

2011 MCRA Legislative Report

Fortunately the 2011 Legislative Session was a quiet one for the court reporting profession. With the help of our wonderful legislative representative Dave Klarich we were able to stay out of everyone's focus and, thus, became unaffected.

Our legislative work began with our annual Cookie Drop. Thousands of cookies were collected from many, many reporters the week of February 10th. The Legislative Committee thanks all of you for that effort!!

MCRA members from across the State arrived at the Capitol on February 16th to put together over 50 cookies trays and distribute them throughout the Capitol to the Governor, Senators and Representative and their staff.

For those of us who were coming from Kansas City, we had to find our way through some very dense fog. Upon arriving at the meeting place, cookies were divided up and we were off to the Capitol building. We divided into teams and went to into legislator's offices. We reached out to Governor Nixon's staff, committee chairs of important committees, legislators that represented those of us handing out cookies and other legislators that we had special requests to visit. Since we had no items up for legislation last year this was a good time to build bridges and visit with representatives and senators to remind them of who we are and what a vital role we fill in the judicial branch. We received very positive responses from all we visited, especially when they asked who our lobbyist was and we were able to say that Dave Klarich is our lobbyist. We made sure that if the legislators need to know anything from us that they can contact him.

This past year Dave also met with reporters from Kansas City and St. Louis. He continues to alert us as any issues touching upon court reporters arises. During this volatile economic time it is important that we continue to build bridges and maintain our good relationships with the legislators, Judges and the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

The Legislative Committee continues to look for opportunities to advance our profession and reacts on a minute's notice. We are very fortunate to have Dave Klarich as our legislative representative. Through the diligence of our Committee and the commitment of Dave Klarich, we hope to have another uneventful legislative session in 2012!

Kathy Foley
Legislative Committee Co-Chair