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**Are you looking
for something
fun to do and
also give something back
to our profession?**

MAVRC is in the beginning stages
of planning
a celebration commemorating
Minnesota’s 110 years of court reporting.

This celebration will take place at
MAVRC’s 2017 Fall Convention, and
volunteers are now being
sought to help plan this event.

If you can assist in this endeavor,
please contact:

Jackie Young at
rite2jackie@frontiernet.net

2015-2016 MAVRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Jackie Young, Delano (763) 972-3453 rite2jackie@frontiernet.net
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CORRECTION:

The CART Captioning en français article by Jean Whalen in the Summer *Minne-strokes* incorrectly identified Jean Whalen as an official reporter in the First Judicial District. She is a reporter in Minnesota's Second Judicial District.

PRO BONO

Kudos to
Jolynn Graham
for performing
pro bono
reporting services.

*If you are interested in providing
pro bono reporting services,
contact:*

**Jean Whalen, RDR, CRR
MAVRC Pro Bono Coordinator
Juvenile and Family Justice
Center**

**25 West Seventh Street
Suite B304
St. Paul, MN 55102**

Phone: 651-266-5170

Jean.whalen@courts.state.mn.us

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - PROJECTING A POSITIVE IMAGE

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

Without a doubt, the most important asset MAVRC has is its members. Your membership helps strengthen our association's reputation, allows a variety of services to be offered, and helps to ensure that stenographic reporting remains the premiere form of making the official record. I hope it goes without saying that being part of our association has enormous rewards and benefits – both for you and for our profession as a whole. We get to share our passion for our job with others who have the same interests, we are able to learn new things, make lasting friendships, and create bonds with other individuals and organizations who utilize our services.

As an individual reporter, you should be someone who fosters a positive and efficient work environment, delivers a quality product, and adheres to high moral and ethical standards. As an association, we should strive to be more than just a group of people sharing similar interests. A vibrant, successful association consists of an energetic group of people that are determined to get the most out of their professional career as well as being cognizant of the importance of strengthening and protecting their profession. Your membership in MAVRC demonstrates to others that you understand how acting together as a team is the way most obstacles that challenge our profession along the way can be overcome.

In other words, you are the hidden backbone that allows our association to remain successful. You are also the person who plays a vital role in creating an overall positive image of court reporting and of MAVRC. How we act on the job impacts not only us as individuals but also our fellow reporters. Every time we show up

to work, we have the choice to make a positive impression about court reporting or a negative one. We have an obligation to represent ourselves professionally because it is not just ourselves that we represent.

A positive professional image is essential to a successful career, no matter your age or field. It also speaks volumes about you and will help you develop and establish a positive reputation. This, in turn, will help create a positive image of court reporting in general.

Whether you are looking for a job, starting a new job, or are a seasoned workplace veteran, it is a good idea to learn (or review) the basics of creating a positive professional persona. A professional persona of court reporting can be achieved by doing the following:

- Maintaining a positive attitude. Instead of dreading challenges or focusing on negativity in the workplace, embrace it as an opportunity for improvement. Negative thoughts lead to self-doubt and failure. Positive thinking will result in positive actions and results.
- Taking steps to build relationships based on trust, a positive attitude and enthusiasm about your job. Without those factors, you cannot influence positive change.
- Make a list of the things in life that you are grateful for. Most of us have more than we realize in life to be grateful for. To help maintain our enthusiasm for our jobs and



Jackie Young

life in general, it is important to remind ourselves of the positives in our life every so often. These can range from your spouse, your children, your friends, your skills, hobbies, achievements, and so on. Whenever you need a confidence booster, simply take out your list and remind yourself of all the good things you have in life.

- Be proud of what you do. Talk about your skills with your friends and coworkers in a positive way.
- Be proactive. When you are the one that makes things happen, you create a passion in yourself that rubs off on others. Be the leader, the inspiration to others, and you will notice that your enthusiasm is contagious.
- Be willing to change. Life is all about improving yourself

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and leads to a solid foundation which you can fall back in challenging times.

I know these are high standards, but successful people set high standards for themselves. I encourage you to set the bar very high for yourself since what you do today will help shape your destiny and the destiny of those around you. While it is easy to have a negative view of your world, a positive view will make you happier and will move you closer to your goals. The more you push yourself and expand your skill set, the more valuable you become to your current and potential future employers. High standards are also the driving force for successfully moving our Association to the next level.

Remember, a positive image of MAVRC and court reporting starts with you!

Jackie Young is the current president of MAVRC and works as a freelance reporter in the Twin Cities. ■



MINNESOTA OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER STEWARD LIST

1st District

Rhonda Route and Mary Johnson

2nd District

Jill Garrison and Sarah Anderson

3rd District

Debbie Grebin and Jessica Berke

4th District

Dana Carmichael and Adrienne Conzemius

5th District

Theresa Bock

6th District

Steve Bystedt and Deborah Dreawves

7th District

Brenda Vanderveur and Kathy Hanson

8th District

Cheryl Torgerson and Ashley Lange

9th District

Monica Christensen and Darla Delich-Mustar

10th District

Char Tschida

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CART CAPTIONER

OH, THE PLACES WE GO!

By Lisa Richardson, RPR, CRR, CBC, CCP

I've captioned (or CARTed) a lot of events in my time, graduations, funerals, a wedding, meetings, classes, a bar conversation, just to name a few, but never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I'd be captioning a rodeo. I mean, really? A rodeo????

How did this happen, you ask? Well, I have a client (we'll call him RT) who loves the rodeo and, because of his hearing loss, going to see his friends participate is really frustrating for him, as I'm sure you can imagine. There's so much going on and he can't hear a darn thing.

I'll admit, though, when he first asked me if I'd do it, I was less than excited. I'm just not the biggest rodeo fan; in fact, I'd never been to a rodeo in my life! Plus, what about all the dirt and dust? Where will I sit? How will RT be able to read the computer screen; will it be too bright outside? How will I hear? Controlled audio is one thing but sitting outside, listening to a general public address system, with lots of folks in the audience? Yikes!

Luckily, RT put me in touch with a good friend of his, SG, who is very involved with this particular rodeo organization, and after a few conversations, we had a tentative plan in place that he felt would work, keeping me and my equipment as protected as possible.

Okay, anxiety is subsiding, we've

got a plan... Wait! What would I wear?! Deciding on appropriate attire for some of these CART captioning jobs can be really challenging! You always want to fit in with the group but it can be a real guessing game with some assignments. Like the time I showed up for a retreat in a business suit and everyone else was in sweats!

Anyway, I mentioned my dilemma to my neighbor and she had the perfect answer: jeans and cowboy boots. Okay, I could've figured out the jeans but I didn't have any cowboy boots. Why would I have cowboy boots? I'm a city girl! My neighbor, being the dream she is, had cowboy boots! And they fit! Okay, this is all coming together. (And I knew RT would love seeing the boots.)

The day finally came and I made my way to the rodeo. It had been super hot the week before, so along with being nervous about the setup and what I was in for, I was also worried about the heat and hoped for a break from the hot sun, not only for me but for my equipment.

I met up with RT, along with SG and another gentleman, JG, who told me he was there to take care of me for the day. Wow, could I have one of those at every job? Please?? (Maybe at home too? But I digress...)

And take care of me they did. They'd arranged to have a canopy set up right by the arena railing so I could see and hear, and I would be protected from the sun. Then they ran a long power cord to me so I had electricity to run both computers all afternoon. And to top it all off, they had a fan, just for me! I felt like a real diva... a rodeo diva! Okay, bring it on, I'm ready.

For the setup, I had a separate computer for RT so he could sit wherever he wanted. I ended up using a program that allowed me to really manipulate the screen colors and font size to allow for the best screen visibility, even in the sun! He was even able to sit in the bleachers, until he realized I had a better seat, and it was shaded.

It turned out to be a very fun day. Sometimes it was hard to understand the PA announcer, but I was able to get enough so RT knew who was in the arena or what was going on. Sometimes people would stand around us, talking and yelling to friends, also making it hard to hear the announcer so I'd write what I could hear the people yelling. Equal access, right? The good and the bad! A lot of people also wanted to know what I was doing; why was I recording the
(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued from Page 5)

rodeo? It turned into a really good opportunity to promote captioning and court reporting!

There were barrel races, bull riding, steer roping, a parade, and even a goat dressing contest! Yep, you read that one correctly. At a signal, two people would run to the goat and one would hold the goat while the other had to put underpants on the poor,

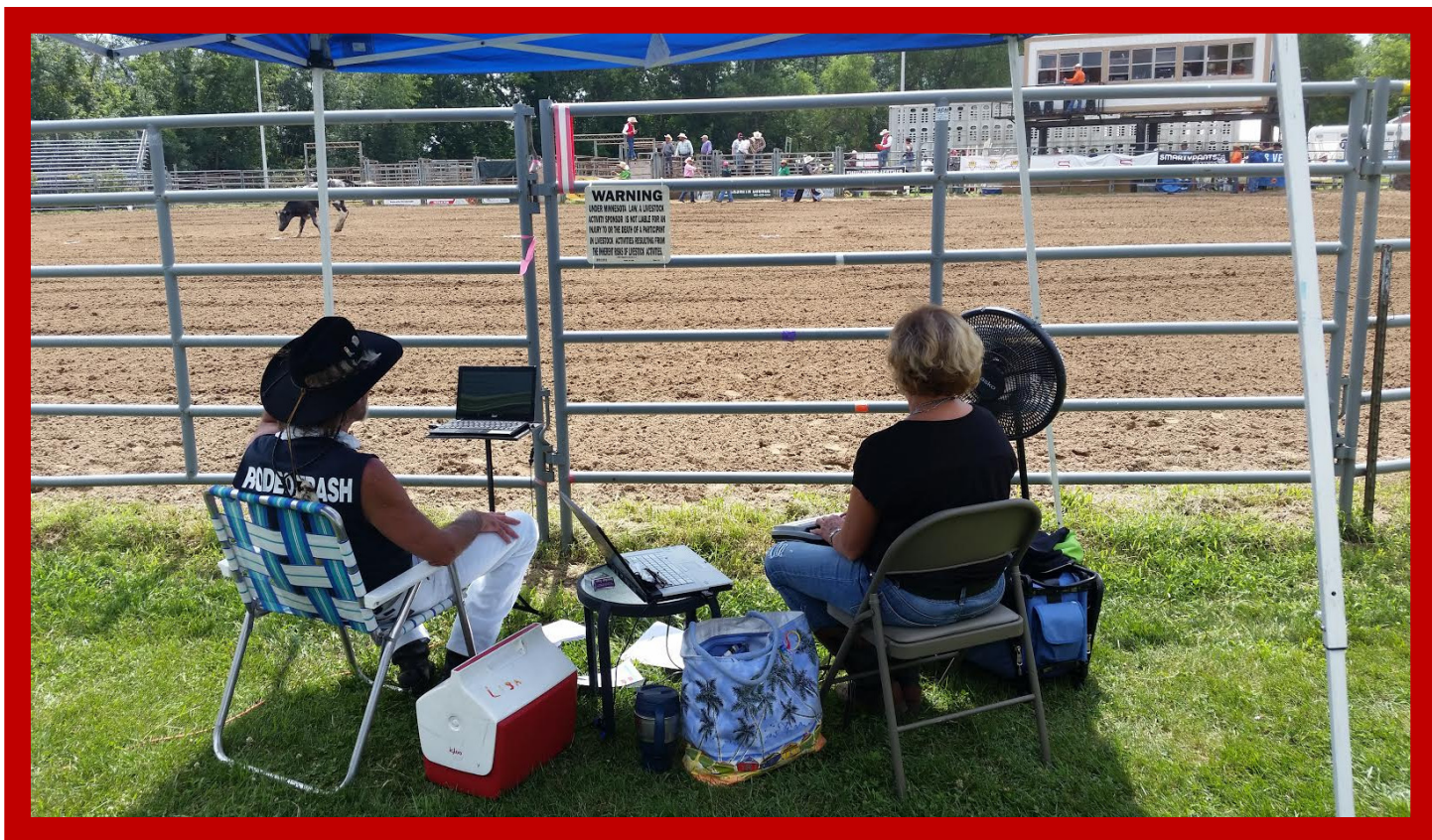
adorable goat. The teams were timed and whoever had the best time was the winner. It may sound easy but it was amusingly difficult. It didn't help that the goats were not at all happy with being on display in such a way!

And then, just like that, it was all over. The events were done and it was time to leave. Boy, the time sure went fast. But I was also wiped out and ready to be home.

Listening and performing all day is hard work!

Would I do it again? You bet. And next time, I won't worry so much... for this job, I already know what to wear!

Lisa Richardson is a CART captioner with Paradigm Reporting & Captioning. ■



MAVRC Mission Statement

The mission of MAVRC is to promote the use of stenographic reporters to capture the record in depositions and courtrooms and to provide closed captioning and CART services.

NAN'S VERSION OF PUNCTUATION SCHOOL, PART 3

TO CAPITALIZE OR NOT TO CAPITALIZE?

By Nanette J. Corbett, RDR

As I have said in previous articles, punctuating transcripts is a constant effort to strike a balance between rules and readability. In this article, I'll talk about capitalization. The function of capitalization is to give distinction, importance, and emphasis to words. To aid in readability and avoid interrupting the reader's flow, it's best to be aware of using caps too often and in unnecessary and incorrect ways. As always, rules and styles vary widely and individual organizations and topic areas often have their own style preferences. Here are some examples to offer food for thought in developing your own consistent system.

Proper Nouns: Capitalize proper nouns but not words derived from them

Example: University of Minnesota Dental School, but the dental school at the University of Minnesota

Places:

Examples: the North Shore; Upper Midwest; Minnesota, but western Minnesota; Southeast Minneapolis; Minneapolis Institute of Arts, but the art institute is open

Letters of the Alphabet: Capitalize letters that indicate shape

Examples: an X intersection; the form of an S; a V-neck sweater

Academic Degrees: Some styles use the periods, some do not

Examples: B.A., B.S., M.A., Ph.D., R.N. (BA, BS, MA, PhD, RN)

Titles of People, Places, Departments:

Examples: President Obama, but the president of the company; the First Lady; the White House; the Oval Office; Governor Dayton, but the governor of Minnesota; the Duluth Police Department, but the police department is investigating; the Department (when it's referring to something like the Department of Justice); the House (when it's referring to the House of Representatives); I want to get a reaction from our people in Marketing first, but I want to talk to our marketing people

References to Supreme Beings: These are capitalized

Examples: Allah, the Almighty, Buddha, God, the Holy Spirit, Jesus, the Lord, the Messiah

Trademarks: Some may seem generic or to have become generic over time; but if they are trademarks, they are capitalized

Examples: Band-Aid, Chapstick, Ferris wheel, Fiberglas, Frisbee, Ivory soap, Jacuzzi, Jet Ski, Kleenex, Laundromat, La-Z-Boy, Ping-Pong, Polaroid, Post-it note, PowerPoint, Pyrex, Rhodes scholar, Rollerblade, Sheetrock, Super Glue, Taser, Teflon, TelePrompTer, Vaseline, Velcro, Xerox, Ziploc

As we all know, capitalizing/punctuating verbatim transcripts is often difficult just because of the way people speak, and one goal we're trying to achieve in our final product is readability. Reporters have many theories about how to punctuate correctly. Your comments and suggestions are welcome at nansoffice@gmail.com.

Nanette Corbett is a freelance reporter from Duluth, Minnesota, and serves on MAVRC's Publication Committee. ■



CAPTIONING AT CONVERGENCE

By Kristi Arntzen, RPR, CBC, CCP; and
Angie Sundell, RPR, CRR, CBC, CCP

[Speaking Klingon] “*veH Qav ‘oH logh’e’.*”

(“Space: The final frontier.”)

CONvergence may not be the final frontier; but, according to the organization’s website, the event is “an annual convention for fans of Science Fiction and Fantasy in all media, a four-day event with more than 6,000 members and the premier event of our kind in the upper midwest.” “By land, by sea, by air, through space, time, or where no one has gone before, CONvergence 2016: ...And how do we GET there? is a celebration of the great vehicles and transport of science fiction and fantasy!” For the first time in the 18-year history of CONvergence, the organizers requested CART and captioning for several of the events. The convention included activities, games, events, performances, panels, movies, presentations, readings, signings; and hours of operation were from early in the morning until the early-morning hours of the next day!

Angie, a.k.a. Caption Queen: I’ll start by saying, in an attempt to prep for this assignment, I did a Google search for superheroes and villains and gods and goddesses, etc., and soon realized that I should have started prepping last year! The first session I provided projected CART for was a Radio Play entitled “Gargoyles Meets the Spectacular Spider-Man Meets Young Justice, Episode Three: The Cosmos.” The play was written by Greg Weisman, a comic book and animation writer

and producer. Thankfully, I received the script in advance! It was top secret, not to be shared - do not even speak of it! Who are these characters - Black Manta, Manta Trooper, Zatanna Zatara, Vandal Savage? Kristi informed me they’re comic book characters. She knows a thing or two about comics and science fiction and fandoms. Only a few characters in the play were familiar to me – Spider-Man, Captain Marvel, Green Lantern. I remember reading Archie comic books as a kid and watching Wonder Woman and Almighty Isis on TV.

In summary, the play was about creating a time travel device at CONvergence 2016, heroes traveling through time to ancient Egypt, translation spells (“Ecived nruter ot em” – did you figure it out?), alien scarabs, neutralizing the Cosmos, dismantling the time machine, heroes trapped in the past but then suddenly returning to the present, but without the time machine - I feel I missed something about the return, but I think it had to do with the Great Burning Phoenix. Oh, well! I’m sure the audience was able to follow it!

Interspersed within the play were cutaways to “Black Manta’s Celebrity Hot Tub!” Apparently Black Manta is the host of a talk show. His guests include Black Beetle, Green Lantern, Black Canary, Black Lightning, and Teth-Adam. The guests join Black Manta in the hot tub, and he proceeds to blast them with his laser eyebeams or his shoulder rocket launcher. Yeah, I didn’t get it either! Did I mention how thankful I was for the script?!

The next session was also projected

CART. It was a panel entitled “Fans for Accessible Conventions.” The organization’s website states “CONvergence is serious about doing everything we can to provide a welcoming, accessible environment for all fans.” The panel focused on reducing barriers for people with disabilities. Participants shared best practices to help make conventions more accessible. The members of the Accessibility and Inclusion Department, and others, have worked for years raising accessibility awareness via educational campaigns, posters, and social media. They set up a Fans for Accessible Conventions Facebook group and a Twitter hashtag, *#accessiblecons*.

My day culminated with captioning the Masquerade, which is one of the premier events of the convention. Costumers are judged and awards are given for workmanship in the costume construction and the presentation performance. I was thrilled to receive a script shortly after setting up and testing the encoder. I went right to work formatting the script and trying to gain as much information as I could about how the event would flow. With the editing of the script nearly complete and 6:30 nearing, when the doors were supposed to open – event to start at 7:00 - panic set in as I realized that the entry numbers were not in the order in which they would be introduced! As if my mind had been read, someone came around and distributed a list of the order of the entries! Lucky for me, there were some issues backstage – at least that’s what I heard – and the event did not start right at 7:00, allowing me just enough time to get all of the entries in

order! Phew! Search, copy, search, paste, search, copy, search, paste – easy to do but time consuming, and I was a little shaky by that point! After the presentations, they took a break for the judges to confer and make their decisions. In my humble opinion, the costumes were spectacular! We saw everything from Iron Man to Disney characters to Negasonic Teenage Warhead, and I could have sworn some of them were even made up. But Kristi assured me, no, they're "real." And as I went through my caption file again, Google searching the names, I realized she's right!! Halftime entertainment was provided by Fearless Comedy Productions. There was no script for this segment! Awards were then announced, and my CONvergence adventure came to a close.

We had an all-access pass; but, unfortunately, I did not have time to check out any other activities or events. My 14-year-old son was mad that he couldn't come with me! Maybe next year we'll register for the convention and take it all in!

Kristi here! I was in charge of captioning the Closing Ceremony for the convention. Thankfully, most, if not all, of the prep work

was done by Lisa (a.k.a. Mistress of Captioning), who kicked off the event by captioning the Opening Ceremony. I knew all I would have to do is set up my equipment, plug it in, and away I'd go! Or so I thought.

When I arrived, I was not prepared for the sheer number of people milling around the hotel; 5,298 attendees to be exact. It was like a mini State Fair in there! But I found my contact person, got my official credentials with my chosen "badge name," Caption Cat, and she led me to the room where the ceremonies would be held. But, unfortunately, there was another event taking place in that room. So even though I got there in time to set up at 4:00 p.m., I had to wait until 4:30 p.m. to get in the room, and the ceremonies started at 5:00 p.m.! Ack! But with only a few minor issues, I was able to get up and running within about 15 minutes. Encoders are a tricky business, and we all had some issues with the way the captions were displaying that we're still trying to figure out. But overall, the captioning went well. I was provided with a script, which was a huge help! I had taken the time the day before to edit it and prep it and make it "usable" for me (i.e., taking out all the stage directions and commentary and notes

and leaving only the dialogue).

Luckily for me, I am pretty familiar with a lot of sci-fi and fantasy "fandoms" as they are called, so I was prepared for anything they threw at me. The ceremony opened with a skit that parodied the new *Star Wars* film, "*The Force Awakens*." Other fandoms represented ran the gamut from obscure DC Comics supervillains to Disney characters, such as Olaf from "*Frozen*." The costumes, or "cosplay" as it's called, were elaborate, accurate, and skillfully done.

It was a fascinating experience, one I would gladly do again, now that I know more or less what to expect. I was extremely gratified that this group is so open to making their convention as accessible as possible to people of all abilities. We need more of that in this world, I think.

As Spock would say, "*Dif-tor heh smusma*," or, "Live long and prosper."

Kristi Arntzen and Angie Sundell are CART captioners with Paradigm Reporting & Captioning. ■

MAVRC welcomes
your brief forms
to publish in our
newsletter.

Please forward to
Minne-strokes Editor
Angie Sundell at
angiesundell@gmail.com.

No officer, my speech isn't
slurred. I'm just talking in
cursive.



**MAVRC Board of Directors/Officers
Slate of Nominees
2016-2017**

President – Sharon Steinbrecher

President-Elect – Sandy Burch

Vice President Official – Rachel Erickson

Vice President Freelance – Brandi Bigalke

Secretary – Dana Anderson-Linnell

Treasurer – Denise Rothfork

Director-at-Large A (Official) – Darla Delich Mustar
(Serving first year of two-year term)

Director-at-Large A (Freelance) – Jolynn Graham
(Serving first year of two-year term)

Remaining on Board for 2016-2017

Immediate Past President – Jackie Young

Director-at-Large B (Official) – Danna Frazier Nelson
(Serving second year of two-year term)

Director-at-Large B (Freelance) – Merilee Johnson
(Serving second year of two-year term)

SEVENTH DISTRICT OFFICIAL REPORTERS CELEBRATE WITH MARY KRAWIECKI

Mary Krawiecki retired as a Todd County Official Court Reporter but will continue to do closed-captioning work part-time and also continue to work as an instructor at Anoka Tech. Seventh District official reporters celebrated at a party at Zorbaz in Alexandria, Minnesota.



Left to right: Denise Rothfork, Ruth Schroeder, Jean Stewart, Mary Krawiecki, Mary Boom, Linda Schwenzfeier, Michelle Foley, Brenda Vanderveur and Cheryle Doss.



MAVRC 2016 FALL CONVENTION SESSION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, September 23, 2016

12:30 – 1:00 Registration

1:00 – 2:00 Tiffany K. Brynteson, CRPC

Planning for retirement is a huge transition for many individuals.

Tiffany is here to discuss income tax and retirement planning strategies to help you successfully plan for your own retirement.

2:00 – 3:30 Lisa Richardson, RPR, CRR, CBC

In this interactive seminar, Lisa will discuss working from a home office, including tracking schedules, balancing work and personal time, dealing with technology issues; and gauging when, how, and IF to say no.

3:30 – 3:45 BREAK

3:45 – 4:45 Madeline Lohman

Basic definitions of human trafficking, including labor exploitation and the commercial sexual exploitation of minors will be discussed, including helping attendees recognize indicators of potentially trafficked individuals and the risk factors of victims.

4:45 – 5:45 Joel Carlson, Lobbyist

Joel will give us an update of the events transpiring in the Minnesota Legislature in this presidential election year.

5:45 – 6:45 Dinner and a Movie

We will enjoy a private screening of the Marc Greenberg film *For the Record* during our dinner.

MAVRC 2016 FALL CONVENTION SESSION

Saturday, September 24, 2016

- 8:00 – 8:30** Registration/Breakfast
- 8:30 – 9:30** Lynn Wagner/Susan Love
Schedule and plan your time effectively!
- 9:30 – 9:45** BREAK
- 9:45 – 10:45** Lynn Wagner/Susan Love
Part 2 of effective time planning.
- 10:45 – 11:15** Laurie Carlson, Can Do Canines
We will learn about five types of assistance dogs that are trained by Can Do Canines.
- 11:15 – 12:15** Greg Gravesen
Discover accident reconstruction done through computer simulation/animation.
- 12:15 – 1:30** Business Luncheon
- 1:30 – 2:30** Ed Johnson, RPR, CRR, FAPR
Sit back and enjoy a laugh while Ed discusses the humorous elements of our profession.
- 2:30 – 3:30** Kristin M. Anderson, RPR, FCRR
Learn the tips and tricks for staying at the top of your game with the newest reporting technology.
- 3:30 – 3:45** BREAK
- 3:45 – 5:15** Ed Johnson, RPR, CRR, FAPR
What is it like to be an Official Reporter to the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.? Find out all about it with Ed Johnson, the Deputy Chief Reporter.

MAVRC 2016 FALL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Official _____ Freelance _____

NCRA Member # _____ Certifications Held _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Email _____

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION PRICES (postmarked by 9/7/15)

Friday & Saturday: \$225 (\$50 savings) _____ Friday: \$125 _____ Saturday: \$125 _____
Students or Retired – both days \$100 _____ Students or Retired – one day \$50 _____

Nonmember Fee - \$120 _____

(Must be paid *in addition* to registration if you are not a current MAVRC member.)

All other Registrations due 9/16/2016

Friday & Saturday: \$275 _____ Friday: \$150 _____ Saturday: \$150 _____
Student/Retired – both days \$125 _____ Student/Retired – Fri or Sat - \$65 _____

Sponsor a student \$ _____ Total Enclosed (payable to MAVRC) \$ _____

Mail this registration form and payment to:

MAVRC
P.O. Box 375
Marshall, MN 56258

Registrations must be postmarked by Tuesday, September 6 for early bird discount.

CANCELLATION POLICY: A full refund will be made if your cancellation is received on or before **September 7, 2016**. If your cancellation is received after September 7, 2016, a \$75 administrative fee will be deducted from your refund. **No refunds for no-shows.**

MAVRC 2016 FALL CONVENTION

QUESTIONS? Contact Monica Christensen at monica.christensen@courts.state.mn.us or info@mavrc.org

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION



Park Plaza Hotel
4460 West 78th Street Circle
Bloomington, MN 55435

\$89 per night

Please call 952-831-3131 to make your reservation and request the MAVRC room block. You must make your reservation by **September 16, 2016**, to be offered this group rate.

MAVRC 2016 FALL SILENT AUCTION

Going, Going, GONE!



We will be holding a SILENT AUCTION during the Fall Convention and are welcoming your donations of items of your choosing: baskets, gift cards, etc. Your generosity is always appreciated.

If you have any items to donate, please email your silent auction item(s) information to

ANOKA TECH ICE CREAM SOCIAL

MAVRC and several reporters hosted an ice cream social for the students at Anoka Technical College on June 8. The get-together was a success, with over 20 students and 8 reporters in attendance. Reporters and students networked while enjoying an ice cream cone (or two) out in the courtyard.

Reporters got to know the students by name and where they were in their current skill levels, and students got to hear first-hand experience of what it's like in the reporting world, everything from freelance to court to CART and captioning!

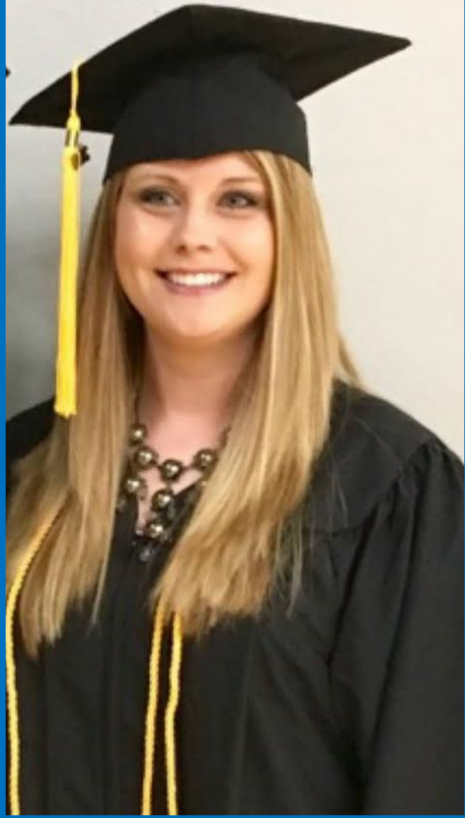
Another great day at Anoka Tech! ■



Back row, left to right: Tammy Mathwig (student), Luke Ericksen (student), Merilee Johnson, Sharon Steinbrecher, Lisa Richardson.

Front row, left to right: Megan Stumm (ATC grad), Kelsy Ericksen (student), Rachel Erickson (ATC grad), Lisa Knisley (student), Rachel Johnson (student)

CONGRATS, GRADS!



Jamie M. Belsaas: “I am excited to begin my career as a court reporter. My goal will always be to continue to grow as a writer and be the best that I can be. Thank you to my instructors and family for the endless encouragement and guidance.”



Sarah Colberg: “Since completing the Judicial Reporting program at Anoka Technical College in June, I have accepted a court reporter position in the Fourth Judicial District (Hennepin County). I am excited to start working in August!”



COURT REPORTING STUDENT PROFILE

By Angie Romick

Name: Angie Romick

School: Northern Technical School of Business for Court Reporting, originally Anoka Technical College WHOOO HOOOO!!!

Speed: Currently 200+ with test anxiety and who knows what

Hometown: New Brighton, Minnesota

Tell us a little about yourself. I started working as a secretary while I was still in high school. I had to make a decision when I graduated to either go into music performance or something else. My music instructor told me that music performance is a wonderful hobby. As a profession, he said, some people lose the joy in it. So I decided on court reporting. I started classes in September of 1976 and graduated December, 1977. I started reporting before my 20th birthday. My first reporting job was in Wisconsin where I worked for a freelance firm. After about eight years of reporting, I made a decision that I needed a college degree. I quit reporting and went to the U of M. I didn't quite finish when I met my husband (not at the U – he was the best man at my younger sister's wedding), got married, had one child, a son, and I now have two grandsons. I homeschooled, and when our son graduated high school, I went to work.



Angie Romick

From 2003 until 2012, I had an active gift basket business. I also created candy bouquets and did flowers for weddings, both fresh and permanent. I still do the occasional gift basket, candy bouquet, and floral arrangement.

I'm a conservative Christian and attend church at least on Sundays and more often when I can. I love studying the Holy Bible. I also love children and considered becoming a nanny until I realized that CART could be a reality for me. I'm a bird lover, and for the last 17 years, we had a cockatiel and a lovebird that both died a few months apart from each other last year. In fact, my little lovebird "helped" me write when I first started practicing. He would sit on my old steno book and keep his eye on me.

What made you decide to pursue a career in court reporting? I didn't know what I wanted to do when I graduated high school. In conversation with my shorthand teacher, she suggested I might like court reporting. I checked into it and that was that. I was hooked.

Now I am pursuing CART/captioning after not writing for 30-plus years. I had been thinking about CART for a few years but never believed it was something that could happen for me. I had been locked into doing contract work for the past 10 years, working as an administrative assistant/project coordinator/office manager. Last August my contract ended at Medtronic and I was unable to find another position. At a workshop at the Workforce Center, I learned about the Dislocated Workers Program. I was allowed into that program. I then met with Jennifer Sati, who explained the CART program in detail and said that if I could get my speed up to 180, I would be able to begin the program. It took me six weeks, but I did it! So now here I am, very excited about my future and barely able to believe that this is real.

What area of reporting interests you the most at this time- official, freelance, or captioning/CART? CART and captioning. I've been able to do a little scoping for a reporter in California, though, and I have to say that I've been getting the deposition bug. I am really only thinking about it because my heart has been interested in helping the Deaf for many years.

What's been the most challenging or rewarding part of your schooling thus far? Anoka Tech has been the most amazing school I've ever attended. I haven't had a single negative experience. I feel like I've been accepted, encouraged, and helped by students and teachers. It's an incredible blessing.

Challenges for me: Dealing with test anxiety. This is new for me. I've never experienced this before. Learning to write my numbers, alphabets, suffixes, prefixes – well, let's just say learning to write "conflict-free" is a big challenge also.

Do you know any working reporters or anyone that's been an influence to you? I am influenced by the students as well as teachers I've met at Anoka Tech. It's been so cool to meet the working reporters in the Realtime and CART classes, and the teachers at the school that are also working reporters. I feel like a whole new world has opened up before me and it's very exciting and because of all the support, I don't feel like I'm doing this alone.

If you had an hour of free time, what would you be doing (besides practicing on your steno)? Something I've had to push to the side lately – cleaning, reading, sewing, or working on a new website design.

What is your favorite band or type of music? I have trouble with "favorites" because I like so many different things. I love classical music, hymns, and songs in almost every genre. I don't love one type of music over the other, except classical; however, I am really picky about what pieces or songs I like. I had a conversation with my husband (we're celebrating 30 years in November) the other day about music. I really can't figure out what I like or don't like about what I like and don't like!

What is your favorite food or restaurant? Another favorites question! I am allergic to garlic, so that cuts out my used-to-be favorite (pizza). I like seafood, fruits, veggies, American, Asian, Italian, Afghani, vegetarian, etc. I like to try new foods and new tastes. I love desserts like lemon bars, shortbread, and anything with cream cheese and/or chocolate.

Where is a place you would like to visit? It would be easier to think of where I would NOT want to visit! I haven't been outside of the United States except to go into Thunder Bay when I was young. I want to go to Portugal to see a castle; I want to go to China to see the terracotta statues; I want to go to Israel to see the archeological mosaics; I want to see the coliseum and catacombs in Rome; Machu Picchu in Peru; and some day, when I'm filthy rich, I want to stay in one of those fabulous all-inclusive resorts and learn how to scuba dive and go parasailing. Oh, and I just remembered a couple more! I want to go on one of Charles Stanley's cruises while he's still alive, and I'd also like to spend two or three months traveling around the United States to visit friends and family that have spread out all over. My favorite place to be now, though, is with my mom. She turns 90 in September. I want to spend every minute I can with her while she is still here.

The last book you read? Other than the Holy Bible and my CART textbook, the last book I read for fun was a cozy mystery called *Hearse and Buggy* by Laura Bradford. I also listen to audio books and I use them for my warm-ups.

The last movie you watched? At home I watched *A Matter of Faith*. I don't remember the last movie I saw in a theatre. My husband and I are talking about going to see a matinee one of these days, though, now that we're both unemployed and our schedules aren't conflicting. ■



IT'S IN YOUR COURT: WHAT DO COURT REPORTERS DO?

Governor Dayton has designated the week of February 14 as “Court Reporter and Captioning Week.” The following article was authored by Assistant Chief Judge Ann Carrott and is republished with her permission:

If you have ever been in a courtroom, the person to the side of the judge typing on a small machine is the court reporter. He or she is highly skilled and has the ethical obligation to take down every word uttered in the courtroom during hearings or trials – verbatim. What a daunting task!

In the olden days, shorthand reporting was done by pen writers. More recently, court reporters used shorthand machines with cumbersome paper trays attached, which scrolled out folded paper about 3 inches wide, and only the court reporter could read the hieroglyphics on the paper. The steno machines used now are small and portable, and back-up storage is on SD cards as opposed to paper. As the court reporter types, the strokes are processed through the reporter’s individual dictionary, and then appear in “real time” on the computer monitor in a readable form.

The court reporter’s dictionary is updated daily by inputting key strokes to define a word

or phrase so translation into English is possible. For example, if the court reporter is taking down testimony in a case with medical terms, before the trial he or she will input numerous medical terms related to the case so they translate properly. If a transcript is requested or a case is appealed, the court reporter must produce the document within the statutory time periods and certify that the transcript is accurate.

Court reporters are licensed by the State of Minnesota and must pass a competency test, which includes typing a minimum number of words per minute. They belong to professional organizations and are required to take continuing education credits and keep up on the latest technology changes. The only court reporting school in Minnesota currently is at the Anoka Technical College. Typically less than a third of students graduate from the program as they are unable to meet the stringent speed requirements with a minimum of 95 percent accuracy.

Not all court reporters work for the court system. Instead, they report depositions, do closed-captioning for broadcasts such as sporting events, or report for the deaf or hard of hearing.

As a judge, I appreciate the

skill and professionalism of the court reporters who work in the court system.

The Honorable Ann L. Carrott has been a District Court Judge since 2007 and is chambered in Alexandria, Minnesota.

Submitted by Judge Steve Halsey, Wright County District Court, chambered in Buffalo. Judge Halsey is the host of “The District Court Show” on local cable TV public access channels throughout the Tenth Judicial District. Excerpts can be viewed at WWW.QCTV.org/districtcourtshow. Judge Halsey may also be heard on “Legal Happenings” on KRWC 1360 AM (Buffalo) on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. ■



MAVRC 2016 SUMMER GET-TOGETHER

Maynard's in Excelsior Bay was the picturesque setting for MAVRC's latest get-together of both freelance and official reporters on Sunday, June 26th. Reporters in attendance were able to "talk shop", eat some delicious appetizers, and just enjoy the beautiful day along the shoreline.



Megan Stumm and Jennifer Sati



Jolynn Graham and Merilee Johnson



Pat Mahon, Megan Stumm and Jennifer Sati



Lake Minnetonka view from Maynard's in Excelsior Bay



Sandy Burch and Rachel Erickson



Christine Clark and Rachel Erickson

NCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION



*Minnesota attendees who gathered for a breakfast at the NCRA Convention included:
Front Row: Patrick Mahon, Brandi Bigalke, Merilee Johnson
Back Row: Marty MCKelvey, Sandy Helget, Sharon Steinbrecher, Christine Simons and Lynn Krenz*

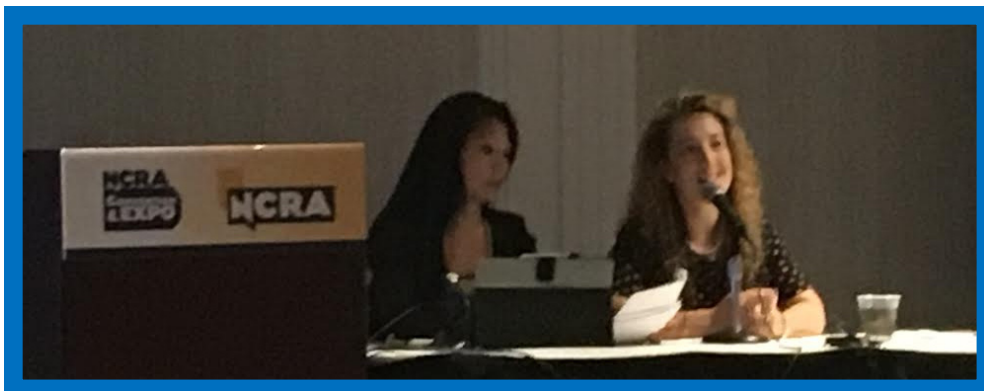


*Minnesota student reporter attendees at the NCRA Convention included (L to R)
Jamie Wood, Rachael Johnson, Tasha Anderson, Callie Sajdera and MartyMcKelvey.*

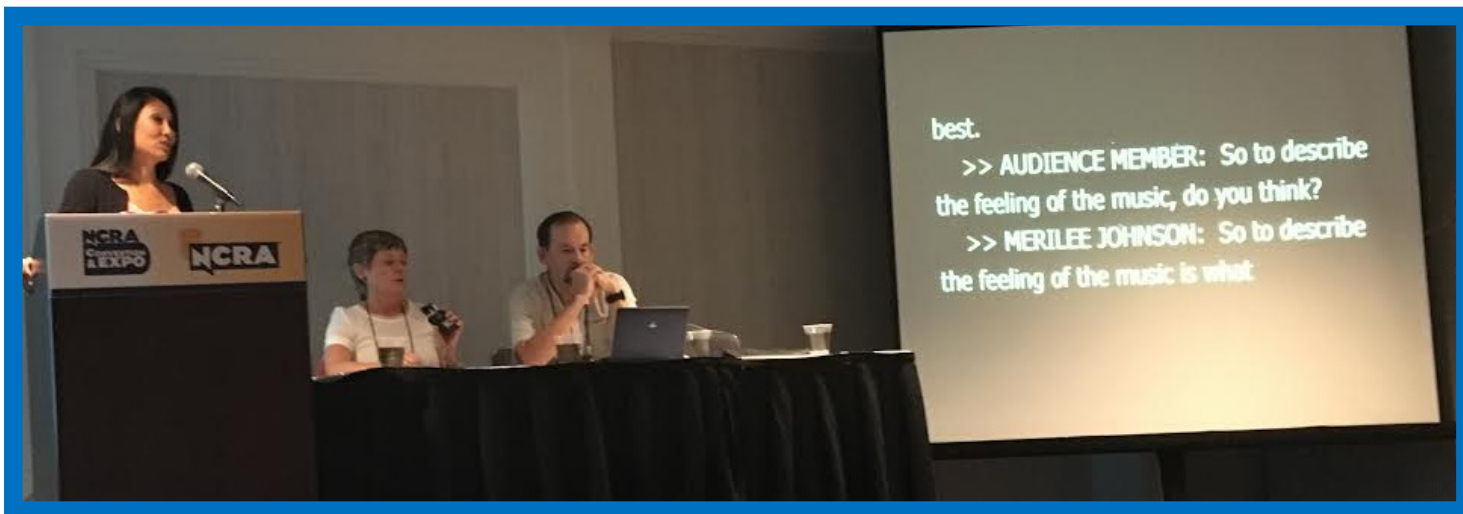
NCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION



(L to R): Lisa Richardson, RPR, CRR, CRC; Shari Majeski, RMR, CRR, CBC, CCP; Deanna Baker, FAPR, RMR; Merilee Johnson, RMR, CRR, CRC, presented a session “Working From a Home Office: The Good, The Bad, and Having a Life.”



In a session entitled Realtime Hardware: Learn the Nuts and Bolts, presenters (L to R) Merilee Johnson, RMR, CRR, CRC; and Lisa Knight, RDR, CRR, presented information to attendees.



(L to R): Merilee Johnson, RMR, CRR, CRC; Deanna Baker, FAPR, RMR; and Bill Graham presented a session entitled “Beyond the Captions: Captioner Roundtable.”

IN MEMORIAM - JAMES "JIM" WOITALLA

JUNE 25, 1958 - AUGUST 12, 2016

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

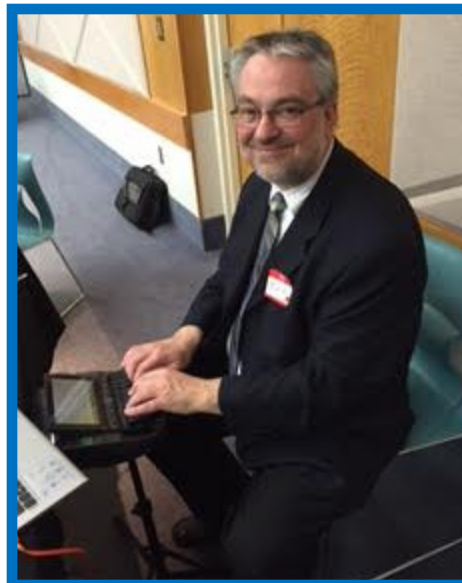


Reporters across Minnesota and the United States were recently shocked and saddened by the untimely death of Jim Woitalla. Without a doubt, Jim was a true friend, an exemplary professional, and a strong advocate for the court reporting profession. It is times like these when we struggle to find the words that will express the true impact that someone has had on our lives. While the words on these pages can never adequately capture all of Jim's achievements, his friendships, and his unabated dedication to the court reporting profession, it is intended to be a tribute to his life and the memories we share.

After graduating with flying fingers from the St. Cloud Business College in 1978, Jim embarked on a very successful career path that extended over 38 years. He was offered a position with the freelance firm Herb Peterson & Associates, a place where he eventually worked his way up to partner/owner. In addition to writing

tens of millions of words throughout his career, somewhere along the way Jim found the time to earn a number of prestigious awards, including the RMR, the Minnesota Award of Excellence, NCRA's Registered Diplomat Reporter, and MAVRC's Distinguished Service Award.

Never one to sit idly by, Jim freely gave of himself and applied his talents towards making a lasting impact on Minnesota's various state court reporting associations. He first joined the Minnesota Shorthand Reporters Association (MSRA) in 1979, where he helped on the Freelance Committee and served as a director. When MSRA evolved into the Minnesota Court Reporters Association, Jim eagerly stepped up to serve as a board and committee member. After formation of the Minnesota Freelance Court



Jim displaying a smile while a vendor at a MAVRC event

Reporting Association (MFCRA), Jim willingly assumed the role of vice president in 1985, president in 1986, immediate past president in 1987,

editor of The Minnesota Freelancer in 1988, and treasurer from 1989-1991.

Jim's dedication to the court reporting world did not stop at the state level, however, as he also volunteered his time with the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA). He first served as NCRA's CRFORUM's Online Continuing Education Development Coordinator, then on the NCRA Board of Directors in the late 1990s and also a number of other committees, including co-chair of the Realtime Systems Administrator Certificate Committee, a member of the Paperless Future Task Force, and the NCRA Technology Evaluation Committee. Jim frequently gave presentations on technology at NCRA conventions as well as at MAVRC events. For his outstanding leadership and valued contributions to the court reporting profession, he was recognized as a Fellow of the Academy of Court Reporters in 2011.

Jim's desire to help his fellow court reporters did not end there. In addition to Jim's work at the state and national levels, he also enthusiastically shared his passion for technology and court reporting with hundreds of students at Anoka Technical College over his 12 years of teaching there.

A person would have to search far and wide to find someone who helped strengthen our profession as much as Jim did. While Jim is no longer physically with us, his love for court reporting and technology will never be forgotten. Jim, you will always have a special place in our hearts. May you rest in peace.

In Memoriam by Jennifer Sati

With great love and admiration, Jim Weitalla will forever be a part of the Judicial Reporting Program at Anoka Technical College and his memory surely will continue forever. Jim Weitalla taught the Judicial Reporting software/technology class

He was an absolute joy to work with and Team JRBC is going to have a hard time without him. I'm sure all students, graduates, and reporters would agree: Jim was a blessing, his memory a treasure, and he is loved and missed beyond words.



Jim sharing his knowledge with reporting students at Anoka Tech

at Anoka Technical College for 12 years. He did more than teach a class; he impacted the lives of every student and graduate. He showed genuine concern for students and happily became the go-to for all software and technology questions and pursuits.

If you try to define "mentor," you can come up with words to try to describe the essence OR you can think about a person, such as Jim, who modeled mentoring effortlessly, and immediately understand what it means to be an effective mentor. He made a difference in people's lives and guided many on their journey to successful and rewarding careers. When anyone asked Jim a question, he immediately flashed his big smile! We are going to miss that smile!! I have no doubt Jim received emails every single day from students and graduates. His warm response and fast action made everyone know that they were special, relevant, and important.

Special Memory of Jim Weitalla by Mary Mitchell

The voluminous special tributes and heartfelt concerns expressed on Facebook for Jim Weitalla when he recently fell gravely ill from a massive heart attack resonated loudly for the admiration and appreciation of the wonderful human being Jim was; someone who has touched so many lives, ranging from those of us who were his court reporting colleagues and students, to his many friends, to his loving family. Jim's untimely death is a sad and tragic loss for us all.

My special memory and gratitude to Jim, which I'll never forget, dates back to November of 1983, when he sought reporter help from myself and two other local MN reporters who were invested, along with Jim, in the TomCAT software and hardware, to report depositions in London, England, for an American attorney client of Jim's on rather short

notice. At the time, Jim thought it expeditious to have all reporters already proficient on the same CAT system to work the case with him. This was long before laptops, realtime hookups and instant delivery of the final transcript at the job site existed or maybe was even contemplated. The case was a business/financial matter, not too terribly juicy, with European witness accents being varied and interesting and somewhat challenging, and the English deposition procedure being just a tad different from deposition protocols in the U.S. The venue was exciting, the reporting job was typical, and the experience was one I'll never forget. And for that I thank dear Jim Weitalla for that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



(L-R) Mary Mitchell, Becky Jerred Bennett, and Jim Weitalla at dinner in London, England, November, 1983

Jim was an early supporter and advocate of all things computer, and was also an early user of the Internet, as many of you may remember his active participation on the CompuServe reporter's forum. It's amazing to think about that time in November, 1983, when Jim would have been only 25 years old, and to realize the business savvy and self-confidence he demonstrated in negotiating with his client to cover these depositions in London, and
(Continued on Page 26)

(Continued from Page 25)

the management he undertook of making sure the transcripts got out in a timely manner. I don't remember much about Jim's court reporting schooling, but he clearly was a shining star in the reporting field early in his career. Jim's swift development of technological know-how, and how freely he shared that knowledge with both official and freelance reporters, was his hallmark. But beyond that, Jim's strong work ethic, integrity and honesty were exemplary and inspiring. He will be deeply missed.

In Memoriam by Jan Ballman

I have known Jim for over three decades. We first met working on *The Freelancer*, which was the official magazine of the Minnesota Freelance Court Reporters Association. In fact, I followed him as Editor of that publication. My brother created the "avatar" he used for his Editor picture long before avatars were a twinkle in app creators' eyes. Even back then, it

was just like Jim to be sporting the newest and coolest in technology.

Besides working the editorial staff together, we also served the state association over the years, often working side-by-side, particularly as it related to gift-giving and contracting. We became and remained the two "go-to" reporters on those issues, and we worked together with members of MAVRC as recently as 2015 to pass an amendment to MN Statute 486.10, the law that speaks to court reporting and contracting.

I also had the privilege of serving on Anoka Tech's advisory committee with Jim for the past several years. Our respective involvement in the court reporting



Jim displaying his DSA plaque

community on a national level had us flying to conferences all over the U.S. and hanging out in many different cities together for the past 15 years--always a blast!

Each of these experiences gave me the opportunity to get to know Jim at a deeper level and better appreciate him for all the things he brought to the table. He had mad court reporter skills and a natural ability to understand and implement the latest in technology. He had a huge heart for giving and was always there whenever he was needed, whether at the local or national level, serving countless years and giving hundreds of thousands of hours of his personal time for the betterment of our profession. What he meant to our community is readily apparent by the number of purple hearts that flooded social media as the nation heard about Jim's falling ill.

There is no question that court reporting lost one of the great ones, and many of us lost a wonderful friend. A true gentle giant, Jim was... and he will be forever missed but never forgotten. ■



(L-R) Brandi Bigalke, Merilee Johnson, Jan Ballman, Jim Woitalla, Jane Schleusner, Deb Longley, and Jennifer Sati at the NCRA Convention, San Francisco, California

IN MEMORIAM - SHANNON FORESTER

MARCH, 1952 - AUGUST 14, 2016

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

The court reporting world suffered another tragic loss recently with the death of Shannon Forester on Sunday, August 14, 2016.

Shannon was born in Misawa, Japan, and then moved to the United States at the age of 12. Upon graduating from Rasmussen Business College in June of 1989, Shannon embarked upon her freelance court reporting career by accepting a position with Southwest Reporters. After working for Southwest for a little over a year, Shannon then worked for the court reporting firm of Davis, MacPhail & Associates. Being an ambitious court reporter, Shannon actively recruited some clients and started her own freelance firm known as Forester Court Reporting, which she successfully ran for approximately 22 years. Shannon served as a director of the Minnesota Freelance Court Reporters Association in 1992.

When Shannon was not busy reporting, she also sold fashion jewelry for Lia Sophia from June of 2006 to June of 2012, and then became involved with selling biotech products for Nerium International, a position she held from 2012 until her passing. ■



Shannon Forester 2004

*Farewell colleague
We will miss you very much.
But as our dear friend,
You will live on in our hearts.
May you rest in peace.*



Shannon Forester 2007

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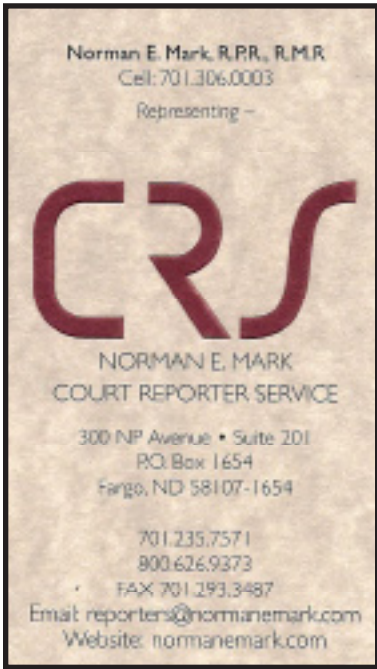
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PROMOTE COURT REPORTING

Court Reporting as a Career???

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Jennifer Sati

JSati@anokatech.edu

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UPCOMING EVENTS

August 23, 2016	MAVRC Board Meeting
September 23 & 24, 2016	MAVRC's Fall Convention Park Plaza, Bloomington, MN
November 5, 2016 11-3 p.m.	Veterans' History Day Project Chandler Place St. Anthony, MN



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To submit articles, send to:

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MAVRC Editor MINNE-strokes
angiesundell@gmail.com

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