



BoardLines

February 2015

"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand."

Woodrow Wilson

28th President of the United States

Happy New Year! 2015 has found us moving right along with great vigor, and we are looking forward to having some fun! The Arizona School Counselors Association convention is March 9th and 10th, and the Board would like to thank those who have already donated towards ACRA's wish list for this event. Your willingness to continue to pay it forward to the future of court reporting is both refreshing and humbling. A great big thank you to the following members:

Diane and Allen Sonntag, \$100
Carolyn Sullivan, \$100
Cathy Bamford, \$200
Scott Coniam, \$190 - banner and stand
Mary Onuschak \$100
Rossina Baker, \$100
Karen Kahle, \$100
Kelly Palmer, \$50
Julie Ottmar, \$100
Pam Remis, \$50
Cindy Lineburg, \$100
MaryLynn LeMoine, \$50
Helene Paustian, \$50
Lisa Glennie, \$100
Pam Griffin and Doreen Sutton, goodies for bags, \$800
Legal Video Specialists, putting the DVD together for Video Loop

Midyear is just around the corner! We have exciting speakers lined up for you, with a focus on Health and Wellness for the Court Reporter! Look for registration in the next month. Support your association by attending this convention, meeting new people, touching base with your friends, and supporting our students!

National Court Reporting and Captioning Week is coming up again next week, February 15 – 21st. In the last legislative session, Sen. Kimberly Yee presented the Arizona Court Reporters Association a Senate Proclamation on the Arizona Senate Floor in honor of National Court Reporting and Captioning Week. ACRA leadership was then also introduced and recognized in session before the full Senate body as Sen. Yee generously praised the historical significance of court reporters and captioners in American society.

We have two events planned:

The first event is a reporter/student meet and greet at Glennie Reporting Services on Tuesday, February 17th from 4:30 to 6:30. Thank you, Lisa, for your generosity and allowing us to use your facilities. If you would like to participate or know of a student who might be interested, please reach out to them. We are looking for online students that might be living in Arizona, but attending schools elsewhere. Please notify Robin Hirth or any board member to pass along any names.

Another event is a happy hour at The Yard, Thursday, February 19th, in Phoenix at 5:00. Please come and encourage our students in a more relaxed setting and let them know how great it is to be a court reporter! You can find information on both of these events by looking up the Arizona Court Reporters Association FaceBook page. In the future, look for us on

Instagram as well as Twitter! We are advancing ACRA into the social media realm!
Now, down to business.

Your ACRA Board has done an analysis of our finances. Unfortunately, we are in the same position many states around the country are finding themselves in, with a decreasing membership. When we looked at the numbers going back 10 years, starting with the year 2004, we had 295 active members and 56 students. Fast forward to 2014. We had 181 active members and 5 students. The colleague/related category has stayed roughly the same, 20 in 2004 and 16 in 2014. This is a difference of 114 active members. And currently, 2015, we have 149 members signed up for membership in ACRA.

With these facts comes the reality that we have to do something different. For this reason, the Board looked at our lobbyist's contract, which we've already reported is now expiring at the end of March, and we are talking with Robin/Southwest Management and their role going forward. We are looking at all our options and what we can do to lean down expenses and rebuild the Association's reserves. It is going to be a lot of hard work, dedication, and perseverance, but your Board is committed to this effort. The bottom line is, we must balance our income and expenses to be the Association we want to be.

Membership is what drives our income. Our contracts with our lobbyist and management company at this time consume 80 percent of our income. By recalculating our income and expenses, we can continue to move forward as a strong association, relevant in the ever-changing world.

THIRTY-FIVE CENTS A DAY! That is approximately what it costs to be a member of ACRA. We are professionals, and ACRA is calling all professionals to get on board ASAP! When we say we can't do it without you, we mean it. Please help us in our efforts to grow ACRA, to reach out to students, and to participate in a greater fashion. If you know of a reporter who is no longer a member or has never been a member, reach out to them or refer them to ACRA. Think about sponsoring a student's membership. Think about mentoring a student, helping out at midyear or annual, helping with fundraising.

It behooves every court reporter to be a voice in this association. We have the privilege of a professional association with some of the most dynamic people I've ever met that continue to give year after year. Together, let's continue to make it the BEST it can be!

Sincerely,
Pam Griffin
ACRA President