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**CRA**



**ILLINOIS  
COURT  
REPORTERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**WINTER**

**2014**

## President's Message



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We are now into the month of January, and following the holiday season many of us are feeling that we are on a downslide after the hustle and bustle. We begin a new year, and it's now the time when we start to think about how we can tidy up our personal and business lives, hoping to make some changes in all aspects, mostly being more efficient, organized, and productive, and keeping a healthy balance in our professional and personal lives.

The ILCRA Board of Directors is no different than all of you. We strive to maintain ILCRA business as a top priority and also hope to keep our business and professional lives moving fluently and prosperously. In the past year we have had many changes that have taken place, and beginning this year, we are starting with a change in the Ad Informatum. We have incorporated a facelift, but are also striving to include the many things that we feel are so important to the members and keeping them informed of the things happening around the state. I am passing the credit along to our management team, and we hope that you are pleased with what you see.

As each of you address the changes in your personal lives at the beginning of 2014, I am asking you to consider another thought this year. Many of you volunteer for a number of things; your church, your child's school, and various other community organizations, fundraisers and charities to name a few. These are all very important things, and, of course, you wouldn't do it if you didn't want to. We all know that when you volunteer for extra activities it takes time out of your busy schedules, but when you are finished you feel the reward and satisfaction of contribution.

This year consider adding another worthwhile project to your list. As you know, our VHP program in the State of Illinois is quite strong and we have gotten a great deal of interest from Veterans wanting to give their oral histories. ILCRA needs volunteers from all over the state. Consider giving up your time just once this year for this very worthwhile project. These events are sporadic throughout the state and sometimes there is only one person giving an oral history. By giving your time to help capture an oral history, this will aid the Veterans from having to travel great distances. Please contact our VHP Chairman, Jill Layton, at [Jill.LaytonCSR@gmail.com](mailto:Jill.LaytonCSR@gmail.com) if you will consider doing this. Veterans have given a lot more than a few hours of their time for our freedom; hopefully we can show them our appreciation in return. You won't regret it. In this issue you will read about the large Veterans History Project that took place back in November. Thanks to Vernita Allen-Williams and the many volunteers who have given their time to help on Veterans Day. ILCRA commends you for your time and dedication to such a great program, and it is very much appreciated. I hope this issue of the Ad In will continue to spread the word how valuable this program is and that we are able to gain more participants and volunteers to come.

Happy New Year to all of our ILCRA members. May you have a healthy and prosperous year, and be safe!

—Stephanie Rennegarbe

### PRESIDENT

Stephanie K. Rennegarbe  
618-424-7990; Addieville, IL  
[skrenne@frontier.com](mailto:skrenne@frontier.com)

### PRESIDENT ELECT

Vernita Allen-Williams  
847-377-3751; Lindenhurst, IL  
[Vallen-Williams@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:Vallen-Williams@lakecountyil.gov)

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Kathryn A. Thomas  
217-273-5789; Caseyville, IL  
[stenoray1@gmail.com](mailto:stenoray1@gmail.com)

### SECRETARY

Georgia B. Rollins  
217-259-7862; Sullivan IL  
[gb.rollins17@gmail.com](mailto:gb.rollins17@gmail.com)

### TREASURER

Kathleen M. Grove  
630-462-0060; Wheaton, IL  
[kathie@groveandassoc.com](mailto:kathie@groveandassoc.com)

### LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

Sarah Paszkiewicz  
217-553-4242; Chatham, IL  
[s.paszkiewicz@comcast.net](mailto:s.paszkiewicz@comcast.net)

### REGION ONE REPRESENTATIVE

Bernice E. Radavich (Freelance)  
630-257-3040; Lemont, IL  
[bercaptions@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bercaptions@sbcglobal.net)

### REGION ONE REPRESENTATIVE

Mary A. Trezzo (Official)  
630-444-3179; Elmhurst, IL  
[mattrezzo@aol.com](mailto:mattrezzo@aol.com)

### REGION TWO REPRESENTATIVE

Debra M. Musielak (Freelance)  
618-539-5544; Freeburg, IL  
[deb@musielakreporting.com](mailto:deb@musielakreporting.com)

### REGION TWO REPRESENTATIVE

Rita A. Corson (Official)  
217-322-6226; Macomb, IL  
[racorson@yahoo.com](mailto:racorson@yahoo.com)

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Nancy LaBella  
630-267-1237; Shorewood, IL  
[labellaseppi@yahoo.com](mailto:labellaseppi@yahoo.com)

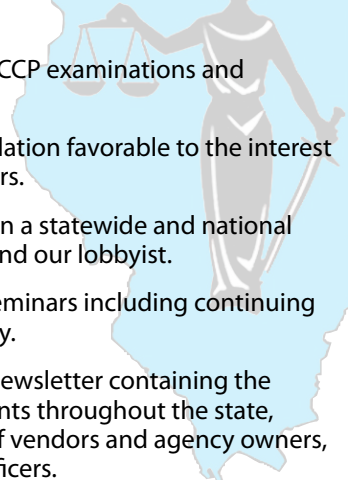
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Patrice (Pat) A. Houlf  
309-672-6990; Peoria, IL  
[pattiann73@yahoo.com](mailto:pattiann73@yahoo.com)

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## What ILCRA Does for Illinois Reporters

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

## ILCRA MISSION STATEMENT

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

# Living History of Veterans Documented at Lake County Courthouse

**By Jim Newton**

*Reprinted from the November 11, 2013 edition of the Lake County News-Sun.*

The Lake County Courthouse was officially closed Monday, but it was anything but silent. Living history was being documented in rooms throughout the building.

In Courtroom 102, State's Attorney Mike Nerheim, choking up at times, guided 93-year-old Navy veteran Joe Triolo of Waukegan through an interview that included vivid descriptions of Triolo's experiences surviving the attack on Pearl Harbor, including the pain he still feels for a hometown buddy who wasn't as lucky.

In a process simultaneously repeated in 25 other courthouse rooms Monday, every word Triolo said was documented by an official court reporter as part of the Lake County Veteran's History Project.

Triolo, a World War II and Korean War veteran who was 17 when he joined the Navy, told Nerheim he was in his bunk on the USS Tangier in Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, when he heard alarms he assumed were a routine drill.

"But when I got topside I saw a Japanese plane coming up the channel," he said. "They were like bees. I could see the pilot as good as I can see you. I could see the expressions on his face."

Triolo rushed to his machine gun post and fired on the incoming planes, but the fleet in the harbor was unprepared and the enemy's first attack run was disastrous, sinking 18 ships and taking out more than 150 planes on the ground.

"It was a duck shoot," he said. "They fired anywhere they wanted. The whole fleet was in ruins."

Triolo was commended for his combat actions under enemy fire.

He said the day before the attack, he went to a baseball game and had a beer with a hometown friend who he believes joined the Navy because Triolo and his brother did.

"I survived; he perished on the (USS) Oklahoma," Triolo said. "I think about that to this day."

Monday was the second year in which the Lake County legal community participated in the nationwide Veterans History Project to record first-hand accounts of veterans for inclusion in the Library of Congress, with a special emphasis on the shrinking population of older veterans.

"This is overwhelming," Chief Judge Fred Foreman said after a brief formal welcoming program and breakfast held

in advance of the interviews. "It's standing room only."

Participating volunteers include employees of the Circuit Court, the State's Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office and the Lake County Bar Association, who conduct the oral interviews of the war veterans and the civilians who supported the war effort.

A total of 26 veterans were interviewed by volunteers, while an equal number of court reporters, volunteering their time as well, recorded the interviews for posterity.

After the program, Nerheim said his interview with Triolo lasted more than two hours, and he was grateful for the experience.

"I was very humbled and honored to sit and talk to him," Nerheim said. "It was amazing."



*ILCRA members Colleen Eitermann and Deborah Cohen-Rojas as well as other participants of the November 11th event.*



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# For the Love of It

**By Tracy Grott, CSR, OCR4**

*Returning to Court Reporting After Injury*

Where do I begin? There is so much to tell.

April 4th, 2011, I took a fall outside the courthouse doors upon returning back from my lunch hour. I knew I was going down and that I was going to fall hard. I stretched both of my arms out and locked my elbows as tight as I could to try and soften the blow, but unfortunately my wrists and arms took the brunt of it. I left the ER with a cast and sling on my right arm and a splint on my left wrist. The initial reports were that I suffered a right radial head fracture at my elbow and severe sprains of both wrists.

A couple weeks passed and my follow-up report of a right radial head fracture turned into two radial head fractures; both elbows. In addition to that, my right shoulder continued to hurt pretty bad off and on, and both wrists were so sensitive that I could not stand to put much pressure on either one. I bet you're thinking to yourself how I was able to do anything on my own... yes, I lost much of my modesty at that point and required a tremendous amount of help!!

I began therapy and things got a little better with my left wrist and elbow, but the right wrist pain continued. I made a brief return to work and tried reporting, but my right wrist had a continuous painful click while writing on my writer and performing daily activities, and my right elbow continued to give me fits. I was under the care and treatment of a nurse practitioner and headed to a doctor that decided to try conservative therapy on me and immobilized my wrist for a month. Unfortunately, it didn't change anything for the better. An MRI arthrography report later showed I had a torn TFCC, triangular fibrocartilage complex; the major ligamentous stabilizer of the wrist joint.

I had my first surgery September 12th, 2011. Things spiraled downward from that point. I was in excruciating pain after surgery that did not get much better with time or therapy. I could no longer pronate or supinate; rotate my wrist from palm facing up to palm facing down or deviate; push my wrist outward and to the side, without being in extreme pain.

Fast forward about five months, lots of therapy and a few steroid injections later...I was still struggling with daily wrist and elbow pain. And, in addition to my wrist and elbow problems, my shoulder was absolutely killing me. I couldn't lift it past shoulder height. I finally moved on -- after getting no clear answers from my doctor as to why things were getting worse rather than better -- to a doctor that I hoped would at least help me figure out what was going on with my shoulder and elbow. He diagnosed me with

a frozen shoulder. Thankfully, he was able to get me through that without having to perform surgery. When he looked at my wrist and elbow, he said, "something's not right," which I knew, but could not get any answers for the cause. He referred me on, and I now was under the care of a team of three doctors looking into my wrist and elbow problems. Arthroscopic surgery of my wrist was performed in August of 2012, to explore the wrist and attempt to regain motion, but the end result was to no avail.

After all of these months -- a year out from my first surgery and a few months after arthroscopic surgery, now it's October 2012 -- I just can't get any answers for why I'm going through what I am going through. Not only dealing with the debilitating pain, I'm having bouts of numbness and increased tingling, and my pinky and ring fingers are beginning to retract and curl up.

You see, right before my fall, I was feeling pretty much on top of the world, seeing new and exciting changes taking shape in my court reporting skills. At the end of January 2011, before my fall in the beginning of April, I had just passed the State of Illinois Realtime Proficiency Exam, something for which I had worked very hard to obtain and was feeling like I could only go up from there while continuing to expand and hone in on my skills...but now my world was turned upside down. I was unable to brush my teeth with that hand -- by the way, it is my dominant hand, too -- I couldn't fix my hair like I used to, so I had to get a shorter haircut. I couldn't hold a cup of coffee in that hand or hold a cell phone to my ear, nor could I cut my food or even do the simplest task of just getting a fork into my mouth because my wrist was permanently stuck in a nearly neutral position; thumb up toward the ceiling. To say the least, I was very depressed and constantly in a lot of pain. I could no longer do much of anything that needed to get done around the house, yet alone do the things that I loved to do, like being on my writer, cooking and doing crafty home projects, just to name a few. The months and months of therapy and doctors, surgeries and injections to try and get better, it seemed like a lost cause. I thought I might as well give up.

This is where my life changed again. I have to first and foremost give thanks to my Heavenly Father for carrying me through this, thanks to my therapist Karin Hogge and to Dr. Anthony Sudekum, who I am certain God placed both individuals in my life, thank you to my supportive family and dear friends, none of whom ever gave up on me, and thanks to the Neutrino Group, the manufacturer of the Infinity Ergonomic Court writer.

Karin was not giving up on me! I cannot even begin to explain how hard she worked with me, and for me, to do everything possible to help figure this thing out. By this time she knew in

*continued on page 6*

## For the Love of It

continued from page 5

detail all about my job, what I had accomplished before the fall; passing the test, and how much it meant to me. She stuck by my side, hours at a time in therapy, three times a week the entire time! By October of 2012, she encouraged me to just at least talk to this hand specialist she knew who was gracious enough to be willing to just review my records and take a look at my case, talk to me about it over the phone or come in for an office appointment to see him personally...whatever I was comfortable with, he was willing to do. I wasn't sure about going to yet another doctor, but I couldn't deal with the daily pain, so I decided to go see him. Dr. Sudekum wasn't initially sure what was going on, but knew right away I had something going on with a nerve and knew the entire problem could not be addressed unless an open surgery was performed, rather than arthroscopic. Dr. Sudekum found many of the answers in his first surgery. He had to ultimately perform three surgeries on my wrist and elbow to address everything. The ulnar nerve was trapped at different locations in my wrist, and it was amid a large amount of scar tissue. The nerve had attached itself to the ulna bone where a suture wire had previously been threaded through a bone tunnel in the ulna during the first surgery when the TFCC was repaired and appeared that it had been "lassoed" around the nerve and then pulled against the bone when it was threaded through the bone tunnel. The nerve had to be relocated, and I also had tissue that was caught in the elbow joint that was removed that turned out to be the source of the continued elbow pain.

In total, I underwent five surgeries. I ultimately had a very rare surgery on April 17th, 2013, a wrist joint replacement, performed by Dr. Sudekum where the joint was reconstructed and a new ulnar prosthetic head replaced the end of my ulna. I still have daily struggles with pain, nerve flairs and not much

wrist rotation regained, BUT, I'm able to live life WITHOUT CONTINUOUS PAIN afflicting me. Do I still struggle with frustration and embarrassment at what I'm not able to do? You bet! But, believe it or not, with the help of new equipment assisting me, the help of the Infinity Ergonomic writer that can twist and tilt and adjust to my wrist rotation limitations, in addition to having highly specialized key adjustments to help compensate for my slacking, dragging pinky and ring fingers when the nerve really flairs up, as of June 19th, 2013, I'm back at work, and as of right now, I'm doing it! I have to be very careful what I do with my hand. I have the new writer. I had to buy a smaller, lighter weight computer and do as much wireless connections as possible. I have to use a different chair than the other reporters, so I have a few located in a couple of different areas around the courthouse available to me whenever I'm going into court, and I even have a special split ergonomic computer keyboard for editing transcripts.

I hope this article hits home for some of you, not to seek sympathy, but to serve as an inspiration for anyone who might be going through a tough time right now. Maybe you are a student struggling to pass the next speed test in school or struggling to pass that CSR exam, or maybe you're a current reporter that might be thinking that your career could possibly come to an end because you're dealing with some form of pain or condition that's just not seeming to get any better. My advice to you: keep moving and pushing forward, persevere until you reach your goals, find that right doctor and surround yourself with a good support group to help you through it so that you're able to continue doing what you love doing...and I will continue to keep doing what I'm doing, "For the Love of It!"

## Student Sphere

### NEW COLUMN COMING SOON!

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

Send your questions to [Imatson@innovativeamc.com](mailto:Imatson@innovativeamc.com) by **March 1, 2014**, and start looking for answers in the Spring edition of the Ad Infitum!

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

# Market Your Service

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# Amy & Donna's Steno Swap

*Thank you to Amy Quint and Donna Urlaub for presenting their informative and fun Steno Swap seminar at the 2013 ILCRA Convention! Below is Part II of their briefs exchanged during that session. Part I is available in the Fall 2013 issue.*

## Shorter Writing

LAON	alone
LOU	allow
LOUD	allowed
LO*UD	loud
R-D	ready
EZ	easy
B-Z	busy
WRAU	withdraw
MAOEL or MA*EL	email
DRAI	driveway
WHAIR	wheelchair
NAND or N-RS	understand
NAOD or N-RD	understood
NANG or N-RG	understanding
KR-F	curriculum vitae
BAF	behalf
TR-PT	transport
TR-PGS	transportation
RABLT or RAB	rehabilitate
RABLGS or RABGS	rehabilitation
SNULT	insult
KAIN	contain (KAEN cane)
WRAUL	withdrawal
SPERN	salesperson
SMAN	salesman
GRE	degree

GRAE	agree
M*IR	MRI
K*EG	EKG
KR-FB or KR*F	CV

## Years

TW-FN	2011
TW-FL	2012
TWIRT	2013 (Twitter TW*IRT)
TWOURT	2014
TW-FT	2015

## Tucking the L

MOLT	metel
MOELT	molt
MOLD	model
MOELD	mold

## Add it to the Q&A

STKPWHR-RB	-- Q.
WR-FRPBLGTS	-- A.
D-FRPBLGTS	<Colloquy>THE DEFENDANT:
PLF-FRPBLGTS	<Colloquy>THE PLAINTIFF:
P-FRPBLGTS	<Colloquy>THE PETITIONER:
R-FRPBLGTS	<Colloquy>THE RESPONDENT:
SD-FRPBLGTS	A. (Witness nods)
W-FRPBLGTS	<Colloquy>THE WITNESS:

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# When People are Upset with You

Submitted by Nancy Davis

Excerpted from *Secrets of Self Transformation*

by John Maxwell Taylor

THEIR "STATE" IS DISTURBED, NOT THEM: One of the truly effective ways to save energy for ourselves in relation to other people is to separate them from their faults, and not become identified with their passing states. From one perspective, life is nothing more than a series of events (or thoughts) that create within us certain states: anger, fear, desire, happiness, excitement, disappointment, frustration, and so on. The people we encounter are not their states, as you are not your states, any more than you are what happens to you. Very few of us can change our state at will, largely because we seem to have trouble knowing what state we're in.

If we were able to observe ourselves from the "witness state," (to look at our reactions as if they were happening to somebody else), we might be able to do something about them. What I do is watch, as if from a distance, the thoughts passing across my mind all day. Sometimes they are so amazingly stupid that I have to laugh to myself and say "Oh my God, look what 'it's' thinking now! Or look what 'it' is feeling. When we concede that we have very little control over what passes through our body/minds in the course of the day, we can start to have mercy upon other people, for if we ourselves are the victims of our automatic reactions and faults, so must everyone else be in the same boat. This is the place where "the quality of mercy that is not strained," begins. All mercy must begin with us and with the realization of our almost mechanical reactions in most situations.

When someone comes to me in an upset state, I try not to go into a knee jerk reaction towards that person. Instead I try to quickly access the feeling in myself that this person has become possessed by a state; they have lost connection with the higher aspects of their nature and have become overtaken by anger, frustration, lack of consideration towards me, etc.

Very often this simple perceptual shift on my part brings about a state of peace that allows me to respond objectively by not getting into a state myself. If I do get into a state while the other person is in a state as well, I may say to them something to this effect:

"I can't talk about this right now. I just became disconnected with myself. Can you give me a moment or so that I can balance out and give you a reasonable answer?"

This approach is so different that often a temporary truce will be declared, if only for the reason that the other person will have to get off of what was bothering them to take the time to figure out what it was that I just said. In this breathing space I try to feel my feet connected with the earth, to breathe deeply from the abdomen, to look away for a moment, perhaps to look through the window toward nature. I try to relax my whole body, sending courage and strength into my lungs and love into my heart. And when I am still I can then ask the person to perhaps re-phrase their statement, so that I can understand better. By this time their state will probably have changed, hopefully for the better. Because states do not last long. It takes a tremendous amount of energy out of our bodies to be in a snit with someone. If you can wait it out, the energy behind the person's original outburst will dissipate. It has to. It is the law of physics.

## National Court Reporting and Captioning Week

The National Court Reporters Association has announced that **February 16 – 22, 2014** has been designated **National Court Reporting and Captioning Week**. Court reporting is an honored profession full of hard-working, talented and dedicated people. We ask your assistance in not only honoring court reporters and captioners, but also spreading the word to your local community about the career of court reporting. Please post something on the social media you use (Twitter, Facebook, etc).

Also, please let us know if your courthouse or organization holds an event to recognize this week.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact ILCRA for any further information.

# SPREAD THE WORD!

You can make a difference.

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

Ensuring that qualified reporters are in the field is the only way to protect the profession and to fight digital technologies from taking over our industry.

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# Life, Have it Your Way

By Linda-Ann Stewart

When we have a single goal in mind, and that's all we contemplate, Life brings it to us. It's not magical, mystical or strange. It's just the way life works. We move toward it as if we can't fail. By doing so, all doors open up for us. We meet someone who has the information we need, or who knows someone who knows someone. Life moves in to meet us and we have "coincidences" happen.

However, if we get distracted from our goal, changing our mind, swinging from one decision to another, we receive an average of our ideas. If we fear we may not achieve our goal, that's what we're focusing on, therefore that's exactly what happens. In these cases, instead of our vision being on what we want, our attention is on what we don't want. We attract whatever we contemplate most.

Focus is focus, whether it's on what we want or what we don't want. Life doesn't care. Energy flows in the direction of where we have our attention.

There is no big or small to Life. The same rule applies with both large and small goals. If you go into Burger King and order it "your way" but keep changing your order, what happens? First, the person behind the counter gets impatient. Then,

they ask you to let the person behind you order. And you can't ask the order taker to "Decide for me," because they don't know what you want. Eventually, as you keep vacillating, the restaurant will close and you go hungry.

In that case, you know where the responsibility for your dilemma lies. You didn't make up your mind, and give your order, and let them prepare it. The same is true with anything else. You must choose what you want, focus on it, and let the creative "grill" of your subconscious mind cook it up for you, "your way." But you have to stay true to your decision, and not alter your order.

This is why it's so important to write down your goals. One day you might want to weigh 120 pounds, and the next day, you figure 130 pounds would suit you just fine. As long as you keep changing your mind as to what you want, the energy can't flow into your goal. You might release a couple of pounds, but how can it deliver something you haven't really decided on? Your subconscious mind needs to have a clear goal.

When you have something unwanted in your life, take time to check out what you've been focusing on. What things have you been saying or thinking? Are you currently experiencing what you fear? Then

that's what you've created. Are you angry at the conditions of your life? You've been feeding the situation with your anger and created more of it.

Write down what it is you truly want, and look at what you've written at least twice a day. If you change your mind, then change what you've written. This way you don't give your subconscious conflicting messages. Your creative mind then has something concrete it can work with. Your subconscious mind is just like Burger King. It awaits your decisions, and will create just what you've asked for. All you need to do is settle on your choice, and let it alone. Your creative mind does the rest.

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*As a speaker, success empowerment coach and hypnotherapist, Linda-Ann Stewart empowers business women and entrepreneurs to break through their inner barriers and create the life they want with more success and abundance. Sign up for her FREE report "Imagine the Possibilities," at [www.Linda-AnnStewart.com](http://www.Linda-AnnStewart.com). You can contact her at [LAS@Linda-AnnStewart.com](mailto:LAS@Linda-AnnStewart.com) or 928-600-0452.*



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# Dear Nancy

Nationally known court reporting professional Nancy Varallo answers your important business questions.  
Visit The Varallo Group at <http://thevarallogroup.com>.

**Dear Nancy:** I have a simple transcribing question. The attorney asks the witness if he sees the "1/2" in the document before him. He says "one slash two" and the document says "1/2". If I put "1/2" in the transcript, I read it as "one half", but it isn't a fraction. I'm thinking that might be confusing in the record. How should I transcribe it? *Signed, Numb With Numbers*

**Dear Numb With Numbers:** Well, I am impressed that you thought enough about how the record reads to ask. We are soulmates. This is the kind of stuff that gets me all excited. I know; look who my husband is. He wants to know if anal-rententive is hyphenated.

I would use words. It's never "wrong" to transcribe the words that are spoken. (Smile!) I guess that's our job. So to eliminate confusion, I'd put "one slash two" in my transcript. The attorneys won't know how much thought you put into this, but you will, and now my readers will. Congratulations for your commitment to excellence.

**Dear Nancy:** Help! I can't "figure" out how to refer to these numbers in my transcript. Here is what was said: Q. And do you see the list of 18 items beneath Improvements? A. Yes. Q. Do you see a total cost basis of a million two under \$13,330?

How would I reflect a million two? The attorney then says "under thirteen thousand, three-hundred and thirty dollars." Should I write it all out since I don't exactly know what the "a million two" means? I want to be consistent, of course. Thanks!  
*Signed, Can't "figure" it Out*

**Dear Can't "figure" it Out:** I would put it in exactly as you have it. A million two under \$13,330 looks perfect to me. Thanks for asking and keep the questions coming!

**Dear Nancy:** I'm a fairly new reporter and I had a request for my first rough draft transcript. Do I put something on the transcript to designate that it's only a rough draft? Signed, Daft About Drafts

**Dear Daft About Drafts:** You don't mention whether the attorney(s) is getting an electronic copy, a hard copy, or both. It is important to have a disclaimer at the front of the transcript indicating that this is a rough draft, and many reporters put in a comment about the limited use to which that draft transcript can be put. (Say that sentence ten times fast.) When I print out rough drafts, I always put a header at the top of each page that says Rough Draft. You can put the same header on your electronic files.

And you didn't ask, but just the teacher in me coming out, did you do a rough edit on your draft before you sent it? It's not cool to send a "raw" draft. Provide some good customer service, and fix it up for your client. Rough does not mean raw. Good luck in your new career. Keep up the good questions.

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**MAIL IN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** - On page 14

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# Tech Bit 113

By Gregg Marshall, CPMR, CSP, CMC

I have been using Portable Apps to carry a complete open source alternative to Microsoft Office on a flash drive since 2009. I can carry a complete office set up that will run on any Windows computer I can find, such as a spare at a client or the hotel's business center.

I can have LibreOffice, which does a good job with Microsoft Office files, along with several development tools I use. And even a tricked out collection of almost everything barely takes half of an 8 gigabyte flash drive.

Programs and data stay on the flash drive. You plug it in, do your work, and when you are done, remove it. All trace of your visit goes with you.

It has been fun watching the Portable Apps ecosystem grow. More and more programs are available. I can even have a web server that runs on the flash drive and lets me work on a new website anywhere I might be.

I have also found a new use for Portable Apps.

I try a lot of software. Generally the process with new software is to install it, try it out and if it doesn't work out, uninstall it. Unfortunately most uninstall procedures generally leave little bits and pieces of the program—both files and registry entries. They clutter up your computer, and are one of the reasons why computers slow down with time.

With so many applications available in Portable App format, many of the programs I want to try are available for the Portable App platform. I can install them on my Portable App flash drive, try them out and if they don't work out uninstall them from the Portable App drive. Sure there are still bits and pieces left over, but

I can reformat the drive and reinstall the apps I want to keep. And my desktop and laptop aren't collecting any extraneous files.

I've got my Portable Apps installation on a Kingston DataTraveler® Ultimate 3.0. I have found the Kingston products to be reliable and this flash drive is fast. Because it is going through a USB port, it isn't as fast as the PCI SSD drive in my desktop or laptop, but it seems as fast as any direct connect hard drive. I had tried a Super Talent USB 3 drive, but it failed. It would show up in Windows Explorer, but then all files disappeared. Unplugged and reinserted would return the files for a new minutes, then gone again. Data is far too important to trust to drives you can't depend on. So I switched back to a brand I know and trust.

If you haven't tried Portable Apps, I'd suggest you go to [www.portableapps.com](http://www.portableapps.com) and download the installer. From there you can use the platform to download and install the applications you might need when you travel. Or you can experiment with applications before installing them permanently on your computer. Don't forget to use a reliable flash drive.

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

## ad infinitum

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**Editor:** Innovative AMC, 43150 Broadlands Center Plaza, 152-269, Ashburn, VA 20148. Ph: 703-729-4861, Email: [info@innovativeamc.com](mailto:info@innovativeamc.com).

### Advertising information:

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Ashburn, VA 20148  
Ph: 703-729-4861  
Fax: 703-935-2266  
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