

THE

Florida

REPORTER



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL/MAY/JUNE/JULY 2018-2019

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and what this means for Florida Reporters

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By Sharon Velazco, RPR, FPR, CLR,
2018-2019 President



TAPESTRY

For My Court Reporter Friends and Students

There is definitely a monetary gratification that comes with what we do, which is why we invest so much of ourselves, our time, and our energy into preparing for such a challenging career. We are always cultivating the discipline it takes to get through the demands of school in order to be qualified to enter this honorable profession. It's not unusual that we tend to focus on the reality of being able to comfortably support our families and provide for their future, and sometimes that is the goal that gets us through to passing our 225s.

But, I urge you to expand your mission to include the privilege of service to your community and world. You have been given this drive and talent for a reason, and it goes beyond the immediate need and reward of taking care of your loved ones. You have so much to offer, and your skills are vital to others who, because of

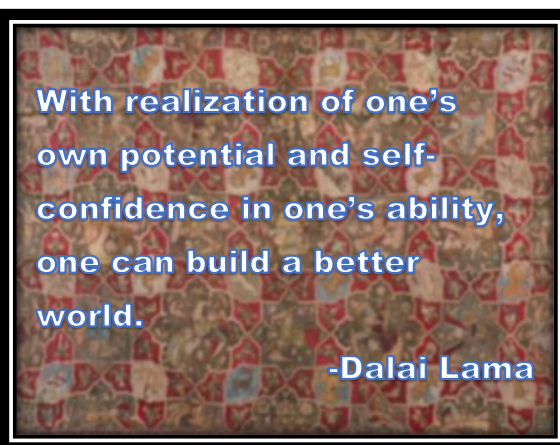
you and your selfless dedication, will have the ability to be part of an activity or event from which otherwise they are excluded. Imagine yourself seated in the booth of an auditorium or place of worship, captioning and letting that audience and the whole world read the inspiring words of political and religious leaders. There are many variations on that theme, all of which center around you, the court reporter, being the conduit for the spoken word.

Perhaps you would prefer to give back on a more personal level, such as one-on-one with a student. There are many gifted, hard-of-hearing

people who aspire to do so much more academically, but who are limited because they do not have access to the verbatim words of the teacher. An example is someone who wishes to become a doctor. There are words spoken daily in the classroom for which even the changing of an "o" to an "er" would seem to be a subtle difference, but the meanings are entirely opposite; hypertension, hypotension. It may be extremely challenging, if not impossible, for that student to hear the nuanced distinction. Your being there makes all the difference in the world.

If you, a court reporter, CART provider, captioner, are seated beside that student during the class, they are able to read and follow along, word for word, all the way to graduation. And, because you shared your talents, those others may now share theirs.

So, realize your worth and potential, and always keep in mind that you are an important, supporting thread in this beautiful tapestry of humanity. Not only do you reveal the beauty that might go unnoticed, if it weren't for your presence, but the texture of your willing strength can enhance and magnify the qualities of others, enabling them to stand out and be recognized where otherwise, their brilliance would fade into the background.





By Richard S. Sciré, RPR, FPR
The Florida Reporter Editor, FCRA Vice President

Our Long and Winding Road

Happy Spring from your editor and publisher. What a busy year it has been. I cannot believe the convention is right around the corner.

In this issue, we will update you on our successful legislative attempts at getting a registry passed. Government Relations Committee Chair, Rosa Naccarato, explains the importance of such a registry and the work and effort that went behind our success.

Court Reporting & Captioning Week was super successful this year! We promoted stenography like never before, and we aren't finished yet! The PR Committee Chair, Sandra Estevez, is hard at work with the committee on a campaign to get the word out that we are stronger than ever. Please see the flyer in this issue and in future e-blasts to share with your attorneys and anyone and everyone who needs to know the importance of a stenographer.

Our Convention Chair and Immediate Past President, Lori Bundy, is unveiling just some of the fun we have in store for attendees during this year's FCRA Convention – *Waves of Change: Oceans of Opportunity*.

What has become to be my favorite read is the next installment of Donna Kanabay's "The Diamond Vault." We are now moving into the 1990s with this installment. Those were the years I attended court reporting school. My court reporting instructor was Carol Coblenz back then. It brought back so many memories watching her videos and former students, some of which are friends of mine, giving their congratulations to her as she won the Arlene P. Sommers Award for Outstanding Achievement in Education. Carol was an amazing teacher. I could not be where I am today without her.

While "The Diamond Vault" touches upon fond memories and history, Donna reminds and educates us on some of the tumultuous times. As George Santayana wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past, are condemned to repeat it. I

was reminded of that when I learned of FCRA's efforts of a certification and anti-contracting and turmoil between officials and freelancers. We often forget how climates change that warrant us to take a different direction at times, which takes me full circle back to Rosa's article on our bill for a court reporter registry.

Speaking of full circle moments, I smiled when I read the former name of this magazine. Before it was renamed to *FCR Online*, it used to be *The Florida Court Reporter*, which isn't too different than our new name, *The Florida Reporter*. Sometimes what's old is new again.

In closing, when we think about our present, and ponder or worry about the future, let us learn from the past instead. As Billy Joel sang, "...the good ole days weren't always good and tomorrow ain't as bad as it seems."

Let's stay steno smart and strong because of the steno stars we are. I look forward to seeing you all at what will be an epic convention!

The Florida Reporter Deadline Dates

(WINTER) DEC/JAN/FEB/MAR
Article Submission – November 5
Online Publication – December 12

(SPRING) APR/MAY/JUNE/JULY
Article Submission – March 5
Online Publication – April 12

(FALL) AUG/SEPT/OCT/NOVEMBER
Article Submission – July 5
Online Publication – August 12

By Lori L. Bundy, RMR, CRR, FPR,
Immediate Past President



A Message from Your Convention Chair:

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year...

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! It's convention time!! Your FCRA convention committee is in full swing with planning, and we have LOTS of great speakers and a few surprises this year. Check out the agenda on FCRAonline.org and sign up soon! Naples is beautiful. I hope you're planning on joining us for a weekend of seeing old friends and learning new things.

The theme this year is Waves of Change: Oceans of Opportunity. Amy Yarbrough is the incoming president this year, and her vision is a legendary weekend with life-changing speakers. Your convention committee has not disappointed with the lineup this year. Check out our Facebook page, website, and the FCRA eFlashes for a more in-depth view of the agenda and speakers.

Here's some highlights to what's going to be happening this year. FCRA is going to the movies! Friday afternoon we're watching *For the Record: A Court Reporting Documentary* by Marc Greenberg, complete with popcorn and soda. After a long day of learning, let's wind down and enjoy some of our fellow court reporters and talk about this crazy profession. You will see the stars of our profession on the big screen.

This year we are planning something a little different for the networking happy hour on Friday evening. We're hopping on the Naples Trolley and taking a trip downtown. Don't want to stay out all night? Don't worry! We have two trolleys running, one coming back to the hotel after dinner. We'll be stopping for dinner, sightseeing, dancing, and more, so hop on for all the fun!

Saturday night will be Amy's night! We're having a dance party with great food, live music, and a photo booth. Keep court reporters quiet

all year, and we know how to have fun on the dance floor at the President's Party. What's the dress code? You decide! It's an Under the Sea theme. Be creative!

This year's convention is going to help you think outside the box with your career. Want help with your CAT software? We have training classes for Stenograph and Eclipse. Want to edit faster? There's a class on Sunday for you. Want to proof perfectly? Margie Wakeman Wells will be speaking on Saturday morning. Tired of doing transcripts? Don't miss Sunday's seminar.

Make your hotel reservation today so you don't miss the room block deal. On the beach in Naples for \$159 a night? Unbelievable! Register now for the convention and get the early bird pricing. Already signed up? Great! We will see you in June. Spread the word because this seminar is going to give you new insight to the career we all love.

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FCRA 2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION

June 28-30, 2019
Naples Grande Beach Resort
Naples, FL

At FCRA you can learn, improve your skills, explore the latest technology on the market, shop the wide array of goodies our vendors have to offer, and take your chances in the BaskeXtravaganza fundraiser!

Earn CEUs!

FCRA
Association



By Rosa Naccarato, FPR
FCRA Government Relations Committee Chair

So What is the Value of a Registry, Anyway?

Much more than you might imagine. No matter what your aspirations are for the future of our profession or what your expectations are from FCRA, it all starts with a number. There are a number of reporters who want certification. There are a number of reporters who don't want certification. There are a number of reporters who believe electronic recording is our biggest threat. There are a number of reporters who believe contracting is our biggest threat. There are a number of reporters who believe that you can't even entertain the idea of certification without adding anti-contracting. There are a number of reporters who believe there is an extreme shortage of stenographers, and others who believe that there is actually a surplus. But the most important number of all is how many reporters are there in Florida? To this day, every initial legislative effort has been met with that basic and yet unanswerable question.

For those of you who know our history well, you know that FCRA has been pursuing the certification unicorn for more than 20 years. Setting aside the many changes that have taken place in the last 20 years, one constant has been that our membership is only a small reflection of the stenographic reporter population in our state, because for every member we have, we all know three or five or more stenographers who are not members.

Something as simple as a mandatory registry affords us all an opportunity to finally get the answer. A registry will compel all reporters to come forward and finally be recognized for the professionals that we are and the unique skill levels we possess. A registry will also create at least the most basic level of accountability by

causing reporters to mandatorily register with the State to be able to work as a reporter in Florida.

I know the question on everyone's mind is will all methodologies be included. The answer is yes. All methodologies that have been adopted by the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, specifically Rule 2.070(a), would be reflected in the registration criteria. While many will see this as a negative, the ability to identify different methodologies and being able to distinguish highly skilled real-time reporters, captioners and merit writers could be key to any future endeavors.

Thankfully, in spite of all the frustration and criticism from nonsupporters, in spite of the small number of dedicated volunteers who have actually stayed the course, FCRA boards past and present and FCRA committees have persevered and persisted and have finally broken ground in ways that few can appreciate. Finally having interaction with our legislators and finally having a voice in Tallahassee has tremendous value, and an accurate reflection of our numbers is another means of having a voice.

Again, no matter what our aspirations or expectations, it's imperative that we be organized, even at the most basic level, and that we continue the dialogue with our legislators. If any of us feel strongly about something, it is our responsibility as individuals, as small business owners, as independent contractors, and as professionals in an ever-evolving world to use our voices individually and collectively. I cannot emphasize enough the value of meeting with

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So What is the Value of a Registry, Anyway?

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your own state representatives and senators in your own districts to share your concerns, and to educate them on the importance of our profession and the unique, irreplaceable and valuable ability of a stenographer.

Ideally, we could just walk right in, present all the legislation that we would like to see enacted, and our legislators would just jump to and make it happen. But we all know that is not possible at a time and place in our state where critical issues are pending, like severe Department of Corrections funding and staffing shortages, costly environmental cleanup issues, pending post-hurricane infrastructure repair, health care issues, newly enacted constitutional amendment issues, and the list goes on. Because of that, it is truly remarkable that we have gotten the attention and the movement that we have this year. Our lobbyists, Corinne Mixon and Diana Ferguson of the Rutledge Ecenia firm, have done a beyond-outstanding job of advancing our bills by working closely with our bill sponsors, State Representative Ana Maria Rodriguez and Senator David Simmons, to whom we also owe our deepest gratitude for taking an interest in us and for giving their time and valuable bill filing slots to assist us.

It is impossible to say what will happen next, but we do hope to see completion of this legislation of a mandatory registry in the not-too-distant future. Our bills are still alive and moving to the next committees in both the House and Senate, and even in the event they do not make it through the process to a full vote, bills that have passed committee hearings, as ours have, can potentially be treated as amendments to other bills that are advancing. So this means that we still have options and potential for success.

From a legislative perspective, in recent years, the Florida House has viewed professional regulation skeptically and has brought forward a professional deregulation bill for the last several sessions. Governor DeSantis has now also made deregulation a priority. This year, there is new legislation that would make it more difficult to bring forward additional professional regulations. The current regulatory environment is one of removing perceived barriers to practice, and new regulations, such as certification, face a high bar. Therefore, we must be realistic in our expectations and cognizant of the fact that any future efforts to establish certification will be met with some formidable obstacles and would mandatorily require total inclusion of all methodologies because of the way our state rules of court are written, contrary to the original intended goal of certification.

Ultimately, no matter what our accomplishments, I'm confident there will always be a small number who are unable to be supportive and unable to accept insurmountable limitations, and we will never be able to change that. But what we can change is our own individual outcomes by taking an active role in our collective efforts, and by accepting responsibility for educating and enlightening every attorney, judge, paralegal and other paraprofessional we come in contact with about what a stenographer is, why we are unique, and how *our* technology makes us unsurpassable.

By Sharon Velazco, RPR, FPR, CLR,
2018-2019 President



A Modern Day Fairytale

This is a VERY thinly veiled MODERN FAIRYTALE for the discouraged stenographic court reporter who is questioning their involvement in the profession except for getting out those transcript pages by rote because they are being told that soon they are being replaced and they won't have a job.

"Once upon a time, in a land as far away as Ocala, Florida, there was a magnificent, beautiful racehorse named Scribe the Faithful who lived in the stable of a kingdom ruled by the Castle of the Tomes. This renowned, highly respected castle was owned by the E.S. 'Squire Family, whose reputation for winning tournaments was legendary in the land. Indeed, stories of their conquests were carried from castle to castle, land to land, generation to generation. The older, wiser 'Squires were proud of their reputation, and modestly accepted their well-deserved laud and glory, but were quick to acknowledge that their victories, in large part, were due to the dedication, endurance and speed of their beloved racehorse, Scribe the Faithful, who met the news of each impending race with renewed vigor and indefatigable determination, and never hinted at exhaustion -- even though they had just conquered a neighboring kingdom in a race the week before.

Scribe the Faithful was very loyal and, because she had the support of and was taken care of by her groom, Forever Concerned, Responsible Advocate, (We'll just call him FCRA from now on) without fail, every time a 'Squire from the castle called, she went galloping to the fence, ready and eager to set out on another venture, whether it be a short trip to the local market filled with octogenarians fighting over

parking stalls, or an unexpected foray into the unfamiliar territory of rivaling ingenious peoples who spoke an unfamiliar tongue.

Surefooted, she showed no preference for locale or situation, caring only that because of her undaunted steadfastness, her 'Squire could be secure in his position of confident victory.

So it was for good reason that the family of 'Squires loved their prized racehorse. However, unfortunately, as younger 'Squires are wont to do, they sometimes took for granted her loyalty, her dedication to run the longest races without complaints of exhaustion, or need of food or water, or even breaks for the simple call of nature. (Yes, she was THAT accommodating.)

One day, an Eeveeeeel, Greeedy Salesman (to whom we shall hereinafter simply refer as "Mr. EGS") arrived to the castle in a fancy carriage filled with expensive-looking but cheaply-made wares. He banged on the door of the stately old mansion until he was greeted by the harried head housekeeper, whose expression of impatient suspicion quickly turned to that of excitement and delight when she saw the golden, one-pound box of Godiva Chocolates and iPad Version 5 which Mr. EGS gleefully shoved into her worn apron.

At his persuasive, generous insistence, she hurriedly summoned the other maids to the courtyard and sent word to the 'Squires to come see a demonstration of the latest mode of efficient transportation, DigiScribe.

Senior 'Squire said he could not be bothered, as he was in the middle of a

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A Modern Day Fairytale

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roundtable discussion with a neighboring castle's visiting delegate. Irritated by the interruption, Senior 'Squire told Junior 'Squire to go down to the courtyard and take care of whatever all the fuss was about. He then turned his attention back to his guest.

Junior 'Squire ran down to the courtyard with the rest of the staff. Mr. EGS (EEVEEEEL, GREEDY SALESMAN, in case you forgot) opened his cart, pushed aside his greasy calculators, boxes of stale chocolates, and dirty account books. He reached deep inside the carriage's dank, dark recesses and pulled out a bright, shiny, snake-oiled electric scooter. He glibly praised its ability to start races. "You will be the envy of every other castle in the land because you have such a flashy ride!"

"And more importantly," the salesman continued, "it has sexy red pinstripes painted down each side, which is significant because they help increase the speed and performance. Yessirree, Bob" -- (Junior 'Squire's given name was Robert) -- "this is SOME advance in tournamenting!"

The salesman went on to extoll the unproven virtues of the brightly painted, fragile little toy. "It will reach that finish line way ahead of the others, and more efficiently, too! It doesn't need food, water or shelter, so you'll save SO much money on maintenance!"

When he saw that he almost had Junior Squire convinced, he went on, pointing out the physical attributes. "And just feel how sturdy, large and symmetrical these tires are! Take a look at the uniform headlights! This little beauty's equipped with the latest thing in courtyard tournament accessories, and boy, is she FAST!"

Junior 'Squire eagerly bent over to examine the tires and quickly agreed with the salesman. "They are HUGE!"

He turned and exclaimed to the head housekeeper, "I will be SO much more comfortable on THIS scooter, and will be able to run a lot more errands in shorter time than on THAT old-fashioned relic!"

He gave a nod of disdain in the direction of Scribe the Faithful. The housekeeper was listening attentively, pondering everything that had been said, and thinking that, given Mr. EGS's promises that it COULD make the castle more efficient in preparing for tournaments, then -- her thoughts were interrupted by Junior 'Squire, who noticed her hesitancy. Before she could say anything, he said in a wheedling tone, "Senior 'Squire would definitely want the Castle of the Tomes to have such a modern convenience. We can get everything ready for the next 'Squire reunion in much less time if I use this beautiful, comfortable new scooter to run errands. And," he continued, "Senior 'Squire will be extremely happy with your budgetary skills in saving the castle so much money."

The last bit of flattery swayed the housekeeper. Giving in to Junior 'Squire's further assurances that the DigiScribe would be a guaranteed asset to the castle, she agreed to the purchase.

Beaming, she called for the royal till as she patted her candy-filled apron with satisfaction. Not only was she saving the castle money, she had the salesman's presents of the golden, one-pound box of Godiva Cholates and the iPad version 5. A good day, indeed!

Junior 'Squire was so excited. He couldn't WAIT to get on that hot little scooter! He closed his eyes, envisioning himself riding -- no, speeding into the courtyard, the admiring tournament crowds gaping in awe as the gleam of the sun reflected off the shiny fender of HIS new scooter,

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A Modern Day Fairytale

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blinding the eyes of the neighboring envious rivals.

Scribe the Faithful watched the whole exchange in shocked disbelief from her stall. She saw and heard Mr. EGS's presentation. He was so convincing as he described the capabilities of the new scooter. He was so believable, she was sure she would no longer be needed and would be put out to pasture, forgotten.

She lowered her regal head and turned away just as the Eeveeeel, Greeedy Salesman ceremoniously lowered the extravagantly beribboned scooter onto the ground. He snatched the bag of gold from the 'Squires' butler, jumped into his souped-up, leased carriage and, hastily glancing over his shoulder, hurriedly drove his carriage across the moat. However, as he sped away, Scribe the Faithful was sure she heard him mutter a disclaimer under his breath; something about -- "NO guarantee, but LIMITED repairs for MOST modes of transport MIGHT be under warranty -- at some third-world kingdom -- IF parts were available, PROBABLY -- within a NONDISCLOSED, LIMITED period of time -- customer must contact the ANONYMOUS, INDEPENDENT rep."

The castle never heard from him again.

Meanwhile, FCRA, the stable groom, had also been observing and hearing the salesman's boastful representations. He saw Scribe the Faithful's dejected expression as she passed him. FCRA gently called her name, lifted the new saddle he was polishing and said, "Don't give another thought to what you just heard. Everyone who has ever been involved in serious races knows the only sure way to win is with a reliable, disciplined racehorse like you.

"And you know, a salesperson will promise anything they think you want to hear in order to sell their goods, but that doesn't mean it's true.

Just because you call a broom a pot doesn't mean it can cook.

"So cheer up! Don't waste any of your valuable warm-up practice time by being needlessly despondent!

"And, you are not alone. I will always be here to remind you how invaluable you are, because only you have your unique talent. Senior 'Squire knows that and depends on you. Now, come try on this new light saddle I had made for you! It has extra wide keys for the cinch, and because it's so lightweight, you can ride for a lot longer before you tire."

So time went by, as it often does. True to his word, while FCRA was grooming Scribe the Faithful for her daily exercise, he would whisper encouragement into her ear. "You are going to be in such good shape for that race! Your discipline and dedication are irreplaceable! Your indispensable talent for what you do is admirable, and the reason you are this good is because you have put so much effort into those daily runs. In fact, I have so much confidence in you that I am having a new blanket made for you. It is the very latest in soft wear, so you will be able to finish the race a lot sooner because you are so nimble!"

Scribe the Faithful paid attention to the encouragement, and she loved the beautiful new saddle and blanket. She noticed she really COULD run longer and faster. But, after some practice sessions, on her way back to the stable, Scribe the Faithful would pass the gleaming scooter which was propped carelessly against the stable door, waiting to be used again.

Scribe watched gloomily as the young 'Squire would rush past her stall to grab his shiny little scooter and run errands that Senior 'Squire had said were necessary for the upcoming 'Squire

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A Modern Day Fairytale

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reunion. However, as despairing as she might be, she had faith in FCRA's wisdom, and would start the next day with a new resolve and determination to be the best racehorse she could be.

Over the course of the next few months, Scribe the Faithful noticed that the scooter's paint was chipping. The relatively new scooter was making loud, complaining noises, one of the racy pinstripes had peeled off, and a tire had gone flat. Young 'Squire was too embarrassed to relay these facts to Senior 'Squire in light of the fact that it was he, Junior, who had bought into the empty promises and misrepresentations of the vendor's sales pitch and been so insistent on acquiring this expensive-looking, cheap new toy. He would then rush into the stable, impatiently calling for Scribe the Faithful to get ready so he could run his errand, all the while hoping and wishing the scooter would be repaired quickly.

The time of the Big Courtyard Tournament had almost arrived, and deadlines were approaching. With only two weeks until the big race, Senior 'Squire had the whole castle in a bustle as he was delegating race positions and responsibilities to his knights. His spears and personal armor were buffed to their sharpest points and shine, his associate knights were ready with their best suits and stiffest briefs. Senior 'Squire was confident of a victory. After all, this was not his first rodeo.

Meanwhile, when questioned, Junior 'Squire stammered out nervous assurances that all was in order, while secretly hoping the other kingdom would default and the race would have to be postponed. He didn't know how to tell Senior 'Squire that during the last week, half the supply errands he was supposed to run had to be abandoned because the scooter had broken down beyond repair. The replacement parts

could not be found, even in the third-world kingdoms.

The big day arrived. When Senior 'Squire was through with his own last-minute preparations, he went out to the courtyard. Now, where was his prized, trusty steed? Scribe the Faithful was never late, and was usually at the gate early. The race was about to begin!

He stopped short and his eyes narrowed when there, standing where Scribe the Faithful would usually be waiting for him, he saw a dilapidated scooter, a bedraggled tassel hanging from one of the bent handlebars. The rusted chain seemed to be the only means of support holding the disjointed pieces of metal together.

Furious, the Senior 'Squire summoned his staff, ready to pour out his wrath onto the head of the nearest deserving victim. "How in the hallowed names of all the District Courts of Appeal am I supposed to ride out onto the courtyard with that?" He indicated with incredulous rage the bike, on which by now both tires were almost flat.

"Where is my dedicated racehorse, Scribe the Faithful? Who is responsible for this?"

His fury was obvious; however, no one in the castle had the nerve to tell him who had ultimately given the permission to purchase the scooter.

His loyal housekeeper, simultaneously praying to all the appellate gods on the bench while vehemently cursing the very existence of that slimy salesman -- and his stale chocolates and outdated iPod v5 -- went running to the stable, at first apprehensive, then with a huge sigh of relief when she saw the classic profile of the castle's most reliable servant, Scribe the Faithful,

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A Modern Day Fairytale

Continued from previous page

who was casually observing the ruckus as she admired her freshly shod hooves.

The groom, FCRA, anticipating the outcome of the whole DigiScribe affair, had already prepared her for the last-minute call to the race, and she was standing there waiting, blanketed and saddled, ready as always.

FCRA leaned over and whispered into Scribe the Faithful's ear, "I told you so," and gave her an encouraging pat on the back as he smoothed her comfortable soft wear blanket and tightened the cinch of her polished, now well-worn saddle.

When Senior 'Squire saw the elegant form of Scribe the Faithful approaching, his eyes lit up and he smiled broadly, knowing that once again, she would assist him in a win that would be recorded in the annals of history.

He looked away momentarily to take in the scenery of the courtyard. It was apparent that Mr. EGS had shown up at quite a few castles in the area. Evidence of his hollow promises and excellent salesmanship was strewn all across the yard. There were scooters just like Junior's in varying degrees of disrepair on display everywhere.

As she sauntered out onto the field and was heading over to the starting gate, Scribe the Faithful gave a fleeting glance at the faded and rusting lot of painted metal decomposing in the hot sun. She couldn't believe that she had ever been so intimidated. With dignity, she tossed her head proudly, so glad that she had listened to the groom, FCRA, who had insisted she stay in shape for the impending competition, had insisted she have the very latest in soft wear blankets for her own comfort, that she take care of herself, and kept pushing her to do the practice speed laps to stay in top form for the race to come.

As she passed the useless scrap metal which lay abandoned on the tournament

grounds, she whinnied loudly to every racehorse in the kingdom, encouraging all who heard to be confident and not be discouraged. Paint fades, metal rusts, and pinstripes peel on a hot day, but the strength, reliability and loyalty of a trustworthy racehorse have no price, and dedication ALWAYS win the race. Why?

Because living, breathing, sentient beings are aware of and take responsibility for outcomes. They are proud of their efforts in the races won, and they have the satisfaction of knowing that the entry of the victories in the history books are recorded because THEY were on the fields of battle, and THEIR dedication was the determining factor in the battles that will be talked about from castle to castle, land to land, and generation to generation.

And that Eeveeeeel, Greeedy Salesman?

Well, last I heard, he was selling vacuum cleaners in Omaha, Nebraska that supposedly can make fat-free brownies while bathing the family pet. He brags about the benefits of having a dog that smells like chocolate.

Junior 'Squire quit tournamenting and was forced to leave the castle. Now he is just known as "Bob," and has opened a bike repair shop in another faraway land.

And Scribe the Faithful?

After the race (which she won, of course, by 225 yards), the E.S. 'Squire family was so grateful for her loyalty, to demonstrate their renewed appreciation for her value they rewarded her by building a larger stable, and encouraged her to fill the stable with as many little Faithful Scribes as she could.

And FCRA?

Well, naturally, he is busy supervising the design of more blankets of soft wear for all the little Faithful Scribes which are sure to come, who will be even faster, and treasured because they came from HIS stable." THE END.



By Michael A. Sciré, RPR, CMRS, FPR
Director at Large, Associate Editor

Student Corner: Convention Time is Approaching!

As Colin Powell profoundly stated, "Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence." I can't think of a better quote to describe the court reporting profession. As the convention is quickly approaching, I'm reminded what an impactful event this is for court reporting students. This is a pivotal occasion to build new professional relationships, share new experiences, and rub elbows with fellow reporters. We all remember what school was like. We were there once, too!

That being said, court reporting school is much like a marathon except the finish line keeps moving. We race to complete one speed group just to get to the next one, racing to 225. We are always perfecting our skill, however, so we never really finish. The finish line never stops moving I guess you could say. So, in many ways, we are all students.

Did you know FCRA loves to spoil the students? Thanks to the generous donations of our sponsors every year, from student lunches to swag bags, our student committee, chaired by FCRA Secretary Cathy Carpenter, always gathers

all kinds of goodies for the students to take home. Last year there was even a scavenger hunt! The student luncheon is a great time to pick the brains of veteran court reporters and FCRA board members. If you want to see what Cathy is cooking up this year for the students, you'll have to come to the convention to find out.

Did you know you can watch the realtime competition? Once again it will be shown via Facebook Live, so you can still participate even if you're not quite ready for that yet. The Convention Committee has some fun things in store as well. I also encourage you to get to know your board members. The board is comprised of a hard working group of volunteers. This is also a great time to get involved by volunteering to be on a committee. It's never too soon to get involved.

Bottom line is FCRA needs you, so grab a fellow student and come learn, discover, and celebrate our profession, your new profession, on Naples Beach!



Court Reporting & Captioning Week 2019

This year's Court Reporting & Captioning Week poster was designed and created in collaboration with PR Committee Chair, Sandra Estevez, President Sharon Velazco, and Vice President and Magazine Editor Richard Scire. The poster, which was also a flyer, adorned the walls and elevators of courthouses and firms throughout the state. FCRA's poster was so notable, it was featured in NCRA's *Journal of Court Reporting*. The theme of the poster was The Seven Wonders of the World, with court reporting and captioning being the eighth.

Court Reporters The Eighth Wonder of the World



Scribe – a person who copies out documents, especially one employed to do this before printing was invented. An ancient Jewish record-keeper, a professional theologian and jurist.



The **Broadcast Captioner** provides closed captioning services in realtime for live events, such as sports events, live news shows, programming during times of emergencies or natural disasters, and other live television events.



CART or Real-Time Captioning. CART stands for Communication Access Real-Time Transcription. It is used by hard of hearing and deaf people who use English as their first language in all settings like schools.



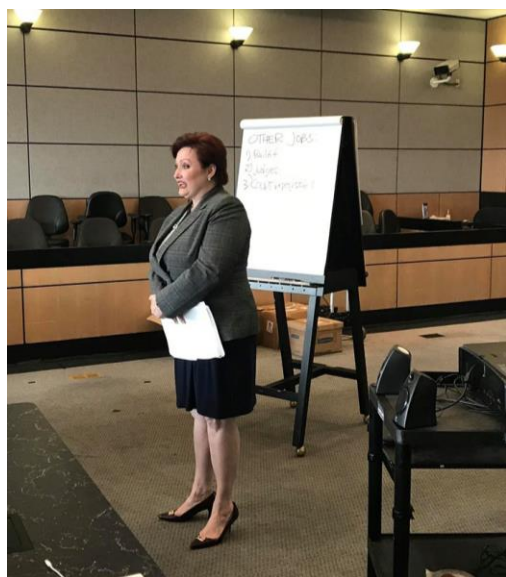
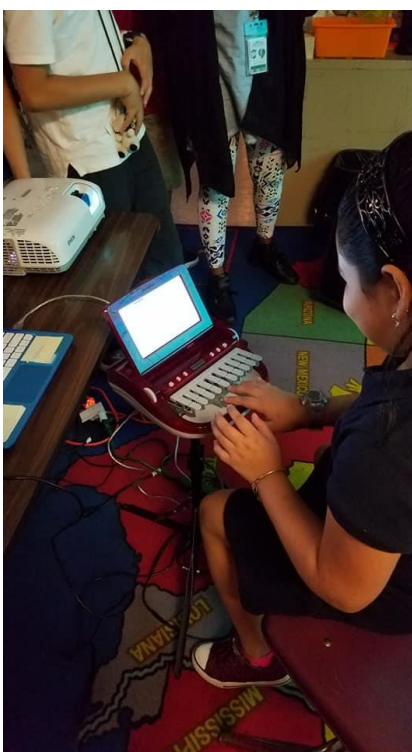
A **court reporter** writes the spoken speech into written form using machine shorthand to produce official transcripts of court hearings, depositions, and other official proceedings.

**2019 Court Reporting & Captioning Week
February 9-16
Sponsored by the Florida Court Reporters Association**



Classroom and Career Day Demonstrations Around the State!

Did you know class demonstrations can get you \$100 off on your annual FCRA membership? Rules and restrictions apply. Contact headquarters to find out how to get YOUR discount by promoting stenography.





**By Michael A. Sciré, RPR, CMRS, FPR
Director at Large, Associate Editor**

TWINSPIRATION: Conquering Jury Selection One Presentation at a Time!



Have you solved the quagmire yet? Since Richard and I did our seminar back in 2017 at the FCRA convention, "Solving The Mystery of the Quagmire of Voir Dire," we not only started a conversation among Florida court reporters, but it has since captured the interest of reporters all over the country. Since that seminar, reporters reach out to us all the time for a refresher course, which we are always happy to do.

Recently, Immediate Past President Lori Bundy had asked if Richard and I could conduct that same presentation to a group of court reporters in Naples. We took the opportunity for several reasons. One, because it's always a great time when we hang out with the Bundys. Two, because we get to see Lori's new firm, Naples Court Reporting. Three, we get to give back by educating fellow reporters.

The day started with a trip to Panera where we picked up a generous helping of breakfast provided by Lori and Naples Court Reporting. We then headed to Naples Court Reporting. Each reporter arrived minutes of one another, each eager and somewhat reluctant to dive into such a mundane topic. As with the first time we conducted this seminar, we tend to lose people initially. It can be overwhelming and a sometimes boring topic. But as with the first seminar back in 2017, we usually generate interest among the reporters by the end of the seminar. The response was just what we had hoped. The reporters were engaged, and in the end, walked away with a newfound wealth of knowledge.

That certainly wasn't the first time we received positive feedback. A year ago, our new official court reporter Lisa Plante, RPR, FPR, moved from cold North Dakota to take the vacant official court reporter position in Sarasota, Florida. As with most court reporters, she despised reporting jury selection. Then one day shortly

after she started, Richard and I took a few minutes of her time that, as she put it, changed her life. Lisa went to court to report the voir dire and immediately upon her return from court, declared what an amazing experience it was and that she wanted to report all the jury selections from now on. That was the validation Richard and I were hoping to receive, we just didn't expect to get it so quickly.

Then last week a veteran reporter reached out to Richard and I asking if we could help as she was preparing to report a high profile case. We sent her the handouts with a brief explanation and invited her to reach out if it looks too overwhelming. A week went by and we never heard back. Then on Friday as I was shutting down my computer to start my weekend, a message from the reporter arrived. "I have made all my dictionary entries and I swear...it clicks. Where was this all these years? Thank you. Thank you for sharing. This is just the best." Of course, that was music to our ears. Another satisfied customer! Then the update came, "Used your VD theory on Monday. VD can be hairy and an attorney was a bullet but for the most part the theory stuck! And the transcript was a daily that had to be appeal-ready, so it was quick fix for my scopist." The scopist/proofreader was able to get 251 pages completed by the end of the day.

Last April, we presented the theory to the Mississippi Court Reporters Association to rave reviews. In May, Richard and I will be going to Hawaii to speak to the Hawaii Court Reporters & Captioning Association. Next January, we'll be going to Alabama. We are slowly and surely changing the way reporters report jury selection to make it realtime perfect. So, if you haven't solved the mystery of the quagmire yet, now is the time to do so, one juror at a time.

BECCA'S BOOT CAMP:

7 FOODS & 3 HABITS THAT FIGHT INFLAMMATION AND BELLY FAT

By **Becca Tebon, CHHC, CPT, Mom & God's Girl**
www.Fitness17Club.com



Inflammation is a vital part of the body's immune response. It is the body's attempt to heal itself after an injury; defend itself against foreign invaders, such as viruses and bacteria; and repair damaged tissue. However, chronic inflammation can lead to serious health issues associated with diabetes, celiac disease, obesity and other conditions.

Clients with chronic inflammatory diseases should always consult with their physician regarding the appropriate treatment plan, but knowing that exercise and the following nine behaviors can reduce both visceral belly fat and dis-ease causing inflammation is tremendous and is an exciting step forward in possibilities. Take an inventory of your good habits against this list and start by adding one for just 3 days and ask yourself, "is this something I can and want to continue?"

Don't wait for the most alarming wake-up call and go searching for answers. Your body, your organs, your health are being fired upon by the environment, chemicals in personal care products like shampoo and tooth paste to perfumes and body lotions, remove toxins from your home cleaning products like bleach, in fact remove bleach from your food sources, like rice, breads and meat. YUCK!! Yes, they douse bleach on meat to kill bacteria.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES



All fruits and vegetables, due to their rich nutrient and fiber content, help to combat chronic inflammation, so make sure to include adequate amounts of these foods daily. Some types of fresh produce, however, are even more potent than others.

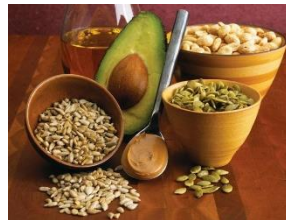
Some terrific anti-inflammatory fruits and vegetables to include in your meal plan include apples, berries, broccoli, mushrooms, papaya, pineapple, and spinach.

GREEN TEA



This mild beverage is great for helping shrink your waistline as well as for decreasing inflammation. The flavonoids in this tea have natural anti-inflammatory properties. And the compound EGCG in green tea has been shown to help reduce body fat.

MONOUNSATURATED FATS



These heart-healthy fats help raise your healthy HDL cholesterol levels and reduce overall inflammation. Great sources include olive oil, almonds, and avocado.

OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS



Research has shown that a diet with a high percentage of omega-3 fatty acids and a low percentage of omega-6 fatty acids has been linked with decreased inflammation. Food sources of omega-3s include walnuts, flaxseed, and fish, such as wild Alaskan salmon.

Want plant-based alternatives? Add chia seeds, Brussel sprouts (and other cruciferous veggies), Algal oil (from algae), Hemp seeds, walnuts, flax seeds and oil, Perilla oil (Korean cuisine).

Continued on next page

BECCA'S BOOT CAMP:

7 FOODS & 3 HABITS THAT FIGHT INFLAMMATION AND BELLY FAT

SPICES



Certain spices, including garlic, turmeric, cinnamon, ginger, and chili peppers, have potent inflammation-reducing capabilities, so try adding them to meals as

often as possible.

WATER



Staying hydrated is essential to flushing inflammation-causing toxins out of your body. Aim for 64 ounces of water per day. *Remember:* Add an additional 8 ounces

of water for every 30

minutes of exercise as well.

WHOLE GRAINS



Rich in fiber, whole grains help control the insulin response in your body. The high B vitamin content of whole grains also helps reduce the inflammatory

hormone *homocysteine* in the body.

MEDITATION



People suffering from chronic inflammatory conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease and asthma — in

which psychological stress plays a major role — may benefit from mindfulness meditation techniques, according to a study by University of Wisconsin–Madison neuroscientists with the Center for Investigating Healthy Minds in the Waisman Center.

Mindfulness-based stress reduction, originally designed for patients with chronic pain, consists of continuously focusing attention on the breath, bodily sensations and mental content while seated, walking or practicing yoga.

SLEEP



Waking up after a truncated night's sleep is a feeling we all know too well. Groggy, crabby, and caffeine in hand, we find ourselves floating through

the day without our usual stores of brainpower. But according to a new meta-analysis study, published in *Biological Psychiatry*, long-term sleep deprivation can do more than make us fatigued and irritable. Turns out, it can also cause physical changes in our brains and bodies and contribute to a host of chronic diseases and mental health issues.

Researchers examined scientific literature on the link between lack of sleep and inflammation, just one of the identified side effects of sleep deprivation. Based on a review of 72 reports, which involved more than 50,000 participants from population-based and clinical studies, they concluded that getting too little or too much sleep resulted in increased inflammation levels.

EXERCISE



Observational studies reveal that you're 47 percent less likely to have elevated levels of the inflammatory messenger C-reactive protein (CRP) if

you exercise regularly, compared to being sedentary. CRP is a marker of whole body inflammation. Fitness is a separate and independent factor in regulating chronic low-grade inflammation (whole body inflammation). An interventional study conducted by researchers at Louisiana State University demonstrated that aerobic and resistance training very similar to the exercise approach in the Fitness 17 Club System reduced CRP levels in both old and young participants by 50 to 60 percent. These are huge effects on whole body inflammation and are further evidence of the relationship between exercise and inflammation.

FCRA Launches Pro-Stenography Campaign

Be on the lookout for the latest flyer and further details about how YOU can help FCRA be proactive in spreading the word about the benefits of choosing a stenographer!

WE are technology.



Integrating the intuitive human touch with cutting-edge technology, **STENOGRAPHIC REPORTERS** capture and preserve a verbatim record as a result of years of specialized training and education.



- **Stenographers** can provide Realtime text streams to parties both onsite and attending legal proceedings remotely
- Produce instant rough drafts
- Certify same- or next-day final transcripts
- Read back testimony at proceedings

- Utilizing technology, **Stenographers** can cover proceedings onsite or remotely all over the world
- Capture verbatim testimony up to speeds of 280 words per minute
- Provide closed captioning services for live events, such as sports, news, and emergency broadcasts during natural disasters
- Provide Realtime text onsite at schools and other forums to assist the deaf or hard of hearing
- Proceedings can be produced in multiple formats to complement litigation support software
- **Stenographic notes** of a proceeding can be synced with live video to create impactful moments during trial



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TECHNOLOGY: *Science of craft, skill, cunning of hand; the collection of techniques, skills, methods, used in the production of services or in the accomplishment of objectives, such as creating a verbatim instant record.*

Stenographers are TECHNOLOGY.

Florida Court Reporters Association www.fcraonline.org



2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION

JUNE 28-30, 2019

NAPLES GRANDE BEACH RESORT

NAPLES, FLORIDA

Visit www.fcraonline.org
for more information.

WAVES OF CHANGE:

OCEANS OF OPPORTUNITY

FCRA in Tallahassee



Members of FCRA's Government Relations Committee and the Board of Directors, along with Lobbyist Corinne Mixon, gathered in Tallahassee to meet with legislators promoting the registry bill. They were joined by Florida reporters and FCRA

members the night before for a reception. Some legislators were also in attendance.

The next day was filled with the legislative meetings. FCRA was well represented with the team, as well as a demonstrative display to educate those on the Hill about stenographers.



The Diamond Vault

The History of FCRA The Fourth Decade, Part I 1991-1996



By Donna M. Kanabay, donna@kanabay.com

The first half of our fourth decade can be summarized by four topics, much of it again falling into the category of, The More Things Change, The More They Remain the Same:

1, Third-Party Contracting; 2, Official reporters charged with ethical violations/FCRA vs FOCRA/freelancers vs officials infighting; 3, A proposed "original only" rule change; and 4, the ever-present Certification

It was an amazingly busy time, a time of some brand new upheavals and disputes, but thankfully nothing that approached the trauma of 10 years previously (The Third Decade, Part I.) My problem has been carving out what's really important and not falling into the trap of too much (boring) information.

We begin with the end of my last column, when Helen Bennett had been appointed historian. Through the end of this next era, I have yet to have seen anything done, researched or published by the official third historian. (deep sigh.) As a reminder, previously, the editor of the magazine was to be the historian; then, 10 years later, Freida Sclafani Williams, and 10 years after that, Helen Bennett.

In July of 1991, Liz Starkweather was president. At that time, publication of our magazine was reduced from bimonthly (six issues per year) to quarterly (four issues per year.)

The Ethics complaint issue was first raised in July of 1991, starting with a complaint being filed with the State Ethics Commission by freelancers in Broward County, charging Officials with violating Florida law to the effect of state officers (officials) running a private business and paying themselves, to put a complex subject as simply as possible. The board felt that it was a private matter and paid little attention

to it, never imagining what it would blow up to in the following years.

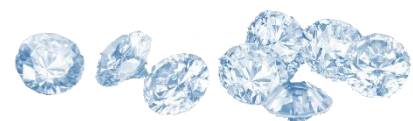
The 30th Annual convention was held in Sarasota in October of 1991. Carol Coblenz was awarded the Arlene Sommers award, and videographer Lajuana Pruitt, working with many of Carol's students and former students, put together a fun video to show in her honor. You can view the video in the Dropbox folder.

The Frank Sarli Scholarship award went Jo Ellen Guld. Of all the recipients so far, she's the only one I've been able to track down and interview. She had attended school for five years, but as a single mother working two jobs, she gave up at the dreaded 180. She told me that she does not regret all the time and effort she put into it because she "learned so many life lessons" which helped her to be successful in another career.

Jack Boenau received the EMDSA, and the membership voted to follow NCRA's example and change our name from FSRA to FCRA.

Judy Everman became our president for the 1991-1992 term. In her first President's Message, she spoke of the communication gap among bench and bar and court reporters, citing a discussion before the Supreme Court that illustrated that the justices didn't feel continuing education for reporters was important, as well as relating a discussion with the chairman of the Florida Bar's Bridge the Gap seminars. His sister was a court reporter and he had no idea that FCRA even existed. "Wait. Do you mean there's a statewide organization of court reporters out there?"

Continued on next page



The Diamond Vault

The History of FCRA The Fourth Decade, Part I 1991-1996

President Everman attended many meetings on behalf of court reporters in Florida, before, during and after her tenure, and it would take this entire article to recap all of them. But on the ever-present certification issue, she reported, in January of 1992, that the Florida Supreme Court had denied the request of the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee to adopt a certification program, citing a lack of funding in the budget, and a few months later, they denied our request for reconsideration. In June of 1992, the board decided to put certification aside for now, in hopes that the budgetary concerns would eventually settle down. Please be sure to read President Everman's column in the Dropbox folder about all the activities that were going on.

The June Midyear was held in Ocala (horse country,) and included a hay ride and a monopoly game. (Photos in the Dropbox folder.) Past President Charles Brandis (1975-76), unable to go to any conventions because he had been ill for several years, managed to attend the convention in his home town shortly before his death.

Robin Wierzbicki signed off after four years as editor and handed the magazine over to Diane Emery.

In the Aug-Sep-Oct 1992 magazine, President Everman reported we had reached our highest membership ever, 960.

In the fall of 1992, yet another concern came up: Our Certificate of Oath and Reporter's Certificate. Back in those days, we had both certificates on one page. The Notary Commissioner and Attorney General had a problem with that. Eventually a partial solution was reached: Split the two certificates to two separate pages. But there was a catch. The Reporter's Certificate was to be *notarized* as well. By a different notary than the reporter! (I remember this well, and it was a real pain to have to snag another reporter to notarize your reporter's cert before you could send out the

transcript.) It took years and a lot more meetings and lobbying, but eventually we were able to get that changed.

Deputy Official Reporters in Pinellas County took a voluntary pay cut in order to keep their jobs. (Yup, I was one of those Deputy Officials at the time.)

Rumblings of that Ethics Commission problem surfaced again, with the news that freelancers in Jacksonville had formed a separate association. Eventually, they filed a complaint against the Official, John Sutton. He was charged, eventually settled and was fined, and had to give up his Officialship.

Awards at the 1992 annual convention: EMDSA, Allen Benowitz; President's Award, Bernie Goldstein; Arlene Sommers, Teresa Buchanan; Pro Bono, the agency of Narup, Vouvakis; and two Frank Sari Scholarships, Judith Yevick and Kim Marin. Robin Wierzbicki became our 1992-93 president.

At long last, the dream became a reality, and the West Palm CIC (Computer-Integrated Courtroom) was unveiled in November, 1992.



Continued on next page

The Diamond Vault

The History of FCRA The Fourth Decade, Part I 1991-1996



Judy Everman demonstrating the West Palm CIC. (Note that the date on the camera is incorrect, which sent me into a tailspin of research confusion until I figured out the inconsistency!)

Judicial Administration Committee was working on drafting rules regarding condensed transcript and the requirement that the reporter notify all counsel when a transcript is ordered. A new logo contest may be unveiled.

Another thing that would be discussed quite a bit over the coming year or so, an attorney named Charles Lipcon wanted some significant rule changes, which he placed before the Civil Rules Procedure and Judicial Administration committees:

1: The taking party should provide a free copy to opposing counsel; 2: The taking party should make his copy available for copying by the other side; 3: If the reporter does not follow format rules, a penalty could be assessed or they should be required to redo the transcript in the proper margins.

This eventually led to the "Original Only" suggested rule change, which will be discussed later in this article.

The early 90s also became all about contracting. The board voted to have a special membership meeting at the 1993 Midyear to vote on whether we should pursue legislation.

June, 1993, National Convention, four of Florida's own, all of whom went on to become FCRA presidents:

Paula Laws, Thomas Hughes, Ann Mendenhall, Freida Sclafani Williams

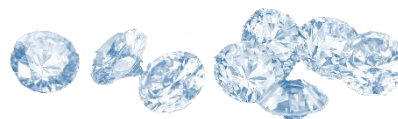


As of January, 1992, our wonderfully high membership numbers had dropped precipitously, to 539.

Other matters of note at this time: The board had been having problems with our lobbyist, Roberta Flack, and opted not to renew the contract and to search for a new lobbyist. Eventually, Jim Linn was selected. We established a "student liaison," dividing the state into 8 geographical areas and assigning a board member to work with schools in their area. The



Continued on next page





The Diamond Vault

The History of FCRA The Fourth Decade, Part I 1991-1996

The June Midyear included a sailing regatta in the hotel pool at Sanibel:

The party's theme was "A Night at the Races."



Ann Mendenhall, Ginny Hyland

In President Wierzbicki's last President's Message, she wrote, "For the last year, we have pushed this association through every open door and created a few new doors to walk through." "I have heard from reporters, most of whom are not members, weeks and months after information was disseminated, that they were concerned about a particular topic and learned this information by having an attorney, for example, inform them of a rule change. Then the reporter calls me and wants to know what we, the association, are going to do about it." (Any current or past presidents feeling her pain? She is not the first, nor the last, president to point this out.)

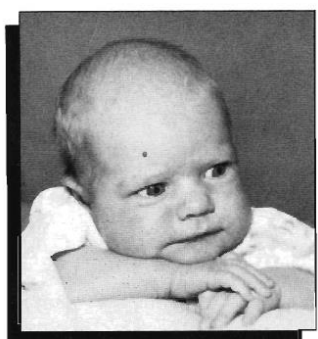
In October of 1993, FCRA lost another giant. While he never became president, Greg Stone was a strong and important member of the board. You can read his In Memoriam in the Dropbox folder. The Annual convention was dedicated to him.

1993 awards: EMDSA: Liz Starkweather; Arlene Sommers: Mary Gues Anderson; Meritorious Service: Leon Shoemaker; President's: Judy Everman; Special Recognition: Darlene Pino; Pro Bono: Jack Boenau; Frank Sarli; Judy Heal.

Phillip Narup became president for the 1993-94 term. And talk about sprinting out of the box, during our convention we got word that the first meeting of the Court Reporting Management Committee was taking place in Orlando almost as we spoke, and George Vouvakis hustled over there to attend and report back to the board at the post-convention board meeting. The purpose of the committee was "to evaluate the adequacy of the statutes, rules, policies and management procedures governing the practice and funding of court reporters in Florida's trial courts." Circuit judges were ordered to come up with "court reporter plans."

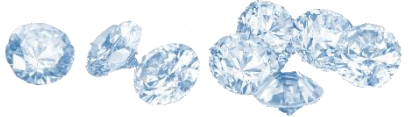
President Narup's theme for his first President's address was, "The Only Constant: Change."

Diane Emery handed our magazine off to Liz Starkweather, and for her first column, she chose her baby picture, to make the point that she's "changed."



Liz Starkweather, Editor

Continued on next page



The Diamond Vault

The History of FCRA The Fourth Decade, Part I 1991-1996

In 1994 Jacksonville began restructuring their court system, opening civil court up to freelancers and installing recorders in County Court. Miami-Dade began looking at doing the same.

Contracting continued to heat up. See the Mark Saunders article in the Dropbox folder. "Original Only" issue: Florida Bar committees were looking at a change in how depositions are noticed: 1, Notifying all parties of who the court reporter is; 2, Notifying all parties when a transcript is ordered; and 3, That the notice include that the ordering party will make the completed transcript available to all parties for 15 days after receipt of the transcript.

FCRA asked the Florida Defense Lawyers Association for support for a rule disqualifying reporters with exclusive contracts with litigants from certifying transcripts.

The early 90s were significant in another way that continues to impact us today: The baby steps of what is now referred to as "social media." CompuServe's CRForum. Be there or be square! The board was frequently encouraged to join, monitor and interact.

Back to the Ethics Commission – remember that? – freelancers in various cities had been filing complaints about Officials, and the Jacksonville Official, John Sutton, was the one with the biggest target on his back. Other Officials who had been targeted were beginning to ask FCRA for financial support to fight the allegations, and eventually a new association was formed, FOCRA, Florida Official Court Reporters Association, led by Paula Laws, who had also been targeted with a complaint. The Fall 1994 magazine contained an article by Rus Weathers, "Part of the Problem, or Part of the Solution," discussing the new division of freelance vs official. The magazine also published a letter to the editor by Mickey Segal, expressing deep concern about the new organization and potential conflicts of interest if

any FCRA board members were members of FOCRA.

At the 1994 Annual preconvention board meeting, Paula Laws made a presentation to the board about why FOCRA was formed and asking for FCRA's support. The board went into Executive Session, deciding that the issue should be brought before the membership at the Annual Business Meeting. Motion was made, seconded and passed that FCRA establish an Officials Task Force, the purpose being to work toward amending Chapter 112 regarding the ethics violations charges that have been filed against some officials, conditioned upon FOCRA dissolving.

The question was then brought before the Annual Business Meeting, with much confusion among the membership who did not really understand the issue, and the end result was that the motion for FCRA to support FOCRA's efforts failed. See the detailed recap of the discussion and vote in the Dropbox folder.

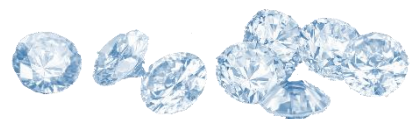
Meanwhile, for years the board had kicked around forming a PAC, and it was decided to go ahead and start getting it off the ground by collecting donations, pending formal formation.

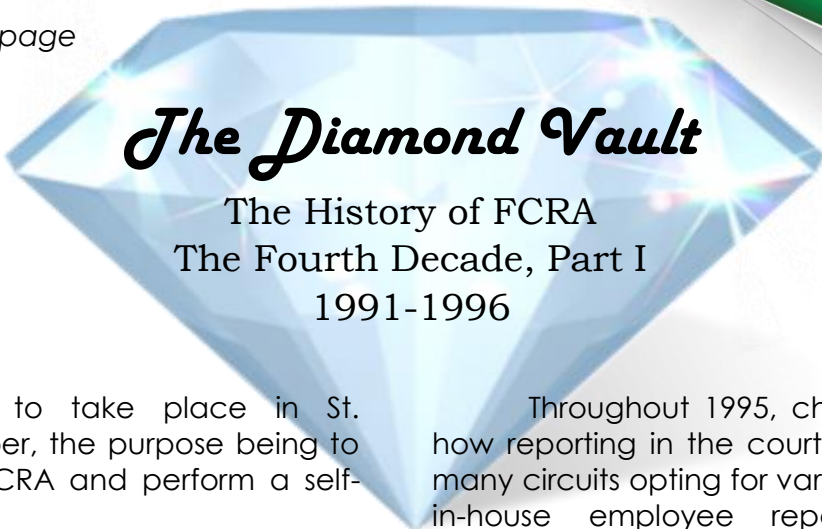
FCRA continued to work with various Florida Bar committees on contracting. Bill Olensky resigned from the board, and a floor run ensued, with Ginny Hyland winning over Michael Musetta. There was then a motion for a recount, and the end result was the same.

1994 Awards: EMDSA, Robin Wierzbicki; Arlene Sommers, Steve M. Yurka; Meritorious Service, Mark Stuart, President's, Robin Wierzbicki, Special Recognition, Gerry Ryan; Pro Bono, Bonnie & Rus Weathers; Frank Sarli, Catherine Hoffman.

Robert Eppers became the 1994-1995 president. He scheduled a "training session" for

Continued on next page





The Diamond Vault

The History of FCRA The Fourth Decade, Part I 1991-1996

all board members to take place in St. Petersburg in December, the purpose being to learn all aspects of FCRA and perform a self-evaluation.

In the Winter, 1994 magazine, Editor Starkweather spoke about the division between officials and freelancers (FOCRA) and the turmoil it had created at the annual business meeting, reflecting that the holiday season is a time for reflection and mending fences. She further wrote that we are all court reporters, and a war between officials and freelancers will do neither group any good, urging that all come together for the common good.

Judy Everman updated the membership on the new Task Force on Contracting.

NCRA President Bruce Matthews, our national rep, spoke about having unveiled the "Attorney's Bill of Rights" at the 1994 National Convention, focused on attorneys' rights to a competent and impartial court reporter.

In January, 1995, Past President Judy Everman and Lobbyist Jim Linn attended the Florida Bar Rules of Civil Procedure meeting, raising the issue of third-party contracting and impartiality. The committee deemed it not within their purview.

In a long-awaited (and long overdue) breakthrough for NCRA testing, three Florida sites will (finally) allow the use of CAT!

FCRA had received a few inquiries from a stenomasker asking for permission to join, and the question had been referred to the Charter & Bylaws Committee, with no result as of yet. Charlene Bowman, a Stenomask reporter, contributed \$250 on behalf of their association for FCRA's legislative fund.

Our new logo, which is our logo to this day, was presented to the membership!

Throughout 1995, changes continued in how reporting in the courts was handled, with many circuits opting for various combinations of in-house employee reporters, open civil, electronic recording, and contract reporters. The Rules of Judicial Administration committee has been discussing the Original Only issue.

The problem that had plagued us for a couple of years about having to have our Reporter's Certificates notarized was finally resolved: The governor will be signing a bill removing that onerous requirement.

On May 17, 1995, FCRA lost a giant: Frank Sarli. See his In Memoriam in the sidebar.

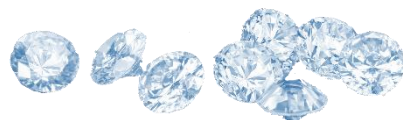
At the June, 1995 Midyear, plaques were given to members with continuous memberships of five, ten, fifteen and twenty years.

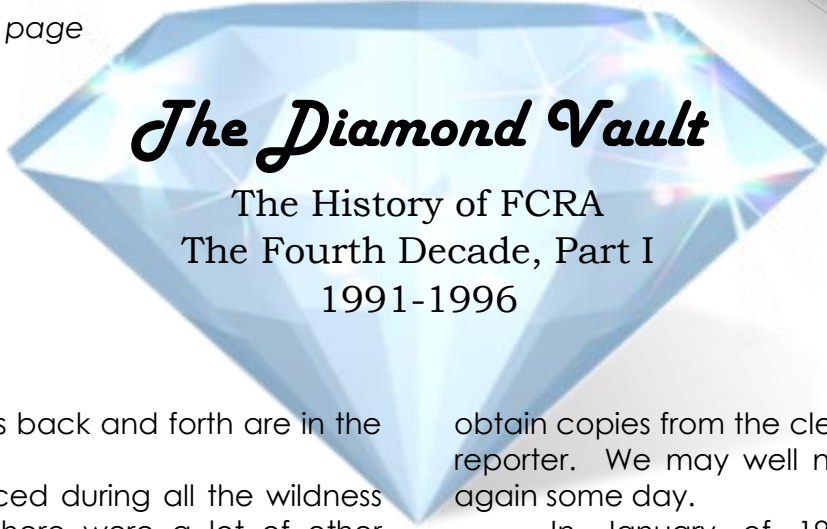
Past President Paula Laws became president of NCRA, and thanked FCRA for its support and for the lovely party that we hosted in her honor at the National convention.

After several years of pain and disruption, the Ethics Commission issue was resolved by placing an exception regarding Officials into the law. But it's not quite over yet. In the next couple of magazines, there were letters to the editor by the two sides disputing the other side's version of what happened, how, why, and how it got resolved, who got it resolved, whose lobbyist got it resolved, but eventually FOCRA dissolved and maybe, just maybe, we can all start pulling together again toward our common goals. It doesn't really matter who got it done, really. The exception to the law was taken care of, as well as the double-notary on the reporter's certificates. Both sides' lobbyists claimed victory, while each gave a nod to the other side's lobbyist for contribution to the effort. It was an ugly chapter, but thankfully things never got as ugly as what had happened 10 years earlier.



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The Diamond Vault

The History of FCRA The Fourth Decade, Part I 1991-1996

The many exchanges back and forth are in the Dropbox folder.

Almost unnoticed during all the wildness swirling around us, there were a lot of other successes, with several stand-alone/one-day seminars around the state on realtime and other topics, with the opportunity to get lots of CEs, as well as a nice profit for FCRA. Information exchanges around the state were also very successful in informing the members and gaining new members.

At the Annual Business Meeting in 1995, Lobbyist Jim Linn informed the membership about the Original Only issue, and there was discussion about whether FCRA should openly support or oppose it. It was decided that we should oppose it.

1995 awards: EMDSA: Judy Everman; Arlene Sommers; Karen McNearny; President's: Ginny Hyland; Pro Bono: Gwyneth Stewart. It seems we had no Frank Sarli that year. Gerald Ryan became president for the 1995-1996 term. (Gerry died in 2011.) As his first theme, he addressed the FCRA/FOCRA issue, "United We Stand, Divided We Fall."

Membership had dropped from the 700s to 570.

With apologies to Mark Twain, President Ryan stated, "No court reporter is safe when Ken Palmer is involved."

And in probably our most significant legislative effort in years, FCRA published a paper opposing the Original Only, laying out the impact on the entire system that it would create. You can read this important paper in the Dropbox folder. In many ways, it's just as significant today as it was 20 years ago, with the advent of e-filing and the ability of attorneys to

obtain copies from the clerk instead of from the reporter. We may well need to draw upon it again some day.

In January of 1996, Thomas Hughes brought up some ideas about the Frank Sarli Scholarship. In a confusing sequence, Motion 96-4: Proceeds from one fund-raiser per year will be designated for the Frank Sarli Award until the award is funded in perpetuity. Passed. Motion 96-5: Rescinds Motion 96-4. (I have no clue... perhaps the answer will become clear further on down the road.) I did note that there appears to have been no Frank Sarli Award at the last convention, but I've found no indication of a reason or whether it was related to funding of the award.

The board expressed concern about the upcoming 1997 NCRA convention, because it's going to be held in Florida, and that can impact our convention. (That is, in fact, an issue that the current board, as of this writing in March of 2019 is facing: 2020 National is going to be in Florida and the board is very concerned about our own convention.)

And to finish off this era, since our Articles of Incorporation were signed in April of 1961, it is with tremendous pleasure that we end this installment with the announcement that, in March of 1996, the Florida Bar Board of Governors unanimously rejected the proposed "no copy" (Original Only) proposed rule.

Be sure and visit the Dropbox folder for photos, videos and other material that there simply wasn't space for in the magazine!

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/c1y5oky939wljho/AADveQHjDZ_zSaen2Tc6XWfQa?dl=0



Experience Naples

Discover great things to do on
Naples' classic coast!



However you picture aqua-adventure, Naples has all the right angles and shades of blue. You'll find charter services, tours and rentals at local marinas, resorts and parks.



Naples may be best known for its Fifth Avenue South nightlife scene filled with twinkling lights, music and crowds.



Restaurants in the area offer diversified cuisine. The finest seafood "straight from the docks" succulent crab and, of course, great grouper!



2019 ANNUAL
CONVENTION

June 28-30, 2019
Naples Grande Beach Resort

2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

JUNE 28-30, 2019 · NAPLES GRANDE BEACH RESORT · NAPLES, FLORIDA

Save time, go to www.fcraonline.org to register online!

(USE ONE FORM PER PERSON) • PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name (please print or type): _____ FPR #: _____

Nickname for Badge: _____

Firm: _____ Designation (RPR, CRR): _____

Address: _____ NCRA #: _____

City/St/Zip: _____ NVRA #: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

FULL CONVENTION WITH FRIDAY SOFTWARE TRAINING OPTION

REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE: Friday Software Training Option, Saturday and Sunday sessions; continental breakfasts; refreshment breaks; handout materials; Networking Happy Hour; Saturday Luncheon, and Saturday Night Party. *Teacher/Student Registration does not include Saturday Night Party.

	On or Before 5/29/19	After 5/29/19 & On-Site
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday Software Training - FCRA Member	\$375.00	\$425.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday Software Training - FCRA Student/Teacher Member*	\$190.00	\$240.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday Software Training - Non-Member	\$675.00	\$725.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday Software Training - Student Non-Member*	\$225.00	\$275.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday Software Training - Teacher Non-Member*	\$300.00	\$350.00

CONVENTION WITH FRIDAY FPR SEMINAR OPTION (FPR OPTION LIMITED TO FIRST 100 REGISTRANTS)

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES: Friday FPR Certification or FPR Refresher (current FPRs only) Option, Saturday and Sunday sessions; continental breakfasts; refreshment breaks; handout materials; Networking Happy Hour; Saturday Luncheon, and Saturday Night Party. *Teacher/Student Registration does not include Saturday Night Party.

NOTE: FPR Seminar will be presented in video format.

	On or Before 5/29/19	After 5/29/19 & On-Site
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday FPR Certification Seminar - FCRA Member	\$375.00	\$425.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday FPR Certification Seminar - Non-Member	\$625.00	\$725.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday FPR Certification Seminar - FCRA Student/Teacher Member*	\$335.00	\$385.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday FPR Certification Seminar - Student Non-Member*	\$370.00	\$420.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday FPR Certification Seminar - Teacher Non-Member*	\$425.00	\$475.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday FPR Refresher Seminar** - FCRA Member	\$325.00	\$375.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday FPR Refresher Seminar** - Non-Member	\$625.00	\$675.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday FPR Refresher Seminar** - FCRA Student/Teacher Member*	\$285.00	\$335.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday FPR Refresher Seminar** - Student Non-Member*	\$320.00	\$370.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention with Friday FPR Refresher Seminar** - Teacher Non-Member*	\$375.00	\$425.00

FRIDAY-ONLY SOFTWARE TRAINING, FPR CERTIFICATION SEMINAR, OR FPR REFRESHER** OPTION (FPR OPTION LIMITED TO FIRST 100 REGISTRANTS)

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES: Friday-Only Software Training includes half-day training, breakfast, and two breaks. Friday-Only FPR registration includes the full-day FCRA Florida Rules & Ethics Certification Seminar (0.5 CEUs), Exam Fee (\$50) Electronic Copy of the Florida Manual©, handouts, first year maintenance fee, (\$200 non-members), breakfast and two breaks. If you are currently an FPR, 0.5 CEUs will be applied toward your current FPR cycle (can only take once per cycle).

	On or Before 5/29/19	After 5/29/19 & On-Site
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Only Software Training - FCRA Members (including Student/Teacher Members)	\$175.00	\$225.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Only Software Training - FCRA Non-Member	\$325.00	\$375.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Only Software Training - FCRA Student/Teacher Non-Member	\$210.00	\$260.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Only FPR Certification Seminar - FCRA Members (including Student/Teacher Members)	\$149.00	\$199.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Only FPR Certification Seminar - FCRA Non-Member	\$399.00	\$449.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Only FPR Certification Seminar - FCRA Student/Teacher Non-Member	\$185.00	\$235.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Only FPR Refresher** Seminar - FCRA Members (including Student/Teacher Members)	\$99.00	\$149.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Only FPR Refresher** Seminar - FCRA Non-Member	\$349.00	\$399.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Only FPR Refresher** Seminar - FCRA Student/Teacher Non-Member	\$185.00	\$235.00

2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

JUNE 28-30, 2019 · NAPLES GRANDE BEACH RESORT · NAPLES, FLORIDA

SOCIAL EVENTS ONLY FEE INCLUDES: Badge and access to all food functions and exhibit hall.

Social Events Only

\$195.00

\$245.00

EXTRA TICKETS & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

NOTE: One set of Saturday Lunch and Saturday Night Party tickets is included in Regular Member and Non-Member Full Convention registrations. *Student/Teacher Full Convention registrations do not include Saturday Night Party tickets. All tickets are non-refundable.

Friday Night Realltime Contest	_____ # of tickets _____ x \$25.00	\$ _____
Saturday Lunch	_____ # of tickets _____ x \$55.00	\$ _____
Saturday Night Party	_____ # of tickets _____ x \$95.00	\$ _____
Student Sponsorship (\$50 minimum)		\$ _____
Friend of FCRA Sponsorship (\$100 minimum)		\$ _____
Total Cost of Extra Tickets/Sponsorships		\$ _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Emergency Contact Phone: _____

- First time at an FCRA Convention.
 I am a new FCRA member since July 2018.

For networking purposes, we include your contact information on the FCRA convention registration list seen by fellow attendees and exhibitors.

- No, please keep my information private.
 Special Needs: If you have special needs, please attach a written request.

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

If you are not a member we will automatically charge your credit card the non-member rate. By signing this form, you are authorizing us to do so.

Check enclosed payable to FCRA for \$ _____

Charge to my MasterCard Visa AmEx

The amount of \$ _____

Account #: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVV Code: _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Signature: _____

Credit Card Billing Address: Same as above

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

GRAND TOTAL
(including registration fees)

CANCELLATION POLICY: Only WRITTEN or FAXED cancellations will be accepted. A \$150 administrative charge will be made for cancellations received between May 3 - 31, 2019. NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE AFTER MAY 31, 2019.

STUDENT/TEACHER REFUND POLICY: A \$50 administrative charge will be made for cancellations received between May 3 - 31, 2019. No refunds will be made after May 31, 2019. Those who fail to show and fail to cancel will receive NO refund. Cancellation refunds will be processed within 30 days after the conclusion of the Convention.

**TO AVOID DUPLICATE CHARGES, DO NOT MAIL THE ORIGINAL
REGISTRATION FORM IF YOU HAVE FAXED IT TO FCRA HEADQUARTERS!**

Complete and return this form with payment to:

FLORIDA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

222 S. Westmonte Drive, Suite 111 • Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

407-774-7880 • Fax (credit card payments only): 407-774-6440

FCRA Tax ID: 59-1091007

The FPR registration fee includes the full day course (0.5 CEUs), Exam Fee (\$50), Electronic Copy of the Florida Manual® (\$75), handouts, first year maintenance fee (\$200 - nonmembers), breakfast, and two breaks. NOTE: FPR Seminar will be presented in video format.

FPR Annual Maintenance fee includes access to your transcripts 24 hours a day, administration of your transcripts, and access to the FPR help line. This fee is set annually by the FCRA Board and is currently \$200 for non-members. The fee is waived for all active members.

**All CEUs earned during the Annual Convention may
be applied toward your 3.0 FPR points.
IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY AN FPR, 0.5 CEUs
FROM THE FPR SEMINAR WILL BE
APPLIED TOWARD YOUR CURRENT FPR CYCLE
(can only take once per cycle).**



Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Form

Participating Membership Only

Please complete and return payment plan form and membership application to:

FCRA Headquarters
222 S. Westmonte Dr, Suite 111
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
Fax: 407-774-6440

The FCRA payment plan is available only through submission of this form and is not available online.

INSTALLMENTS: Plan is payable by credit card only. Check payments will not be accepted.
All payments will be automatically processed as outlined below.

First Payment	Processed upon receipt of this form	\$100.00
Second Payment	Processed 30 days after first payment	\$110.00
Third/Final Payment	Processed 60 days after first payment	\$110.00

Member Name: _____

Member Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Terms of the Agreement: I hereby authorize FCRA to process the fees for my Participating membership in three credit card transactions. All transactions will be processed to the credit card provided on this form. The first payment in the amount of \$100.00 will be processed upon receipt. The second installment in the amount of \$110.00 will be automatically processed 30 days following the first payment. The third and final installment in the amount of \$110.00 will be automatically processed 60 days following the first payment. Check payments will not be accepted under this agreement. I understand there will be NO REFUNDS for any installment (partial payment) processed under this agreement. I also understand that FCRA membership will not be considered active until all three plan payments have been processed successfully. The full amount paid under this plan for my FCRA Participating membership dues will be \$320.00 which includes a \$20 administrative fee for processing multiple payments.

Please enroll me in the payment plan. I have included credit card information for all three installments below. I fully understand and agree to the Terms of the Agreement as stated above.

Signature

Payment Method:

MasterCard Visa American Express

Billing Address (if different from above):

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Cardholder's Signature

Print Name



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Court Reporters Association

*Name (Please print) _____ NCRA # _____ NVRA # _____

*Company _____ Owner Co-owner Manager

*Mailing Address _____ Website: _____

*City/State/Zip _____

*Telephone: Home (_____) _____ Office (_____) _____ FAX (_____) _____

CHECK ONE: OK to publish home phone number in directory. DO NOT publish home phone number.

*Email address _____ Secondary Email Address _____

*METHOD OF REPORTING: Stenographic Voicewriter Gregg Pittman Other _____

*TYPE OF REPORTER: Freelance Official Deputy Official Federal Teacher Student Other _____

*DESIG: CSR [List State(s) other than FL] _____ FAPR FPR RPR RDR CMRS RMR CLVS CRI CRR CPE

*Asterisk indicates required information.

I make application for Membership as a: (CHECK ONE)

PARTICIPATING MEMBER\$300.00

Open to anyone engaged in active practice of official or general court reporting by either stenographic or voicewriter method. (Please indicate method above.)

PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE

*Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Attached
(Participating Members Only)

STUDENT MEMBER\$35.00

Open to any student of shorthand reporting who is endorsed by a court reporting training program instructor or director.

RETIRED MEMBER\$45.00

Open to any participating member in good standing who has retired from the active practice of shorthand reporting.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER \$90.00

This category is open to the following (please check one):

- Teachers of shorthand reporting
- Individuals officially connected with a school or college conducting shorthand reporting course - School Name & Location _____
- Non-member individuals retired from active shorthand reporting
- Non-reporters professionally associated with or employed by a member of FCRA whose application is endorsed by a participating member in good standing (*please print sponsoring member's name below where requested*)
- Anyone qualifying for Participating membership, but residing outside of Florida - State of Residence _____

VENDOR MEMBER.....\$500.00

Open to any firm or corporation engaged in selling products or services to FCRA members.

PRO BONO: Are you interested in donating time to the Pro Bono Program?

Yes No

FLORIDA MANUAL: The guide to court reporting in Florida — sample forms, guidelines, and rules of court. Cost for members: \$75.00. Subscription to updates: \$25.00.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: Searchable geographical and alphabetical members' listing on our website.

Membership year runs one year from date of enrollment. Dues payments are deductible by members as an ordinary and necessary business expense. In accordance with Section 6033(e) (2)(A) of the Internal

For Administrative Use Only

Date Rec'd _____ Ref # _____ Amount _____

Date Approved _____ Computer _____

I hereby make application for membership in the Florida Court Reporters Association and pledge myself, if accepted, to abide by the requirements of the Bylaws and Code of Professional Responsibility of the Association as they are now and as they may be amended in the future.

I understand that all applications are subject to review and approval by FCRA. All applicants must be sponsored by an FCRA member in good standing per FCRA bylaws.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Name of Sponsoring Member (Please print or type) _____

How did you hear about FCRA? Code: _____ Other: _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED FOR:

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Check # _____ MasterCard VISA AmEx

Account # _____

Exp. Date: _____

CVV: _____

Amount to charge: \$ _____

Authorized Signature _____

Billing Address: Same as above

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Make check payable to FCRA and mail to FCRA Headquarters,
222 S. Westmonte Dr, Ste 111, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
Telephone 407-774-7880 • FAX 407-774-6440 (for charge payments only) • www.fcraonline.org