

# **MINNE-***strokes*

Minnesota Court Reporters: On and Off the Record

WINTER 2017 VOLUME 20 NUMBER 4

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

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I am so very grateful for the opportunity to serve as the president of MAVRC for the 2017-2018 term and I thank you for the trust you've given me to help lead our Association. It's been ten years since I've served as president and I look forward to partnering with the Board and our membership to tackle current issues and to serve in whatever ways I can as president.

As most of you know, I am a freelance court reporter. I am married and have three children. My oldest child was born in April of 1987. I was 20 years old at the time he was born and still in reporting school. To say I was financially poor would be an understatement. I have a vivid memory of taking Ryan to Toys "R" Us and walking the aisles looking at all the things I'd be able to buy once I graduated and started working and had an actual paycheck that wasn't minimum wage, which at the time was \$3.35 an hour. I remember leaving Toys "R" Us, going back to my tiny apartment and putting him down for a nap and feverishly practicing. It was my motivation. I finished school that December and took my very first deposition in December of 1987

I still marvel when I think about the fact I've been a freelance court reporter for three decades. And in those three decades, there have been very few things about this profession that have stayed the same. The keyboard of the machine has stayed the same, but the machines themselves have morphed from being manual to using data cassettes to using disks to using cables to being wireless.



#### By Sandy Burch, RPR, CRR



Sandy Burch

Transcript production has gone from dictating and typing your transcripts to using software to edit and transcribe to using software to provide real-time feeds to clients. Production times have gone from weeks down to days. And the transcripts themselves are still being printed but are now expected to be electronic.

While I have 30 years of experience, I recognize that there are always things that change and there is always something to learn and areas to improve. There are times when other reporters ask for my help, and yet, I am very aware of the fact that there are reporters who have outstanding skills that amaze me and make me want to work harder to be a better reporter.

As 2018 approaches, there will be ongoing struggles within our profession

(*Continued on page 2*)

#### 2017-2018 MAVRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Sandy Burch (952) 440-3886 sburch@integritycr.com
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Rachel Erickson (320) 469-0642 rachel.c.erickson@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT-OFFICIAL	Lynne Krenz (651) 430-4428 Lynne.Krenz@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT-FREELANCE	Brandi Bigalke (612) 708-2650 <u>brandibigalke@yahoo.com</u>
SECRETARY	Dana Anderson-Linnell (763) 391-7373 danaverbatim@comcast.net
TREASURER	Denise Rothfork (320) 310-1709 rothforkrptg@aol.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE A	Jolynn Graham (763) 493-4478 jgreporting@comcast.net
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE A	Darla Mustar (218) 259-7553 ddmustar@yahoo.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE B	Merilee Johnson (952) 944-1848 msjreporter@outlook.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE B	Leslie Carver (763) 682-7557 <u>lesliefeakcarver@gmail.com</u>
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Sharon Steinbrecher (763) 323-5931 <u>ss.prc@hotmail.com</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Jolene Carrow (507) 532-0676 www.mavrc.org jcarrow_mavrc@hotmail.com

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that we will need to deal with and MAVRC will continue to be at the forefront. Your membership dues are critical in continuing this work. The Board continues to be very responsible and diligent in how we spend your money. We will continue to retain the services of Joel Carlson, our lobbyist. We will continue to retain the services of Jolene Carrow, our administrative assistant. We will continue to schedule dynamic and relevant speakers for our spring seminar and fall convention.

MAVRC will be continuing its work recruiting new MAVRC members, implementing the new A to Z program initiated by NCRA to recruit new court reporting students, working on doing more with our social media, continuing to work regarding the issues with Judicial Council and their desire to consider "alternative methods of maintaining the court record." These are just a few of the things we are working on.

So, as 2017 comes to a close and we look forward to a new year, please be sure to send in your dues, if you haven't already, and please consider getting involved with MAVRC.

Happy Holidays, and I wish you all the best in 2018!

Sandy Burch, RPR, CRR

### **RENEW YOUR 2018 MAVRC MEMBERSHIP**

Have you renewed your MAVRC membership for 2018? Renewal forms are due by December 31, 2017, if you wish to take advantage of a \$20 discount in membership dues.

Please take the time to fill out the 2018 membership renewal 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 database.

If you need a membership renewal form, the form is now available online on the MAVRC website, <u>www.mavrc.org</u>, or you can contact Administrative Assistant Jolene Carrow at (507) 532-0676. MAVRC

#### By Jolene Carrow

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, 2017, you will take advantage of the full member benefits.

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



## WELCOME

**NEW MAVRC MEMBERS** 

Marcia Welch, Freelance Alexandria, MN

Lynzie Zempel, Official St. Paul, MN

Kaitlin Arvanitis, Student Brooklyn Park, MN Tasha Daniels, Student Robbinsdale, MN

Crystal Joos, Studdent Hamburg, MN

Katrina Mayes, Student Eagan, MN

Amanda Leitzke, Student Minneapolis, MN Nicole Olson, Student Long Lake, MN

Valerie Riske, Student Rogers, MN

Erin Watson, Student Minneapolis, MN

### 2017-2018 MAVRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following stenographic reporters were elected as directors and officers to the MAVRC Board of Directors for 2017 - 2018:



(L to R) Leslie Carver, Director at Large B (Official); Lynne Krenz, Vice President - Official; Dana Anderson-Linnell, Secretary; Sharon Steinbrecher, Immediate Past President; Merilee Johnson, Director-at-Large B (Freelance); Sandy Burch, President; Brandi Bigalke, Vice President - Freelance; Jolynn Graham, Director-at-Large A (Freelance); and Denise Rothfork, Treasurer. Missing from picture are Rachel Erickson, President-Elect; and Darla Mustar, Director-at-Large A (Official).

President Sandy Burch 952-440-3886 sburch@integritycr.com

Vice President-Freelance Brandi Bigalke 612-708-2650 brandibigalke@yahoo.com

Secretary Dana Anderson-Linnell 763-391-7373 danaverbatim@comcast.net

Director-at-Large B (Official) Leslie Carver 763-682-7557 lesliefeakcarver@gmail.com President-Elect Rachel Erickson 320-469-0642 rachel.c.erickson@gmail.com

Vice President-Official Lynne Krenz 651-430-4428 lynne.krenz@gmail.com

Director-at-Large A (Official) Darla Delich Mustar 218-259-7553 ddmustar@yahoo.com

Director-at-Large B (Freelance) Merilee Johnson 952-944-1848 msjreporter@outlook.com Immediate Past President Sharon Steinbrecher 763-323-5931 ss.prc@hotmail.com

Treasurer Denise Rothfork 320-310-1709 rothforkrptg@aol.com

Director-at-Large A (Freelance) Jolynn Graham 763-493-4478 jgreporting@comcast.net\_

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www.mavrc.org

Winter 2017

### **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: Sandy Burch sburch@integritycr.com Works with the treasurer in reviewing the financial records of the Association.

CAREER ADVANCEMENT Board Liaison: Rachel Erickson rachel.c.erickson@gmail.com Assists in the coordination and facilitation of the various NCRA certifications.

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**Board Liaison: Lynne Krenz lynne.krenz@gmail.com** Helps plan educational seminars and/or educational opportunities for reporters and students.

**FREELANCE COMMITTEE** 

**Board Liaison: Brandi Bigalke brandibigalke@yahoo.com** Deals with issues affecting court reporters in the freelance field.

LEGISLATIVE/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS Board Liaison: Sharon Steinbrecher ss.prc@hotmail.com

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

OFFICIAL COMMITTEE Board Liaison: Lynne Krenz lynne.krenz@gmail.com Deals with issues affecting official court reporters.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE Board Liaison: Leslie Carver lesliefeakcarver@gmail.com Prepares and issues the official publication of the Association.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS/SCHOOL LIAISON Board Liaisons: Rachel Erickson rachel.c.erickson@gmail.com Assists with student internships and administers a mentoring program.

#### **CART/CLOSED CAPTIONING**

**Board Liaison: Sharon Steinbrecher ss.prc@hotmail.com** Handles issues affecting CART providers and broadcast captioners.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS Board Liaison: Sandy Burch sburch@integritycr.com Reviews and suggests necessary changes to the bylaws of the Association.

#### **ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**Board Liaison: Lynne Krenz lynne.krenz@gmail.com** Helps promote and monitors ethics among court reporters.

#### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

**Board Liaison: Denise Rothfork** rothforkrptg@aol.com Helps raise funds for the Association.

#### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Board Liaison: Jolynn Graham jgreporting@comcast.net** Works to increase the membership of the Association and assists in developing an annual membership directory.

PRO BONO COMMITTEE Board Liaison: Jolynn Graham jgreporting@comcast.net Facilitates court reporting services to low-income people..

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** 

**Board Liaison: Sandy Burch sburch@integritycr.com** Represents MAVRC in forming relations with legal associations to further the interests of the Association.

#### **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**Board Liaison: Merilee Johnson msjreporter@outlook.com** Stays abreast of technological advances in the court reporting field.

### SALUTE TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

## **Danna Frazier Nelson**

Saying good-bye to Danna Frazier Nelson

We were lucky to have Danna serve on the board for the last two years as Director-at-Large (Official). She did a great job preparing a database for all the high schools in the state for our Career Advancement Committee to use going forward to recruit future students into the court reporting and captioning career.

Danna graduated from Rasmussen Business College in January, 1991, and went directly to work with Rasmussen & Carl from January, 1991, to June, 1995. In 1995, Danna joined her dad and sister as an official with the State of Minnesota, and she presently works in the Tenth District.

Danna said that she enjoyed working with so many talented court reporters on the MAVRC Board and was amazed by the dedication of their service.



Thank you for your service, Danna!

## Jackie Young



Saying good-bye – or see 'ya soon – to Jackie Young

Jackie Young is leaving the MAVRC Board of Directors, but she will not be far away when any one of us has a question about the history of MAVRC or a clarification about bylaws or policies and procedures, or when we need a volunteer for one of our events.

Jackie has served as MAVRC's Secretary for three terms, Vice President – Freelance, two terms as President-Elect, two terms as President, and two terms as Immediate Past President. She has also served on the following committees: Auditing, Constitution and Bylaws, CART and Closed Captioning, Continuing Education, Freelance, Publications, and Public Relations. She has received the Minnesota Distinguished Service Award. She was instrumental in planning the 100 and 110-year anniversary celebrations and accompanying publications. The list could go on and on and on.

Her dedication to our profession does not stop at the state level, as she has recently begun a three-year term on the NCRA Committee of Professional Ethics.

Thank you, Jackie, for your service, your friendship, for being our foundation and our go-to gal! You are truly amazing, and we appreciate you very much!

### **GET-TOGETHER WITH NCRA REPRESENTATIVE**

A group of MAVRC members had the opportunity to meet and greet NCRA Representative Max Curry Thursday evening, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Ciao Bella Restaurant in Bloomington.

The group enjoyed a delicious dinner, drinks, and conversation on topics ranging from everyday life, work, and the latest NCRA projects and activities.



Judy Wunderlich and NCRA RepresentativeMax Curry



Rachel Erickson, Bev Rojas and Sandy Burch

### **MAVRC Mission Statement**

The mission of MAVRC is to promote the use of stenographic reporters to capture the record in depositions and courtrooms and to provide closed captioning and CART services.

## PROFILE OF A BOARD MEMBER

MAVRC Q: What is your name?

A: Lynne Krenz.

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

A: Minnesota School of Business, 1990.

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

**A:** My aunt introduced me to court reporting. Otherwise I had never heard of it

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

A: Primarily in courts since I graduated. Started CART work in 2004.

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

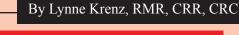
A: I am on Case Catalyst and use the Diamante.

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

A: I do all my own work.

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

A: Stay on top of things! You never know when you are going to get a ton of work at once.





Lynne Krenz

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

**A:** I guess my new trick is to use a lot of briefs without vowels, if that makes sense?

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

A: Yes. I have been since 1995. I have my RPR, RMR, CRR, CRC. I try to go to seminars when I can.

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

A: Yes. I love to go because it reminds me how passionate people are about our career! It gets me motivated to continue my own education and experience.

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

A: I hate to admit it, but I was a member for many years in the 1990s and then stopped. When I realized how much value MAVRC was to us as reporters, I made a point to rejoin the organization.

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

A: October of 2017. Death? Just kidding. I believe each year I need to be re-elected but it could lead into other positions, so it could depend on that.

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

A: I know we have an annual and bi-annual meeting and then any other meetings deemed by the President to be held. My understanding is we try to meet in person but can remote in.

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

A: There are ongoing issues with the official reporters regarding restructuring their job classification with the State of Minnesota; that should be ongoing for the next year or so.

**MAVRC Q:** Have you helped out or supported MAVRC by volunteering in any other positions in the past or volunteered your time for MAVRC in other ways?

A: I have indirectly helped by attending a majority of the Judicial Council meetings held pertaining to the above-mentioned item, as well as been involved with a subcommittee group regarding those issues. **MAVRC Q:** On a more personal note, what's your hometown and where do you live now?

**A:** My hometown is North St. Paul. I live in Oakdale, which is right next door.

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

**A:** I love to run, play volleyball, stay active, read, spending time with family and friends doing whatever.

**MAVRC Q:** Some other questions about what you do in your free time: What's a recent movie you watched, a recent book you've read, a favorite restaurant?

A: I like all kinds of movies,

especially scary movies around Halloween. Just saw Happy Death Day. I am in two book clubs and I just read the <u>Woman in Cabin 10</u>.

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

A: New York, Caribbean. Just went to California to watch my daughter play volleyball.

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

**A:** I'm not sure. I guess I have no time for sitting around doing nothing.

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

A: I love this career. And I'm looking forward to meeting new people while serving on the Board.



## MAVRC's 2017 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

In 1981 the Minnesota Shorthand Reporters Association established a Distinguished Service Award (DSA) to be presented annually to a member who has performed uncommon service to the reporting profession and to the association. The purpose of the Distinguished Service Award is to encourage and to recognize work amounting to distinguished service by individual members of the Minnesota Association of Verbatim Reporters & Captioners for the benefit of the reporting profession.

At MAVRC's 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gala event on October 6<sup>th,</sup> I had the great honor to present Monica Christensen, RMR, with the DSA award for 2017, in recognition of her outstanding leadership and exemplary volunteerism she has demonstrated in MAVRC and on behalf of the court reporting profession.

Monica is currently an Official Court Reporter for Chief Judge Paul T. Benshoof in the Ninth Judicial District, Beltrami County. Her journey to get there started by attending the University of Minnesota – Crookston, where she earned an AA Degree in Court and Conference Reporting in 1980.

Monica began working as a freelance court reporter in Grand Forks in the fall of 1980. In 1982 she moved to Bemidji and continued working as a freelance court reporter with the firm Jacobson Reporting & Video Services until July 1996, at which time she began her officialship in Beltrami County, Bemidji, for the Hon. James Preece. Monica worked for Judge Preece until the time of his retirement in December, 1996. She was then hired by Judge Preece's successor, the Hon. Paul T. Benshoof, who she continues to work with today.

We were pleased to welcome as a speaker at the award ceremony Judge Benshoof, who had high praise for all that Monica does, not only to assist him with a slight hearing loss by providing realtime, but also being a mentor to other court personnel. Judge Benshoof also recognized the many extra hours Monica has committed to MAVRC over the years.

Monica's extraordinary dedication to



Monica Christensen displaying her DSA plaque

MAVRC has been unwavering for the past 18 years and is evidenced by the significant number of years she has

#### By Mary Krawiecki, RPR, CRR, CRC, CRI

spent selflessly serving on the Board of Directors as follows:

1999/2000 – President Elect 2000/2001 – President 2001/2002 – Immediate Past President 2002/2003 – Director-at-Large B (Official) 2003/2004 – Vice President (Official) 2004/2005 – Vice President (Official) 2005/2006 – President Elect 2006/2007 – President 2007/2008 – Immediate Past President 2011/2012 – Vice President (Official) 2012/2013 – Vice President (Official) 2013/2014 – President Elect 2014/2015 – President 2015/2016 – Immediate Past President

> In addition to her positions on the Board, Monica has also enthusiastically served in various capacities for the past 18 years on many MAVRC committees. Those committees include the Certification and Testing Committee, Continuing Education Committee, Official Committee, Professional Development Committee, Nominating Committee and Technology Committee.

But merely listing Monica's years of board and committee service would not do justice to the tremendous number of hours she has spent helping to advance the mission and goals of MAVRC. The following is just a summary of the effort expended by Monica through the years to assist MAVRC and to advocate on behalf of her fellow court reporters:

- Helps cultivate an appreciation for stenographic court reporters and

stenography by routinely writing realtime for her judge;

- Awarded the Crookston Alumni of the Year Award;

- Traveled numerous times from Bemidji to the Twin Cities to attend and chair MAVRC Board meetings at her own expense;

- Helped create and maintain MAVRC's website over the years;

- Originally set up and currently maintains MAVRC's Facebook Page;

- Served as union steward for Teamsters Local 320 for several years representing the reporters in the Ninth Judicial District, a position she currently holds;

- Written many articles as president for inclusion in MINNE-strokes;



Mary Krawiecki presenting Monica Christensen the Distinguished Service Award

- Attended almost every MAVRC spring seminar and fall convention since the fall of 1999;

- Obtained proclamations from Governor Ventura and Governor Dayton recognizing National Court Reporting and Captioning Day;

- Has helped advocate for increased transcript funding for the State Public Defender's Office.

When MAVRC needed a chair for the Continuing Education Committee, Monica immediately volunteered and has graciously served in the chair position for at least four years and is presently serving as co-chair. As a past and current member of the Continuing Education Committee,

Monica has spent countless hours organizing and coordinating MAVRC's spring seminars and fall conventions. As one can imagine, there are hundreds of little details that go into planning a professionallyrun educational event, and Monica has spent untold hours contracting and working with different hotels to host MAVRC's events. She has lined up numerous speakers to help MAVRC's members develop expertise in matters pertaining to court reporting, has worked with NCRA to ensure the sessions qualified for

continuing education points, has designed the seminar/convention brochures; and much, much more.

It is abundantly clear that for the past 18 years Monica has demonstrated an exemplary commitment not only



The Honorable Paul T. Benshoof, the District Court Judge that Monica works with currently, was present to offer his congratulations and also share a few words about Monica.

to the court reporting profession but to MAVRC. Her dedication to our association clearly demonstrates that she recognizes the importance and impact that MAVRC has and will continue to have on our careers and the overall profession.

Monica currently lives in Bemidji with her husband Charles and her Chihuahua fur babies, Lola and Phoebe. They have one son, Charles, Jr., who currently resides in St. Cloud.

On behalf of all MAVRC members, thank you, and congratulations, Monica, on a job well done!

Mary Krawiecki serves on MAVRC's DSA Committee and is a reporter from Alexandria, Minnesota.



### MAVRC 2017 FALL CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS



Val Benning and Brandi Bigalke



Seventh Judicial District Official Reporters enjoying the luncheon: (L to R) Cheryle Doss, Brenda Vanderveur, Gail Schmidt, Linda Schwenzfeier and Michelle Foley



Joel Carlson addressed attendees with updates from 2017 and expectations for the 2018 legislation session



Paradigm reporters in attendance at the fall convention were: Front Row: Paula Richter, Nancy Gisch, Merilee Johnson Back Row: Angie Sundell, Lori Morrow, Dana Anderson-Linnell, Liz Gangl and Jayne Carriker



NCRA Representative Max Curry

Nancy Utke, a past president of MAVRC, was in attendance and enjoying the convention.





Bev Rojas and Debbie Grebin are enjoying a break during the sessions.



Adrienne Conzemius practicing on her steno machine during the CRR training session



Reporters listening attentively to a speaker at the 2017 MAVRC Fall Convention

### MAVRC 2017 Fall Convention Snapshots



Reporters enjoying lunch: (L to R) Monica Moriarty, Kari Opsal, Rachel Erickson, Karen Lebens, Sarah Fisher, Brittany Blesener



Immediate Past President Sharon Steinbrecher proudly displayed her plaque for her year of service as MAVRC President



MAVRC Board of Director Darla Mustar



President Sandy Burch addresses attendees



Steve Worth from Worth Business, Chicago, Illinois, was in attendance and serviced reporters' steno machines on site at the MAVRC convention



MAVRC Fall Convention attendees were enjoying themselves at a session



Student of the Year Callie Sajdera proudly displaying her plaque and is pictured with her parents



Reporters and captioners enjoying a speaker during one of the 2017 Fall Convention

## **2017 MAVRC SILENT AUCTION**

## A huge thank you to everyone who donated and bid on this year's silent auction. Your generosity made it a great success!

#### **DONATED BY:**

ITEM:

1st Judicial District 10th Judicial District Benchmark Monica Christensen Depo International Liz Gangl Granite City Reporting Mary Krawiecki Pat Mahon Mill City Video NCRA Paradigm

Linda Schwenzfeier Stenograph/MAVRC Porterhouse Gift Certificate Wine Basket Timberwolves Tickets Take a Chance Lottery Tickets Coach bag Wine Holder and Wine HP Sprocket Photo Printer Carlos Creek 3 Bottles of Wine Timberwolves Tickets Trader Joe Gift Certificates \$50 Gift Certificate Vikings Tickets Wine Basket Court Reporter Picture Luminex Steno Machine

#### WON BY:

Jill Garrison Hon. Lois Lang Maria Weinbeck Amy Turk Maria Weinbeck Hon. Lois Lang Karen Lebens Janell Gruber Cheryle Doss Carla Bebault Paula Richter Darla Mustar Paula Richter Maria Weinbeck Sandy Burch

MAVRC would also like to thank everyone who contributed one or more bottles of wine to our wine cork fundraiser, Karen Wolson of Stenograph for raffling off two \$50 gift certificates, and Jolene Carrow and Jackie Young for donating prizes to the wheel of chance game.



Thanks to the following volunteers for helping out at the wine cork fundraiser and wheel of chance games held during the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:

Carla Bebault, Liz Gangl, Jolynn Graham, Rachel Graham, Glenda Kaufman, Lori Morrow, Darla Mustar, Debbie Peterson, Nancy Utke, and Jackie Young.

## MAVRC would like to thank the following who sponsored students to attend the fall convention:



Dana Anderson-Linnell Carla Bebault Benchmark Depo International Jane Doby Rachel Erickson Liz Gangl Janell Gruber Andrea Tungland Heairet Paradigm Kelley Riley Bev Rojas Jane Schleusner Karen Skow Maria Weinbeck

### 50/50 Raffle Winner



Congratulations to Kelly Robinson for winning this year's 50/50 raffle!





Kelly Robinson

### ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE

#### By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

A s part of this year's 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, the MAVRC Board of Directors thought it would be an excellent time to showcase the talents of stenographic court reporters and bring back the esteemed Minnesota Award of Excellence certification. This was the first time since the creation of MAVRC that motivated reporters had the opportunity to win this coveted award.

On October 5th, three reporters who felt they were ready for a challenge and had a desire to compete showed up at Anoka Technical College. The contest consisted of five minutes of one-voice literary material at 210 wpm, five minutes of jury charge at 250 wpm, and five minutes of two-voice Q&A at 270 wpm. In addition to being able to win the coveted Award of Excellence, the contestants also competed for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in four categories: All-Around, Testimony, Jury Charge, and Literary. Contestants who earned 95 percent or higher on all three legs would also be awarded the Minnesota Award of Excellence.

The following high scores achieved by all three contestants demonstrate their commitment to excellence and are a testament to their exemplary writing skills:

#### Literary at 210 wpm:

Rachel Erickson – 99.80 percent (tie for 1<sup>st</sup>) Angie Sundell – 99.80 percent (tie for 1<sup>st</sup>) RandiAnn Harvey – 98.85 percent (2<sup>nd</sup>)

#### Jury Charge at 250 wpm:

Angie Sundell – 99.52 percent (1<sup>st</sup>) Rachel Erickson – 97.36 percent (2<sup>nd</sup>) RandiAnn Harvey – 95.92 percent (3<sup>rd</sup>)

#### Testimony at 270 wpm:

Angie Sundell – 99.11 percent (1<sup>st</sup>) RandiAnn Harvey – 98.74 percent (2<sup>nd</sup>) Rachel Erickson – 95.85 percent (3<sup>rd</sup>)

#### **OVERALL:**

Angie Sundell - 99.47 percent (1<sup>st</sup>) RandiAnn Harvey – 97.83 percent (2<sup>nd</sup>) Rachel Erickson – 97.67 percent (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Congratulations to all three contestants, for they have demonstrated the desire to succeed and exemplify the will to achieve professional excellence.

### **Minnesota Award of Excellence Recipient**

#### **RACHEL ERICKSON**

1. Please provide a brief bio on your education relating to court reporting, any other certificates or awards you have received, and your current work activities. I graduated from Anoka Technical College in 2012. I have my RPR, CRR, and CRC, and will be going for my RMR before the end of the year. I am an official reporter and do CART and captioning on the side.

2. What made you decide to take the MN AE examination? This test was last offered 15 to 20 years ago, and I would never forgive myself if I didn't at least give it a try, and I definitely wouldn't be able to stay content knowing (or not knowing) when the next MAE test would be offered. So I want to give a HUGE thanks to Jackie Young, Jennifer Sati, Tim Willette, and Pat Mahon for making this test possible. And I also want to thank the reporters who encouraged me to take this test.

#### 3. What steps, if any, did you take to prepare for the test?

I have to give credit to my judge. He speaks very fast, so I get ample practice on a daily basis. And the day before the test, we had a pretty solid (a nice way of saying rapid discussion and long arguments) motion hearing that lasted the better part of the morning. Other than that, I did not really practice for this test and signed up for it, I think, five days before. I did practice some 300 wpm Q&A material during our warm-up before the test, so that might have helped ©

### 4. What suggestions or tips would you have for anyone in the future taking the examination?

Write to your heart's content every day. Don't think of this as a test (and the same goes for certification tests); imagine that you are on a job, and you are writing realtime as usual, but giving it the extra oomph that day to produce a beautiful product (realtime or captioning or CART).

### 5. What challenges, if any, did you face when you took the test? So that part I said about not thinking of it as a test...

Literary went well, but I'd have to say halfway through jury charge, I thought to myself, "I'm doing this! I got this! And this



Rachel Erickson

is a test!" So it's much easier said than done. As soon as I thought of it as being a test, my heart started beating fast (I could literally feel my heart beating, and my hands became cold and clammy.) But, fortunately, I've taken enough certification tests (and have also failed enough) that I was able to fight through the familiar mental and physical constraints. And when it was time for testimony, I composed myself once more and imagined that there was a witness next to me and the attorney was going to start direct examination. That's what helped me. I tried to make the situation seem "real."

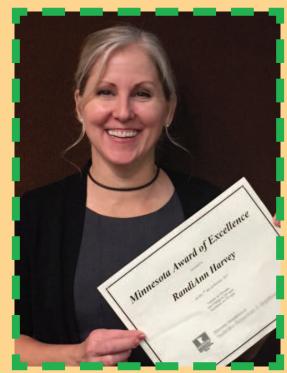
#### 6. Please provide any other details or information you would like to share with our readers.

Do not be discouraged if it takes you six times to pass the testimony portion of your RPR. It is okay to take a break and try it again in a few months or in a year. There will come a day where you get over that "hump," and each test will seem easier, and seeing letters after your name is worth it.

#### **Minnesota Award of Excellence Recipient**

#### **RANDIANN HARVEY**

1. Please provide a brief bio on your education relating to court reporting, any other certificates or awards you have received, and your current work activities. I graduated from the Minnesota School of Business (the old one downtown) in 1991. Certificates: RMR, CRR, CRC. After I graduated, I worked for freelance firms in Western Wisconsin and then in Minnesota until 1999, when I was hired in Hennepin County. I worked there until 2002, then transferred up to Isanti County, and then in 2014 transferred to Kanabec County.



RandiAnn Harvey

2. What made you decide to take the MN AE examination? Because I use real-time every day in court, my software shows that people are speaking up to 300 wpm sometimes, so I thought maybe I have a chance.

**3.** What steps, if any, did you take to prepare for the test? Morning practice worked best for me before I was too tired from a day in court. And because I already work on accuracy every day, speed was my main concern. I wanted to train myself to hear and comprehend at faster speeds, so I would search YouTube for super-fast dictation.

4. What suggestions or tips would you have for anyone in the future taking the examination? Practice at faster speeds than the exam you are taking. Bring your own practice material to the test to warm up. Rest and eat well. During the test, if you misstroke, don't stress as you will likely be able to figure it out during transcription. Have confidence in yourself. Use spell-check before you turn in your transcription!

**4. What challenges, if any, did you face when you took the test?** Nerves. It was exhausting on my body. Thankfully, I had the rest of the day to relax and drink!

**6.Please provide any other details or information you would like to share with our readers.** I was quite surprised to find out that I had

passed all three speeds, especially since the next day it hit me that I had forgotten to use spell-check. Ugh! And I was the last to leave the exam room. The funny thing is, now I look at my scores and think I can do better!



Angie Sundell and Jennifer Sati



Jennifer Sati and Rachel Erickson

Winter 2017



Jennifer Sati and RandiAnn Harvey

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### Minnesota Award of Excellence Recipient and Speed Contestant Winner

#### **ANGIE SUNDELL**

1. Please provide a brief bio on your education relating to court reporting, any other certificates or awards you have received, and your current work activities. I graduated from the University of Minnesota Crookston in 1988. Certifications: RPR, CRR, CBC and CCP. I currently work with Paradigm Reporting & Captioning, providing CART captioning services.

2. What made you decide to take the MN AE examination? It was a big decision, one I debated about for quite some time before finally registering on the last possible day! I had been thinking about taking the RMR ever since Janell Gruber, Tracy Bennett, and Jeanna Zunker presented on preparing for certification tests at a MAVRC spring seminar. I also attended a session at the NCRA convention in Chicago last year on taking certification tests online. I still haven't done it! So, when this opportunity arose, I started looking for "signs." I started paying attention to my writing speed.

I reflected on PJ Fleck's (University of MN Head Football Coach) philosophy, "If we don't rise to a new challenge, we don't grow," that Lisa Richardson quoted in an article she wrote for the Paradigm blog. And I received encouragement from Jackie Young and, of course, my husband. And finally got to the point of, okay, fine, I'm just gonna do it!

**3.** What steps, if any, did you take to prepare for the test? I had purchased some RMR practice audio files from NCRA and Rachel Erickson had shared some with me, too. So over the past few years, I have practiced to those every now and then and was practicing a little more often in the couple weeks leading up to the test. On Wednesday night, the night before the test, colleague Lori Morrow shared some ten-minute Q&A audio files at 300 wpm! So I practiced those Wednesday night and Thursday during the warm-up before the test.

4. What suggestions or tips would you have for anyone in the future taking the examination? If you are debating about taking it, just do it! And when you practice, definitely practice at a higher rate of speed. Thanks, Lori!

5. What challenges, if any, did you face when you took the test? Honestly, I think the biggest challenge is conquering your nerves!



Angie Sundell

Driving to Anoka Tech on Thursday afternoon, the closer I got, the more sickly I felt. When I got in to the testing room, RandiAnn was already there, set up, and practicing; Rachel came soon after. We were all nervous, but talking to them helped. And then Jennifer Sati entered the room. She was such a calming presence! And as you're writing, the minute you think you're gettin' it – well, you know what happens. So don't even "go there"!

**6.** Please provide any other details or information you would like to share with our readers. Don't believe everything Jackie Young tells you!

### STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

This year's Willard I. Braun Outstanding Student-of-the-Year Award was proudly presented to Judicial Reporting Student Callie Sajdera during MAVRC's fall convention.

Callie was chosen to receive this award because of her pure grit! She exemplifies passion, perseverance, and motivation in every respect. Callie walks the talk and is a student who shares her passion about the court reporting career with others whenever the opportunity arises, whether it's talking the profession up with a friend or volunteering to help during Court Reporting and Captioning Week events. She also donates her time by serving on the NCRA Student/Teacher Committee and the MAVRC Publications Committee.



Jennifer Sati and Callie Sajdera

"Some students are difficult to reduce to words, and that's why recognitions like MAVRC's Student-of-the-Year award carry clout when recognizing upcoming professionals in our field," says Merilee Johnson, Anoka Tech's technology instructor and MAVRC Board member. "Callie's infectious dedication and tenacious drive is



Callie Sajdera

setting a solid foundation for her future. Students like Callie will keep our profession relevant, and I know we will all welcome the opportunity to change her label from student of the year to colleague!"

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

With a commute of three hours one way, which Callie drives twice a week, she still maintains one of the top student attendance records. Callie has moved through the speeds at a consistent and strong pace. At the time of the award, she was a 180 wpm student and is now a proud 200 wpm student! The end is in sight!

This prestigious 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. Braun was cofounder of the Northern Technical School of Business and was one of the pioneers in utilizing CAT technology.

It was a tremendous pleasure to personally present this award to Callie. She's not only an outstanding student, but she's also my cousin's daughter. I am bursting with pride as I watch Callie go through the speeds and plan her future as a court reporter.

The quote engraved on her plaque appropriately states: "Grit, a positive trait based on passion, perseverance, and motivation." Congratulations, Callie, on earning this recognition and award!

Jennifer Sati is the judicial reporting instructor at Anoka Technical College.



### MOCK DEPOSITIONS AT ANOKA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

S tudents at the Anoka Technical College recently had the opportunity to participate in some mock depositions that were designed to help them be fully prepared for a day in the life of a freelance reporter. The speeds of the students participating in the mock depositions ranged anywhere from 80 wpm to 180 wpm.

First on the agenda was meeting and introducing themselves to the "parties" to the lawsuit. The "attorneys" for the afternoon were Jackie Young, noticing attorney, and Jennifer Sati, opposing counsel. Jane Schleusner was cast in the role of "witness". Following introductions and without any prompting by the "parties", the students went ahead and administered the oath or affirmed the witness. The deposition consisted of approximately ten minutes of Q&A, with the "court reporter" being expected to take down the testimony and objections accurately, mark a couple of exhibits, and then read back a question. After the deposition was concluded, the students took the attorneys' orders and prepared a transcript.

Even though tensions were high and this was their first experience at a mock deposition, all the students did a fabulous job and behaved very professionally. It is apparent that Jennifer Sati, Jane Schleusner, and Deb Longley are doing a fabulous job at preparing the students to some day be successful stenographic court reporters. With some hard work, perseverance, and self-belief, there is no limit to what they can achieve!



Left to right: Sydney Burch, Dina Kunin, Megan Aukrust, Bridget Kelly, Tasha Daniels, Erin Watson, Jackie Young, Valerie Riske, Amanda Leitzke, Tiffany McDowell, Tiffany Eshleman.

### PROFILE OF A REPORTING STUDENT

Name: Nicole Olson

School: Anoka Technical College

Speed: 120 wpm

Hometown: Willmar, Minnesota

**Tell us a little about yourself.** I'm a single mom with four kids. I worked as a paralegal for 10 years before becoming a stay-at-home mom. After staying home for five years, I decided to go back to school.

What made you decide to pursue a career in court reporting? I wanted the financial freedom and the flexible schedule.

What area of reporting interests you the most at this time - official, freelance, or captioning/CART? My end goal is freelance but I'm still interested in official.

What's been the most challenging or rewarding part of your schooling thus far? The most challenging part so far has been time management. I've had a hard time balancing my personal life, my kids, and my practice time. The most rewarding has been the people in the program along with the support I receive and the friendships that I've made. Our instructors are amazing too.

If you had an hour of free time, what would you be doing (besides practicing on your steno)? Baking!

What is your favorite band or type of music? I like listening to Kesha, Maroon 5, and country.

What is your favorite food or restaurant? Chipotle.

Where is a place you would like to visit? Sweden.

The last book you read? Grapes of Wrath.

The last movie you watched? Cars 3.

# **PRO BONO**

Kudos to Barbara Carey and Jackle Young for volunteering to provide pro bono services.

By Nicole Olson



Nicole Olson

### STUDENT PIZZA PARTY

#### By Rachel Erickson, RPR, CRR, CRC

MAVRC held a pizza party on October 5<sup>th</sup> for the court reporting students at Anoka Technical College. About 16 students, ranging from theory to Realtime VI (225 wpm) attended. NCRA Representative Max Curry, MAVRC President Sharon Steinbrecher, Vice President – Official Rachel Erickson, and Immediate Past President Jackie Young shared their knowledge and first-hand experience with the students. Sharon also spoke about the upcoming fall convention.



Front row, left to right: Jamie Ward (white sweater), Rachel, Emily Hutcheson, Lisa Knisley

Middle two people, left to right: Max Curry, Rachael Johnson (standing right next to Max)

Back row, left to right: Luke Ericksen, Kaitlin Arvanitis, Crystal Joos, Megan Bidney, Davis Wille, Callie Sajdera, Dianna Lister, Sharon, Nicole Olson, Kaurie Jeske,

Very back row, only on the right side: Ryan Judge, Tom Piltoff, Samantha Robinson



Jennifer Sati and NCRA Representative Max Curry





(Left to right) Tom Piltoff, Jamie Ward and Megan Bidney



(Left to right) Crystal Joos and Kaitlin Arvanitis



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Prefixes/suffixes, conflicts, weekly mock tests, alphabets, numbers, accuracy, dictionary building, sending realtime, and so much more!

#### A to Z Realtime and Captioning Training at Anoka Tech

**Realtime Principles begins January 11, 2018** 

**Registration is now open** 

Reporters, let us help you reach your realtime goals! Attend in person once a week, attend live through an online platform, or attend online at your own pace throughout the week.

Anoka Tech offers two interactive courses per year:

<u>Realtime Principles</u> (offered every January) teaches the basic principles of realtime and takes your writing to an advanced realtime level.

<u>Broadcast Captioning/CART Practicum</u> (offered every August) teaches a hands-on approach to teaching the elements you need to take your advanced realtime writing to a captioning level, including equipment and delivery platforms, specific modules (sports, news, entertainment, medical, legal, city council), on-site and remote captioning (CART), and so much more!

Nothing feels better than achieving that next level of writing! Cost is \$600. For more information or to register, please contact Jennifer Sati at <u>Jsati@anokatech.edu</u> or 763-576-4064.

## **MAVRC Reporter Get-Together**

### \* \* \* MARK YOUR CALENDAR \* \* \*



LOCATION: Dana Anderson-Linnell's home 12080 - 94th Avenue North Maple Grove, MN 55369

### More details to follow...

### JIM WOITALLA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

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

As we all cherish our memories of Jim Woitalla and relish every single moment we spent with him, his legacy is continuing through his scholarships for Judicial Reporting students at Anoka Technical College.

Three \$1,000 scholarships were awarded this past summer semester to students. All three of the recipients had Jim as their technology instructor, which made the award all the more special. The recipients were Jennifer Brama, who has since graduated; Callie Sajdera, a 200 wpm student; and Jamie Ward, a 180 wpm student.

The scholarships were presented on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Anoka Technical College Fall Scholarship dinner and ceremony. It was a privilege and blessing to have Jim's mother and two of his sisters attend the scholarship ceremony and be a part of awarding the very first Woitalla Scholarships. Callie Sajdera, the student speaker at the foundation ceremony, shared heartfelt stories of Jim as her instructor.

The Judicial Reporting Program would like to thank everyone who has generously donated toward Jim Woitalla's scholarship fund. Please know that the students are very appreciative of the thoughtfulness of others and the money has made a difference in their education. We at Anoka Tech will keep Jim's passion for this amazing profession thriving by continuing to graduate students who share his same passion and enthusiasm for technology and excellence. Since the inception of the scholarship fund, a total of \$8,500 has been donated. We are hopeful we can keep Jim's scholarship fund active with continued donations and use the funds to award two \$1,000 scholarships annually. The family discerningly suggested that more funds be given out this first year or two so that students who learned from Jim could receive the most benefit.

If you would like to donate to the Jim Woitalla Scholarship Fund, you can donate through the Anoka Technical College Foundation office online or by mail. Please be sure to indicate "Judicial Reporting Program/Woitalla Scholarship Fund" with your donation to ensure it is credited to the Woitalla Scholarship Fund. To donate by



(L to R): Callie Sajdera (student), Bernice (Jim's sister), Marcella (Jim's mother), Delores (Jim's sister), and Jamie Ward (student)

mail, please send to Peter Gravett, Anoka Tech Foundation, 1355 West Highway 10, Anoka, Minnesota, 55303. To donate online, the link is <u>AnokaTechFoundation</u>. If you have any questions about donating, please call Peter Gravett (Foundation) at 763-576-4219 or Jennifer Sati (Judicial Reporting) at 763-576-4064.

Jim was loved and respected by countless reporters and captioners around the country, and it is a great privilege to be able to continue to share his legacy with students, our future!

Jennifer Sati is the judicial reporting instructor at Anoka Technical College.



*Callie Sajdera, student speaker at scholarship ceremony, and Peter Gravett, Anoka Tech Foundation Director* 

### MAVRC ATTENDING CAREER FAIRS

#### By Rachel Erickson, RPR, CRR, CRC

MAVRC will be attending high school career fairs in the upcoming months introducing and promoting reporting fields as a career to students.

November 17, 2017 - Annual Career Fair and College Conference for girls in grades 9-12 at North Hennepin Community College, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm; 100 high school students will be in attendance

February 23, 2017 - 6th Annual Career Fair at Anoka-Hennepin School District Building; seven high schools will be in attendance

**VOLUNTEER REPORTER NEEDED** for Career Presentation at Patrick Henry High School on January 31, 2018, from 1-3 pm, classroom presentation 40 minutes. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Rachel Erickson at 320-469-0642 or at <u>Rachel.c.erickson@gmail.com</u> for PowerPoint and brief rundown of some ideas for the classroom presentation.

*Rachel Erickson is an official reporter in the First Judicial District and currently serves on MAVRC's Board of Directors as President-Elect.* 

Are you retired or retiring soon? Lucky YOU! Please keep in contact with MAVRC!

Did you know you can apply for "RETIRED LIFETIME" status with MAVRC? Your status will be changed in MAVRC's database to retired and you will keep up to date with what is happening in the organization and your profession. Best thing: It's free! Check out Article III – Membership, Section 4, Retired Lifetime Members, in MAVRC's Constitution and By-Laws for further information.

So MAVRC can stay in touch with you when you retire, email your contact information or any questions to <u>Jolene.Carrow@gmail.com</u> and your information will continue to be in MAVRC's database.





MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF VERBATIM REPORTERS & CAPTIONERS

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Or you can e-mail your business card, in JPEG format, to <u>jolene.carrow@gmail.com</u>. Then mail this form along with payment to the above address. To be included in the Spring 2018 issue, your ad and payment must be received by **January 20 2018**.

Questions may be addressed to MAVRC's Administrative Assistant, Jolene Carrow, at the e-mail address above or by calling her at (507) 532-0676. Thanks for your support!

### www.mavrc.org

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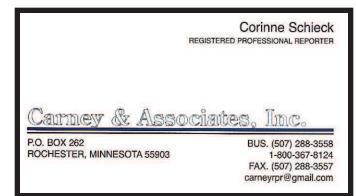
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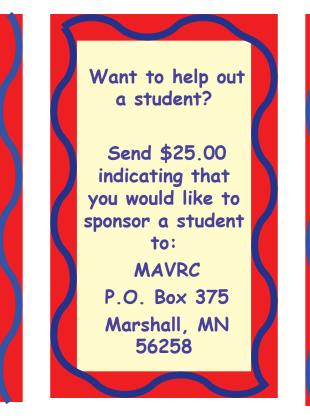
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### PROMOTE COURT REPORTING

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



### WANTED...

Your extra steno paper, tapes, or old transcripts for dictation material.

If you are willing to donate any of these items to the students at Anoka Tech, please contact: Jennifer Sati at <u>JSati@anokatech.edu</u>



December

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



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **MAVRC MINNE-strokes STAFF**

31, 2017	Have you renewed your	EDITOR:
	MAVRC membership?	EDITORIAL STAFF:
January		
18, 2018	MAVRC Board Meeting & MAVRC Get-Together Dana Anderson-Linnell's Home 12080 - 94th Avenue North Maple Grove, MN 55369	ADVERTISING:
February 10-17, 2018	National Court Reporting & Captioning Week	MINNE- <i>strokes</i> is the of Minnesota Association o MINNE- <i>strokes</i> is publis
March 11-13, 2018 April	NCRA Legislative Boot Camp Reston, VA	Statements of fact and op responsibility of the indi reflect the opinion of the advertisements are the so alone and do not express Articles submitted are su
21, 2018	MAVRC Spring Seminar Anoka Technical College	To submit articles, send
	Anoka, MN	Angie Sundell

Angie Sundell Nanette Corbett Rhonda Franken Brittney Ollanketo Callie Sajdera Jackie Young Jolene Carrow

P.O. Box 375 Marshall, MN 56258

fficial publication of MAVRC, the of Verbatim Reporters & Captioners.

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d to:

**MAVRC Editor MINNE-strokes** angiesundell@gmail.com



#### **RECENTLY RELOCATED?**

Please keep us informed of any changes to your home, office, postal and/or e-mail addresses, as well as telephone and fax numbers. This will help to ensure that you will continue to receive MINNE-strokes and other important correspondence regarding your association and profession.

Contact Jolene Carrow at jcarrow mavrc@hotmail.com or (507) 532-0676.

