

Ohio Court Reporters Association

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2023 VERNON C. STEELE NEW REPORTER SCHOLARSHIP

Vernon (Vern) C. Steele was a long-time member, former president, and director of the Ohio Court Reporters Association. He spent his entire 47-year court reporting career in Cincinnati reporting for Hamilton County Common Pleas Judges Thomas Nurre, Kim Burke, and the late Ralph Kohlen. He held himself to a high standard of excellence and was well respected by his peers. Vern passed away December 14, 2014.

In memory of Vern Steele, the Ohio Court Reporters Association Cardinal Foundation and Vern's family would like to honor and recognize new reporters in the court reporting and captioning profession with a start-up scholarship to help with expenses. The scholarship may be awarded each year up to \$1,000.

The next Vernon C. Steele New Reporter Scholarship Award will be presented on Saturday, March 25, 2023, during OCRA's 2023 Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must be a resident of the State of Ohio and meet the following criteria in order to be considered for the award of the Vernon C. Steele New Reporter Scholarship.

1. The applicant must be a current OCRA member and cannot have previously won this scholarship.
2. The applicant must have graduated from an NCRA-certified program, or request special consideration for such other graduation/program completion.
3. The applicant must be in his/her first three years as a working reporter, as verified by an official transcript or verification statement from the court reporting program submitted along with this application.
4. The applicant must submit a letter of recommendation from his/her employer or contracting agency attesting to the applicant's professional demeanor, attitude, and motivation.
5. The applicant must be striving to achieve certification, as verified by receipt of registration for a past/upcoming certification test.
6. The applicant must be working in any of the profession's career paths: judicial (official/freelance), CART captioning, or broadcast captioning.

PROCESS: To submit your application for the Vernon C. Steele New Reporter Scholarship, please complete the following steps. All steps must be completed and received by the deadline to be eligible.

STEP ONE: Personal application (Form A)

STEP TWO: Letter of recommendation completed by employer or contracting agency (Form B). Applicants must return this completed form with their application materials or have the employer send to OCRA separately. If the employer recommendation form is being sent separately from application, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that it is received by OCRA prior to the deadline.

STEP THREE: Guarantee submission to OCRA prior to the deadline of all required documentation (court reporting program/graduation verification and certification test registration), as well as any additional information that you would like to include, such as a resume or letters of support. These items may be emailed to info@ocraonline.com or mailed to the OCRA office.

DEADLINE: All complete applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 3, 2023.

AWARD GUIDELINES: The awards committee shall utilize the following guidelines to judge applications.

1. Personal growth in the profession
2. Achievements received during school and upon entering the profession
3. Personal/telephone interview, at the discretion of the committee
4. Financial need, as a tiebreaker
5. Awards committee has the final decision regarding scholarship award

AWARD:

1. Winning new reporter will receive up to \$1,000 to be utilized as they see fit.
2. Winner shall be notified at least two weeks prior to the Annual Conference.
3. The announcement of the winner and the presentation of the scholarship check will occur at the Annual Conference in 2023. It is preferred that the winner is present to receive his/her award. Winner will receive free luncheon ticket for him/herself, along with one guest.
4. Winner shall receive a one-year complimentary membership to OCRA.

FORMS MAY BE SUBMITTED ONLINE, EMAILED, OR MAILED TO:

Ohio Court Reporters Association
c/o Sarah Nageotte, Executive Director
2274 Chapel Road
Jefferson, Ohio 44047
ocraonline@gmail.com
www.OCRAonline.com

FORM A: NEW REPORTER APPLICATION

I would like to submit my application for the 2023 Vernon C. Steele New Reporter Scholarship.

Personal Information

Name: _____ Gender: _____
Court Reporting Program: _____ Graduation: _____
Professional Certifications: _____ Attempted Obtained
Employer: _____ Position: _____

Contact Information

Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please consider my achievements in the following areas *(you may submit additional documentation, if desired)*:

Schooling/Education: _____

Since Entering the Profession: _____

Other: _____

Date _____ Signature of Applicant: _____

FORM B: EMPLOYER/AGENCY RECOMMENDATION

I would like to nominate the following new reporter for the 2023 Vernon C. Steele New Reporter Scholarship.

New Reporter Information

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

How long have you known the new reporter? _____

Your Information

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please describe the new reporter's professional demeanor, attitude, and motivation (*you may submit additional documentation, if desired*): _____

What other information would be helpful for the awards committee's consideration? _____

Date: _____

Signature of Employer/Contact: _____