



# BoardLines

February 2010

## **New Members Approved**

ACRA is pleased to welcome Miguel Benitez, Debra Berman, Martin Bouley, Linda Lopez, and student Tricia Ramirez into our association.

## **Management Company**

Robin Hirth reports that the membership renewal process is underway. Updates to the web site to reflect the changes to the ACRA Board as well as the inclusion of the Code of Ethics were discussed.

## **Bench and Bar**

The AJC meeting schedule was discussed. Erica Grund requested that at least one board member attend each meeting, along with lobbyist John MacDonald. The recently released white paper from the Conference of State Court Administrators was discussed, as well as what any potential response from ACRA might be.

## **Legislation**

ACRA lobbyist John MacDonald reported he has met with the key members of the legislature regarding potential legislation that would create and reserve funds to be used for the retention and use of court reporters working in the courtroom. The ACRA Board should have language presented to us within the next few weeks so that we may have an opportunity to offer our input.

## **Certified Reporter Board**

Erica Grund reported that the issue of contracting is listed as an agenda item for discussion at the February meeting of the CR Board. ACRA plans to send representatives to offer input at this meeting, as well as submit a position paper to the CR Board in advance. It was discussed inviting Patti Calabro from the CR Board to sit on the CR Board panel at ACRA midyear.

## **Superior Court**

Liz Lemke reported an incident in Maricopa County where a freelance reporter covered a court hearing because an attorney was denied the services of an official reporter. John Bouley reported that Pima County officials were issued a new transcript page rate schedule and that officials recently met with the court administrator, who assured them that there would be no furlough days.

## **CART**

Jennifer Schuck reported that she met with Gateway students in December.

## **Third-Party Control**

Issues of violation of the contracting rules, as well as gift giving practices by national court reporting firms, were discussed due to complaints made by ACRA members. It was discussed various ways ACRA could educate court reporters, as well as the judicial community as a whole, on what the code actually says and ways that court reporters could protect their licenses from being put at risk.

## **Mentoring**

Linda Christensen reported she will meet with mentees who want to intern and that she is looking for ways to fund the scholarship program, which has been put on hold for the time being due to budget restraints.

## **Education and Recruitment**

Linda Christensen was asked by Gateway to provide people to come speak to the students. Jennifer Shuck gave a CART presentation, Linda gave a cheerleading session to help students pass the RPR, and a freelance firm owner gave a presentation as well.

## **Fundraising**

Erica Grund reported that the raffle held in December raised close to \$15,000. It was discussed giving some form of special recognition for the extra effort and generosity put forth from firm owners, as well as the students who participated in the student challenge. Future fundraising endeavors were discussed, including another raffle and a golf tournament.

## **Seminars**

Doreen Borgmann reported that planning for midyear is underway. Nancy Swetnam from the CR Board has agreed to be on a panel

## **January 2010 Board Meeting**

**Board Members Present:** Erica Grund, Diane Sonntag, Linda Christensen, Doreen Borgmann, Bob Sipos, Karen Kahle, Tony Garcia, Liz Lemke and John Bouley.

**Other Participants:** Robin Hirth, ACRA Administrator and Jennifer Schuck, CART Liaison.

## **Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2009:**

Money Market	\$23,033.76
Checking	\$ (587.68)
PAC Fund Account	\$ 1,527.92
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 2,086.75
LCD Projector	\$ 654.16
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$26,192.91</b>

regarding licensure. Also, Linda Hinley will do a seminar.

**Old Business**

The membership task force is currently working on ways to bring in new members and former members.

**New Business**

NEW BOARD ASSIGNMENTS: Pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the ACRA Bylaws, upon the resignation of Laurie Adams, Erica Grund became President of ACRA and Doreen Borgmann became President-Elect. Linda Christensen was appointed Vice President, and Tony Garcia was appointed as freelance director, also pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the ACRA Bylaws.

MOCK TESTING: Erica Grund discussed mock testing in 2010 and suggested a possible date in between the May and August NCRA testing dates.

USCRA CONVENTION: ACRA will attempt to have some kind of presence at the USCRA convention in Scottsdale in April.

WEBINARS: Erica Grund has been researching webinars as a way to offer additional CEUs to members, as well as raise funds for ACRA. A trial run of a short webinar is being planned for this year.

NAVAJO COUNTY: ACRA member Lerryn Roberds reported via email on the issue of W-2 versus 1099 reporting of transcript income. Navajo County decided it was going to issue W-2s for transcripts and that it was going to make this decision retroactive. Navajo County reporters are attempting to work with administration to resolve this issue and have asked for IRS clarification as well. They have also suggested that an administrative reporter would be more equipped to deal with reporter-related issues than a court administrator.

# IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

**Spring ArizoNotes**

Deadlines for submission of articles for the Winter Issue of ArizoNotes:

**February 10, 2010**

Editor: Karen Kahle, hvymtlccr@juno.com  
Advertising: Robin Hirth, acra@saminc.org

**February 15, 2010**

ACRA 2010 Membership Dues Due

**ACRA Office**

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**2010 Mid Year Seminar**

**April 17, 2010**

**Holiday Inn, Mesa**



**2010 Annual Convention**

**September 10-12, 2010**

**Sheraton Crescent, Phoenix**