



# BOARDlines

Arizona Court Reporters Association

## BOARDLINES - JULY 2016

Hi, friends!

I hope this letter finds you in good health, good spirits and in the swing of a lovely summer!

Are you staying hydrated and keeping cool?

I want to catch you up on what's been going on here at ACRA-HQ, and wow, has it been busy!

Vice President **Kim Portik**, with a little help from her friends, has assembled an amazing lineup for the **Annual Convention Sept. 10-11, returning to the lovely La Paloma Resort in Tucson!** Watch for further details, but this is one you will not want to miss! The convention itself is September 10-11. **Danielle and Pam Griffin** are once again chairing the **Jim Bouley Memorial Speed Contest on Friday, September 9!** Please come compete, and see if you can get your name inscribed on the Traveling Trophy with the likes of the greatest champions! Show your stuff!

Kim has done another outstanding job with this convention, and we are grateful!

Next, we had a very big issue arise recently when Presiding Judge Barton of MCSC proposed a rule change that would have made ER the official record over a Certified Reporter if the reporter was not a direct employee of the court. This would have been disastrous for litigants, the profession, and the record itself.

Fortunately, ACRA's **Carolyn Sullivan** assembled a working group of some of our best minds, and along with **ACRA attorney Jimmy Cool**, they were able to build consensus among the Bar, both plaintiffs and defense, to weigh in on the matter, opposing the change.

NCRA President Stephen Zinone wrote in on behalf of 16,000 reporters across the nation, all in opposition to the proposed rule change.

In the end, the proposed rule change was withdrawn, and ACRA had achieved a great victory for all

our membership. The dedication of the leaders and helpers on this issue was superb. It was a proposal that we felt would have devastating consequences not only for freelancers who are infrequently asked to work in court, but also for the officials who work there every day. After all, if ER can be declared superior to one certified reporter, how long until it is declared superior to any other? This was a battle we felt we had to wage.

We went to work, and we prevailed. My hat's off to Carolyn, Jimmy, Leslie Foldy, and the entire group. Beautifully done!

We also want to educate attorneys that they are entitled to request an official reporter whenever they go to court.

On another upbeat note, **Fundraising Chair Kate Roudy** recently sent you all a bag of Gratitude Tea! We invite you, as the note says, to enjoy the tea, reflect on all the great things reporting has brought you, and if you feel inclined, send in a



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donation to help continue to fund our powerful and effective association!

The best way to keep the great returns coming is to keep investing in our career and our association!

I've sent mine! Will you?

And speaking of support,

**Arizona's own Doreen Sutton is running for NCRA's Vice**

**President** position, and she asks for your vote in August during the NCRA convention when voting is open online! There is a limited voting window, and every vote counts! Please take the time to vote for Doreen! In addition to her NCRA duties and working, Doreen continues to mentor students and teach beginning stenotype to potential students to guide them into making a good decision about their careers! Doreen is the bomb!

Who says Board service is not fun? I, along with **President-elect Diane Donohoe, secretary Haley Westra, Kate Roundy and executive director Dick Borgmann**, attended the Arizona Bar Association Convention happy hour party on Thursday, June 16. The theme was Caribbean! The steel drum band had the mood light and fun!

Your ACRA representatives did

a wonderful job of expressing our appreciation of the long and strong relationship between court reporters and the Bar, and our continuing pledge of service and friendship! An excellent night of PR on behalf of reporters! Thanks to the team!

In the following days, Dick got out of his beach attire, and along with several of the Board members, has done significant rearranging of our by-laws in order to streamline them and bring them in line with our goals. Once some final tweaks are made, we will present them to you, the membership, to review and vote upon the proposed changes at the business meeting at La Paloma Saturday, September 10. I think you'll approve of the job Dick and his group have done, proving once again how lucky we are to have him on our team!

Furthermore, Dick and our web designer, **Cindy Interdonato**, have collaborated to improve our web services as well as reduce our monthly expense. That, friends, is value added. Our heartfelt thanks to both of them!

What else has your Board been up to? We continue to strategize when/how to go to the legislature to ask for a page rate increase for officials, something they

haven't had in nearly 30 years. If and when we decide to act, we will need support in the form of money and people to help us with lobbying efforts. There is no doubt it's overdue. I'd encourage all officials to get other officials to join ACRA if they are not already members. There is always strength in numbers!

And while we're on the topic, please encourage any of your colleagues who are not current with their membership to please get current. Our switch over to web-based registration from the paper forms of renewal have left too many of our friends with expired registrations. Let's get everyone caught up so we are at full strength!

So, do you want to know a secret? Then you'll have to come to the **Annual Convention September 10-11**, because that's when the **ACRA 2016 Distinguished Service Award** will be presented! **DSA Chair Marty Herder** and his elite committee vetted the candidates and did their due diligence. I dare you to try and get it out of Marty! We'll all have to wait until Annual!

But here's something that's not a secret: ACRA will be a sponsor in the **Arizona Walk4Hearing** on

November 12, 2016!

Our ACRA logo will be on the Fundraiser Brochure, and a team of ACRA members will walk to raise funds in support of the Hearing Loss Association of America, a partner of our captioners and CART providers. We are honored to give back to the community that puts their trust and loyalty in our members! Watch for an email blast inviting you to participate!

In other news, the Supreme Court CR Board, who oversee our licensure, is still in need of an official reporter member. Please consider applying if you qualify. Please contact an ACRA Board member if you are interested. Although I've been told of some who have applied, there has been no movement to our knowledge on filling the position. We would

love to get the official reporter opening on that board filled, giving another reporter's voice to the issues they oversee.

Friends, these are just a few highlights of what your ACRA Board and committee members have been doing on behalf of membership as well as the profession. The bottom line is we continue to be a strong association, shaping our field and our future. Our budget numbers continue to improve, though we want to be better still. And everything that happens is because of people: People like you, who contribute in various ways, and people like the Board, who willingly step forward to give of their time and effort.

Every member counts. Every member has value. **Save the date of September 10-11 for the**

**Annual Convention in Tucson, headlined by the amazing Jason Schechterle** and his inspiring presentation. Send in your Gratitude Tea gift if you have one. Encourage your colleagues to be sure to join us.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity to be your President. It is an honor and a privilege. I wish you could see what I see as your ACRA team works for you, for the profession, for us all. They are so impressive.

I can assure you, the leaders of the past look down and smile, knowing ACRA is in such good hands. I am humbled by it all, and grateful.

Much love,

**Mike Bouley**