

FOR THE RECORD is published by the Alabama Court Reporters Association on a regular basis four times a year.

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June 1, 2004
September 1, 2004

Deadline for articles and ads is 30 days immediately preceding the above publication dates. Because of the Holidays, we are asking that articles and ads be submitted by November 21, 2003.

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FOR THE RECORD

A Publication of the Alabama Court Reporters Association

Volume 21, No. 4 Fall 2003

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President's Message



Karen B. Reagan

Charting Our Course

In Alabama, when a willing reporter agrees to take on the voluntary assignment of sitting on the Board of Directors of ACRA, they oftentimes at first do not realize that they are being conditioned for the ultimate role of President until they have remained on the Board for a couple of years. I am no exception. Being here now has given me a hefty gratitude and a mighty appreciation for those who have walked this path before me, as they have been instrumental in building a solid foundation for our state association, enabling us to explore and gain new ground toward our futures as judicial and official reporters, captioners, and CART reporters in Alabama. As I was staring at this blank Word document, I was pondering our past and our present as professional reporters in our state; how far we've come, where our future is headed, and how we can help shape our future by giving of ourselves. A brilliant man named Norman MacEwan once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give". Said another way, we can mold our own course as reporters in Alabama by what we're willing to give.

There's such positive energy in the air when we look at the myriad areas that technology has opened up to reporters in the last ten to fifteen years. Although our jobs have become more and more diverse (and

yes, complex), ACRA's Board of Directors wants to direct the right course for all of us as a whole. We stress that we want the direction of our association to be member driven, not board driven. Are you ready to play an active role in charting our course? Your voice is important and needs to be heard by those of us sitting on the Board of Directors this year (and every year). Let District Directors Laura Nichols, Diana Battles, Moe Moeglin, and Julia Isenhower know what ideas you've got to share. They want to hear from you, and so do I. We'll take it all. No matter whether it's a suggestion, complaint, opinion or recommendation, we just want to hear from you and we're listening. The entire Board and our Committee Chairpersons all are committed to you and to the improvement of our profession within Alabama. Each of us welcome your suggestions and want your involvement in shaping our future. Together let's keep doing the things we do right and change the things we do wrong. If you like something, tell us; and if you have better ideas, don't be shy. You can count on me to count you in and keep the member-driven momentum as we chart our course during the year. Meeting members' needs and addressing your interests and concerns is what ACRA is all about.

Each of us look forward to our annual conventions, Midwinter and Summer, if not for anything more than just to get those needed CE credits we've all got to log before our time runs out. Our members that attended ACRA's Summer Conference in Point Clear found it truly awesome.

Free Membership!

Anyone who signs up 5 new members will receive a free membership for 1 year.

What are you waiting on?
Get out there and start recruiting

President's Message Continued

(You'll find some of their comments in this issue of FTR.) We had a good number of supporting vendors combined with a super lineup of speakers that kept us laughing (Go Dolly Go!) and then others that challenged us to the max (Bravo Debra and Bravo Mark!). I think we all learned that it's okay not to be perfect, yet we can still strive for perfection. Every one of us wants this encouragement and needs the reminder that perfection is possible just so we can push ourselves a little bit farther. Suzanne Frazier, your President-Elect, is hard at work making plans for an impressive Midwinter convention this coming January. By popular demand – it's probably folks remembering those cushy seminar chairs – we will be back at The Legends at Capitol Hill in Prattville, Alabama. ACRA is partnering with AOC for Midwinter 2004, so our Official reporting members will be able to obtain their per diem and mileage reimbursements once again. (Please contact Suzanne and/or AOC for further information.) Put this event on your calendar. You will not

want to miss the educational opportunities Suzanne is cooking up for you.

Speaking of conventions, I had the opportunity (and pleasure) to represent ACRA at the National Council of State Associations consortium in Reno, Nevada, this past August. NCSA is a wonderful platform for state association leaders to come together and share their successes, their defeats, and just to brainstorm and exchange ideas back and forth. I learned very quickly that ACRA is not alone in its struggle to obtain mandatory certification of reporters in Alabama; we're not alone in our efforts to increase our membership; we're not alone in furthering our educational goals to make ourselves better realtime writers and captioners and more marketable in the field; we're not alone in continuing to locate reporters among our ranks to volunteer and dedicate themselves to this worthwhile organization; we're not alone in trying to aid our schools in qualifying for the necessary funding to retrain practicing reporters and train new students to enter into the captioning arena. There was a common theme arising from that meeting....."We're All In This Together." Similarly, I view that as a good mantra for us here at home. We're

All In This Together. If we stand as a unified body, one voice together, we can accomplish all that we set out to do. Let's start by having a voice. Speak out to your fellow reporters on ACRA committees and on the Board and let them hear you. Become involved. From there, we can set our vision and chart our course together. Until next time, take care and God bless.



By Suzanne Frazier, CSR, RPR President-Elect

What a great time was had in July at The Grand Hotel! Bravo to Karen Reagan for the great job she did planning and organizing our 2003 Summer Convention! She has set a high standard for me to follow as president-elect. I must say I have had a very busy summer. My youngest daughter's wedding was two weeks following the summer conference. If you have never had the pleasure of being the mother of the bride, you have no idea of the joys, stresses, laughter, and tears that go into making your child's wedding memorable. Now that the wedding plans and festivities are finished, I have changed hats and am hitting the ground running in my efforts to plan for the 2004 Midwinter Conference. Mark your calendars for January 16 and 17 and make plans to be at the Legends Conference and Golf Resort in Prattville for the conference. Our conference will be in the same location as last year. Ask anyone who had the pleasure of attending last year's conference and I am sure they will tell you what a wonderful facility it is. The Education Committee and I are plan-

ning this conference in conjunction with the Administrative Office of Courts. Be assured that the 2004 Midwinter Conference will be for everyone—freelance reporters, captioners, and official reporters. If you were not able to be with us in Point Clear at the Summer Convention and, therefore, weren't able to have your suggestions for topics you would like to see covered either at Midwinter or the Summer Convention, please send those ideas along to me. And if you know of someone who does a great job speaking on your topic choice, please send that information along also. My e-mail address is SFrazier1031@aol.com. I look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you in January. More detailed information will be coming your way about Midwinter as plans are finalized. Have a great fall and be sure and take some time out of your busy schedules for yourselves and enjoy!

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Saturday, October 11th, 2003
10:30 a.m.

Office of
Dunn, King & Associates

431 South Court Street
Montgomery, Alabama
334-263-0261

All ACRA members are invited to attend. If you are a committee chair and are unable to attend, please fax your report to Karen Reagan at 334-262-4437 or e-mail your report to karenreagan@charter.net prior to the close of business on Thursday, October 9th, 2003. Prince and Gadsden are encouraged to appoint a student representative and inform the President of their attendance prior to the Board of Directors Meeting.



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October 4, 2003
Alabama CSR Exam
Gadsden, Montgomery & Mobile, AL

October 11, 2003
Meeting of the Board of Directors
10:30 a.m., Office of Dunn, King,
Montgomery, AL

November 1, 2003
RPR/RMR/RDR/CRR/CLVS Exams
Gadsden & Montgomery, AL

October 17 & 18, 2003
November 14 & 15, 2003
Realtime Seminars

December 12 & 13, 2003
January 9 & 10, 2004
Broadcast Captioning Seminars,
Birmingham, AL

January 16 & 17, 2004
ACRA Mid-Winter Conference
The Legends at Capitol Hill,
Prattville, AL

**Alabama Court Reporters Association Wishes to Express Appreciation
to our Exhibitors and Door Prize Donors as Outstanding Supporters of our
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STENOVATIONS, INC. / ANDREA MARTIN
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TOP CAT STENO, INC.
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See what all the fuss is about! Join your fellow reporters in accomplishing rewarding tasks for your future! Place a check mark below, “x”, or whatever, fax to Karen Reagan @ 334.262.4437, and enjoy your involvement.

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CERTIFICATION	Tammy Hastings	
WAYS AND MEANS	Butch Hope and Steve Edmondson	
2004 CONVENTIONS	Suzanne Frazier	
LONG-RANGE CONVENTION PLANNING	Deanna Johnson	
PUBLICATIONS	Candace Reed	
NOMINATIONS	To Be Appointed	
LEGISLATION	Randall Murphree and Moe Moeglin	
DSA	Karen Reagan	
PRO BONO	Tiffany Beasley	
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS	Debby Garrett	
SCHOLARSHIP	Diana Battles	
AUDITING	Patricia Hill	
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Deborah Murphy along with District Directors	
WEBSITE	Alan Peacock	
STUDENT MENTORING	Shannon Ball Karen Reagan	
HISTORIC PRESERVATION	Debby Garrett	

Yes, please contact me about the above committee(s):

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

“Realtime Corner”
Submitted by Alan Peacock

“THE LONG AND SHORT OF ACRONYMS”



I recently picked up a couple of nifty little tricks dealing with acronyms from a fellow captioner and thought I would share here with you.

Method 1: Double-Stroke Briefs

The first method is to define a double-stroke brief as an acronym in written-out form.

First, I have developed brief forms for several high-frequency acronyms,

Such as:

FBI = tp * eu b

CIA = kr * a eu

CEO = kr *o e

GAAP = tpkw a * p

IRS = *eu r s

These are just a few examples. The number of acronyms you can type in one stroke is almost limitless. Feel free to create your own that work for you.

Now, the “trick” that I’m speaking of will require a series of globals, but is well worth the time invested! If you double stroke each brief, you can global those strokes to translate as the written out form of the acronym.

For example:

SE*BG = SEC

SE*BG/SE*BG = Securities and Exchange Commission

TP*EUB = FBI TP*EUB = Federal Bureau of Investigations

TPKWA*P = GAAP

TPKWA*P/TPKWA*P = Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

M*S – M.S.

M*S/M*S = multiple sclerosis

AEUDZ = AIDS

AIDZ/AIDZ = Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

Method 2: The “WORDZ” Theory

Another theory that some people like to use in lieu of double-stroking the brief is to write the steno stroke /WO*RDZ following an acronym or brief.

Here are some examples of this theory:

TPH-FPLT/R-FPLT/A-FPLT – N.R.A.

TPH-FPLT/R-FPLT/A-FPLT/WO*RDZ – National Rifle Association

SE*BG = SEC

SE*BG/WO*RDZ = Securities and Exchange Commission

You can apply this theory to as many acronyms and briefs as you can think of. Be creative!

***Dunn, King & Associates,
L.L.C. Court Reporters***

August 28, 2003

Ms. Karen Reagan, CSR

Alabama Court Reporters

Association

c/o Reagan Reporters, LLC

One Commerce Street, Suite 302

Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Dear Karen,

Thanks for asking me to attend the presentation and meeting at Prince Institute on Tuesday, August 26, 2003, on behalf of ACRA. It’s always a pleasure to work with the board.

The attendance, I thought, was very good. In addition to Pat Hill, Ann Schmidt, Candace Reed, and Jennifer Warren with Prince Institute, in attendance were Rich Hobson with AOC, Pat Morrow with Faulkner University, Judy Ludkin (I’m not sure about the spelling of her name) with TSUM, Dave Wenhold with NCRA, Andrea Martin, and myself. Andrew Pond, a graduate student at TSUM, also attended and gave his perspective as a hearing-impaired individual. Mr Goodloe Sutton

with Senator Shelby’s office was also in attendance.

Pat Hill did the introductions and gave the background of Prince Institute. Then Jennifer Warren did a great presentation, using slides to illustrate and highlight the important points. Printouts of those slides are in the packet of information I have enclosed. Candace did a super job of expressing how important this grant is in ensuring that the hearing-impaired community will have full access to CART and captioning services provided by skilled professionals.

Pat Morrow and Judy Ludkin shared their experiences with students receiving CART in their respective school’s programs. Andrew, as I mentioned, shared his perspective as a recipient of CART services from Tasha Scott (who is exceptional, by the way, and should be a real asset to CART and captioning).

Andrea hit the nail on the head when she shared with Mr. Sutton that with all the breaking news here in Montgomery about the Ten Commandments monument rallies, protests, court orders, etc., that because the local news programs are not captioned,

those in the Montgomery coverage area who are hearing impaired had no way to know what was going on right in their own community.

Ann and I, of course, chimed in, too. Rich, in his usual upbeat fashion shared with all of us about his wife and daughter, both of whom are hearing impaired, and their personal dependence on captioned programs, a truly first-hand account of what it was like when fewer programs were captioned and how the need is still so great. Dave was awesome. He’s an old pro at talking to politicians and was a wonderful asset to the discussion.

Mr. Sutton was very attentive and seemed very pleased with the grassroots effort that has been done so far. He promised to try to help. I thought his response was positive and encouraging.

Again, thanks for letting me fill in. I enjoyed it very much. See you soon.

Sincerely
Pat Higgins, CSR, RPR
Enclosure

*Grateful and Sincere Thanks to the Following Member
Volunteers Who Gave So Freely of Their Time and
Resources to Make the ACRA 2003 Summer Convention
Such a Smashing Success:*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

- Sherry Aaron**
- Shannon Ball**
- Diana Battles**
- Tiffany Blevins Beasley**
- Jeana Boggs**
- Sheree Cater**
- Suzanne Frazier**
- Mary Frances Giattina**
- Gina Haislip**
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OCTOBER 17 and 18, FRIDAY and SATURDAY
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The broadcast captioning workshop will be conducted in two segments and will be offered by Gadsden State Community College and taught by EduCaption, Inc., faculty. **RPR IS REQUIRED.** The dates are:

DECEMBER 12 and 13, FRIDAY and SATURDAY
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A New Year Has Begun At Prince Institute

By Pat Hill

Summer is a busy time for staff, faculty, and students at Prince because our "New Year" begins each July. Summer Quarter began on July 7 with 67 returning real-time reporting students, 5 medical transcription students, 16 new real-time reporting students, and 6 new medical transcription students.

A new Board of Advisors was appointed and the first meeting was held at Chappy's Deli in Montgomery on July 15. In addition to the Board of Advisors, a Student Advisory Committee was created. We want to thank the following people who have volunteered to sit on our Board and Student Committee:

Prince Institute 2003-2004 Board of Advisors

Ms. Tiffany Blevins-Beasley
Ms. Vicki Clark
Mr. Clifford Cleveland II
Mr. Rich Hobson
Ms. Mary King
Judge Tracey McCooley
Ms. Karen Reagan

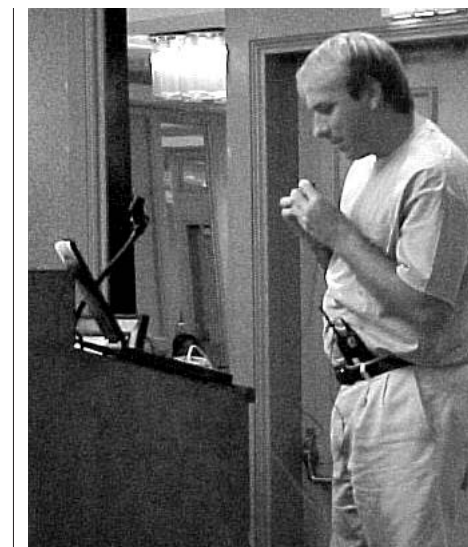
Prince Institute 2003-2004 Student Advisory Board


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Ms. Kristen Thrasher
Ms. Kristy Milton
Ms. Kimberly Cherry
Ms. Julie Griffith
Ms. Tonya Milam
Ms. LeAnn Wright

The faculty had a yard sale to raise money for the students going to the ACRA Conference in Point Clear. They raised over \$750 and that money was distributed on a daily basis to the students who attended the conference.

We want to say a special "thank you" to everyone who sent letters to our legislators asking them to support our effort in obtaining a grant to teach captioning. We are working on our captioning curriculum for submission to the state, our accrediting agency, and NCRA for approval. Candace Reed is our liaison for this effort, so please contact her for further updates.

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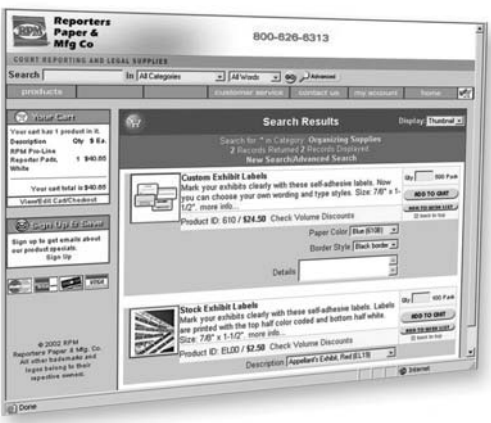




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by: Kelly S. Gibson,
Gadsden State Community College

Why I Have Chosen To Be A Court Reporter

Sometimes I look back and can't believe what a dauntless decision I made at 30 years old. I suppose being married with two children and a full-time job simply wasn't enough, and so I took on the task of going back to school to obtain a degree in something I had found very interesting for the past ten years of my life.

My job was and still is very challenging. Marriage was and still is wonderful, and my children are the most precious reward I could ever receive. I am blessed beyond anything I deserve. However, I still felt I was lacking a personal accomplishment in my life and desired a college degree.

Now, a year and a half into court reporting school, I am puzzled as to why I had to choose something that involved this much stress? Why couldn't I have chosen a degree that didn't require two gruesome hours of homework every night and even more on the weekend? Why couldn't I have chosen a degree that didn't involve the pressure of a timing at a speed that you

know you absolutely cannot pass, but you're going to sit down and write it anyway? You repeat to yourself over and over, you can do this, you can do this. Still, no aplomb. You continue to hold your breath, writing as fast as you possibly can, trying to hang on to every word the instructor says, only to hesitate on a word you are not quite comfortable with writing and then you realize you've dropped an entire sentence.

I have come to realize that the need for this personal accomplishment has completely taken over and I am driven to finish this which I have set out to achieve. How riveting to be an asset to the Court or to the hearing impaired. One day (and how I hope, and I mean *really* hope it will be soon) I will finish this training process of being a guardian of the record, or a closed captioner, or a CART reporter, or whatever my laptop computer and my steno machine will allow me to do. The options are absolutely limitless, and I will be honored to have obtained such a victory.



A New Year's Resolution I'm Glad I Kept

By Tiffany Blevins Beasley

January 1, 2003, I made New Year's resolutions in three areas of my life: spiritual, personal, and professional. One of my professional resolutions was to attend at least one ACRA conference this year. I quickly signed up for ACRA's winter conference to ensure success in my January commitment! The winter conference was the first conference I had ever attended as a practicing judicial reporter, as well as a student. My reason for not attending as a student was usually a financial one, but as a reporter, the reason was time!

After three years of reporting, I felt as though my time-management skills had improved, and I was excited to jump in and start gaining knowledge from these conferences to improve my skill, increase my income, and hopefully start to give back a little to the profession that has given me so much. I attended the winter conference, and I was excited about the things I had learned and decided to sign up for the summer conference.

From my attendance at the summer conference in Point Clear, I learned practical steps that I am now using in my realtime skill to hopefully offer additional services to my clients. I want my clients to be aware that I am interested in improving my skills and staying abreast of the newer technologies that are available to them so they can receive the maximum benefit from my services. One way of doing that is by attending these conferences. Honestly, I was surprised at how much I learned and have been able to put into practice in my work every day.

If you think about the services you use in your own life: hairstylist, auto service center, computer service center, even fitness center, wouldn't you rather trade with the ones that have the latest information on how to provide you with the most efficient service at the best price? That's how I feel about the reporting profession. My wish is that my clients know that I'm staying on top of the latest technology in order to provide them with an excellent and effective product. But personally, my aim is to stay abreast of the new information for my own personal fulfillment, as well as the financial rewards it will bring.

As a student, I think the conferences are important for several reasons. One, it gives one exposure to working reporters for networking and future job possibilities. I was so impressed when I spoke with a new

reporter at the summer conference that said she had attended several summer conferences as a student before becoming a working reporter. I'm sure that made an impression on the individual that hired her, as it made an impression on me.

Also, it helps one develop a sense of the area of reporting to practice in when completing school. A student can gain valuable information to help aid in future employment decisions. The possibilities have become more and more diverse in the reporting profession within the last few years. Judicial reporting is no longer the only option. CART and broadcast captioning have broadened the opportunities in many ways that I believe most reporters aren't even aware of. I know my eyes were opened to those opportunities at the winter and summer conferences, and it's exciting to think about as a possible future alternative for a now judicial reporter, as well as a student.

We all have personal goals that we wish to fulfill. I would encourage everyone reading this to write down your personal goals for your profession. If these goals include passing a certification test, improving your skill, networking with other reporters, or just taking a break to be with others that understand the grind of the job, I would encourage you to make a commitment to attend at least one conference in 2004. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised at the excitement you will receive for the profession you have chosen and practical knowledge you can gain and use to improve your skill.

NCRA Online News Flash cont.

How and when will LiveNote create awareness and understanding among the end users of its software of this new charge?

What happens to this proposal if the Chicago litigation is ultimately resolved in favor of the defendants? It should be stressed that this is a late-breaking and fast-developing topic. These are open questions, which may or may not be satisfactorily addressed in the weeks ahead.

Additional questions will certainly arise in the course of discussions. NCRA will endeavor to collect and circulate all such questions and any information answering or clarifying them, so that members can remain informed and make informed judgments.

What Members Should Do

All members should familiarize themselves with this matter and stay informed, in order to make their own independent and sound judgments on what actions (if any) are in their individual best interest.

NCRA is not a party to the LiveNote Engate agreement and did not participate in

its development. Neither NCRA, Engate, LiveNote, the Chicago litigants nor anyone else can decide for you whether or not this proposal is your own most prudent course of action. Each person and firm's circumstances and interests are unique.

Different parties may reach drastically different conclusions and hold widely divergent opinions on the future prospects for the Chicago litigation, the patents, and the LiveNote/Engate agreement. Accordingly, consider information from all sources before reaching any conclusions.

LiveNote gave a presentation on its proposal in Reno, and a video and transcript of that session is available directly from the company. NCRA is in discussions with the court reporting firms in the Chicago suit to get a further update on the litigation and their assessment of the situation. As we get responses from LiveNote to our questions, or other relevant information is identified, we will make members aware of this.

If a member has received a demand letter from Engate (placing it in the category of those facing "actual or threatened litigation") and wishes to participate in joint defense activities, he or she should contact NCRA Senior Director of Communications and Public Affairs Peter Wacht (pwacht@ncrahq.org) for more information. Such joint actions are extremely sensitive and must be conducted within rigorous legal guidelines, which have been established for those who are not in actual litigation or who have not received a demand letter to participate in the group's discussions or activities.

NCRA will continue to help facilitate the defense of those member reporters who have elected to participate in the joint defense group. Until Engate abandons its patent claims, joining the joint defense group and retaining separate legal counsel is still the best way for reporters and firms that have received demand letters and have decided not to enter into a licensing arrangement with Engate or to accept the new LiveNote offer to protect themselves. There is still some risk to members participating in the joint defense activities if the patents are ultimately found to be valid; however, the joint defense activities are intended to help eliminate the possibility of multiple damage awards and the award of attorney fees.

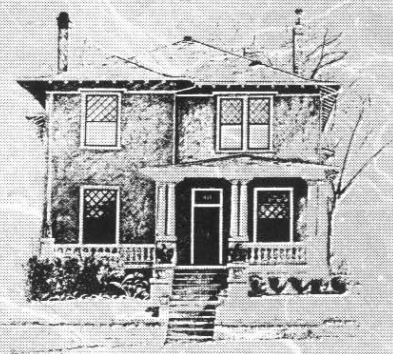
LiveNote has indicated that reporting firms that have previously signed a licensing agreement with Engate may choose to continue with their current arrangement or shift to the new system.

For the general membership, NCRA is and will continue to provide as much information and support as we can so that individual member reporters can make an informed and independent decision of what actions are in their own and their business's best interests.

We also continue to investigate all available, legally permissible options for achieving an industry-wide resolution of this unsettling matter.

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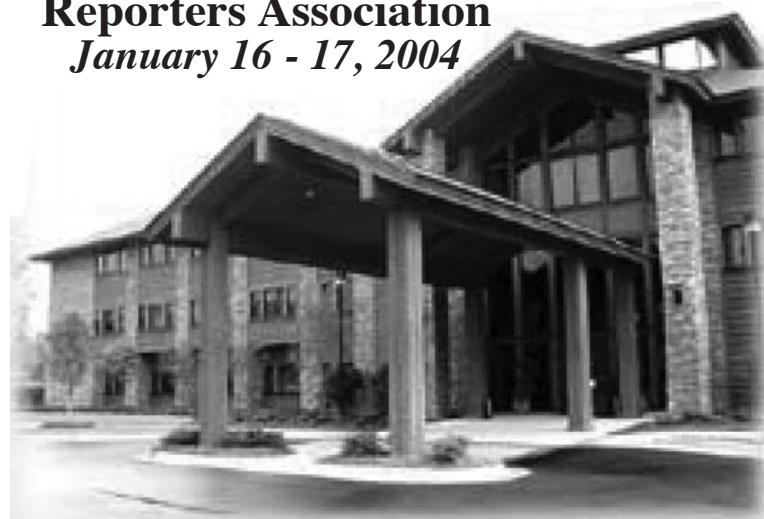
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We would like to hear from experienced Alabama court reporters, CART providers, and captioners who are willing to give something back to a profession that has given them so much.

Court Reporting is an exciting and challenging profession that provides a lifelong opportunity for learning and growth. With that philosophy in mind, ACRA has established its own Student Mentoring Program, designed to support Alabama court reporting students by offering them guidance, encouragement, and support.

If you are one of those special people who would like to help the next generation of reporters reach their goals, then we need to hear from you.

What is required: An open mind and a giving heart... And an email account! You should be available to your assigned student and answer e-mails promptly. If possible, meet with your student at an ACRA convention or conference. Take your student to lunch. Send words of congratulations and words of encouragement when they need it. In other words, be a friend! You should set a professional example for students at all times.

With your commitment and support, you will enable a promising student to flourish and to one day join the ranks of our association of professional working reporters! They are eagerly looking to us to help bridge that gap for them.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for ACRA, please fill out the information below and fax to 334-262-4437. In advance, we thank you for your consideration.

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (Work) (_____) _____

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E-Mail: _____

ALABAMA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
 Founded 1908
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date: _____

This application is for new membership () or renewal ()

If this application is for renewal, please update only the information that has changed. If you are a new member, complete all lines that apply to you.

Name: _____

Mailing Address (where you would like to receive ACRA mailings)

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (W) (_____) _____ (H) (_____) _____

Fax: (_____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Type of membership I am applying for: Certified () General () Associate () Student ()

1. If applying for Certified Membership, are you an: RDR () RMR () RPR () CRR () CLVS () CSR ()
 If you are applying for Certified Membership for the first time, please attach a current copy of each certificate.

2. Have you ever been a member of ACRA? Yes () No () If yes, are you currently a member? Yes () No ()

3. Are you currently a member of NCRA? Yes () No ()

4. Are you currently a student? Yes () No () If yes, what school? _____

5. What is your method of shorthand? _____

6. Are you on computer? Yes () No () If yes, what CAT system? _____

If you are applying for Associate or Student membership, it is not necessary to complete the remainder of the form. Just sign the designated space, secure the endorsement of one member in good standing, and return application with payment.

7. Do you offer video services? Yes () No () 8. Do you have a conference room? Yes () No ()

9. Do you offer real-time services? Yes () No () 10. Are you a notary public? Yes () No ()

11. Are you: Freelance () Official ()

If Freelance, what firm? _____

If Official, what court? _____; are you available to freelance? Yes () No ()

12. Do you hold a degree? Yes () No () If yes, which degree? _____

13. Which reporting school did you attend? _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Alabama Court Reporters Association and enclose \$75 as my annual Certified, General, or Associate membership dues, or \$15 as my annual Student membership dues, if application is accepted. By signing this Application for Membership, I hereby agree to adhere to Alabama Court Reporters Association's Constitution and Bylaws and National Court Reporters Association's Code of Professional Ethics.

Signature of Applicant _____

Pursuant to our Constitution and Bylaws, any person applying as a new member of this Association shall secure the endorsement of one Certified or General Member in good standing.

Signature of Endorsing Member _____

I would like to contribute to the Voluntary Legislative Fund. I enclose \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ other _____

Mail Application to: Tammy Clark August, ACRA
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 Florence, AL 35631

Apply online: www.alcra.org

**Summer 2003 Attendee
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ATTENDEES OF ACRA's SUMMER CONVENTION IN POINT CLEAR WERE EXCITED AND MOTIVATED. READ WHAT SOME OF THEM WANTED TO SHARE:

I gained and benefited from every speaker. I know I put all "5s", but it is the honest truth. Mark Kislingbury was the highlight, though. Information on improving my realtime skills is very important to me. This is my second ACRA convention, and it is very much worth the time and money.

Anonymous

Thank you so much for sending out the invitations to your seminar. I am currently freelancing in Mississippi, but grew up in Alabama. I am so glad to be given the opportunity to come here to visit with your association. This has been one of the best seminars I've been to in a long time. I am coming away from this conference incredibly motivated and looking forward to incorporating all I've learned. The speakers were excellent and the subject matter was informative and helpful. The length of the sessions were appropriate with breaks

to visit and network with fellow reporters. The overall convention was very well organized and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this convention such a great success!

*J. Davis
 Brandon, MS*

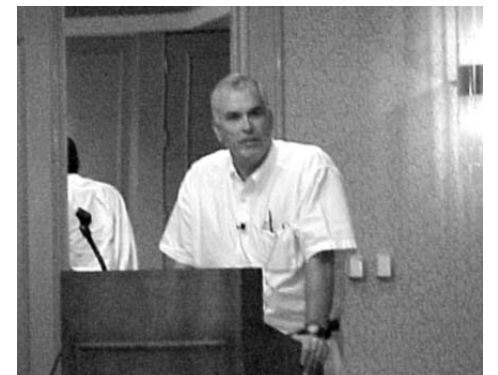
The accommodations were great. This hotel is beautiful. The food was out of this world. It is sooo very nice to once again have our convention at a classy place. It is well worth the added \$\$\$. You did a great job!

*D. Garrett
 Anniston, AL*

It has been a sincere pleasure to attend this conference. All of the reporters have been so friendly. The highlights were the enthusiastic, friendly reporters and speakers with up-to-date, practical topics. You all did a great job with making it easy for an out-of-state reporter to attend. This is my second Alabama conference and I look forward to coming again. Loved your beautiful door prizes. Thanks! Alabama reporters have a great future ahead of

them. Nothing but success!

*N.J. McDurham
 Covington, LA*



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NCRA Online News Flash

SPECIAL ISSUE: New Twist in Engate Litigation

Background

As members are aware, in August 2001, a company called Engate filed a lawsuit in Chicago against six court reporting firms alleging infringement of patents the company holds on interactive realtime features. Three of the reporting firms remain in litigation, two have settled with Engate, and one was dismissed from the case. To date in the litigation, Engate's original 300 claims have been reduced to 26. The litigation has not yet reached the point in the process where the validity of the patents themselves have been considered by the court. Due to the complex nature of patent litigation, it is not likely to reach this point anytime soon.

Late in 2002, Engate expanded its efforts to enforce its patent claims by beginning to send letters to an indeterminate number of reporters throughout the country, threatening litigation if the reporter/firms did not agree to a licensing fee payment of \$0.35 per page of realtime transcript. Several firms have settled; others are still assessing the most prudent steps to protect their interests. More than two dozen of the member firms that have received demand letters from Engate are participating in joint defense activities, under the auspices of NCRA.

NCRA has endeavored to keep the membership informed of developments in this important case, and has created a joint defense group for those member reporters facing "actual or threatened litigation" (e.g., those who are in litigation or have received the Engate demand letter and declined to enter into a licensing agreement).

[Background documents and earlier member communications on this matter can be found on the NCRA Web site at <http://www.ncraonline.org/infonews/key/index.shtml>.]

Recent Developments

During the Member Business Meeting at the Reno Convention, NCRA Executive Director and CEO Mark J. Golden, CAE, provided an update on the Chicago litigation and other developments. (For the full text of Mr. Golden's remarks regarding Engate, visit http://www.ncraonline.org/MembersOnly/news/2003/07_31.shtml.)

Of greatest interest to meeting attendees was an extremely new surprising development: LiveNote had announced that it had entered into an exclusive licensing agreement with Engate, covering its entire portfolio of current and future interactive realtime patents. LiveNote intends to implement a sublicensing system whereby attorneys and other users receiving a realtime feed will be charged a daily fee. This fee can be paid directly by the attorney/user receiving the realtime feed, or paid by the reporter and then billed to the attorney/user. Although the payment of the "token" initially will be done manually, on a so-called "honor" system

basis, LiveNote is taking steps to implement modifications in its litigation-support software product that will allow users to prepay for a volume of tokens and have the fee automatically debited when a realtime feed is utilized. (Smart Tag and other electronic highway toll systems in use throughout the United States, where drivers prepay and their account is automatically debited every time their car passes a toll gate, offer a good analogy.) Once implemented within its software, LiveNote users will be blocked from receiving a realtime feed unless a token is paid. LiveNote has indicated it will sublicense and make this fee collection technology available to all manufacturers of litigation-support software.

Where the automated process is not available, the attorney or reporter may make instant payments for single tokens by phone, fax or via the Internet on LiveNote's Web site.

LiveNote states that the manual system will be in place by September 1, 2003. The automated system will be included in a free update to LiveNote's software, which will be available by January 1, 2004.

LiveNote states that it pursued this arrangement because it felt it was necessary for some industry-wide solution to be reached to eliminate the uncertainty created by Engate's claims and the threat of future claims. Its arrangement with Engate is intended to provide a safe harbor for those reporters who voluntarily choose to participate.

Impact on the Chicago Litigation

Engate offered to settle the Chicago litigation with each of the three court reporting firms if they would agree to utilize the LiveNote token system. None of the three remaining litigants accepted this settlement offer before the deadline dictated by Engate.

Accordingly, as of this writing, the Chicago litigation is proceeding. The three remaining defendants continue to dispute the validity of the patents and the claimed infringement.

Open Questions

NCRA is actively pursuing discussions with all the parties in the litigation as well as those involved in this new proposal in order to gather additional, authoritative information about these developments and to seek answers to the many open questions regarding the Engate/LiveNote proposal.

Toward that end, NCRA has today conveyed to LiveNote a list of questions that have arisen in members' discussions. These questions include:

Engate's patents claim rights to certain, specific interactive realtime features, not to the simple creation and delivery of a realtime feed. How will the token system differentiate between those realtime sessions that (allegedly) infringe upon the patented features and those outside the scope of the patents?

Engate has indicated that it will not waive its right to aggressively pursue claims against individual reporters and firms if it feels this token payment system is not being fully com-

plied with. What assurance will reporters/firms who choose to use the "safe harbor" and make token payments have that Engate will not make audit demands or take other action to satisfy itself that all of the reporter's/firm's interactive realtime sessions are being accounted for?

What restrictions, conditions or limitations (if any) will govern future increases in the cost of tokens?

Will adequate systems, personnel and other resources be in place as of September 1 to assure that the purchase, registration and use of tokens will be a simple and undisruptive transaction?

Will adequate systems, customer service, technical service and other resources be in place as of September 1 to resolve technical problems, confusion and uncertainty that will certainly arise at deposition sites among court reporting clients who are unaware of this new fee arrangement?

What is the reporter's obligation if one or more attorneys at a deposition refuse to participate in the token system or pay the fee?

Will Engate, in written and enforceable form, indemnify or otherwise assure reporters who elect to participate in the token system that they will not face threats of future claims of infringement of the Engate portfolio of patents?

Once the automated token payment system has been integrated into its product, will LiveNote indemnify users of its software against any future claims of patent infringement, by Engate or any other party?

LiveNote has indicated that token payments will not be required from court personnel, but will be required from attorneys receiving realtime in the courtroom. What steps are being taken and at what time will federal and state court rules be modified to permit this new charge to be collected in the courtroom setting?

LiveNote has indicated that realtime captioning, CART and courtroom personnel will not be required to make token payments. Will LiveNote and Engate, in written and enforceable form, confirm that they will not require licensing fees from these persons?

LiveNote has indicated the price of tokens could vary depending upon such factors as the quantity purchased. While such price differentials might be logical, how will the reporter be able to square such variations with their ethical obligation under NCRA's Code of Professional Ethics to be "fair and impartial toward each participant in a proceeding," including offering comparable services under the same terms and conditions to all parties?

Under what terms and conditions will the automated token collection technology that LiveNote is developing be made available to other realtime litigation-support software vendors?

Will LiveNote hold users of its own software to the same terms, conditions and pricing for the token system that it requires of users of other realtime litigation software?

Cont. On Pg. 19



The next CSR exam will be given on Saturday, October 25, 2003, beginning at 9:00 a.m. We are proud to announce that this year the examination will be given in three separate locations. This should make it convenient for anyone to take the test, no matter where you are located. The locations are as follows:

Gadsden	Montgomery	Mobile
Gadsden State University Ralls Hall, 2nd Floor East Broad Campus. Gadsden, AL Contact: Deanna Johnson 256-549-8626	Prince Institute 7735 Atlanta Highway Montgomery, AL Contact: Patricia Hill 334-271-1670	Mobile Office of Special Events 2900 Dauphin Street Mobile, AL 36606 Contact: Alan Peacock 251-432-0605

In addition to passing the ACRA CSR Examination, all CSR candidates will be required to pass the RPR Written Knowledge Examination before CSR status can be attained. Test candidates must pass the ACRA CSR skills test, consisting of:

- 180 wpm Literary Matter
- 200 wpm Jury Charge
- 225 wpm Q&A

Testing fees are \$65 for members and \$90 for nonmembers.

The CSR test is one month before the RPR examination and is a great way to warm up for the RPR examination. Become a member of ACRA's elite team of professionals by earning your CSR status today!

Reminder: Unauthorized use of the "CSR" designation is prohibited by ACRA.

Register online now! ACRA proudly accepts Visa/AmEx payment via Pay Pal! To pay for your Examination via Pay Pal, go to our homepage, www.alcra.org, and click on the Pay Pal Icon at the top of the page. Enter your credit card information and your testing fees will be sent to ACRA automatically.

Good Luck to all testing candidates!
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-A-
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and/or SKPOR
appointment(s) A*/POIMT(S)
or POIMT(S)

-B-
before and after BAFR
before and after the BAFRT
before or after BOFR
before or after the BOFRT

blood and marriage BLARJ
blood or marriage BLORJ
blood alcohol BLAOL
blood alcohol level(s) BLAOF(L)(S)
blood cell(s) BLEL(S)
blood chemistry(ies) BLEM(S)
blood clot(s) BLOT(S)
blood flow BLOU
blood pressure(s) BLAOP(S)
blood splatter(s) BLAT/-R(ERS)
bloodstain(s) BLAIN(S)
bloodstream BLAOM
blood system BLIM
blood sugar(s) BLAOG(S)
blood test(s) BLAOT(S)
blood vessel(s) BLEFL(S)
blood work BLAORK

-C-
care and treatment KRAERMT
or KAERMT
or KRAEMT

carpal tunnel KARPT
carpal tunnel syndrome KARPTS

can you tell me KUMT
cause and origin KAUI
or KAURJ
cause of death KAUGT
crime scene(s) KREAN(S)

-D-
date of birth DOIB
degree of DERNT
medical certainty DOMT(S)
document(s)

-E-
EMT EMT
EMS EMS

-F-
fair and accurate FRAKT
fingerprint(s) FRINT(S)
fire department F-PT

forbid(s) FRID(S)
forgave FRA*IF
forgive(s) FR*IF(S)
forgiven FR*IFN
forgiving FR*IFG
forget(s) FRIT(S)
forgetting FRIT/-G
forgot FROT
forgotten FROT/-N

fragment(s) FRAMT(S)
fundamental(s) FUMT(S)
; for example, FR*EX

-H-
have you ever been SRUFRB
have you ever had SRUFRD
headache(s) HAIK(S)
huh H*U

-I-
; in other words, N*ERDS
, in fact, N*FT

-M-
medical certainty MERNT
motor vehicle(s) MOEK(S)
motor vehicle accident(s) MOEKT(S)
MRI(s) MIR(S)

-N-
now, NO*U

-O-
object to the form BORM
object to the form
of the question BORMS
, of course, O*FK
Okay. O*K

on-the-job JAO
on-the-job accident(s) JAONT(S)
or JINT(S)
on-the-job injury(ies) JAOJ(S)
or JIJ(S)
on-the-job training JAONG
or JING
overall JO*EFRL
overrule O*EFRL

-P-
pain and suffering PUFGR
point in time POIM
police department P-PT
or PLID
probable cause PROUZ
proximate cause PRAUZ

-R-
reasonable degree of RERNT
medical certainty
rest room(s) STRAOM(S)
Right. RAO*IT

-S-
settlement(s) SEMT(S)
slip and fall(s) SLAUFL(S)
so, SO-RBGS
somehow SMOU
state of mind STAIMD
somewhat SWHA

-T-
; that is, THA*S
(delete space) time TAO*IM
-type TAO*IP
, therefore, THR*FR

true and accurate TRAOUKT
true and correct TREKT

-W-
weekend(s) WAOEKD(Z)
(delete space) wise WAO*IS
within a reasonable WIRNT
degree of medical
certainty
wow WO*U

-Y-
you know AUN
, you know A*UN

PUNCTUATION
\$ DLR
and DLRS
; STPH-RBGS
/ SL-RB (20/20)
- H-N
or HAOIF (wide-eyed)
- D-RB
delete space D-S
new paragraph PR-F
space SPAIZ

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Ann AEN
Daniel DANL
Donald DONLD
Mary MAER
Reynolds RENS
Wise WAO*IZ

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Chattanooga KHAOG
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Gulf of Mexico GUFM
Miami MAEM
New England NUNG
New Orleans NORLS
New York NORK
New York City NORKS
Rockies ROEKS
San Francisco SFRAN

NUMBERS

.000	THO*U	(24,000)
00	H*UN	(1100)
delete space . delete space	POI	(15.45)
space . delete space	SPOI	(.45)
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delete space , delete space	M-RZ or -RZ	(1,234,567)
delete space , delete space	B-RZ or -RZ	(1,234,567,899)

English/steno	English/steno	English/steno	English/steno
Zero ZAOER/OE	0 O*	— or vice versa —	
One WUN	1 W*UN	20s TW*S	*20s TW*S/AOE
Two TWO	2 TWO*	30s THR*S	*30s THR*S/AOE
Three THRAOE	3 THRAO*E	40s FR*S	*40s FR*S/AOE
Four FOUR	4 FO*UR	50s TPW*S	*50s TPW*S/AOE
Five FAOIF	5 FAO*IF	60s SK*S	*60s SK*S/AOE
Six SIX	6 S*IX	70s STP*S	*70s STP*S/AOE
Seven SEFN	7 S*EFN	80s KWR*S	*80s KWR*S/AOE
Eight AIT	8 A*IT	90s N*S	*90s N*S/AOE
Nine NAOIN	9 NAO*IN		
Ten TEN	10 T*EN		



Alabama CSR Examination Application

CSR Examination Date: October 25, 2003
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Locations: Gadsden, Montgomery, Mobile

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ **Email:** _____

ACRA Member (circle one): Yes No

Testing History:

The Alabama CSR skills examination may be passed in legs, as long as the CSR candidate retains their current membership status. Proof of passing the NCRA Written Knowledge Test is required before a candidate can be awarded CSR status.

I have previously taken and passed the RPR Written Knowledge Examination: Yes No

I have previously taken and passed the following legs of the Alabama CSR (circle one):
 180 Literary 200 Jury Charge 225 Testimony

I currently hold the following NCRA certifications: _____

Select your Testing Site:

Please select your desired testing site (circle one): Gadsden Montgomery Mobile

Registration and Payment

Please print and return this completed form along with your testing fee to the address below.
 Note: All testing candidates must register prior to the examination day. There will be no on-site registration.

Fees: ACRA Members: \$65 Nonmembers: \$90

Please send your testing fees to the following address.

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Greetings from Birmingham and District 1!

Actually, I’m in Columbia, SC on a job, but I’ll bet I can guess what’s happening at home! Business at our firm is going great, and I hope yours is too – isn’t it nice that when the economy is down for most professions, ours still goes strong!

A little gossip: I’ve heard through the grapevine that Esquire may be opening a Birmingham office soon – may have already by the time this goes to press . . .

A little business: Engate litigation has now affected Livenote, so that they are selling “tokens” for attorneys to buy to connect to real-time feeds from reporters – nasty thing to happen when we’ve worked so hard at perfecting our writing! Supposedly this gets around the realtime patent issue.

A little medicine: A placebo or real fix?? I’m not sure, but if you’ve got mild carpal tunnel, Vitamin B6 helps mine — two or three 100 mg tablets a day, per my chiropractor brother. Also, on your morning walk, try locking your elbows and rotating your wrists really forward and really back and stretching them.

A little laughter: After 17 years of marriage, a man dumped his wife for a younger woman. The downtown luxury apartment was in his name, and he wanted to remain there with his new love. So he asked the wife to move out and then he would buy her another place.

The wife agreed to this, but asked that she be given three days on her own there to pack up her things. While he was gone, the first day she lovingly put her personal belongings into boxes and crates and suitcases. On the second day, she had the movers come and collect her things.

On the third day, she sat down for the last time at their candlelit dining table, soft music playing in the background, and feasted on a pound of shrimp and a bottle of Chardonnay. When she had finished, she went into each room and deposited a few of the resulting shrimp shells into the hollow of the curtain rods. She then cleaned up the kitchen and left.

The husband came back with his new girl, and all was bliss for the first few days. Then it started, slowly but surely. Clueless, the man could not explain why the place smelled so bad. They tried everything, cleaned and mopped and aired the place out. Vents were checked for dead rodents; carpets were steam cleaned. Air fresheners were hung everywhere. Exterminators were brought in. The carpets were replaced — and on it went.

Finally, they could take it no more and decided to move. The moving company arrived and did a very professional packing job, taking everything to their new home . . . including the curtain rods!

Have a great fall, and email me if I can help you in any way!

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