



Minnesota Court Reporters: On and Off the Record

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By Hart Erickson

Greetings from sunny Burnsville -- finally. After struggling through a long and miserable winter, I think I share the feeling that spring/summer can't come soon enough. After celebrating Easter with a beautiful day of warm weather, I'm ready for the green of spring to arrive and hope for a nice, long, hot summer.

Since my last president's address, our MAVRC Board and membership have been quite busy. National Court Reporting and Captioning Week, held from February 17th through the 23rd and sponsored by NCRA, was a great success again this year. Not only did Governor Dayton declare the week Minnesota Court Reporting and Captioning Week, but Anoka Tech, along with MAVRC, hosted an open house for reporters, students, legislators, the legal community, and family and friends. There were realtime, CART and closed captioning demonstrations, door prizes given away, an opportunity for students and their family members to interact with working reporters and, not to mention, a lot of good food and conversation. A big thank you to Jennifer Sati and the staff at Anoka Tech and all those who helped in the effort to highlight the contributions of stenographic court reporters and captioners in the state of Minnesota and around the country.

MAVRC's Spring Seminar was held at Anoka Tech on April 12th. Our Continuing Education Committee, headed by Monica Christensen, did



Hart Erickson

an outstanding job lining up an array of interesting speakers for the day. There was a tremendous turnout this year - 82 or so - which is the largest number of reporters in attendance at a spring seminar in recent years. A lot of effort behind the scene is involved in organizing and putting the seminar together. The Continuing Education Committee and MAVRC Board members, along with the Anoka Tech staff, were instrumental on the day of the seminar making sure the event ran smoothly. I applaud Monica and everyone who contributed their time and donated the break food, refreshments and silent auction "purses" for the day's fundraising event. A special thanks to
(Continued on Page 2)

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(Continued from Page 1)

all of you who attended. Many positive comments were heard from the attending members and students about the seminar and what a good time they had.

MAVRC's Annual Fall Convention is scheduled for September 12th and 13th at the Doubletree Park Place in St. Louis Park. Watch for updates in the future as more information is obtained, but mark your calendar and plan to attend the annual convention. Plans are in the works for a fantastic lineup of speakers.

I'm again going to reiterate a few things I have in the past that I feel are important agenda items for this year. Membership is still down and we need the help of everyone to encourage non-members to join MAVRC. If you weren't able to persuade a fellow court reporter to join or renew their membership yet this year, I would encourage you to do so. I also would encourage you to help a student complete their internship by taking them along to a deposition or sitting in court with you. There is still a need for mentors as well. Please contact Jennifer Sati at jsati@anokatech.edu and volunteer a little of your time and talent.

Last, but not least, visit MAVRC's website and look for the new History Section that Jackie Young has been so diligently working on. It's an interesting read. Thanks, Jackie, for taking the time to put this together.

Hope you all have a great summer. ■

MAVRC Mission Statement

The mission of the 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.

2014 FALL CONVENTION PLANS UNDERWAY

By Monica Christensen, RMR

We are already in the planning stages of the 2014 fall convention! Please mark your calendars for September 12 and 13, 2014. This fall our convention will take us to the City of St. Louis Park at the Hilton Doubletree Park Place, located southwest of the 394/100 interchange. The hotel's address is 1500 Park Place Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55416; telephone number, 952-542-8600.



Hilton Doubletree Park Place

The MAVRC Fall Convention will highlight some exciting speakers, including Anissa R. Nierenberger, RPR, CRR, CBC, CCP, CRI, of Dictionary Jumpstart, who will spend a morning session with us on fine-tuning our steno dictionaries. Also speaking to us will be a representative of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), and Dr. Gretchen Bosacker, M.D. Perhaps you know her as Dr. Gretchen Phillips, who has appeared on various television news segments on local networks. As of press time, other speakers are still being contacted. Check our website, www.mavrc.org, for further information in the months ahead on additional speakers and CEU credits!

If you have questions about the upcoming annual MAVRC Fall Convention, please contact:

Monica Christensen
MAVRC President-Elect
Continuing Ed Committee Chair
218-760-9631
monica.christensen@courts.state.mn.us

THE RELATIONSHIP STATUS BETWEEN NEW TAX LAWS AND YOUR FINANCES? IT'S COMPLICATED

By RBC Wealth Management and Scott Kellett

For many Americans, tax time can be daunting. This year, sifting through the clutter of tax changes probably seems even more intimidating. Assuming you don't have time to read and comprehend documents like the 150-plus page turner known as the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, here are some facts you should know.

For all income earners:

- **Increased contribution limits for retirement** – Investors can now increase their contribution to a traditional IRA from \$5,000 to \$5,500. Additionally, 401(k) investors can now increase their contribution by \$500, up to \$17,500 annually, not including employer match contributions. The same increase applies to 403(b) and most 457 plan participants. Finally, the annual gift exclusion increases from \$13,000 to \$14,000.
- **Social Security rate increase** – In a change you've likely already noticed, the contribution limits for Social Security increased at the beginning of 2013 by 6.2% up to \$113,700.

For individuals earning over \$200,000 (\$250,000 for married filing jointly):

- **Medicare payroll tax** – Taxpayers will owe an additional 0.9% tax towards Medicare on income over the threshold of \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for married couples filing jointly.

For individuals earning over \$250,000 (\$300,000 married filing jointly):

- **New personal exemption** – When it comes time to file taxes in 2013, the personal exemption phaseout (PEP) of \$3,900 will be reduced by 2% for every \$2,500 over the income threshold of \$250,000 for individuals and \$300,000 for married filing jointly.
- **Itemization restrictions** – Known as the Pease provision, this sets a limit on itemized deductions among high-income earners. Income over the applicable amount will trigger an itemized deduction limitation that is (a) the lesser of 3% of adjusted gross income or (b) 80% of the itemized deductions otherwise allowable in that taxable year.

For individuals earning over \$400,000 (\$450,000 married filing jointly):

- **Change in tax bracket for higher income earners** – These individuals will see a 4.6% jump in their tax bracket next year from 35% to 39.6%. Additionally, those in this same bracket may be subject to new capital gains rate increases from the current 15% to 20%.

Individually these tax law changes are costly, but the effect they have on your income can be even more costly to progress toward other financial goals such as saving for retirement. It may be an opportunity to consider some investing alternatives.

Converting to a Roth 401(k) could be an attractive option for those whose employers offer it. The investment vehicle, similar to its Roth IRA kin, places money into an account with after-tax dollars, allowing an individual to take it out tax-free after the age of 59 ½. However, unlike its Roth IRA counterpart, it is not subject to the \$5,500 IRS annual contribution limit. Find out if your company 401(k) supports this type of vehicle and then speak with an advisor regarding the many factors to consider that can determine the effectiveness of such an investment strategy.

Additionally, if you have a 401(k) or 403(b) plan through your employer and your employer provides a matching contribution, fund this account up to the limits of the matching contribution. For example, if your employer matches 50 cents on every dollar that you contribute to your 401(k), up to 6% of your annual salary, you should contribute 6% of your salary to your 401(k).

By participating in your qualified retirement plan at work and receiving a matching contribution from your employer, you're receiving a guaranteed rate of return of no less than 50% per year.

While more nuanced than we can explain here, you should not feel it necessary to tackle these changes alone. Consult experts who can explain the complexities and will work with you to develop or alter a strategy to navigate the effects on your income stream and overall portfolio.

This article is provided by Scott Kellett, a Financial Advisor at RBC Wealth Management. The information included in this article is not intended to be used as the primary basis for making investment decisions. RBC Wealth Management does not endorse this organization or publication. Consult your investment professional for additional information and guidance.

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The following is an excerpt from a neuropsychologist's deposition.

The neuropsychologist is describing the intricacies of... the human brain ...

Neuropsychologist: May I give an example of this?

Counsel: Sure.

Neuropsychologist: Okay. If you look -- and the example is this: Our brains are a miracle. Okay. They're a miracle that needs to be protected. And if you look at the court reporter right now, as an example, okay, this is a miracle in progress happening right before your eyes.

Let me just explain what she needs to do. I am speaking, so the information has to come in through her ear into her temporal lobe, and it has to go log itself into the language center. She has to be able to comprehend what I'm saying.

Then it has to get rerouted to the prefrontal cortex where it has to hold -- she has to be able to hold the information, because, you know, I continuously talk so she has to hold it. Right? Then she has to analyze it, integrate it and synthesize it. Then it has to go back to the cerebellum and she has to be able to execute this, and she has to be able to then convert my words into those little squiggly marks. Have you ever seen court reporters have little squiggly language things?

So she has to convert it into a different language, and the white matter tracks allows her to reroute all of this information simultaneously without effort. Okay.

We take our brains for granted. She's sitting here. I'm probably talking too fast for her, but she's able to do this simultaneously. Seamlessly. Okay.

No animal on the planet can do this. All right. That's why I believe court reporters will never be replaced. Because no technical -- no technology could replace the beauty of that brain and the miracle of that brain. And that's why your brain should always be protected and you should take care of it.

PROFILE OF A BOARD MEMBER

By Melissa Keute

Hello! My name is Melissa Keute. I have been the MAVRC treasurer since September of 2013. I grew up on a dairy/ Arabian horse farm in the small town of Wright, Minnesota. My family moved to Champlin in 1985 after the dairy industry fell apart, and I graduated from Anoka Senior High. I went to the local community college with no idea of what I wanted to be. I completed the general education courses but still had no idea where I was going. Over summer break I found a job as a nanny for a local newscaster and her children. I enjoyed it so much that it was easy to overlook the fall registration deadline that came around for the next several years while I decided what I was going to be when I finally grew up.

I met Steve in January of 1997 and married him that September. We decided that the city life wasn't for us and relocated to Annandale in 1999, where we still reside. Steve brought one daughter into our relationship, and we have two together: Brianna, 21; Caitlynn, 11; and Sarah, 8. The menagerie in our home includes three dogs and my dad's decrepit cat that cannot see nor hear, but I can't bear to part with her.

After my last daughter was born, I decided it was time to go back to school. I wasn't sure what I would do, but I was going. Not long after I made that decision, Jill, a family friend, passed away. She happened to be a court reporter. I spent quite a bit of time with her family after her passing, and I decided court reporting was it. After a little online research, I enrolled for classes at



Melissa Keute

Anoka Tech and graduated in 2012.

My first position was with Advantage Court Reporting out of St. Cloud and Alexandria as a freelance reporter. Jeanna was a great mentor to have while starting my career. I have no horror stories to tell from my experience as a freelancer. Jeanna taught me so much, and it was pretty smooth sailing!

Last June, I accepted a position as an official reporter in Benton County for the Honorable Robert Raupp. I enjoy the small town atmosphere and the friendly people. I've been warmly welcomed by everyone, and

I hope to have many more years out here in Foley!

In my spare time I am a taxi driver for my children, an avid reader, perennial gardener, and dog walker. ■

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

DO YOU KNOW AN OUTSTANDING MAVRC MEMBER?

The MAVRC Distinguished Service Committee wants to hear from you. Please send your nominations to Jolene Carrow at jolene.carrow@gmail.com or to MAVRC, P.O. Box 375, Marshall, MN 56258.

Simply use the form on the following pages and state your reason(s) for believing that a member of MAVRC has been a spectacular volunteer or would be a worthy recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Include your contact information (name, address, phone number and e-mail address).

The deadline for nominations is August 1, 2014, but don't wait for the deadline. Put your thoughts in an e-mail now and send it to us. Don't sweat the small stuff. Just get us your nomination.

Give us a chance to shine the spotlight on someone who has worked hard on behalf of court reporters. Nominate someone today!

**Jim Trapskin, Jennifer Sati and Mary Krawiecki
Distinguished Service Committee**

**MAVRC'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee's Name: _____

Please provide the following information, if known, on your nominee:

Education Post High School: _____

Number of years reporting: _____ **Certifications held:** _____

MAVRC Offices and/or positions held: _____

MAVRC Committee Chair/Member: _____

Other state association offices and/or positions held: _____

Awards and honors received: _____

Publications and/or seminar presentations given: _____

Why do you believe this person should receive the MAVRC Distinguished Service Award?

Submitted by: _____ **Phone #** _____

Send to: MAVRC, Attn. DSA Committee, P.O. Box 375, Marshall, MN 56258

***DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: August 1, 2014**



**MAVRC'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee's Name: _____

Please provide the following information, if known, on your nominee:

Education Post High School: _____

Number of years reporting: _____ **Certifications held:** _____

MAVRC Offices and/or positions held: _____

MAVRC Committee Chair/Member: _____

Other state association offices and/or positions held: _____

Awards and honors received: _____

Publications and/or seminar presentations given: _____

Why do you believe this person should receive the Volunteer of the Year Award?

Submitted by: _____ **Phone #** _____

Send to: MAVRC, Attn. DSA Committee, P.O. Box 375, Marshall, MN 56258

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: August 1, 2014

MAVRC 2014 SPRING SEMINAR RECAP

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

A full house at the Anoka Technical Institute helped make MAVRC's 2014 Spring Seminar a fabulous success. The reporters in attendance had the opportunity to re-establish friendships, create new working relationships, and learn a ton of new information on a variety of topics. Seminar sessions ranged from presentations on upper extremity conditions, al-Shabaab in Minnesota, stress management, the Deaf Culture, and NCRA's Taking Realtime Awareness and Innovation Nationwide (TRAIN) program. Kudos to MAVRC's Continuing Education Committee, chaired by Monica Christensen, for a job well done!

golfer's elbow, work-related overuse injuries, computer strain, carpal tunnel, and arthritic conditions. Michelle, a registered and licensed occupational therapist, also holds a certification in hand therapy, and assists individuals in achieving and maintaining healthy, active and productive lifestyles.

FBI Intelligence Analyst Jonathan L. Watson, who was next on the agenda, spoke about the recruitment of Americans living in the Twin Cities to join the Somalia-based terrorist group known as al-Shabaab. The wave of Americans traveling to Somalia to fight with al-Shabaab, an Al Qaeda

There is an estimated two to three million Somalis that live outside their homeland, and approximately 150,000 to 200,000 live in the United States – most of them located in Minneapolis, Seattle, Atlanta, Washington, and Columbus, Ohio. Between the years 2007 and 2010, more than 40 Americans from cities with large Somali immigrant populations such as Phoenix, Arizona, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, left to join al-Shabaab. Many went on to become suicide bombers in Somalia, while others, like Kamal Said Hassan and Abdifatah Yusuf Isse from Minneapolis, returned to the United States and have been convicted of providing material support to a terrorist group. FBI Assistant Director for Counterterrorism Mark Giuliano has admitted that, "Since 2006, more than twelve U.S. citizens have been killed in Somalia while fighting for al-Shabaab,"

According to Mr. Watson, al-Shabaab recognized early on the value of foreign fighters, especially Westerners. As one top al-Shabaab official said in 2008, "We seek to empower the shari'a of Allah and commit His faith to His worshippers, in perfect conformity between the global jihad and the jihad in Somalia. However, [we] lack the precious element of the foreign fighters. There are an insufficient number of non-Somali brothers." The group has since put forth a robust effort to fill that void and reach out to Westerners. It has released numerous English-language recruiting videos and statements since that time.

In addition, al-Shabaab has released a 40-minute video in August glorifying what it called its "Minnesota Martyrs," three men who the group said sacrificed their lives



Michelle Reiner (right) demonstrating on Carolyn Taylor Pekas (left) how injury to your wrist occurs.

The event was kicked off by Michelle Reiner of Minnesota Hand Rehabilitation, Inc., speaking on common upper extremity conditions, including rotator cuff injuries, tennis/

linked terrorist group, has been described by the FBI as one of the "highest priorities in its fight against terrorism."

MAVRC 2014 SPRING SEMINAR RECAP

in the name of global jihad. Another video, released in August of 2013, is specifically focused on the large Somali-American populations of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Titled “The Path to Paradise: From the Twin Cities to the Land of the Two Migrations,” it presents a standard Islamist narrative of the obligation to fight and then focuses on the importance of leaving the U.S. to join al-Shabaab. The video also includes personal narratives by different individuals who have made the trip.

One of the featured Minnesota jihadists, named Muhammed, tells viewers, “This is the best place to be, honestly.... If you guys only knew how much fun we have over here, this is the real Disneyland.” He concludes by urging, “Everyone who is a real Muslim...who really wants to serve in the cause of Allah to come here and join us so that we can die for the sake of Allah.”

While the FBI’s investigation resulted in the largest number of indictments being handed down for terrorism-related activities in the United States, more alarming is that the arrests of Americans seeking to join al-Shabaab prove the success of the group’s recruiting efforts and the continued threat to national security posed by al Qaeda-affiliated movements abroad. During the investigation, the FBI encountered a number of language problems identifying the various terrorists due to the fact that many Somalis have no formal family name, frequently go by nicknames, use non-standard spellings, and have generalized birthdates. Its two-year investigation into the recruitment of individuals from the U.S. to fight with al-Shabaab has resulted in a total of 19 people

being charged and convicted in Minnesota alone.

Following a brief lunch break, the attendees then heard from four-time Olympian Henry Marsh. During his athletic career, Henry set four American records in the 3,000 meter steeplechase and was ranked No. 1 in the world for three years. Following his athletic years, Henry became a nationally recognized expert in health and fitness and is the author of the book, [The Breakthrough Factor](#).

Henry encouraged the reporters in attendance to have a positive mindset, which in turn helps a person be more successful, and to identify the different stressors we have in our lives so we can learn to react more positively. Henry then went on to illustrate how the power of positive thinking helps minimize the negative impact those stresses have on our physical and mental health.

Next up was Dale Finke, a former employee with the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services Division of the State Department of Human Services for 37.5 years. Dale, who is also Deaf, imparted his knowledge regarding the Deaf Community, its history, values, norms and traditions. Dale then went on to talk about the communication and other challenges he and other Deaf people have encountered over the years ranging from psychological, vocational, cultural, and social impacts.

The audience also learned that Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people would like to be treated on an equal basis as their hearing peers as well as being offered equal educational and employment opportunities. Perhaps the most important piece of wisdom imparted by Dale was the recommendation that

the hearing sector of the population take steps to become more aware of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Cultures – For it is only through knowledge that we will be able to overcome these obstacles and dispel misplaced beliefs that have the potential to limit someone else’s true capabilities.

Last but not least, the seminar attendees went on an informative journey to learn about NCRA’s Taking Realtime Awareness and Innovation Nationwide Program. Reporters Tracy Bennett, Merilee Johnson, Mary Krawiecki, and Heather Schuetz shared their knowledge and experiences with providing realtime in both official and freelance capacities.

Some important and helpful tips to becoming a proficient realtime writer include having a good working knowledge of your court reporting software as well as your computer operating system, updating your software on a regular basis, and attending and/or participating in realtime seminars and webinars specific to your court reporting software. If you are interested in learning more about TRAIN, you can go to www.NCRA.org/TRAIN. Also included on NCRA’s website are software tips, realtime software tools, and videos demonstrating realtime hookups. By taking advantage of these educational resources provided by NCRA, you will be taking an important step towards reaching your full potential.

Jackie Young is a freelance reporter from Delano, Minnesota, and is the editor of MAVRC’s Minne-strokes. ■



MAVRC 2014 SPRING SEMINAR SNAPSHOTS



Melissa Keute addresses the crowd during the MAVRC seminar.



Some of the students at the spring seminar paused for a photo.



Stenograph Representative Karen Wolston attended the MAVRC Spring Seminar.



Above: Paige Scholl and Jolene Carrow bid on silent auction items.



Right: Jayne Carriker and Angie Sundell smile for the camera during the afternoon break.

MAVRC 2014 SPRING SEMINAR SNAPSHOTS



Reporters gathered around Mary Krawiecki as she demonstrates various ways to hook up to attorneys during the afternoon TRAIN session.



Reporter Carol Danielson Bille and speaker Olympian Henry Marsh.



Front Row: Reporters Cindy Radcliffe and Colleen Maloney enjoy conversation during the lunch break.

MAVRC 2014 SPRING SEMINAR SNAPSHOTS



Carol Danielson Bille and Hart Erickson drawing names of winners for the door prizes.

Below: Sarah Ryan Ziegler and Colleen Maloney



Valerie Benning proudly showing off a flashdrive she won as a door prize.



*During the lunch break, reporters had the opportunity to socialize.
Front Row: (L to R) Cheryl Seeman, Sarah Colberg and Brittany Blesener.*

MAVRC 2014 SPRING SEMINAR SNAPSHOTS



During the session when FBI Intelligence Analyst Jonathan L. Watson spoke about the Somalia-based terrorist group known as al-Shabaab, Lori Simpson (above) was able to supplement by adding highlights of her experiences reporting the al-Shababb terrorist defendant trials.



Krisi McCallum attended the spring seminar and has recently graduated from Anoka Technical College.



Silent auction items are being looked over by Angelica Tuma.

MAVRC 2014 SPRING SEMINAR WRAPUP

Spring Seminar Silent Auction

DONATED BY:



Sten Ed

Stenograph

Mill City Video

Jolene Carrow

Monica Christensen

Third District Reporters
(Shirley Paradis, Laurie Cochran,
Emily Lettner, Jane Hofmeister,
Julie Buehler)

Third District Reporters
(Shirley Paradis, Laurie Cochran,
Emily Lettner, Jane Hofmeister,
Julie Buehler)

Danielson Court Reporting

Danielson Court Reporting

Fourth District Reporters
(Tricia Weinberg, Renee Rogge
Adrienne Conzemius, Carrie
Franckowiak)

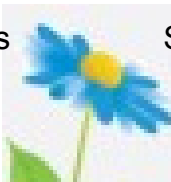
Cheryle Doss

Hart Erickson

Jolynn Graham

Jolynn Graham

Sixth District Reporters



PRIZE:

Writing Pack & Tote

\$100 Gift Certificate

\$50 Crate & Barrel Gift Cert

Floral Bag/Purse

Men's Toiletries Bag

Cossetta Dinner for Two

Cossetta Chocolate

Mona Vie Health Juice & Book

Henry Marsh Book

Wine Backpack



Golf Accessories/Bag

Bird Feeders & Food

Tote, Wine, Wine Glasses

Purse/Cloth/Umbrella

Silver Purse/Easter Goodies

WON BY

Cyndi Shellum

Amy Turk

Jackie Young

Carolyn Taylor Pekas

Paige Scholl

Paige Scholl

Jackie Young

Mary Krawiecki

Amy Turk

Cindy Radcliffe

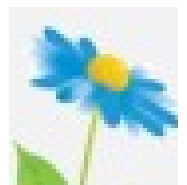
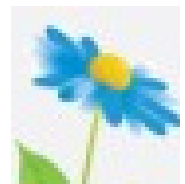
Jolene Carrow

Judy Wunderlich

Tracy Bennett

Rachel Erickson

Gayle May-Barker



MAVRC 2014 SPRING SEMINAR WRAPUP

Spring Seminar 50/50 Raffle



Morning Raffle Winner -- \$127 -- Kelli Aslesen
Afternoon Raffle Winner -- \$36 -- Paige Scholl



Spring Seminar Door Prizes

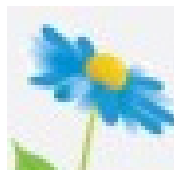
USB Flash Drive – Valerie Benning
Dark Crunch Chocolate – RandiAnn Harvey
Popcorn – Tricia Weinberg
Moose Crunch – Renee Rogge
StenoCAT Gift Certificate – Jane Hofmeister



Thanks to the donors and participants
and congrats to the winners.



Thanks to MAVRC members who sponsored
a student/s for the spring seminar:



Tracy Bennett	\$50.00
Hart Erickson	\$15.00
Sarah Ryan Ziegler	\$15.00



2014 JILL RAINERSON KARNES

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Congratulations to

Kimberly Morey and Kelly Brede

for being the recipients of a \$500 scholarship

established in memory of

Jill Rainerson Karnes.

Jill met an untimely death in a car accident a couple of years after graduating from Anoka Tech's court reporting program.

Anoka-Technical Institute looks forward to awarding these scholarships annually to deserving students in the judicial reporting or broadcast captioning program.

If you are interested in contributing to this worthy cause, donations can be made online at <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Jill-Rainerson-Karnes-Memorial-Scholarship>.

**Checks can be made out to:
Anoka Technical College Foundation
1355 West Highway 10
Anoka, MN 55303.**

(Please indicate the donation is for the Jill Rainerson Memorial Scholarship Fund)

REPORTER RECIPES

Giant Ganache-Topped Whoopie Pie

Submitted by Michelle Foley

INGREDIENTS:

Cake

1/2 box Betty Crocker® SuperMoist® devil's food cake mix
(about 1 2/3 cups)
1/2 cup water
1/4 cup vegetable oil
2 eggs

Filling

3/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
1 jar (7 oz) marshmallow creme
1 cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla

Ganache

1/2 cup whipping cream
4 oz semisweet baking chocolate, chopped

DIRECTIONS:

Heat oven to 350 degrees (325 degrees for dark or nonstick pans). Spray bottoms and sides of two 8-inch round cake pans with baking spray with flour. In large bowl, beat cake mix, water, oil and eggs with electric mixer on low speed until moistened, then on medium speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Pour into pans. Bake 14 to 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes. Remove from pans to cooling racks. Cool completely - about 1 hour.

In large bowl, beat filling ingredients with electric mixer on high speed until light and fluffy. On serving plate, place one cake layer, rounded side down. Spread filling over cake, spreading slightly over edge. Top with second layer, rounded side up.

In one-quart saucepan, heat whipping cream over low heat until hot but not boiling. Remove from heat; stir in chocolate until melted. Cool about 10 minutes. Pour ganache on to top of cake; spread with spatula so it just begins to flow over edge of cake. Store loosely covered.

Michelle Foley is an official reporter in St. Cloud, Minnesota, and serves on MAVRC's Board of Directors as Director-at-Large B - Official.



Have a favorite recipe you would like to share?

Please email your favorites for inclusion in the MAVRC newsletter to:

Jolene.Carrow@gmail.com

STUDENT'S CORNER - THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS, PART II

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

In the last issue of *Minne-strokes*, we learned some important guidelines that we should all incorporate into our professional lives. In this issue, we will learn what to do when encountered with ethical dilemmas and what other additional steps we can take to become a reporter that is beyond reproach.

Probably the most contentious issue over the years in both Minnesota and nationwide has been the practice of giving gifts to attorneys and/or their staff. Gifts of high value, gift cards, rebates and reward point programs that are designed to incentivize the person scheduling a deposition to choose one court reporting firm over another *should be avoided* at all times. It is in the best interests of our profession that the court reporter being hired for the job is being hired due to their competitive rates and competency rather than because they offer rebates and/or gifts.

NCRA's Code of Professional Ethics, Provision No. 8, specifically states that court reporters should "refrain from giving, directly or indirectly, any gift or anything of value to attorneys or their staff, or any other persons or entities associated with any litigation, which exceeds \$150 in the aggregate per recipient each year. Nothing offered in exchange for future work is permissible, regardless of its value. Pro bono services as defined by the NCRA Guidelines for Professional Practice or by applicable state and local laws, rules, and regulations are permissible in any amount."

NCRA adopted those restrictions because "the practice of giving

items of value to attorneys, clients, or their staff could create, in the eyes of the public, the appearance that the reporter or firm holds some partiality or favoritism toward the recipient." Court reporters, by signing their certification pages, are also certifying that they are neutral and unbiased.

In addition, the American Bar Association has also come out against gift giving and has determined that "if a lawyer accepts a gratuity from anyone without his client's knowledge and consent...the gratuity really belongs to the client."

If you choose to provide incentives to businesses, you should also be aware that the Internal Revenue Service requires the recipients of those payments to treat the value of the incentives as gross income. Failure to do so could result in the assessment of additional taxes, interest and penalties by the IRS. In other words, if your client is not aware that they need to report any gifts they receive in excess of \$100, you could be placing them in a situation where their credibility and honesty is also questioned by their client and/or the taxing authorities. Any reporter or firm that gives gifts to a law firm exceeding \$600 in one year is required to provide an IRS information return to that recipient law firm.

If you are an official reporter, the situation may arise where the judge and/or counsel request something be either removed or changed in the official transcript. The duty of the court reporter in that situation is to not make the requested change, even if requested by the court, unless all parties agree to the change and there is a ruling of the court. This applies to even grammatical corrections.

Another common situation that occurs in the freelance world is when one attorney will request to go off the record but the other attorney insists that everything remain on the record. The court reporter in that instance, of course, must remain on the record and report the proceedings accurately even if the attorney asking to go off the record has hired the court reporter.

In highly publicized cases, it is likely that a request will be made by a third party, such as the press, to purchase either a portion or the entire transcript of the proceedings. According to NCRA Advisory Opinion No. 9, "...in general, a deposition transcript becomes a public document when it is filed with the court and becomes a part of the record in an official proceeding. Under the laws of most states, therefore, a deposition that has not been filed as part of an official proceeding is not a public document." Unless the transcript has been made part of the public record, the reporter must obtain the permission of all parties, as well as the deponent, before selling or otherwise releasing the transcript to any third party. The court reporter should also be mindful of any confidentiality orders that have been entered into before releasing the transcript.

In the case of an open or public meeting where the transcript being created is not the official record, the court reporter should obtain the permission of the hiring party before selling any portion of the transcript.

As it relates to certification of our transcripts, the court reporter's certification page should essentially state that the deponent was duly

sworn by the reporter; the transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings; and that the person whose signature appears on the certificate is the one who reported and transcribed the proceeding. These rules apply to any transcript that is produced in paper or electronic form.

It is also recommended that the certificate page be sequentially numbered and include the deponent's name, the reporter's typed signature block, and the inclusive transcript pages in order to prevent the certificate page from being attached to a different transcript. It is important that the reporter makes a good faith effort to ensure the security of the information contained in any transcript that is sent electronically. And it should go without saying that a reporter should not certify any transcript that they have not personally prepared or that was not produced under that reporter's direction and control.

Court reporters should avoid preparing deposition summaries if they have also reported the deposition. Since a court reporter is to remain unbiased at all times and a deposition summary requires the reporter to render an interpretation of what the witness said, it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for the taking reporter to summarize a witness' testimony in a fair, impartial, and unbiased way.

And if you should find yourself in the position where someone has asked for a copy of your audio backup, NCRA's Advisory Opinion No. 38 says that "the decision of whether or not to make an audio backup recording of a proceeding is the personal choice of the reporter." The United

States District Court, in the matter of Emmel versus Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Chicago, determined that "backup tapes made by court reporters for their own convenience and not otherwise required by 28 U.S.C. 753 are the personal property of the court reporters. There is no public entitlement to these recordings." So absent a court order to do so, there is no ethical obligation on the part of the reporter to provide their backup audio.

A reporter must, however, comply with any applicable state or federal requirement that a reporter preserve such backup audio media once the reporter no longer needs it for use while making the transcript. I personally am not aware of any such applicable requirements here in Minnesota or nationally and would welcome any information to the contrary.

If a reporter does elect to provide a copy of their backup audio media, the reporter should take steps to ensure that the audio does not contain any off-the-record discussions or attorney-client privileged communications. In addition, the reporter should also ask all attorneys involved in the proceedings whether they would like a copy as well.

An important tool available to reporters interested in promoting ethics among the court reporting profession is the Ethics First Program offered through NCRA. "Ethics First is a voluntary, no-cost public awareness program that seeks to positively educate court reporters, colleagues, firms, and in particular, their clients and consumers about how and why the impartiality and neutrality of the court reporter is of the utmost importance in maintaining an unbiased legal system." By becoming a participant in this program, you are agreeing to stand behind the principles that are being promoted by the program and you are

making a commitment to abide by NCRA's Code of Professional Ethics. Information on joining this worthy program can be found on the NCRA website.

Unbiased court reporters play a critical role in maintaining the integrity of our judicial system. Both NCRA and MAVRC are committed to promoting the highest standards of professionalism within the court reporting industry. Individual reporters adhering to these high standards will continue to be seen as part of a fair and impartial justice system. These high standards will also allow reporters to hold themselves out to their peers and the legal community as someone who truly cares about the official record and our profession as a whole.

Jackie Young is a freelance reporter from Delano, Minnesota, and is the editor of Minne-strokes. ■

WELCOME MAVRC MEMBERS

New Regular Members

Lynn Blom - Official
Minneapolis

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Sara Borchardt - St. Michael
Kassi Lahti-Beebe - Big Lake
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Your invitation to attend!

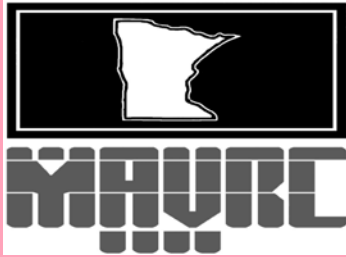
**MAVRC's
Summer
Get-together**

*June 5, 2014
5:30 p.m. to ?*

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*Gather your peers and meet friends
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fun, food and beverage.*

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Jolynn Graham
jgreporting@comcast.net or
(763) 493-4478*



If you have any suggestions for the Minne-strokes newsletter or stories to share about your court reporting experiences or something that would be of interest to the MAVRC membership, please submit to:

Jackie Young
MAVRC Editor MINNE-strokes
2575 Nelson Road
Delano, MN 55328

rite2jackie@frontiernet.net

PRO BONO

Kudos to
Christine Clark,
Jolynn Graham
and **Kay Hinsch**
for performing pro bono reporting services and THANKS to **Jan Young** for volunteering services.

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

*Jean Whalen, RDR, CRR
MAVRC Pro Bono Coordinator
Juvenile and Family
Justice Center
25 West Seventh Street, Ste. B304
St. Paul, MN 55102
Phone: 651-266-5170
Jean.whalen@courts.state.mn.us*

COURT REPORTING STUDENT PROFILE

By Brittany Blesener

Name: Brittany Blesener

School: Anoka Technical College

Speed: 200 wpm

Hometown: Spooner, Wisconsin

Tell us a little about yourself. I grew up on my family's ranch where I rodeoed and worked colts until I moved away to pursue ballroom and Latin dancing professionally. I met my husband dancing in 2008. I also love to make beautiful cakes!

What made you decide to pursue a career in court reporting? I was working at a freelance firm out of Minneapolis and I saw the freelancers' paychecks coming in and decided I was in the wrong department.

What area of reporting interests you the most at this time: Official, freelance, or captioning/CART? I want to freelance starting out. A goal of mine is to get back to teaching ballroom and Latin so the flexible schedule that comes with freelancing would definitely be more accommodating. I eventually would love to do some captioning as well.

What's been the most challenging or rewarding part of your schooling thus far? I think the toughest part in anything is when we have something else going on in our personal life that is big, or even huge, and being able to not just quit life because of it. It is important to stay focused and disciplined, and sometimes that is hard to do when we have bigger things going on. It's all about how you juggle things and how you learn to deal with stress. The biggest reward is when you reach your speed even when it wasn't easy. Even when it wasn't just school taking your attention. Even through the stress.

Do you know any working reporters or anyone that's been an influence to you? I know a handful of working reporters, but I would definitely have to say the people who have been the greatest influence have been the instructors in our program. They really know how to prepare you not only in the skills, but mentally, emotionally and professionally.

If you had an hour of freetime, what would you be doing (besides practicing on your steno)? If it's cold outside - baking and watching Cake Boss. If it's warm outside - going for a walk.

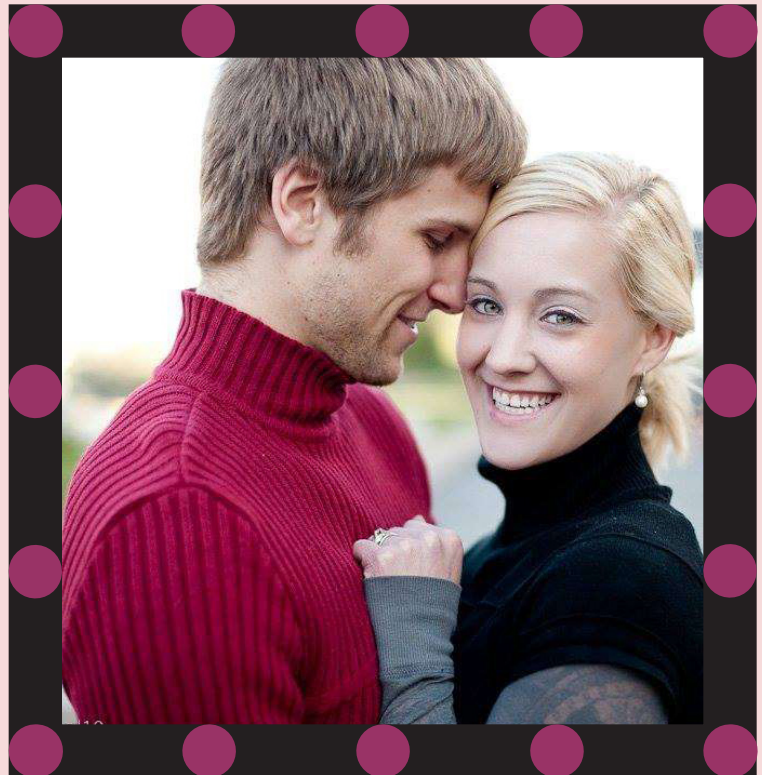
What is your favorite band or type of music? After being in the ballroom world, I listen to pretty much anything with the exception of R-rated music. But I will always have a place in my heart for Frank Sinatra.

What is your favorite food or restaurant? I love Mexican food, cheap bar food, and good tiramisu.

Where is a place you would like to visit? Finland or Iceland to stay in a glass igloo and see the Northern Lights; Israel, Greece, Russia, Cuba and Argentina.

The last book you read? *The Divergent Trilogy*.

The last movie you watched? Captain America. ■



Brittany Blesener and her husband Dan

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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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MAVRC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL /APPLICATION 2014

**Please return completed application with your payment to:
MAVRC, PO Box 375, Marshall, MN 56258**

Membership Type: New Member Renewal

Name: _____ e-mail: _____

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Federal, Vendor, CART provider

What Certifications do you hold? _____

Would you like to be listed in the MAVRC Directory? YES NO

What address/phone information would you like listed in the Directory? Home Work

What services do you provide that you would like to have listed in the Directory?

Overflow Freelance Court Per Diem CART Provider Captioner

Payment of dues: All membership dues are payable on or before January 1st of each calendar year. **A \$20 discount will apply if payment is received by January 1, 2014. A \$15 discount will apply for student membership if payment is received by January 1, 2014. All members whose dues are not paid by March 31, 2014, will be suspended and dropped from the roll of membership.**

_____ \$120.00 Regular Member (\$100.00 if submitted by January 1, 2014)

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_____ \$25.00 - I would like to sponsor a student.

\$ _____ I would like to contribute to lobbying efforts

\$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed – Thank you for your support.

Dues payments to MAVRC are NOT deductible as charity deductions for federal tax purposes. Amounts may be deductible as a necessary business expense. Consult your tax professional.

MAVRC ADVERTISING OPTIONS

Advertising with MAVRC offers opportunities to inform others in our profession as well as members of the legal community and the general public of the variety of services court reporters provide.

If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, ads placed with MAVRC are published on MAVRC's website in full color. Below, **please circle your choice(s) for ad(s)** to be published by MAVRC.

	<u>ANNUAL RATE</u>	<u>PER/ISSUE RATE</u>	Please circle issue(s) you wish ad to run			
Business Card Ad	\$100	\$30	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Quarter-Page Ad	250	75	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
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Please send this completed form, your payment, and your camera-ready ad to:

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To be included in the Fall, 2014, issue, your ad and payment must be received by August 1, 2014.

Questions may be addressed to MAVRC's Administrative Assistant, Jolene Carrow, at the MAVRC website or by calling her at (507) 532-0676.

The MAVRC Board of Directors thanks you for your support.

MAVRC's website: www.mavrc.org

Visit us soon!

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STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Court reporters have served as guardians of the public record since ancient times. First referred to as scribes, these individuals have helped preserve the spoken word of some of history's most important documents, such as the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address; and

WHEREAS: An organized body of court reporters was first formed in Minnesota on August 30, 1907, and to the present day, these reporters continue to be the only statewide association in Minnesota that assists official and freelance court reporters, captioners, and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART); and

WHEREAS: Without court reporters, who provide translation of the spoken word, Minnesota's 400,000-plus hard of hearing citizens would not have equal access to information from televised news broadcasts, sporting events, college lectures, church services, public meetings, or court proceedings.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of February 16-22, 2014, as:

COURT REPORTING AND
CAPTIONING WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 10th day of February.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE

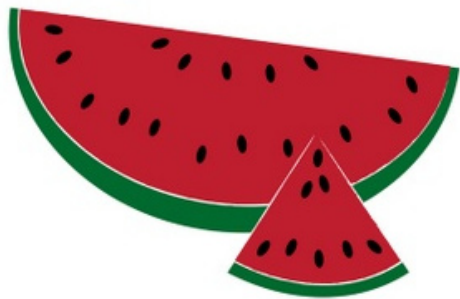


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UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 5** MAVRC Get-Together (5:30 p.m.)
Rojo Mexican Grill
1602 West End Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN
- July 31-
August 3** NCRA Annual Convention &
Exposition
San Francisco, CA
- July 9-21** NCRA Written Knowledge Examination
Anoka Technical College
- August 14** NCRA Skills Examination
Anoka Technical College
- September 12 & 13** MAVRC Annual Fall Convention
Doubletree Park Place
St. Louis Park, 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 or (507) 532-0676.

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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:

Jackie Young
MAVRC Editor *MINNE-strokes*

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