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To all ACRA Members:
Please take a few minutes and update your contact information. You can do this via the website, www.alcra.org, or by simply notifying us at alcra@comcast.net
Occasionally we send out important information in mass emails to our Membership. We want to make sure that you are kept up to date on the latest news and information affecting ACRA and your membership. If we do not have your correct email in our database, then you may not get the information you need to know. So please keep your contact information up to date.

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President's Perspective



Suzanne Frazier

Serving as President of YOUR ACRA is truly an honor and a privilege.

I am inspired by the work, dedication, and professionalism of those ACRA members who have served as president before me.

As a way of allowing you to become better acquainted with me, I would like to share with you just a little bit about myself. My life has been varied and rewarding. I have two shorthand methods: Gregg shorthand and a hybrid Stenograph/StenEd machine shorthand. My pre-court reporting resume lists Birmingham P.D. stenographer, certified legal secretary, executive secretary, Avon lady, and church choir director. My most important resume listings, however, are wife and mother. I have been married to my husband for 31 years and we have two daughters, Evelyn and Katherine and two "sons" in their husbands. Jim excelled as "husband most excellent" in the support and assistance he gave me in my convention chairperson duties this past year.

As our children's college years were on the horizon, I trained for the court reporting profession, the profession that had been suggested to me during my earlier years with the Birmingham P.D. After my graduation from Prince Institute, I worked several months as a freelance reporter with Steve Edmondson in Birmingham before being hired by the State of Alabama as a special roving reporter. Soon after starting with the State, I was hired by Circuit Judge Mike McCormick. January 2005 will mark eight years I have worked as his official reporter. I love being a court reporter and cannot imagine working in any other profession, for no other job could be as exciting, rewarding, or fulfilling.

As the 2004 ACRA Convention Chairperson, I titled the Summer Convention "Moving Towards the Future – Professionalism, the Most Important Key." "Moving" indicates change, action, not

standing still. "Towards" indicates there is something in front of us -- a goal to be achieved. And "the Future" implies not looking back except to learn from and avoid repeating past mistakes and also suggests we should profit from our past successes, utilize, and improve upon them. "Professionalism" attests to not just doing a job, but being confident in our knowledge and experience as we actively maintain polished skills and remain abreast of new developments within our profession. In my opinion, the "Key" to success for **YOUR** Alabama Court Reporters Association is **Moving towards the future as professionals!**

Our court reporting profession involves a community of similarly educated and trained people, even though we are diversely employed. Professional integrity requires continuing education and dedication. We should be proud of the connection we have that unites us in this community of court reporting professionals. I encourage each of you to take ownership of **YOUR** Alabama Court Reporters Association. Please consider giving back to **YOUR** ACRA with a few hours of your time in the work of at least one of its committees. Without you, work will go undone, goals will not be reached, and opportunities will be missed. I urge you to take pride in yourself as a court reporter and as a member of ACRA, with **pride** standing for **Professionalism, Respect** (that you deserve), **Integrity** (that you earn), **Dependability** and **Dedication** (that you exhibit), and **Enthusiasm** (for giving back to your community).

In this FTR issue you will find a listing of ACRA committees. After you have marked which committee you would like to serve on and give back to **YOUR** association, tear out that page and mail it to me at 801 Richard Arrington Boulevard, Room 605 – Criminal Justice Center, Birmingham, AL 35203 or e-mail me at SFrazier1031@aol.com. I'll be watching for your sign-up sheet and thank you in advance for the part you will play in moving **YOUR** ACRA towards the future.

Suzanne Frazier

Certified Legal Video Specialists and ACRA

To: Members of the Alabama Court Reporters Association

I have been in discussion with members of your board of directors, asking them to start a Legal Video (CLVS) committee within the ACRA. This committee will seek to raise the awareness of the role of the CLVS among Alabama's legal community and provide educational and networking opportunities for the CLVS and reporters. I encourage your support in this effort.

As most of you know, a large part of a legal videographer's business comes through referrals from court reporters. Currently in the state of Alabama there is no law requiring a certified court reporter or certified videographer to document court proceedings. We need to change that. I would like to develop and propose legislation that will require Certified Court Reporters as well as Certified Legal Videographers to be present.

As a NCRA trained Certified Legal Video Specialist, I was taught and believe court reporters are the key to an accurate record. There are some organizations "certifying" videographers through mail order. This significantly devalues our CLVS training and certification, setting a dangerous precedence. Most of you have heard about or experienced the horrors of untrained and unqualified videographers. As the state's professional organization for court reporting, it is our responsibility to demand and uphold the professionalism in our field. The best way to accomplish this is through a mandatory training and certification program.

I have made efforts to organize the thirteen of us in Alabama who are NCRA Certified Legal Video Specialists. We have all received the training and proven our skills through both written and practical examinations. And, as NCRA Certified Videographers, we are committed to strict adherence to the CLVS Professional Code of Ethics. We have all made a large investment (both in time and money) to ensure we are properly trained and equipped. Unfortunately, many court reporters in Alabama hire, recommend, and refer untrained, non-certified videographers. Our profession deserves better.

I believe the appropriate action is an awareness program within the framework of the ACRA. Please feel free to contact me with your comments. Email is the best way. You can reach me at john.kilpatrick@legal-imaging.net.

Thanks. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

John F. Kilpatrick, CLVS



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Type of membership I am applying for: Certified [] General [] Associate [] Student []

1. If applying for Certified Membership, are you an: RDR [] RMR [] RPR [] CRR [] CSR []
CBC [] CCP [] CRI []

(If you are applying for Certified Membership, you must attach a current copy of each certificate.)

2. Have you ever been a member of ACRA? Yes [] No [] 3. Are you currently a member of NCRA? Yes [] No []

4. What is your method of shorthand? _____

5. Are you currently a student? Yes [] No [] If yes, what school? _____

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 and return application with payment.

7. Do you offer video services? Yes [] No [] 8. Are you CLVS certified? Yes [] No []

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

11. Are you: Freelance [] Official [] Captioner [] CART Provider [] Instructor []

If Freelance/Captioner/CART Provider/Instructor, what company or school? _____

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 _____

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 _____

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Apply online: www.alcra.org

JOIN A 2004-2005 COMMITTEE TODAY
with the
ALABAMA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Ask not what your ACRA can do for you! Ask yourself what YOU can do for your ACRA and your court reporting profession! Join your fellow reporters in accomplishing rewarding tasks for your future as a court reporter. Indicate below which committee or committees you would love to assist with and turn your form in to the registration desk. You will be amazed at the satisfaction you can and will receive from sharing your time and talents in furtherance of the purposes of the Alabama Court Reporters Association.

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MEMBERSHIP RETENTION	Karen Reagan karenreagan@charter.net	
CERTIFICATION	Shannon Ball bamaball@hiwaay.net	
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PUBLIC RELATIONS	Margaret Turner mcaturner@comcast.net	
WEBSITE	Alan Peacock peacock43@comcast.net	
STUDENT MENTORING	Ashley Young merit260@msn.com	
HISTORIC PRESERVATION	Debby Garrett debbyjrpr@aol.com	

Please contact the chairperson of the committee you choose to serve at their e-mail address or mail your completed form to: **Suzanne B. Frazier, CSR, RPR/801 North Richard Arrington Boulevard, Criminal Justice Center Room 605, Birmingham, AL 35203**

*From the desk of
the President-Elect*
Alan Peacock



As your new president-elect, I would first like to say thank you for giving me the honor of continuing to serve on your Board of Directors.

Please feel comfortable in contacting me, or any Board member, if you have any needs, problems, concerns on any matters that relate to ACRA. I feel proud to serve on this Board with such professional, dedicated, and caring individuals.

I would like to extend a heart-felt "thank you" and "congratulations" to Suzanne Frazier, CSR, RPR, for planning a wonderful and memorable ACRA Summer Convention. A lot of work is involved behind the scenes when putting a convention together, and Suzanne's impeccable organizational skills really paid off. The seminars were educational and fun to attend. A special "thank you" is also extended to Jim Frazier, Suzanne's husband and official right-hand man, for the countless hours of work and assistance he put into helping the convention become a success. You both did a wonderful job!

I particularly enjoyed John Croyle's moving and inspirational presentation.

John spoke of his past, present, and future and of his work at The Big Oak Ranch, a home for kids that have been orphaned, physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. If any of you thought you missed your opportunity to help with this worthwhile cause, you will be happy to know that you still can help. Donations are always welcomed. A pledge card should be in this issue of "For the Record." If you would like to send a donation directly, the address: Big Oak Ranch, Post Office Box 507, Springville, AL 35146.

So now that our summer convention is behind us, the torch has been passed and it is now my job to plan our next two conventions. **Please mark your calendar for the following dates:**

January 14-15, 2005
ACRA Midyear Convention.
The Legends at Prattville,
Prattville, AL
July 28-31, 2005
ACRA Summer Convention.
Park Vista Hotel,
Gatlinburg, TN

ACRA has increased its membership by over 25% in the past couple of months. Since we have so many new members and new CSR's, I thought I would remind you that you have to attain 1.5 CE credits to retain your CSR status. The ACRA Midyear

and Annual conventions are a great place to start! Prattville is located in the center of the state and should be convenient for all members to attend.

Heidi Thomas, RMR, CRR, CBC, will be at our ACRA Midyear Convention and will hold a one-day realtime seminar. You will need to bring your machines and your laptops and get ready for some great writing tips from the pros! Even if you do not plan to become a realtime writer, you can still benefit from this seminar. Many realtime seminars cost \$500 or more just for registration. This full-day seminar is included as part of your ACRA convention registration. You can't beat that! So I would really like to see every single member, machines in tow, at the 2005 convention!

And I'll have details on the ACRA Summer Convention in future issues of FTR. Gatlinburg is the perfect summer getaway for individuals and families. The City Aquarium is worth the trip alone. There are three wineries located near by. In fact, I am applying to NCRA to get CE points for a winery excursion for ACRA members that visit Gatlinburg. More details to come in future FTR issues so stay tuned!

I hope everyone has a successful and profitable Fall season. I will look forward to speaking to you again soon. Until next time...

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Hello From Birmingham And District One!

By Kathryn L. Hicks, CSR, RPR

Surprising, Educational, Fun, and Motivating. Those are just a few of the words I could use to describe the Alabama Court Reporters Association 2004 Summer Convention in Stone Mountain, Georgia, this past July.



Kathy Hicks,
District 1 Director

The convention was SURPRISING to me, in that it surpassed my expectations. It had been several years since I attended an ACRA summer convention. Even though I have been a 17-year member of ACRA, due to work requirements as an official court reporter who roves between courtrooms, I was never able to attend the summer conventions on a regular basis. Until recently, I usually managed to obtain my continuing education points by attending conventions in other states during less busy times in our circuit here in Birmingham.

So with the experience of attending out-of-state conventions in the back of my head, I was pleasantly surprised at the caliber and professionalism of our own Alabama summer convention. Our president, Suzanne B. Frazier, put together a fantastic program for the convention. Even court reporters who attended from other parts of the country commented on how great the convention was. It made me so proud to be a part of the "Alabama" Court Reporters Association.

This convention was EDU-

CATIONAL, which should normally go without saying when you attend any kind of work-related conference. But, again, after reporting for 17 years and having attended various seminars over the years, it's easy to get cynical about session topics such as "Relieving Stress" and "Dealing with Difficult People." I'm not saying that learning how to relieve stress and learning how to deal with difficult people aren't valuable topics, but they can be overdone.

At this particular convention we learned important "life lessons," everything from the correct handshake technique during introductions to even dealing with bioterrorism. We also learned practical lessons such as maintenance and care of steno machines, as well as awesome new websites and software resources for instant referencing so that you don't spend 30 minutes trying to find the right spelling for an obscure restaurant in Juneau, Alaska.

The convention was FUN for two reasons: It was such a joy to see court reporters I hadn't seen in the past few years, and there were plenty of activities for folks like me who brought family members with them. It was almost like a family reunion, getting to catch up on where everyone was working now and how much their children had grown, not to mention meeting new, fresh-faced reporters and students just getting started in the profession.

The location for the convention, the Marriott Evergreen Resort and Conference Center at Stone Mountain, Georgia, was perfect for families and singles. Not only was the food terrific, but they offered a whole selection of special spa treatments, facials, manicures, and pedicures. And everyone enjoyed taking the sky lifts up to the mountain, riding the train around

the park, and watching the fabulous laser show at night.

Finally, the ACRA summer convention was MOTIVATING. This convention gave me the kick in the pants I needed to wake up from simply watching our Association from the sidelines. Over the years I had jumped in and gotten involved briefly with ACRA and/or AOC when single issues popped up that directly impacted my little world, issues such as time standards, page rates, and page formatting. And I suspect that there are many court reporters out there such as myself who have watched from the sidelines and perhaps jumped in whenever an issue directly affected them.

I've definitely been motivated now to do more than just watch from the periphery of my tiny planet. I've finally realized that it's not enough to just jump in when a single issue affects you. And, goodness, it hurts to exercise that complacency muscle that we all have, but it hurts more to realize that you've been missing out on all the Association has to offer.

As a result of jumping in and participating with our Association this year, I've realized that we all have something to give, even if it is simply signing up for an ACRA committee that interests you. And now that many of you have joined ACRA and applied for CSR status, which will require obtaining continuing education points, I urge you to sign up and attend the ACRA Mid-Winter Conference in January 2005 at The Legends in Prattville, Alabama, and the ACRA Summer Convention in July 2005 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Each of these conferences will surely give you something that is SURPRISING, EDUCATIONAL, FUN, and MOTIVATING.

CONGRATULATIONS CINDY GREENE

Cindy Greene will be taking a cruise thanks to a lucky ticket!

Cindy's ticket was the winning raffle ticket in the 2004 ACRA Summer Cruise Raffle awarded at the Summer Convention this past weekend at the Evergreen Conference Resort in Stone Mountain.

Cindy and her husband will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on September 1. When Cindy recovers from her elation at finding out she was the WINNER, she and hubby will start making second honeymoon plans courtesy of her winning ticket.

Have a great time, Cindy, and don't forget to send us a postcard!

ACRA Board Meeting

The ACRA Board of Directors will hold its Fall 2004 quarterly meeting
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10/6/04 & 10/7/04: United States Court Reporters Association Annual Convention (for more information visit www.uscra.org)

10/23/04: Georgia Shorthand Reporters Association Fall Seminar, Savannah, GA (for more information visit www.gsra.com)

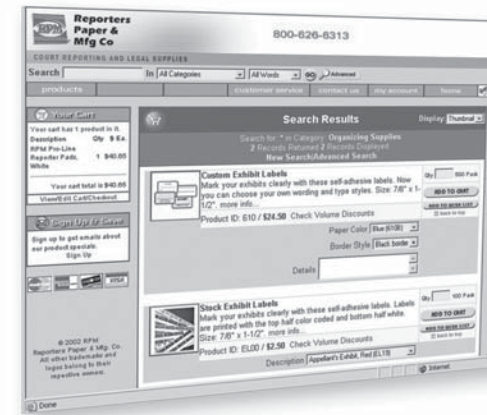
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**Presentation Of
The DSA Award**
by Mary Frances Giattina, CSR, RDR, RPR.

Good evening, everyone. Before representing the DSA Award tonight, I'd like to read to you from the Constitution and Bylaws a description of the purpose of this award.



Mary Frances Giattina
Making DSA announcement.

“The purpose of the ACRA Award for Distinguished Service to the profession is to encourage and to recognize work amounting to distinguished service by individual members in good standing of the Alabama Court Reporters Association for the benefit of the reporting profession. That may include work as a member, committee member, director, or officer of the Association, for the ACRA newsletter, or in the field of public affairs or public relations.

“The Committee shall be composed of the immediate past recipient of this award, the Association President, and Immediate Past President. The Association President shall be the chairperson of the Committee.”

The recipient of this year's DSA Award is someone that some of you may not be familiar with because she has been the kind of dedicated reporter who has served our profession behind the scenes in various capacities. When asked to perform a service for ACRA, she has never declined.

She has been, until the last few years, a regular attendee at our conventions. Her struggle with the debilitating effects of multiple sclerosis has in the past few years prevented her from joining us at our annual conventions, and her attempts at travel and poor accommodation in spite of the

advances of the ADA have made it nearly impossible for her to stay overnight in a hotel.

In recent e-mails back and forth between Suzanne Frazier and our recipient, encouraging her to come here, the true spirit of the DSA Award was conveyed. And at the risk of violating her privacy, I would like to read a few comments made by our recipient.

“I really want to come to the convention. I used to go to all of them, always. I used to never miss any of them. Even if I had all my points, I still went anyway. I think the seminars and conventions, et cetera, are a wonderful thing. My husband always says to me, “Why are you going?” and I always say, well, I always learn something. It never fails, I always learn something at each seminar or convention.

Like I've mentioned to you before, I'm an old reporter, but I still love my job. I have loved my job ever since Day One, and each day I continue to love it.

July 24th ends another year for me, and so July 25th will start my 31st year. I've seen lots of changes and learned lots of things. I'm so proud to be a Court Reporter, and I always will be. It's been a wonderful profession, and I'm so thankful to still be

able to work.

I'm really thankful to Foshee and Turner for letting me work. It's nice to have someone believe in me and give me the opportunity to keep on working, even though I'm in a wheelchair now. Everyone has been so nice to me, and for this I am truly grateful.

All those handicapped people who came before me really paved the way for people like myself and, like I said before, I am truly grateful for that. You just don't know what that means when somebody believes in you enough to let you work under their name and they support you and encourage you to keep going, and they still give you jobs.”

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to announce the recipient of this year's DSA Award: Kathy B. Haynes, CSR, RPR, from Hanceville, Alabama.

As this award is being presented in absentia, our incoming President and Chairperson of the DSA Committee will travel to Kathy's home after the convention and will present her a plaque and a floral arrangement with the congratulations and best wishes of the Alabama Court Reporters Association.

Thank you.



The Few, the Proud... the Mentors.
Yes, we're looking for a few good men -- and women!



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 return it to Ashley Young, 1912 Third Avenue South, Pell City, AL 35128, office (205) 252-9152 or you may email your information to Ashley at merit260@msn.com. In advance, we thank you for your consideration.

ACRA.....Committed to Service!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (Work) (_____) _____

(Home) (_____) _____

(Fax) (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____

**PRINCE INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
2ND ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE/CAREER DAY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2004
9 A.M. — 3 P.M.**

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ACRA 2004 Distinguished Service Award Winner

By Kathy Haynes

I am so honored to be the recipient of this year's Award for Distinguished Service of the Alabama Court Reporters Association.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the committee members for choosing me and to all those who have made it possible for me to work in this, my chosen field.

A special thank you to Foshee and Turner for believing in me and continuing to give me the opportunity to do the work I love.



Kathy Haynes receiving DSA award

I've often been asked how it was I came to be a Court Reporter. When I was 16 years old I was involved in an automobile accident and my parents were sued. It took four years for the trial to come to Court. By that time I was in College at Jacksonville State, in the process of earning an Advanced Secretarial Science degree. During the Court proceedings I

found myself watching the Court Reporter work and I thought how interesting his job must be. I kept watching him and watching him, not paying attention to the trial, but just watching him. I found myself thinking that, hey, wouldn't that be fun, to enjoy your work and get paid for doing it. I thought, hey, I could do that kind of work. I looked at him and watched his every move, then asked someone who he was. Lo and behold, it was Roy Graham! Small world!

Meanwhile Jacksonville State was contemplating a change from Greg Shorthand to the new "machine shorthand." The advanced students were required to take the new course and rate its effectiveness. Out of eleven students I was the only one who enjoyed the class. My teacher told me if I could become proficient in doing shorthand I could have a future in Court Reporting. At that time I still really had no idea what that was but I knew I had seen "that man" doing "that funny little machine" in Court. We had a family reunion and who should show up but one of my long lost cousins. His wife (who was my secretarial science advisor at Jacksonville) was a relative of ours and she didn't tell me, until she just showed up at our family reunion. She brought her husband, who was a Court Reporter, and she said, I think you need to talk to him this afternoon because he can steer you in the direction you need to go. She said, You're just like him and enjoy the same things, you need to follow a career like his.

With the information on schools furnished by my teacher, I researched my options and picked a school in Texas I believed was tops in the field. As a brand

new newlywed, I went to Texas for my studies and graduated in 1974. I am now entering my 31st year as a Court Reporter and STILL LOVE IT!

What a great blessing to have been able to work in a profession I have loved. I have always striven to be the best possible reporter I can be. To be honored with such a prestigious award is certainly a dream realized and rates as one of the most wonderful and cherished moments in my life. We have SO MANY great reporters in our profession and I am just so happy to be a part of such a wonderful organization with such wonderful reporters, and to be able to take my place among those special people who have come before me.

In closing, allow me to again thank everyone involved in my receiving this award. My special thanks to Dale Tyler, who was my mentor, who is no longer with us, and special thanks to Don Eaton for giving me my first job, and to Charles Foshee and Mickey Turner for giving me the job I have now, even though I have MS (Multiple Sclerosis) and I have to take my jobs from a wheelchair, and to all of the special attorneys who allow me to still work and don't allow my "handicap" to be a real handicap. For all of this and for all of you, I am truly grateful! I also want to thank Suzanne Frazier and her husband for making such a special effort to drive all the way to my home and personally present this award. It has been an awesome experience that I will truly cherish the rest of my life!

Thank you so much and I love you all!

ACRA 2004 SUMMER CONVENTION



"Russ Metler of the CDC discussing current events and how they affect us."



"Santo J. 'Joe' Aurelio helped capture English Gremlins and shared other punctuation insights."



Betty Holder of Searchmaster



Patty Wood, the Body Language Expert, instructed everyone on First Impressions and the importance of handshakes.



"John Croyle, Director of Big Oak Ranch, Inc., sharing on how we can all make a difference."



Buddy Darion of Top Cat Steno, Inc., gave TLC lessons for our steno machines.

Pamela Willis

2004 ACRA Scholarship Recipient Attends State Convention

As the recipient of the 2004 ACRA Scholarship, I was thrilled to attend my very first state convention which was recently held in Stone Mountain, GA. I came away with so many helpful tips, valuable new briefs, great door prizes, and lots of encouragement. Each seminar was extremely informative, interesting, and so much fun.

For example, I'll bet most people fail to realize that it only requires 1/40 of a second to form an accurate first impression of someone. Yes, I said "accurate." That's amazing. And I had absolutely no idea how important body language is in portraying the desired initial impression to others! How many people even realize that it's possible for someone to sum up your professional abilities according to your handshake alone? Are most people even aware of what constitutes a proper handshake or how important eye contact is? Can the average person detect when someone is lying to them simply by the movements of their mouth or by their choice of contractions? Indeed, it is all so fascinating!

I also thoroughly enjoyed the in-depth information about punctuation as well as hints on a little TLC for my writer. There was even an entire hour devoted to "English Gremlins" or, as we like to call them in school, "soundalikes." It was interesting to note that two of the most common errors occur when we confuse "it's" with "its" and "you're" with "your." But there were several tips and ideas given to aid in using the correct spelling where necessary. Word association is, indeed, a powerful tool!

In a nutshell, I'd say this was a much-needed and refreshing experience for me. I made new friends as well as some great business contacts in the process of my learning. I would recommend attending one of these conferences whenever possible, and I do look forward to the next one.

Thanks to the ACRA for providing such high-quality speakers, top-notch accommodations, and an invaluable experience for working reporters and students alike.

To Members of the Alabama Court Reporters Association by John F. Kilpatrick, CLVS

I have been in discussion with members of your board of directors, asking them to start a Legal Video (CLVS) committee within the ACRA. This committee will seek to raise the awareness of the role of the CLVS among Alabama's legal community and provide educational and networking opportunities for the CLVS and reporters. I encourage your support in this effort.

As most of you know, a large part of a legal videographer's business comes through referrals from court reporters. Currently in the state of Alabama there is no law requiring a certified court reporter or certified videographer to document court proceedings. We need to change that. I would like to develop and propose legislation that will require Certified Court Reporters as well as Certified Legal Videographers to be present.

As a NCRA trained Certified Legal Video Specialist, I was taught and believe court reporters are the key to an accurate record. There are some organizations "certifying" videographers through mail order. This significantly devalues our CLVS training and certification, setting a dangerous precedence. Most of you have heard about

Alabama CSR Information



Next Exam Is October 2, 2004

For those of you who do not hold an Alabama CSR, there's no time like the present to start preparing for it! You can apply to sit for the examination either via the website (see the Quicklinks on the Main Page) or by submitting your application found in this issue of "For The Record."

Obtaining CSR status is your responsibility. The only way to obtain an Alabama CSR designation at this time is through testing. You must complete the RPR Written Knowledge Test offered by NCRA and also the Alabama CSR Skills Test to become licensed.

For your convenience, the test will be offered in three locations throughout the state: Gadsden, Montgomery, and Mobile. The testing date is October 2, 2004.

The Skills Test will consist of three examinations: 180 Literary, 200 Jury

or experienced the horrors of untrained and unqualified videographers. As the state's professional organization for court reporting, it is our responsibility to demand and uphold the professionalism in our field. The best way to accomplish this is through a mandatory training and certification program.

I have made efforts to organize the thirteen of us in Alabama who are NCRA Certified Legal Video Specialists. We have all received the training and proven our skills through both written and practical examinations. And, as NCRA Certified Videographers, we are committed to strict adherence to the CLVS Professional Code of Ethics. We have all made a large investment (both in time and money) to ensure we are properly trained and equipped. Unfortunately, many court reporters in Alabama hire, recommend, and refer untrained, non-certified videographers. Our profession deserves better.

I believe the appropriate action is an awareness program within the framework of the ACRA. Please feel free to contact me with your comments. Email is the best way. You can reach me at john.kilpatrick@legal-imaging.net. Thanks. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Charge, 225 Q&A. All candidates must pass with an accuracy rate of 95%.

The Skills portion of the examination may be passed in legs. Candidates may retake any portion of the skills examination as many times as necessary, provided they maintain their current membership.

Once a member has become a Certified member, a CSR certificate will be issued along with a CSR number and a wallet I.D card. Your CSR number should be printed on your Certificate page.

To retain your CSR status, each member must obtain 3.0 CEU credits over a three-year period. Members who also hold certification through NCRA (RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR) can simply use their NCRA credits to apply for their CSR CEU credits.

So register today for the October 2, 2004 Alabama CSR examination! It's a great way to prepare for your RPR examination in May. You have plenty of time to prepare, so pull out those speed tapes, dust off the keys, and get ready!

GOOD LUCK TO ALL CSR TESTING CANDIDATES!



Alabama CSR Examination Application

CSR Examination Date: October 2, 2004

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.

Alan Peacock
President-Elect
1960 Old Government Street
Mobile, AL 36606