

Spring 2009

# Virginia Reporter

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Virginia Court Reporters Association



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# President's Message

## ANNUAL CONVENTION

March 13-15, 2009

Charlottesville, Virginia

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Dear Reporters:

As you read this newsletter, the Annual Convention is right around the corner! Hopefully you've already registered. However, if you've been holding off registering to see if you'd be inundated with transcript pages at that point or you've been holding off waiting for some more money to come in, it's not too late to sign up and join your fellow reporters for an agenda that will assist you in producing those transcript pages more efficiently...and with efficiency comes a built-in pay increase. It's a win-win scenario... but you've got to sign up to benefit from it.

Friday night is dinner on your own; however, there will be a sign-up sheet at the VCRA Registration Desk for anyone that would like to hook up and grab dinner together on the Downtown Mall, which is just a quick walk out the back door of the hotel.

Unfortunately for VCRA, Donna Chandler, one of our hard-working Directors, has moved out of state, and, therefore, there will be an opening for a Director. Those interested in serving must be present at the luncheon Saturday, March 14, where nominations and elections will take place. There are typically four Board Meetings a year and are generally on Saturdays in Richmond. Other than that, the Board handles a lot of its work via email. We are always looking for new ideas. Whether you're an experienced reporter or a newbie, have had prior Board experience or never participated in any such thing, that doesn't matter. The desire and willingness to donate some time and energy to your Association is what it's all about; the rest of it comes in time.

I hope to see you in Charlottesville.

*Kerry Zahn, VCRA President*



## A Beautiful Disaster

I have a "friend" who had a very unfortunate mishap a few weeks ago that I thought would be important to share with all of you. This "friend" went to court one day in Charlottesville and reported a hearing while charging her new wonderful Mira steno machine. The hearing lasted about 45 minutes, no problems occurred while reporting the hearing, and it concluded and she packed up and left.

A few days later, she had another job, this time in Fredericksburg. An hour or so into the deposition, her Mira indicated the battery was low, so she reached in her bag for her charger...



NO CHARGER!!!!  
WHAT??? HOW  
COULD THIS BE???  
OH, NO!!!

After checking every pocket of her bag, she came to the realization that there really was no charger and prayed that her machine's charge would be good enough to complete the deposition. If there was a way to bite every nail off while writing, she would have done it! Needless to say, she made it through the deposition as the writer indicated "very low battery, charge now."

After calling Stenograph and ordering another charger, she began reading the Mira's manual. Most of us know that the Mira actually has two batteries, one for backup after the main battery becomes too low, and it lasts approximately 18 hours. But what she also discovered is that if you are using the real-time cable that runs from the machine to your computer, the Mira will continue to stay on as long as you need it to.

The Fed-Ex man did not come as scheduled, and so my "friend" bit her nails all the way to her job the next day, in hopes that her Mira would come through. As she turned on her machine, the LCD display indicated the battery was too low and the screen became black. Confident that the Mira was still backing up everything as it should, she plugged in the cord to the machine and the computer. Up popped the display again! No warning whistles, no loud beeps! What a wonderful attribute of the Mira!!

I'm sure my "friend" learned a valuable lesson, the hard way of course, but what a reassurance to know that there is not only a backup battery with 18 hours of juice, but the ability to charge from your computer to boost!

(Submitted by Gwenda Applegate, RPR, CRR

Vice President, VCRA)

# Fun With Words

## Commonly Mispronounced Words

Some words in the English language are often mispronounced when spoken. Here are a few commonly mispronounced words with their correct pronunciations and most common mispronunciations.

	<u>CORRECT</u>	<u>INCORRECT</u>
<b>Across</b>	(a-CROSS)	(a-CROST)
<b>athlete</b>	(ATH-leet)	(ATH-a-leet)
<b>Arctic</b>	(ARC-tic)	(AR-tic)
<b>Comfortable</b>	(COM-fort-a-ble/ COMF-ta-ble)	(COMF-ter-ble)
<b>Electoral</b>	(eh-LEK-tor-al)	(eh-lek-TOR-al)
<b>espresso</b>	(ess-PRESS-oh)	(ex-PRESS-oh)
<b>February</b>	(FEB-roo-air-y)	(Feb-yoo-air-y)
<b>Figure</b>	(FIG-yer)	(fig-er)
<b>Forte</b>	(FORT)	(for-TAY) - correct only as a music term
<b>Insouciant</b>	(in-SOO-see-ant)	(in-SOO-shant)
<b>lambaste</b>	(lam-BASTE)	(lam-BAST)
<b>Library</b>	(LIBE-rare-ee)	(LIBE-air-ee)
<b>Menstruation</b>	(men-stroo-A-shun)	(men-STRAY-shun)
<b>Minuscule</b>	(MIN-uh-skyool)	(MIN-ih-skyool)
<b>Nuclear</b>	(NUKE-lee-ar)	(NUKE-yoo-lar)
<b>nuptial</b>	(NUP-shul)	(NUP-shoo-al)
<b>Often</b>	(OFF-en)	(OFT-en)
<b>Percolate</b>	(PERC-o-late)	(PERC-u-late)
<b>Plenitude</b>	(PLEN-i-tude)	(PLENT-i-tude)
<b>probably</b>	(PROB-ab-ly)	(PRAH-bal-ly, PROB-ly)
<b>Pronunciation</b>	(pro-NUN-see-A-shun)	(pro-NOUN-see-A-shun)
<b>realtor</b>	(RE-al-tor)	(REAL-a-tor)
<b>Supposedly</b>	(sup-POSE-ed-ly)	(sup-POSE-ab-ly)
<b>taut</b>	(TAUT)	(TAUNT)
<b>toward</b>	(TOW-ward)	(TOR-ward)

(Submitted by Jennifer Metesh, CCR).

# Depositions Hit The Big Screen

Video has revolutionized depositions. Remember those depositions of Bill Gates with a scowl on his face, speaking in a monotone? Powerful stuff -- assuming you can see it that is. Until now deposition videos have primarily existed in MPEG-1 format. Translation -- grainy quality not exactly up to Hollywood standards. Time to shake things up.

## **DepoView DVD ... in One Sentence**

inData Corporation's DepoView DVD enables you to use a DVD player to view your deposition video and the accompanying transcript at very high quality

(MPEG-2) on a television or a computer monitor.: <http://www.technolawyer.com/r.asp?L14634&M44957>

## **The Killer Feature**

Using your DVD player's remote control, you can switch among three modes -- watching the video only, reading the transcript only, or a combination in which the transcript appears below the video as subtitles. You can jump to any page as well. The high-quality video enables you (and eventually the judge and jury) to see every nuance as the deponent answers questions -- from facial expressions to body language.

## **Other Notable Features**

A DepoView DVD provides you with everything you need -- the ability to view depositions on any television as noted above plus the ability to work with the transcript and video on your computer.

For example, each DepoView DVD also includes nonproprietary formats such as ASCII as well as proprietary load files for popular litigation software such as inData TrialDirector, CT Summation, LiveNote, Sanction, etc. The MPEG-2/DVD codec on the DepoView DVD disc guarantees accurate playback of video.

In addition, DepoView DVD includes a complimentary copy of DepoView software for your Windows PC. DepoView, which we covered in the November 14, 2007 issue of this newsletter, enables you to clip and export video clips to PowerPoint and other presentation applications, search for keywords, print condensed transcripts, take snapshots of any frame, view exhibits, and more.

## **What Else Should You Know?**

Every court reporter should be able to provide your transcript in DepoView DVD format. They can obtain the necessary software from inData. The cost to order a video deposition in DepoView DVD format starts at \$5 per deposition.

While the DepoView application requires a Windows PC, DepoView DVD works in any DVD player whether attached to a television or in your computer. Learn more about DepoView DVD.: <http://www.technolawyer.com/r.asp?L14634&M44957>

**Respond to this Article:** <mailto:post@technolawyer.com>

(Submitted by Diane Gray, RPR, CRR)



## A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOR



### THE BRAIN TRANSPLANT

In the hospital, the relatives were gathered in the waiting room while a family member lay gravely ill. Finally, the doctor came in looking tired and somber.

"I'm afraid I'm the bearer of bad news," he said, as he surveyed the worried faces. "The only hope left for your loved one at this time is a brain transplant. It's an experimental procedure, and very risky, but it is the only hope. Insurance will cover the procedure, but you will have to pay for the BRAIN."



The family members sat silent as they absorbed the news. After a time, someone asked "How much will a brain cost?"

The doctor responded, "\$5,000 for a male brain; \$200 for a female brain."

The moment turned awkward. Some of the men actually had to 'try' to not smile, avoiding eye contact with the women.

One man, unable to control his curiosity, finally blurted out the question that everyone wanted to ask, "Why does a male brain cost so much more than a female brain?"

The doctor smiled at the childish innocence and explained to the entire group, "It's just standard pricing procedure.....We have to price the female brains a lot lower because they've been used."

(Submitted by Daniele Jeffreys)



# Reporting the Sarah Palin Rally in Ashburn

by Donna L. Linton, RMR-CCR-CLR

On a very rainy Saturday, October 25, I was napping with Ginger the cat on the couch waiting for the Direct TV technician to call me with a better estimate of his expected arrival time. when the phone rang No, it wasn't the technician. It was a reporting agency asking me if I was available Monday.

“Well, I have plans to volunteer at my daughter's middle school Girls on the Run program Monday morning, then get on a bike and attend the Sarah Palin rally with my boyfriend Tim after which I plan on heading home and edit transcripts.”

The voice on the other end replied “Darn, we have this Sarah Palin rally.in your neighborhood and we thought you would be perfect to report it; it's rough ASCII, next-day turn around.”

I answered “Okay, I'll juggle the volunteer stuff and just work the Palin rally .” I gave my personal information for clearance and was told I should “hear more information tomorrow.”

After reporting for 25 years, as a freelancer, I know that work and life becomes a juggling act, constantly full of changes—sometimes with pleasant, or not so pleasant surprises.

I receive my update call Sunday. I tell my agency contact I know exactly where the rally is but I'm concerned that there is only one way in and one way out (one lane in each direction). I explain I was thinking of riding my bike up since it would only take half an hour, and Lord knows how long a less than 6 mile drive would take, having to fight the crowds of rally attendees. I figured I would also get home faster so that I could get that rough ASCII out on time.

I am told I need to have a laptop there to provide an immediate rough draft, with the final transcript delivered by 5:00 the same day. Well, no problem on that, but what about the elements and computer equipment being all outdoors? “Oh, you'll have a canopy and be all under cover.”

Sunday evening, I receive final information on the rally, along with a transcript from a prior rally speech. I am told who my contact person will be. I am asked to be there at 8:00 a.m. though Sarah Palin would not be speaking until 10:00.

I prepared that night by writing the previous rally speech so that I'll have key words defined in my dictionary. I went online and practiced writing an actual speech being given in Nevada, and went to Wikipedia and found in-depth information about Sarah Palin from her birth to now, so I could define anything that would come up in her speech.

Monday morning finally arrives. My boyfriend offers to chauffeur me to the job site, and I gladly accept. My stress level begins to build as we drive under five minutes to the main intersection, go less than a mile, and it's taking 20 minutes to go 600 feet. I am nervous. I ask the Sheriff who is walking and guiding traffic is there any other way in? I'm told to just keep following the herd or walk. I know from traversing the area the previous day, there is no safe walking because there are no paths and it's one lane in each direction.

I call my contact person. when I get to the gate. We arrive at 8:10 a.m. This trip has taken an hour to travel less than 6 miles. At the parking area, we are told we can't park by the press but are to park in the field. Thank goodness for Tim who lugged my equipment—through fields, gravel, and mud.

I am escorted to a table labeled "Press" and I inquire as to whether I'm in the right place. As I set up I ask “Surely you have ear-phones I can wear so I can hear her when the crowd starts yelling so she won't be drowned out.” Can you guess the response? “Nope.” Not what I wanted to hear. As I start to set up, a very nice volunteer walks by and says, “Oh, you're the stenographer! You're in the wrong place, come this way.” So we pack it up and move to another location a bit closer. This table says “Traveling Press.”



I get set up and plugged in.

At this point it is 8:40 and my laptop loses power. Not only do I not have power but there is no power. in the entire area where I am located. After Tim,volunteers and electrical gurus troubleshoot, they get the juices flowing and I am back to testing out my writing. As usually happens when reporters are in stress situations, I discover words I had worked so hard to define the previous evening have lost their “definition.” So off I go, redoing my “prep” work. Finally, at 8:50, I'm ready to write..

As if set-up hassles were not stressful enough, let's add in the below 45 degrees. I had on a long skirt suit and that's it! Tim gave me his gloves. We were expecting sunny weather and it started out that way. This is not good that someone who has to write accurately and quickly to be trembling and fingers stiff and not moving out there for an hour-and-a-half. I asked if there was someplace warmer I could go until show time (like “How about that trailer over there?” or “How about those tents?”). The response wasn't favorable except back where press check in was and it was open to the elements as well.

Soon, my congressman, Frank Wolf, members of the local board of supervisors and a few other notable Virginians came on stage to say a few words. After a wonderful rendition of The Star Spangled Banner, performed by a men's choir from a local church, Sarah Palin, accompanied by her husband Todd., came on stage.



I got a pretty good look at her, sat down, waited for the crowd to stop cheering, and as she started to speak, off came the gloves and I was off to work.

(Continued on Page 9)

# Trained Court Reporters in Demand

By JOHN ANASTASI  
Staff WriterIf.a.doc

If a society becomes more litigious when squeezed by a tough economy, then court reporters — already an in-demand profession — could be poised for an even busier 2009.

“There’s absolutely a shortage, which is an advantage for the court reporters but, as a business owner, it’s tough,” said Karen Strehlow-Kmetz. “Historically, lawyers actually do better in bad times. You get people who slip on a grape in the supermarket who wouldn’t normally sue, but will sue [when times are tough].”

Strehlow-Kmetz runs Strehlow & Associates, a Newtown court reporting agency that subcontracts about 20 reporters who create verbatim transcripts mostly for commercial litigation, personal injury, medical malpractice and other cases.

The possible increase in litigation could be partially offset by attorneys who might opt to push for settlement rather than gamble on a sometimes costly legal defense, she said. But even so, court reporters have been in demand for years as

the number of schools that train them dwindle..

According to the Virginia-based National Court Reporters Association, the number of NCRA certified schools in the country dropped from more than 100 in 1996 to just 62 in 2007 and the number of students those schools graduated fell from about 1,000 in 1996 to fewer than 350 last year.

**“A lot of baby boomer [court reporters] are reaching retirement.”**

Bucks County Community College had a certificate program in stenography years ago but discontinued it due to lack of enrollment, said school spokeswoman Jean Dolan.

“There are a lot fewer people starting out in the field,” said Deborah Bello, director of Orleans Technical Institute, a Northeast Philadelphia school with a court reporting program. “There’s a desperate need for court reporters. It’s a hidden profession. No one knows about it.”

But the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics

estimated that employment in the field would grow 25 percent between 2006 and 2016—much faster than the average occupation.

[“A lot of baby boomer \[court reporters\] are reaching retirement, so there’s definitely a supply-side issue,” said Marshall Jorpeland, communications director for the court reporters association. “The demand has continued to be strong. Court cases have grown ... as the population has grown.”](#)

Jorpeland and Bello said they believe computer transcribing and voice-recognition software was still years away from being able to plant a microphone in the middle of a courtroom and having it accurately record and transcribe every word correctly and attribute each word to the proper speakers.

Northampton’s Chiara Marchione-Long graduated from Orleans Technical Institute with a certification in court reporting after deciding to learn stenography after working in the financial aid office of a court reporting school.

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## STUDENT CORNER: TRANSITIONING FROM STUDENT REPORTER TO WORKING REPORTER

You’re almost there, but are you truly ready? Use these tips to make the transition from student reporter to working reporter easier.

The five-minute dictations student reporters receive in class may not be enough to prepare student reporters for the three-hour or longer emotionally charged, fast-paced multiple persons depositions or the two-week jury trial in federal court. Many new working reporters are surprised to discover how exhausting those jobs are just after their first months on the job. Arms hurt, back aches, stiff and sore neck, just to start.

**“Pretend you are at your new-found working reporter job.”**

Prepared student reporters should dedicate at least one day a week to solid, uninterrupted reporting. Pretend you are at your newfound working reporter job and make every word count the way it does in real life. Follow a regimen of writing a whole pack of paper without interruption with new material, then break down those long sessions to incorporate any new words and phrases.

New reporters also need to learn to trust their notes. Don’t assume that because you can’t read it, it’s misstroked. Your vocabulary is going to be expanding greatly, and learning those new words will take a lot of practice. Sometimes what you are writing phonetically is not what is always what is translating. So even if you are translating as you’re writing,

it’s always a good idea to stay in practice of actual reading of steno strokes and/or notes.

Proofreading is an important skill any reporter should have. One smart suggestion is for student reporter to volunteer to proofread final drafts for working court reporters. The exercise will improve the student reporter’s proofreading skills, increase the student reporter’s vocabulary and familiarize student reporters with the transcript process.

Using these tips will better prepare the student reporter to make a smooth transition into working reporter while alleviating much of the stress and anxiety associated with endeavoring on a new career path.

(Submitted by Jennifer Metesh, CCR)

# Potpourri Page

## Just Say Charge!

The first credit card was issued in 1951. In 1950 Diners Club and American Express launched their charge cards in the USA, the first plastic money. In 1951 Diners Club issued the first credit card to 200 customers who could use it at 27 restaurants in New York. But it was not until the establishment of standards for the magnetic strip in 1970 that the credit card became part of the information age.



The first use of magnetic stripes on cards was in the early 1960's when the London Transit Authority installed a magnetic stripe system. San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit installed a paper based ticket the same size as the credit cards in the late 1960's.

## Interesting website: iNeverKnewThat.com



Taking the tradition of the color "green" representing St. Patrick's Day to an extreme, every March 17 since 1961 the city of Chicago has been dumping emerald green dye into the Chicago River. The exercise takes 40 pounds of dye and lasts 5 hours.

In Greece, all Easter eggs are painted red to symbolize the blood of Jesus.



Remember when throwing rice at the bride and groom was a fun thing to do? Well, the tradition of tossing something at the newly married couple dates back to ancient times when it was a symbol of fertility. And about that rice, it is just a myth that when birds eat the uncooked rice it causes their bellies to explode. Birds have always eaten rice in the wild.

When do people actually eat fruit cake? Traditionally the top layer of a wedding cake, known as the groom's cake, is actually fruit cake, which self preserves, allowing the married couple to share it again on their one-year anniversary.



1. Although John Adams and Thomas Jefferson didn't see eye-to-eye on everything political, Adams did insist that Jefferson draft the Declaration of Independence. While these two famous Americans were hugely responsible for the historic document, they added to their lore by both dying on the fiftieth anniversary of America's Independence Day, July 4, 1826.



On March 17, St. Patrick's Day, tell your dad to take time in between sips of that green beer to salute the fifth-century Britton, St. Patrick, who once was the slave of an Irish chieftain, but returned to Ireland as a missionary and converted the island to Christianity around A. D. 432.

Following America's deadliest war, the Civil War, where an estimated 620,000 Americans died, General John Logan chose May 30, 1868, as Decoration Day, a national day of remembrance on which the graves of dead soldiers were decorated. In 1971, with a slight change, Congress set Memorial Day as the last Monday in May.



(Submitted by Anita Glover, CVR-CM,-HM)

## Did You Know?

In 1789 Joseph Gurney, early-day court reporter, recorded the trial of Warren Hastings, a trial that lasted seven years. The original transcript was lost so his notes were used 70 years after the trial to produce another transcript.



(Submitted by Jennifer Metesh, CCR)

## Sharing My Love of Wordsmithing.

As I watch Fox, my ears perk to words that I hear over and over that I either don't know the spelling of or their definition.

Here is a very important word that applies to each of our lives

Just passing it along....."Keynesian" pronounced cain-ze-an.

[A Review of Keynesian Theory](#)

Keynesian theory is central to understanding the Great Depression.

## Still Lost In Translation

Okay, so I'm here for a while now, and think I have this southern speak down fairly well. Now let me give you a little background on my experience before I continue. In New York I was a "grunt" reporter. Nobody special, just did my job. No high profile cases, no big-wig attorneys. Somewhere along the line I got involved in corporate cases, patent cases, big name company cases. I really liked doing med-mals, but I kept getting corporate cases. *No criminal work* whatsoever. Those corporate cases were sometimes dense, and most times terminology specific, but somehow that was my niche. As a side note, those cases had me in the World Trade Center numerous times (it was stunning coming up out of the subway into the atrium), as well as working on Wall Street.

Sounds cool, but Wall Street is a very narrow, very dark (because of the high rise office buildings, no sun) place.



Again, *no criminal work*



Back to Virginia, now. So, I was assigned to go to Federal Court and work with Judge Moon. Really nice guy. As the case proceeds, Judge Moon was reading the indictment and said that the defendant was charged with what I heard as possession of "faahms." Now I know it's not a crime to own a farm, but that's what I stuck with because I knew I would (hopefully) eventually figure it out and could global it later. Stop laughing, I know you already know what that is, but I had absolutely no clue. Remember, *no criminal background* whatsoever to help me figure this out. After about what felt like 9 hours, when the prosecutor read off "possession of a .22 CALIBER WEAPON, AND A .44 MAGNUM. I almost but not quite jumped up and did the "happy dance" shouting **FIREARMS!!!!**

Whew!



To this day I smile every time I hear the word "faahms" because I know what it is now.

Sooner or later somebody will need my New Yorkeze. I can't wait.

(Submitted by Marilou DeSetto, CCR)

## It Happened in North Carolina!!!

A man in North Carolina had a flat tire, pulled off on the side of the road and proceeded to put a bouquet of flowers in front of the car and one behind it. Then he got back in the car to wait. A passerby studied the scene as he drove by and was so curious he turned around and went back. He asked the fellow what the problem was.

The man replied, "I have a flat tire."

The passerby asked, "But what's with the flowers?"

The man responded, "When you break down they tell you to put flares in the front and flares in the back. Hey, it don't make no sense to me neither"

(Submitted by Marilou DeSetto, CCR)

## Trained court reporters in demand

(Continued from Page 6)

"Once you're comfortable with it, you can go on autopilot," said Marchione-Long, who said she enjoys many of the proceedings she works. "It gives you a window into all sorts of professions — psychologists, doctors, neurosurgeons, pilots."

She added that she was hired to take a college class online so she could transcribe lectures for a hearing-impaired student in real time. Marchione-Long said it was like getting an education for free

Marchione-Long works at Strehlow & Associates. As a subcontractor she can pick and choose the assignments she wants, make her own hours and do much of her transcribing work at home.

Bello said Orleans' court reporting program has picked up students who are starting over after leaving finance jobs in the slowing economy.

"Everyone is uncomfortable with the recession," said Bello, who is hoping a court reporting session that starts next month picks up some additional students. "That's when people tend to go back to school."

December 21, 2008 11:27 AM

(Submitted by Gwenda Applegate. RPR, CRR)



At one time, I looked up while writing to find a camera guy with a big camera aimed at my face. I know the expression I had wasn't one I would want viewed by a camera: (It was one of deep concentration, trying to keep my fingers on the right keys, while hearing Sarah's every word.

In between cheers from the crowd, I would warm up my hands, get a rub on the shoulders from Tim, trying to warm me, and correct mis-translates.

18 pages later it was all done. I got a quick look at Sarah and Todd as they exited the stage. I proceeded to do my rough transcript and while Tim burned it onto a CD, it started to sleet.

I inquired as to whether I could meet Sarah Palin personally and the Secret Service gentleman informed me I had to be cleared beforehand to personally meet Sarah Palin. Wasn't that what my social security number was for to get me in ahead of time to report (giggle giggle)? I really would have just been happy to get an autographed picture for my daughter.

Tim and I headed back to the car, and as you can imagine, no one was moving. As we sat it out, I worked on the final transcript in the car.

Tim got to take pictures. With his positive attitude he thought it was all a great experience. It was exciting to me but I was too concerned about my frozen-finger ability and the job I had to perform.

I did enjoy listening to her. While doing research following the speech for spellings and names, I gained more knowledge. I learned a lot about Sarah, as well as Alaska.

This career can be full of excitement and surprises—some not so pleasant like standing out in the cold for an hour and a half before you have to write. Yes, this career is full of learning and adrenalin to push you through. Well, now I can say I have been there, done that, and what an experience.

Some other time I will have to experience being a participant in a rally cheering and holding up a sign. I had to remain looking impartial, you know.

P.S. I completely thawed out by 12:00 the following day. I had a job that was rather fast in a nice overly toasty warm office. It was a rally of a different kind - a divorce suit.

(Submitted by Donna Linton,,  
RMR-CCR-CLR)



**LET ME SEE, THIS  
WEEK'S REASONS FOR  
CANCELLATIONS:**

**Monday:**

***Plaintiff/witness didn't answer his phone and didn't show.***

**Tuesday:**

***Witness couldn't get off ship.***

**Wednesday:**

***Defense attorney got the flu at the last minute.***

**Thursday:**

***Attorneys couldn't fly out of Ohio due to weather.***



***TIME IS MONEY!!!***

## “The Optimist’s Creed”

### Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

(Submitted by Stacey Halberg, RPR)

## *A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

### TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!

If you haven’t registered to join us at the Spring 2009 Annual Convention, the time is now. Visit our website at [www.vcra.net](http://www.vcra.net) or email Colette Boes at [executivedirectorcb@cox.net](mailto:executivedirectorcb@cox.net) for more information.

**Good news:** the Hotel Cut-Off Date for the Group Rate is extended to the day before the convention—**March 12th**. VCRA Rate Code is 11200104654. Reservations can be made at 1-800-The Omni or online at [www.omnihotels.com](http://www.omnihotels.com)



**HAPPY ST. PATRICK’S DAY!**

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**We're On The Web!**  
[www.vcra.net](http://www.vcra.net)



**NOTARY QUESTIONS?**

*For your convenience, a link to the Virginia Notary Handbook has been added to our website. You will find it at [www.vcra.net](http://www.vcra.net)*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- October 24, 2009  
*10th Annual Fall Education Day at the Jepson Alumni Center, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia.*
- March 12-14, 2010  
*VCRA's 43rd Annual Meeting & Convention at the Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia.*

**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 Summer of 2009. Deadline for submission is May 1, 2009. Please email your articles to [executivedireorcb@cox.net](mailto:executivedireorcb@cox.net).



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