

Presidential Address of Susan Gee
April 23, 2016
Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon
Crowne Plaza Columbus North
Pavilion

Thank you to Linda McSwain for coming to Columbus and being a part of our conference and swearing me in.

I met Linda last year, and I knew this girl was a star and I wanted to get her to Ohio so you could all enjoy her. And she's got great shoes.

When I was a brand-new reporter, somebody came to visit me on a persistent basis, and that was Doug Ackerman. He was in my office a lot and just asked me to join, join, join OCRA. So I finally said yes because who can say no to Doug? And I wanted to get my points, so I thought, okay, I'll get my points. But as I kept accumulating my points, I realized how much I enjoyed the enthusiasm of the OCRA people. I mean, you're seeing it today.

And a few years later, Mary Jones invited me to volunteer. Oh, no, volunteer. Oh, my gosh. But I did, and it was the best decision I ever made. And when a bill was pending to take away copy prices for official reporters, I seized the opportunity to become an advocate, and I called on Sue Horak, OCRA President at that time, and that started the ball rolling. My involvement on that issue led to a strong feeling about what a great profession court reporting has been for me and for all of us.

OCRA is not a clique. It's not like the good ole boys in the Republican Party or the good ole boys in the Democratic Party. We are one big tent welcoming captioners, CART providers, officials and freelance reporters like me. We're a group bubbling over with energy and enthusiasm.

Do you know Tiro is? He is the first stenographer, that's who. He worked for Cicero, the great Roman lawyer and speechwriter. After Cicero delivered a speech or argument in court, he would have Tiro doctor the record, making Cicero look braver and stronger for posterity than he had been in real life. Well, we can't do that. Especially with the advent of realtime, we can't do that, and we wouldn't even try. But the advent of realtime is yet another product we have to validate our importance as keepers of the record to lawyers and some slow-to-understand judges.

What do Texas, New Mexico, New York, Illinois, Oregon, Nevada and Georgia have in common, and, most recently, Lucas County Common Pleas Court? They are either getting rid of ER or they're not using it. And thanks to Doug Ackerman and the reporters in Lucas County Common Pleas Court, they are not going to use their recording system. They are using live reporters. (Wild applause!) These decisions encourage us to realize the growth potential of our profession.

Unlike Tiro, my grandfather does not date back to ancient Rome, but he was an official court reporter also in Lucas County, so our profession is in my blood. And he was a pen writer.

I know many of you and hope to know all of you. Since Doug and Mary have piqued my interest in court reporting, I've found nothing but personal and professional enrichment in OCRA. I intend to pick up the ball from Marie and I invite you to all join me in the continued growth of this wonderful profession.

Thank you.



Susan M. Gee, RMR, CRR
2016-2017 President