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# MCRA PROGRESS

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**Send Submissions to:**

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MCRA Editor

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## From the Editor

Dear MCRA Members,

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Faith Olliges as immediate past president of MCRA. Faith is not only a true professional, she's kind and thoughtful as well. What a great combination of qualities!

Following in her footsteps is Tiffany Thompson. The time has finally come — she has acquired the long-awaited post as President of MCRA! I've worked with Tiffany for several years now, and I must say — like Angie, Tiffany is a pro, and a whole lot of fun! I know it will be a great year for MCRA with Tiffany at the helm!

As always, I'd like to remind everyone that *Progress* is YOUR publication. I would suggest using it as a tool to build the association by sharing information that is useful as well as fun and interesting. By sharing information about your committee and your professional experience, MCRA becomes stronger and stronger as its members become more unified. So please take the opportunity to contribute information to: [marian@charter.net](mailto:marian@charter.net).

Kindly,  
Marian Rein



# President's Message

*Induction speak given by Tiffany Thompson at the 2009 MCRA Convention:*

It's been a long time since they let me have full control of the mic — not sure of the exact reason for that. But I think the last time I had the mic, it was for the karaoke contest in Branson and I had to share it with Brett, who has the tendency to steal the show with his moves and creative use of silk ties for headbands. I'm honored and excited to stand before you today as president of MCRA.

I want to start by giving thanks to Faith for her leadership and for her great year as president. She's entitled to have one of those cardboard presidential cut-outs made in her likeness, but instead I will always affectionately think of her as SuuuperFaith and have immortalized her forever in cartoon. She didn't always wear her cape to work her magic, but was always amazing in her leadership superpowers. Thank you, Faith for being my mentor and my dear friend. I love ya!

For me, court reporting and MCRA service go hand in hand. It's funny to think that I was asked to serve as Region III VP when I was a brand new court reporter and not even a member of MCRA yet. Diana Taylor has that special way of inviting you to a simple lunch, then making you feel like a queen and that nothing is insurmountable, and you leave lunch and POOF, you're suddenly Region III VP. We did the same thing to Julia this year, so it is a highly effective method! I paid my first membership dues at convention at Harrah's that year, September 2001, and was sworn in the same day and have served on the board in some capacity since that time.

I would also encourage each of you to volunteer and serve in whatever

arena you are comfortable or interested. I can say from personal experience, you will never be sorry you did. In these times of craziness over budgets and with the struggling economy, the best feeling possible is to be pro-active and to get involved in the process to make a difference for the better for our profession. Helplessness comes from sitting back and wondering what is going on and putting complete power in the hands of others, which literally takes the power out of our hands. Please reach out to court reporters, who are not members, and encourage them to join us and get involved.

I never imagined that I would be involved with politics in any way, other than voting on Election Day, but we never know what doors open and where our lives may take us. Over the course of the past couple of years, I have been fortunate — and unfortunate in some regards — to meet and foster relationships with many people at the Capitol. We all need to make those invaluable connections and communicate with our legislators. My friends who work at the Capitol tell me that the number-one way to get the attention of the powers-that-be is a phone call or visit from constituents. They care and they listen. It's the proverbial squeaky-wheel scenario. We've never really had to squeak too much in the past, but the day has come for making some noise.

My time in MCRA has blessed me in so many ways, both professionally and personally. The past several years have been personally challenging, and I found that my work and my friends within this Association were my stability and my support group; my kids call you "my court reporter homies." I'm lucky to have so many wonderful friends within our profession and association, and lucky to have two of my best friends — who I started with on day one of court reporting school in Sedalia back in August of 1995 — very near me: Shana, I've finally persuaded to be on the Board, and Stacy Brandes, I've coerced into coming to work in my office. No thanks are necessary.

As I start my year as president of MCRA, I know the challenges and obstacles that have been set before us. I am committed to this responsibility

and I take it very seriously. You all know by now that I enjoy living life on the left side of the brain and try to factor in as much fun into daily life as humanly possible, but when it comes to our profession, I take it very seriously and I'm ready to do the hard work.

Since serving on the board for so long, I've been taking notes for a lot of years from the legends of MCRA, "The Greats." Faith will go down in history as one of The Greats. No one could've predicted the chaos that would ensue during this past legislative session, and I'll never forget the phone call from another of MCRA's Greats, Angie Culler, at 9:30 on a weeknight saying, "Tif, the worst has happened." I first thought perhaps Dairy Queen stopped selling Blizzards for a second, but found it was worse than that, as we were suddenly a budgetary target. Faith and everyone on the Legislative Committee handled the crisis like pros and saved us. We are all lucky to have these folks working tirelessly on our behalf and look forward to working with our new lobbyist, David Klarich.

We have five new members on our Board of Directors this year, and I look forward to working with them, as well as the committees, in the year ahead. I have the best back-up crew I could ask for. Dawn and I got to know each other very well when we went to Washington, D.C., for Legislative Boot Camp in February, and had a great time meeting other court reporters from all over the country, as well as senators and representatives, on the day we spent on Capitol Hill lobbying for healthcare. Dawn remembers every detail and leaves no stone unturned, and she also taught me how to properly drink a glass of wine in a Ritz Carlton robe at the end of our long Hill day. She's going to be a wonderful president next year.

I'll finish by saying I'm thrilled this day has finally arrived. It's been a goal of mine since I started court reporting to stand right here and be surrounded by my friends and colleagues, and I thank you for the opportunity.

Respectfully yours,  
Tiffany M. Thompson, CCR 595  
MCRA President 2009-2010



# NEWS

MCRA

## MCRA Treasurer Lisa Hennon



"Hello, fellow court reporters. My name is Lisa Hennon and I'm your new Treasurer for the Missouri Court Reporters Association. Incoming President Tiffany Thompson asked that new officers write "a little something" for *Progress* telling all of you about ourselves. So here goes.

"I am originally from Washington, Missouri. In 1986, I received my bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and headed to the American Institute of Business in Des Moines, Iowa. I graduated from AIB in 1989 and began my freelance career with Venezia Reporting & Video Services. In 1994, I accepted an officialship with Division I of the 20th Judicial Circuit, serving the Honorable John C. Brackmann. When he retired in 2000, I continued working in the 20th Circuit under his successor, the Honorable Gael D. Wood.

"In the meantime, in 2000, I married and moved to Jefferson City, but continued the commute to Union,

Hermann and Linn. The traveling was definitely not something I enjoyed. In 2004, I returned to the freelance world, this time in Jefferson City. In 2005, a position opened with the Honorable Patricia S. Joyce in Cole County, and I've been there ever since.

"I have attained CCR and RPR certifications, and will pass my last leg of the RMR (testimony) if it kills me. From there I'll shoot for the RDR and CRR. I admire those of you who have already done so. What an accomplishment that is! I'm a firm believer in racking up as many letters behind your name as possible (even if attorneys have no idea what they mean).

"My husband, Doug, and I have a beautiful eight-year-old daughter, Olivia. Running her to all of her activities takes a lot of time, but I do still find time to walk, work out and scrapbook, occasionally.

"I have loved court reporting since the day I started. I think we all do. Why else would we have endured court reporting school and now be "sticking it out" during these trying times?

"Rest assured that I will give my all to the office of Treasurer and treat my position on this Board with the respect and dignity that it deserves. I'm here to serve you."

Please note a correction to the back cover of the MCRA Membership Directory regarding Lisa Hennon's phone contact information:

Lisa M. Hennon  
Court: (573) 634-9194  
Res.: (573) 659-3609

## MCRA Secretary Gayle Wambolt

"Hello, fellow court reporters. As your new MCRA Secretary, I'm happy to have this chance to introduce myself to you.

"I have been a court reporter for approximately 20 years now. Can it really be that long? I started as a freelancer for Roberts & Associates out of Sedalia in 1990 and was with them for two years. I then heard of an opening in the Jackson County Circuit Court with Judge Jack E. Gant and had the pleasure of working for Judge Gant as an official reporter for five and a half years.

"Following Judge Gant's retirement, Judge W. Stephen Nixon took the bench and thankfully kept me as his reporter. I have been working with Judge Nixon for the past 12 years. I love being an official reporter and have had many interesting and challenging trials through the years.

"I live in Parkville, Mo., with my husband, Mike, and three kids, Megan, Mitchell and Maia. I'm the outcast in the house who doesn't have a name starting with "M." I tell my kids, "mom" qualifies! My weekends and weeknights are full of running to volleyball, football, basketball and baseball practices and games, along with many other kid activities.

"While I know there are many challenges facing us, I am excited about the upcoming year and thank you for the opportunity to represent you in our outstanding association."

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## The CCR test dates for 2010

April 16-17, 2010

Sheraton, Clayton, Missouri

October 22-23, 2010

Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia, Missouri



# NEWS

MCRA

## IT'S A WRAP! 2009 MCRA CONVENTION

The 2009 Missouri Court Reporters Convention held in Blue Springs, Mo., on October 2 and 3 was a huge success.

The venue that was chosen was beautiful as was the weather that weekend. We had a total of 103 reporters and two students in attendance. Also in attendance was Sarah Nageotte, NCRA representative, and Peggy Young was our Parliamentarian at our business meeting.

The idea of shortening up the convention by offering two seminars on Friday evening, with the remainder on Saturday, was received well. Several comments were made that reporters liked the idea of being able to get their 10 CEUs in a 24-hour period.

We had a total of nine vendors and three student sponsors. MCRA appreciates everyone's support and attendance which made for a great convention.

Our guest speakers were "some of the best we've had," according to

just one of the responses we received. I believe everyone enjoyed the variety of topics that were presented.

Our association appreciates the items that were donated for the silent auction. We had items ranging from wine baskets to a Girls Night Out basket to a Harley Davidson lamp.

As far as donations, Midwest Litigation came through for us as always. They not only donated two baskets for the silent auction, they donated a 46-inch Toshiba flat screen television for the very successful raffle. And guess who won the television? Yours truly, and I only bought one ticket! Needless, to say, I had a really, really good time. Thanks again to Midwest Litigation for their continued support. We appreciate you.

Thanks again to everyone that made our convention possible this year, and we look forward to seeing you all next year in St. Louis.

Gail Conaway  
Convention Chair



## Exciting New Website coming soon to MCRA!



The Missouri Court Reporters Association has a new website in the works. It is with a new company called Wild Apricot out of Canada. I have been working feverishly to get things entered into our website. My hope is to have it ready by the time you read this in the December issue of *Progress*.

The new website will feature an interactive map to locate court reporters. This has been in the works for more than a year now. Also, members will be able to update their own personal information to keep everyone updated.

There will be many other new features that I am still learning and am really looking forward to everyone seeing and using, soon.

-Gail Conaway



# NEWS

MCRA

## MCRA Region III Vice President Julia Hunt

"At MCRA's annual convention on October 3, 2009, I assumed the position of Vice President for Region III. After receiving my court reporting degree from State Fair Community College in Sedalia, I freelanced for five years before beginning my tenure with the State of Missouri. I was hired for my first officialship by the Honorable Donald Barnes of the 18th Judicial Circuit, with whom I was employed for a year before accepting a position with the Honorable Jeff Schaeperkoetter of the 20th Judicial Circuit. I made my home in Washington, Missouri, for 10 years before deciding to relocate closer to family.

"Nearly three years ago, I became the Division 4 court reporter for the 13th Judicial Circuit where I work for the Honorable Jodie Asel. I am blessed to have such a wonderful judge to work for and such a talented team of fellow reporters to work with.

"My thanks to Stephanie Prewitt, my predecessor, for her service to MCRA and for her assistance in my transition to the Board. Having been a member of MCRA for the entirety of my career, I am excited and honored to have the opportunity to serve our association and membership in this capacity."



## Just For Fun!



Dawn "Flying Fingers" McTeer



NCRA representative Sarah Nageotte with Tiffany Thompson



Never too early for happy hour!



# NEWS

MCRA

## MCRA Region IV Vice President Rachelle Sobaski

“Hello fellow court reporters. I appreciate having this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Rachelle Sobaski, and I’ve been a court reporter for 19-plus years — 14 as a freelancer and currently five years and counting as an official reporter at the Greene County Judicial Facility. I consider myself a late bloomer entering into the profession, but I have found it to be very rewarding.

“I’ve been married for 29 years to my husband, Dave, and we live in Nixa, Missouri. We have four children — two girls and two boys. Our oldest son, Joe, has a daughter, Isabella, who’s five and she lives in Nixa, so I get to see her a lot. Our youngest daughter, Gena, also lives in Nixa.

“And I’m going to be blessed with two more grandchildren. My youngest son, Eric, got married in

2008, and they’re expecting a boy the first part of February. My oldest daughter, Kris, also got married in 2008 in Iowa and they’re expecting a girl the first part of November, so I’m really in the Grandma mode at the moment.

“I’m also an avid animal lover, with four cats — Rocky, Balboa, Chance and Jordie — and a dog, a big dog, Lady. They’re all strays. We live on a corner lot and I think the word’s out that I love animals.

“My favorite pastimes are relaxing in my pool and taking the boat out and going fishing.

“I look forward to serving as Region IV VP during the coming year. Please feel free to let me know of any questions or concerns that you may have and I will try to do my best to answer them. You can contact me at, rmssc-cr@hotmail.com.”



*“True friendship is like sound health – the value of it is seldom known until it be lost. Take care of your friendships.”*



## Calling all MCRA Members!

PROGRESS belongs to you, and we need YOU to help make it great! Please send us articles and information of interest to other court reporters. And we would love to hear what you’ve been up to! Send us a note and share your stories with other members.

The deadline for the March 2010 issue of Progress is February 1. Please email your submissions to Marian Rein at [maran@charter.net](mailto:maran@charter.net)



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*Please stay tuned for an important message ...*

In an effort to keep dues the same for the upcoming 2010 year, the board will be discussing ceasing to mail a hardcopy of Progress beginning with the March issue and instead will be offered online. We have all, in the past, enjoyed getting Progress in the mail, but in light of the difficult Legislative year we have all just experienced, and a situation which is ongoing, some adjustments need to be implemented. As with any budget, there are so few areas where cuts can be made that aren't already bare bones, and this past year we have had a substantial increase in expenditures due to the Legislative climate. Progress will still be the same wonderful publication that we all enjoy and it will be available on our new website in full color and without size and length limita-

tions that we now have, due to printing and mailing costs, and MCRA will be keeping with the green theme that is so trendy these days. For some of our retired members who may not have access to the Internet, we will make sure that one of our volunteers prints Progress from the online version and mails it to you upon request. There will not be a dues increase this year as a result of this cost-saving measure that may be made. Thank you for your continued support of MCRA and keep submitting new and exciting articles and tidbits to Progress!

Sincerely,

Tiffany M. Thompson  
MCRA President

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# Time to be Thankful!

by Rebecca Brewer

It's that time of year when family, friends and even co-workers ask what they're thankful for. At Thanksgiving, before my family sat down to eat our huge serving of turkey, we asked each person what we are thankful for. I usually cite my old standby — health. Of course I'm always thankful for a healthy family.

It does not have to be Thanksgiving to be thankful for good health, but this year I decided to shake it up a bit and throw in something else I'm really thankful for — a job. Yes, a J-O-B. I'm sure I'm not the only one surrounded by family and friends who are without jobs. I can cite two immediate family members who are either laid off or actively looking for work right now.

It causes me to reflect on my own situation. In these demanding times when whole cities/states are going into bankruptcy, I'm so very thankful to have a steady income streaming in. I'm so very thankful to wake up in the morning and have a job to go to; thankful that I can pay the bills and retain my same standard of living that I have become accustomed to for the last 10 years. At times, I almost feel guilty that I'm not struggling to make it day in and day out. This is why when I show up for a deposition, I make the best impression I can. There is a whole long checklist of things that need to be carried out to accomplish this goal.

First off, reliability. If I don't arrive at a deposition site at least 15 minutes prior to the start time, I start to panic. I have learned throughout the years that a whole host of things

can go wrong when you're trying to get somewhere by a certain time. That's why it is so important to leave extra early. You just cannot predict things like unexpected traffic. I'd rather be 30 minutes early than be stuck in bumper to bumper traffic with sweaty palms. It's just priceless, and stress-free!

Secondly, attitude. I don't care

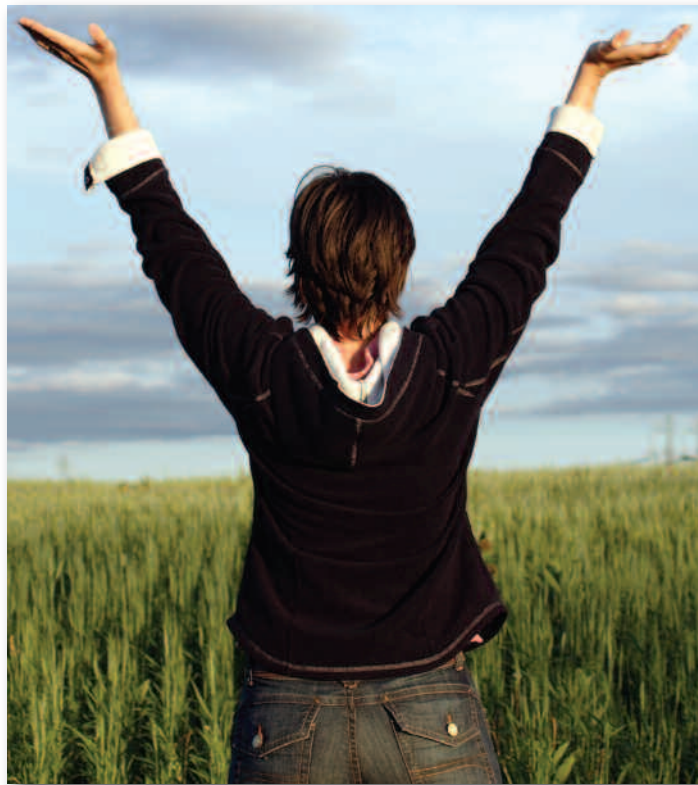
butter, and I will do everything possible to make my clients the happiest clients ever!

Thirdly, production. Perhaps the most important goal is transcript production in a timely manner. I have been chastised throughout the years for being too accommodating (from my family, I assure you). Yes, I have found myself, more times than not, working all night long on transcripts, sometimes waiving that expedited fee. If I have a deadline on a transcript, by golly, a hurricane couldn't stop me from getting it done. And that is why the production is so important. The client perhaps might not remember how pleasant you were at the deposition or how early you arrived, but they will remember if the transcript did not show up on their desk when they expected it.

All of these things are so important in maintaining our jobs, especially in tough economic times like this. We all need to be especially sensitive to the client's needs so that we can all maintain our jobs and maintain our professional status.

So, it is the time of year to reflect back on our work and be thankful for it, and do our best to improve it every day. I always say this is the best gig going — and I mean it. Anyone who knows me knows I can talk for hours on end about court reporting, by far the best job I could have ever chosen. I have loved it from day one, and I still love it to this day. So take some time to reflect on just how good you have it, and then go make it even better!

Happy Holidays.



what kind of day I'm having, I'm there to serve the client and be courteous, helpful and vigilant. I like to begin with an introduction and a firm handshake. I make sure I tell them that I will be their court reporter today and what firm I am with. I want them to have a positive experience with me and therefore reflect back on the firm I am there to represent. When it's all said and done, these are the people paying my bills. These are the people that must be happy with my work, my attitude, my timeliness. This is my bread and



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# An Update on NCRA

by Sarah Nageotte

My name is Sarah Nageotte. This is my opportunity to give you an update of what's been happening at NCRA recently. I know there's a lot of other things that need to take place here before we leave, so I will make this short.

We had a very successful convention in D.C. at the beginning of August, although there was some tension leading up to the business meeting concerning the Motion to Rescind that had been filed relating to the Board's November of 2008 motion concerning the testing of nonsteno methods and whether or not that was feasible and desirable for NCRA and its membership. In the days leading up to business meeting, there was a lot of informal and formal discussions between the membership and the board. Really truly professionalism was at its finest.

Although the Motion to Rescind did not pass, the Board has heard and has listened to the membership. At this point the Board is still considering the inquiry as to how nonsteno methods, whether it be partnering with them on similar issues, testing them as, and if, and how that can best benefit the stenographic profession, NCRA, and its members. We have heard the members' concerns. At this point the Board is still going forward to develop a business plan to test nonmember steno reporters more so than what is currently done in states that offer the RPR as a basis to their certification. These issues have opened up the membership and has brought it to light. The Board encourages the continuing discussion and active participation between all of its members and the Board.

NCRA is well-known for its certi-

fication. It's just one thing of many that we do best. This year, NCRA unveiled two new certificate programs, the Real-time Systems Administrator, also known as the RSA, and the Trial Certification Program, TPC. The RSA involves testing on computer basics and real-time knowledge, and it is the hands-on testing under unique circumstances. The TPC gives reporters and nonreporters the basic knowledge and skills to harness litigation support technologies. The next TPC program will be offered in conjunction with the CLVS workshop that's going to be in February of 2010 in Miami. Both the RSA and TPC will be given at NCRA's midyear, which is March 12 through the 14th in San Francisco. I know Missouri is much like Ohio in February and March. I think we'd rather be in Miami or California





enjoying the weather. Maybe I'll see some of you guys there.

Also, along the lines of certification, NCRA is implementing a new pilot program wherein the RPR will be given for a third time beginning in August 2010 at states and venues where resources are available. The CRR will also be given at this time and will still be given at the annual convention next year in Chicago. The CRR will be given for a fourth time in 2010. Thank you. I think that's great. That was an issue that was brought up through the NCSA resolution process. The Board heard the request for additional testing and is developing this pilot program to see if there is a desire and a need and that our members do want this.

Also, still in pilot status program is the Total Immersion Program. 15 students were selected of over 200 applicants. They committed to total dedication of learning steno. The goal is reaching 225 words per minute in a 12-month program or a 12-month period of time. The second quarter just ended at the beginning of September, and within six months there are nine students that are at 120 words per minute, two students being at 140. So there's a lot of progress and a lot of promise that's really coming out of this program. If you would like more information on that, you can visit NCRA's website. The quarterly reports are updated on line. Then the program will end in March 2010, and it will be re-evaluated before then to see how well the students are going and if this new program is worth continuing.

These are just a few of the mainly basics of what is happening at NCRA and around the country, and really there is so much more. I just encourage you to visit NCRA's website. If you remember, make sure you have your E-mail updated and on file so you can receive the news updates and events and flashes that come through the E-mail. Also visit NCRA's new forum. It's for mem-

bers and nonmembers. Just sign up. You can network with other reporters around the country and discuss issues and concerns and your experiences that may be going on in Missouri.

Before I close here today, I just want to ask each and every one of you to ask yourselves, what can I do for NCRA and/or MCRA, whether it's taking a chance at the raffle that's going on for the awesome 46-inch television (I'm not sure how I'm going to get that on the plane) or by adopting a student this weekend. Every little bit helps. We need you. Our profession needs you. You can make a difference. Every one of us here in this room and those of us that can't be here with us today, our

fellow reporters, captioners, CART providers, students, instructors, we can work together to make a difference. If you're not an NCRA member and you'd like to join for 2010, I have forms available, and you can receive the rest of 2009 for free.

Really I just want to thank you all for your hospitality here this weekend. This is my first official assignment as a new director for NCRA. I've been a little nervous and scared. Hopefully it will continue to get better. I am here until tomorrow morning if anybody would like to stop by and talk or visit. If you have any questions or concerns or comments you'd like to address, please feel free to come and see me. Thank you very much. ■

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## The Nominating Committee of NCRA Seeks Candidates for Service as Officers and Members of the Board of Directors for 2010-2011

The Nominating Committee, in seeking out the best candidates for service on the Board of Directors, relies upon active NCRA members, like you, who have an understanding of the qualities of leadership which candidates for NCRA office should possess. Your association activities, both state and national, bring you in touch with many reporters.

Please encourage NCRA voting members in your state association to recommend candidates for the positions set forth in the enclosed notice. A statement of the rationale for supporting each candidate should be submitted with their recommendations.

You have the opportunity to identify and recommend candidates who possess some or all of the qualities that are important for those in a leadership position. Among those qualities are:

- o Strong communication skills.
- o State board service.
- o Years in the profession.
- o Professional background and experience.
- o Service on other related boards.
- o Advanced NCRA certifications.
- o Education and/or training.
- o NCRA committee service.
- o Leadership qualities and experience.

- o Business experience.
- o Seminar presenter experience.
- o Published author of court reporting-related materials.

NCRA cannot thrive without the service of highly qualified volunteers. The Nominating Committee hopes you will participate in our nominating process by submitting names of candidates for consideration by the Nominating Committee. Please state the reasons for your recommendation of each candidate. A candidate recommendation form is enclosed.

If you are interested in serving, you don't need to wait for a member to nominate you. You can declare your candidacy by completing the attached form or sending a letter to the Nominating Committee.

Candidates will be contacted by NCRA regarding their willingness to serve. Your recommendation must be received by NCRA headquarters by January 4, 2010.

This is a very important matter, so please give it your attention. Our sincere thanks for your participation.

Sincerely,

Karen Yates, CRR, CCP, CBC  
NCRA Nominating Committee

## Cookin' with MCRA

### Sweet and Sour Red Cabbage

- 2 medium-size apples, chopped with skins left on
- 1 2-pound red cabbage, thinly sliced
- 6 Tbsp. sugar
- ½ cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 large, mild onion, chopped
- 5 strips of bacon, chopped
- ¼ cup water

Fry bacon pieces in a large, deep frying pan or large pot, until crispy. Add cabbage and water and sauté about five minutes, until it begins to wilt. Add onion, apples and sugar, and stir. Add vinegar. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover and simmer until cabbage is tender, for about 30 minutes, stirring often to prevent sticking. Season to taste with salt and pepper. If you would like it a bit thicker, add a small amount of flour/water near the end of cooking.

### Apple Cranberry Salad

- 1 3-oz package of raspberry Jello
- 1 16-oz can of whole berry cranberry sauce
- 2 Granny Smith apples, diced
- 1 large orange, peeled and cut into ½" pieces
- ¾ cup chopped walnuts
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- Dash ground cloves

Prepare Jello according to package directions in an 8x8x2 baking dish. Stir in apples, cranberries, orange, walnuts, cinnamon and cloves into Jello mixture. Refrigerate overnight until firm.

*Recipes provided by Judy Schulman*



# Earn CEUs in the Bahamas!

## February 12 – 15, 2010

**J**oin MCRA for this exciting trip to the Bahamas — a Four-Night Bahamas Cruise with Royal Caribbean, February 12–15, 2010. In 2010, Lincoln Day falls on a Friday, February 12, and Washington’s Birthday falls on Monday, February 15, so no vacation time needed!!! The ship is the newly-renovated Majesty of the Seas.

### ITINERARY

- Ships leaves Miami, Florida on Friday at 5:00 p.m.
- Tended at their private island, CocoCay, Bahamas, Sat. 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Docks at Nassau, Bahamas on Sunday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Returns to Miami, Florida on Monday at 7:00 a.m.

### BOOKING

Booking as a group, Royal Caribbean will give each cabin \$50 on-board credit. You only need \$100 per person to hold your cabin, which is 100-percent refundable until you pay in full.

### PRICING

Following are the prices of the cabins with fuel surcharge and taxes:

- Interior Room (Category Q) \$397.20 per person
- Outside picture window with obstruction (Category I) \$437.20 per person
- Outside pothole unobstructed (Category H) \$447.20 per person
- Outside Picture no obstruction (Category F2) \$467.20 per person

### AIRFARE

Anticipated airfare from St. Louis or Kansas City to Miami, Florida: \$250 to \$350.

### CEU

The best news is there will be continuing education seminars: 1½ hours Saturday and Sunday so you will earn 3 CEUs. Relax with friends AND it’s tax deductible!

If you are interested in joining us, email Joanne Martin at [JoJMartin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:JoJMartin@sbcglobal.net) or call 314-622-4787 for more details!



# MCRA Pre-Convention Board Meeting Minutes

Adam's Pointe Conference Center  
Blue Springs, Missouri  
October 2, 2009

The Pre-Convention Board Meeting of the MCRA Board of Directors was called to order at 2:30 p.m. The Board members in attendance were: Faith Olliges, President; Tiffany Thompson, President Elect; Dawn McTeer, Vice President; Brett Harrison, Treasurer; Angie Culler, Immediate Past President; Shana Crane, Region I Vice President; Gail Conaway, Region II Vice President; Stephanie Prewitt, Region III Vice President; Marilyn Dulaban, Region IV Vice President; Sandy Stewart, Region V Vice President.

Members not present were:

Tracie Brumley, Secretary.

Guests present:

Sarah Nageotte, NCRA; Lisa Hennon, Incoming Treasurer.

**MOTION/PRESIDENT ELECT THOMPSON:** I move to approve the minutes of the June 13th, 2009, Board Meeting, as printed in the August 2009 issue of PROGRESS.

**MOTION SECONDED:** There being no further discussion, President Faith Olliges called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

## RATIFICATION OF E-MAIL VOTES

President Faith Olliges called for a motion to ratify the following E-mail vote: "Motion/Vice Dawn President McTeer: I make a motion to approve the MCRA memberships of: Melissa Allen – Active Karen Andel – Active Christine Auer – Active Mary Ellen Creed – Active Laurie Fitzgerald – Student Denise Halasey – Active Kelly Heisdorffer – Active Annisa Justice – Active Cindy Messina – Active Andrea Moore – Active Amy Perrin – Student Brenda Piles – Active Buffy Topper – Active Catherine Winkeler – Active"

**MOTION SECONDED:** There being no further discussion, President Faith Olliges called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

President Faith Olliges called for a motion to ratify the following E-mail votes:

"Motion/Immediate Past President Angie Culler: I make the motion to authorize President Faith Olliges to purchase the ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR software for the MoCRA.org website to utilize the current projects for our Association's on-line information.

Motion/Immediate Past President Angie Culler: I move that the Board approve the expenses of sending the 2008-2009 MCRA President, Faith Olliges, to the NCRA 2009 Annual Business Meeting and the Annual NCSA Meeting to be held in Washington, D.C. Expenses to include full airfare, cab fare to and from the airport, hotel expenses from August 4, 2009, the day before the conference begins, through August 6, 2009, after the conclusion of the NCSA Meeting and a meal per diem up to a total of \$60 per day.

Motion/Immediate Past President Angie Culler: I move that the Board approve the expenses of sending the 2008-2009 MCRA Vice President, Dawn McTeer, to the NCRA 2009 Leadership Training, to the NCRA 2009 Annual Business Meeting and the Annual NCSA Meeting to be held in Washington, D.C. Expenses to include Leadership Registration fees of \$115.00, full airfare, cab fare to and from the airport, hotel expenses from August 4, 2009, the day before the conference begins, through August 6, 2009, after the conclusion of the NCSA Meeting and a meal per diem up to a total of \$60 per day."

**MOTION/IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT ANGIE CULLER:** I will make a motion that we ratify votes on No. 2, 3, 4 that were made by E-mail.

**MOTION SECONDED:** There being no further discussion, President Faith Olliges called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

President Faith Olliges called for a vote to ratify the following E-mail vote:

"Motion/Vice President Dawn McTeer: Move that President Faith Olliges be authorized to contract with lobbyist, David Klarich, for a period of one year beginning September 3, 2009, at the rate of \$1,600 per month with an additional \$2,000 authorized for discretionary expenses he might incur for entertainment expenses during the conduct of his lobbying services on behalf of the Missouri Court Reporters Association."

**MOTION SECONDED:** There was brief discussion. President Faith Olliges called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**  
President Faith Olliges updated the Board on the NCRA Business Meeting and the NCSA Meeting held in August in Washington, D.C. The



Motion to Rescind the NCRA Board's Motion to test non-stenographic methods did not pass.

Region II Vice President and Convention Chair Gail Conaway reported that there were 83 registrations with more coming in. There are nine vendors and two students.

The CCR test will be held on October 17 and 18 at the Adam's Pointe Courtyard in Blue Springs, Missouri.

The Board members must submit their expenses by October 15. President Faith Olliges' goal is to have the Directory published and mailed within the next 10 days.

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

President Elect Tiffany Thompson reported that there are two Meramec students and two sponsors.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MCRA has gained 37 new members in the 2008-2009 term. Region II purchased coffee cups, license plate brackets, and other items to be sold at the MCRA store.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report given.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Brett Harrison presented the Treasurer's Report to the Board. He reported there were balances of:

Checking Account \$72,101.36

War Chest – Certificate of Deposit \$69,520.24

Membership Dues Revenue To-Date \$34,555.00

Unpaid Dues To-Date \$2,190.00

Expense for PROGRESS Publication \$5,226.24

Expense for Public Relations \$1,367.43

Treasurer Brett Harrison furnished to the Board copies of the tax exempt letter and pink expense sheets.

President Faith Olliges called for a motion to approve the deposit of 10 percent of the dues into the Certificate of Deposit.

MOTION/TREASURER BRETT HARRISON: I make a motion that we deposit \$3,441 into the Certificate of Deposit. The \$3,441 represents the 10 percent to date we would have made on this.

MOTION SECONDED: There being no further discussion, President Faith Olliges called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Immediate Past President Angie Culler expressed her appreciation to the Board for their kindness. She expressed her desire to stay in touch and

her feeling that serving as a member of the MCRA Board of Directors has been a joy.

REGION I VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Region I held their annual region meeting on June 30 at the Hacienda. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. Region I Vice President Shana Crane, Past Presidents Deb McLaughlin, and Joanne Martin volunteered at a golf tournament hosted by the Women's Lawyers Association. It was a very valuable and successful opportunity to network at no cost to the MCRA.

REGION II VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Region II Vice President Gail Conaway reported that the MCRA will realize a profit at this convention. The NVRA representative is ill and will not be able to attend the convention.

REGION III VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Region III held their annual region meeting on July 18 at Shakespeare's. There were eight region members in attendance. President Faith Olliges and her husband also attended. The State budget crisis was the main topic of conversation.

REGION IV VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Region IV held their annual region meeting on July 20. Region IV Vice President Marilyn Dulaban was unable to attend. Secretary Tracie Brumley attended in her stead. Rachele Sobaski will be the incoming Region IV Vice President.

REGION V VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Region V held their annual region meeting on September 1. There were 11 region members in attendance. Region V Vice President Sandy Stewart volunteered to buy the first round.

NEW BUSINESS

The new business will be addressed in the Post-Convention Board Meeting.

MOTION/STEWART: I move to authorize the President to pay the day-to-day expenses of the Association until the next Board Meeting.

MOTION SECONDED: There being no further discussion, President Faith Olliges called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

The October 2, 2009, Pre-Convention Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.



# MCRA 2009 – 2010 COMMITTEES

## AUDIT

Linda Dattilo, Chair  
Sande Meyer  
Tiffany Thompson, ex-officio

## BUDGET & FINANCE

Mary Conway, Co-Chair  
Angie Culler, Co-Chair  
Lisa Hennon  
Dawn McTeer  
Tiffany Thompson, ex-officio

## BYLAWS

Linda Dattilo, Chair  
Carolyn Keeling  
Diana Taylor  
Faith Olliges, ex officio

## CHIEF EXAMINER

### EAST:

Debbie Kriegshauser  
NCRA selection approval

### CHIEF EXAMINER

#### WEST:

Irene Narvaez  
NCRA selection approval

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

Rachelle Sobaski

## CONVENTION 2010

### St. LOUIS

Shana Crane, Chair Region I  
Deborah McLaughlin  
Rhonda Laurentius  
Linda Dattilo  
Karen Rottmann  
Jennifer Dunn  
Dawn McTeer  
Faith Olliges  
Tiffany Thompson, ex-officio

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Bo Kriegshauser, Chair  
Jim Bouck  
Mary Conway  
Diana Taylor  
Dennis Jaeger  
Tiffany Thompson, ex-officio

## EDITORS

Marian Rein, Progress Publication  
Stephanie Prewitt, Membership Directory  
Gail Conaway, Advertising Specialist  
Gail Conaway & Deborah McLaughlin, Web site Directors

## FUND RAISING

Gail Conaway, Chair  
Betsy Gromowsky  
Rozann Brancato  
Tiffany Thompson, ex-officio

## LEGISLATIVE

Randy Dunn, Co-Chair  
Kathy Foley, Co-Chair  
Joanne Martin  
Linda Dattilo  
Mary Conway  
Cathi Boyd  
Stephanie Prewitt  
Brett Harrison  
Diane Woods  
Betsy Gromowsky  
Angie Culler  
Pat Manners  
Faith Olliges  
Dawn McTeer  
Ginger Sommerer  
Tiffany Thompson, ex-officio

## LONG-RANGE PLANNING

Joanne Martin, Chair  
Cathi Boyd  
Angie Culler  
Linda Dattilo  
Randy Dunn  
Jennifer Dunn  
Rhonda Laurentius  
Deborah McLaughlin  
Tiffany Thompson, ex-officio

## NOMINATING

Faith Olliges, Past President  
Region I, Vickie Pohlman Walker  
Region II, Betsy Gromowsky  
Region III, Diana Taylor  
Region IV, Diane Woods  
Region V, Sande Meyer

## PAST PRESIDENTS

Faith Olliges  
Angie Culler

Sandy Stewart  
Patricia Manners  
Rhonda Laurentius  
Tammy Ballew  
Deborah McLaughlin  
Diana Taylor  
Jennifer Dunn  
Mary Conway

## PUBLIC RELATIONS, EAST

Jennifer Dunn, Chair  
Debbie McLaughlin  
Rhonda Laurentius  
Shana Crane  
Melissa Schardan  
Debbie Kriegshauser  
Dawn McTeer  
Faith Olliges  
Tiffany Thompson, ex-officio

## PUBLIC RELATIONS, WEST

Betsy Gromowsky, Chair  
Angie Culler  
Tracie Brumley  
Lisa Hennon  
Stephanie Prewitt  
Tiffany Thompson, ex-officio

## STUDENT AFFAIRS, EAST

Deb McLaughlin, Chair  
Robin Cox  
Rhonda Laurentius  
Karen Rottmann  
Karen Russo  
Kathleen Saunders, South Technical High School  
Patty Ziegler, Ph.D., Meramec College, St. Louis  
Tiffany Thompson, ex-officio

## STUDENT AFFAIRS, WEST

Gail Conaway, Chair  
Sue Steen  
Julie DelPercio  
Lea Ann Moore  
Cheryl Rickel  
Tiffany Thompson, ex-officio

## STUDENT MENTORING

Dawn McTeer, Chair  
Peggy Lange  
Kathleen Saunders, South Technical High School  
Tiffany Thompson, ex-officio



# Post-Convention Board Meeting Minutes

Adam's Pointe Conference Center  
October 3, 2009

The Post-Convention Board Meeting of the MCRA Board of Directors was called to order at 6:40 p.m. The Board members in attendance were: Tiffany Thompson, President; Dawn McTeer, President Elect; Gail Conaway, Vice President; Faith Olliges, Immediate Past President; Lisa Hennon, Treasurer; Shana Crane, Region I Vice President; Julia Hunt, Region III Vice President; Rachelle Sobaski, Region IV Vice President; Sandy Stewart, Region V Vice President.

Members not present were: Gayle Wambolt, Secretary; Rozann Brancato, Region II Vice President.

Guests present: Angie Culler  
Brett Harrison

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The NCRA Convention will be held on August 5 through 8, 2009, at the Hilton in Chicago, Illinois.

The 2010 MCRA Convention will be held in St. Louis. Region I Vice President Shana Crane will be serving as the Convention Chair.

President Tiffany Thompson asked the Board for their input on volunteers willing to serve on the 2009-2010 committees.

There were 101 reporters, two students, and nine vendors registered to attend the convention.

President Tiffany Thompson called for a motion to approve the retention of Beck & Company.

## MOTION/TREASURER

HENNON: Move that we retain the accounting firm of Beck & Company for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, in an amount not to exceed \$7,200 for the year, plus any additional costs for supplies, postage, and their professional time to prepare our financial statements and tax returns.

## MOTION SECONDED:

There being no further discussion, President Tiffany Thompson called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

The deadline for PROGRESS will be November 1, 2009. All articles must be submitted to Marian Rein.

## PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

No report given.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report given.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Lisa Hennon reported the following revenue from the convention: MCRA Store: \$590.50  
Raffle: \$1,400.00  
Silent Auction: \$894.50  
On-Site Registrations: \$2,915.00

TOTAL: \$5,800.00

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Immediate Past President Faith Olliges thanked the Board for a job well done and all of their hard work.

## REGION I VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

## REGION II VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

## REGION III VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

## REGION IV VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

## REGION V VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report given.

## OLD BUSINESS

There was brief discussion regarding an MCRA credit card, prepaid card, or debit card. The matter was tabled until further discussion with Marce Kamps, accountant.

## NEW BUSINESS

An event planner will not be necessary for the 2010 convention in St. Louis because there are a number of members in St. Louis with extensive experience in convention planning.

There was discussion about providing PROGRESS on line as a cost cutting measure due to the high cost of the new lobbyist.

The Winter Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 30, 2010, at a location to be decided later.

President Tiffany Thompson called for a motion authorizing the President to pay the day-to-day expenses.

## MOTION/IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

OLLIGES: Move that we authorize the President to pay the day-to-day expenses of the Association until the next meeting.

## MOTION SECONDED:

There being no further discussion, President Tiffany Thompson called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carried.

The October 3, 2009, Post-Convention Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



# MCRA's 64th Annual Business Meeting

October 3, 2009  
Blue Springs, Missouri

President Faith Olliges called to order the 64th Annual Business Meeting of the Missouri Court Reporters Association at approximately 12:40 p.m. All in attendance rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Faith Olliges introduced the current Board of Directors: Tiffany Thompson, President Elect; Dawn McTeer, Vice President; Tracie Brumley, Secretary; Brett Harrison, Treasurer; Shana Crane, Region I Vice President; Gail Conaway, Region II Vice President; Stephanie Prewitt, Region III Vice President; Marilyn Dulaban, Region IV Vice President; Sandy Stewart, Region V Vice President.

She introduced the incoming 2009-2010 Board of Directors, Tiffany Thompson, President; Dawn McTeer, President Elect; Gail Conaway, Vice President; Lisa Hennon, Treasurer; Gayle Wambolt, Secretary; Shana Crane, Region I Vice President; Rozann Brancato, Region II Vice President; Julia Hunt, Region III Vice President; Rachelle Sobaski, Region IV Vice President; Sandy Stewart, Region V Vice President.

She expressed her gratitude for the presence of Sarah Nageotte, NCRA representative, and Peggy Young, Parliamentarian.

President Faith Olliges called on Peggy Young to deliver the invocation.

President Elect Tiffany Thompson announced the winner of the Beijo bag drawing was Cindy Plowman.

President Faith Olliges called for a moment of silence in remembrance of members of the Association and family members who have passed away. Those listed were Donald Rackers, father of Shana Crane; Joseph Lambert, husband of Sharon Lambert; Kimberly Wilson, sister-in-law of Brett Harrison; Ronald Bartlett, husband of Judy Bartlett; Russell Taylor, father-in-law of Diana Taylor; Tom Brumley, father of Tracie Brumley.

President Faith Olliges acknowledged the Past Presidents in attendance. Immediate Past President Angie Culler, Caroline Keeling, Pat Manners, and Region V Vice President Sandy Stewart all stood to be recognized.

President Faith Olliges acknowledged and asked to stand in recognition past DSA recipient, Caroline Keeling.

President Faith Olliges acknowledged and thanked Sarah Nageotte, NCRA Director, for her attendance as the NCRA representative.

President Faith Olliges thanked the exhibitors and sponsors who participated in the MCRA 2009 Convention. Those listed were Advantage Software by Nancy Fox, Beijo Bags by Vanessa Johnson and Kelly Mackison, Midwest Litigation Services by Mary Gaal and Kathy Turner, Pohlman U.S.A. Reporting by Rachel Dunn and Michelle Hill, ProCat by Pam Gentry, Silpada Designs by Jodi Seidel, Stenograph by Mike Melby, Visionary Colors by Patty Hagen, Pam Lewis, and Bob Kennedy, WaterLand Litigation Services by Cecile Landrum and Steve Waters. John Bowen Reporting, McCallister Law Firm, and Thomas Stein.

President Faith Olliges introduced and welcomed two students, Suzie Zes and Chris Urberger, who were being sponsored by Midwest Litigation Services. President Faith Olliges acknowledged and welcomed Barb Tomblinson, retiree.

President Faith Olliges introduced Peggy Young, parliamentarian. She thanked her for taking on the task of serving as the MCRA parliamentarian.

Sarah Nageotte, NCRA representative, spoke to those in attendance and apprised them of current events at NCRA.

Linda Dattilo and Diana Taylor comprised the committee that approved the 2008 Business Meeting Minutes that were published in the December 2008 issue of PROGRESS. There were no corrections to the minutes of the 2008 Business Meeting. President Faith Olliges appointed Diana Taylor and Pat Manners to approve the minutes of the 2009 Business Meeting.

Region II Vice President Gail Conaway announced there were 103 reporters in attendance and two student sponsorships.

President Faith Olliges announced there is a quorum of 25 present.

President Faith Olliges called up the agenda for consideration.

Immediate Past President Angie Culler moved to approve the agenda of the 2009 Annual Business Meeting. The motion received a second, and the agenda was approved.

President Faith Olliges announced that the Standing Rules of the Annual Business Meeting are contained in the convention packets.

Dwight Carlson moved to approve the Standing Rules of the Annual Business Meeting. Following a second, the motion carried.

President Faith Olliges announced that the reports of officers, standing committees, and special committees are contained in the convention packets and are available for review.

President Faith Olliges delivered her Outgoing Presidential Message to the attendees.

Immediate Past President and Nominating Chairperson Angie Culler submitted the following slate of officers for 2009-2010: Tiffany Thompson, President; Dawn McTeer, President Elect; Gail Conaway, Vice President; Gayle Wambolt, Secretary; Lisa Hennon, Treasurer.

There were no further nominations. The nominations were closed, and the officers were elected by acclamation.

Sarah Nageotte, NCRA representative, conducted the installation of the 2009-2010 slate of officers.

Tiffany Thompson, 2009-2010 MCRA President, delivered her Presidential acceptance speech.

President Faith Olliges read to those in attendance the letter from David Klarich, lobbyist, to the MCRA membership.

Immediate Past President Angie Culler presented a Presidential plaque to President Faith Olliges in commemoration and thanks for her service as MCRA President in 2008-2009.

Region I Vice President Shana Crane announced that the 2010 Convention will be held in St. Louis at a location yet to be determined. She invited all to attend.

President Faith Olliges adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.



# MCRA Membership Application

Please select one:  New Active Member: \$95

New Associate, Student, & General Member: \$35

Payment method: Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MasterCard No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status applying for (circle 1): Active • Associate • Student • General Retired

(see page 14 for description of each status)

Type of Reporter (circle): Official • Freelance • Federal • Public Service • Workers' Comp

Admin. Hearing Commission • Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Student (school): \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reporting method (circle 1): Stenotype • Stenomask

Reporting Experience (years and months):

Current Certifications/Designations (circle all that apply): CSR (MO) CCR (MO) RPR RMR RDR

CRR CVR CVR-CM CLVS PSSC Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a copy of each certificate if applying for new membership

Transcript Production Method: Please list the brand of software/equipment you currently

use to produce transcripts (example: Case Catalyst, ProCat, SpeechCAT, MS Word, Work Perfect):

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Telephones: Ofc: Res:

Fax: Email:

Place of Employment:

Address of Employment:

Which address for mail (circle 1): Home Office

### Membership Category. Please select one:

• **Active Member: \$95** (Four Progress quarterly newsletters and your 2007 Membership Directory will be mailed to you. Online services will be provided at [www.mocra.org](http://www.mocra.org))

• **Associate, Student, and General Member: \$35** (Four Progress quarterly newsletters and your 2007 Membership Directory will be mailed to you.)

Mail this application form and copies of all professional certifications with credit card information or check made payable to MCRA, to

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