



MINNE-strokes



Minnesota Court Reporters: On and Off the Record

WINTER 2014
VOLUME 17 NUMBER 4

INSIDE:

President's Address1/3

MAVRC Advertising
For Sale, For Rent, Need Help....2

Renew Your 2015 MAVRC
Membership3

2014-2015 MAVRC Board
of Directors4

Be the Person to Make a
Difference.....5

Recap of MAVRC's 2014
Fall Convention.....6/7

MAVRC Pre-Convention
Thursday Get-Together7

MAVRC Fall Convention
Presentation Summaries.....8

2014 Fall Convention
Snapshots9-11

Salute to Outgoing Board
Members12

MAVRC's 2014 Distinguished
Service Award13

Thanks For Your Support.....14

Raffle & Door Prize Winners.....15

Donations to Student
Sponsorships15

NCRA Update16-19

Profile of a Board Member20

MAVRC Advertising.....21

Welcome New Members.....21

Looking for a Holiday Gift22

Trusts & Trustees23

NCRF Angel Program.....24-26

Reporter Recipes.....27

The Rise of the Robots.....28-30

MAVRC's Trivia Challenge.....31

(Continued on Page 2)

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By Monica Christensen, RMR

“What newspaper do you work for?” How many times during your career have you been asked that question? I have to admit, in the past when someone has asked me what kind of work I do, I have often said that I am a reporter, just to see what their response would be. And believe me, most folks had no clue about what goes into our career. But nowadays, it is more important than ever to be more specific about what we do in our jobs, get the word out to those folks who have no clue about what it means to be a court reporter, CART provider or captioner, and take the time to encourage and educate future generations about our great profession.

The time is now. MAVRC has joined forces with the court reporting program at Anoka Technical College and has formed a committee of reporters whose mission is to educate the public about our profession through high school career days, demonstrations at job fairs, etc. The committee has been formed to come up with ideas on how we can encourage people on following the career path to becoming a court reporter! The execution of these ideas will be a job for all of us. With your help, we can make our profession a strong and viable career for future generations.

I am sure you are all aware of NCRA's TRAIN program, a realtime grassroots task force. TRAIN has been around



Monica Christensen

for almost four years now and NCRA would like to have all state associations create their own Realtime/TRAIN Committee. During the next year, we will be participating in this initiative and getting this TRAIN moving through all of Minnesota, to continue to train reporters to become realtime reporters or to enhance their current realtime skills. With the assistance of the national TRAIN program, we already have volunteers in Minnesota that are willing to be part of this TRAIN committee to help all of us improve our existing realtime skills or to gain the confidence to jump into the realtime arena for the first time!

On November 1, NCRA had
(Continued on Page 3)



**Minnesota Association of Verbatim
Reporters & Captioners**

2014-2015 MAVRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Monica Christensen, Bemidji (218) 333-4212 monica.christensen@courts.state.mn.us
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Jackie Young, Delano (763) 972-3453 rte2jackie@frontiernet.net
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SECRETARY	Carolyn Taylor Pekas, Detroit Lakes (701) 280-9204 carolyn@catsreporting.com
TREASURER	Melissa Keute, Alexandria (320) 274-6855 mskeute@gmail.com
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DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE B	Jonathan Wonnell, Bloomington (952) 567-4689 jonathanwonnell@gmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE B	Michelle Foley, St. Cloud (320) 656-3676 michelle.foley@courts.state.mn.us
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Hart Erickson, Burnsville (952) 890-0265 ecr0202@comcast.net
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Jolene Carrow (507) 532-0676 www.mavrc.org jcarrow_mavrc@hotmail.com

Continued from Page 1)

Court Rptr Student Profile.....32

Willard I. Braun Outstanding Student-of-the-Year Award.....33

Congrats Graduate.....33

Pro Bono Guidelines.....34-35

Veteran’s History Day Project....36-37

Tribute to LaVonne Richards.....38-39

Mary Boom Retires After 37 Years of Reporting.....40-41

Recognition of Service - Patty McLean.....41

2015 Membership Form.....42

Advertising Options.....43

Minnesota Agency Listings.....44-45

Out-of-State Listings.....46

Video Listings.....46

Promote Court Reporting.....47

Upcoming Events.....48



**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.

(Continued from Page 1)

launched a new and improved TRAIN website with tons of information for us to use on everything from tips and tricks to realtime, as well as step-by-step instructions from seasoned realtime reporters. Since NCRA's TRAIN committee is a Grassroots Task Force, eventually it will not even exist on the national level. So we need to start implementing their work now, on the state level. And to do that, we need YOUR help! If you already are comfortable with realtime, please volunteer to be a part of this committee. And if you are hesitant about your realtime readiness, please let us know how we can help. I have been assured that we will have an abundance of information at our fingertips to help all of us! Special thanks to Merilee Johnson, RMR, CRR, CBC, CCP, for her dedication to this project on the

national level with NCRA and her hard work in driving this TRAIN to Minnesota!

I also want to take a minute or two to thank the court reporters who have volunteered to serve on MAVRC's Board of Directors this year. The 2014-15 Board consists of the following members: Hart Erickson, Jackie Young, Jonathan Wonnell, Michelle Foley, Carolyn Pekas, Melissa Keute, Jolynn Graham, Sharon Steinbrecher, Sarah Fisher, Rachel Erickson and myself. The combined talents and experience of our board represents all levels of court reporting, and I am so happy to be working with such a distinguished group!

As I begin my third non-consecutive term as your president,

I will be focusing on the issues of court reporter awareness and realtime readiness, making the public aware that we are a strong career force that continues to grow and thrive to translate the spoken word into a readable form for all to understand. The applications for our talents will be needed well into the future and the demand is going to be even higher in the years ahead. We want the public to know who we are and what we do. So the next time someone asks you what kind of work you do, when you say, "I am a court reporter, captioner or CART provider," they will have the level of understanding to know that we do NOT work as newspaper reporters!

Monica Christensen is MAVRC's president and an official reporter in Bemidji, Minnesota. ■



RENEW YOUR 2015 MAVRC MEMBERSHIP

By Jolene Carrow

Have you renewed your MAVRC membership for 2015? Renewal forms are due by December 31, 2014, if you wish to take advantage of a \$20 discount in membership dues.

Please take the time to fill out the 2015 Renewal Membership Form completely. MAVRC would like to keep your information current in its database. If your form is not filled out completely, MAVRC will be unable to communicate with you in a direct and timely manner. E-mail addresses change frequently, and by keeping MAVRC informed of your current e-mail address, you will be able to receive News Flashes that are sent to MAVRC members. If you change your home address, MAVRC needs to have your change of address so you can continue to receive mailings. If you switch jobs or change employers,

MAVRC would like to have that information in its database to be better able to serve its members. There are times when MAVRC needs to notify its members on short notice of changes in the profession that could affect your job and this can only be done in a direct, timely and efficient manner if your current information is in MAVRC's data base.

If you need a membership renewal form, the form is now available online at the MAVRC website, www.mavrc.org, or you can contact Administrative Assistant Jolene Carrow at (507) 532-0676. MAVRC is your professional association. With your help and support, this organization functions. Encourage your colleagues to take a look at our website and become a member this year.

Throughout the coming year if any of your information changes, please notify MAVRC so you can continue to receive all the benefits of being a MAVRC member. By taking the time to fill out the membership renewal form completely and returning it by December 31, 2014, you will take advantage of the full member benefits. For your convenience, an application form is included on Page 42.

Jolene Carrow is the administrative assistant for MAVRC and is a freelance reporter from Marshall, Minnesota. ■



2014-2015 MAVRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following stenographic reporters were elected as directors and officers on the MAVRC Board of Directors for 2014 – 2015:



(L to R) Hart Erickson, Immediate Past President; Jolynn Graham, Director-at-Large A (Freelance); Michelle Foley, Director-at-Large B (Official); Melissa Keute, Treasurer; Monica Christensen, President; Rachel Erickson, Vice-President Freelance; Jackie Young, President-Elect; and Jonathan Wonnell, Director-at-Large B (Freelance). Missing from picture are Carolyn Taylor Pekas, Secretary; Sharon Steinbrecher, Vice President Official; and Sarah Fisher, Director-at-Large A (Official).

President

Monica Christensen

952-890-0265

monica.christensen@courts.state.mn.us

President-Elect

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763-972-3453

[rite2jackie@frontiernet.net](mailto:rte2jackie@frontiernet.net)

Immediate Past President

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Vice President-Freelance

Rachel Erickson

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Vice President-Official

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Secretary

Carolyn Taylor Pekas

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Director-at-Large A (Official)

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Director-at-Large A (Freelance)

Jolynn Graham

763-493-4478

jgreporting@comcast.net

Director-at-Large B (Official)

Michelle Foley

320-656-3676

michelle.foley@courts.state.mn.us

Director-at-Large B (Freelance)

Jonathan Wonnell

952-567-4689

jonathanwonnell@gmail.com

BE THE PERSON TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Help MAVRC make a positive impact and volunteer for one of the following committees:

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: Jackie Young
rite2jackie@frontiernet.net

Works with the treasurer in reviewing the financial records of the Association.

CERTIFICATION AND TESTING

Board Liaison: Jonathan Wonnell
jonathanwonnell@gmail.com

Assists in the coordination and facilitation of the various NCRA certifications.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Board Liaison: Melissa Keute
mskeute@gmail.com

Helps plan educational seminars and/or educational opportunities for reporters and students.

FREELANCE COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: Jolynn Graham
jgreporting@comcast.net

Deals with issues affecting court reporters in the freelance field.

LEGISLATIVE/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Board Liaison: Hart Erickson
ecr0202@comcast.net

Acts as liaison on behalf of both official and freelance reporters with the state legislature, judicial district, SCA's office, and others.

OFFICIAL COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: Sharon Steinbrecher
sharon.steinbrecher@courts.state.mn.us

Deals with issues affecting official court reporters.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: Michelle Foley
michelle.foley@courts.state.mn.us

Prepares and issues the official publication of the Association.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS/SCHOOL LIAISON

Board Liaisons: Hart Erickson,
ecr0202@comcast.net; **Rachel Erickson,**
rachel.c.erickson@gmail.com

Assists with student internships and administers a mentoring program.

CART/CLOSED CAPTIONING

Board Liaison: Rachel Erickson
rachel.c.erickson@gmail.com

Handles issues affecting CART providers and broadcast captioners.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Board Liaison: Jackie Young
rite2jackie@frontiernet.net

Reviews and suggests necessary changes to the bylaws of the Association.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: Sarah Fisher
sarah.go36@gmail.com

Helps promote and monitors ethics among court reporters.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: Jolynn Graham
jgreporting@comcast.net

Helps raise funds for the Association.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: Sarah Fisher
sarah.go36@gmail.com

Works to increase the membership of the Association and develops an annual membership directory.

PRO BONO COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: Carolyn Taylor Pekas
carolyn@catsreporting.com

Facilitates court reporting services to indigents.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Board Liaison: Hart Erickson
ecr0202@comcast.net

Represents MAVRC in forming relations with legal associations to further the interests of the Association.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: Monica Christensen
monica.christensen@courts.state.mn.us

Stays abreast of technological advances in the court reporting field.

RECAP OF MAVRC'S 2014 FALL CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

MAVRC attendees on Friday welcomed Special Agent Scott Mueller and Senior Special Agent Swanson, who provided some insight into the inner workings of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). The BCA is charged with assisting local, state, and federal agencies in investigating homicides, missing persons, predatory offenders, Internet crimes, narcotics, officer-involved shootings, large financial crimes, organized crime, and sex trafficking. They are also charged with the task of tracking all registered sex offenders.

The main goals of the BCA in crime scene processing include documentation of the scene; collection of physical evidence; reconstruction of the crime; and processing of the evidence collected, such as DNA, fingerprints, and trace evidence, in order to see if there is enough probable cause to charge someone with the crime.

Special Agent Mueller took the audience step-by-step through several actual crime scenes and illustrated how the crime scene is documented through photography, videography, electronic distance measurements, and scale drawings. On an annual basis, the BCA handles between 120 and 160 homicides statewide, which keeps their two Minnesota offices very busy. On a sad note, the attendees learned that only one to two percent of all Internet crimes against children are typically detected and prosecuted in any given year.

Following a fabulous dinner buffet, the attendees listened to Dr. Susan Myster, a forensic anthropologist, explain how people in her field are able to determine from the bones they collect the age, gender, ancestry,

stature, and evidence of injury and disease that might have occurred prior to the demise of the individual. The types of scenes they are called in to investigate include fires, mass disasters, surface-deposited bodies, and clandestine graves.



Dr. Susan Myster

Dr. Myster explained the best way to identify age is through the development of the teeth and that the pelvis bone is the most accurate for determining gender. In order to determine the cause and manner of death, forensic anthropologists will examine each bone separately, both macro- and microscopically, for any evidence of trauma and/or disease. This is not a small task since an adult human body is comprised of 206 bones and a newborn is comprised of 806 bones. In her spare time, Dr. Myster is involved with the Minnesota Unidentified Persons Project, which is an organization that is attempting to identify over 100 skeletons in Minnesota that remain nameless.

Also as part of Friday's agenda

was a townhall meeting where the attendees received a detailed update from NCRA Representative Nativa Wood. Nativa Wood's update can be found on Pages 16-19 of this newsletter and provides some valuable insight on the numerous steps NCRA is taking to promote and protect the court reporting profession. The attendees were also given the opportunity to ask questions and express concerns about our profession. One piece of good news that was imparted to the attendees was the fact that there will be approximately 5,000 new job openings for court reporters/captioners/CART providers over the next five years nationwide, with approximately 110 new job openings expected for Minnesota by the year 2018.



Nativa Wood

Other issues discussed relating to Minnesota included the creation of the new awareness committee being chaired by Jennifer Sati and Mary Krawiecki, membership recruitment, TRAIN, the need for attaining various types of professional certification, and the need to become involved in your state association.

Kicking off the convention on Saturday morning was Anissa Nierenberger, a 22-year closed captioner and immediate past president of the Michigan Association of Professional Court Reporters. Attendees received a complimentary \$145 dictionary software package from Dictionary Jumpstart, which happens to be owned and operated by Anissa. One of the primary objectives that was stressed during this session was the ability of court reporters to be able to write realtime, which makes our jobs easier, increases our income, and shows off our talents.

One of the best ways to become an excellent realtime writer is, of course, to have a great dictionary. Anissa explained how a well-built and well-maintained dictionary is more important than how many entries you have and that preparation on the front end means less work on the back end. Anissa explained how Dictionary Jumpstart can help reporters create a fabulous dictionary in less time and how tricky names can be handled easily and quickly. Through



Anissa Nierenberger

Dictionary Jumpstart, a reporter is able to enter over 1,000 entries in one hour with the need to only provide the steno outlines. Reporters have the option of choosing between different specialized dictionaries ranging from beverages, liquor, medications, cardiology, and neurology, just to name a few! The rest of the work is done by the software and your computer. If you are interested in learning more about this program, you can go to www.dictionaryjumpstart.com.

The final presenter of the day was MAVRC's own Jim Weitalla. Jim

provided various tips on computer maintenance, backing up, and different technologies that can be utilized by court reporters to improve their efficiency and performance. In addition to talking about the importance of regular maintenance and backup of our computers, Jim shared some of his knowledge about Mi-Fi, Stenograph's CVNet, Eclipse's Connection Magic, and Live Deposition.

If you were unable to join us at the fall convention, plans are already underway for the 2015 Spring Seminar. Give some serious consideration to joining us at Anoka Technical College in April. This is your opportunity to help support MAVRC, hear some great speakers, and visit with some of your fellow colleagues.

Jackie Young is a freelance reporter and is currently serving in the position of President-Elect on MAVRC's Board of Directors. ■

MAVRC PRE-CONVENTION THURSDAY GET-TOGETHER



(L to R) Julie Haskovitz, NCRA Rep. Tiva Wood, Rachel Erickson and Elisa Kukuk enjoyed dinner at Figlios Thursday evening before the convention.



(L to R) Jan Ballman, Hart Erickson and Jolene Carrow gathered with other reporters for an informal dinner and evening of fun.

MAVRC FALL CONVENTION PRESENTATION SUMMARIES

By Nanette J. Corbett, RDR

JOEL CARLSON MAVRC LOBBYIST

Joel gave us a rundown of the Minnesota 2014 legislative session and a preview of what's coming up in the 2015 session that starts January 6. He touched on several topics: The debate about the new state office building, the state finances that went from a deficit to a surplus in the past three years with Minnesota as the fifth fastest-growing state economy in the country, the demise of a court reporting statute due to some back-room politics which will necessitate the issue being revisited in 2015, and the frustrating gridlock seen on both local and national levels. Joel refers to himself as a political junky, and he is very well-informed about all things politic. He shared his opinion on the dangers of the large amounts of money being spent on political campaigns, and particularly the massive spending on judicial slots, pointing to the growing potential for buying influence and power. The outcomes of the November, 2014, elections, both in Minnesota and nationally, will shape things to come in 2015.



Joel Carlson



Peter Orput

PETER ORPUT, WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY

Mr. Orput served as the prosecutor in the State v. Byron Smith murder trial, where Smith was charged with the murder of two people in his home around Thanksgiving, 2012. Attorney Orput is an amazingly engaging speaker, and you could easily see the power of his personal performance in a courtroom. The initial media reporting was intense and portrayed Byron Smith as a victim of a home invasion and a hero in defending himself. Attorney Orput worked hard at uncovering facts, and with the help of a nearly chance discovery of surveillance videos and tapes installed by Byron Smith in his own home, Byron Smith was convicted of the murders. Attorney Orput had an uphill battle in counteracting initial public opinion as gleaned from the media. There was a lot of erroneous or misrepresented information out there and, sadly, many people are still unaware of the facts uncovered during this trial that brought some sense of justice to a tragedy that affected many people.

DR. GRETCHEN PHILLIPS YOUR PRESCRIPTION FOR WELLNESS IN TODAY'S STRESSFUL WORLD

Dr. Phillips is a board-certified family physician and medical correspondent on NBC and Fox TV. She discussed a wide variety of topics, including health issues and stressors affecting the performance of reporters in their jobs. One main focus is that we have a sedentary job, and because of that, it is important to take smaller and more focused breaks while we are working. These breaks, which she calls microbreaks or brain breaks, have both physical and mental benefits and also increase productivity. Interesting fact: Sitting four hours per day equates to a 40% higher risk of chronic disease. Four hours of exercise per week cancels out this risk. We all have stress, though sometimes we are unaware of it. Dr. Phillips encourages identifying where your personal stress comes from and then making conscious choices of what to cut back or eliminate in order to achieve more balance and energy in your daily life. Her main message is to take care of yourself first.

TRACY BENNETT, RPR, CRR, CCP REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

Tracy is passionate about this topic, and her energetic presentation was very informative, with lots of detailed information, so we will revisit this topic with her in our next newsletter where we can expand on the specifics, including a list of recipes for making a nontoxic home cleaning kit which is both effective and environmentally friendly.

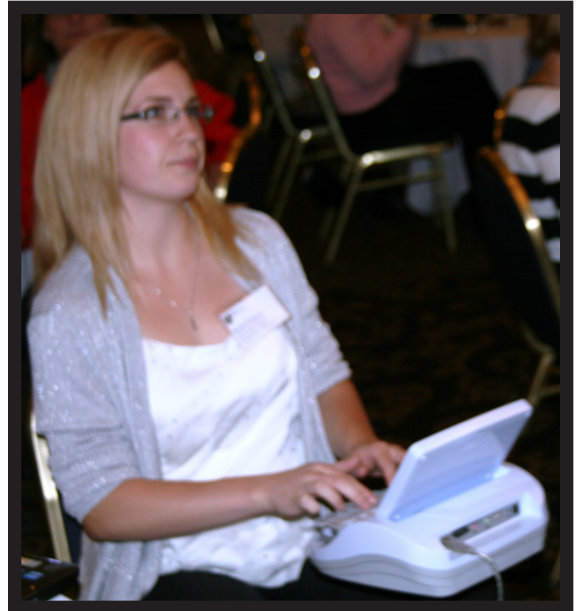
Nanette Corbett is a freelance reporter in Duluth, Minnesota.

MAVRC FALL CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS

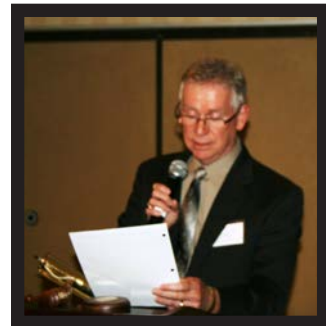


Melissa Keute and Kimberly Morey

Rachel Erickson volunteered to report the 2014 MAVRC Annual Business Meeting



Advantage Vendor Jim Woitalla with Kristi McCallum



(Above) Hart Erickson commences the 2014 MAVRC Annual Business Meeting

(Left) Hart Erickson proudly displays his MAVRC presidential plaque



Denise Rothfork and Judy Wunderlich

Seventh District Reporters at the 2014 MAVRC Annual Fall Convention (L to R): Brenda Vanderveur, Mary Boom, Melissa Keute, Cheryle Doss, Michelle Foley, Kathy Hanson, Judy Wunderlich

MAVRC FALL CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS



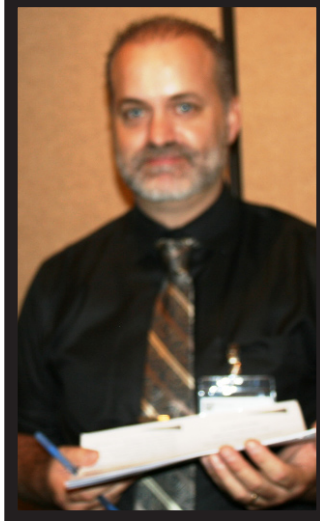
Kathy Hanson, Jolynn Graham and Judy Wunderlich



Hart Erickson and Robin Ritsche



Michelle Foley and Cheryle Doss



Jonathan Wonnell



Jackie Young and Jolene Carrow

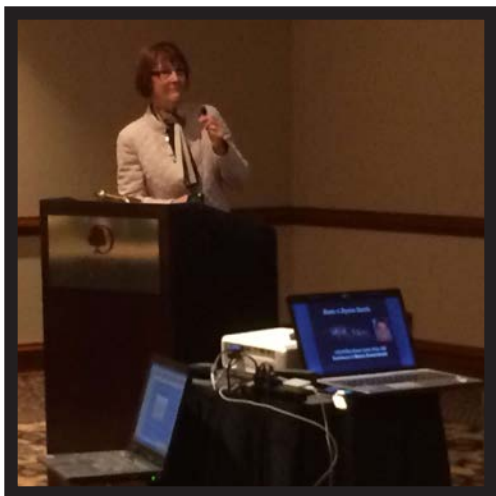


Reporters listening attentively to a speaker at a session of the MAVRC Fall Convention



*MAVRC Treasurer
Melissa Keute
counting money for
the 50/50 raffle*

MAVRC FALL CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS



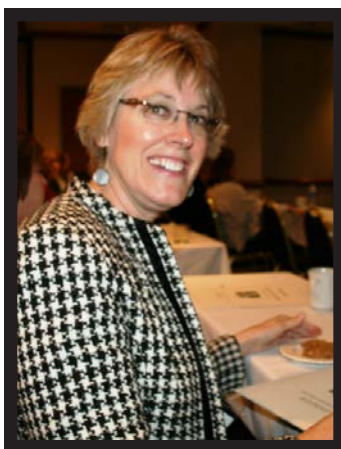
Reporter Michelle Foley introduced speaker Washington County Attorney Peter Orput who prosecuted the Byron Smith murder trial in Little Falls



JoAnn Wahl Siebenaler, Rhonda Franken and Ken Dick



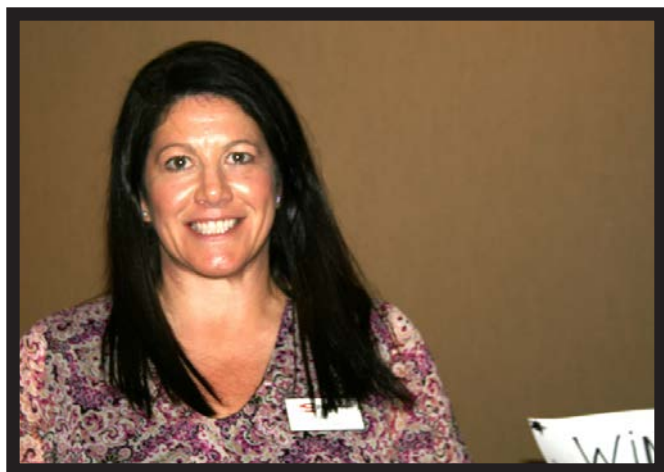
Brenda Vanderveur and Mary Boom



Nancy Utke smiles for the camera!



(Front Row) Michelle Foley, Mary Boom and Rachel Erickson



Stenograph Vendor Karen Wolson



Tracy Bennett presenting MAVRC Outgoing President Hart Erickson with a plaque

SALUTE TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

By Hart Erickson

Katriina Hendrickson **Secretary**

Kat served on the MAVRC Board for two years as secretary. She served as liaison on the membership and public relations committees. She enjoyed working at the seminars, which always gave her renewed energy, making her excited about the court reporting profession. Kat is doing overflow freelance work now, but her main job is taking care of her four little ones at home. She is thankful that her job allows her to do that.



Tracy Bennett **Immediate Past President**

Tracy joined the MAVRC Board in 2010 and held the positions of VP Official, President-Elect, President and Immediate Past President. She was liaison for the auditing, certification and testing, technology, and public relations committees. Tracy is currently an official court reporter for the Honorable Shaun R. Flerke in Duluth, Minnesota, and doing CART for individuals in the court system who require it.

S. Ryan Ziegler **Vice President Official**

Ryan was on the MAVRC Board for one year, serving in the position of Vice President Official. She was also liaison to the official committee and the legislative committee, which was particularly interesting for her. Ryan recently got married, moved to Seattle with her husband, and is working as a freelancer full time for one freelance firm and doing significant overflow work for another freelance firm and absolutely loving it.



MAVRC'S 2014 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

By Jennifer Sati, RMR, CRR, CBC, CCP, CRI

On September 13, 2014, I had the distinct honor of presenting the 2014 MAVRC Distinguished Service Award to Pat Mahon.

One of Pat's distinguishing features comes from his tremendous success in NCRA realtime contests. He has qualified many, many times and has placed fourth and fifth in the literary portion. The competition consists of two five-minute dictations: straight matter at 200 wpm and a two-voice at 225 wpm. Contestants qualify in each with a realtime accuracy rate of 95% or better, and the best combined score among those qualifying in both parts wins the championship. The qualifiers and winners of the contests are announced at the NCRA Annual Convention Awards Ceremony. It is with pride year after year that we hear Pat's name mentioned at the Awards Ceremony! If you have never witnessed an NCRA Awards Ceremony live, put it on your bucket list. It has the feel of the "Oscars" for court reporters!

As a realtime advocate in Minnesota, Pat has been dedicated to mentoring judicial reporting students, promoting realtime in the court system, putting on



*Distinguished Service Award Recipient
Patrick Mahon*



*DSA Committee Member Jennifer Sati
and DSA Recipient Patrick Mahon*

demos for the Minnesota State Bar, and any other opportunity that comes his way.

A significant contribution of Pat's time to the profession has been his willingness to volunteer as chief examiner at the NCRA certification exams. Pat volunteered two to three Saturdays a year for over ten years as a chief examiner. This involves handling arrangements with NCRA, setup before the tests, and administering the tests.

Ron Moen, a close friend of Pat's, stated, "Pat tries very hard to stay out of the spotlight, but he is very deserving of this award." You will not hear Pat talk about his accomplishments and contributions very often. Pat, your state has noticed, and we thank you for your many contributions to the profession! ■

Thanks for Your Support MAVRC'S SILENT AUCTION

A big thank you to everyone who donated items to MAVRC's silent auction
and a big thank you to all who participated!!!
Because of you, MAVRC's silent auction was a success!

ITEM:	DONATED BY:	WINNING BIDDER:
Gourmet Dinner for six	Hart Erickson	Jolene Carrow
Picture Frame with Lottery Tickets	Monica Christensen	Adrienne Conzemius
\$50 Gift Card	Mill City Video	Cheryle Doss
Garden Vegetables	Nancy Utke	Jayne Seward
\$25 Target Gift Card	1 st Judicial District Reporters	Amy Turk
\$25 Target Gift Card	1 st Judicial District Reporters	Nancy Utke
\$25 Target Gift Card	1 st Judicial District Reporters	Nancy Utke
Organic Food Basket	Jackie Young	Jolene Carrow
3x3 Exercise Rings	Carol Danielson	Teresa Schafer
Wine Gift Basket	Paradigm	Teresa Schafer
Planter with Plants/Ornament	Jolynn Graham	Hart Erickson
Minnesota WILD Tickets	Laura Pelletier & Associates	Jolynn Graham
Candle/Amex \$25 Gift Card/Bracelet	Depo International	Jolynn Graham

WINNERS OF MAVRC'S 50/50 RAFFLE

Day 1 – Cheri Anderson
Day 2 – Colleen Maloney

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

Thank you for donating!!!

ITEM:	DONATED BY:	WINNER:
Candy Dish with Chocolates	Jackie Young	Jolene Carrow
Mousepad	MAVRC	Micky Zappa Ken Dick Jessica Berke
Microphone	Jim Weitalla	Tracy Bennett
Chocolates	Jim Weitalla	Mary Jo Brooks Angie Sundell Nan Corbett Norman Mark Jayne Carriker Judy Wunderlich
Flashdrive	Jim Weitalla	Kelly Robinson Vanessa Melstrom Ruth Ann Johnson
\$250 NCRA Membership	NCRA	Emily Lettner
\$99 NCRA Webinar	NCRA	Colleen Maloney
Coffee Mug	MAVRC	Michelle Foley Amy Turk Cheri Anderson Cheryle Doss
Centennial Book	MAVRC	Kristi Artzan Teresa Schafer Valerie Benning
2014 NCRA Captioning T-shirt	Anoka Tech	Nancy Utke Patricia May
Steno case on rollers	Karen Wolson (Stenograph)	Jayne Carriker

DONATIONS TO STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS

Tracy Bennett - \$130 and Jane Schleusner - \$35

NCRA UPDATE

By Nativa Woods, FAPR, RDR, CMRS, NCRA Representative

The following is the update provided by Nativa Woods at MAVRC's 2014 Fall Convention:

“Welcome from President Sarah Nageotte and your NCRA Board of Directors. For those that may not know me, I am Nativa Woods.

We are just a month past a highly successful 2014 Convention and Expo in San Francisco. More than 1,100 court reporters gathered for cutting-edge educational sessions and memorable networking events. Was anyone here fortunate enough to be in San Francisco? Wasn't it a great time? Very rewarding!

This is my opportunity to share with you what's been happening, not only at NCRA, but also within our profession around the country and world, and then we will also be going into some areas specific to Minnesota in which I have been advised are important topics relating directly to you here – effectively a Town Hall Meeting in which we hope to have time at the end to talk amongst each other, answer questions, and more!

I would now like to take a few minutes to tell you about the ways NCRA is working to help shape our future. There is a clear-eyed view of what NCRA has set out to accomplish, and that guide is our five-year strategic plan, which we call Vision 2018. Your NCRA leadership sought membership feedback, and we have crafted a plan that directs our efforts in six key areas: One, awareness and outreach; two, advocacy; three, education; four, professional development; five, resources; and six, member value.



Nativa Wood

First, awareness and outreach. Between February 15-21, 2015, we will celebrate our third annual National Court Reporting & Captioning Week. We need to capture the public's attention long enough to communicate to the world what you and I already know – that court reporting and captioning are alive and well and represent viable and attractive career options for motivated men and women. Our 2014 Court Reporting & Captioning Week was a HUGE success! We received National Congressional recognition, along with declaration in at least 15 states of C&C Week there! For ideas about how you can get involved for 2015, visit www.NCRA.org/awareness.

history and a bright future, and we need to make sure everybody knows that! NCRA continues its outreach efforts by fostering relationships with organizations that matter to our members. We continue to participate in events like the Court Technology Conference, the American Bar Association Tech Show, the National Association of Court Management, and at its recent annual conference, we secured an opportunity to present concerning technology in the courtroom and the stenographic court reporter behind that technology! And this year – for the first time – we attended conferences of the American School Counselors Association and the Hearing Loss Association of America.

We are a profession with a proud

Our goal is to remind the marketplace about the unique value of stenographic realtime reporting in society today. And the key word is “realtime.” It is realtime services that our clients want. Realtime is our stock in trade, it is our core competency, and our ticket to a secure future.

Another key strategic priority is advocacy. A few years ago, NCRA restored its Boot Camp training and program. For those of you that are not familiar with Boot Camp, state leaders from across the country get training and then descend upon the halls of Congress to meet face to face with elected leaders and educate them about issues that are key to our profession. This is important training because most of the legislative support NCRA offers takes place at the state level. NCRA’s government relations team can work closely with Minnesota leaders to make an impact on the issues affecting our profession right here.

Boot Camp will return again in 2016, and in the meantime, NCRA’s Leadership Conference will return in the spring of 2015. Leadership provides our state leaders, current and future, the tools needed in running an effective and thriving association.

And also, if you haven’t read about it at www.TheJCR.com, NCRA’s government relations team had a seat at the table as the FCC crafted quality standards for broadcast captioning. Our presence at the table assured that the interests of stenographic captioners were represented as the FCC made decisions about the quality of broadcast captioning that the American public should expect.

I think we can all agree that one of the most urgent issues today is to get more men and women into court reporting programs and then, within a

reasonable amount of time, graduate them. Court reporter education is a key priority for Vision 2018, and we’re working on it!

In 2012, Immediate Past President Tami Keenan spoke about the Vision for Educational Excellence Task Force, what we have affectionately dubbed “VEETF.” We brought together the most knowledgeable thinkers and educators in our profession to brainstorm the path to a successful future for our shared profession.

We now have significant projects in the works, including our Take Note Campaign. NCRA commissioned an independently produced five-year outlook report to give a snapshot of where the profession is headed. Opportunity abounds for the next generation of court reporters, and NCRA is taking advantage of a once-in-a-generation opportunity to attract more court reporting students into accredited programs. The nationwide publicity and marketing campaign launched officially on September 8. You, too, can play a significant role in this campaign, and I encourage you to visit www.crtakenote.com for more information and to see what you can do to be a part of the excitement that surrounds our profession today.

Likewise, in line with our Take Note campaign, we have in the field an instrumental excellence survey, a survey gauging educational and instructional best practice. Responses will be analyzed and delivered in a format aimed to share best practices to aid in shaping the future of court reporting instruction.

And last, but most certainly not least, arising out of “VEETF,” we are also developing a MOOC. Of course you know that is a Massive Open Online Course. It is an educational channel that will allow NCRA to reach a large

audience of potential court reporting students and showcase the career opportunities we offer. This bold concept will offer educational sessions at a low cost so that young people can take a peek at our profession before making the longer-term commitment to a formal court reporting program.

And also, we continue with our immediate, ongoing support for our court reporting programs across the country by providing advertising resources, launching the newly designed www.careersincourtreporting.com and www.careersincaptioning.com websites, and offering any support we can through our Take Note campaign and otherwise.

In addition, under our Strategic Plan, NCRA has reaffirmed its commitment to provide world-class professional development for its members. At NCRA events, you will get a feel for the comprehensive approach we are taking to continuing education and professional development. Also, if you didn’t attend the convention in San Francisco, visit NCRA’s YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/ncraonline) to view vendor videos taken on the show floor. Exhibitors shared their new releases and product information in these short summary videos aimed to keep the entire membership informed.

Some upcoming events to consider attending are: One, NCRA Firm Owners Executive Conference, February 8 – 10, 2015, at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa, Palm Desert, California; two, NCRA 2015 TechCon, April 10 – 12, 2015, to be immediately followed by NCRA’s 2015 State Leadership Conference, April 13 – 14, 2015, in beautiful Denver, Colorado.

The last two priorities of Vision
(Continued on Page 18)

(Continued from Page 17)

2018 – Membership Value and Resources – cannot be emphasized enough. NCRA is a membership organization. Without its members, or providing services and support to its membership and on behalf of the profession, NCRA would fail to have a valid purpose. As such, NCRA is dedicated to providing our members – each of us – the tools necessary to succeed today and in going forward. What are just a few of these items?

1. The print version of the Journal of Court Reporting (JCR) is always full of great information, but if you prefer to read online, check out www.thejcr.com, our online news source; and the “JCR Weekly” is an online newsletter that arrives each Wednesday morning into your mailbox to catch you up on what is happening within our industry.

2. TRAIN – Taking Realtime Awareness and Innovation Nationwide. This is one resource near and dear to many hearts, and I hope that you have had the privilege of being a part of a TRAIN group here in Minnesota. Reporters helping reporters, TRAIN small-group sessions, there is a wealth of information available on NCRA’s website, as well as the official TRAIN Facebook page to help you improve yourself and improve our profession!

3. Membership itself: There have been some changes in the area of NCRA membership. NCRA has instituted a new membership payment plan where you can pay monthly, \$23 per month for reporters, and only \$6 per month for students. If you have a fellow reporter and/or friend who is not a member due to financial or other concerns, the monthly payment option may make a difference. And also, for past certification holders who wish to rejoin, ask about our revised reinstatement policy. There is true value to being a member of your

national association!

4. HIPAA compliance guidance, which will help you tackle and understand some of the issues surrounding HIPAA and its impact on our profession.

5. Cost Comparison Task Force/ White Paper, which was released this past summer and offers support and statistical information concerning the true comparison costs of ER/DAR and stenographic reporting methods.

6. Firm Owner’s Economic Benchmark Survey, which will soon include an industry survey from

those who use our services, including paralegals, attorneys, and more!

7. Sourcebook redesign, and the August, 2014, release of the 2015 NCRA Sourcebook, which is the premier directory of court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, has been distributed to more than 18,000 NCRA members and other legal professionals. The publication will also be distributed at key outreach events throughout the year, including at the American Bar Association Tech Show and other related events.

8. SAT-style RPR study guide, which is a cutting-edge resource developed



Nativia Wood, NCRA Representative from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, speaks to the reporters at the 2014 MAVRC Annual Fall Convention

to help reporters study for the written knowledge test for the RPR/RMR. Long overdue and ready to assist us in becoming certified!

9. Also, NCRA has a new publication available – Court Reporter Survival Guide: School Success stories. This book is not just for students! The feel-good book contains heartwarming stories from professionals about how they survived the most challenging aspect of the profession – getting through school!

10. And NCRA has heard the request of you – we want on-demand certification testing. Partnering with ProctorU and Realtime Coach, NCRA is proud to launch on-demand skills testing later this year. Technology, combined with live proctors, ensures the propriety of the exam process. The exams are priced to match the demands of the marketplace, as candidates can now pay per leg until they have passed all of the requirements of the certification they are pursuing. Please visit www.ncra.org/testing for more information.

And lastly, let me touch briefly on the National Court Reporters Foundation and all it does for our profession. Much like NCRA's Vision 2018, the Foundation also has newfound direction with its new strategic plan and is focusing its activities on program areas with the explicit goal of supporting NCRA and our entire profession.

The NCRF Board of Trustees has narrowed their focus down to five key areas of interest:

1. PR videos - Promoting the profession through YouTube, one video at a time;
2. Professionalism Institute – Developing and having the tools necessary for reporters to make an

impact;

3. MOOC Support – Once the process begins to develop and market the Massive Open Online Course, the Foundation will allocate financial support toward this endeavor;

4. Career Day in a Box – Based on the Booth in a Box, Career Day in a Box and the C&C Week materials will give the tools necessary to anyone wanting to market our profession at job fairs, college fairs, high schools, and more;

5. And, certainly, a well-known Foundation activity continues under their new strategic plan; that is, the Veteran's History Project and Oral Histories Campaign, including Holocaust survivors, 9-1-1 survivors, and more.

All of the Foundation's activities are made possible through the amazing support of court reporters, and others, who donate their time and money to these great causes. The major fundraising campaign effort since 2005 is recruiting members, and nonmembers, to become NCRF Angels. There is more information available online concerning NCRF's initiatives and support of our profession. It is invaluable!

It is no secret that our profession is "greying" and, as such, that equates to fewer reporters in the workforce and fewer reporters that MAVRC can rely upon for membership and volunteerism. Our national statistics cannot be ignored. In 2007, 31 percent of reporters were age 50 and older. In 2013, according to the Ducker Worldwide Industry Outlook report, 70 percent were age 46 and older. That increase is alarming and real, and it is estimated that 70 percent of our current reporting pool will retire in the next 20 years. Although NCRA and states are

doing everything they can to get more reporters in the field – and are succeeding, as our enrollment and graduation numbers are on the rise – we, those of us in this profession – cannot sit back and wait for change. We cannot rely on others to do things that we must be doing ourselves.

As I begin to wrap up, I want you to ask yourself: What can I do for NCRA and/or MAVRC and our profession as a whole? You're here. That's the first step! Whether it is helping to sponsor a student, volunteering a weekend of your time to help the members, the state association board and/or opening your hearts or your checkbooks, every little bit helps.

Do you have an hour a week? An hour a month? Can you answer a few e-mails? Maybe talk on the phone a couple of times a year? While monetary contributions go a long way, the volunteers behind the scenes truly make NCRA, MAVRC, and our entire profession what it is.

Be involved in your association and our profession. Our future is dependent on each and every one of us in this room here this afternoon, as well as our fellow reporters, captioners, students, teachers, and those who support our profession who could not be with us here today.

Again, thank you so much for your hospitality and allowing me the opportunity to be here with you!"

Nativa Wood is on the NCRA Board of Directors and an official reporter in Pennsylvania. ■



PROFILE OF A BOARD MEMBER

By Sarah Fisher

Hello, everyone! My name is Sarah Fisher, and this will be my second year of serving on the MAVRC Board as the Director-at-Large A (Official). It has been so much fun being able to be a part of such a great group. I have had the opportunity to meet and get to know several great reporters.

As a senior in high school, I had an assignment to do a report on a career that wasn't well known. While doing my research, I came across court reporting and was fascinated by what I had learned about it. At the time I graduated, there weren't any schools in Minnesota that offered a court reporting program, so I pursued a degree in child development. After working for a couple of years in the childcare field, I learned that Anoka Tech had a new program for judicial reporting and registered for the program immediately.

Upon graduating at Anoka Tech, my first job was working with Judge Schluchter in Bemidji, Minnesota. I was with her for a year and a half and really enjoyed the courtroom experience. While living in Bemidji, I tried curling for the first time and even participated in my first bonspiel. It looks a lot easier to curl than it really is! Bemidji is a beautiful part of the state, but it was my desire to live near the Twin Cities again to be closer to family and friends. Taking a temporary position with Judge Spicer in Dakota County was the right opportunity to make that happen. Since Judge Spicer retired this past summer, I have been doing some per diem work in the courts and even



Sarah Fisher and husband Tim Fisher

tried my hand at freelancing, but I am currently searching for a full-time position as an official reporter that will be a good fit.

I married the man of my dreams this summer. Tim and I had an outdoor wedding at his parents' house in Zimmerman and were blessed with the most perfect day. Our honeymoon was spent on the North Shore, which is a beautiful place to be in the summer. We share many of the same hobbies and spend a lot of time doing outdoor activities, including fishing and hunting. I am hoping to shoot a deer with my bow this year! We have

two spoiled dogs (Lab and Springer) and love to take them hiking and camping with us.

Besides fast talkers and mumblers, I don't have any court reporting horror stories to tell. I have been lucky enough to have only good experiences to share. I am looking forward to serving on the Board again this year. ■



MAVRC ADVERTISING

For Sale, For Rent, Need Help!

Interested in placing an ad in MAVRC's *Minne-strokes* newsletter and/or in a News Flash e-mail message to the MAVRC membership?

For just \$50, your ad can be placed in one issue of MAVRC's *Minne-strokes* newsletter, and it also includes a one-time News Flash e-mail message to MAVRC's membership.

Just compose your advertisement and e-mail it to:
jolene.carrow@gmail.com

Payment of your \$50 check can be mailed to:

MAVRC
P.O. Box 375
Marshall, MN 56258

Advertising with MAVRC guarantees communication with your court reporting peers.

WELCOME
NEW MAVRC MEMBERS

Mary Jo Brooks, Official
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**WATCH FOR
INFORMATION
ABOUT THE
MAVRC
SPRING SEMINAR
COMING YOUR
WAY SOON!**

Looking for a Holiday Gift?

Buy a nice sweatshirt and support MAVRC too!

These sweatshirts were a hit at the MAVRC Fall Convention and a few remain for sale.

Order yours now.
Sizes remaining are:
2XL, XL, M and S.

Sweatshirts can be ordered from:
Melissa Keute
melissa.keute@courts.state.mn.us
(320)309-6445

These great quality sweatshirts are \$40 + \$7 for shipping.



Jackie Young and Hart Erickson sporting the MAVRC sweatshirts at the 2014 MAVRC Annual Fall Convention

TRUSTS AND TRUSTEES

By RBC Wealth Management and Scott Kellett

After Actor Philip Seymour Hoffman died, court documents revealed that he didn't want his children to become "trust fund kids." Rather than establishing a trust, he chose to leave his fortune to his girlfriend who is also his children's mother.

The decision to create a trust is a personal one. But, beyond the potential of creating unmotivated children, a trust can be a smart fiscal choice and a way to insure the legacy you built during your life continues after your death.

What is a trust?

A trust is a legal entity authorized by law. There are two basic categories: a living or inter vivos trust is created during your lifetime and a testamentary trust is established after death.

The terms of a trust are many and limited only by your imagination. But, some of the most common reasons to establish a trust are to:

- Dictate specific terms and conditions for the distribution of your wealth
- Plan ahead and ease the burden for loved ones after your death
- Avoid probate
- Reduce estate taxes that could take a significant bite from your financial legacy
- Allow for easier management of cash needs and assets if you become disabled
- Establish continuity of asset management at death

The basics

A *grantor* is the person who establishes and transfers property into the trust. They can also be called a settler or donor.

A *beneficiary* is the person or entity that receives the benefits of the trust.

A *trustee* has an important role. This is the person who manages and administers the trust. They hold a legal but not a beneficial title to the trust assets and have the power over the disposition of the trust property in accordance with the trust agreement.

Role of a trustee

Having a professional trustee is not a legal requirement. But it can be an enormous advantage to those who do not have the time or expertise to successfully manage their own trust. Professional trustees can be used in many different ways and serve many different purposes. But the main responsibility is to give clients peace of mind and excellent service in the management of their trusts.

A trustee acts as a fiduciary for the trust. The role of trustee comes with a multitude of responsibilities. Therefore, trustees should be highly-organized, oriented towards serving others and have a solid understanding of financial basics.

A trustee's main duty is to exercise reasonable care, skill and judgment for the trust. This means they must treat beneficiaries the same without favoring one over the other unless the trust specifies it. This also means investing the trust assets in a conservative manner that will result in reasonable growth with minimum risk unless the trust allows for a less conservative approach.

Trustees cannot use trust assets for their own benefit unless the trust authorizes it. Trust assets must be kept separate from a trustee's personal assets with separate checking and investment accounts. Accurate records must be kept, tax returns filed and reports sent to beneficiaries as the trust requires.

Failure to act as a fiduciary exposes the trustee to a lawsuit from the beneficiaries if they feel the trust was mishandled or they were wronged.

Work with a professional

A financial professional can help determine what kind of trust is right for your situation. You may also want to consider a professional trustee if you don't want to burden a family member with the responsibilities and issues that arise from this role.

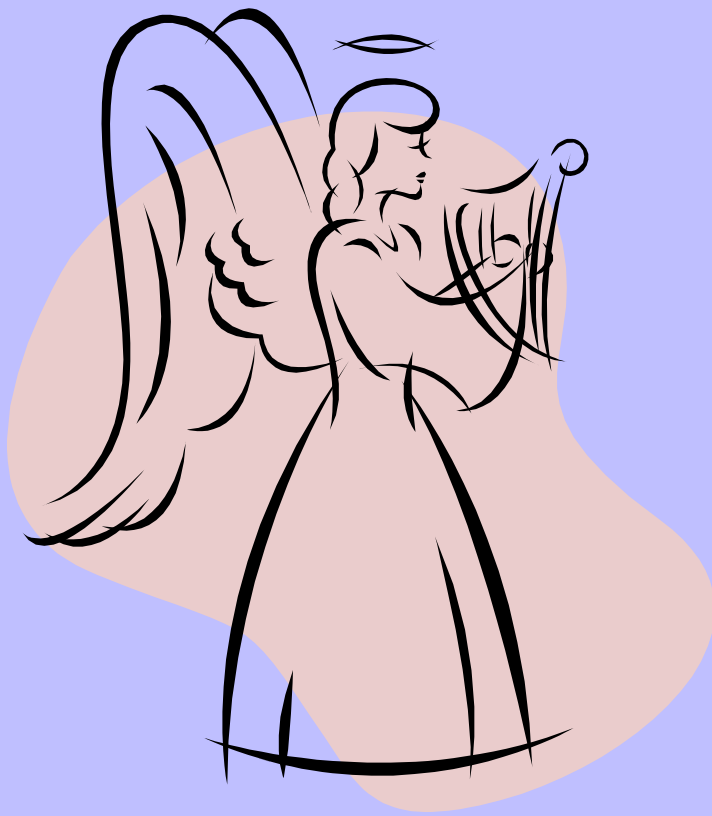
You worked hard to build your wealth and legacy. A trust and responsible trustee will help to protect both after your death.

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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*Become part of
the movement
to create a
positive impact on
the court reporting,
CART, and
captioning professions.*

Consider becoming an Angel today!

Contact:

Jackie Young

rite2jackie@frontiernet.net

WHAT DOES NCRF DO WITH YOUR DONATION?



CELEBRATING OVER 30 YEARS: 1980-2014

While our programs have changed, our mission remains firm!

“The National Court Reporters Foundation supports the reporting and captioning professions through philanthropic activities funded through charitable contributions.”

Adopted by the Board of Trustees November

NCRF CREATES NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2014

In FY 2014, NCRF’s Board of Trustees developed a new strategic priorities directly related to NCRA’s long-range plan, “Vision 2018.” NCRF’s main focus was to create programs and projects that would be of direct benefit to NCRA’s members. NCRF has existing programs as noted below that serve the profession well, but the Board took a look at the future to see what more we can be doing and adopted these top five priorities:

- Create YouTube videos to promote the profession
- Establish a Professionalism Institute
- Provide financial support for NCRA’s Massive Online Open Course project
- Develop “Career Day in a Box” materials
- Be more proactive in getting Veterans History Project Days in law firms

ONGOING PROGRAMS

LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM: The *Legal Education Program* facilitates the education of the legal profession about the role of the court reporter through our court reporter-led seminar to educate law students, attorneys and judges on “Making the Record” and on the value of stenographic reporting and technology. NCRF works diligently to ensure that the legal system understands the benefits of stenographic reporters in the courtroom.

ORAL HISTORIES PROGRAM: The *Oral Histories Program* (OHP) offers a great way to “do good” while also raising awareness of the court reporting profession to the general public. The popular Veterans History Project (VHP) at the U. S. Library of Congress focuses on capturing the poignant oral histories of American wartime veterans. NCRF works with other organizations, including the National Equal Justice Library at Georgetown University, which contains histories of notable professionals who have provided pro bono legal services to the poor; the Center for Public Policy & Social Research at the Central Connecticut State University, an official VHP partner, with a collection of 200 oral histories; the Illinois State Library, which has a collection of histories of WWII veterans from Illinois; and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which provides first-hand oral histories of Holocaust survivors for transcription.

STUDENT INITIATIVES PROGRAM: NCRF’s *Student Initiatives Program* supports prospective court reporters through several scholarships and awards. In addition to the Frank Sarli Scholarship, Student Intern Scholarships (2), and the New Professional Reporter Grant, NCRF also funds student membership in NCRA for those court reporting students who transcribe two oral histories from NCRF’s Oral Histories Program.

CART SERVICES PROGRAM: The *CART Services Program* supports the CART community by providing consumer organizations, such as the Association of Late-Deafened Adults, with a grant for CART providers.

INTERSTENO: Since FY 2010, NCRF has provided funds to support NCRA’s participation in *Intersteno* to ensure that NCRA represents the profession in the global community.

NCRF’s goal is to create programs that become well-known and respected by the constituencies they serve while increasing the positive image of the profession. This is made possible through the amazing support of NCRA members who donate their time and money to these great programs.

072614

NCRF—the foundation for court reporting philanthropy

For more information, contact B. J. Shorak, Deputy Executive Director, at 800/272-6272, ext. 126, or at bjshorak@ncra.org.



NCRF

National
Court Reporters
Foundation

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Celebrating Over 30 Years

1980 2014

2015 NCRF ANGELS DRIVE

Oct. 1, 2014 – Sept. 30, 2015

B. J. Shorak
Deputy Executive Director
National Court Reporters Foundation
8224 Old Courthouse Road
Vienna, VA 22182-3808

Dear B. J.:

I/we have been contacted by _____ regarding the **2015 NCRF Angels Drive** and hereby pledge and commit my/our support to NCRF with a donation of:

___ \$1,000 (minimum pledge amount), ___ \$1,200 ___ \$2,500 ___ Other _____.

*Please indicate frequency of payment below:

• I/We will pay this pledge (within the next 12 months as follows): ___ one payment
___ semi-annually ___ quarterly ___ monthly (credit card only, **\$83.33** for \$1,000
pledge) OR ___ monthly (credit card only, **\$100** for \$1,200 pledge)

• Please process my first payment of \$ _____ as follows (check one):

- ___ Please charge my credit card accordingly (*required for monthly payments).
- ___ Please send me an invoice.
- ___ Payment enclosed.

___ **VISA** ___ **MasterCard** ___ **American Express** ___ **Discover/Novus**
Name: _____ **NCRA ID#:** _____
Account #: _____ **Expiration Date:** ____/____/____
Security Code: _____ **Billing Zip Code:** _____

*Monthly payments will only be accepted if NCRF is authorized to charge your credit card monthly.

My first payment or credit card installment will be the month of: _____.

My/our pledge of support via the Angels Drive may be publicized: ___ Yes ___ No

I'm a returning Angel and will not need another lapel pin _____. Please send a pin _____.

I/We understand that this donation to the National Court Reporters Foundation is tax deductible, as provided by law.

Donor Name(s) _____
(as you wish it to appear)

Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Date: _____

*Note: This is not a reoccurring gift, but must be renewed each year with a new Pledge Letter.

A financial statement is available from the State Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services upon request.

NCRF—the foundation for court reporting philanthropy

8224 Old Courthouse Rd. • Vienna, VA 22182-3808 • Tel: 703-556-6272 • Fax: 703-556-6291
Email: msic@ncra.org • www.ncra.org/ncrf

REPORTER RECIPES

ALMOND BARS

(Submitted by Jan Desautel)

Crust:

½ cup powdered sugar

1 cup margarine

2 cups flour

Mix together, pat in 9x13 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until light brown.

Filling:

8 oz cream cheese

½ cup sugar

2 eggs

1 tsp almond flavoring

Beat together and pour over crust. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

Cool completely before frosting.

Frosting:

¼ cup margarine

1 ½ cup powdered sugar

1 ½ Tbsp milk

1 tsp almond flavoring

Frost and then top with chopped nuts (optional) . These bars are easy and always a hit wherever I take them.

Jan Desautel is an official reporter in Clay County, Seventh Judicial District, Minnesota.



QUICK FUDGE

(Submitted by Ruth Schroeder)

1 can Eagle Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk

1 -12 oz package semisweet chocolate chips

Melt in microwave one minute and stir. If chips aren't melted, microwave an additional 10 seconds only. Immediately stir in 1 cap real vanilla and chopped walnuts.

Have an 8x8 square foil-lined pan ready to fill with fudge mixture. Refrigerate.

Ruth Schroeder is an official reporter in Stearns County, Seventh Judicial District, Minnesota.

Have a favorite recipe you would like to share?

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

Jolene.Carrow@gmail.com

THE RISE OF THE ROBOTS

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

A significant technological revolution is currently underway in America and across the globe. The revolution of robots is guaranteed to impact virtually every aspect of our lives, and the current and future possibilities for robotics seem endless: driverless cars on the roads, surveillance drones, robots in the workplace and military, robotic surgery, and wearable technologies, just to name a few. It appears the “lifestyle of George Jetson” is slowly but surely arriving at our doorsteps.

Robotics is the branch of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and computer science that deals with the design, construction, operation and application of robots as well as computer systems for their control, sensory feedback, and information processing. While robots have been in use to some extent since the middle of the 20th Century, more and more resources are being allocated to automation and artificial intelligence in an effort to achieve greater efficiency, lower costs, perform repetitive tasks, and replace humans in jobs that are physically demanding or hazardous, such as defusing bombs or space exploration.

The first true robot toy, known as the “Lilliput,” (pictured to the right) was produced in Japan in 1932 and was a wind-up toy which walked. The robotic revolution moved at a relatively slow pace until 1954, when the first programmable robot “arm” was developed. That technology was further refined, and eight years later, a similar type of robotic arm became the first industrial robot to be used on an assembly line.



That innovation was accompanied by the first digitally operated and programmable robot, the Unimate, which was installed in 1961 to lift hot pieces of metal from a die casting machine and stack them. No other real major advances in robotics were made until 1994, when Carnegie University created an eight-legged robot known as Dante II that successfully descended into Mt. Spurr to collect volcanic gas samples. While various robotics were used in numerous industries, it was not until the 21st Century began that robotics became a rapidly growing field branching into all aspects of our lives. Nowadays commercial and industrial robots are widespread and are used to perform jobs more cheaply, or more accurately and reliably, than humans.

While some people may be conjuring up all kinds of wild ideas about the “rise of the robots” as depicted in any number of sci-fi movies, as well as voicing their concerns about robots taking over the world in which we live in, that does not appear to be very likely in the next 10 to 20 years. A major change in the way the world operates would need to occur before that ever happens. For example, factories manufacture products that people purchase. If robots were to do all or the majority of the tasks that people once did and people were no longer able to work and earn a wage, unless those businesses elected to provide their product for free, most of the ex-employees, having no way to generate an income, would no longer be able to afford to purchase the products being manufactured. As a result, the factory, along with the robots, would likely go out of business. On the other hand, humans have demonstrated that they are able to adapt to new technology, and it is very likely entirely new types of work will be created in ways we cannot yet imagine.

And to allay my fellow court reporters’ fears, advances in technology have not evolved to the point where we will be replaced by a robot anytime in the near future. Interpreting the continuous flow of sounds coming from a human, in realtime, is a difficult task for a computer. This is due, in part, to the great variability of speech. The same word spoken by the same person may sound different depending on the acoustics, volume of speech, whether or not the speaker has a cold, or speaks with an accent. According to Nuance, the company who developed the Dragon speech recognition software, the best their system can do is recognize continuous, natural speech up to 160 words per minute, but it is not capable of handling more than one voice at a time – much less people interrupting each other or talking faster than 160 words per minute.

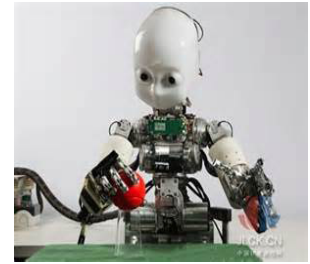
While developing a humanoid robot has long been the focus of mankind’s imagination, developing reliable robots that could exist outside the safety parameters of a factory floor had proven to be very difficult to make for a number of decades but great strides in this field are now being made. The next generation of robots is being designed to look, feel, and act more human. Examples of this include realistic looking hair and skin with embedded sensors that allow robots to react

more naturally in their environment, artificial eyes that move and blink, slight chest movements that simulate breathing, and manmade muscles to change facial expressions.



The Japanese robot (named Chizuko) pictured to the left is so realistic it is difficult to tell that it is not human by looking at her from afar. It was invented by Hiroshi Ishiguro, from the Intelligent Robotics Laboratory, and is being sold in Japan as a small surrogate girlfriend for men and women. It can be purchased everywhere across Japan. Chizuko is friendly, kind, always smiling, and only talks when she is asked a question by her “partner.” “She” sells for around \$50,000.

Another promising humanoid is known as the iCub, which was developed at IIT as part of the European Union project RobotCub, and has been adopted by more than 20 laboratories worldwide. The iCub has 53 motors that move the head, arms and hands, waist, and legs. It can see and hear, it has the sense of proprioception (body configuration) and movement. No longer is it outside the realm of possibility that a robot will someday be able to think and learn like a human. Decades of scientific research into cognitive psychology and the brain have given mankind knowledge about language, memory, motor skills and perception – all of which are now starting to be utilized and incorporated into artificial intelligence.



The latest version of the iCub, soon to be released, is projected to blur the lines between robot and human given its sophisticated motor skills, sense skills, and the ability to sense the position of its arms and body in space, which in turn allow it to crawl on all fours, grasp and manipulate balls and other objects, and turn its head so as to follow gestures or direct its gaze. One of the more unique features of the robot is that it has not been programmed to perform a specific set of actions or tasks, but rather it acquires skills naturally, such as a two-year-old does, by using its body to explore the world and gather data about its relation to objects and people. It will even be able to learn words and skills and develop cooperative strategies with humans. If you are interested in owning one, the cost is a quarter of a million Euros.

Then there’s Simon, an upper-torso humanoid robot with a “socially expressive” head. Simon can grasp and release objects, clean up a workspace, and swivel its eyes so as to interact with humans in ways that feel emotionally and socially authentic. In tests, using only his cameras as a guide, Simon could tell with close to 80 percent accuracy whether someone was paying attention or ignoring him.

In the medical field, the development of robotics has led to a number of stunning achievements in the field of prosthetics. Some examples of these include microprocessor knees and myoelectric prostheses. Microprocessors are mini computers embedded into the limbs that help the wearer with control over different types of movements. The microprocessor also controls fluid within the knees that helps with joint resistance, making for more natural looking strides and movements. Myoelectric prostheses are controlled by muscle sensors placed under the skin. These sensors interact with electrical signals generated by the muscles in the area of the amputation and allows for control of very fine movements of the hands and fingers.

Other ways robotics is being incorporated into the medical field are through what are known as “servicing robots.” These types of robots are being developed to separate pharmaceuticals or dispense pills and simulate clinical scenarios for training and practice. “Monitoring robots” are used to monitor and sometimes even treat illnesses in or on the human body; although, more research needs to be done due to the required sophistication of their applications. In theory, the “robots” can be implanted or swallowed to track someone’s health within their body, or they can be placed on the skin to monitor vitals and environmental conditions.

Research is also being done on developing what are referred to as “swarm robots,” which have the capability to congregate and perform functions as a group. This kind of robot has been used in situations such as oil spills, where they congregate and clean up the affected areas. They are now being considered for use in combating and surrounding human viruses.

(Continued on Page 30)

(Continued from Page 29)

Surgeries being partially performed by a robot are also now a reality. The da Vinci robotic system (on the right) is able to perform minimally invasive surgeries by allowing the operator to program in extremely small incisions, which then allows surgeons to perform complex procedures such as open-heart surgery or removal of both cancerous and non-cancerous tumors anywhere in the body through microsurgery. These advances result in shorter surgeries, shorter hospital stays, and better patient prognoses. For the most part, however, these medical robotics appear to be more like high-tech instruments than robo-surgeons.



The other major breakthrough in the medical field as a result of robotics is the development of the exoskeleton. Started as a project for the military, the exoskeleton has been transformed from a device designed to allow soldiers to lift heavy loads and walk further to a device that enables people with disabilities to step out of wheelchairs and stand upright. Exoskeletons have had an immediate, life-changing impact on people with spinal cord injuries.

Given the numerous advances being made in this field, it is virtually impossible to describe in one article all the different types of robotics that have come about in just the past few years, but this hopefully has given you a glimpse into this evolving technology. Robots have already transformed our world even though we are just in the beginning stages of what we can expect to see years down the road. As you can imagine, the possibilities are nearly endless for how this once sci-fi technology will impact our lives now and into the future. Whether that change is positive or negative is up to us as individuals and as a society, but in the meantime, we should remember that no technology will ever replace the *genuine* love, thoughtfulness, creativity or intelligence of a human being.

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

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MAVRC'S TRIVIA CHALLENGE



MAVRC's Trivia Challenge



The first person to answer the following trivia question correctly will win
*** A \$25 CERTIFICATE ***
redeemable towards MAVRC's 2015 Spring Seminar or 2015 Fall Convention.

Guess who?



The first person to submit the correct names of the people in the photograph to Jackie Young at rite2jackie@frontiernet.net will be this issue's lucky winner!

Test Your Knowledge

(As you will notice, there is a theme to this issue's knowledge test)

1. Name the first president of the MN Shorthand Reporters Association.
2. Name the first president of the MN Court Reporters Association.
3. Name the first president of the MN Freelance Court Reporters Association.
4. Name the first president of the MN Association of Verbatim Reporters & Captioners.

(Answers can be found on Page 47)



COURT REPORTING STUDENT PROFILE

By Tammy Mathwig

Name: Tammy Mathwig

School: Anoka Technical College

Speed: 200 WPM

Hometown: Oak Grove, Minnesota

Tell us a little about yourself. I am married with two kids, three if you count my dog. I do part-time scoping work for a job. My family is heavily involved in dirt biking and we do that often. We also do quite a bit of camping.

What made you decide to pursue a career in court reporting? I wanted to go to school to do something during the second half of my adult life. I checked into court reporting and felt it was right up my alley. I thought it was something I would enjoy and be good at.

What area of reporting interests you the most at this time- official, freelance, or captioning/CART? I am most interested in freelance court reporting. I like the idea of the flexibility and ability to work as much or as little as you want to.

What's been the most challenging or rewarding part of your schooling thus far? The most rewarding part of schooling is seeing myself overcome obstacles and being able to thrive in certain situations. The most challenging part by far is speed building. This is something that I have struggled with throughout all of my speeds. I just need to try to be patient and realize I will get there in the time that I'm meant to get there.

Do you know any working reporters or anyone that's been an influence to you? A couple of the reporters I scope for are a positive influence. I have seen their writing get better over time, and I have a great respect for how accurate their writing can be and their ability to keep up when things get rough. Also, my mentor, Merilee, is a great influence to me. She is so involved in the profession and so enthusiastic. The enthusiasm really rubs off on me when I talk to her. All of the ATC teachers are also amazing. They have all thrived in the profession and are incredibly helpful and encouraging.

If you had an hour of free time, what would you be doing (besides practicing on your steno)? I would spend it with my family either camping or watching a movie on family movie night.

What is your favorite band or type of music? My absolute favorite musical artist is Pink.

What is your favorite food or restaurant? Mexican food.

Where is a place you would like to visit? Any place on a cruise ship. I love a cruise.

The last book you read? Janet Evanovich, Takedown Twenty. ■



Tammy Mathwig

WILLARD I. BRAUN'S OUTSTANDING STUDENT-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD

By Jane Schleusner, RMR, CRI

The Willard I. Braun Outstanding Student-of-the-Year Award was established in 1983 by the Minnesota Shorthand Reporters Association in honor of Willard Braun's outstanding contributions to the development of excellence in court reporting education. Willard Braun was cofounder of the Northern Technical School of Business and was one of the pioneers in utilizing CAT technology.

The Willard I. Braun Student-of-the-Year Award recognizes one outstanding court-reporting student in the state of Minnesota who has excelled both academically and in machine skills. The student's attitude, deportment, motivation, self-discipline, attendance, punctuality, and quality of work are all taken into consideration.

This year Brittany Blesener was chosen to receive MAVRC's Outstanding Student-of-the-Year Award based on her charming personality, her tremendous work ethic, and her obvious love for our

profession. Brittany has been a great student in every way. She is a wonderful friend and mentor to the other students and she consistently shows her dedication to her goal of being a professional court reporter.

Brittany has nearly completed her education. She is weeks away from graduation. She will be sorely missed by everyone at school. However, we wish her nothing but the very best in her future and in her career.



Brittany Blesener



*(L to R) Jennifer Sati,
Brittany Blesener, Nativa
Wood*

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE

By Shambrie Kiene

Shambrie Kiene

I am very excited to be graduated and starting my court reporting career. I do not have a preference as to the type of reporting I'd like to do, so I have applied for official positions as well as freelance positions. I have had a couple of interviews and am hoping to hear back next week. I could not have gotten



to this point without the excellent instruction of my court reporting teachers at Anoka Technical College. Because of the program and instructors, I will have a rewarding career for the rest of my life. ■



PRO BONO GUIDELINES

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF VERBATIM REPORTERS & CAPTIONERS

PRO BONO GUIDELINES

Members of MAVRC, subject to availability, will provide pro bono services as follows:

- Service provided only if attorney is providing pro bono service
- No charge for two hours of appearance fee in one sitting
- No charge for first 75 pages of transcript in one sitting
- After 75 pages, the job can be billed at the reporter's regular rates
- Two to three week delivery time will be provided
- Expedited jobs must have advance notice
- Depositions only
- 24-hour cancellation policy
- Expenses to be paid by attorney (i.e., postage, exhibits, parking, etc.)
- Opposing counsel will be charged the reporter's copy rates
- Limit of two pro bono depositions per case

MAVRC PRO BONO REQUESTS MUST BE MADE THROUGH LOCAL VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS PROGRAM COORDINATORS.

PRO BONO COORDINATOR: Jean Whalen
Phone: (651) 266-5170
jean.whalen@courts.state.mn.us

MAVRC BOARD LIAISON: Carolyn Pekas
Phone: (651) 739-1052
Carolyn@catsreporting.com

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF VERBATIM REPORTERS & CAPTIONERS

Pro Bono Guidelines for CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation)

CART is a service that provides Deaf or hard-of-hearing people with realtime transcription of live speech.

Members of MAVRC, subject to availability, will provide pro bono CART services as follows:

- Service may be provided for the following events: employment meetings, job interviews, doctor appointments, depositions, court hearings/trials, jury service. Any other events must be first approved by the Pro Bono Coordinator.
- No charge for two hours of CART appearance fee. Thereafter, appearance fee will be billed at market rate to the referring attorney.
- Rough draft CART file will only be provided upon the approval of the appropriate parties, which may include the CART provider, scheduling party, and event coordinator.
- Upon approval, the consumer ONLY will be provided the first two hours of rough draft CART file at no charge. Thereafter, page rates will be billed at market rate to the referring agency.
- 24-hour cancellation policy. If the service is cancelled with less than 24 hours' notice, the referring agency will be billed one hour's appearance fee.
- Expenses will be paid by the referring agency. Expenses may include, but are not limited to, mileage, postage, equipment rental, etc.
- Limit of two pro bono assignments per year per consumer.

Captioning is NOT included in this program.

All MAVRC pro bono requests must be made through the program coordinator.

PRO BONO COORDINATOR:

Lisa Richardson

Phone: (763) 535-5782

lisarichardson@paradigmreporting.com

MAVRC BOARD LIAISON:

Carolyn Pekas

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VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT AT ANOKA TECH

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

November 11 is the traditional day for people across the United States to honor and cherish the memory of all those who have stepped forward to defend our country and protect our freedoms. While only one day of the year is dedicated solely to honoring our veterans, throughout the rest of the year, Americans should not forget the sacrifices that many of our fellow countrymen have made to defend our country and protect our freedoms. Veterans are the heroes and the people who gave up so much to keep us free here at home and abroad. Their sacrifices over the years have helped make America the world's greatest hope for democracy, freedom, and equality.

Understanding the importance of preserving veterans' wartime experiences for future generations, the National Court Reporters Foundation and the National Court Reporters Association first partnered with the United States Library of Congress in 2003 to help ensure their untold sacrifices would never be forgotten through the creation of the Veterans' History Project. This program was expanded in 2007 through the 1,000 Voices Initiative, which brought the project to the public by asking them

to interview any veteran they might know and submit those recordings to the Library of Congress.

As part of this effort, members of MAVRC once again had the privilege of being able to participate with judicial reporting students from Anoka Technical College in preserving a number of veterans' wartime experiences for the United States Library of Congress. Anoka Tech has graciously coordinated this event since 2008. This year's event was held at the Chandler Place Assisted Living Center in St. Anthony, with 18 veterans from World War II and the Korean War sharing their courageous and inspiring stories.

Many thanks go to Instructors Jennifer Sati, Deb Longley, and Jane Schleusner for coordinating the event, as well as the numerous students who interviewed the veterans and helped make this event a great success. MAVRC would also like to thank the following reporters for donating their time in reporting and transcribing the veterans' stories: Sherlyn Anderson, Carla Bebault, Jessica Berke, Rebekah Bishop, Adrienne Conzemius, Hart Erickson, Rachel Erickson, Peggy Etchison, Jolynn Graham, Janell

Gruber, RandiAnn Harvey, Julie McArdle, Debbie Peterson, Rhonda Route, Heather Schuetz, and Jackie Young.

Untold veterans have defended America through both the best and worst of times, often with little to no recognition or fanfare. While mere words can never adequately express the eternal debt we owe to all of those who courageously stood in defense of our liberties, a heartfelt thank you is owed to all those soldiers who have stood guard in peacetime and all those soldiers who witnessed firsthand the horror, inhumanity, and indescribable suffering of war. May we always be humbly grateful to the veterans who chose to set aside their personal ambitions and dreams to help protect the freedoms we all enjoy today. A veteran is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of his/her life's best years in the service of their country and who sacrificed their own ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

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



*Students (L-R) Rebekah Bishop (recent graduate), Jennifer Peterson, Brittany Blesener, Kimberly Morey, Elisa Kukuk, and Megan Stahlberg
Winter 2014*



Emil and Helen Carlson. Emil served in World War II in the Navy and had the privilege of meeting President Truman while working at the Pentagon.



Jennifer Sati, Philip Thompson, and Sue Thompson (Jennifer's dad and stepmother)



(Left) Scott Bixby, Deb Longley's brother, entertained the crowd with his accordion-playing skills.



Above: L-R: Jessica Berke and RandiAnn Harvey



L-R: Carla Bebault and Peggy Etchison volunteered their time to help report some of the veterans' stories.



Sherlyn Anderson



(L-R) Jerome Kerber and Rhonda Route



“It is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag,
who allows the protestor to burn the flag.”

Father Dennis Edward O'Brien, U.S.M.C.

TRIBUTE TO LAVONNE RICHARDS

By Laura Johnson

LaVonne Janice Richards from Georgetown, Minnesota, age 57, passed away surrounded by her loved ones on Monday, November 10, 2014, from an unexpected head injury, at Sanford Health, Fargo, North Dakota.

LaVonne was born to Cecil and Janice (Sonnenberg) Poss on January 18, 1957, in Perham, Minnesota. She graduated from Pelican Rapids High School in 1974. She continued her education at St. Cloud Business College and graduated with a degree in court reporting. After graduation she worked as a court reporter in Wadena, Minnesota; Bellingham, Washington; Fargo, North Dakota; and Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

She married Gene Houts in 1984, and had three beautiful children. Later she married Mark Richards in 1997, welcoming his three children as her own. In 2012, she was blessed with three grandchildren and two more in 2014. Her grandchildren and her family meant the world to her.

LaVonne loved to spend time at different lakes, boating, flower gardening, reading, and bird watching. She was always helping others in addition to taking care of her grandchildren and enjoying friends and family. She was a woman of strong faith and prayer. As a breast cancer survivor, LaVonne was very active in raising awareness to help save others.

She is survived by her mother, Janice Poss; her husband, Mark Richards; her children, Andrea (Nick) Marts, Bryan Houts, Lyndsey

(Nicholas) Hays; her stepchildren, Lacey Richards, Gary (Katie) Richards, and Shelby Richards; her grandchildren, Raelynn Richards, Shepherd Hays, Marley Marts, Vincent Marts, and Stella Richards.

came to Detroit Lakes in 2007 to work for Judge Jack Pearson. Judge Pearson's court reporter, Jenny Ogaard (now with Judge O'Fallon of Anoka County) got married and moved to Plymouth, Minnesota. I didn't know



LaVonne Richards

LaVonne was preceded in death by her grandparents; her father, Cecil Poss; her brother, Jerry Poss; her sister-in-law, Diane Poss; and her beloved dog, Jack. Burial is at the Wild Rose Cemetery, Georgetown, Minnesota.

Over her career, LaVonne earned the RPR and CRR certifications. She

LaVonne before she came to Becker County, but it didn't take long at all and LaVonne and I started to become more than just colleagues. Over the years, she became one of my closest friends.

In 2008, while wintering in Texas, LaVonne's dad became very ill. On

December 10th, he was diagnosed with cancer. LaVonne flew to Texas that very day to be with her mom and dad. Cecil Poss passed away on December 25th.

During her short time in Texas, LaVonne discovered a lump in her breast. In January of 2009, while in my office, LaVonne got the call from her doctor with her test results. She heard the words that no one ever wants to hear. The lump was malignant. She had breast cancer. We cried together for a long time, hugging and praying. I took her home for the day as she wasn't able to drive.

LaVonne did work some during her cancer treatments, but for the most part, the treatment just took too much out of her. But, she eventually beat cancer's butt! Unfortunately, the lumpectomy was not without its complications and lasting effects. Some lymph nodes were taken

from LaVonne's armpit, resulting in a painful and lasting lymphedema. LaVonne also was diagnosed with thyroid cancer a couple of years later. The surgery to remove the thyroid was successful but left her with a paralyzed vocal cord. A year later, surgery at St. Mary's in Rochester restored her voice.

LaVonne was a very outgoing and friendly person. She had over 850 friends on Facebook. She loved being a grandma and spoke of her grandkids frequently, but she never sounded to me like she was bragging about them. She spent most of her summers at her lake place on Lake Crystal in Otter Tail County. She enjoyed fishing with her husband, Mark. LaVonne was also an avid advocate for fighting breast cancer.

On November 10th, LaVonne was participating in the "Rack Attack," which is a fundraiser for breast cancer. While leaving the club, she

told her daughter she wanted to take a picture of the wall. It was at that time that LaVonne fell down an adjacent stairway, suffering a traumatic brain injury. She never regained consciousness. She was kept on life support to allow for her family to come and say goodbye.

LaVonne and I would enjoy "sleepovers" and seldom went to bed before 3:00 a.m. We would have cocktails, cook, have campfires, and never stopped talking. Best of all, every time we parted, LaVonne gave me a hug goodbye. It was a long, tight hug, every time. It was a hug that told me, "You're important to me. I treasure your friendship." And she always said she loved me. And I loved her. I will miss her hugs. I will miss my friend. Heaven is an even brighter place with LaVonne in it.

Laura Johnson is an official reporter in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. ■



LaVonne Richards (center) with friends at the Rack Attack fundraiser for breast cancer

MARY BOOM RETIRES AFTER 37 YEARS OF REPORTING

By Linda Schwenzfeier, RDR

If you're looking for Mary Boom these days, you'd better check on a paddle board in the Florida Gulf. Mary retired as an official court reporter on October 24, 2014, and starts her new life as a snowbird very soon.

Mary graduated from Cathedral High School in St. Cloud in 1975 and

She remembers Instructor Patti (Anderson) Solien telling the class on the first day of school, "One of you in this class will graduate." Not only did she graduate, Mary was "one of those" students who completed school in seven quarters. She then headed to Hawaii for her first court reporting job.

abilities and credentials - plus she liked the initials after her name. Her achievements are impressive: RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CCP, and CBC.

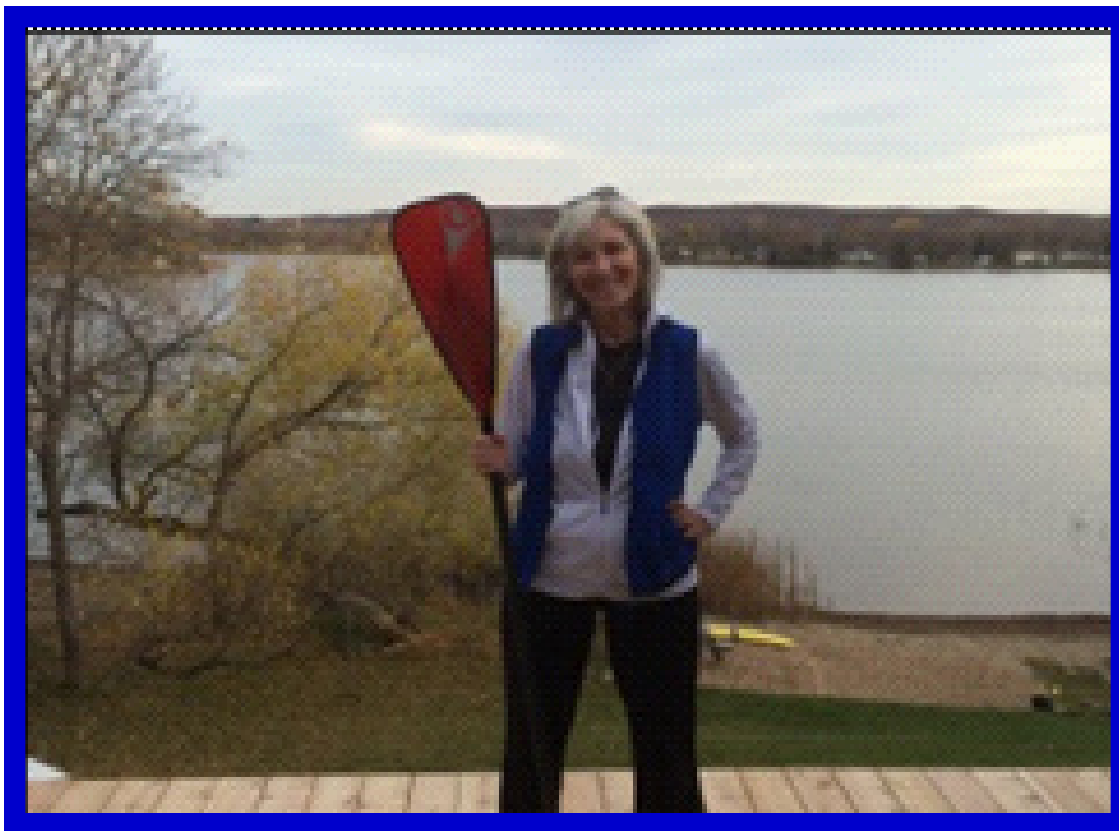
Mary reported a wide variety of cases over the years, but two cases are especially memorable. She

reported the Jason MacLennan trial, which was a murder trial where a son conspired to murder his father, who was the CEO of Creative Memories in St. Cloud. The judge changed venue, and the case was tried in Duluth for six weeks. The son alleged he was a victim of child abuse by his father. The son was convicted of first-degree murder.

The recent, highly publicized case of Byron Smith in Morrison County is another of Mary's memorable cases. The case made front-page news across the nation for Smith's killing of two teenagers who

entered his home on Thanksgiving Day, 2012. Mary says it "was frightening and very horrible," to listen to the testimony, especially hearing about the high-tech equipment the defendant had used during the event, including the audio recording of the killings. The defendant was convicted of first-degree murder of each teenager, and the case is currently under appeal.

So how is Mary going to carry on in retirement? She says she will



Mary Boom ready for retirement fun

started the court reporting program at St. Cloud Business College two weeks later.

When asked why she went into court reporting, Mary replied, "I wanted a career that would pay well with two years or less of schooling." She also considered being a dental hygienist, but "I was afraid of dentists. I wasn't afraid of lawyers and judges." She figured if she didn't make it in court reporting, she could always be a legal secretary.

Mary married Bill Boom in 1976 (they just celebrated their 38th anniversary in September) and returned to Central Minnesota. Mary freelanced and taught court reporting at the St. Cloud Business College while having babies - four of them: Shawn, Andrew, Josie, and Megan.

In 1982, Mary became an official reporter and worked for five judges throughout her career. Mary always challenged herself to increase her



Bill and Mary Boom with eight of their ten grandchildren.

definitely miss the intelligent and interesting people she worked with. She always has enjoyed writing on a steno machine, but she is hoping to have fun in retirement without her machine. (Though she is leaving her options open to do some writing in retirement.)

Mary and husband Bill are planning to be snowbirds in Florida for three months this winter. They also plan to spend lots of time with their ten grandchildren, ages six months to ten years, when back in Minnesota. We wish Mary and her family the best of

everything as she ventures off into this next phase of her life.

Linda Schwenzfeier is an official reporter in St. Cloud, Minnesota. ■

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE - PATTY MCLEAN

MAVRC would like to thank Patty McLean for her service on the Publications Committee.

Patty initially joined the committee in the winter of 2007 but has recently resigned due to other commitments.

Her excellent proofreading skills and dedication to helping gather articles for MINNE-strokes will be sorely missed.



Patty McLean





MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF
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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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**TRIVIA QUESTION
ANSWERS:**

See Page 31 for the Trivia Quiz.

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31 Have you renewed your
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15-21 National Court Reporting &
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April NCRA Tech Con

10-12 The Curtis, A Doubletree Hotel by Hilton
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13-14 NCRA Leadership Conference
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