



# MINNE-strokes

Minnesota Court Reporters: On and Off the Record



SPRING 2018  
VOLUME 21 NUMBER 1

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**Mark your  
Calendar  
and  
Save the Date!**

**MAVRC'S Annual  
Spring Seminar**

**April 21, 2018**

Anoka Technical College  
Anoka, Minnesota

Stay tuned through the  
MAVRC webpage,  
Facebook page and  
emails for  
further updates!

Minnesota Association of Verbatim  
Reporters & Captioners

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## 2017 END-OF-THE-YEAR TREASURER'S REPORT

*Prepared by Jolene Carrow/Approved by Denise Rothfork*

### Year-end balances in MAVRC's accounts:

#### CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning balance	\$ 6,578.45
Deposits	55,915.00
Expenses	59,878.48
Balance	\$ 2,614.97

#### SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance	\$ 39,930.29
Deposits	54,187.50
Earned Interest	43.29
Withdrawals (to checking)	55,915.00
Balance	\$ 38,246.08

### Breakdown of Income & Expenses:

#### Administration:

Deposits	\$ --
Expenses	16,194.07

#### Fundraising:

Deposits	8,611.50
Expenses	4,287.15

#### Membership:

Deposits	16,070.00
Expenses	420.10

#### Spring Seminar:

Deposits	6,790.00
Expenses	1,737.78

#### Fall Seminar:

Deposits	18,835.00
Expenses	18,785.61

#### Newsletter:

Deposits	1,220.00
Expenses	--

#### NCRA/NCSA:

Deposits	200.00
Expenses	1,297.20

#### Technology: (Website)

Deposits	--
Expenses	1,176.42

#### Legislative:

Deposits	240.00
Expenses	12,600.00

#### Public Relations:

Deposits	--
Expenses	3,161.71

#### Student Relations:

Deposits	2,220.00
Expenses	220.44

#### Miscellaneous:

Deposits	1.00
Expenses	(2.00)

# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By Sandy Burch, RPR, CRR

Greetings, Fellow Reporters!!!

I'd like to first start out by thanking our Board for the work they did for the 2016-2017 term. I can't name everything, since the list is just so long; and if I leave anyone out, it's completely unintentional, but it's important that our members know or are reminded of the important work being done and acknowledge that our Board and committee members do a spectacular job fighting for and representing our membership.

Sharon Steinbrecher spoke before the Minnesota Legislature regarding issues with the Judicial Council. Rachel Erickson went to numerous schools to demonstrate real-time reporting to generate interest in our profession. Brandi Bigalke, Sharon Steinbrecher, and I went to the NCSA meeting in Vegas to talk about issues we face in our profession and how we are both currently handling them as well as strategizing ways to tackle them in the future. Denise Rothfork has done a great job with fundraising, and along with Jolene Carrow, kept spectacular records of our finances. Dana Anderson-Linnell has been to every Board meeting to record the minutes and does an outstanding job. Jackie Young was appointed to the NCRA Committee of Professional Ethics, as well as created our 110-year anniversary publication. Jolynn Graham has helped with coordinating pro bono reporters with indigent client requests. Merilee Johnson has been a great help with technology, teaching students at Anoka Tech as well as reporters at our Fall Convention.

As you can see, the list is long, and I didn't name everything everyone

has done over the past year, but it shows that our work is not done. We will continue to work hard for our members, and we have a lot of things we'd like to tackle this year.

So, with that said, my focus this year as president is on generating interest/participation in our profession, targeting not only current reporters to become members but also targeting students, prospective students, and the public to better understand what we do. As NCRA rolls out the A to Z/Discover Steno program, Anoka Tech is offering the course, and I'd like for MAVRC to do what we can to help get the word out about the program. As most of you know, our profession is facing a shortage of reporters and we really need to generate interest in our profession so that we can continue to



*Sandy Burch*

be the gold standard for capturing the record.

So, I'd like to offer a "challenge" to our members. Recognizing social media is such a large part of our culture, why not use it to our advantage. My challenge is to ask EVERY member of MAVRC, who has a Facebook page, to invite their friends to "Like" the MAVRC Facebook page. Brandi, Vicki, and Merilee have really taken the lead posting fun facts about our profession, pictures taken at our board meetings, news relating to upcoming events, as well as a host of other things. So, send out those MAVRC "Like this Page" requests and let's boost our social media presence!

As winter slowly comes to an end and spring emerges, I look forward to seeing everyone at the MAVRC Spring Seminar to be held at Anoka Tech on April 21, 2018. So, when you see me, be sure to say hi and let's chat about how MAVRC can serve you better this year! ■

# PROFILE OF A BOARD MEMBER

By Leslie Carver, RPR

MAVRC Q: What is your name?

A: Leslie Jean Carver.

MAVRC Q: Where did you go to court reporting school and when did you graduate?

A: Gogebic Community College, Ironwood, Michigan, 1990.

MAVRC Q: Any particular people who have influenced you in choosing court reporting as a career or helped you during your career?

A: A family friend introduced me to court reporting my junior year in high school.

MAVRC Q: Where have you worked since graduating and what type of work do you do now?

A: I've worked as an official court reporter in Hennepin County from 1990 to 2000, official court reporter in Sherburne County from 2000 to 2013, and I'm currently working as an official court reporter at the Wright County Government Center in Buffalo, Minnesota.

MAVRC Q: What type of steno machine and court reporting software do you use?

A: Diamante, Case Catalyst.

MAVRC Q: Do you produce your work all on your own or do you use scopists or proofreaders?

A: I do it myself.

MAVRC Q: Do you have any tips for other reporters about work habits or routines?

A: Keep up with technology, be timely with transcript requests.

MAVRC Q: Do you have a few favorite briefs to share?

A: KLINZ, clear and convincing evidence.

MAVRC Q: Are you a member of the National Court Reporters Association? If so, what credentials have you earned through NCRA and how do you earn your continuing education credits?

A: Yes, I am a member of NCRA. I have my RPR. I attend MAVRC seminars as well as NCRA conventions to earn my credits.

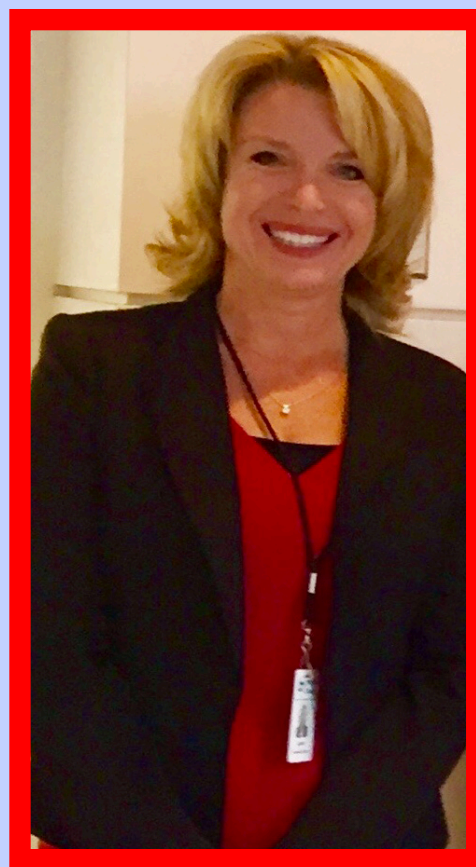
MAVRC Q: Have you attended any NCRA conventions, boot camps, seminars? If so, how was that experience for you and would you recommend it to other reporters?

A: I have attended both NCRA conventions as well as MAVRC seminars and always come away with new tools to better my skills.

MAVRC Q: Do you recall when you joined MAVRC or approximately how long you've been a member?

A: I have been a member off and on since the 1990s. I served as a MAVRC Board member earlier in my career. Unfortunately, I had a lapse in my membership when the kids were younger and life was super busy. I am now committed to MAVRC and I'm looking forward to being involved in the association.

MAVRC Q: When did you become a Board member of MAVRC and when does your current term end?



*Leslie Carver*

A: October of 2018. It is a one-year term.

MAVRC Q: How often does the Board meet and do you meet in person or somehow electronically?

A: We've met twice since I started in October, 2017. I've gone personally to these meetings. You can meet in person or by phone.

MAVRC Q: What are some of the current issues the Board is working on?

A: The spring seminar, fall convention, meetings of the Judicial Council regarding official court reporters, along with many other issues.



MAVRC Q: Have you helped out or supported MAVRC by volunteering in any other positions in the past or volunteered your time for MAVRC in other ways?

A: Yes, in the past I was a MAVRC Board member and I served on the Fundraising Committee.

MAVRC Q: On a more personal note, what's your hometown and where do you live now?

A: My hometown is Channing, Michigan. I currently live in Delano, Minnesota.

MAVRC Q: Tell us about your family and friends, activities you do with them, your interests outside of work.

A: I have three children and a lot of wonderful friends. I am very dedicated to working out, love to cook and spend time with my family.

MAVRC Q: Some other questions about what you do in your free time: What's a recent movie you watched, a recent book you've read, a favorite restaurant?

A: Well, I don't have a lot of time to watch movies or read books lately, so I don't recall either one. I do plan on bringing a book on an upcoming trip. My favorite restaurant is Bar La Grassa in Minneapolis. I love Italian!

MAVRC Q: Any places you've traveled to, either for work or play?

A: Florida, New York, North Carolina,

Texas, Louisiana, Mexico. I am going to Jamaica for the first time next month. I can't wait!

MAVRC Q: How do you balance your work and your home life?

A: You have to be organized. I usually cook on Sundays for the work week, so we can eat healthy meals during the week. I work out at 5 a.m., so I can spend time with my family after work.

MAVRC Q: Anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

A: I absolutely love being an official court reporter. I've been doing it for 27 years and it's still as exciting as when I first started in 1990. I love my job! ■

## NEW CERTIFICATIONS FOR REPORTERS



Congratulations to the following reporters who recently passed the CRC (Certified Realtime Captioner) certification:

Julie Buhler, RMR, CRR, CRC, Dodge Center, MN;  
Myrina Kleinschmidt, RMR, CRR, CRC, Long Lake, MN;  
Laura O'Driscoll, RPR, CRR, CRC, Rochester, MN;  
Nancy Gish, RMR, CRR, CRC, CLR  
Mary Johnson, RPR, CRR, CRC, Le Center, MN.

Congratulations also to the following reporters for passing the following certification testing:

Carrie Franckowiak, RDR, CRR, CRC, New Brighton, MN, who recently passed the RDR (Registered Diplomat Reporter) certification.

Angela M. Sundell, RMR, CRR, CBC, CCP, Hopkins, MN, who recently passed the RMR (Registered Merit Reporter) certification.

# MAVRC REPORTER GET-TOGETHER

A reporter get-together was held Thursday, January 18th, at Dana Anderson-Linnell's home, following the MAVRC Board meeting



*L to R: Lynne Krenz, Rachel Erickson, Leslie Carver, Brandi Bigalke, Jolynn Graham, Dana Anderson-Linnell, Sandy Burch, Laura Pelletier, Lisa DiMonte, and Jan Ballman.*

## 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.*

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

***Jean Whalen, RDR, CRC, RSA, DSA  
MAVRC's Pro Bono Coordinator***

***Official Court Reporter  
1640 Ramsey County Courthouse  
15 Kellogg Blvd West  
St. Paul, MN 55102***

***Phone: 651-266-8210***

***[Jean.whalen@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:Jean.whalen@courts.state.mn.us)***

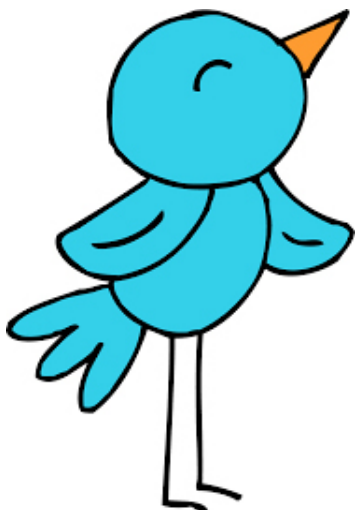
# OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER UNION STEWARDS

The following are the current official court reporter union stewards for each judicial district in Minnesota:

Rhonda Route	1 <sup>st</sup> District	Union Steward
Mary Johnson	1 <sup>st</sup> District	Union Steward
Jill Garrison	2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Union Steward
Sarah Anderson	2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Union Steward
Dale Meyer	3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Union Steward
Jessica Berke	3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Alternate Steward
Dana Carmichael	4 <sup>th</sup> District	Union Steward
Tricia Weinberg	4 <sup>th</sup> District	Union Steward
Teresa Kolander	5 <sup>th</sup> District	Union Steward
Kathryn D. Hanson	7 <sup>th</sup> District	Union Steward
Brenda Vanderveur	7 <sup>th</sup> District	Union Steward
Monica Christensen	9 <sup>th</sup> District	Union Steward
Darla Muster	9 <sup>th</sup> District	Alternate Steward
Janell Gruber	10 <sup>th</sup> District	Union Steward
Michelle Pecharich	10 <sup>th</sup> District	Union Steward

NOTE: The 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District had no union steward nominees.

## REPORTER FUNNIES!



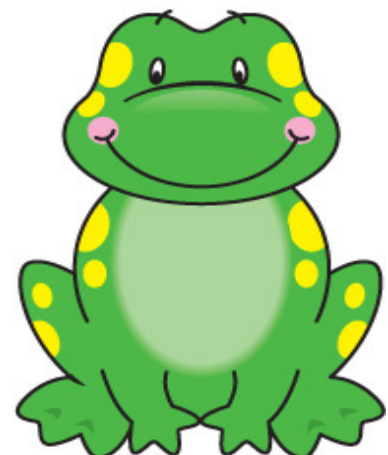
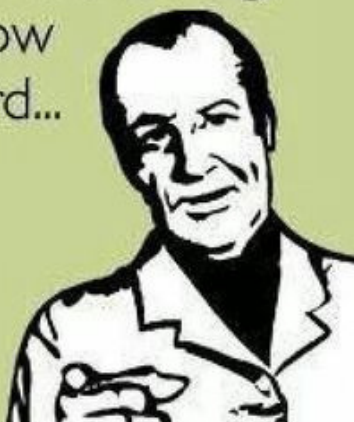
### Court Reporting 101

Next time you get a mumbling witness, turn to the attorney and say, "Sorry, I didn't understand, counselor, would you repeat what the witness just said?"

That should do it!



That's interesting and fascinating, but I just need to know how to spell the word...





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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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## THANK YOU

The following reporters have donated \$\$  
sponsoring students to join MAVRC!

Cheri Anderson  
Sherlyn Anderson  
Jan Ballman  
Sandy Burch  
Hart Erickson  
Rachel Erickson  
Joanne Ertl  
Rhonda Franken  
Elizabeth Gangl  
Aimee Goldberg  
Gary Hermes  
Myrina Kleinschmidt  
Lynne Krenz  
Caroline Nyberg  
Debbie Peterson  
Jane Schleusner  
Angie Sundell  
Jean Whalen  
Ryan Ziegler

# PROFILE OF A REPORTING STUDENT

By Crystal Joos

**Name:** Crystal Joos

**School:** Anoka Technical College

**Speed:** Theory - Level II

**Hometown:** Hamburg, Minnesota

## **Tell us a little about yourself.**

I grew up in a small town not too far west of the Cities, about 45 minutes away from Anoka Tech on a good day, and I do commute from home where I live alternately with my mom and brother and the three cats we have between us. I left there for four years to get my undergrad degree in professional writing and communications from Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minnesota. (Try saying that five times fast!)

## **What made you decide to pursue a career in court reporting?**

After finishing my first degree, I took an internship that was remotely related to my field of interest and ended up staying on in a full-time job that had nothing at all to do with that background. As I was looking for other career paths, or even temporary jobs, my mom met a freelance reporter from southern Minnesota through her job at the USPS. They talked about her job for a long time and my mom knew it was a perfect fit for me. On a whim and a prayer, I applied to the program the next day. Luckily, this was the Saturday before a new semester, so I was able to start immediately. I put in my two-week notice and have not regretted a second of it.

## **What area of reporting interests you the most at this time: official, freelance, or captioning/CART?**

Honestly, I have been going back and forth between all of them. The one I am most interested in is the captioning/CART line of work. My brother and I always joke about me being a “student for life,” and I would love the opportunity to stay in the academic field with CART. Right now I’m in my orientation class, so I’ll be learning a lot more in depth about each career, which will help me make my decision—unless it just confuses me more. Last week, we read about internationally traveling court reporters, and I definitely have some job envy happening. Time will tell!

**What’s been the most challenging or rewarding part of your schooling thus far?** My favorite (and least favorite) part of the program is that it is hard. I was always blessed with being good at academics, so I’ve never been challenged much in any class other than gym. When it comes to reporting, it’s a completely different story. I’m only in my second semester, but I’ve already been challenged more than I have in any other school



*Crystal Joos*

I've been to. Although this does prove frustrating, it's also extremely satisfying when I get the chance to really push myself and then succeed. I have already improved a lot, not only in writing skills, but also in time management and discipline.

**Do you know any working reporters or anyone that's been an influence to you?** I do not know any reporters very well. The reporter my mom spoke to talked with me briefly and was very helpful and friendly, but I have gotten the most influence from my teachers at Anoka Tech. Jennifer, Jane, Deb, and Merilee have all been super helpful as a resource or just sympathetic ear when needed. I really appreciate how they run the program to make it very open and accessible. I never feel awkward asking for help from a teacher or even a fellow student. As a student, you can tell that they really want you to succeed, and that makes it easy to do your best and have big goals.

**If you had an hour of free time, what would you be doing (besides practicing on your steno)?**

I spend a lot of time with my family since I still live at home. My big brother is my best friend, and we'll play video games while watching *The Office* late into the night. My mom and I love going to the theatre, whether it be a musical, drama, or comedy improv show. I read, draw, and also spend a ridiculous amount of time taking pictures of and cuddling with my cats.

**What is your favorite band or type of music?** I grew up with country and '80s rock, but I also love musical soundtracks. Currently the soundtrack of *Wicked* is stuck and playing repeatedly in my head. I play the flute, so a good classical tune makes my day as well.

**What is your favorite food or restaurant?** My grandma's pork tenderloin or chicken salad -- not together! -- are two of my favorite foods.

**Where is a place you would like to visit?** Ideally, I would travel the entire world, but if I have to pick one place, I'd say Germany. I'd love to visit the foreign exchange student who lived with us when I was in high school and finally put my German to some good use!

**The last book you read?** The *Tolkien Reader* by J.R.R. Tolkien. I never go anywhere without some Tolkien in my pocket!

**The last movie you watched?** *Hercules* -- although I have a wide variety of favorites, you can't go wrong with a good musical and/or Disney movie.

MAVRC welcomes your  
brief forms  
to publish in our  
newsletter.

Please forward to  
Minne-strokes Editor  
Angie Sundell at  
[angiesundell@gmail.com](mailto:angiesundell@gmail.com).

## Court Reporting 101

Learn to embrace and enjoy  
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won't last very long.





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# CONGRATS ANOKA TECH GRADS!

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## Dianna Armstrong

Now that I've graduated, I plan on working as an official reporter. In an ideal world, I would love to work somewhere close to my home in Chaska, but regardless of where I end up, I am very excited to get started in this extremely rewarding and exciting career.

## Lisa Knisley

After recently graduating from Anoka Tech, I am looking to pursue a career in freelance reporting and eventually transitioning to CART and captioning. I am so excited to join this amazing profession! I have made it a goal to spread the word about court reporting and the wonderful program at Anoka Tech.



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## RETIRED ... OR PLANNING TO SOON?

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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](mailto:Jolene.Carrow@gmail.com) and your information will continue to be in MAVRC’s database.

# SAVE THE DATE

## MAVRC Spring Seminar



**April 21, 2018**

**Anoka Technical College**

**Watch for further information  
coming soon!**



MINNESOTA  
ASSOCIATION OF VERBATIM  
REPORTERS & CAPTIONERS

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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 new business card rolling marquee. 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 on the scrolling marquee.

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

ANNUAL RATE

PER/ISSUE RATE

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:

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Or you can e-mail your business card, in JPEG format, to [jolene.carrow@gmail.com](mailto:jolene.carrow@gmail.com). Then mail this form along with payment to the above address. To be included in the Summer 2018 issue, your ad and payment must be received by **April 26, 2018**.

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](http://www.mavrc.org)

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### 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:

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[JSati@anokatech.edu](mailto:JSati@anokatech.edu)

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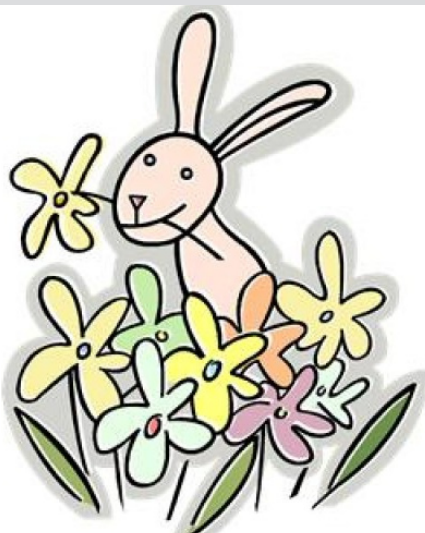
### March

**11-13, 2018** NCRA Legislative Boot Camp  
Reston, VA

### April

**21, 2018** MAVRC Spring Seminar  
Anoka Technical College  
Anoka, MN

**21, 2018** MAVRC Board of Directors Meeting  
(Following Spring Seminar)  
Anoka, MN



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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](mailto:jcarrow_mavrc@hotmail.com) or (507) 532-0676.



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