

THE VOLUNTEER REPORTER

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Putnam County Courthouse.
Constructed in 1900
Photo courtesy of Mindy Rutherford

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Kristin Burke, LCR
TCRA President
2021-2022

And Just Like That...

Yes, I swiped my title from a well-known, recently wrapped-up series, but it really fits my scenario. And just like the series I swiped it from, the whole experience was nothing like I thought it would be, but it still was/is fulfilling. I went back and read my first President's Message to see if any of the goals and ideas I had came to fruition and found that they had not. But that in no way means they won't happen at all. As Past President, my time will be well spent working on the items I didn't get to while President. Unless you have filled this organizational role in the past, you can't realize all the behind-the-scenes issues you will tackle, tasks to perform, subcommittees to manage, et cetera. I definitely did not do this alone either. As I mentioned in my very first message last June, we have a stellar Board this year who sacrifice what precious free time they have to help keep TCRA moving forward, along with our Administrator Extraordinaire Lynn Terrell and our advisor, Sheila Wilson.

Although this is my last President's Message to you, my term isn't over until our Annual Business Meeting to be held on May 21, 2022 in Brentwood, Tennessee. There is still work to be done, including membership renewal and TCRA's Spring Fling 2022 convention. Those two items are extremely important because they keep this association going every year. Your continued support of TCRA in general is

extremely important because every Board renewal cycle, every convention, every newsletter, every membership benefit we can bring you is to help you, the professional, stay educated with CEU opportunities and stay informed by what is happening in our own backyard as well as nationally.

Thinking back to when I was a new and fresh court reporter, all I could think of was how happy I was my schooling and testing was behind me and I could now get down to the business of making money. It was not a thought in my mind to become a member of my state association, much less volunteer any free time I might have. Fast forward ten years in, I found myself in a new state and working with someone who would change my perspective forever in regards to court reporting and my absolute duty to protect and advocate for the profession I had grown to love. (Thank you, Jimmie-Jane!) It was a must at this agency to become a member of TCRA. Eventually, I was literally roped into a Board position. And just like that...it changed everything for me. The fellow professionals I have met locally and across the state, the ideas exchanged, the differentiating points of view, the immersion into the history of court reporting in Tennessee from the beginning of licensure and legislative efforts to where we are now, I consider myself a much more enlightened and educated court reporter, all because I had that special person introduce me to board service. I hope I have been and will be that person for others that follow me through this process.

To all my colleagues that I have served with over the years, whether we fought side-by-side or on opposite sides of an issue, I respect and admire you all more than you know. I have called on each of you a time or two over the years and you never failed to support TCRA or myself no matter what was asked of you. From my whole heart, Thank You!

CONVENTION COMMITTEE



April Lassiter-Benson, RPR, LCR, CSR

TCRA Vice President

Convention Committee Chair

With the advent of COVID in recent years, we've had to adjust our way of living. It has changed the very course of how we do business.

Weekend shopping sprees have been reduced to shopping online. Evenings spent with loved ones at your favorite eateries have been relegated to ordering in, thus, forsaking the assembling with others to forge meaningful relations.

Sliding through your favorite "Cup of Joe" spot before your 30-minute to hour-long commute is now a quick slipper-shuffle to the kitchen to brew a cup of "Java Before Justice" (coffee before remote hearings/depositions). Working from home is now the norm. Many industries have downsized and revamped their daily operations by the inclusion of telework. The above-mentioned has forced many of us to rethink/relearn our jobs anew. It's time to get on with the business of doing business! And we've come up with a way to help you do just that: We're going to FLING into ACTION with a "Spring Fling!"

The time has sprung upon us once again to matriculate and participate. Yep, you guessed it. It's convention time! With most of our membership needing at least 10 CEUs, we've decided to parse out our "Spring Fling" Convention into three (3) parts. If you find yourself answering "Yes" to the upcoming questions, we'd like you to join us.

March 19, 2022 - Spring Fling Part 1 of 3 – Taking Care of Yourself (Virtual)

Are you struggling with the nuances of Zoom, Microsoft Teams & Webex during remote hearings or depositions? If your answer was, "Yes," then we have the perfect solution.

TALLsmall Productions is going to help you "Up your Virtual Game" and gain confidence that is sure to capture the attention of your clientele.

Are you burned out and have you burned through more scopists than you care to count? Scoping Guru, Rachel Artis, is here to the rescue! She'll give you tidbits on "Hiring a Professional Scopist" and saving yourself the angst so many reporters find themselves dealing with.

Does your poor posture render unforgiving backaches after a long day of feverish debating between counsel? Tennessee's very own, Dr. Evan Pridmore, has just what the doctor ordered: "Posture, Performance and Ergonomics."

Has a misstep by counsel during a proceeding or deposition left something to be desired? One of Tennessee's finest and funniest attorneys, Stacie Odeneal, will give us an inside peek into the world of litigation: "Ducks in a Row: dealing with attorneys and a few quacks in civil Litigation."

April 23, 2022 - Spring Fling Part 2 of 3 – Taking Care of Business (Virtual)

Let's face it. We're not getting any younger. It's time we face the music and make plans for retirement. I, along with several other reporters here in Tennessee have been blessed to employ of the services of John Smith (husband to East Tennessee Court Reporter, Melissa Smith). Don't miss your opportunity to have all your insurance questions answered. John will cover insurance products, annuities and retirement options tailored for the CR community.

Continued on page 4

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Continued from page 3

Are you a “Sole Proprietor” struggling with 1099 issues? Victoria Hinson will deliver valuable tips on “Schedule C and Other Small Business Taxes” to help you avoid the mishaps most fall prey to.

Most of us have had questions over the years about the process and procedures of the entity that guides and enforces our licensure. Let’s get those questions answered with Marilyn Morgan as she presents The Tennessee Board of Court Reporting: Its Role, Its Scope, Its Reach. The discussion will center around the purpose of the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting, what they can and cannot do, and over whom they have jurisdiction. She will run through a multitude of precarious situations to explore best practices, how the TBCR receives and handles complaints, and their thought process behind enforcement actions past, present, and future. Protect your license by attending this seminar in learning how to navigate the novel predicaments in which we sometimes find ourselves, as well as the best practices to keep yourself from experiencing the complaint process firsthand.

Professional development and ethics are the fabric of our profession. It is the driving force that cause clients to seek our services. It separates the wheat from the tare. This seminar will share valuable information to help you avoid the pitfalls that could result in the downfall of a career you’ve worked feverishly to build. Whether you’re an Official Court Reporter; Freelance Reporter; CART provider or Captioner, you’ve run the gamut on issues that have cropped up in your career. With many of us working solo dolo, it’s time for us to have a coalescing...a meeting of the minds, if you will. Join TCRA President, Kristin Burke, Sheila Wilson of Wilson Reporting, and Mindy Rutherford of Beres & Associates, as they wade through the varied issues faced by court reporters.

May 21, 2022 - Spring Fling Part 3 of 3 – Taking Care of Your CAT System

Would you like to make your CAT software purrrrr? Are you an Eclipse Advantage Software

CAT user? Are you like many reporters that are self-taught or waiting for that opportune time to get in on the next software training, only to miss out on yet another opportunity to level up in your software knowledge? East Tennessee has a jewel in Melissa Smith to help you gain the knowledge you’ve been missing. I can personally attest to the intimate training sessions I’ve had with Melissa, and my work product is the better for it. The insight I gained was what I needed to supercharge my editing time. Melissa will deliver shortcuts and proven tricks with bells and whistles to help you edit with proficiency.

Calling ALL Case CATalyst users. Just in “Case” you’re missing a few tools and hesitant on how to properly navigate through CaseCAT, Teresa Bautz has the roadmap to your CAT success. She’ll share tried and true tips to help you utilize your system and all its wonders.

We will hold our in-person annual ABM Business Meeting Luncheon from 11:30 to 1:00. Please join us at the Four Points Hotel in Brentwood, TN, as we discuss up-and-coming business for TCRA. The COVID Pandemic has stripped us all of quality 1-on-1 time with our cohorts. Meet us in Brentwood for a time of refreshing and renewing of friendships.

Steve Worth of Worth Steno Service will be onsite to provide steno machine maintenance for a low cost of \$220. If you’re BIG on 1-Stop Shopping, this should scream “CONVENIENCE” to you. The convenience of not having to wait weeks for your machine to be serviced and shipped back, all while having to secure a backup machine to stay in step with your work, is a LIFESAVER! Mr. Worth was gracious to squeeze TCRA’s convention in before another upcoming court reporting convention. So let’s show up in numbers and show our appreciation! I plan on having my machine serviced. How about you? Servicing may be limited to eighteen (18), so make sure you have your face in the place to secure your spot!

See convention pricing on next page.

We look forward to seeing you there!



March 19 - Taking Care of Yourself (Virtual) 0.60 CEUs

April 23 - Taking Care of Business (Virtual) 0.60 CEUs

**May 21 - Taking Care of Your CAT System 0.60 CEUs
Four Points by Sheraton Nashville-Brentwood**

Per Day 3/19 or 4/23 (virtual):

TCRA Members: \$100

Non-members: \$120

2-Day Bundle 3/19 & 4/23 (virtual):

TCRA Members ONLY: \$180

Software Training & ABM (in-person luncheon):

TCRA Members: \$175

Non-members: \$225

ABM (in-person luncheon):

LUNCH ONLY: \$50

Members can attend ABM meeting for free without lunch

3-Day Bundle 3/19, 4/23, & 5/21 plus ABM Luncheon:

TCRA Members ONLY: \$325

****No vendors will be available this year at convention****

Registration will open February 21, 2022

TCRA Annual Business Meeting 2022

Our Annual Business Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at the Four Points by Sheraton Nashville-Brentwood in Brentwood, Tennessee. TCRA Board members will be elected and important bylaws changes will be discussed and voted on at this meeting. TCRA professional members please submit any Bylaws change requests through the Bylaws Resolution link below by the deadline, April 6, 2022. Nominations for officers and directors must be submitted by May 6, 2022. You do not have to pay any fee to attend the meeting.

[Bylaws Resolution Form](#)
[Nomination Form](#)

CALLING ALL CAPTIONERS

There are some interesting findings on the captioner mental workload study (i.e. the workload that you experience while captioning a particular program). From preliminary data, it appears that live captioning has a substantially higher mental workload (20%) than surgical residents in a laparoscopy program! About 4% of responses came from Australia, while 54% from Canada and 33% from the USA. Male captioners made up only 13% of participants.

Thank you to those who have participated in this groundbreaking research. More captioners are needed to participate in the study. Your participation will help shape the future of live captioning!

PLEASE TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE NOW!

You can access the study here:
[Participate in the study](#)

More details of this specific research project can be found here:
[Captioner Workload and Workload Research Study](#)

You can find out more about the different captioning research programs here:

[Live Captioning Canada Ryerson University](#)

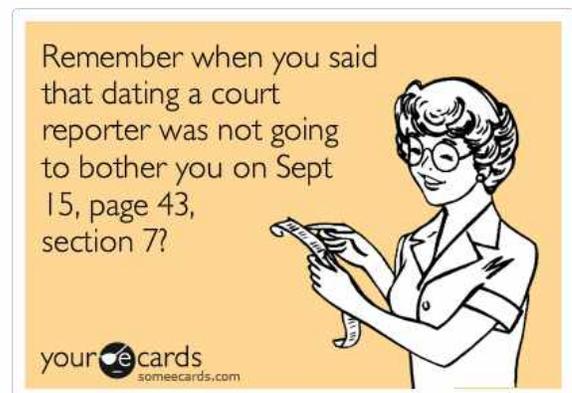
EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Patricia Nilsen, RMR, CRR, CRC, CRI
TCRA Middle Director
Education Committee Chair

The education committee has been brainstorming on a presentation for attorneys in Tennessee on "Making the Record Better," and have been discussing updating resources for attorneys on finding licensed TCRA members through a directory, in conjunction with the website committee.

If any reporters are interested in being a part of Project Steno or hosting an A to Z program, or if you have any ideas that you would like us to look into, please email Patricia Nilsen at orsinipa@yahoo.com.



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE



Kristin Burke, LCR
TCRA President
2021-2022

Court Reporting and Captioning Week 2022

We wish to thank Don Baltimore for having our profession acknowledged in celebration of Court Reporting and Captioning Week 2022 in the form of House Resolution 142 which has been sponsored and signed by Representative Andrew Farmer of District 17. [View here](#)

HOUSE RESOLUTION 142 By Farmer

A RESOLUTION to commemorate February 5-12, 2022, as "Tennessee Court Reporting and Captioning Week."

WHEREAS, court reporters have an invaluable role in courtrooms across Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, court reporters and captioners are responsible for the closed captioning for television, sporting stadiums, and other community and educational venues, providing information to deaf and hard-of-hearing Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, court reporters and captioners translate the spoken word into text and preserve our history; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize the importance of court reporting and captioning to the people of Tennessee by commemorating February 5-12, 2022, as "Tennessee Court Reporting and Captioning Week."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.



TCRA MEMBERSHIP

Professional	171
Associate	3
Student	5
Total	179

[Join or Renew Membership](#)

SCHOLARSHIP/MENTORING COMMITTEE



Stefani Simmons, LCR
Western Director
Scholarship/Mentoring Committee Chair

The Tiffany Brosemer Student Scholarship is awarded every year in support of and encouragement to the education of court reporting students. Students may participate by writing a short essay. If you are a student or know a student who might be interested in participating, click [here](#) for the requirements as well as an online application.

This year's submission deadline for applications is May 6, 2022. The award will be presented at our ABM on May 21, 2022, Four Points Sheraton Nashville – Brentwood, Tennessee.

For more information or questions, please contact our Administrative Director, administrator@ncra.com, or Stefani Simmons, ssreporting1@gmail.com, Chairman of the Scholarship and Mentoring Committee.

We will be looking forward to receiving your applications soon!

STUDENT CORNER

New A to Z Class beginning March 17, 2022!! Email max@elitereportingservices.com for information.

Have you decided that court reporting is right for you and are ready to select a school? NCRA has provided a list of approved programs and suggested questions for you to ask to help you weigh your options.

[Click here](#) to get started on your way to this wonderful career!

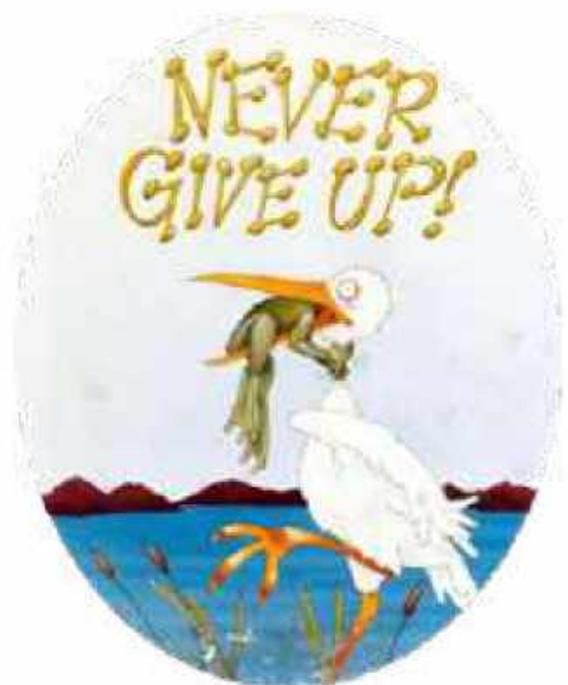
Resources:

[Analyze your notes](#)

[RPR Level Practice Dictation](#)

[180-240 WPM Takes](#)

[Audio/Video Playback Speed Controller for Chrome](#)



RULES, REGULATIONS, AND RED TAPE

Notice of Public Rulemaking Hearing: Tennessee Board of Court Reporting

The Tennessee Board of Court Reporting (herein, Board) will be conducting a Rulemaking Hearing on Friday, March 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. This rulemaking hearing will be held at the following address:

500 James Robertson Parkway
Davy Crockett Tower, Conference Room 1-B
Nashville, TN 37243



A copy of the rules to be considered at the rulemaking hearing can be viewed online at:

https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules_filings/11-07-21.pdf

Pursuant to the Tennessee Open Meetings Act (Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-44-101, et. seq.), the above referenced hearing is open to the public, and you may attend the hearing in person. If you have any comments regarding the rules, you may either submit your written comments in advance of the board meeting to Hugh Cross, Assistant General Counsel, at (615) 741-3072 or electronically at Hugh.Cross@tn.gov, or appear at the rulemaking hearing to make your comments on the record.

LICENSURE



Mindy Rutherford, LCR
TCRA President-Elect

Members, don't forget this is an even year, which means it will soon be time to renew your licenses with the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting. As many of you know, the TBCR has been attempting quite vigorously to get your fees for renewal reduced due to the surplus of funds the board has been carrying on its books. However, it doesn't look like they were successful in time for renewals. When asked if the topic could be placed on their agenda for the upcoming meeting on 3/25/22, the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance denied the request. Please be sure to support the TBCR at their meeting on 3/25/22 either in person or [online](#).

Have a wonderful day!

Emails between Mindy Rutherford and Glenn Kopchak regarding surplus funds

9/29/21

Good afternoon.

Could someone tell me what the funds of the board are spent on and if/how the surplus could be used to benefit the court reporting profession? Do the court reporters have a voice on this matter?

Thank you for your time and attention.

Mindy A. Rutherford, LCR, CLR

P.O. Box 190461

Nashville, TN 37219-0461

mindy@beresandassociates.com

9/30/21

Hello Ms. Rutherford,

Thank you for your inquiry. The Board of Court Reporting is strictly limited to its regulatory scope defined by its rules and statute. The Vision as stated is "Protecting Tennesseans through balanced oversight of insurance and regulated professions while enhancing consumer advocacy, education and public safety". In support of that vision, the Board processes applications and ensures all of those engaged in court reporting have been duly licensed if necessary under the law and are working within that scope. The Board also processes complaints where incidents outside of that scope are reported and conducts investigations when necessary. Court Reporter licensing revenue are allocated towards the following resources: personnel (legal, licensing, and inspections), technology (online licensing platform and Board website for communication), and the Board's share in infrastructure. The Board is sitting at around \$175K in reserves. Of course, that will continue to be diminished until the next renewal period. Furthermore, statute requires the Board to be self-sufficient. As a result, it receives no funds from the general fund and must depend solely on licensing and case revenue. The General Assembly requests that all boards and commissions have 2x the operations budget in reserves. Reserves must also hold sufficient funds should there be legal action involving the Board. That is a delicate balance as this Board already runs in the red on nonrenewal years with any reductions in licensing fees possibly resulting in a deficit for 2 consecutive years. Should that be the case, the Board would have to appear before the General Assembly for self-sufficiency review which could result in sunseting the Board altogether. As a result, the labor that supports this Board has not been fully allocated to avoid such a scenario. Administration will continue to monitor the budget and provide an analysis to the Board at each of their meetings. The meetings are open to the public and noticed on the website well in advance. The next meeting is March 25th. The public is welcome to make comments, but the Board does not operate like a lobbyist or professional association with the licensees serving as members. The Board will allow the public to make comments, take those under consideration, then under advisement of counsel make a decision in line with their regulatory scope as strictly governed by rules and statute. If I may be of further assistance, please let me know. Have a wonderful day!

Respectfully,

Glenn

Glenn Kopchak | Assistant Director

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1/31/22

Tennessee Board of Court Reporting:

We respectfully request the issue of reduction in licensure renewal fees be placed on your agenda once again for your upcoming meeting on 3/25/22.

Thank you.

Mindy A. Rutherford, LCR, CLR

P.O. Box 190461

Nashville, TN 37219-0461

mindy@beresandassociates.com

2/1/22

Hello Ms. Rutherford,

The public is always welcome to make comments, but I'm afraid we won't be adding this item to the agenda as it has been discussed on numerous occasions with the board being provided an analysis regarding the issue, some of which was detailed in prior correspondence on September 30th (see below). Again, you are welcome to make comments, but the board will not be entering into further discussion until the financial situation has changed or new information available for consideration. Please let me know if I may be of further assistance. Have a wonderful day!

Respectfully,

Glenn

Glenn Kopchak | Assistant Director

Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance

**2021-2022
TCRA
Officers
and
Directors**



Kristin Burke
President



Mindy Rutherford
President-Elect



Misty Brigham
Past President



April Benson
Vice President



Katherine Gale
Secretary/Treasurer



Tracy Hollis
Western Director



Stefani Simmons
Western Director



Jennifer Checuga
Middle Director



Patricia Nilsen
Middle Director



Debbie West
Eastern Director



Jennifer Short
Eastern Director



Mindy Rutherford, LCR
 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 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.

Tennessee Court Reporters Association
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 (901) 388-8151



MARCH	APRIL	MAY
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19 TCRA Spring Fling Taking Care of Yourself	23 TCRA Spring Fling Taking Care of Business	21 TCRA Spring Fling Taking Care of Your CAT System
25 TBCR Rulemaking Meeting		