

NCCRA'S FALL CONFERENCE

- October 24-26, 2014
- DoubleTree Suites by Hilton at Charlotte SouthPark
- For lowest rate, register by September 24, 2014
- Earn 1.15 CEU's
- iPad Giveaway
- Fun-filled, education-packed weekend!

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July 2014

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

...and register now for NCCRA's 2014 fall conference being held at the DoubleTree Hilton SouthPark in Charlotte, North Carolina, the weekend of October 24-26, 2014.

David First of EveryWord, Inc., will kick off the three-day conference Friday evening with a presentation and discussion of the latest technology and tools being used in the court reporting industry with the opportunity of audience input and/or questions.

On Saturday, Nancy Varallo, RDR, CRR, FAPR, NCRA's current president, will discuss the latest trends and changes impacting today's court reporters. In a separate presentation, she will discuss the StenOps Team at Guantanamo Bay currently reporting hearings of those accused concerning the bombings of the USS COLE and

the terrorism of 9/11.

After our lunch break on Saturday, Ed Varallo, RMR, CRR, FAPR, will outline for us shorthand for the 21st Century, sharing tips and techniques to help improve Realtime skills enabling the reporter to turn out fast, accurate drafts and fast, certified transcripts. In this day and age, whether certified or not, all reporters should be utilizing Realtime technology.

We will conclude Saturday's sessions with Christine Woods of Carolinas Captioning, who will offer "the forward motion" of court reporting and setting goals. She will remind us of who we were, who we are, and where we're going as reporters. New directions with new technology.

Whew! What a day.

After a good night's rest, the conference continues and

concludes Sunday under the tutelage of Mark Kislingbury, RDR, CRR, FAPR. Mark's seminar, no doubt, will be both entertaining and informative as he shares stories and anecdotes relating to his 30-year court reporting career. You will learn first hand the "secrets" of his writing skills that have contributed to his success in speed contests and his Guinness World Record of 360 wpm. OMG! He will challenge you to write faster and more accurate, ultimately resulting in a happier, less-stressed reporter. You will leave his seminar feeling invigorated, renewed, and ready to tackle the next "speed talker" that crosses your path.

NCCRA's fall conference is going to be a fun-filled, education-packed weekend. Attendees will have the opportunity to earn a total of 1.15 CEUs. REGISTER TODAY!

NCRA TESTING—RPR RMR RDR CRR CBC CCP CLVS

The NCRA Skills Tests will take place November 1, 2014, at the BEACH! The registration period is September 2, 2014, through October 6, 2014.

NCCRA will sponsor a testing site at Cape Fear Community College located in beautiful historic downtown WILMINGTON. Evon Pepin, RMR, and "PJ" Jaeger, RPR,

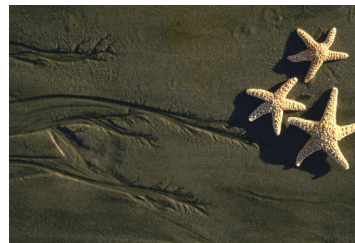
CRR, will serve as proctors.

The testing fee for NCRA members is \$170; student members of NCRA, \$135; and non-members, \$210.

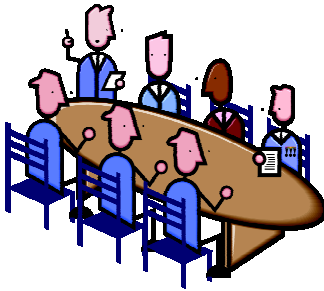
Practice. Practice. Practice. Add some INITIALS to your name. :)

The State is still offering NC Officials a pay increase for

passing the RMR or CRR exam. Give yourself a raise!



OFFICIALS OFF THE RECORD ~ “PJ” Jaeger



As most officials are aware, John Smith, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, has organized an Advisory Committee to study the issue and assess the appropriate mix for the use of digital recording and live court reporting in the courts of our state. That committee is comprised of eight Official Reporters, Superior and District Court Judges, Clerks of Superior Court, Trial Court Administrator, representatives of the District Attorney Conference, Indigent Defense

Services/Public Defenders, and select employees of AOC.

Method of Preserving the Record, Technology Issues, Court Reporting Resources, and Compensation Issues are among the four areas of focus for the committee.

An organizational meeting was held April 25, 2014, with the introduction of members followed by a general discussion of current court reporting practices and methods in state court.

The Committee's second meeting was held June 6, 2014, with Jon Williams, Senior Deputy Director of AOC, chairing the proceedings. Presentations were given on “Current Recording Technology for District Courts” and “Court Reporting and Transcription Survey of Other States.”

The next meeting, scheduled for August 15, 2014, will focus on the compensation of court reporters.

FREELANCE FACTS ~ Amy Brauser

**How often does
your witness
answer with
“yes,” “no,”
“correct,”
“yeah,” “right,”
“okay”?**

I have recently joined a Facebook group on briefs. I really didn't think I needed any more of them since I've been reporting 22 years now. I should have things under control at this point; right? Ha! Joining this group has definitely made me rethink my writing and how I brief things. Just for instance the word “guidelines.” I don't have a brief for this; it's always been a two-stroke word for me. But if I'm already

stroking the word “lines,” why not just add the “g” on the front of the stroke to make it “glines.” Another example is “download.” This also is a two-stroke word for me. I'm already stroking the word “load”; just add the “d” on the front of the stroke to make it “dload.” Another example that I've written out for 22 years (ouch) is “deposition.” If you're already stroking “dep,” just add the “gs,” and now

you've got “deggs.”

But now I'll share the most amazing thing I've found. How often does your witness answer with any of the following: yes, no, correct, yeah, right, okay? All the time. By stroking the answer bank with an added letter or two, you won't even have to stroke these by themselves. (SEE PAGE 4 FOR EXAMPLES)

CART CONVERSATION ~ Crystal Jones



Changes are being made to the North Carolina community college curricula. In the past, students requesting CART accommodations for fall classes were able to register at the end of the spring semester; however, registration for this year's fall semester began in July, resulting in last-minute scheduling for CART providers.

Please consider joining the Hearing Loss Association of America for the Walk4Hearing

on Sunday, October 19, 2014, in Cary, North Carolina, “to increase public awareness about hearing loss, help eradicate the stigma associated with it, and raise funds for programs and services.” Further information can be found at <http://www.hearingloss.org/content/walk4hearing>.

NC NOTARY LAW REGARDING OATHS

It has come to the attention of the Board of NCCRA that some agency owners and/or reporters may be unaware of the Notary Law with regard to administering the oath to a deponent/witness at a deposition or other proceeding.

Generally, court reporters in North Carolina have previously interpreted the requirement to confirm the identity of the deponent/witness based on a government-issued photo I.D.

or government-issued I.D. containing a physical description to be related to notarizing a document rather than administering the oath to a deponent/witness at a deposition or proceeding. This is an incorrect interpretation of the North Carolina Notary Public Act.

A member of NCCRA's Board has been in touch with Mr. Ozzie Stallworth, Electronic Notarization and Notary Enforcement Director of the North Carolina

Department of Secretary of State, and she was advised that not identifying a witness by valid identification was grounds for revocation of the notarial appointment as well as criminal charges for misconduct. General Statute 10B-60(j) addresses a potential situation where an attorney may attempt to coerce a reporter to swear in a witness without proper identification.

NCCRA will be distributing a letter to the legal community addressing this issue.



* A copy of the NC Notary Public Act and a document of Excerpts of the Act is attached to this newsletter.

ON-THE-RECORD HUMOR

The following is an excerpt from the voir dire examination of a prospective juror in a capital murder case:

MR. JONES: And do you have any children?

MS. SMITH: One on the way.

MR. JONES: One on the way?

MS. SMITH: Yes.

MR. JONES: No issues there about being here eight weeks, I take it, with regard to that?

MS. SMITH: I might request to have some M&M's while I'm sitting here. But —

MR. JONES: I'll have to leave that up to the judge.

THE COURT: You'll be allowed to have M&M's.

MS. SMITH: Okay.

*** **

In the same murder trial, prospective jurors wanting to be excused by the Court prior

to the commencement of jury selection spoke with the judge individually where the following exchange took place:

THE COURT: Yes, ma'am? Tell me your situation.

MS. BROWN: I'm a single parent as of right now. I have a 13-month-old. I work — I'm the sole income of my house right now. I can't afford to miss work. Today, I was —

THE COURT: I'm sorry,

ma'am. If you'll back up. What did you say?

(Ms. Brown physically backed up.)

THE COURT: Back up in your sentence. Not back up literally. I'm sorry. Just repeat what you said.

*** **



MORE HUMOR IN THE COURT

A D.A.'s comments to prospective jurors in a drug trial:

D.A.: You're going to learn, ladies and gentlemen, we had a number of law enforcement officers that were involved in the drug investigation. And several of these officers were positioned at this particular location in surveillance roles. Actually watching for any activity that they could report to other officers. You're going

to learn that those officers were in undercover or plain-clothes capacities. In fact, a number of these officers with the Narcotics Unit actually work in an undercover capacity. That's not a regulation beard that Detective White is wearing. He is part of the Narcotics Division and does some undercover work. They were trying to blend. They weren't wearing police uniforms and sitting in the parking lot in marked cars in

anticipation of this occurring.

*** **

MORE JURY VOIR DIRE:

MS. D.A.: Have either of you ever been charged with a crime or had someone close to you who was charged with a crime?

MR. JUROR: A few years back, when I was younger, intoxicated in Myrtle Beach, and intoxicated in public about 10 years back.

MS. D.A.: Is there anything about that experience that you think might affect your ability to be fair?

MR. JUROR: No. I think all the side effects have wore off.

MS. D.A.: You what?

MR. JUROR: I think all the side effects have wore off.

MS. D.A.: Okay. All the side effects have worn off.

I love these. Just start with the “yes” and “no” examples and see how many strokes you drop in one day.

<u>SPOKEN WORD</u>	<u>STENO STROKE</u>	<u>TRANSLATION**</u>
Yes	E + (answer bank)	A. Yes
No	O + (answer bank)	A. No
Correct	KR + (answer bank)	A. Correct
Yeah	EA + (answer bank)	A. Yeah
Right	RAOEU + (answer bank)	A. Right
Okay	K + (answer bank)	A. Okay
Okay	(question bank) + K	Q. Okay

(How many times does an attorney say “okay” before he starts the next question?)

**** SOFTWARE AUTOMATICALLY ADDS THE PERIOD.**

We're on the web!
nc-courtreportersassociation.org

FALL CONFERENCE SURPRISE!

Check it out!! NCCRA flash drives preloaded with the NC notary laws and NCRA transcript format guidelines.

The flash drives will make their debut at the Fall Conference October 24-26, 2014, in Charlotte, NC. Attend the conference and be one of the first reporters to own such a unique tool. Buy a second and give as a gift.



SEE YOU IN CHARLOTTE!!

SNO*E
Scenario