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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By Brandi Bigalke, RPR, RSA

As I sit here thinking of the year to come as this year's President of MAVRC, I am very excited. I believe we, as an association, have a great opportunity to make lasting changes and a profound impact on our profession.

The 2018-2019 MAVRC Board of Directors is filled with tenacious and dedicated people. I am so impressed with the swift action they have already taken with the goal of making our association stronger. Organizing surveys and creating letters to try to reach more reporters and captioners to join us in MAVRC is just a small example. That began at our very first board meeting and was put into action just a month later. I feel so privileged to be among such professional and passionate court reporters and captioners.

If someone would have told me 20 years ago when I was in my 160s that not only would I make it through court reporting school and go on to have a successful career, but that I would be president of the Minnesota Association of Verbatim Reporters & Captioners, I wouldn't have believed them.

I remember when I started court reporting school the big fear was "Aren't you worried that voice recognition technology will replace you?" I cannot count how many relatives asked me that as I continued through school. Our profession's answer to that was embracing the technology. We call it realtime and closed captioning, which as we all know has created thousands of unfilled jobs across the country.



Brandi Bigalke

Today we are faced with issues that threaten to change our profession as well. And to that I will say this: Anything worth having is worth fighting for. We are stronger together. They have come at us before and we have remained a viable career. The more members we have, the more voices there are to make sure that our profession remains for those generations to come.

Being a member of the board for the last three years has taught me things about this profession that I never would have learned out in the freelance world on my own. I strongly believe that my career has advanced in positive ways because I've gotten involved. To name one example, the networking and getting to know my colleagues has been priceless.

(Continued on page 2)

2018-2019 MAVRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Brandi Bigalke (612) 708-2650 brandibigalke@yahoo.com
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Debbie Peterson (952) 496-8223 debpeterson@integra.net
VICE PRESIDENT-OFFICIAL	Lynne Krenz (651) 430-4428 Lynne.Krenz@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT-FREELANCE	Laura Pelletier (763) 421-2025 ljpelletier@comcast.net
SECRETARY	Dana Anderson-Linnell (763) 391-7373 danaverbatim@comcast.net
TREASURER	Adrienne Conzemmius (651) 213-8681 conzemius1012@gmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE A	Tammy Mathwig (763) 7532287 tntmathwig@hotmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE A	RandiAnn Harvey (320) 679-6407 randiannharvey@hotmail.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE B	Merilee Johnson (952) 944-1848 msjreporter@outlook.com
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE B	Leslie Carver (763) 682-7557 lesliefeakcarver@gmail.com
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Sandy Burch (952) 440-3886 sburch@integritycr.com
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Jolene Carrow (507) 532-0676 www.mavrc.org jcarrow_mavrc@hotmail.com

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Of course, we as a board can only do so much. We need the help of every single court reporter and captioner to join us in recruiting more members and sharing information regarding the great opportunity reporting and captioning has to offer. I challenge every member to start posting on social media positive things about this profession. If you don't know what to post, it's as easy as clicking "Share" on MAVRC's Facebook posts. Sharing positive images and words about why you love your job is FREE ADVERTISING to people who may just be looking for a new opportunity. This is something every single member can do, and it takes only seconds.

I believe every MAVRC president has asked this of its members, and I am stating to you now that it is imperative that we continue to recruit MAVRC members to have a strong voice when it is needed to strengthen the court reporting and captioning profession. There is strength in numbers. To be frank, our numbers could greatly improve at not only the state level, but at the national level as well.

I know what court reporting has afforded me in my life. I want to make sure it is a strong, sought-after career for years to come. I want to thank the membership before me for all the opportunities I was given because of your commitment to this profession.

My hope as your 2018-2019 MAVRC president is to continue the advancement of court reporting and captioning one step at a time.

"The future depends on what we do in the present."
-Mahatma Gandhi.

Let's get passionate about our cool profession and all join together to protect it! ■

RENEW YOUR 2019 MAVRC MEMBERSHIP

By Jolene Carrow

Have you renewed your MAVRC membership for 2019? Renewal forms are due by December 31, 2018, if you wish to take advantage of a \$20 discount in membership dues.

Please take the time to fill out the 2019 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, 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, 2018, 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

**Rachael Johnson, Official
Minneapolis, MN**

**Kayde Rieken, Official
Minneapolis MN**

**Shelby Brown, Student
Crystal, MN**

**Danielle Casey, Student
Clear Lake, MN**

**Emily Deutsch, Student
Bloomington, MN**

**Erica Eggen, Student
Nowthen, MN**

**Dixie Ehlers, Student
Hopkins, MN**

**Meagan Flick, Student
Mahtomedi, MN**

**Morgan Neuville, Student
Anoka, MN**

**Neil Salminen, Student
Maple Grove, MN**

**Brittney Shannon, Student
St. Paul, MN**

**Timothy Sienko, Student
River Falls, WI**

**David Stoecker-Strauss, Student
Minneapolis, MN**

**Lisa Wurtinger, Student
Woodbury, MN**

2018-2019 MAVRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following reporters were elected as directors and officers to the MAVRC Board of Directors for 2018 – 2019:



(L to R) RandiAnn Harvey, Director-at-Large A (Official); Leslie Carver, Director-at-Large B (Official); Adrienne Conzemmius, Treasurer; Brandi Bigalke, President; Lynne Krenz, Vice President - Official; Dana Anderson-Linnell, Secretary; Merilee Johnson, Director-at-Large B (Freelance); Sandy Burch, Past President. Missing from picture are Debbie Peterson, President-Elect; Laura Pelletier, Vice President - Official; and Tammy Mathwig, Director-at-Large A (Freelance).

President

Brandi Bigalke
612-708-2650
brandibigalke@yahoo.com

President-Elect

Debbie Peterson
952-496-3497
debpeterson@integra.net

Immediate Past President

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

Vice President-Freelance

Laura Pelletier
763-421-2025
ljpelletier@comcast.net

Vice President-Official

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

Treasurer

Adrienne Conzemmius
651-213-8681
conzemius1012@gmail.com

Secretary

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

Director-at-Large A (Official)

RandiAnn Harvey
320-679-6407
randiannharvey@hotmail.com

Director-at-Large A (Freelance)

Tammy Mathwig
763-753-2287
tntmathwig@hotmail.com

Director-at-Large B (Official)

Leslie Carver
763-682-7557
lesliefeakcarver@gmail.com

Director-at-Large B (Freelance)

Merilee Johnson
952-944-1848
msjreporter@outlook.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: Sandy Burch
sburch@integritycr.com

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

CAREER ADVANCEMENT

Board Liaison: RandiAnn Harvey
randiannharvey@hotmail.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: Laura Pelletier
ljpelletier@comcast.net

Deals with issues affecting court reporters in the freelance field.

LEGISLATIVE/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Board Liaison: Laura Pelletier
ljpelletier@comcast.net

Acts as a liaison on behalf of both official and freelance reporters with the state legislature, judicial districts, 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
lesliefekcarver@gmail.com

Prepares and issues the official publication of the Association.

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS/SCHOOL LIAISON

Board Liaisons: Merilee Johnson
msjreporter@outlook.com

Assists with student internships and administers a mentoring program.

CART/CLOSED CAPTIONING

Board Liaison: Lynne Krenz
lynne.krenz@gmail.com

Handles issues affecting CART providers and broadcast captioners.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Board Liaison: Laura Pelletier
ljpelletier@comcast.net

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: Leslie Carver
lesliefekcarver@gmail.com

Helps raise funds for the Association.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: Dana Anderson-Linnell
danaverbatim@comcast.net

Works to increase the membership of the Association and assists in developing an annual membership directory.

PRO BONO COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: Dana Anderson-Linnell
danaverbatim@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: Brandi Bigalke
brandibigalke@yahoo.com

Stays abreast of technological advances in the court reporting field.

SALUTE TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

As is true with most nonprofit organizations, the lifeblood of MAVRC comes from its members and its volunteers. Volunteering is about giving, contributing, and making a positive impact for our association overall, often without much recognition or thanks. Throughout the years MAVRC has been extremely blessed to have reporters that are not only passionate about the court reporting profession but also generous with their time and talents.

While serving on the MAVRC Board of Directors is not always an easy or glamorous job, the time spent by our outgoing board members is truly appreciated. MAVRC would like to sincerely thank Jolynn Graham, Darla Delich Mustar, Denise Rothfork, and Sharon Steinbrecher for their service on the Board. Even though the true impact they have had on our association is not quantifiable, their efforts have helped bind us together as friends and colleagues and have strengthened our profession for years to come.

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."
Helen Keller

Darla Mustar



Darla Delich Mustar graciously served as Director-at-Large A (Official) for the past two years as well as on MAVRC's Official Committee.

Jolynn Graham



For the past six years, Jolynn Graham served as Director-at-Large A (Freelance) and volunteered on MAVRC's Pro Bono Committee for the past two years as well as on MAVRC's Fundraising Committee.



Denise Rothfork served as Treasurer for one term and helped out on MAVRC's Fundraising Committee.

Denise Rothfork

Sharon Steinbrecher

By Rachel Erickson, RPR, CCP, CRR, AE

It is my honor to share some of the accomplishments of outgoing board member and past president, Sharon Steinbrecher.

Sharon served on the MAVRC Board from 2014-2018, where she served as the vice president-official, president-elect, and president. Throughout those four years, Sharon has been a stronghold for not only the MAVRC board but the profession as a whole, often being involved in several projects and tasks simultaneously. This included volunteering her time to advocate our profession at career fairs, leading NCRA's A to Z Discover Steno Program at Anoka Technical College, mentoring students, and planning and coordinating MAVRC get-togethers and conferences. Sharon also worked tirelessly over these past two years advocating the important and necessary role officials play in the courtroom as well as the importance of an accurate court record. If something needed to be done or a spot needed to be filled, Sharon was always there.

Always wearing a smile on her face, Sharon also brought reassurance and comfort to the table, as well as grit and perseverance for the tougher situations. When you asked her to do something, you could count on her to get the job done. She also brought balance to the conversation. In times of heated discussion, Sharon possessed a sense of calmness and rationalism that kept things on an even playing field.

I know I am speaking for others when I say that MAVRC was a better, stronger association because of Sharon, and I want to thank you for ALL that you have done for this membership over the years. And I know that as long as we continue to have others like Sharon serve this profession, we will be successful for many years to come!

Rachel Erickson is a captioner who resides in Bloomington, Minnesota.



**MAVRC'S
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WISHES YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON**

PROFILE OF A BOARD MEMBER

By Merilee Johnson, RDR, CRR, CRC, RSA

MAVRC Q: What is your name?

A: Merilee Johnson.

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

A: Rasmussen Business School - 1998.

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

A: Influenced in choosing court reporting as a career? No. To recognize all those that have aided and inspired my career as a reporter would be a long list of names as I am invigorated by everyone I meet in the field; whether they're a close friend, a daily colleague, or it was a brief chat. I'm always eager to hear about other reporters' experiences, how they view the future of reporting, how they handle certain situations, or even unique dialogue in a transcript. I thrive on conversations that force me to think beyond the adage of "that's the way it's always been done." To be a forward thinker in our industry keeps steno reporters the superior method of capturing the record, and learning and listening to others is a key factor to my motivation.

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

A: I was an official for 14 years in the First and Fourth Districts, and at the tail end of my time as an official, I went back to court reporting school. Can you believe that? I went back to school! While



Merilee Johnson

at Anoka Tech I tweaked my theory, revamped my writing, expanded my knowledge of my software, and walked out of there with an open mind to change. (If you haven't taken it yet, the Realtime Principles class is a game changer!) After going through Anoka Tech's program, I've transitioned into the freelance world taking depositions and providing CART.

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

A: Luminex – Case CATalyst/BCS

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

A: Scopists! Many, many scopists. So many scopists. Can't emphasize my appreciation of good scopists.

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

A: "Work habits and routines" makes our lives sound so stale. My tip? Avoid being bored by your work. If you sigh whenever you sit down to work, spruce it up a bit. Create an environment to love what you do every day. Find a gadget you're going to be excited to use. Find a new way to be more efficient when repeating daily tasks. Learn a new way to use your computer or software that will help you be more productive. Treat yourself to a great office chair or desk. Challenge yourself to conquer something that makes you uncomfortable. Think outside your ordinary and allow yourself to welcome new ideas or methods. Ever buy a new outfit that

you loved? You wear it a few times and eventually the excitement wears off? That's how I feel about work. Change your routine, evolve your work style, don't let your daily routine get stale.

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

A: I don't have a favorite brief, but I do keep an eye out for word styles and then I create short forms based on that. For example: I will throw in the final R for a word ending in -er. Matter/MAERT; manner/MAERN; flatter/FLAERT; dinner/DIRN

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: Member since 1998, RDR, CRR, CRC, RSA. I earn my CEUs by spending a lot of time at conventions every year: NCRA, various state conventions, and STAR.

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

A: I used to turn a blind eye to conventions; they're expensive and I didn't understand what I would learn that could directly impact my career. I looked at conventions with the "What's in it for me?" mindset. And truth be told, if I was going to spend \$2,000 on a trip, I wanted to spend it with

friends and family, not with a group of strangers talking about work. When I finally attended a convention, I walked out of there with a new passion I can't reduce to words. The benefits of attending overshadow the costs and time involved.

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

A: Board Member since 2015, term ends 2019. If you haven't served, please consider it! It's eye opening and it is so easy to be a voice at the table. Everyone has something to offer. This is a table of your peers and all voices and opinions are welcomed and valued.

MAVRC Q: Have you helped out or supported the industry by volunteering for MAVRC or any other professional organizations?

A: I am currently serving on the STAR Board of Directors, focusing on membership perks; I am serving on MAVRC's Board of Directors, focusing on Student-Reporter relationships; I am co-chair of NCRA's Education Content Committee, planning NCRA's 2019 National Convention; I am serving on NCRA's Technology Committee, providing articles and tips in the JCR and JCR Online related to technology and realtime; I am a virtual mentor through NCRA; and I also work closely with Anoka Tech in whatever capacity is needed.

In addition to committee work, I am a member of STAR's Liaison Committee. This committee consists of approximately 12-15 reporters who work directly with Stenograph's software developers, sharing ideas of what upgrades and enhancements we want to see in the software. As a follow-up to that committee, I am also a beta tester for their software and writers tasked to test the new enhancements and upgrades to find glitches and provide suggestions in the software before general release.

Lastly, I am a Stenograph Certified Trainer and work closely with the current Anoka Tech students with their software and any reporters who are interested in software training.

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

A: I grew up in Minnetonka and currently live in Eden Prairie. I didn't stray too far.

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

A: Spending time with my son (while he still likes me) is my daily medicine for happy. Otherwise, if I have to entertain myself, a good run (nothing better than hearing your feet hit the pavement and enjoying Minnesota's crisp fall air); a good joke (I love a good laugh); and a glass of rosé (okay, two glasses.)

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.

MEET MAVRC'S PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

Working quietly behind the scenes compiling MAVRC's newsletter are a number of very dedicated reporters and members. The committee meets four times a year and painstakingly proofreads every word in the newsletter to ensure that it is as accurate as possible. The newsletter is a great way to read about other members and preserve the history of our association. Without a large number of MAVRC members being willing to share their work experiences and their knowledge, we would not have one of the best court reporting newsletters in the country. *MINNE-strokes* is truly a testament to the great volunteer spirit that is alive and well in MAVRC!

MAVRC would like to welcome Crystal Joos to the publications committee. Crystal joined the committee earlier this year and is currently a student in the court reporting program at Anoka Technical College.



Crystal Joos

While her studies keep her very busy, she still finds time to volunteer and bears the main responsibility for gathering articles from the students and on events occurring in the program at the school. Crystal comes highly qualified to the committee, having attained a degree in Professional Writing and Communication from Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minnesota, and being employed as a copy editor for SMSU's newsletter "The Spur" prior to her enrolling at Anoka Tech.

Another major change to the publications committee this year was the stepping down of Angie Sundell as editor.



Angie Sundell

Angie has served on the publications committee since its inception in 1998 until the present. She first assumed the editor role in 2002, a

position she remained in until 2009, when she stepped down due to other commitments. After a three-year hiatus from the editorship, Angie once again assumed the responsibility of overseeing the production of the newsletter until earlier this year. Thanks, Angie, for all you have done and will continue to do as part of MAVRC's Publications Committee!

While Angie's leadership as editor will be sorely missed, Rhonda Franken has graciously stepped up to fill the position. Rhonda currently works as an official reporter in the First Judicial District and her attention to detail is a true asset to the committee.



Rhonda Franken

Rhonda has served on the committee for approximately 12 years and has courageously battled the traffic coming from the southern suburbs to be at the meetings formerly held in Golden Valley and now in Bloomington. Rhonda also bears the credit for submitting a number of great brief forms over the years.

Another long-time member of the publications committee is Nanette Corbett.



Nanette Corbett

Even though she resides in Duluth, Nan routinely drives down to the Twin Cities to attend the publication committee meetings and has written a number of articles for inclusion in the newsletter. She excels at proofreading and is an expert on hyphenated words!

The last member of the committee is Jackie Young, who first joined the committee in 2003 and has served continuously on the committee to the present with the exception of a two-year absence.



Jackie Young

During that time Jackie has written numerous articles, served as editor of the Centennial Edition, the 110th Commemorative newsletter, and as the MINNE-strokes editor from 2009 to 2011.

All of the work of the Publications Committee would be for naught, however, without the creative talent of Jolene Carrow, MAVRC's Administrative Assistant. Jolene spends 50-plus hours each issue putting the newsletter together in its final form and then distributing it to MAVRC's members. Great job, Jolene!



Jolene Carrow

With dedication and talent like this, MINNE-strokes will undoubtedly continue to be one of the best court reporting newsletters out there. Last but not least, MAVRC's Publications Committee appreciates your support and readership!

COURTROOM BRIEF FORMS

By Sandra Caturia, RPR

RARTS	reasonable articulable suspicion
SUFRPBLG	surcharge
MUFRPBLG	mandatory surcharge
SLAOEL	sole legal
SLAOELT	sole legal custody
SFIF	sole physical
SFIFT	sole physical custody
HABL	enhanceable
HAOBL	enhanceable offense
HAMT	enhancement
KOERN	County Attorney
SKOERN	Assistant County Attorney

STOERN	Certified Student Attorney
LOUMT	license plate impoundment
VOURT	vehicle forfeiture
ZOED	ZIP Code
SME	in the matter of
SMEFL	in the matter of the welfare of
BINT	best interest
VAO	video
SKWAO	squad video

Sandra Caturia is an official reporter to the Honorable Lawrence Clark in Goodhue County, Minnesota. ■

MAVRC 2018 FALL CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS



*Third Judicial District Official Reporters relaxing after Friday's sessions concluded.
(L to R) Julie Buehler, Lane Knutson, Emily Lettner, and Rhonda Franken*



Brandi Bigalke and Jolynn Graham



Allison McCarthy, Lisa Knisley, and Kelley Riley



Breakfast Treats!



Brenda Vanderveur, Judy Wunderlich, and Cheryle Doss



Above: Joel Carlson addressed attendees with updates from 2018 and expectations for the 2018 elections and the 2019 legislation session.

Below: Jill Garrison spoke with reporters and updated MAVRC members about what is taking place with the Court Record Workgroup.



MAVRC 2017 FALL CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS



Reporters enjoyed socializing Friday evening in the lounge.

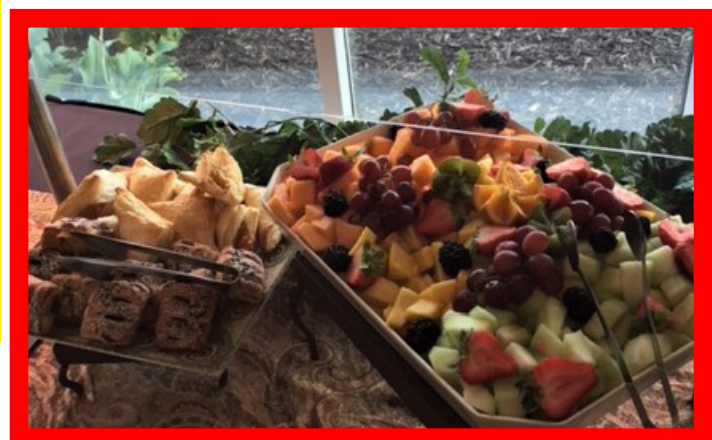
(Left to right): NCRA President Sue Terry, Nancy Utke, Jennifer Sati, Stenograph Rep Karen Wolson, and Jolynn Graham



Above: Sherlyn Anderson and Ruth Schroeder



Sharon Steinbrecher and Jennifer Ogaard



Delicious food was available and enjoyed by all at the conference.



Outgoing MAVRC President Sandy Burch (left) and Incoming MAVRC President Brandi Bigalke (right) together presented a "What's in Your Bag?" convention session.



RandiAnn Harvey, Judy Wunderlich, Lynne Krenz, and Ryan Ziegler

2018 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:

1st Judicial District
2nd Judicial District
7th Judicial District

10th Judicial District

Anoka Tech
Benchmark
Monica Moriarty
Paradigm

ITEM:

Chili's Gift Certificates
McCormick & Schmick's
Wine Basket
Crockpot Basket
Vikings Tailgate Basket
Wine & Cheese & Chocolate Basket
Sweatshirt & t-shirt
Target Gift Card
Ceramic Plate/Olive Oil Basket
Vikings Tickets

WON BY:

Jolynn Graham
Jolene Carrow
Jackie Young
Judy Wunderlich
Cheryle Doss
Brenda Vanderveur
Crystal Joos
Nancy Utke
Brenda Vanderveur
Jolynn Graham

* * * * *

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



Cheryle Doss
Rachael Johnson
Jennifer Sati
Jane Schleusner
Ryan Ziegler

* * * * *

GET-TOGETHER WITH NCRA REPRESENTATIVE

A group of MAVRC members had the opportunity to meet and welcome NCRA President Sue Terry to Minnesota Thursday evening, September 6th, at Jake's Restaurant in Plymouth. The group enjoyed a delicious dinner, drinks, and conversation on topics ranging from everyday life, work, and the latest NCRA projects and activities.



*(Left to right) Front Row: Stenograph Representative Karen Wolson, NCRA President Sue Terry
Back Row: Sandy Burch, Laura Pelletier, Jolene Carrow, Jackie Young, Jennifer Sati, Judy Wunderlich*



(Left to right) Laura Pelletier, Sandy Burch and Jolene Carrow



Jennifer Sati and NCRA President Sue Terry

MAVRC 2018 FALL CONVENTION RECAP (FRIDAY)

By Rhonda Franken, RMR

Paul Young, Anoka County Criminal Division Chief Attorney and chief prosecutor, spoke at the MAVRC fall conference about the separate murder trials of Andrew Hawes and Elizabeth Hawes, two siblings tried for the 2008 murder of another sibling, Edwin Hawes, in Andover, Minnesota. The case was featured on *Investigation Discovery*; but Mr. Young stated the facts were misreported in certain respects and also seemed to report irrelevant facts from the standpoint of a prosecutor who knew the real story having tried the cases. I'm sure many official reporters, such as myself, who have reported highly publicized cases, have felt the same about the facts not being entirely accurate when they make their way into media.

Mr. Young discussed the family dynamics: Edwin and Andrew had a lawn business together; Andrew was a drug addict; Elizabeth was a trained actress (who apparently didn't do so well acting when it came to the investigation and trial of this case); a fourth sibling apparently knew well enough to bolt years before the conflict between other siblings; grandma had a lot of money; and dad committed suicide.

The case's central issues involved money, paranoia, illegal activities – all the sort of issues that are perfect for a made-for-tv movie or show! Elizabeth and Andrew thought Edwin was taking money from both their grandmother's accounts and the family lawn care business, which apparently had fallen on hard times. Andrew thought Edwin was poisoning him. Verbal threats to Edwin by Andrew. Elizabeth and Andrew make reports to the FBI, the Attorney General and the local police of illegal activity and money taken. As is often the case with dysfunctional families, police reports, OFPs and criminal charges followed. At some point Elizabeth and Andrew took the law into their own hands.

On the night of the murder, both Andrew and Elizabeth were seen near the scene of the murder, and while questioned by police, they talked of "repossessing the Passat," which seemed to be a literal as well as figurative statement they were making relative to their brother and a car associated with the business. During the investigation of the case, there were clues abound at the golf course where the siblings were seen as well as at Andrew's business. The Passat was found with blood and other evidence in it. Later, upon further investigation and reconstruction, the injuries of Edwin Hawes were deemed to be horrible, personal, massive, crushing injuries. There was testimony during the trial that Edwin was shot with a crossbow, beaten and run over with his car at his home; and his remains were found burned in a fire pit at a farm owned by Andrew miles away. It was indeed personal.

In Westbrook, Cottonwood County, the local police chief checked out a big bonfire at a farm and found Andrew there at one point. After leaving and returning later, he found Elizabeth there alone. Apparently, through examination and reconstruction by a medical examiner and forensic anthropologist, it wasn't only Edwin's remains that were found in the bonfire; but bones of another, unknown, unrelated body, which seems to remain a mystery to this day.

Mr. Young spoke about the interesting testimony of a forensic anthropologist and dentistry expert who testified about the crime scene; and he also talked about statements made, motives, charges and the threshold legal issues such as charging, accomplices, joint trials, immunity/privilege, and other complexities of a trial such as this. He discussed the strategies that prosecutors face, such as the sequence of trials and themes, significant rulings on Spreigl, other acts and out-of-court statements. Apparently Andrew's and Elizabeth's attorneys did not want a



Paul Young

joint trial so there were two trials, two judges; Elizabeth wanted to go first; and both testified on their own behalf. Elizabeth most notably testified that she played no role in her brother's death and learned of Edwin's death only after Andrew told her. She also testified that she drove the pickup truck with Andrew and Andrew's girlfriend, Kristina Dorniden, who was also charged in the case, to the farm in Cottonwood County but didn't know Andrew was going to burn Edwin's remains. Both Andrew and Elizabeth testified that Elizabeth's husband, Daniel Romig, was involved in Edwin's death.

In the end, Elizabeth was found guilty by a jury of aiding and abetting first degree murder, the jury believing that she helped plan her brother's death; and Andrew, by a separate jury, was found guilty of aiding and abetting first degree murder; both receiving life sentences. The charges against Kristina Dorniden were eventually dropped. Elizabeth's husband, Daniel Romig, was never charged in the case.

Mr. Young provided a thorough and interesting presentation of the Hawes murder trials and all the complexities that go along with such a "real-life" case as told from the standpoint of a prosecutor.

Lisa Richardson, Heather Schuetz and Karen Skow spoke at the MAVRC fall convention and talked about their different experiences as CART providers and captioners, including the following (in case anyone is considering this type of reporting):

Some upsides - More flexibility and not having to deal with the bureaucracy of state and federal courts. Rewarding, making a difference in one's day. Allows for varied schedule if you have a family. No last-minute rush transcripts!

Some downsides - The pay varies; there's delays in payment. Have less connections with other reporters. Have to work nights and weekends more often.

Some adjustments need to be made to regular reporting duties, such as you don't report verbatim, and changes need to be made in equipment and dictionary building. Need to think outside the box a bit, since it can be varied, in doing remote CART, such as using Skype or Zoom; you need to be able to get audio, and strength of internet comes into play. Doubling of all equipment with home office in case something goes down. Do clients' social events/trips via cell phones or through iPads, for example. Good phone service comes into play. CART reporters must be prepared and be sure to have online access if at a school/university.

Some CART events include sports like the Wild (get to be in a cold room, brrr), weddings, receptions, rodeos, Minnesota Zoo (can learn a lot), and Joe Biden at the DFL Convention (he was funny apparently!).

CART is about equal access for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing. A CART reporter writes even what's going on in their surroundings. Captioning allows the Deaf to learn English better versus ASL, which is more visual.

Passers-by who witness CART reporters in action at events find it "fascinating," and I have to say I find them fascinating and amazing too!

Rhonda Franken is an official reporter for the Hon. Douglas C. Bayley, Goodhue County, Red Wing, Minnesota.



Heather Schuetz, Lisa Richardson and Karen Skow

MAVRC 2018 FALL CONVENTION RECAP (FRIDAY)

By Julie Buehler, RMR, CRR, CRC

Jeff Picco of Country Financial also did a presentation at the MAVRC convention on September 7 focusing on planning for retirement and how to obtain the financial peace of mind we need for those “golden years” and beyond.

Some key points by him:

Have a plan – don’t let it scare you.

Determine your needs – How much do you need? Retirement Age? Healthcare needs? Consider inflation. You need 70 – 80% of pre-retirement income.

Invest wisely. Protect your nest egg.

How to get there: Social Security, continued employment, personal savings and investments. Definitely go to Social Security and create your own personal account and view your Social Security statement online.

Dollar cost averaging – it’s important to invest monthly. You should rebalance your portfolio regularly.

Assess whether you’re on track. Have a plan. Have a goal.

If you’re interested in retirement solutions for life, Mr. Picco recommends the book *Paychecks and Playchecks* by Tom Hegna.

Jonathan Penny, the ASL program coordinator at the University of Minnesota, whose first language is ASL, gave an overview at the fall convention of American Sign Language, including a brief history and some of the basic vocabulary used, all through the use of English-speaking interpreters.

Some key points by him:

There are 137 different sign languages used in the world.

ASL has its own syntax and grammatical structure.

Deaf people value group/community rather than individual.

ASL is considered a foreign language and taught at the University of Minnesota.

ASL is slightly less than 300 years old.



Jeff Picco

Do Deaf people have a culture? They have Deaf art, Deaf theater, Deaf history, Deaf sports such as the USDF Sports Federation, Olympics for the Deaf community, and music with sign language and motion.

ASL Etiquette: Getting attention - Tapping, waving, using an intermediary, flickering the lights, table tapping, and floor stomping.

Culturally Deaf people prefer to be called Deaf and Hard of Hearing, not Hearing Impaired.

The dominant hand is used in signing, just like writing.

Facial and body grammar, pitch, tone and inflection (speaker slowly shows anger or speed of signing reflects emotion). Your face is adjusted to match the concept you're talking about.

ASL vs. Structure: ASL has its own structure. In English it's subject verb object. In ALS it's object subject verb. "The cat ran up the tree" versus "Tree cat ran." It is not a word-for-word translation.

It is considered taboo to talk while signing. For proper names and places it is okay to fingerspell, but it is not a substitute for words, just a last resort.

ASL Pronunciation:

1. Handshape – 54 handshapes
2. Palm orientation
3. Location
4. Movement
5. Non-manual markers (facial grammar)

One word needs all five parameters.

Mr. Penny had an example of 13 different examples of signing the word "run"!

As a native ASL speaker, Mr. Penny gave a very passionate and thorough presentation on the language of the ASL community.

Julie Buehler is an official reporter for the Hon. Lisa Hayne, Olmsted County, Rochester, Minnesota.



Jonathan Penny

MAVRC 2018 FALL CONVENTION RECAP (SATURDAY)

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

“Captioning the Olympics”

Following a fabulous luncheon and MAVRC’s annual business meeting, the attendees at the convention listened to Jane Hagan-O’Brien speak about her experiences captioning the Olympics and a number of other national sporting and news events. People all over the world utilize captioning; and because a captioner’s writing is up on the big screen for everyone to see, it requires a very high degree of precision and an extensive dictionary. While student reporters nowadays learn to write realtime utilizing short and long vowels, that was not the case for Jane. Through the years following her graduation from Macomb Academy of Court Reporting in Michigan, Jane spent time refining her writing, incorporating long and short vowels, and perfecting her writing to the point where she was successful in attaining a number of NCRA certifications, including the RMR and the CRR.

Her hard work and determination further paid off by her being hired to caption a number of national sporting events, the Olympics, the Paralympics, the nightly news, weather-related disasters, and the Florida tobacco trials. Jane utilizes one computer for her deposition work and then a separate computer for captioning. Jane is currently part owner of Southern Reporters located out of Daytona Beach, Florida, and continues to provide captioning and deposition services.



Jane Hagan-O'Brien

NCRA UPDATE

This year’s NCRA representative was none other than NCRA President Sue Terry of Springfield, Ohio. Sue provided an overview of the recently adopted 2019-2021 Strategic Plan. The vision of NCRA is to be the leading authority on court reporting and captioning, and the latest strategic plan helps solidify and strengthen the court reporting profession. The three primary goals identified by the NCRA Board of Directors in the strategic plan include the following:

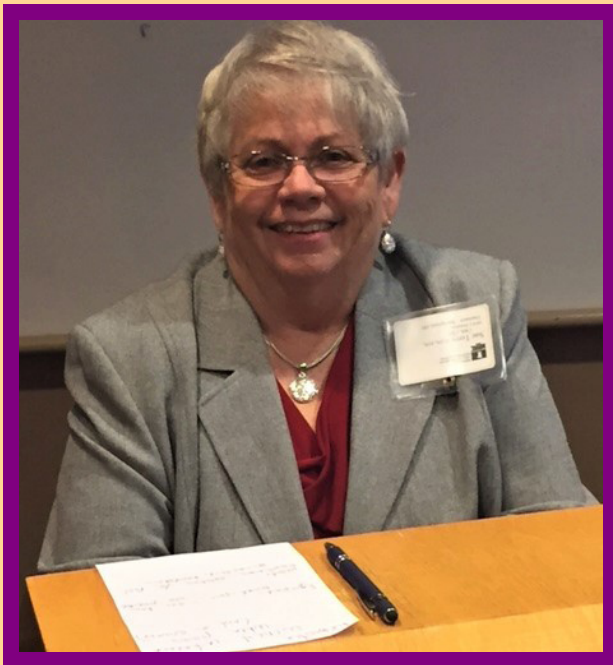
- 1. Build and Operate a Sustainable Business and Financial Model.** This is being accomplished, in part, by finding ways to increase revenues and membership, improving communication with its members, proactively engaging corporate partners, and prioritizing capital resources. It is the goal of the NCRA Board to decrease expenses by one-third in both 2019 and 2020, which will lead to the association reaching a break-even point in 2021. Staff will also systematically review all programs and establish written objectives, plans, and goals to enhance each program.
- 2. Position our Profession and Association for the Future.** NCRA is looking to develop an awareness campaign to engage prospective new members and communicate the value of court reporters and captioners joining forces to drive growth and advocate for the profession. The second facet of this goal is to embark on a rebranding initiative to update the image of stenography as a highly skilled, technical profession that is relevant today and into the future. Other priorities include developing educational content to reflect the changing needs of the marketplace and to identify strategic alliances.

3. Increase Demand for NCRA Certifications. This will be addressed by developing strategic alliances, elevating NCRA's role as an industry advocate, and strengthening relationships with NCSA, state associations, and state governments to create more value for national membership and certification and deliver value at the local level.

Upcoming NCRA events include the Business Summit being held in San Diego, California, February 1-3, 2019; Court Reporting & Captioning Week, February 9-16; NCRA Legislative Boot Camp, May 5-7; and the 2019 Annual Convention being held in Denver, Colorado, August 15-18;

Key issues facing the court reporting profession include certification, contracting, electronic/digital recording, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the student shortage. Also on the horizon are issues the stenographic court reporting profession faces with increased use by CART and captioning providers of realtime voice writing and the utilization of artificial intelligence.

One prime example of artificial intelligence expanding into the captioning field is the Watson Captioning program. Launched in February of 2018 by IBM, the Watson is a potential stand-alone program that will automate the process of captioning using Automated Speech Recognition (ASR), which includes speech recognition, speech-to-text, and audio recognition. Initially launched for previously recorded content, the service has since expanded to support live content for broadcast TV. As of this time the Watson program has not achieved accurate enough levels for live material, but additional work is being performed by IBM to improve its accuracy. NCRA is continuing to monitor the use of artificial intelligence programs for captioning and serves on the National Captioning Regulatory Committee, so watch for further updates on this important issue.



Sue Terry

Another prime example of how NCRA works on behalf of the court reporting profession is through the National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF). The purpose of NCRF is to conduct and support philanthropic, educational, research, and other charitable activities in furtherance of the goals of NCRA. Some of NCRF's initiatives include the Legal Education Program, the Oral Histories Program, the Angels Program, and various scholarships and awards.

Following her NCRA update, Sue transitioned into her educational session entitled "Why Should We Want Strong Technology Skills?" Some of the basic answers to that question are that it makes our job easier, saves us time, allows us to cover higher-paying work, helps keep our profession relevant, and allows us to play an integral role in the legal and captioning arenas.

Because the use of technology is increasing day by day and impacts our lives in different ways, embracing it and learning how to use technology in our jobs is very

important. It is never too late to start utilizing cutting edge technology. What might work today might not work tomorrow, so it is better to stay up-to-date with new emerging technologies than it is to try to play catch-up years later. Sue recommended some helpful gadgets to check out, including an external sound card by 3D Sound or Sound Professionals; an audio amplifier by Boostaroo; and a Bluetooth keyboard by Logitech.

For those reporters who like to incorporate as many shortcuts as possible into their writing, Sue provided a number

(Continued on page 24)

MAVRC 2018 FALL CONVENTION RECAP (SATURDAY)

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

(Continued from page 23)

of handy tips, such as defining a stroke like SAOIM as (Simultaneous cross-talk interrupted by the court reporter for clarification and a request to speak one at a time.) or creating your own computer error code for those times when the deposition simply becomes unreportable, such as (Maximum processor speech input exceeded.)

Sue's suggestions for writing dashed phrases included the following:

day-to-day = DA*I
time-to-time = TAO*EUM
page-by-page = PA*U
week-to-week = WAO*EK
inch-by-inch = N*FP
month-to-month = M*O

When reporting a public hearing or other meeting where there are numerous speakers, Sue suggested using a left-hand alphabet along with an answer symbol for easy speaker identifiers. Examples: SPEAKER A: AFRPBLGTS, and SPEAKER B: BFRPBLGTS, et al. That basic theory can then be extended to the following court identifiers:

THE CLERK: KLFRPBLGTS,
THE PLAINTIFF: PLFRPBLGTS
THE DEFENDANT: DEFRPBLGTS
THE WITNESS: WFRPBHLGTS
THE BAILIFF: TBFRPBLGTS
THE ARBITRATOR: TAFRPBLGTS
THE INTERPRETER: TIFRPBLGTS

Some handy short forms for marking exhibits include:

MOID = marked for identification
HOID = handing you what's been marked for identification
SHOID = showing you what's been marked for identification
WOID = what's been marked for identification

The valuable tips and insights provided by Sue and the other speakers are just one prime example of why MAVRC members should make it a point to attend the spring seminar and/or the fall convention. Not only do the attendees walk away with some very useful advice, they also have the opportunity to see old friends, make new friends, and even garner up new business. While court reporters have been in the court system since the early 1800s, the tools of our trade have dramatically changed over that time period from inkwells to computerized stenographic machines. Staying informed of the issues and the latest technology, as well as supporting MAVRC, helps us meet the challenges of tomorrow. I look forward to seeing everyone at MAVRC's 2019 Spring Seminar!

Jackie Young is a member of the Publications Committee and is a freelance reporter.



The foundation for court reporting philanthropy

I/we have been contacted by _____ regarding the 2019 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 _____

→ to be paid within the next 12 months as follows:

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WILLARD I. BRAUN

OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

By Jane Schleusner, CP, RPR, CM, CRI

It was one of the highlights of my career to be allowed to present to Valerie Riske the William I. Braun Outstanding Student of the Year Award at the 2018 MAVRC Fall Conference. I have known Valerie for the duration of her education career here at Anoka Tech. Valerie immediately struck me as a young woman who knew what she wanted for a career. After working with Valerie, it became clear that she was committed to the profession and knew how to work hard in order to succeed. Even though Valerie has three small children, she has always been timely and highly proficient in all of her classes. She does everything and much more than what is expected of a student. Valerie is currently a 180 student. She will be a great asset to our profession in the very near future.

The Willard I. Braun 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.



Valerie Riske

It was my pleasure to meet Valerie's husband and mother at the fall convention. Both of them told me how proud they were of Valerie. It was clear that she has the full support of her family. Working with Valerie has been a great experience for all of us here at Anoka Tech. She is a lovely young woman, and we are proud that we can call her our own.

Jane Schleusner is an instructor for the Judicial Reporting program at Anoka Tech. ■



Jane Schleusner and Valerie Riske



MY FELLOW STUDENTS, GO TO CONVENTIONS

By Crystal Joos

As I sit down to write this, I am thinking of all the reporters out in the field, my teachers, my mentors, but, most of all, I want to write this to my fellow students. This August marked the start of my second year as a court reporting student at Anoka Technical College. Even with my limited experience, I have already had a few of the ups and downs that our teachers warned us about. This is not an easy program, and it can be a little tough and discouraging at times. But there is hope.

On September 7th and 8th of this fall, I attended my second MAVRC State Convention. I know all of you know about this convention because I have been there with you in class when Jane, Jennifer, and Deb have told us multiple times a semester when the next convention or seminar was coming up and that we should be going to them. Most students shrug it off as too expensive or a waste of time. Convention is usually on Fridays or Saturdays, and that is just quality

party time, right? Sorry, Jennifer, I spelled “practice time” wrong, didn’t I? But I am telling you, ladies and gentlemen of the court reporting program, you need to go to these conventions. It is so different from being in class and having Jane tell you what the courtroom is like or Jennifer walking you through a deposition.

When you go to a convention, you are completely surrounded by working reporters from every avenue of the field and a wide range of experience levels. There are people who have only been reporting for a year or two, and then there are some who have been working for 40 years already. The amount of knowledge is staggering. And the greatest part? They are all interested in you. I cannot tell you how many people come up to me at these events because they know I am a student. They want to know how I’m doing in school, what I’m struggling with, what I like, what my goals are, and so much more. I get offers from people who want to be my mentor, or

they will just give me a card and tell me to email them with any questions I have or just to chat about school or life whenever I need to. They want you to succeed. It is amazing the amount of support you feel when you go to conventions.

Not only are these reporters supportive, but they are also incredibly inspiring as well. The motivation is incredible. I spent two days seeing professionals and experts from the field and thinking to myself “why am I not one of them yet? I need to get home, get on my machine, and practice 10 hours a day until I get there!” It is so inspiring to just be surrounded by people who have been through the same kind of program and have made it. There is an immense amount of talent at these conventions, and it is a waste to not go and soak it all in.

Crystal Joos is a reporting student at Anoka Tech and a member of the publications committee. ■



Congratulations

TO OUR NEWLY CERTIFIED MEMBERS!

NEWLY CERTIFIED REPORTERS (As of November 1, 2018)

Congratulations to **Nancy Meyer, RPR, CRR**, Apple Valley, Minnesota, who recently passed the CRR (Certified Realtime Reporter) certification.

MARGIE MESMERIZES MINNESOTA

By Crystal Joos

Margie Wakeman Wells, the Goddess of Grammar, attended the MAVRC Convention this fall on September 8th. She spoke for well over an hour bestowing wisdom about everything from adjectives to the proper use of the semicolon. Some important tidbits to remember:

- English evolves and words change, most print editions of dictionaries will not be up to date. Use onelook.com as a one-stop shop to check your transcripts for those pesky one word, two words, hyphenated conundrums;
- “You don’t get to change the punctuation because you don’t like the way it looks or you think there’s too many (commas).” If it’s right, it’s right.
- “You get to use ‘sic’ ten times in your career. Don’t use it all up in the first transcript.” Sic should only be used when there is a big mistake in the original document being quoted. Otherwise it makes the reporter using it look cocky.

She also gave attendees a few good references to use, such as her own website, www.margieholdscourt.com, and advised that they get subscriptions to Merriam Webster and The Chicago Manual of Style online.

Not only did Margie spend her time educating court reporters, she also returned to Minnesota on October 25th to be a guest lecturer at Anoka Technical College. Here the focus was more on practice. Margie spent nearly an hour giving useful practicing tips to students in speeds ranging from their 80s to their 225s. She talked about how to schedule practice like it was a job, practice a variety of material from audio as well as hardcopy; and take the time to read over steno notes to analyze mistakes and learn from them. She gave every student in attendance a drill book to practice with and raffled off two of her other books, *All About English* and *Word Pairs*.

Although practice was the main topic of conversation, Margie also educated the students on grammar and punctuation. She held a discussion involving the students, finding out from them what they were confused about and explaining it in simple, clear-cut ways. She helped them finally understand some of the most harrowing grammar hurdles, such as affect/effect, who/whom, lay/lie, and into/in to, as well as quickly giving a run-down on commas and semicolons.

Both sessions were well attended with packed rooms of eager listeners, and all came out smarter and better prepared to face the daunting word of modern grammar.

Crystal Joos is a reporting student at Anoka Tech and a member of the Publications Committee. ■



Margie Wakeman Wells



Margie Wakeman Wells (far left) is pictured with Anoka Tech students

STUDENT PIZZA PARTY

By Sandy Burch, RPR, CRR

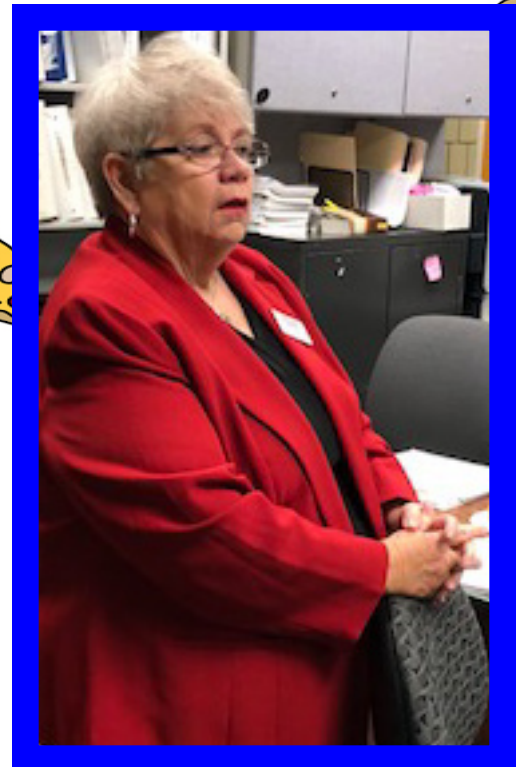
It has become somewhat of a tradition that MAVRC sponsors a pizza party at Anoka Tech the Thursday before the annual fall convention, and this year was no exception. Sue Terry, the current NCRA president, was our rep this year, and she joined us and was able to talk with the students about her career experiences and what the future holds for them in the field of court reporting. Sharon Steinbrecher, Merilee Johnson, and I were also in attendance, and we look forward to these students becoming colleagues!



NCRA President Sue Terry (pictured in front row on far left) was present at Anoka Tech to speak with students.



Merilee Johnson, Jane Schleusner and Sharon Steinbrecher



NCRA President Sue Terry speaking with students at Anoka Tech



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MAVRC Get-Together

Thursday

** * * December 6, 2018 * * **

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Laura Pelletier

ljpelletier@comcast.net or

(763) 421-2025

COURT RECORD WORKGROUP

By Jill Garrison, RPR

In February, 2017, Justice Lorie Gildea formed a workgroup to review court reporter structure, supervision, and how the record is captured and archived. The members of the workgroup included six administrators, five court reporters, and twelve judges (a judge from each judicial district, a judge from the Minnesota District Judges Association, and an appellate judge). The workgroup was given a charge and criteria to follow and work through. It was chaired by a retired judge who was supported by an HR specialist from State Court Administration, who truly guided the workgroup. The workgroup met monthly from February 2017 through May 2018 and its final report was submitted to the Judicial Council in June 2018.

The workgroup acknowledged all ways in which the record is captured in the Minnesota State Court System. No preference was shown for any particular method. The reporters chosen to be on the workgroup were expected to be able to view all methods used as equal.

The recommendations discussed were:

1. MNCIS ID of Reporter. That the court reporter reporting proceedings be listed in MNCIS on each date the court reporter captured the record.

2. Allow all methods of court reporting. The workgroup acknowledged that different methods are used to capture the record and recommended that the Minnesota Judicial Branch continue using all current methods.
3. Audio Backup. The workgroup recommended that all courtrooms have an audio backup system. This was mostly important to the administrators. It was learned that all but 26 courtrooms in the state already had audio backup. 23 of the 26 courtrooms were in the 2nd Judicial District (or Saint Paul, Ramsey County).
4. Exhibit Transcript Process (audio/video transcription). There has been some debate as to whether attorneys should come to court with a prepared transcript of any audio/video exhibits. Judges generally require that. The rules are silent on this. It was recommended that the Supreme Court convene the Rules Committee to provide rules covering this.
5. Bring transcripts into workday and remove CR transcript pay. This recommendation and Recommendation #6 are identical, except with #5, the Minnesota Judicial Branch would bring all

transcript work into the workday and bill out for and collect transcript fees. Court Reporters would transcribe transcript work during the workday.

6. Bring transcripts into the workday, nicknamed the “federal model”. This policy would allow Court Reporters to work on transcripts during the workday after any other work was completed and also continue to bill out and collect transcript fees per current practice.

Recommendations 1-4 and 6 received majority votes from the workgroup. Recommendation #5 received a minority vote.

The court reporters felt we had to put most of our effort into Recommendation #6. We rallied judges around the state to have their district’s judge member vote in favor of #6, and we were thrilled with the overwhelming support received from judges. However, when the final report was given to the Judicial Council at their meeting in June, Justice Gildea expressed disappointment with that recommendation. Justice Gildea asked a committee of court administrators to determine cost impacts of Recommendations #5 and #6 and report back to the Judicial Council in August.

In August, the committee of court administrators presented to the Judicial Council. Their entire presentation was about implementing Recommendation #5. There was no cost impact analysis or breakdown of either Recommendation #5 or 6. Again, #5 received a minority vote from the workgroup. Their presentation also discussed a future steno court reporter shortage. It was difficult to listen to. In the discussion that followed that presentation, again, many judges were very supportive of Recommendation #6; yet, Justice Gildea was not, expressed her support of Recommendation #5, and some judges agreed with her.

As a part of both Recommendations 5 and 6, each district is to prepare a court record management work plan which will oversee supervision and structure of court reporters as well as maintaining and preserving the court record. State Court Administration is preparing a template for the districts to work off of and, as of November 2018, that template has not been completed yet. I work in the 2nd Judicial District and my district has put together a committee of three judges and two court reporters, and there is discussion that they hope to collaborate with the 1st and

10th Districts. However, they will not begin meeting until they are provided the template that State Court Administration is preparing.

As of November 2018 the Judicial Council has not decided whether it will move forward with Recommendation #5 or #6. It seems to have been tabled at this time; however, we're keeping a vigilant watch so that, if need be, we can rally behind judges to impress upon their chief judges to vote against Recommendation #5.

Jill Garrison is an official reporter in Ramsey County, Minnesota. ■



PRO BONO

Kudos to
Lori Morrow
for volunteering to
provide
pro bono services.



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

Jean Whalen, RDR, CRC, RSA, DSA
MAVRC's Pro Bono Coordinator

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SAVE THE DATE

MAVRC Spring Seminar



April 6, 2019

Anoka Technical College

**Watch for further information
coming soon!**



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Court Reporting as a Career???

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Jennifer Sati

JSati@anokatech.edu

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6, 2018

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December

31, 2018

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