

OCTOBER 2005 E-SKRIPT

Glorious fall greetings from Wake Forest! I'm so glad fall is FINALLY here. It's my favorite time of year – love the smell of the leaves, the crisp air, the harvest moon, and all the great holidays that we are anticipating... I'm a little later than usual this month, but for those of you who attended the meeting in Charlotte, you'll understand why – it was a busy, busy meeting and there is lots to tell you.

So, without further ado...

FALL MEETING:

The meeting itself was well attended; there were over 65 people that came for the program. Friday's event on captioning was not as well attended, but for those that made the trip in early, there was a nice spread available for snacking.

Your Board met (those who could) at a local Italian restaurant to discuss a variety of topics and I'll get to some of those later.

Saturday morning's sessions were a little harried – turns out that the Race for the Cure was being held in uptown Charlotte at the same time, and for folks trying to make it in, parking was difficult and some folks missed the first morning session. For this, the organizers do apologize. However, the rest of the sessions went off without a hitch and were very well appreciated; for me, the session on gang violence was an eye opener.

Our membership meeting was held at the end of the day, and many folks stayed on (THANK YOU!) to chat about the topics on our agenda.

Our first concern was about our next annual meeting. It was agreed that we would NOT be doing a joint convention with South Carolina this year, but would instead stay here within the state and try to accommodate our locals. This year Briana Nesbit, your Vice President, will chair the convention committee; currently joining her are Evon Pepin, Carol Adkins and Cheryl Nuccio. Keep your eyes and ears open – they're hoping to put together a training day for Eclipse and Stenograph Users. As for the date, it's not pinned down yet; location will most likely be Raleigh or the environs.

Other topics brought up at the meeting: Bylaws committee (Lisa Garrison has typed up the current bylaws and we'll hopefully be adding them to our website shortly) and the need for some revisions; Audit committee (Joanna Norton & Tracy Schell will be evaluating the books for the last year); Testing committee; Joinder Issue (looking into the possibility of merging with NCVRA and AOCR to become one, big happy family. Also, a survey regarding the topic of Licensure was distributed – this is the same survey that was distributed in Greensboro in 2003, for those of you who remember. The committee was reactivated and current members from NCCRA are Tori Pittman and Linda Bowden.

HURRICANE KATRINA REPORTERS:

Our friend from Slidell has made it safely home, and she's been most grateful for the assistance of our friends in North Carolina.

Linda Crane has brought to our attention a student reporter who is in need of most everything. Here is her note:

<<Last night, I came across a student reporter who lost everything in the hurricane. I am sending her my old Stenoram machine, but it sounds as if she can use any and all supplies, equipment, speed tapes, anything you may have lying around that a student could use.

Also, she wears a size 4 and is 5'3" in case you have any clothes that size you're getting rid of. Her name is Lacy Lejeune, 4208 Texas Highway, Many, Louisiana 71449, 504/421-4947. Her email address is alej129@aol.com.>>

'CANES HOCKEY

January 28, 2006 is Court Reporters Day at the 'Canes - and it's also Ron Francis Day. If you haven't already booked your tickets, please do so as soon as possible - we're very fortunate that NCVRA had already requested the block of tickets!! If you need a re-send of the application information, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The fall NCRA test is just around the corner. Assistants and graders are needed! I'll be the chief examiner, and I know Ms. Jan McElhaney will be present. It would be fabulous if we could have three more folks available to grade the tests - the Hickory folks, by volunteering and grading tests for the May examination, earned NCCRA \$174!! Please contact me as soon as possible.

ALSO - any committee you noticed mentioned above, if you're interested in serving PLEASE let me know!! The more the merrier (and "many hands make light work")

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This month's member spotlight is on Nancy Braswell, current NCRA Board member and an official "rover" for the AOC.

Nancy grew up in New York City, New York, and then moved with her family onto Long Island. She attended court reporting school at Adelphi Business College on Long Island and for those old enough to remember, was instructed in reporting by Bill and Arnold Cohen, New York Supreme Court and U.N. reporters, and the gentlemen who pushed for the professional organization of what we now know as NCRA. She did her internship on the floor of the General Assembly of the United Nations and was further inspired by the reporters she met from around the world.

Nancy has been reporting now for almost 39 years and started her career working freelance in Miami, Florida. Since that time, she has worked in Phoenix, Arizona, (for past president and dear friend, Sandra McFate), Tucson, Arizona, Omaha, Nebraska, and Council Bluffs, Iowa, where she had her own freelance agency for seven years. Her family then moved on to Norfolk, Virginia, where she worked freelance and as an official for a freelance agency, later opening and managing a satellite office in Hampton Roads, Virginia.

North Carolina became her home in 1984, and her first year here she commuted back to Virginia two weeks a month to continue on with the firm she had been associated with and started to do contract work for the AOC. When it became clear that she was going to stay here permanently, she came on full time as an official and has just reached 20 years with the state.

In 1996, Nancy took a leave of absence and assumed the position of Program Head of the Court Reporting and Captioning program at Lenoir Community College and continued on in that capacity until 1999. During her tenure there and within 17 months, she got the program NCRA approved, surpassing the then approved standards by establishing a realtime program. A year later a distance program was then created where she oversaw to the building of the distance classroom at LCC and a distance classroom at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, NC, to deliver the program to the western part of the state.

After resuming her official reporting career, Nancy became President-Elect and then President of NCCRA 1999/2000. That year she served on the NCRA committee which planned the centennial celebration of the organization in Boston and also represented the reporters of this state at the Legislature, being instrumental in getting the anti-contracting legislation passed during that year. She has been on the advisory committee of LCC for over 15 years, has taught many speedbuilding seminars there in the evenings for reporters wishing to take either state or national tests, was on the AOC committee that promulgated the first working handbook for official reporters and was the testing chairperson at LCC for many years. She has served our state association also as area director, AOC liaison, Sunshine committee and public relations.

She currently is a roving official reporter living in Emerald Isle, North Carolina, with her husband Ed and enjoying sailing, canoeing, cooking, reading and the beach. Together they have raised five children, now all living on their own. She is serving a three-year term as a director for NCRA, having had the privilege of representing our national reporters in Australia and Canada, along with many state visits during this time. She serves as the board liaison to CASE (Council for Approved Student Education) and is a member of the NCRA finance committee.

See you in November – probably right after leadership!! Jenny Carroll and Dawn Walton will be attending for NCCRA and two excellent choices they are.

Hope you have a really GREAT week and don't pull too many tricks on Halloween

Tori Pittman, RDR