

SUMMER 2015  
VOLUME 18 NUMBER 2

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## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By Monica Christensen, RMR



Monica Christensen

As a reporter, I am writing thousands of words every day, and the words seem to flow effortlessly like the current of a swollen river. The words turn into sentences that evolve into paragraphs and finally into pages – pages and pages of words. And yet, when it comes to composing my own thoughts into intelligent sentences, those same fingers are unable to move, frozen in a writer's block for days on end.

So I am sitting in front of my monitor, being mesmerized by the white background of the computer screen, pondering what words to type into those sentences. We are already looking at the middle of May. The trees are finally blooming, we have experienced the final live NCRA testing at Anoka Tech, Governor Dayton had a successful but cold fishing opener in my childhood stomping grounds of Lake Vermilion, Mothers' Day has already come and gone, and the Minnesota legislative session will be coming to a close next week.

Our 2015 spring seminar is now just a memory, but I must say it is a good one. We had a successful day at Anoka Tech with our speakers and hopefully our attendees enjoyed the event. There are always a ton

of people to thank for making the event run so smoothly, and I feel that this is an appropriate time to thank them once again for a job well done. Through teamwork, we can accomplish great things. And we do have a fantastic group of volunteers that have made the seminar a success. A plan on paper is just a lot of words if we don't have those great people to carry it out. So thanks once again to our Administrative Assistant, Jolene Carrow; the Continuing Education Committee; our Board of Directors; Jennifer Sati; Jane Schleusner; Joel Carlson; and all of the reporters that spent their Saturday with us. With the experience of another spring seminar behind us, we are already deep into

*(Continued on Page 2)*

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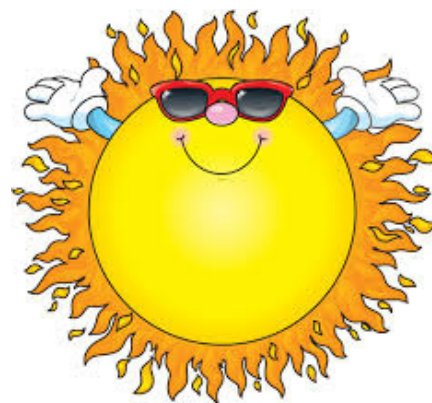
(Continued from Page 1)

the planning stages of the fall convention, which seems like a long time from now, but October will be here before we know it! I just hope we get a chance to have some summer weather before the cool fall hits!

As you may know, the setting for our fall convention will be the Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel in Shakopee. Reserve a date with MAVRC for October 9 and 10, 2015. Although our lineup of speakers is not yet complete, we will be bringing seven-time NCRA Speed Contest Champion Mark Kislingbury back to Minnesota for a day of perfecting our key strokes and learning more brief forms from the Guinness World Record's "fastest court reporter," who has written a mind-blowing 360 words per minute! So remember to pack up your steno machines and laptops for a Saturday session with Mark Kislingbury!

We have a few ideas for Friday speakers, but at press time are not able to provide you with any names. And please, please, please, if any of you have ideas for topics or know of a speaker you would like us to contact for this or any future convention, always feel free to e-mail me at [mavrc.president@gmail.com](mailto:mavrc.president@gmail.com). I will keep you posted on the itinerary through our Facebook site as well as [www.mavrc.org](http://www.mavrc.org).

Wishing you all a great spring/summer in Minnesota! Keep those fingers nimble! ■



# Save the Date!

## MAVRC'S Annual Fall Convention

**October 9 - 10, 2015**

Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel  
Shakopee, Minnesota

Watch for further details coming soon

## PRO BONO

Kudos to

**Liz Gangl**

and

**Jolynn Graham**

for performing pro bono  
reporting 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.whelen@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:Jean.whelen@courts.state.mn.us)*

# CELEBRATING COURT REPORTING WEEK

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

Anoka Technical College was the site of the 2015 Court Reporting & Captioning Spring Fling that was held to help cast light on the various career possibilities available to stenographic court reporters. A number of working reporters helped make this year's event a success by showing off their realtime and broadcast captioning skills. The attendees also had the opportunity to tour the school's captioning suite and a realtime courtroom. Stopping by to participate in the event was a large number of judicial reporting students, college personnel, and people engaged in the legal field. Many thanks to Jennifer Sati, Deb Longley, and Jane Schleusner for helping to arrange this wonderful event.



Jennifer Sati, Program Director



Marlene Colizza, Student



Students Nichole O'Connell and Kevin Klein



Rachael Johnson, Student, and her boyfriend



Sharon Steinbrecher, Official Court Reporter in Anoka County and MAVRC Board Member



Rachel Erickson, MAVRC Board Member, demonstrated her skills as a CART provider.



Merilee Johnson, a reporter for Paradigm Reporting, showcased her realtime skills.

# ANOKA TECH ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

The Advisory Committee to the Judicial Reporting/Broadcast Captioning/CART and Scoping Programs got together on March 18, 2015, to discuss a number of items. Reporters in attendance were Jennifer Sati, Program Advisor; Jim Woitalla, Debbie Peterson, Jackie Young, Mindi Oldenburg, Marie Schutz, Angela Carl, Deb Longley, Jane Schleusner, Jan Ballman, and Sharon Steinbrecher.

The Advisory Committee was apprised that current enrollment in the program is at 55 students and that the program received approval for 24 students per class instead of 40 students. The Judicial Reporting program was notified by college administration, however, that they have been identified as needing to improve their current financial condition. As a result, adjustments to the program must be made in order to make the program more efficient and generate additional revenue.

With that in mind, the Advisory

Committee, with the advice of Jennifer Sati, voted unanimously in favor of allowing the money received from the Professional Workforce Center to be made available to the JRBC students in the form of scholarships that can be used by the students to complete the captioning certificate. The Professional Workforce Center is a retraining center of Anoka Technical College that is utilized by working reporters and some students for realtime and broadcast captioning training.

The Advisory Committee also unanimously voted to approve restructuring the Captioning/CART certificate so that more JRBC students can pursue that certificate in a more efficient manner. As a result of the motion, the committee looked at ways of combining certain classes and adding some new courses that would be directly under the Judicial Reporting Program. This change would allow the program to receive

credit for students in those programs. Suggestions for new courses included a bookkeeping/accounting course; a basic business course on Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access; increased attention on proofreading; and an RPR prep class. Jennifer Sati indicated she would take the suggestions of the Advisory Committee and propose some specific changes to the program that will be discussed at the next meeting of the committee.

It was also noted that the JRBC program received \$2,500 from NCRA as part of the C.R. Take Note Program. These funds will be able to be used for additional advertising of the Judicial Reporting Program.

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



## WELCOME MAVRC MEMBERS

Patsy Nelson, RMR, CRR, CBC  
River Falls, WI



New Student Members  
Lisa Knisley - Minneapolis, MN  
Megan Stumm - Maple Grove, MN

Check out  
MAVRC's  
website  
[www.mavrc.org](http://www.mavrc.org)



# COURTROOM BRIEFS

Submitted by First Judicial District Reporters

no contact	NAKT	implied consent hearing	PLING
thank you, Your Honor	THAURN	drinking and driving	D-ND
nothing further	NURT	domestic assault	DMAULT or DAULT
speedy hearing	SPAOERG	may I approach the witness	MAIFT
speedy omnibus	SPAOEBS	I apologize	AOEUPZ
felony	FEN	my apologies	MAIPZ
felonies	FENZ	dangerous weapons	DREPS
gross misdemeanor	GROM	drug paraphernalia	DRUP
petty misdemeanor	PEM	failure to register	FL-RJ
inimical to public safety	NIPS (nips NIPZ)	foreperson	FOERP
sentencing order	SNORD	financial transaction card fraud	F-FRD
chemical dependency	CHEMD	Minnesota State Patrol	M-PS
remain law-abiding	RAINL or RAUG	misstates the evidence	SMEFD
have a seat	VAOET	offer into evidence	OIF
settlement conference	SL-FRNS	speedy trial	SPAOIL or SPAOET
violation of your probation	VOP	patrol sergeant	PARJ
factual bases	FAIBZ or F-BZ	proposed order	PROERD or PRORD
please be seated	PLAOEBD	peremptory challenge	PRELG
contested omnibus hearing	H*OK	search and seizure	SAZ
domestic abuse no-contact order	DO*EMS	social media	SOEMD
domestic abuse	DAOUZ	training and experience	TRAOERNS
this is the matter of	THET	writ of execution	WROX
represented by an attorney	RAB	writ of recovery	WROFR
dispositional departure	D*IPS	forfeit	F-FRT
ignition interlock	GLOKZ or GOK	forfeiture	FOFRT
asked and answered	SKAEND	release	RAOES
assumes facts not in evidence	SNAUX	petition to enter a factual basis	FAIBS or F-B
civil commitment	SIMT	plea of guilty	PEFG
deputy sheriff	DRIF	72-hour hold	STOULD
do you have any questions	DOUKZ	let me finish	LERB
do you have any further questions	DOUFX	2015	TWIFT
release you on your own recognizance	RAOENZ	2016	TW-S
implied consent	PLINT	2018	TW-NT
implied consent advisory	PLINZ	2017	TW-NS

## 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.*

# AN IMPENDING ECOLOGICAL DISASTER

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

On a serious note, NASA has recently issued a stark warning over California's sustained drought. Many of us are likely aware of the ongoing drought being experienced in California, an area that has been dubbed America's most valuable agricultural state. This drought, coupled with the rapid depletion of groundwater at some of the world's largest aquifers – U.S. High Plains, California's Central Valley, China, India, and Brazil - are certain to have drastic consequences for food commodity prices and potential food shortages since these areas are considered the backbone of the world's great agricultural regions.

According to NASA, since 2011, California has been losing more than 12 million acre-feet a year. One acre-foot equals 325,853 gallons of water and 3 acre-feet equal around one million gallons, so we are talking **trillions of gallons** that have been lost. Now you can readily see why there is an impending ecological disaster and why scientists are loudly sounding the alarm. Roughly two-thirds of these losses are attributable to groundwater pumping for agricultural irrigation in California's Central Valley. NASA's scientists are saying this is unsustainable, especially given the fact that January of this year was the driest in California since record-keeping began in 1895 and the abysmal lack of snow California has received this past winter. Groundwater is, of course, fossil water that takes hundreds (or thousands) of years to be replenished. Unfortunately, California's agricultural activities, as well as many other areas, are now based predominantly on groundwater for irrigation.

To shed further light on the absolute dire situation this is, NASA has

predicted that California has approximately **one year of water supply left** in its reservoirs, and its strategic backup supply of groundwater is rapidly disappearing. In addition, surrounding states that California shares some water rights with have been making it clear that they will not be sharing any additional water with the parched state given the fact that they also have been experiencing lower than normal rainfall for a number of years. The droughts in the Southwest during the past decade have depleted more than 14 trillion gallons just from the Colorado River basin alone. Lake Mead, which supplies both California and Nevada with a significant amount of water, is at record lows.

To merely say this is an impending ecological disaster does not really do justice to the devastating impacts that are expected to occur in the coming years as well as the ramifications the drought are currently having on California's 40 million residents, its local businesses, the wildlife, and vegetation. One highly likely impact to be felt in the near future is the loss of a significant percentage of agricultural products that American consumers throughout the years have relied on. As a result of the dwindling water supply, a number of farmers have either cut back on what they are growing or have abandoned farming altogether and have sold their water rights to local municipalities.

According to the USDA, California's contribution to the overall production of agricultural products in the United States is as follows: 99 percent of artichokes, 44 percent of asparagus, two-thirds of our carrots, half of our bell peppers, 89 percent of

cauliflower, 94 percent of broccoli, 95 percent of celery, 90 percent of leaf lettuce, 83 percent of Romaine lettuce, 83 percent of fresh spinach, a third of our fresh tomatoes, 86 percent of lemons, 90 percent of avocados, 84 percent of peaches, 88 percent of fresh strawberries, and 97 percent of fresh plums.

The simple fact is that California is running out of water and is returning to its original desert conditions. This is a stark reminder to everyone that the amount of water we use is something that we need to be thoughtful of every day. Needless to say, unless we want to be in the same predicament, everyone needs to do their part to conserve what is remaining of this extremely vital resource.

*Jackie Young is a freelance reporter from Delano and serves on MAVRC's Board of Directors as President-Elect. ■*



# MAVRC 2015 SPRING SEMINAR RECAP

By Nanette J. Corbett, RDR

## **How to Survive Sitting on the Job,** by Matthew Hoffman, D.C

Dr. Hoffman refers to himself as a body mechanic. He promotes being proactive and not reactive in taking care of ourselves. Small changes in activities and habits can help your metabolism work better. If it moves better, it's going to feel better. For this presentation he focused on the amount of sitting reporters do while at their jobs. In general, the average amount of time people spending sitting in a day is 7.7 hours. If you reduce that to four hours or less per day, there's a 47% reduction in negative effects on the body over time. If you can't reduce the number of hours spent sitting, your best bet is to incorporate stretching into your daily routine. Even 5-15 minutes per day helps a great deal. Be proactive. The handout he developed, particularly with court reporters in mind, includes a variety of stretches and mobilization techniques. By incorporating these into our daily routine, it will help us continue in our reporting careers long into the future, and the benefits will extend into our personal life as well.

## **Native Mob, by Investigator Jerry** **Wilhelmy**

Mr. Wilhelmy has worked with many different Minnesota gangs over 24 years in his career with the Minnesota Department of Corrections. The Native Mob is different than many other gangs because their membership is very mobile and is active throughout the state of Minnesota. They recruit from many Native American tribes, and they recruit by using the media and religion and taking advantage of the breakdown

in family structure, often recruiting very young members looking to be a part of a family-like structure. This gang does not allow female members. Like most gangs, they are run like a corporation and have written rules and regulations and a very sophisticated hierarchy of positions within their organization. The Native Mob actually started in the prison system, and it now runs both on the streets and in prisons. Many Native Americans throughout Minnesota have seen the destruction this gang has caused in their communities and are working with law enforcement to try and combat the negative effects it has on their people and in their communities.

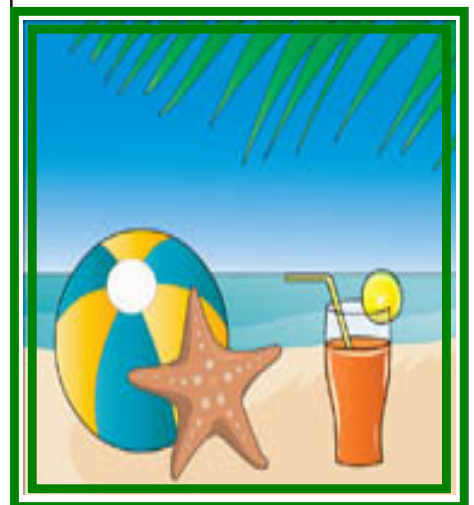
## **The International Court Reporter,** by Lisa Knight, RMR, CRR, CLR, CSR

Lisa Knight works in a very special niche she has developed for herself using her reporting skills on an international level. She works for a large U.S. court reporting firm that has attorney clients working on cases in complex litigation dealing with patents, pharmaceuticals, securities, and even airline crashes, and their clients include many big names in the corporate realm, such as Apple and Sony. The depositions she reports usually have a large number of attorneys around the table as well as a videographer and multiple interpreters.

To do this type of reporting, she says you need to be adventurous, flexible, innovative, enjoy challenges, have a sense of humor, and always think outside the box. You also need to develop and pay attention to a long checklist of arrangements to

be made and items to be packed for your overseas trips. Her preparation includes arranging her own international airfare and hotels; packing all of her reporting equipment, which often includes six iPods for realtime for attorneys; and she offers a free limited usage period as a marketing tool to encourage attorneys to order realtime. You can begin to imagine the complexity of her work in multiple countries and dealing with clearing customs all around the world, and she told some horror stories about that aspect of her work. Due to her skill level as well as the complexity of the scheduling involved, she charges and is paid at higher rates, which include payment for her airfare, hotel, food, and even "off" days while on jobs. Lisa is currently the chair of the NCRA TRAIN Committee, and she encouraged all seminar participants to use TRAIN and take baby steps into the rewarding world of realtime reporting.

*Nanette Corbett is a freelance reporter from Duluth, Minnesota, and is a member of MAVRC's Publications Committee.■*





# MAVRC SPRING SEMINAR SNAPSHOTS



*Dr. Matthew Hoffman demonstrates a stretch reporters can use to help in our daily lives while volunteer reporters try the techniques.*

*(Below) Carter Rosenbaum, Student at Anoka Tech, took part in MAVRC's 2015 Spring Seminar.*

*Melissa Keute and Jackie Young setting out delicious treats for the afternoon break*



*Participants at the 2015 MAVRC Spring Seminar at Anoka Tech took part in an interactive punctuation session.*

## MAVRC SPRING SEMINAR SNAPSHOTS



*Nancy Utke (L) a past president of MAVRC, and Monica Christensen, current president of MAVRC.*



*Patty McLean and Hart Erickson*



*Karen Wolson (L) Stenograph District Sales Manager, with Sharon Steinbrecher trying out a writer.*



*Glenda Kaufman (L) and Carol Danielson-Billie*



*Jolynn Graham displaying the purse that was raffled off during the spring seminar.*

## WINNERS

Tammy Melbourne – winner of 50/50 raffle – Won \$86.00

Shari Majeski – chocolates donated by Jim Weitalla

Nancy Gisch – microphone donated by Jim Weitalla

Andrea Tunland-Heairet – chocolates donated by Jim Weitalla

Michelle Foley – chocolates donated by Jim Weitalla

Valerie Benning – mouse pad

Kathleen Columbus – mouse pad

Ashley Nathe – winner of purse

Joanne Ertl – winner of rolling case from Stenograph



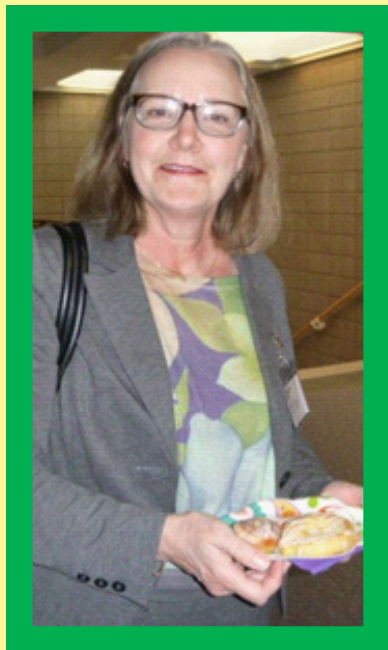
*Jim Weitalla explaining the virtues of using Eclipse.*



*Tammy Mathwig was the lucky winner of MAVRC's 50/50 raffle, taking home \$86.*



*(Left) MAVRC Board Members Sarah Fisher and Rachel Erickson*



*Nan Corbett, freelance reporter from Duluth, enjoying some goodies.*

# PUNCTUATION CORNER - IT'S ALL ABOUT POSSESSIVES

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

One of the most important responsibilities of being a court reporter is creating a transcript that is understandable when read. Understanding and incorporating the basic rules of punctuation into your transcript will help the reader grasp what is being said without having to spend time attempting to decipher exactly what was meant.

To this end, Jane Schleusner, RPR, RMR, CRI, helped the attendees at MAVRC's Spring Seminar learn some simple basics for determining when a word is a possessive. The first thing Jane shared with the group was that "Possessives mean having something. The possessive form of the noun signifies that the noun owns something. The possessive form of the word has an apostrophe."

Jane shared the following rules that need to be followed when dealing with possessives:

- The possessive form of a singular noun is an apostrophe followed by the letter S.

- An s-ending noun is usually in the possessive form if it is followed immediately by another noun.

Example: The employee's record was on file with the IRS.

- With words ending with s, z, or x, you generally omit the S unless it is heard. If the S is heard, you should add the apostrophe S.

- When a name ends in an S, you usually add an apostrophe S, especially if it is heard. The older, classic way is to use the final S apostrophe. This is a matter of style.

- For plural nouns ending in S, add only

an apostrophe: Example: singers' voices, cousins' uncle.

- In forming the possessive of any noun ending in S, always place the apostrophe at the end of the original word, never within it. Example: Mr. Phillips' order was filled on Tuesday.

the possessive form attaches to both nouns. Example: Jane's and Jennifer's grade point average was a B. Jane and Jennifer have achieved their own grade point average and each are possessive.

- Do not mistake a descriptive



*Jane Schleusner (L), with the assistance of Jennifer Sati, instructed the attendees on the proper use of possessives.*

- For plurals not ending in S, add an apostrophe and then an S. Example: men's clothing.

- When a sentence indicates joint ownership in a compound construction, the possessive form is attached only to the second noun. Example: Tim and Cathy's wedding. In this instance the wedding belongs to both Tim and Cathy.

- When a sentence indicates individual ownership in a compound construction,

form ending in S for a possessive. Example: sales effort, savings account.

*Jackie Young serves on MAVRC's Board of Directors as President-Elect and is a freelance reporter in Delano, Minnesota. ■*



One of the most precious commodities a person enjoys in their lifetime is good health. Probably the simplest thing we can do to improve the way our body is feeling is by making sure we drink enough fluids, and in particular water. The following are some of the basic things that can happen when we do not drink enough water:

**1. Health Problems Become More Likely.** Drinking more water has been linked to decreased chances of health problems like kidney stones, urinary and colon cancer, and heart attacks.

**2. More Wrinkles Will Form on Your Skin.** Water in our systems helps to plump up our skin, filling in fine lines and wrinkles. It also helps to brighten up your complexion.

**3. You'll Be Hungrier.** According to a 2010 study funded by the Institute for Public Health and Water Research: "Those who drank two eight-ounce glasses of water before each meal

consumed 75 to 90 fewer calories while eating." Over three months, water drinkers lost an average of five pounds more than the dieters who did not drink a sufficient amount of water.

**4. Your Mood Will Suffer.** In a study conducted at Tufts University in Massachusetts, individuals in teams were split into two groups and asked to engage in 60-75 minutes of high-impact exercise. One group was properly hydrated and one group was asked to refrain from drinking water. Many individuals from the dehydrated group reported feeling fatigued, confused, angry, depressed or tense.

**5. Your Metabolism Stagnates - Meaning You Can Gain More Weight.** Being adequately hydrated will cause your metabolism to speed up, increasing the amount of calories you can burn while at rest.

**6. You'll Have to Think Harder to Complete the Same Tasks.** At the Institute of Psychiatry at King's

College London in 2011, scientists found that the brains of dehydrated teenagers had shrunk away from their skulls, and that when asked to play a problem-solving game, they performed just as well as those who drank enough, but engaged more of their brains to do so. Drinking adequate amounts of water restores the brain to its normal size. Being consistently dehydrated could result in decreased brain health.

There is nothing like the present to start taking care of our bodies. By making small, incremental changes, you will start to experience better health, more energy, and improved brain function. So what are you waiting for? Fill up that glass of water and drink to your health!

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

HAVE YOU MARKED YOUR CALENDAR  
TO ATTEND THE  
MAVRC FALL CONVENTION?

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 9-10, 2015

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

The attendees at the spring seminar received an update from Joel Carlson, MAVRC's lobbyist, on the proposed pieces of legislation that will impact court reporters here in Minnesota. The first bill that has been introduced contains language that would require any television located in a public space to enable the closed captioning feature. While this bill did not go through the committee process and will not be voted on this legislative session, it did help to heighten interest in and awareness of closed captioning and the many benefits it offers.

Another piece of legislation that was introduced this session favorable to stenographic court reporters was a bill prohibiting the use of state funds in the years 2016 and 2017 to expand or amend the use of audio and video coverage of criminal proceedings authorized under Rule 4.02(c) of the General Rules of Practice for the District Courts on a pilot, temporary, or permanent basis. This bill is expected to receive opposition from the Judicial Council.

The third piece of legislation that was introduced this legislative session was a bill proposed by MAVRC amending Minnesota Statute Section 486.10, Subdivisions 2 and 3. The bill basically reaffirms the requirement that all individual court reporters or court reporting firms must disclose to all parties the existence of any contract or exclusive agreement. The disclosure must be included on the notice and the court reporter must disclose on the record

prior to the commencement of the legal proceeding.

The second component to the legislation requires the following of individual court reporters and court reporting firms:

1. Shall treat all parties to an action equally, providing comparable services to all parties;



*Monica Christensen, MAVRC's President, with Joel Carlson, MAVRC's Lobbyist*

2. Shall charge the same rate for copies of the same transcript to all parties according to Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 30.06;

3. May not act as an advocate for any party or act partially to any party to an action; and

4. Shall comply with all state and federal court rules that govern the activities of court reporters.

The third component of the proposed legislation states: "An attorney shall state the reason for the objection

to the provision of court reporting services by a freelance court reporter or court reporting firm and shall note the objection and the reason on the record."

The proposed legislation also contains a couple of remedies if the provisions are violated. If the court or presiding officer determines there was a violation of the other provisions, they can declare that the record for which the

court reporting services were provided is void and may order that the legal proceeding be reconducted; or, two, impose sanctions against the party found in violation of the provisions, including civil contempt of court, costs, and reasonable attorney fees resulting from the violation. If the legal proceedings are reconducted, the parties who violated Subd. 2, Paragraph (a) would be jointly and severally liable for costs associated with reconducting the legal proceeding and preparing the new record. Costs include, but are not limited

to, attorney, witness, and freelance court reporter appearance and transcript fees.

Joel Carlson informed the attendees that the bill will be going to the conference committee. If this piece of legislation is enacted, it will become effective August 1, 2015. At this time Joel Carlson is not aware of any opposition to the proposed language.

*Jackie Young is the editor of MAVRC's Minne-strokes. ■*

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# PROFILE OF A BOARD MEMBER

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By Sharon Steinbrecher, RDR

**M**y name is Sharon Steinbrecher and I am an official reporter in the Tenth Judicial District. I grew up in the Chicago suburbs and attended Chicago College Commerce for court reporting and graduated and passed the Illinois CSR in 1976. I worked as a freelance reporter for Sonntag and Associates in Geneva, Illinois, for one year before moving to Valparaiso, Indiana, to take an official reporter position.

I worked for two different judges in Valpo during my ten years there and relocated to the Twin Cities in 1987 to take an official reporter position in the Tenth Judicial District with the Honorable Dan Kammeyer in Anoka County. I had a brief sojourn with the Honorable Hunter Anderson in Isanti County before returning to Anoka County to work with the Honorable Jenny Walker Jasper, where I continue

to work today. I write realtime and also work part-time as a CART provider, and I have hopes of transitioning into a second career as a captioning and CART reporter.

I am married with two stepchildren. When I'm not working, I spend my free time in my gardens in Cedar, Minnesota; where I live with my husband Paul, my yellow lab Tucker, and two kitties, Fritz and Lily. I also volunteer my time to Can-Do Canines, a non-profit organization that provides service dogs to people with disabilities.

When I was asked to serve on the MAVRC Board, I decided it was time to give back to an organization that works hard for the reporters in the state. I feel I can provide the insight I have gained in my years as an official reporter to speak for and on behalf of my peers. ■



*Sharon Steinbrecher*

## CONGRATS GRADUATE



## **MEGAN STUMM**

After graduation, I plan on pursuing a career in the CART and captioning areas of court reporting. This will allow me to do something I love while helping others at the same time!

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# COURT REPORTING STUDENT PROFILE

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By Crystal Ziebarth

**Name:** Crystal Ziebarth

**School:** Anoka Technical College

**Speed:** 160

**Hometown:** Cambridge, Minnesota

**Tell us a little about yourself.** I am 32 years old. I am married to my high school sweetheart. I have two children. My son's name is Gaven and he is 12 years old. My daughter's name is Harper and she is going to be two years old in July. I work for the Cambridge-Isanti School District while attending school full time. I love to fish, do just about anything outdoors, and enjoy watching my son play sports.



*Crystal Ziebarth and daughter Harper*

**What made you decide to pursue a career in court reporting?** I decided to pursue a career in court reporting after I took a survey for job placement. I started researching what court reporting was all about and I fell in love.

**What area of reporting interests you the most at this time - official, freelance, or captioning/CART?** I am most interested in becoming an official reporter, but I will be open to whatever I feel is right at the time.

**What's been the most challenging or rewarding part of your schooling thus far?** The most challenging thing about school at this time is making sure that I put it first in my life. It is very hard with two children and working, but I enjoy staying busy. The most rewarding is seeing a test that I have passed. It gives me the motivation to keep going.

**Do you know any working reporters or anyone that's been an influence to you?** Yes, I do have a mentor that is an official reporter. She gives me great advice that has taught me a lot about the profession.

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

**What is your favorite band or type of music?** I enjoy all kinds of music. I think that music is very therapeutic and use it to get me through some rough days. I mostly enjoy country music. It is very fitting of my lifestyle.

**What is your favorite food or restaurant?** My favorite food is any type of pasta drenched in white sauce. I am a big eater and food is one of my favorite things.

**Where is a place you would like to visit?** I would love to go to Afton, Wyoming, again soon. I was born there after my mother and father worked in Yellowstone National Park. I grew up traveling around on a school bus that my father had converted into our home. It is beautiful out there and feels like home.

**The last book you read?** The last book I read was [Introduction to Psychology](#). I had to read it for school, but I gained a lot of knowledge and found it very interesting.

**The last movie you watched?** The last movie I watched was Bridesmaids. I have watched it several times and it always makes me laugh, which I really enjoy.



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MAVRC Editor **MINNE-*strokes***  
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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](mailto:JSati@anokatech.edu)

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**July 30 – August 2, 2015**

NCRA Annual Convention & Exposition  
New York City, New York

**October**

**9-10** MAVRC Annual Fall Convention  
Mystic Lake Casino Hotel  
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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.

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