

History of the Ohio Court Reporters Association

Introduction

Presented herein are highlights of the Ohio Court Reporters Association from its beginnings in 1920 to the present.

As is so aptly stated by the author of the history of the first 50 years (Lysbet Hoffman), “for twenty long years (1924 to 1944) our history is shrouded in mystery forever silent as to the Association’s deeds.”

Indeed, as we set about gathering information for this document, we found that the state office only had minutes dating back to 1955 and copies of *The Buckeye Record* back to the fall of 1977. Needless to say, we were delighted when we found among the minutes, the history for the first 50 years.

We have, therefore, attempted to augment the history of the 50s and 60s, and add historical notes from the 70s, 80s, 90s and today.

We have also included the names of the charter members, past presidents, convention sites and past award winners.

We would welcome input and documentation to add to this history.

History of the Ohio Shorthand Reporters Association – The First 50 Years

(Presented at the banquet of the 50th anniversary and prepared by Lysbet Hoffman, Federal Reporter, Cincinnati, Ohio)

Tonight we are celebrating the anniversary of our Fiftieth Convention, and it’s appropriate that we look back over the years to our beginnings just to see how our Association has grown.

In 1920, Mr. P.H. Howe, a reporter in Toledo, wanted to start an Ohio Association. He wrote to the National Shorthand Reporters Association and got a list of the Ohio reporters who belonged to the National Association.

Starting with that list, he wrote a letter asking any reporter interested in forming an Ohio Shorthand Reporters Association to meet him in Columbus on a certain date to discuss the idea.

The rest is history and you are part of it.

From that modest beginning, let’s look at the record.

The gathering started with a meeting that they promptly, and hopefully, called the “First Annual Convention of the Ohio Shorthand Reporters Association.”

It was not until 1924 that the reporters of the Association remembered the old adage “the record never forgets” and started “The Record,” which modestly announced “issued every once in a while.” It is the copies of “The Record,” later known as “*The Buckeye Record*,” that bring the history of the Ohio Shorthand Reporters Association alive today.

Our Association got right down to the basics of the profession – money, efficiency, and membership – and started tackling all problems at once.

Every organization needs guidelines. The early members of our Association recognized the need for goals and outlined the following:

- Building up membership;
- Making the Association more useful to its members;
- Making the Association more interesting to its members;
- Increasing the individual efficiency of its members as shorthand reporters.

Not bad goals even for today!

Also, not to be crass, but Ohio reporters got right down to work on the ever present topic of rates. Plans were laid to sponsor a bill in the Legislature for an increase in folio rates and salaries.

One of the other problems was reporter image. One member boldly put forth the plan that members should “get acquainted with the term ‘shorthand reporter’ because the term ‘stenographer’ as applied to our profession, I believe has done more to build up a false impression of the requirements of our work on the part of the people generally than any other one thing.”

Needless to say, he proved right and today any self-respecting reporter would bristle at the word “stenographer” to describe his job.

The number of reporters in Ohio was small back in the 1920s (as is still true). There were 120 officials and 100 independents, as they were known then. Of that number, 42 were paid-up members of the Association – 27 officials and 15 independents representing 33 of 88 Ohio counties.

If you think everything was so cheap back in the good old days, just remember in 1924 OSRA dues were \$9.50. Although I must hasten to add that included \$4.50 to the National Shorthand Reporters Association and \$5.00 to OSRA. Also, 1924 was the last year for that. Henceforth, any reporter wishing to belong to both groups would pay dues to each.

Cuyahoga County had no official reporters in Common Pleas Court. About 50 independent reporters handled the official work on an “on-call” basis.

I am happy to report one problem of 1924 reporters is completely, utterly and forever solved. One of the problems put forth at the 1924 convention was: “Court is held for a month or two, the docket is cleaned up, and then there was nothing to do for another month or two. In the meantime the reporter gets rusty and loses a good part of his gain.” Your historian would like to report no hint of this problem in the last 20 years.

Most Ohio reporters believe strongly in the merits of a CSR bill. This question was raised in the mid-1920s and the first efforts of the Association to push for CSR were seen.

OSRA’s first legislative success came in 1925, just five years after its start, when the then governor signed into law a bill which raised salaries in counties having two or more judges from \$2,400 to \$3,000 and the maximum salary in one-judge counties from \$1,800 to \$2,000. The

folio rate was increased from .08 cents to .12 cents, and it also changed the designation of stenographer to shorthand reporter in some of the statutes.

Just as an aside, our dollar is now worth .35 cents of a 1925 dollar; thus, this would be equivalent to a present day salary of, for one-judge counties, \$5,130 to \$5,700; and for two or more judges, \$6,840 to \$8,550. You can see that the Association has pushed for salaries that more than just kept pace with inflation.

However, the folio rate would be equivalent of a raise from 22.8 cents to 34.2 cents. Here is one area with room for improvement.

The 1925 convention ushered in the first speed competition. This test was opened to all reporters in the United States and consisted of four parts, each of three minutes duration:

Part A: solid, speed 150, transcript time 30 minutes;

Part B: solid, speed 175, transcript time 40 minutes;

Part C: charge to jury, speed 200, transcript time 50 minutes;

Part D: testimony, Q's and A's to be read and counted, speed 240, transcript time 60 minutes.

A speed certificate was awarded to any contestant qualifying at any one of the above speeds with 95 percent accuracy. The efficiency test, like our modern day Ohio cup, was to be awarded to the contestant who had the highest average on Parts B, C and D.

The 1926 convention went the efficiency test one better. That year the convention was held in Toledo, and the Toledo Bar Association president personally donated a 20-inch silver cup to be awarded to the reporter achieving the highest score in the efficiency test. He did this in recognition of the importance of court reporters and "to increase interest in the finesse of shorthand work."

Evidently, such a prize really dragged the reporters out of the woodwork, as the convention expected 200 reporters – no doubt an all-time high. It is interesting to read the early issues of "*The Buckeye Record*." When conventions were held, reporters came from all surrounding states and even sent telegrams of regret when they were unable to make it.

Alas, we shall never know whether an Ohio reporter won the silver cup or not, as here ends for twenty years the Ohio Record. It seems our members forgot the admonition that "the record never forgets." For twenty long years our history is shrouded in mystery forever silent as to the Association's deeds.

The 1940s

The state of the Association and reporting in general reflects the times of the country. The "Buckeye Record" as it is now known tells of many returning veterans re-entering the reporting field.

The "Buckeye Record" takes up with the report of the Twenty-Fifth Annual convention. It was decided not to label the convention "Twenty-Five Years of Progress," because as one reporter put it, he wasn't in favor of kidding ourselves to that extent.

What brought forth such a comment? Well, salaries for officials were unchanged; folio rates for court transcripts were unchanged from 1925. This is despite the war years inflation.

The OSRA got right down to business and started laying plans to correct the situation. Although it was 1949 before Association-backed legislation got through, the hard work and long hours by Association members had started.

Public relations between reporters and the public at large has always been of concern. Half-truths and partial information about reporters had led to situations in the past and the Association started stressing the need for good public relations in the future. As an example of how partial information can create bad public image, let's look at an article from the past.

“Remember all the unfortunate publicity that was attendant when the Legislature passed the bill making the appointment of official reporters mandatory in Cleveland Common Pleas Court. One story carried the startling information that in the past the reporters had been in the custom of charging \$16 per diem for their service, but the Legislature had put a stop to that nefarious business and now the reporters would be appointed by the Court and the litigants would be charged only \$4 per day.”

By the way, that sounds like fuzzy economics since they now charge litigants \$8 per day, which means divorce court with their many cases per day makes money off the reporters and common pleas loses money.

A real milestone for Ohio Municipal reporters was achieved in 1947 with the help of the Ohio Shorthand Reporters Association. An article from a Dayton Municipal Reporter expresses the situation and many of the Municipal Reporters' feelings very ably.

“I have contacted several OSRA members in the last six weeks for a little assistance on the bill which we municipal court reporters are trying to get through the Legislature in Columbus, whereby we will get the money for our transcripts, which up to now has gone into the City treasury (and which we feel isn't exactly cricket for the court reporters.)

“And I would like to mention right about now that I certainly have appreciated the prompt response and help I have received from the members contacted! But all of you have been so nice about plugging for it – and that includes Sano, Okay, Toll, Rachel, Sirdefield, Williams and a few others. I am definitely convinced that belonging to the OSRA is a very fine thing and am doing my best to impress some of the rest of the Dayton court reporters who have neglected to join it that they should.”

1947 saw another milestone for the Ohio reporters. It was the first time in history that Ohio topped the 100 mark in membership in the National Association.

The question of dues is perennially with us and in 1948, after much discussion, letters to the editor, convention debates, what have you, the dues were raised to \$8 per year.

For the newer OSRA members who might think ER has just recently reared its ugly head, don't you believe it. Way back in 1947 some attorneys were trying to take depositions and some hearing examiners were playing with recorders. Only then it was wire, now it's tape.

In fact, the OSRA '47 convention had a demonstration of sound recording. There was also some lively discussion about reporters' experiences with ER. One example that warms the cockles of the heart was the Akron experiment. It seems the ER company had a complete courtroom wired for sound, but when it came to functioning, it was so bad the judge got disgusted with the whole proceeding and threw it out.

On February 23, 1948, John Robert Gregg, age 80, inventor of the Gregg shorthand, system died. As an aside, this was about the time the stenotype machine became accepted as an “acceptable substitute” in the court reporting field, although “that black box” still engendered nervous misgivings in certain members of the Bar and judiciary.

The Forties ended with a resounding triumph for OSRA and its efforts to get salaries increased. Salaries for officials were increased to \$4,800, although whether to grant this magnificent sum was still at the discretion of the local judges. For example, Dayton, Ohio, was the last large city to allow the increase and then only to \$4,000.

After 24 years the folio rate at long, long last was increased from 12 cents to 25 cents. This compared to 27.5 cents per folio for US Government reporters and the War Department rates of 25 cents per folio.

Naturally, OSRA members were jubilant over their success, but still vigilant. It is not just passing bills to increase salaries that promotes reporter welfare; it is also watching to make sure detrimental bills do not pass.

Well, sure enough, two short years after the Association helped to pass the bill allowing municipal reporters to charge and keep receipts from transcripts, somebody introduces a bill that would have eliminated transcript fees for municipal reporters. The OSRA Legislative Committee caught that gem, and it was defeated.

All in all, the Forties was a decade of real progress for OSRA.

The 1950s

The OSRA is not all work. Conventions were getting “bigger and better” and good friends were being made. One side benefit one member mentioned was being able to call reporters in other cities personally when setting up out-of-town depositions for a favorite client. Another was happy to have joined OSRA because a recent change of jobs was facilitated by a few contacts around the state.

But the Association got down to brass tacks and started laying plans for further legislation. Previously bills had been introduced for a CSR bill and a statewide notary bill. Although unsuccessful in the past, members were bound and determined to “get it through” this time – and think of all the experience they had. The Legislative Committee had gotten things down to such a science they knew it took \$5,000 per successful bill.

The January 1951 session was the target for introduction of two bills. Everything went according to schedule: Bills introduced, reporters dropped everything to race to Columbus to testify at the critical moment, legislators were buttonholed at strategic moments, statistics presented, information sent – everything.

Finally, in June 1951 both houses passed the long-awaited dream and hard-fought battle for a statewide notary and CSR. The governor signed into law the statewide notary bill; but as all reporters know, in his all-seeing wisdom vetoed the CSR. This by the way is the closest OSRA has ever gotten to enacting a CSR bill into law.

Still, the Association was very proud of the statewide notary bill; because it marked the first time a bill had been signed into law that especially benefited the freelancers.

1951 saw the Association growing in numbers. Now we were 148.

During the early Fifties, another push for an increase in rates was being organized. This entailed digging into the background of other raises. Part of the background developed from a judge of the Seventh District Court of Appeals was that the support for the 1943 raise was because they felt reporters should be compensated for the 1941 requirement that county officials were, for the first time, required to pay National income taxes.

1952 and Pengad introduced erasable paper to the court reporting field. While not exactly OSRA history, it certainly deserves mention. Few things have done so much to lighten the reporter's load and ease the burden of transcripts than this boon to reporters and transcribers.

In 1955, the membership stood at 140 and the association won a major victory in the passage of SB 37, a salary and transcript bill affecting official reporters.

In 1957, the association's bank balance was \$1,150.62. The association maintained a "Rates and Charges Committee" to monitor the amounts court reporters received.

In 1958, the total receipts for the year were \$1,222.50 and expenses were \$542.88.

In 1959, it was voted to raise the dues from \$8 to \$10. There were 106 paid members, and HB 365 providing a ceiling of \$6,000 per annum for court reporters was passed. The bank balance had risen to a high of \$2,692.75 and the board unanimously approved opening a savings account in the amount of \$500.

The 1960s

ER was – and of course still is – a problem of growing concern in the 60s. Now the problem is not just ER sneaking in the back door; but courts desperate for a record – any kind of a record to comply with the law – trying to use tape recorders when no competent reporter was available. The 1960s brought this serious problem home to Ohio reporters as we began to see judges install tape recorders because they were unable to find a court reporter.

In 1961, the name of the newsletter was officially changed to *The Buckeye Record* and a pocket-size membership directory was approved.

In March 1962 the OSRA had 151 paid-up members – an all-time high. It was reported that the cost of the December issue of the newsletter was \$34.85. The 1962 convention saw the institution of the Spark Award to honor OSRA members who have been outstanding members and given much of themselves for the benefit of other reporters in our State. The recipients of the "Spark Award" were Ira Pratte, Jane Hur and Rus Williams.

The November 1963 of *The Buckeye Record* carries the case of Einstein vs. Friedman from Cuyahoga County wherein the Court refused to permit a tape recording at a deposition – on the grounds it could be used for broadcasting of judicial proceedings and therefore not under the control of the Court yet! Oh, well, any port in a storm will do.

In 1965, the dues were officially raised to \$15 a year and the cost for printing 4 issues of *The Buckeye Record* was \$378.

A major – and lasting – salary victory was won in 1965 when OSRA-backed legislation was signed into law lifting the salary ceiling for official court reporters. At last, no longer would reporters have to go hat in hand to the Legislature to plead for permission even to ask for a raise. From here on out, it was a matter for the local courts to work out.

Well, the Ohio reporters and OSRA threw in the towel finally on passing a bill for CSR. More than one fight had been waged in a futile fight for CSR. But, realizing the importance and need for CSR, OSRA got to work on setting up a CSR Board controlled entirely by the reporters. Since all of you are now under the system, there is no need to go into its workings. But just remember, some day yet we may be able to enact CSR into law.

In 1966, the association had savings in the amount of \$5,316.59.

In 1967, there were 160 paid members in the association and a total of 287 reporters accounted for in Ohio.

As of May 1968, the paid membership had grown to 196 and the association showed a net worth of \$10,499.33. Substantial amendments were made to the association's bylaws.

July 1969: The Association geared up to fight a bill that would allow electronic recording in the courtroom. The happy announcement was made at the January mid-year meeting that we were able to defeat the section of the bill dealing with the issue of electrical recording in Juvenile Court.

Many OSRA members, both past and present, really deserve special mention for the outstanding work they have done on behalf of the Association and all court reporters in Ohio. Your historian omitted using any names because, frankly, to make the decision who should be mentioned is too Herculean a task.

However, I would like to end the OSRA history with a quote from a 1951 article by the then OSRA president, because it is just as timely now as it was twenty years ago.

“The question has been asked of me: ‘What are the advantages to a single reporter, or a particular group of reporters, in being a member of OSRA?’ In that connection I should like to say that any benefits secured for any one reporter or group of reporters cannot but be helpful to all reporters. For example, if a reporter in the Common Pleas Court gets a raise, then reporters in the Municipal Court in that town have a strong case to present for a similar increase – certainly a much stronger case than they would have if the Common Pleas Reporters had not received an increase, and vice versa; and in either case, freelance reporters are in better position to get increased rates. Or if reporters in Akron and Cleveland secure benefits, that gives those in Canton and Mansfield a better chance to get them. To state it conversely – How could Municipal Reporters or Common Pleas Reporters in Mansfield expect to get, say \$3,600 in salary if the Common Pleas Reporters in Akron, Columbus or Cleveland were getting only \$2,400? The same thing carries over into the national picture. If reporters in neighboring states are getting better rates than we are in Ohio, then it gives us a much better argument to get ours raised.”

Think about the above. It is as timely today as twenty years ago. In short, we must realize we are all going to sink or swim together, and it's a lot more fun to swim.

The 1970s

This was a decade of change for the then “Ohio Shorthand Reporters Association.” Many administrative, image and cost-effective measures would be taken as costs rose and exposure increased in a world of impending technology. The main controversial subject continued to be video tape recording.

The board approved sending delegates to the National Shorthand Reporters Association convention including the payment of their transportation, lodging and registration fees.

In 1974, the NSRA proficiency test was conducted at Clark Technical College with Millie Stocksdale and Dennis Hagestrom providing practice dictation. A seminar conducted at the annual convention drew 15 registrants who received a copy of the *Ohio Deposition Form Book*.

A constitutional amendment allowing teachers of court reporting to become members was passed in 1975. The associated member dues were \$15.

The name of the “Spark Award” was changed to the “Martin Fincun Award” and presented posthumously to Martin Fincun in 1975.

A committee was also appointed in 1975 to study and evaluate computer-assisted transcription.

Up until 1975, copies of *The Buckeye Record* were sent to non-members. It was agreed to stop this practice and only send it to paid members and court reporting schools.

A Continuing Education Committee was appointed in 1975 for the first time. It was this committee’s charge to coordinate the association’s seminars and apply to NSRA for RPR point accreditation.

In 1976, the membership committee’s major accomplishment was the first-time printing of the Registry of Reporters in Ohio in the Ohio Legal Directory. Twenty years later, this information continued to be printed in the directory on an annual basis.

The attendance for the 1976 Midyear meeting was 235.

President Glenn Stiles, in his address at the 1976 convention, closed with the words – “Whether you are a reporter of past or current generation, you must be cognizant of significant trends that are taking place. The most effective way is through an association.”

On September 1, 1976, the association was incorporated by the State of Ohio.

On September 25, 1976, the board approved the hiring of Gene P. King as Executive Director of OSRA subject to ratification of the membership.

On that same date, the board approved sending representatives to NSRA’s Leadership Conferences and obtaining liability insurance for the officers of the association.

In 1977, the membership dues were \$25; associate dues \$15 and student member dues were at \$10.

On April 16, 1977, the membership ratified the hiring of Gene P. King as Executive Director.

The 1977 membership was 300 with only 15 delinquent members. The board approved an amended constitution and bylaws.

The “new look” *Buckeye Record* was launched in 1977 (a booklet form) with pictures and advertising.

On September 17, 1977, the board moved to apply for affiliation status with NSRA.

In 1978, major public relations strides were made by sending OSRA directories to members of the Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers and the Ohio Defense Association. The district representatives served as liaisons to local bar associations by educating them on the RPR designation. (Note: Mary Jones was the Public Relations Chair.)

President Chuck Bermelin, in 1978, outlining the accomplishments for the past two years, stated some startling statistics in addition to the above:

Membership growth to over 300 members.

Testing of over 600 applicants of RPR/CM.

Enactment of a new Constitution and Bylaws making Ohio one of the first three state associations to become affiliated with NSRA.

Conduct of three student seminars with over 400 attendees.

Publication of 8 issues of *The Buckeye Record*.

Conduct of four RPR seminars.

As a historical note, it was reported in the fall 1978 *Buckeye Record* that the Ohio Supreme Court was studying the issue of allowing cameras and tape recorders in courtrooms at all levels on a regular basis.

In 1979, the format of *The Buckeye Record* was changed back to a newsletter due to the extensive cost of the magazine format. As you read on, this format did not last long.

The 1980s

OSRA enters the technological age

“Computer technology is our future and it is of the utmost importance that the small reporter take the long and hard leap and gain the technological expertise that will insure a secure tomorrow.” (Doug Ackerman, OSRA President, Fall 1987)

What did we tell you! *The Buckeye Record* became a booklet-type publication once more, however later in 1980, *The Buckeye Record*, as we now know it, was launched with its familiar multi-page newsletter look.

Efforts were made to secure “CSR” through the Ohio Supreme Court “Rules of Superintendence.” This effort was spearheaded by none other than Rosalie Stevens.

Dennis Hagestrom, in his “thank-you message” in the summer 1980 edition of *The Buckeye Record*, stated his presidency would “be warmly remembered by me as a learning experience that could not have been gained in ten years of reporting and just general living.” Little did he know he would be back in the driver’s seat in a few more years.

Also in that issue was an article by Millie Stocksdales entitled "Some Facts About The History of Shorthand." A copy is appended to this document.

In 1981, a comprehensive midyear seminar was held on CAT. The speakers included Chief Justice Frank Celebrezze.

In February 1982, after the untimely death of Glenn Stiles, the Distinguished Service Award was renamed the Glenn W. Stiles, Jr. Distinguished Service Award in his memory.

OSRA, on November 18, 1982, under President Marilyn Hall, sponsored a Bench and Bar luncheon bringing together representatives from OSRA, bar associations, paralegal groups, the Court Administrators Association, the Ohio Judicial Conference and the Ohio Supreme Court. This started what was to become an annual event for many years.

Tom Runfola won the election for First Vice-President of NCRA in 1983.

On April 15, 1983, Glenn W. Stiles, Jr. was posthumously awarded the Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers' "Outstanding Public Employee Award." Judge Robert D. Walker of Hancock County Common Pleas Court accepted the award to be hung in Courtroom No. 1.

In 1984, OSRA won a major legislative victory in defeating HB 244 (an amendment to ORC Sec. 119.03(c), which would have allowed state agencies to use electronic recording for hearings.

The Public Relations Committee started a program of sponsoring booths at the Ohio State Bar conventions in 1984.

Also, in 1984, the Fund Raising Committee was started to offset the increasing costs of the association.

In 1985, Tom Runfola was installed as the 77th President of NSRA.

Effective July 1, 1985, the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 30(E) was changed. The change involved the signature time periods allowed on depositions.

In 1986, the dues were raised to \$75 and the membership stood at 463. OSRA unveiled their Pro Bono program.

In 1987, Melania Streski became the editor of *The Buckeye Record*. A job that she did so well – she was asked to return. Read on!

On April 22, 1988, OSRA sponsored a multi-state conference with the executive boards of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York. The purpose of the meeting was to compare notes on mutual problems – ER and video.

Realtime reporting was born.

On December 27, 1988, the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Reporting Department experienced a fire in its headquarters on the 10th floor of the Justice Center. The fire resulted in the loss of stenographic notes and exhibits for the years 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988.

Ohio launched its campaign to host NSRA's 1995 convention in Cleveland.

The Franklin County CIC contract was executed.

The 1989 Midyear Seminar drew an overwhelming 389 attendees.

The Cardinal Foundation was established.

A CSR proposal was submitted to the Ohio Supreme Court.

Chief Justice Moyer did the keynote address at the 1989 annual convention.

The 1990s

A time of transition

"The very word transition conjures many thoughts in our minds. It is a time of 'passing through'; a time of motion; a time of 'moving out of' and 'moving into.' So, we might say that any transition in life – a new job, a geographic move, a new government administration – holds three different types of opportunity for motion. 1. The motion can be neutral...2. The motion can be negative...3. Or the motion can be positive..." (Melania D. Streski, President, Summer 1990)
Well, we did it! Cleveland will host the NSRA Convention in 1995.

Justice Andy Douglas was the keynote speaker at the 1990 convention.

Terry Gimmellie retired as *The Buckeye Record* editor and Kim Collins took over.

The Cleveland Convention Committee was established to start fund raising for the NCRA '95 convention.

By the fall of 1991, we had officially changed our name to the Ohio Court Reporters Association.

An honorary membership category was established and Dominic Coccia was named the first honorary member. No more dues!!

Court Reporters On-Line via CompuServe.

In 1992, Kim Collins retired as *The Buckeye Record* editor and thoughtfully left us with a history of its publication in the Summer/Fall 1992 issue (appended to this document). Carol Hill became the new editor.

The Public Relations and Technology Committee got a round of applause for their work in 1992. They made a presentation at the Ohio Association of Court Referees and Magistrates Convention; participated in a Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas Judicial/Administrative Seminar; provided realtime writers for a series of statewide seminars conducted by the Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers and also provided realtime writers for a seminar on The Americans with Disabilities Act sponsored by the Ohio Judicial College.

One of our members, Carolyn Law of Sandusky, Ohio, made it into the movies – "The Shawshank Redemption" – playing what else "a court reporter."

1993 – a new Buckeye Record editor – Jodie Algarin.

NCRA changed their testing program designations to RPR, RMR and RDR, and started a CRR (Certified Realtime Reporter) category.

On Saturday, July 30, 1994, Bruce Matthews was installed as NCRA's 86th President.

NCRA established the new Core Curriculum system for CE points.

OCRA adopted a change in the state districts – going from 6 to 5.

The Policies and Procedures Committee was established to work on a training manual governing the responsibilities of the district representatives.

Melania Streski became *The Buckeye Record* editor again and set about “cutting the costs.”

The NCRA Convention in Cleveland was a roaring success with 1,494 reporters in attendance with 405 from Ohio.

The “Contracting Policy” was revisited by NCRA, and OCRA adopted their policy on March 16, 1996.

In a major victory for the court reporting profession, the US House and Senate approved HR 1225, the Court Reporter Fair Labor Amendment of 1995.

Another OCRA member became a celebrity – Rose Cannon of Toledo was chosen to carry the Olympic Torch in her hometown.

Rosalie Stevens became the 88th President of NCRA in July 1996.

The association has 355 members and a net worth of \$60,000. Where does OCRA go from here? Perhaps it is best summed up as follows:

“Now let's turn to the future, and what needs to be done. Ah, what dreams we have of having every reporter becoming a member of OCRA, then an RPR, than an RMR, then a CRR...New blood and new ideas are the lifeline of all organizations, and we are no exception.” (Pamela S. Spangler, President, fall 1995)

CHARTER MEMBERS

Miss Nettie Nulton	Zanesville
Miss Elsie Canby	Xenia
Mr. Claude M. Johnson	Akron
Mr. Fred W. Dellenberger	Youngstown
Mr. A.W. Keplinger	New Philadelphia
Mrs. Katherine Walsh	Portsmouth
Miss Woodie Chambers	McConnellsville
Mr. W.F. Copeland	Cincinnati
Mr. Rex Bracy	Norwalk
Mr. A.C. Armstrong	Columbus
Mr. Glenn P. Bracy	Fremont
Mr. Walter Watts	Elyria
Mr. Paul Wisenall	Cincinnati
Mr. J.F. Bean	Cincinnati
Mr. Walter Scott	Lima
Mr. Meade C. Robinson	Marysville
Mr. John M. Martin	Springfield
Mr. Charles J. Hall	Dayton
Mr. Frank I. Brown	Dayton
Mr. F.B. Hubbard	St. Clairsville
Mr. Frank Hackett	Toledo
Mr. Percy H. Howe	Toledo
Miss Julia S. Howard	Hamilton

LIFE MEMBERS

Russell Williams	1968
John Rohr	1968

HONORARY MEMBERS

Mae Glassbrenner	1971
Frances Day Lee	1978
Walter Lee	1978
John Rohr	1978
Ed Hammock	1978
Audrey Woods	1980
Maurice H. Corcoran	1981
Dominic Coccia	1991
Marilyn Hall	1991
Ira Pratte	1991
Roy Bonham	1992
Mary Helen Swope	1992
Gail Maddox	1993
Sidney Gantverg	1996
Rhoda S. Weiner	1998
Dennis Hagestrom	2006

PAST ANNUAL CONVENTION SITES

1 st	1920	Columbus
2 nd	1921	Niagara Falls, NY
3 rd	1922	Toledo
4 th	1923	Indian Lake
5 th	1924	Dayton
6 th	1925	Cleveland
7 th	1926	Toledo (Ohio, Michigan and Indiana)
8 th	1927	Akron
9 th	1928	Columbus
10 th	1929	Cedar Point
11 th	1930	Parkersburg, WV (Ohio and West Virginia)
12 th	1931	Dayton
13 th	1932	Cleveland
14 th	1933	Wheeling, WV (Ohio and West Virginia)
15 th	1934	Columbus
16 th	1935	Columbus
17 th	1936	Cleveland
18 th	1937	Cedar Point
19 th	1938	Cleveland
20 th	1939	Columbus
21 st	1940	Cincinnati
22 nd	1941	Cleveland
23 rd	1943	Columbus
24 th	1944	Akron
25 th	1946	Columbus
26 th	1947	Youngstown
27 th	1948	Dayton
28 th	1949	Cleveland
29 th	1950	Toledo
30 th	1951	Cincinnati
31 st	1952	Akron
32 nd	1953	Cleveland
33 rd	1954	Cleveland
34 th	1955	Columbus
35 th	1956	Columbus
36 th	1957	Akron
37 th	1958	Cincinnati
38 th	1959	Cleveland
39 th	1960	Youngstown
40 th	1961	Dayton
41 st	1962	Columbus
42 nd	1963	Toledo
43 rd	1964	Akron
44 th	1965	Cincinnati
45 th	1966	Youngstown
46 th	1967	Cleveland
47 th	1968	Dayton

48 th	1969	Columbus
49 th	1970	Toledo
50 th	1971	Cincinnati
51 st	1972	Canton
52 nd	1973	Cleveland
53 rd	1974	Hueston Woods (Dayton Reporters)
54 th	1975	Columbus
55 th	1976	Toledo
56 th	1977	Cincinnati
57 th	1978	Canton
58 th	1979	Cincinnati
59 th	1980	Cleveland
60 th	1981	Columbus
61 st	1982	Toledo
62 nd	1983	Cincinnati
63 rd	1984	Warren
64 th	1985	Akron
65 th	1986	Dayton
66 th	1987	Toledo
67 th	1988	Independence (Cleveland)
68 th	1989	Columbus
69 th	1990	Columbus
70 th	1991	Columbus
71 st	1992	Columbus
72 nd	1993	Columbus
73 rd	1994	Dublin (Columbus)
74 th	1995	Worthington (Columbus)
75 th	1996	Columbus
76 th	1997	Columbus
77 th	1998	Dublin (Columbus)
78 th	1999	Columbus
79 th	2000	Columbus
80 th	2001	Worthington (Columbus)
81 st	2002	Dublin (Columbus)
82 nd	2003	Independence (Cleveland)
83 rd	2004	Columbus
84 th	2005	Columbus
85 th	2006	Columbus
86 th	2007	Columbus
87 th	2008	Columbus
88 th	2009	Columbus
89 th	2010	Columbus
90 th	2011	Columbus
91 st	2012	Columbus

Some Facts About the History of Shorthand

Contributed by Millie Stocksedale

Every day across the United States and throughout the world, thousands of people write thousands of words in one shorthand system or another. Have you ever wondered about how shorthand began, and what some of its roots were? The following facts about the history of shorthand were provided Millie Stocksedale, and are reprinted with the permission of Adeline Womack.

We do not know the actual date when shorthand began, but the oldest known shorthand inscription can be found upon a stone from the Acropolis at Athens about 500 B.C. We can assume that some system of shorthand began in ancient Greece, and was carried to Egypt, where shorthand writing was an honored profession. From Greece, the art was carried to Rome, where the debates of the Roman Senate were reported. Shorthand writers of that day used wax tablets upon which to record their symbols.

History reveals that in those days, if a shorthand-writing slave did not know his job, his finger tendons were cut off. Others had abbreviations they could not remember branded on their foreheads, and others, who had taken down forbidden speeches, had their right hands cut off.

During the time of Julius Caesar, several shorthand writers were used, who took down groups of six or eight words each, each writer taking his turn in the reporting of speeches made by orators and testimony at trials, thereafter getting together and connecting the sentences. It is believed that the trial of Jesus was thus reported.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, the Tironian system of shorthand survived for several centuries. It was revived during the Reformation (16th Century), and it is believed that conventional pencil shorthand may have had its origin in a system written and published in 1602 by John Willis of England.

Both Pitman and Gregg shorthand were developed in England during the 1800's. Benn Pitman, who introduced his brother Isaac's system of shorthand in the United States, was born in England in 1822, and came to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1853, residing there until his death in 1910.

Buckeye Record Has Long History

By Kimberlee A. Collins, RPR-CM

This being my last issue serving as editor prompted me to think about the history of The Buckeye Record. How did The Buckeye Record get started anyway? When was it first printed? How often was it printed? Who have been the past editors?

I called our long-time trusted historian, Charles T. Bermelin, of Cleveland. He was kind enough to gather the following information for me, and I would like to share it with you...

The first record of having a "Buckeye Record," and not called at the time the "Buckeye Record," was an OSRA "Bulletin Number One – 1924-1925" from the President of OSRA, E.A. Reilender from Cleveland, Ohio. It was also "issued every once in a while." That was written October 15, 1924. The second "Bulletin" was issued December 1, 1924. The last "Bulletin," which was Number Six, was issued on July 15, 1926. The President at that time was Leo M. Fox of Toledo. Between the years 1926 and 1946, we do not have any records of any issues.

The next record of a "Buckeye Record" was what we have, and called "The Record," also published periodically, and this was in November of 1946. Rachel M. Smith of Steubenville, Ohio, edited this Record. The next editor was M.W. McKelvey from Cincinnati, Ohio; the year, 1948, and it was called "The Record." The next editor was Ruth Woods Yadon from Dayton, Ohio; the year 1950; also called "The Record." The first indication of "The Buckeye Record" was the April 1961 edition, which was the third edition of the revised "Buckeye Record." This was edited by Jane B. Hur of Dayton, Ohio, and published by Dorothy Gaylor of Akron. The year, 1961, Volume No. III. The cost of the December 1962 Buckeye Record was \$34.85.

The next editor for The Buckeye Record was Mildred Stocksdale of Springfield, Ohio; the year 1965. The next editor of The Buckeye Record was Hoyte M. Flowers of Cleveland, Ohio; the year 1967-68.

1973 M. Jean Fritsch became editor, from Columbus, along with 4 co-editors and 5 associated editors.

1974-75 Mildred Stocksdale and Gail Maddox became editors from Springfield.

1976-77 The "New" Buckeye Record was established, and the editor was Christine Runfola from Columbus, with 5 associate editors.

1978-79 Linda Astuto was editor from Cleveland.

1981 Nicholas A. Marrone, Jr. from Columbus became the editor.

1981-82 Scott N. Gamertsfelder from Toledo became editor.

1983-84 The editors were Linda A. Astuto and Judith A. Broquet from Cleveland.

1985 Judith A. Broquet, of Cleveland, became editor

1986 Loanna Tretter and Joan M. Woener became editors.

1987-88 Melania D. Streski of Martins Ferry became editor.

1988-90 Terry D. Gimmellie of Cleveland became editor

1990-92 Kimberlee A. Collins of Toledo became editor and Sandra Corpe became advertising coordinator.

From 1965 to the present there have been four issues published each year, winter, spring, summer and fall issues. There might have been one of two years when only three issues were published.