



MINNE-strokes

Minnesota Court Reporters: On and Off the Record



SPRING 2021
VOLUME 24 NUMBER 1

INSIDE:

MAVRC Spring Seminar:
Save the Date 1

2020 End-of-the-Year
Treasurer’s Report.....2

President’s Address3

Minnesota Official Court Reporter
Steward List4

A to Z Intro to Steno Class
Registration Open5

Welcome New Members.....5

NCRA Guidelines on Providing
Uncertified Draft Transcripts ...6/7

Punctuation Guru - The Ellipsis.... 8

Reporter Job Openings in MN9

NCRA New Certification9

Profile of a Board Member10/11

Thank You, Jackie Young..... 12

Commitment & Probate Briefs ...13

Crazy Zoom
Courtroom Stories..... 14-16

Save the Date: Fall Convention . 16

A HUGE Thank You17

Day in the Life of
Zoom Reporting from Home18

Pro Bono19

Reporter Humor19

Student Profile.....20/21

Congrats, Graduate21

Retired...or Planning to Soon? ...22

Advertising Options23

Minnesota Agency Listings....24/25

Out-of-State Listings.....26

Video Services26

Anoka Tech Judicial Reporting
and Captioning Program.27

Upcoming Events.....28

MAVRC’S Spring Seminar

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR
AND
SAVE THE DATE:**

April 24, 2021

**The MAVRC Spring Seminar
will be a virtual event this year**



**Watch for further
information
coming soon!**

**Minnesota Association of Verbatim
Reporters & Captioners**

2020-2021 MAVRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Laura Pelletier (763) 421-2025 ljpelletier@comcast.net
PRESIDENT-ELECT	RandiAnn Harvey (320) 679-6407 randiannharvey@hotmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT-OFFICIAL	Elisa Kukuk (320) 591-1509 ekukuk228@yahoo.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)	S. Ryan Ziegler (612) 219-6207 srziegler@gmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE A (Official)	Mary Johnson (952) 496-8219 pmjijohnson@gmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE B (Freelance)	Deanna Oaks (858) 231-0383 oaksdeanna@gmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE B (Official)	Sarah Anderson (763) 760-6783 sarah.l.anderson22134@gmail.com
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Debbie Peterson (952) 496-8223 debpeterson@nuveramail.net
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Jolene Carrow (507) 532-0676 www.mavrc.org jcarrow_mavrc@hotmail.com

2020 END-OF-THE-YEAR TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Jolene Carrow/Approved by Adrienne Conzemius

Year-end balances in MAVRC's accounts:

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning balance	\$ 6,276.68
Deposits	29,200.00
Expenses	31,003.30
Balance	\$ 4,473.38

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance	\$ 27,892.59
Deposits	20,122.15
Earned Interest	10.93
Withdrawals (to checking)	29,200.00
Balance	\$ 18,825.67

Breakdown of Income & Expenses:

Administration:

Deposits	\$ --
Expenses	17,996.11

Fundraising:

Deposits	--
Expenses	--

Membership:

Deposits	15,865.00
Expenses	288.98

Spring Seminar:

Deposits	--
Expenses	--

Fall Seminar:

Deposits	1,432.15
Expenses	--

Newsletter:

Deposits	1,300.00
Expenses	--

NCRA/NCSA:

Deposits	--
Expenses	--

Technology:

Deposits	--
Expenses	--

Legislative:

Deposits	455.00
Expenses	12,600.00

Public Relations:

Deposits	--
Expenses	118.11

Student Relations

Deposits	1,070.00
Expenses	--

Miscellaneous:

Deposits	--
Expenses	.10

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By Laura Pelletier

Happy 2021, MAVRC members!

I hope this letter finds you healthy and looking forward to an amazing 2021. We have been working hard behind the scenes to put together a great spring seminar on April 24th via Zoom. Look for information coming soon. Hopefully, it will be our last virtual seminar so we can all meet in person and catch up with one another.

Mark your calendars for the annual MAVRC fall convention. This event is tentatively being planned for October 1st and 2nd to be held in person. We will monitor the pandemic situation to best serve our members.

We appreciate your opinions – and that includes ideas for continuing education sessions for our members. If you have a suggestion for a session topic, please let us know. If you would be willing to present on a topic, please let us know. If there is a topic that you would rather not hear about, please let us know.

We are also planning some fun events for the future, so please regularly check out our newly revamped website and look for these events to be posted. Speaking of websites, we have updated our website. We are still working on a few kinks that were unexpected, so your patience is greatly appreciated.

I would like to say THANK YOU for renewing or becoming a new member of MAVRC. Without you, we would not exist. We need you to continue to promote court reporting, so please continue to spread the word with your circle of family and friends. It is working. Jennifer Sati and her team at Anoka Technical College are doing a great job getting students through the program, and they are all finding jobs after graduating. Way to go!

There is an A to Z Intro to Steno class starting on April 5th and running through May 10th. Classes will be held via Zoom on Monday evenings starting at 6:00 p.m. This hands-on class with a steno machine is an opportunity for people who are interested in steno reporting to see if it is a good fit for them. Do you know someone you can refer or encourage to take the class and try steno reporting? More information is on page 5 of this newsletter. What a great opportunity to promote our profession!

As we are approaching a year of working remotely, either in an official capacity, freelance or closed captioning, remember to get up and move your body. It's so easy to fall into a routine of just sitting and working. Get up and walk around. Climb up and down your stairs. Weather permitting, get outside and go for a brisk walk. It will do your body and mind good. I am hearing from some court reporters that being isolated at home has them down. This, too, shall pass. We are all in this together.



Laura Pelletier



MINNESOTA OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER STEWARD LIST

Submitted by Shambrie Lesniak

1st District
Shambrie Lesniak and Lori Krenik

2nd District
Tasha Perry and Brittany Blesener

3rd District
Jessica Berke

4th District
Dana Carmichael and Andrea Parisian

5th District
Terry Kolander

6th District
Vacant

7th District
Kathryn Pettit and Brenda Vanderveur

8th District
Lisa Vosika and Ashley Welz

9th District
Monica Christensen

10th District
Janell Gruber and Michelle Pecharich

A TO Z INTRO TO STENO CLASS REGISTRATION OPEN

A to Z Intro to Steno class

April 5 through May 10

Classes will held via Zoom
on Monday evenings starting at 6:00 p.m.

This class is an intro to steno reporting and captioning with
hands-on steno machine shorthand.
Please help spread the word to schools, students, your friends
and neighbors who are interested in reporting.

For more information or to register for the course,
please contact one of the following:

[Debbie Peterson @ debpeterson@nuveramail.net](mailto:debpeterson@nuveramail.net)

[Sharon Steinbrecher @ ss.prc@hotmail.com](mailto:ss.prc@hotmail.com)

[Jennifer Sati @ jsati@anokatech.edu](mailto:jsati@anokatech.edu)

Welcome New Members

Jenna Kilian – Student
Big Lake, Minnesota

Christine Lewandoski – Official
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Barbara Schultz – Student
Golden Valley, Minnesota



NCRA GUIDELINES ON PROVIDING UNCERTIFIED DRAFT TRANSCRIPTS

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

The National Court Reporters Association realizes that in some cases court reporters are providing uncertified draft transcripts, in either paper or ASCII form, to parties involved in litigation either in the courtroom or deposition setting. The National Court Reporters Association suggests the following guidelines be used when providing such services. These guidelines are intended to aid a court reporter when providing uncertified draft transcripts. Generally speaking, uncertified draft transcripts are provided by court reporters who use realtime translation, but other court reporters are also providing uncertified draft transcripts as well. These are not mandates but rather guidelines by which a court reporter may determine the propriety of his or her conduct in relation to the litigants, their counsel, the court, allied professions, and the public.

The principal objective when a court reporter provides an uncertified draft transcript of proceedings is to aid in the administration of justice by rendering a valuable service to the litigants, their counsel, and the court.

1. It should be noted that when an uncertified transcript is provided, there will be two versions of the transcript for one proceeding – the unofficial, uncertified version and the official, certified version. The uncertified transcript may contain errors, some of which could change the accuracy or meaning of the testimony. An uncertified transcript may not be filed with the court. An uncertified transcript may only be distributed to ordering parties to the case. It should not be made

available to the public, including news organizations or other non-participants.

2. A court reporter providing an uncertified draft transcript should perform the task undertaken by him or her in a professional manner, observing all laws, rules, and orders of the court relating to the proceeding.

3. A court reporter providing an uncertified draft transcript should keep informed of technological and other advances and improvements in the skills and methods of his or her profession and strive constantly for self-improvement.

4. A court reporter providing an uncertified draft transcript should not perform any service under terms or conditions which will compromise, in any way, his or her impartiality or the exercise of good judgment and skill, or which will adversely affect the fair and impartial portrayal of the proceeding. Court reporters should offer comparable services to all parties in a litigation proceeding.

5. A court reporter shall take steps to ensure that no one would mistake the uncertified draft for a final, certified copy of the transcript. An uncertified draft transcript should not include a completed title page, appearance page, certificate page, any mention of the swearing in of a witness by name, footer with firm name or reporter name, or CSR #.

6. An uncertified draft transcript should include a header or footer on each page stating

“uncertified draft transcript only.”

A brief disclaimer may be included in the body of the text occasionally. Uncertified draft transcripts may be provided in condensed format only. Page numbers may be included.

7. A disclaimer and/or order form, such as the one attached, should be transmitted as a cover sheet or cover sheets with each uncertified draft transcript stating that the uncertified draft transcript cannot be quoted for any purpose and may not be filed with any court. A copy of the signed disclaimer and/or order form should be retained by the court reporter.

8. Where possible, all untranslated steno strokes and conflicts should be resolved before an uncertified draft transcript is provided to any party.

These are suggested guidelines. If your current writing skills do not meet these guidelines, don't let it stop you. Remember, you have a chance during breaks or on-the-fly to define untranslates and resolve conflicts. It is recommended that you not supply counsel with a draft until these minimum standards are met. However, you may be able to provide the uncertified transcript to them later that day or the next day.

(See Sample Disclaimer on next page.)

Jackie Young is a freelance reporter from Delano, Minnesota, and a member of NCRA's COPE committee. ■

Sample Disclaimer

UNCERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT DISCLAIMER IN THE MATTER OF

v. _____

The following transcript(s) of proceedings, or any portion thereof, in the above-entitled matter, taken on any date, is being delivered UNEDITED and UNCERTIFIED by the official court reporter at the request of _____ . The purchaser agrees not to disclose this uncertified and unedited transcript in any form (written or electronic) to anyone who has no connection to this case.

This is an unofficial transcript, which should NOT be relied upon for purposes of verbatim citation of testimony. This transcript has not been checked, proofread, or corrected. It is a draft transcript, NOT a certified transcript. As such, it may contain computer-generated mistranslations of stenotype code or electronic transmission errors, resulting in inaccurate or nonsensical word combinations, or untranslated stenotype symbols which cannot be deciphered by non-stenotypists. Corrections will be made in the preparation of the certified transcript, resulting in differences in content, page and line numbers, punctuation, and formatting.

This realtime uncertified and unedited transcript contains no appearance page, certificate page, index, or certification.

Signature of Reporter

Date

PUNCTUATION GURU - THE ELLIPSIS

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

The ellipsis, also known informally as dot-dot-dot or a suspension point, is a series of three dots that indicates an intentional omission of a word, sentence, or whole section from a text without altering its original meaning. The dots that make up the ellipsis are called ellipsis points or ellipsis marks. The word originates from the Ancient Greek ellipsis meaning “leave out”. For all history buffs out there, the earliest use of the ellipsis is believed to have occurred in a 1588 edition of the Roman dramatist Terence’s play *Andria*.

As is typical with other punctuation marks, there is some variation in the definition of an ellipsis between different punctuation manuals. According to The Chicago Manual of Style, the ellipsis should consist of three periods, each separated from each other by a nonbreaking space. A nonbreaking space is a special code you can use in Microsoft Word to keep the periods together at a line break. The AP Stylebook states the periods should appear with no space between them. Which one you choose to use is up to you, but you should remain consistent and use only one form in your transcript. Personally, after looking up a nonbreaking space, it appears to be a lot easier to simply use three periods, with each of the dots remaining on the same line, but the choice is up to you.



According to Margie Wakeman Wells, you should use an ellipsis in the following ways: One, to show that words in the original quote have been omitted. Two, when the ellipsis shows an omission that occurs at the end of a sentence. In that case Margie recommends using a fourth period to indicate the end of a sentence. Three, when the witness is not interrupted but trails off, use the ellipsis if you want to show a difference between using the dash for being interrupted and the ellipsis for trailing off.

Examples:

Original sentence: The new law states, “All members must submit their forms by the end of every quarter or face a fine of \$100.00. Same sentence with ellipsis: The new law states, “All members must submit their forms by the end of every quarter...”

“Ask not what your country can do...but what you can do for your country.” In formal and informal writing, when inserting an ellipsis in a quote, you should be careful not to change the meaning of the quote.

“I don’t know how to say this,” she said, looking down. “You mean he’s...” “Yes, he’s gone.”

I was eagerly awaiting the news but...

They all went their separate ways; so...

The most likely scenario a court reporter would use an ellipsis is, of course, when the witness trails off without finishing his thought. If the ellipsis occurs at the end of the sentence and the sentence would normally end with a question mark or exclamation point, you should place that punctuation after the ellipsis. Example: “What do you mean I have to...? In other words, when using ellipses in conjunction with other punctuation, whether they be commas, semicolons, question marks, or exclamation points, treat the ellipsis as though it was just another word in the sentence.

Jackie Young is a freelance reporter from Delano, Minnesota. ■

REPORTER JOB OPENINGS IN MINNESOTA

In an effort to notify the MAVRC membership of steno reporter job openings in Minnesota, please notify Rhonda.Franken@courts.state.mn.us or Jolene.Carrow@gmail.com if you have a reporter position to post in our newsletter.



The following is a link to the Minnesota Judicial Branch website that lists open official court reporter positions in the Minnesota Judicial Districts. This website is updated as positions open.

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mncourts>. In the “Search” box, type: “Court reporters.”

Officialships offer a desirable salary range; a great benefits package, with employer retirement contribution (6.25% of salary), basic life insurance (annual salary match); and additional optional benefits are available. In addition, there’s paid leave for holidays, floating holidays, vacation and sick leave, as well as travel reimbursement.

NCRA NEW CERTIFICATION

NEWLY CERTIFIED REPORTERS (As of August, 2020)

Congratulations to **Megan Stumm, RPR**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, who recently passed the RPR (Registered Professional Reporter) certification!

PROFILE OF A BOARD MEMBER

By RandiAnn Harvey, RDR, CCP, CRR

MAVRC Q: What is your name?

A: RandiAnn Harvey

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

A: Minnesota School of Business when it was downtown Minneapolis. Graduated 1991.

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

A: I knew nothing about this career until someone came to my high school with a steno machine and one of my teachers suggested I should look into it. Working in a courtroom was intriguing to me.

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

A: Right out of MSB, I was hired by a freelance firm in Hudson, Wisconsin. The workload varied greatly, and my little Honda Civic (no AC) put on a lot of miles. Three years later, I switched to a firm in the Twin Cities area. After five years there (and upon having my first child), I became an official in Hennepin County, then went to Isanti County, and am currently up in Kanabec County.

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

A: I use a Passport Touch steno machine and Eclipse v9 software, upgrading soon to v10.

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

A: I don't have enough transcript requests to keep a scopist busy, so I do all my own work.

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

A: Just keep swimming. Don't look at how far you have to go. Someday you'll look back and be amazed at how far you came.

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

A: I love briefs! My software is really good at creating them on the fly too. In court, we routinely have the same appearances, and so what has been helpful to me is to use one-stroke briefs for attorneys, i.e., "Mr. Hunter" would be MRURNT, and "Mr. Berger" would be MRERG, etc.

Also, look in your dictionary and filter your list by most commonly used words. Then scroll down until you find a two-stroke word. That is an ideal word to create a brief for. When I did this, I realized that "release" was being written in two strokes and used a lot! So instead of two or three strokes, "release" = R-FL, "released" = R-FLD, "releases" = RFLS, and "releasing" = RFLG.



RandiAnn Harvey

Another one that I found was Johnson, which is now JONDZ.

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 an NCRA member. I have the Registered Diplomat Reporter, the Certified CART Provider, and the Certified Realtime Reporter certifications. Lately, earning credits has been through webinars. The last one I attended was in October and was pretty intense on the Eclipse software.

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: The last NCRA event I attended

was in 2011 in Vegas. Although the location wasn't a hit for me, the actual seminar was great. When NCRA conventions are in person again, I am hoping to go to another one and maybe someday to an international Intersteno conference. However, I think the local seminars that MAVRC has put on in the past has been more beneficial and more cost effective for me.

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

A: This old lady has been around since the days there were two state associations. So with MAVRC, since its inception, and I was a member of the freelance association prior to that.

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

A: My term ends fall of 2023, I believe.

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

A: About every other month we have been meeting via Zoom. It is a bit cumbersome to have a group discussion, but since we are all located miles away from each other, it's very convenient.

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

A: The board recently updated the MAVRC website and is working out the kinks. Also, we are trying to brainstorm some remote seminar ideas and fundraising so that we can keep our lobbyist and the association afloat.

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: I can't think of any.

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

A: No real hometown. I grew up in Minnesota, Arizona, California, Idaho, and Utah. But I have lived in Minnesota since graduating from high school in Richfield.

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 college-aged kids. As a family, we have enjoyed golfing in the summer and snowboarding in the winter.

The son attends U of M Crookston and will graduate this spring. The daughter is in her second year at Montana State in Bozeman.

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: My favorite restaurant right now is in Bozeman. It's called Bridger Brewing - really unique pizzas and great brews!

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

A: We went to Bozeman over New Years and did some snowboarding, indoor rock climbing, and hiking up in Hyalite. The pure mountain air, reclusive forests, and crystal-clear rivers are refreshing.

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

A: DRINK - coffee in the morning, tea all day, and wine at night.

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

A: I can't wait to retire and move to the mountains! ■

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, JACKIE YOUNG!

MAVRC has had the privilege of having Jackie Young serve as a member of our *Minne-strokes* newsletter Publications Committee since 2001. Jackie is stepping down from the committee this year.

Since 2001, Jackie has written at least one article for each quarterly publication, and many times numerous articles, keeping us informed on many facets of the reporting world.

In addition to commitment serving on the committee, Jackie served in the capacity of editor of *Minne-strokes* from 2009 through 2015. Her personal dedication of educating reporters and preserving the history of our profession will be available and maintained through the newsletters for years to come.

MAVRC will miss having Jackie on the Publications Committee, but she has agreed to write an occasional article (or two) for newsletters in the future.

Thanks, Jackie!

THANK YOU

COMMITMENT AND PROBATE BRIEFS

By Emily Lettner, RPR

COMMITMENT BRIEFS

examiner's report	KPARPT
Moose Lake	MAO*BG
schizoaffective disorder	SKEFD or SKIFD
(I use SKIFD because I use SKEFD as circumstantial evidence)	
schizophrenia	SKEUZ
based upon a reasonable degree of psychological certainty	BARLDZ/S-S
psychiatric	SKREUBG
psychosis	SKOS
psychological	SKOL
psychopathic personality	SKOBG/PERNLT

sexually dangerous
tardive dyskinesia

SKWRAOULD
TA*RZ

PROBATE BRIEFS

probate	PROEBT
decedent	SDAOENT
decease	SDAOES
deceased	SDAOED
guardianship	G-P
conservatorship	K-P
conservator	KOFRBT

Emily Lettner is an official reporter in Wabasha, Minnesota, and a member of MAVRC's Publications Committee.



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 that 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



CRAZY
Zoom
COURTROOM STORIES

By Rhonda Franken, RMR

“THE CLERK: Before we formally begin, a few rules of the court. Even though this is virtual, it is still a courtroom and we do expect you to adhere to that decorum. What that means is that you should stay muted until you hear your name or your case is called. Once in front of the judge, you should be seated in a quiet space, free of background noise or distractions and not in a moving vehicle. If you are on video, please be aware of what you are wearing and your background. If you have a hat on, take it off. Check your background, make sure it is appropriate for the camera. Do not eat or smoke during the proceedings ...”

Seems like no-brainers, huh? Well, those of us working in the courts are finding out otherwise! As the coronavirus pandemic rages on, courthouses have gone to virtual hearings conducted over the internet in order to practice social distancing, with ridiculous situations popping up and comical results that provide welcome relief during these crazy times. What used to never occur to anyone to take place in an actual courtroom is now a common occurrence that boggles the mind – literally! And the phrase, “you can’t make this up” applies day in and day out these days of virtual court hearings. There are many things no one would dare to do during court in 2019 that they so brazenly do now. And when court participants would normally have to take off work to attend their court hearing, now they seem to appear from wherever and whatever they are doing. And did I mention attorneys showing up in court in their golf shirts or while on vacation in Florida? Welcome to court in 2020 and now 2021!

I’m sure all official court reporters have many stories to tell about crazy Zoom hearings themselves. From a personal standpoint, I’ve seen defendants in criminal cases appear while seemingly still in bed and under the covers, just getting out of the shower, running for the bus during their hearing, appearing topless; in family matters there was the mother in a custody case putting up signs reading “Lies,” over and over again, and yet another dancing around her apartment complex. On a daily basis there’s the court participant driving and smoking away while their case is heard. And, of course, there’s always grand appearances by a participant’s pet, i.e., cats climbing all over them or walking across their screen, and dogs nuzzling up next to them or barking in the background, resulting in further distractions and difficulty hearing and making a court reporter’s job even more challenging.

We’re just sayin’...

Along this vein, Tim McGowan, First Judicial District reporter, submitted these quotes from his judge:

“THE COURT: We are on the record, Ms. Murphy. I need you to sit down and place yourself in front of the camera, please. And put your cigarette out.

“THE DEFENDANT: I can’t smoke in my own house?”

“THE COURT: At this time, the matter is stricken from the calendar. I’m going to issue a warrant for Ms. Murphy’s arrest. Bail is set at body only. She can be heard in the ICCR. We are off the record.”

“THE COURT: Sir, although you’re physically sitting on the front steps of your house, you’re actually in a courtroom at the moment. Put on a shirt.”

“THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Young, let’s be clear about a couple of things. I need you to find a chair to sit in. You’re not going to lounge in bed smoking a cigarette during this hearing. So we are here in court; we are in my courtroom; put the cigarette out.”

Can at times be a bit scary!

Tim concluded, “Finally, one that always get a smile and often a laugh: Judge Perkkio will say, ‘You’re probably too young to have seen the *Blair Witch Project*, but ...’” and she’ll ask the person to hold their freakin’ phone still.

Capable of hearing cases far and wide

Monica Moriarty, First Judicial District reporter, submitted the following, stating, “Although not all funny, pretty amazing stories all the same”:

“Semi-truck driver on the east coast driving during the Zoom hearing with his device strategically placed for viewing while driving...until the device fell from its precarious position onto the floor of the semi.

“Guy Zooming in his parked car while on his job as a supervisor, shouting out the window to direct employees what to do next.

“Guy works on a *ship in the Indian Ocean* as a diver for oil rigs. Connection was lost several times, of course, but got him divorced!

“Liberian parents (one who is a U.S. citizen) want to transfer custody of their boy to the brother of the mom here in the U.S. so that the child can get U.S. medical care that he cannot get in Liberia. Zoom hearing held with the *biological parents appearing from Liberia* while the brother and wife appear from Apple Valley.

“Default dissolution case with a Cambodian interpreter. When the woman is done giving her testimony through the interpreter, she starts walking around, into the bedroom and then into the kitchen. She sets down the phone while her husband is giving his testimony and starts the process to make herself a cup of coffee on her Keurig. The judge had the J&D on screen-share and wasn’t noticing what the woman was doing, so I jumped in when I saw the Keurig and let the judge know that the respondent was no longer in the courtroom.”

And the oopsies!

Monica continued:

“An attorney needed to get up and go to another room to retrieve her calendar. The clothing on her lower body was quite sheer, causing her male client to quickly look away. I don’t know if she realized it or not...”

“Guy appears at his Zoom hearing from his job. He’s wearing some kind of helmet. Off camera, a chainsaw starts up and we realize that he is a tree trimmer. Judge asks him to tell the other guys to stop using the chainsaw so we can hear. The guy then walks away from the tree and lights up a cigarette. I told the judge that we had smoking in the courtroom.”

He said what?

Lastly, from Emily Lettner, Third Judicial District reporter:

Emily said that this story was not actually on Zoom but goes back to April, near the beginning of the pandemic when she and her judge had a rotation of being at the courthouse. She stated: “We were in the courtroom

(continued on page 16)

(continued from page 15)

with the attorney on the phone, and while the attorney was talking, his dog barked loudly in the background. Judge Neisen said, ‘Can you have that witness identify themselves, please.’ And everyone laughed. And the attorney said, ‘Yes, that would be Monte, a 12-year-old German Shepherd.’ The Court said, ‘I’m going to be very anxious to read the transcript to see exactly what that witness said because I had a hard time understanding.’”

Here to stay?

Remote hearings aren’t all bad, and there are hints here and there that some matters will more than likely be heard remotely ad infinitum. Commitment cases, for example, may be heard via Zoom from a facility the patient is being treated or in their own home for the foreseeable future. It may be less intimidating to the patients who are already in distress and don’t need to be transferred to the courthouse or to appear in front of strangers, and it’s a more compassionate way of handling those types of cases. Prison inmates may also continue to be heard from the facility they’re housed in, thus eliminating the cost of transport which at times can be quite costly to the state. However, if there’s one thing we have learned from this whole pandemic, it’s that uncertainty is certain.

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

A HUGE THANK YOU!

Many THANKS to the following MAVRC members who supported the association, lobbying efforts, or sponsored students in furtherance of education and training:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Sherlyn Anderson | Elisa Kukuk |
| Carla Bebault | Julie McCann |
| Christine Berger | Tim McGowan |
| Brandi Bigalke | Caroline Nyberg |
| Carol Danielson Bille | Laura Pelletier |
| Cheryle Doss | Debbie Peterson |
| Victoria Dudeck | Lisa Richardson |
| Rhonda Franken | Jane Schleusner |
| Jolynn Graham | Jennifer Sharp |
| RandiAnn Harvey | Karen Skow |
| Joanie Huebner | Angie Sundell |
| Mary C. Johnson | Faith West |
| Glenda Kaufman | Jean Whalen |
| Lynne Krenz | Ryan Ziegler |

SAVE THE DATE

MAVRC Fall Convention

October 1 & 2, 2021

MAVRC hopes to hold the annual fall convention as an in-person event.

Stay tuned for details.



DAY IN THE LIFE OF ZOOM REPORTING FROM HOME

By Emily Lettner, RPR

I am an official court reporter in the Third District and have been reporting as an official for 14 years. I have been reporting court proceedings via Zoom since the first week of May 2020. At the time, I was very nervous to report court proceedings in this way. The only proceedings I had reported in any virtual manner were ITV hearings in the courtroom, which were very low on my preferred list of proceedings!

Throughout the last several months, a good 95% of my court proceedings have been held via Zoom. During the summer and early fall months, my judge and I would hold a select few hearing types in our courtroom. However, since mid-November, we have been 100% via Zoom, and that will continue until the middle of March at a minimum.

I started out with my work station set up in my dining room. I honestly thought I'd be home for maybe a few weeks, a month. I did not fully comprehend or anticipate that I would be home for the better part of a year. In hindsight, I'm sure we all wish we would have invested in home technology and good office supplies the day we got sent home. When I came back home again during the fall, I set up my station in my children's toy room which has a door and more privacy. Seeing my children's toys every single day has actually made me purge many things from this room!

A typical day reporting on Zoom from home starts with printed paper calendars. I go to the courthouse and print calendars for about three weeks at a time to use each day. It helps me to know who is supposed to be coming into the Zoom, and I also keep notes on my calendars of things like attorneys who appeared, along with probation agents, whether a defendant failed to appear, etcetera, etcetera. I also have MNCIS pulled up on

my second computer screen in case it is needed. I start the Zoom about 10-15 minutes early, depending on the size of the calendar that we are hearing. I let people in from the waiting room as they join. I check with any person who is not an attorney that they can hear and see and know how to mute/unmute and turn their video on/off. Thankfully, I don't have to check with attorneys anymore. Ha! I also identify any person who comes in via telephone only. Some days this process is very smooth, especially for people who have appeared before. In some cases, it takes what seems like forever just to get one person connected to audio. Sometimes they respond to chats that I send them, and other times I have to get them to turn on their video so I can see them and share my screen with them that has instructions with how to connect to audio. These days can be very mentally exhausting, and court has not even started yet! Oh, how I miss the days of the court clerk telling me they're ready for court to start and then just having to walk into the courtroom and start writing on my machine!

I have two young children at home, ages 9 and 7. While their school strives to stay in person, there have been weeks where both kids have had to be at home doing remote learning and other instances their classroom has been forced to quarantine for two weeks at a time. I know a lot of you out there understand my plight with this scenario!

While my children were in remote learning, a typical day would require getting up extra early to "get ready" for the day. My older child would log on to their Google classroom to get any assignments completed before his mandatory Zoom classes would start. This child was required to be connected

to Zoom from 8:20 to 9:50 and from 1:00 to 2:00 every day. Outside of those times, this child would need to use technology to complete assignments. Thankfully, this child could easily connect independently. My younger child had mandatory Zoom check-ins twice a week at 11:00 a.m. There were many times my older child would have to connect my younger child to the Zoom as Mom was in court and could not do it. Sometimes we knew this ahead of time, and sometimes we did not. Outside of the Zoom sessions, my younger child was also required to log in to their Google classroom to view teaching videos their teacher would post for their assignments. There were many times this child was sitting right next to me viewing their teaching videos with headphones on while I was in a Zoom court hearing with my headphones on. I thanked God every day for the mute button on Zoom and for the fact that my judge did not require me to have my video on during court hearings.

Over time my children and I worked out a system of note writing. Any time they needed/wanted to ask a question, they had to write it down on a piece of paper so that I could read it when I got a chance between cases being called. I would give a thumbs up or thumbs down as my answer.

While there have been certain pros with being able to work from home and working in a virtual courtroom, I look forward to the day when we are all able to get back into the courtroom and hold live hearings with everyone physically present. I never knew how much I took that for granted.

Emily Lettner is an official reporter in Wabasha, Minnesota, and a member of the Minne-strokes Publications Committee. ■

PRO BONO

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

Christine Clark
MAVRC's Pro Bono Coordinator

Phone: 952.250.4030

chrisclarkzimm@gmail.com

PRO BONO

Kudos to Shelby Brown
for volunteering to provide pro bono services.

REPORTER HUMOR

ATTORNEYS WHO SAY THINGS LIKE BRIEFLY FINALLY LAST QUESTION ARE THE REASON I HAVE TRUST ISSUES

STUDENT PROFILE

By Karli Pikala

Name: Karli Pikala

School: Anoka Technical College

Speed: 50 or 60; I'm in theory!

Hometown: Minneapolis, MN

Tell us a little about yourself. I have a degree in Spanish Studies, and after my husband, Connor, and I got married in 2015, we traveled around South America for five months. I was able to improve my speaking skills and just do a lot of exploring. It definitely sparked a passion for travel and adventure. When we returned, I knew I didn't want to go back to serving and bartending, and an opportunity in real estate sort of fell in my lap. As much as I love helping people find their homes, I know it's not the right fit for me long-term. I'm ready for my next career as a court reporter! Other things I love doing are cooking, hiking, reading, biking, camping, playing guitar, and hanging out with Connor and my pets, Norman and Lucy. I also love spending time with my extended family. I have three nieces and a nephew whom I absolutely adore. Right now, I'm really missing live music and going to the movies.



Kari Pikala

What made you decide to pursue a career in court reporting? I've been working as a realtor and office manager for a small brokerage in Northeast Minneapolis for about four years. There are many aspects I love about this job, but I've been exploring other options for a while now. One day I was just typing emails, and I thought to myself, I love typing. It'd be cool to be a stenographer! Then I thought, Hey, why can't I do that? So I started looking into the program at Anoka Tech and remembered I had a friend of a friend that went through the program. I reached out to her, and we met for happy hour the next day. She told me all about it, and her enthusiasm was contagious. She encouraged me, as she thought some of my current interests and skills were a good fit for the job. I ended up taking the A to Z class last spring, and something just clicked. I knew it was for me, and I had to pursue this career.

What area of reporting interests you the most at this time- official, freelance, or captioning/CART? At this time, I'm mostly interested in being an official reporter for Hennepin County where I've lived my entire life. I could see myself eventually switching to freelance or captioning down the road to allow for more flexibility and travel.

What's been the most challenging or rewarding part of your schooling thus far? The most challenging is juggling work and school. I also struggle a little bit with the technology side of things, but I'm figuring it out as I go! The most rewarding has just been learning to write. I love how fast the program moves and how much I've learned in such a short amount of time. I can't wait to get through theory and start working more on speed!

Do you know any working reporters or anyone that's been an influence to you? The friend I mentioned earlier has been a great influence for me! She currently works for Hennepin County, so when things are hard for me, I can think about where she is and where I'll be someday. Also, since she's been through the program, she's even given me some of

(continued on page 21)

(continued from page 20)

her used books, and she periodically checks in on me and sends words of encouragement.

If you had an hour of free time, what would you be doing (besides practicing on your steno)? I would probably try to get outside for a walk or a hike with Connor and my dog, Norman.

What is your favorite band or type of music? That's a really hard question! In fact, when my husband and I bought our house, we decided to throw a "Housewarming for the Records," and if people wanted to bring a gift, we asked for a record they thought we'd enjoy. We ended up with an awesome eclectic mix of music from metal to hip hop to classical to folk. One of my favorites was *Tree of Forgiveness* by John Prine. I've been listening to him since I was a baby.

What is your favorite food or restaurant? I love food, and I'm not picky at all. I'll pretty much try anything at least once. My favorite restaurant is definitely Bar la Grassa, and I cannot wait for them to open back up so I can have their tuna pasta again. I also love popcorn.

Where is a place you would like to visit? Right now I'm planning a trip to visit my sister in Istanbul. I got to visit her there a couple years ago, and it is an amazing city. I can't wait to go back. Fingers crossed Covid-19 doesn't stop me.

The last book you read? Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime*. It was fascinating.

The last movie you watched? I've seen a couple good ones lately: *Blow the Man Down* and *One Night in Miami*. I also re-watched one of my all-time faves, *The Princess Bride*. Love that movie! ■

CONGRATS, GRADUATE!

Jamie Ward

"I've already been working as a freelance court reporter for the past couple of months. I absolutely love it! I love all the different stories I get to hear and the flexibility of freelance. It was definitely worth all the hard work during school."



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.



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.

ANNUAL RATE PER/ISSUE RATE

Please circle issue(s) you wish ad to run

	<u>ANNUAL RATE</u>	<u>PER/ISSUE RATE</u>				
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 Summer 2021 issue, your ad and payment must be received by **May 1, 2021**.

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



MAVRC welcomes
your brief forms
to publish in our
newsletter.

Please forward to
MINNE-strokes
Editor
Rhonda Franken
at
[rhonda.franken@
courts.state.mn.us](mailto:rhonda.franken@courts.state.mn.us)

Check out
MAVRC's website @
www.mavrc.org

AND

MAVRC's Facebook
page @
[http://www.face-
book.com/MAVRC](http://www.facebook.com/MAVRC)

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



GLENDA L. 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.hpareporting.com

11900 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




*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!



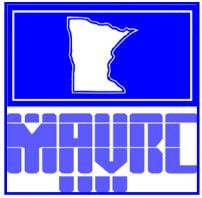
A member of Minnesota State



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

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.



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



UPCOMING EVENTS

**April
24, 2021**

MAVRC Spring Seminar
via Zoom

**May
1, 2021**

Submissions deadline for
MINNE-*strokes* Summer Edition

MAVRC MINNE-*strokes* STAFF

EDITOR:

Rhonda Franken

EDITORIAL STAFF:

Crystal Joos
Emily Lettner
Angie Sundell

**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



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.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION
DEADLINE**

