



MINNE-strokes

Minnesota Court Reporters: On and Off the Record

FALL 2020
VOLUME 23 NUMBER 3

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By Debbie Peterson, RPR

INSIDE:

- President's Address 1
- Mark Your Calendar 2
- MAVRC Board of Directors/Officers
Slate of Nominees 3
- MAVRC 2020 Fall Convention
Registration Information 4/5
- MAVRC 2020 Annual Business
Meeting Invite and Agenda 6/7
- To Capitalize or Not to Capitalize . 8
- Upcoming A to Z Realtime Class . 9
- Pro Bono 10
- Work Comp Briefs 11
- NCRA New Certifications for
Minnesota Reporter 11
- Jury Trials in a COVID-19
Pandemic World 12-14
- NCRA Advisory Opinion 44 15
- DiscoverSteno A to Z
Introductory Course 16
- NCRA 2020 Virtual
Annual Convention 17
- Reporter Humor 17
- Student Profile 18/19
- Congrats, Graduate 19
- Lobbyist Legislative Update . 20-22
- Promote Court Reporting 22
- Advertising Options 23
- Minnesota Agency Listings 24/25
- Out-of-State Listings 26
- Video Services 26
- Anoka Tech Judicial Reporting
and Captioning Program. 27
- Upcoming Events 28

Dear MAVRC Members,

HAEP TPAL ☺!

I hope you are all staying healthy and are able to enjoy the beautiful fall days ahead of us. If you have children starting school, I hope the transition goes well.

It looks like COVID-19 is planning to be here for a little longer than we anticipated. Navigating Zoom hearings is an ongoing board meeting topic. A HUGE kudos to the court reporters statewide on their due diligence in implementing new technologies such as Zoom and VMR into their workday to assist in keeping the Judicial Branch functioning and the opportunity for parties to move forward with litigation. Great job!

Our fall convention will take place on October 3, 2020. We will incorporate a virtual learning opportunity with ProjectSteno along with our business meeting. Please save the date ☺. Details will be coming out soon.

We will be partnering with Anoka Technical College again this fall for a DiscoverSteno A to Z class opportunity for potential new students interested in the court reporting profession. Classes



Debbie Peterson

start October 5th. To date the enrollment in this program is high even with all of the COVID-19 concerns. That's fantastic! Good luck to all current students enrolled in the court reporting program. We are very fortunate to have such a great program in Minnesota. A huge thank you to everyone involved! We appreciate all of your efforts that make it such a big success.

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your MAVRC President this past year. Thank you for the opportunity! ■

2019-2020 MAVRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Debbie Peterson (952) 496-8223 debpeterson@nuveramail.net
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Laura Pelletier (763) 421-2025 lpelletier@comcast.net
VICE PRESIDENT-OFFICIAL	RandiAnn Harvey (320) 679-6407 randiannharvey@hotmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT-FREELANCE	Christine Clark (952) 250-4030 chrisclarkzimm@gmail.com
SECRETARY	Lynzie Zempel (218) 393-1975 lynzie.zempel@gmail.com
TREASURER	Adrienne Conzemius (651) 213-8681 conzemius1012@gmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE A (Freelance)	Tammy Mathwig (763) 753-2287 tntmathwig@hotmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE A (Official)	Mary Johnson (952) 496-8219 pmjjjohnson@gmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE B (Freelance)	Deanna Oaks (858) 221-0383 oaksdeanna@gmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE B (Official)	Sarah Anderson (763) 760-6783 sarah.l.anderson22134@gmail.com
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Brandi Bigalke (612) 708-2650 brandibigalke@yahoo.com
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Jolene Carrow (507) 532-0676 www.mavrc.org

**MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR!!!**

**MAVRC's 2020
Fall Convention
is scheduled for
October 3rd**

**Virtual
Webinars**

**See pages 4-5
for registration info**

**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.

**MAVRC Board of Directors/Officers
Slate of Nominees
2020-2021**



President – Laura Pelletier

President Elect – RandiAnn Harvey

Vice President (Official) – OPEN

Vice President (Freelance) – Christine Clark

Secretary – Lynzie Zempel

Treasurer - Adrienne Conzemius

Director-at-Large A (Official) – Mary Johnson
(Serving first year of 2-year term)

Director-at-Large A (Freelance) – OPEN
(Serving first year of 2-year term)

Remaining on Board:

Immediate Past President – Debbie Peterson

Director-at-Large B (Freelance) – Deanna Oaks
(Serving second year of 2-year term)

Director-at-Large B (Official) – Sarah Anderson
(Serving second year of 2-year term)

MAVRC 2020 FALL CONVENTION

The MAVRC Board of Directors and Continuing Education Committee have been diligently exploring options for the annual MAVRC Fall Convention this year. In lieu of meeting in person with the current COVID pandemic, MAVRC is proud to announce a partnership with ProjectSteno offering you an opportunity to participate in a virtual 2020 continuing education opportunity for **only \$69**.

MAVRC Annual Business Meeting and Fall Convention

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: October 3, 2020

8:30 a.m. (Business Meeting)

9:30 a.m. (Webinar)

The registration process will be paperless and take place electronically. NCRA will give you continuing education credit through your registration and participation in the webinar.

Attached is a PDF flyer with a link embedded for Minnesota reporters to register. Also attached is a JPG version of the flyer; this does NOT have the embedded link. The MAVRC website will also have the business and convention information and the registration link: www.mavrc.org.

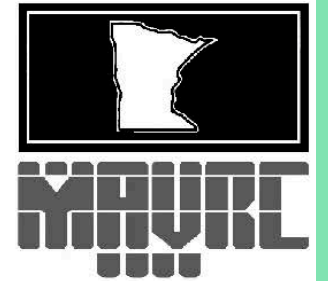
To register for the webinar in a different format, your unique MAVRC link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/1615971506182?pwd=cnHNfjJ2CTqezfHF5RSWW6w>

We look forward to this opportunity to offer continuing education credit with NCRA and also to raise awareness and promote the stenographic profession as we push through the COVID times!

Questions, contact: Debbie Peterson, Phone: 952-240-6508 or 952-496-8223

Debbie Peterson
MAVRC 2019-2020 President
Continuing Education Committee Chair

MAVRC 2020 FALL CONVENTION



Creating a Bright Future

Project Steno and Minnesota Association of Verbatim Reporters & Captioners
Working Together to Build Awareness

Live webinars.
Saturday, October 3 – 10:30 to 4:30 Eastern
Fresh topics and creative ideas to support our profession

Registration: \$69. Register [HERE](#).

\$15 of your registration supports Project Steno's mission to raise awareness of our profession.

The remaining portion, after costs, goes to **MAVRC!**

Session	Speaker	Time (all times Eastern)
<i>Write Clean, Write Fast. All Day? No Sweat!</i>	Ed Varallo, RMR, CRR, FAPR Board member, Project Steno Author, <i>The Realtime Writer's Manual</i> and <i>Ed's Steno Pro</i>	10:30 – 11:30 .1 CEU (pending)
<i>The Surprising Results of Project Steno's Nationwide Survey</i> (inaugural presentation)	Nancy Varallo, RDR, CRR, FAPR Executive Director, Project Steno	12:00 – 1:00 .1 CEU (pending)
<i>Developing a High School Program in Your State</i>	Glyn Poage, RDR, CRR, FAPR Board member, Project Steno	2:00 – 3:00 .1 CEU (pending)
<i>How to Conduct a Basic Training Class</i>	Tiva Wood, RDR, CMRS, FAPR Board member, Project Steno	3:30 – 4:30 .1 CEU (pending)



MAVRC Members,

You are invited to the MAVRC Annual Business which will be held via Zoom this year. The agenda is on page 7 in this newsletter. The information will also be posted on MAVRC's website.

Time: Oct 3, 2020 08:30 AM Central Time

Copy the link to join the MAVRC Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82402512939?pwd=d1c4b0pqU0Fpd0Y1NkRjZmtOYS9lQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 0251 2939

Passcode: 330495

In addition, you can use any number below to be connected by audio on your phone while using your computer/iPad for the video only:

- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

**MAVRC'S 2020
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Agenda**

- *Call to order
- *Welcome by President Debbie Peterson
- *Treasurer's Report by Adrienne Conzemius
- *Student of the Year Award by Jennifer Sati
- *Introduction of slate of officers for 2020-2021
 - *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 Laura Pelletier
 - *Adjourn annual business meeting

To CAPITALIZE OR NOT TO CAPITALIZE?

By Rhonda Franken, RMR



To capitalize or not to capitalize? That is often the question when it comes to capitalizing certain terms such as “section,” “page,” “chapter,” “paragraph” or “line.” The general rule of thumb is that if the word is or could act as a heading, capitalize it. If not, then don’t.

Here are some tips on capitalizing these terms:

1. Do not capitalize minor subdivisions or parts of a document such as “page,” “paragraph” or “line.” Even though these terms may refer to a specific page or line, they are not serving as a title. For example, you wouldn’t see “Page 1” at the top of a page, so “page” should be lowercased when referencing that page number. Example: See page 2 for an explanation.

NOTE: These terms are usually followed by a number in numerical form, not a spelled-out number.

2. Major parts are capitalized (exhibits, volumes, sections, subsections, subdivisions, articles). If a textbook or cite is being referenced, for example, with chapters or sections that are numerical, the titles should be capitalized. Example: “Cited in the textbook, Chapter 1 states that...” OR “In Section 505.01, Subdivision 3 of the Minnesota Statutes, it states...”

If the chapter has a name, it is common to capitalize both the name and the word “Chapter” when used with a number. Example: “I’m quoting from *Introduction to Forensic Psychology*, Chapter 1, Adult Forensic Evaluation.”

These terms are lowercased when used in general (without the number). Example: “Q. Which chapter are you referring to? A. I’m referring to Chapter 2.”

NOTE: Again, these terms are usually followed by a number in numerical form, not a spelled-out number.

3. In general, capitalize references to parts of a document. These include certain common nouns in the singular (e.g., chapter, volume) when they are used in text references with numbers or letters indicating place, position or major division in a sequence. Also capitalize a letter following such a term (e.g., Appendix D). Some examples: Appendix B, Chapter 3, Exhibit 1 or Exhibit A, Figure 7, Volume 13.

Lastly, as always, be consistent!

Rhonda Franken is an official court reporter in the First Judicial District, Goodhue County, and a member of the MAVRC Publications Committee. ■

Upcoming A to Z Realtime Class!



Become a Successful CART Captioner and Broadcast Captioner!

8-Week Course* / October 1st - November 19th

- Improve Realtime Writing - (weekly realtime evals with feedback, realtime drills focusing on conflicts/prefixes/suffixes, realtime concepts)
- Equipment/Software - (captioning software features, encoders, realtime streaming platforms)
- CART specifics (venues, layouts, speaker IDs)
- Captioning - (scripting, music notes, and other key functions)

First class to practice sending captions through our new iCap encoder!

- Live lecture (Zoom) and realtime evals every Thursday evening, 6 - 8:00 p.m.
- 24/7 access to online repository of practice material
- Optional on-site experience with captioning equipment

Instructor:

Jennifer Sati, RMR, CRR, CRC, CRI
Bringing more than 25 years of realtime CART and captioning expertise to you!

For more information,
contact Jennifer at Jsati@anokatech.edu

*This course is for stenographic writers who are currently writing at 225 wpm.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN:

Contact **Laura Cleveland**
LCleveland@anokatech.edu
763-576-4079
Course Cost: \$350



A to Z Realtime class offered through Professional & Workforce Training.
Meeting the realtime training needs of court reporters, broadcast captioners, and CART captioners!

PRO BONO

PRO BONO

**Kudos to
Christine
Clark
for providing
pro bono
services.**

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

Tammy Mathwig
MAVRC's Pro Bono Coordinator

Phone: 763-753-2287

tntmathwig@hotmail.com

WORK COMP BRIEFS

By Lisa Thorsgaard, RPR

workers' compensation	WOERX	left leg	L-LG
work comp	WOP	right leg	R-LG
workman's comp	WOFRP	left shoulder	L-RB
union	YAOUN or AOUN	right shoulder	R-RB
medical records	MORDZ	left side	L-DZ
maximum medical improvement	MEM	right side	R-DZ
medical treatment	MAOEMT	MRI	MREU
light duty	LAOUT	multilevel	MEVEL
full duty	FAOUT	extremity/ies	STREMT(S)
job duties	JAOUDS	activities of daily living	TILDZ
job requirements	JAOIRTS	impairment	PAIRMT
physical therapy	FAERP	thoracic	THORK
claim petition	KLAIGS	back pain	B-P
IME	MAOEM	psychologic	SK-J
independent medical examination	NAOEGS	psychological	SKOEJ
bilateral	BLARL	workers' compensation claim	WAIM
fingers	FINGS	are you married	RUMD
finger	FING	have you ever been convicted of a felony	VERK
left hand	L-NDZ		
right hand	R-NDZ		
left arm	LARM		
right arm	RARM		

Lisa Thorsgaard is a freelance reporter and part-time official court reporter for the Honorable Kevin Mark, First Judicial District, Goodhue County. ■

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?

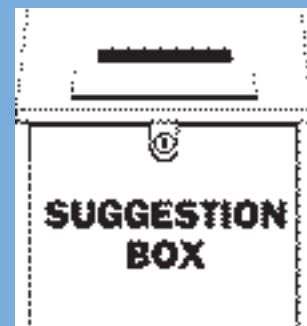
Do you know a judge or a lawyer who would like to write an article for MAVRC's MINNE-strokes?

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



NEW NCRA CERTIFICATIONS FOR MINNESOTA REPORTER

Congratulations

TO OUR NEWLY CERTIFIED MEMBERS!

NEWLY CERTIFIED REPORTERS (As of August 12, 2020)

Congratulations to **Lori Morrow, RDR, CRR, CRC**, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, who recently passed the RDR (Registered Diplomat Reporter) certification!

JURY TRIALS IN A COVID-19 PANDEMIC WORLD

By Debbie Peterson, RPR

MAJOR transformations to Courtroom 3 in Shakopee took place over the last few months to prepare for future jury trials in a COVID-19 world. On June 15, 2020, Scott County was approved by the Minnesota Judicial Council to begin criminal jury trial pilots. Judges, court administration, public health, and justice partners adhered to strict guidelines implementing the Minnesota Judicial Branch's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan, which included several changes in the physical space in the courtroom, creating a local plan with local partnerships, and determining a plan for the entire jury process.

Every single change that was implemented in the courtroom affects the court reporter's ability to take a verbatim record. All of the gallery pews were removed so counsel tables could be placed further back in the courtroom. Podiums were moved further back from the Judge/Bench to provide added space from the jury box. Plexiglas was placed around the entire courtroom where social distancing requirements could not be met. The obvious question in my head during the two months of transformations was: How am I ever going to adequately do my job?

Luckily, Courtroom 3 has a great PA sound system which includes a hearing impaired device that can be worn by the court reporter to assist in hearing the court proceedings. This device is connected to the PA sound



Official reporter Debbie Peterson is behind a panel in a transformed Scott County courtroom. She is wearing a mask and has hand sanitizer and wipes to use in the COVID-19 world of official reporting. The witness sits in the witness stand and enters from the back of the courtroom.



(Above left to right) Official reporters Mary Johnson, Kari Opsal, and Christine Berger demonstrate social distancing at the counsel tables and podiums in a transformed Scott County courtroom. Counsel stand at podiums during cross and direct examinations

system. Without this device, my job would be very difficult, if not impossible. Several microphones are placed throughout the courtroom, including in the ceiling above the jurors, so everyone can hear and understand the court proceedings. Courtroom 3's technology also allows exhibits to be viewed on multiple screens throughout the courtroom and the jury box. This technology eliminates the need to approach the witnesses. The judge makes sure that everyone speaks in front of a microphone so all participants are heard clearly.

Because of the necessary changes made to the courtroom for safety reasons, there is not room for members of the public to observe a trial. Zoom technology is utilized and projected in the courtroom next door for public viewing of jury trials. This provides the public and interested parties of the case the ability to see and hear the proceedings.

Jurors are mailed questionnaires to fill out and send back before the first day of trial. Masks and shields are offered to jurors and staff. One or the other is required to be worn by everyone in the courtroom unless determined otherwise by the judge. Sanitizing takes place after every witness, if different attorneys approached the podiums, and as the jurors and parties exit the courtroom. Jury deliberations take place in a separate courtroom to allow jurors plenty of space for social distancing.

(continued on page 14)

(continued from page 13)

After all of these precautions, business is as usual. The defendant is able to exercise his right to a jury trial and all of the rights associated with it. Juror surveys have indicated that jurors feel very safe during trial and appreciate all of the efforts made to ensure their safety.

Thank you to Mary Johnson, Christine Berger, and Kari Opsal (Scott County Official Reporters) for standing in as actresses in the photos. Hopefully, these photos give everyone a visual of how the courtroom looks under COVID-19 precautions.

Good luck to all of the reporters involved in the new world of COVID-19 jury trials. It is definitely a challenge.

Debbie Peterson is an official reporter in Scott County and is currently the president of MAVRC. ■



(Above left to right) Official reporters Kari Opsal, Mary Johnson, and Christine Berger are shown in the jury box demonstrating how jurors will be spaced for jury trials in conformance with the Minnesota Judicial Branch's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.



Check out
MAVRC's website @
www.mavrc.org
and Facebook page @
<http://www.facebook.com/MAVRC/>

NCRA - ADVISORY OPINION 44

Should a Court Reporter Act as Both the Verbatim Reporter and the Videographer for the Same Proceeding? (Originally written, 2006)

Statement of Facts

A freelance court reporter has requested an opinion from the Committee on Professional Ethics regarding ethics issues involved when a court reporter acts as both the verbatim reporter and the videographer for the same proceeding.

Discussion

The Committee believes that a reporter has an ethical duty not to enter into a business relationship that compromises the reporter's ability to produce an accurate record. Doing so creates the appearance of impropriety and undermines the integrity of the profession. Acting as the videographer for a proceeding can be a very complex endeavor as evidenced by the number of Standards set forth by NCRA's Certified Legal Video Specialist Committee. For example, Standard 25 states that "the videographer shall continuously monitor the video recording with a monitor/receiver which is connected to the output of the VCR." The Committee believes that a single person cannot continuously monitor the recording while simultaneously producing a stenographic reporting of the proceeding.

Provision No. 3 of the Code requires a reporter to guard against not only the fact but also the appearance of impropriety. Provision No. 9 requires a reporter to maintain the integrity of the reporting profession. The paramount duty of the reporter is to produce an accurate record. For a reporter to agree to perform another duty that would take away from the reporter's ability to focus on reporting the proceeding violates the reporter's ethical duties.

Conclusion

The Committee on Professional Ethics has determined that a reporter may not act as both the videographer and the verbatim reporter for the same proceeding. The paramount duty of the reporter is to provide an accurate record of the proceeding. To be responsible for handling the many issues related to operating the video equipment that arise in a given proceeding would compromise the ability to accurately report the proceeding. This would result in a violation of Provisions Nos. 3 and 9 of the Code of Professional Ethics that deal with avoiding the fact and appearance of impropriety and maintaining the integrity of the reporting profession. ■



ALERT!!!



The Fall
**DiscoverSteno A to Z
Introductory Course**

will start on
Thursday, October 5,
and run through
Thursday, November 19.
Meeting times are 6-8:00 p.m.

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



NCRA 2020 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONVENTION

By Deanna Oaks, RPR



Like everything else this year, the NCRA convention was different than it has been in the past. It was completely remote, streaming webinars through Zoom and connecting us all while not leaving our homes.

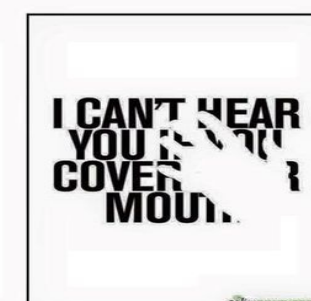
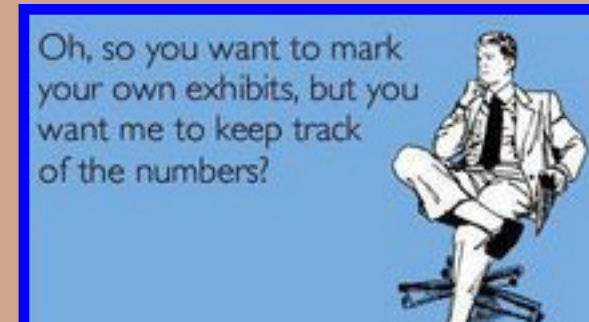
About a week before the convention, a goodie bag arrived on my doorstep, filled with all the traditional swag that we would get in person. There were the usual sponsored items, some gadgets, gift cards, and my favorite this year: colored pencils. Also inside my bag was a silly oversized costume bowtie intended for the fun, celebratory events like the meet and greets and champagne toast.

And, of course, the event had all the usual valuable sessions that teach us new tricks and tips, streamline our reporting process, put us in touch with our peers, and earn us CEUs. I particularly enjoyed the "Million Dollar" seminar that educated us on how to better run a business and, naturally, make more money. The sessions available were diverse and informative and geared towards bringing our profession into the future and adapting to these ever-changing times.

The simple fact that the convention was held online is a true testament to the profession's acclimation and ability to stay relevant in the technological age and beyond. Although travel is an amazing experience, when the option is not there, NCRA conventions from home are an incredible way to stay up to date and connected.

Deanna Oaks is a freelance reporter and lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. ■

REPORTER HUMOR



STUDENT PROFILE

By Erin Watson

Name: Erin Watson

School: Anoka Technical College

Speed: 200

Hometown: Clinton, Iowa

Tell us a little about yourself. I grew up mostly in the metro area and have lived in Minneapolis for most of my life. I went to college previously at U of M – Moorhead and Columbia College Chicago. I live in Minneapolis with my husband, Caleb; daughter, Greta; dog, Ruby; and cat, Millie.

What made you decide to pursue a career in court reporting? I've worked at the U of M for over 14 years as a C-Print captionist for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. I learned about CART and steno by talking to some of the freelancers who do work at the U and decided I wanted to be able to provide verbatim captioning and learn how to do what they did.

What area of reporting interests you the most at this time- official, freelance, or captioning/

CART? When I started school, I was pretty narrow-minded in thinking I only wanted to do CART. But interning in the court and freelance fields has opened my mind up to all the other possibilities, and I'm currently leaning most heavily towards freelance.

What's been the most challenging or rewarding part of your schooling thus far? I thought I'd have an advantage because I've been doing speech-to-text work for so long, but I think it's actually been more difficult for me to learn steno because I had to "unlearn" a lot first. Working full-time in one modality and trying to learn another has been really challenging, and I usually only pass tests in the summer when I'm not working and can focus solely on steno.

Do you know any working reporters or anyone that's been an influence to you? Lisa Richardson and Angie Sundell were the first CART providers I saw working at the U, and I was amazed at what they could do. I would always corner them and ask them a million questions whenever I got the chance. And of course, everyone's favorite mentor, Merilee Johnson! She let me ask her my notebook full of questions over coffee before I decided to apply to Anoka Tech, and she's taught me so much along the way. Jennifer Sati and Jane Schleusner are also so wonderful and keep me going even though I've cried in their office at least once every semester!

(continued on page 19)



Erin Watson

CONGRATS, GRADUATE!



Shelby Lane

"Since I haven't decided what direction to take yet, I'm focused on interning for now. I'm happy to be able to give full attention to my intern opportunities. I had a recent intern experience that might have just completely changed my mind."

(continued from page 18)

If you had an hour of free time, what would you be doing (besides practicing on your steno)? What's free time?? I'd probably take a nap or go to the beach or hiking with my daughter.

What is your favorite band or type of music? I mostly like indie rock, and I've been listening to a lot of Phoebe Bridgers and Rhye lately.

What is your favorite food or restaurant? I just eat whatever my husband makes because I don't cook. We also really love the Ecuadorian restaurant by our house, Chimborazo.

Where is a place you would like to visit? I'd love to visit some ancient archeological sites in South America, like Machu Picchu or Easter Island.

The last book you read? *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

The last movie you watched? We've been on a Marvel kick at my house lately, so we just watched "Doctor Strange." ■

By Joel Carlson

On August 11th, the Minnesota legislature completed the third special session of 2020 – a short affair required by law due to the ongoing peacetime emergency declared by Governor Walz on March 11th to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Like everything else, the coronavirus has turned legislating completely on its head, with Zoom committee hearings, remote voting for floor sessions, and the Capitol building closed to the public. Cooperation and agreement have been in short supply since the shutdown began, with legislators failing to reach agreement on taxes and many policy bills that need attention.

Shortly after the Governor declared the emergency the legislature moved to sporadic meetings, finger pointing and partisan sniping. Everyone has become an arm-chair epidemiologist, knowing what is best to address the worst world health crisis in over 100 years. Crowd size, mask wearing, super-spreaders, and even the listed cause of death are now legislative debates. Since early May, House Republicans have withheld their votes on major legislation until Governor Walz agrees to drop the peacetime emergency, something that is just not going to happen at this time.

As a result of that “drop the emergency” demand, major tax relief and jobs bills have been stalled out. The legislature ended the regular session on May 18th without doing its work and have now run through three special sessions with the same outcome.

The legislature has also been trying to address police reforms since the world witnessed the death of George Floyd on Memorial Day. Protests continue to this day around the U.S. over the horrible and graphic death which has resulted in over \$500 million in property damage by riots and looting in Minnesota alone. Protesters and business owners have been injured and killed in the civil unrest that has followed as Minneapolis became the epicenter of racial injustice.

Activists and legislators from the People of Color and Indigenous Caucus (POCI) pushed major police reforms and accountability in the June special session, but no agreements were found. POCI legislators were passionate and convincing retelling their personal stories of racial discrimination from police and society, but it did not carry the day in the June session. The world looked on to see how Minnesota would respond to Floyd’s death. The June session ended with partisanship and no action. It was hard to watch.

Some progress had been made on police reforms by the time the July second special session arrived, and a first step at accountability was adopted as Special Session Chapter 1. But the repercussions and calls for accountability and reform continue and are significant components of our national political discourse with less than 80 days to go before the 2020 election.

Here is a link to the text of the final police reform bill.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2020/2/Session+Law/Chapter/1/>

At the very end of the third special session, Senator Majority Leader Paul Gazelka struck back against Governor Walz’s emergency powers by pushing to remove Commissioner of Labor and Industry Nancy Lippink from her position. The highly partisan move to oust the highly qualified Lippink does not bode well for the next special session in September.

2020 Elections Loom Large

It’s hard to go a day without hearing or reading something about the coming election. Minnesotans have been ready to vote for months, and the just-completed August primary gave us some indication of the level of interest we are showing in change.

With record-level voter participation, much of it by early absentee voting, Minnesota voters went to the polls to support their party-endorsed candidates. The importance of party endorsement has been waning for years, but it came roaring back in 2020.

Several legislative incumbents felt the voters’ desire for change. Four DFL incumbents, representing over 55 years of legislative service, were defeated in the primary after they failed to gain party support earlier in the year at party-endorsing

(continued on page 21)

(continued from page 20)

conventions. In races where no incumbent was running, the party-endorsed candidate won in every contest.

The primary winners in these races are heavy favorites in the November election and represent a shift in gender and diversity for the legislature. Three women lawyers – Esther Agbaje (Minneapolis), Athena Hollins (St. Paul), and Jen McEwen (Duluth) – defeated their male incumbent opponents, including House Judiciary Chair John Lesch in St. Paul.

Lesch has been a steady hand at the Capitol in support of the court reporters and the courts during his 18 years of service, but he could not overcome the demand for change in the primary.

High-profile congressional races in Minnesota’s 5th and 7th districts also saw the party endorsement bring home the win. Representative Ilhan Omar faced a well-funded opponent in her first re-election effort but easily garnered 58% of the vote despite being badly outspent in this urban district. On the Republican side, former Lieutenant Governor Michelle Fischbach was the endorsed candidate on the sprawling 7th district, and with heavy assistance by the President and party she secured a win over three opponents that attacked her record mercilessly during the primary.

With the primary in the rear view, we are now bombarded with the general election and all the mud and muck that comes with it. The Presidential race between Trump and former VP Biden will be the nastiest and most litigated race in U.S. history. Minnesota has a U.S. Senate race between Senator Tina Smith and Republican Jason Lewis, and all 201 legislative seats are up for grabs.

The battle over the Minnesota Senate will be the most closely watched for Capitol junkies like me. With Governor Walz not up for re-election and the House currently in DFL hands, the Senate is the last piece of state government that is controlled by Republicans. Senate Republicans hold a 35-32 edge in the upper chamber and are defending their suburban colleagues in seats located in Plymouth, Burnsville, Arden Hills, and Stillwater. Republicans are also trying to expand their numbers by defeating DFLers in Austin and Lakeville.

DFL Senate lead Susan Kent, who successfully removed former leader Tom Bakk in February, is focusing on suburban races and Rochester as their main battleground. They are also fielding a challenge in the Bemidji and Grand Rapids area with Rita Albrecht, the current mayor of Bemidji, making a strong push against freshman Senator Justin Eichorn.

The Minnesota House currently has a 75-57 DFL/Republican split and has shown a history of swinging between the parties with some frequency. DFLers have tended to fare better in most Presidential election years, but that wasn’t the case in 2016, so you just never know.

2021 Session Will Focus on the Economy and Budget

The outcome of the election will have an impact on the approach and mindset to the budget-setting 2021 legislative session, but the stark reality of what Governor Walz and lawmakers will face is not likely to change.

Heading into the 2020 session, Minnesota had a \$1.6 billion surplus in state revenues and a budget reserve over \$2.4 billion. Our unemployment rate stood at 3.8%, one of the lowest in the country, and life was pretty darn rosy. What a difference six months can make!

As a result of COVID-19, we have seen months of business closures, stay-at-home orders, limits on crowd sizes, and massive job losses. Over 600,000 Minnesotans filed for unemployment and few service and retail businesses are back to full operations.

The impact on tax collections has been equally staggering. Budget officials project a \$4.7 billion deficit in the coming four years, and that’s after you erase the surplus and budget reserves and account for over \$2 billion of federal stimulus funds that the state received in April. A \$10 billion swing in the state budget projected in just six months is simply unheard of, including the crash of 2008 and the budget crisis of the early 1980s.

(continued on page 27)

(continued from page 21)

The Governor is taking some steps to control state spending by hiring freezes, salary reductions, and shifting some programs. But the 2021 session is where the heavy lifting will take place, and all aspects of the state budget, including the courts, will be under close scrutiny for cost savings and cuts.

The tools legislators will use to address the jobs and budget situations will, in part, depend on the election outcomes both in Minnesota and nationally. Whether Washington will be willing to roll back tax cuts or Minnesota can increase revenue (tax hikes) will not be known until after November. Minnesota's unemployment rate has started to come down, but several sectors of the economy will continue to be slow to return.

You don't always think of large sporting events or concerts driving our day-to-day economic activity, but they are a key driver of jobs. Hospitality and leisure have accounted for 18% of total sales taxes collected and over 300,000 jobs and will be the last portion of the economy to restart. This alone will impact the state for at least another year, if not longer.

Larger construction projects are slow to come online; and with the legislature misfiring on a bonding bill through four sessions (regular and three specials), there is not a pipeline of work coming soon.

All of these factors will make 2021 an important session. And we don't even know if we'll be able to meet in person by that time!

Joel Carlson owns a legal research and government affairs business in St. Paul, Minnesota, and has represented MAVRC at the Capitol since 2002. He can be reached at jdcresearch@aol.com. ■

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



MINNESOTA
ASSOCIATION OF VERBATIM
REPORTERS & CAPTIONERS

P.O. Box 375
Marshall, Minnesota 56258

Phone: (507) 532-0676
www.mavrc.org

Email: jcarrow_mavrc@hotmail.com

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 April 26th. For those card ads received after April 26th 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.

	<u>ANNUAL RATE</u>	<u>PER/ISSUE RATE</u>				
Please circle issue(s) 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:

MAVRC
P.O. Box 375
Marshall, MN 56258

Or you can email your business card, in JPEG format, to jolene.carrow@gmail.com. Then mail this form along with payment to the above address. To be included in the Winter 2020 issue, your ad and payment must be received by **November 1, 2020**.

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!

www.mavrc.org

MINNESOTA AGENCY LISTINGS

SHERLYN M. ANDERSON
Registered Professional Reporter

ADVANCED REPORTING
...for service and quality

10170 44th Court NE
St. Michael, MN 55376

(763) 497-3495
Fax: (612) 677-3319
Cell: (612) 559-0502
email: advancedreporting@charter.net



CORBETT COURT REPORTING

Nanette J. Corbett, Registered Diplomate Reporter
2212 Hegberg Road, Duluth, Minnesota 55804-9630
Phone: 218-525-3515 Cell/Text: 218-390-5408
E-mail: nansoffice@gmail.com

SANDY BURCH

CERTIFIED REALTIME REPORTER

INTEGRITY COURT REPORTING, INC.
TEL: 952.440.3886 * TOLL FREE: 800.731.1903

7900 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE, SUITE 300
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55425

SBURCH@INTEGRITYCR.COM



Jan Ballman, RPR, CMRS, FAPR
President & CEO

Minnesota's largest, most highly-certified court reporting team.

Offices in Downtown:
Minneapolis - St. Paul - Fargo

(612) 339-0545
paradigmreporting.com
depos@paradigmreporting.com

tel 612.338.3376
fax 612.338.5226
toll free 800.873.3376
cell 612.247.9115

222 South Ninth Street
Suite 450
Minneapolis, MN 55402
egoldberg@benchmark-reporting.com

BENCHMARK
A Reporting Agency



Patricia Carl
Chairman & CEO

Offices in
Minneapolis,
Chicago & Las Vegas

WOMEN OWNED

Global Coverage

763-591-0535
scheduling@depointernational.com
www.depointernational.com

*Interested in having your
card ad appear here?*

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



Corinne Schieck
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER

Carney & Associates, Inc.

P.O. BOX 262
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA 55903

BUS. (507) 288-3558
1-800-367-8124
FAX. (507) 288-3557
carneyrpr@gmail.com



GLENDAL KAUFMAN
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER
12179 Undercliff Street N.W. • Minneapolis, MN 55433-6727
Tel: 763.566.7476 Fax: 763.566.1909
Toll Free: 888.567.7476 • E-mail: glenda@factsreporting.com

Laurie Webster, RPR



Reporting Agency

A Full-Service Court
Reporting Firm

1-800-334-3858

P.O. Box 293
Cloquet, MN 55720
(218) 878-1882



**HERBERT L. PETERSON
& ASSOCIATES**
Registered Professional Reporters

Mitchell J. Boos
Court Reporter
hpa@skypoint.com

Compressed Transcripts
e-Transcripts
Videotaped Depositions
Statewide Coverage
www.hpaprofessionals.com

11500 Wayzata Boulevard West
Suite 118 D
Minnetonka, MN 55305
Phone (952) 543-6910
Fax (952) 543-6911

OUT-OF-STATE LISTINGS



A PARADIGM Company
300 NP Ave
Suite 201
Fargo, ND 58102
(701) 235-7571
Fax (701) 293-3487
www.normanemark.com



VIDEO SERVICES

Total Video Service
Depositions Courtroom Playback Duplication Editing
Digital Video CD/DVD Transfer Video/Transcript Synch

952-844-0048
E-mail: info@millcityvideo.com



Mill City Video Services



*Interested in having your
card ad appear here?*

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

Anoka Technical College

offers training in the

**lucrative,
high-demand**

career fields of

Judicial Reporting and Captioning.

**Strong
Placement
Rates**

August and January program starts.

Visit us or apply today!

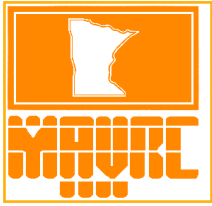


A member of Minnesota State



AnokaTech.edu | 763-576-4064 | #TrainToGain

©2017 Anoka Technical College, an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator and a member of Minnesota State. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Disclaimer, Non-Discrimination Statement, Student Consumer Information such as graduation rates and median debt, can be found here: anokaramsey.edu/disclosures. This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling the Minnesota Relay Service at 7-1-1 or 1-800-627-3529. 170397AT



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



UPCOMING EVENTS

**October
1, 2020**

A to Z Realtime Class
Anoka Technical College
Anoka, MN

**October
3, 2020**

MAVRC Annual Business Meeting
and Fall Convention (Virtual)
8:30 a.m. (Business Meeting)
9:30 a.m. (Webinar)

**October
5, 2020**

DiscoverSteno A to Z Class
Anoka Technical College
Anoka, MN

**November
1, 2020**

Submissions deadline for
MINNE-strokes Winter Edition

**December
31, 2020**

Reminder to submit your
MAVRC application and dues

MAVRC MINNE-strokes STAFF

EDITOR: Rhonda Franken

EDITORIAL STAFF: Crystal Joos
Angie Sundell
Jackie Young

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/
ADVERTISING:** Jolene Carrow
Jolene.Carrow@gmail.com

MINNE-strokes is the official publication of MAVRC, the
Minnesota Association of Verbatim Reporters & Captioners.

MINNE-strokes is published quarterly.

Statements of fact and opinion within this newsletter are the
responsibility of the individual writers and do not necessarily
reflect the opinion of the officers or members of MAVRC. All
advertisements are the sole responsibility of the advertiser
alone and do not express the opinion or endorsement of MAVRC.
Articles submitted are subject to editorial revisions.

To submit articles, send to:

Rhonda Franken
MAVRC Editor MINNE-strokes
Rhonda.Franken@courts.state.mn.us



**NEXT NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION
DEADLINE**



RECENTLY RELOCATED?

Please keep us informed of any changes to your home, office,
postal and/or e-mail addresses, as well as telephone and fax
numbers. This will help to ensure that you will continue to
receive MINNE-strokes and other important correspondence
regarding your association and profession.

Contact Jolene Carrow at jcarrow_mavrc@hotmail.com or
(507) 532-0676.