

AD INFINITUM

Summer 2012

Illinois Court Reporters Association

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Help Us Help You

Nancy LaBella, ILCRA President

The court reporting profession has faced many obstacles since its inception. I am sure most of you have heard at least once, "Court reporting? Aren't you just going to be replaced by ... (insert "replacement" of choice here: tape recorder, video recorder, digital audio recorder, my cat Sammy, etc.)...?" I know I heard it some 27 years ago while in court reporting school, and I imagine today's students are hearing it too. But here we still are.

That is not to say the obstacles are not real. We know what they are, and some are in that "replacement" list above (although I don't think my cat is interested in your job). Other obstacles may be new to today's court reporters: unethical gift-giving, shrinking government budgets, controversial contracting practices.

So how does your association help make licensed court reporters in this state the first and only choice for consumers? By working to enact and monitor laws that affect the court reporting profession, implementing policies that ensure ethical conduct, supporting the schools that educate our future colleagues. Your ILCRA board spends countless hours working on these and many other issues. But we need YOUR help to make a real impact.

Paying your membership dues is, of course, an important way to show your support. Why? Because our work on issues that are vital to you is financed by those dues. Do you want laws enacted to address anti-contracting? Your dues pay for the research needed to make that happen. Do you want gift-giving policies enforced? Your dues pay for our efforts to educate attorneys about them. Are you concerned about the state budget and how that may affect your employment? Your dues pay for our lobbyist who



monitors legislation affecting court reporting. Do you want a website where court reporting students and veterans alike can get information about the profession? That is financed by your dues as well. You get the picture. Now, look around you. Are your colleagues members? If not, encourage them to be. We need the support of every licensed court reporter in this state to help our profession thrive and grow.

How else can you help us help you? Get involved! We can't do this work alone. We need your ideas and energy to help us tackle the obstacles ahead. So say "Yes!" when you are asked to join a committee, serve on the board or do other association work. Or better yet, volunteer. The pay is meager (okay, nonexistent), but the rewards – for ALL of us – are great.

What else can you do? Talk to us! Hearing from you, our members, is the best way for us to know what concerns you most. Communicate with our executive director or one of our board members. Tell us what is on your mind, what you would like us to work on and your ideas for positive change.

Will the obstacles ahead disappear on their own? Not likely. But together we can fight them and win – if you help yourself by helping us.

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Market Your Service

YES! Please place my name prominently before my fellow ILCRA members to market my exceptional services while showing my 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 payable to ILCRA for \$100.

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

Mail to: Nancy C. Davis, Executive Director, ILCRA 41 SW Crescent Drive, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Word Ways

Bonni Shuttleworth

A word about where these terms originated. I have a handout from Joe Pudlo dated March, 1997, which he titled "A Court Reporter's Vocabulary" and advised reporters to write the words stenographically and become familiar with them. So using his advice, I am going to share the terms with you. I will list them here and hope you look up the meanings before you check your [answers on page 17](#).

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. ad hominem argument | 11. ad valorem tax |
| 2. aesthetic | 12. afebrile |
| 3. a fortiori | 13. agnosticism |
| 4. amalgam | 14. amenities of life |
| 5. amorphous | 15. anachronism |
| 6. anathema | 16. animus |
| 7. anneal | 17. antithesis |
| 8. aphorism | 18. apogee |
| 9. arbitrage | 19. arcane |
| 10. arguendo | 20. armamentarium |

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Illinois Court Reporters Association Annual Meeting will be held on September 8, 2012, at 12:15 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL. During the annual meeting, awards will be presented, reports will be given, and officers will be installed. The Luncheon/Meeting will be held in the Diamond Ballroom.

The ILCRA Board meeting will be on Friday, September 7, 2012, in the president's suite at 7:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL.

Illinois Court Reporters Association Mission Statement

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

Check Out Our BRIEFS

Nancy LaBella, ILCRA President

Are you getting bored with my briefs? Are you seeing recycled briefs popping up here and there? Well, I have just added someone new to my arsenal -- a fresh brain worthy of picking: A "new" reporter! I was surprised by the differences in this reporter's writing compared to other theories I have become familiar with. My point: Talk to the reporters you work with. Ask how they write a particular word or phrase. You might just pick up a way to write shorter -- and then send me what you have learned for our next list! In the meantime, I have mixed in some "new" reporter suggestions below (thanks, Michelle) that I hope you will find helpful.

abundance of caution	PWAUGS	luggage	HRUPBLG
all right	HR-RT	motion for summary judgment	PHUPLT
aneurysm	TPHURPL	motion to dismiss	PHO*ED
aorta	AORT	off and on	TPO*PB
back and forth	PWORT or PWO*RGT	on and off	TPHA*UF
basically	PWAEUFL	orange	ORPBG
civil	SEUFL	paramedic	PR-PLD
Constitution	KAOGS	possession	PO*EGS
constitutional	KAOLGS or KAOL	pretrial	PR-T
counterfeit	K-FT	repossession	PRO*EGS
date of	TKA*EF	Rottweiler	ROET
date of the	TKA*EFT	so forth	STPORT
day of	TKA*EUF	so on	SO*EPB
day of the	TKA*EUFT	summary judgment	SPHUPLT
dispatch	STKPAPF	that being said	THA*DZ
do you recognize	TKORG	thoracic	THRAFBG
go ahead	TKPWO*ED	tow truck	TOURBG
impeach	PAEFP	tow truck driver	TOURBGD
impeachment	PAOEPLT	vascular	SRAFBG
ineffective	TPHEF	village	SREULG
kitchen	KEUFP	Village of	SREUFLG

Did You Know...

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recently reported that the number of court reporting positions is expected to grow faster than average for all occupations through 2018. The average salary for court reporting is \$51,000 or more; with training requiring approximately 33 months of learning. With the tremendous growth projected and salary potential, help ILCRA SPREAD THE WORD.

Encourage someone you know to choose court reporting as a career. See page 10 for a listing of reporting programs in the state.

www.ILCRA.org

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2012 ILCRA Annual Convention

September 6-8, 2012

SCHEDULE of Seminars

Schedule subject to change without notice. CEU approval pending.

Thursday, September 6, 2012

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Realtime Contest**

Friday, September 7, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Convention Registration Open**

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Gary L. Sonntag Memorial SPEED CONTEST**

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Exhibit Hall Open**

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Lunch on own**

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. **SESSION #1 – CAT User Training Breakouts**
(Stenograph, ProCAT, Cheetah, StenoCAT and Eclipse)

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Break – Beverages in Exhibit Hall**

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **SESSION #2 – CAT User Training Breakouts cont'd**

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Break – Beverages in Exhibit Hall**

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **SESSION #3 – TRAIN**

TRAIN (Taking Realtime Awareness and Innovation Nationwide) is NCRA's newest initiative for 2012. The TRAIN program will provide court reporters an interactive opportunity to glean tips on writing better realtime as well as potential methods for motivating other reporters to become realtime proficient. The primary aspiration of TRAIN is to create a grassroots influx of realtime reporters, enabling the court reporting profession to remain the true technological leaders on the legal track. Through TRAIN, NCRA hopes to assist all court reporters nationwide in becoming proficient realtime writers. You can do it, and we will help you get there! All Aboard!

5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. **President's Reception/Meet and Greet Students**

Join your colleagues for a meet and greet and reception that will connect you with old friends and hopefully introduce you to new ones! Join us and the first drink is on us! Light hors d'oeuvres will be served.

6:15 p.m. **Dinner on Your Own**

(Check member activity board at registration area to make new connections and for local restaurant options.)
For Friday, 4.5 Illinois CSR hours or .45 NCRA CEUs *Continued on page 7*

2012 ILCRA Annual Convention

September 6-8, 2012

Continued from page 6

Saturday, September 8, 2012

8:00 a.m. – Noon **Convention Registration Open**

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Exhibit Hall Open**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast Buffet**

Time to get energized for a great day of seminars. Prepare to be amazed and fuel up for a day of learning and networking.

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **SESSION #4: Realtime Reporting with Mark Kislingbury – Part I**

Have you ever left a court reporting seminar newly excited, inspired, motivated, and equipped to become the best court reporter you can be? Well, you will now! Come and listen to 11-time NCRA speed and realtime champion and Guinness World Record holder (360wpm) Mark Kislingbury share all of his secrets to becoming faster, more accurate, more confident, better realtime, and much more! There is never a dull moment in Mark's interesting and eye-opening presentation, as Mark explodes numerous court reporting myths under which we all labor. If you've been wanting to improve but don't know how, this is a can't-miss opportunity for you!"

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Networking and Exhibit Break – Beverages in Exhibit Hall**

Refuel and reenergize with our exhibiting partners and learn about the latest changes in technology and products.

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **SESSION #5: Realtime Reporting with Mark Kislingbury – Part II**

This session represents part two of a four part series of learning speed with Mark.

12:15 p.m.– 2:00 p.m. **ILCRA BUSINESS MEETING and AWARDS LUNCHEON**

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **SESSION #6: Realtime Reporting with Mark Kislingbury – Part III**

Conversations with Mark continue in part three of four. Don't miss the opportunity to learn new techniques, tips, and methods to write faster, more efficiently, and accurately.

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. **Networking and Exhibit Break – Beverages in Exhibit Hall**

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. **SESSION #7: Realtime Reporting with Mark Kislingbury – Part IV**

In his final segment, Mark will showcase his speed – as the Guinness World Record holder; you are sure to leave this session amazed!

5:15 – 5:30 p.m. **Wrap-up and door prizes.**

For Saturday, 6.5 Illinois CSR hours or .65 NCRA CEUs

Total for both days 11.0 Illinois CSR hours or 1.10 NCRA CEUs



2012 ILCRA Annual Convention

September 6—8

Crowne Plaza Hotel ■ Springfield, IL

REGISTRATION

▶ 3 EASY WAYS TO REGISTER

1. **REGISTER ONLINE** at www.ilcra.org.
2. **FAX THIS FORM** including credit card information to 618-242-2143.
3. **MAIL THIS FORM** with your check or credit card information to:
ILCRA, 41 SW Crescent Drive, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Name: _____

Nickname for Badge: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

ILCRA Membership ID#: _____ CSR #: _____

Not an ILCRA member? Join now and save!

If you wish to join ILCRA or renew your membership, you may do so online at www.ilcra.org or call toll-free 800-656-2467.

Registration: Please check what you plan to attend:

- Realtime Contest (Thursday)
- Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest (Friday)
- President's Reception and Meet and Greet Students (Friday)
- Session 1: CAT Training Session
- Session 2: CAT Training Session

If you will be attending the CAT training sessions, please indicate which session you will attend:

- CaseCATalyst ProCAT Eclipse
- Cheetah StenoCAT
- TRAIN/ILCRA Town Hall Meeting (Friday)
- Mark Kislingbury (Saturday; Parts I - IV)

Registration Fees

- \$60- Speed Contest
- \$60 - Realtime Contest
- \$100 - Both Contests
- Two Day Fees:**
- \$249 - ILCRA Member
- \$349 - Non-Member*
- \$125 - Associate Member

One Day Fees:

- \$199 - ILCRA Member
- \$299 - Non-Member*
- \$100 - Associate Member

I will attend:

____ Friday ____ Saturday

* If you are a member of your state association, you may register at the member rate.

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Encourage someone you know to explore court reporting, captioning, and CART as a career.

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Local Court Reporter Training Programs

John A. Logan College

700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL 62918
800.851.4720 www.jalc.edu

College of Court Reporting*

111 W. 10th Street #111, Hobart, IN 46342
866.294.3974 www.ccr.edu

MacCormac College*

29 E. Madison Street, Chicago, IL 60602
312.922.1884 www.maccormac.edu

Midstate College*

411 W. Northmoor Road, Peoria, IL 61614
309.692.4092 www.midstate.edu

Prince Institute, Great Lakes

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847.592.6600 www.princeinstitute.edu

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

AD INFINITUM - our quarterly newsletter containing up-to-the-minute reporting developments

Discounted **ILCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION** and Seminar registration fees

CONNECT with colleagues by participating in email listserves or Student Mentor Program

Your services are listed in ILCRA's online **FIND A REPORTER** listing

ACCESS to the ILCRA website with the latest legislative news

Additionally, the ILCRA Board of Directors is pleased to add the following discount programs for ILCRA members:

PENGAD: 10% OFF all full price products for all of 2012

STENOVACTIONS: 15% DISCOUNT on purchase of digitalCAT software and/or LightSpeed Writer

OFFICE DEPOT: 15% OFF on select paper and office supplies




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_____ (City) (State) (Zip)

Courthouse or Business: _____

_____ (Street Address) (Suite #)

_____ (City) (State) (Zip)

Business Phone: () _____ Home Phone: () _____ FAX: () _____

Email Address: _____ An email address is required to receive exclusive member information.

Female

Date of Birth

Previous ILCRA Member? If yes, by what name?

Male

____/____/____

Yes No _____

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Video Video Conferencing Closed Captioning

Certifications: (circle all that apply) RPR RMR RDR CLVS CMRS CRR CRI CPE FAPR CBC CCP

CSR State(s) _____ CSR# _____ Other: _____

Speed Contest Participant: ISRA/ILCRA Literary Legal/Jury Testimony Champion

NCRA Literary Legal/Jury Testimony Champion

Degrees: Associate's Associate of Business Associate of Science Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Business Adm. Bachelor of Science Master of Arts Master of Business Adm. Master of Science Doctor of Philosophy

Other: _____

Nonreporting Specialties: Attorney Notary Public

ASSOCIATE MEMBER -- DUES AS INDICATED (check one) Instructor - \$50 Student - \$40 Vendor - \$60

Retired - \$40 Other - \$60 _____ (Occupation)

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Name on Card Signature of Cardholder _____

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

Student Scholarship Essay Contest

Court Reporting Students:

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

Students, you could win \$1,000, plus a complimentary one-day registration to the 2012 ILCRA Annual Convention in Springfield, IL on September 7 - 8, 2012. The prize includes hotel accommodations for one night, round-trip mileage reimbursement and a one-year Associate Membership in the Illinois Court Reporters Association. The winner will become a member of the ILCRA Student Scholarship Committee for the following year. Second place (\$500) and Third place (\$300) will also be awarded.



To enter the contest, compose a one-page, typewritten, double-spaced essay on the topic of, "Court Reporting School: My Own Survival Guide."

Entries must be received by *August 1, 2012.*

Submit to: ilcrascholarship@gmail.com Visit www.ilcra.org for additional details.

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

2012 ILCRA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

*All entries must be received by **August 1, 2012.***

Student Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____

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

A one-page, typewritten, double-spaced essay on the topic, "Court Reporting School: My Own Survival Guide."

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

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

Instructor's Name: _____ Title: _____

Date: _____ Instructor's Signature: _____

Name of court reporting school: _____

Submit application and attachments to: ilcrascholarship@gmail.com

Tech Tidbit #100: *Fail!*

All too often technology columns like mine make technology look easy and always successful. That isn't the case, as I was reminded this week.

It started when I was returning from a contract in Dayton Ohio. My daughter flew out to drive back with me, doing a road trip of interesting attractions along the route (check out <http://roadsideamerica.com>).

Because we were going to a lot of places, the plan was to navigate with the Magellan Roadmate I had installed in my car before leaving for the contract. One of the features that attracted me to the Roadmate was the offer of lifetime maps updates. I had updated the maps just as I left.

I should have suspected the GPS when, on the trip to Dayton, right after Indianapolis I was directed to exit I-70 and go south at the next exit. The Roadmate has real time traffic updates, so I gathered it had decided the older US-40 route had some advantage. Except after 4 miles to the nearest town to intersect US-40 I was given 3 right turns and a left to put me back on the same road heading north and back onto I-70.

When Amanda landed in Columbus (the start of our adventure), we programmed in the first stop and proceeded to it as expected. The second stop didn't go as well. We should have been downtown, but ended up about 18 miles east of Columbus before we decided the GPS had misrouted us. No problem, we programmed the next stop in and got a reasonable routing to another location that was downtown. As we drove there we saw the original street and were able to catch the second stop (as the third).

The next day we had four successes and another routing failure. And by this time we were supplementing the Magellan with Google Maps on Amanda's Android phone. By the third day, in Kansas City, we had two more routing failures, both times trying to return us east on various freeways when we had carefully routed the trip using Google Maps on a desktop to optimize it for our westerly route. When both times Amanda's phone had the right route, we "retired" the Magellan from being our navigation (the second navigation meltdown got it tossed into the back seat from frustration with it).

If navigation on Amanda's phone didn't require a relatively expensive data plan, increased battery drain (even leaving it plugged into the car charger wasn't keeping up), and a navigator to program it, I have to say I like the user interface on the Google Maps navigation app better than the Magellan. One feature that I really liked was the Google version showed the next two turns, not just one on the Magellan. It let me anticipate what lane I should be getting into when I made a turn.

The Magellan is getting donated to our church's garage sale. I can't trust it to get me where I really want to go.

I arrived back to a dead desktop. I actually knew from one of my visits home the desktop wouldn't power up. A Google search had led me to a user forum that indicated the two most likely causes were a bad power supply or a defective motherboard. To test the power supply I ordered an inexpensive power supply tester from Amazon (<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B004OFR6AY>). It was waiting for me when I got home. Using it is as simple as opening the case, unplugging the two main power supply connectors from the motherboard and plugging them into the tester. Turn the power supply on and LEDs tell you if all the voltages are ok. In my case, the -5V and the -12V power LEDs failed to light.

While it might seem counterintuitive, I was happy to see it was the power supply. I was hoping it was a power supply since they are moderately inexpensive and available at my local Micro Center, whereas the motherboard would have to be special ordered and would likely cost enough that I'd have to re-evaluate whether to just replace the computer (like autos, replacement parts for computers often are more expensive than a new computer).

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Preserving History - One Veteran at a Time

Debra M. Musielak, CSR, RDR, CRR

On April 24, 2012 eight Illinois official and freelance court reporters, Carla Boehl, Kathy Duryea-Smith, Dorothy Hart, Joni Markel, June Otte, Julie Shane, Cindy Waibel and myself, gathered in Springfield at the Illinois State Library to participate in our first Illinois Veterans History Project. This project began some years ago when NCRA partnered with the United States Library of Congress in an effort to preserve the stories of the men and women who have served our country in the military. To date, nearly 2,500 stories have been recorded across the country.

On a technical note, each of us was assigned the number of veterans we had volunteered to report. A library employee conducted the interview and also videotaped the proceedings. Each interview was scheduled for one hour, though some were as short as 15 minutes. We were provided a guideline for preparing the transcripts.

This day, however, surpassed any expectation any of us had for the project. As we gathered on breaks in the assembly room where library employees provided homemade cookies and beverages, we found ourselves repeating the stories that we heard throughout the day. Some of us had parents and grandparents that had served in the military, and sadly we realized in many cases it was too late for us to ask the questions that now occupied our minds.

It was interesting to note that whether the veterans served in World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm or Operation Iraqi Freedom they all had similar statements regarding their fellow soldiers. Words like camaraderie, brotherhood, confidante and companionship were repeated throughout the day. "I was nothing. I think about those that didn't come back. That's what gets me," one said. "We truly were brothers. We were so far from home. We were family," another said, choking back tears as he remembered comrades that didn't return home.

The Vietnam veterans talked of how dark the nights were in the jungle and how long the days were on the front line. They spoke of digging trenches to sleep in and watching tracer bullets sail across the tops of the trenches as they hunkered down trying not to get hit. They were asked what they did to entertain themselves and the World War II veteran lowered his voice and sheepishly said Italian girls were brought in for their entertainment. The Korean vet said, "We played a lot of cards." They talked of Bob Hope entertaining the troops.

They were so far from the stage they couldn't see him, but they could hear him, and he was funny.

Continued on page 16

Tech Tidbit #100: Fail!

Continued from page 14

Micro Center had a larger capacity power supply (500 watts versus the 350 watt unit in the computer) that fit the case for \$20. A trip to my local store and 20 minutes to replace the unit in my computer and it powered back up. Sometimes failures can work out reasonably well. I also decided since I had my case open to look at some performance issues, but that's another article.

I've had a saying I've been using for several decades: "Computers let you make mistakes 100,000 times faster, that leaves a lot more time for a lot more mistakes." Technology doesn't always work the way you hope it will. Sometimes you can fix it, like my desktop. Sometimes you need to just cut your losses, like the Magellan Roadmate that isn't in my car any more.

Gregg Marshall, CPMR, CSP, CMC is a speaker, author and consultant. He can be reached by e-mail at gmarshall@vendor-tech.com, or visit his website at <http://www.vendor-tech.com>.

Preserving History - One Veteran at a Time

Debra M. Musielak, CSR, RDR, CRR

Continued from page 15

They explained the difficulty in communicating with family back home. With today's technology we know that many of our military members serving overseas have the ability to e-mail and even Skype with family members. My Vietnam vet told a sad story of a young soldier that wrote home and told his parents how excited he was that he would be coming home in a few weeks. It routinely took about 30 days for mail to be delivered from overseas. The family received that letter days after being notified their son had been killed.

Speaking of my Vietnam vet, imagine the thoughts that went through my head when he wheeled himself into the room and I saw that he was a double amputee. I was in high school during the Vietnam War. Many of my friends had older brothers serving. But for me there was no direct connection. They were older, so that meant OLDER. I didn't equate older with them being 18 or 19 years old. This man gave his birth year as being the same year I was born. And there he sat, in a wheelchair, with no legs. I was 19, at home, going to court reporting school. He was 19, in Vietnam, acting as a minesweeper. Four months in and he stepped on a mine and his life changed forever. He spent the next 18 months at Walter Reed Army Hospital, and you know what he had to say about it? "It was awesome. They were wonderful. The chaplain sat by my bedside and held my hand and prayed for two days because I was so scared and homesick. They were so good to me." A soldier came to the hospital and presented him with his Purple Heart. Later he learned it was General Norman Schwarzkopf.

His eyes lit up and a broad smile appeared when he told the story of getting his prosthesis. Because he was using crutches, others had been carrying his tray of food to the hospital cafeteria table, but that day, with his new legs, he "ran" all over the room carrying everyone else's trays to the tables for them.

Now, I wouldn't be a typical court reporter if I didn't mention that when we all broke for lunch and went to get a bite to eat, the first thing we mentioned was our dissatisfaction with some of the prepared questions that were asked. I mean, after all, we are in a position to very competently judge good and bad questions, aren't we?

Each interviewer had a prepared set of questions. Some of the interviewers were pretty adept at follow-up questions and getting the veterans to open up and expound on their stories, while others just stuck to the written questions. So sometimes you would get something along these lines:

QUESTION: How was the food there? Did they feed you pretty well?

ANSWER: Well, we were the first to arrive, so we ate a lot of SPAM until the Navy came in behind us and set up a real mess tent.

QUESTION: How long were you there?

ANSWER: I was there for four months when I was assigned the duty of mine sweeping. I was out on the point when I stepped on a mine and ended up losing both legs.

QUESTION: Did you find it very stressful there?

What? The guy just said he got his legs blown off. I'd say that's pretty stressful. Needless to say, most of us agreed we could have come up with better questions.

I asked each of the participating reporters to give me a brief synopsis of their day. These are some of the responses I received:

"I thoroughly enjoyed participating in this project. The interviews gave real insight to what the Veterans did during their time in the service and how they felt about certain things."

"Participating in the interviews left me feeling grateful for their service, humbled by their willingness to volunteer, and renewed my patriotism." ***Continued on page 17***

Preserving History - One Veteran at a Time

Debra M. Musielak, CSR, RDR, CRR

Continued from page 16

Almost every veteran interviewed that day appeared in full dress uniform. Decades after the wars in which they served, they are still serving by volunteering in color guards, military burials and Flag Day ceremonies. One gentleman is even helping to teach homeless vets computer skills.

Each person that was interviewed was immensely grateful and almost surprised that the project was taking place. One veteran asked quietly, "Can I ask where this is going?" When we told him it would be kept in Washington, D.C. at the Library of Congress, and the videos would be posted on the government YouTube site so that all future generations would be able to hear their stories, tears slid down his cheeks. He said no one had ever acted the least bit interested in listening to any stories he had to tell about the war, and certainly not for a whole hour. He wasn't so sure perfect strangers would be interested in listening now, but he did think his grandchildren would get a kick out of seeing grandpa on YouTube.

Without a doubt, each of us agreed we were very satisfied with our decision to participate in this enriching volunteer project, and that we'd do it again in a heartbeat. Although it is a pro bono task, NCRA awards CE points for participation.

As more opportunities arise here in Illinois for participation in the Veterans History Project, we strongly recommend you consider participating in this rewarding task. Far beyond any CE points you might receive, this project is continuing education at its finest. It will leave you grateful, enlightened, and in awe of these veterans, who as young men and women left their homes to travel to unfamiliar places and proudly defend our freedom.

Word Ways

Answers by Joe Pudlo

Continued from page 4

1. **ad hominem** argument against the man, not the issue
2. **aesthetic** sensitive to beauty or art
3. **a fortiori** all the more so; with stronger reason
4. **amalgam** a mixture of different elements
5. **amorphous** without clearly drawn limits; not precisely indicated or established; without definite nature or character; not allowing clear classification or analysis
6. **anathema** a person or thing detested or loathed
7. **anneal** to strengthen; toughen
8. **aphorism** a brief statement of principle
9. **arbitrage** the nearly simultaneous purchase and sale of securities or foreign exchange in different markets in order to profit from price discrepancies
10. **arguendo** in arguing
11. **ad valorem** tax in proportion to value
12. **afebrile** without fever
13. **agnosticism** the doctrine that the existence or nature of any ultimate reality is unknown and probably unknowable or that any knowledge about matters of ultimate concern is impossible or improbable
14. **amenities of life** social courtesies; pleasantries; civilities
15. **anachronism** a person or thing that is chronologically out of place, especially one from a former age that is incongruous in the present
16. **animus** ill will, antagonism or hostility, usually controlled but deep-seated and sometimes virulent
17. **antithesis** the direst or exact opposite
18. **apogee** the farthest or highest point
19. **arcane** very unusual; the kind of thing generally known only to scholars
20. **armamentarium** the complete equipment of a physician or medical institution, including books, supplies, and instruments

What ILCRA Does for Illinois Reporters

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

Dear Nancy

Nancy Varallo, RDR, CRR, FAPR



Dear Nancy

Dear Nancy:

Morale in my office (reporters, staff) is low and seems to be getting lower. Is it the economy, the state of the profession, or is it me? What can I do about the creeping malaise? Signed: Dee Pressed

Dear Dee Pressed:

The economy is getting your reporters and staff down? No kidding! Our investments, 401(k)s, homes, and even the value of that old Barbie Dollhouse (Ken not included) we've kept in the attic for 20 years have tumbled since late 2007.

Regarding the profession, it is what it is. In some parts of the country, business is amazing, and in other parts it is slow. Keep in mind that business ebbs and flows, but don't let the roller coaster get you down. Your staff looks to you for cues. Should I be worried? Panicked? An upbeat, glass-is-half-full outlook can help keep morale up and your staff motivated. In the Great Depression of the '30s, FDR's jaunty optimism calmed an anxious country and gave folks everywhere the confidence to face the future with hope.

Are you getting out? Are you networking with business groups? These are the times when we all need fresh ideas. It's during bad times when real leadership is needed. Anyone can lead in good times; but when the going gets tough, the tough go shopping...um, I mean the tough keep smiling.

You're the leader and you set the tone. Be confident. Humor is good; gloom-and-doom is not. It's hard to resist the positive outlook of a confident, can-do leader. Counter the creeping malaise by pointing out what's going right for you and your business. People respond well to confident leadership. (I said that already, didn't I?)

Dear Nancy:

Since I started reporting 15 years ago, I've turned my transcripts in to the agency within two weeks. The firm owner has always been satisfied with my turnaround times. All of a sudden there's been a request (demand?) for one-week delivery. There is no additional compensation offered to me for this quicker service. Is this unfair? Should I apply with a new agency?

Signed What's the Hurry? [Continued on page 20](#)



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Dear What's the Hurry?:

The times, they are a-changin'. Realtime. Voicewriters. Big firms with offices nationwide. Freelance agencies who employ sales reps to knock on lawyers' doors looking for business. What's a firm owner to do? Well, try harder. It's called competing. And you need to compete as well. Do you hold the right credentials to keep yourself competitive and sought after? Do you have the skills an agency will value?

I know in my locale, turnaround times have gotten steadily shorter over the last 15 years. It's inevitable. We are in the Information Technology business, and nowadays information is instantaneous. Fifteen years ago, no Internet or e-mail to speak of; not a lot of realtime-based services, like draft transcripts or interactive realtime. Talk to your firm owner about the reasons for change. And check with other reporters. Have turnaround times been shortened at other agencies? If so, you'll be stuck with the new swift-moving clock.

In today's marketplace, we are held to a higher standard of performance, that's for sure. But we need to be paid - always - for services we provide, i.e., drafts, interactive realtime, expedited delivery. Make sure, in the rush to compete, that your agency is paying you what you're worth.

Dear Nancy:

I've been a vendor at paralegal and legal secretary trade shows and events for a long time. These days I sit at my table and I feel more and more like I'm being ignored. Is this my imagination or is this a trend? Signed Slight Unseen

Dear Slight Unseen:

Trade shows aren't what they used to be. Attendance is down, and many people who attend would rather network with each other, drink and otherwise carouse away from home than visit the typically boring sales booth. Go figure! Sounds like the court reporters I know. Think about the last reporters' convention you attended. I know firsthand; I've been a vendor. The bar is always more popular than the exhibitor booths.

Participate with paralegal and legal secretary communities all year round, not just at a trade show. If they come to know you, they will have a "friend" to visit on the trade show floor. And isn't that a whole lot better than thrusting brochures at a bunch of strangers?

Nancy Varallo, RDR/CRR/FAPR is owner of Court Reporting Management Services, LLC. You can submit your Dear Nancy question at her website: www.CourtReportingMgt.com

Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission To Begin CART Provider Directory

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

How many times have you been asked if Illinois has licensure for CART providers? I know personally I can say numerous. And the answer has always been, no, but it would be nice if Illinois had some minimum standards for CART providers. Well, I'm happy to report that some headway is being made in that area.

In 2007 the Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act was created to license American Sign Language interpreters. The Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC) spearheaded the legislation and has oversight over the program. IDHHC was urged to look into possible licensure of Illinois CART providers, and so at its May 20, 2010, commissioners' meeting they approved the creation of a CART task force to give them recommendations about the field.

The task force was selected and I'm proud to say I was one of the members, along with fellow CART providers, Tina Dillon, Cindy Jenkins, and Catherine Rajcan, as well as CART consumer Mary Clark, and Teresa Ozuna from Midstate College which has a CART curriculum. We were able to meet in Springfield at the IDHHC offices three times in 2011, had very thorough discussions, and came up with 5 recommendations for the commission which are as follows:

1. Establish a voluntary directory for CART providers on the IDHHC website. In order to be listed, a CART provider must submit proof of:

- passing the NCRA CCP exam; or
- a valid NCRA CCP certification; or
- a valid NCRA CRR certification with roles and responsibility training developed by the task force.

Continued on page 23

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ILCRA PRESENTS 2012-2014 SLATE OF OFFICERS

REGION 2 REPRESENTATIVE: RITA A. CORSON

Rita graduated from Springfield College of Court Reporting in 1974. She passed the CSR in November of 1974 and began working as an Official Court Reporter in December of 1974 in Havana, (Mason County) Illinois, for one year, and then in Rushville (Schuyler County) Illinois, for a year and a half. In 1976, she resigned her position and was a stay-at-home mom for seven years. She freelanced for six years from 1983 to 1989. She has been an Official Court Reporter in Rushville since May of 1989. She is an Illinois CSR, and holds certification as a RPR, RMR, and CRR through NCRA. Rita has served on the Auditing Committee of ILCRA, and she has helped grade the RPR test at South Suburban College. She has mentored several court reporting students and has donated her time to the Veterans History Project. Rita is a member of NCRA, ILCRA, and the Schuyler Women's Club. She attends church at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Macomb where she is a member of the Methodist Women's Club. She and her husband have ten grandchildren. Her hobbies include eBaying, flower gardening and making quilts.

REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE: MARY TREZZO

Mary is an Official Court Reporter, assigned to the 16th Judicial Circuit for 6 years. She has been an Official for 21 years, starting out in Cook County, assigned to the Juvenile Division, and then transferring to DuPage County. While working at the DuPage County Courthouse, Mary served on a court reporter committee, assisting in the development of procedures and policies within the court reporters' office. In 2004 she received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. Previous to becoming an Official, Mary had freelanced for 5 years in the Chicago Loop. While working at a freelance agency consisting of 45-plus court reporters, she held the position as Office Manager and Assigner. Mary is a member of NCRA and has her RPR. She has also participated in Career Days when asked by ILCRA.

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 thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Business meeting which will be held September 8, 2012, in Springfield, IL. Such nomination and supporting material shall be posted in the registration area of the annual meeting site prior to the annual meeting.

Forces Joined

On April 24, 2012, ILCRA, NCRA, and the Illinois State Library joined forces to interview and record the history of 28 Illinois Veterans.

The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000 and it was signed into law by President William Jefferson Clinton on October 27, 2000. Since its inception VHP has collected over 70,000 stories from veterans and civilian war workers who share their unique perspective on the major conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries: World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts and future conflicts.

Since March, 2003 court reporters have been transcribing the recorded interview of veterans. Once VHP receives the transcribed interviews, the VHP processing staff integrates them into the collection, and each transcript is digitized and put online (www.loc.gov/vets).

In April we had five official court reporters and three freelance reporters participate in the Illinois VHP. The official court reporters were: Cindy Waibel, Joni Markel, Kathy Duryea Smith, Julie Shane, and June Otte. The freelance reporters were Deb Musielak, Carla Boehl and Dorothy Hart. All the court reporters were moved by the individual stories of the veterans.

Plans are underway to repeat this program again in September.

Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission To Begin CART Provider Directory

Continued from page 21

2. Increase awareness as to CART services, including the existence and definition of CART services, when a consumer is entitled to request CART services under the ADA, and the recommended minimum qualifications of a CART provider.
3. Increase awareness to court reporting educators and students as to the unique requirements for CART services and potential career opportunities separate and distinct from court reporting or captioning.
4. Reconvene the task force to evaluate the growth of the CART profession over the next five years.
5. Introduce legislation establishing State regulations for individuals providing CART services to give consumers greater assurance of consistency and quality.

During the commissioners' February 16, 2012, meeting, the task force recommendations were approved! This is great news for our consumers who deserve a minimum standard for CART services. My source at IDHHC tells me that they are diligently working on getting the directory materials ready with a possible launch of the program mid-July. Along with the directory, the commission will be providing CEU opportunities for court reporters to learn about the field of CART.

The goal is to one day have licensure for CART providers in Illinois which can only be financially feasible if we have enough providers. The directory is the first step toward gathering information on the number of CART providers we have. If you would like to read the entire CART task force finding and recommendations report, go to www.idhhc.state.il.us, and you will find it under "Information & Resources," then "IDHHC Publications and FAQs," then "Task Force Reports," then "CART Report."

So stay tuned. Take advantage of CART education opportunities. Get your certifications. And join me in an extremely rewarding career as a CART provider!

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Veterans History Project

August 11, 2012

Calling all Illinois Court Reporters!!!!

A Veterans History Project is scheduled for August 11th, 2012 in Danville, Illinois at the Danville Veterans Affairs (VA) Illiana Health Care System. We need your assistance!!!

If you can volunteer your time on Saturday, August 11th at the Danville VA, please contact me so we can get you on the schedule!

Please help us capture and preserve these personal accounts of our American heroes, our Veterans, by volunteering to record these stories. Veterans will only be interviewed if a court reporter is available, so please consider covering more than one Veteran's interview.

You will be awarded 0.25 PDC (Professional Development Credit) for each recording you transcribe, and you may accumulate a maximum of 1.0 PDC (or ten recordings) per three-year certification cycle. Effective October 1, 2011, CEUs will continue to be awarded for formal instructional courses accredited by ACCET. However, NCRA also kept in place some of the noninstructional activities, such as transcribing interviews for NCRF's Oral Histories Program.

Reporters participating in noninstructional activities will be awarded Professional Development Credits (PDCs). Specifically, NCRA requires that 3.0 units of continuing education be earned each three-year certification cycle. Reporters can earn 2.0 CEUs and 1.0 PDCs in order to maintain their certification. Court reporters will earn .25 PDCs for each transcription they complete, and can earn up to a maximum of 1.0 PDCs for completing four transcriptions.

Please help show your appreciation to these brave men and women who served our country by volunteering your time and talents.

If you cannot attend the August 11th VHP in Danville but would like to take part in this project, please let me know. American Legion Post 88 of Mattoon will be scheduling a VHP this fall!

Jill Layton (Jill.LaytonCSR@gmail.com)
ILCRA Immediate Past President
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Advanced CART Training

Save the Date - advanced CART training -- covering Onsite CART, Mock CART meeting and Remote CART. Sunday, September 9, 10:00 - 3:15. Extend Your Convention Experience with this specialized training.

Showering Helps Business

Jim Decrescenzo FAPR, RDR, CRR, CLVS

Running any business is time consuming. Many of us who run court reporting businesses also take on the additional responsibility of working as court reporters. In my case I have chosen to continue to work as a reporter because I still enjoy writing. I now look at writing as the fun part of my job. Of course, for the first ten or so years of my career, writing was much more of a struggle. After changing my writing style three times, first to accommodate the advent of computer-aided transcription, then adjusting to realtime and CART, and now to increase speed and write with fewer strokes, writing has become more of a mental game that I enjoy. Attending depositions ends up being a relief from being in the office and dealing with all the administration issues that come up. There is an added benefit to being a working principal. The clients are happy to see you at their deposition, and I'm happy to be there.

On the downside, managing a business and working as a reporter leave little time for strategic thinking about how to improve business and how to compete in an ever-changing market, which I've written about before. Finding the quiet time to sit back and think about strategic issues is an impossibility for me when I'm mired in my everyday responsibilities. I can't see the forest from the trees.

Vacations may seem to be the obvious solution. The time away from the office, the full night's sleep, the general feeling of relaxation may seem to some to be perfect times to do some thinking and planning. However, when I'm on vacation the last thing I want to do is think about anything beyond the next good meal or great glass of wine. That takes vacations out of the solution category.

I've found the perfect bridge between the two extremes of either being totally enveloped in everyday tasks or totally removed from anything work related while on vacation. For me the perfect solution is reporting-related conventions and meetings, such as Firm Owners, STAR, the National Convention and my State Convention. These several-day events get me out of town and away from the office for a few days, yet I'm not so removed from the profession that I've completely shut down and gone into "relax" mode. That is the critical distinction.

I've also always found that sleeping on an important issue is helpful. I used to respond immediately to every question or issue. I've learned that slowing down and giving myself time to consider the options leads to better results, mostly because the additional time softens the emotional aspect of the response. I'm sure there's scientific proof that our brains continue to nibble at a problem while we sleep.

And finally, I have often found the morning shower to be my "eureka" moment. I can only assume my brain has been working on a problem all night, then after fully awakening and relaxing under the warm water the fresh approach finally seems apparent and I often say to myself, "Why didn't I think of that sooner?" My guess is that I have been thinking while I slept but didn't even know it.

So my advice: attend work-related conventions and seminars that get you away from the office for a few days and allow you to slow down but not shut down, as you might do on vacation. And take a shower; it's good for business.

Conversation with Mark Kislingbury

Mark Kislingbury, RDR, CRR, FAPR

Why is writing shorter-writing faster important to every reporter?

Because, without a doubt, writing shorter makes you: faster, more accurate, less prone to stacking, less prone to repetitive stress injuries, less editing time, and more money!

I have been a court reporter for 15 years now and never have done realtime, why should I start now?

You should, both for the sake of personal growth, and to contribute to saving our profession. The more of us that do realtime, the more lawyers and judges will see that we truly cannot be satisfactorily replaced by recording devices.

What will I learn from attending your seminar in Springfield, IL on September 8?

I will share with you what three main things I work hardest on, and those three things are what have given me all my speed and accuracy. I will show you what to work on, and how to work on it, so that you can maximize your writing potential and become as good as you want to be.

What is your advice for reporters who are nervous about showing their realtime?

If you are a CRR, you should be proud of that, and you should not fear showing your realtime. We ALL make mistakes when we write. The more you work on your writing (using principles I will share with you), the cleaner your realtime will be, and the more confident you will be providing realtime! If you are not yet a CRR, I encourage you to keep going until you do achieve that certification, and my seminar will give you the tools and know-how so that you can pass it.

AD INFINITUM

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AD INFINITUM

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ILCRA 2012 Dates

Aug. 24

RPR Exam at MacCormac College

Sept. 7 - 8

ILCRA Annual Convention, Springfield, Illinois

Oct. 5

Application Deadline for December CSR Exam

Nov. 3

RPR, RMR, CRR, CBC & CCP Skills Exam - MacCormac College, Downtown Chicago; South Suburban College, Oak Forest (Chicago Area); and Midstate College, Peoria.

Dec. 15

CSR Exam, Chicago Area and Carbondale



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