attend as a freelance reporter. Yes, I could  
still volunteer for ILCRA and be there. But the reality is that I  
may not. Knowing this was my last year, I went to the seminar  
with a little sadness in my heart. I saw all of your familiar faces  
and I appreciated the time we spent together even more. Thank  
you for making a long seminar day on a Saturday enjoyable for  
me. I'll always remember you all!

Sincerely,

*LeAnn M. Hibler, Immediate Past President*

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** This column is primarily for reader feedback on  
topics published in these pages. Items published here may be edited for such  
requirements as available space or to avoid duplication with other submis-  
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feedback to *Ad Infinitum* does not guarantee it will be published. Send com-  
ments for publication here to the editor or ILCRA's executive director as  
shown in the box on [page 4](#). *Please note:* we do not print anonymous submis-  
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and we will do so. But you need to provide your name so we can verify that  
your submission is authentic.

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Winter	January 15	December 15	Summer	July 15	June 15



# Remembering the Crawford County Courthouse Fire

By Traci Ackman, Official Court Reporter

A few weeks ago, Jill Layton asked me to write an article about the courthouse fire. I thought this would be simple. I thought this would be easy. I thought this would be no big deal. I thought I was emotionally over the fire. I was wrong.

Sunday, March 28, 1999, was the day the Crawford County Courthouse was set on fire. The fire had been reported shortly after 6:00 p.m. by citizens who saw flames coming out of the third floor of the courthouse. This is where a break room and the library were located. It was also a storage area for all the offices. It

was where all of my notes and the reporters' notes before me, as well as trial transcripts, were kept. By the time I arrived that evening, the go ahead had been given by the fire department to allow certain people to enter the second floor of the courthouse where the offices of the Circuit Clerk, County Clerk, and Treasurer were located.

Quickly, onlookers formed lines and court files were passed from the building like an old-fashioned water brigade. Files were passed from person to person and loaded in the back of pickup trucks backed up to the courthouse steps by ordinary, con-

cerned citizens. The files were secured in the basement of the Commercium, a near-vacant building one block south of the courthouse. The Commercium had been purchased by the county — a purchase initially questioned by many but which we were indeed very thankful for — and it soon became our base for the next year and a half.

At 11:00 that night, the Judge and the State's Attorney were allowed access to the second floor, which is where the courtrooms and our offices were located. I quietly asked the State's Attorney if he would

[\*\(Continued on page 6\)\*](#)

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## Remembering the Crawford County Courthouse Fire

*(Continued from page 5)*

look for my machine. Forty minutes later he emerged holding my sopping, wet Stenograph machine. I cried.

We were fortunate in that there was very little actual fire damage. The responding fire departments had pumped over 100,000 gallons of water through the top of the courthouse so we had a *lot* of water damage and some smoke damage. We were also fortunate that all of that water damage was on the west side of the courthouse leaving our large courtroom on the second floor and the County Clerk and Treasurer's offices on the first floor almost untouched by the smoke and water. Those offices remained in the courthouse and had to deal with smoke and mold issues until they finally relocated to the Courthouse Annex a few months later.

Unbelievably, by Monday, March 29, less than 24 hours after this devastating event, now retired Judge David M. Correll and now retired Circuit Clerk Denise Utterback had come up with a plan to relocate the entire court system in the Commercium. The Circuit Clerk's office never closed! Utterback's office opened at 8:00 a.m. with her staff writing child support checks by hand using a cardboard box for a desk.

I contacted Stenograph and a loaner machine was shipped out while my drowned machine was dried out. (It dried out and worked perfectly until the day I retired it for my new Elan.)

Less than two weeks after the fire, we were holding court, slowly at first, but we settled into

a routine although there was something off kilter about being displaced. Little did we know we were going to be displaced for a year and a half.

The State Fire Marshal was on the scene the day after the fire and quickly determined the fire was accidental caused by a computer that had overheated. The county's insurance company was not convinced and hired an investigator.

I was called to assist the fire chief and the investigator and met with them on the third floor. As I pointed out the layout of the third floor, the investigator pointed out the fire patterns. Seeing this process firsthand brought on new meaning to me as a reporter as I had taken testimony of fire

experts at trials before. It's much more fascinating in person. The investigator was thorough and determined it was not accidental. There were

cigarette butts in an ashtray, which indicated someone had been in the break room since the courthouse closed the previous Friday, and the flame patterns around the books in the law library were, in his opinion, undeniable. It was, indeed, arson. It was also a mess.

All of my stored notes were destroyed not by the fire, but by the 100,000 gallons of water dumped on them. I attempted to dry them out but it just couldn't be done. If I could get the folds unfolded without tearing them in an attempt to dry them out, the ink was illegible. After two weeks, Judge Correll contacted the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts and we were authorized to dispose of all court notes on the third floor. A window was opened and my piece of history, as well as those who were here before me, was tossed out into the dumpster below. I cried again.

Thankfully, we live in a small town and it's really hard to keep a secret, especially when you are the one responsible for setting the courthouse on fire! (The arsonist shall remain nameless in this article. I'll not give her any credit for throwing our lives in turmoil.) In fact, she couldn't keep it a secret and bragged to a friend, who told a friend, who told the authorities. True to the

*(Continued on page 7)*



**“The investigator was thorough and determined it was not accidental.”**



**Tracy Kunkel**  
**Scopist**

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Pana, IL 62557  
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## Remembering the Crawford County Courthouse Fire

*(Continued from page 6)*

profile, she had stood in the crowd that Sunday and watched it all. Upon being interviewed after her arrest, she explained how she would come in through an outside door to the men's restroom in the basement which would not actually lock. She also stated that she had broken in several times and would go to the third floor and just hang out and that sometimes office lights would be on indicating someone was working late. That would have been me or the State's Attorney. That statement shook me to the core and I immediately purchased a laptop, a luxury back in 1999, and haven't been back to work at night since.

She pleaded guilty but mentally ill, and entered a negotiated plea. She was sentenced to 10 years in the Department of Corrections and fined \$500,000 plus court costs of \$90,108.50. She has served her time and comes in once a month on her "pay or appear" if she hasn't paid the minimum \$25 per month.

Finally, in September of 2001, we were ready to move back in and I cried again. We contacted the Illinois Department of Corrections and received permission for two vans full of inmates from the Robinson Correctional Center to assist in the move. They did a wonderful job quickly and efficiently but we were still shut down for an entire week.

There were some architectural changes made since the building had been nearly gutted, but mostly it's the same. The old tin ceilings and floor tiles were removed, preserved, and reinstalled individually by hand.

We were blessed in that the entire building did not burn down, we had a facility that was available to accommodate the entire court system, the arsonist was arrested and prosecuted, and we still have a great, historic courthouse.

Yet even now, on a rainy day, the smell of smoke sometimes lingers reminding me of that Sunday evening so very long ago.

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*President-Elect:*

**Stephanie Rennegarbe**

*Vice President:*

**Vernita Allen-Williams**

*Secretary:*

**Debra Musielak**

*Treasurer:*

**Kathleen M. Grove**

*Legislative Rep:*

**Patrice Houlf**

*Region 1 Representative  
(Freelance/CCP, CBC)\*:*

**Bernice Radavich**

*Region 2 Representative  
(Freelance/CCP, CBC)\*:*

**Kathryn A. Thomas**

\* The terms of Region 1 Representative (Official) and Region 2 Representative (Official) will expire in 2012.

*Note from Nominating Committee Chair LeAnn M. Hibler:* It was incorrectly stated that the position of Region 1 Representative (Official) was up for re-election. Also, I would like to thank my committee members, Amy Quint, Mary Beth Rollins, Joseph Rickhoff, and Donna Urlaub for their insight during this process.

Any eligible professional member not slated by the Nominating Committee who desires to run for election must file a letter of intention to challenge the slated nominee with the Executive Director at least (30) days prior to the Annual Business meeting which will be held September 10, 2011, in Lake Geneva, WI. Such nomination and supporting material shall be posted in the registration area of the annual meeting site prior to the annual meeting.

## ILCRA Presents 2011-2013 Slate of Officers

### **PRESIDENT:**

#### **NANCY LABELLA**

Nancy has been an Illinois CSR since graduating from MacCormac College in 1985, working her first year as a freelance reporter and then as a state Official Court Reporter in Cook County where she was assigned to the Criminal Division for ten years. Nancy then worked as a freelance court reporter at Urlaub Bowen and Associates. For the past four years, she has been a Federal Official Court Reporter in Chicago. She is an RMR, CRR and a Federal Certified Real-time Reporter.

Nancy held several positions on the boards of the Illinois Official Court Reporters Association and the Cook County Court Reporters Association, including co-legislative chairperson, treasurer, and vice-president. She currently serves as President-Elect on the ILCRA Executive Board.

Nancy is a member of the National Court Reporters Association, the United States Court Reporters Association and, of course, the Illinois Court Reporters Association. She and her husband live in Shorewood, Illinois.

### **PRESIDENT-ELECT:**

#### **STEPHANIE RENNEGARBE**

Stephanie has been reporting since 1988 as a freelancer doing arbitrations, trials, depositions, inquests, grand jury proceedings, conventions, and CART providing. She holds the following designations: Illinois CSR, Missouri CCR, and NCRA RPR, RMR, CRR and Missouri CCR, and NCRA RDR,

CRR, and CBC. She serves as a member of the Advisory Board for the Judicial Reporting and Captioning Technology Program at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois.

She obtained a bachelor of science degree through the University of Alabama in conjunction with the NCRA program; graduating in 1996.

Stephanie lives in Addieville, Illinois with her husband, Greg, and her two daughters, Shaina and Shawn. She spends her spare time watching her daughters participate in sporting events and trying to get as much travel time as possible.

### **VICE PRESIDENT:**

#### **VERNITA ALLEN-WILLIAMS**

Vernita is an Official Court Reporter assigned to the 19th Judicial Circuit for 13 years, previously assigned to the Law Division in Cook County for two years. She currently chairs the PR/Marketing Committee and is the Region One Representative for ILCRA. Vernita previously served on the Formbook Committee and the Illinois Supreme Court's Court Reporter Committee. She previously served as the Circuit Rep. for Lake County.

Before becoming an official, Vernita freelanced in the Chicago Loop for ten years.

### **SECRETARY:**

#### **DEBRA MUSIELAK**

Debra has 35 years of court reporting experience. She has attained the certifications of Illinois CSR, Missouri CCR, and NCRA RPR, RMR, CRR and

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## ILCRA Presents 2011-2013 Slate of Officers

*(Continued from page 8)*

RDR. She began her career as an official in the 20th Judicial Circuit. With 15 years of experience, she left that position to join a freelance agency serving the St. Louis metropolitan area, with an interest in becoming more involved in realtime reporting.

From 2000 to the present she has operated her own freelance reporting company and is also involved in CART and captioning projects. She currently serves on the ILCRA Board of Directors as the Region II freelance representative and has been chairman of the Bylaws Committee, the Advertising Committee, and is a member of the Public Relations Committee. She also serves on the Advisory Board for the John A.

Logan College Realtime Captioning Technology program.

She enjoys her service on the ILCRA board because it provides the opportunity to stay abreast of current trends in the reporting industry and to participate in endeavors that will help reporting remain a strong profession for Illinois reporters.

### **TREASURER:**

#### **KATHLEEN M. GROVE**

Kathie is President of Grove & Associates Reporting and Video Conferencing located in Wheaton, Illinois. Kathie formed the agency in 2000 with Tina Dillon (Dillon-Grove Reporting) and implemented all business systems within the agency. In 2003, Kathleen became the sole

owner and operator of Grove & Associates Reporting.

Kathie has been a reporter for 32 years with 26 of those years spent in the freelance industry, starting with Cochran, Pudlo, Sewell and Heilig in Chicago and then joining Curran-Smith Reporting in Aurora. The remainder of the time was spent as an official in DuPage County.

Along the way, Kathie retrained herself to write realtime and obtained her CRR as well as an additional certification as a Realtime Systems Administrator.

While still a working reporter, Kathie especially enjoys the day-to-day challenges

*(Continued on page 10)*

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*(Continued from page 9)*

of the business side of the industry and is actively involved in every aspect of Grove & Associates Reporting.

Kathie is immensely grateful to be a part of an industry that practices unparalleled professionalism and thankful to have several such individuals working with her on a daily basis.

Kathie's philosophy on business as well as reporting is as follows: You don't have to know all the answers; you just have to know where to go or who to ask to find them.

### **LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE: PATRICE HOULF**

Pat has been an Illinois CSR and NCRA RPR since 1976. She worked as a freelance reporter for a year and then as a state official for more than 30 years assigned to various locations throughout Cook County. For the past eight and a half years, Pat has been the Court Reporting Services Supervisor in the Tenth Judicial Circuit.

She has held various positions in the Illinois Official Court Reporters Association, including president and legisla-

tive chairperson, as well as the Cook County Court Reporters Association. Pat was a member of the Illinois Supreme Court's Committee on Court Reporting and currently serves on the Conference of Chief Judges Committee on the Future of Court Reporting. She has served on ILCRA's Student Scholarship, Nominating, and Legislative Committees.

Pat serves on MidState College's Realtime Reporting Advisory Committee and is involved in student recruitment and working with many court reporting schools in Illinois and Indiana.

### **REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE: BERNICE RADA VICH**

Bernice began as a freelance court reporter at Wolfe, Rosenberg & Associates more than 30 years ago and is currently working primarily as a CART provider in the Chicago area. She has been the ILCRA Student Scholarship Committee Chairperson since 2006, and she has acted as a Chief Examiner for the National Court Reporters Association CRR/CCP/CBC

exams since 2004. She was appointed to the Illinois CSR Board in January of 2010.

She holds the NCRA certifications of Registered Diplomat Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, Certified Broadcast Captioner, Certified CART Provider, and Certified Program Evaluator.

Bernice is the 2007 Illinois Court Reporters Association Realtime Contest Champion and a qualifier in NCRA and Illinois Speed Contests and the NCRA Realtime Contest.

In her spare time, Bernice enjoys traveling and keeping up with her husband, John, and two children, Tim and Becky.

### **REGION 2 REPRESENTATIVE: KATHRYN A. THOMAS**

Kathryn A. Thomas, CSR, RMR, CCP, lives in Caseyville, Illinois, and provides CART for the greater St. Louis area. She has worked previously as a freelance reporter since 1998 and is licensed in Illinois and Missouri. She has served as a member of ILCRA's Auditing, Membership, and Public Relations committees and is a member of NCRA's Online Social Network Connection (formerly Online Forum Committee). She is an NCRA Angel and competes in speed contests.

Kathryn is married with two cats and two dogs. She is a member of the Gateway East Artists Guild and dreams of someday stadium-captioning *WrestleMania!*

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

**The Illinois Court Reporters Association Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 7:45 a.m. at the Grand Connection Convention in Lake Geneva, WI. During the annual meeting, awards will be presented, reports will be given, and officers will be installed. The room of the ILCRA Annual meeting will be posted at the convention.**

**The ILCRA Board meeting will be on Saturday, September 10th, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the ILCRA President's Suite at the Grand Connection convention in Lake Geneva, WI. The room number will be posted at the convention.**





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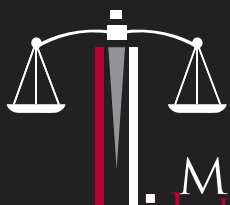
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# ILCRA Committee Activity Updates

## ■ CART COMMITTEE

*LeAnn M. Hibler, Chairperson*

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

Congratulations to the following ILCRA members who have been appointed to the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission's CART taskforce: **Tina Dillon, LeAnn Hibler, Cindy Jenkins, and Catherine Rajcan**. The taskforce's additional members are Teresa Ozuna representing Midstate College and CART consumer Mary Clark.

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

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

## ■ BUDGET COMMITTEE

*Lyn M. Grooms, Chairperson*

As chair of the Budget Committee for ILCRA, it is my duty to process financial information and submit to the Committee as a whole a proposed budget for the new fiscal year. Following discussion and agreement among committee members, a proposed 2012 ILCRA Budget will be submitted to the entire Board of Directors.

Having outlined the above procedure, it is my plan to begin in July processing the figures we will need to formulate a budget and have it submitted to the Budget Committee in as timely a fashion as possible so that the committee will be in a position to submit our proposal to the board prior to the September, 2011 board meeting. The board will then be in a position to adopt or defer adoption until possible suggestions are put forth and adjustments made concerning said budget.

## ■ PR/MARKETING COMMITTEE

*Vernita Allen-Williams, Chairperson*

Fellow reporters, your ILCRA PR/Marketing Committee has been very busy this quarter. Hopefully, I've had the pleasure of meeting you at either a freelance seminar or the Court Services/ILCRA seminar on March 19, 2011. Hopefully, some of you had the opportunity to participate in a career day at a high school or col-

lege near your home or volunteer to cover a mock trial on Law Day. If you did, thank you.

If you'd like to share our profession with a group but are a little nervous, call ILCRA. As **Barb Johnston** can attest, I'll come and show you the ropes, give you some tips, and enjoy spending a few hours with a fellow court reporter sharing our profession with students, teachers, and the public. A special thank you to Barb and her husband Dave Johnston for providing the opportunity to serve as Barb's "wingman" at Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville. We spoke with 150 students!

I'd also like to thank **Debbie Schultz** for coming with me to Waukegan High School, and ILCRA board members **Sharon Vilimek** and **LeAnn Hibler** for helping cover a career day. Thanks to my chief judge, **Victoria A. Rossetti**, and my supervisor, **Paula Merlo**, I have been allowed to continue attending career days and I look forward to doing more. Remember, court reporters are in the best position to promote court reporting as a career. *Let's go!*

## ■ STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

*Bernice Radavich, Chairperson*

ILCRA will be awarding a \$1,000 student scholarship at the Annual Business Meeting in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, on September 10, 2011. The winner will also receive a complimentary one-day registration to the Illinois/Wisconsin annual convention taking place September 8-11 at the Grand Geneva Resort and Spa. The prize includes hotel accommodations for one night, round-trip mileage reimbursement, and a one-year associate membership in ILCRA. The scholarship winner will become a member of the ILCRA Student Scholarship Committee for the following year. We will also be awarding second and third place prizes.

Students interested in participating in the scholarship competition submitted a one-page essay by July 15. The students were to answer the question: "Nothing in the world takes the place of persistence. Describe how this quote can be important to your success as a student." The ILCRA Student Scholarship Committee will be reviewing the essays submitted by the students, so stay tuned for the names of the winners.



# TWO GREAT STATES ~ ONE GRAND CONVENTION!



## ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2011

Grand Geneva Lodge, Lake Geneva, WI

Illinois and Wisconsin have joined forces to plan another great convention! Join us September 8-11, 2011, for an educational, inspirational, and fun-filled weekend. You can enjoy the beautiful surroundings and wonderful amenities the Grand Geneva offers while reconnecting with longtime friends and making new connections. Don't miss out on the opportunity to experience terrific speakers, improve your efficiency with advanced software training, have a great time, and make some new Grand Connections!

### FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION:

[www.2011grandconnections.com](http://www.2011grandconnections.com)

### THURSDAY

**6:00 p.m.** Realtime Contest in Linwood A [Click here for Rules](#)

### FRIDAY

**8:00 - 2:00** Speed Contest in Linwood A [Click here for Rules](#)

### 12:00 - 3:15:

Software Training (.15 CEU) StenoCAT - Jenny Ebner, ProCAT - Cathy Logan, Eclipse - Julie Samford; Stenograph - Lisa Carey, SmartCAT/Cheetah - Kelly Siska

### 3:30 - 5:00:

Professional Breakout (.15 CEU) Officials, Freelance, CART/Captioning, Students, Instructors

### 6:00 - 9:00:

Opening Reception (.10 CEU) Pool deck/Fireside party on Embers Terrace HOP-CULTURE (Lake Geneva's Playboy Club History)

### SATURDAY

### 7:45 - 8:45:

State Association Meetings - Elections and NCRA Board Representatives

### 9:00 - 10:00:

Keynote Address - "More Than Mountains: Overcoming Life's Challenges" (.15 CEU) Todd Huston

### 10:15 - 11:45:

"Don't Stress! The Ultimate Stress Management Program for Decreasing Stress and Increasing Happiness and Productivity" (.15 CEU) - Todd Huston

"Where NOT to Put That Comma" Part 1 (.15 CEU) - Margie Wakeman Wells

### 1:45 - 3:15:

"Where NOT to Put That Comma" Part 2 (.15 CEU) - Margie Wakeman Wells

"Microsoft Office Applications for Small Business and Home" (.15 CEU) - Judy Lehman

### 3:30 - 5:00:

Town Hall Meeting (.15 CEU) - NCRA Representatives

### SUNDAY

### 8:30 - 10:00:

9/11 Speakers - "Behind the Scenes on 9/11 - Captioners' Perspective" (.15 CEU) Karen Ruud & Holli Herrin

### 10:15 - 11:45:

9/11 Speakers - "How Captioning Benefited the Deaf Community on 9/11 and Beyond" (.15 CEU) - Scott Kendziorski & Peter W. Schultz

### FOR EVENING ACTIVITIES:

Check out the area at <http://lakegenevawi.com>



**FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS call (800) 558-3417 or (262) 248-8811.** Deadline to reserve rooms in our block is Tuesday, August 9, 2011 Mention you are with the IL/WI court reporters group to get the Deluxe Guest Room for the convention rate of \$159/night. [www.grandgeneva.com](http://www.grandgeneva.com)

# What a Hump Day!

By Rachel Boylen, Official Court Reporter

On a Wednesday, a few months ago, Rita Corson received this story in an e-mail from Rachel Boylen, one of the reporters in her circuit. Although Rachel said she'd like to forget about that awful "hump day," she gave Rita permission to submit it to *Ad Infinitum* for the members to enjoy.

Well, one of my recurring nightmares came true today. After traveling to Schuyler County yesterday to cover for Rita Corson, I was assigned to go back today. Last night, I took my machine in the house because the cold weather is hard on it, and didn't realize it was still at home until I pulled into the courthouse in Rushville and it wasn't there. That's what I get for going out the "back door" and breaking routine! After racing upstairs to see if by chance Rita had left her machine at work, I wanted to cry when I discovered it was not there!

I then had to explain to Judge McMillen how my machine was still at home in Timewell and court was to start in about 15 minutes and that it takes about 25 minutes to drive to Timewell one way! Judge McMillen sent me on my way to retrieve the machine. Knowing that everyone would be sitting in court and waiting on me to return, I set out for Timewell running "way too fast!"

Half-way back to Mt. Sterling, I approached a vulture eating on a fresh carcass! I didn't think much about it because they always fly off, but this one waited too long and slammed into my windshield! It's hard to drive and duck at the same time! Then I had to look through a window

full of vulture poop the rest of the way! I thought for sure my window would be cracked, but I didn't see any cracks, only some feathers stuck to the poo!

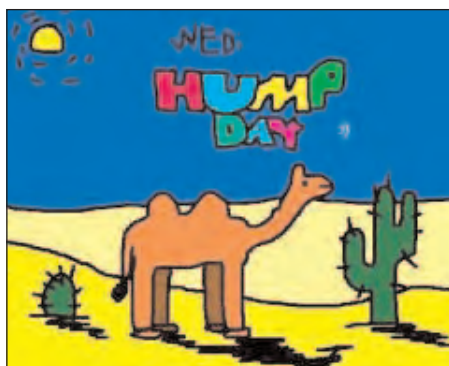
As I sped on to Timewell, (with no phone signal, of course) I contemplated the idea of calling someone, but didn't really have anyone to call as my husband, Jon, was out trucking (and I really didn't want to confess the little pickle I was in to him). I finally made it to the house, grabbed the machine, and jumped back into the car to head to Schuyler.

I didn't even reach the highway when my phone rings and it's Jon: "Did you forget something?" He wasn't trucking and could have at least met me in town with the machine.

After a very quick and stressful trip, I finally made it back to Rushville and proceeded into court where they, of course, had already started without me.

It all worked out fine and Judge McMillen was very understanding! Had this happened even five or ten years ago, I would have been in tears.

I will be celebrating my 20th year in November, and I have come to realize that I actually do play an important part at work; and like we do for so many, they will wait if they really need us!



All registration is now taking place at most court reporting schools. Now is the time to make contact with those you think would enjoy the court reporting career.

Please encourage them to check into court reporting and join us in this rewarding profession. They may check out [www.ilcra.org](http://www.ilcra.org) for a school near them.





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## Newly Certified Illinois Reporters

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to the following Illinois reporters who became certified as a result of the April and May exams.

### REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTERS

Rebecca Graziano, RPR, *Darien*  
Kristen Scapardine, RPR, *Crestwood*  
Amy Spee, RPR, *Crestwood*  
Vicki D'Antonio, RPR, *Chicago*  
Stacy Warpool, RPR, *Villa Park*  
Lisa Larsen, RPR, *St. Charles*  
Marlene Kerr, RPR, *Matteson*

### REGISTERED MERIT REPORTERS

Tommasina Reidy, RMR, *Midlothian*  
Greg Weiland, RMR, CRR, *Chicago*

### CERTIFIED REALTIME REPORTERS

Kathryn Thomas, RMR, CRR, CCP, *Caseyville*  
Greg Weiland, RMR, CRR, *Chicago*  
Angela Miller, RPR, CRR, *Byron*  
Reagan Fiorino, RMR, CRR, *Bethalto*  
Tracey Aurelio, RMR, CRR, *Edwardsville*  
Michelle Paoletti, RPR, CRR, *Tinley Park*

### CERTIFIED CART PROVIDER

Kathryn Thomas, RMR, CRR, CCP, *Caseyville*

### REGISTERED DIPLOMATE REPORTER

Frances Morgensen, RDR, *East Moline*

*With Sympathy...*

ILCRA extends heartfelt condolences to **Mary Beth Rollins**, ILCRA Past President, on the recent loss of her husband, George.



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By Richard A. Sherman

## DELETE OLD GMAIL AUTO-FILL ADDRESSES

**Q. When I start to type an address in the To: field of Gmail, a drop-down list of old recipients appears. How can I delete the addresses I no longer use?**

A. They can be deleted from All Contacts. To do that, click Contacts > All Contacts. Click to select an address that you would like to remove, then click the Delete Contact button.

**Q. My computer displays invalid or expired security certificate alerts when I visit some sites. What I can do to resolve this problem? I look forward to your newsletter each week. Keep up the good work.**

A. Thank you. The most common cause of the invalid or expired security certificate alerts you are receiving is an inaccurate date setting on your computer. Right-click the date display in the lower right-hand corner of your screen. You will see where you can adjust the date and time.

If you frequently need to adjust the date and/or time, chances are the battery that maintains that date, which is located on the motherboard, needs to be replaced. It is not expensive and any reputable computer repair person or service can do that for you. If you had any work performed on your computer recently, it is

also possible that battery was disabled or removed and not reset thereafter, which would cause it to display its default year of 1980. In either case, if an older date is being used, your computer will think that any Web site security certificates it encounters have expired and display the alerts you have been receiving.

**Q. How do I create a Desktop shortcut for the Device Manager? I have two computers, one running XP and one running Vista.**

A. The executable or launch file for the Device Manager is named devmgmt.msc, so in Windows XP, click Start > Search > File and Folders and search for that file by name. When the file is located, usually in the C:\WINDOWS\System32 folder, right-click it and select Send to > Desktop (create Shortcut). You can then rename the shortcut by pressing F2.

In Vista and Windows 7 — or if you cannot locate the devmgmt.msc file as described above — you can manually create a shortcut by right-clicking the Desktop and selecting New > Shortcut. Use the Browse button to navigate to the Device Manager folder and locate the file, or simply type in devmgmt.msc and click Next. Provide a name

(Device Mgr will work nicely), then click Finish.

**Q. It seems to me that my iPad is running slower than it used to run. Can there be programs running in the background like there are on my computer that are affecting its performance?**

A. Yes, indeed. It's not the identical situation that we encounter with computers, but it is similar. Unlike a computer in which you click the X in the upper right-hand corner to close a program, when you move from app to app to app on your iPad, each application remains open and effectively running in the background. Because of this, it is a good idea to periodically close all apps to free up memory.

Either daily or several times a week, depending how much you use your iPad, double-tap the Home button, which will cause a bar to appear at the bottom of the screen that displays all running or open apps. Press and hold the first app icon until it starts to jiggle and a little red circle with a white line appears. Tap each circle to quickly close each app, one at a time.

Bonus Tip: If your iPad ever completely freezes, after you regain consciousness hold down

*(Continued on page 17)*



## Ask Mr. Modem

*(Continued from page 16)*

both the Sleep/Wake button and the Home button until the device reboots. iPads are designed to remain on all the time and hibernate (sleep) when not being used, so if you do need to reboot in this manner, be patient. It may require a couple of minutes.

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

**20 QUESTIONS** Test your skills and try to outsmart this site in a match of traditional 20 Questions, or choose one of the uniquely themed games such as Harry Potter, The Simpsons or 20-Q Sports. [www.20q.net](http://www.20q.net)

**THE BODY EXPLAINED** Hosted by Baylor College of Medicine, here you will find short videos created to answer common questions about the human body. Browse the site's list of delightfully light-hearted yet informative answers to such life-altering

questions as, What causes an ice cream headache? Why do our ears pop? and What causes goosebumps? (It gives me chills just thinking about it.) [www.bioedonline.org/body-explained](http://www.bioedonline.org/body-explained)

**EPISODE GUIDES** As its name implies, the focus here is television episode titles and air dates for more than 5,500 TV shows, with links to additional information. Type the name of a show, use the Current Shows link, or the alphabetical listing. [www.epguides.com](http://www.epguides.com)

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## Adventures in CART – Part 3

# Let's Get on the Bus!

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

**W**ell, here I am, about to tell you the final saga. I hope my adventures have been an interesting read for most of you. I don't claim that they are any more adventurous than your jobs, but I thought it would give my colleagues a taste of the CART world and the trials and tribulations that go with it.

I received a call for a two-day CART job to take place in a clubhouse at a large subdivision near me. It was a group of homeowner association managers participating in an educational training with a take-home certification exam to follow.

The woman hiring CART services was not the consumer, which is often the case, and so we had a discussion about how the two days were to proceed. I learned that in the afternoon of the second day, the group was to take a bus tour of the subdivision. A bus tour, huh? OK. How was I to provide CART on a bus? The woman decided that it wouldn't be possible and that I should just wait at the clubhouse for the group to return. In the back of my mind I'm thinking, what a deal! I'll get paid for basically doing nothing.

When I met my consumer I quickly learned that she was new to CART services. I also learned that her hearing loss was fairly recent which meant she had not picked up the skill of lip reading, nor did she know any sign language. She was really going to have to rely on CART to understand what was going on in the training.

As a CART provider, I've learned that I've got to be the expert and make the right choices for my consumer. Consumers are often hesitant to make any requests about fonts, colors, or laptop locations because they are afraid to ask or they may not know to ask. I recently participated in a meeting with a CART consumer where I was not the CART provider and I noticed the laptop positioning could have been a little better so the consumer would not have to look left at the laptop and right at the speaker. The next time we were in the meeting, I asked the consumer if it would-

n't be better to place the laptop to her right. This long-time CART consumer said, yes, but she didn't want to be a bother to the CART provider. The provider explained that the laptop could be placed where ever the consumer wanted, and then they also had a discussion about the fonts and colors of the display. I found it surprising that this experienced CART consumer didn't initiate that discussion at the first meeting, but it just impressed upon me that consumers don't always raise the issue and that the CART provider needs to start the conversation.

Anyway, the bus trip was on my mind. Sure, as a freelance court reporter I've sat at courthouses waiting for trials to start, all the while getting paid for doing basically nothing, and I was happy about it. But to sit around and not provide CART for someone who obviously needed it, in good conscience, that wasn't going over well with me.

I talked with the two people who were running the training about what exactly the bus trip was going to be like. Were they staying on the bus? Getting off the bus? How long would they really be gone? I discussed with my consumer that it would be most beneficial if I was on the bus, but there were some obstacles. Power? Wires? Space?

When the bus arrived, it was a nice, comfy tour bus. I went out and spoke to the driver and inquired if there were outlets at the seats. I had recently taken such a bus from Philadelphia to New York City and it was complete with outlets and WiFi at each seat. Not so with this bus, unfortunately. So I devised a plan that I would save a row of seats for me and my consumer, one on each side of the aisle, near the front. I had a good battery on my laptop, but I wasn't sure if it would last during our bus tour, and I was not writing wirelessly to my laptop, so I had that issue.

I talked with my consumer about the plan. Once everyone was on the bus, I would hand her

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



*LeAnn M. Hibler*

## Adventures in CART

*(Continued from page 18)*

the laptop with the wires going across the aisle. She was onboard with it. When it was time for the bus tour, I turned to my consumer and said, Well, let's get on the bus. She stood there for a moment and chuckled. She then told me that when she and her girlfriends go on vacation, one of them always says, "OK, let's get on the bus!" We both laughed.

And after the job I often thought about that statement and chuckled, because of a commercial airing on TV that promoted children getting 60 minutes of activity every day, and they would sing something about "get on the bus."

As you can imagine, sitting on a bus and writing on a machine does not create the best real-time. Each time the bus hit a bump, it made me bounce up and my fingers would come off the keyboard. It wasn't pretty, but it was better than nothing, which is what my consumer would have gotten had I sat back and collected the cash waiting for them to return.

So to my CART colleagues, may I suggest always having a discussion with your new consumers about display preferences and computer location. I always seem to be fussing with my computer location and trying to place it in just the right spot so the consumer can read it and see the speaker in the same line of sight. And I often think my consumers are wondering about why am I worrying about such things. But to me, it's part of providing quality service and doing the best I can for my consumers, whether they know it or not.

So there you have it, a snippet of my world. I appreciate having the *Ad Infinitum* to share my adventures in. And, any ILCRA member can submit a story. You may think only yourself and your friends would be interested, but, really, there are students and colleagues that don't have the same experiences and might find it an interesting read. I know I would. So come one, share with us!

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# CHECK OUT OUR BRIEFS

By Nancy LaBella, ILCRA President-Elect

I know I have mentioned it before, but I am going to repeat myself. I have the greatest scopist! Not only is she outstanding at her job, but she does her very best to save my aging body by suggesting ways to write smarter and shorter by giving me brief form suggestions. Her most recent additions to my dictionary are below.

Also included in this edition are several ideas

- all right .....HR-RT
- and a half .....TPHAEUF
- anyone .....TPHEUPB
- apartment .....AEPT
- assignment .....SAOEUPLT
- basement.....PWAEUPLT
- below.....PWHRO\*
- blow.....PWHROE
- boyfriend .....PWREPBD
- building .....PW\*LG
- city.....STEU
- City (initial cap).....ST\*EU
- control.....KROEL
- credibility .....KREBLT
- dealer .....TKAERL
- execute ..... SKAEUT or SK\*UT
- execution .....SKAEUGS or SK\*UGS
- fair and accurate .....TPRAEUBG
- fair to say .....TPAEURTS
- first floor apartment .....TPHRAEPT
- foundation .....TPOUPBGS
- girlfriend.....TKPWREPBD
- jacket.....SKWRABGT


on what stroke to use to make a new paragraph. A co-worker of mine took a poll on this subject. It is amazing how many different ways there are. We are sharing the suggestions she received so that if you are looking for a solution, hopefully one of these might work.

Once again, if you have any ideas for a future “Check Out Our Briefs” column, feel free to contact me at [labellaseppi@yahoo.com](mailto:labellaseppi@yahoo.com).

- jeans .....SKWRAEPBS
- notification .....TPHOEUFGS
- notified .....TPHOEUFD
- notify.....TPHOEUFT
- pursuant .....PURPBT
- report.....RORT
- second floor apartment ..STPAEPT
- someone .....SWUPB
- true and accurate .....TRAUBG

*Several suggestions for making a new paragraph:* .....TPHAF; \*P, PA\**R*, P\**P* (my favorite), PRAF, or PA\**ER*

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Nancy Varallo

# Dear Nancy

**Dear Nancy: Is there a rule for the use of the trademark or registered symbol after the brand name of a product or medication? If so, do you use it only on the first mention but not throughout the transcript? Please help.**

## **Signed, To Use or Not to Use**

Dear To Use or Not to Use: That is the question. (*Pace Shakespeare*) I wasn't sure myself, so first I went to *Morson's English Guide for Court Reporters*. Couldn't find it referenced there, so I did a little Google investigation. (Did you catch the hint there?) What do I love best about Google?

It's the great buffet, serving up all kinds of options for you: the informed, the educated guess, the custom and practice, the far out. And once you've sampled far more than you can possibly digest, it asks you to click to the next page. All the world's a buffet. (*Pace again, William*)

But we were talking about punctuating transcripts, not my next cruise, weren't we? Riveting, yes. From my search, I got three answers each from a different website and they are:

1) When using the name of a federally registered item or service, use the circle-r (®) mark on first use.

2) Try iPod as an example. Technically, you do not have to put the trademark symbol next to the iPod name as long as you make it clear that it is Apple's registered trademark. However, if you want to be a stickler about symbols, then put it in. As long as you credit Apple (e.g., by saying Apple iPod instead of just iPod), there should be no trouble.

3) The *Chicago Manual of Style* says the symbols ® and ™ "need not be used in running text."

And since I believe that the KISS principle (Keep It Simple, Stenos) is the greatest principle on the planet, and since I always choose the easy way out when it's an option, I'd choose the third answer. Just KISS me and I'm yours. :) ® ™ ©

**Dear Nancy: Your article in the April JCR prompts a question about "new paragraph" usage, i.e., starting a new paragraph with the**

**phrase, "Which brings me to those fascinating blogs", etc. I'm from the old school and we were taught that a sentence must have at least a noun and a verb; if not, it's an incomplete sentence. Yet I see these sentence fragments all the time in newspapers and print media, and I'm perplexed. Is this the new style? Are the old rules for writing inoperative? Signed, Old School**

Dear Old School: Robert Day's *The Ten Commandments of Good Writing* is a hoot. His Rule #10 is: "About sentence fragments." Always cracks me up. Likewise with his Rule #1: "Each pronoun should agree with their antecedent."

Heh heh.

In a terrific article written for the Colorado Springs Fiction Writer's Group entitled *Using Your Poetic License in Prose*, R. Michael Burns states: "You *must* know the rules in order to break them properly. Because yes, there *are* 'proper ways' to break the rules...Let me be clear: I am *not* suggesting some sort of literary free-for-all here. There's a single, vital question which you *must* be able to answer with a resounding 'yes' — or else all your rule-breaking is just so much verbal vandalism. The question is this: Is the prose clear and evocative?"

He continues: "Consider fragments. A fragment is an incomplete sentence — that is, one which doesn't have both a subject and a predicate consisting of (at least) a verb. The shortest possible complete sentences in the English language are, 'I am' and 'I do'. 'I' is the subject of each, am and do are the prepositions, composed of nice short, naked verbs. In general, fragments are mistakes, the result of a writer forgetting his purpose halfway through a sentence...Under some circumstances, though, a fragment can be just the thing. Consider this, from Elmore Leonard's *The Big Bounce*:

*Hey, who's in there? A pause. Come on, let me in! Silence. Let it sink in, Ryan thought.*

"The sentences, 'A pause' and 'Silence' are both fragments. Leonard certainly could have written, 'There was a pause' and 'There came only

[\*\(Continued on page 23\)\*](#)

## Dear Nancy

*(Continued from page 22)*

silence' or other similarly complete lines. But the fragments convey the same meaning just as clearly, and fit not only Leonard's terse style, but also the scene's staccato rhythms and the streetwise sensibilities of the characters. The prose has a beat to it, and the fragments serve that beat without sacrificing an ounce of clarity.

"Again: clarity is the goal. If the fragment fits the pace and evokes a sense of mood or tone, and if it does so without losing any meaning, then it's a perfectly good and useable tool."

Mr. Burns concludes: "Break the rules deftly and deliberately and your prose will shine. Now, by the power vested in me by the University of Colorado (which issued me a degree in English with all the rights and privileges thereunto appertaining of which I believe this *must* be one) I bestow upon you your very own Poetic License. Go forth and commit eloquent, evocative prose."

I strive to write in a conversational voice in my advice columns, and that is often not grammatically pure. We have Mr. Burns blessing to "commit eloquent, evocative prose," and that's my goal. BTW, a colorful, likable character jumps out from Burns' lively prose. I'd love to hear him hold forth at an NCRA seminar on his concept of poetic license. I am now in my fifties (early fifties, thank you) and it would be a comfort to have validation of my hip up-to-dateness.

Which brings me to my next question.

**Dear Nancy: I have been a court reporter for nine years and I feel my speed is slower than when I first started. I was wondering if you had any tips on how to improve my speed. Should I listen to tapes again? Signed, The Hands of Time**

Dear The Hands of Time: Let me offer you a helping hand because one hand washes the other, even though sometimes the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. But today you can expect a handsome return from my handy tips and evenhanded advice. (Yeah, I know, that's enough already! Hands off!)

First, do use dictation tapes to practice — on the job.

Consider swimming and writing steno. Learning to swim is the first step. With a proper routine, you can work up to ten laps, then more. You're in shape, and adding extra laps is not a big deal.

Once you stop your routine, you don't forget how to swim, but the laps get tougher to complete.

Maintaining steno speed is all about the routine. It's difficult to come home after a long day and get your equipment out for a practice session. Instead, work *with* your schedule. Reporters often wait around for their depo or trial to start. Use that time for meaningful practice. There's lots of advice on how to practice. The experts — Mark Kislingbury, Ed Varallo, Chuck Cady, perhaps your former teacher — are all ready to share their practice tips with you. And they know what they're talking about.

The key is making practice a part of your daily routine. Before you know it, you'll have that RMR or CRR, or the 99.5 percent translation rate you'd like to have on even the toughest jobs.

Copy a couple of five-minute takes to a flash drive and throw it in your computer case. While waiting for the job to start, you can do some speed practice. (Don't forget your headphones!) I'm sure your daily schedule is as overpacked as mine. Make use of your odd moments. It's a great way to keep your technique in tiptop shape.

*Nancy Varallo, as owner of Court Reporting Management Services, LLC, offers business and office management services to court reporters and reporting firms*

### HELP DISTRIBUTE NCRA WIRELESS TASK FORCE WHITE PAPER

NCRA's Wireless Task Force recently completed its long-awaited white paper, "The Secure Delivery of Transcripts Using Wireless and Internet-Based Realtime Methods." The paper concluded that wireless realtime is safe, secure, and courts should not fear their court reporters offering it. For that reason, the Wireless Task Force asks your assistance in distributing the white paper to key consumer groups of wireless realtime, i.e., local bar associations, court administrators, judicial associations, and court IT personnel.

[Click here](http://ncraonline.org/NR/rdonlyres/3149927B-96EB-4D09-8AC8-22C588EB28D4/0/WirelessWhitePaperPortfolio_final.pdf) to access the white paper (http://ncraonline.org/NR/rdonlyres/3149927B-96EB-4D09-8AC8-22C588EB28D4/0/WirelessWhitePaperPortfolio\_final.pdf)

Tech Bit:

# Putting It All Together for a Road Warrior

By Gregg Marshall, CPMR, CSP

I have recently been involved in a contract to support the Small Business Administration website that has me living, at least for now, in Washington D.C. while my family and home office remain in Aurora, Colorado.

Living and working a bit over 1,500 miles from home has given me an opportunity to apply several of the technologies I have written about in the past. Their integration should prove that it is possible to replicate your home office and communicate while you are on the road.

Along with my notebook computer, I am carrying a portable printer (which I haven't used yet), my Fujitsu ScanSnap S1300 portable duplex sheet fed scanner, (*Tech Bit 64 – Going Paperless*) a couple of large capacity 2.5 inch pocket drives and a collection of cables. I also have a backup notebook and full-sized terabyte hard drive that are along for the trip just in case.

Back home I have my PogoPlug (*Tech Bit 59–The Cloud in my Basement*) with 2.5 terabytes of storage sitting in my basement. I also have my Fujitsu S1500 desktop duplex sheet fed scanner sitting in my office. I made a small change to my scanner settings to have it scan as PDF files stored in the PogoPlug (which because of their software looks like a local drive to that computer).

So now when mail arrives at the house, my wife, who is not technical at all, can take any letters, bills, etc., and scan them for me to view from my end. Generally she sends an email just to let me know something new is on the PogoPlug.

I also have a copy of my scanned files on the PogoPlug so I can access any file that normally would be in a filing cabinet, which was handy when I needed a copy of my 2003 income tax return for my security clearance application.

On those very rare occasions when I have needed something I hadn't already put on the PogoPlug, such as an old photograph, I can use Microsoft Live Mesh (*Tech Bit 8 – Remote Access*) to log into my desktop computer and copy the file onto the PogoPlug for access from my notebook.

I also back up files from my notebook onto the PogoPlug, including pictures I'm taking at Civil War battle sites near where I've been working. (Did you know it's the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War?)

Finally, my wife, the dogs, and I, use video Skype (*Tech Bit 51 – Skype*) to stay in touch on a daily basis. We can talk as much as we want since Skype to Skype is free, although the dogs haven't quite figured out why Dad is talking to them from a computer.

There has been only one instance in the six weeks (I have been home a couple of weekends) I've been doing this that we've needed to mail anything in a hurry, that was when a replacement credit card arrived late and needed to follow me to D.C.

It is possible to work for reasonably long periods of time remote from your office and still have almost everything accessible using low cost technologies.

*Gregg Marshall, CPMR, CSP, is a speaker, author and consultant. He can be reached by e-mail at [gmarshall@reconnection.com](mailto:gmarshall@reconnection.com), or visit his website at [www.reconnection.com](http://www.reconnection.com).*

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## Recycle Your E-Waste!

Electronic waste, or e-waste, is becoming an important environmental issue because it can be dangerous if not disposed of properly. E-waste includes all electronic devices including computers, monitors, and cell phones. Go to [Earth 911.com](http://Earth911.com) to find a recycling center near you for e-waste, batteries, and many other materials.



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# Board Meeting Highlights

ILCRA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, ONLINE, SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011

Present were: Nancy LaBella, President Elect; Stephanie Rennegarbe, Vice President; Patrice Houlf, Legislative Representative; Sharon Stuckly, Region One Representative; Vernita Allen-Williams, Region One Representative; Rita Corson, Region Two Representative; Deb Musielak, Region Two Representative; LeAnn Hibler, Immediate Past President; Nancy Davis, Executive Director, Bonni Shuttleworth, Education Liaison.

Absent were: Jill Layton, President, Lyn Grooms, Treasurer and Mary Trezzo, Interim Secretary.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

All email votes were ratified.

Executive Director Report given by Nancy Davis.

Discussion was had regarding the South Suburban seminar and the Court Reporting Services seminars.

Assignments for the RPR testing were confirmed.

A discussion was had regarding what Board members would be attending the NCRA annual convention in Las Vegas.

Stephanie Rennegarbe and Nancy LaBella will be attending the NCSA Meeting and Leadership Seminar on behalf of ILCRA.

Advertising Policy Committee Chair, Deb Musielak, advised her committee has been hard at work and are close to having a policy ready to submit to the board for approval.

CART Committee Chair, Lee Ann Hibler, reported on the first meeting of the IDHCC Task Force.

Education Liaison, Bonni Shuttleworth, reported to the board that Don Dalton is retiring from South Suburban College and LaTherese Cooke is taking over as coordinator of the RPR testing.

Legislative Chair, Pat Houlf, advised the budget for Court Services for fiscal year 2011 has yet to be determined. She also reported that our lobbyist is keeping a watchful eye on HB149 as well as other issues concerning court reporters.

Nominating Committee Chair, LeAnn Hibler, reported that a call for nominations will be in the Spring *Ad Infinitum*.

Officials Committee Chair, Pat Houlf, reported that the Officials Committee continues to work on recruitment issues.

Jill Tippett has volunteered to be the circuit rep. in the 9th Circuit.

PR/Marketing Committee Chair, Vernita Allen-Williams, reported on job fairs at junior colleges and high schools.

Student Mentor Chair, Joni Markel, reported that requests for student mentors continue to come in and she is always looking for new mentors.

The Student Scholarship Committee and the ILCRA Student Scholarship Revamping Committee reported through Bernice Radavich, what the topic is for the 2011 Scholarship essay and also reported

that they were working on how to get the application process online.

Dee Doubet, Chair of the task force to find a new Executive Director, reported that several applications have been received and they will be making a recommendation to ILCRA Board soon.

Nancy LaBella reported that the Webinar Committee is actively gathering information on how ILCRA can start offering webinars as an option for its members to earn continuing education units.

Discussion was held about the Freelance Compendium and Official Compendium.

Discussion was had about the Wisconsin DVD.

A discussion was had about attendance at a Webinar by Transworld Systems regarding their collections company.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

**WELCOME  
NEW ILCRA  
MEMBERS!**



**PROFESSIONAL:**

**Brenda K. Peterschmidt,**  
*Rock Island*

**ASSOCIATE:**

**Marc Alexander** (Branch  
Campus Director)

**Claire Browner** (Student)

**Elizabeth Burbach** (Admis-  
sions Representative)

**Kirsten Carpentier** (Student)

**Mary Orloff** (Student)

# Vendor News

## STENOGRAPH® INTRODUCES WiFi FOR DIAMANTE WRITER

Stenograph recently announced its new, built-in WiFi option for the Diamante writer. Court Reporters who have the Diamante now have the option to add built-in WiFi to connect wirelessly with their Case CATalyst software. Diamante WiFi is faster and more reliable than other wireless realtime technologies such as Bluetooth. Wireless realtime eliminates the need to plug and unplug a USB cable in order to be mobile for things such as attending a sidebar, in conference or chambers or when the reporter needs to move closer to the speaker. Since the WiFi adapter is installed inside the Diamante, it can't be lost and is unlikely to be damaged.

The Diamante WiFi Option is available at time of purchase of a Diamante for \$159. Current Diamante owners can have the WiFi option added to their writer for \$259. For details, call Stenograph sales at 630-532-5100 or 800-323-4247.

## NEW COURT REPORTING TRAINING PROGRAM OPENS IN CHICAGO AREA

Prince Institute and Stenograph announced the opening of Prince Institute, Great Lakes in Schaumburg, IL. The new campus will offer programs in court reporting, closed captioning, and scoping/proofreading beginning July 6, 2011. This same curriculum is offered online.

The expansion of the Prince Institute will help address a growing need for qualified individuals with shorthand machine skills. The number of jobs in court reporting and closed captioning is projected to grow significantly over the next seven years as reported by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. In fact, according to a survey conducted by Court Services at the request of the Conference of Chief Judges in Illinois, over 400 currently employed official court reporters are projected to retire in Illinois alone over the next 10 years.

Prince Institute is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools, approved by the Veterans Administration, licensed by the Illinois State Board of Education, and certified by NCRA. Contact admissions.glc@princeinstitute.edu, call 847-592-6600 or visit [www.princeinstitute.edu](http://www.princeinstitute.edu) to learn more.

# 'The Court Reporter'

*By Attorney Edward Siegel, Jacksonville, FL*

Court reporters hear such woe;  
How they stand it, I don't know.  
Tales of gore and incest, too;  
Rape and murder — nothing new.

Drinking, drugs, and barroom brawls,  
Contracts, leases, "slip-and-falls."  
Things that cause my hair to rise,  
To them the story's no surprise.

Auto smashups, petty theft,  
Child abuse, a spouse who left.  
Workers' comp and unpaid bills,  
All about a client's ills.

To me it seems an awful chore;  
To them they've heard it all before.  
And so they sit, and take it down.  
They don't complain; they seldom frown.

And though the witness rants and raves,  
They merely nod and make no waves.  
They're patient, calm, and no one's fool.  
How *can* they stay so doggone cool?

The answer's clear, it takes no sage —  
They simply charge us by the page.

*(Submitted by ILCRA member, Sandy Foord.)*

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*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.*

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- Sponsors an annual conference and one-day seminars including continuing education and the latest in reporting technology.
- Publishes the Ad Infitum, a quarterly online newsletter containing the newest up-to-the-minute reporting developments throughout the state, highlights of board meetings, advertisements of vendors and agency owners, and names and telephone numbers of ILCRA officers.
- Serves as an affiliated state unit of the National Court Reporters Association.
- Offers members significantly reduced rates for the conventions and seminars.
- Co-hosts and pays for NCRA continuing education units for the three Court Reporting Services Seminars. ILCRA also provides personnel in connection with those continuing education credits.
- Awards a Student Scholarship, a Distinguished Service Award, an Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Educator and conducts speed contests each year.
- Provides on the ILCRA Web site, a Resource Manual which includes the CSR Act, Court Reporters' Act, Rules and Regulations of the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation, Transcript Act., and ILCRA Bylaws. It also includes officers' names and contact information as well as Committees and Committee Members. ILCRA Member Information is included on the Web site under Member Listing
- Offers an Online Student Mentor Program.
- Promotes student recruitment.
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- Provides reporters for demonstrations on request and attends career days throughout the state.
- Provides free CART brochures to its members.
- Provides a court reporters network through our ListServe program which allows ILCRA to immediately be in touch with members via e-mail.
- Serves the membership with an 800 phone number, 1-800-656-2467 and a Web site [www.ilcra.org](http://www.ilcra.org).
- Provides a full-time staff person, our Executive Director, to assist members.