

ARIZONA NOTES

Volume 51, Number 2

Summer 2023



President's Message

by Laura Ashbrook

Greetings All:

I am just “freshly” back from Houston, after attending the National Congress of State Associations, and, at the risk of sounding glib and/or resorting to a cliché: The State of our NCRA Union is **STRONG**.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the National Congress of State Associations organization, it is comprised of two delegate representatives/volunteers from each state, typically board members, but not necessarily. This calendar year your delegates are myself and Marty Herder.

NCSA is the “direct link” from state associations to national leaders. They are an amazing, dynamic group of folks. I was proud to be among them. As part of the session, we broke into groups, and each table was tasked with “brainstorming” a variety of issues affecting our profession, among them: how to engage membership in being more involved in their respective associations, how to get more steno programs in high schools and colleges, how to best to address AI issues at the state level, just to name a few.

During this uncertain period of time in our profession, with dwindling numbers, the threat of AI and digital recording - once again, to name a few - I am thrilled to report your national leadership is **STRONG** and up to the task of fighting these threats and getting students in schools!

NCRA has a “toolbox” full of resources to this end that - I admit - I have been under-utilizing. Until one attends conventions/gatherings at a national level, it is easy to forget how **STRONG** and supportive our national association continues to be.

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NCRA's lobbyist is Jocelyn Moore. She is as smart as a whip, energetic and very "connected" in helping state associations with their individual "threats du jour". Highlighted at our meeting were HUGE legislative gains made in Wisconsin, California and Indiana, in large part due to NCRA's assistance. I am certain as Arizona moves forward with digital recording challenges - our current "threat du jour" - National will be there to help every step of the way. Other states have had GREAT success in this fight, as I'm confident Arizona will be.

As far as students in schools, NCRA's A to Z steno program has enjoyed outstanding gains this year under the leadership of a fellow by the name of Max Curry. For those of you unaware of this program, A to Z is a FREE..... let me say that again..... FREE..... six-week online program for potential students to "test the waters" of court reporting and see if it is a career they'd like to pursue. I have become REALLY passionate about this program. It is brilliant and IT IS WORKING.

Enrollment in the program is UP; completion rates of the program are UP, enthusiasm about the profession is UP. As a matter of fact, the success of this program

has increased so rapidly, a lack of writers has become an issue. Max informed us he will working diligently this coming year to establish regional "writer repositories" to provide better access for students to writers.

So as an aside, any of those old writers you might have "laying around" because you don't want to throw them away but don't really have any use for them, let me know. I'll be happy to take them off your hands!

As you read these words, registration for the annual convention in September will have opened up. Our speaker line-up is well simply outstanding. The state of your ACRA board is also STRONG and has worked TIRELESSLY to make this one of the BEST conventions ever, and I'm certain it will be just that.

Prescott is a fabulous little town. The hotel is walking distance from courthouse square, shopping and Whiskey Row!! SOPLEASE.....get outta that heat and come JOIN US !!!

Peace. Laura

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COURT REPORTER

GOING TO A DEPOSITION



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CHANGING OF THE GUARD

BY: LAURA ASHBROOK

It was with equal parts sadness and gratitude that AzNotes bids Karen Kahle a fond farewell as the past editor of AzNotes and, at the same time, a big fat welcome and gratitude to board member Terry Libretti for being willing to step up and take on this very important role.(THANK YOU, Terry !!!)

Karen has been the editor/publisher of the Notes since I can remember. Karen herself can't precisely remember when she took the task over from Doreen Sutton, but believes it was around the time of the Millenium (remember that?)

I DO remember this: She took our board - at the time Facebook came into our world - reluctantly into the realm of social media, and I remember most of us on the board at the time being really skeptical about this new "thing" and thinking it'll pass and we'll just go back to the "old way" of doing things. Yeah, right.

Karen served ACRA in various board positions over the years, including president.

Karen freelanced for ten years prior to joining Pima County Superior Court in 1999 where she worked for 24 and a half years, reporting for Judge Michael Miller, until he went to the Court of Appeals, Judge Marner for two years. She became a court reporter manager for Pima County in January 2021 until her retirement JUST this year in June, when she and her stalker (as she lovingly refers to her husband ☺) hit the road in their Party Bus II and have been traveling the country since June. Well done and well deserved, my friend!

Karen, you have the heartfelt thanks of ALL of us for keeping the Notes alive and relevant all those years, begging, borrowing and what-ever-ing you had to do to gather articles and get it published on time.

I -WE - will miss you terribly.



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Welcome Back!

Many of you old-timers, such as myself, and some not-so-old-timers, will remember Robin Hirth.

She was the administrator for ACRA from 1999 until 2008.

When I learned of Kim's resignation (well-earned I might add) I went into panic mode over it. First of all, who could I even FIND to manage/administer our organization and, secondly, how long it would take to bring someone "up to speed" on what it is we do, how we do it, our finances, our conventions, blah, blah, blah. It is no small feat to run this group!

I Googled the name I remembered from years ago of Robin's company AND.....she answered the phone..... AND..... was still in the business of managing organizationsAND.....was willing to take ACRA back on. I about broke into tears; I mean it.

So.....I would like you all to join me in a HUGE shout-out to Robin for being willing and able to come "back on board" with ACRA. She will be at the convention in Prescott, for those of you who haven't met her, to have the opportunity to do so, and for "us old-timers," to re-connect with an old friend.





BY MARTY HERDER

The words "honored" and "privileged" are bandied about frequently, but what better way to express the week just experienced in Houston at the 2023 National Court Reporters Association.

It was beyond rewarding to be surrounded by hundreds of other talented professionals, each upbeat and driven to positively impact and promote our unique collaborative culture. I had the privilege to represent Arizona along with Pres. Laura Ashbrook as Delegates at the National Congress of State Associations. Her leadership and commitment throughout the past year with NCSA has been nothing less than impressive. While at the helm of ACRA she's still found time to be a well-respected and popular voice nationally. She has represented Arizona well.

We were graced with some of the best speakers in NCRA history on poignant topics such as technology, AI, sustainability, business management, and so much more. Our new marketing dynamo Shaunice Day and her "Steno In The City" team held a private gala as well which had all the ingredients of a Hollywood "Red Carpet" night.

The City of Houston was a fun venue, and the Downtown Hyatt was a massive and beautiful home for 5 days to some of the most dynamic and accomplished members of our profession. Another eye-opener was so many young people. It was a tangible and exciting vibe with lots of brand-new reporters and dozens and dozens of students from around the country! So much was packed into each exciting day, from Speed Contests that get more and more competitive each year, to NCRA's 2023 Distinguished Service Award to Heidi Thomas, to Nancy Hop being bestowed the 2023 Jim Bouley Family Lifetime Award for Altruism presented by our very own homeboy, 007, Mike Bouley, to the NCRA Case Award of Excellence recipient Jennifer Sati, to three NCRF's Carl Saucedo Grant recipients, and many, many more. Be sure to catch all the highlights and fun photos online.

Meeting a person at an association event can completely change the trajectory of your career. Nothing even compares to the personal interactions, the connections, and the experiences we reporters have when we get together in person. Let's do it again! What we get out of it is exponential with memories that last a lifetime.

Prescott is going to be Off The Hook! Register today. We can't wait to see you!



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BRIEF CORNER

Court Briefs		Deposition Briefs	
POEAF or PEU*P	Petition for Postconviction Relief	RMDZ	reasonable degree of medical certainty
PRUNS	Presumption of innocence	UMD	You may answer the question
PLB	plea bargain	VUFRP	Have you ever had your deposition taken before
RRS	right to remain silent	HR-DS	left side
UFLS	under the influence	R-DS	right side
FREUBT(S)	field sobriety test(s)	WOUFR	Would you rephrase
KHREFD or KHRAEFD	clear and convincing evidence	WOUFRTS	Would you rephrase the question
Generic Briefs		Drug Briefs	
SDOEFR	Discovery	AED or A*ED	antidepressant
AKD	Academy	AEFT or AE*FT	anti-inflammatory
WOERD	We are on the record	AEFM	amphetamine
WOERBD	We are back on the record	FE*NT	fentanyl
KRO*ITS	Citizen of the United States	OE*BGS	OxyContin
WEX	What happened next	OE*PN	oxycodone
OFD	off the record	PERBGT	Percocet



DIGITAL AGENCIES

SAY WHAT?



- **GUARDIANS OF THE RECORD**
- **VERBATIM ACCURACY GUARANTEED**
- **A.I. TECHNOLOGY, STATE OF THE ART**

- **NEAR TIME**
- **LIVE TEXT STREAM IN LESS THAN A MINUTE**
- **STENOGRAPHICALLY TRANSCRIBED**

- **MULTIPLE TRANSCRIPTIONISTS**
- **CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPTS**



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PROTECT THE RECORD!



EDUCATING ATTORNEYS AND SECRETARIES

GET THE WORD OUT

- Digital recorders are not certified in Arizona
- Agencies attempting to get attorneys to stipulate

GRASSROOT EFFORTS

- Let the attorneys and secretaries know to specify on the NOD the method of recording
- Hand out or send the Rule 30 ACRA flyer
- Note your credentials on all correspondence and transcripts
- Display your credentials on remote proceedings



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MARCH 2022

BROUGHT TO YOU BY ACRA

ATTENTION ARIZONA ATTORNEYS

COURT REPORTERS IN ARIZONA MUST BE CERTIFIED

Knowing the court rules and existing laws in Arizona regarding certified court reporters is more important than ever.

You may be surprised to find an uncertified "digital reporter" appear at your deposition. Be aware that in Arizona, court reporters must be certified according to law AND court reporting firms must be registered in Arizona with the Arizona Certification and Licensing division.

A.R.S. § 32-4003(A) provides "A person shall not report proceedings in any court in this state and shall not report depositions in this state for use in any court in this state unless the person is certified pursuant to this chapter."

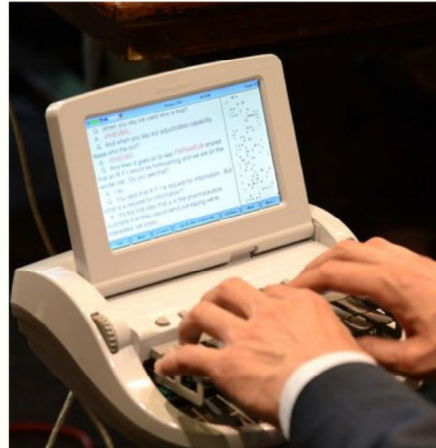
A.R.S. § 32-4003(D) provides: "It is unlawful for any person who is not certified pursuant to this chapter to represent oneself as a certified reporter." For eligibility to report a verbatim record in any sworn proceeding in this state for use in any court in this state, all persons shall hold a valid certificate and comply with the requirements of this section. Certified reporting is integrally related to the prompt, effective and impartial operation of the judicial system.

ACJA Section 7-206 "Registered reporting firm" means an individual or entity that is registered pursuant to this section and for compensation offers to provide or provides reporting services or related services but does not personally provide the service as a certified reporter.

All Arizona certified reporters MUST include their license number on their business cards, all correspondence, and transcripts. If you don't see it, ask for it to be provided.

You may also contact the Arizona Court Reporters Association and we will assist you in finding a certified reporter and provide information to file a complaint if an uncertified digital reporter appears at your deposition.

We are here to help you protect the record.



IS YOUR COURT REPORTER CERTIFIED AND LICENSED TO TAKE DEPOSITIONS IN ARIZONA?

HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO STIPULATE TO USING A "DIGITAL REPORTER" TO COVER YOUR DEPOSITION?

DIGITAL REPORTERS ARE NOT CERTIFIED TO PERFORM COURT REPORTING SERVICES IN ARIZONA

SPECIFY ON YOUR NOTICE OF DEPOSITION IT WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE A CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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LEGISLATIVE FUNDRAISING

LOBBYING EFFORTS TO PROTECT OUR PROFESSION AGAINST DIGITAL RECORDERS

Donate Now



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- Remote Depositions are easy prey for digital agencies.
- Following in California's footsteps to prohibit any other persons, except as specified, from using the title, or any words or symbols, that indicate or tend to indicate they are a certified shorthand reporter. CA AB156
- We need your help to bring forth a bill to pass the same law here in Arizona.



<https://www.acraonline.org/Donate>



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Thank You

ACRA wants to thank **Kim Portik** for all of her hard work as the Executive Director for the past 5 years.

Kim, you have been and will continue to be an integral part of our profession and we cannot thank you enough for all the tireless hours and hard work on behalf of the Association and its members.

Thank you!

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF



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VOTE SEPTEMBER 16, 2023



ACRA WILL TAKE A VOTE ON WHETHER VOICE WRITERS CAN JOIN THE ASSOCIATION.

LANGUAGE WILL GO OUT TO ALL MEMBERS FOR THE BYLAW CHANGES.



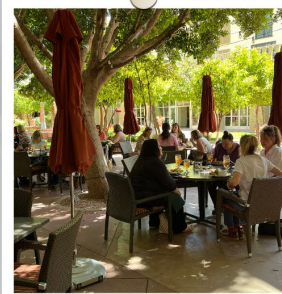
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2023
Midyear Seminar
Facing the Future Together



Tempe Mission Palms



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PINAL COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT NOW HIRING

Official Court Reporter - Pinal County Superior Court

Florence, Arizona

Date Posted : Jul. 28, 2023

Date Closed :

Pinal County Superior Court is currently seeking applicants for the full-time position of official court reporter. Applicants must have a high school diploma, two years of professional experience as a court reporter, and are required to have their RPR certification. This position is responsible for recording verbatim notes of trial court proceedings, hearings, and conferences by stenotype machine and providing transcripts of these notes as required. Salary range is \$45,969 - \$71,252 plus transcript pay. All equipment including steno machine, laptop computer, docking station, software, software support, and all printing and binding supplies are provided. Resumes may be submitted to:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pinalcounty/jobs/4133485/court-reporter?page=2&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>.

For more information, you may contact Dana Valles, Court Reporter Supervisor, at dvalles@courts.az.gov



ArizoNotes is published quarterly and e-mailed to members of the Arizona Court Reporters Association, 70 S. Val Vista Dr., Suite A3-602 Gilbert, AZ 85296. Please send address changes to ACRA at the above address or to office@acraonline.org or (480) 496-4010. The ACRA website is at acraonline.org and pdf copies of past issues are available for viewing. Please send editorial submissions to Terry Libretti at office@acraonline.org. The editorials and other views expressed in ArizoNotes are not necessarily those of the Association, its officers or its members. Advertising rates and information are also available from Robin Hirth at office@acraonline.org or (480) 496-4010.



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