

ARIZONA NOTES

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“IT TAKES A VILLAGE.”

By Kim Portik, RMR, CRR, CRC

I have been amazingly blessed along my professional journey – I have been a freelance reporter, Stenograph District Sales Manager, Case CATalyst trainer, CART captioner, freelance firm owner, and recently I have had the opportunity to begin managing freelance firms for other outstanding reporters. Feels like a natural progression – and unbelievable honor – to now manage the association whose purpose it is, among other things, “to advance the interests and general welfare of the verbatim stenographic reporting profession” and “to promote and encourage development of realtime reporting skills and ethics to provide communication

access pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act.”

Have you ever wondered what exactly the Executive Director of ACRA does? That was my biggest question when I was asked to consider taking on this position. Having served on the Board for the last four years, I realize I had never truly pondered that question. I knew at each Board meeting we had a very thorough agenda, financial reports with enough detail to cross the eyes of any amateur accountant, information about new member applicants and members who chose not to renew their membership (always disappointing), proposals for midyear and annual convention

TABLE OF CONTENTS

“It Takes a Village.”	1
My Experience with the Veterans History Project	2
Upcoming Events	3
Growing Membership: Everyone’s Mission	4
You Can Still Do It	5
Audio: Cautionary Tales	6
Fluorescent Yellow Gaffer’s Tape	6
Speed Contests - A Source Of Joy In Our Careers	7
Special Recruitment Announcement	9

meetings years into the future, and somehow our conventions came together and everyone had a great time.

“It Takes A Village.” continued on Page 10...



Arizona Court Reporters Association

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MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

By Kate Roundy

Earlier this year while attending the NCRA Legislative Boot Camp, I had the chance to learn a lot about the Veterans History Project (VHP). I was awe-struck by how this program began, how it works to preserve history, and how so many volunteers have stepped forward to make this all happen. I also was honored to meet a veteran who was interviewed while I was there and hear his story.

The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000 after receiving unanimous support from members of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. It was signed into law by President Clinton on October 27, 2000. AARP was the founding corporate sponsor of the Veterans History Project and helped it get off the ground. Today the United States Senate continues to be the major supporter.

The project is held at the Library of Congress American Folklife Center. The interviews of United States military veterans from World War I to the present are video and stenographically recorded. The digital recordings and physical transcripts of the interviews are maintained and also often include memoirs such as letters, maps, photographs, diaries, or military documents that evidence the veteran's experience. These items are stored in special weather-proof vaults so that future generations may

hear directly and understand our history and the realities of war.

Besides the financial contributors and the staff that runs this program, this national project affords the opportunity for many others to have a part in this history-making endeavor. In addition to active veteran participation, the VHP relies heavily on volunteers. The program encourages educators and students 10th grade and above to participate. Volunteers conduct the interviews using collection data and interview guidelines provided. Then to ensure an accurate collection of the interview, a videographer and a stenographer are required to record the oral interview.

After hearing all about the program from the VHP's spokesperson, I had the opportunity to attend a reception for a veteran who had just given an interview to NCRA's 2017/2018 president, Chris Willett.

Rob Jones was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps after being injured in Afghanistan in 2010. He is a double amputee as a result of a land mine. Rob has an incredible story of overcoming his physical limitations which include a 5,180-mile bike ride across America and participation in 31 marathons in 31 cities in 31 days. He donates money he has raised in these challenges to aid wounded veterans. Look him up on www.robjonesjourney.com.

After being introduced to and having the opportunity to see firsthand how the Veteran's History Project works, volunteering is high on my to-do list. You too can help be a part of capturing our country's history. If you know a veteran who would like to share their story, go to www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html for more information. I encourage you to step forward and play a part in preserving America's history.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2018 ACRA Annual Convention

Date: September 15 & 16

Location: Westward Look - Wyndham Grand Resort & Spa, Tucson

Register: www.acraonline.org

The Fourth Annual Jim Bouley Memorial Speed Contest

Date: September 14

Location: Westward Look - Wyndham Grand Resort & Spa, Tucson

Register: www.acraonline.org (coming soon)

Board of Certified Reporters Board Meeting

Date: October 11, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Arizona State Courts Building, 1501 West Washington, Phoenix, Room 109

ACRA Board Meetings

October 20, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Bartelt|Nix, 111 West Monroe Street, Suite 425, Phoenix



SAVE THE DATE

WALK 4 HEARING

November 3, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m.

Riverview Park, 2100 W. Rio Salado Pkwy, Mesa

Information for joining ACRA's group will be available soon!

GROWING MEMBERSHIP: EVERYONE'S MISSION

by Marty Herder

Growing membership is the lifeblood of any organization. Right? Every year we search for new, creative ways to increase ACRA membership. Think about this: Since 1950 the men and women of ACRA have driven all of the efforts to establish standards and ethics in our industry, be on the cutting edge of technology, while providing prompt updates and comprehensive training opportunities. What an amazing legacy. We have so many talented and gifted members, but yet, there are so many more that we need to reach out to. Every member knows someone who would make an excellent candidate to join our ACRA family. Whether a former ACRA member, a new CR to Arizona, or superstar-of-tomorrow student, we all know of someone that would be a wonderful asset to our association.

Here are a few tips to get you started.

Create a list of all the great things about ACRA

In addition to being part of the largest organization of court reporting professionals in the state, members enjoy ArizoNotes, the only Arizona State publication devoted exclusively to the reporting profession. Membership is provided up-to-date review of the Board of Directors

decisions and upcoming events. Our information-packed seminars and conventions are epic, fun and are always a wonderful opportunity to network with our peers and vendors. Our monitoring of legislative matters affecting our profession is another service ACRA membership is kept apprised of.

Keep a list of potential members

It doesn't matter if it's a paper list or if it's kept on the desktop of your computer. Either way, it makes you think about those people who might be a fit for ACRA. Do you know a CR student? Someone new to Arizona? Perhaps a former member? ACRA has recently seen an increase in former members rejoining, and many times these are the best of the best that our industry has to offer. Sometimes people need to leave for a reason and then later they have more time and just have to be asked to come back. So, who can you ask?

Membership growth is everybody's responsibility. It's exciting to share what's new about ACRA and how we've grown with the times. New members bring new energy and perspective to our association and to our lives and mean more people to serve on committees, to work on projects, and to raise money for our goals. We are excited about our future together.

Now go be persistent and be vibrant. Remember, YOU ARE the face of the Arizona Court Reporters Association. You never know where you will meet our next member.

"It's a great day to be a court reporter."



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YOU CAN STILL DO IT

by Sue Grenz

I've been asked what sparked my interest in court reporting, and I guess my story really began when I took one semester each of shorthand and typing back in high school in my small home town in Illinois. Those skills helped land me a job as a part-time legal secretary in a small, one-man law office during my high school and then college years. And I had the best of both worlds, as this attorney was very flexible and allowed me any time off that I needed or wanted for extracurricular activities, so my social life wasn't affected!!

It was through this job that I was introduced to the legal world, be it ever so limited, that one might find in a small town setting. My "boss" was a great guy who he taught me so much and offered me the opportunity to do many things on my own. I loved that job!!

In our small office, we really didn't have a need to use court reporters. I think the closest reporter was probably a few towns away. Any "serious" litigation was farmed out to attorneys in nearby larger towns. But I did learn what a court reporter is and does.

I went to college, pursued the teaching career that I had always planned to do, taught first grade one year in a suburb of Chicago with wonderful parental and administrative support. But as the year progressed, I realized I really wasn't cut out to be a teacher. I loved the kids, but that's as far as it went.

So back to Spring Valley to resume my "legal" career with Bill W. He immediately hired me full time. After working for him for a year and a half, I decided it was time to move on (God gently pulled me by the arm!) and I found myself moving to Chicago, where I attended the Chicago College of Commerce, enrolling in their court reporter program and teaching night school, too. I invested a lot of time and effort while pursuing this career, as this was my "second time around," and I was eager to get out and start working.

Fast forward to passing the Illinois CSR, at which time I joined the firm of Wolfe and Rosenberg, a start-up court reporting firm in Chicago, where Fred Rosenberg and Seymour Wolfe, the two owners, invested a lot into me and taught me so many things and offered me so many great reporting opportunities. Those were the precomputer days – dictating and erasing to make corrections, et cetera. What fun!! But I loved court reporting, the wonderful people I met and worked with, and the various opportunities W&R afforded me.

As life goes on, I got married, had our first son, continued to work part time for W&R, and life was good. Two sons later, my husband and I decided to follow my parents out to Phoenix, where they had retired, where my husband started his own business. I would assist with the administrative/bookkeeping side of the business and many of the other fun things that come with owning your own business while my husband ran the show.

However, with the move, my court reporting days were over, so I thought. I was busy with my other responsibilities and didn't really consider court reporting. However, we had one client, whom I would speak with on the phone probably twice a

You Can Still Do It continued on Page 10...



Audio: Cautionary Tales by Leslie Foldy

At the end of a day-long, very contentious deposition, I watched the witness's husband retrieve from the table what I had assumed was a cell phone. Instead, it turned out to be a digital audio recorder. This gentleman had recorded the entire day's proceedings – including breaks when he was absent from the room.

Some weeks later, during a different case, the three attorneys on the “taking” side had a laptop on the table (commonplace nowadays). After the witness and his attorney left the room for a break, the taking attorneys began playing back sections of depo audio which they had just recorded on the laptop – unbeknownst to anyone.

A note of caution for reporters: Bear in mind that anything anyone says in a proceeding – on or off the record – may be being recorded without anyone's knowledge. This includes anything said by YOU. So remember that whatever you say could be memorialized in an audio recording for later review by witnesses, attorneys, judges, or the CR Board.

Fluorescent Yellow Gaffer's Tape

by Leslie Foldy

Freelance reporters spend hours on end in conference rooms. We often have an extension cord plugged into the wall. The cord will run from the wall over the floor and up to the tabletop to power our equipment. Often the cord will run right through a floor area that other people have to walk through or step over. Ask yourself: Is this exposed cord a tripping hazard?

After reporting a case where a student was injured during a trip and fall over an exposed extension cord at a college bookstore, I began using fluorescent yellow “gaffer's tape” to tape down my cords. Gaffer's tape (GT) is a cloth-backed adhesive tape similar to duct tape but with important differences. GT is removable – perfect for temporary use when you can't damage the surface below. GT is hand-tearable and very conformable – perfect for taping down cords on the fly.

I use Pro-Gaff 3-inch tape in yellow. I find the 3-inch-wide size to be perfect to entirely cover my cords lengthwise from the wall to under the conference room table. One roll (\$38 on Amazon for a 60-yard roll) will last quite a while.

Is gaffer's tape cheap? No. But your peace of mind will be remembered when the price is forgotten.



SPEED CONTESTS - A SOURCE OF JOY IN OUR CAREERS

by Gerard T. Coash, Sr.

Two of my six-year-old granddaughter Grace's favorite books are "The Daring Book For Girls" and "What Do You Do With A Chance?" Some principles of living can apply to all ages of people. I believe as court reporters we can enhance our lives if we are daring and take advantage of chances in our careers. Participating in speed contests is an adventurous opportunity we all need to try.

I won't lie to you: Yes, there is pain in speed contests. 280 is 280. It's not like on the job where we have spurts of speed. This is five minutes straight of lightening-fast words coming at you. It's like trying to catch flaming nails in a styrofoam cup - that has holes in it. At the end of the dictation, you have to tell yourself, "Okay, breathe."

But sitting in the room with the top .001% of shorthand writers in the United States (20 of us competed this year out of 20,000 court reporters per the Bureau of Labor Statistics) is at once a feeling of great joy and accomplishment. One caveat is that the NCRA Speed Contest requires the Certificate of Merit to be accepted into the contest. However, I'm told that the ACRA Speed Contest is an all-comers contest. Also, Arizona is only at 270 for the Q&A.

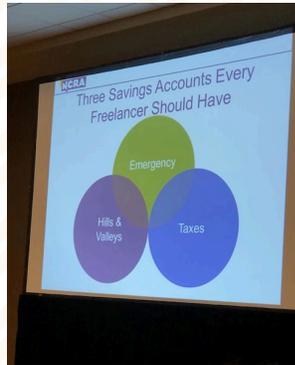
The joy of speed contests has been summed up by the Arizona James Bond of court reporting, Mike Bouley, as "It is thrilling to see what you can do on your machine. And the best part [of speed contests] is everyone is supportive and cheers for each other." In my considered opinion, the best deposition reporter living today is Seattle resident and long-time speed contest participant Ron Cook. Ron believes speed contests "satisfy my competitive spirit" and give him "the knowledge that I'm becoming the best reporter I can be. And I have all the confidence in the world at jobs knowing that if I'm struggling, the struggle is legit, and if I can't get it, something is wrong, and it's not me, it's them." Sounds like a good career attitude to me.

Arizona has a long history of notable speed contestants going back decades to Jim Bouley, Jean Lea, and Richard Sherman and continuing forward to recent times of Gary Moll, Diane and Allen Sonntag, Jennifer Schuck, and my guess for the next reporting luminary to burst onto the national scene, Teresa Van Meter.

Come join the pleasure of speed contests! Make the trip to Denver next August for National or stay local and participate in the Jim Bouley Memorial Speed Contest. Get daring! Grab the chance! We're all in this together, folks. Let's have some fun!



MORE CANDIDS FROM THE 2018 NCRA CONVENTION



SPECIAL RECRUITMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: Interested Persons
FROM: Certification and Licensing Division
RE: Board of Certified Reporters Member Recruitment

The Arizona Supreme Court is currently seeking interested candidates for appointment to the Board of Certified Reporters. The Board of Certified Reporters is comprised of nine volunteer members appointed by the Chief Justice for five-year terms. The Board of Certified Reporters meets every other month to consider and make decisions regarding certification and disciplinary matters involving certified court reporters. The Board also makes recommendations to the Arizona Supreme Court regarding court reporter issues. Applications are being sought for the following Board positions:

§ Public Member - Open to candidates that are not a certified reporter or an attorney.

§ Certified Official Reporter Member - Open to a certified court reporter, who is a resident of this state and has been working as an official court reporter for at least five years.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Certified Reporter Program by email to courtrep@courts.az.gov. Interested persons may submit a resume and an application form ([Click Here](#)) to:

Certification and Licensing Division Arizona Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts 1501 West Washington, Suite 104 Phoenix, Arizona 85007 FAX – (602) 452-3958

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"It Takes A Village." continued from Page 1...

But what does the Executive Director do on a daily basis? That was the question I had!

In my first 30 days in this position, I have learned the Executive Director does a LOT on a daily basis, especially in the months leading up to a convention. My immediate attention was directed toward securing NCRA approval of the CEUs you anticipate receiving for attending; selecting the food for the convention – yes, we are having dessert! I've learned it is not easy to create the brochure, registration forms, and send mass emails – thank you, Cindy of 58Designs, for that crutch. There is the Jim Bouley Memorial Speed Contest to coordinate – room logistics, a test-writer, awards; thank goodness there are such generous members of our association who are volunteering their time to handle the mechanics of that process. The list continues. Yet, in spite of all that, what inspires me the most is knowing I am but a small piece of this puzzle. The innumerable hours your Board dedicates to the success of your association is a bigger piece of the puzzle. As I review historical documents, I am absolutely humbled by the profound writings of our members during times of pressure and threat to our profession. As the African proverb says, if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together - the insight and institutional knowledge so generously shared by our current and past leaders is what I will continue to call upon to keep the traditions moving forward.

To that end, one of my personal goals and a commitment I have made in accepting this position is to make the duties of the Executive Director more transparent to the Board and to membership at large. This is YOUR association. I not only encourage, but I challenge you to take an active role in your association and to become a part of this thriving village!

You Can Still Do It continued on Page 5...

year, who during our chats found out I was a court reporter in my "prior life," and she would from time to time, half jokingly, encourage me to consider returning to court reporting here in Phoenix. But I was having fun raising our three great guys and assisting my husband and really didn't consider court reporting during those days.

After 20 years of owning our business, we decided things had changed enough in the restoration industry where it was time for us to sell our business and my husband to retire – and me, too, I guess! The boys had grown up and were on their own. What was I going to do? I was too young to retire -- and I didn't want to retire!

I called my husband's client, who steered me to J&M steno, and I got set up to hone my CR skills, wondering if, after a 20-year hiatus, I could do this. I set up my writer, a tape recorder, and set to practicing. Also took a six-week two-night-a-week speed class at Gateway. I was quite diligent with practicing, and the day soon came when I realized "I'm getting this!" I was then well prepared to take the CSR exam, passed it, and I was back!

Looking back, it was a great journey, and I wouldn't change anything about it. I enjoyed being home during those years with our kids but am so happy to be back in the court reporting world. With new technology and all, it has had its challenges, but I've met and worked with and been supported by so many wonderful people along the way that it's been a great experience coming back!!

Moral of Story: You can still do it!!!!

