



Maryland Court Reporters Association



Dates to remember:
M September 2008
C Location to
R remember:
A Ocean City, Maryland

Why:
MCRA Annual Convention

Message from the President

Hello Everyone,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported MCRA this year by being a member, volunteering your time, and attending our spectacular convention. Thanks to Lindy Cody for doing a fantastic job!

I would also like to thank Nancy McKee, our Executive Director, for a job well done. She was extremely helpful at our board meetings, our convention, testing sites, and assisting Joe Grabowski with student recruitment. Thank you for everything, Nancy.

The last person I would like to recognize is Lisa DiMonte. Lisa has volunteered again to be our Chief Examiner. If it wasn't for her, Maryland might not have had a testing site next year. She volunteers her time and her office for reporters to better themselves by becoming certified. Thank you very much, Lisa.

I know everyone is extremely busy, but I welcome people who would like to volunteer a very small portion of their time to MCRA. It would be greatly appreciated because we are required by NCRA to administer the tests and to offer CEUs for reporters to maintain their certification. Thank you to all who have volunteered your time since MCRA's inception. I really appreciate it.

Maybe the number of volunteers will increase if Maryland becomes a certified state. In 2008, I will be working towards that goal. I feel that certification is necessary because currently there are no minimum standards of level of skill, competency and ethics observed by court reporters who provide court reporting services. It is important to establish minimum requirements relating to the skill, competency and ethics of Maryland court reporters. Certification is crucial for the protection of the public in general, and for the protection of all litigants whose rights to personal freedom and property are affected by the competency of court reporters. I will be attending NCRA's Legislative Boot Camp in February to help me prepare to appear before Chief Judge Bell and the Maryland Judiciary to start this process. If anyone is interested in joining me, please feel free to contact me at mazkaz206@comcast.net.

I feel strongly that if Maryland does become a certified state that there is a greater potential for job security and increases in compensation. Without it, Maryland has the potential to become a "dumping ground" of reporters who have sub-par skills or can't work in other states, a vast array of electronic recording methods, and other unforeseen developments -- all of which have a significant impact on your job and mine.

Again, I would like to thank all those who have helped MCRA in the past, and I also want to thank the board for volunteering their time to help me next year. If I can be of any assistance to anyone, please feel free to contact me.

I hope everyone has a Happy New Year!

Kathy Zeve, RPR
President



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Turf Valley Convention Recap

I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend this year's convention at the Turf Valley Resort this past September. And for those of you who were unable to make it, we've started planning next year's convention already, so look for more details on that on our website, www.mcra.org.



NCRA Representative Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag inducting President Kathy Zeze

We had a good turnout at this year's convention which featured our Keynote Speaker, Mark Kislingbury. We had a total of 66 people in attendance, our highest number in years. We also received many generous donations from all of our vendors which we appreciate greatly.

We will be posting information on our website soon about the 2008 Annual Convention, which will be held in Ocean City, Maryland. Hope to see you all there!



Reporters getting updated on some of the latest software advances

Lindy Cody
Convention Chairperson

Outgoing President Dave Corbin with Keynote Speaker Mark Kislingbury



Education Advisory Committee Update

By: Joe Grabowski, Committee Chair

Where have all the students gone?

Harford Community College is chugging along with 12 students in theory class, but speed-building numbers are weak. The goal is to get a high number of students enrolled in theory, which naturally feeds speed-building.

Anne Arundel Community College, on the other hand, is holding on by a thread. ***Where have all the students gone?*** We are in a holding pattern, waiting for AACC to announce if they will continue both the theory and speed-building. Seems to be the same old problem; graduation rate of 5% plus/minus.

It's not for lack of trying. In the past we have spent money on radio spots and paper ads announcing the open houses and enrollment dates. We have even paid for an empty chair in the class to meet the minimum number. I can not go back to the board and ask them again to throw good money after bad.

As I have pleaded with you in the past, I plead again: ***If you care about the future of your profession, please tell everyone who will listen about what you do, and how they too can do it.***

If they don't believe you, give them the following web addresses to read what *Forbes Magazine* and the *U.S. Department of Labor* have to say about the future of our profession:

<http://articles.moneycentral.msn.com/Investing/Forbes/10SurprisingSixFigureJobs.aspx?GT1=8472>

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos152.htm>

As always, if you or someone you know is in need of information or has some questions about the court reporting programs, please contact Alice Welsh (HCC Department Head) at welshac@comcast.net, Marybeth Everhart at marybeth@everbatim.net or myself at jgrabowski@gorebrothers.com 410-837-3027.

Visit our new website at www.MCRA.org

NCRA Leadership Conference Update

On November 15-17th, 2007, Lindy Cody (President Elect) and I attended NCRA's State Leadership Conference in McLean, Virginia. In attendance was staff from NCRA, representatives from 39 states, as well as, the District of Columbia and Canada. The first evening started off with a tour of the NCRA headquarters. The facility that we, as members, have a vested interest in is nestled in the heart of Vienna, Virginia. We met a lot of the staff employed at NCRA whose names you see mentioned in the JCR Journal quite frequently. It was nice to finally put a face with those names.



The next day started at 9:00 in the morning. We attended the sessions they had planned for us; for example, inspiring the Association, The Importance of Becoming Engaged in Your Association, and my favorite, Fear Factor: Overcoming Public Speaking. There was an invaluable session dealing with setting up conferences and what you need to know to make it successful. Hopefully, the tools we learned will make our conference in September 2008 a memorable one.

On the final day, we continued on with a vast array of topics, such as, NCSA: Shaping Our Future, Brainstorming: New Ways to Attract Members and Groom Future Leaders, a finance presentation, and The Final Charge for Extraordinary Leadership. Being the current treasurer, I was paying special attention to the finance presentation.

In total, the conference was an eye-opening experience for me. I realized the outstanding, hard-working efforts that are done behind the scenes on the national and state levels which make Court Reporting such a rewarding and never-ending career, not only presently, but for future reporters.

I would like to thank MCRA and its members for allowing me this awesome opportunity to attend this conference. I look forward to sharing and applying what I learned from the State Leadership Conference with the goal of making our 2008 year prosperous.

Your Treasurer,
Phyllis Hernandez, RMR

Letter of Thanks

Good morning,

I am Cassandra's oldest daughter. I just want to take a moment to thank you for what you've placed on your website. My mother's illness and passing is definitely the most difficult obstacle I have ever faced. I ran across your website while doing a Google search of my mother's name. It brought a smile to my face to see that you were able to put in words how she truly felt about her career. My mother went through a lot while staying focused on her ultimate goal of becoming a court reporter. I am thankful this is something she was able to accomplish.

Thank you,

Crystal Duncan

Senior Accountant

Bravo Health

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MEMBER DUES REMINDER

Just a reminder that Annual Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. To join or renew your membership with MCRA, please visit our web site and either pay online or download an application:

www.mcra.org

Support your local
State Association

Visit our new website at www.MCRA.org



Maryland Court Reporters Assoc.
 4035 Old Furnace Road
 Snow Hill, MD 21863

Convention Recap

School Update

Membership Dues Reminder



Letter of Thanks



[Join MCRA Today](#)

FELLOW COURT REPORTERS,

MCRA has needs. It needs YOU! We need you and your support. A LOT of work is being done to advance and continue our treasured profession. We have numerous committees working nonstop for the betterment of court reporting in Maryland. Believe it, MCRA works hard for you!

If you are a current member, please take a moment to think of your friends and colleagues who do not belong and pass this on to them. Former members, please join once again. Your support is needed now more than ever. Please take a moment to fill out this abbreviated application and join the MARYLAND COURT REPORTERS ASSOC. for 2007. THANK YOU!

NAME:

ADDRESS:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

PHONE NO.:

FIRM NAME:

METHOD OF REPORTING:

FULL MEMBER: \$100 _____ ASSOCIATE MEMBER: \$50 _____ STUDENT MEMBER: \$25 _____



Please send your check to:
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