

MCRA

PROGRESS

June 2011

Post-Convention

The Missouri Court Reporters Association

MCRA 2011 CONVENTION

*FRIENDSHIPS • EDUCATIONAL
NETWORKING • FUN*

September 23–25

Camden at the Lake, Ozarks



Join the FUN!

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www.MOCRA.org

MCRA Progress

Issues Published:

June and December

Deadline for submitting information to Progress for the December 2011 issue:

November 1.

Send Submissions to:

Marian Rein

MCRA Editor

Phone: (314) 807-1323

E-mail:

Marian@javajournalSTL.com

Statements and opinions expressed in editorials and articles are not necessarily those of MCRA. Publication of advertising does not imply endorsement of products/ services or statements made concerning them.

Got a Question? Start with INFO LINES MCRA Support and Assistance

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Continuing Education	Mary Conway (816) 271-1473
Convention 2010	Julia Hunt (573) 886-4052
Distinguished Service Award	Bo Kriegshauser (888) 433-6756
Legislative Affairs	Randy Dunn 636-940-0926
NCRA Member Services	Toll Free (800) 272-6272
NVRA Member Services	(601) 582-4345
PROGRESS Publication	Marian Rein (314) 807-1323
Progress Advertising	Brenda Schmelz (636) 234-5088
RPR Testing Info (East)	Debbie Kriegshauser (314) 244-7449
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MCRA PROGRESS ADVERTISING

MISSOURI COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

RATES

For Sale	\$ 15
Business Card	\$ 30
1/4 Page	\$ 40
1/2 Page	\$ 70
Full Page	\$120

FORMAT

All advertisements should have camera-ready art or a digital ad that can be e-mailed or sent on a CD. Ads need to be 300 dpi and use either a JPG, TIFF or PDF file format.

ADVERTISEMENT ORDER – CHECK AD STYLE

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FOR FURTHER INFO, CONTACT BRENDA SCHMELZ AT (636) 234-5088.

Company or Individual Name

Address

City, State, Zip

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Missouri Court Reporters Association 2010-2011 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

JOANNE MARTIN, CCR
356 Ridge Meadow Dr.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
(22nd Judicial Circuit, St. Louis City)
Court: 314.622.4787
Res: 314.469.1951
Cell: 314.610.8585
Joanne.Martin@courts.mo.gov
Jojmartin@sbcglobal.net

PRESIDENT-ELECT

DAWN McTEER, RPR, CCR, CSR (IL)
6419 Quincy
St. Louis, MO 63109
(22nd Judicial Circuit, St. Louis City)
Court: 314.622.4312
Fax: 314.622.4052
Res: 314.352.6103
Cell: 314.580.6103
Verb8m@sbcglobal.net

VICE PRESIDENT

ROZANN BRANCATO, RPR, CCR
Jackson County Courthouse
308 W. Kansas, Division 17
Independence, MO 64050
Court: 816.881.4517
Res: 816.468.6777
Fax: 816.881.4693
Cell: 816.213.5149
Rbrancato50@att.net
Rozann.Brancato@courts.mo.gov

SECRETARY

GAYLE WAMBOLT, RMR, CRR, CCR
5423 NW Foxhill Rd.
Parkville, MO 64152
Court: 816.512.5641
Res: 816.584.1031
Cell: 816.716.2784
mgwambolt@yahoo.com
Gayle_Wambolt@mow.uscourts.gov

TREASURER

LISA M. HENNON, RPR, CCR
19th Judicial Circuit, Div IV
P.O. Box 1870
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(19th Judicial Circuit, Cole Cty.)
Court: 573.634.9194
Res: 573.659.3609
Lisa.Hennon@courts.mo.gov

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

TIFFANY M. THOMPSON, CCR
1312-6 Southwest Blvd.
Jefferson City, MO 65109
Division of Workers'
Compensation

Ofc: 573.526.3881
Fax: 573.751.2012
Res: 573.619.7506
Ynaffit07@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION I

SHANA CRANE, CCR
818 Aston Way Dr.
O'Fallon, MO 63368
(22nd Judicial Circuit, St. Louis City)
Ofc: 314.622.4666
Res: 636.244.0453
Region I, Active, Official
Stenomask, SpeechCAT
shana.crane@courts.mo.gov

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION II

SARAH M. MARSHALL, CCR
18212 Murphy Road
Smithville, MO 64089
Jackson County Courthouse
Court: 816.881.3708
Cell: 816.674.0208
Sarah.Marshall@courts.mo.gov
Smt4578@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION III

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705 E. Walnut
Columbia, MO 65201
(13th Judicial Circuit: Boone and
Callaway Counties)
Court: 573.886.4052
Res: 573.777.0830
Region III, Active, Freelance
huntjuliaa@hotmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION IV

MELISSA HOLCOMB, CCR
3016 West 26th Street
Joplin, MO 64804
Ofc: 417.237.1096
Res: 417.781.0631
Cell: 417.850.3571
HYPERLINK
Melissa.holcomb@courts.mo.gov
Holcombccr@cableone.net

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION V

SANDY R. STEWART, CVR, CCR (MO, AR)
P.O. Box 191
Portageville, MO 63873
Ofc: 573.379.2455
Fax: 573.379.3080
sandyrstewart@sbcglobal.net

From the Editor

Dear MCRA Members,

I hope you agree that Joanne Martin has done a terrific job of putting together information for this issue of Progress. I believe it's one of our best issue ever! MCRA has a great leader in Joanne. She knows how to gather people and resources, and she can get it all flowing in one common direction.

Don't forget to register for the 2011 Convention. Inside this issue you will find information, a schedule and a registration form, starting on page 8. You might want to consider combining the convention with a family vacation at the Lake of the Ozarks.

Please remember that Progress belongs to the members of MCRA. We need you to contribute information that will be of interest to all members. The deadline for the June issue of Progress is May 1.

Kindly,

Marian Rein

President's Message



One of the best decisions our association has made in recent years is the hiring of our legislative representative David Klarich. What was thought to be a tumultuous year has

been relatively calm. I feel we have to attribute most of this “staying out of harm’s way” to Mr. Klarich. I cannot express how many times legislators, attorneys, judges and others have mentioned to me how involved Mr. Klarich has been and the impact that has had for the Missouri court reporters.

Our economy is not bouncing back as quickly as we’d like, but at least it is moving in the right direction. It is predicted that within two years our State finances will be in a position where it may not increase, but there will be no further need to look for cuts. The MCRA must continue to fight for our profession and cannot let our guard down.

It seems there is no lack of need for volunteers for important causes, whether it’s cancer, disabilities, domestic abuse, cruelty to animals and more. I appreciate the generosity of time and often money that our reporters have made to our profession. Court reporting is unique. Not only are we a select few when it comes to the skill it takes to do our job, there is often insurmountable pressure that no one can appreciate but a fellow court reporter. Because of these unique skills and the personality that is required, there also comes a responsibility.

It is each of our jobs to try to explain what we do in the most positive way possible. We have a responsibility to go the extra step when possi-

ble to prove our importance. It’s easy to complain or not feel uplifted after a difficult deposition or court case, but no one will understand the full impact of your pain except another court reporter. So complaining to anyone other than a reporter will have only a negative influence on our profession.

Remain positive. Remain passionate. Keep your energy high and let it be contagious to all of those around you. Be proud—you are special. You are doing a job that very few people have the skill to perform. You are a perfectionist. You are motivated to complete a job even when your bed is calling to you. You are a professional court reporter.

And, by the way, being a professional comes with the responsibility of obtaining your yearly CEUs. Your MCRA Convention Committee has been working very hard to bring you a wonderful line-up of speakers and events that will knock your socks off. I am very excited for the 2011 Conference at the Lake.

As mentioned in the News4U blasts, our host hotel is completely sold out, but please don’t hesitate to book at our over-flow facility. There will be a complimentary shuttle available. If you don’t need CEUs—come anyway! It’s going to be so much fun. Tons of people—and they’re the fun people, too—have already booked their rooms. This will be the weekend to celebrate so many things that we have accomplished over the past year. Please join me at the Lake in September!

Joanne Martin

Energy! Enthusiasm! Passion!—that’s what I have discovered within myself as well as the members I have had the pleasure to speak with over the past six months. I’m well aware that when I was asked to lead the Missouri Court Reporters Association for 2010-2011, I was not the Nominating Committee’s first choice. As a matter of fact, I think I was getting near the Committee’s desperation level. I do have to admit that my friends, in particular Linda Dattilo, helped me get over the blow to my self-esteem as they convinced me that my profession needed me!

I have learned over the past six months that MCRA has a wealth of information and experience, as well as competent reporters who, when called upon, do not hesitate to pitch in, become involved and fight for our court reporting profession.

We are surrounded by states that are losing their official reporters to digital technology. We are surrounded by court administrators, attorneys and judges who feel an adequate record is sufficient. Digital technology and those attitudes will never go away.

I am impressed with the states that are now bringing back court reporters to the courts, and court administrators, attorneys and judges who are willing to throw down the gauntlet and fight for their reporter and the court reporting profession.



NEWS

MCRA

Calling All Court Reporters!

This year, MCRA has introduced a new Student Mentor program for our court reporting students, including the online student population. This program is being offered as a way to bring professional court reporters and students together.

Serving as a mentor to the students is wonderfully rewarding for all involved, and all it really requires on your part is an occasional bit of time and attention devoted to a student. Lending your experience and support as a working reporter, as one who has successfully completed a reporting program and knows from experience the growing pains of evolving from student to Certified Court Reporter, can truly be inspirational to our students.

If you are an enthusiastic court reporter, captioner, or CART writer and would like to volunteer a bit of your time please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Warm Regards,
Rhonda Laurentius
Student Mentor Chair

Seeking Distinguished Service Award Nominations

The DSA is the highest Award that the MCRA can bestow on any reporter. The DSA does not come from the Board, but is a result of reporters in our State recognizing and nominating their fellow reporter for the hard work and dedication that reporter has given to our profession as well as the MCRA.

If you know of a deserving reporter, please pass your nomination on to Chairman Bo Kriegshauser at BoKriegshauser@charter.net or (314) 421-0099. You may also submit your nomination to any member of the DSA Committee: Jim Bouck, Mary Conway, Diana Taylor, or Linda Dattilo.

The Nominating Committee proudly presents the following **Slate of Officers for 2011-2012:**

- President: Dawn McTeer
- President-Elect: Rozann Brancato
- Vice-President: Shana Crane
- Secretary: Sue Steen
- Treasurer: Karen Rottman

Region III News

Regions III, IV, and V are in the throes of planning MCRA's 2011 Conference to be held at the Lake of the Ozarks. Mark your calendar for September 23-25, 2011, for a wonderful time among fellow reporters at a stunning venue. Reservations can be made by contacting Camden on the Lake at 1-888-365-5620 or our overflow hotel, Resort at Port Arrowhead, 1-800-532-3575.

In addition to lots of options for our seasoned reporters, such as software breakouts and seminars on cybercrime and personal safety, there will also be a full day of seminars for student reporters. We are so excited to have them joining us!

Region III's annual meeting will be held May 16, 2011, at El Vaquero Mexican Restaurant in Moberly.

If you are new to Region III or have questions regarding our region or MCRA in general, please feel free to contact me at (573) 777-0830.

Julia Hunt

Region IV Annual Meeting

by Melissa Holcomb

Region IV's annual business meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at Springfield Brewing Company. It has been our meeting place for the last several years and seems to work fine. Please RSVP to Melissa Holcomb at holcombc-cr@cableone.net. Topics of discussion are budget concerns and our annual conference. If anyone would like to add to the agenda please free to call me at (417) 850-3571 or send me an email. We hope to see you there!

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 December issue of Progress is November 1. Please email your submissions to Marian Rein at marian@javajournalSTL.com.



NEWS

MCRA

TODAY'S RUSH JOB

by Laurie Bennett

I "just" got the call and was asked to write an article for Progress about our Trivia Night in March. After explaining that I would be happy to—just not until next week because I'm leaving for a girl's weekend and I have lots to do beforehand—I was told, "No problem, someone else was taking care of the article." And I am grateful for that other person. Thank you, Shana!

However, I still want to put in just a few of my "feelings" in this issue of Progress, so today's expedite is a little out of the ordinary for me, but here I go!

I am an official reporter in St. Louis City and have been reporting for more than 20 years. I've done both freelance and official work, and I believe each has its own unique and awesome benefits. I've truly enjoyed both methods. Other than paying MCRA dues, reading through Progress and attending an occasional Holiday party or event, my involvement in MCRA has been very minimal.

Once Jo (President Joanne Martin) asked me to chair this year's Trivia, I found it hard to say no to her. And as soon as I confirmed that Reagan Fiorino and Sue Moody would be right there with me, I knew it would be a good experience. And indeed it was—I was pleased and proud of the whole evening and the night's success. But what I wasn't prepared for was the overwhelming support I got from EVERYONE! Joanne, Shana and Dawn helped us every step of the way, as I knew they would. Each and every time I asked someone for help, whether it was buying a ticket, donating an item for the raffle or donating cash from \$10

to hundreds of dollars, court reporters said yes.

GorePerry Reporting, Pohlman USA and Midwest Litigation took on the bulk of the sponsorship. Sherry Marshall worked with us tirelessly and, when all was said and done, MCRA came out ahead. It was a successful, fun night and I have all of you to thank.

Court reporters are some of the nicest people around. We're responsible, committed professionals who share a common goal—preserving the record. Though not always easy, our job is extremely important and valuable to the justice system.

We are often overlooked in our daily jobs, but we know what we mean to the system, and I feel it is up to us to step forward and promote our skills and value to the community. Saying "yes" is doing just that. You'll be surprised by how many others before you have said yes for so many years and are still there to assist you along the way.

Court reporters are a team—all here to help each other. I am glad I finally said yes to helping out. I hope to see some of you at convention in September—yes, this will be my first MCRA convention. See there, I said yes!

So, thanks again to everyone who helped make the evening such a success. Our team will be happy to share our "Trivia Hosting" tips with the next chairperson. Fundraising is a necessity, and with the right team and mindset, it can be a lot of fun.

Thanks, Jo, for asking me to get involved. Now, my rush job is complete and I can get back to my trip planning. So who gets this "expedited" invoice? (lol!!)

News4U

Recap of email blasts from the "Pres"

End Of An Era For Court Reporters

The Baltimore County Circuit Court is quietly losing 237 years of courtroom experience. Its 14 court reporters learned last month the courthouse will convert entirely to digital recordings by the summer. Click on the following link to read the entire story: www.adn.com.

Oregon Brings Back Court Reporters

Senate Bill 409, currently before the Oregon House, would require a live court reporter at all aggravated murder trials. When a previous article in *The Oregonian* complained about how long it was taking a court reporter to transcribe an aggravated murder trial (when in fact it was digitally recorded) our Legislative Committee stepped up to the plate and pursued the reporter...and he listened. Enjoy reading the entire story: www.oregonlive.com.

California Court Reporters Campaign Against Electronic Replacements

They blend quietly into the courtroom background, as much a part of the scene as the lawyers at the table and the judge on the bench. They're the ones who keep the record, designed to last through eternity, or at least until the appeals run out.

But if they're silent in the courtroom, there's nothing nondescript about the way court reporters play California politics. "Extraordinarily powerful," is how one critic described them.

It's true—they've spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on top-level lobbyists. But the spending has come in response to forces in the Capitol that have zoned in hard on them, trying to put them out of business forever. To read more: www.mercurynews.com.

If you are not receiving the News4U email blasts, please email your current email address to Gail Conaway at GailConaway989@msn.com.



"Like" Missouri Court Reporters Association on Facebook!



Temporary Official Court Reporter Allocation

by Joanne Martin

With the elimination of the funding for temporary official court reporters to fill in for sick leave, surgery, maternity leave or emergency situations, the 141 State of Missouri officials and their Circuit Judges have had to coordinate and work together as never before.

The Circuit Court Budget Committee (CCBC) has received several special requests for funding and very few have been granted. The CCBC looks into many things when considering requests. Some of the things that the CCBC takes into account are the OSCA work study, the OSCA case reports, how many reporters are in that Circuit, how busy is the Circuit, how close are the adjoining Circuits, how busy are the adjoining Circuits, is the case or time period something that can be worked around, the time period of the request.

One question has been asked by several official court reporters, and that is WHY do official court reporters NOT get sick leave? WHY do official court reporters NOT get vacation? WHY are official court reporters treated differently than other State employees? WHY isn't the MCRA doing anything to get official court reporters sick leave and vacation?

The answer is very simple. For every decision that is made, there are consequences that have to be accepted. We see it every day in court, but when it affects us directly and personally it is difficult to see the forest through the trees.

A decision was made when court reporters were originally hired that they would be statutory employees of the State. This issue was revisited approximately 10 years ago when a salary grade was offered to official court reporters by the State. This article will not go into the specifics of that salary grade, but the MCRA had meetings and completed a survey of all official court reporters at that time. It was the decision of the majority of the official court reporters that they wished to remain statutory

employees under the existing system.

As statutory employees the official court reporter works solely at the discretion and pleasure of their Circuit Judge. They cannot be pooled without the permission of their own Judge. They are not bound by the rules of non-statutory employees, but take their instructions and directions from their Judge. So when their judge takes vacation, goes to school, has a doctor's appointment, is sick or is unavailable to work, their court reporter has that time to work on transcripts or to use as vacation.

Along with that benefit—and most people believe that to be an

The answer is very simple. For every decision that is made, there are consequences that have to be accepted. We see it every day in court, but when it affects us directly and personally it is difficult to see the forest through the trees.

extremely wonderful benefit—comes consequences. Official court reporters DO receive health benefits, cafeteria plan, deferred compensation plan, a pension plan, and life insurance. However, official court reporters do not receive vacation nor do they receive sick or maternity leave. These benefits and consequences are the same for all statutory employees, including all the Judges in our State.

The legislative allocation of funds is as a result of RSMo 485.075: Appointment of temporary court reporter, when—compensation—duration. 485.075. In the absence of the official reporter of any circuit

judge because of illness or physical incapacity to perform his duties, the judge may appoint a temporary reporter, who shall perform the same duties and receive the same compensation as provided for the regular reporter for the time served by the appointee as temporary reporter, to be paid upon certification of the judge making such appointment. No temporary appointment shall continue through more than thirty court days in any calendar year unless so ordered by the supreme court of this state.

This allocation has always been requested and approved by the legislature until recently when our budget became challenging. At that time it was the consensus of most Circuit Judges and official court reporters that they would rather sacrifice the "incapacitated" funding allocation than lose any official court reporter positions.

It is really incumbent on each of us to work through and sacrifice during these tough economic times. We have been successful in not losing any official court reporter positions to-date. If you truly have a situation where it is necessary to make a request to the CCBC for special funding, please do not hesitate to have your Judge along with the Presiding Judge of your Circuit provide a written request to the CCBC.

Complaining and threats to sue the State for vacation and/or sick and maternity leave provide no benefit but invites the Supreme Court, the State and the CCBC to rethink how our employment should be categorized.

When the economy is more stable and the threat of losing official court reporter positions is diminished, MCRA, along with the CCBC, will pursue getting the sick leave and maternity leave allocation reinstated. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Joanne Martin at (314) 622-4787 or Joanne.Martin@courts.mo.gov.



MCRA 2011 Convention

*FRIENDSHIPS • EDUCATIONAL
NETWORKING • FUN*

September 23–25

Camden at the Lake, Ozarks

www.camdenonthelake.com 1 (888) 365-5620

Overflow Hotel: The Resort at Port Arrowhead

www.theresortatportarrowhead.com

573-365-2334 or 1-800-532-3575

\$77.00 per night

The Resort at Port Arrowhead is a lovely hotel 6 miles from Camden at the Lake. A free shuttle will be available to transport you to and from the host hotel. We were able to block 20 rooms so please ACT FAST to make your reservation.

13 CEUs available!

(3 CEUs Friday • 7 CEUs Saturday • 3 CEUs Sunday)

The Perfect Lake of the Ozarks Resort Getaway

Camden on the Lake Resort, Spa, & Yacht Club at Toad Cove is the newest and most luxurious full-service Resort to open at the Lake of the Ozarks in nearly a decade. The Resort is located adjacent to the famous H. Toad's and the Toad Cove Entertainment Complex, at the seven-mile marker of Lake of the Ozarks and covers over a quarter of a mile of shoreline.

Convention at Camden on the Lake

by Melissa Holcomb, 2011 Conference Co Chair

Conference plans are in progress as we speak. We are excited about our annual conference at Camden on the Lake. We have been working hard to make this the most enjoyable conference. I'm honored to join them this year.

Be prepared to be wowed by the facilities at the lake and the conference schedule this year. We will be covering topics to better equip us in our daily roles as court reporters whether being an official, freelance or captioning. We will also receive instruction on different software that we use for our business

and updates if need be.

We will hear from Dave Klarich, our lobbyist that spoke last year. He looks forward to updating us on what is going on in the Missouri political scene. This will be a chance for you to ask any questions or voice concerns that you have had since last year.

Our gracious, long-time official reporter, Mary Conway will educate us on the rules and ethics we need to know to give our profession the highest degree of professionalism it deserves and pass this legacy on to all reporters. Also, we have Andy

Anderson from the Cybercrime Taskforce coming and Elaine Sewtell with her dog who worked at 9/11 Ground-Zero. And last but not least we have Mike Zajdel and Nancy Fox to update us on what's new in the technology world.

In addition we will have appetizers Friday night on the patio with a great view of the lake. Enjoy this time to get to know other reporters and your board members.

Once again, we look forward to seeing you in September at the lake!



MCRA CONVENTION REGISTRATION

September 23-24, 2010
Camden on the Lake Resort, Spa & Yacht Club
2359 Bittersweet Road, Lake Ozark, MO
(573) 365-5620

1) PHOTOCOPY THIS REGISTRATION PAGE and MAIL IT ALONG WITH CHECK or CREDIT CARD INFO TO: Ms. Joanne Martin, MCRA President, 356 Ridgemoor Drive, Chesterfield, MO 63017-3031.

2) (PLEASE REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 9. ON-SITE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE CHARGED AN ADDITIONAL \$25.00 HOTEL: OVERFLOW HOTEL: RESORT AT PORT ARROWHEAD, 3080 Bagnell Dam Boulevard, Lake Ozark, MO. Call Resort at Port Arrowhead at (800)532-3575. Rates: Standard King Bed - \$77 / Suite - \$129

REGISTRATION INFORMATION (Please print or write legibly)

Name:
Name to be printed on name badge:
Address: City: State: Zip:
Home Phone: E-mail:
Company:
Address: City: State: Zip:
Work Phone: Extension:
Preferred address for mail: Home Office Please specify what software you use

FEES

Table with 2 columns: Member Type, Fee. Includes Reporter Member (\$190), Reporter Non Member (\$250), Associate Member (\$175), Retiree/Honorary (pay cost of meal).

TWO DAYS ONLY

Table with 2 columns: Member Type, Fee. Includes Reporter Member (\$150), Reporter Non Member (\$175), Associate Member (\$100), Retiree/Honorary (pay cost of meal).

GUESTS

- # Guest(s): Fri. Night Social (\$10.00)
Guest(s): Sat. Continental Breakfast (\$8.75)
Guest(s): Sat. Business Luncheon (\$11.83)
Guest(s): Sun. Plated Breakfast (\$8.75)

Total enclosed for Guest Meals/Functions
Please include guest names (for name badge) with registration.

Guest 1
Guest 2

CONVENTION PLANNER (Please check ALL that apply)

- Friday Welcome & Introduction 2:00
Friday Mock CRR 2:00-3:30
Friday Andy Anderson/Cyber Crime 3:45-5:15
Friday Evening Social 6:00-8:00
Saturday Continental Breakfast 7:30-8:3
Saturday Sgt. Lowe/Personal Safety 8:30-10:00
Saturday Elaine Sawtell/Rescue dog 10:15-11:45
MCRA Luncheon/Business Meeting 12:00-1:00
Saturday Legislative Update 1:00-2:00
Saturday Mary Conway/Ethics, Rules 2:15-3:45
Saturday Mike Zajdel/Technology 4:00-5:30
Sunday Software Breakout, Part I 8:30-10:00
Sunday Plated Breakfast 10:00-10:30
Sunday Software Breakout, Part II 10:30-12:00

REGISTRATION FEE \$ + GUEST FEES @ \$ = TOTAL FEES: \$

PAYMENT METHOD

Check No. (Please make check payable to MCRA)
Visa Mastercard (Please include 3-digit security code on back of card:)

Card No. - - - - - Expiration Date: MM/ YYY

Signature for credit card authorization
PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORM



PRELIMINARY CONVENTION AGENDA

Friday, September 23, 2011

- 11:00 - 1:00 Pre-convention board meeting
- 1:00 - 5:15 Registration desk open
- 1:00 - 5:15 Exhibitor area open
- 2:00 - 3:30 Mock CRR
- 3:30 - 3:45 Break
- 3:45 - 5:15 Andy Anderson Cybercrime Task Force
- 6:00 - 8:00 Happy hour on the patio (appetizers/cash bar)

Saturday, September 24, 2011

- 8:00 - 8:30 Breakfast
- 8:00 - 5:00 Registration desk open
- 8:00 - 5:00 Exhibitor area open
- 8:30 - 10:00 Sergeant Lowe - Personal Safety
- 10:00 - 10:15 Break
- 10:15 - 11:45 Elaine Sawtell with her dog who worked at 9/11 Ground Zero
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:00 Dave Klarich, legislative representative (part of the luncheon)
- 2:15 - 3:45 Mary Conway - ethics, rules and statutes
- 3:45 - 4:00 Break
- 4:00 - 5:30 Technology - Mike Zajdel
- Dinner on your own

(*During these seminars, the student seminars will be taking place in the Theater)

Sunday, September 25, 2011

- 8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 - 10:30 Software break-outs
- 10:30 - 10:45 Break
- 10:45 - 12:15 Software break-outs
- 1:00 - 2:00 Post-convention board meeting

Worrying is using your imagination to create something you don't want. Focus your attention on things that you want rather than things that you don't want



Minutes of the MCRA Winter Board Meeting

Camden on the Lake, Lake Ozark, Missouri

February 26, 2011

The Winter Board Meeting of the MCRA Board of Directors was called to order at 10:15 a.m. The Board members in attendance were:

Joanne Martin, President; Dawn McTeer, President Elect; Rozann Brancato, Vice President; Tiffany Thompson, Immediate Past President; Lisa Hennon, Treasurer; Shana Crane, Region I Vice President; Julia Hunt, Region III Vice President; Melissa Holcomb, Region IV Vice President; Sandy Stewart, Region V Vice President;

Board Members Not Present:
Gayle Wambolt, Secretary;
Sarah Marshall, Region II Vice President.

Also Present:
Linda Dattilo, Past President;
Nicole Keever, Camden on the Lake;
Jennifer West, Camden on the Lake.

Ms. Keever and Ms. West escorted the Board of Directors on a tour of the facility at Camden on the Lake at 10:25 a.m.

RATIFICATION OF E-MAIL VOTES

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

Approval of the following new members:

- Steven Brickey (Active)
- Karen Keim (Active)
- Vanessa Dela Cruz (Student)
- Taylor Woolfolk (Student)
- Michaela White (Student)
- RaShaun Wright (Student)
- Shekieah Kemp (Student)
- Joey DiPaola (Student)
- Tyeisha Arrington (Student)
- Kamryn Barnes (Student)
- Nycole Jamerson (Student)
- Victoria Metzger (Student)
- Michael Zimmer-Price (Student)
- Lynette Childres (Active)
- Adrian Howe (Student)
- Margaret Ruxton (Student)
- Tina Givens (Active)
- Paula Ankney (Student)
- Christine Williams (Student)
- Allison Strebler (Student)
- Sarah McMillan (Student)
- Amy Twyman (Active)

Erika Shaffer (Active)
Joyce Lawrence (Active)

October 20, 2010, motion to pay the Crowne Plaza Invoice of \$10,945.87 for the 2010 MCRA Convention and business meeting.

October 21, 2010, motion to pay the annual fee of \$540 for Wild Apricot software for the MCRA website.

November 22, 2010, motion to pay Debbie Tolstoi \$1,200 to re-design the MCRA website and to make updates to the site as needed to be billed at \$40 for each 15-minute increment.

December 6, 2010, motion to approve the 2010 Pre-Convention and Post-Convention Board Meeting Minutes.

December 8, 2010, motion to approve 2010 Business Meeting Minutes.

MOTION/STEWART: Make a motion to ratify the e-mail votes as listed in the agenda.

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 will ask Angie Culler and Brett Harrison of the MCRA Audit Committee to examine the financial records of the MCRA. The Board feels that a full audit of the MCRA financials by an accountant would be too costly at this time. The Board decided a mini audit by the Audit Committee would be prudent.

In selecting the members to comprise the Nominating Committee, President Joanne Martin has chosen two members from each region to serve on the Nominating Committee. There is an official and a free-lance reporter from each region. There is one voting member per region. The second member will aid the voting member from their region in choosing qualified candidates for the MCRA Board of Directors.

President Joanne Martin reported that the MCRA Facebook page is up and running. Cathi Boyd did a commendable job in taking the lead to create the MCRA Facebook page. There are currently 68 friends.

Cookies were delivered on February 16, 2011, in Jefferson City to Senators, Representatives, Governor Nixon, the State Auditor, all the Supreme Court Justices and Maggie Burch. There were 100 dozen cookies collected from across the state. It was a great success.

There will be two issues of PROGRESS a year online. This will be a huge cost savings for the MCRA. For those retired members that don't have an e-mail address, they will receive a printed version of the PROGRESS.

President Joanne Martin has received positive feedback from the membership regarding her monthly e-mail blasts. She asked the Board for their suggestions and comments.

March 1, 2011, is the launch date for the new MCRA website. The address for the new site will continue to be www.mocra.org. The interactive map will be added after the website is up and running. President Joanne Martin asked for headshot photos of all the Board members and the Committee Chairpersons.

President Joanne Martin and Past President Deb McLaughlin presented the first Making the Record seminar on February 25, 2011, to the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's office. The Missouri Bar will award 1.2 CLEs to an attorney that attends this seminar. On the Kansas City side, Kathy Foley and Becky Ramsey have been conducting these seminars. Diane Woods would like to present the seminar in Springfield.

Rather than expending the funds to purchase a booth at the various Bar functions, President Joanne Martin has offered the services of MCRA volunteers to assist at their conferences. They have requested four volunteers to help with the registration table at the Solo Practitioners Conference at Tan-Tar-A on June 9 through 11, 2011. The St. Louis Bar Conference will be held at the Hilton in Branson on June 2 through 4, 2011.

The Student Affairs Committee will start a mentoring program. Any student over 100 words per minute may have a mentor. This mentorship program will not be limited to only Missouri. They will mentor anywhere there is a need. The Student Affairs Committee will be hold-

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ing an essay contest. The winning student will receive one night's free lodging during the 2011 Conference.

Region I has a trivia night scheduled for March 26, 2011, at the Shrewsbury Community Center. Region II will schedule their trivia night sometime in the fall after the Conference. The Cookbook Committee has received a number of recipes thus far. President Joanne Martin will meet with them soon to decide on a completion date.

There was discussion regarding the PAC Fund. The Fund is doing well.

President Joanne Martin was contacted by Rachel Smith, Chair of a Special Committee of the Missouri Bar Association, for MCRA's input regarding possible cost savings regarding the taking of depositions in criminal indigent cases. President Joanne Martin and President Elect Dawn McTeer met with Chair Rachel Smith and Board of Governors member Beverly Beimdiek. Several options were discussed. Ms. Smith informed President Joanne Martin that the MoBar Board of Governors encouraged the Committee to discuss this matter with the MCRA due to the lobbying efforts by David Klarich.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The NCRA 2011 Convention will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, on July 27 to 31, 2011. The NCRA T.E.A.M. Seminar will be held in conjunction with the Convention. Rozann Brancato will attend the T.E.A.M. training.

The CCR tests will be held on April 16, 2011, in Blue Springs, and on October 15, 2011, in St. Louis.

The CREC Seminars will be held on August 16, 17, 2011, in St. Louis, and on October 25, 26, 2011, in Blue Springs.

The Summer Board Meeting was tentatively set for June 25, 2011, in Columbia.

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

President Elect Dawn McTeer distributed cookies in Jefferson City on February 16. Region I Vice President Shana Crane and President Elect Dawn McTeer were in attendance during the Public Relations presentation of the Making the Record Seminar to the new Circuit Attorneys.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Rozann Brancato also distributed cookies in Jefferson City on February 16. She met with Representative Ryan Silvey, Chair of the

Budget Committee. She reported that it was a great experience, and she was left with the impression that the MCRA hiring David Klarich was money well spent.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report was given.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Lisa Hennon presented the Treasurer's Report to the Board. She reported there were balances of:

- Check Accounting \$99,366.28
- Membership Revenue Dues To-Date
 - Active Dues \$28,425.00
 - Student Dues \$945.00
 - Associate Dues \$280.00
 - Unpaid Dues To-Date \$7,920.00
- War Chest – Certificate of Deposit \$70,448.05

Expenses for PROGRESS Publication \$1,000.00

The CD matures on July 14, 2011, and yields 0.20% annually. Past President Linda Dattilo and Treasurer Lisa Hennon will undertake an investigation into diversifying the MCRA CD into three separate funds with a greater annual percentage rate. The Region Vice Presidents will send out a gentle reminder after March 1 to those listed on the Aging Summary.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our very talented Immediate Past President Tiffany Thompson redesigned the MCRA logo. She displayed the stylish new logo on her cell phone to the Board.

REGION I VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Region I Christmas Party was held at Square One Brewery on December 9, 2010, with 35 people in attendance. Region I participated in the Angel Tree Project. Donations were collected from Region I members, and Region I Vice President Shana Crane was able to purchase toys for 25 children. Region I has a trivia night scheduled on March 26, 2011, at the Shrewsbury Community Center. Region I Vice President Shana Crane was in attendance at the Making the Record Seminar.

REGION II VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report was given.

REGION III VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Region III Vice President Julia Hunt

will present her report during the discussion of the 2011 Conference.

REGION IV VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Region IV Vice President Melissa Holcomb will schedule her region meeting after the 2012 budget is finalized.

REGION V VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report was given.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Region III Vice President and Conference Planning Chair Julia Hunt reported that the speakers are scheduled for the 2011 Conference. She presented the preliminary agenda to the Board. There will be a tremendous cost savings to MCRA due to the fact there will not be speaker fees for this conference. There was discussion had regarding food for the breaks, fees for vendors, sponsoring breaks, fliers for the conference packets.

The 2012 Conference will be held in Kansas City. There was discussion regarding possible conference sites.

May 31, 2011, is the deadline for Progress.

The Board reviewed the changes to the Policy and Procedure Manual offered by Mary Conway and Diana Taylor. President Joanne Martin offered her own editorial suggestions as well.

President Joanne Martin called for a motion authorizing the President to pay the day-to-day expenses.

MOTION/ STEWART: I make a motion to authorize the President of MCRA 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.

President Joanne Martin called for a motion to adjourn the Winter Board Meeting.

MOTION/THOMPSON: I make a motion to adjourn.

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

The February 26, 2011, Winter Board Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.



Nothing Takes the Place of Persistence

An essay by Laurie David Andreski

For the MCRA FREE ROOM at the 2011 Conference Award

Persistence is a constant: a constant drive, a constant will, and a constant presence. It is something done continually, without fail, and without giving up. Persistence is fighting against odds that are stacked against someone and against challenges in their life that they may encounter. Persistence is the key ingredient of success.

To succeed in anything, a person must continually strive to keep the endeavor alive and growing. Even someone who is naturally talented must continue to hone their craft if they want to take it to the next level. Unforeseen events and missteps along the way happen to everyone. It is up to that person to make something positive out of the misfortune.

This is something I learned all too well this past fall. On October 1 my apartment burned down. I knew I had lost just about everything I owned. The damage was so severe that for the first week the only people allowed inside were the restoration crew. I had no idea what, if any, of my possessions had made it through intact. Two of the things I worried about most were my steno writer and my computer. I was into my third semester of school and knew that if I had to take a significant amount of time off in order to save enough money to purchase another writer, I would set myself back. To know that all of those pre-

cious hours could possibly have been wasted sickened me.

A week later my beloved grandmother passed away. I had only just

On October 1 my apartment burned down. I knew I had lost just about everything I owned. The damage was so severe that for the first week the only people allowed inside were the restoration crew. I had no idea what, if any, of my possessions had made it through intact.

begun the cleanout of the storage space the restoration workers had thrown all of my possessions into – whether burned, water damaged, or unharmed. This family tragedy not only devastated me, but also set me back another week on my clean-out. While dealing with these life-altering

events that had been so suddenly thrust upon me, I knew that I could not give up on my dream of becoming a court reporter. I knew how proud my grandmother was of me taking this step in my life, and I certainly did not want to let her down. I began contacting court reporters and other people in the judicial system that I knew to see if they had anything I could borrow if my writer would not work.

About four weeks after the fire, I was finally able to unearth both my computer and my writer out of the pile of what was now mostly moldy junk. Wrapped up in a tarp was a mass of cables and equipment. I rushed to my new home, plugged everything in, and held my breath. As soon as I saw the first lights come on, I was able to exhale. The equipment had made it through undamaged. I was now more determined than ever finish my schooling.

After not being able to practice for almost a month, I had a lot of catching up to do. In fact, I still feel like I am catching up. However, my instructor and people like the ladies I met while participating in the MCRA legislative cookie drop keep me motivated. Knowing my daughter is watching me and learning from my actions also inspires me to succeed.

I know that with persistence, one day I will achieve my goal. I will be able to live my dream. I will make my grandmother, my family, and – most importantly – myself proud. With persistence, I will become a court reporter.

You can be happy or sad, it doesn't matter. You get to choose. You can go this way or that way. You get to choose. There's not one right path. But along the way, think, speak and do that which brings you joy or at least what makes you feel a little better.

MCRA 2010 – 2011 COMMITTEES

Audit Committee

Angie Culler, Chair
Brett Harrison
Joanne Martin, ex-officio

Bylaws Committee

Diana Taylor, Chair
Carolyn Keeling
Shana Crane
Joanne Martin, ex-officio

**NCRA Chief Examiner—
Missouri** Debbie Kreighauser
Faith Olliges, Assistant
NCRA Selection Approval

NCRA Chief Examiner— Kansas

Irene Narvaez
NCRA Selection Approval

Continuing Education

Mary Conway

Membership Directory

Stephanie Prewitt

Distinguished Service Award Committee

Bo Kriegshauser, Chair
Jim Bouck
Mary Conway
Diana Taylor
Linda Dattilo
Joanne Martin, ex-officio

Information Repository

Jennifer Dunn

Technology Committee

Nancy Fox
Michael Zajdel

Nominating Committee

Tiffany Thompson, Past
President
Region I – Faith Olliges/Linda
Dattilo
Region II – Pat Manners/Vacant
Region III – Diana Taylor/
Kellene Feddersen
Region IV – Diane
Woods/Margie Pierce
Region V – Sande Meyer
(2)/Brenda Christianson

PROGRESS Editor

Marian Rein

NCRA Listserv Representative

Dawn McTeer
Faith Olliges, Assistant

www.MOCRA.org Webmaster

Debbie Tolstoi
Gail Conaway, Consultant

Discussion Board Monitors

Gail Conaway, Lead
Yvonne Gallagher
Kristal Murphy
Carol Haas

Advertising Specialists

Brenda Schmelz, Chair
Cheri House
Darlene Foots
Cindy Messina

Membership Committee

Rozann Brancato

Official Temporary Replacement Work Force Coordinators due to Appropriations Elimination

Joanne Martin
Pat Manners

Facebook Monitors

Cathi Boyd, Development and
Lead
Renee Bierman
Jill Harrison

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Kathy Foley, Co-Chair
Linda Dattilo
Diana Taylor
Mary Conway
Stephanie Prewitt
Diane Woods
Shana Crane
Pat Manners
Angie Culler
Faith Olliges
Tiffany Thompson
Brenda Schmelz
Rozann Bracano
Joanne Martin, ex-officio

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Barb Tomblinson, Consultant
Lisa Hennon, Treasurer
Rozann Brancato
Dawn McTeer
Pat Manners
Joanne Martin, ex-officio

Speakers Bureau

Rhonda Laurentius
Deborah McLaughlin
Tanya Stepp
Beth Gravitz
Reagan Fiorino
Christina Yates

Convention Committee

Julia Hunt, Chair
Lisa Hennon
Sandy Stewart
Melissa Holcomb

Fundraising Committee

Rozann Brancato
Tracy Brumley, Assistant

Cookbook Sub-Committee

Sue Moody, Lead
Sarah Marshall
Lisa Paczkowski
Susie Moon
Gail Conaway

MCRA Bling Sweats Sales
Karen Rottman

MCRA Store
Christina Yates

Trivia Events Committee
Faith Olliges, Consultant

St. Louis
Laurie Bennett, Lead
Reagan Fiorino
Sue Moody

Kansas City
Kathy Foley, Lead
Glenda Wylie
Betsy Gromosky

Central MO
Ann Sprague
Ginger Sommerer

Student Affairs Committee

Deborah McLaughlin, Chair

Student Liaison Committee
Theory: Brooke Schwab
IR3-4: Paula Ankney
IR5-6: Megan Granda
On-line: Stephanie Amm
(Nebraska)
So. Tech HS Alumni: Crystal
Crawford
Graduate: Lindsey Eaves

Convention Program Committee

Cassie Savage
Gayle Wambolt
Julie DelPercio
Sue Steen
Brooke Schwab, Student
Stephanie Amm, Online
Student-NE
Kate Saunders, So. Tech. HS

Student Sponsorship Committee

Dawn McTeer
Becky Ramsay
Jean Brown
Kimberly Ballay

Student Field Trip Committee

Robin Cox
John Gore
Patti Zeigler, Consultant
Paula Ankney, Student
Crystal Crawford, So. Tech HS
Alumni

Mentoring/Shadowing Committee

Peggy Lange
Diana Hark
Tanya Stepp
Becky Brewer
Rhonda Laurentius
Megan Granda, Student

Test Preparation Committee

Linda Dattilo
Karen Rottman
Melissa Schardan
Lindsey Eaves, Graduate

Public Relations Committee

Jennifer Dunn, Chair

PR Sub-Committees

Development

Attorney Presentations

Media Communications

The Missouri Bar

*Missouri Association of Trial
Attorneys (MATA)*

*The Bar Association of Metropolitan
St. Louis*

The Mound City Bar Association

The Women's Lawyers Association

*Missouri Association of Criminal
Defense Lawyers Association*

*Springfield Metropolitan Bar
Association*

*Kansas City Metropolitan Bar
Association*

*Missouri Solo Practitioners
Association*

New Judges' Orientation

MEMBERS OF PR:

Carrie Dunne
Tina Givens
Mandie Measke
Mary Gaal
Beth Gravitz
Shana Crane
Stephanie Prewitt
Kathy Foley
John Gore
Cheri House
Sheila Irvin
Rozann Brancato
Pat Manners
Becky Brewer
Elaine Matthews
Debbie McLaughlin



Have A Great Recipe?

Dear Fellow MOCRA members,

We are collecting recipes for our statewide MCRA cookbook. We have been getting many from across the state, old judiciary and OSCA alike, and the committee and myself can't wait to start putting it together.

We are looking for recipes of any type, old family, new and improved, appetizers to drinks and casseroles, vegetarian or otherwise, fusion or purist, and of course desserts. All recipes are welcome.

What we are also looking for, but not a prerequisite, is a little personal line or two about the cook, the recipe, the family gatherings, etc., the times shared during the prepara-

tion or the enjoyment of your particular recipe.

So any freelancers or officials, any client, family member, current or former judge, clerks, assistants, and anyone else that I've forgotten, anybody statewide is welcome and encouraged to dig out the oldies but goodies, and any new ones you've been experimenting with. We hope to have collection continue until mid June.

If you have any questions or submissions, please e-mail me at smoodyrpr@sbcglobal.net or sue.moody@courts.mo.gov.

Sue Moody
Chair, Cookbook Public Relations Committee

Cookin' with MCRA

Oatmeal-Cherry Scones



Ingredients

- ¼ cup orange juice
- ¼ cup water
- 1 cup dried cherries
- 2 cups rolled oats
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 3 Tbsp. white sugar
- 1 cup unsalted butter, cubed
- 1 ½ cups cold milk

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
2. Heat orange juice and water in a small pan. Add cherries and simmer the mixture for one minute, then let it sit until it cools slightly.
3. In a food processor, grind the oats with the flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda and sugar. Add butter. Run the machine in short spurts until the mixture has the consistency of sand. Transfer mixture to a large mixing bowl.
4. Add milk and orange/cherry mixture to the large mixing bowl. Stir until it holds together.
5. Form the dough into a large ball, adding a bit of milk if necessary. Press or roll out the ball of dough until it is one inch thick. Cut the dough into 16 squares or triangles.
6. Bake the scones on an ungreased baking sheet for 15 minutes or until they are lightly browned on the edges.



Student Field Trip

By Paula Ankney, STLCC student, IR5

The third annual Student Field Trip, sponsored by the Missouri Court Reporters Association, was held Thursday, April 14 at the Thomas F. Eagleton United States Courthouse in downtown St. Louis. There were about 25 students in attendance from St. Louis Community College-Meramec and South Tech High School.

First on the agenda was the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. The group was fortunate enough to be touring the facility while the Court of Appeals was in session. We were able to observe the opening of court and listen to an appeals argument. The three-judge panel asked a lot of questions of the lawyers, which made for a lively session. Afterwards, Michael Gans, Clerk of the Court of Appeals, met with the students and explained the appeals process.

From there the students went to the Honorable Catherine Perry's courtroom. Judge Perry and her court reporter, Terri Hopwood, were

most gracious hosts. They took time to answer the students' questions and explained the state-of-the-art technology in their courtroom.

Next on the agenda was a tour of the U.S. Marshal Service office and a presentation by U.S. Marshal Keith Lorson. Mr. Lorson explained the role of the U.S. Marshal Service and the security they provide for the U.S. Courthouse. He also showed the students some of the weapons and gear they use. Luckily, he did not ask for a volunteer while explaining how a Taser works.

After departing the U.S. Marshal Service office, the group returned to Judge Perry's courtroom to witness a Supervised Revocation Hearing. While in Judge Perry's courtroom, the students were able to observe a U.S. Marshal escorting a prisoner into the courtroom.

The group then reported to the Jury Assembly Room for a delicious lunch provided by Russo Catering. However, the real treat was being able to meet the President of the



NCRA, Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag. The students were extremely honored to have Melanie join them and be able to ask her questions.

After lunch, the field trip attendees participated in a live NCRA Student Forum Online Chat with other NCRA staff and students across the country. Debbie Kriegshauser, a U.S. Official Court Reporter and one of the organizers of the field trip, answered questions from students all over the country while Melanie, who had hooked her writer up to the computer, wrote all of Debbie's responses. It was another treat getting to watch Melanie in action!

All in all, it was the perfect field trip. The students could not have asked for a more interesting, informative, and inspiring day. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped to make it such a successful event.

By Megan Granda, STLCC Student, IR6

On April 14, 2011, I walked through the doors of the Federal Courthouse alongside two of my peers. We walked through security, down the hall, and joined a room full of court reporters, students and teachers. Once introductions were complete, we made our way to the elevators. We had a full agenda so we didn't have time to waste. Our first stop was the Court of Appeals. We all anxiously wondered, "Where is the court reporter?!" Come to find out that digital recordings are used for these appeals.

Off to Judge Perry's courtroom where we were greeted by her court reporter, Terri. I was impressed by all of the high-tech equipment used in the courtroom. Judge Perry

joined us and explained how everything worked and made life easier for everyone involved from the attorneys to the jurors.

Then we headed to the Marshal's office for a tour. We saw the tactical gear, heard about the very first U.S. Marshals and a summary of their current responsibilities.

After we left the Marshal's office, we headed back to Judge Perry's courtroom to listen to sentencing. As we walked out into the hallway, we were introduced to NCRA's President, Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, who had joined us.

We enjoyed lunch, provided by Russo Catering, as Melanie talked with us about court reporting. It is always refreshing to hear working reporters tell us how much they

enjoy their jobs.

Last stop of the day was the computer room where we logged on to the "What's It Like to be a Federal Official" chat with Debbie Kriegshauser and other NCRA student members across the country. Melanie provided captioning for Debbie. Just another way to use this amazing skill we are learning to make things easier.

I have attended all three field trips and I am impressed every year. We have seen official reporters, freelance agencies, and now, federal reporters. It is very motivating to see all of the different opportunities waiting for us once we get certified and to know that the working reporters support us every step of the way. Thank you!

(continued on page 18)



Student Field Trip

(continued from page 17)

By Sarah MacMillan, STLCC Student, IR3-4

A day in the life...

And what a day we had! Once again with dedication, the MOCRA Student Affairs Committee planned and hosted an amazing day at the federal courts building in downtown St Louis for court reporting students in the area. The day not only gave us a special view of a “day in the life” of an official federal court reporter but also included a special tour of the U.S. Marshall’s office, a visit to the Federal Court of Appeals, a sentencing hearing, and an online student chat hosted by NCRA.

We started the day in the Court of Appeals. Here we actually got to see and hear an appeals argument in front of three federal judges. But the craziest part was that no court reporter resides in these hearings. Lawyers come to this court for a very condensed argument supporting their appeal. They aren’t arguing the facts but are more trying to drive home their case’s merit based on previous case law. The plaintiff’s attorney goes first and then the defense argues the merits of that case. Then the plaintiff’s attorney rebuts. Each attorney is limited to a specific timeframe for argument. The matter is then closed, awaiting a decision of the court. It is fascinating just how deliberate and brief the appeal argument process actually is.

Next we were led down to the U.S. Marshal’s office for a tour. We saw their offices and their “equipment” room containing everything from bulletproof shields—with and without lights—to billy clubs of all sorts to helmets to bulletproof vests and various other items they use to protect themselves from the really

“bad guys” they tend to arrest. We also learned that these marshals’ main job is to arrest people. They operate under no specific jurisdiction other than within the U.S. Their jobs remain very dangerous, as they do much more than just protect someone in protective custody.

We then visited the courtroom of U.S. District Court Judge Katherine Perry and her court reporter, Terri Hopwood, RMR, CRR. Judge Perry spoke to us and gave us a complete “tour” of the courtroom and all of the “bells and whistles” which technology affords her courtroom. Terri also gave us her full perspective on court reporting for a federal judge.

Next we received a “Cliff Notes” version of the U.S. Court of Appeals process. It was fascinating to hear from beginning to end what happens when an attorney appeals the case after arguing in the U.S. District Courts. The court’s clerk gave us this perspective along with the daunting task of how he chooses just so many cases among thousands requesting a chance to be heard. What struck many of us was the power this clerk has in making these decisions. Through observing him, we could see just how intelligent he is.

Then it was back to Judge Perry’s courtroom for a sentencing hearing. The hearing, both heart-breaking and sobering, fascinated many of us. It showed us the true meaning of being “put away” for a crime committed. The defendant entered court not knowing his sentence and by the end of the short hearing, he left, again in shackles, heading to jail for the next



five years as a repeat offender. His pregnant girlfriend attended the trial as well...that was the heart-breaking part.

Finally, with our day coming to an end, we grabbed lunch, donated by Russo Catering Services. Over lunch we were treated with a visit from NCRA president, Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag. Her story and success provided great insights for all. She came that day especially to support the online chat hosted by NCRA for students. The format that day was a Q & A discussion of an actual “Day in the Life of a Court Reporter.” This perspective came from Debbie Kriegshauser, RMR, CRR, FAPR, CLVS. Her answers stenotyped by none other than our NCRA’s president. (For those that attended the MOCRA convention held in October 2010 in St. Louis, Debbie’s day was much more professional than the role-play she exhibited that day!)

As our “day in the life” of an official court reporter ended, I was personally quite inspired by the amazing reporters and people I had met. I thoughtfully walked home, reinvigorated to my dedication of becoming a court reporter.



Missouri Court Reporters Association Statement of Financial Position-Cash Basis, October 31, 2010

ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash in Bank-BCNB	\$	91,656.43	
Certificate of Deposit		70,378.77	
Cash in Bank-Region Accounts		3,033.47	

Total Current Assets			\$ 165,068.67

Fixed Assets			
Equipment	\$	7,712.65	
Accumulated Depreciation		7,712.65-	

Total Assets		-----	\$ 165,068.67
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Liabilities			
Net Assets	\$	150,218.33	
Change in net assets		14,850.34	

Total Net Assets			\$ 165,068.67

Total Liabilities & Net Assets			\$ 165,068.67

Statement of Activities and Net Assets-Cash Basis For the Year Ended October 31, 2009

REVENUE			
Membership Dues		\$	34,205.00
Convention			23,827.50
Progress Publication			701.00
Interest			689.19
Merchandise			100.50
Fund Raising			5,693.54
Other Revenue			664.00
Total Revenue			65,880.73
 GENERAL EXPENSES			
Board & Regional			1,961.78
Convention			8,222.54
Progress Publication			6,592.35
Membership Directory/Bylaw			3,805.49
Legislative Representative			18,838.21
Accounting Services			8,431.83
Insurance			507.00
Other Expense			1,197.76
 COMMITTEE EXPENSES			
Fund-Raising Committee			1,337.75
Public Relations Committee			35.68
Student Affairs Committee			100.00
Total Expenses			51,030.39
 CHANGE IN NET ASSETS			14,850.34
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR			150,218.33
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR			165,068.67



MCRA Membership Application

Please select one: New Active Member: \$95

New Associate, Student, & General Member: \$35

Payment method: Check No. _____

Visa/MasterCard No. _____ Exp. Date: _____

Membership Status applying for (circle 1): Active • Associate • Student • General Retired
(see page 14 for description of each status)

Type of Reporter (circle): Official • Freelance • Federal • Public Service • Workers' Comp
Admin. Hearing Commission • Other (specify): _____

Student (school): _____ Graduation Date: _____

Reporting method (circle 1): Stenotype • Stenomask

Reporting Experience (years and months): _____

Current Certifications/Designations (circle all that apply): CSR (MO) CCR (MO) RPR RMR RDR
CRR CVR CVR-CM CLVS PSSC Other: _____

Attach a copy of each certificate if applying for new membership

Transcript Production Method: Please list the brand of software/equipment you currently use to produce transcripts (example: Case Catalyst, ProCat, SpeechCAT, MS Word, Work Perfect):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephones: Ofc: _____ Res: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Place of Employment: _____

Address of Employment: _____

Which address for mail (circle 1): Home Office

Membership Category. Please select one:

• **Active Member: \$105** (Four Progress quarterly newsletters will be emailed to you and your 2009 Membership Directory will be mailed to you. Additional online services will be provided at www.mocra.wildapricot.org)

• **Associate, Student and General Member: \$35** (Four Progress quarterly newsletters will be emailed to you and your 2009 Membership Directory will be mailed to you. Additional online services will be provided at www.mocra.wildapricot.org)

Mail this application form and copies of all professional certifications with credit card information or check made payable to MCRA, to

Rozanne Brancato
Jackson County Courthouse
308 West Kansas
Independence, MO 64050

This membership application is also available online at mocra.wildapricot.org.