

Winter 05/06 E-Skript

Happy New Year! It is my hope that all of you had a safe and happy holiday season.

As we think about our New Year's resolutions, I'm hopeful that each of us will resolve to be active ambassadors for our profession. This is such a wonderful career, and the best way to make sure it survives is for us to put our best faces forward and make those with whom we work realize just how important the court reporter's role is. Make the effort to smile more, don't gripe (out loud, anyway!) about expedites that make you alter your plans, and always be the professional that you are. The impression we make is a lasting one, and we want it to be positive.

Here are the balls that we're attempting to juggle.

First of all, the NCVRA and the AOCR have agreed to work with a facilitator to discuss the possibility of **merging our associations together**. This meeting will be attended by two of our membership, Board Members Jenny Carroll and Carol Adkins, hopefully this month. This will be a meeting that will be less than a day in length. I'm sure others would be welcome to participate. As soon as we have a definitive date and location, I'll be sure to pass the information on.

Secondly, a **new law was passed having to do with Identity Theft/Fraud, and it specifically relates to personal identifiers**. As you all know, my husband's specialty within the Wake County Sheriff's Office is identity fraud, and he made me aware of this new law (Session Law 2005-414, Senate Bill 1048). After looking through the wording of this document, I have drafted a letter to Attorney General Roy Cooper asking for his opinion on how this affects court reporters, both official and freelance, in their preparation of transcripts; specifically, who is responsible for redaction of pertinent information. Additionally, a copy of the letter and the law was forwarded to NCRA, NVRA and NCVRA for their information. Again, as soon as I hear back, I will make you all aware of his opinion.

Testing will now be available both in **Hickory and in Kinston** for the May test. NCRA has allowed Kinston to be added as a viable site. While it won't show up in your test packets, but if you register online, it will be one of the available sites. Jan McElhaney will be the Chief Examiner for the Kinston site. And so far as we know, our wonderful Lisa Garrison and Cheryl Nuccio will be covering the Hickory site. Thanks so much, ladies. And good luck to all!

Loretta Armstrong has volunteered to match up students with mentors. She's hoping to match folks up based on locale and type of reporting they're interested in. Please contact Loretta (see your membership list for emails) to volunteer to serve as a mentor. It's a wonderful thing to do to give back to the profession.

Legislative Boot Camp will be taking place February 26 through 28 in Washington, DC, and we'd love to have folks volunteer. For those of you interested in learning how to speak with your elected representatives, this is a great opportunity (*for example, if we wanted to talk about the licensure issue in the future) to learn! I plan on attending (remember, we've got two free registrations) and would love to share a room at the RITZ CARLTON with someone (or two or three someones!) It's a fantastic experience (and you get CEUs) that is challenging but rewarding. Let me know ASAP if you would like to attend.

Finally, meetings!

Jan 21 – Eclipse training session in Charlotte – was a smashing success! We plan to have another in the fall for the Eastern District, and also again in Charlotte as well.

Feb 22-26 - Anita Paul realtime training session in Charlotte. Registration is via her website (www.anitapaul.com)

Feb 26-28 - Legislative Boot Camp in Washington, DC

March 11 – AOCR/NCVRA spring meeting (contact Annette Myers – apm@gloryroad.net)

March 11 – Georgia's Training Day (contact@gsra.org)

March 31-April 2 – NCRA's midyear convention in Nashville

June 24 – TENTATIVE Central District meeting to include annual business meeting

Thanks for your patience in reading this long newsletter. If you have any information you'd like to include in upcoming newsletters, please let me know!

Volunteers gratefully accepted for all types of projects – like updating the web site.

Folks, I just can't do it – there's too many things pulling on me. We can download a free site editor from the Web...

Historian Committee? Sunshine (birthdays and get wells) Committee? Bylaws committee (need updating)? And the list goes on and on and on.

Feel free to email me anytime. See you in February!

Tori