



NEWSCRIBER

• A Quarterly Publication of the Nebraska Court Reporters Association •

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Angela Comeau, RMR, CSR, CRR, CCR



Happy Spring to everyone. I just love this time of year. Warm weather always seems to give me renewed energy.

NeCRA has had a busy first quarter of the year. We have launched our new Web site. I hope all of the members find it user friendly and informative. It was an exciting project. Thank you for writing letters to the Revenue Committee regarding LB 385 and LB 386.

The bills were killed.

NCRA has developed and launched two new certifications, the NCRA Realtime Systems Administrator and the NCRA Trial Presentation Professional. There will be workshops at the annual convention in Washington, DC in August. Following the workshops, tests will be given for certification. If you have never been to a national convention or it's been awhile, I encourage you to attend. It is a great way to rejuvenate and motivate yourself. NCRA plans so many great seminars and social functions. I have such a good time reconnecting with reporters across the country. We all understand each other!

I look forward to seeing you all at the convention in Kearney June 3-4.

Angela Comeau, RMR, CRR, CSR, CRR

What's Inside

- 1 **President's Message**
Page 1, 3
- 3 **NECRA Educational Seminar Registration**
Page 3
- 4 **NECRA Educational Seminar Agenda**
Page 4
- 5 **NECRA Meeting Minutes**
Page 5
- 6 **Treasurers Report**
Page 6
- 7 **Bylaws Amendments**
Page 7 & 8
- 12 **Join NECRA**
Page 12
- 13 **NECRA (CCR) Application**
Page 13

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ISSUE DEADLINES

Fall Issue - August 15, 2009
Winter Issue - December 1, 2009
Spring Issue - February 15, 2010
Summer Issue - April 15, 2010

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(per year)

Full page | Scribe \$100 Web \$200
1/2 Page | Scribe \$50 Web \$100
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Any opinions expressed in THE SCRIBE are solely those of the authors. Advertising in THE SCRIBE does not imply endorsement of the vendor.

**NECRA EDUCATIONAL
SEMINAR AGENDA
RAMADA INN OF KEARNEY, NE
JUNE 3 & 4, 2009**

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

- 8:30 to 12:00 Pursuing Punctuation Perfection
Part I and Part II - Lillian Morson
(.3 CEUs)
- 12:00 to 1:15 Lunch
- 1:15 to 3:30 Medical Terminology
Colleen Quadhamer
(.20 CEUs)
- 3:45 to 4:45 Cameras in the Courts
District Judge Paul Korslund and Janet Bancroft
(.1 CEU)
- 8:00 p.m. Annual Spelling Bee
Lisa Hagman, RPR
(.1 CEU)

Thursday, June 4, 2009

- 8:30 to 9:30 Beatrice Murder Cases X 5
Corey O'Brien/Doug Stratton
(.15 CEUs)
- 9:45 to 10:45 Recordkeeping in Russia
Gary Latimer, RPR,RMR, RDR
(.10 CEU)
- 10:45 to 11:45 Courtroom Security
Chris West
(.10 CEU)

**NEBRASKA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
BUSINESS MEETING - OMAHA, NE
OCTOBER 24, 2008**

The business meeting of the Nebraska Court Reporters Association (NeCRA) was held on October 24, 2008, at the Marriott Hotel & Convention Center in Omaha, Nebraska. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by NeCRA President Angela Comeau. President Comeau began the meeting by thanking Jill Albracht and Kami Hooey for their hard work in planning the convention.

President Comeau introduced the National Representative, Nate Smith, NCRA Senior Government Relations Specialist.

Sue DeVetter moved to approve the minutes, as printed in the Scribe. The motion was seconded by Brooke Downing. Motion carried. Julie Pell moved to approve the treasurer's report, as printed in the Scribe. The motion was seconded by Andrea Freeny. Motion carried.

The CCR Committee reported that Rogene Schroeder and Lisa Hagman are stepping down from the committee; and that Andrea Freeny and Caroline Miller will begin their terms on the CCR Committee.

It was announced that Brenda Fauber would be taking over the Legislative Committee for Gary Latimer, who has retired. There were no other committee reports.

Sonya Kennedy, Editor, reported to the membership that the Scribe "went green." All further issues will be sent via e-mail, unless requested to be mailed.

President Comeau presented Gary Latimer with a plaque thanking him for his many contributions to NeCRA and NOCRA.

Inquiry was made regarding completing seminar registration online. No action was taken.

Brooke Downing thanked the officers for an interesting and educational seminar.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Matisha M. Stratton, RMR, CCR,
Secretary-Treasurer

**NEBRASKA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
TREASURERS REPORT
AUGUST 16, 2008 TO APRIL 15, 2009**

CASH ON HAND AS OF AUGUST 16, 2008
\$26,369.33

RECEIPTS:

Interest	35.93
Dues 2008/2009	1,875.00
Dues 2009/2010	75.00
Legislative Assessment 2008/2009	200.00
2008 Spring Seminar	100.00
Advertising	150.00
CCR	1,400.00
NCRA Refunds	60.00
2008 Fall Seminar	3,625.00
Adjustment for Checks not Cleared	65.29
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$7,586.22

DISBURSEMENTS:

Ruth, Mueller & Robak - Lobbyist Expenses	5,700.00
2008 Fall Seminar Expense	9,164.29
2009 Spring Seminar Expense to NCRA	230.00
Hayes & Associates Accounting Fees 2008 tax filings	50.00
Post Office Box	56.00
Scribe Expense	322.49
Refunds	275.00
2008 Leadership Expenses	1,645.93
Suhr Grant	160.00
Voluntary Cert. Committee Expense	38.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	\$17,641.71

TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF APRIL 15, 2009
\$16,313.84

Respectfully submitted,
Matisha M. Stratton, RMR, CCR
Secretary-Treasurer

NCRA NOTICE OF PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT #1:

ARTICLE III

Section 3 – Participating Members

- ~~a) Any person who is skilled and primarily engaged in the verbatim stenographic reporting of proceedings by the use of symbols, manually or by stenographic machine, as an official court or legislative reporter, freelance reporter, CART provider, or captioner shall be eligible to become a Participating Member.~~
- ~~b) All Participating Member applicants shall be required to be endorsed in writing by a Voting Member (as defined herein).~~

Rationale

The current endorsement requirement is antiquated and of questionable legal enforceability, since it would be difficult (if challenged) to sustain a decision to refuse membership to a verbatim stenographic reporter who is otherwise eligible to join. The “prior written endorsement” requirement creates unproductive red tape and is a hindrance to one of the most compelling needs NCRA faces: reaching and encouraging more verbatim stenographic reporters to become members of NCRA. Deleting the language does not in any way change who is eligible to become a member. It merely eliminates an inconvenience to eligible, verbatim stenographic reporters seeking to join NCRA.

AMENDMENT #2:

ARTICLE III

Section 4 – Registered Members

- a) Any Participating Member who passes the Registered Professional Reporter examination, the Certified Broadcast Captioner examination, or the Certified CART Provider examination, or who was a Professional member in good standing on July 21, 1993, shall be eligible to become a Registered Member.
- b) Any legal videographer who has earned the Certified Legal Video Specialist (CLVS) certification shall be eligible to become a Registered Member.

Rationale

This amendment was proposed by the CLVS Council to help give the CLVS certification the full weight it has earned over its 25-year history with NCRA. Currently, members who pass the RPR, CBC, or CCP exam are eligible for Registered Membership; approval of the amendment would permit persons holding the CLVS certification to also become Registered Members. Like RPRs, CBCs, and CCPs, CLVSs have demonstrated minimum standards of professional practice by passing both a written knowledge and skills test. They are also bound by the same code of ethics as court reporting members. Making this bylaws change would help strengthen the relationship between the legal videographer and the court reporter by encouraging the development of an ethical, productive, and mutually beneficial relationship between the professions.

The CLVS program was developed in 1983, and there are currently approximately 860 professionals holding the certification. In addition to the comprehensive CLVS Seminar & Forum events held biannually and online community resources, the Council has also provided continuing education seminars at the Midyear and Annual Conventions, as well as increased offerings of the CLVS Production Examination.

Additionally, a long-term goal of the CLVS Council is to have the value of this certification recognized in the legal video industry in the same way it has in the court reporting industry. NCRA sets minimum certification standards for court reporters, and many states have adopted NCRA standards as their basis for employment. Allowing CLVSs to hold Registered Membership will provide the community with a platform to establish certification standards in the legal video industry at the state level in the same way it has aided the court reporting industry.

The purpose of this amendment is to help differentiate the CLVS program as a high-end, high-quality educational offering while providing continued awareness of professional standards for competency in the capture, utilization, and retention of legal video while promoting awareness of these standards to the legal community.

AMENDMENT #3:

ARTICLE III

Section 5 – Student Members

- a) Any student confirmed to be enrolled in a verbatim stenographic reporting program or a scoping program shall be eligible to become a Student Member.
- b) Student Members shall not vote.

Rationale

Currently scoping students can only join as associate members (\$145 per year dues plus an initial \$10 application fee, as compared to the \$65 per year dues and no application fee for student reporters). In addition, scoping students are not eligible for student discounts on store products, student discounts at convention, student scholarships, tuition grants, etc. Scoping students often follow the same curriculum as reporting students, and scoping is a common alternative career path for students who discover they are not suited to reporting after entering a program. The C&B Committee and the Board believe that scoping students should receive the same member benefits as reporting students.

This is to provide official notice that amendments to NCRA's Constitution and Bylaws have been proposed.

The proposals have been submitted in a manner consistent with all requirements of Article XVIII, Section 1 of the Constitution and Bylaws ("Originating Proposed Amendments").

In accordance with Article XVIII, Section 2 ("Procedure and Action on Proposed Amendments"), notice is hereby given to all Members that the following amendment proposals will be voted upon at the next annual business meeting of the membership, August 6, 2009, at the Gaylord National, National Harbor, Md.

To be approved, the amendment requires a two-thirds vote of the Voting Members who are present at the annual business meeting as well as the Voting Members who are voting by electronic mail or other authorized means of electronic transmission.

(The full text of NCRA's Constitution and Bylaws can be found at www.NCRAonline.org – search on Constitution and Bylaws.)

The language to be added is underlined. Language being stricken is indicated by a strikethrough.

NECRA CCR CEUs REMINDER

Congratulations to Jody White, who was the first CCR to report all of the earned continuing education units that she needed for her first cycle!

You don't need to report CEUs throughout the year, but please be aware of where you stand on accumulating your credits. Remember, most CCRs need 3 CEUs earned before September 30, 2009!

If you want to report earned CEUs, you may send them by e-mail to suedevetter@yahoo.com or mail them to Voluntary Certification Committee, NeCRA, P.O. Box 113, Omaha, NE 68101.

Lincoln Journal Star 2/23/09

MUELLER AND ROBAK AMONG THE BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA RUTH MUELLER ROBAK LLC

William J. Mueller and Kim M. Robak of Ruth Mueller Robak LLC have each been selected by their peers for inclusion in the 2009 edition of "The Best Lawyers in America" in the field of government relations law.

Best Lawyers is a referral guide used by lawyers and clients seeking counsel in unfamiliar jurisdictions and specialty areas. The selection process is based on a peer-review survey consisting of several thousand leading attorneys evaluating the legal abilities of other attorneys in their specialized fields.

Ruth Mueller Robak LLC is one of the premier government relations firms in Nebraska. The professionals of Ruth Mueller Robak LLC have an active and respected presence before the Nebraska State Legislature and agencies of state government. The firm's offices are located in Lincoln

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND!

Christine Salerno shows extra dedication
by taking depo in the snow!



DON'T FORGET...

- **To pay your legislative assessment!**
It was through our lobbyist's efforts and your contribution and support by paying your legislative assessment that helped get LB 916 passed.
- **If you need CEU's, you need to register through NeCRA. JBE points are offered free through the state. CEUs are attained through NeCRA**
- **We are always looking for people to fill committee and officer seats. If you are interested in serving on a committee or becoming an officer, please notify an officer of NeCRA!**
- **That NeCRA has a new website visit www.necra.us**

JOIN NECRA TODAY!

APPLICATION FORM

I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE NEBRASKA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION AND ENCLOSE MY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE YEAR. PLEASE CHECK THE CORRECT MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY.

_____ FREELANCE MEMBERSHIP (\$75.00) Freelance Membership in this Association shall be limited to any person who is a writer of shorthand, manual or machine, and who is or has been engaged in the active practice of law reporting or general reporting in this state.

_____ OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP (\$75.00) Official membership in this Association shall be limited to any person who is a writer of shorthand, manual or machine, and who is or has been an officially appointed shorthand reporter in a court in this state.

_____ INSTRUCTOR MEMBERSHIP (\$40.00) Instructor membership in this Association shall be limited to any person who is an instructor in an NCRA-approved court reporter education program.

_____ STUDENT MEMBERSHIP (\$20.00) Student membership in this Association shall be limited to any person who is enrolled in a course of study in shorthand reporting. Such student member shall not vote or hold office in this Association.

_____ RETIRED MEMBERSHIP (N/C) Retired membership in this Association shall be limited to any person who has been in good standing for a period of twenty (20) years and is no longer in the active practice of shorthand reporting. Such retired member shall not vote or hold office and shall be exempt from the payment of dues.

_____ HONORARY MEMBERSHIP (N/C) Honorary membership in this Association shall be a person who has rendered some special service to this organization or to the reporting profession. Such honorary member may be elected by majority vote at the annual meeting of this organization, and shall not vote, nor hold office, and shall be exempt from the payment of dues.

PLEASE LIST YOUR CORRECT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FOR THE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY. MAIL THIS FORM, ALONG WITH YOUR DUES, TO THE SECRETARY/ TREASURER. NOTE: Membership will expire on May 31st of each year. Annual dues payments include a one-year subscription to The Scribe, published quarterly by neCRA. Please make check payable to NeCRA.

NAME: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

BUSINESS PHONE: (____) _____ PHONE: (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____

DOB: _____ M _____ F _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME ADDRESS (optional): _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

_____ Freelance Firm: _____

_____ Official Judge: _____

_____ CAT System: _____

_____ Member in good standing of NCRA since _____

_____ RPR _____ RMR _____ RDR _____ CCR _____ STATE CSR (Indicate state) _____ OTHER

Signature: _____ New _____ Renewal _____ Dated: _____

WELCOME TO THE NEBRASKA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION!

**Application for NeCRA
Certified Court Reporter (CCR)**

Voluntary Certification

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone No.(s): _____

At this time are you the current holder of the designation of RPR_____, RMR_____, RDR_____, CRR_____, or any other (_____) designation you have obtained by meeting the requirements established by the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA); and/or are you a current holder of active certification from any other state? If so, which state(s)? _____

Please attach proof of all certifications with application.

Are you a member in good standing, including payment of dues, of the Nebraska Court Reporters Association (NeCRA)? Yes _____

No, but I am including my dues payment of \$75 herewith. _____

Please send this CCR application and \$30 fee, payable to NeCRA, (along with your NeCRA membership application and \$75 dues fee, if applicable) to:

Voluntary Certification Committee
Nebraska Court Reporters Association
P.O. Box 113
Omaha, NE 68101

NeCRA Voluntary Certification Program Section 5(B)(1) requires an applicant to be a member of NeCRA. Section 7(B) requires \$30 initial application fee, with renewal of \$20 due September 30th of each year.

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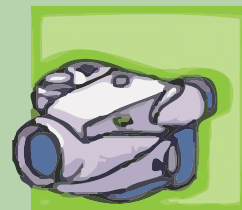
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WANTED:



Any and all interesting news items. Whether it's a trial you reported or a human interest story, share your insight and experiences.

Have you had a change of address, telephone, fax or e-mail? Please notify the NeCRA secretary at necrasecretary@yahoo.com of any changes so that you will continue to receive THE SCRIBE and other NeCRA mailings.



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The Nebraska Court Reporters Association is always looking for committee members. Please email Angela at Angelatin_2000@yahoo.com if interested

THE SCRIBE

Sonya Kennedy, Editor
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Omaha, NE 68183
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TO: YOUR NAME HERE!

Calendar of EVENTS

Nocra (JBE) Summer Meeting

June 3 & 4
Kearney, NE

ICRA Annual Convention

June 17-19, 2009
West Des Moines, IA

**NCRA 2009 Annual Convention
& Expo**

August 6-9
Gaylord National Resort
& Convention Center
National Harbor, MD (metro DC area)

NECRA Annual Meeting

October 16, 2009
Omaha, NE