

ARIZONA NOTES

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SPECIAL EDITION HISTORY OF ASRA/ACRA

I've been a history buff most of my life. My intention after graduating from high school was to go to college and become a high school history teacher. Due to my lack of focus and the ability to legally drink beer in Wisconsin at the age of 18, my getting a college degree didn't happen. I still, however, like to dig up history and still believe that to progress we have to know where we were and who we were. That's my focus in this story of ASRA/ACRA.

Michael Crichton, a well known author, said "If you don't know history, you don't know anything. You're like a leaf that doesn't know it's part of a tree."

Much better said than anything I could come up with.

I've been in Arizona as a court reporter and involved with the court reporting profession here since 1966. Our Arizona Shorthand Reporters Association was recognized as an affiliated association by the National Shorthand Reporters Association in 1950. So at this time we are officially 67 years in the making. I say in the making, because we are still evolving, and will be forever. A court reporter time traveling from 1950 to 2017 would be amazed at the way we ply our craft today. As someone said, "from humble beginnings..."

History of ASRA/ACRA continued on Page 8...

BY AL BRAUN

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President's Message by Diane Donoho

Hello fellow reporters!

This edition of ArizoNotes is dedicated to the history of ACRA. I personally feel very blessed to be a part of such a wonderful group of professionals with such a great history. Please enjoy this article showcasing the history of ACRA.

Also, please join us **September 16 and 17** at the beautiful We-Ko-Pa Resort in Scottsdale for our annual convention as we welcome our new Board and encourage them to carry on representing all court reporters in our state.

TWO EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

**The Third Annual
Jim Bouley Speed Contest
September 15, 2017**

- AND -

**The 2017
ACRA Annual Convention
"Prepare for Success"
September 16 - 17, 2017**

Test your skills against your peers. Perhaps win a prize! NCRA sanctioned contest!

Learn from and be motivated by several excellent speakers.

A beautiful venue for both events: We-Ko-Pa Resort in Scottsdale/Fountain Hills, Arizona

GET MORE DETAILS AND SIGN UP AT WWW.ACRAONLINE.ORG/EVENTS



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Association**

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At NCRA's national convention held August 9-13, some of Arizona's own competed in the speed contests. In the realtime contest, **Jennifer Schuck** placed 7th overall. In the literary category she placed 8th and in the Q&A category she tied for 1st with Dee Boenau, Mark Kislingbury, and Doug Zweizig. In the speed contest, **G. Allen Sonntag** placed 19th in the literary category.

Congratulations to our Arizona reporters!

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

by Linda Cantrell

I love the idea of writing shorter, so I thought I'd share a few of the things I do in my writing.

Add -Z to root words to create phrase briefs:

ENGLISH ROOT	STENO ROOT	ENGLISH PHRASE	STENO WITH -Z
mean	PHAOEPB	means of transportation	PHAOEPBZ
doing	TKOEUG	doing so	TKOEUGZ
community	KPHAOUPBT	community service	KPHAOUPBZ
thank you	TH*U	thank you, sir	TH*UZ
believe	PWHRAO*EF	believe so	PWHRAO*EFZ
anything	TPHEUG	anything further	TPHEUGZ
range	RAEPBG	range of sentence	RAEPBGZ

Add -P or -T to root words/phrases to avoid coming back for a second stroke:

ENGLISH ROOT	STENO ROOT	ENGLISH PHRASE	STENO WITH -P OR -T
necessary	TPHES	necessary and appropriate	TPNEPS
giving	TKPWEU*FG	giving up	TKPWEU*FPG
supervised	SAO*UFD	supervised probation	SAO*UFPD
trying	TRAOEUG	trying to	TRAOEUGT
going	TKPWOEUG	going to	TKPWOEUGT



This article is reprinted from the JCR.com.

NCRA member earns award for service to the disability community

May 2, 2017



Karla Martin poses with Mayor Mark Mitchell after receiving her award

On April 25, Karla Martin, RPR, was presented with the Business Leadership Award at the 29th Annual Mayor's Disability Awards in Tempe, Ariz. She was recognized for her work in CART captioning, including covering deaf and hard-of-hearing events and for her volunteer work with the emergency responder interpreter credentialing pilot program. Martin answered a few questions for the JCR Weekly about her background in CART captioning and what the award means to her.

Tell me about what kind of work you do and who some of your clients are.

I provide CART captioning services for several state agencies in Arizona, and I have provided services on-site and remotely for Arizona State University (ASU) and most of the

community colleges in the Phoenix metro area. I also work with the Arizona Superior Court providing CART captioning for parties in civil and criminal cases. One of my most fun gigs is captioning live theater on cruise ships. I know it sounds so fun, but it can be challenging showing up and not knowing exactly what the setup and demands of the job will be.

Even though my focus is on CART captioning, I still take medical malpractice depositions that comprise possibly 10 to 20 percent of my total business. It's true that real life can be so much more interesting than fiction, and I love what I learn every day on the job. I think it's ironic that I have learned so much about working in court as a CART captioner. I worked as a freelance reporter taking depositions prior to transitioning to CART captioning.

How were you nominated for the Business Leadership Award?

I was nominated for the Community Service Award by Michele Michaels, who is the hard-of-hearing specialist for the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing. I have been providing CART services for several of the local Hearing Loss Association of America groups for a number of years, and I believe that is one of the reasons Michele nominated me. When the decision was made, I was awarded the Business Leadership Award. I feel like I do fit in both categories.

The mission statement of the awards event is: "Since 1988 Tempe has proudly presented the Mayor's Disability Awards honoring excellence in individuals with disabilities, employers, and others who have shown dedication to the equality, inclusion, and commitment to improving the quality of life for all Tempe residents. The goal of this annual event is to encourage everyone to work towards a fully inclusive and accessible Tempe."

I live in Tempe, and I have played flute and piccolo in Tempe Symphony since 1990. This is a community symphony, and all of the players are volunteers. My first CART work was at ASU, also located in Tempe. I am also an advocate for animals, and I have served on boards of animal welfare organizations.

What does it mean to have been recognized for your work within the community?

I'm honored to be recognized by the City of Tempe. I've been committed to providing services for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community for over 20 years. I took four semesters of American Sign Language so I could better communicate with clients and colleagues who were Deaf. One of my favorite things about CART work is the appreciation expressed by clients. It's so rewarding when someone randomly thanks you for the service they received.

NCRA member earns award continued on Page 5...

Continued from Page 4...

Did you have any idea you were being considered?

Yes, I knew that I was being nominated. Michele requested information from me to assist her in the nomination process. I had attended the event a few times in the past, and I had secretly hoped one day I would receive an award.

Why is providing CART to those with hearing loss so important to you?

There are many reasons providing CART is important. It's an accommodation for a protected class of individuals under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our services provide communication access for our consumers' safety, health, education, training, legal matters, and entertainment. Some days the importance is to raise the awareness of our services to administrators and disability resource managers of high schools, colleges, and hospitals. Other days it's demonstrating to consumers what is possible with CART captioning technology to enhance their lives by receiving equal access to communication at their workplace.

How long have you been a CART captioner? Were you a freelancer or official court reporter prior? How long have you provided CART services?

I started providing CART for ASU in 1995. At the time I was working as a freelance deposition reporter. I started with some evening classes because I didn't

want to turn down depo work. After that it was a transition process. In 2005, I took a part-time staff position at ASU for a few years.

How did you enter the profession? How long have you been in the profession?

My first job as a reporter was at a freelance agency in Rochester, N.Y., in January of 1979. At that time I had been out of school for four months and passed part of my Illinois CSR. I was working as a legal secretary in Decatur, Ill. I moved to New York for the opportunity to work immediately since they didn't require certification. It was a really busy firm, and I started taking medical malpractice depositions six months after starting work as a freelancer. I had a great mentor reporter there. The firm was one of the first to embrace computer-assisted translation, as it was called then. After two years, I moved to Arizona for warmer weather.

Where did you go to school?

I decided to pick up court reporting as a "minor" while I was pursuing a bachelor's degree in applied music at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale. Between the flute and my machine, I spent the majority of my last two years of college in a practice room. I didn't know what court reporting was until I had two roommates at college one summer who were finishing their internship and told me when they got out of school, they were going to "make a lot of money."

What has been the most rewarding part of your career?

It's rewarding for me when I work with someone who is going to school, and then later after they graduate and are working in their chosen field, we end up working together or see each other at disability-related events. It's always rewarding when clients graduate from their programs of study, especially when I attend or work their graduation ceremonies. I like to believe I contributed to their success.

Please add any additional information you feel would be helpful to include.

Several government agencies in Arizona partnered in 2016 to create the Arizona Emergency Response Interpreter Training for ASL interpreters and CART captioners. The agencies are the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs, Department of Forestry and Fire Management, and Maricopa County. I am one of three CART captioners in Arizona who were selected, trained, and received the emergency response interpreter credential. The program is a pilot, and the sponsoring agencies are hopeful other states will follow Arizona's lead and create emergency response training programs for interpreters and CART captioners in their states.

New NCRF Trustees inducted



The National Court Reporters Foundation's newly elected Trustees began their three-year terms on Aug. 12 after being inducted into service at the Foundation's annual Board of Trustees meeting taking place in conjunction with the 2017 NCRA Convention & Expo in Las Vegas, Nev.

The following individuals were elected to serve on the 2017-2018 NCRF Board of Trustees: Danielle Griffin, RPR, Phoenix, Ariz.; Karen G. Teig, RPR, CRR, CMRS, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; and Sandy VanderPol, FAPR, RMR, CRR, Lotus, Calif.

Our own Danielle Griffin is a new trustee:

Danielle Griffin represents the future of the profession and can aid NCRF in its continued focus on helping students finish court reporting school and new reporters acquire the opportunities to thrive in the profession. She grew up in the court reporting field, working in her mother's firm in Phoenix from the time she was in middle school, an experience that gives her more in-depth understanding of the business and profession than the average new reporter. As a new reporter with diverse experience and contacts, Griffin commits fully to everything she does. Griffin comes from a culture of volunteerism and strong fundraising experience and understands the value of networking and using those contacts to help make whatever she's tasked with successful.

Congratulations, Danielle!

(From the NCRA Website August 12, 2017)



In Memoriam: Mae Pascoe Davis

Submitted by Al Braun

Mae died March 29, 2017, at the age of 96.

Mae was a court reporter here in Arizona for many years.

Many folks, when they see a person's death notice and see they were 80, 90 plus, their first thought is "they lived a full life." This truly applies to Mae Davis. If you knew her when she was reporting, when she had her firm here in Phoenix, you knew the dynamic lady she was.

She was the ACRA lobbyist for many years. If you wanted something done in the legislature, you called on Mae to do it. Mae and I were not always friends during

her years in the profession; we were both hard headed about court reporting and just didn't see eye to eye on a number of things. But I met Mae in a bowling alley about ten years ago and we reconciled and I'm glad to say we got along fine for several years when we both indulged in our love of bowling. I also had the privilege to play on her softball team alongside many prominent attorneys in the Phoenix area. Although Mae was a bridge master, I did have occasion, also, to sit at a bridge table with her. And she was so much better than I, it was embarrassing.

Those were indeed the good old days.

I'm not sure there are many reporters left in Arizona who knew Mae in the '50s through '70s, but if you did, think a kind thought about her as another Arizona institution passes from sight.

This article is reprinted from NCRA.com.

Local court reporter Doreen Sutton named to NCRA's 2017 class of Academy of Professional Reporters Fellows



LAS VEGAS, Aug. 23, 2017— The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, broadcast captioners, CART captioners, and legal videographers, today announced that Doreen Sutton, RPR, a freelance court reporter from Scottsdale, Ariz., has been awarded Fellowship in the Academy of Professional Reporters. The Academy recognizes recipients for their outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience. The announcement was made during a special awards luncheon held at the NCRA Convention & Expo, held in Las Vegas, Nev., Aug. 10-13.

“Membership in the Academy of Professional Reporters is by nomination only, so to be granted fellowship is a high point in a reporter's career,” said Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC, interim Executive Director and CEO of NCRA. “Criteria for being

accepted include exhibiting outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience in the field of shorthand reporting as well as having been active in the practice of reporting for at least 10 years. Candidates for fellowship are also required to have attained distinction as measured by such activities as the publication of important papers, creative contributions, committee or board service, and teaching,” he added.

Sutton has been a reporter since 1992, working as a freelance reporter, official reporter, and a CART captioner. She currently serves as NCRA's 2017-2018 Vice President. She also served two terms as NCRA's Secretary-Treasurer and on its Test Advisory, Outreach, and Finance Committees.

Sutton is a past director and past president of the Arizona Court Reporters Association and has served as editor of its membership publication, ArizoNotes. She has volunteered her time by holding Saturday Registered Professional Reporter prep classes at her office. Since 2007, she has also served on the GateWay Community College Advisory Board, which guides the school's court reporting program.

She holds the nationally recognized professional certification of Registered Professional Reporter.

Sutton was one of seven NCRA members awarded Fellowship in the 2017 Academy.

Career information about the court reporting profession—one of the leading career options that does not require a traditional four-year degree—can be found at DiscoverSteno.com.



INTRODUCING TAYLER KNICKREHM!

Taylor Knickrehm is ACRA's student liaison. She is a court reporting student at Gateway Community College, where she is currently writing about 100 wpm.

Taylor has always been interested in how the court system works and what goes on behind the scenes. She is excited to work in the reporting field because she knows she will learn something new every day. Taylor would like to try all facets of reporting -- freelance, official, CART captioner, and captioner.

HISTORY OF ASRA/ACRA CONTINUED...

I started to write here about those things we do each day, the miracles we perform, but realized that you know what you do; you don't need me to recap it. From freelance reporters to official reporters to CART providers to closed captioners, we are amazing. I'd like to think that our being members of both ACRA and NCRA has helped us get this far and stay on top of our game. Would we be here if it weren't for ACRA? I know we have fought many times with the legislature, with administrators in courthouses, and even with lawyers who have wanted to change the way we do our main business, that of taking and preserving the record. Without group pressure, and group money, and group will, I don't want to think where we'd be.

So the history of ACRA is a history of group achievements – legislative changes like the CSR law, rate hikes for court transcripts, the perpetual combating of ER trying to take over our jobs rather than helping them, battling outside firms over contracting, and much more. These things couldn't happen if we didn't have a strong association.

The history of ACRA is also a history of individual achievements which bring honor or recognition or both to all court reporters in Arizona. It's from those two fronts that I will be writing about the history of ACRA.

Now, I'm sure knowing or not knowing the history of ACRA or some reporter who distinguished themselves in Arizona before you or I came here won't diminish or add to the job you are doing today. I would like to think, however, that reading a little about ACRA and some individual reporters prior to your time here, and

also some things and people during your time here you may not know about, will make you feel like a part of the Tree. And member of ACRA or not, you ARE all part of reporting in Arizona.

Although the history of ACRA officially began in 1950, three years prior to that a number of reporters in Arizona met informally and formed an association. The first three presidents of the association from 1947 to 1950 were Fred Baker, Henry Nixon and Mark Grumley. In 1950, the ASRA, approximately 30 members strong, affiliated with the NSRA. Thus we became recognized by our national governing body in 1950, and we take that date as our birth date.

The history of court reporters in Arizona, of course, dates to pre-territorial days when pen writers taking primitive shorthand first made notes of trials taking place in makeshift courtrooms and, yes, modified barrooms turned into temporary courtrooms, or so the movies would have us believe. Actually, by the time Arizona became a state, there were some beautiful courthouses already built in county seats like Clifton, Bisbee, Prescott and Tombstone.

One of the best preserved courtrooms from early Arizona is in the town of Tombstone. If you get a chance, take a tour of this facility. When you look at the restored courtroom (with the hangman's gallows visible out the window), you find yourself facing what appears to be a typical courtroom, with the judge's bench in the middle, a witness chair and places for the other participants in the trial. But look closely and you will see on one side of the bench in the back wall a door marked "Judge" in gold leaf, and on the other side of the bench a similar door also marked in gold leaf, but this time with the words "court reporter" on it.

History of ASRA/ACRA continued on Page 8..

Yes, at one time we had a lot of respect as professionals in the legal system.

The history of the Arizona Court Reporters Association you could say begins when court reporters first appeared in Arizona. I tell students that reporters or scribes are mentioned in the Bible, and that court reporting is sometimes known as the second oldest profession. But in any event, I'm sure there was someone taking notes in Arizona during a trial well before statehood because the statutes enacted at the time of statehood deal with rules and regulations regarding official court reporters.

I have mentioned the Arizona Shorthand Reporters Association and the Arizona Court Reporters Association. We began as the ASRA and that changed to the ACRA in the late 1980s when the National Shorthand Reporters Association changed their name to the National Court Reporters Association to "modernize" the image of court reporters. Arizona followed suit and officially changed our name to Court Reporters a few years after National made their change. We were one of the first states to do so, by the way, as almost every state association at the time had the word "shorthand" in their name.

So in the beginning we were ASRA, now we are ACRA.

A history of this association must contain a history of reporters who were not only well known during their time in Arizona but who contributed to our history in their way. During my time in Arizona I have heard about several Arizona reporters who were pioneers in areas of reporting and pioneers in our state as well. One of those was a gentleman named Ben Rudderow, a man who started reporting in Arizona in 1912 after being a bookkeeper in Prescott. He was not only an accomplished court reporter, he was a lawyer, too, being admitted to the State Bar in 1921, and receiving the second highest score on the bar exam in his class. He practiced law from 1921 to 1928 and then went back to reporting. He reported in the superior court in Phoenix with six different judges. He was working for Judge Renz Jennings at the time of his death. His obituary called him the "dean of Arizona court reporters." One of the more famous cases Ben reported was the Winnie

Ruth Judd murder case. (On a side note, when I was administrative reporter for the Maricopa County courts, author Janet Bommersbach contacted me about getting a transcript of the Judd case for a book she was writing. We found Ben's original notes in storage in the clerk's office and she found someone to read his Pittman shorthand and in that way she was able to authenticate her account of the trial in her subsequent book.)

Another Arizona pioneer reporter and one who also could have been called the "dean of Arizona court reporters" was Jack B. Ryan. Jack practiced his art in Phoenix for over 60 years. He was a pen writer who worked both in court and had a successful freelance business for many years in Phoenix. Many a reporter in Arizona can trace their roots to a beginning working for Jack Ryan.

Henry Larson was also an early Arizona reporter. He became a good friend of Sandy McFate. More on Sandy later. Henry Larson quit reporting, opting for a life of politics, and was elected to the corporation commission. He was the 2nd president of the Arizona Shorthand Reporters Association in 1951.

Another name from that era is Joe Morgan. Joe was also a reporter and attorney. He reported for Judge Lorna Lockwood, the first Arizona woman superior court judge and Arizona Supreme Court justice. Joe reportedly bore a striking resemblance to Abe Lincoln, even though Joe only had one eye.

Still another name which was well known by most court reporters and those affiliated with court reporting in Arizona is that of Harold Shortridge. Harold was an early member of this association. Harold's father was a court reporter in Clifton, Arizona in the '20s to '40s. And of course Harold's father told him NOT to become a court reporter. Probably the same thing Jim Bouley told his sons and daughters, Jules Vitoff told his daughters, Jean Moll told her sons, and so forth. It seems there are a lot of father or mother reporters with sons or daughters who follow in their footsteps in Arizona.

History of ASRA/ACRA continued on Page 9...

Getting back to Harold, one of Harold's early memories is of he and his twin brother Don (who became an attorney in Phoenix) being babysat by a young Lorna Lockwood. Harold was a living history of reporting in Arizona and retired to Cottonwood with his wife until his death about 15 years ago.

He started reporting school in 1946, but due to a severe fracture of an elbow did not complete it until 1954 through a correspondence course from LaSalle College in Chicago. Although Harold taught Gregg shorthand and was proficient in it, he saw the Stenotype as the wave of the future of reporting and began his career using the machine.

One of Harold's most vivid memories is going on the raid of the Mormon polygamist stronghold of Short Creek (now Colorado City) in northwestern Arizona back when Governor Howard Pyle called out the national guard in Arizona to "save the children" from their life of polygamy, as the politicians saw it back then. Harold was good friends with the then attorney general of Arizona, Ross Jones, and Ross invited Harold to accompany them on the raid. So in the middle of the night they raided the town, arrested all the men, and the plan was to let the women go but take the children to Mesa where they could be raised properly. A trial was held at a later date, and eventually all the men were found guilty of the charges, but life returned to normal for them. The raid, however, led to the downfall of Governor Pyle and he was ousted in the next election.

Harold reported for many years in Arizona. Harold began as an official reporter for Judge Stanford in Phoenix in January of 1955. Other than a few short intervals, he spent his career as an official for

several judges in Phoenix. During his time as an official, he had more than 15 deputies from time to time, including some well known names in Arizona reporting. He was the first reporter for Sandra Day O'Connor when she became a Superior Court judge in Phoenix.

It was at an association meeting in the late '60s, a time when we were growing as both an association and a state, that Harold made the statement that without a means of communicating with each other as reporters, we were surely going to be unable to focus our strengths and needs and the association would die and our profession would be the worse for it. I was secretary of the association at the time and with help from several other members of the association started a crude newsletter which we sent to all the known reporters in the state from time to time to pass on news and needs for court reporters. That newsletter evolved into ArizoNotes. Harold became the first editor of ArizoNotes in 1970.

We wanted to make our newsletter more professional and more reliable, so we held a contest to name our new publication and made a promise to print it and mail it out to members on a quarterly basis. Tom Yoder was the person who came up with the name ArizoNotes, and it was adopted by the association as a name for our official publication and Tom was given a one-year membership for his suggestion. I was the ArizoNotes editor from 1983 to 1988. During my time as president in 1989-90, I started Boardlines as a means of passing on information in a timely manner between issues of ArizoNotes. Now, of course, we read these publications on line; and in addition, with the internet, can pass information and news on when it is needed and still fresh.

History of ASRA/ACRA continued on Page 10...





This is a photo of the members of the association who attended the annual meeting in 1963. You will note from this and other pictures of the era, that the association claimed a large male membership. Also, you will note that the men are wearing coat and tie and the ladies are in dresses. This was also typical of the era. The second picture is of the attendees at an ASRA convention at about the same time. It was a custom to take a group picture of the participants of the conventions at the time of the dinner the day of the meeting. It was much more formal at that time. Now, if we took a picture, we'd see maybe one male in a coat, no tie, and the ladies would be dressed nicely but probably not one dress would be worn. I'm all for the more comfortable, casual dress; but seeing these pictures make me a little nostalgic for "the good old days."

Would you believe, up until about the early 1970s, Arizona reporters would get together once a year just to discuss the reporting business, elect officers, and have a good time renewing old acquaintances? Imagine just getting together for the fun of getting together. No CE points required.

The following is taken from a notice of the annual get-together convention from about 1955:

"The place for this year's convention is the Skyriders, located at the municipal airport. For you out-of-towners, we have arranged for lovely rooms... just fill in the enclosed card and mail it back...When you get here, hot, sweaty, thirsty and tired, there will be an air-conditioned room waiting for you, a cool swimming pool for you to jump in and a cocktail party at 7:30 right there...

"The remainder of the convention is as follows:

"Registration at 9:30 Saturday, May 17.

"Business meeting 10:00 to 12:00.

"Luncheon at 12:30.

"Renewal of business meeting at 2:00 to 3:00.

Open time from 3:00 to 8:00.

"9:00 to 10:00, delicious prime rib banquet at Newton's Prime Rib...

"10:00 to ????, return to Skyriders where the pool facilities, bar, patio and dancing are available.

"Sound good?"

It goes on to say, "ASRA dues are \$7.50...The assessment for the convention will run about \$10.00 per person, excluding room accommodations... This covers cocktails, luncheon, the banquet, use of all facilities at the Skyriders, and meeting room."

In addition to the business activities for the day, it makes it known that golf is available, also, and encourages participation.

History of ASRA/ACRA continued on Page 11...

Sound a little different from our conventions these days?

At the same time, it was not unusual for a meeting of the ASRA to end with the treasurer's report, which typically went something like this: "The association will have a balance of \$50 in our treasury after paying all our bills." After which someone would make a motion something like: "I move we all go to the bar and the association buy us a drink." It was duly seconded and voted on, the meeting adjourned, and everyone went to the bar to spend whatever was in the treasury.

Even as late as 1990, we had conventions which not only included opportunities for CE points at break-out sessions, but we had pie throwing, beach ball volleyball, golf tournaments, bridge tournaments, tennis tournaments, and of course pool parties and cocktail parties. We still came to have fun, as well as learn. And at today's conventions we still renew old acquaintances, have some fun, and do some serious work. I still have memories of Bill Bort saying at almost every convention, and Bill was at every convention, "Move to beautiful downtown Yuma. We need court reporters!"

We reached approximately 100 members in 1972. Took us almost 20 years to do so. That is not to say we didn't have 100 court reporters in Arizona before 1972. We did. At the best we could count noses (or fingers) we had 116 reporters in Arizona in 1972. So we had all but 16 reporters join our association at that time.

And times were changing. In minutes of the meeting in 1964, there were 42 members of the association. Twenty-eight members, including eight women, attended the convention, as shown by the minutes. And the president was Eunice Collins-Mickelson.

At the convention in 1973, the minutes show 43 members in attendance, 17 women among them.

It took 12 more years to reach 200 members of our association, which we did in 1984. In 1989 we reached over 300 members for the first time. As of the convention time in 1990, our membership had swelled to 375 regular members and another 50 student, honorary and associate members, for a combined total membership of over 425 people.

I haven't checked myself, but I heard in 2005 there were approximately 600 CSR's on the website in Arizona. The state association claimed approximately 400 of those as members.

So, the association has survived 67 years through many crises within and without its ranks. We have some very active people among us, some influential people, and some young people with incredible skills and knowledge who are willing to serve and help our association. We are in EXCELLENT shape not only to survive for the foreseeable future, but to PROSPER.

I love challenges. And you, being a court reporter, you must love challenges, too. You have to; you're a court reporter. Every day is a challenge. True? It's an exciting time, too. Every day is exciting.

We have a proud history in ACRA. Men and women in Arizona have always been good reporters. Before it was required, we had more RPR and Merit writers in our state per capita than just about any other state. When I was editor of ArizoNotes I put that out in ArizoNotes as a challenge to any other state who wanted to say their state had more. No one ever did challenge it. And during that time all states that had associations exchanged newsletters or whatever they called theirs on a regular basis, so I know they saw that article. In fact, NCRA reprinted that statement in the NSR magazine, and again, no one challenged it.

But now, of course, since 2000, we are a CSR state so everyone has to be at least a RPR.

In fact, I have said I think we might be possibly one of the FIRST CSR states.

And this is why: I mentioned when Arizona became a state in 1912, the Arizona legislature created the court certification statute which was the basis of our Arizona Revised Statute 12-222, dealing with testing of Superior Court Reporters. In essence, that statute said, "No reporter shall report in Superior Court in Arizona unless they pass this test." That statute had been on the books ever since 1912, until being replaced in 2000 by the CSR statute.

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Now, what made that statute a CSR law? Only this: In 1912 there were NO FREELANCE REPORTERS. Anyone who was a court reporter was a Superior Court reporter, they worked in court. It wasn't until the late 1940s that reporters began to work solely outside the courthouse and the "freelance" reporter concept was born.

So, for nearly 40 years, Arizona did have a CSR law in place. If you weren't Superior Court Certified, you didn't report. Did lawyers take depositions? Certainly. But they used official court reporters or their deputies. You were either an official or a deputy official. You got a job as an official when someone left or died or a new position was created. Until then you worked under an official as a deputy. That's my take on the CSR law.

Having been formally recognized as an affiliated state association by NCRA in 1950, ACRA does not qualify as one of the oldest associations in the country. After all, NCRA was formed in 1899 and many states can trace their associations back to that era or shortly thereafter. However, Arizona has a couple of more true firsts you may or may not be aware of.

"Real time" has become a popular way to show off reporter's skills to people and judges, and is as well a help to attorneys in making the record. Seeing the words on a screen seconds after they are spoken is something which has become almost commonplace with the reporter and a computer.

Two Arizona reporters, however, were perhaps the first reporters in the country to actually practice "real time" reporting, and that happened in the late Sixties. This is a time before personal computers or even room size computers were available for daily use.

Don Thacker and Keith Welch were official court reporters and freelancers in Flagstaff, Arizona, and Kingman, Arizona, in the early 1960s when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, brought its astronauts to Sunset Crater near Flagstaff to train because the terrain was similar to what they thought they would find on the moon. NASA was looking for some way to record the astronaut's words as they walked

on the moon collecting soil and rock samples; and, for the words to be useful, they had to be reviewable in hard copy within five minutes of their speaking the words.

Through a series of interviews with Don and Keith and NASA, they came up with a plan by which one of the reporters would write the words on his Stenograph and the other reporter would read his notes as they came out of the machine and type the words onto paper on a standard typewriter. A TV camera focused on the paper in the typewriter and sent the picture and words to the NASA scientists via TV.

All through the long Apollo program, Don and Keith were in Houston at NASA, and in this way they recorded for history the famous line "A small step for man, a giant leap for mankind" along with every other word spoken by the astronauts while on the moon during those Apollo years. It should be noted they averaged less than two minutes between spoken word and written transcript throughout the program.

Keith died while flying his own plane back to Flagstaff from a deposition in Eastern Arizona not too long after the Apollo program ended. Don Thacker moved to Phoenix and started a freelance reporting firm. Don told me that when Armstrong stepped off the lander and on the moon, everyone in Houston at NASA yelled, screamed, cheered – made noise, and it was impossible to actually hear what Armstrong said. He was never sure whether it was "A small step for A man" or "A small step for man." But it has gone down in history anyway.

Truly court reporting pioneers and Arizona's own.

Three ACRA members from Tucson became computer pioneers in the early 1970s when they were part of a three-year experiment conducted with Stenograph Corporation in the use of computer-assisted transcription, CAT. Bruce Johnson, George Silbernagle and Lee Kinney, three official reporters in Tucson, were the participants in this experiment. In those days computers such as the one needed to run a CAT program took up ROOMS as opposed to the laptops some of us use today – and they cost a room full of money, too.

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What Bruce, George and Lee did was record their notes on a special Stenograph and then transmit them via phone lines to the central computer in Illinois, which then translated the job, and a rough draft hard copy was sent back to Tucson to be edited, and then sent back to Illinois for final editing and printing, and then back to Tucson again as a hard copy.

As if that wasn't bad enough, you had to write for the one dictionary which was in the computer; globals and individual dictionaries were not possible.

It can truly be said these three reporters were computer pioneers, and undoubtedly their efforts led to many of the innovations we use today on our own computers.

Arizona was the first state in the nation to have a computer for use in the courthouse by the official reporters which was purchased by the Courts themselves. The basis for this program was worked out through cooperation with the then Maricopa County court administrator, the then Presiding Judge, and several brave official court reporters in Maricopa County. This program was innovative enough to become a model for several other similar programs throughout the country. And although the computer has long ago been sold for scrap, the program allowed an affordable CAT system to be used by about 20 official reporters in the Maricopa county courthouse through its years of use, and similar programs no doubt introduced literally hundreds of reporters around the country to the world of CAT, helping usher in the computer age for reporters.

By the way, that computer and software cost the county initially \$250,000, with monthly maintenance being an additional \$500 per month. This program was eventually paid for through transcription fees collected from the court reporters using the computer. This Baron Data program was used in the Superior Court for ten years, during which time many judges from not only our state but across the country were shown how a computer, in the hands of a competent court reporter, could quickly produce a flawlessly typed transcript.

Although the history of ACRA is an interesting one indeed, ACRA is more than a formal association. ACRA is people, and always has been people. And ACRA has had its share of the famous, near famous, and the characters of court reporting. I have been privileged to know several reporters in Arizona who are no longer practicing their art and some who still are who were and are unforgettable in their own right. Other than those already mentioned, let me name a few more.

Al (Doc) Holiday. Jack King. Lynn Swisher. J.B. Brown and Gordon Touleu. June Wilson. Donnie Stickley. Hal Eaton. Steve Garwood. Sharon Fleeman. "Sam" Thimesch. Mary Lou Spicer. Mary Lou alone had more than 160 court reporters pass through her freelance office in Phoenix during her years of running that office. Most of the reporters were beginners that Mary Lou took on and trained, many of those still working in Arizona.

And who can forget your Stenograph teacher? We had Mrs. Virginia Langdon. Mrs. Hartman. Ray and Helen Brush. Mel and Helene Filbris. Connie Shapiro. Ann Kennedy. Joe Cox and Steve Lampropoulos. Stephanie Stearman-Dillard.

Ever hear the name Richard Sherman? How about "Mr. Modem"? Richard was a freelance court reporter in Arizona and a principal in a Phoenix firm. He also does some work for the World Wide Web you may have heard of. Here's a little history of Richard: A member of the National Speakers Association, he is well known in internet circles as a technological humorist dedicated to bringing cyberspace down to earth. He has written several books on how seniors can use the internet. He has presented more than 500 seminars, lectures, and keynote addresses, and appeared frequently on radio and television broadcasts throughout the country. Richard wrote the "Online with Mr. Modem" column for Reader's Digest, "New Choices" magazine, and the syndicated "Ask Mr. Modem" column appearing in publications throughout the US. But don't forget, he was an Arizona court reporter.

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John and Jean Lea. John you may remember as a time management lecturer who has appeared many times at Arizona seminars. He was an economics professor at ASU. Jean was an Arizona freelance reporter, a principal in a Phoenix freelance firm, and was prominent in NCRA circles for many years. Jean is also the possessor of the highest correct percentage overall in the Arizona speed contest. You might call her a natural. She completed school in 18 months and passed the then equivalent of the RPR while still in school.

Bob Clark. Bob was the last or at least one of the last pen writing court reporters in Arizona. Bob started as a deputy official under Harold Shortridge. He was a member of the Maricopa County pool reporters. He owned and operated his own freelance business in Phoenix. Bob always had room in his firm for another reporter, whether beginner or an old timer looking for a job. And if you were ever at an ACRA meeting Bob attended, you know why he was known as Mr. "I'll second that."

Bill McNutt. Bill came to Arizona while still president of the New York State Court Reporters Association. He became a lobbyist for ACRA, an official reporter, a federal reporter, and president of our association, only one of a very few people to be president of more than one state association, as well as being a firm owner and a CAT user and advocate.

Richard Ostermier. Richard was our machine and computer guru for many years in Phoenix. If you had a hardware problem, you went to Richard.

Patty Calabro. Patty is a former president of this association and was a pioneer in realtime reporting at the University of Arizona for deafened adults through the CART program.

Larry Driver. Closed captioning has become commonplace in America, but when Larry Driver began closed captioning in Phoenix, his firm, Driver and Reeves, actually had to pay to have the privilege of closed captioning the news for channel 12, NBC, in Phoenix. Larry has been an Arizona pioneer in closed captioning along with his partner Nancy Papietro and a number of other captioning pioneers he trained here in Arizona. Recognized by NCRA for his closed captioning efforts, Larry has continued to CC Sun's games, Diamondback games, news, features on Channel 8 in Phoenix, and other programs. Besides captioning, Larry, and Nancy too, could write like the wind, both placing in the Arizona speed contest.

Howard Hudson. Howard was a champion typist in the days when typing speed contests were held around the country. As a court reporter, he would type his own notes using a modified electric typewriter which had two motors on it to speed the process of throwing the carriage back so he didn't lose time while typing. He often did daily copy by himself in this manner. It is said he had a typing speed of about 150 words per minute.

Sandra McFate. Sandra was a reporter in Arizona for a long time and twice president of the ACRA. She was also President of NCRA. Not only has Sandy had a successful career as a reporter both in court and freelance, but she was a pioneer in the Legal Video field developing guidelines for NCRA and lecturing around the country about Legal Video. She was instrumental in the NCRA developing the Certified Legal Video Specialist designation, and her firm in Phoenix was the first to incorporate video depositions as well as reported depositions in their offered services. She was a fellow of the NCRA and has received nearly every recognition and award that a reporter can receive both locally and nationally.

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Merilyn Sanchez. Here's Merilyn's bio: RMR, CRR. Recognized as a Computer Integrated Courtroom Pioneer, Merilyn has worked in a computer integrated courtroom as an official federal reporter for US District court since 1985, and has made more than 250 CIC demonstrations since 1986. Stop and reflect on this a moment. Merilyn has real timed every proceeding in her courtroom since 1985. Imagine doing that. Among other cases she has had in her courtroom is the then Governor Symington trial. Merilyn was one of the first five reporters in Maricopa County Superior Court to join in the CAT program in 1978. (Simply to make a point I will mention that I was the first on the program. I'd like to say I taught her everything she knows, but within a few months she far surpassed me in her writing on the computer and use of it.)

Continuing with her accomplishments, she is well known for her technological prowess, putting on dozens of presentations on realtime and other reporting technologies. In 1986 she became a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters, and in 1997 received NCRA's highest honor, the DSA. She is a member of numerous committees in the District Court level, has been a two time president of the ACRA, received the ACRA DSA award, served as a trainer/advisor to NCRA's realtime certification committee, and was a member of the US Court Reporters Association Realtime Committee. She also became President of NCRA.

Jim Bouley. Jim is another "dean of Arizona court reporters." Jim freelanced in Tucson with several partners, was a charter member of the ACRA, has sons who are court reporters presently in Arizona, and was a speed champion in national competitions.

He won the speed contest in Arizona more than once. Jim was a throwback to another era. His motto was "have fun" no matter if it was work or play. He was the life of the party, and when at a

national convention or local convention he always had a cadre of his followers around him. He tried to populate the state with court reporters single handedly. Jim was truly a character of national renown.

I've mentioned the Winnie Ruth Judd murder trial before. We've had other renowned trials in Arizona of the famous and infamous. Perhaps one which will live longer than most is a recent trial, that of Jodi Arias. The Arias trial was probably the most watched trial since OJ. And most of it was reported by Mike Babicky. Mike grew up as a miner in the Bisbee copper mines. He was smart enough to take court reporting and wound up as an official in Phoenix a number of years ago. He was lucky (unlucky?) enough to be working for the judge assigned to the Arias murder trial. During the MONTHS of trial, Mike's profile can be seen sitting in front of the witness chair in the courtroom. He and reporter Maria Arnold wrote the whole trial and sentencing phase (twice) and produced the HUGE transcript. Mike continues to report in court between personal appearances. LOL

And then there's YOU. I've mentioned some of your names already and I'm sure I should have mentioned many more. I could go on and on about the people of our association and those who have made it the great association it was and is. About 56 people have served as president of our association, obviously some more than once. Each certainly contributed a part of themselves, at least during their term. It is impossible to know how many people have served on the ACRA board or as committee chairs, but suffice to say it is a HUGE amount of reporters who gave their time and effort to help things be better for all of us. They helped continue the Association policies and helped keep the association alive, and by doing so kept reporting alive in Arizona. We must continue to have volunteers such as these.

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But the fact is, although history is a part of our everyday lives, it is the future which brings us together. We are a part of one of the most rewarding professions available to anyone in the country today. We meet with and deal with the great, the near great, the famous and the infamous on a daily basis.

Much of what we do is tedious and routine. However, much of what we do is exciting and uplifting. And also, if you let it be, personally very rewarding. We have Arizona reporters who travel the world. Some caption events live as they happen around the world. Some help teachers reach students who want to learn. It's there. Sometimes we just get too wrapped up in ourselves to see it. And many reporters just do their jobs day in and day out and never see the limelight or travel to exotic places to work. But they are just as important (and some would say more important) than those that work in a spotlight.

I hope this History of ACRA has enriched you and made you feel a part of a much bigger thing than your individual courtroom, deposition suite, classroom or closed captioning studio. We need to work as members of our association; we need our voice to be heard in Arizona reporting circles, in the legislature, by the bar associations and by judges.

I must go back to Harold Shortridge and the answer he gave in an interview for ArizoNotes in 1977 to the question "Do you have any advice to give young reporters?" Harold said, "The young people coming into the field today are the smartest and most capable that I have ever seen, and well trained. They will need to be to meet the pressures of modern court reporting. I wonder whether they will maintain the image the old time reporters had and the prestige. They won't unless they work more on public relations.

"The most terrific product is not appreciated unless it is well sold. So, sell yourselves on your professional product. Think, act and demand to be treated as a professional. Then you will insure a continuing good work environment and future for yourselves."

Be a part of your Association. Use your individual and combined talents to make it work, to make it better, and to make it thrive.

