



BoardLines

February 2013



Greetings all! Your hard-working, dynamic ACRA board members endured a very rainy drive to Tucson Saturday morning, January 26. It was quite the "ride."

The membership is very fortunate to have such an enthusiastic, dynamic group of folks on the board this year. We are all quite committed to being the best board we can be, and I am honored to preside over this fine group of people.

I'd like to start with the AMAZING ideas for fund-raising President Elect Marty Herder is proposing. ACRA has never-ending challenges with its financing. Marty's ideas are ambitious but have the potential to vigorously improve our financial affairs. Marty will be making a presentation during the business meeting of the mid-year seminar April 6th. I strongly urge you all to plan to be present to hear Marty's presentation for yourselves. The man has enough energy for TEN people; we are lucky to have him, and I challenge you ALL to make every effort to attend.....which leads me to my next point.....the mid-year!

Vice President Diane Donoho has worked TIRELESSLY in planning the upcoming mid-year seminar. She brings bright, fresh ideas to the incredibly time-intensive job of putting a seminar together. It promises to be a unique mid-year experience. ACRA's superhero Robin Hirth will be sending out information in the not-too-distant future. We're only as effective as our membership, so I'd sure like to see an impressive attendance. All right...enough of that.

Legislative issues will be addressed by John MacDonald's comments, but I am compelled to express - based on the "happenings" with staff of the licensing board right now - how critical it is to have live court reporter bodies present at the bi-monthly CRR licensing board meetings. The issues are too complicated to explain in this brief space. But simply put, the administration overseeing the licensing Board, due to extremely difficult and challenging budgetary constraints, is substantially reworking the oversight of our court-reporter-nominated board members. The potential now exists, as a result of a pilot program now in place, for many cases that previously would be decided by the CCR Board members, in public hearings, to instead be administratively adjudicated before ever reaching the Board. Theoretically this will be more efficient and cost-effective for the court administration, but such a process could also sweep aside important matters that are better decided in public hearings by the Board members. REGARDLESS of your opinions concerning our current struggles and challenges, ANY reporter should be deeply concerned about the administrative arm of the Board calling most of the shots, and that's EXACTLY what is being attempted right now for what is termed a "pilot" program. The next meeting will be Monday, February 11, 1:00, Arizona Courts Building. If you need more information, simply go to the Supreme Court website and click on licensing.

Last but CLEARLY not least, we have strong, strong student mentoring underway. I am in regular contact with the court reporting programs at Gateway and Bryan. One of my primary goals this year is to increase student enrollment. I'm doing an on-line presentation, question-and-answer format, with the dean of academic affairs February 1, as I write this, that will be broadcast live to over 400 of their current on-line students. Whoo-hoo!

The board has multiple other "agenda" items we work on every meeting, but those are the highlights. I'd like to conclude with this quote Marty provided the board at our meeting: "There is no point in going anywhere unless people remember that you were there."

Plan on being "there", okay? Laura Ashbrook, ACRA President

January 2013 Board Meeting

Board Members Present: Karen Kahle, Pam Griffin, Cyndi Morris Crowe, Rachelle Young, Diane Donohoe, Marty Herder, Rossana Baker and Laura Ashbrook

Also present: Robin Hirth, ACRA Administrator

Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2012:

Money Market	\$34,151.22
Checking	152.06
Equipment Depreciation	(522.00)
Prepaid Expenses	2,468.75
LCD Projector	654.16
Total Liabilities & Fund Bal.	\$36,904.19

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

ACRA 2013 Midyear Seminar

"Let's Get InterACTIVE"

April 6, 2013

Phoenix Marriott Mesa

Look for registration information in the next few weeks.

ACRA 2013 Annual Convention

September 20-22, 2013

Embassy Suites Tempe

ACRA Office

7225 W. Oakland St. #1

Chandler, AZ 85226

Phone: (480) 496-4010

Email: office@acraonline.org

Web Site: www.acraonline.org