

NORTH CAROLINA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
FALL E-SKRIPT
August/September 2007

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The 2007 Annual Convention being held in Asheville September 29-30 is fast approaching! ***Our room block deadline is September 6, 2007.*** Please be advised that if you do not reserve your room by this time, the hotel WILL RELEASE our block and you may not be able to make a last-minute reservation. Also, if you know someone who's taken advantage of our great rate but did NOT register for the convention, let them know that if we don't have their registration, their room will be released with the block as well.

If you've not registered, please do so as soon as possible. And, if you didn't receive your registration packet, you can log in to our web site at www.ncreporters.org and download the paperwork!

If you have any items that you would like to place in the silent auction or would like to submit as door prizes, please contact Briana Nesbit at BNesbit@triad.rr.com. FYI, one of the door prizes is a year's membership in NCRA (that's a \$230 value, folks!).

And, get together with some friends, save up some money, and plan to place a bid to have someone SING KARAOKE after dinner on Saturday night! It's a fun way to raise money for our associations and either listen to truly talented musicians, or to have a GREAT laugh with the good sports that get up on the stage and loosen up their vocal cords! If you cannot come but have someone that you would like to bid on to sing, you can certainly send your donation in – but just remember, only the top 10 money “winners” go up on stage.

The convention planning committee has already signed up several vendors to spice up your meeting time – and we have the time to visit them. Our breaks are 30 minutes long this year, to allow for personal rest breaks AND perusal of the goodies that the vendors always bring to these events.

HOT time in Dallas! Folks, those of us who made it to Dallas were treated to a FANTASTIC venue in the Gaylord Texan. This resort was everything Texas – BIG! NCRA sponsored a wonderful vendor area – with some very interesting new toys (Stenovations' LightSpeed writer was present, as were TWO production models of Advantage Software's Passport) – and some really interesting programs.

The highlight of the meeting, as most of you are now aware, was the Annual Business Meeting, which took place on Thursday afternoon. There was a lot of discussion regarding the Direct Member Voting issue. And, thanks to the grassroots efforts of the various state organizations, the membership present at the meeting voted to accept the proposed changes to the bylaws. This now means that NEXT YEAR, if you cannot go to Anaheim for the Annual Convention, you may STILL PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNANCE OF NCRA through the use of the internet voting technology approved by the members in Dallas. Your dues money NOW gives you a true voice in driving NCRA. Congratulations to all!

Next year's convention is going to be held at the Anaheim Marriott from July 24-27. And, if you LOVE Boston, the midyear conference is going to be held at the Westin Boston Waterfront from April 4-6.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2007-2009 BOARD TERMS

The election and induction of officers for the new terms will take place during the luncheon portion of the GSRA/NCCRA Joint Fall Meeting on Saturday, September 29, 2007, the induction to be performed by NCRA President-Elect, Karen Yates.

The slate of officers to be selected to serve as your Board of Directors for the next year is as follows:

Area Directors, East:	Harry Hagopian, Evon Pepin
Area Directors, Central:	Linda Bowden, Jackie Cunningham
Area Directors, West	Sharon Sparks, Jill Turner
Secretary/Treasurer:	Briana Nesbit
Vice President:	Nomination from the Floor OR motion to supersede the bylaws requirement for a Vice President required
President:	Nomination from the Floor OR motion to supersede the bylaws requirement for a single-term President required (If nobody wants the job, I would be honored to continue on)

NCRA TESTING

This year's fall testing will be held in Kinston, as usual. However, because of the NEW TESTING REGIME, only the skills portions will be held. Your written knowledge testing will be performed at Pearson VUE locations. For more information, contact the testing department at NCRA headquarters, 800.272.6272. Registration deadline for NCRA skills testing is September 14, 2007. You may register online, via phone, or send in your paper registration that came with your recent JCR.

If you've already taken the examination and would like to assist on site in proctoring or grading, please contact me and I will put you in touch with our Chief Examiner.

NCCRA VOLUNTEERS!

As you know, your State Association is a volunteer organization. We're a small group right now, looking for MORE folks who are passionate about their profession. Here is a small sampling of topics that are at the forefront but need inspired thinkers and caring reporters to move them forward:

Freelance Issues:

Ever gotten stiffed by an attorney who says his client was supposed to pay you? How about a firm that hasn't paid for a while? There are a growing number of freelancers out there who see these as great problems. What can we as an association do about it? Well, if we band together, we could, conceivably, get a bill in front of the State House (like California did) to make it a LAW that the attorney is responsible for payment of deposition transcripts. Interested?

Lawyer Outreach:

You know those days where you wonder what they're teaching the lawyers in law school these days? You know the ones; they talk 300 wpm, never take a break, are multi-tasking on their BlackBerry while asking questions, and then ask you to give them a rough draft of a 200-page day? Wouldn't it be great if NCCRA could sponsor programs with the local bar or at the local law school to educate attorneys on what it is we REALLY do all day? What the technology is, what it isn't, what we poor humans can and cannot do?

Student Outreach:

We have one school in North Carolina that's teaching the future professionals in court reporting. These students need not only mentoring, but opportunities to sit in depositions, court sessions, CART classes and meetings, and to see how we do our work on a daily basis. You remember what it was like; help ease these students into the GREAT career we all share!

Meetings and Socialization:

We've had a lot of new people move to North Carolina from other states – but I bet most of us don't know them yet. How about local areas having little get-togethers, at a local pub, restaurant, dance club, movie, coffeehouse, etc. Would you be willing to participate maybe once a month, or maybe every two months, to get to know your fellow reporters? Not to mention, we need convention planning done for our 2008 area meetings and our 2009 general meeting. It's fun, really!

Leadership/Boot Camp:

NCRA offers incredible learning experiences for reporters interested in learning about leadership in their state organization and in legislative efforts. We haven't sent anyone in the last couple of years – but both of these events are incredible personal growth and networking opportunities. What's more, you get CEUs for them! They're in the greater Washington, DC area. If you're willing to participate, contact someone on the Board and we'll see about getting you up there! Leadership is right around the corner – November!!

Newsletter:

Wouldn't it be great to have a REAL newsletter? I'm creative, sure – but I'm swamped, and this is NOT my best communication method. I know there are several of you out there who LOVE to write, would love to develop a fantastic REVENUE-GENERATING newsletter, with advertisements, a briefs corner, job postings, etc. You know who you are.

NCCRA/NCVRA Joinder:

Right now there are three state associations -- the two above, predominantly freelance, and AOCR, the officials. NCCRA and NCVRA memberships have voted to pursue a potential merging of their associations, building a stronger membership base and removing the "reinventing of the wheel" that occurs in meeting planning, grassroots lobbying, etc. There's a group of interested folks from NCVRA waiting to talk to us. Would YOU be interested?!

Licensure/Certification:

Wish there were minimum standards for the practice of court reporting? A list of who's working? How about a grievance procedure? When doctors, lawyers, accountants, cosmetologists, aestheticians all need licenses to practice but we, the guardians of the record, do not -- well, shouldn't we?

NOW, DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER ASAP FOR THE CONVENTION AND MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS NO LATER THAN 9/6 (SOONER IF YOU CAN). I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Tori

Tori Pittman, BA, RDR, CRI – NCCRA President, 2005-2007

Contact me at: nccra_president@yahoo.com or unc_rpr@yahoo.com