

MCRA

PROGRESS

December 2011

Post-Convention

The Missouri Court Reporters Association



*Make the Season
Magical*

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From the Editor

Dear MCRA Members,

Is it my age or is time flying faster than ever before? I actually saw Santa Claus in early November at a couple of department stores. Would you believe I've asked myself, "Have we had Christmas this year, or is it still ahead of us?"

When I contemplate why I sometimes don't immediately know where we are in the year, I can see that I'm moving along too fast and without enjoying every moment. So my new resolve is to slow down, be centered in the moment and appreciate all that I have.

Despite the gloom and doom of the "news," the world IS thriving. For every piece of negative news there are countless positive things happening in the world. Some people think the world would be a better place if people would think as they do—be more like them. But who would get to choose what ideas stay and what ideas go? I think the world is NOT in peril, having variety is good, and there is plenty of room on our planet for everyone to thrive.

So in the new year, perhaps you will join me in focusing on what's right about the world and appreciating all that it has to offer us. After all, no one is trucking in resources for other planets! We have everything we need, right here.

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Joanne Martin as immediate past president of MCRA. Joanne is a true professional—she gets the job done and has fun along the way. What a great combination of qualities!

Following in her footsteps is Dawn McTeer. I know it will be a great year for MCRA with Dawn at the helm!

As always, I'd like to remind everyone that Progress is YOUR publication. By sharing information about your committee and your professional experience, MCRA becomes stronger and stronger as its members become more unified. So please take the opportunity to contribute information to: marian@javajournalnow.com.

Kindly,

Marian Rein



President's Message

It is a privilege and pleasure to address you today as your MCRA President. I would like to thank the membership for giving me the privilege of serving as the President of MCRA and for having the confidence in me—entrusting me with this position.

I would like to give special thanks to Rhonda Laurentius and Debbie McLaughlin. They are responsible for propelling me down this path. I approached Debbie at the 2004 Convention at Harrah's in St. Louis and told her I'd like to become a volunteer for MCRA. I had in mind serving on a committee. I was quite surprised when I received a phone call from Rhonda asking me if I was interested in serving as secretary. I took a deep breath and said yes, never dreaming I would one day serve as president of the Missouri Court Reporters Association. I have no regrets. It's been a great experience. I've met many wonderful people across the state and nation. It's been a wild ride.

I love this association that I have been a part of and contributed to since I became a member in 1986. Since I became a Board member in 2005, I've had the privilege of serving with Past Presidents Rhonda Laurentius, Pat Manners, Sandy Stewart, Angie Culler, Faith Olliges, Tiffany Thompson and Joanne Martin. They've been wonderful role models, and serving under them has been a tremendous learning experience and will help me in performing my function and duties as President of the MCRA. I hope that I can be half the leader that each of them has been.

I'd like to express special thanks to Joanne Martin for stepping up to the plate to serve another term as President of the MCRA when we really needed her experience and vast knowledge this past year. Joanne has always gone above and beyond for the MCRA and all the court reporters in Missouri. We're so lucky to have her. I've already got her on speed dial. I'm sure I will be seeking her advice in the future—I've got some big shoes to fill, following after her.

Lisa Hennon has been a diligent steward of MCRA's finances as treasurer, and Gayle Wambolt has become a real expert at writing the minutes. It's been a pleasure serving with Lisa and Gayle and I'll miss them. Tiffany Thompson and Sandy Stewart have been on the Board since I joined. We'll all miss the service they've provided.

Going forward, we have a wonderful Board for this next year. We're fortunate that Rozann Brancato is going to move up as President Elect and that Shana Crane will be serving as Vice President. Sarah Marshall, Julia Hunt and Melissa Holcomb have agreed to stay on as Regional VPs—I'm very grateful. Their experience is invaluable. I also look forward to working with our new Board members, Susan Steen as Secretary, Karen Rottmann as Treasurer, Renee Bierman as Region I VP and Sheila Irvin as Region V VP.

I'd like to congratulate the Convention Committee on the superb job they've done in planning and executing a successful convention. Thanks Julia Hunt, Lisa Hennon, Sandy Stewart and Melissa Holcomb for a job well done. Let's give them a hand.

In 1988, I started my career as a freelance court reporter and continued to do that for 11 years. In 1999, I became an official in

the 22nd Judicial Circuit, where I've been employed for nearly 12 years. I currently have the pleasure of working for the Honorable Julian Bush. From my past experience, I'm well aware of the issues that affect both the freelance and official communities.

MCRA's goals this year will be to continue to monitor the legislative environment in Jefferson City, increase membership, implement fundraising activities, and continue the good work that MCRA has always been engaged in.

As court reporters, we must defend against attacks on our profession by raising our professional standards. In order for us to survive, we need to strive to achieve higher certification, learn real-time, be a team player and do our jobs with a smile. It's up to each and every one of us to make this happen.

I encourage you all to get involved in your association and talk to your friends about joining, too. Think about becoming a Board member or volunteering on a committee. It's personally fulfilling to participate and make a difference in your professional organization. As Theodore Roosevelt said, "Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."

I look forward to the next year serving as the 2011-2012 MCRA President. I pledge to you to give it my very best.

Dawn Mcteer



NEWS

MCRA

New VP for Region 1

Hi, I am Renee Bierman, the new vice president for Region I. I have worked as a swing reporter for the 22nd Judicial Circuit of the City of St. Louis for the last four years. Prior to working as an official, I was a freelance reporter for 25 years! I am married and have two beautiful girls: Grace 17 and Bethany 14. In March I will be married 20 years to my wonderful husband, Bill Bierman, who owns an auto body shop in the City of St. Louis.

I am excited to take on this new adventure of being vice president and look forward to interacting with each and every member of MCRA in Region I. If you have any questions, concerns, ideas or even some encouragement, please feel free to reach me by email at reporterrenee@charter.net.

I will be organizing the Region I 2011 holiday party in December and the Region I annual meeting in June of 2012. I am also looking into hosting a Fall Marketplace 2012, where our own court reporters may purchase a booth and sell crafts, jewelry, home business items, or just attend and shop with your friends to help raise funds for our region. Shoot me an email and let me know what you think of this idea. I would personally like to invite every member to each of these events, as I would love to be able to put a face to a name! So please consider committing yourselves to attending one or two of these fun get-togethers now.

Besides my family, court reporting is my passion. I am proud to be able to represent my fellow reporters from Region I and look forward to a fun and exciting year as your vice president!

Renee Bierman, CCR, CSR

Whatever you are doing, love yourself for it. Whatever you are feeling, love yourself for feeling it!

Region IV

I want to say thank you to everyone in Region IV who volunteered to help us this year at the conference. Special thanks go to Julia Hunt, Vice President, Region III and Sandy Stewart, Vice President, Region V, for their countless hours of work on the conference. It was a huge success. I hope you agree that Camden on the Lake was a beautiful resort and a good time was had by all.

If any of you have changes in your personal email or address, please let me know. If you know of anyone who would like to be added to the Region IV email group, let me know. Please email me at holcombccr@cablone.net or feel free to call me at 417-850-3571.

Melissa Holcomb



Best Wishes to Nancy Hazelwood

by Lisa Paczkowski

Congratulations and best wishes to Nancy Hazelwood who is retiring this year. Nancy began her court reporting career as a freelance reporter. In 1988, Nancy started

working in the St. Louis County Courts as an official court reporter for Judge Robert Saitz. After his retirement, she worked for Judge Daniel O'Toole and finalized her career working for Judge Mark Seigel.

Working for the State, Nancy has reported many interesting and sometimes challenging cases. She reported numerous high-profile capital murder cases, such as the Johnny Johnson case and Kenneth Baumruk (the courthouse shooting) case. Her prominent skills have proven her endurance and expertise to handle any and all issues that have presented themselves in the courtroom. In addition, Nancy's professionalism and perfection is known throughout the courthouse.

Indeed, her lack of presence will be monumental to all of us. She has been a credit to the court reporting field. In Nancy's retirement, she plans to coach crew, travel and help people stay healthy. She will sincerely and truly be missed.



Calling all MCRA Members!

MCRA is now publishing PROGRESS twice a year—June and December. Please remember to send us articles and information of interest to other court reporters. And we would love to hear what you've been up to! Send us a note and share your stories with other members.

The DEADLINE for the June, 2012 issue of Progress is May 1. Please email your submissions to Marian Rein at marian@javajournalNOW.com.



Region II Trivia Night

A great time was had by all. We have received many compliments and comments on how fun the night was. It was a hugely successful fundraiser. There is no doubt that this will be a yearly event and will grow as the word spreads.

We would like to thank our wonderful sponsors for donating items for the raffle and silent auction, Rozann Brancato's family for donating the marvelous food as well as their time, everyone who came and played, and the VFW who donated the hall. We are already looking forward to a spectacular time next year!

Sarah Marshall, CCR



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MCRA 2011 Convention Wrap-Up

MCRA's annual convention was held at Camden on the Lake, Lake Ozark, Missouri, September 23-25, 2011. The Convention Planning Committee thanks each of you for your attendance and hopes you enjoyed spending time with your colleagues. We had the pleasure of working with some wonderful speakers who freely donated their time and shared their expertise—many of whom were MCRA members.

Debbie Kriegshauser started Friday's sessions with the Mock CRR. She has a diverse background in reporting, including captioning and CART, and is also NCRA's Chief Examiner for Missouri. Two test recordings were played so that attendees could experience the CRR testing scenario. One of these tests reflected NCRA's new CRR testing format. Beginning with the November 5, 2011, test, the format will be modified to two-voice question-and-answer at 200 words per minute.

From our law enforcement community, Detective Andy Anderson from the Boone County Sheriff's Department shed light on the dark recesses of internet crime, including child enticement and internet predators. Detective Anderson is the coordinator/supervisor of the Mid Missouri Internet Crimes Task Force and conducts covert operations. We appreciate Detective Anderson sharing his vast knowledge with us to help keep our children safe.

Crowd favorite Sergeant William Lowe of the Missouri State Highway Patrol jump-started our Saturday sessions and offered suggestions on how to prevent ourselves from being personally attacked and how to respond if we are. He also discussed methods of protecting our homes and families. He was informative and humorous, often at my expense. That's what "big brothers" do!

MCRA member Elaine Sawtell and her dog, Kachi, gave us a look inside the world of emergency responders and rescue dogs. Elaine has a heart for helping others and for animals, and has combined the two into a wonderful career that has included serving as part of the National Disaster Response System after the Oklahoma City bombing and the attacks on 9/11. Kachi even attended our Friday evening social to meet and greet his large fan base.

Joanne Martin and Kathy Foley provided a legislative update at the conclusion of the business luncheon. Kathy then teamed up with Catherine Zacharias from the Office of State Courts Administrator to provide us information regarding JIS and the new e-filing project underway in St. Charles County. We thank these ladies for keeping us up to date on these important issues.

Mary Conway guided us through the twists, turns and sticky situations that often present themselves to reporters. She

moderated discussion and provided ethical guidance about how to handle issues as they arise. Mary has worn many hats over the years with MCRA. We thank her for adding "presenter" to this list.

Our convention concluded on Sunday with software breakouts for ProCAT, CaseCatalyst, Eclipse and AudioScribe. We thank trainers Tracie Brumley, Stephanie Garland, Myles Magee, Mike Zajdel, Beth Blackburn and Lea Ann Moore for teaching us the latest tricks to get those transcripts out faster and make our professional lives easier.

My many thanks to our host venue, Camden on the Lake, for providing a beautiful setting for our convention, to convention committee member and Region IV Vice President Melissa Holcomb for her help with planning and assisting our wonderful vendors, and to Sandy Stewart, the brains behind this year's convention, for her tireless efforts in bringing this year's annual meeting to fruition. Best wishes to Region 2 as they plan the 2012 convention of MCRA. See you in Kansas City!

Julia Hunt
Region III Vice President





MCRA Convention

One Student's Perspective

Did you attend this year's MCRA convention? I wasn't sure if I wanted to attend. After all, the drive for me would be approximately three and a half hours one way. I had asked several people to go with me, and all six of them declined! So if I were going, I would be driving alone, rooming alone, dining alone, and I didn't really know many that would be there.

After reviewing the itinerary of the convention's events, I decided to buck up and face my fears. "Just do it," I told myself, and that's exactly what I did.

I must tell you I am so happy I did. I arrived Friday afternoon, checked in to the hotel and went up to my room—what a beautiful room and view of the Lake. I even had a TV in the bathroom. After settling in, I decided to tour the hotel, Camden on the Lake, and find some supper. I ate at Toad Cove, visited with my waitress and then headed back to my room. I saw a few familiar faces at the Friday night reception, but I didn't know that students were invited to Friday's events. I guess I missed that in the information I had received. So, back to the room I went and got out my machine and practiced dictation for a few hours before turning in for the night.

Saturday morning was filled with wonderful seminars. I met a fellow on-line student of mine who actually recognized my name before I recognized hers. We are now email buddies and keep each other motivated through our practice sessions. I met other on-line students and we shared our school's curriculum and our own practice methods.

Saturday afternoon, while waiting for the elevator to go back to my room after the last seminar of the day, I encountered a group of women

that were full of giggles—laughing and just downright having a great time. I had never met these ladies before, but I sure wish I had. They were having a blast! As we all entered the elevator, one of them asked me if I'd like to join them for a drink back at their room. I thought for a moment and wondered, "How harmful could a group of court reporters be?" So I accepted their kind invitation and enjoyed a drink with them. We exchanged names and backgrounds and they invited me to have supper with them. We headed back to Toad Cove which was within walking distance. We exchanged emails and they answered the many questions I had wanted to ask a court reporter.

On Sunday, an Eclipse seminar was held. I thought, should I go or should I head for home? I decided to go to the seminar and I was so glad I did. I gained some very good information to run my software and received some outstanding handouts.

Being an online student, I often feel I am in this field of study alone. By attending this convention, I felt connected to a very friendly, helpful group of professionals. I now have networked with many of the acquaintances I met through attending this one weekend seminar and now have many more resources of information to gain from.

When next year's convention rolls around, I will go alone because I will have so many people to look up and renew so many friendships. My advice to anyone contemplating on attending next year's convention—Just Do It! You will be so glad you did! I know I am.

Mary Scherder
On-line student
St. Louis Community College-Meramec





MCRA 2011 Convention





MCRA's 66th Annual Business Meeting

September 24, 2011

Lake Ozark, Missouri

President Joanne Martin called to order the 66th Annual Business Meeting of the Missouri Court Reporters Association at approximately 12:15 p.m. All in attendance rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Joanne Martin introduced the current Board of Directors, Dawn McTeer, President Elect; Rozann Brancato, Vice President; Gayle Wambolt, Secretary; Lisa Hennon, Treasurer; Tiffany Thompson (not present), Immediate Past President; Shana Crane, Region I Vice President; Sarah Marshall, Region II Vice President; Julia Hunt, Region III Vice President; Melissa Holcomb, Region IV Vice President; Sandy Stewart, Region V Vice President.

She introduced the incoming 2011-2012 Board of Directors, Dawn McTeer, President; Rozann Brancato, President Elect; Shana Crane, Vice President; Susan Steen, Secretary; Karen Rottmann, Treasurer; Renee Bierman, Region I Vice President; Sarah Marshall, Region II Vice President; Julia Hunt, Region III Vice President; Melissa Holcomb, Region IV Vice President; Sheila Irvin, Region V Vice President.

President Joanne Martin called on Angie Culler to deliver the invocation.

President Joanne Martin called for a moment of silence in remembrance of members of the Association and family members who have passed away. Those listed were Bill Casey; Hal Carr; Pat Manners' father; Sue Perry, wife of Bob Perry; Margaret "Fern" Sprecher, mother of Diana Taylor; John Mothersbaugh, father of Julia Hunt and father-in-law of Lori Mothersbaugh; Sharry Hadley-Richardson; Dorothy Garber; Jack Messina, husband of Cindy Messina; Jeffrey Glenn VanKirk, son of Bette VanKirk.

President Joanne Martin acknowledged the Past Presidents in attendance, Mary Conway, Angie Culler, Linda Dattilo, Carolyn Keeling, BoKriegshauser, Faith Olliges, Sandy Stewart, and Diana Taylor.

President Joanne Martin acknowledged and asked to stand in recognition past DSA recipients Mary Conway, Linda Dattilo, Carolyn Keeling, Bo Kriegshauser, and Diana Taylor.

President Joanne Martin acknowledged and asked to stand in recognition

NCRA Fellow, Diana Taylor.

President Joanne Martin thanked the exhibitors and sponsors who participated in the MCRA 2011 Convention. Those listed were Advantage Software, Audioscribe, Jordan Essentials, MCRA Store, Miche Bags, Midwest Litigation Services, On-Point Video, Pohlman USA Court Reporting, Prairie Gems and Beads, Procat, RPM, Scentsy, Stella & Dot, Stenograph, LLC, Reporting Solutions, Varallo Group, and Master Products.

President Joanne Martin acknowledged and asked to stand in recognition the speakers for the 2011 MCRA Convention, Debbie Kriegshauser, Detective Andy Anderson, Sergeant William Lowe, Elaine Sawtell and K-9 Kachi, Mary Conway, Catherine Zacharias, Kathy Foley, Myles Magee, Stephanie Garland, Mike Zajdel, and Tracie Brumley.

President Joanne Martin acknowledged new members and first-time conference attendees. She also acknowledged Barb Tomblinson, retiree.

President Joanne Martin acknowledged the 14 students attending conference.

Pat Manners was thanked for her generous donation which allowed all students to attend the conference at a cost of \$35 per student. President Joanne Martin also recognized the winner of the first annual student essay contest, Laura David Andreski.

President Joanne Martin thanked Diana Taylor for serving as the MCRA parliamentarian.

President Joanne Martin thanked and asked to stand in recognition Julia Hunt, Sandy Stewart, and Melissa Holcomb for putting together the 2011 MCRA Conference.

Pat Manners and Susan Steen comprised the committee that approved the 2010 Business Meeting Minutes prior to publication. There were no corrections to the minutes of the 2010 Business Meeting. President Joanne Martin appointed Angie Culler and Deborah McLaughlin to approve the minutes of the 2011 Business Meeting.

Region III Vice President Julia Hunt announced there were 86 active reporters and 14 students in attendance.

President Joanne Martin announced

there was a quorum of 25 present.

President Joanne Martin called up the agenda for consideration. Hearing no objection, the agenda was adopted.

President Joanne Martin announced that the Standing Rules of the Annual Business Meeting were contained in the convention packets. Hearing no objection, the standing rules were adopted.

President Joanne Martin announced that the reports of officers, standing committees, and special committees are contained on the flash drives received in the convention packets and are available for review.

President Joanne Martin delivered her Outgoing Presidential Message to the attendees.

Nominating Chairperson Diane Woods submitted the following slate of officers for 2011-2012: Dawn McTeer, President; Rozann Brancato, President Elect; Shana Crane, Vice President; Susan Steen, Secretary; Karen Rottmann, Treasurer.

There were no further nominations. The nominations were closed, and the officers were elected by acclamation.

Faith Olliges conducted the installation of the 2011-2012 slate of officers.

Faith Olliges presented a Presidential plaque to President Joanne Martin in commemoration and thanks for her service as MCRA President in 2010-2011.

Dawn McTeer, 2011-2012 MCRA President, delivered her Presidential acceptance speech.

President Joanne Martin introduced Linda Dattilo as MCRA's first Executive Director.

Linda Dattilo presented Deborah McLaughlin with the Distinguished Service Award.

Region II Vice President Sarah Marshall announced that the 2011 MCRA Conference will be held on the Plaza at the InterContinental Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 19-21, 2011. She invited all to attend.

President Joanne Martin adjourned the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gayle Wambolt,
Secretary, Annual Business Meeting



Distinguished Service Award

by Linda Dattilo

Hi, everybody. As this is my last year on the DSA Committee, I have been granted the distinct privilege of making the presentation honoring this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

For our guests and for those of you who may not know, the first Distinguished Service Award presented by MCRA to one of its members was in 1984. The DSA Committee is now a standing committee of our association, and the award has been presented many times since then to a deserving member.

According to our bylaws, the committee is comprised of five recent DSA recipients. One of the most senior members chairs the committee, and each year a former DSA goes off as a new DSA is named. A call goes out each year to our membership seeking nominations for the Distinguished Service Award. This year was no exception. And while we had many very obvious and worthy nominees, only one vote was required by the committee before we had unanimously chosen a wonderful member as this year's recipient.

Let me tell you a little about our recipient. This year's recipient grew up in a small town, the first born of a large family. As first born, our recipient took on the role of being a second mother to their siblings and grew up to be a people pleaser, a peacemaker, which has served our recipient well in their chosen profession.

Our recipient has worn many hats in the MCRA. Our recipient has been a Region Vice-President, who was charged with putting on a convention in their first year. Our recipient served as a Region VP for three years, then moved up to President-Elect, then became President of our Association. Our recipient has also been a member of and chaired many different committees for MCRA. Even though our recipient appears to be well educated and is a master of the English language, there is one word our honoree has yet to master . . . and it's

spelled N-O! I guess this is fortunate for our association because this honoree always responds any time help is requested. The biggest impact our recipient has had in our profession has been through their tireless dedication to the Student Affairs Committee. Have you guessed yet? Our honoree recently, in an e-mail, typed in all capital letters, I LOVE COURT REPORTING, and I think she means it! At this time, I'd like to ask Debbie McLaughlin to please join me at the podium.

DEBBIE JOINS

Let me share a little about Debbie with you. Deb 's parents are Gerald and Virginia Kuckelman and she has five siblings, Jerry, who is a District Attorney in Atchison, Mike, who is an attorney in Kansas City, Teresa, who lives in Atchison, Liz, who owns Jerry's Again Restaurant in Atchison, and John, who lives in Indianapolis. Deb has 16 nieces and nephews. But that's not all. Believe it or not, Debbie has 105 cousins! Growing up, Deb's father owned a restaurant in Atchison for 31 years, Jerry's, opening in 1964, and he opened Jerry's Two, a deli, in 1975. It was a very busy life for the family.

According to family legend, she was the favored child and is the only one of her siblings who had a tiered cake, much like a wedding cake, for her second birthday. It was the Decoration on her Cake! Get it, Debbie?

One Easter, she received pearl earrings. What did the rest of the siblings get? Hollowed chocolate rabbits. Her sister tells us she is the only grown-up child who still has a room at her folks' house. She and her sister must have had a cosmic connection because they frequently ended up buying the same shoes or outfits . . . all while shopping separately. And, yes, she is a huge shoe freak.

There is one big concern the family has about Debbie, for some reason she tends to fall up, not down, all the time. She falls up

the basement steps, up the church steps. She had a gorgeous pair of gray heels that she loved and broke off a heel while falling up a set of steps.

When Debbie decided she wanted to be a court reporter, she attended the court reporting program at Brown Mackey College in Topeka, Kansas. When the school closed, she moved to Denver to live with an aunt and uncle while attending Mile Hi Court Reporting College in Lakewood, Colorado. After graduating, she accepted a position in the 22nd Judicial Circuit-St. Louis City as a swing reporter. Debbie then went on to work for Judge James L. Sanders and upon his retirement went to work for Judge Margaret M. Neill. In 2004, Debbie left the courthouse and followed a long time dream of opening her own court reporting agency, McLaughlin Court Reporting Services, Inc. She currently freelances in and around the St. Louis area.

Debbie agreed to become president, she talked to long-time friend and fellow reporter, our own Joanne Martin, because Debbie wasn't sure she could do the job. She told Joanne, I don't know if I can give a speech. As Debbie later told the story, Joanne, being the helpful friend that she is, said, oh, I'll write it for you. Debbie said: You'll write it for me? I'm not worried about writing it; I'm worried about giving it in front of all those court reporters. Well, Deb, all those court reporters are your friends now!

In addition to her duties on the MCRA Board and heading up the Student Affairs Committee, Debbie is also a long time member of the Board of Certified Court Reporter Examiners, the board responsible for administering the CCR exam. She has also served for many years on the Advisory Board for the court reporting program at St. Louis Community College at Meramec. With her vast experience, Debbie always has an answer to some of our more press-



ing questions and is always willing to share her opinion . . . usually in a four or five page e-mail!

This November marks the 20 year anniversary of a very special day in Debbie's life. It was the day she married her soul mate and best friend, love of her life, Patrick McLaughlin. While Debbie and Patrick have very busy lives, they always make time to be together. Remember the time-honored tradition of taking a Sunday drive? Nearly every Sunday, Debbie and

Patrick go road-tripping, visiting different areas in Missouri, wineries, festivals, anything that isn't work. Isn't this just a wonderful tradition? Debbie is very appreciative of Patrick's support and patience during the years she put in on the MCRA Board. Patrick was always there for her and for the court reporters.

Debbie, I'd like to congratulate you on being the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. You've been a friend for many years, around 28 now, and that's why

I was so thrilled to be able to deliver this speech. I can't tell you how happy I am to see you so honored. It's obvious you come from a very warm and loving family. In our audience to see you receive this award is your husband, Patrick, your parents, Jerry and Virginia Kuckelman, and your brothers, Jerry and Mike, and John, all the way from Indianapolis, your sister, Liz, and your sister, Theresa and her husband, Kevin McDermed. Congratulations, Debbie! Job well done!

Cookin' with MCRA

Vegetable Latkes

Crisp on the outside and wonderfully seasoned on the inside, potato pancakes are traditionally served during Chanukah. These latkes taste so great that you'll enjoy serving them throughout the entire year! Serve them with homemade applesauce.



Ingredients

8 oz. Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled, cut into 1-inch pieces
 8 oz. carrots (about 2 large), peeled, cut into 1-inch pieces
 8 oz. parsnips (about 2 large), peeled, cut into 1-inch pieces
 ¼ cup all purpose flour
 ¼ cup chopped fresh dill
 ¼ cup chopped green onions
 ½ teaspoon salt
 ½ teaspoon pepper
 2 large eggs, beaten to blend
 10 tablespoons vegetable oil

Directions

Preheat oven to 325°F. Place baking sheet in oven. Shred potatoes, carrots and parsnips. Place towel on work surface. Spread vegetables over the towel. Roll up towel; squeeze tightly to absorb moisture from vegetables. Blend flour, dill, onions, salt and pepper in large bowl. Add vegetables; toss to coat. Mix in the beaten eggs.

Heat 6 tablespoons oil in large skillet over medium heat. Working in batches, drop 2 heaping tablespoons of batter per pancake into hot oil. Using spoon, spread to 4-inch rounds. Cook until brown, about 3 minutes per side. Transfer to baking sheet in the oven to keep them hot. Repeat with remaining batter, adding more oil to skillet by tablespoonfuls as necessary. Serve hot. Yield: 12 pancakes



Minutes of the MCRA Pre-Convention Board Meeting at Camden on the Lake Hotel, Lake Ozark, Missouri September 23, 2011

The Pre-Convention Board Meeting of the MCRA Board of Directors was called to order at 11:07 a.m. The Board members in attendance were:

- Joanne Martin, President
- Dawn McTeer; President Elect
- Rozann Brancato, Vice President
- Gayle Wambolt, Secretary
- Lisa Hennon, Treasurer
- Shana Crane, Region I Vice President
- Sarah Marshall, Region II Vice President
- Melissa Holcomb, Region IV Vice President

Members not present were:

- Julia Hunt, Region III Vice President;
- Sandy Stewart, Region V Vice President

Guests present:

- Linda Dattilo
- Deborah McLaughlin
- Susan Steen

A presentation was made by Mark Munsterman from Morgan-Stanley-Smith-Barney regarding the investment of MCRA war chest funds in municipal bonds. Mr. Munsterman addressed questions and provided information packets.

RATIFICATION OF E-MAIL VOTES

President Joanne Martin called for a motion to ratify the following e-mail votes:

"Motion/Secretary Wambolt: I make a motion to approve the following new members: Rosemarie Sawyer-Corsino, Active; Diane C. Huth, Active; Trudy Huggins, Student; Ellen Kliethermes, Active.

"Motion/Vice President Brancato: I make a motion to approve the minutes of the Summer Board Meeting.

"Motion/President Elect McTeer: Move that President Joanne Martin submit the proposal as amended preferred provider list to the Missouri Bar Association.

"Motion/Region I Vice President Crane: I make the motion that we pay Nelson Mitten \$1,000 to prepare a writ that will be filed in the Western District Court of Appeals regarding the Circuit Judge in Lafayette County ordering free copies of

deposition transcripts to be given to the defense attorneys in a multi-defendant case."

MOTION SECONDED: There being no further discussion, President Joanne Martin called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Joanne Martin updated the board on the status of the amicus curiae brief regarding the writ on free depositions.

President Joanne Martin also reported that the prosecutors were meeting to discuss the MoBar Preferred Provider List Update.

The Board members must submit their expenses by October 15, 2011.

The NCRA Convention was held in Las Vegas, Nevada July 27-31, 2011. Sue Moran represented MCRA.

The CREC Seminars will be held October 25 and 26, 2011 in Blue Springs, Missouri.

The CCR Test will be held on October 15, 2011 in St. Louis, Missouri.

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

President Elect Dawn McTeer reported to the Board that she was getting ready to assume her duties as MCRA President.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report given.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report given.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

REGION I VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

REGION II VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

REGION III VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

REGION IV VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

REGION V VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION/McTEER: I make a motion that we appoint Linda Dattilo as the executive director of MCRA.

MOTION SECONDED: There being no further discussion, President Joanne Martin called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

Discussion was had regarding changing bank accounts in order to receive interest on balance and to eliminate service fees. Suggestion was made for Joanne Martin, Dawn McTeer, and Karen Rottman to check with banks again and attempt to make a switch by November 1, 2011.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of eliminating Beck & Company as MCRA's CPA and saving thousands of dollars a year by completing the bookkeeping tasks in house. Checks and balances would still be in place through President Dawn McTeer and Treasurer Karen Rottman. The possibility of selecting a new CPA was also discussed.

Further discussion was had on investing the war chest funds in municipal bonds. President Joanne Martin thanked all the Board members for their hard work and commented on how proud she was of all that had been accomplished for the year.

MOTION/McTEER : I move to authorize the President to pay the day-to-day expenses of the Association until the next Board Meeting.

MOTION SECONDED: There being no further discussion, President Joanne Martin called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

The September 23, 2011, Pre-Convention Board Meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gayle Wambolt
Secretary, MCRA

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Minutes of the Post-Conference Board Meeting at Camden on the Lake, Lake of the Ozarks September 25, 2011

The Post-Conference Board Meeting of the MCRA Board of Directors was called to order at 12:50 p.m. The Board members in attendance were:

- Dawn McTeer, President
- Rozann Brancato
President-Elect
- Shana Crane, Vice President
- JoAnne Martin
Immediate Past President;
- Sue Steen, Secretary
- Karen Rottmann, Treasurer
- Renee Bierman, Region I VP
- Sarah Marshall, Region II VP
- Julia Hunt, Region III VP
- Melissa Holcomb, Region IV VP
- Sheila Irvin, Region V VP

Also: Linda Dattilo, Executive Director

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Officers' notebooks were handed out by President Dawn McTeer.

The NCRA Convention will be held August 2 through August 5, 2012, at the Philadelphia Marriott in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The 2012 MCRA Conference will be held October 19 through October 21, 2012, in Kansas City at the Intercontinental Hotel.

The next CCR exam is October 15, 2011, in St. Louis.

OSCA seminars will be held August 14 and 15, 2012, in Kansas City; October 23 and 24, 2012, in St. Louis.

President Dawn McTeer asked the Board for their input on the time and place of the Winter Board Meeting. The Winter Board Meeting was ten-

tatively scheduled for March 3, 2012.

MCRA 2011 expenses must be submitted by October 15, 2011; fiscal year ends October 31, 2011.

Deadline for the next PROGRESS publication is October 31, 2011. President McTeer asked each Board member to contribute an item.

PRELIMINARY POST-CONFERENCE REPORT

Julia Hunt thanked Sandy Stewart for her assistance in last-minute negotiations with the conference hotel. There were a total of 104 registrants: 86 reporters, one retired member, one associate member, two nonmembers, and 14 students. There were 13 vendors. The MCRA store made \$93. Silent auction brought in \$698. Raffle brought in \$825.

There was discussion of how the region assessment was used.

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

No report given.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report given.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report given.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Immediate Past President JoAnne Martin mentioned that she had been approached by a nonmember who paid the non-

member rate for attending the convention but wanted to become a member. JoAnne told her we would apply the difference between the member and nonmember conference rate to her membership fee.

REGION I VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

REGION II VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

REGION III VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

REGION IV VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

REGION V VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

OLD BUSINESS

Immediate Past President JoAnne Martin reported she had a discussion with a member about changes to our account

MCRA member would be doing bookkeeping. There was discussion about issues with our CPA firm and our current bank. JoAnne will research banking costs, accounting costs including bookkeeping services, reviews, and audits and report back to the Board within four weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

New Executive Director Linda Dattilo thanked the Board

for their trust and promised to do whatever duties the Board assigns her to the best of her abilities.

President-Elect Rozann Brancato noted that next year's conference is the weekend before the OSCA seminar in St. Louis. We need to make sure we promote the conference and its location.

President Dawn McTeer called for a motion authorizing the President to pay the day-to-day expenses.

MOTION/VICE PRESIDENT CRANE: I move that we authorize the President to pay the day-to-day expenses of the Association until the next Board meeting.

MOTION SECONDED: There being no further discussion, President Dawn McTeer called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

MOTION/REGION III VICE PRESIDENT HUNT: I move we adjourn.

MOTION SECONDED: There being no further discussion, President Dawn McTeer called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

The September 25, 2011, Post-Conference Board Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan L. Steen
Secretary, MCRA

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Dawn McTeer, ex-officio

Bylaws Committee

Diana Taylor, Chair
Carolyn Keeling
Shana Crane
Dawn McTeer, ex-officio

NCRA Chief Examiner – St. Louis

Debbie Kreighauser
Faith Olliges, Assistant
NCRA Selection Approval

NCRA Chief Examiner – Kansas

Irene Narvaez
NCRA Selection Approval

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Mary Conway

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Stephanie Prewitt

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Jim Bouck, Chair
Mary Conway
Diana Taylor
Linda Dattilo
Debbie McLaughlin
Dawn McTeer, ex-officio

Information Repository

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Joanne Martin, Past President
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Region II – Betsy Gromowsky/Sharon Crawford
Region III – Bev Bentsch/Kellene

Fedderson

Region IV – Diane Woods/Margie Pierce
Region V – Sande Meyer/Brenda Christensen

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Legal Hilarity “Overheard in Court”



WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN SMOKING?

Lung cancer plaintiff, suing tobacco company, is questioned extensively about each and every type of cigarette on the market over many years.
 ATTORNEY: Now, I think we’ve talked about every cigarette manufactured and sold during your lifetime. Can you think of any others that you might have smoked that we haven’t talked about today?
 PLAINTIFF: Well, not unless it was when I was locked up or something, maybe. You know, when you be bumming, you can’t ’xactly specify yo brand.
Submitted By: Heather

GOOD CHOICE OF WORDS

Gender discrimination claim.
 SUPERVISOR: I don’t discriminate against them...them women...just because they have them...them things.
 ATTORNEY: What? Breasts?
 SUPERVISOR: No! Them kids! I know they can’t do the same job because they have to take off work all the time.
Submitted By: Nathalie Pettit

HOW DARE YOU EVEN ASK

QUESTION: Are you a fiduciary?
 ANSWER: Oh no, sir. I don’t even date
Submitted By: Anonymous

THERE’S DEPOSED, AND THEN THERE’S DEPOSED

QUESTION: Mr. Smith, have you ever been deposed before?
 ANSWER: Deposed? I have had people want to take me down, but no.
Submitted By: Mary Seal

FINDING COMMON GROUND

QUESTION: And you don’t know if you knew the legal definition of common area

before you signed that, is that correct?
 ANSWER: I mean, common, is that a legal term?
 QUESTION: Common area is a legal term.
 ANSWER: Okay.
 QUESTION: And I’m just asking if you were provided the definition of legal—or definition of common area by anyone prior to signing that document.
 ANSWER: I know a rapper named Common.
Submitted By: Anonymous

LET ME REPHRASE

QUESTION: You, in fact, received the \$250,000 loan from the bank.
 ANSWER: Yes.
 QUESTION: And how did you spend that money?
 ANSWER: Quickly.
Submitted By: Anonymous

DOES IT MATTER HOW?

In a gas explosion case, a defense attorney was attempting to cross examine one of the plaintiff’s fact witnesses.
 QUESTION: Did you ever see any roaches killed by natural gas?
 ANSWER: I’m sure a lot of them died when it blew up.
 QUESTION: No, but I am talking about —

THE JUDGE: At least I hope so.
 QUESTION: Did you see any of those that were blown up?
 THE JUDGE: Did you see any mangled bodies of roaches?
 ANSWER: Please repeat the question.
 QUESTION: Prior to the explosion, did you ever see any roaches that have been asphyxiated by the natural gas?
 ANSWER: I wouldn’t...I don’t recall. I wouldn’t know if a roach had died from gas.
 THE JUDGE: A natural death, or —
 PLAINTIFF’S ATTORNEY: No autopsies were done on the roaches.
 QUESTION: We don’t have any further questions of this witness.
Submitted By: Anonymous

I’LL DRINK TO THAT

QUESTION: Have you ever had any business dealing with Mr. A.?
 ANSWER: No sir. I can answer the same question on Mr. B, Mr. C, and Mr. D also. I don’t think any of these people have even bought me a drink. They might have, but I don’t think they did. I won’t swear to that, though.
 QUESTION: I won’t ask you to swear to that.
 ANSWER: Because if they tried to buy me a drink, I would take it. And I will swear to that.
Submitted By: Anonymous



HORSES

QUESTION: Okay. What kind of horses are they?
 ANSWER: Two registered Quarters and one registered Arab.
 QUESTION: Okay. Now, do you breed them or do you ride them?
 ANSWER: Oh, heavens no, I let the stud take care of that.
Submitted By: Terra

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