

THE VOLUNTEER REPORTER

February 2019

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Putnam County Courthouse - Cookeville, Tennessee



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DANA WEBB, LCR, CCR
TCRA President

I cannot believe that this is my last President's Message that I will write as your TCRA President. It is truly bitter-sweet. Bitter in that serving as President is a commitment, an obligation and, yes, a big responsibility, but yet sweet in that I have had the pleasure of being a part of seeing our association grow and at the same time had the honor and privilege of getting to know some of my fellow reporters on a totally different level. So as I weigh the bitter-sweet, it is the sweet that gives me the ability to say I have absolutely loved serving in this role.

As I sit here reflecting over these past two years that I have served as the President of TCRA, I cannot help but think of the good times and many challenges that we have faced and are continuing to face as an organization. My goal, two years ago, was to watch and help TCRA grow and for me to be able to pass down the gavel leaving our association in a better position than when I took the reins. I truly believe that goal was reached and it was done in large part by the hard work of you, the members, and our TCRA board.

I have watched our organization grow stronger by the mere fact that our membership has come together and volunteered to serve in so many ways. You guys have done this by embracing the A – Z Program, promoting our profession and encouraging students to enter in to the field of court reporting. Just this week, TCRA and the profession of court reporting was promoted at the Day on the Hill in Nashville. Thanks to Georgette Arena for heading this up, along with the many volunteers that helped make it happen. It was truly a success!!

Our members have stepped up to the plate when we needed an extra push to make our conventions top notch. Our members have stepped up and let your voices be heard when we faced struggles, such as the electronic recording in our state criminal courts, an issue that is still pressing and in need of solutions and continued input from TCRA.

Yes, a lot has been accomplished but we still have many battles to fight and victories to be won with our profession. Currently a new bill was introduced through the legislature to increase pay for court reporters in our criminal courts, which is a good thing; however we still have a few issues with the bill. Additionally, where does our profession stand in light of the AI community snipping at our heels, an issue we still need to be diligent and proactive to address and be aware of. I say all of that to say, and to add a final note, step up, continue to be a part of TCRA, volunteer, get involved, help make a difference. Experience the bitter-sweet when you are asked to volunteer.

In closing, it truly has been an honor and privilege to serve as your president. I will be moving on to my role as past president on the board and working hand-in-hand with the new president. And while I transition out, it is still my continued hope and prayer that TCRA continues to prosper and that the court reporting profession continues to flourish for the many generations to come behind us.

Sincerely,
Dana Webb

P.S. Don't forget our convention is right around the corner on April 26th and 27th in Chattanooga. We are so excited about this convention and we look forward to seeing you all there. Be on the lookout for blasts to help with auction donations or to sign up for our "First Annual Speed Contest". Please read the rest of the newsletter for much more information about what's going on with TCRA.



CONVENTION COMMITTEE

SARAH MOTLEY, LCR
TCRA Vice President
Convention Committee Chair



The Annual TCRA Convention is right around the corner, April 26 and 27 of 2019, and we hope you are planning to join us! We are thrilled to be changing it up and having the convention in Chattanooga this year.

We have finalized all of our speakers and will be offering lots of new topics; dealing with difficult clients, how to practice, white collar crime, motivation, and the list goes on. The convention will have new fundraising activities and prizes being offered.

Our Friday night event will be a winetasting happy hour, pairing all kinds of wine with different cheeses and meats. It will be a Derby themed happy hour, so please be on the lookout for your Derby hat because the best hat wins a prize!

The newest thing that is being offered at convention this year is a speed contest! The contest will take place Friday morning, and the prizes will be given out at lunch on Saturday. Start practicing! Stay tuned for even more information and details, and let us know if you would like to be a break sponsor and/or donate to silent auction.

SUPPORT OUR LOYAL CONVENTION PARTNERS





LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DANA WEBB, LCR, CCR

TCRA President

Legislative Committee Chair

Please read below the legislative update from Don Baltimore along with the proposed legislation introduced by Rep. Lamberth regarding court reporter fees charged by criminal court reporters in Tennessee. This legislation does not seem to address the page rates that court reporters can charge. Also, as of January 25th, 2019 this bill hasn't been introduced but is anticipated to be soon.

TCRA needs to decide what, if anything, we can do to support this bill or change it. We will discuss this further in the board meeting.

--- Your TCRA Legislative Committee

Legislative Update from Don Baltimore received January 25th, 2019

The General Assembly met two days last week. After Governor Bill Lee's Inauguration as the 50th Governor of Tennessee, the General Assembly adjourned; the House of Representatives until Wednesday, January 23 and the Senate until Monday, January 28. The House met for organizational purposes.

During the week of January 28, committees will meet, but for organizational purposes, with a few minor bills and resolutions to be considered.

As of today, 145 bills have been introduced in the House; 159 bills in the Senate. None of the bills affect the profession of court reporting. Senator Lundberg's bill to increase pay of state criminal reporters has not been introduced.

The deadline for filing bills is Wednesday, February 6 for the House; Wednesday, February 7 for the Senate. In previous years about 1,400 bills are introduced each year. This means a lot of bills to review after the introduction deadline.

E-Mail received from Judge Dee David Gay regarding proposed legislation

I have enclosed a copy of the proposed legislation from Rep. Lamberth, Majority Leader, that he sent to me late Friday afternoon. The bill does not have a number yet, but I wanted you to know as soon as possible so that you can "gather your forces together" to support the bill in the legislature.

I have already received the support of the District Attorneys' Conference. I am working on the Public Defenders' Conference and the Trial Judges' Association. It is absolutely necessary to have the full support of the Trial Judges.

I will keep you posted as soon as I find out more information. Thank you for your help,

Dee David Gay

Criminal Court Judge, 18th Judicial District



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

KATHY SAMSON
TCRA Eastern Director
Membership Committee Chair

There are 36 Professional members who have not renewed their membership. An email was sent to all 36 asking them to renew their membership. Three email addresses were invalid, so 33 were contacted by email. At this time it is not known how many have renewed their memberships since the email was sent.



NEW MEMBERS

Lisa Marshall	Jackson	Student
Jennie Dunlap	Smyrna	Student

TCRA MEMBERSHIP

PROFESSIONALS	198
ASSOCIATES	3
STUDENTS	6
TOTAL	207

[Join or Renew your membership today](#)



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

LISA MAYO, RMR, CRR, LCR
TCRA Western Director
Fundraising Committee Co-Chair

CANDACE COVEY, RPR, LCR, CRR, CVR-CM
TCRA Western Director
Fundraising Committee Co-Chair



We would like to try something new this year and hope you even have a little fun with this. How many of you have watched Tidying Up on Netflix? Well, in keeping with the trend to minimize things, we thought we would let everyone have an opportunity to SHOP THE SUPPLY CLOSET at the convention in Chattanooga. Reporters, please look through your office. We all have those items that we no longer use (label makers, extra binders, tripod stands, exhibit stickers, digital recorders, and on and on and on). Bring them with you to the convention or if you would like to drop them off with another reporter. We will price them and have them for sale in the closet. No item is too big or too small. We want this to be fun and a nice fundraiser for TCRA.

Candace and Lisa

NEWSLETTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE



STEPHANIE FAULKNER, CCR, LCR, CRI, CPE
TCRA President-Elect
Newsletter and Social Media Committee Chair

The Newsletter Committee has a new name! To stay current with today's technology, The Newsletter Committee is now the Newsletter and Social Media Committee. If you are a guru in social media and/or branding and would like to serve on this committee, please contact Stephanie Faulkner at stephfaulknerlcr@gmail.com



TCRA wishes to extend special thanks to our members who participated in our Day On the Hill event during Tennessee Court Reporting and Captioning Week on February 12, 2019.

- Georgette Arena
- Misty Lembach Brigham
- Joy Kennedy
- Max Curry
- Sheryl Weatherford
- Jenny Checuga





NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SHERYL WEATHERFORD, RPR, LCR
TCRA Past President
Nominating Committee Chair

Thank you to the members of the nominating committee (Lisa Blake, Kathy May, Jennifer Carollo, Kathy Samson and myself) who are in search of members willing to step up and serve our Association. The positions that are NOT filled at this time is the director position in the East. A director serves the Association for two years. If you would be willing to serve and have been a member of TCRA for one year and have served on a committee for six months, please get in contact with me at sgweather@earthlink.net and we will gladly add your name to the slate of officers. Giving back to your Association is a great experience and a way to get connected with your fellow members. Please consider being a volunteer to your Association. Look forward to hearing from our members who are willing to step up. [Nomination Form](#)

SCHOLARSHIP/MENTORING COMMITTEE



CAROL WEST, LCR, CCR
TCRA Eastern Director
Scholarship/Mentoring Committee Co-Chair

LESLIE MCANALLY, CCR, LCR
TCRA Secretary/Treasurer
Scholarship/Mentoring Committee Co-Chair



As an update for Scholarship/Mentoring Committee, I have received one request for mentoring a student this quarter, Ms. Jennie Dunlap, and we have exchanged e-mails. Impressive machine shorthand student.

At the request of President Dana Webb, Leslie McAnally has contacted Project Steno and made inquiry as to whether or not there are any TN students in their court reporting program, and if so, would the student(s) be interested in applying for the TCRA Scholarship that we offer. Leslie will be prepared to respond to Dana's request at the next TCRA Board Meeting.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully,

Carol West, Co-Chair, Scholarship and Mentoring

Student Corner

Tiffany Brosemer Student Scholarship Fund

Sponsored by Tennessee Court Reporters Association



Each year TCRA sponsors a scholarship for court reporting students. Students may participate in the program by writing a short essay. The student scholarships are awarded to deserving students each year at our Annual Convention.

In honor and memory of Tiffany Robinson Brosemer, we have renamed the Student Scholarship Fund to the "Tiffany Brosemer Student Scholarship Fund." Tiffany lost a courageous battle with cancer on December 14, 2009. She was a long-time member of TCRA, having served on several committees and as a Middle Division Director during the years 2005-2006. We feel it is especially fitting to rename the Student Scholarship Fund, as Tiffany was the first recipient of the Student Scholarship Award in 2003.

The deadline for the submittal of essays is 15 days prior to our Annual Convention. If you have any questions regarding this program, please address questions to our [Administrative Director](#). Or, if you prefer, you may contact her at the following address:

TCRA - Scholarship Application
P.O. Box 135
Brunswick, TN 38014

General Guidelines for TCRA's Court Reporting Scholarship

- 1) Student must be a current student member of TCRA (Dues are \$25 a year)
- 2) Student must provide proof of enrollment (signature of instructor) at an institution or online program that has been approved by the TCRA Scholarship/Mentoring Committee.
- 3) Student must provide official transcript from a TCRA-approved court reporting school.
- 4) Student must write an essay of 100-300 words entitled Why I Want to be a Court Reporter, Why I Want to be a Captioner, or Why I Want to be a CART Provider.
- 5) Applications must be submitted via this online form and/or postmarked 15 days prior to our Annual Convention.

You may attach your essay at the end of this form. Please attach proof of enrollment (with signature of instructor), and your official transcript as well. If you prefer, you may send it via USPS:

TCRA - Scholarship Application
P.O. Box 135
Brunswick, TN 38014

[Scholarship Application](#)

RED TAPE, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

Court reporter licenses in Tennessee are now administered by the [Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance's Division of Regulatory Boards](#). All questions regarding licenses should be directed to that office.

TDCI's contact information has changed. Please contact Jamye Carney at TDCI with any concerns or questions at (615) 532-6400 or by email at jamyel.carney@tn.gov.



TDCI has recently reinstated the list of licensed court reporters on its website. You can access it [here](#).

If you should need further assistance, please contact Jayme Carney at Jamyel.carney@tn.gov or (615) 532-6400.

A meeting of the [Tennessee Board of Court Reporting](#) is scheduled for March 22, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. Further details are to be announced.

AREA JOB POSTINGS

MISSISSIPPI: The 9th Chancery Court District, Subdistrict 2 has a full-time court reporter position available to begin January 7, 2019 for Judge Elect Debra M. Giles. The counties covered are Sunflower and Humphreys counties. Please send resumes to gileslaw08@aol.com or 601-954-8709, if you are interested in this post.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: Official Court Reporter (permanent; full-time)

ANNOUNCEMENT NO.: 18-CTRPTR

LOCATION: Nashville, Tennessee

SALARY RANGE: \$86,073 to \$89,986, plus transcripts (depending on experience and qualifications - see salary levels below) ([see more](#))

2018-2019 TCRA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Dana Webb, LCR, CCR

President
All Committees
danawebb@alphareporting.com

Stephanie Faulkner, LCR, CRI, CPE, CCR

President-Elect
Bylaws/P&P and Newsletter Committees
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Sheryl Weatherford, RPR, LCR

Past President
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Lynn Terrell, LCR
Administrative/Website Director
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2018-2019 TCRA COMMITTEES

BYLAWS COMMITTEE:

Stephanie Faulkner, Chair

CCR COMMITTEE:

Emily Sipe, Chair
Lori Roberson
Ryan Bertram
Gene Pickens
Kathy May

CONVENTION COMMITTEE:

Sarah Motley, Chair
Georgette Arena
Misty Brigham
Kristin Burke
Max Curry
Dan Gibbons
Denise Gonzalez
Korian Neal
Patricia Nilsen
Amber Thompson
Dana Webb
Jerri Porter
Lynn Terrell

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Beth Frazier, Chair
LaShae Flowers
Cheryl Little

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:

Lisa Mayo, Co-Chair
Candace Covey, Co-Chair

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

Dana Webb, Chair
Stephanie Faulkner (ex officio)
Sheryl Weatherford
Sheila Wilson
Peggy Giles
Max Curry
Lynn Terrell

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Kathy Samson, Co-Chair
Emily Sipe, Co-Chair
Debbie West

NEWSLETTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE:

Stephanie Faulkner, Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Sheryl Weatherford, Chair
Lisa Blake
Kathy May
Jennifer Carollo
Kathy Samson

SCHOLARSHIP/MENTORING COMMITTEE:

Carol West, Co-Chair
Leslie McAnally, Co-Chair
Cathy Kerley
Lisa Wilkins



STEPHANIE FAULKNER, CCR, LCR, CRI, CPE
 TCRA President-Elect
 Newsletter and Social Media Committee Chair

The Volunteer Reporter is a publication produced quarterly for members of TCRA and other interested parties and is dedicated to the improvement of our profession and to provide a link between TCRA and its members.

Letters for the newsletter are welcomed and will be printed according to space availability. The Newsletter Committee reserves the right to edit letters according to space and formatting requirements or as ethics require, so long as the original meaning remains intact. Additionally, research articles may be written to earn TCRA CEU credits. Author must submit online and receive approval of such in order to earn CEUs. Contact the Newsletter and Social Media Committee for details.

Submission and advertising deadline is 15 days before publication date. Material received less than 15 days after deadline will be held for next issue.

Statement of fact, opinion, and all advertisements are made on the responsibility of the author and do not imply endorsement on the part of TCRA or its officers. Reprint rights are granted to all NCRA-affiliated publications, with appropriate attribution.

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MARCH	APRIL	MAY
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins	5-6 TPA Annual Seminar Nashville, TN	5-7 NCRA Leadership and Legislative Bootcamp
22 TBCR Meeting	19 Good Friday	
	26-27 2019 TCRA Annual Convention Chattanooga, TN	27 Memorial Day