

The Buckeye Record

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Honoring America's Veterans

And much more...



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WINTER 2024 BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATES

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

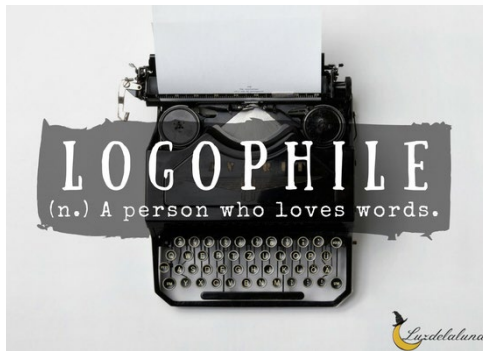
April 5-7, 2024

Marriott Cleveland East
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April 4-6, 2025

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The Buckeye Record

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OHIO COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

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RPR

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COMMUNICATIONS/ THE BUCKEYE RECORD

Allison Kimmel,
FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

CONTEST - HAGESTROM CUP SPEED

Lin Riffle,
RDR, CRR, CRC

CONTEST - KAROSCIK REALTIME

Lin Riffle,
RDR, CRR, CRC

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Cindy LaRosa,
RPR, CRI

FUNDRAISING (GENERAL COMMITTEE)

Vacant

FUNDRAISING (SILENT AUCTION)

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STUDENT RELATIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Vacant

OCRA LIAISONS

SUPREME COURT LIAISON

Doug Bettis

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Susan Coots, RPR



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Let's get 2024 off to a great start!

One of my main goals this year was to contact high school guidance counselors to raise awareness about our careers, try to recruit new students, and set up opportunities to attend Career Days and Job Fairs. Many other state associations have great relationships with their guidance counselors associations and, I would love for OCRA to get our foot in the door with ours. I can think of no better place to start than middle and high school.

So, on October 17th and 18th, Ann Ford, Lin Riffle, and I attended the All Ohio Counselors Conference in Columbus and met guidance counselors from around the state,



many of whom had never heard of the court reporting career field and had no idea how those captions appeared on their TV screens.

We had so many visitors and most of them were interested in introducing our careers to their students. I hope that, once we start receiving Career Day information from the counselors that we spoke with, we'll have a lot of events to attend.

This is where you come in! We will need volunteers who want to visit high school and career centers around Ohio.



Ohio Court Reporters Association

Real People. Real Quality. Realtime.

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info@ocraonline.com | (614) 300-0906



Left Photo of Ann Ford, Lin Riffle, and Susan Coots attending the All Ohio Counselors Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

If you are interested in helping at one of these events, please contact Sarah or me. We would love to have your help! You never know when your personal story may encourage someone to check out the A to Z Program and enroll in reporting school.

As of right now, we are planning a session at our April 2024 Conference centered around making presentations to students and parents so we can all be on the same page. I hope you'll attend and then plan to donate a day to our profession by volunteering to join us for a Career Day.

I love the quote, "Bloom where you're planted." I've applied that sentiment in many different aspects of my life. We all have special talents and gifts. On that note, check out Lin Riffle's

awesome steno cookies she made for the Counselors Conference. They were delicious and a great conversation starter!

I would encourage everyone to take the time to read through the **NCRA STRONG** Committee's recently published White Paper. If there was ever any doubt that we are the Gold Standard, this paper will put your mind at ease. Many thanks to the STRONG Committee for their work on this project.

A very special thank you to our **Ohio STRONG** members: Sue Terry, Doug Bettis, Kim Falgiani, Lin Riffle, and Lisa Migliore-Black (KY) – I claim Lisa for Ohio - for your work on this paper and your dedication to educating courts and counsel about the pitfalls and consequences of using AI and ASR.

And, check out the Elevator Pitches article. I can't tell you how many times I've heard, "Oh, you still do it the old-fashioned way." Keep these handy, maybe even print some copies, and hand them to the next person who calls us "old-fashioned."

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in April when we head to Cleveland for our Annual Conference. Cindy LaRosa's theme, "Between The Shadows," sounds intriguing and I'm sure it will be packed with great sessions and information.

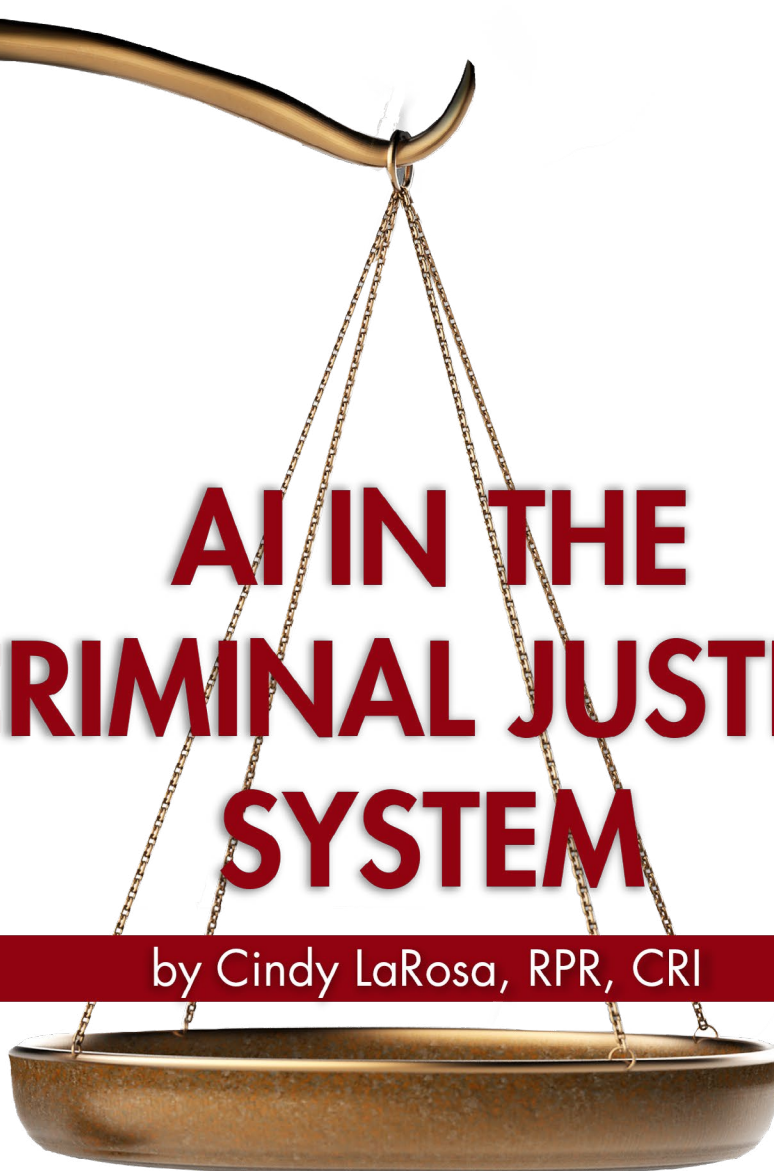
In the meantime, I wish you **HEALTH, WEALTH, and HAPPINESS** as we begin a new year!



If you would like to read the NCRA's *White Paper*, please click the link [here](#); or if you would like to read the joint response from both the OCRA and NCRA, please click [here](#).

AI IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

by Cindy LaRosa, RPR, CRI



After reading NCRA's response to Artificial Intelligence being used for transcript production, I was reminded of how biased the AI systems can be. Not only would it cause great harm to our profession and our high standards of capturing the record, but also there is typically inherent bias in the datasets used to train AI systems that would unfairly impact certain groups or individuals.

AI is currently a hot topic, and there are many examples of AI's applications.

AI is just technology. It is great for large dataset manipulation, such as compiling data, collecting statistics, and record-keeping, but it is not great in making decisions.

There are speed cameras and license plate reading cameras in traffic monitoring. AI has been developed to detect and process low-level, degraded, or decades-old DNA evidence. Mixtures from multiple contributors using smaller amounts of DNA can now be detected.

AI is being used in crime solving. Algorithms are being developed to either detect a crime in progress or aid in the investigation. Applications for

criminal justice allows for a means to reconstruct a crime scene, assist in ballistics with scene geometry, identify where gunshots were fired, and assign specific shots to specific firearms.

All of these applications can assist law enforcement in their investigations by analyzing existing evidence. However, using AI to help forecast possible outcomes in other areas of criminal justice can have a more disturbing effect. Bias in the data can play a role in the predictive analysis of crime forecasting.

A report by the National Institute of Standards and Technology revealed problems with facial recognition software. The algorithm created more false positive results when it evaluated images of Black women. As a result, some cities, such as San Francisco, banned the use of AI facial recognition because it only provided slightly better than 50 percent accuracy.

Legal challenges arise when there is an overreliance on AI. For example, AI has been used to assist the courts to decrease incarceration rates by being more selective with imprisonment. AI algorithms are trained on data, but unfortunately data can be

tainted by so-called "dirty data." AI data can therefore have unintended consequences such as compromising the integrity of the legal system by exacerbating existing biases.

An example of exacerbating existing biases is the Department of Justice's 2010 investigation of the New Orleans Police Department. It was found that there were repeated constitutional and federal law violations specifically concerning the use of excessive force disproportionately against people of color, minorities, non-English speakers, LGBTQ individuals, and their failure to address violence against women.

The algorithm developers formulated AI to make decisions based on tainted data which was inaccurate historical data of arrest records and police reports.

**"AI CANNOT
OPERATE IN A REALM
OF DISCRETION NOR
COMPETE WITH HUMAN
FEELINGS IN WRITING
THESE REPORTS."**



This inaccurate data creates a biased and an inaccurate forecasting tool predicting recidivism rates of defendants.

Another example is a study of the COMPAS risk-assessment tool performed by ProPublica in 2016 which found some startling results. "Analyzing the risk scores of over 7,000 people arrested in Broward County, Florida, ProPublica's report found that within two years of their arrests, only 20 percent of the people predicted to commit violent crimes actually went on to do so."

Further, the algorithm appeared to exhibit bias, falsely flagging Black defendants as future criminals at almost twice the rate of white defendants. AI was actually exacerbating the existing racial and socioeconomic injustices.

AI-written police reports presenting just the facts in rapes and violence against women cases showed most of the cases never made it to trial. Police reports written by law enforcement professionals who have had years of experience and expertise were presented to prosecutors, and many of those cases ended up going to trial. The work done by detectives was time consuming, but it was better

written than AI ever could because they included the pain, terror, and fear the victims experienced. AI **CANNOT** operate in a realm of discretion nor compete with human feelings in writing these reports.

The research was done by Professor Rachel Lovell, who published in the September 2023 issue of the Journal of Criminal Justice. She used a computer to analyze thousands of incident reports written by Cleveland police officers over two decades in response to sexual assault.

**"IF AI IS PLACED IN A
DECISION-MAKING ROLE,
IT WILL FAIL MISERABLY. "**

Lovell specifically programmed the computer to compile data measuring officer bias in report writing. The algorithms evaluated the language used in the reports to predict which reports led to prosecutions and which ones failed. This criminal forecasting demonstrated how a computer can detect that the form of writing is crucial to the fate of a rape case.

Using AI in this manner as a tool can help officers write better reports which lead to prosecutions. AI was necessary for this study because even though a human has access to all of these reports, reading and coding would be an impossible task.

AI can be used for criminal justice to analyze data and discover patterns imperceptible to the human eye, but **NEVER** should AI be used in writing police reports.

The surprise Lovell found from her research was that the police reports that contained “just the facts” usually did not proceed well to prosecutions. If AI wrote police reports, the reports would be very objective with just facts. These reports failed in cases of rape and sexual assault as compared to the reports that were subjective with victim-centered language. The whole outcome of the case relied heavily on how well the initial report had been written, and the more subjective the report, the better the chance of prosecution.

It was found both officers and AI alike who write just the who, what, when, where and how with no opinions or details on the horror and terror of the assault **WERE NOT** successful in a prosecution, whereas incident

reports that conveyed the brutality by recording the personalized details from the victims were. More victim-centered reports really captured the sexual assaults. The role of human judgment cannot be underestimated, and AI **CANNOT** replace human judgment.

If AI is placed in a decision-making role, it will fail miserably. Socioeconomic inequities will be increased by AI with the algorithms based on “dirty data,” which is biased or poor historical data being used to predict criminal activity.

Artificial Intelligence is just a machine. It perceives and responds to its environment independently and performs tasks without human intelligence and decision-making processes. **WITHOUT** direct human intervention and the ability to “think,” biases, inaccuracies, and ethical concerns will abound. In the criminal justice system, this involves people’s lives and liberties at a great cost; therefore, its use beyond data analysis **SHOULD** be viewed with skepticism.

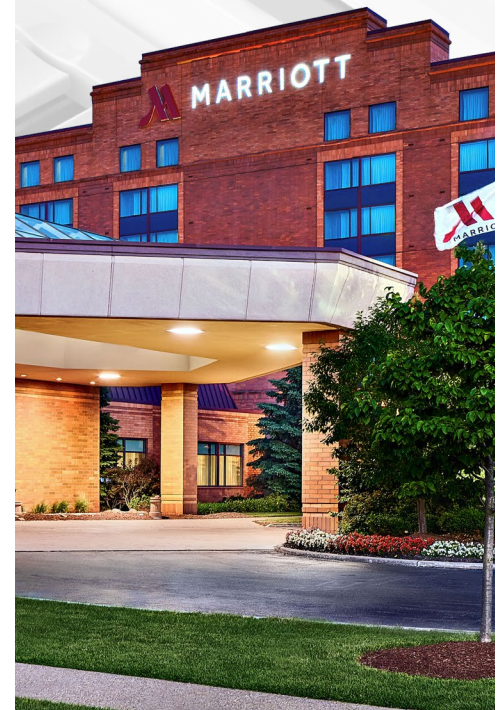
REGISTER TODAY!

APRIL 5-7, 2024

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The 2024 OCRA Annual Conference will be held
April 5-7 at the
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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A FUTURE IN CAPTIONING & COURT REPORTING?

The court reporting and captioning programs offered at the institutions listed on the National Court Reporters Association's Approved Schools and Programs site are committed to excellence in realtime reporting and captioning education and have met the [General Requirements and Minimum Standards](#) (GRMS) established by the Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) of the National Court Reporters Association, earning the right to describe themselves as NCRA-approved.

In order to achieve and maintain certification, these programs agree to periodic review by CASE to verify their continued adherence to the GRMS. NCRA is not an accrediting agency; however, all NCRA-approved court reporting programs are accredited by agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Each institution's transfer of credit policy is governed by the standards of the particular agency accrediting that institution. Individual State Departments of Education can be found [here](#).

NCRA - APPROVED SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS



OCRA does not endorse or recommend a specific school or program.

For general court reporting or captioning inquiries, please contact OCRA at ocraonline@gmail.com



ZOOMING THROUGH THE SHUTDOWN:

A TALE OF CAMARADERIE

by Lance A. Boardman, RDR, CRR



When COVID-19 hit, the world went into lockdown, and our lives were turned upside down. For those of us working as court reporters in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, the abrupt silence in the courtrooms left us feeling isolated. But out of the chaos and uncertainty emerged an unexpected silver lining - the Friday afternoon Zoom calls that brought us together in ways we never imagined.

It all started as a small idea by our fearless leader, Sarah Nageotte - an attempt to maintain some sense of normalcy in a world that had become anything but normal. Our Friday Zoom calls were meant to be a way to stay connected and unwind after a long week. Little did we know that these virtual hangouts would evolve into something much more significant.

We fondly referred to them as "Friday afternoon happy hours,"

a chance to see each other's faces, share stories, and provide support during a trying time. As the weeks went by, these calls transformed into something truly remarkable. We discovered that we were not just colleagues; we had become friends and a close-knit team.

What began as a casual way to connect on a late Friday afternoon eventually extended well into the evening, sometimes even lasting into the early hours of the morning. These virtual gatherings became a unique bond among us. While much of the conversation revolved around the unique issues court reporters face very day, we also celebrated the births and milestones of grandbabies, mourned the loss of loved ones, and shared our challenges, our fears, our hopes, and our love for our families.

While not everyone could make it to every Zoom call, the sentiment

remained constant - we were there to support one another and find joy in the simple act of connecting. The "Friday Zoom tradition" became a lifeline during the uncertainty of the pandemic.

As the pandemic situation improved and the world started reopening, the Friday Zooms naturally became less frequent. But the impact remained. These calls had forged a bond that transcended the digital realm. We had become more than just coworkers; we had become friends who could lean on each other.

To keep the spirit alive, we decided to take our camaraderie to the next level. We now organize an annual weekend retreat, a time to step away from work and home for a little while and enjoy each other's company in person.

This retreat serves as a tangible reminder of the friendships that blossomed during the pandemic, and it's a tradition we eagerly look forward to.

Our story from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio serves as a reminder of the resilience of the human spirit during challenging times. It shows that even in the toughest of circumstances, we can find connection and build bonds even when physically separated. From virtual happy hours to in-person retreats, our journey exemplifies how adversity can lead to the formation of meaningful connections that extend beyond the workplace.

As we continue to navigate the uncertainties of the post-pandemic world, our story should serve as an inspiration. It reminds us that even in the most trying circumstances we can find silver linings and forge connections that make us stronger as individuals and as a team. Our experience serves as a reminder that, together, we can overcome any obstacle that life throws our way.



You can help to chart the way for OCRA and our entire profession here in Ohio.

Each member within OCRA is unique. Every member has their own story and background.

What's your special talent? Do you have a niche? Can you spare a few hours a month?

Not one person who volunteers has ever expressed regret for their contributions.

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE! GET INVOLVED IN YOUR PROFESSION AND ASSOCIATION!

[Contact OCRA today and fill out the Volunteer Form!](#)

An advertisement with a yellow background. On the left, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a yellow shirt, holds a red and white megaphone. To his right, the text "CALLING ALL OCRA MEMBERS!" is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, three questions are listed in white text: "Do **you** have an interest in writing?", "Is there something **you** want to write?", and "We're gathering articles to feature in the next issue of the Buckeye Record!". At the bottom, it says "If interested, please email us at ocraonline@gmail.com".

TOP FIVE REASONS TO SIGN UP FOR CONTESTS

5.

IT'S A GREAT CONVERSATION PIECE—

"Yes, stenographers have speed and accuracy contests."

3.

CREDITS—

For each contest leg that you qualify, you get .25 NCRA PDCs (maximum of 1.0 PDCs in a three-year cycle).

2.

TEST YOUR SKILLS—

You are practicing (right?) and improving your skills, which makes your everyday job easier.

(Hint: Write a contest like a job, not a test – no need for test day nerves!)

4.

AWARDS—

The certificates, medals and trophies make AWESOME Zoom backdrops.

1.

BE THE VERY BEST—

You are sitting among the best of the best in Ohio. Yes, it's a competition, but at the same time it's fun and the camaraderie is unbeatable.

See the OCRA website for eligibility requirements and other rules.

The Karoscik Realtime Contest and the Hagestrom Cup will once again be held at our annual conference in Beechwood in April.

I hope to see returning faces and some new ones.

If you've never participated in the contests or haven't in a few years, here's five great reasons to join us!

LIN RIFFLE,
CONTESTS COMMITTEE CHAIR





CAPTIONING CORNER

by Kim Falgiani, RDR, CRC, CRR, CSR

CAPTIONERS IN THE WILD

(OPEN CAPTIONS ON-SITE)

While working on an on-site Open Captions assignment this past year, one of the producers of the event, at the end of the multi-day conference, remarked that she had “never seen captioners in the wild before”! Each of us on site were very amused by the statement. In this article, I am suggesting what you need in your equipment bag for **CAPTIONING IN THE WILD**.

When contracted to provide open captions on site for a large audience, there are a few things you should be sure to pack away in your equipment bag; but first, there are some must-ask details before accepting the assignment:



IS THERE AN AUDIO-VIDEO/ AUDIO-VISUAL (AV) TEAM ON SITE?

If so, get the contact for that company up front so that you may confirm the following information.

HAS THIS COMPANY WORKED WITH A CAPTIONER BEFORE?

If so, your job will set up smoothly.

WHERE WILL YOUR CAPTIONS BE DISPLAYED?

WILL THERE BE A USE OF THE INTERNET TO STREAM EITHER ON SITE OR TO A DUAL LOCATION OR WILL THIS BE VIA A SCREENSHARE OF YOUR CART WINDOW?

Maybe both.

IF A SCREENSHARE, VIA HDMI?

IF IT IS INTERNET-BASED, AS IN STREAMTEXT, WILL THE INTERNET BE PROVIDED VIA HARDWIRE?

**IF THERE IS NO HARDWIRE,
WILL THE WIFI BE A
DEDICATED CONNECTION
FOR YOUR CAPTIONS OR
WILL THE GENERAL
AUDIENCE HAVE ACCESS
TO THAT CONNECTION,
AS WELL?**

HOW WILL AUDIO BE PROVIDED?

I request plugging into their soundboard.

WHO IS YOUR ON-SITE CONTACT?

WHEN WILL PREP BE PROVIDED?

Notice I did not ask "if" prep will be provided. I request prep be given not less than 72 hours (about 3 days) ahead of the event.

ASK WHETHER THERE WILL BE AN INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND LET THEM KNOW YOU WILL NEED THAT AS WELL.

WILL SCRIPTS BE PROVIDED?

DOES THE CLIENT WANT ALL CAPS OR MIXED CASE?

Those are some general information-gathering questions from your requester.

Once you have that information, you will need to ensure you have all the equipment you need to provide this service:

- A BACKUP OF ALL YOUR SOFTWARE/DICTIONARIES

Can be cloud-based or a hard drive.

- STENO MACHINE

Some writers take two when travelling out of the country. If travelling out of the country, be sure you have the proper plugs/outlets/power converters that will be needed.

- TWO COMPUTERS

My main computer is my current captioning computer. My backup computer is in case my main computer crashes and/or for doing prep on-site or displaying prep away from your captioning computer.

- PORTABLE MONITOR*

I work with multiple, large external monitors at home. Taking a portable monitor allows me:

- 1) Extra space for all software views;
- 2) A screen to use as a screenshare for AV, if screen sharing is your delivery.

Also, if there is a glitch in an expected CART window share, you can split your software on dual screens.





- PORTABLE TABLE*

Having a portable table always ensures you enough space to work or a space to work when what is provided is inadequate.

- NOISE-CANCELLING HEADPHONES

Eventually, you will be in an open space with a lot of noise. It is always best to have a noise-cancelling option for your audio. I always use noise-cancelling headphones on all my writes, remote and on site.

- ADAPTERS

1/4" audio adapter to convert your 1/8" headphone to a 1/4" connector in case that is what is available for audio. Plugging into the soundboard requires a 1/4" connector. Most, if not all, headphones are the standard 1/8" connector.

- AUDIO EXTENSION CORD

- PORTABLE AUDIO AMP*

An alternative to an audio extension cord to lengthen your headphone connection is to carry a portable audio amp.

AV can connect an XLR from the soundboard into your audio amp, and then the above-suggested audio adapter is probably not needed.

My audio amp has two ports to plug into. With a dual input setup, two captioners (when teaming an event) can use the same audio amp.

- HDMI CORD

- HDMI CONVERTER FOR YOUR DATA PORT

IF nowadays your computer does not have an HDMI port. If you do not have a data port, then be sure to have a USB to HDMI adapter.

- USB TO ETHERNET PORT FOR HARDWIRED, AND AN ETHERNET CORD

(This can be confirmed during initial information gathering if that will be needed.)

I find the RJ45 pull-out port unstable, so I use a USB to Ethernet adapter. Plus, it gives me extra USB ports.

- TAPE

Used to tape down cords. Gaffer's tape is an excellent choice, although I do also bring electrical tape because it is easier to remove. I always tape down my cords so they do not get pulled.

- SURGE PROTECTOR POWER STRIPS

Low profile is best, as well as different shapes.

- 3-TO-2 PLUG ADAPTERS

In the States, this is not usually an issue.

- EXTRA BATTERIES

For any equipment that uses batteries.

- FLASHLIGHT OR PEN LIGHT

I have a USB bendable light. Be cognizant of the brightness of the light and if it can be dimmed if necessary. Also, my computer now has a backlit keyboard, which helps.

- POWER CABLES FOR YOUR MACHINE AND LAPTOPS, INCLUDING YOUR REALTIME CABLES.


- MOUSE AND MOUSEPAD

- USB THUMB DRIVE

Both USB and USB-C

- CHAIR PAD

If you use a chair pad, pack it and take it. Each time I do not, I regret it!





All the accessories mentioned are available widely at your favorite tech store or online. I pack all these things and almost always use them. More than once, while teaming a job, at least someone has needed to use something I have packed.

***I DO NOT ENDORSE ANY ONE PRODUCT, BUT THESE WORK NICELY FOR ME:**

[The CR5 insTand](#)

[Rolls PM50s Personal Monitor Amplifier](#)

[Lenovo - L15 15.6" IPS LED FHD USB-C Portable Monitor](#)

See you next time in the next issue of the Buckeye Record!



COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

GRATITUDE, RESILIENCE, AND OUR PROFESSION

by Allison Kimmel, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

As we grow older and wiser, we come to a deeper appreciation for gratitude, especially for our loved ones and the blessings often overlooked. Through the holiday season, we are always reminded to count our blessings and to be thankful for them throughout the year. There is so much to be grateful for, even in times of frustration, challenge, and adversity.

We have a lot to be thankful for as stenographic court reporters. Our skills allow us to enjoy plentiful work and career opportunities in the legal arena and the Deaf and HoH community all around the world. It's wonderful to be part of such a talented and dedicated group of "guardians of the record."

Of course, our profession isn't without its own distinctive challenges. We've wrestled with those who attempt to influence the market into adopting digital technology as an alternative means of capturing the record in the legal environment and those who would believe AI is an effective alternative for speech-to-text needs.

But there's a silver lining: Members of both our state and national associations are actively addressing the legal and ethical issues related to the use of AI, ASR, voice cloning, and digital audio recording of legal proceedings without the presence of a stenographic court reporter. Their dedication is appreciated by all who work in this profession. These staunch advocates tirelessly engage with lawmakers and other decision-makers to ensure that our interests and perspectives are well-articulated and heard.

As we reflect on our blessings throughout the next year and the years that follow, remember to count our volunteers in OCRA and NCRA as a blessing.

We're all busy, with many obligations. These volunteers not only work on all fronts to support the profession, but they also continue to interact with decision-makers on key issues that affect the integrity of the record.



Let's not take our fellow members nor our professional trade associations for granted in their efforts to safeguard our profession. Their contributions are noteworthy and substantial. Our associations are more than avenues for CEUs and certifications.

Let's be thankful that we have OCRA and NCRA to help us navigate through these difficult issues with intelligence and wisdom. Together, we have a strong collective voice, and we are truly fortunate.





▶ LOVE STENO?

JOIN THE OHIO COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Being an OCRA member offers a streamlined way to enhance your skills, build connections, and contribute to the growth and advocacy of the court reporting and captioning professions in Ohio.

Professional Development:

Access education events for skill enhancement.

Community Service:

Participate in community outreach and service initiatives.

Networking:

Connection with peers, legal professionals, and industry experts.

Continuing Education:

Earn credits required for certifications and licenses.

Advocacy:

Benefit from OCRA's active advocacy for court reporters and captioners at the state level.

Job Placement Assistance:

Access job boards and career resources for employment opportunities.

Resource Access:

Enjoy exclusive resources and job listings.

Mentorship Programs:

Engage in mentorship for guidance and support.

Recognition:

Showcase your affiliation with OCRA for professional credibility.

Stay Informed:

Receive updates on industry news, events, and relevant information.

Leadership Opportunities:

Get involved in leadership roles within OCRA.

▶ For more information contact us at

614.300.0906 or check us out at
OCRAonline.com

Elevator Pitches

Contributed by Liz Harvey, Lin Riffle, and Lisa Migliore Black

"Why don't you just record things?"

Because it still has to be transcribed later by someone, and that process is inefficient and less secure. Even with advances in technology, it still takes four or more transcriptionists to do the same work as one stenographer can do in the same time frame. And when recordings are sent to multiple transcriptionists, who may be located anywhere in the world, the chances of errors increase.

More importantly, the security of your client's private and confidential information could be compromised. We always use good technology to make our jobs better and easier, but just recording things is old technology and a step backward, not forward.

"Aren't you worried you'll be out of a job?"

Not at all. Court reporters are early adopters of technology. Our writers are fully computerized. We have sophisticated software that utilizes the latest technology to instantly translate what we write into a readable transcript that requires minimal editing later.

While there are many advances in technology, no other system is even close to being able to replicate what we do. Problems with overlapping speech, dialects and accents and speech patterns and noisy environments cause unacceptably high error rates in recording systems, even utilizing the latest voice recognition.

Have you ever watched TV captioning that lags behind, misses entire exchanges, or contains nonsense? That's AI translation. When you see high quality captions, you're seeing a trained and skilled stenographer at work.

"Oh, you do it the old-fashioned way still?"

There's nothing old-fashioned about what we do.
Our writers are fully computerized.

We have software that enhances our skills to provide an instantaneous real-time transcript to anyone in the world, with higher accuracy rates than any voice recognition system currently in use. What's old-fashioned is simply recording proceedings and having to transcribe it later.

"Don't they just record that nowadays?"

They're trying, but they will never replace the human brain.

Have you ever run the closed captions on your TV?
Sometimes they're really bad?

That's when AI is doing the translating.
The ones that are really good, make sense, and provide true accessibility to the viewers are done by a human using the same equipment and software as a court stenographer.

If you're a litigant in a civil suit, a wrongfully accused defendant in a criminal matter, or you have a child custody issue, do you want a computer to "guess" at what is being said with predictive text? A highly trained professional stenographer that interrupts to clarify the record when necessary, has multiple backups, protects personal information and biometrics, and does a word-for-word review and certifies the final transcript is the better option.



“Wow, they still do it the old-fashioned way?”

I have an audio backup that I use as an aid to transcription. Say a prescription name was said on the record. I can listen to the audio to help me find the spelling.

What I don't do is release the audio to anyone or allow it to be sent via an unsecure connection over the Internet.

Think about how some banks use voice recognition to allow you to log in to your account information over the phone. Your voice is a biometric identifier and something you wouldn't want to be in the hands of just anybody who could use it in a nefarious manner to hack your account. Hopefully, laws and regulations will catch up to the technology and hopefully protect us.



“When are you all going to come into the Digital Age?”

Have been for years. I've been using computer-aided transcription since I started court reporting.

Realtime was a great advancement, allowing instant access to my draft transcript in the court or deposition room and now even remotely. My stenographic notes are watermarked with the time of creation and other metadata to protect the integrity of the record.

“What is digital reporting?”

If you’ve encountered digital reporters before, you should be concerned about how and where your transcript is being prepared.

Digital reporting may sound high tech, but the digital reporter is merely recording and making “tag notes,” not a full record of the proceedings. Digital reporters cannot keep up with the spoken word, and their tag notes are nothing more than a few words jotted down in haste, riddled with typos. Attorneys take more useful notes, quite frankly.

Digital reporting is nothing more than after-the-fact transcription that’s typically not typed up by the person recording it, making it far more likely that testimony will be missed or inaccurate. Additionally, the digital reporter who recorded the deposition is more than likely fraudulently certifying its accuracy without ever having seen the transcript in final written form. Essentially, there’s a good chance your transcript is being handled from start to finish by someone with little to no training or experience or true responsibility for the quality of the transcript produced.

If automated speech recognition is utilized to transcribe the proceedings, that comes with its own set of potential breaches of confidentiality. There’s the potential for interception as it’s uploaded to the cloud, and because the tech isn’t reliable or accurate enough alone, gig workers across the globe are tasked with transcribing it. Think of the personal information that most transcripts contain: name, address, date of birth, social security numbers, and names of family members—all things that could be sold on the black market for nefarious purposes. Couple that with the biometric data that is contained in a video or audio file, and you have all the ingredients needed to create a recipe for disaster in terms of identity theft. ASR also had well-documented gender, race, and age discrimination built into it because of the data used to build its algorithms. Speech recognition will continue to develop, but it’s simply not an experiment you should be willing to take with your case.



"I've heard there's a shortage of court reporters."


There's a shortage in a lot of fields:
veterinarians, electricians, the service industry, even transcriptionists.

For years, young adults have been steered toward traditional four-year degrees instead of considering a trade or business college program. NCRA has a program called A to Z that allows interested individuals, whether high schoolers or adults looking for a new career, to try out steno before they commit to a program.

Most students can graduate in two to three years.
If you're interested or know someone who is, I can give you some information.



Additional Bonus Tips:

- 1.** Keep it brief.
 - 2.** Practice, practice, practice.
 - 3.** Come with additional prepared materials.
 - 4.** Be positive and enthusiastic.
 - 5.** Vary the tone of your voice.
- 

HONOR FLIGHT 2023

HONORING AMERICAN VETERANS

by Donna Karoscik,
FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

There have been many stories of the Honor Flight on the news over the years. I always thought this was a wonderful concept, but I never quite “got it” until November 9th. Uncle Jack Bitzel, a member of the Army who served in Vietnam, was one of the 75 veterans on this particular flight. The airport was packed, standing room only, with about 2,500 family members and friends to welcome them home. You could barely hear the Columbus Pipes & Drums playing in the background behind all the cheers and applause. The emotions were overwhelming. They may have fought the enemy back then, but that night they fought back tears.

Veterans from all branches of the military were treated like kings and queens in Washington, D.C. They enjoyed a breakfast briefing, private tours of the monuments, and what Uncle Jack called a “fancy lunch.” After a dinner with 75 guests of honor, they boarded the plane for their final mission – heading home. The families of the Honor Flight could send mail to a specific address, then that mail was given to the veterans as they deplaned in Columbus.

The announcer said, especially during the Vietnam conflict, your two best friends in the military were the mailman and the cook; the cook, because you’d been in the jungle eating snakes and bugs for weeks, and the mailman, because he’d bring news from home. His actual words were “so you could find out if your wife/girlfriend was still around.”

Each person either walked or was pushed in a wheelchair through a long gauntlet of people, shaking hands as we welcomed them home and thanked them for their service. How fitting that this Honor Flight happened around Memorial Day.

NCRA’s Veterans History Project is another great way to give back to our veterans. Consider volunteering for a [VHP session](#). I have participated in a few, and it is an extremely rewarding experience which I highly recommend.



Stenographers and a videographer share with us their creative license plates and the stories behind them.



Kim Falgiani, RDR, CRR, CRC, also takes pride in her certificates. She started with “RMR CRC” and then “upgraded” when she got the RDR certification.

Amy Doman, RMR, CRR, says that since it gets dark in Indy at 5:00 p.m. in the winter, when one of the chivalrous attorneys escorts her to her car, they do ask about the license plate.

Maria Jones, RDR, CRR, decided to give herself a pat on the back for earning these designations. She says it’s fun to get other stenographers’ business cards on her windshield with a note. Sometimes people ask if her family’s last name begins with “R,” so she takes advantage of the opportunity to pitch reporting.



Angela Cugini is asked all the time what this personalized plate means. They don’t have our superpower of reading steno!

It’s a great opportunity to educate them about how certifications are earned and distinguish her from other methods that don’t involve creating a transcript live during the proceedings. Amy also says that it makes her a more friendly driver since her profession is right there for the world to see.

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A STENO-RELATED LICENSE PLATE WHEN YOU’RE OUT & ABOUT?

by Lin Riffle, RDR, CRR, CRC

DON’T FORGET TO WAVE, HONK, & LEAVE A NOTE!





Sarah Drown, RDR, CRR, has been asked many times since getting this plate in 2015 what it means. She says it's always funny to see the look on their face when she explains it to them.



Kathy Cathell, RDR, CRR, has had a couple of personalized plates. Sometimes she would be asked if "DEPO" was like Home Depot, but fellow reporters knew the true meaning.



For years, Mary Bradley, RPR, CRR, used a brief form for her vanity plate.



Sara Clark, RMR, CRR, CRC, loves steno but she lives steno too.



Janine Ferren, RMR, CRR, was excited to get her customized Indiana plate in January. Since she hasn't had it very long, it hasn't become a conversation starter – yet!



Mindy Sindiong, CLVS, incorporates her company name into her license plate: De Bene Esse, Latin meaning "In preparation for legal use."



Chris Duffield, RPR, also has a license plate frame that reads "Court Reporters always get the last word." Between that and the plate, a lot of people give her a thumbs-up driving by or will start a conversation by asking what she does.



Driving around Columbus, you might have seen J.T. Parish's proclamation.

**WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU? EDUCATION! INFORMATION!
POWER! CONNECTIONS! AND SO MUCH MORE!**

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

READY TO RENEW OR JOIN RIGHT NOW?

You may either use our secure server online or download a membership application and mail it to the address indicated.

PROFESSIONAL, ASSOCIATE, AND RETIRED MEMBERS

ARE YOU A FIRST-YEAR REPORTER OR CAPTIONER?

Use the online student membership renewal and choose the first-year reporter option for a discounted membership rate just for you!

Email info@ocraonline.com for more information or assistance.

**Online NEW
Membership Application
for Professional or
Associate or Retired
Members**

**Online RENEWAL
Membership for
Professional or Associate
or Retired Members**

**Online STUDENT
Membership Application
and/or Renewal**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF YOUR
ASSOCIATION RIGHT HERE AT HOME!**

WANTING TO/WANT TO

Previously, Steno Wizard has shared the strategy for “going to” TKPWOEU and “go to” TKPWAO. This successful method of phrasing is now being used for “wanting to” and “want to.”

Check these lovely phrases out!

Start with
Wanting To - WOEU

Then the endings -
Wanting to Say
- WOEUS

Wanting to See
- WOEUZ

Wanting to Work
- WOEURBG

Wanting to Show
- WOEURB

Wanting to Explain
- WOEUFPL

Wanting to Respond
- WOEURPD

Wanting to Ask
- WOEUFBG

Wanting to Be
- WOEUB

Wanting to Find
- WOEUFD

Wanting to Figure Out
- WOEUFGT

Wanting to Know
- WOEUPB

Wanting to Just -
WO*EUPBLG

Start with
Want To - WAO

Then the endings -
Want to Say
- WAOS

Want to See
- WAOZ

Want to Work
- WAORBG

Want to Show
- WAORB

Want to Explain
- WAOFPL

Want to Respond
- WAORPD

Want to Ask
- WAOFBG

Want to Be
- WAOB

Want to Find
- WAOFD

Want to Figure Out
- WAOFGT

Want to Know
- WAOPB

Want to Just
- WAO*PBLG

The possibilities
are **PHENOMENAL!**

Keep up with the latest news,
go to StenoWizard.Blogspot.com!





DISTRICT NEWS

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE
FROM DIRECTOR

JANIE BLAIR

The holidays are now behind us. It's always a busy time with family and friends. And as a freelancer, it's normally a time when attorneys are trying to get all their depositions in before the holidays.

My daughters have birthdays in October and November, so for me it normally happens with me buying "extra" for their birthdays and holding some over for the holidays and then buying a few more things to add to it.

Both of my daughters requested a family cookbook. I had ordered a wooden cookbook cover with "Blair Family Cookbook" on the front through Etsy. I didn't think it would arrive last Christmas, 2022, in time for Christmas

since they were coming from Ukraine and they were in the middle of a war.

Much to my surprise, the cookbooks arrived, but I ran out of time to get the pages finished.

My daughter asked me prior to Christmas 2023 if I was planning to do it for this Christmas. She said: "The people in Ukraine did their part, Mom. They shipped it to you during a war." True, true. So I'm hoping by the time this is published I have been able to accomplish this wonderful gift for my children and many generations to come!

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday with their family and friends. I always look forward to family time!



MEET & GREET AT FOREST CITY SHUFFLEBOARD

OCRA held a Meet and Greet January 11th at Forest City Shuffleboard for a social gathering with games, fun, food, and beverages.

As you can see to the right and below, **IT WAS A TOTAL ABSOLUTE BLAST!**
Everyone had a **GREAT** time!

You can visit their website: forestcityshuffle.com if you'd like to check out the venue for any fun ideas for a group or family event.



Is your area holding a Meet & Greet for OCRA? Wanting to let others know to join?
SHOW US HOW YOU HAVE FUN.

Send us an email at OCRAonline@gmail.com, and we'll put it in the next edition of the Buckeye Record!

OHIO COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

2024
Annual Conference

BETWEEN THE SHADOWS

Thriving in an Ever-Changing World

April 5-7, 2024
Cleveland Marriott East



1.5 CEUs Available
(Pending NCRA Approval)

Friday, April 5, 2024

.5 CEU

TIME	CEU	SEMINAR/TOPIC	LOCATION
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.		OCRA Board of Directors Meeting	Cleveland Room
10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.		Registration and Vendor Setup	Atrium
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.		Karoscik Realtime Contest Warmup (10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.) Contest (11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)	Salon V, VI
12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.		Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest Warmup (12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.) Contest and Transcription (12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)	Salon V, VI
		Lunch On Your Own	
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Session 1 .15 CEU	Future Outlook: Estate and Succession Planning Michael G. Riley, Esquire <i>Senior Of Counsel, McDonald Hopkins</i>	Salon I, II, III
2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.		Vendor and Refreshment Break	Atrium
2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Session 2 .15 CEU	Computers and Technology: Friend or Foe? Sarah Nageotte, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC	Salon I, II, III
4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.		Vendor and Refreshment Break	Atrium
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Session 3 .2 CEU	The Impact of A to Z and Career Days <i>Your Role in Expanding the Profession</i> Panel: Max Curry, Susan Coots, Sara Clark, Cindy LaRosa, Doug Bettis, and Ann Ford	Salon I, II, III
		Dinner On Your Own	

Saturday, April 6, 2024

.7 CEU

TIME	CEU	SEMINAR/TOPIC	LOCATION
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.		Registration and Breakfast	Atrium
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Session 4 .2 CEU	Domestic Terrorism: The Who, What, When, and Why Duncan T. Brown, Esquire <i>Northern District of Ohio Assistant United States Attorney</i>	Salon I, II, III
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.		Vendor, Silent Auction, and Refreshment Break	Atrium
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Session 5 .15 CEU	Maintain Control and Make It Count Adonis Hijaz, MD, Melody Loechler, BSN, RN, CN, CCRP, and Karen Connor, PT <i>University Hospitals Cleveland Urology Institute</i>	Salon I, II, III
12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.		2024 Business Meeting, Awards, and Luncheon <i>Plated Lunch Provided</i>	Salon IV, V, VI
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Session 6 .2 CEU	Empower Yourself <i>Situational Awareness and Self Defense</i> Will Ashcraft <i>Coach, Co-owner MPower Gym, 7th Degree Sr. Master (taekwondo)</i>	Salon I, II, III
4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.		Vendor, Silent Auction, and Refreshment Break	Atrium
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Session 7 .15 CEU	Steno Self-Improvement: Challenge Yourself Panel: Lance Boardman, Shirle Perkins, and Yolanda Walton	Salon I, II, III
6:00 p.m.		Hagestrom Cup Speed and Karoscik Realtime Contest Results	Salon I, II, III
6:00 p.m.		Silent Auction Ends	Atrium
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.		Submerge Yourself at the President's Reception <i>Dinner Provided / Cash Bar Available</i> Entertainment (Live Music)	Salon IV, V, VI

Sunday, April 7, 2024

.3 CEU

TIME	CEU	SEMINAR/TOPIC	LOCATION
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.		Breakfast	Atrium
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Session 8 .15 CEU	The Importance of Court Records in Shipwreck Research Kevin Magee and Cindy LaRosa <i>Cleveland Underwater Explorers (CLUE)</i>	Salon I, II, III
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.		Refreshment Break	Atrium
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Session 9 .15 CEU	Artificial What? Test Your Intelligence! <i>ChatGPT demonstration and update from NCRA STRONG</i> Panel: Sue Terry, Lin Riffle, Kim Falgiani, and Doug Bettis	Salon I, II, III

OCRA Fundraising Lineup

For a full list of sponsorship and/or exhibitor opportunities, please visit www.OCRAonline.com.
Conference sponsorships are available and appreciated at any level, including:

Event and Session Sponsors

Speaker(s)	\$150
Refreshment and Vendor Break(s)	\$250
Breakfast(s)	\$350
Contest(s)	\$400
Silent Auction	\$450
Saturday Luncheon and Business Meeting	\$550
Submerge Yourself Saturday Reception	\$750

Annual Conference General Sponsors

Totality Level	\$1,000 +
Halo Level	\$500 - \$999
Flare Level	\$250 - \$499
Bright Level	\$100 - \$249
Aurora Level	\$1 - \$99
Student "Shine" Sponsors	All levels welcome

Are you an exhibitor/vendor? Be a part of the action Friday and Saturday for just \$275! Please visit www.OCRAonline.com and/or contact OCRA at ocraonline@gmail.com to reserve your spot!

Registration Form

Early-Bird: Register by 11:59 p.m. on 2/16/2024 and you will be entered to win a free registration (full reimbursement of paid registration).

Registration Deadline: Deadline to preregister is 3/18/2024. Registrations received after 3/18/2024 and on-site will incur a \$50 late processing fee.

Refunds: Full refunds are available prior to 3/18/2024. All voluntary cancellations after 3/18/2024 will incur a \$50 cancellation processing fee.

Cancellation of Event Notice: If the 2024 Annual Conference is canceled due to COVID-19 or other restrictions, full refunds will be issued.

FULL WEEKEND/ALL-INCLUSIVE OPTIONS

All seminars, breaks, luncheon, and reception included
1.5 CEUs available

April 5-7
full weekend

	Member	Nonmember
With CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$430	<input type="checkbox"/> \$560
Without CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$360	<input type="checkbox"/> \$430
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140	<input type="checkbox"/> \$190

SATURDAY-ONLY REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Saturday seminars, breaks, luncheon, and reception included
.7 CEU available

April 6
Saturday only

	Member	Nonmember
With CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300	<input type="checkbox"/> \$425
Without CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$110	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140

FRIDAY-ONLY REGISTRATION OPTION

Friday seminars and refreshment breaks included
.5 CEU available

April 5
Friday only

	Member	Nonmember
With CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350
Without CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$95	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120

SUNDAY-ONLY REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Sunday seminars and refreshment break included
.3 CEU available

April 7
Sunday only

	Member	Nonmember
With CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300
Without CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100

REGISTRATION ADD-ONS, GUESTS, AND EXTRAS

Sponsorship Options

Student "Shine" Sponsorship	\$ _____
General Conference Sponsorship	\$ _____
Speaker (\$150)	\$ _____
Refreshment/Vendor Break(s) (\$250)	\$ _____
Breakfast(s) (\$350)	\$ _____
Contest(s) (\$400)	\$ _____
Silent Auction (\$450)	\$ _____
Saturday Luncheon/Business Meeting (\$550)	\$ _____
Saturday Reception (\$750)	\$ _____

Social Options for Guests

Saturday Luncheon and Business Meeting

☐ \$45 each _____ guests

Saturday Dinner Reception

☐ \$55 each _____ guests

Contests: Friday, April 5, 2024

Open to OCRA Members Only

Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60
Karoscik Realtime Contest	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60
Both Hagestrom and Karoscik (discount)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$110

TOTAL THIS PAGE \$ _____

Registration Form

CONFERENCE ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Name _____ NCRA ID _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Year Started Reporting _____

Certifications _____ Special Meal Needs/Requests _____

Are you staying at the Renaissance? **Y** **N** **Health and Safety Acknowledgment (refer to previous page)** ☐ I acknowledge

SEMINAR/EVENT SELECTION ** REQUIRED **

Please indicate which event(s) you will be attending
(if registered all-inclusive or for a day registration, these events are included, but attendance numbers are necessary)

- ☐ Saturday Breakfast ☐ Saturday Luncheon and Business Meeting
☐ Saturday Night Reception ☐ Sunday Breakfast

RAFFLE TICKETS

MAIN RAFFLE: \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20
Silent auction will take place online (with on-site displays)
Winners need not be present to win

PRIZES: Overnight stays, restaurant gift certificates, and much, much more! Official prize list coming soon!

Number of tickets to purchase in advance _____
for a total of \$ _____

ATTENTION NONMEMBERS

Join OCRA now and register at the member rate!
Membership is good through 12/31/2024 (student good through 8/31/2025)

Reporter/Captioner/Professional Dues ☐ \$125 Associate Dues ☐ \$60 Student Dues ☐ \$25

PAYMENT OPTIONS AND PAYMENT SUBMISSION INFORMATION

TOTAL PRIOR PAGE \$ _____ TOTAL THIS PAGE \$ _____ TOTAL DUE \$ _____

**** Preregistration deadline is 3/18/2024. After 3/18/2024, add \$50 late processing fee. ****

Note: If 2024 Annual Conference is canceled due to COVID-19 or other restrictions, full refunds will be issued

- ☐ Check # _____ enclosed (made payable to OCRA)
☐ Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____
CSC (code on back of card) _____ Zip Code _____

Mail registration form and payment to:

Ohio Court Reporters Association
c/o Sarah Nageotte, Executive Director
2274 Chapel Road
Jefferson, Ohio 44047

\$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20

Silent auction will take place online (with on-site displays)

Don't wait to purchase your raffle tickets! Tickets may sell out!

Raffle open to all OCRA members' friends,
coworkers, and family!

Amazing Prizes

Prizes include overnight stays, amusement
park tickets, and much, much more.

Official prize list coming soon!

All raffle drawings will take place during the Saturday Reception

RAFFLE TICKETS

****Winners need not be present****

sprachgefühl

\ 'shpräk-gə-fuel\ *n* 1: the character of a
language 2: an intuitive sense of what is
linguistically appropriate

*One review of the book praised the author's **sprachgefühl**
and her graceful, literary style.*

SILENT AUCTION

(To be hosted online with on-site displays)

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Auction ends at 6:00 p.m.

**Donate an item to our Silent Auction and/or bid on your favorite item.
Proceeds from our Auction benefit the OCRA Cardinal Foundation.**

**The Foundation supports the education and advancement of the
stenographic court reporting and captioning professions.**

2024 Conference Location

Cleveland Marriott East

26300 Harvard Road

Warrensville Heights, Ohio 44122

(216) 378-9191

www.marriott.com



NEED TO BOOK A ROOM?

The OCRA room block is available through March 14, 2024, or until sold out.

Single/Double Occupancy \$129 per night (plus tax)

Contact the Cleveland Marriott East reservation at 888-236-2427 and use “OCROCRA” as the conference group code, or [click here](#) to make your reservations online instantly.

All OCRA activities will take place at the Cleveland Marriott East.

Included in your OCRA room block is complimentary parking and internet.

NOTE: The hotel will be sold out this weekend due to the Total Solar Eclipse scheduled to take place on Monday, April 8, in the Cleveland, Ohio, area. Once the OCRA room block sells out, we cannot guarantee that additional rooms will be made available to us, so book early and consider sharing a room with a friend or two!



2024 OCRA Contests

Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest and Karoscik Realtime Contest

Open to OCRA Members Only

Friday, April 5, 2024

Location: Cleveland Marriott East

Visit www.OCRAonline.com for full contest rules and additional information

Entry Fee

Please register with the annual conference registration form and/or online.

The fee is \$60 per contest if paid by the registration deadline. Fee to be paid prior to contest.

Register for both contests and receive a discount (\$110 for both contests)!

NCRA Professional Development Credit (PDC)

Each qualifying leg of an OCRA speed contest or realtime contest will earn .25 PDC.

A maximum of 1.0 credit from all non-CEU credits will be accepted by NCRA per three-year cycle.

FUN N' GAMES

Like any good court reporter, it's best to keep one's skills sharp, so we have compiled a few games for your enjoyment!

WORDSEARCH STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES

E I W G G H I L W U N K M I E V I T I T E P M O C D Z J X G
O H A R D W O R K I N G T P N U D F T U W O N L E A S Q N G
P Z T P Q I A Y C H U I V W O L N T E M P A T H E T I C D T
D N M E T G Q E H F Z M E V I T A R O B A L L O C L X V D F
X E K S A X T N A R E L O T T L J W R Q D U B P P M L V A J
X A T I I M W B R Y H T M W A P J C N P S R Q Z X O D C I I
E M Y A M N P R M U T B L U N T B D W H V T R K E I B K T E
E B F T C O O L A O R G A N I Z E D C G V I N B S E X S X E
L S T V W I J I A L W Y C A T Q K R H K E F P O L I T E L U
K M L M E U D O T Y S N U Y S J L O I N Y B R O A D K B P Q
A A A R R L O E O C E I T A A Z X N T C D G C J V H A X U J
B N K I M E K X D Q E R L F R A B R J B A P O B X E M F Z F
Y I O A Q P S L J B C F D A C J E U C N L M H A G C L P G T
J N O L Q Y A O I A D R R V O P O E I X H G E D G E T C E N
J D D R X B B E U M K M J E R Q K Z Q C X T E U X A F J N E
A E H X T M Q Z E R W T N E P E E X P W R L Q I G O A X E I
D P B O Z E P L J M C Z N I H D O I V S W R B R S J T K R T
E E E C N E T S I S R E P F P X H I I O W L Y J O J T W O A
C N G V R E D X J E U O F M C S I M N D E L E A R N E R U P
N D A X S X S Y V R P Y Q U R J T K J O Q P A T I E N T S M
E E W B Q A S T I C N Y C E L B B N G Y D J M R Y L T M V I
I N G Y U S Q A F D E R D I Q X Q M I Q R Y C K U V I K E O
R T Q D O R L N A D E A Q M P S F D Q J U G H C S K V H R O
E Z T B R P G N S A E F F V T N E G I L L E T N I J E M S P
P H F I O Z Y Y T L Q T K L A E K S K H Y N E F D W B O A V
X M L A C I T I R C - F L E S I D E A L I S T I C X C G T I
E B L E Q M V X V U E V I T P E C R E P J X H T X D S U I O
N E N Y Z E P X W W G E E V I T A V O N N I O J A F S H L G
I C L D L F S Y Y V O C M V F F P C I X O O P A S S I V E N
D X R D S Z L Y T A Q Q V K P G P F Y H S P N F U Z E S T P

Attentive
Patient
Collaborative
Creative
Empathetic
Entrepreneurial
Flexible

Versatile
Honest
Innovative
Competitive
Disorganized
Inexperienced
Perfectionism
Self-critical

Procrastination
Leadership
Organized
Persistence
Resourceful
Dedicated
Impatient

Blunt
Shy
Team Player
Fast learner
Idealistic
Independent
Perceptive
Generous

Hard-Working
Polite
Bossy
Passive
Knowledgeable
Tolerant
Intelligent

SU·DO·KU

	9		4		7		8	5
			2	5			6	9
5	8	6						
3			1					8
	6	2	5		4		3	
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	7			9		2	4	3
9	2					8	1	6
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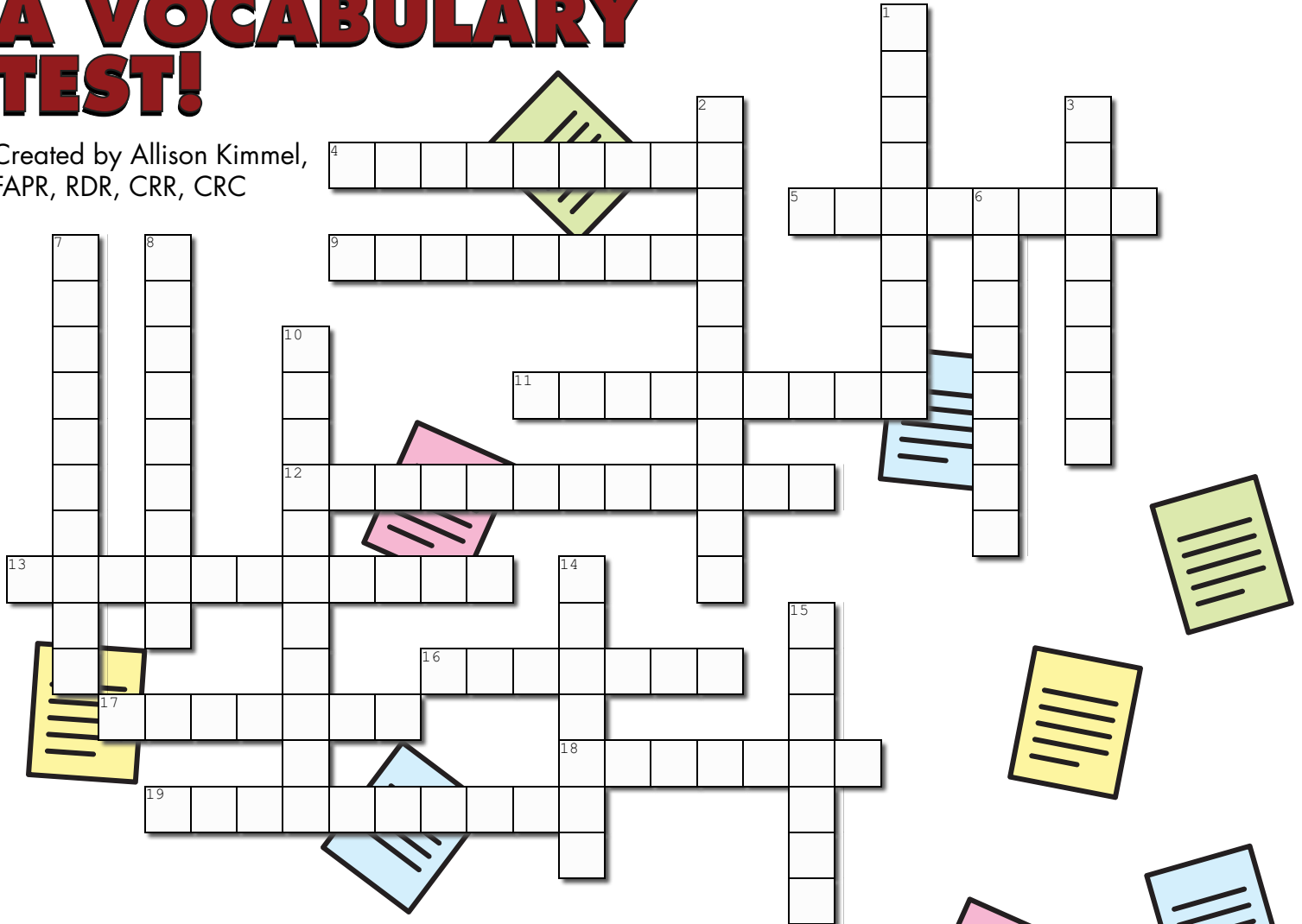
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6	1						9	
		8		3				7
1			7			9	8	
5					4			3

6						9		3
5			3	8	9			
3			6		2		5	
8	4			9	3	1		
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9		8				6	7	
	5					4		
	4	2		6		1	9	
					6			9
4	9				8			
	2	5	3					8
3	1		6				5	
5		4		7	1	2		
	6		5	3	4	8		

YIKES! A VOCABULARY TEST!

Created by Allison Kimmel,
FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

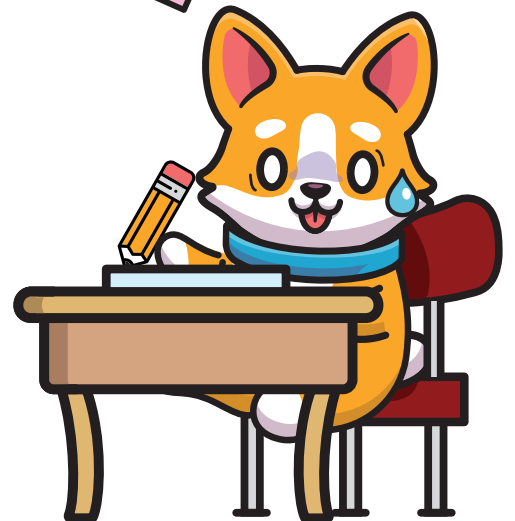


ACROSS

4. A synonym for cliff.
5. A synonym for model.
9. A synonym for marshy or sludgy.
11. A synonym for inference.
12. A synonym for equipment or trapping.
13. A synonym for argument or dispute.
16. A synonym for doormat.
17. A synonym for scram.
18. A synonym for pacify.
19. A synonym for reverence or great respect.

DOWN

1. A synonym for split.
2. A synonym for fussy.
3. A synonym for trifling or inconsequential.
6. A synonym for debris.
7. A synonym for pleasant or delightful.
8. A synonym for teach.
10. A synonym for pessimist.
14. A synonym for quivering or pulsating.
15. A synonym for acrid.



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Common Pleas Court of Franklin County, Ohio,
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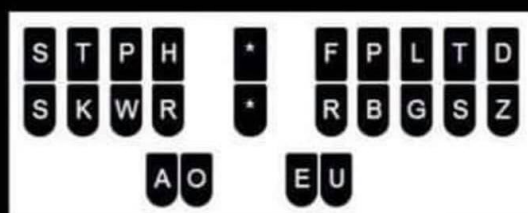
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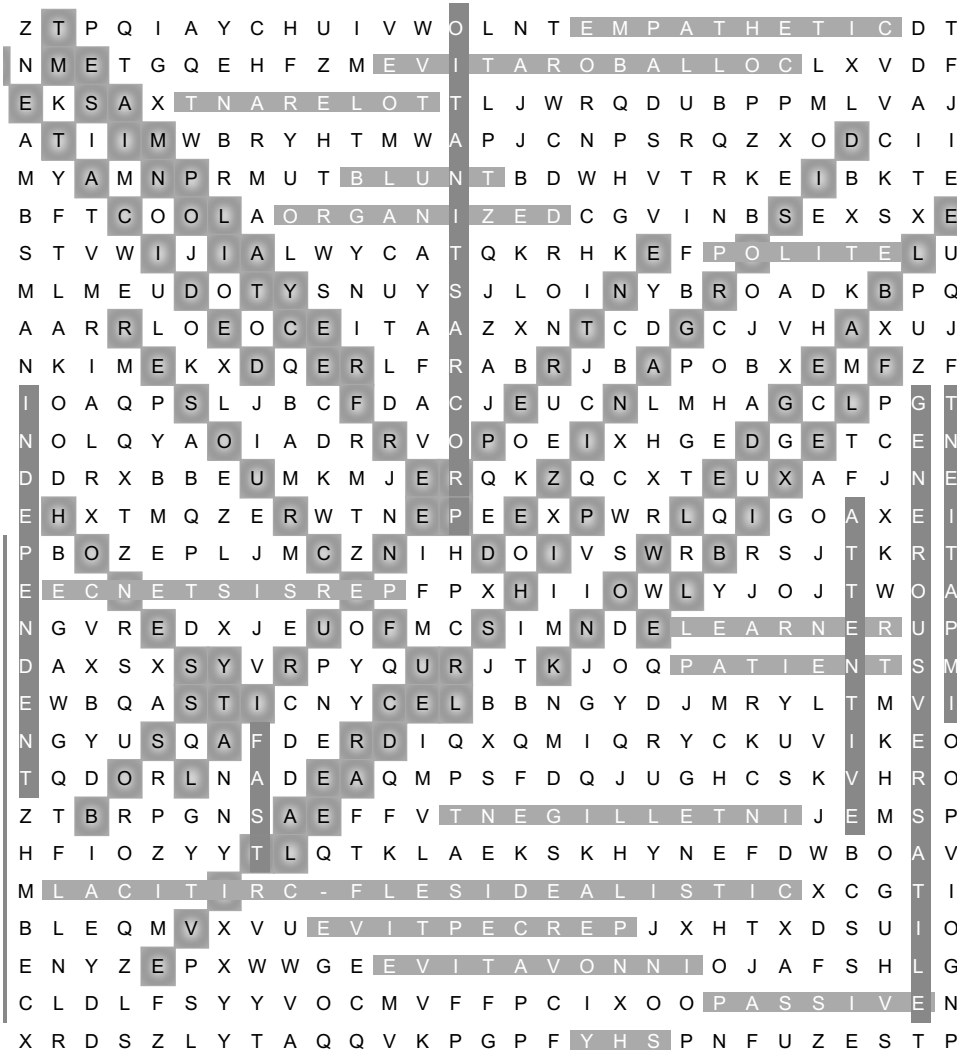
10 fingers -22 keys -
4,194,303 possible strokes



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ANSWER KEY FOR FUN N' GAMES

WORDSEARCH KEY



CROSSWORD KEY

ACROSS

4. **Precipice** - A synonym for cliff.
5. **Paradigm** - A synonym for model.
9. **Uliginous** - A synonym for marshy or sludgy.
11. **Inductive** - A synonym for inference.
12. **Accoutrement** - A synonym for equipment or trapping.
13. **Contretemps** - A synonym for argument or dispute.
16. **Nebbish** - A synonym for doormat.
17. **Vamoose** - A synonym for scam.
18. **Assuage** - A synonym for pacify.
19. **Veneration** - A synonym for reverence or great respect.

DOWN

1. **Bifurcate** - A synonym for split.
2. **Persnickety** - A synonym for fussy.
3. **Nugatory** - A synonym for trifling or inconsequential.
6. **Detritus** - A synonym for debris.
7. **Felicitous** - A synonym for pleasant or delightful.
8. **Inculcate** - A synonym for teach.
10. **Misanthrope** - A synonym for pessimist.
14. **Vibrant** - A synonym for quivering or pulsating.
15. **Pungent** - A synonym for acrid.

SUDOKU KEY

2	9	1	4	6	7	3	8	5
4	3	7	2	5	8	1	6	9
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5	8	4	9	7	1	2	3	6
2	6	9	5	3	4	8	1	7



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