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PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

By Brandi Bigalke, RPR, RSA

It’s with great pleasure I’m writing to all you amazing, gifted reporters and captioners. Here’s a little update of what’s been going on behind the scenes with the MAVRC board and what we have in store for you this spring.

Love me or hate me, I have asked the convention planning committee to focus heavily on certification prep this year, and let me tell you why. Here are just a few examples:

In my first quarter as your president, I have had the pleasure of communicating and spending time with multiple official reporters who have been educating me on the past and present goings-on in the judicial districts with official court reporters and their continued efforts fighting for this profession.

The initiative in 2017 by State Court Administration regarding “Special Topic: Innovations in the Court Record” is still a very present issue. A group of MAVRC members have been very much involved in this never-ending agenda that the Chief Justice and State Court Administration has to “look at economical ways” to maintain the record; aka, replace the highly-skilled steno court reporters with digital recordings created and maintained by individuals who receive a four-hour training to run the digital equipment.

In the freelance world I have heard of things happening that are not acceptable. In Minnesota a reporter encountered a videographer swearing in the witness and then the audio was sent to a typist for the transcript production. In another



Brandi Bigalke

state there was an agency that was sending the audio from a proceeding to India for cheap transcription, of course charging the attorneys a fraction of the cost of a freelance reporter. (That was quickly nipped in the bud!)

With captioning I learned of the Watson issue where there is a company that controls hundreds of broadcast stations that switched from live captioning to ASR, automatic speech recognition, utilizing an IBM software called Watson which is a “Siri-type technology.”

I know you’ll agree these are VERY concerning issues, so I’ve been trying to come at these examples of situations in a positive manner. How can we fight all this activity coming at us day in and

(Continued on page 3)

2018-2019 MAVRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Brandi Bigalke (612) 708-2650 brandibigalke@yahoo.com
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Debbie Peterson (952) 496-8223 debpeterson@integra.net
VICE PRESIDENT-OFFICIAL	Lynne Krenz (651) 430-4428 Lynne.Krenz@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT-FREELANCE	Laura Pelletier (763) 421-2025 ljpelletier@comcast.net
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TREASURER	Adrienne Conzemmius (651) 213-8681 conzemius1012@gmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE A	Tammy Mathwig (763) 7532287 tnmathwig@hotmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE A	RandiAnn Harvey (320) 679-6407 randiannharvey@hotmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE B	Merilee Johnson (952) 944-1848 msjreporter@outlook.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE B	Leslie Carver (763) 682-7557 lesliefeakcarver@gmail.com
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Sandy Burch (952) 440-3886 sburch@integritycr.com
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Jolene Carrow (507) 532-0676 www.mavrc.org jcarrow_mavrc@hotmail.com

2018 END-OF-THE-YEAR TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Jolene Carrow/Approved by Adrienne Conzemmius

Year-end balances in MAVRC's accounts:

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning balance	\$ 2,614.97
Deposits	51,400.00
Expenses	48,907.42
Balance	\$ 5,107.55

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance	\$ 38,246.08
Deposits	46,126.02
Earned Interest	36.97
Withdrawals (to checking)	51,400.00
Balance	\$ 33,009.07

Breakdown of Income & Expenses:

Administration:

Deposits	\$ --
Expenses	17,922.93

Fundraising:

Deposits	1,065.00
Expenses	677.36

Membership:

Deposits	21,185.00
Expenses	245.54

Spring Seminar:

Deposits	5,980.00
Expenses	2,436.22

Fall Seminar:

Deposits	13,065.00
Expenses	12,406.03

Newsletter:

Deposits	1,700.00
Expenses	9.17

NCRA/NCSA:

Deposits	568.52
Expenses	568.52

Technology:

Deposits	--
Expenses	--

Legislative:

Deposits	475.00
Expenses	12,600.00

Public Relations:

Deposits	227.50
Expenses	1,441.65

Student Relations

Deposits	1,860.00
Expenses	600.00

Miscellaneous:

Deposits	--
Expenses	--

(Continued from page 1)
day out?

What could we do as working reporters and captioners to help the MAVRC members who are continually keeping abreast of all these situations and fighting the good fight for the sake of our profession?

My answer to this was certifications. I'm going to be honest with you, I'm a bad test taker. Like, extreme anxiety as soon as I hear, "Ready, begin." And let's face it, working in a state that requires you to have a diploma from an accredited court reporting school to get started in the profession is great, as a new reporter. It's so easy to get in the work world and forget about more certifications.

However, I'm here to stress that certifications are like our battle gear. State Court Administration continues to diminish what stenographers do. They are suggesting that an electronic reporter with a four-hour certification can do just as good of job as a steno reporter that has at least two solid years of training, reaching that 225

words-per-minute achievement.

I don't know about you, but I did not struggle through school to be compared to an electronic reporter with a four-hour certification. (No offense to them.) I also have not been continuing to learn new skills and technology, and go on to spend thousands and thousands of dollars on the latest technology, to have my skill go unrecognized.

I would love to see State Court Administration, and anyone else trying to diminish our field, try to compete with reporters and captioners with enhanced certification. It will make us invaluable to our judges, our attorney clients, and the community relying on our CART and captioning.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AT THE SPRING SEMINAR THIS YEAR:

The Continuing Education Committee's goal for our spring convention is to have an RPR/RDR prep session, journeys of and tips from reporters and captioners who have passed certifications (RPR, CSR,

CMR & RDR.) You can also expect to learn the step-by-step process from registering to submitting a written certification test online. There will be a session on positive thinking and test anxiety, to go along with our theme. And there will also be a session regarding compensation and equipment insurance, and more!

Let me be clear, we are not forcing anyone to sign up to take a certification test. We are trying to break down some barriers that surround test taking and get people more comfortable with the new test procedure since the brick and mortar is no longer done. Perhaps just sitting in some of these seminars will spark something in you to want to try your next certification test.

I cannot stress enough to all our MAVRC members how much we love when you attend our conventions/seminars. Our board and committee members put in a lot of time and energy to plan these conventions/seminars. It is always great to be surrounded with people who truly understand what we do. I really hope to see you in April at our seminar. ■

WELCOME NEW MAVRC MEMBERS

Mitch Boos
Freelance
Minnetonka, Minnesota

Erin Drost
Official
St. Paul, Minnesota

Brenda Foss
Freelance
Prior Lake, Minnesota

Kelly Swenson Hegle
Freelance
Shoreview, Minnesota

Lori Krenik
Official
Gaylord, Minnesota

Amy Rourke
Freelance
Maple Grove, Minnesota

Char Tschida
Official
Anoka, Minnesota

2019 SPRING SEMINAR PROGRAM
APRIL 6, 2019 * Anoka Technical College**

8:00 – 8:30 REGISTRATION

8:30 – 9:30 How is an NCRA written exam created? (.10 CEU)

Joshua Tudor, PhD, will explain how Pearson VUE and NCRA collaborate to develop the RPR and RDR written examinations; including how the structure of the exams is determined; how questions are created, analyzed and selected; and how the passing score is set. This session will shed some light on what happens behind the scenes of the development process of the RPR and RDR written knowledge tests.

9:30 – 10:30 Pass that WKT! (.10 CEU)

Jennifer Sati and Jane Schleusner will share tips and tools that reporters can utilize when preparing to take the NCRA RPR and RDR written exams. This session will not only help you better prepare for the written tests, but it will show you what an actual testing experience feels like. There will be NCRA practice questions at the end!

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 11:45 What is the “Neutral Zone”? (.10 CEU)

Deborah (Deb) Johnson, CPCC, MCC, is a Master Certified Professional Coach and Business Consultant with an extensive corporate executive leadership background spanning 37 years. She is going to spend time discussing how we can understand the stages and types of fear we may have and how we can leverage them to our advantage and how we can reflect and leverage past successes to push through barriers.

11:45 – 12:15 Lunch

12:15 – 1:15 A Word with the President and Joel (.10 CEU)

We will hear from Brandi Bigalke, MAVRC President, along with Joel Carlson, MAVRC’s lobbyist, on current happenings in MAVRC and our profession.

1:30 - 2:30 Protecting Your Income Stream (.10 CEU)

Whether you are an Official, a Freelancer or a Broadcast or CART Captioner, we all invest a lot of money in our equipment to do our daily work. But, could you purchase all new equipment if the inevitable happened and your equipment was damaged by a horrific event or stolen? Kari Hefnider, a licensed insurance agent, will point out the different types of insurance available to protect ourselves, our equipment and our income stream.

2:30 – 2:45 Break

2:45 – 3:45 Maintaining Your Most Important Machine (through Yoga) (.10 CEU)

Jessica Rugani, Assistant Anoka County Attorney and Yoga Sculpt Instructor, will provide us with ways we can fire up our core strength and practice proper posture alignment to keep ourselves fit and ready to tackle the hours to day-long job assignments that make up our normal workday – all through Yoga.

(Please wear comfy clothes to this session!)

2019 SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM
APRIL 6, 2019
Anoka Technical College

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Certifications: _____ Official _____ Freelance _____ Captioner/CART _____

NCRA ID#: _____

Early-bird Registration (postmarked by 3/15/19): \$100 _____

Registration after 3/15/19: \$125 _____

Student Registration: \$ 15 _____

MAVRC Professional Membership (if not already a current member): \$120 _____

MAVRC Student Membership: \$ 25 _____

MAVRC Associate Membership: \$ 70 _____

Membership fee must be paid in addition to the registration fee, if you are NOT currently a member of MAVRC or another NCRA-approved state association in another state.

Lunch will be provided! TOTAL (payable to MAVRC) \$ _____

Please wear comfy clothes for the yoga session!

Registrations must be postmarked by: **Tuesday, March 26, 2019**

CANCELLATION POLICY: A full refund will be made if your cancellation is received on or before **March 26, 2019**. If your cancellation is received after March 26, 2019, a \$75.00 administrative fee will be deducted. No refunds for no-shows. Questions? Contact MAVRC at 218-760-9631 or info@mavrc.org.



Mail registration form and your payment to:
MAVRC
P.O. Box 375
Marshall, MN 56258

SHORTAGE OF REPORTERS - WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR YOU?

By Brandi Bigalke, RPR, RSA

We all know that stenography is a niche profession and skill set. It takes a person with certain interests and skills to go into this program, graduate, and work in this industry. In certain places across the country there has always seemed to be a shortage of court reporters.

However, I believe, we as a profession, are beginning to experience the very start of the shortage of court reporters due to baby boomers retiring. Especially here in Minnesota, more and more available positions need to be filled. This is only going to continue to grow, and we will continue to be faced with more and more people trying to come up with ways to replace us.

If there are not enough reporters and captioners, other techniques will be sought to solve this shortage problem. We've already seen it happening in our judicial districts with implementation of mass recording systems and electronic reporters. One example of dealing with this

problem is California, who has made the decision to allow mask writers in the court system in an effort to help in their stenographer shortage.

Hopefully everyone has heard of the A to Z Introduction to Stenography class that is put on by working volunteer reporters and captioners for eight weeks free to anyone interested in checking out the profession. It has been fairly successful, especially as this has been our first year of holding two sessions. Our number of attendees was not as large as some of us may have hoped, but more than half of each class enrolled in the reporting program at Anoka Tech. I'd say that's a pretty good start!

We need to spread the word about our profession. And we need to do it LOUD. Who do you know who may have a child in high school who may be starting to think of career paths? Perhaps someone you know knows of someone.

Consider how you were introduced to this career opportunity and spread

the word that way. Or reach out to your local high schools, contact the career counselor regarding this profession. If you don't feel comfortable doing that but can pass along a contact for someone at a school, MAVRC would be happy to follow up and make the connection.

MAVRC has been making a concerted effort to post more about this profession on social media in the hopes of attracting more people to stenography.

Perhaps you could share what MAVRC posts and let your Facebook friends know what a great profession this is. Share our advertisement for the next FREE A to Z Introduction to Stenography starting in March. You can find it on our Facebook page. Just hit "share". What's the worst that can happen? You may just help recruit someone into this profession!

Brandi Bigalke is a freelance reporter who resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota. ■



Congratulations

TO OUR NEWLY CERTIFIED MEMBERS!

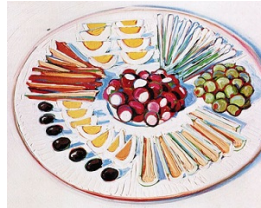
Congratulations to RandiAnn Harvey, RDR, CRR, CRC,
of Mora, MN, who recently passed the
RDR (Registered Diplomate Reporter) certification!

MAVRC HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHER

Back on December 6, 2018, MAVRC held a casual get-together for its members at the Park Tavern in St. Louis Park. Over the next few hours, attendees snacked on some delicious appetizers, drank a few adult refreshments, were able to catch up on the latest in the freelance and official court reporting fields, and made a few new acquaintances. Reporters in attendance were the following: Jolene Carrow, Jane Doby, Jill Garrison, RandiAnn Harvey, Tammy Mathwig, Laura Pelletier, Jennifer Sharp, Angie Sundell, Jackie Young, Lynzie Zempel, and Ryan Ziegler. Many thanks to Laura Pelletier, MAVRC's vice president-freelance, for arranging the get-together!



(Above L to R) RandiAnn Harvey and Angie Sundell



Tammy Mathwig



(Above L to R) Ryan Ziegler and Lynzie Zempel



Jane Doby and Jenny Sharp



Laura Pelletier

PROFILE OF A BOARD MEMBER

By Tammy Mathwig

MAVRC Q: What is your name?

A: Tammy Mathwig.

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

A: Anoka Technical College. I graduated in May of 2017.

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

A: I have had many people help me over my career thus far. Jeanna Zunker has been a great firm owner to work with and excellent mentor. The teachers at Anoka Technical were always incredibly helpful. Merilee Johnson and Christine Herman have both been good mentors and extremely helpful.

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

A: I work as a freelance court reporter chiefly for Advantage with Jeanna Zunker.

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

A: I have a Diamante, and I use Eclipse software.

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

A: I produce work on my own with the help of proofers. Two sets of eyes are better than one.



Tammy Mathwig

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: I am a member of NCRA, but I haven't attained any credentials as of yet.

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

A: I joined MAVRC while I was a

student in the early speeds.

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

A: I became a board member this fall, and my term is a two-year term.

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

A: We meet in person probably once every couple of months so far.

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

A: We have been talking about the Judicial Council issues, freelance contracting issues, the next MAVRC convention, things like that.

MAVRC Q: Have you helped out or supported the industry by volunteering for MAVRC or any other professional organizations?

A: I have volunteered for MAVRC a couple of times during NCRA testing when it was held at the school.

MAVRC Q: On a more personal note,

what's your hometown and where do you live now?

A: I grew up in Bloomington and Eagan. I now live in Oak Grove.

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

A: My husband and I have two children - Travis, 22, and Ally, 20. Our family is into riding dirtbikes and camping. My husband and I enjoy taking motorhome trips around the area. We did the Circle Tour around Lake Superior.

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

A: I try to work during the hours that my family is at work. So even though I work from home many days, I still get up early and work during the hours that I would if I had to physically go to an office for work. As long as I can keep on top of my deadlines, I really try not to work during hours that most people are at home. I don't want to feel like I'm working 24/7 just because I can. ■

PRO BONO

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.whelen@courts.state.mn.us

PRO BONO

Kudos to
Jane Doby
Christine Clark
Jolynn Graham
for volunteering to
provide
pro bono services.

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.

THANK YOU!

Thanks MAVRC members for your
support of reporting students!

Angela Baker

Mary Boom

Sandra Burch

Carol Danielson

Cheryle Doss

Rachel Erickson

Rhonda Franken

Elizabeth Gangl

Jill Garrison

Glenda Kaufman

Lynne Krenz

Merilee Johnson

Rachael Johnson

Darla Delich Mustar

Caroline Nyberg

Lisa Richardson

Beverly Rojas

Jennifer Sati

Jane Schleusner

Angie Sundell

Ryan Ziegler

Anonymous Donors

THANK
YOU

The following are results from a survey sent by MAVRC to freelance reporters regarding their interest in Minnesota official court reporter positions. The responses were gathered using SurveyMonkey, a web-based survey tool.

Survey results are as follows:

Are you a member of MAVRC?

Yes - 97 percent

No - 3 percent

What certifications do you hold?

RPR - 59 percent

RMR - 19 percent

CRR - 19 percent

Other - 3 percent

How many years of reporting experience do you have?

0-5 - 13 percent

5-10 - 9 percent

10-15 - 0 percent

15-20 - 6 percent

20-25 - 22 percent

25+ - 50 percent

Are you interested in an official position if compensated for your years of reporting experience?

Yes - 53 percent

No - 47 percent

MINNESOTA OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER STEWARD LIST

1st District

Rhonda Route - momroute@gmail.com

Mary Johnson - pmjohnson@gmail.com

2nd District

Jill Garrison - jillgarrison@msn.com

Sarah Anderson - Sarah.L.Anderson2134@gmail.com

3rd District

Jessica Berke - jessica.berke@outlook.com

4th District

Dana Carmichael - carmichaeld@hotmail.com

Andrea House - mnparrothead@hotmail.com

5th District

Teresa (Terry) Kolander - tsk1714@gmail.com

6th District

7th District

Brenda Vanderveur - bvanderveur@live.com

Kathy Hanson - sodakgirl@hotmail.com

8th District

Ashley Welz - ashleylange24@gmail.com

9th District

Darla Delich-Mustar - ddmustar@yahoo.com

Monica Christensen - moniquaw@gmail.com

10th District

Janell Gruber - jgruber2@live.com

Michelle Pecharich - mpecharich@comcast.net

Teamsters Contact: mhorton@teamsterslocal320.org

NAN'S THOUGHTS ON TRANSCRIBING LARGE DOLLAR AMOUNTS

By Nan J. Corbett, RDR

A recent deposition I covered caused me to review how to transcribe dollar amounts in the context of verbatim reporting while attempting to strike a balance with rules, exceptions to rules, consistency, and readability. For depositions that include financial issues, the reader will be focused on dollar amounts. Consistency in transcription of figures will add clarity and readability, which sometimes means making exceptions to general rules. Ever since completing court reporting school, I have worked hard at producing a truly verbatim transcript. Even after all these years of reporting, I still struggle in situations like this where I feel I am not able to transcribe the exact words spoken because clarity and readability supersede.

One of the main topics of the deposition was the purchase of multiple buildings and pieces of real estate where the transaction amounts were in the millions of dollars. With several attorneys and the witness testifying about the same transaction, often each had a different way of referring to the dollar amount involved. For example, one would say one and a half million, another would say one point five million, another would say one million five, and yet another would say one and a half million dollars. In an effort to provide clarity in the reading of the transcript, all these amounts appeared in my transcript as \$1.5 million.

Here are some other examples from my final transcript. Maybe you'll find some things here that cause you to review how you transfer the verbatim word to the written transcript and possibly make exceptions in some highly specific topic areas in the interest of clarity and readability. I invite your responses and suggestions.

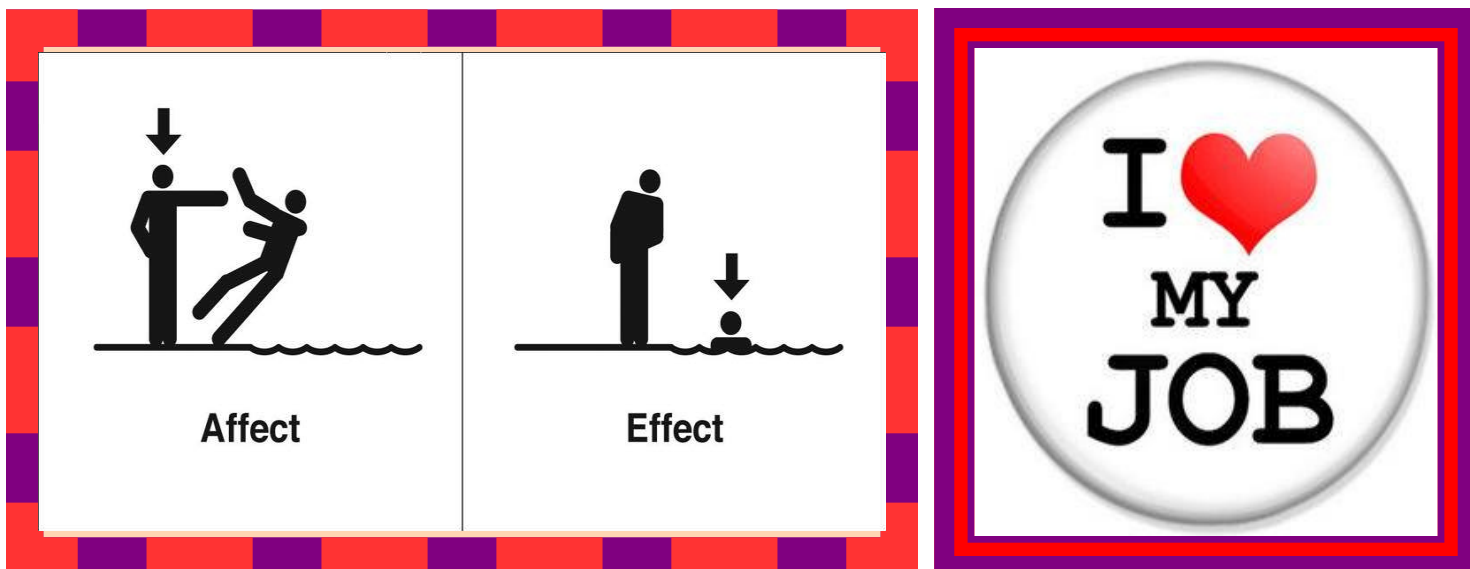
SPOKEN (VERBATIM)

ten million
ten million dollars
two point seven million
two point seven million dollars
four to ten million
five million to ten million dollars
a hundred million
the nine million six amount
ten million six hundred thousand dollars

TRANSCRIBED

\$10 million
\$10 million
\$2.7 million
\$2.7 million
four to ten million
\$5 million to \$10 million
a hundred million
the nine-million-six amount
\$10,600,000

Nanette J. Corbett, RDR, is a freelance reporter owning and operating Corbett Court Reporting in Duluth, Minnesota. ■



CELEBRATING COURT REPORTING!

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

Stenographic court reporters from across Minnesota and the country once again united and took part in various celebrations of our time-honored profession. This year's celebration of National Court Reporting & Captioning Week started on February 9th and ran through the 16th. NCRA's annual, week-long campaign, hosted by various court reporting programs and state court reporting associations throughout the United States, is designed to highlight the many aspects of court reporting and captioning as well as attract new students to this viable and interesting profession in order to help meet the growing demand in the field.

In the words of NCRA President Sue A. Terry, FAPR, RPR, CRR, CRC, "NCRA's Court Reporting & Captioning Week is the perfect opportunity for each of us to celebrate our wonderful profession by recognizing what we do, who we serve, and how we impact so many lives, whether in the courtroom, the deposition room, the board room, or the classroom. It is also the perfect time to spread the word about the many employment opportunities that are available in this unique career that provides good salaries, flexible schedules, ever-changing work environments and the chance to learn about new things all the time."

Taking part in this endeavor was Anoka Technical College, who helped sponsor Minnesota's 2019 Court Reporting & Captioning Exhibition. Planning for this event is no small feat, and MAVRC would like to thank Jennifer Sati, program

chair of the court reporting program at ATC, for once again spearheading it and providing our local, professional talent the opportunity to demonstrate how innovative technology allows stenographic reporters to capture the spoken word and translate it into written text in real time.

The following MAVRC representatives helped at the event: President Brandi Bigalki, President Elect Debbie Peterson, Vice President-Freelance Laura Pelletier, and former President Sharon Steinbrecker. Also assisting with the event were Jane Schleusner, Deb Longley, both from Anoka Technical Institute, and Megan Stumm, a professional broadcast captioner who provided captioning demonstrations during a tour of ATC's captioning suite.

This event would not have been nearly as successful as it was without the receipt of a number of generous prize and cash donations that were received from members of the Judicial Reporting Advisory Board as well as MAVRC and its members. During the event, the following prizes were given away to a few of the lucky attendees: Bose Bluetooth headphones (\$200 value), two Bluetooth earbuds (valued at \$99 each), a Fitbit (\$99 value), a \$25 Amazon gift card, two tile key/phone locators (valued at \$20 each), and a pack of five flash drives. Also awarded during the celebration were two \$500 student scholarships, with the lucky winners being Leah Hamre and Valerie Riske. Given the strong support from individual reporters, next year's event promises to be even better!

Following the conclusion of the celebration, Jennifer Sati had this to say: "I was impressed with how encouraged the students were after having the chance to visit with graduates and other reporters who attended the Court Reporting & Captioning Exhibition. We successfully recruited a few students as well! Hosting and putting on a public event such as this is a solid contribution Minnesota reporters can do to promote the career and ensure we have enough new professionals for the future."

The stenographic profession was also recognized and honored when newly elected Governor Tim Walz recently signed a proclamation recognizing Court Reporting & Captioning Week and the vital role stenographic reporters play in capturing the official record, preserving history, and providing vital services to the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. Reporters and students everywhere should be proud to be a part of this noble and vital profession.

Jackie Young is a freelance reporter from Delano, Minnesota, and is a member of MAVRC's Publications Committee. ■



CELEBRATING COURT REPORTING!



2019 Court Reporting & Captioning Week February 9-16



(L-R) Deanna Oaks and Leann Barrick, with Benchmark Reporting Agency, attended the event along with Tammy Mathwig, Director-at-Large (Freelance)



Brandi Bigalki demonstrating her realtime skills during the event



A group of reporters discussing the latest issues with President-Elect Deb Peterson



Lisa Knisley, a recent graduate of Anoka Tech, and Laura Pelletier



(L-R) Morgan Neuville, a theory student, attended the event with her mother. Pictured in the background is Megan Flick and Erica Eggen, both theory students at Anoka Tech



Jennifer Sati, left, and Tasha Perry, student, drawing the names of a few lucky door prize winners

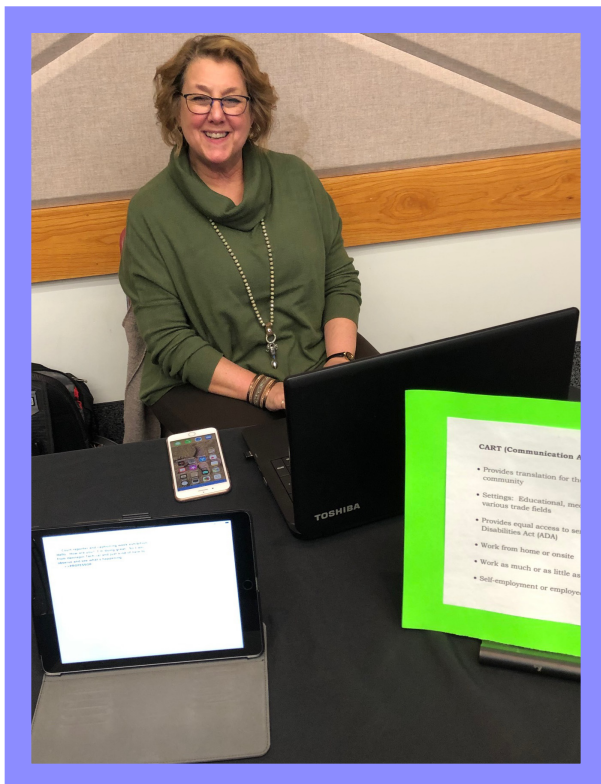
CELEBRATING COURT REPORTING!



Neil Salminen (left) and Timothy Sienko (right) are just two of the male student reporters at Anoka Tech.



MAVRC Vice President - Freelance Laura Pelletier was present at the event.



Sharon Steinbrecher demonstrating real-time reporting for the attendees



(L-R) Megan Flick, Erica Eggen, Emily Deutsch, Shelby Brown, Jennifer Sati, and Andrew Thompson (Hennepin County Supervisor) engaging in a conversation about the benefits of being an official court reporter

CELEBRATING COURT REPORTING!



Attendees to the celebration were warmly greeted by Jane Schleusner.



Attendees at the event being welcomed by Jennifer Sati



MAVRC's Lobbyist, Joel Carlson, stopped by to discuss possible strategies and issues impacting stenographic court reporters.



Jennifer Sati welcoming people to the event and explaining how closed captioning is performed by stenographic court reporters

STUDENT PROFILE

By Timothy Sienko

Name: Timothy Sienko

School: Anoka Technical College

Speed: Theory – Part II

Hometown: River Falls

Tell us a little about yourself. I've bounced around Wisconsin and the upper Midwest over the last 13 years managing movie theaters (from classic movie palaces to contemporary multiplexes). I now live in River Falls, Wisconsin, with family and commute the 60 miles twice a week to Anoka, Minnesota, for school. I work in the kitchen of a Mexican restaurant. I hold a bachelor of fine arts in film production from UW-Milwaukee. I love watching experimental film, listening to obscure music, and reading poetry.

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

After years in customer service and retail jobs, I was looking to take a next step in my life but had no idea where to turn. I had often thought about teaching high school English, but right now there is exactly no demand for teachers in the language arts. So I started looking for a career path that would be a tangible skill, use my love of language, and be a public service. There aren't a lot of careers in the middle of that Venn diagram, but Judge Needham from St. Croix County, Wisconsin, gave a speech to his courtroom about the dire need for official reporters in Wisconsin. My brother, a lawyer, heard the pitch and told me about it. It was only a short trip through an internet wormhole before I was completely enamored by the profession and was applying to Anoka Tech.

What area of reporting interests you the most at this time- official, freelance, or captioning/CART? I suffer from chronic restlessness and indecision, so I'm convinced that I will work in all areas of reporting before my career is through. But to begin with I'd like to work as an official in Wisconsin since without the shortage of reporters, I would not be in this field. I have a strong desire to give back to the state that got me. As an incurable baseball fan, I dream of captioning Milwaukee Brewers television broadcasts. But I'd love to do CART work and do depositions in civil rights cases as well.

What's been the most challenging or rewarding part of your schooling thus far? I'm very precious about my practice time and struggle with time management. So making sure that I can reach my weekly and monthly goals for practice hours is a challenge that I've enjoyed rising to daily. I'm proud of the progress I've made with my theory and proud of just the sheer number of hours I've put into my machine.

Do you know any working reporters or anyone that's been an influence to you? I do! My childhood neighbor in Spooner, Wisconsin, was an official reporter, so I've been aware of the field for most of my life but never considered it as a career path until recently. After becoming enamored with the profession, I shadowed some of the reporters in the St. Croix County Courthouse who have also very graciously shared their time, experience, and careers with me. Thank you, Erin, Cathy, and Vicki!

If you had an hour of free time, what would you be doing (besides practicing on your steno)? In one hour, I'd get a



Timothy Sienko

hoppy beer and write in my very neglected poetry journal that is looking sadly at me from my bookshelf.

What is your favorite band or type of music? Leonard Cohen, the maestro of melancholy, is my favorite singer/songwriter. But I have had an unhealthy level of fandom for Queen and Freddie Mercury since I was 12 (the movie was just okay).

What is your favorite food or restaurant? My boss would probably be upset if I said anything other than the restaurant I work at, but I love making pasta from scratch. I would make and eat Cavatelli Bolognese all winter long if I had infinite time.

Where is a place you would like to visit? My dream trip would be to take a train trip around the coastline of the Mediterranean enjoying the food and beverages of each culture.

The last book you read? I've been reading Leonard Cohen's final collection of poetry and song lyrics, The Flame. and I recently finished Roger Kahn's memoir of reporting the 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers world series run, The Boys of Summer.

The last movie you watched? The House That Jack Built by Lars von Trier.

CONGRATS, GRADUATES!



Sam Robinson

My plans after graduation are to work in a courthouse as an official court reporter in either Hennepin or Ramsey County.



Kaurie Jeske

My future plans include working as an official court reporter (either in MN or WI), passing the rest of my RPR examinations (already passed the WK portion) to be certified, and eventually work my way into CART and captioning.

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COMPLIANCE WITH MINNESOTA RULES AND STATUTES

As many of you are aware, Minnesota Statute Chapter 486 includes a requirement that any court reporter with an exclusive contract or agreement disclose that fact on the record prior to the taking of the deposition. In an effort to help ensure that MAVRC members are complying with this statute, it is suggested the reporter use the following language:

“Under Minnesota Statute 486.10, Subd. 2, I {your name} am required to disclose on the record to all parties to this action that {your name or name of court reporting firm} have an exclusive contract/agreement with {name of insurance company/attorney};

OR

“Under Minnesota Statute 486.10, Subd. 2, I {your name} am required to disclose on the record to all parties to this action that {your name or name of court reporting firm} have an exclusive contract/agreement with {name of insurance company/attorney/law firm/organization}. As per this law, I will treat all parties to this action equally, providing comparable services to all parties; and as per Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 30.06, all parties will be charged the same rate for their copy of the transcript.”

It has come to MAVRC’s attention that some attorneys have now begun requesting a copy of the opposing counsel’s bill. If you receive such a request, it is suggested that you contact the opposing counsel to notify him or her of the request and receive his/her permission to release the invoice prior to doing so. The reporter’s certification page should also include language stating that all parties are being charged the same rate for their copy, with the noticing attorney being charged for the original. Reporters should be aware that if they fail to comply with the requirements contained in MS 486, they could face court-imposed sanctions.

In addition, Rule 30.06 states that “Unless otherwise ordered by the court or agreed to by the parties the officer shall securely seal the deposition in an envelope or package endorsed with the title of the action and marked ‘Deposition of (herein insert the name of witness),’ and shall promptly send it to the attorney or part who arranged for the transcript or recording, who shall store it under conditions that will protect it against loss, destruction, tampering, or deterioration.” If you are requested to retain the original, it is suggested that you obtain written agreement from all parties to do so and then take the appropriate steps to ensure the original is protected.

Copies of Minnesota Statute 486 and other rules impacting court reporters will also be posted on MAVRC’s website.

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.

SAVE THE DATE



MAVRC’S Annual Fall Convention

September 7, 2019

Eden Prairie
Community Center

Eden Prairie, Minnesota



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

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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:

Jennifer Sati

JSati@anokatech.edu

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- April
6, 2019** MAVRC Spring Seminar
Anoka Technical College
Anoka, MN
- August
15-18, 2019** NCRA Convention & Expo
Denver, Colorado
- September
7, 2019** MAVRC Fall Convention
Eden Prairie Community Center
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