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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By Monica Christensen, RMR

Wow! It's hard for me to believe that it's almost back-to-school time and that my term as president is nearing a conclusion. It certainly has been a busy year!

Through the efforts of our hard-working Legislative Committee, we were successful in our efforts to pass legislation on contracting that will hopefully provide more accountability for the freelance profession going forward. That legislation will be posted on our website as well as in our *Minne-strokes* publication. A huge thank you to all who worked on the language of this bill!

In the official world, a new employment contract had been negotiated this summer between the Union Court Reporting Stewards and State Court Administration. Meetings were held with all officials via video/teleconference on a couple of occasions as well as an in-person meeting at the end of July to go over the details of the new tentative agreement and answer any questions that were had. Ballots were sent out at the beginning of August, and at the time of my writing of this, I do not know if the new contract has yet been ratified.

Our members participated once again at the Spring Fling held at the Anoka Technical College, demonstrating their real-time talents to the attendees. Thanks to Jennifer Sati and all of the



Monica Christensen

instructors of the court reporting/broadcasting program for their dedication and guidance with the students entering our profession.

We held another successful spring seminar in April at the Anoka Technical College, hosting a variety of great speakers. Many thanks to all who made this possible, including all of the volunteers who were more than willing to assist in the setup and cleanup afterwards. It is often not easy to find speakers to sacrifice time out of a Saturday in the spring to present to us, but we were fortunate to be able to put together an interesting lineup. Hopefully, we will be able to do the same next year. It never seems to be too early to start planning for next year!

Speaking of seminars, we are putting the final touches on our agenda for the fall convention. It will be held, as I'm *(Continued on Page 3)*

2014-2015 MAVRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Monica Christensen, Bemidji (218) 333-4212 monica.christensen@courts.state.mn.us
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***If you are interested in providing
pro bono reporting services,
contact:***

***Jean Whalen, RDR, CRR
MAVRC Pro Bono Coordinator
Juvenile and Family Justice
Center***

***25 West Seventh Street
Suite B304***

St. Paul, MN 55102

Phone: 651-266-5170

Jean.whelen@courts.state.mn.us



WELCOME MAVRC MEMBERS

**Debbie Grebbin, RPR
Official Reporter
Preston, Minnesota**

**Vicki Pierce, RPR
Official Reporter
Minneapolis, MN**

(Continued from Page 1)

sure you already know, at the Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel in Prior Lake, Minnesota, on Friday and Saturday, October 9 and 10. Something a bit different this year, we are going to have a “pre-convention” opportunity to earn CEUs for those interested in a tour of the MCF - Shakopee, a correctional facility for women. The tour has a maximum number of 20 registrants, unfortunately, so it will be a first-come/first-served basis. A good incentive to get your registrations in early if you’d like to partake in the two-hour tour, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The official start of the fall convention will be with registration, starting at 12:30. Our first speakers will be Pat Matter and Chris Omodt, who will begin at 1 p.m. Their presentation will be about their experiences as a former leader of the Hells Angels and the law enforcement officer that had been hot on his trail.

Afterwards, we will welcome back to our fall convention Mark Lanterman of Computer Forensic Services. His presentations have been fun as well as educational in the past, and we look forward to hearing from him again in his presentation, “Easiest Catch: Don’t Be Another Fish in the Net.”

We will hear from our very own lobbyist, Joel Carlson, who will explain in more detail about the legislation that has been passed that will benefit our profession and give us another update on what has been happening at the capital. During his presentation, we will also partake in a delicious buffet of Mystic Lake specialties.

After a night of fun and frolic at Mystic Lake, or perhaps a quiet evening of relaxation in your hotel room, we will start Saturday off with none other than Mark Kislingbury, speed champion and realtime wizard, who will share his knowledge and pass along some writing techniques. So don’t forget to bring along your steno machines and laptops for a phenomenal presentation of speed and skill!

Mark’s seminar will take us right up to the lunch hour, when we will enjoy another delicious Mystic buffet and conduct our annual business meeting. I will be stepping down as your president and Jackie Young will become MAVRC’s 2015-2016 leader. Jackie is no stranger to a leadership role. As you may remember, Jackie served as our president a few years ago as well. She will be awesome!

On Saturday afternoon, we will once

again fire up our steno machines for a couple of break-out sessions with software experts Jim Woitalla with Eclipse and Pam Szczecinski with Stenograph’s Case Catalyst. Jim’s session will be 90 minutes of Eclipse transcript techniques. Pam will be conducting two sessions for Case Catalyst: Session 1 for Case Catalyst users in general; Session 2 will focus on the current version of the software.

We will also be holding a financial seminar at the end of the day, following Jim Woitalla’s Eclipse presentation. We will be welcoming Darryl Dahlheimer, Program Director of Lutheran Social Services Financial Counseling Department. In his seminar, Darryl will be talking to us about the new money rules of the post-recession economy.

In a few short paragraphs, I have summarized my year as your president, but the countless memories of the people I’ve worked with on the Board, as well as all of the members and non-members I have met along the way, would take up pages and pages. It has been a total pleasure to serve, and I look forward to the coming year of our profession as I sit on the sidelines and offer my assistance to the new captain of the MAVRC ship. ■

MAVRC Mission Statement

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

TECHNOLOGY CORNER - WINDOWS 10 SECURITY SETTINGS

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

If you have installed Windows 10, you have joined the ranks of 67 million other users. This new version of Windows is available as a free upgrade until July 29, 2016, for existing Windows 7 and Windows 8 non-corporate users and will span all electronic devices. In other words, Windows 10 is no longer just an operating system for 32 and 64-bit PCs. It will also run on smaller tablets and smartphones and does not isolate other operating systems. A substantial number of the features added to Windows 10 are intended to compete with the Apple and Google operating systems.

While there is a wide range of positive elements available within Windows 10, a number of users are expressing concern over the amount of personal information Windows 10 collects. The gathering of personal information is not exclusive to Microsoft but, rather, is becoming more and more commonplace by our government as well as any number of companies. This information includes phone numbers, GPS locations, credit card numbers, data from your calendar, the apps you use, who you call and how often you interact with them on your device, and even video and audio messages. Of course, Microsoft's privacy statement outlines all the data that is being collected on you and you agreed to it when you downloaded Windows 10 and checked the terms of service, but there are ways to limit the amount of information you provide by changing your security settings.

In order to help protect your information, the first thing to do is to turn off the tracking mechanism. This can be accomplished by going to your privacy settings found under the start button and then going to settings. Once you are into your settings, click on Privacy

and then Feedback and Diagnostics. Change the feedback frequency to "never" and diagnostic and usage data to "basic." Doing this will help prevent Microsoft from gathering random information on you.

The second security setting you may want to change relates to your browser history. This feature can be turned off by clicking on the ellipsis button in the right top corner of Edge. Edge is the new default browser for Windows 10 and sends your Internet browsing history to Microsoft in order to "help Cortana personalize your experience." Cortana is Microsoft's virtual assistant. After clicking on the ellipsis button, then go to Settings/Advanced Settings/View Advanced Settings, and under Privacy and Services, turn off "Have Cortana Assist Me in Microsoft Edge." While in the Privacy and Services menu, make sure you turn off "use page prediction to speed up browsing, improve reading, and make my overall experience better," which is nothing more than an incredible title for a default setting.

The Bing integration (Microsoft's search engine) is now added to the taskbar with Windows 10. Unlike Firefox and Internet Explorer, there is no way to change the default search provider, but Bing can be disabled. If you do not want to receive Bing search results from the Windows search box, go to Settings and turn off online search. This prevents Bing from receiving your search queries.

Windows 10 will also prompt you by default to create a Microsoft account. If you are concerned about your private information, you should probably skip this step. Not creating an account will keep your activity and information local to your computer, while having an

account will create a link for Microsoft to piece all of the metadata it gathers back to your identity. Even Microsoft warns that "If you received your Microsoft account from a third party, like an Internet service provider, that third party may have rights over your account, including the ability to access or delete your Microsoft account."

In order to delete or manage your Microsoft account, go to Settings/Accounts/Your Account. Users should be aware, however, that revocation of the Microsoft account could result in an inability to access data stored on OneDrive Data, Outlook Mail, and subscriptions to software purchased in the Windows store.

While Cortana may be one of the most exciting parts of Windows 10, some people find "her" a bit intrusive. Microsoft prides itself on Cortana's ability to learn about you and create a more personal experience, but in order to do that, Cortana has to gather a bunch of information from you. This information includes anything from location, contacts, and even speech and handwriting data. In addition, all your interactions with Cortana are stored in the cloud. Given the effort exerted by hackers, it remains to be seen how secure information stored on the cloud actually is.

The benefits of the Web have, of course, come at some cost, one of which is a loss of some privacy. Taking personal responsibility for online privacy and security, however, is probably the single most important step we can take in stemming the tide of cybercrime. Even if you are not presently using Windows 10, it is to your benefit to look into your computer's operating system to ensure that you are limiting the amount of personal and sensitive information various companies are collecting on you and may be, in turn, available to hackers.

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

**MAVRC
Board of Directors/Officers
Slate of Nominees
2015-2016**

President – Jackie Young

President-Elect – Sharon Steinbrecher

Vice President Official – OPEN

Vice President Freelance – Rachel Erickson

Secretary – Dana Anderson

Treasurer – Melissa Keute

Director-at-Large B (Freelance) – Merilee Johnson
(Serving first year of 2-year term)

Director-at-Large B (Official) – Danna Frazier Nelson
(Serving second year of 2-year term)

Remaining on Board for 2015-2016

Immediate Past President – Monica Christensen

Director-at-Large A (Official) – Sarah Goebel
(Serving second year of 2-year term)

Director-at-Large A (Freelance) – Jolynn Graham
(Serving second year of 2-year term)

COURTROOM BRIEFS

Submitted by Seventh Judicial District Reporters

breach of contract	PWRAOEBGT	anything like that	GLAT
breach of warranty	PWRARPB	something like that	SLAT
square inch	SKWEUFPB	anything else	NIGS
square foot	SKWAOT	full time	FULT
square feet	SKWAOET	full-time	FL-T
square footage	SKWAOPBLG	part-time	P-T
square footages	SKWAOPBLGS	short-form	SH-F
		long-form	L-F
		short-term	SH-T
this matter	TH-PLT	long-term	L-T
in this matter	TPH-PLT		
in this case	TPHAEUS	insurance policy	SH-P
		insurance company	SH-K
debt	TKET	insurance companies	SH-KS
detective	TKEBGT/TKEFBGT	insurance adjuster(s)	SH-J(S)
Detective	TK*EBGT	insurance coverage	SH-RJ
defect	TKAOEFBGT	insurance premium(s)	SH-M(S)
		insurance settlement	SH-MT
alcoholic beverage	KHREUPBLG	insurance proceeds	SH-DZ
alcoholic beverages	KHREUPBLGS	surety bond	SH-B
blood alcohol	PWHROL		
blood alcohol level	PWHROFL	danger	DER
blood alcohol content	PWHREPBT	dangerous	DRUS
		endanger	DERN
Facebook	TPAOBG	endangerment	DERNT
Twitter	TWEUFT	endangered	DERND
YouTube	YAOUBT		
		we're back in Chambers	WABS
stay in touch	STUFP	prior to coming into court	PROURT
keep in touch	KUFP	first appearance	FAPS
with your attorney	WURPB/WAOURPB	second appearance	SAPS
		omnibus	OM
probation agent	PRAGT	omnibus hearing	OM/-G
probation violation	PROEULGS	settlement conference	S-K
violation report	SRORT	pretrial	PRAOET
		pretrial hearing	PRAOERG
sentence of the law and judgment of the Court	SLORT	jury trial	JIRT
		disposition hearing	SDOG
24 hours a day	TWAD	dispositional	SDOL
7 days a week	SDAK		
24 hours a day, 7 days a week	TWAK	period of probation	PORP
hours a day	HAD	period of your probation	POURP
days a week	DAOEK	term(s) of probation	TORP(S)
hours a week	HAOEK	term(s) of your probation	TOURP(S)
		probationary period	PR-P
exactly	SAL	violation of your probation	VOURP
absolutely	SUL	amenable to probation	MAOP
actually	TUL	unamenable to probation	NAOP
things like that	TLAT		

NAN'S VERSION OF PUNCTUATION SCHOOL

By Nanette J. Corbett, RDR

In producing verbatim transcripts, there is often a balancing act between readability and following suggested punctuation rules. One of the goals for me is that a person not present at a deposition I reported will be able to read my transcript and have the sense that they were in the room with us. As we all know, people do not always speak in complete sentences that make it easy to use a suggested punctuation rule or style, and that means that sometimes you do break the rules in favor of readability. In this article, I'll start out on a small scale. I will lay out some of my own basic rules for the use of commas and colons.

Definition: An independent clause has a subject and a predicate (think verb) and can stand by itself as a simple sentence.

Yes, use a comma to separate two or more clauses in a compound sentence when the clauses are connected by these words: and, but, or, nor. The comma goes before these connecting words. Example: We can't accept the marketing restrictions you proposed, but we think there is some basis for a mutually acceptable understanding.

No, no comma needed if two clauses answer the same question or are talking about the same issue. These clauses are often connected by the word and. Example: Their prices are low and their service is efficient.

Yes, use a colon between two independent clauses when the second clause explains or illustrates the first clause and there is no connecting word between them. Example: The

job you have described sounds very attractive: the salary is good.

Knowing that reporters have a variety of theories about how to punctuate correctly, your comments and suggestions are welcome at nansoffice@gmail.com. I will also mention here two of my favorite references: The Gregg Reference Manual and One Word, Two Words, Hyphenated? by Mary Louise Gillman; the latter being a topic for a possible future article about when to hyphenate.

Nanette Corbett is a freelance reporter in Duluth, Minnesota, and is on MAVRC's Publications Committee. ■

ANOKA TECH SCHOOL PICNIC

On July 23rd, a few students and court reporting instructors got together to hold an end-of-the-year school picnic. As the group enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch, stories about court reporting were shared as well as a few words of encouragement for the students who were completing their testing for the quarter.

Included in the picture are: Marty McKelvey (front left), Allison McCarthy (back left), Sarah Colberg (2nd from left), Tammy Mathwig (2nd from left), Jackie Young (MAVRC), Jane Schleusner (2nd from right), and Hollie Selley (far right).

Missing from picture are Jennifer Sati and Deb Longley, who decided to be camera shy that day.



MAVRC FALL CONVENTION SESSION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, October 9, 2015

- 10:00 – 12:00** Tour of MCF-Shakopee
(Please arrive 15 minutes early to sign in at the prison – and don't forget your ID!)
- 12:30 – 1:00** Registration at Mystic
- 1:00 – 3:00** “Breaking the Code”
Pat Matter and Chris Omodt
A former Hells Angel and a retired cop who had been hot on his trail form a friendship and co-author a book on their experiences.
- 3:00 – 3:15** MID-AFTERNOON BREAK
- 3:15 – 5:15** “Easiest Catch”
Mark Lanterman, Computer Forensics
A discussion of recent high-profile cyber crime events and threats that could affect all of us.
- 5:30 – 6:30** LEGISLATIVE UPDATE/BUFFET
“What's up at the Capital?”
Joel Carlson, MAVRC Lobbyist
Joel will update us on recent legislation that has been passed which directly affect us.
- 6:30 – 7:30** NCRA Representative
Our NCRA rep will conduct a townhall meeting where attendees can ask questions and voice concerns of our profession and find out what is going on at the national level.

**FRIDAY: (.80 CEUs applied for with tour;
.60 without prison tour)**

*All seminars will be in Little Crow unless otherwise noted.

MAVRC FALL CONVENTION SESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, October 10, 2015

8:00 – 8:30	Registration/Breakfast
8:30 – 10:00	Mark Kislingbury Hands-on training on the steno machines!
10:00 – 10:15	MID-MORNING BREAK
10:15 – 11:45	Mark Kislingbury Hands-on training – Part 2
12:00 – 1:30	LUNCH & BUSINESS MEETING
1:30 – 3:00	CAT TRAINING SESSIONS 1 Option 1: Case Catalyst Trainer Pam Szczecinski affecting our performance on the job. Option 2: Eclipse Trainer Jim Woitalla, RDR, CRI, FAPR
3:00 – 3:15	MID-AFTERNOON BREAK
3:15 – 5:15	SESSION 2 Option 1: Case Catalyst – Part 2 Trainer Pam Szczecinski Option 2: “The New Rules of Money” Darryl Dahlheimer, LSS Financial Counselor Learn the “new rules” of the post-recession economy. Make financial decisions about money management, debt, credit, savings and consumer protection in a new light.

SATURDAY: (.65 CEUs applied for)

*All seminars will be in Little Crow unless otherwise noted.

MAVRC FALL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Official _____ Freelance _____

NCRA Member # _____ Certifications Held _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Email _____

EARLY BIRD PRICES (before 9/18/15)

Friday (with prison tour) \$165 _____

Friday (1:00 – 7:30) \$150 _____

Saturday (8:30 – 5:00) \$150 _____

Friday & Saturday \$275 (\$25 savings) _____

LATE REGISTRATION (before 10/1/15)

Friday, only OR Saturday, only: \$200 _____

Friday & Saturday: \$325 _____

Student or retired member \$65 (1 day) _____

or \$125 (2 days) _____

Nonmember Fee \$120 _____

(Nonmember fee MUST be paid in addition to the registration fee if you are NOT currently a MAVRC member.)

Sponsor a student _____

Total Enclosed (payable to MAVRC) \$ _____

Mail this registration form and payment to:

MAVRC

P.O. Box 375

Marshall, MN 56258

Registrations must be postmarked by Friday, September 18, 2015, for discount.



MAVRC FALL CONVENTION SILENT AUCTION

MAVRC is currently seeking donations for the silent auction to be held at the fall convention. Have some fun with your co-employees, friends, or fellow students putting together a theme basket or contributing a gift certificate or whatever you creatively come up with!

The silent auction will be held on
Saturday, October 10, 2015.

If you would like to donate an item, please bring your donation to the sign-up table at the convention AND please email in advance a description of the donation, its value, and the name of the donor to monica.christensen@courts.state.mn.us

Your participation is appreciated.
Thank you.

YOUR HEALTH IS DEPENDENT ON PROPER SLEEP

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

If you are not getting seven to eight hours of sleep every night, chances are very good that you are not giving your body the proper rest you need for good health and optimal productivity. There have been numerous studies that have demonstrated that the odds of developing some type of health condition dramatically rises in people who do not get the proper amount of rest. These conditions can range from heart-related issues, insulin resistance, depression, memory loss, learning difficulties, and lower life expectancy. To help highlight how serious a lack of sleep is on your health, in the 2007 Whitehall II study, British researchers discovered that people who cut their sleep from seven hours to five hours a night nearly doubled their risk of dying from all causes.

If you suffer from any of the following, you might be sleep deprived:

- You need an alarm clock to wake up.
- You suffer from impaired decision-making. This includes your ability to make minor or major decisions.
- Impulsivity. The opposite of impaired decision-making, you are easily swayed by your emotions.

- Irritability.
- You are sick all the time, which likely means you have an impaired immune system.
- Difficulty recalling.
- Inability to concentrate.
- You are clumsy. Sleep-deprived individuals are more clumsy than those who have had two to three glasses of wine or a couple of cocktails.
- Nodding off or microsleeping. If you are fading out during the day, your body is trying to tell you something.

Do yourself a favor and be sure to take heed of those warning signs. By incorporating some of the following healthy habits, you will get more sleep or better quality sleep:
- Stay on a sleep schedule and do not deviate from it even on the weekends or vacation time.
- Keep your bedroom free of bright night lights, glowing alarm clocks,

and television sets. Bedrooms should be kept quiet and as dimly lit as possible.

- Refrain from or limit consumption of alcohol, caffeine, and nicotine before bedtime as they contribute to sleep disruption throughout the evening.
 - Partake of foods that help to induce sleep, such as iron-rich foods like spinach or lentils, since they help lessen restless leg syndrome, or consume foods that are high in tryptophan such as eggs, sesame seeds and pumpkin seeds.
 - Exercise regularly.
 - Avoid using electronic devices in the hour or two before bedtime. Also avoid looking at your cell phone while lying in bed as this will only wake you up and cause you to stay up longer.
- Wishing you sweet dreams, good health, and increased productivity!

Jackie Young serves on MAVRC's Board of Directors in the position of President-Elect. ■

Save the Date!

MAVRC'S Spring Seminar - April 23, 2016

Anoka Technical College, Anoka, Minnesota

Feature Session: Nancy and Ed Varallo

MINNESOTA OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER STEWARD LIST

1st District – Lori Ritchie and Mary Johnson

2nd District - Jill Garrison and Hayley Hogan

3rd District - Peggy Morgan (State representative)

4th District - Patricia Weinberg, Dana Carmichael

5th District - Theresa Bock

6th District - Deborah Dreawves with Steve Bystedt as alternate

7th District - Mary Krawiecki and Lisa Vosika

8th District - Cheryl Torgerson

9th District - Monica Christensen and Vicky Fall

10th District - Doug Berglund and Char Tschida

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

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 9-10, 2015

CONGRATULATIONS, JENNIFER SATI

By Jackie Young, RPR, DSA

MAVRC would like to congratulate Jennifer Sati on being elected to the NCRA Board of Directors at their annual convention held in the “Big Apple,” a/k/a New York City. Jennifer joins a very esteemed group of court reporters from Minnesota who have served at the National Board of Directors level, including Ray Lerschen, Lana Fruke, and Erv Gross. Throughout her career, Jennifer has displayed a profound propensity for achieving excellence. Not only has Jennifer earned the RMR, CRR, CBC, CPP, CRI, but she was also awarded MAVRC’s Distinguished Service Award in 2012 and Instructor-of-the-Year Award in 2005.

In addition to her duties as NCRA Director, Jennifer will continue to serve as the program director and instructor for the judicial reporting and broadcast captioning program at Anoka Technical College. In

her spare time, Jennifer somehow finds time to broadcast caption professionally, spend time with her family, go for long walks, read, play ping pong, and bake.

In the words of Deb Longley, Anoka Technical College, “Jennifer is continually inspired by watching new graduates enter this rewarding career with enthusiasm! Her passionate nature spills over into the court reporting program at Anoka Technical, where she and her teaching colleagues are the best of friends.”

MAVRC wishes Jennifer the very



Jennifer Sati

best as she embarks upon this new path in her career. Way to go, Jennifer!

Jackie Young is the editor of MAVRC’s Minne-strokes and a freelance reporter in Delano, Minnesota.



Jennifer Sati (right) with the two other new board members, Linda McSwain and Mike Miller. They are getting photobombed by Sue Terry (2nd from left).



NCRA 2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION



Some Minnesota reporters in New York City at the NCRA convention gathered together:

(left to right: Merilee Johnson, Jennifer Sati, Greg Cosgrove, Brandi Bigalke, Jan Ballman.



*2015-2016 NCRA Board of Directors: Front Row (left to right): Michael Nelson (Executive Director & CEO), Doreen Sutton, Nativa Wood, Stephen Zinone, Sarah Nageotte, Christine Willette
Back Row (left to right): Rick Levy, Debra Dibble, Michael Miller, Kerry Anderson, Jennifer Sati, Linda McSwain, Anne Bowline, Sue Terry*

COURT REPORTING STUDENT PROFILE

By Crystal Ziebarth

Name: Lisa Iaria Knisley

School: Anoka Technical College

Speed: 160

Hometown: Minneapolis

Tell us a little about yourself. I am married to my best friend, Derek, who makes me laugh every day. We live in South Minneapolis with our two cats. While we don't have kids, we do have twelve nieces and nephews whom we enjoy spoiling. I currently bartend to pay the bills, but I am very much looking forward to a time when I can make my living with my writer!

What made you decide to pursue a career in court reporting?

I have been bartending since my first stint in college. I realized that, while I enjoyed my work, it wasn't necessarily fulfilling, nor what I wanted to be doing for the rest of my life. My husband was working with a woman who was getting close to finishing the program at Anoka Tech and was constantly raving about the profession. He told me about her and I did a little research on the Internet. Next thing I knew, I was buying her old student writer and enrolling in classes!

What area of reporting interests you the most at this time-

official, freelance, or captioning/CART? My ultimate, long-term goal for my career is to work in the area of captioning/CART. However, I would like to work as a freelancer as well for a while when I first graduate.

What's been the most challenging or rewarding part of your schooling thus far?

I would say thus far the most challenging part of school has been the time management aspect. In order to pay our bills, I have continued to work full time during my schooling. Between work, theory/speed classes, and my other required classes, finding time to practice has been difficult. Now that I have finished all my "non-steno" classes, I feel that I can really focus on getting through the speeds.

Do you know any working reporters or anyone that's been an influence to you? Other than the instructors in the program, I don't know any working reporters. However, I did attend the MAVRC Spring Seminar and was impressed by one of the speakers, Lisa Knight. I thought it sounded so amazing to be able to see the world while court reporting. I was really inspired by her story and would love to be able to do that at some point in my career.

If you had an hour of free time, what would you be doing (besides practicing on your steno)? I would be doing one of three things: Reading, playing my favorite video game (Civilization V), running or walking around the lakes.

What is your favorite band or type of music? Every time I get asked this question, it's like *Sophie's Choice* for me. I find it hard to pick a favorite. The bands that usually top my list are Wilco, Weezer, Atmosphere, Dylan, The Replacements, and The Hold Steady (you could say I like musicians from Minnesota).



Lisa Iaria Knisley

CONGRATS GRADUATE

NIKKI O'CONNELL

When asked about future plans after graduation, Nikki O'Connell replied: "I was just recently hired at Advantage Court Reporting, last week actually. I already have two depositions under my belt."



If you have any suggestions for the MINNE-*strokes* newsletter or stories to share about your court reporting experiences or something that would be of interest to the MAVRC membership, please submit to:

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LEGISLATIVE CHANGE TO M.S. 486.10

MAVRC's Legislative Committee, in collaboration with MAVRC Lobbyist Joel Carlson, sought and successfully obtained an amendment to the current law, MN Statute 486.10, which requires all contracts between court reporters and parties to a lawsuit to be disclosed prior to a deposition. The new amendment fortifies the old law, adding important clarifying language as well as providing more remedies.

All freelance court reporters are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the new statute, attached hereto, and to help spread the word throughout the Minnesota Bar of the change to the law. The amendments to the existing law are indicated with underlining.

HISTORY:

The initial Disclosure Law was enacted by the Minnesota Legislature in the late 1990s at that time when many states were seeking and obtaining bans on contracts between court reporting firms and parties to a lawsuit. Minnesota attempted to get contracting banned but the insurance lobby successfully blocked that attempt. The compromise was a law requiring disclosing of the existence of a contract versus taking away the right of the insurance company to obtain discounts for volume. The Court Reporting Association's lobbyist at the time assured members that any new law was to be considered a success; that the Association could always come back at a later time and amend the existing law if it could be demonstrated that the current law was not effectively addressing the issue. After several attempts to do so in past years, MAVRC was finally successful this past legislative session in strengthening the language.

The National Court Reporters Association's Code of Professional Ethics opines that court reporters ought to avoid not just the fact but the appearance of impropriety. Since a financial arrangement between court reporters, who are officers of the court, and a party to a lawsuit could create the appearance of impropriety, particularly if that arrangement favors one party over another, and certainly if that arrangement is punitive in any way to other parties to the lawsuit, NCRA advises the disclosure of that arrangement to all parties.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CURRENT LAW:

The changes to the existing law are highlighted with underlining and include a requirement to charge all parties the same rate for copy sales as well as offering the court or presiding officer several additional remedies in addition to being able to render the transcript null and void if there is a failure to disclose the existence of a contract.

MAVRC was advised by its lobbyist that less is more when it comes to amendments. The more changes, the more chance that the bill will fail because there are more facts and issues to debate. MAVRC felt the most important amendments were (a) to prohibit the cost-shifting of the contracting party's discount onto the other party(s)'s invoice and (b) to allow the fact-finder more leverage to render a remedy appropriate to the situation as opposed to one sweeping remedy; a remedy which both Bars had expressed concern around as being too oppressive.

REASON FOR THE CHANGE:

The Legislature changed the existing law in order to protect consumers from having the discounts offered to (usually larger) parties from being shifted onto the invoice of the other parties to the suit (often consumers). Secondly, many attorneys found the penalty of nondisclosure to be overly burdensome, and it left no room for the discretion of the court/presiding officer; it simply indicated the court may find the transcript to be null and void. The remedy amendments were designed to provide more guidance and latitude around a failure to disclose.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR FREELANCE COURT REPORTERS:

Freelance reporters should inquire/know whether the reporting firm they are working for has a contract with a party to the lawsuit. If one exists, they should:

- Ø Inform the attorney/law firm representing a client with a contract with a court reporting firm of the new law requiring disclosure of the contract on the Notice of Taking Deposition/Notice of Legal Procedure

Ø Disclose the existence of the contract on the record prior to the start of the deposition

Contracts usually require the law firm to exclusively use a specific court reporting firm and have negotiated rates.

With a new law often comes a renewed and heightened awareness around a practice or an issue, and this creates an opportunity for freelance reporters to educate the bar regarding the issue of contracting and the obligations around it, as per MN Statute 486.10.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 486.10, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

24.18 Subd. 2. Disclosure; court reporter requirements; objections. (a) The existence
24.19of a contract or an exclusive agreement with a court reporter or court reporting firm for
24.20court reporting services must be disclosed as provided by this paragraph. Written notice of
24.21a contract or agreement must be included in the notice of taking deposition or the notice of
24.22legal proceeding before commencement of a legal proceeding at which court reporting
24.23services are being provided. Oral disclosure of a contract or agreement must be made on
24.24the record by the court reporter at the commencement of the legal proceeding.
24.25(b) A freelance court reporter or court reporting firm:
24.26(1) shall treat all parties to an action equally, providing comparable services to
24.27all parties;
24.28(2) shall charge the same rate for copies of the same transcript to all parties according
24.29to Minnesota Rules of Civil Procedure, rule 30.06;
24.30(2) (3) may not act as an advocate for any party or act partially to any party to
24.31an action; and
24.32(3) (4) shall comply with all state and federal court rules that govern the activities
24.33of court reporters.
25.1(c) An attorney shall state the reason for the objection to the provision of court
25.2reporting services by a freelance court reporter or court reporting firm and shall note
25.3the objection and the reason on the record.
25.4EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2015, and applies to legal
25.5proceedings commencing on or after that date.

25.6 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 486.10, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
25.7 Subd. 3. Remedies. Through objection by a party to the proceedings and upon
25.8the court's or presiding officer's learning determination of a violation of subdivision 2,
25.9paragraph (a), the court or presiding officer may: (1) declare that the record for which the
25.10court reporting services were provided is void and may order that the legal proceeding be
25.11reconducted; or (2) impose sanctions against the party violating subdivision 2, paragraph
25.12(a), including civil contempt of court, costs, and reasonable attorney fees resulting from
25.13the violation. If the legal proceedings are reconducted, the parties who violate violated
25.14subdivision 2, paragraph (a), are jointly and severally liable for costs associated with
25.15reconducting the legal proceeding and preparing the new record. Costs include, but are not
25.16limited to, attorney, witness, and freelance court reporter appearance and transcript fees.
25.17EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2015, and applies to legal
25.18proceedings commencing on or after that date.

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Court Reporting as a Career???

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Jennifer Sati

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October

9-10 MAVRC Annual Fall Convention
Mystic Lake Casino Hotel
Shakopee, Minnesota

April

23, 2016 MAVRC Spring Seminar
(Feature Session: Nancy & Ed Varallo)
Anoka Technical College
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