

THE VOLUNTEER REPORTER

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Greene County Courthouse - Greeneville, Tennessee

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Misty Brigham, LCR
TCRA President

First, I want to say I am honored to be your President. This has been one of many goals for myself since I started court reporting school in 2004. Starting out as a new reporter, you never know where this profession will take you. I have been fortunate to have had an amazing career thus far with great mentors and colleagues. Giving any time and energy I can to encourage others to join and/or promote our wonderful profession is the least I can do to pay it forward. I have a passion for court reporting because I say all of the time that I wish someone would have visited my high school while I was in school so I could have known about this amazing career long, long ago. I have been going to career days for several years now. I truly enjoy this and encourage you all to join in with me to see the look on these kiddos' faces and teachers while we write realtime as they speak! TCRA will announce when future career days are taking place and we hope you will volunteer your time with us.

Another goal I have achieved for myself is becoming a firm owner as of January of 2020. Taking a leap of faith in yourself can be scary and it wasn't a leap I took without consideration. But believing in myself and my abilities was key, and that translates right into my decision to serve our state association in its highest office possible.

I am a single mother of three wonderful children. My oldest daughter is a 2020 High School Graduate. What a year it has been for her! In the fall, my son will be a Senior and my little girl will be in the 3rd Grade. We have an adorable English bulldog named Lucy. We love to travel and enjoy life every day like it's our last. Our days are full, as you can imagine, but so are our hearts of the love we have for one another.

One of many goals I have set this year as your President is membership – current, past and future. I am looking forward to meeting you. I will be visiting your cities for a meet-and-greet to get to know as many of you as possible. This includes our current members and those that have let their TCRA membership lapse. I want to hear your concerns and what issues you would like to see TCRA be involved in. We don't know what we can do together until we talk about it. Look for announcements about when and where you can find myself and other members of TCRA's Board for an event near you.

I want to encourage you all to serve on a committee or the Board either with me or in the future. I assure you that we will have fun while giving back! And if you ever think you just don't have the time or you wonder what you have to offer, once you take that leap and make the commitment, you will be surprised how much it will mean to you to give back to the profession that is our livelihood with colleagues that feel as passionate about it as you do.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have. I am looking forward to an adventurous year ahead!!

CONVENTION COMMITTEE



April Lassiter-Benson, LCR, CSR
TCRA Vice President
Convention Committee Chair

WOW and THANK YOU is all we can say at the moment, even two-and-a-half months later! We had a fantastic turnout and response to TCRA's First Virtual Convention. With informative and impactful speakers, enjoying the comforts of home, or wherever you chose to join in from, the ability to feel somewhat connected to one another, and get those last-minute CEUs in for licensure renewal, we all sincerely hope you felt the benefits of us moving forward with convention virtually.

THANK YOU to our Convention Sponsors: Accurate Court Reporting, Alpha Reporting Corporation, Beres & Associates Court Reporters, Bertram Reporting, Brentwood Court Reporting Services, Elite Reporting Services, Morgan Reporting, Nashville Court Reporters, Omega Reporting, and PT Litigation Services.

THANK YOU to Lynette Mueller for putting together our Convention Sponsor ads and our amazing TCRA Member Video. It was heartwarming to see so many familiar faces, especially when we could not be face to face this year. (The song you used is still playing in some of our heads!)

THANK YOU to our Speakers: Stacie Odeneal; Karen Litwin; Linda Hershey; Lynette Mueller; NCRA President, Christine Phipps; Detective James Kemp, NCRA Past-President, Max Curry; Keith Lemons; Ken Mansfield; and Sheila Wilson. Your time and your presentations were greatly appreciated!

One more THANK YOU to Lynette Mueller and Kristin Burke for putting together an article featured in the JCR Online outlining how Tennessee moved to a virtual platform and the success we found in the process. Several Associations around the country have contacted us and we have had the pleasure of sharing information with them in order for them to find the same or better success.

As we look forward to next year and begin to plan, our intention is to have the 2021 Convention in person with a virtual option. We are excited to see what our new Convention Committee comes up with.

See you in 2021!!

Read the complete JCR Online article here: [How Tennessee Saved Their 2020 Convention](#)

Subscribe to [TCRA's YouTube channel](#) for convention highlights and video updates from your TCRA Board and Committees.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



Katherine Gale, RPR, LCR, CSR(CA)
TCRA Middle Director
Fundraising Committee Co-Chair

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

I am so excited to announce that three of our TCRA members have stepped up to the plate and have joined me on the Fundraising Committee! We now have Kim Davidson, Joy Kennedy, and Shana Crawford on the team!!! Thank you, ladies! We are going to work hard for our association and with the help of every one of our members, YOU, do our very best to raise money!

Our committee has met once so far and has bounced around some fresh ideas that we can do throughout the year as we, in addition, prepare for next year's convention. Please stay connected with us through our Facebook page as we bring these ideas to reality because, truly, to make things happen, it's going to take ALL of us to "like" or "love" and spread the word!

STAY TUNED!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



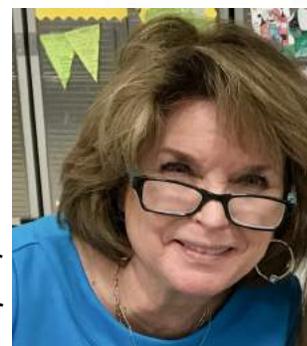
Sarah Motley, LCR
TCRA Past President
Nominating Committee Chair

This year the Nominating Committee hopes to find new, eager, and willing people to serve on the TCRA Board for 2021-2022. We need people with a passion for the reporting career with fresh new ideas and opinions for Tennessee court reporters. If you would be interested and excited to serve on the Board - or if you know of anyone you would like to nominate - please reach out to us!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



Tina Summers, LCR
TCRA Western Director
Membership Committee Chair



Janis McMaster, LCR
TCRA Western Director
Membership Committee Co-Chair

Greetings from your Membership Committee team, Janis McMaster and Tina Summers. We had a great response from renewals for membership. There were a few who didn't respond, but through some last-minute efforts, we were able to retain most of them. We did lose a few members due to moves out of state and retirement, some we just don't know why they chose not to renew. In total, we had 20 who did not renew. We have one new member making a move to the state, Chattanooga Area, soon.

We think we have a great plan to expand our numbers and increase the strength of our Association. Last year, TCRA, spearheaded by Max Curry, was instrumental in getting SB667 and HB729 passed, which increased the per diem in criminal courts from \$250 to \$350. As pointed out by Kathy Samson, our former Membership chair, one day of work at the new per diem pays for one year's membership.

We would love to have more of our criminal reporting friends and acquaintances in our association, but that will require some help from our current members who have friends in that area of reporting. We need you to help get our plan into action by reaching those reporters that you already have relationships with and encouraging them to join our profession.

With all our efforts, we can make our Association stronger.



Total members:	180
Professional:	174
Associate:	3
Student:	3

Welcome new members:

Lori Sumner	San Diego, CA	Professional
Courtney Taylor	Memphis, TN	Professional
Karen Strickland	Dothan, AL	Professional

Welcome returning members:

Lisa Vaughn	Memphis, TN	Professional
Shana Crawford	Clarksville, TN	Professional

[Join or Renew your membership today](#)



SCHOLARSHIP/MENTORING COMMITTEE

Carol West, LCR, CCR
TCRA Eastern Director
Scholarship/Mentoring Committee Chair

At the present time, Scholarship and Mentoring Committee is composed of Janet Tilley and Carol West. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee, please contact Carol West.

TCRA will be attending the TN School Counselor & Administrator Leadership Institute to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Murfreesboro, TN, on September 13-15, 2020. We are very excited to have a table reserved at this conference in which we will be attending and having an opportunity to discuss and promote court reporting to the school counselors and display equipment. Getting the word out in action and deed! To date, TCRA representatives at this September conference include: April Lassiter, Misty Brigham, Carol West, Marilyn Morgan, and Leslie McAnally.

There were no entries for the annual TCRA scholarship award. Discussion at our last board meeting did include whether or not to change the guidelines for the scholarship. A court reporting student had inquired about A to Z attendance and participation counting as meeting TCRA's scholarship entry guidelines, and Board consensus was that that would not meet the criteria for the scholarship. No changes to the scholarship guidelines have been made at this time, and we will keep our Association posted when and if that does happen.

Scholarship and Mentoring is continuing to monitor career fairs and forensic classes at local high schools and would like to send court reporters to the high schools in order to speak with students about our careers. If you would like to participate at a high school career fair or forensic class, please contact Carol West.

Student Corner

Resources:

[Analyze your notes](#)

[RPR Level Practice Dictation](#)

[Free Dictation](#)

[180-240 WPM Takes](#)

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

[Stenokey](#)



An Impressive Career Laqueta Soule Retires



Former Court Reporting Instructor
Chattanooga State Community College
(Submitted by Carol West)

Many of the court reporters and captioners who attended Chattanooga State Community College fondly remember Ms. Laqueta Soule, who was the original court reporting program instructor, beginning in August 1990 and ending in May 2011, when the court reporting program closed due to low numbers of enrollment and graduating students. She was also very active in our Tennessee Court Reporters Association during those years, and she authored many helpful student articles for our TCRA Newsletter, *The Volunteer Reporter*.

The majority of her career was at Chattanooga State, and as noted above, she was the founding instructor of the court reporter program. Her greatest joy was seeing students graduate and becoming successful court reporters. The last ten years at Chattanooga State were spent in various departments: Recruiting, Orientation, Records, and finally in the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) at Chattanooga State as Assistant Dean.

Ms. Soule is a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, born and raised in the Hixson area. She graduated from Hixson High School, Chattanooga State Community College (AAS-Secretary Science, Legal), Edmondson Junior College (AAS-Court Reporting), University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa (BS-Administration), and Austin Peay State University (MS-Management).

Laqueta retired from Chattanooga State in April 2020 after almost 30 years in education. Laqueta says that her years teaching were the most fulfilling of her career. Her over 600 court reporting students will never forget the genuine interest, kindness, and loving spirit in which she treated every student who came into her classroom, and she always welcomed students to come back and share news about their careers with her.

She was truly a remarkable woman, friend, and educator to so many. Congratulations on your retirement, Ms. Soule. We will never forget you.

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 Katie Long at TDCI with any concerns or questions at (615) 741-3449 or by email at Katie.Long@TN.gov.



Tennessee Board of Court Reporting

Stephanie Branim
Korian Neal
Marilyn Morgan
Ken Mansfield
Brandon Pettes
Judge John Rambo (not pictured)

Announcements

Notice of Public Rulemaking Hearing: Tennessee Board of Court Reporting

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-3-1306(d), you are receiving this notice because you have elected to receive notification by e-mail of certain changes or potential changes to the law applicable to your profession. The Tennessee Board of Court Reporting (herein, Board) will be conducting a Rulemaking Hearing on Friday, September 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., to be held at the following address:

**500 James Robertson Parkway
Davy Crockett Tower
Nashville, TN 37243**

<https://www.tn.gov/commerce/regboards/courtreport/public-meeting-information.html>

These rules amend the process for the application for licensure. Specifically, the proposed change introduces an additional examination accepted upon application for licensure which is reflective of industry advancements and practical applications by the individuals seeking licensure. This additional exam includes a skills test for the American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers (AAERT) (CER-certified electronic court reporter). The rules also amend the standards of professional conduct. Specifically, the proposed change adds the word "un-transcribed" to the description of notes required to be secured by licensees as part of their standards of professional conduct.

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

https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules_filings/04-23-20.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.

THREE FOR YOUR MONEY

Earn CEUs, support Project Steno, AND raise money for TCRA!



Creating a Bright Future

Project Steno and Tennessee Court Reporters Association
Working Together to Build Awareness

Live webinars

Saturday, October 3 – 10:30 to 4:30 Eastern

Fresh topics and creative ideas to support our profession

Visit www.ProjectSteno.org for complete agenda

Registration: \$69. Register [HERE NOW!](#)

\$15 of your registration supports Project Steno's mission to raise awareness of our profession.

The remaining portion, after costs, goes to **TCRA.**

Session	Speaker	Time (all times Eastern)
<i>Write Clean, Write Fast. All Day? No Sweat!</i>	Ed Varallo, RMR, CRR, FAPR Board member, Project Steno Author, <i>The Realtime Writer's Manual</i> and <i>Ed's Steno Pro</i>	10:30 – 11:30 .1 CEU
<i>Preparing for a Bright Future</i> (inaugural presentation)	Nancy Varallo, RDR, CRR, FAPR Executive Director, Project Steno	12:00 – 1:00 .1 CEU
<i>Developing a High School Program in Your State</i>	Glyn Poage, RDR, CRR, FAPR Board member, Project Steno	2:00 – 3:00 .1 CEU
<i>How to Conduct a Basic Training Class</i>	Tiva Wood, RDR, CMRS, FAPR Board member, Project Steno	3:30 – 4:30 .1 CEU



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

OPEN BOARD POSITION

There is an opening on the TCRA Board for a Middle Director. This is a two-year term that will expire in 2022. If you live in the Middle District of Tennessee and are interested in serving your association and promoting your profession, this is an excellent place to start. You will learn as you serve by participating in quarterly Board meetings and committee functions. This is where you learn about your association and prepare to assume higher leadership roles. If this appeals to you, please contact us at administrator@tncra.com.

COMMITTEES

Our committees are the lifeblood of our association. Check out the committees listed below and contact us at administrator@tncra.com if you are ready to step up. Click [here](#) for a description of each committee's responsibilities.

CONVENTION

April Lassiter-Benson, Chair
Misty Brigham
Kristin Burke
Denise Gonzalez
Georgette Arena
Lynn Terrell

EDUCATION

Sarah Motley, Chair
Misty Brigham
Kristin Burke
Kathy Samson

FUNDRAISING

Katherine Gale, Chair
Misty Brigham
Kristin Burke
Kim Davidson
Shana Crawford
Joy Kennedy

MEMBERSHIP

Tina Summers, Chair
Janis McMaster, Co-Chair
Misty Brigham
Kristin Burke

NEWSLETTER/SOCIAL MEDIA

Kristin Burke, Chair
Misty Brigham

SCHOLARSHIP/MENTORING

Carol West, Chair
Misty Brigham
Kristin Burke
Janet Tilley

LEGISLATIVE

Misty Brigham, Chair
Kristin Burke
Sarah Motley

BYLAWS/P&P

Kristin Burke, Chair
Misty Brigham
Sarah Motley

NOMINATING

Sarah Motley, Chair
Misty Brigham
Kristin Burke
Dana Webb
Amber Thompson

**GET
INVOLVED!**

2020-2021 TCRA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Misty Brigham, LCR

President

All Committees

mbrigham16@gmail.com

Kristin Burke, LCR

President-Elect

Bylaws & Newsletter Committees

skristin1814@yahoo.com

Sarah Motley, LCR

Past President

Nominating & Education Committees

Motley.sarahm@gmail.com

April Lassiter-Benson, LCR, CSR

Vice President

Convention Committee

lassiterstnagfr@gmail.com

Janis McMaster, LCR

Secretary/Treasurer

Membership Committee

jhmcmaster@bellsouth.net

Carol X. West, LCR, CCR

Eastern Director

Scholarship/Mentoring Committee

carolxwest@aol.com

Debbie West, LCR

Eastern Director

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Katherine Gale, RPR, LCR, CSR-CA

Middle Director

Fundraising Committee

kgale63@comcast.net

Tina Summers, LCR

Western Director

Membership Committee

tinasummerslcr@gmail.com

Tracy Hollis, LCR

Western Director

CCR Committee

tracy2court@yahoo.com

Lynn Terrell, LCR
Administrative/Website Director
P.O. Box 135
Brunswick, TN 38014
administrator@tcra.com
901.388.8151



Kristin Burke, 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.

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SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
7 Labor Day	12 Columbus Day	3 Election Day
13-15 TNSCALI Convention Murfreesboro, TN		11 Veteran's Day
25 TBCR Rulemaking Hearing Nashville, TN	31 Halloween	26 Thanksgiving Day