

# AD INFINITUM

WINTER, 2009



## President's Message

### Ring in a New State Budget



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

As I'm writing this article, we are fast approaching the start of 2009 and I'm pondering what it might bring for our association. I was going to write my January article discussing professional certifications and how we are perceived by our peers because of them, or lack thereof, but the current state of affairs of Illinois politics is pressing me towards a different topic.

Hopefully, most of you are aware of how the cuts in the Illinois comptroller's budget by our now infamous governor has the potential to seriously impact our judicial system. You have received e-mailed Listserve alerts from ILCRA asking you to contact your legislators. This is a very serious situation we are confronted with and if there is ever a time to become involved in the legislative process, it is now!

2009 marks the second year in a row that the comptroller's

budget has taken a hit specifically aimed at court reporting services. Fortunately, in the first year, there was enough funding to compensate for the reduction. Not so for the proposed FY2009 budget. As it currently stands, there will be a shortfall in the budget when it comes to paying for court reporting services. And, yes, there are people working on trying to find ways to compensate for that shortfall, but there really are no guarantees.

What all court reporters in Illinois need to do now is correspond with their legislators and encourage them to turn back the clock and replenish those reductions in the FY2009 budget.

Our peers working in the state court system have much to be concerned about. All of this is supposition, but the terms layoffs, furloughs, and nonpayment of transcripts have been bandied about. It's really a trick bag for these reporters because they can't refuse to work until they get paid. There are laws governing the production of transcripts regardless of payment. I'm sure my freelance cohorts would be cringing at the thought of having to work under these conditions. This is not an issue defined by the type of work that one does. Official versus Freelance. This affects a basic element of the judicial system — the record. Aren't we the "guardians of the record"?

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## 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.*

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

## President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

This is why I say, now is the time to act! This association has been working diligently to try to, first, understand the legislative system. Talk about confusing! Second, we are trying to get accurate information out to our members and ask for your help in this grassroots effort. Consider ILCRA the "Organizer" and you, the members, the "Voice." The benefit of having a large membership is that it is not just one voice trying to save the system. It is hundreds of voices working together to save a system we all believe is vital to our society.

So the "Organizer" has recently sent out Listserves which have included suggested letters to send to your legislators. I know I'm not a big letter writer so this was outside of my comfort zone. But I did send one to my State Senator Linda Holmes of the 42nd District, and she has replied via e-mail indicating that she is supportive of HB4163, she has signed on as a co-sponsor, and she will push to get this bill moving forward. All because of one letter I sent her.

Now I'm not saying everyone will have such success, but

many of our legislators worked in the judicial system themselves prior to their succession to the legislature and they know the importance of the record, of court reporters, and the judicial system as a whole. You can look up your legislators at the State of Illinois website of [www.illinois.gov](http://www.illinois.gov) and find out their history. You may have more in common with your legislator than you previously thought. Reference those commonalities in your correspondence. Make it personal. It is often those types of connections that will get their attention and then they will take notice of your issue.

Please know that ILCRA tries not to abuse your free time by sending numerous Listserves,

but it is a great resource for us to use in getting the word out *en masse*. When you receive such an e-mail from ILCRA, please read it in a timely fashion because it may pertain to an action we would like you to take before a legislative deadline. I'm sure you will be hearing from the "Organizer" in the upcoming months because there is much to get accomplished. Please join us and be the "Voice."

Here's wishing you a very prosperous new year, which, considering the current economy, is a wish we all hope will come true. Cheers!

— LeAnn

### IMPORTANT ILCRA DATES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MAY 2:** RPR, RMR, CRR, CBC, and CCP Skills Exam at McCorkle Reporting, downtown Chicago; South Suburban College, Oak Forest (Chicago area), and Sparks College, Shelbyville.

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

#### STILL NEED YOUR ILLINOIS CEUS FOR THE MAY 2009 RENEWAL DATE?

Attend ILCRA's all-day seminar March 7 at South Suburban College and receive all 10 CEUs in one day!

See [page 6](#) for details.



### ATTENTION MEMBERS!

The ILCRA Executive Board has decided to revert back to the policy of having the *Ad Infinitum* newsletter be a members-only benefit. Starting with the spring edition in April, you will be instructed how to access the newsletter online via a security code.

On another note, the Executive Board has also decided to offer free of charge to its members, the ILCRA CART brochure. This brochure has been recently updated by the ILCRA CART Committee and is available by contacting the ILCRA office.

The Executive Board continually strives to add value to being an ILCRA member. We hope these decisions will meet with your approval

## ILCRA Member Attends ALDAcon in Chicago

By Bernice E. Radavich, CSR, CRR

**H**ave you ever wondered how realtime captioning got started? Do you know who the pioneers were? Do you know where the acronym “CART” actually came from?

Because I had the wonderful opportunity to spend some time at ALDAcon 2008, I now have the answers to these and many other questions about the history of CART and realtime captioning.

Because I am an ILCRA member on the approved CART provider list, I received an email about the 20th Annual International conference of the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) being held at the Doubletree Hotel Magnificent Mile in Chicago from October 29th to November 2nd. ALDA members gather every year for a convention that they call ALDAcon.

The attendees at ALDAcon 2008 were able to enjoy plenary sessions, workshops, and self-help groups on many topics, including teamwork through inclusive leadership, the right to hear and be heard, and the birth and growth of ALDA.

There were a number of seminars on the different technological advancements that have taken place that would assist late-deafened people. There were sessions on survival sign language and even line dancing.

The festivities included a celebration of ALDA's 20th birthday party with birthday cake, birthday song, and party favors. On Saturday night, a karaoke party was the order of business.

The exhibit hall was filled with products and services of interest to the attendees. There was a wide variety of communication access technology available. Vendors were able to display the latest technological advancements in providing accessibility.

The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) was a sponsor of this event, and they were entitled to space in the exhibit hall. Because they were unable to use this space, NCRF gave ILCRA the opportunity to exhibit at this booth.

[\*\(Continued on page 5\)\*](#)



*CART pioneers receive a warm reception from ALDA pioneer Bill Graham and wife Karina. Pictured from left to right are: Jerry Miller, Bill Graham, Karina Graham, Judy Brentano, Marty Block, and Joe Karlovits.*

## ILCRA Member Attends ALDAcon in Chicago

*(Continued from page 4)*

I had some free time over the dates of the conference, so I was able to spend a day at the ILCRA table in the vendor area of the exhibit hall. I had the pleasure of manning the booth on Thursday with ILCRA President LeAnn Hibler. We set up and demonstrated our CART equipment and had the opportunity to showcase what CART providers can contribute to the late-deafened community.

I was able to experience firsthand some of the communication technology that people with a hearing loss are now able to use. I could touch and feel the communication access options and adaptive equipment available to these people.



*ILCRA President LeAnn Hibler with ALDA Chicago President Marsha Kopp.*



*LeAnn Hibler "frightens up" the ILCRA vending table on Halloween.*

The highlight of the convention for me was a seminar presented by three of the greatest luminaries of the CART and captioning professions: Marty Block, Joe Karlovits, and Judy Brentano. This presentation discussed the history of CART and realtime captioning, and I found it fascinating to hear about it from the people who lived it.

ALDAcon 2008 was an unexpected adventure that my membership in ILCRA allowed me to participate in. I don't know when the next invitation will show up in my email inbox, but I'm sure something exciting will appear. I look forward to my next ILCRA adventure.

## What's Your New Year's Resolution?

*by Jill Layton, ILCRA President-Elect*

Did you make a New Year's resolution?

Did you make a New Year's plan?

If you want to make it count, it's time that you began!

Did you decide to exercise, or join a gym or run?

You will carry out your choice more likely if it's fun.

What about passing a National test?

Adding initials to your name?

Try not to think of it as work.

Why, consider it a game!

Why don't you take the RPR?

The CRR?

Or how about the Merit?

And once you pass each of those tests, we would like for you to share it!

Whether you are an official, freelancer, captioner or CART, Just make it your resolution, now is the time to start!

So good luck to you in 2009

You're the best of the best...

You'll do just fine!



# ILLINOIS COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINAR FOR COURT REPORTERS MARCH 7, 2009

South Suburban College Main Campus • 15800 State Street, South Holland, IL

7:00-7:30 a.m. **REGISTRATION/COFFEE**

7:30-9:00 Seminar 1 **COURTROOM AND**

**HOME SECURITY** (James Smith, United States Marshal) This seminar will cover courtroom security, things every court reporter should know as well as tips for home security.

9:00-10:30 Seminar 2 **UNDERSTANDING THE ADA: IMPLICATIONS FOR REALTIME CAPTIONING**

(Robin Jones, Director Great Lakes ADA Center) This session will explore the rights of people with disabilities and the obligations of covered entities to ensure that people with disabilities have access to information in employment, education, medical and public environments. Resources for additional information and enforcement will be provided.

10:30-12:00 Seminar 3 **HOW TO GET ALONG WITH ANYONE...WELL ALMOST ANYONE** (Lynn

Hauser) Attendees will discover how to use communication styles to increase the effectiveness of their interactions with others.

12:00-1:00 **LUNCH**

1:00-2:30 Seminar 4 **HOW TO GIVE FEEDBACK TO ANYBODY ABOUT ANYTHING** (Lynn Hauser)

Attendees will discover the art of giving feedback so that it's taken in a positive manner thereby increasing the chances that the behavior will change...for good.

2:30-4:00 Seminar 5 **STAYING SAFE, FEELING CONFIDENT, AND KNOWING YOUR PERSONAL WEAPONS** (Sgt. Joan Siesta) Attendees will be

provided with a better understanding of the tools that they have to help make their world safer. Discussion of real-life solutions to target attendees against predators.

4:00-5:30 Seminar 6 **THE BASICS OF PROVIDING CART** (LeAnn Hibler) Attendees will gain basic CART knowledge such as equipment set-up, display options and working with deaf/hard of hearing consumers.

5:30-6:30 Seminar 7 **CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS—WHAT SHOULD I DO?** (Mary Beth Rollins Moderator and ILCRA Board Members Panel) Different ethics scenarios will be presented and NCRA Advisory Opinions will be discussed.

**REGISTER ONLINE** at [www.ilcra.org](http://www.ilcra.org) or call the ILCRA office at 1-800-656-2467.

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# A Visit to John A. Logan College

By Amy B. Haught, Immediate Past President

On Election Day, while everyone else was rushing to the polls, I was headed to John A. Logan College in Carterville to make a presentation to the Realtime Captioning Technology students, faculty and administration. Marilyn Haywood, the new instructor for the RCT program, had asked me if I would make a brief realtime demonstration for the students in addition to the PowerPoint presentation I had prepared.

Of course, what Marilyn and I had in mind for that demonstration was not exactly the same thing. I assumed Marilyn would read from the newspaper or a textbook or some periodical. When I arrived and set up my equipment, Marilyn asked me if I would just realtime her opening remarks.

*(Continued on page 8)*



*Pictured from left, are: Dr. Brenda Erickson, Office Technology Instructor; Marilyn Haywood, RCT Instructor; Amy Haught, ILCRA Immediate Past President; Dr. Robert Mees, President of JALC; Shayne Crawshaw, Business Department Chair.*



*ILCRA Immediate Past President Amy Haught (center) with Instructor Marilyn Haywood and the JALC Beginning Realtime Captioning Technology class.*

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## With Sympathy...

We extend our deepest sympathy to ILCRA member, **Gloria Schuelke** on the death of her brother, Drew, on January 3, 2008.

## A Visit to John A. Logan College

*(Continued from page 7)*

Now, keep in mind in addition to the students, the head of the department and the president of the college were in attendance. Of course, by the time we got my laptop connected to the overhead projector, it was time to jump headfirst into the presentation and there was no time to create a job dictionary. I'm figuring, oh, well, the president of the college's name is only four letters, so surely I could fingerspell M-e-e-s and not get too far behind. But then there was Vice President Julia Schroeder and Dr. Brenda Erickson from the Business Department, and...well, let's just say I got some good practice fingerspelling first crack out of the box on a Tuesday morning with no warmup!

In addition to faculty and members of administration of JALC, all of the beginning reporting students were in attendance and some even brought guests with them. I am excited about having another court reporting program in our state, and I am excited that the college seems to be so supportive of this program.

Even though my realtime feed wasn't perfect, the students didn't seem to mind that nearly as much as I did. They were a very receptive audience. I always love talking about my job and the profession. I fielded several questions from the group, and then, of course, I asked a few questions of the students. I have always found interaction with reporting students to be a very rewarding experience. It's my chance to give a little back to a profession that has been so good to me and hopefully keep the profession alive.

### STOP BY FOR A 'VISIT'

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



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# Representing Illinois at NCRA's Leadership Conference

By Jill Layton, ILCRA President-Elect

It was an honor to represent the State of Illinois at NCRA's Leadership Conference in Reston, Virginia on November 13-15. My journey to the DC area was uneventful. The journey home, though, was quite an adventure. We laughed as we were running through the airport like OJ Simpson in the Hertz commercial that we were making memories!

On Thursday evening, there was a welcome reception at NCRA Headquarters. Just as you have pictured in your mind how radio hosts look — and it ends up that they look nothing like you imagine — NCRA Headquarters was not how I had pictured it in my mind. When they introduced the NCRA officers, I was very proud that two were from Illinois — our very own Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, NCRA Vice President, and Judy Lehman, NCRA Director.

**“When they introduced the NCRA officers, I was very proud that two were from Illinois”**

NCRA President Karen Yates opened the Leadership Conference on Friday morning with a warm welcome. The keynote speaker was Patrick Haggerty, a 30-year Washington, DC political and journalism veteran. He spoke about micro-targeting. With the McCain/Obama presidential election just ending, he shared how the voters were targeted and labeled.

For instance, 65% of Republicans own a dog while 65% of Democrats own a cat. Republicans are labeled more as bourbon drinkers, church-goers, hunters and fishermen, and enjoy NASCAR. Democrats were labeled as gin drinkers, drive a Volvo, watch TNT and Lifetime. To continue with the humor, he said that each presidency has a theme. They still were working on one for President Clinton's term in

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

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## Representing Illinois at NCRA's Leadership Conference

*(Continued from page 9)*

the White House and thought "Sex Between the Bushes" would be appropriate.

In the Town Hall Meeting for State Associations, I came to the following conclusion: The members of ILCRA are in good hands! Many states are working on the same problems and concerns. Some of the same issues that ILCRA has addressed other states are just now facing. Those issues are: ethics and gift giving; firm registration; questions when it comes to unemployment as to whether the reporter is considered an independent contractor versus employee; the officials having to clock in and out at work, must be at the courthouse from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and all their transcripts are free; unions; use of ER and ER errors; and security clearance for admittance into courthouses by freelancers.

It is beneficial for ILCRA to have contact with other state associations in order to stay informed regarding problems and solutions that other states have encountered or anticipate encountering in the future. Through this networking process, ILCRA protects and educates its members, and provides great value.

I learned some interesting marketing ideas from other states that I will share with you. One firm puts a picture of the deponent on the front of the transcript. In the beginning, some lawyers thought that was strange. After a time, many lawyers said that the picture helped them to better remember the deposition and deponent.

Another reporter, for approximately \$30, purchased from [www.skinit.com](http://www.skinit.com) a magnetic 'skin' to attach to the top of the computer. As the reporter was sitting there during the deposition, the attorney continually saw the reporter's contact information on this magnetic sticker instead of just the blank computer top.

Another firm put the local football schedule on the back of their business card. I guess there is micro-targeting in everything — from political elections to the court reporting business.

I happened to be traveling home on the same flight as the two state leaders from Indiana. We were on the plane with our seat belts fastened when they cancelled the flight! There was one problem after another the rest of the day. As we landed in South Carolina then to catch our con-



*Jill Layton (left) with Julie Blosser and Terri Cheslock, both from West Virginia, at the NCRA Leadership Conference.*

necting flight to Indianapolis, the stewardess told the group of about 15 or 20 of us from the original flight to run — which we did. We sprinted from Concourse A, through Concourse B, and then on to Concourse C to the already-boarded waiting plane. I arrived home exhausted at 12:30 a.m. on Monday.

It was very beneficial to attend the NCRA Leadership and connect with other state leaders. I not only met some wonderful people from throughout the United States, but I also gathered much information and many tools to benefit the members of ILCRA.

The theme of this year's Leadership Conference was "From Better to Best." I truly feel that is where the leaders of ILCRA are taking their members — from better to best.

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## Writing Like it Sounds...

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

**E**ven after reporting for 21 years, I'm always amazed how we can write something phonetically, even if we haven't heard of it before, and still be able to find the correct spelling later.

A perfect example occurred a few months ago. Having done prior work with an attorney who would use uncommon words in his examination, I was staying alert for such terminology. He almost got the best of me recently, but I say "almost"!

The question went like this: "Same thing would be in terms of having the excavator out there to do some scraping was that it was going to be a fait accompli."

Not having ever heard of "fait accompli" before, and more importantly, not wanting to sound uneducated, I did not interrupt to ask for clarification. What I wrote phonetically was "fay to complete."

Oh, happy day when I searched the Internet for the phrase and found "fait accompli," which is pronounced *fay-tah-kom-plee*, much like I wrote it, and means "an accomplished and presumably irreversible deed or fact." In other words, the contract, which they were talking about, was in place. Couldn't he have just said that?

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# COURT REPORTING SERVICES — STATE OF ILLINOIS AND ILLINOIS COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION 2009 COURT REPORTING SERVICES SEMINAR

## PROGRAM AGENDA

	<b>Lisle Hilton Lisle/Naperville March 14, 2009</b>	<b>Springfield Crowne Plaza April 3, 2009</b>	<b>Fairview Heights Four Points by Sheraton April 24, 2009</b>
<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	All locations: OCR Realtime Examination, registration and continental breakfast opens.		
<b>9:00-10:30 &amp; 10:30 - noon</b>	Realtime OCR Information Session SOS Bomb Squad	Realtime Promoting Self: Professionalism SOS Bomb Squad	
<b>Noon</b>	All locations: Group Lunch		
<b>1:00 - 2:30</b>	Accident Reconstruction Promoting Self: Professionalism Freelance Information Session	OCR Information Session Accident Reconstruction Freelance Information Session	
<b>2:30 - 4:00</b>	Software User Groups Promoting Self: Professionalism	Software User Groups Accident Reconstruction	
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Seminar Concludes		

## SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

**REALTIME** This session will have the latest on writing shorter, faster, easier, and more accurately. Realtime: What's in for you? What's in it for the legal profession? What's in it for the parties? What's in it for the reporting profession? It will encompass practice techniques, short-writing philosophies, punctuation and briefing on the fly, speedbuilding at every level — and, of course, a little StenoSwapping.

**Presenter: Melanie Sonntag**

Melanie Sonntag is a Registered Diplomat Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters, and Vice President of NCRA.

**PROMOTING SELF: PROFESSIONALISM** This session is designed to assist reporters' communication skills with all types of courthouse personalities a professional manner, constructive assertiveness, professional appearance and promoting one's abilities.

**Presenter: Judith Lehman**

Judith Lehman is a Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Reporting Instructor, Certified Livenote Reporter, a current Director of NCRA, and a court reporting coursework instructor for Sparks College.

**SOS BOMB SQUAD** This session will cover the technical working terms and mechanics of the Secretary of State Bomb Squad, specifically described so court reporters can better understand and follow the testimony of police officers in these types of cases.

**Presenter: Rick Beaty, Commander, Secretary of State Bomb Squad**

**ASSERTIVENESS SKILLS FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS** (All Day Session, Lisle/Naperville only) This session will help supervisors gain the tools and skills needed to become a stronger, more confident leader who gets exceptional results through others.

**Presenter: David Robey, Rockhurst University Continuing Education Center**

**OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER INFORMATION SESSION** This session will have information updates on court reporting services issues for State of Illinois official court reporters. Registrants for this session should submit any questions in writing prior to the seminar on the form enclosed in the registration packet.

**Presenters: Hon. S. Gene Schwarm, Chief Judge, Fourth Judicial Circuit and Tammy Bumgarner, CRS Program Coordinator.**

*(Continued on page 13)*

## COURT REPORTING SERVICES SEMINAR

*(Continued from page 12)*

**FREELANCE INFORMATION SESSION** This session will cover Value-Added Transcripts/NCRA Code of Professional Ethics (COPE) geared toward the freelance reporter and will have information on how you can add value to a transcript at little or no cost. Also, discuss some of the latest NCRA COPE opinions.

**Presenter: Judy Mosier, CSR, RPR**

Judy Mosier has been reporting for 25 years and is currently the freelance agency owner of Mosier Reporting Services, LLC in Chicago and secretary to ILCRA's Board of Directors.

**STAY ALIVE WHILE YOU DRIVE — ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION** This session will cover the technical working terms and mechanics of accident reconstruction, specifically described so court reporters can better understand and follow the testimony of police officers in these types of cases.

**Presenter: Trooper Ralph Timmins, Illinois State Police**

**COMPUTER SOFTWARE TRAINING — CASECATALYST, ECLIPSE**

This session will allow reporters with the same software to get together and share tips to best utilize the software. Each group will have an appointed instructor or moderator. Bring your computers for the full benefit of this session. NOTE: Due to the different software that is utilized, only the groups with sufficient registration will be scheduled. If your software group is not available, you will be registered for Accident Reconstruction.

**Presenters: Pam Szczecinski, Stenograph; and Julie Samford, Eclipse**

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# Check Out Our Briefs

by Nancy LaBella, CSR, RMR, CRR, ILCRA Vice President

We hope you enjoyed our brief form suggestions in the last issue of *Ad Infinitum* and are ready for some more. Although some of these may seem like oldies but goodies — or just the same old tired ones — I know many reporters (all right, yours truly)

who just cannot wrap their brains around certain outlines and it may take several suggestions before one works. If you have ever experienced that, I hope at least one of these will give you that “aha!” moment and you will be able to add a new brief form to your dictionary.

arrest .....ARS or AR or A\*R or  
-RT  
pornography .....PORG  
child pornography .....KHORG  
cocaine.....KOEUBG  
crack cocaine .....KROEUBG  
confidential informant.....KR\*EU or KREU  
criminal history .....KREUFT  
defendant’s .....TKAEFT (add the s  
for plural possessive)  
government’s .....TKPWOEFT (add the  
s for plural possessive)  
plaintiff’s .....PHRAEF (add the s  
for plural possessive)  
excessive force .....TPORP or KP-FRS  
use of force .....KWRORP or  
KWRAOFRS  
facility .....TPALT  
FBI .....TPAOEUB or  
TP\*EUB  
Federal Bureau of  
Investigation .....TPAO\*EUB  
general order.....SKWRORD  
heroin.....HAEURPB  
interview .....SPWRU  
interview room .....SPWRUPL  
marijuana .....PHAEURPB or  
PHAURPB  
motion to suppress .....PHOZ  
paramedic .....PAEURPL

plea agreement .....PHRAEPLT or PAG  
police department.....PHREUPLT or  
PHRAPLT  
police officer .....PHROFR or  
PHROEUFR or  
PHREUFR  
presentence report .....PRORP  
sentence .....S-PB  
sentencing guidelines ..... STKPWHRAOE-  
UPBS or STKPW-LS  
sentencing guideline range .....STKPWRAEPBG or  
STKPW-RL  
special agent .....SPAGT or SAEUGT  
Special Agent .....SPA\*GT or SAE\*GT  
state trooper .....STRAORP  
trooper .....TRAORP  
supervised release.....SURL or SHRAOES  
weapon .....WEP



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**Anca Hrisca**, *Chicago*

**April Metzler**, *Chicago*

**Shari Szerbat**, *Chicago*

### NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

**Brittany Alms** (*Student*)

**Bridgett Eastman** (*Student*)

**Elizabeth A. Kavelman**, (*Student*)

**Davee M. Logan** (*Student*)

**Raini Rae Reeves** (*Student*)

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## Executive Director's Report

by Nancy C. Davis



I had the pleasure of visiting the Tech High School in Sunset Hills, MO recently. This is a technical high school where students attend partial days where they work on careers that interest them, after attending their regular high schools. They have a court reporting department and I was very impressed with their curriculum.

They don't have many steno machines, but the ones they have are computerized machines and the students start writing realtime from day one. They have the Eclipse program. The students gave me a little demonstration. I was quite impressed.

One problem the students have is that they have no machines to take home for practice. I dug around and found my old manual machine and dropped it off at the school on one of my trips through St. Louis. That at least gives them something to practice on at home.

This program makes so much sense. They can start when they are juniors and the instructor hopes to have the students at 120 wpm after their first year. They are teaching StenEd theory. They are also getting medical terminology, legal terminology, punctuation and grammar, all while they are in high school. Then the school has an articulation agreement with St. Louis Community College at Meramec and all the credits from the high school will transfer to the college. After a relatively short period of time, the students should be able to graduate with an associate degree. They are young, eager and not all of them will make it, but that's always the case. The students were so excited to hear about all my experiences and full of questions. It was really an adventure for me. The teacher, Kate Saunders, is a CRI and I can't say enough good things about her. She is motivated and passes that on to her students. She does some CART. Her mother is deaf, so she has some personal experience with deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers.

If any of you out there have a machine just sitting around in your closet, think about donating it to this program. The school will give you a receipt to be used for tax purposes. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Kate Saunders at [katesaunders\\_captioner@yahoo.com](mailto:katesaunders_captioner@yahoo.com).

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## PARDON THE INTERRUPTION

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: ...what I am trying to get to is whether or not he was going to have a review of these terms before he was to start the jail sentence, and I can't even get there because the State's Attorney keeps interrupting.

STATE'S ATTORNEY: Well, with sustained objections, thank you. Yes.

## MY OTHER OFFICE

Q. Okay. You said that King's Tavern is your office, right?

A. Right.

Q. I think that generated some laughter because it's not really your office, is it?

A. I call it my office every day.

Q. Okay.

A. I do a lot of paperwork there.

Q. You go there and you drink, right?

A. Well, yeah. I don't go in there for ice cream.

*Submitted by Amy B. Haught, Official Court Reporter, Benton, IL*

# NCRA NewsFlash...

## CONGRESS PASSES HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY ACT

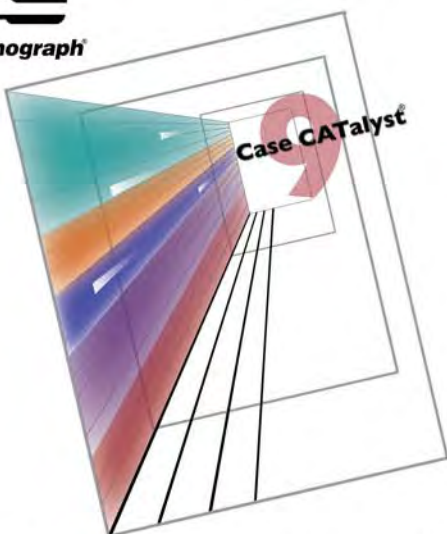
On July 31, Congress passed the Higher Education Opportunity Act. Included in the Act is NCRA's Training for Realtime Writers language, which creates a competitive grant program to train realtime writers to provide both captioned information and communication access for the 30 million Americans who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. Programs established with grants created by this legislation also can help working reporters learn and polish realtime skills. The passage of the bill marks a triumphant end to eight years of effort put in by NCRA and our partners in Congress.

## NEWLY CERTIFIED CLVSS

Congratulations to the following new Certified Legal Video Specialists from Illinois: **Charles Hadden Mills**, Vandalia, IL; **Joseph M. Walker**, Chicago; and **Kelly Woods**, Chicago.



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## Ask Mr. Modem

By Richard A. Sherman

**Q. I replaced my old printer with a new one. Now, when I try to print, my computer still thinks the old printer is the one to use. My new printer was installed properly and I can see it listed, but how do I make sure that is the printer my computer uses?**

A. You need to tell your computer which printer is your default, meaning the printer it should use whenever it receives a print command. To do this, click Start > Settings > Printers. You'll see your old and new printer icons displayed. Right-click the printer that you want to establish as your default printer, which in this case is your new printer.

On the menu that appears, click to place a check mark next to Set Printer as Default, then close the Printers window. Your new printer will spring to life the next time you have something to print.

**Q. I bought a new keyboard that I'm not used to, so I keep hitting the CAPS LOCK key accidentally. I know there is a way to make the computer beep when I do that, but I can't remember how that's done. Can you help, Mr. M?**

A. The ToggleKeys feature is what you're looking for and you can find it by going to Control Panel > Accessibility Options. On the Keyboard tab, place a check mark beside Use ToggleKeys. Windows will emit a high-pitched sound when the CAPS LOCK is enabled, which is not unlike the sound I make when I discover that I've BEEN TYPING IN ALL CAPS. It will emit a lower-pitched beep when it is turned off. The same holds true for the NUM LOCK and SCROLL LOCK keys, though nobody ever uses the SCROLL LOCK key.

If you're using Windows Vista, go to your Control Panel, then click Ease of Access > Make the Keyboard Easier to Use. Place a check mark beside Turn on ToggleKeys.

**Q. Sometimes when I'm trying to install software, I get a message that tells me to disable my anti-virus protection first. Following your recommendation, I'm using the free Moon Secure (Beta) (<http://tinyurl.com/5n2fs7>) anti-virus, but I can't figure out how to temporarily disable it. I love your newsletter. I always learn something new.**

A. You can temporarily disable any anti-virus program by right-clicking its little icon in the System Tray, located in the lower right-hand corner of your screen. From the menu that appears, click Exit or Quit. Other programs may use the word Close or Stop or Disable, but the 'Net effect is the same.

There may be an additional prompt that asks you to confirm your action. When the anti-virus icon disappears from the System Tray, your anti-virus program is disabled. You can start it again via Start > Programs and launch it manually, or restart your computer to reactivate it.

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

**MOOD RADIO:** A novel, interactive site that plays music based on the mood of the user. Click the site's graphical iPod-like console that features two mood scales that range from "Energetic" to "Calm" vertically, and "Dark" to "Positive" horizontally. No "Surly" or "Hostile," so I was out of luck. Click to include or exclude specific genres of music, plot a point along the timeline from the 1950s to the 2000s, then sit back and listen. Hint: There is nothing like a snappy, toe-tapping Gregorian chant to brighten up one's day. [www.musiccovery.com](http://www.musiccovery.com)

**VAUDEVILLE!** Vaudeville represents the true beginning of popular American entertainment, long before Britney came along and ruined everything. Don't believe the vicious rumors that vaudeville is dead; it can still entertain you on the virtual stage today, thanks to this tribute site. Here you can read about the amazing acts, savvy showmen, bold entrepreneurs, and the entire history of the vaudeville movement. If you prefer, sit back, relax, and listen to recordings of sketches and songs, or watch videos of vintage acts. His-

torical minutia: The word "vaudeville" comes from the French *Chanson du vau de Vire* or "Song of the Vale of Vire," a valley near Calvados, France, noted for satirical folk songs. (I'll bet you didn't know this was going to be so educational. I apologize. It won't happen again.) <http://tinyurl.com/3xd74y>

**VIRAL VIDEO CHART** No need to search Google Video (<http://video.google.com>) and YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) for the best videos, when you can view the cream of the video crop from one location. Think of this as a digital-age version of the "Top 20 Countdown," a daily listing of the top 20 Internet videos. [www.viralvideochart.com](http://www.viralvideochart.com)

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# ILCRA Rummage Sale for Reporters Is Coming!

Stay tuned for more information regarding the ILCRA Rummage Sale to be held at the ILCRA Convention on September 25th – 26th in Springfield. That will be your chance to sell the computer equipment, supplies or reference materials you no longer need. Or pick up a great bargain!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This column is primarily for reader feedback on topics published in these pages. Items published here may be edited for such requirements as available space or to avoid duplication with other submissions. Please limit your submission to a maximum of 300 words. Submitting feedback to *Ad Infinitum* does not guarantee it will be published. Send comments for publication here to the editor or ILCRA's executive director as shown in the box on [page 2](#).

Please note: we do not print anonymous submissions. If you would like your name withheld from publication, simply advise and we will do so. But you need to provide your name so we can verify that your submission is authentic.



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- Provides a full-time staff person, our Executive Director, to assist members.