

WINTER Scribe

• A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION •

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KAMI HOOEY, CSR, CRR, CCR



WOW! Where has the time gone? It seems like yesterday when I got the call from Sonya asking if I would be interested in serving as an officer in the Nebraska Court Reporter's Association. Well, that was three years ago and now, here I am as the new president: a very scary, yet exciting position.

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Kami Hooey. I am an official reporter in the Eighth Judicial District, which is located in north central Nebraska. My judge and I cover seven counties, spanning over 100 miles one way.

I can honestly tell you that I love the profession of court reporting. I can honestly tell you that I love my job. I love trials. I love working with the judges and attorneys. I am very proud to sit in the front of the courtroom and capture every word.

But, before you start to call me completely insane, let me clarify. What I love is proceedings where there are only two attorneys that speak at about 160 words per minute, maybe speeding up to 180 words per minute, and kindly wait to speak until the other is finished talking, and a witness who answers, yes, sir, no, sir, please and thank you.

That scenario is a court reporter's dream scenario. But, even though that is a very rare occurrence, I still love this job -- fast, interruptive talkers and all -- and I want to do anything and everything I can to fight for our profession and to keep it strong. And, I can assure you that our NeCRA board members have the same love of this profession as I do, and we will all strive to do our best to represent this association.

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Business card* | Scribe \$10 Web \$50

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* \$5.00 for members

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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.

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I urge anyone, if you have a question, an issue, a suggestion or a comment, good or bad, please contact myself or a board member and discuss it with us. We may not know the answer right on the spot, but I assure you we will do what we can to find an answer or solution.

I look forward to all the new challenges and opportunities that 2010 will bring us personally and in our beloved profession of court reporting.

Kami Hooey, RPR, CRR, CCR

HISTORY OF NeCRA and NOCRA

I recently read an article about the history of state court reporting associations and thought it would be interesting to find out the history of the Nebraska Court Reporter's Association. If you have any information, old newsletters, any kind of information on when NeCRA was formed, what some of the issues were when the association first started, who some of the members were, how many members there were, anything you think would be of interest, or if you know who I could contact to gather this information, please e-mail Kami at kamisue@msn.com or call me at 402-340-0755.

Merriam-Webster's Word of the Year 2009

The 2009 Merriam-Webster's Words of the Year list is based on actual user lookups to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary and Online Thesaurus. This year's traffic was generated by topics and events ranging from Michael Jackson to H1N1 to the recession and, of course, politics. The word of the year that received the highest intensity of searches over the shortest period of time is "admonish."

"Admonish shot to the top of the list three days after Rep. Joe Wilson's outburst during a speech made by President Obama, and it remained among our top lookups for weeks," said Peter A. Sokolowski, Merriam-Webster's Editor at Large. "When the House announced plans to 'admonish' Rep. Wilson, the word was understood to be technical or official, and it has been repeated often in coverage of recent contentious political issues. While this particular story wasn't very important in the context of a year's worth of news, it triggered enormous interest in this word."

Traffic to Merriam-Webster.com now exceeds 1.3 billion individual page views per year. On average, there are approximately ten lookup requests in the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary or Thesaurus per second. During peak hours, this may increase to more than 100 requests per second.

Merriam-Webster's #1 Word of the Year for 2009:

1. admonish (verb)

: to express warning or disapproval to especially in a gentle, earnest, or solicitous manner

**Printed from www.merriam-webster.com

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Sonya M. Kennedy, CSR, CCR

I hope this letter finds you all in good spirits and well wishes for the New Year. It seems like all of us are so busy with our schedules and the calendar just keeps flipping away!

I'll just get right down to the nuts and bolts of this letter, and that is, **I NEED HELP!!!!** There are a lot of members out there and a lot of different views and/or opinions, things that have come up, new cases that are interesting, that could be excellent articles for The Scribe. I am one person, and it's becoming increasingly difficult to find new things to put in The Scribe without the help of the membership. It is, of course, a membership newsletter, and it needs to have more than one member's opinions and thoughts about what should be put in.

I also have put in hard-and-fast deadline dates. They're listed on the second page. These will be adhered to explicitly. I will also be sending out a reminder to all of the membership as well (begging) so articles or submissions can be done in a timely manner.

I'm sorry if this comes across as harsh or begging, but I am wanting and needing some help with articles. We have a great membership out there, and I'm sure there are lots of great things to be said. So please put pen to paper, start typing away, send smoke signals, rock tablets, I'll take anything!!!

Please have a safe and wonderful New Year, keep warm, and I'll be looking forward to hearing from a lot of you in the future!

**NEBRASKA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING - OMAHA, NE
OCTOBER 16, 2009**

The NeCRA Fall Convention was held October 16, 2009 at the DoubleTree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center in Omaha.

Our first speakers were Hugh G. Hermanek and Michael D. McDevitt of Hancock & Dana PC, Certified Public Accountants. The two CPAs covered a myriad of topics for tax planning and preparation. We were given helpful hints regarding recordkeeping and what the IRS will be looking for in the event of an audit.



Next, Karen Kangas Dwyer, Ph.D., Professor and Public Speaking Program Director at the University of Nebraska at Omaha School of Communication presented Conquer Your Speech Anxiety. Dr. Dwyer explained the BASICS (Behavior, Affect, Sensation, Imagery, Cognition and Stress) that describes personality dimensions and gave us suggestions in how to cope with our individual fears regarding public speaking. I am pretty sure I am the poster child for “Fear of Public Speaking,” and found this seminar to be very enlightening.



After lunch and the NeCRA business meeting, NCRA Representative Shirley Hall presented Steno Swap. We were given briefs and tips to help make writing easier, faster and more accurate. Many attendees also added to the Steno Swap list and volunteered more ways to write certain briefs. How many times have I written “Is that a yes?” in four strokes? Too many to count. I didn’t even know there was a brief for “Have you ever had your deposition taken before?” That’s nine strokes for me. Incorporating a few briefs a week has helped make my job easier. I just have to make sure I ALWAYS have realtime set up during depositions because I don’t want to get stumped when reading back.



Finally, our last chance for CEUs for the day involved a road trip to Soaring Wings Vineyard in Springfield, Nebraska. Once there we were given the background of the business and an explanation of the different varieties of wine offered at the winery. Everyone received five tickets and a wineglass, and the wine tasting began. Visiting with each other while sipping wine and eating cheese and crackers was the perfect ending for a long day in a boardroom. Also, I found that wine may be another coping mechanism for conquering speech anxiety, IRS audits, and can possibly help one relax after a long day behind that little steno machine.

Thank you to everyone who attended the NeCRA Fall Convention. I hope you enjoyed your day.

Jill Albracht
President Elect
NeCRA



**2009 DALE THEIS
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
RECIPIENT**

CONGRATULATIONS JULIE BELLIS



DON'T FORGET...

- It's time for Court Reporters to change the year from 2009 to 2010 in our "include" files (cover pages, certificate pages, etc.)
- 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: _____

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_____ 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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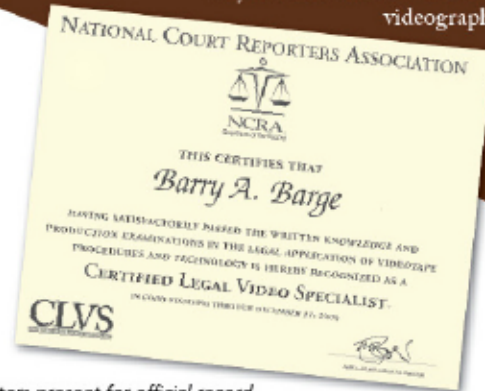
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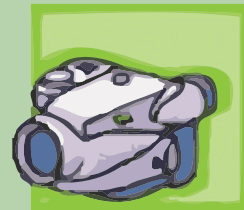
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WANTED:



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 Kami at kamisue@msn.com if interested

THE SCRIBE

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TO: YOUR NAME HERE!

Calendar of EVENTS

NCRA Written Knowledge

Test Openings

January 11 - 23, 2010
& April 15 -17, 2010

NCRA Midyear Conference

Hyatt Regency Embarcadero Center
San Francisco, CA
March 12 - 14, 2010

NCRA Skills Testing

May 1, 2010

Nebraska Official Court Reporters

Summer Education Meeting

Omaha, NE
June 9 - 11, 2010

2010 ICRA Annual Convention

Honey Creek State Park
on Rathbun Lake
June 16 - 18, 2010

NCRA 2010 Annual Convention & Expo

Hilton Chicago
Chicago, IL
August 5 - 8, 2010