

# **MINNE-***strokes*



Minnesota Court Reporters: On and Off the Record

Fall 2019 Volume 21 Number 3



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It's hard to believe we are approaching our fall convention, even though it is a little earlier this year. I know for myself, summer brings a lot of fast fun! My schedule becomes even more go, go, go. I work hard, but play harder. I focus on getting the jobs turned around as fast as I can so I can get to the fun faster.

As fall approaches, it always feels good to get back to learning and improving myself as a professional. I am very much looking forward to all the technologyfocused training that our fall convention will bring. I can never get enough realtime seminars because you never know when that little new piece of information you learn in that seminar may save you from a major hook-up disaster in a proceeding or deposition. Or, learn a way to write a new word or phrase that gives you trouble, perhaps pick up a software tip on how to fix common mistakes on the fly during realtime. I like to think that I will always learn a new piece of information that may just save my butt in the future.

And need I say a word about software training?! I'll go ahead and risk sounding like a geek and say that I LOVE software training. It never ceases to amaze me how much our software can truly do to help us be more efficient in our job, making us look like the rock stars we truly are. I have come to the conclusion that I will never master everything there is to know about my software system, and I'm okay with that. I know the software is always improving, so every chance I get for training from a certified software trainer, I'm there with

## By Brandi Bigalke, RPR, RSA



Brandi Bigalke bells on!

I hope to see you all at the MAVRC fall convention. Our Continuing Education Committee puts in so much time and research and does a lot of organizing to make these conventions interesting and worthy of your time. They do such a great job, and they do it all for YOU, the members. So, please, come hang out with your colleagues, learn some new technology tips and tricks, and hear from our legislative lobbyist what is going on in our profession. We hope you'll join us!

Brandi Bigalke is a freelance reporter in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Minnesota Association of Verbatim Reporters & Captioners



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2 www.mavrc.or	rg Fall 2019		



## A TO Z INTRODUCTORY STENO COURSE



Please help us spread the word to anyone who may be interested in exploring the career of stenographic realtime reporting.









# The Fall A to Z **Introductory Course** will start on Monday, October 7, and run through Monday, November 11. Meeting times are 6-8:30 p.m.







# MAVRC FALL CONVENTION LINEUP

8:30 - 9:00 REGISTRATION			
9:00 - 10:30 Realtime Bookups & Troublesbooting (.15 CEU)			
Five of MAVRC's experienced reporters, led by Sharon Strinbuccher, will walk you through the steps involved in getting your real-time equipment connected to run without glitches and will pass along some of their tips and tricks. They will also assist in troubleshooting glitches that sometimes do arise, so you can be back up and maning smoothly in no time!			
10:30 – 12:00 Veterans Defense Project (.15 CEU)			
Minnespalis attorney Brack Hunter will be giving us an overview of the Yeterans Defense Project which he is the co-founder and president of, as well as the establishment of Veterans Treatment Courts in Minnesota. 			
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch and Annual Business Meeting			
1:00 - 2:00 Legislative Update - 2019 (.10 CEU)			
We will bear from Joel Carlson, MAVRC's lobbyist, on current happenings in MAVRC and our profession.			
2:00 - 5:15 BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1, 2 & 3 (.30 CEU)			
Breakout 1: CASE CATALYST: Breakout 2: ECLIPSE: Breakout 3: Round Table Discussion on Transcript Production			
What's the Latest and Greatest in Case CATalyst and Advantage Software? Certified Stepograph and Eclipse trainers will be here to bring it all to you.			
For those not on either software, take charge of your own Round Table session dealing with your own software issues, brief encounters, etc.			
3:30 - 3:45 Break			
3:45 - 5:15 BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1, 2 & 3 (continued)			
DONPT FORGET TO BRING YOUR STENO MACHINES AND LAPTOPS!			
(Eans a total of .7 CEUs)			

# MAVRC FALL CONVENTION SILENT AUCTION

MAVRC is currently seeking donations for the silent auction to be held at the fall convention. Have some fun with your co-employees, friends, or fellow students putting together a theme basket or contributing a gift certificate or whatever you creatively come up with!

> The silent auction will be held on Saturday, September 7th.

If you would like to donate an item, please bring your donation to the sign-up table at the convention AND please email in advance a description of the donation, its value, and the name of the donor to MAVRC's Fundraising Committee:

Leslie Carver, leslie.carver@courts.state.mn.us Judy Wunderlich, judy.wunderlich@courts.state.mn.us Lynzie Zempel, lynzie.zempel@gmail.com

## MAVRC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

## Agenda

## \*Call to order

\*Welcome by President Brandi Bigalke \*Treasurer's Report by Adrienne Conzemmius \*Introduction of slate of officers for 2019-2020 \*A call for nominations from the floor Call for motion, second, and vote on slate of nominees \*Installation of new officers/directors \*President's address by Debbie Peterson \*Adjourn annual business meeting

# **MAVRC Board of Directors/Officers** Slate of Nominees - 2019-2020



- President Debbie Peterson
- President Elect Laura Pelletier
- Vice President Official RandiAnn Harvey
- Vice President Freelance Christine Clark
  - Secretary Lynzie Zempel
  - Treasurer Adrienne Conzemius
- Director-at-Large B (Freelance) Deanna Oaks
- Director-at-Large B (Official) Sarah Anderson
- Director-at-Large A (Official) Mary Johnson (Serving second year of 2-year term)

## **Remaining on Board:**

- Immediate Past President Brandi Bigalke
- Director-at-Large A (Freelance) Tammy Mathwig (Serving second year of 2-year term)

## NCRA CERTIFICATION TESTING

The first time I attempted to take the Registered Diplomate Reporter (RDR) written exam was in October of 2017. Because I was simultaneously preparing for a speed test, I did not study much, and I really had no clear direction of what to study. A review of NCRA's RDR Job Analysis shows the four domains, or categories, that are covered on the test, but it's pretty broad. It also lists a lot of thick reference books, which was like someone handing me 32 large volumes of an encyclopedia and saying, "Here, study these and you'll be tested on a small fraction of what's contained therein." So I, along with my 26 years of reporting experience, irresolutely tried to wing it.

On the day of the test, I arrived early, but there was already a line of other test-takers for a variety of other careers. After registering and palming-in, I was given a quick pat-down and then was allowed to enter the testing area. It did not start well. The first question asked for a definition of a word I had never heard of. LOL - literally! So I flagged it for review and continued on, discouragingly flagging a lot of other questions. At the end I had to go back and answer the myriad of flagged questions and take wild guesses. Needless to say, it was a FAIL.

So the next attempt was a year later in October of 2018, and I was determined to be more prepared. I could not find RDR studying books

#### By RandiAnn C. Harvey, RDR, CRR, CRC, AE

Here are some of my tips for taking a written NCRA test:

- 1. Find some study material and create a plan of attack, but don't cram too much preparation in too short of time.
- 2. Make sure the name you register under matches exactly your ID that you will bring with to the testing site. Carefully read the Pearson VUE testing rules a few times!
- 3. Keep taking the tests and keep trying!

RandiAnn Harvey is an official reporter in Mora, Minnesota.



RandiAnn Harvey



from NCRA, so I ordered Monette

https://crrbooks.com/. I took each

book's total pages and divided it by

the number of days I had available

That gave me the number of pages

day. I made a chart and dutifully

checked off each day when I had

completed the required pages. The

amount of material in the books was

a little overwhelming, but I found the

and tips on how to pass a test the most

helpful. I also studied NCRA's Code

of Professional Ethics along with the

Advisory Opinions. This time, it was

a PASS!

computer and medical terminology

I had to complete in each book each

to study until the next test date.

Benoit's "The Purple Books,"

# NCRA CONVENTION FROM THE STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE

This year's NCRA convention **L** was extremely successful for the students of Anoka Technical College. Including myself, we had seven students make the trip to Denver, Colorado, for the four-day event. This was a better turnout than most previous years, and it was definitely worth the trip.

Shelby Lane, who is in her 140 speeds, said of the experience, "My first NCRA convention exceeded my expectations. The sessions were informative and helpful, but the best part for me was the endearing love and support that was given to me and other students. The working reporters are so passionate about this career field, and they can't wait for us to be successful and work alongside them. I left the convention knowing I had made essential connections for my future."

Students were provided with a schedule full of educational and networking activities. We had meals off-site with experts in the field who shared some great tips and advice.



Anoka Tech crowd around a table during the NCRA Awards Luncheon. (left to right, back to front) Erin Watson, Shelby Lane, Emily Deutsch, Amanda Sati, Lisa Wurtinger, Crystal Joos, Merilee Johnson, Callie Sajdera, Jamie Ward, and Jennifer Sati.

They also had seminars that ranged from professional standard practices to a meet-and-greet with the national board of officers. One of the seminars was a "speed dating" round where students got the opportunity to ask anything and everything of professionals in every part of the field. Topics included test prep, networking, taxes, short forms, certifications, and more.

putting in now really will be worth it in Another student, Emily Deutsch, who is in her 120 speeds, said, "It was awesome the end. to meet so many professionals that are more than willing to support students. Convention was a great experience, It was beneficial as a student to meet and I whole-heartedly recommend it not only for students but for working professionals with such a wide variety of experience in the field, from captioners professionals as well. Make sure you at least attend your state convention and and federal officials to CART providers seminar, but definitely try to attend the and code writers. I also really liked Max national convention as well. Next year Curry's message about change. Leaving will be in Orlando, Florida. See you the convention, I was filled with drive there! and motivation to get through school and start this exciting new career."

Drive and motivation are two things that students desperately need in order to complete school and get into the working field. Convention is the perfect place to find them. The professionals that you meet there are awe-inspiring and make the career sound so appealing that it's nearly impossible to leave the convention without the urge to get out your machine and practice for hours on end. The people you meet at convention have been through all of the same challenges that we, as students, face all the time, and it helps to know that all of the hard work that we are

Crystal Joos is a student at Anoka Technical College and a member of MAVRC's Publication Committee.



## By Crystal Joos

Medical Briefs			
		Ву	r Crystal Joos
abdomen	ABD	blood vessel	BLUFL
abdominal	ABL	calcium	CALS
alcohol	KHOL	carpel	KPARL
allergy	LERJ	carpel tunnel	KPARLT
Alzheimer's	ALZ	carpel tunnel syndrome	KPARLTS
Alzheimer's Disease	ALDZ	chiropractor	KHIR
anesthesia	AEN	chiropractic	КНІРТ
anesthetic	THET	cholesterol	KLES
aneurysm	NURM	cocaine	KAEN
anti	AENT	decrease	SDAOES
antibiotic	AEBT	diabetes	DAOEUBS
anxiety	ZAOEU	diagnose	D-G
artery	AERT	diagnosis	D-GS
arthritis	THRITS	diagnosed	D-GD
bacteria	ВАКТ	diagnostic	D-GT
bacterial	BAOERL	disease	SDAOEZ
bacterium	BAOERM	examination	SKP-GS
biopsy	BAOEUP	fracture	FRAUR
bipolar	BAOEURP	headache	HAEUK
bipolar disorder	BAOEURPD	hematoma	HAOEMT
blood alcohol	BLOL	hemorrhage	HERJ
blood alcohol level	BLEFL	hospital	НОРТ
blood count	BLOUNT	infect	NEFK
blood pressure	BLUP	infection	NEFKS
blood type	BLAOEUP	inflammation	FLAEUMGS
1.0			

# MEDICAL BRIEFS (CONT.)

laboratory	LABT
medical	MEL
meth	METD
methamphetamine	MEFT
muscle	MUFL
neurologic	NURK
neurotic	NAOURKT
obese	OEBS
obesity	OEBT
osteoporosis	TWOEP
otolaryngology	LARN
Parkinson's Disease	PARKDZ
physical	F-L
physician	F-GS
physical therapist	FAERPT
physical therapy	FAERP
prescription	PRIPGS
psychiatry	SKRAOE
psychiatric	SKAOEUK
respiratory SPAO	EURT or SPROEU
signs and symptoms	SNIMS
stomach	STUM
system	STEUM
surgeon	SURN
surgery	SURG
surgical	SURL

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Fall 2019

## Surgeon General

SURNG

tobacco

vitamin

TBAK

## VAOEUMT

SUGGESTION BOX

## MAVRC is looking for your input...

What would you like to see in future issues of Minne-*strokes*?

Do you have brief forms to share?

Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond in the reporting profession and should be featured in Minne-*strokes*?

Do you have a topic that interests you and you would like to see an article written about this topic?

Do you know a reporter who has humorous stories and would like to share them with the membership?

Do you know a judge or a lawyer who would like to write an article for MAVRC's Minne-*strokes*?

Are you willing to write an article?

Please send your suggestions to:

MAVRC PO Box 375 Marshall, MN 56258

or rhonda.franken@courts.state.mn.us

## Sharing Steno with Students

My journey was very similar to many of my classmates who had had previous careers and degrees before finding their fit in the court reporting program and profession. Although I do not regret the experience, knowledge, and connections gained in my life before the program, I know that if I had heard about the opportunities available in the reporting field back in high school my life would have been very different. I decided that I wanted to give students the opportunity to hear about this incredible profession and set them up for success right out of the gate.

With that in mind, I contacted my old high school teachers and set up two separate days where I would speak to eight different classrooms of students about my experience in the Anoka Technical reporting program. I brought in my Wave, an older model I got from an antique shop, and my laptop, as well as some flyers for Anoka Tech and the specific Judicial Reporting program.

I was very nervous, especially on that first day. I was in my 160s at the time and worried that they would want to challenge my realtime capabilities which were essentially nonexistent. I didn't know if I would be able to keep them entertained for the full hour and get them excited about the courtroom and this weird machine most of them had never even seen before.

I shouldn't have been so worried, though. Each classroom that I talked to and each "lecture" that I gave was slightly different. After every class I had a little better idea of what I really wanted to talk about, and I was able to adapt to which areas they seemed most interested in. Each class had a different focus, whether it was the procedural aspects of the profession, what a court reporter does to help the judicial system function, the different types of careers, or the machine itself.

It soon became very clear that just the machine was enough to keep them interested for a long time. I wrote out the keyboard layout on the board and told them a little about the theory. When I said you could write every single consonant in the English language with just the eight keys on the left side and again with just the ten keys on the right, I saw jaws drop and eyebrows raise. It was so fun to have them yell out a name or word and write out the steno on the board for them to see. After seeing this "witchcraft" and "nonsense," they became engaged and really tried to challenge me with tougher words.

I also had a few of them come up and actually write their names on my machine and see it show up in the Notes pane as steno and translated into English right next to it. Some of them just wanted to press the keys and see what happened. I let them try out both the antique writer and the newer Wave model. I also wrote some steno on the board and had them guess what the word might be with only a little help. Some of them even got it right! They "decoded" PHR-S/AOEUD/ KWRAOE into their teacher's name. I was impressed!

I knew that the program wouldn't be a perfect fit for everyone, but my goal was to get at least one student

## By Crystal Joos

who would really start to think about reporting for their future. I am happy to say that I met my goal. Elyse DeLoach, a junior, came up to me afterwards and asked me



Crystal Joos shares her experiences as a current reporting student with Elyse DeLoach at Joos's high school alma mater

additional questions and told her friend (my family's foreign exchange student) that she was interested in reporting as a possible career.

Elyse told me, "It was really awesome to hear from a person who has gone to a community college! After taking personal finance, I knew after high school that would be the best route for me but didn't know much about them as they kind of push four-year colleges in high school. I've also been struggling with what I want to do as a possible career in the future. To listen to you as a guest speaker helped open me up to a whole new possibility that I've never heard of! It was so fascinating, and I felt like it was something that would fit my interests."

I can't tell you how good it made me feel that I had been able to help just one student on their path in life! It was an incredibly rewarding experience. It also helped me with my speeds, believe it or not. At the time I was experiencing a bit of a plateau and was getting discouraged at the lack of progress. But after sharing with those students and seeing how in awe they were of this skill that I was working on, I got a new wave of motivation. I am proud to say that as of the end of this summer semester, I am officially a 180s student!

I heartily encourage everyone to try this for themselves. Whether you are a working reporter or a student still in school, you have valuable and interesting experiences to share with the next generation! Kids in

## PRO BONO

	<i>If you are interested in providing pro bono reporting services, contact:</i>
	Jean Whalen, RDR, CRC, RSA, DSA MAVRC's Pro Bono Coordinator
	Phone: 612-348-3571
	Jean.whalen@courts.state.mn.us
	l i a d i
	Save the Dates
5	<b>CRAN 2020</b> Court Report & Captioning W
	February 8-15

high school, middle school, and even elementary school need to know about this profession. I truly believe that just increasing awareness will greatly help in the shortage of court reporters that the field is facing. Help yourselves and help the future of the profession by going to your local schools or alma maters and talk about court reporting!

Crystal Joos is an Anoka Tech reporting student and member of MAVRC's Publications Committee.



## STUDENT PROFILE

**Name:** Dixie Ehlers

School: Anoka Technical College

**Speed:** Realtime IV - 120s

Hometown: Midland, South Dakota

**Tell us a little about yourself.** I grew up in a small town in South Dakota called Philip. When I was between the ages of 6 and 10. I would go swimming every day that the swimming pool was open and swim all day. My grandpa called me a fish. At the age of 14, I had to move to my grandparents' to help out on the ranch. It was not fun to move away from all my friends, but at least it was quiet. My favorite sports to do are golfing and softball. I made it to State my last year of golfing, and my team got sixth place.

What made you decide to pursue a career in court reporting? I decided to pursue this career because both of my aunts are court reporters. One is a federal court reporter, while my other aunt is a state court reporter. They told me to give it a try, and now I love what I am doing in school.

What area of reporting interests you the most at this timeofficial, freelance, or captioning/CART? I am interested in being an official, so I can try and get up to the federal level just like my aunt. I feel like getting up to federal court reporting would be a great achievement, and knowing that I went that far would tell me that I worked so hard for it.

What's been the most challenging or rewarding part of your

schooling thus far? The most rewarding thing in school this far would be getting one of my speed tests back and seeing that I passed, which makes me have such confidence in this career. Knowing that I am getting faster and getting to the speed I need is really great.

Do you know any working reporters or anyone that's been an influence to you? Both my aunts have influenced me, showing me the benefits of court reporting and telling me it is a very good place to start.

If you had an hour of freetime, what would you be doing (besides practicing on your steno)? If I had an hour of free time to do anything, I would definitely want to be outside golfing or playing softball.

What is your favorite band or type of music? My favorite band would be 21 Pilots.

What is your favorite food or restaurant? My favorite food is pasta.

Where is a place you would like to visit? If I could visit any place, I would like to either go to Ireland or the U.K.

**The last book you read?** The last book I read would be *Labyrinth Lost* by Zoraida Córdova.

**The last movie you watched?** The last movie I watched was *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street.* 



By Dixie Ehlers

Dixie Ehlers

# **Anoka Technical College** offers training in the

# lucrative gh-dema

# career fields of **Judicial Reporting** and Captioning.

# August and January program starts. Visit us or apply today!



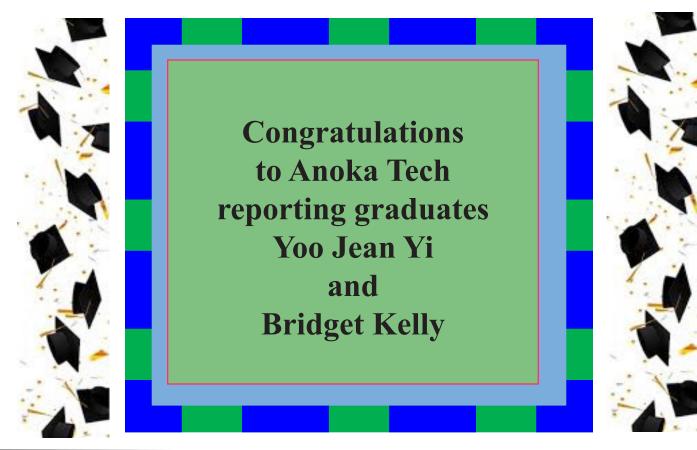
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Strong Placement Rates



# Congrats, Graduates!



# **RETIRED ... OR PLANNING TO SOON?**

Are you retired or retiring soon? Lucky YOU! Please keep in contact with MAVRC!

Did you know you can apply for "RETIRED LIFETIME" status with MAVRC? Your status will be changed in MAVRC's database to retired, and you will keep up to date with what is happening in the organization and your profession. Best thing: It's free! Check out Article III - Membership, Section 4, Retired Lifetime Members, in MAVRC's Constitution and By-Laws for further information.

So MAVRC can stay in touch with you when you retire, email your contact information or any questions to Jolene.Carrow@gmail.com and your information will continue to be in MAVRC's database.





Advertising with MAVRC offers you an affordable opportunity to promote your business to local and out-of-state attorneys, paralegals, legal secretaries, videographers, and fellow court reporters about the variety of court reporting services you provide.

If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, ads placed with MAVRC are published in full color under MAVRC's business listing section as well as in our quarterly newsletter, Minne-strokes. As an added bonus, your card ad will be featured prominently on MAVRC's homepage as part of our scrolling card ad section. This enhanced feature is available to you at no additional cost if you elect to advertise with MAVRC for the entire year as long as your payment is received no later than May 5th. For those card ads received after May 5th of each year, there will be an additional \$40 charge to be included in the scrolling card ad section.

Please circle your choice(s) for ad(s) to be published by MAVRC.

## **ANNUAL RATE**

Please circle issue(s) in which you wish ad to run.

Business Card Ad	\$100	\$35	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Quarter-Page Ad	\$250	\$80	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Half-Page Ad	\$350	\$100	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Full-Page Ad	\$500	\$150	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter

Please send this completed form, your payment, and your business card to:

Or you can email your business card, in JPEG format, to jcarrow mavrc@hotmail.com. Then mail this form along with payment to the above address. To be included in the Winter 2019 issue, your ad and payment must be received by November 1, 2019.

Questions may be addressed to MAVRC's Administrative Assistant, Jolene Carrow, at the email address above or by calling her at (507) 532-0676. Thanks for your support!

P.O. Box 375 Marshall, Minnesota 56258

Phone: (507) 532-0676 www.mavrc.org Email: jcarrow mavrc@hotmail.com

#### **PER/ISSUE RATE**

MAVRC P.O. Box 375 Marshall, MN 56258

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MAVRC MINNE-strokes

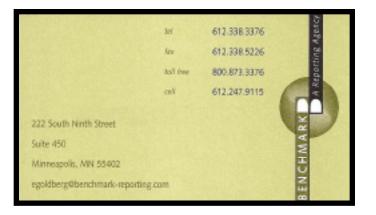
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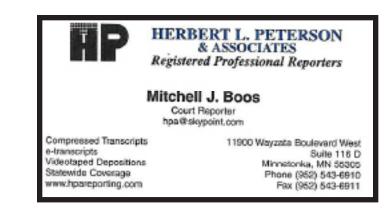


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## *Interested in having your* card ad appear here?

**Contact Jolene Carrow for details** at (507) 532-0676 or jcarrow mavrc@hotmail.com

www.mavrc.org

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Fall 2019

# MINNESOTA AGENCY LISTINGS



Registered Professional Reports youngreporting@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 466 Delano, MN 55328

763-639-9480

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# Interested in having your card ad appear here?

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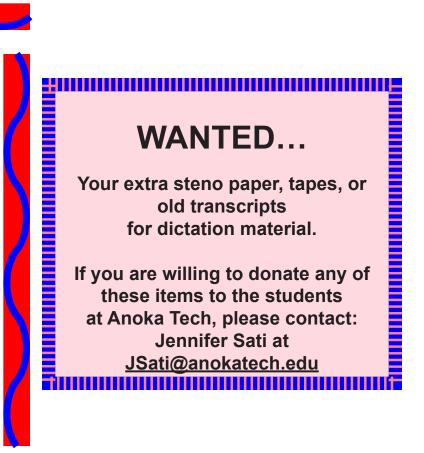
# PROMOTE COURT REPORTING

Court Reporting as a Career??? If you know someone who is interested in court reporting, closed captioning, or CART, the contact person at Anoka Technical is: Jennifer Sati JSati@anokatech.edu



Send \$25.00 indicating that you would like to sponsor a student to: MAVRC P.O. Box 375 Marshall, MN

56258





September

November

December

31, 2019

1,2019

7, 2019

**UPCOMING EVENTS** 

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF VERBATIM REPORTERS & CAPTIONERS P.O. Box 375 Marshall, MN 56258

MAVRC Fall Convention

Submissions deadline for

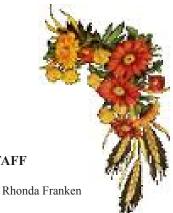
Reminder to submit your

Minne-strokes Winter Edition

MAVRC application and dues

Eden Prairie, MN

Eden Prairie Community Center



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