



President's Message

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TCRA President 2021-2022

Hello to Members, old and new! I am truly thrilled to be your President for 2021-2022.

For those of you I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, I have been a stenographer for over 21 years and a new business owner for almost 1 year. My training and first several years of reporting were all in the Miami-Dade/Broward/Palm Beach area of South Florida where I was born and raised. After moving to East Tennessee in 2008, I have never been happier personally or professionally. My husband, Brian, our son, Dexter, and I have lived in Seymour for over 10 years, and it's been the perfect place to raise our son in a great community. We are so close to everything that makes living in East Tennessee and the Smoky Mountains so magical, and we take every advantage of it that we can. Serving TCRA over the years as an Eastern Director, Vice President multiple terms, President Elect and now President is just icing on the cake.

Enough about me. Let's move on to our great association!

The past year and a half has been difficult for everyone in some form or fashion, to say the least. This association has survived by faithful membership, innovative action by our Convention Committee and a commitment to frugality in its management and expenditures. Although, we are givers. We have shared our successes and almost successes with other state leaders last year and this year to ensure they are able to continue to thrive just as we have been able to do. We are also in the process of learning from them how to better streamline our administrative procedures and website. One of these new features will focus in on the Find a Reporter function.

We would like to see the legal community as a whole look to TCRA as a go-to resource for finding a qualified association member in a service area they require and also be a forum for their questions, concerns, new procedures and training for new attorneys as they enter the workforce. Your new Board has already started the process of developing and implementing new ideas for accomplishing those goals. Obviously, the firms, attorneys and legal support staff that engage us frequently know the value in what we do, but new members to the legal field may not. Also, a helpful reminder of all the services we are here to provide to our current clients never hurts. Letting them know the current challenges we face, from scheduling to remote proceedings and what elements of our profession are and are not allowed under the current laws of our state, can only

help them be more prepared for their clients and caseload. Please look for our updates in this area. We truly hope that our outreach efforts take hold.

As always, membership numbers count in every way imaginable. Another obtainable goal is to increase our number which, in turn, increases our voice. For literally decades now, we have heard that we will be replaced by voice recognition or recordings. Many have tried to do just that, but we have seen the pitfalls of depending on that particular method of capturing proceedings. With Tennessee being a multi-method licensed state, this is not to diminish the job that qualified ERs do. No one can deny that certain areas of Tennessee are rural and/or just do not have the court reporting community they need, and the wheels of justice still need to turn for everyone. As acknowledging and accepting as we are here in our own state and our ERs keep up to date with CEUs and licensure, that is definitely not the case elsewhere in the country. The fact remains that we have to be ready to stand up for our profession and our livelihood, and our true strength will only shine when we show up for each other. One way to do that is by professional membership. This enables us to stay abreast of current legislative issues that affect our industry and the ability to act when necessary.

The next goal is to continue working with our communities to let them know we are here and our profession is thriving. The Scholarship and Mentoring Committee will take the lead on community outreach which involves Career Days in Tennessee schools and other ways to let people in our state know what an incredible opportunity court reporting can be for them. Continuing to work with members engaging in A to Z programs remains a priority. Keeping up with those introductory students and helping to see them through school, online or in person, is a must. We have to foster and guide our court reporting students as much as possible. Our convention theme this year, "Each One, Reach One," still resonates strongly and will continue to be our motto.

As with any presidency, the hopes and ideas are plentiful and high. Your TCRA Board this year is truly stellar. They are motivated and highly qualified to make these goals a reality. I thank them for volunteering to serve our association this year with me and continuing the great work that many before us have done. We all look forward to better and more prosperous days ahead!