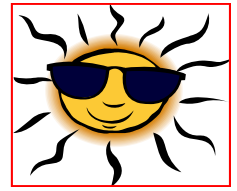
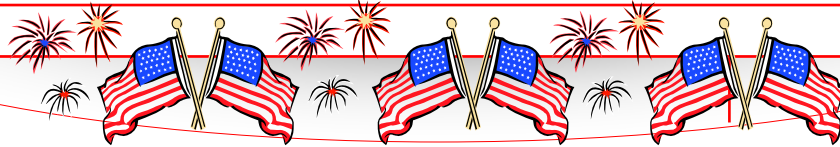


Happy Summer



VIRGINIA REPORTER

Virginia Court Reporters Association



Summer 2010

Volume 9 issue 2



A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

The annual convention at the Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia proved to be a fantastic opportunity to learn and see old friends while enjoying one of the most beautiful venues in Virginia. The Virginia Court Reporters Association board members worked diligently to bring its members interesting and exciting speakers and vendors, leaving some down time to relax and enjoy the Homestead's amenities. A big Thank You to all of you who attended and supported your association

The past two years have been quite a challenge for VCRA. The economic downturn has reared its ugly head in Virginia, and every reporter and firm has felt the impact in some way. VCRA has been able to this point to meet the demands of continuing education for Virginia reporters, while remaining mindful of its budget.

This burden would not have been met were it not for reporter participation in your state association. Continuing education and maintaining professionalism in the Virginia reporting community remains our most important goal.

Once again the board is beginning to consider another attempt at possible mandatory certification for Virginia. This is an extremely important issue and must be thoroughly considered before proceeding. Though Virginia is currently a "voluntary" state, many believe that mandatory certification would be a tool to increase reporter professionalism overall in Virginia, and a means of "weeding out" those who do not maintain a high level of skill and responsibility needed to produce an accurate record of proceedings. By maintaining your membership in VCRA, you will be kept abreast of these and other issues as they arise.

Of course achieving the Registered Professional Reporter or the Certified Verbatim Reporter status and beyond should be the goal of every court reporter. The VCRA began the CCR designation with the goal toward continuing to educate those who have not yet attained that goal. At our most recent convention, members voted to also require that any reporter who wishes to obtain the CCR designation must attempt the RPR or the CVR testing at least once per calendar year. This requirement will surely be of benefit to non RPRs/CVRs in the event Virginia passes the requirement of certification in the future.

With your membership renewal you will also receive a membership campaign letter. As a continuing member, encourage reporters around you who are not members to join your state association. If you are a new reporter to Virginia, join to gain opportunities to network and increase your knowledge base. If you are a longstanding reporter and are not currently a member, increase your professionalism by joining the VCRA. Follow the lead of other professionals and voluntarily decide that continuing education is an important component to being a professional reporter. If you are a firm owner, encourage your reporters to maintain membership. Stay in touch with current events in the reporting community by regularly reading the VCRA quarterly newsletter.

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Upcoming VCRA Event:

March 12, 2011
Education Day



Jepson Alumni Center
University of Richmond,
Richmond, Virginia

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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Court Reporting Skills and Literacy

At the age of 20, I began my court reporting career in Houston, Texas, working with large, prestigious law firms, doctors, and engineers. Working among such educated and professional people, I never gave much thought to the notion of illiteracy until I met a deponent in his fifties who ran a successful auto mechanic business and was unable to read or write. Somewhere around this time, I became vaguely familiar with Literacy Volunteers of America and decided that “someday . . .” I would work as a volunteer tutor.

A few years ago, while waiting for my son to finish his guitar lesson, I noticed a sign two doors down that read “Literacy Volunteers of America.” Well, by this time, I had gone back to school and was a full-time student at the University of Virginia with two young kids and didn’t have any spare time, but again made a mental commitment that I would volunteer my time to literacy “someday . . .”

After graduating from UVA in 2007, and 25 years after making a commitment to myself to work as a tutor, I made a phone call to what by this time was known as Literacy Volunteers of Charlottesville-Albemarle. I completed training, became a tutor, and have

been serving on the Board of Directors for almost two years. I had two students over the course of a year, and what a rewarding experience it was. Reading and writing is something that perhaps court reporters take for granted since words are what we live and breathe. But just in the Charlottesville-Albemarle County region, there are over 9,000 functionally illiterate adults. When I think of who best meets the criteria of a literacy tutor, our profession comes immediately to mind because we have mastered the ability to grasp the varied nuances of word usage and meaning – a core concept of literacy.

At some point in our lives, we often ask ourselves how we can use our skills and knowledge to enhance someone else’s life or make the world a better place. Volunteer tutoring is one way I know that the skills and knowledge of a court reporter can be used for this purpose. If you ever wonder how your profession translates to volunteerism, most communities have an adult literacy organization and will certainly be in need of enthusiastic and skilled wordsmiths.

(Submitted by Renee Hoffman, RPR)



CLEVER IDEAS WORTH KNOWING

This was taken from a recent e-mail that I received and I found them interesting and helpful.

- Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.
- Add a teaspoon of water when frying ground beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.
- Add garlic immediately to a recipe if you want a light taste of garlic and at the end of the recipe if you want a stronger taste of garlic.
- When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cupcakes with the same amount. You also eat less sugar and calories per serving.
- Place a dryer sheet in your pocket. It will keep the mosquitoes away.
- Foggy windshield on a way to that court reporting job? Buy a chalkboard eraser and keep it in the glove box of your car. When the windows fog, rub with the eraser. Works better than a cloth.
- Use your hair conditioner to shave your legs. It’s cheaper than shaving cream and leaves your legs really smooth.
- Use a wet cotton ball or Q-tip to pick up the small shards of glass you can’t see easily.

Submitted by Tracy Koschara, CCR

THANK YOU TO MARIANNE HOLMES AND VICTORIA HALASZ, our volunteer Chief Examiners for the May NCRA testing, and their helpers.

VCRA will again sponsor NCRA testing in Norfolk in August (No RMR) and in Norfolk and Richmond in November (all NCRA tests).

Your Heart holds a vast array of goodness so that you may share it with others.

(Woman’s World)

Earthquake Rocks the Pacific Coast - SDF Search Teams are Deployed

Sunday, April 4, at 3:40pm PST, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake shook the coast of Southern California and Mexico. The epicenter was about 30 miles south of Mexicali near the California border. Over 500 aftershocks were felt throughout Southern California and parts of Arizona and Texas. The quake killed two people, injured over 230, and caused the collapse or partial collapse of 45 buildings.



Fidel Gomez & Krissy



Luis Garcia & Jazz

Once again the SDF teams were called into action. Two of the Baja-California based teams, **Fidel Gomez & Krissy** and **Luis Garcia & Jazz**, were deployed along with 45 members of Baja California Task Force 3.

On Tuesday, Fidel was able to communicate with SDF by phone, and relayed this report:

When we arrived in Mexicali Monday night there was no power and the roads were badly damaged. It was 95 degrees during the day, and the dogs rested in air-conditioned cars when they weren't searching. Our assignment was to make sure all government buildings had been completely evacuated. This included two public hospitals and an eight-story government building.

*When we finished searching one of the hospitals, the **President of Mexico, Felipe Calderon**, walked in and thanked us for our service. He said that the work we did was exactly what was needed – that human lives were on the line, and we were able to make sure no one was left behind.*

The canine teams are very organized and very experienced, thanks to our training through the Search Dog Foundation. Other handlers from SDF have shared their experiences from other deployments, and this is what helped us be prepared for a deployment like this.

We are so glad that we have specialized tools in our canine partners, and we cannot thank SDF enough for being there in critical moments like those we lived through on Easter Sunday. I would tell other handlers to believe in the SDF training system, trust their canines and do their best on their deployments



SEARCH DOG FOUNDATION
Be Part of the Search™

(Submitted by Cheryl Maddox, RPR, CCR)

The SDF organization was at the National convention at National Harbour last year and featured in our Summer 2009 newsletter!

ARE YOU A "GENIUS"?



According to MENSA, if you get 23 of these, you are a "genius". Only 2 MENSA members achieved full marks. See how well you do

No	Cryptic	Answer
0	24 H in a D	24 HOURS IN A DAY...
1	26 L of the A	
2	7 D of the W	
3	7 W of the W	
4	12 S of the Z	
5	66 B of the B	
6	52 C in a P (WJs)	
7	13 S in the USF	
8	18 H on a G C	
9	39 B of the O T	
10	5 T on a F	
11	90 D in a R A	
12	3 B M (S H T R)	
13	32 is the T in D F at which W F	
14	15 P in a R T	
15	3 W on a T	
16	100 C in a R	
17	11 P in a F (S) T	
18	12 M in a Y	
19	13=UFS	
20	8 T on a O	
21	29 D in F in a L Y	
22	27 B in the N T	
23	365 D in a Y	
24	13 L in a B D	
25	52 W in a Y	
26	9 L of a C	
27	60 M in a H	
28	23 P of C in the H B	
29	64 S on a C B	
30	9 P in S A	
31	6 B to an O in C	
32	1000 Y in a M	
33	15 M on a D M C	

Feel free to make copies

(Submitted by Marilou DeSetto, CCR)

Student Corner “A Long Road From Student to Reporter” by Michelle Huskey-Smith.

As I reflect over these past years of the battle I fought to get where I am today, I can't help but be proud that I have chosen this career.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "He that can have patience can have what he will."



Before I was a court reporter, I was a legal secretary, and I was at a point in my life that I knew that it was past time for me to determine "what" and "who" I wanted to be. I didn't want to sit behind a desk for the rest of my life. I wanted variety and a challenging call of duty.

The law office where I worked had a beautiful view of the courthouse. I would see court reporters toting their equipment to and from their depositions, trials and hearings. One day I asked the court reporter about her profession as she sat waiting in our office for the attorneys and their clients. I was amazed. Three months later I was sitting in my first theory class - a move that changed my life forever.

Once I was in school, I began noticing a lot of negative talk about how extremely difficult it was to become a court reporter. I heard so much negative talk from my peers that I decided to shut my ears to all of it. To make matters more difficult, I felt like all the odds were against me. I was driving an hour and 20 minutes one way two nights a week, working 40 hours a week, getting up at 4:45 a.m. to practice on my machine and raising my daughter as a single parent. But I beat those odds, and you can, too.

Building Speed

One of the hardest aspects of trying to become a court reporter is building your speed. Here are some of the approaches that helped me.

Skill building affected every aspect of my life, and it did and continues to do unimaginable things for me. Wisely scheduling practice time will

be one of the most valuable tools you can give yourself that will help you progress. Learn to discipline yourself when the constant, everyday challenges get in the way of practicing. Have a vision and make it a reality.

Practice every day. If you find yourself omitting an occasional day of practice, you will get out of your routine quickly. Before you know it, your machine hasn't received any attention in days. Daily dedication means applying efforts while on vacation and during holidays. When I went on vacation, sessions went too. It was so relaxing doing a practice session while viewing the sun coming up over the Gulf of Mexico.

I remember one instance of putting off my machine practice. I had just bought a new house, and there were so many other things that I needed to do. My practice time came to a screeching halt. I actually felt so guilty about not practicing that I had to close the door to the room where my machine sat. I soon realized I needed to re-evaluate what was more important in life and prioritize

“I just wasn't progressing like I thought I should, and I had heard an advertisement on the radio about ginkgo biloba.”

Of course, I came upon obstacles both internal and external, but I have coped with them. One I frequently came upon is time spent doing effective practice. My whole day revolved around my practice schedule. I scheduled appointments, errands, social engagements, etc., all around my practice schedule. If it was going to interfere, I made adjustments. My sessions always came first. Many times I woke up at 3 a.m., unable to sleep. I got up and practiced into the wee hours of the morning.

Keep track of your practice times. This helped me see how I was progressing. I compared each day with the last, each week with the last, each month with the last, even each year with the last. If I knew that I wasn't going to be able to have a session on a particular day, then I added an extra 30 to 45 minutes to each session the week prior to that day.

Try not to get distracted at times when you are frustrated at the speed in which you're progressing. As long as you know that you are making a serious effort to improve, then that shouldn't bother you.

One time I was frustrated because I just wasn't progressing like I thought I should, and I had heard an advertisement on the radio about ginkgo biloba. The advertisement said it helped you concentrate better and improved memory skills. I went directly to the nearest vitamin store and bought a \$28 bottle. Oh, the things we do to help us write faster. And I can't forget about those relaxation tapes either. In the end, I realized that continuous daily dedication, a desire to succeed and a positive reflection on how well I had done up to that point were the only factors that I needed to progress.

Conquer the difficult take. When there was a difficult take I was working on, I wrote it out in longhand and propped it up in front of me. Then I practiced all the troublesome areas over and over again, without the dictation.

If I was still having trouble, I broke it down even more and identified the main area that was causing me to stumble and continuously wrote it until it became easier.

There were many words that I couldn't ever imagine being able to write correctly. For example, discipline. My theory taught me to write this word in one stroke, STKPHREUPB. Easy, right? One stroke, that's all. But my fingers just didn't see it that way. It was so awkward to write this word.

(Continued on Page 5)

Today, it's a different story. I can write that word and many others. Everything comes naturally now. Since I've been reporting, it seems as though writing has become easier. Yes, I said easier!

The first time I did a take that had medical terminology in it, I was astonished. You don't really mean I have to write these long four- and five-syllable words, do you? Then came the long literary words. Now, why in the world would I have to learn how to write con-sanguineous or illocutionary and know the meaning of the word? Yes, those were rough times, but I am a much better person and reporter because I made the effort.

Sometimes the only time I felt protected from the world was during my practice sessions. The minute my fingertips felt the structure of the keys and my ears and brain began to hear the words being spoken, I felt as though I was in my own realm.

Designing my own steno during skill building has been a process that has taken years, and it will continue to grow as my skill grows. It enhanced my self-appreciation and has been self-molding to this day. More important, I had to earn it through many trials and tribulations.

The wisdom I gained during those years of practicing carries over to other aims in my life. I comprehend much more now than I ever have. I am strategically focused and limiting boundaries have become unlocked. The relationships I have with attorneys have been enhanced now that I'm a reporter.

They tell me they are proud that I have taken such an interest in the judicial system, and they respect me and shake my hand, not to mention call me when they need a reporter!



Save your paper. I saved all the paper I had practiced on until my practice room was overflowing with five years' worth of steno paper. I placed them in neat four-foot-high columns. When I saw all those pads of paper, I knew that each one counted for a particular level or a particular take that I had struggled with, and it gave me a newfound respect for my session times.



Asking for Advice

While I was a student, I called some of the court reporters I knew and asked them how they got through it all. One told me that she shed many tears over her machine, but every tear was worth a day in her career that she is now spending. Sometimes just talking to them helped me get through my sessions, because I knew that they had been where I had been and that they got through their sessions too.

Talk with some of the court reporting firms in your area and tell them that you are a student and you would like to come in and spend a few hours watching. Or call your local trial courts about observing how the proceedings are done. Watch the reporter and see how she handles different situations. Think about joining NCRA's Virtual Mentors Program. You can find it at: www.NCRAonline.org/vmp/index.html

Some Other Tips.

I have come to realize that this is a top-level skill, and it has its stresses that come along with it. To deal with this I learned to exercise. At one time when I was "down and out" over my skillbuilding process, it helped relieve stress. At the gym I could just let it go on the weights or StairMaster or treadmill. I watched the closed-captioning on the television and knew that somewhere there is someone

making those words appear and that they too had a skillbuilding process. I would mentally figure out how to spell phonetically each word that appeared.

The JCR was a valuable tool. With each new issue, I flipped right to the student section and began reading. I really could relate to this column and saw how much it benefited me.

As a legal secretary, I was introduced to politics when the attorney I worked for decided to run for a judge's position in our jurisdiction. Also, when I learned my cousin, Arkansas Senator Mike Beebe, has plans of running for governor in 2002, I became even more interested. I was curious about legislation, and I wanted to find out how it was affecting reporters today. So I contacted NCRA in January 2000 and advised them that I wanted to become more involved in reporting issues. To my surprise I got an immediate response. NCRA was holding a legislative boot camp in Washington, D.C., the following month. I had been a member for six years and had not gotten involved in any issues, so I decided now was the time.

The boot camp changed me, and I have even a stronger respect for my profession. One particular moment in Washington that will stand out in my mind forever was when all of us were gathered for the first meeting. The speaker instructed everybody to stand and say where you're from and how long you've been reporting. I realized that I was sitting in a room with an abundance of long-time reporters. Twelve years, 22 years, 31 years, 16 years. Was I the only rookie here? I said I'd been reporting eight months. That brought a round of supportive applause.

Reaching My Goal

I have appreciated every struggle I have had to endure, because that is what leads you to success. At times I even felt as though I was afraid of success. That feeling is long gone because I have finally endured it after many, many years of commitment, hard work and compassion

(Continued on Page 9)

A Message From Our New President (Continued from Cover Page)

If you'd like to get involved in VCRA, mentor a student, plan a regional reporter dinner meeting, offer a suggestion, or participate in any way, please contact me at Gwender@earthlink.net. We'd also appreciate and request your contributions to the newsletter, whether it be an article you've written, or something interesting you'd like to pass on to other reporters. Submittals can be sent to our Executive Director, Colette Boes, at executivedirectorcb@cox.net.

Big changes are in the future of reporting in Virginia, and we need to work together to support our profession. Take part in our membership campaign to recruit new members. Our goal continues to be 100 percent reporter participation, and with your help we can achieve that goal. The board is gearing up for an eventful Education Day in Richmond on March 12, 2011. It will be a great opportunity to support your association and meet your NCRA and VCRA continuing education requirements. I hope to see you there.

Gwenda Applegate, RPR-CRR

VCRA President



NCRA INTRODUCES NEW BOOK ON PUNCTUATION



Now Available!
Court Reporting: Bad Grammar, Good Punctuation
By Margie Wakeman Wells



The moment Margie Wakeman Wells's new book was published in March, it became the definitive work related to punctuation for court reporters and anyone else involved with writing, editing, or proofreading. Whether you wish to embark on intensive, systematic lessons in punctuation or just want it nearby as a trusted reference when punctuation dilemmas present themselves, this new book — with more than 700 pages and a comprehensive index — is a must-have for every court reporter, scopist, proofreader, and student



NCRA Member price, \$59.95
Non-member price, \$69.95
[Purchase it online today](#)



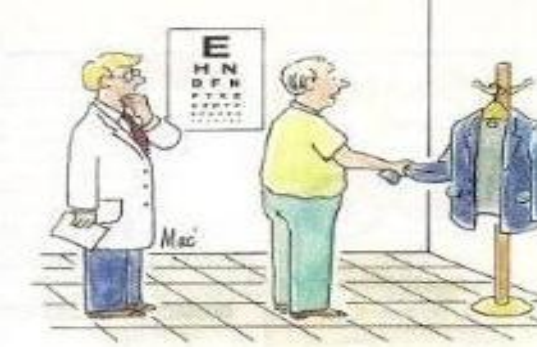
WE NEED YOUR ARTICLE!

If you have something that you would like to share, please submit your article to the VCRA Newsletter. Our next publication will be in the Fall of 2010. Deadline for submission is August 1, 2010. Please email your articles to executivedirectorcb@cox.net





"Have You Laughed Today?"



Doctor, I'm only here because my wife insists I need glasses."

(The American Legion Magazine)



"Hold on a minute while I see what this policeman thinks is so important."

(The American Legion Magazine)

"Funny Quotes"

1. Robert Benchley

It took me fifteen years to discover I had no talent for writing, but I couldn't give it up, because by that time I was too famous.

2. Oscar Levant

What the world needs is more geniuses with humility, there are so few of us left.

3. Paul Merton

I'm always amazed to hear of air crash victims so badly mutilated that they have to be identified by their dental records. What I can't understand is, if they don't know who you are, how do they know who your dentist is?

4. Homer Simpson

You tried your best and you failed miserably. The lesson is 'never try'.

5. Jean Kerr

I'm tired of all this nonsense about beauty being only skin-deep. That's deep enough. What do you want - an adorable pancreas?

6. Steven Wright

If toast always lands butter-side down, and cats always land on their feet, what happens if you strap toast on the back of a cat and drop it?

7. Partick Moore

At my age I do what Mark Twain did. I get my daily paper, look at the obituaries page and if I'm not there I carry on as usual.

8. Groucho Marx

I don't care to belong to a club that accepts people like me as members.

9. Ellen DeGeneres (Correct name, go figure.)

You have to stay in shape. My grandmother, she started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She's 97 today and we don't know where the hell she is.

10. Elayne Boosler

I have six locks on my door all in a row. When I go out, I only lock every other one. I figure no matter how long somebody stands there picking the locks, they are always locking three.

(Submitted by Daniele Jeffreys)

Service to Country

James Patrick Gallagher, retired Secret Service Agent, was one of the speakers at the VCRA Convention this year. In sharing his story, he managed to educate, entertain and endear the audience. Mr. Gallagher was actually born in Liverpool, England. He immigrated to the United States in 1961 with his family and has called it home ever since. He landed a job as a Secret Service Agent and has had an exciting career and has served this country with distinction.

Did you know that the Secret Service was created in 1865 to suppress counterfeit currency? Its responsibilities expanded into investigating anti-government militia groups and to combat land fraud and a number of other federal law infractions. It was only after three Presidents were assassinated that the Secret Service was authorized by Congress to protect future Presidents. Teddy Roosevelt was the first President to be guarded by the Secret Service in 1902.

Mr. Gallagher was on the Presidential Protective Division for President Reagan and George H.W. Bush. In addition, he has protected several former Presidents to include Nixon, Ford, Carter and Clinton. He also protected Former First Lady – Lady Bird Johnson. And that’s just to name a few of the dignitaries he has protected.

One afternoon, while walking near First Lady Barbara Bush as she walked her dog on the South Grounds of the White House, Mrs. Bush asked Mr. Gallagher what he and his wife were doing after he got off work. He told her that he had to get home in a hurry, because his wife was still at work, and he had to babysit his daughter, Jessica. Mrs. Bush turned, looked at him and said, “Fathers don’t babysit their own children.” Lesson learned!

Understandably, Mr. Gallagher in his capacity has to be very discrete

about not giving too much detail of protective and investigative assignments. However, he kept us enthralled as he told of his participation along with other agents in the capture of a murder suspect in San Francisco who appeared just a few hours earlier on America’s Most Wanted.

Mr. Gallagher also tugged at our hearts when he spoke of his family, siblings – one of which is VCRA’s Executive Director, Colette Boes. He said she wears more American flag pins than he does. Ms. Boes in a quick whip replied, “Well, he gave them to me.” But he had most of us wiping away tears and you could hear ooohs and ahhhhs from the audience as he so endearingly spoke of his mother. He told us that he was a surviving triplet, his brother and sister died at six months old in Liverpool. He added that he sent his mother flowers EVERY year on HIS birthday as a gesture of gratitude for the life she has given him and because he really loves his life in America.



James spoke with great pride about his heritage, his parents, siblings, and with that same pride, spoke about his love for this country, the United States of America. His dedication and commitment in service to his country is one to be respected and admired.

(Submitted by Lois Boyle, RMR)

DID YOU KNOW?

• BOURBON

It just so happens that Bourbon County Kentucky was the birthplace of the whiskey that later took its name. The name **Bourbon**, however, dates back to a line of European rulers whose name was given to the Kentucky County by French-speaking settlers who were honoring their country's royal family.

• BIGWIG

An abundance of sheep in England had judges and VIP's, using their skin and wool to manufacture wigs. Ordinary folk could identify these persons of authority because of their enormous powdered wigs. Now, anyone in a position of authority is known as a **Bigwig**.

• PANDEMONIUM

Only a handful of people have been able to coin a new word that has lasted. The immortal poet, novelist and playwright John Milton was one. In his famous 'Paradise Lost', he combined the Greek work for all, 'pan', and 'demon', for demons, to literally mean 'a place for demons'. Although the spelling has been modified, the word is still around and is still applied to chaotic uproar.



"A Prayer For Our Troops"

Dear Lord, We thank you for the lives and service of our men and women in the Armed Forces. Strengthen them and give them guidance as they stand in harm's way to protect our nation and way of life. May they face each day of their service the same way Your Son Jesus did; with courage, dignity and faith. And if it be Your will, when their work is through, bring them safely home. Lord, please also bless the families of our troops. Reward them generously for their sacrifices which are known only to You. May we never forget those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom and safety those who have died in the service of our country. May they rest in peace forever with You in Your kingdom. Amen.



VCRA "CCR" DESIGNATION

The Membership, at the Annual Convention, voted to adapt the Certified Court Reporter designation; discussion and further vote was had as to the time frame for item (d) and a "once per calendar year" interval was selected. Below is the updated criteria for a Member to become a Certified Court Reporter through VCRA:

VCRA "CCR" DESIGNATION

Applicants for VCRA's "Certified Court Reporter" designation must:

- Be a professional member in good standing with VCRA
- Provide VCRA with copies of current Notary certificate on a continuing basis
- Provide VCRA with copies of any NCRA/NVRA issued certificates
- If applicant does NOT possess the RPR/CVR designation, the following criteria must be met:
 - 1(a) Provide a copy of diploma from an NCRA/NVRA accredited school;
 - 1(b) Applicant must work under the auspices of a certified reporter (CCR or NCRA/NVRA certificate) for a minimum of two years and provide VCRA with a Letter of Recommendation from that reporter;
 - 1(c) Attain 2 CEUs through VCRA every three-year term; and
 - 1(d) Applicant must take the RPR or the CVR at least once per calendar year until successful

OR

- 2(a) Provide a copy of diploma from an associate or bachelor program;
- 2(b) Applicant must work under the auspices of a certified reporter (CCR or NCRA/NVRA certificate) for a minimum of three years and provide VCRA with a Letter of Recommendation from that reporter;
- 2(c) Attain 2 CEUs through VCRA every three-year term
- 2(d) Applicant must take the RPR or the CVR at least once per calendar year until successful

OR

- 3(a) Provide three Letters of Recommendation from current member of the Virginia bar
- 3(b) Applicant must work under the auspices of a certified reporter (CCR or NCRA/NVRA certificate) for a minimum of three years and provide VCRA with a Letter of Recommendation from that reporter;
- 3(c) Attain 2 CEUs through VCRA every three-year term
- 3(d) Applicant must take the RPR or the CVR at least once per calendar year until successful

(Submitted by Kerry Zahn, RMR,CRR,CCR, CLR
Immediate Past President)

Student Corner (Continued from Page 5)

for the legal system as a whole.

I will never forget my first solo job. Luckily, my client was a young attorney fresh out of law school. He was probably just as nervous as I was, Thankfully, it went well, and the compensation I received on that first job was more than what I had received in the past working a full 40-hour week.

You owe it to yourself to do the best you can do to succeed. I love this career and wouldn't think of doing any-

thing else. I've been reporting some time now and must say, it has been more rewarding than I could have dared to imagine.

(Submitted by Gwenda Applegate
Source; NCRA Website)

About the Author

Michelle Huskey-Smith
is from Jackson, Tennessee.



STUDENTS WANTED

The VCRA student mentor program has been in existence since mid-1999. We are in need of students.!

Mentors are waiting to help encourage you, give you tips and help you build confidence and gain expertise. Please contact Colette Boes at executivedirectorcb@cox.net to request a mentor.

"Snapshots" of the VCRA Spring Convention at The Homestead



VCRA's President, Gwenda Applegate, and VCRA's Immediate Past President, Kerry Zahn



“Snapshots” (Continued)



“Snapshots” submitted by Bobbi Case, RPR, CCR & Marilou DeSetto, CCR

A Note From The Executive Director

I would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in the convention this year. Taking place at The Homestead, Hot Springs, Virginia, the accommodations were outstanding, the speakers dynamic and we welcomed a brand new board to VCRA and Gwenda Applegate as president. We hope that everyone who attended enjoyed the history and grandness of the resort.

I look forward to seeing you all at Education Day at the University of Richmond, Jepson Alumni Center on March 12, 2011.

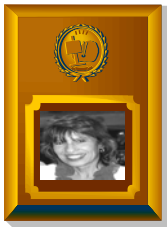


THE DEADLINE FOR RENEWING YOUR 2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP IS JUNE 30, 2010

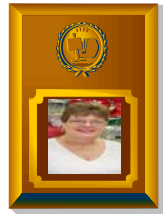
If you've already renewed your membership, **THANK YOU**. Your membership renewal packet will be mailed shortly.

(Submitted by Colette Boes)

Congratulations to **Carol Tayloe**, the recipient of the *Frank G. Tayloe Award*, presented at The Homestead annual convention. You'd have been hard pressed to find a dry eye in the house as Carol received this most prestigious award, presented by George Halasz.



Diane Gray was the recipient of the *Community Service/Pro Bono Award* for her distinguished service and time given to the reporting profession. Diane was unable to attend the convention and Donna Linton, a past president of VCRA accepted the award on her behalf. Congratulations, Diane!



Kerry Zahn was the recipient of a *special award* in recognition of her outstanding service on the VCRA Board as President for the past two years. Her dedication, leadership, and her enthusiasm for the VCRA were always apparent, always giving of her time and energy. Thank you for all your hard work, Kerry!



VCRA graciously thanks the following vendors, sponsors and donors for participating in this year's Annual Convention:

Advantage Software

Amicus Reporting

Dictionary Jumpstart

Esquire Solutions

****Evans & Company**

****Goodman, Allen & Filetti, PLLC**

****Halasz Reporting & Videoconference**

Hart Reporting, Inc.

Henderson Legal Services

Legal Video Solutions

M.A.R. Reporting Group, LLC

McCoy Court Reporting Associates

Min-U-Script

One For The Thimble

OTEC

Pengad, Inc.

Reporter Solutions

StenoCAT* (by Gigatron)

Stenograph, LLC

****Tayloe Associates, Inc.**

The Homestead

Joseph Vickstein

*****Yost Associates, Inc.**

****Zahn Court Reporting & Videoteleconference**

****Bronze Sponsorship (\$350)**

*****Bronze+Student Sponsorship (\$550)**



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We're On The Web!

www.vcra.net



Happy 4th of July!!



We Hope Your Holiday is Fun and Safe

MEET THE NEW BOARD

President

Gwenda Applegate

Immediate Past President

Kerry Zahn

Vice President

Bobbi Case

Treasurer

Lois Boyle

Secretary

Jennifer Metesh

Directors

Marilou DeSetto

Stacey Halberg

Renee Hoffman

Tracy Koschara

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Amy Sikora

Executive Director

Colette Boes