



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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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!