



SUMMER 2021  
VOLUME 24 NUMBER 2

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## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By Laura Pelletier

**H**appy Summer, my fellow MAVRC stenographers.

I hope this message finds you all healthy, mentally and physically, as well as continuing to stay busy working, whether it's remotely, in person or in a hybrid fashion. We are slowly getting back to some normalcy within the state of Minnesota, and spring is in the air. Go out and enjoy the fresh air.

We just wrapped up our spring seminar. I hope you were able to take something new and positive away from it.

We are planning the Fall Convention to be **IN PERSON**. How wonderful will it be to be able to see some familiar faces again! The MAVRC board members will be working diligently to put on another great convention for you to attend, so stay tuned.

There are so many different things happening within the court reporting profession. Let's all do our part to promote this wonderful profession we are all so proud of. Jennifer Sati is doing a great job at Anoka Technical College in getting students through the program. We need to do our part and continue to promote court reporting. Honestly, where can a student graduate turn around and find a job the next day? Court reporting! We are the little hidden gem, and we need to keep spreading the word. Whether you work as an official court reporter, freelance court reporter



Laura Pelletier

or captioner, we all know we are in need of court reporters.

I am hoping COVID is in our rearview mirror, and we can continue to move forward with our lives. ■



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**SAVE THE DATE**

**MAVRC**

**Fall Convention**

**October 1 & 2, 2021**

The MAVRC fall convention will be an in-person event.

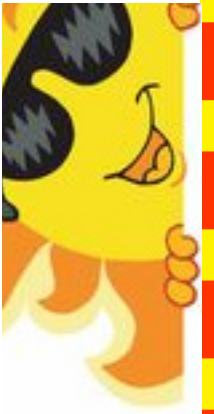
Place the in-person event on your calendar and stay tuned for details.



**FORENSIC BRIEFS**

By Emily Lettner, RPR, and Rhonda Franken, RMR

forensic(s)	FRIK(S)	sexual abuse	SWAUBS or SBAOUS
pathology	PAOLG	sexual conduct	SWAUKT
pathologist	PAOLGTS	sexual assault	SWAULT
scientist	SKAOINT or SKAO*INT	sexual harassment	SWARMT
cause of death	KAUGT	semen	SMEN
manner of death	MAERNGT or MAERGT	buccal swab	B*UKS
analyze	NALZ	vagina	VAJ
analysis	NALS	vaginal	VANL
autopsy	AUP	buttock	BOK
homicide	SHAOIMD	buttocks	BOKZ
homicidal	SHAOILGTS	perineum	PIRM
fluid	FLAOD	fellatio	FLAIRB
Bureau of		anal	A*INL
Criminal Apprehension	BAOURK	anus	A*INS
BCA	KA*B (BAC=BA*K)	genetic	JK
gun	G-N	DNA	DMA* (TKPHA*)
gunshot	G-NT	saliva	SLAOIF
anatomy	NAIMT	manila	MA*INL
anatomical	NAINL	toxic	TOIX
protocol	PROELT	toxicology	TOILG
biology	BAOILG	toxicologist	TOILGS
biological	BAOIJ	asphyxia	FA*IX
fingerprint(s)	FINGT or FRINT(S)	coroner	KOERN
profile	PROEFL	medical report	MORT
trajectory	TRAIJT	medical record	MORD



Emily Lettner, RPR, is an official reporter in the Third Judicial District and Rhonda Franken, RMR, is an official reporter in the First Judicial District and both are *Minne-strokes* publication members.

**NCRA NEW CERTIFICATIONS**



**NEWLY CERTIFIED REPORTERS (As of May 1, 2021)**

Congratulations to **Caitlin Albrecht, RPR, CRR**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, who recently passed the CRR (Certified Realtime Reporter) certification; and to **Kelley Riley, RPR, Crystal, Minnesota**, who recently passed the RPR (Registered Professional Reporter) certification!

## TECH CORNER

By Timothy McGowan and Shelby Brown



### Greatest Zoom tip ever: Update!

Zoom does not update automatically, at least not on Windows PCs. It may on phones and tablets. Current versions of Zoom have some great new features – but they may apply most to officials, I suppose.

To update in Windows, click on the Start square and start typing *zoom* until the application appears; press Enter when it's highlighted, or click on it. Sign in, if necessary. At the very top right, under the X to close the window, click on your picture or on the icon representing a person. Click on *Check for Updates* and follow the prompts to get the latest and greatest version.

Cohosts can now manage breakout rooms. All present who are using a current version of Zoom are able to get into breakout rooms on their own without having to stop the proceedings to flag down the host. The most recent update simply includes a number of bug fixes, and if they haven't been bugging you, then it may be less important to you – but that's not a reason to avoid the update either.

I also recommend an occasional glance at the [Zoom blog](https://blog.zoom.us), <https://blog.zoom.us>. One article details some ways to cope with [Zoom fatigue](#), for instance (read to the end).

If you have participants on older equipment, such as an older iPad, they may not have all the features of Zoom. Your participant may not be able to pin a video frame, for instance. Because Zoom lowers the priority of people who are not speaking and may even hide their window if too many others are speaking, it can become difficult for a hearing-impaired participant to keep an eye on the sign language interpreter. Regardless of their equipment, if you as the host are on a current version of Zoom, you can spotlight the parties who are signing so they can see each other better; the rest of the participants end up in smaller feeds above or to the side of the spotlighted video feeds.

Depending on your version of Zoom and your operating system, you may need to set a cohost to enable the spotlighting of more than one video feed; the host can then spotlight one feed and the cohost can spotlight another.

Note that spotlighting affects all participants' screens, whereas pinning only affects the view on that user's screen. If you have parties on current equipment, have them pin the video feed they want to keep maximized. Use spotlighting only when needed.

*Timothy J. McGowan is an official reporter to the Honorable Arlene M. Asencio Perkki in the First Judicial District, Dakota County; and Shelby Brown is an official reporter to the Honorable Paula D. Vraa in the First Judicial District, Scott County. ■*

## A DAY IN THE LIFE

By Christine Clark, RPR

As a freelance stenographer working remotely, my commute consists of me going to a downstairs office that I share with my dog who likes to listen in on my jobs. As I begin my job, she is soon lulled to sleep by the questions and answers of the day, snoring occasionally. This is in contrast to the days when I was rushing out the door, trying to be 30 minutes early to a job so I was not "late."

While still taking the occasional in-person deposition, most of the time we're using Zoom and other platforms to allow us to work. For me, the best way to stay connected in these jobs is to hook up directly with an Ethernet cable to the router so I'm a lot less likely to be kicked off the WiFi. I use the same computer that's connected to Zoom for my steno software because it's simple and fast and the sound quality seems clearer for scopists. I also use a phone to call in to the meeting in case of an internet outage, and I have my noise-canceling headphones connected to the phone.

Noise-canceling headphones have

been one of the biggest assets in my extra gear working remotely due to, at times, a loud barking dog who has been jolted out of her sleep by someone at the door. The headphones also help when my kids are home from school or have to attend school remotely. During one remote job, two of my kids were arguing outside of my office door about who was staying downstairs for class. One had band class and was playing the French horn and the other was in a choir class. I was thinking neither are staying.

Another big asset while working remotely is being able to follow along with the exhibits as the attorneys are reading from them. I also like having the capability to mark the exhibits electronically and then send them out electronically with no paper involved.

Working remotely has its challenges with sound quality at times and/or someone having difficulty staying connected and sometimes seeing things from the witnesses' cameras that are not meant to be seen. But nothing will ever top the Texas "cat" attorney who was viral almost three months ago.

I've started working with scopists a lot more while doing remote jobs. The ones who use RealTeam get booked up quick. The fastest way I find a scopist now is on LinkedIn when I'm in a bind. Proofreaders are a great asset also.

I appreciate the fact that I can work remotely and that our profession was able to keep working remotely during this unprecedented time in history. Working as a freelancer, I'm grateful for the court reporting firms and attorneys who have given us freelancers work.

Last summer I started doing more in-person jobs. I have done one live recently. As we move forward, I am also looking forward to rushing out the door more often and traveling to jobs. While remote work has its perks, nothing beats in-person jobs.

*Christine Clark is a freelance reporter from Chanhassen, Minnesota, and serves as Vice-President - Freelance on MAVRC's Board of Directors and is a member of the Publications Committee. ■*

### 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.*



# MAVRC 2021 ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR

## RECAP BY CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

By Debbie Peterson, RPR, and Ryan Ziegler, RPR

MAVRC kicked off our first-ever virtual seminar on April 24th by Zoom. More than 50 reporters joined in for a day of information, education, and an opportunity to see colleagues from across the state.

The first presentation was by Joel Carlson, MAVRC's long-time lobbyist. He covered the goings-on at the Capitol with his usual entertaining flair. He was joined by Minnesota House of Representative Zack Stephenson. Representative Stephenson is the current Chair of the Commerce Finance and Policy Committee. Not only did we get to hear from Representative Stephenson, but we were also able to help Joel educate him about contracting and other issues affecting court reporters in Minnesota.

Following Representative Stephenson, Rachel Ganani, the Administrator for the House Judiciary Committee, joined in to update us on the priorities that our legislators are focusing on.

As Joel's final guest speaker, we were joined by Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial District Jay Carlson. Judge Carlson is the Vice Chair of the Judicial Council. He gave insight as to how Zoom has been affecting court proceedings and will continue to do so into the future. He informed us that the transcript rate issue will be addressed at the May Judicial Council meeting. He thanked court reporters for their dedication over the last year and the value that reporters bring to the judicial system.

After a wonderful presentation on grammar and punctuation by Jennifer Sati and Jane Schleusner, the seminar continued with an information session about the benefits of official reporting. Jeri Boetcher, HR Manager for the First Judicial District, gave an overview on the compensation package available to reporters working for the Judicial Branch. Judge Amy Brosnahan, who is chambered in the Isanti County Courthouse, also joined to talk about her current opening for an official court reporter.

The afternoon of the conference was comprised of two fabulous sessions with Merilee Johnson, RDR, CRR, CRC, RSA, IL-CSR, regarding the most recent updates of the Case CATalyst software. Merilee covered tons of new features and shared some of her tricks for getting the most out of the Case CATalyst system, including a demonstration in real-time of how she works with scopists using RealTeam. From case preparation to dictionary

building tools to exceptional extras to testimony timers, this deep dive really made clear how using the software to the fullest extent can help make our job easier every day.

To learn more about RealTeam and other new features in Case CATalyst, go to: <https://www.stenograph.com/catalyst-new-features>. Also, if you have a software support plan with Stenograph, you should be periodically receiving updates from Stenograph via email.

A huge thank you to all of our 2021 Spring Seminar presenters! MAVRC appreciates you and your dedication to our profession!

*Debbie Peterson is an official reporter in Shakopee, Minnesota, and Ryan Ziegler is a freelance reporter from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. Debbie and Ryan are co-chairs of MAVRC's Continuing Education Committee. ■*



Merilee Johnson

# MAVRC 2021 ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR RECAP

## UPDATE AND Q&A WITH LOBBYIST JOEL CARLSON - EXPANDED

By Emily Lettner, RPR

The MAVRC 2021 Spring Seminar was kicked off by MAVRC's Lobbyist Joel Carlson. Joel was present to give us an update on the 2021 Legislative Session. Joel first briefed us on how COVID

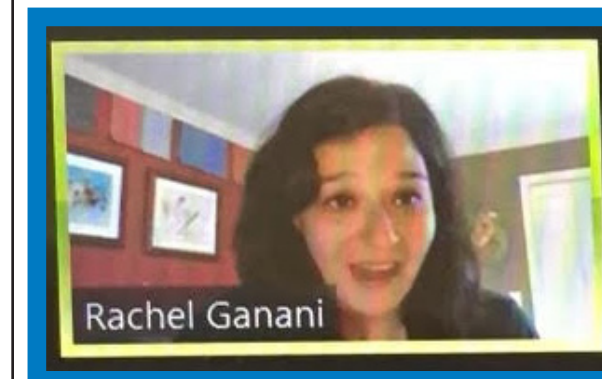


Joel Carlson

has changed the way the legislative session has been held. He has not been to the Capitol since March 13, 2020. Everything is being done remotely, which has been a challenge, especially for what lobbyists do. Joel's opinion is that he does not think the May 17 deadline for this session will be met but does feel confident that we will have a budget by June 30. Joel mentioned that Republicans have said they will not approve a budget unless Governor Walz reduces his executive authority. That is added pressure on top of issues like police reform and \$2.7 billion of federal money that is not yet allocated, and if that is not allocated by the budget deadline, Governor Walz will decide that allocation solely.

Representative Zack Stephenson also spoke briefly. He is the House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee Chairman. Representative Stephenson gave a brief overview

on what this committee has been focused on. The freelance contracting issue was briefly discussed with Representative Stephenson. It was noted that Statute 486.10 was last amended in August of 2015, and it was thought that the language that the legislature adopted at that time would put an end to the practice, but that's not been the case. A reporter opined that the current statute has no teeth to it. Current statute puts the onus on the court reporter to disclose, but they cannot disclose what they do not know. Representative Stephenson seemed to be receptive to "buffing up" the statute.



Rachel Ganani

Representative Jamie Becker-Finn, Chair of the Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee, was expected to join but was unable to at the last minute. Therefore, her committee administrator, Rachel Ganani, stood in. As an Official, one line that stood out to me was "fair access to justice is full staff at courthouses." Ms. Ganani

also spoke of other issues they have been working on including, but not limited to, Paid Family Leave, police accountability and reform, and other public safety issues.

Judge Jay Carlson, who is Joel Carlson's brother, is the Chief Judge of the Seventh District, and he was present to give an update from the Judicial Council. He is currently the Vice Chair of the Judicial Council. Chief Judge Carlson sees Zoom being incorporated as a regular platform of holding hearings. The Other Side Workgroup has been charged with seeking input and making recommendations for use of Zoom in the future. Surveys of judges, staff, attorneys, and other participants have been conducted, and the consensus is we should expect to conduct at least some types of court hearings remotely in the long run. Chief Judge Carlson also noted that the transcript page rate request is on the agenda as a decision item for the Judicial Council May 2021 meeting.

All in all, it was a very informative session. I hope to see everyone in person at the next seminar.

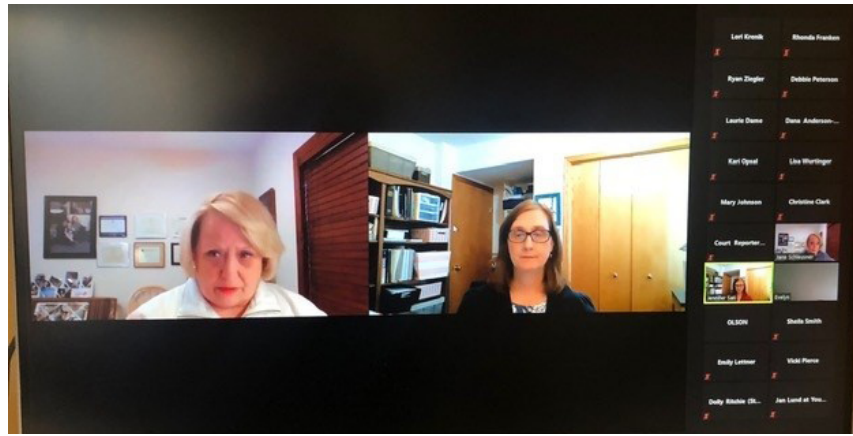
*Emily Lettner is an official reporter in the Third Judicial District, and is a member of MAVRC's Publications Committee. ■*



# MAVRC 2021 ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR RECAP

## PUNCTUATION AND GRAMMAR (PART 1)

By Rhonda Franken, RMR



After getting updates from Lobbyist Joel Carlson and follow-up from his (surprise!) brother, Judge Jay Carlson, we had the pleasure to be given a presentation by Jennifer Sati, Anoka Tech Program Director, and Jane Schleusner, retired official court reporter and Anoka Tech instructor for 17 years, on punctuation and grammar tips and refreshers, including tips on one word or two words, among other enlightening tidbits. Jen and Jane made a great tag team in making their presentation, with cat and dog breaks in between.

Here's Part 1 of a recap of some of their pointers, starting with Jane who presented on grammar.

### One Word or Two?

**Sometime or some time.** *Sometime* as one word is an adverb and it means eventually, at some unspecified time. For instance: "The paperwork will be ready *sometime* later." It's not specific. We don't know exactly when. It's one word. OR: "We don't know specifically when but *sometime* next year." It's unspecified.

The trickier situation is when *sometime* as one word is an adjective. For example: "She proved to be a *sometime* friend." OR "He told me he was a *sometime* actor. If it's used as an adjective, it's one word.

As two words *some time* is a noun and that noun means a period of time. For instance: "It takes *some time* to get this done." If you can replace the sentence with "a period of time," it is two words, *some time*. Another example: "She stayed home for *some time*." "She stayed home for a period of time." OR if you can insert the word *quite* before the word *some*, it should be two words. For instance: "It takes *some time* to get this done." "It takes quite *some time* to get this done." Two words. OR if you can take the word *some* out and it still works, it's two words. For instance: "We can give you *some time* to get the pages in order." "We can give you time to get the pages in order."

**Follow up, follow-up, or followup.** Followup as one word does not exist in the English language. Don't use it; not a word. *Follow up* as two words is a verb, meaning to pursue or to check on something or to pursue a solution. If you can replace the word *check* with *follow up*, it's two words. For instance: "Please *follow up* with the county to make sure our funding is in place." "Please check with the county..." Two words.

*Follow-up* is hyphenated if it can be used as a noun or adjective. *Follow-up* as a noun means the act of following up, or something that follows up. For instance: "The surgeon scheduled a *follow-up* with his patient a week after the treatment." Hyphenated. OR "A few days after the story broke, the newspaper printed a *follow-up*."

*Follow-up*, two words hyphenated, can also be an adjective that means intended as a response, a reaction, an evaluation or a reinforcement of a previous action. For instance: "The teacher scheduled a *follow-up* meeting to see how her student was progressing." It's an adjective, so it's hyphenated and two words.

**Every day or everyday.** *Everyday* is only one word when used as an adjective. For instance: "I will wear my *everyday* shoes to church this week."

*Every day* is two words when you can replace the word *every* with the word *each*. For instance: "*Every day* I start out with a Pepsi" can be replaced with "Each day I start out with a Pepsi."

**A while or awhile.** *Awhile* as one word is an adverb (a word that describes a verb) which means **for** a period of time. Easiest way to remember how to use *awhile* as one word is to remember that it modifies a verb. For example: "I waited *awhile* for the taxi." "Why don't you go play *awhile*." If you can replace *awhile* as one word with another adverb, then it is one word. For instance: "...go play quietly." "I waited patiently..." *Waited* and *play* are verbs modified by *awhile* as one word.

*A while* as two words is a noun or noun form meaning a period of time. For instance: "He said he would be home in *a while*." You can replace a period of time with a *while*, both nouns and not modifying an adverb. If you can insert a word in between the two words, then use two words. "It will take a little *while* for me to get home." If you can replace it with another article/time combination (articles *a, an, the*), it's two words. For example: "I sat here for *a while*." "I sat here for *an hour*." I have to admit, this one boggles my mind a bit as it seems like *awhile* and *a while* are virtually interchangeable in a sentence.

Another way I found to distinguish is that you should precede the two-word form with the word *for*. For example, "I think I'll sit here for *a while*," AND "I think I'll sit here *awhile*."

**All right or alright.** Easy one. *All right* is never one word; it's always two words.

**Into or in to.** *Into*, one word, is a preposition that means to the inside of, against, toward a time or place, acceptance or an occupation. When you use *into* as one word, you are indicating some kind of movement, and action is happening. For example: "Let's go *into* your office." "Let's go inside of your office." "The law does not take *into* account the issue of age." Acceptance of age.

*In to* as two words is if *in* is an adverb and *to* is a preposition. They are totally unrelated and separate words. For instance, "She turned her paper *in to* her teacher." If it's one word, the girl magically physically turned her paper into the teacher. "I'm going to turn *in to* bed." Two words. You don't become a bed. Sometimes but not always you can use the trick of exchanging the words *in order to*. If you can do that and it still makes sense, it's two words. For example: "I just checked *in to* see how everyone was doing." "I just checked in order to see how everyone was doing."

**Onto or on to.** *Onto* as one word is a preposition that means moving to a new position on top of, upon, attached to or aware of. For instance: "The coffee spilled *onto* the table." Upon or to a position on the table. "I knew the child was *onto* my fake beard." Was aware of my fake beard. "I just logged *onto* the internet." I attached to it.

For *on to* as two words, the word *on* is an adverb and the word *to* is a preposition. Two entirely different words and entirely different meanings. "Hang *on to* your notes." The word *on* is the adverb and *to* is a preposition. "I felt I was *on to* something." "We knew she was destined to move *on to* bigger and better things."

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

**Anyway or any way.** *Any way* as two words means in any case, in any manner, any method, any possible means or whichever path. For instance, “My doctor told me to get some sunshine *any way* that I could.” In any method or manner. “Is there *any way* that I can change your mind?” “Is there any method that I can change your mind?”

*Anyway* as one word is an adverb that expresses support or means in any case or regardless. For instance, “*Anyway*, even with all the nice parks I think the city is too busy.” Regardless. “Whose line is it *anyway*?” In any case. *Anyways* is not a word, it’s slang and colloquial; but we hear it all the time and court reporters write what they hear, verbatim. It’s one word as stated incorrectly.

\* \* \* \* \*

After a cat break, Jen presented on the punctuation rules portion, including conjunctions, coordinate conjunctions, phrases, clauses, independent clauses, sentence fragments, and run-on sentences; and she expanded on the use of semicolons and commas in relation to each of the above. She stated to use commas accurately, for example, you really need to know what each of the above do in a sentence structure or how they play out.

First, conjunctions. There’s three types of conjunctions (joiners or words that connect parts of a sentence). First, coordinate (or coordinating) conjunctions, examples are: *and, nor, but, or, so, yet, for*. They join equals to one another – word to word, phrase to phrase or clause to clause. The subordinate conjunction is actually linking a dependent clause to an independent clause, which quite often begin with words like *although, because, or though or since*. Lastly, the conjunctive adverb links two independent clauses and shows a relationship between the two clauses. For example, *however, therefore, in fact*.

A phrase is a group of words without a subject or a verb. A clause is a group of words that have a subject and a verb. The difference is that a clause has a subject and a verb, whereas a phrase does not. A dependent clause cannot stand alone as a sentence, even though it has a subject and a verb. This can be confusing at times because you’re seeing a subject and you’re seeing a verb, but there’s usually a dependent word in front of it like *than, whereas, unless, and though*. It turns the clause into something that depends on the rest of the sentence for its meaning. An independent clause can stand alone as a complete sentence or expresses a complete thought with a subject and a verb, and you can have two independent clauses linked together with a conjunction. A fragment is a group of words that do not express a complete thought. Run-on sentences or run-ons are two independent sentences that are combined in a way that look like they are one sentence but really are not. They’re connected improperly, and they should be separated, probably with a period.

The preliminary presentation by Jen was a lead-in to discuss examples of the above in order to determine where or when to use commas, a period, or a semicolon. In this article, Part 1 of 2, I’ll conclude with the coordinate conjunction examples that were given and the rules to follow for such.

First rule: If there’s two independent clauses (there’s a subject and a verb) before and after the coordinate conjunction, then there should be a comma before the coordinate conjunction. For example: “The attorney will read the testimony on page 73, *and* we will note all the times the word *accident* is used by the witness.” There’s a subject, *attorney*, and a verb, *will read*, before the coordinate conjunction *and*. Following *and* there is a subject, *we*, and a verb, *will note*. This would call for a comma before the word *and*. Here’s the sentence above slightly changed: “The attorney will read the testimony on page 73 and note all the times the word *accident* is used by the witness.” What’s different between these last two sentences is that there is no subject following *and* in the second sentence, there’s no *we*, and that can’t be considered an independent clause because we have no subject following the word *and*, thus no comma is necessary.

Second rule, called the short rule: If your independent clauses are short, even if there’s a subject and a verb for both, no comma is necessary. It’s not wrong to do so but not necessary. If one independent clause is long (five words or more) and one is short, insert a comma. As always, be consistent.

What happens if there’s two groups of words that look like they are independent clauses and there’s a conjunction joining them but there’s a dependent clause at the beginning? For example: “If you read that letter again, you will see that she lied and all my family was taken in by her lie.” In this instance both of these clauses are influenced by that introductory

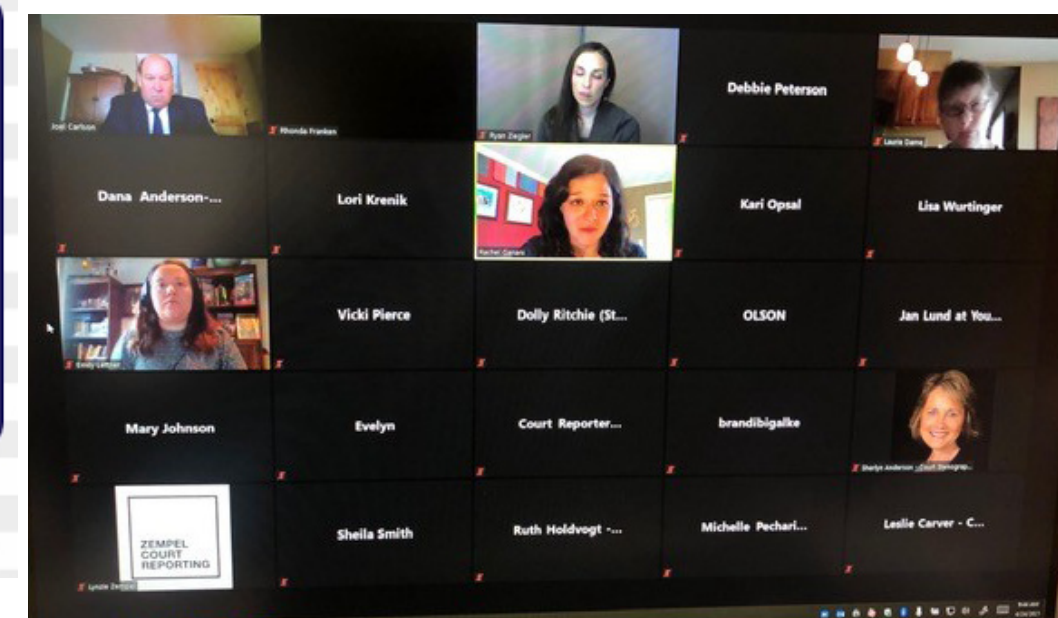
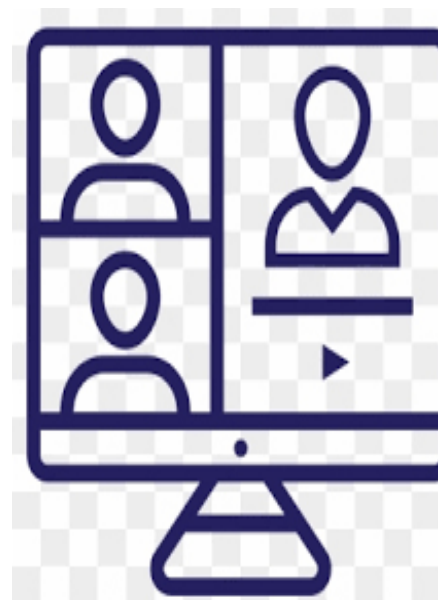
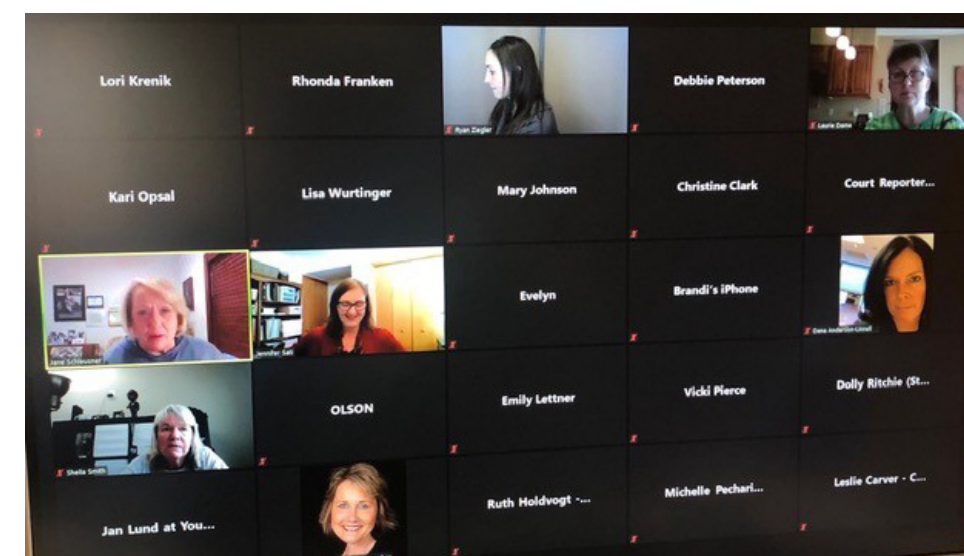
phrase or dependent clause, *If you read that letter again*. You’ve got two outcomes here, *you will see that she lied AND all my family was taken in by her lie*. You can’t put the comma before the *and* in this situation because both of these clauses are dependent on that introductory clause. Another example: “When Frank asked me to help him, I knew I would work his shift or I would pick up his delivery.” Again you have the dependent clause at the start of the sentence, *When Frank asked me to help him*, and then both parts that follow are equally influenced by that beginning dependent clause, so no comma before the coordinate conjunction *or*.

After absorbing all the information thus far from Jen and Jane, another short cat break was taken, as needed, before shifting gears back to Jane. Stay tuned for Part 2!

*Rhonda Franken is an official reporter in the First Judicial District and the Editor of MAVRC’s Minne-strokes.’*



## ZOOM SHOTS - SPRING SEMINAR



## PROFILE OF A BOARD MEMBER

By Ryan Ziegler, RPR

MAVRC Q: What is your name?

A: Ryan Ziegler

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

A: Anoka Tech. I graduated in the summer of 2011.

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

A: As with all ATC grads, Jennifer, Jane, and Deb have been instrumental in getting me into my career. My mom also really encouraged me. She's not a court reporter, but she knew me well enough to believe that I'd love it... and she was right! There are many others (too many to name) who have mentored and helped me along the way.

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

A: I started as an official reporter in the 1st District of Minnesota. After I got married, I moved to Seattle and started freelancing. I returned to Minnesota in 2017 and have been freelancing here since then.

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

A: I use Eclipse software and have a Lumi II.

MAVRC Q: Do you produce your

work all on your own, or do you use scopists or proofreaders?

A: I use scopists and proofreaders most of the time, but rarely both on the same job.

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

A: I don't feel qualified to give tips! I think everyone has to be patient (not my typical strong suit) and find their rhythm and systems and what works for them.

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

A: TKRAEBGL for "did I read that correctly." I wrote this out for years and finally decided I needed a brief for it.

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

A: I've been a member of NCRA since I was a student, and I hold an



Ryan Ziegler

RPR certification. I likely also hold the "failed the CRR more times than any other court reporter" title, but I don't have verification of that.

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

A: I wish! I hope to attend the NCRA convention in the near future, though.

MAVRC Q: Do you recall when you

joined MAVRC or approximately how long you've been a member?

A: I joined MAVRC as a student and have been a member whenever I've been living in the state.

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

A: I was on the board in 2013-2014, and I'm currently serving a two-year term that will end fall 2022.

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

A: We've been meeting approximately every other month, I believe. So far meetings have been only by Zoom.

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

A: Getting the 2021 seminars together! After a 2020 convention hiatus, it'll be great to return to having our normal seminars.

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

A: My hometown is Broomfield, CO. I currently live in Inver Grove Heights.

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

A: I have a wonderful group of friends that I can't wait to see more of this summer. I also have three daughters, ages 5, 3, and 1, and they keep me very busy!

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: I read "World Without End" by Ken Follett recently and enjoyed it. As far as restaurants, anything sushi or Thai food rings my chimes!

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

A: I studied abroad in Greece and Italy and was able to travel from there throughout Europe. I've also been to Costa Rica, but otherwise my travels have been domestic. I can't wait to get back to traveling once my kids are a little older.

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

A: My husband would tell you that, as a workaholic, this is not my strong suit. I love my job, and it's hard for me to turn down work! ■

## 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



# ANOKA TECH STENO ZOOM GALA

By Crystal Johnson

In honor of NCRA 2021 Court Reporting and Captioning Week in February, Jennifer Sati hosted the Anoka Tech Steno Zoom Gala. Those in attendance included Anoka Tech instructors and students, working reporters, and even a few judges! Recent graduate, Shelby Brown, commented, "It was awesome to see such a great turnout, especially to see some judges attending as well. You know it's going to be a fun night when you have to scroll through multiple pages on Zoom to see everyone!"

The sentiment was mutual, as Judge Edward Sheu said, "I really enjoyed being able to 'see' so many court reporters, students, prospective students, and graduates. I'm glad the steno profession is thriving. It must be an exciting time to be a court reporter or student in training since there are so many opportunities in the public and freelance sectors!" As a court reporter-in-training myself, I can definitely confirm that it is an exciting time. There are so many great places to work out there.

Events like this are really wonderful

for the students to see. It reminds us how awesome the professional is and helps us get motivated to keep working hard for it. Hearing from the working reporters who are so excited about students makes it less of a profession and more of a family. I have heard from so many reporters things just like what Karen Skow said, "I was excited to have the opportunity to join an event that connected students with working court reporters and captioners. These students are our profession's future, and the more opportunities we have to connect and share our hard-earned knowledge with them will not only assist them as they begin work in this field, but it will also make our profession stronger and our support to those who use these important services better."

Attendees not only heard from judges and working reporters, they also got to participate in a fun game led by Jennifer Sati. "Steno Karaoke" was a guessing game where Jennifer would listen to a song on her headphones and start writing on her machine along to the lyrics. Then, without hearing the rhythm, and with only the steno to

work with, the students and reporters would have to chat their guesses as to the song titles in Zoom. The first to get it right won a gift card!

It was a fun, educational night of networking. It was a great opportunity to connect the school with the field it feeds into. Christine Clark said, "I'm always amazed at Jennifer's positive energy and how she can get everyone motivated to learn and be a better writer and believe in themselves, even the reporters who have been doing this for years. She is such an excellent instructor. The program they have at Anoka is very professional and impressive. It keeps up with all the technical advances in the industry."

This Zoom Gala was very beneficial for all attendees. If you haven't already, make sure you sign up for the email lists so you don't miss the next event!

*Crystal Johnson is a reporting student at Anoka Tech and a past member of the Minne-strokes Publications Committee. ■*

## REPORTER JOB OPENINGS IN MINNESOTA

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. [www.mncourts.gov](http://www.mncourts.gov). In the "Search" box, type: "Court reporter."



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.

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

## PRO BONO

Kudos to  
**Sandy Burch and  
Sydney Forst**  
for volunteering to provide  
pro bono services.

*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](mailto:chrisclarkzimm@gmail.com)

## REPORTER HUMOR

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

**Q: DOCTOR, DID YOU SAY HE WAS SHOT IN THE WOODS?**



**A: NO, I SAID HE WAS SHOT IN THE LUMBAR REGION.**



## STUDENT PROFILE

By Blythe Warwas

**Name:** Blythe Warwas

**School:** Anoka Technical College

**Speed:** Snail-like (Theory)

**Hometown:** Eveleth, MN

**Tell us a little about yourself.**

Since graduating from Mesabi Range College in 2017, I've been a grocery bagger, a social media manager, a volunteer literacy illustrator, a cashier, and a front-end manager. Now, I'm pumped to have circled back to "student"!

Apart from work, I'm a typing and typewriter enthusiast, a bookworm, and a mediocre guitarist. I'm always ready to try something new. My problem is finding too many hobbies, not too few!

**What made you decide to pursue a career in court reporting?** So many elements came together at once, but at the heart of it, my mom saw a job posting for a court reporter in our town. That ad got us interested in stenography. How does it work? Where does one learn it? Pretty soon, we were reading articles, watching YouTube demonstrations, and reaching out to Jennifer Sati at Anoka Technical College. If you feed your curiosity, you might find something incredibly cool!

**What area of reporting interests you the most at this time - official, freelance, or captioning/CART?** Captioning and CART. I'd love to know I was making an impact in the life of someone who is deaf or hard of hearing.

**What's been the most challenging or rewarding part of your schooling thus far?** Accepting the time it will take. Each new piece of theory mastered is a victory, but I have a lot of victories to go before I'll be a court reporter.

**Do you know any working reporters or anyone that's been an influence to you?** Instructors aside, I met a working reporter at an exhibition during Court Reporting & Captioning Week in 2020. I don't remember her name, but she gave me so much encouragement and a fascinating inside look at becoming an official reporter. She also gave me a mug that says, "Almost a Court Reporter. Loading, Please Wait," from which I proudly drink my coffee.



Kari Pikala

(continued on page 17)

(continued from page 16)

**If you had an hour of freetime, what would you be doing (besides practicing on your steno)?** Riding my bike. It's such an enjoyable way to explore new neighborhoods. This summer, I hope I can try more of the exciting terrain of Duluth trails!

**What is your favorite band or type of music?** My taste varies on a song-by-song basis, but I pretty consistently enjoy Bluegrass and instrumental covers of pop songs.

**What is your favorite food or restaurant?** I've been told I'll be good at being elderly; I delight in soft foods. Boxed mac & cheese; jello, particularly in cubes; cottage cheese; and puddings with chia seeds are big winners.

**Where is a place you would like to visit?** There are so many! I hope to visit a few places where I have family roots: Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland.

**The last book you read?** I think that would be *Castle in the Air* by Diana Wynne Jones. I like to have one print-book and one audiobook going at all times, usually in contrasting genres.

**The last movie you watched?** *Murder on the Orient Express*. I love the train imagery and the color palette. ■

## CONGRATS, GRADUATE!

### Ryan Judge

"It feels great to finally graduate. I am currently looking for an official reporting position in the Twin Cities. I'm excited to start such an interesting career!"



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



## THANK YOU, CRYSTAL!

Many thanks to Crystal Joos Johnson for dedicating her time serving on MAVRC's MINNE-strokes publication committee. We wish her all the best completing her last speed tests at Anoka Tech and landing the job of her dreams.



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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!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 1, 2021** Submissions deadline for MINNE-strokes Summer Edition

**July 29 - August 1 2021** NCRA Conference & Expo  
Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino  
Las Vegas, NV

**October 1 & 2, 2021** MAVRC Fall Convention  
IN PERSON - Watch for details coming

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MAVRC Editor MINNE-strokes  
[Rhonda.Franken@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:Rhonda.Franken@courts.state.mn.us)



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