

1       BEFORE THE OHIO COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION  
2               BUSINESS LUNCHEON MEETING  
3                       AWARDS PRESENTATION

4               Saturday, April 13, 2013

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6               MS. COON: It's going to be hard to do this  
7 without crying. Our Glenn Stiles Award today is going  
8 to Linda Sturm.

9               Linda and I got on the board of OCRA right  
10 around the same time. She was, like, one step behind  
11 me. And so I want to share with you a little bit  
12 about what Linda has done for our profession. I'll  
13 give you a hug first.

14              I would like to ask those of you who were on  
15 the board with us to please stand, as well as when we  
16 were president, as well as when Linda was on the  
17 board. Michelle, Sue. I would also like to ask those  
18 of you who worked for Linda at P.R.I. to please stand.  
19 And then, before Linda started her firm, she also  
20 worked at some other places, so I would like everyone  
21 who worked with Linda to stand.

22              Linda has presented seminars and training

23 from way before she even started working on the board.

24 I would like anyone who has attended one of Linda's

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1 seminars to stand. And I would like to ask anyone

2 else to stand whose life has been touched by Linda. I

3 just would like for you to give Linda a round of

4 applause.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. McBRAYER: Linda, you've touched our

7 lives. Thank you.

8 I'm one of several people who nominated

9 Linda for the Glenn Stiles Award. Linda just retired

10 from court reporting last year, and I would like to

11 share a little bit about your health because you've

12 been very public about that and that takes a lot of

13 courage.

14 Linda has a condition called ataxia and it

15 has something to do with the brain. It doesn't affect

16 her knowledge or her wisdom, but it does affect her

17 body. She's no longer able to walk. We just -- you

18 know, we just love you so much for being so open about

19 your journey that has been going on with that.

20 One of the things that happened when we were

21 on the board, we had some really huge challenges, and  
22 we had to hire a new Executive Director. We had a lot  
23 of people apply for that position and they just  
24 weren't quite what we needed. Those of us who were

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1 not business owners, just court reporters, didn't  
2 really have this business mind, but Linda has an  
3 astute business mind. She just knew that wasn't quite  
4 what OCRA needed. So she had us put out a job offer  
5 for our Executive Director, and it's as a result of  
6 Linda's efforts that we have hired Tracy Schiefferle.  
7 Tracy has made a huge difference as the director and  
8 that is as a result of Linda.

9 I want to thank you, Tracy, for being a part  
10 of our association. So let's give Tracy a round of  
11 applause.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. McBRAYER: If it wasn't for Linda, we  
14 wouldn't have Tracy. You've blessed us in so, so many  
15 ways.

16 When Linda was president, she helped us not  
17 only hire Tracy, but she collaborated and made some  
18 changes in the committees that we have. They made

19 changes in the way that we have the Annual Convention.

20 As a result of that, Linda served additional time as

21 president. She has just worked tirelessly.

22 I could go on and on about the things Linda

23 has done. But I just want to congratulate you, Linda,

24 for giving us your support. This is way long overdue.

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1 I really appreciate you and what you've done for not

2 only court reporting, but she started captioning in

3 the city before anyone else was doing it. I just

4 could go on and on. We all have Linda stories.

5 Linda, congratulations.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. STURM: I want to thank everybody here

8 for this award. It means a lot to me. My eyes are

9 watering. If I look like I'm crying, it's just

10 my eyes watering. I'm not actually crying.

11 I worked out these things that I wanted to

12 be sure to say. I was involved in OCRA for quite a

13 while and it's been a privilege to do that. But I

14 figure, you know, when I went to these conferences, I

15 always felt that if I could just take one thing home,

16 if I just learned one thing that's all I needed and it

17 was worth my time.

18 I have a few things to say and I just want  
19 to personally get to some of them that I really  
20 appreciated, that was worth my time. So I just have  
21 two things to cover, so I won't talk as much as I  
22 usually do.

23 One thing I wanted to say is that I hit one  
24 of my goals. Now, I don't do a lot with OCRA or

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1 anything else because I can't. But one thing I would  
2 like to, you know, stress to everybody here is the  
3 importance of having some kind of insurance. You  
4 know, we never know when something like this is going  
5 to happen. Goodness knows I had no idea when I was  
6 here or reporting or anything else that I would be  
7 here today in a wheelchair.

8 In 2007, I stopped reporting. I could no  
9 longer report because I decided I should no longer  
10 report because when you have -- when you call people a  
11 bunch of guinea pigs, even if it's a good guinea pig,  
12 they don't tend to like that.

13 (Laughter.)

14 One thing I assumed is, well, Medicare would

15 take care of me. That's not the case. I had to wait  
16 two years before I could even be eligible for  
17 Medicare. I had to wait five months before I could be  
18 eligible for a disability check. I'm very lucky  
19 because I was a business owner and I owned a home. A  
20 lot of people think -- you know, you think, well, I  
21 have a husband, or something like that, and I'll be  
22 fine. It's not like that. Your whole life changes.  
23 We're so busy doing what we normally do, you  
24 know, and we think that nothing could ever happen to

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1 us. I'm invincible. I am woman. But that's not the  
2 way it is. So just be sure, you know, to -- even if  
3 it's a little bit, we have to be prepared.  
4 The other thing is I have a lot more time to  
5 read now, and one of the things that I have read a lot  
6 about recently is the power of giving. We are in such  
7 a unique position to be able to give. As Sandy  
8 mentioned, I was one of the first people that did CART  
9 and captioning, and it surprises me to hear our  
10 representative say today that there are still people  
11 that don't know what captioning is and that don't know  
12 what CART is and that we are still trying to get

13 people on the realtime bandwagon, which is something  
14 that for years we have been espousing. But if you  
15 haven't started, this is the time now for us to do  
16 that.

17 I was reading just recently about this  
18 business professor from the Wharton School of  
19 Business, Adam Grant, and he has a book out called  
20 "Give and Take." In there, he talks about the power  
21 of giving. He says that a sense of service to others  
22 and focusing on the contribution of our work to other  
23 people's lives has the potential to make us more  
24 productive than just helping ourselves.

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1 So I think that we should all still think  
2 that we have the potential to give and to give to  
3 others. What we do no one else does. No one else can  
4 write the written word as soon as it's spoken. If you  
5 have a chance at your church or synagogue, volunteer.  
6 Many of us are writing realtime and there's nothing to  
7 be afraid of, especially when we are doing it for  
8 free.

9 Nobody should go right into a church service  
10 without having prepared in advance. You know, when

11 you try to write "Nebuchadnezzar," it's not going to  
12 come up, and that's a hell of a word to try to finger  
13 spell. But so that it will come up right away, make  
14 sure you get that ahead of time. It's something that  
15 will make you feel good about yourself, and then, when  
16 you get that feedback from other people for something  
17 that you love doing, you know, it's really gratifying  
18 for you. You will see the return exponentially. So I  
19 just encourage everyone to do that.

20       And, again, I want to thank you all for  
21 nominating me for this award. I appreciate this.

22       Tracy was just about a year off, because,  
23 probably, next year, I won't be able to talk, and so  
24 she got me when I could still get up here and speak to

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1 you and take up your time.

2       (Applause.)

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