

The Buckeye Record

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Modernizing Bylaws
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A Profession Worth
Appreciating

And much more...



Real People. Real Quality. Realtime.

WINTER 2026 BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATES

COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

February 7 - 14, 2026

2026 OCRA CONFERENCE

March 20 - 22, 2026

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The *Buckeye Record*

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ANSWER KEY

OHIO COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

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Allison Kimmel,
FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, CRI

COMMUNICATIONS/ THE BUCKEYE RECORD

Allison Kimmel,
FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, CRI

CONTEST - HAGESTROM CUP SPEED

Lin Riffle, RDR, CRR, CRC
and
Kristin Wegryn, RMR, CRR

CONTEST - KAROSCIK REALTIME

Lin Riffle, RDR, CRR, CRC

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Lin Riffle, RDR, CRR, CRC

FUNDRAISING (GENERAL COMMITTEE)

Vacant

FUNDRAISING (SILENT AUCTION)

Greg Mizanin, RDR, CRR

LEGISLATIVE

Doug Bettis

MEMBERSHIP

Kim Falgiani, RDR, CRR, CRC

NOMINATING

Cindy LaRosa, M.S., RPR, CRI

POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Vacant - To Be Determined

WEBSITE/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Sarah Vaught Derbin,
FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

STUDENT RELATIONS

& SCHOLARSHIPS

Vacant - To Be Determined

OCRA LIAISONS

SUPREME COURT LIAISON

Doug Bettis

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

EVOLVING WITH THE PROFESSION: RECOGNIZING VOICE WRITERS IN OCRA



by Lance Boardman, RDR, CRR

One of the responsibilities I take most seriously as President of OCRA is helping make sure our Association keeps pace with the profession we actually practice today – not the one we practiced decades ago.

Over the years, our work has changed. Technology has changed. Where we work and how we work has changed. What has not changed is the responsibility we all share: creating an accurate, reliable, human-produced record that courts, attorneys, and the public can trust. That belief is at the heart of OCRA's motto:

Real People. Real Quality. Realtime.

When the Board began discussing whether our bylaws still reflected today's reporting

landscape, it became clear that one area deserved closer attention: Professional Membership eligibility. Right now, our bylaws recognize only stenographic reporting, even though voice writers are working alongside stenographic reporters every day in Ohio producing the same kind of verbatim record.

The proposed amendment you'll read about in this issue is not about replacing one method with another, and it's not about lowering standards. It's about acknowledging the reality that more than one *human-driven* method exists to do this work – and that those professionals should have a seat at the table if they share our commitment to accuracy, ethics, and accountability.



Ohio Court Reporters Association

Real People. Real Quality. Realtime.

605 North High Street, PMB 298, Columbus, OH 43215

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

Just as important, this proposal draws a clear line between

people and machines.

OCRA has always stood for the human element in reporting – the judgment, responsibility, and chain of custody that only a trained professional can provide. That line matters now more than ever.

I know that any conversation about membership changes can raise questions and, at times, strong opinions. That's healthy. I encourage you to read the proposal carefully, think about what it means for our Association, and come to the Annual Business Meeting ready to participate in the discussion.

OCRA has always been strongest when we listen to one another and make decisions together. I look forward to that conversation – and to continuing the work of protecting the record, supporting our members, and ensuring a strong future for this profession we all care about.

– Lance A. Boardman, RDR, CRR
President, 2025-2026



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!](#)

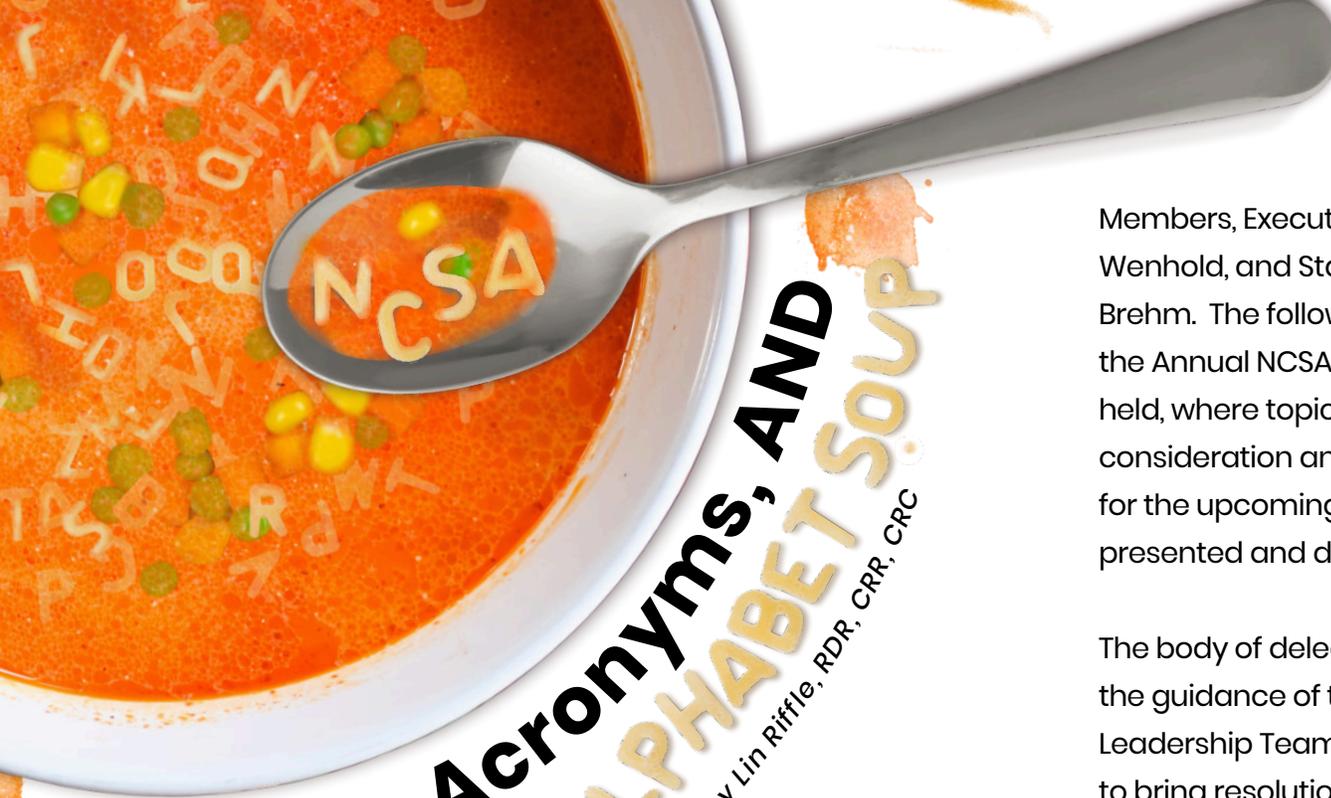


PEACE LOVE & STENO



**2026 Court Reporting
& Captioning Week**

FEBRUARY 7-14



Letters, Acronyms, AND A Bowl Of ALPHABET SOUP

by Lin Riffle, RDR, CRR, CRC

As I became more involved in volunteering with OCRA and NCRA, I heard a new-to-me acronym: “**NCSA**” (nick-suh). If this is new to you too, let me introduce you.

As defined under the NCRA Policies and Procedures Manual, “The purpose of the National Congress of State Associations is to provide a forum for affiliated association leaders to act as ambassadors of NCRA and the court reporting and captioning professions; to exchange information,

experiences, and various points of view involving NCRA and the court reporting and captioning professions; and to develop guiding resolutions for consideration by the NCRA Board of Directors.”

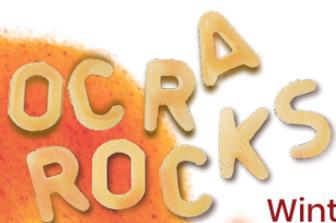
Yearly, your OCRA Board appoints two delegates to serve. The 2025-2026 delegates are Kim Falgiani and myself. Delegates become part of an active **LISTSERV**, attend quarterly Zoom meetings and the in-person Annual NCSA Meeting held in conjunction with NCRA’s Annual Conference. At the July 2025 conference in Minneapolis, we had the opportunity to attend a Wednesday evening reception to get acquainted with other delegates, our NCRA Board

Members, Executive Director Dave Wenhold, and Staff Liaison Colin Brehm. The following afternoon the Annual NCSA Meeting was held, where topics for consideration and plans for the upcoming year were presented and discussed.

The body of delegates, with the guidance of the NCSA Leadership Team, works together to bring resolutions to the NCRA Board of Directors. Your NCSA representatives are the voice of the state association when it comes to changes at the national level.

Topic classifications include accreditation, certification, continuing education, ethics, financial affairs, governance, government affairs, membership, member affairs, professional issues, public relations, publications, reporter training, and state/national relations.

A current example would be resolutions being sent to NCRA’s board regarding certification testing. The collective minds of this group are a great resource and asset to our national and state associations.





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.

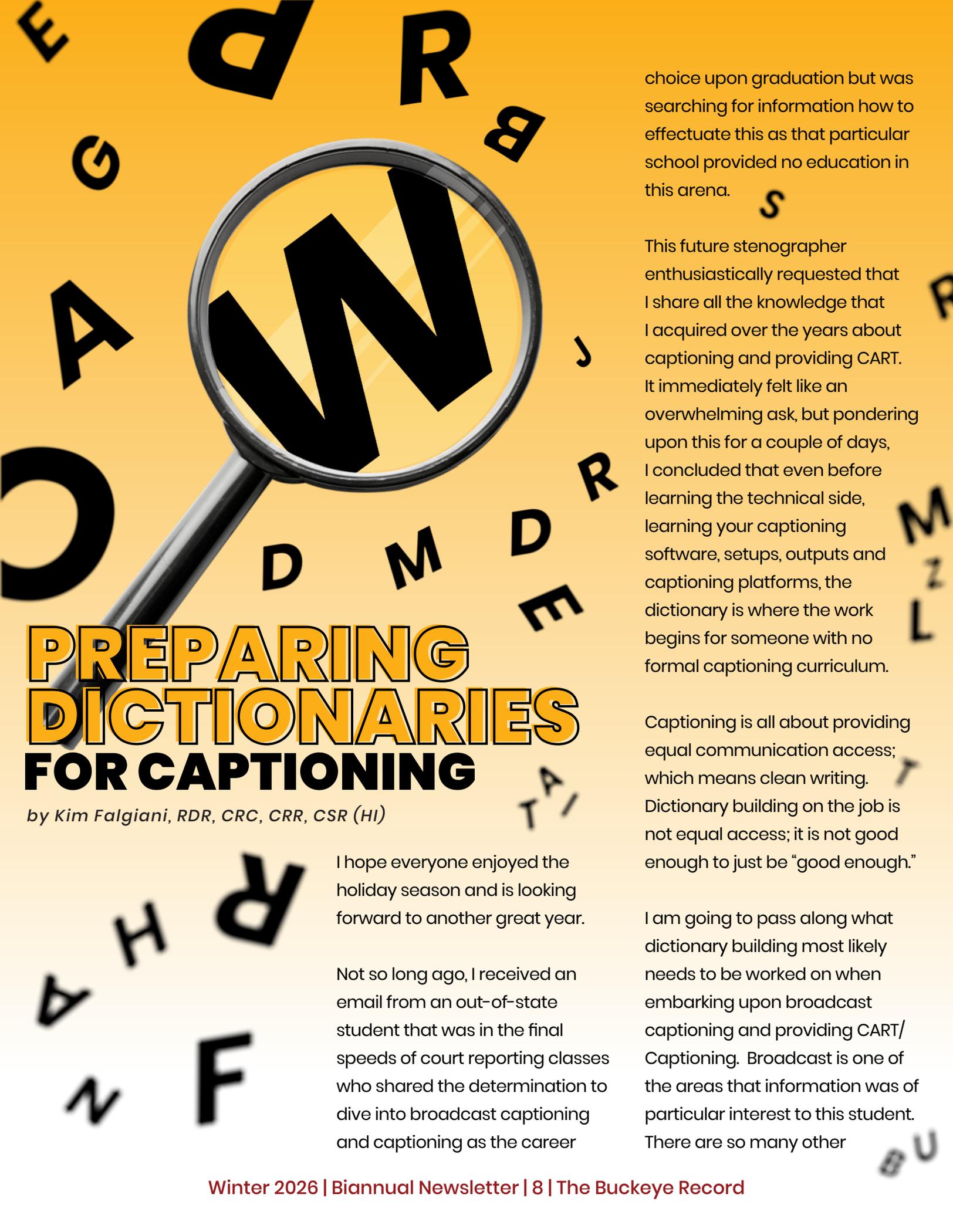
Stay Informed:

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



PREPARING DICTIONARIES FOR CAPTIONING

by Kim Falgiani, RDR, CRC, CRR, CSR (HI)

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and is looking forward to another great year.

Not so long ago, I received an email from an out-of-state student that was in the final speeds of court reporting classes who shared the determination to dive into broadcast captioning and captioning as the career

choice upon graduation but was searching for information how to effectuate this as that particular school provided no education in this arena.

This future stenographer enthusiastically requested that I share all the knowledge that I acquired over the years about captioning and providing CART. It immediately felt like an overwhelming ask, but pondering upon this for a couple of days, I concluded that even before learning the technical side, learning your captioning software, setups, outputs and captioning platforms, the dictionary is where the work begins for someone with no formal captioning curriculum.

Captioning is all about providing equal communication access; which means clean writing. Dictionary building on the job is not equal access; it is not good enough to just be “good enough.”

I am going to pass along what dictionary building most likely needs to be worked on when embarking upon broadcast captioning and providing CART/ Captioning. Broadcast is one of the areas that information was of particular interest to this student. There are so many other

categories, but these are important.

1. UNITED STATES (GEOGRAPHY) –

Find yourself a list of the 50 US states and US territories. Practice these until you have no hesitation. Remember the mountain ranges, lakes, oceans.

NOTE:

Many captioners come up with a theory to write state names in one stroke, that way, when states are rattled off, the captioner can stay on top of the speech.

2. WEATHER TERMINOLOGY –

The best way to incorporate these terms into your dictionary is to turn on a local news weather segment, as well as any national weather channel, and write, write, write. Do your dictionary work by entering into your dictionary any term that did not translate. If you practice to a national weather channel, the states/regions will also be mentioned, which is good practice on geography.

Aside from the obvious terminology like snow showers, partly cloudy/sunny, heavy rain, all briefed in my dictionary, learn the basic meteorological terms. Listen for terms like haboob

(a massive dust storm), or firenado (a vortex of fire and smoke), the Spanish term derecho (an intense, damage-producing windstorm. Notice “windstorm” is one word), Pineapple Express (atmospheric river over the Pacific Ocean), polar vortex, mudflow, La Nina or El Nino, nor’easter, or even the simple ones like tornado <TR-ND> and hurricane <H-RN>, which I quickly briefed as a new broadcast captioner.

Each year, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) releases a list of the upcoming year’s named storms. It’s best to just put those in your dictionary as soon as you come across the new list, also any past hurricanes/storms that were newsworthy, (think Hurricane Katrina).

Weather across the country is in every newscast, so be aware and build your dictionary so that you are not confused when you hear words like bombogenesis, thundersnow, drouth, and even crepuscular rays, toad strangler, all the cute little words meteorologists like to throw out there “in case you didn’t know” when talking about their current weather phenomenon.

I really believe these barely scratch the surface here as I didn’t even mention terms like cirrus (wispy high-altitude clouds), or cirrocumulus (small puffy clouds in rows). Those two categories are great starts to building dictionaries, but there are so many other categories that might not come to mind.

3. CURRENT EVENTS –

Subjects that are currently in the world and national news: countries, heads of state, the newest movie release, the hottest new toy. And at the right time of year, award programming. This year, the Winter Olympics will be in every sports report around the country. Yes, even that information will need to reside in your dictionary.

4. HISTORY –

US presidents/vice presidents past and present, senators, congresswomen/men, secretaries of state, ambassadors, Nobel Prize winners, kings, queens, princes and princesses. Sports and rock-n-roll legends: Knute Rockne, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar; Martina Navratilova and the Williams sisters; Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix, The Beatles (not beetles), Joni Mitchell.

5. SPORTS –

If you are fortunate to caption sports, then you need the names of universities, coaches (present and past), stadiums, past icons of the sports, etc.

To prepare, just pick a sports segment on the news that you watch, or any sports programming, and start writing.

Do your dictionary work afterwards and see what more thorough dictionary work will be needed to caption any sporting event with the names of each team player. I have separate dictionaries for each team within a lineup of my dictionaries that will translate first before my main dictionaries.

HELPFUL TIP:

Like the WMO, The National Hockey League releases a pronunciation guide yearly for the current roster of hockey players, a must if you caption hockey to know the pronunciation of the players' names.

6. FOOD FOR THOUGHT – LITERALLY!

Writing food segments can be initially challenging. A good theory will help you, but so will having common terms and dishes already in your dictionary: aioli, al la carte, au jus, au gratin, charcuterie, chiffonade, dollop, fricassee, julienne, mirepoix, parboil, sous chef, sous vide. Will linguini or gnocchi be on the menu? Perhaps it would just be a margherita pizza while sipping a margarita!

Chefs like to share family recipes from home countries, such as paella or gazpacho. Don't forget the croquetas! Mexican chefs can feature dishes like tamales, quesadilla, guacamole or pozole.

You don't want your chili containing capsicum to translate as chilly!

One of my cooking segments in South Florida often prepared Cuban dishes, which can be a blend of Spanish, African, and

Caribbean-based foods, such as arroz con leche, chicharrónes, one crème dish or another, and even ropa vieja.

So, pull out your machine and write away to your favorite cooking show. You might be surprised how many words you have never written before or need to look up the spellings.

No one is beyond dictionary building or practicing, but if you aspire to be a captioner, your dictionary needs to be the last thing you want on your mind when technical issues arise (a whole other training area). Your job is to effectively provide equal communication access, not guess at the terminology.

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.

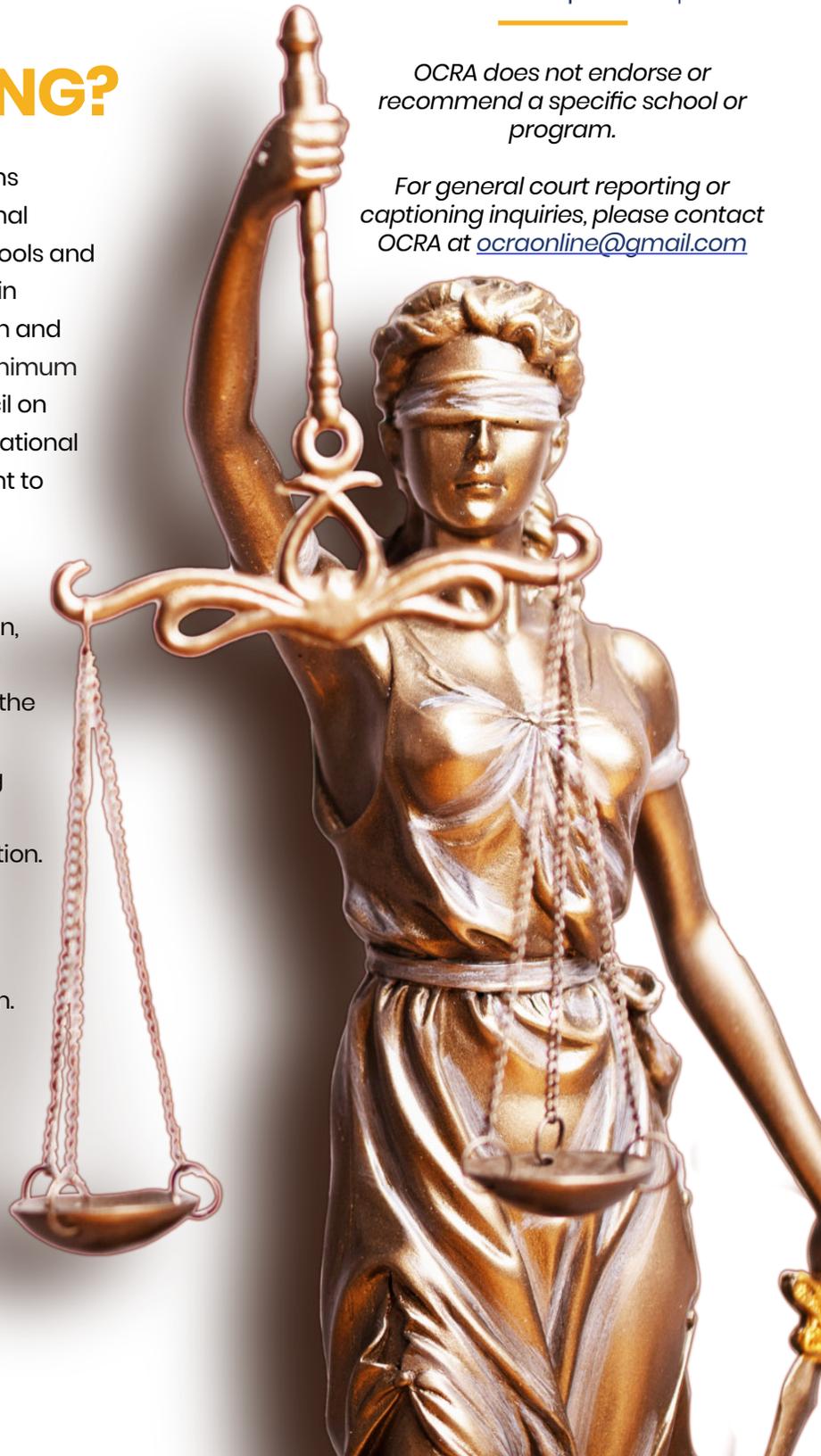
Each institution's transfer of credit policy is governed by the standards of the particular agency accrediting that institution. Individual State Departments of Education can be found [here](#).

**NCRA - APPROVED
SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS**



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

For general court reporting or captioning inquiries, please contact NCRA at ncraonline@gmail.com



CELEBRATING COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

FEBRUARY 7-14, 2026



Each February, Court Reporting and Captioning Week gives us the opportunity to spotlight a profession that is essential to justice, accessibility, and the public record.

In 2026, we proudly recognize the highly skilled court reporters and captioners whose work ensures that spoken words are accurately captured, preserved, and made accessible for all.

Court reporters are often described as the “guardians of the record.” Whether working in courtrooms, depositions, hearings, or arbitrations, reporters provide a verbatim, impartial record that becomes the foundation of appeals, legal decisions, and historical documentation. Our work

demands extraordinary concentration, mastery of language, and technical precision—often under intense pressure and tight deadlines.

Captioners play an equally vital role by providing real-time access to spoken content for individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing. From live television broadcasts and emergency announcements to classrooms, conferences, and virtual events, captioners ensure communication is inclusive and accessible. In a world increasingly reliant on digital and remote platforms, this expertise has never been more critical.

Court Reporting and Captioning Week is also a time to educate the public about a

profession that is frequently misunderstood or overlooked. Modern court reporting and captioning are high-tech careers that combine advanced software, specialized equipment, and years of rigorous training. We are not simply typing what we hear—we are making instantaneous decisions about homophones, speaker identification, and context, all while maintaining absolute accuracy and neutrality.

This week is an opportunity to celebrate not only the work itself but the professionals behind it: the students learning the craft, the working professionals constantly evolving through technology, and the mentors who continue to strengthen the future of the field. It is also a chance to

encourage the next generation to explore court reporting and captioning as rewarding, in-demand careers that make a real difference. **Court Reporting and Captioning Week** is a great opportunity to celebrate the profession, raise awareness, and take pride in the work you do.

Here are practical and meaningful ways you can participate—whether individually, with colleagues, or through your professional associations.

1. Share Your Story ♥

- Post on social media about why you chose court reporting or captioning and what the profession means to you.
- Share a “day in the life” post or short video showing your setup (without violating confidentiality).
- Use the official **Court Reporting & Captioning Week** hashtag and tag your state and national associations. [#CRCW2026](#)

2. Educate the Public ♥

- Explain what court reporters and captioners actually do—many people still don't know.
- Share facts about realtime, captioning access, and the importance of a

verbatim record.

- Offer to speak briefly at a local school, college, or career day (in person or virtually).

3. Support Students and New Professionals ♥

- Reach out to a court reporting or captioning student with encouragement.
- Offer a job shadow, mentoring session, or Q&A.
- Share study tips, machine settings, or career advice in student forums.

4. Celebrate Colleagues ♥

- Give a shout-out to a colleague, mentor, scopist, proofreader, or instructor.
- Nominate someone for a state or national award.
- Send a thank-you note or message to someone who has supported your career.

5. Get Involved with Your Association ♥

- Participate in or promote events hosted by your state association or NCRA.
- Help write a newsletter article, blog post, or social media content.
- Encourage a colleague to join or renew membership.

6. Advocate for the Profession ♥

- Share information about legislation or issues affecting court reporting and captioning.
- Educate attorneys, judges, or clients about the value of live reporters and captioners.
- Promote best practices and professional standards.

7. Invest in Yourself ♥

- Attend a webinar, workshop, or continuing education event.
- Practice realtime, dictionary building, or new technology.
- Reflect on your own growth and set goals for the coming year.

8. Simply Celebrate ♥

- Wear association or profession-themed apparel.
- Treat yourself to coffee, lunch, or a small reward for your hard work.
- Take a moment to recognize the skill, discipline, and resilience your career requires.

Court Reporting and Captioning Week isn't about grand gestures—it's about visibility, pride, and community. Every post shared, student encouraged, and conversation started helps strengthen and preserve this vital profession.

DISSEMINATE TO MEMBERS – BYLAWS AMENDMENT – EXPANDING PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

A Thoughtful Update to OCRA's Bylaws

by Lance Boardman, RDR, CRR

As the profession of court reporting continues to evolve, the Ohio Court Reporters Association periodically reviews its governing documents to ensure they accurately reflect both the realities of practice and the principles upon which the Association was founded.

One such review has led the Board of Directors to propose a targeted amendment to **Article IV, Section 3** of the OCRA Bylaws, which defines eligibility for **Professional Membership**.

Why Is This Discussion Happening Now?

When OCRA's bylaws were originally drafted, stenographic reporters and pen writers were the sole recognized methods for producing a verbatim record. Today, Ohio's reporting landscape includes professionals using more than one human-driven methods to create that record, including **voice writing**.

Voice writers are currently working in Ohio courts, depositions, administrative proceedings, captioning, and CART settings. They are actively

engaged in producing verbatim records, yet under the current bylaws, they are not eligible for Professional Membership because the definition is limited to stenographic reporting. The proposed amendment seeks to address that gap.

What The Proposed Amendment Would Do?

The amendment would revise the definition of Professional Membership to include individuals who are “skilled and primarily engaged in the verbatim reporting of proceedings by **stenographic machine or by voice writing technology.**”

This change is intentionally narrow. It does not create a new membership class, alter dues, impose certification requirements, or diminish the role of stenographic reporters. Instead, it recognizes that more than one **human-based method** is currently being used to fulfill the same professional function: creating an accurate, realtime record.

Alignment with OCRA’s Purpose

Article II of the OCRA Bylaws states that the Association exists to:

- Advance the interests and general welfare of court reporting, captioning, and other stenographic-related skill applications
- Promote professional education
- Provide information and assistance to the public
- Develop and maintain ethical standards
- Advocate on behalf of the membership

Broadening Professional Membership eligibility to include voice writers supports these purposes by ensuring that OCRA represents all professionals who are actively engaged in preserving the record, upholding ethical standards, and serving the public through realtime reporting.

“Real People. Real Quality. Realtime.”

OCRA’s motto reflects a core belief shared across our membership: that the creation of the official record requires **human skill, judgment, and accountability.** Whether a

reporter uses a stenographic machine or voice writing technology, the defining element is not the equipment but the person behind it.

The proposed amendment is grounded in the principle that **human reporters—not automated systems—are essential to ensuring accuracy, integrity, and chain of custody of the record.** This proposal does not blur that line. On the contrary, it reinforces it by uniting professionals who share responsibility for producing and safeguarding the verbatim record.

What the Proposal Does Not Do

It is equally important to be clear about what this amendment does not do:

- It does not endorse or replace stenographic reporting
- It does not support electronic or automated recording
- It does not impose certification or licensure requirements
- It does not change court rules, statutes, or hiring practices

The amendment affects **only OCRA membership eligibility.**



The Next Steps

The full text of the proposed amendment will be distributed to voting members in accordance with **Article XV** of the bylaws.

The amendment will be considered for a vote at the Annual Business Meeting during the upcoming OCRA Conference,

where discussion and member participation are encouraged.

As always, the Board values thoughtful dialogue and informed decision-making. Members with questions are encouraged to reach out to Board leadership or attend the business meeting to participate in the discussion.

CALLING ALL OCRA MEMBERS!

It's that time of the year again!
So get out those pencils
and dust off your keyboard!

We're currently gathering
articles to feature in the
SUMMER 2026 EDITION
of The Buckeye Record!

If interested, email us at
OCRAonline@gmail.com

We want to hear
from you!



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE OHIO COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Below are the proposed amendments to be voted upon by the membership in person at the 2026 Annual Business Meeting, Saturday, March 21, 2026.

[View the current bylaws as amended March 26, 2022](#)

ARTICLE II – STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this Association shall be to advance the interests and general welfare of court reporting, captioning, and other stenographic-~~related~~ and voice writing technology related skill applications by, including, but not limited to:

- A. Identifying, promoting, and disseminating professional education;
- B. Providing information and assistance to the public;
- C. Becoming the leader in developing and maintaining ethical standards;
- D. Advocating on behalf of the membership.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 – DEFINITION ►

Membership in the Association shall be open to individuals who subscribe to and support the purposes of the Association and who meet the requirements for one of the classes of membership, as hereinafter provided.

For purposes of Article IV, voice writing technology means the use of speech-based reporting methods that produce a realtime or near-realtime verbatim record of proceedings through the use of a speech silencer mask or open microphone with speech to-text integration.

SECTION 3 – PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS ►

~~A. Any person who is skilled and primarily engaged in the verbatim stenographic reporting of proceedings by the use of symbols, manually or by stenographic machine, as an official court or legislative reporter, freelance reporter, and/or captioner shall be eligible to become a Professional Member.~~

Any person who is skilled and primarily engaged in the verbatim reporting of proceedings by stenographic machine or by voice writing technology as an official court or legislative reporter, freelance reporter, and/or captioner shall be eligible to become a Professional Member.

SECTION 4 – STUDENT MEMBERS ►

A. Any student of verbatim stenographic or voice writing technology reporting who is verified by a ~~verbatim stenographic reporter training program instructor or director~~ member of the Association as having enrolled in a verbatim stenographic or voice writing technology reporting ~~school~~ program shall be eligible to become a Student Member.

SECTION 6 – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ►

Applicants for membership who do not qualify for Professional, Student, Retired, or Honorary membership status may qualify as an Associate Member if they meet one of the following criteria:

A. Any person who is not actively engaged in the practice of court reporting (either full or part time) and is a teacher of verbatim stenographic or voice writing technology reporting, or anyone connected in an official capacity with a school or college conducting a verbatim stenographic or voice writing technology reporting course, shall be eligible to become an Associate Member.

Such persons need not meet the requirements for skill in the area of reporting proceedings.

B. Any person who has been certified by the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) as a Certified Legal Video Specialist (CLVS) shall be eligible to become an Associate Member.

C. Any person interested in the preservation, support, and advancement of the field of verbatim stenographic or voice writing technology reporting, but not in any way actively engaged in the verbatim stenographic or voice writing technology reporting of proceedings, who is not otherwise eligible for membership, shall be eligible to become an Associate Member.

SECTION 7 - RETIRED MEMBERS ►

A. Any member in good standing who has paid dues for a period of 20 years and is no longer engaged in verbatim stenographic or voice writing technology reporting shall be eligible to become a Retired Member.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY
UNWANTED HOLIDAY GIFTS?**

**PERHAPS... THEY ARE TAKING UP
TOO MUCH SPACE?**

**OR JUST MAYBE...
YOU'RE TOO NICE TO SAY NO?**

**DONATE THEM TO THE OCRA
SILENT AUCTION TODAY!**

Don't worry. We won't say anything.



* WINNERS NEED NOT BE PRESENT *

THE OCRA CONFERENCE RAFFLE

ENTER TO WIN

Amazing Prizes!

**\$5 EACH OR
5 TICKETS FOR \$20**

**OFFICIAL PRIZE LIST
COMING SOON**

**OPEN TO ALL OCRA
FRIENDS & FAMILY**

A NEW YEAR, A NEW PACE: PRIORITIZING WELLNESS IN 2026

by Janie Blair, RPR, CRR

As we start 2026, we reflect on the past year—its highs and lows—and the goals we may have for the new one. My goal lately has been to take better care of myself. That can look different for different people, but for me it means carving out time to read, exercise, cook, and do self-care like monthly deep-tissue massages, counseling, and meditation. I am also trying to cut back on the number of things I commit to.

I currently mentor court reporting students and a couple of reporters who are transitioning from captioning to freelance,

serve on the OCRA committee, mentor two young adults whom I've known since they were six (from my time with Big Brothers/Big Sisters), volunteer, and help care for little ones at church. I also spend time with my adult children—who live about an hour and a half away—as time allows. I make time to see other family and friends as well, going to dinner, playing cards and board games. We recently started a neighborhood game night, which I've really enjoyed, with several couples we've known for years—people we raised our kids alongside and who are now, like us, empty nesters.

Last summer I injured myself on my bicycle, breaking my left rib and left wrist, so I was off work for a bit. It made me realize that I should slow down a little—or life will help me slow down. My son-in-law recently said I remind him of a chihuahua—not the annoying, yappy type, but one that's always busy and doing things. That made me laugh.

I attend CycleBar, hot yoga, regular yoga, Zumba/Refit, and POUND. I've also set up a standing desk so I can walk on my treadmill while I proofread, helping me avoid being so sedentary. I've changed my diet, cut out processed foods, and significantly reduced my Dr. Pepper intake.

I'm sure many of us have made some New Year's resolutions by this time. Here's to making positive changes in 2026!





STENO WIZARD

CONQUERING REALTIME ONE KEYSTROKE AT A TIME!

AISLE v. ISLE

- Aisle (sounds like “I’ll”) is a path you walk down inside a place.
Like the long space between seats in a movie theater or between shelves in a grocery store.
- Isle (sounds the same!) is a small island surrounded by water.
Think of a tiny piece of land in the ocean where palm trees might grow

Easy Trick to Remember:

- Aisle has an A → Aisle = A way to walk
- Isle is like island → Land surrounded by something.

Bonus Tip: Gas pumps sit on an isle (island).

Now here's the STENO trick :)

Even though aisle and isle sound the same, steno is closer to spelling than people think, not just sound.

AISLE — AEUFL

- In English, the word aisle starts with an A (even though it’s silent).
- In steno, we keep that A, so use A, and then keep the I by using EU.
- So AEUFL is basically a steno way of spelling of aisle:
 - ◆ A ≈ A
 - ◆ EU = I
 - ◆ F = Steno doesn’t have an S on the right-hand side in the position we want, so we use -F as the S substitute.
 - ◆ L = for the le ending

ISLE — AOEUFL

- In English, isle starts with an I.
- In steno, a long I sound is AOEU.
- Steno doesn’t have an S on the right-hand side in the position we want, so we use -F as the S substitute.
- That means AOEUFL is the steno spelling of isle:
 - ◆ AOEU ≈ I
 - ◆ F = S substitute
 - ◆ L = L for the le ending

The steno isn’t random.

- AEUFL looks like AISLE, with -F replacing the S
- AOEUFL looks like ISLE, with -F replacing the S

Same sound. Different spelling. We're using steno to keep the meaning straight. And remember to keep practicing!



DARK WATERS, DEEP SECRETS: CRIMES OF THE GREAT LAKES

by Cindy LaRosa, M.S., RPR, CRI

For those of you who may have missed it, there was an interesting exhibit at the National Museum of the Great Lakes in Toledo, Ohio, named “Dark Waters.” This was a compilation of true crimes on the Great Lakes, some of which are well-known and some lesser-known ones.

Some of these lesser-known ones involved a man in the 1840s who proclaimed himself the King of Beaver Island in Lake Michigan. His reign surprisingly lasted six years until he was shot. This murder still remains a mystery, but rumors pointed to – at a minimum – complicity by the U.S. Navy.

Another cold case is of a woman passenger on the steamboat “Seaandbee,” who disappeared off the ship while in transit in Lake Erie. Her body

washed ashore near Geneva-on-the-Lake, Ohio. Her husband had an alibi since she was traveling by herself, and no one saw anything happen to her. It is still a mystery.

Some of the most popular crimes in Cleveland, Ohio, were those committed by the Torso Murderer, also known as the Butcher of Kingsbury Run. This serial killer was credited to have killed 12 victims, but some count as many as 20 or 40 due to the uncertain nature of their deaths. Only three victims were positively identified while the remaining were John Does or Jane Does. In August of 2024, the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office partnered with the DNA Doe Project to identify the rest of the victims, and work is ongoing in this effort. The murders were never solved.





One of Chicago's famous cases was the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Al Capone was rumored to have orchestrated these murders, but he was never charged with these crimes. Capone allegedly enlisted the Purple Gang, which was a powerful crime syndicate operating mainly out of Detroit, Toledo, and Chicago bootlegging alcohol during Prohibition. It is rumored that the Purple Gang lured the Northside Gang to the CMS Cartage Warehouse, where they were lined up and gunned down in a massacre.

The Purple Gang got their nickname by being "as rotten as purple meat." Al Capone preferred to use them rather than battle them directly in their bootlegging operations. There was a trial on the Valentine's Day Massacre, and in the display case there is a

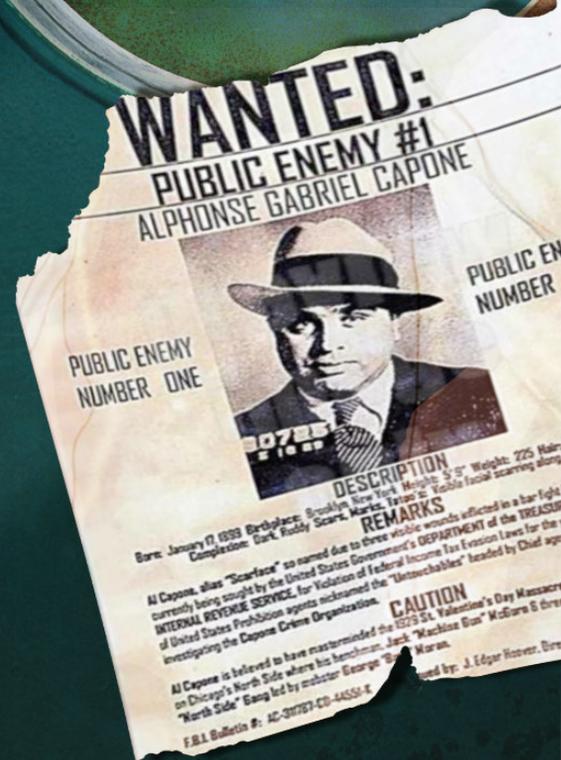
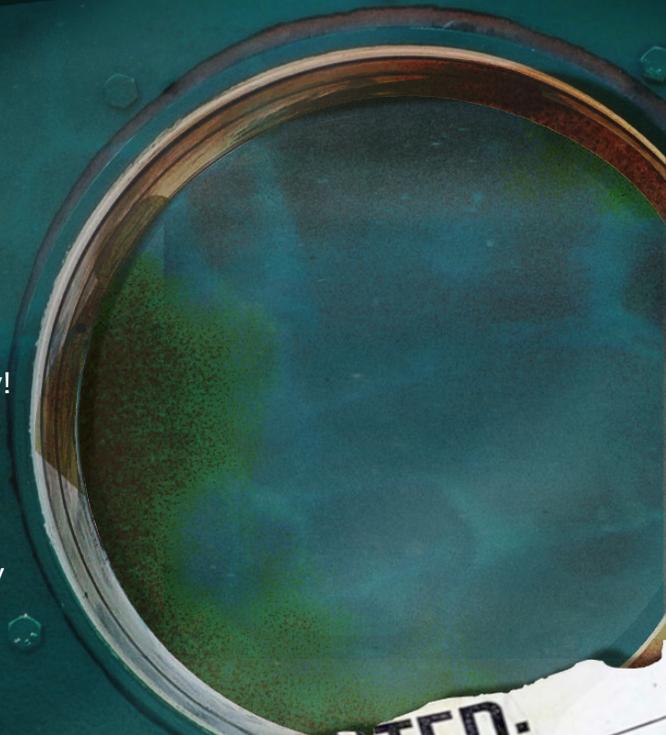
transcript, typewritten pages of the court proceedings, preserved for all to see nearly 100 years later. The court reporter at that time was recording history!

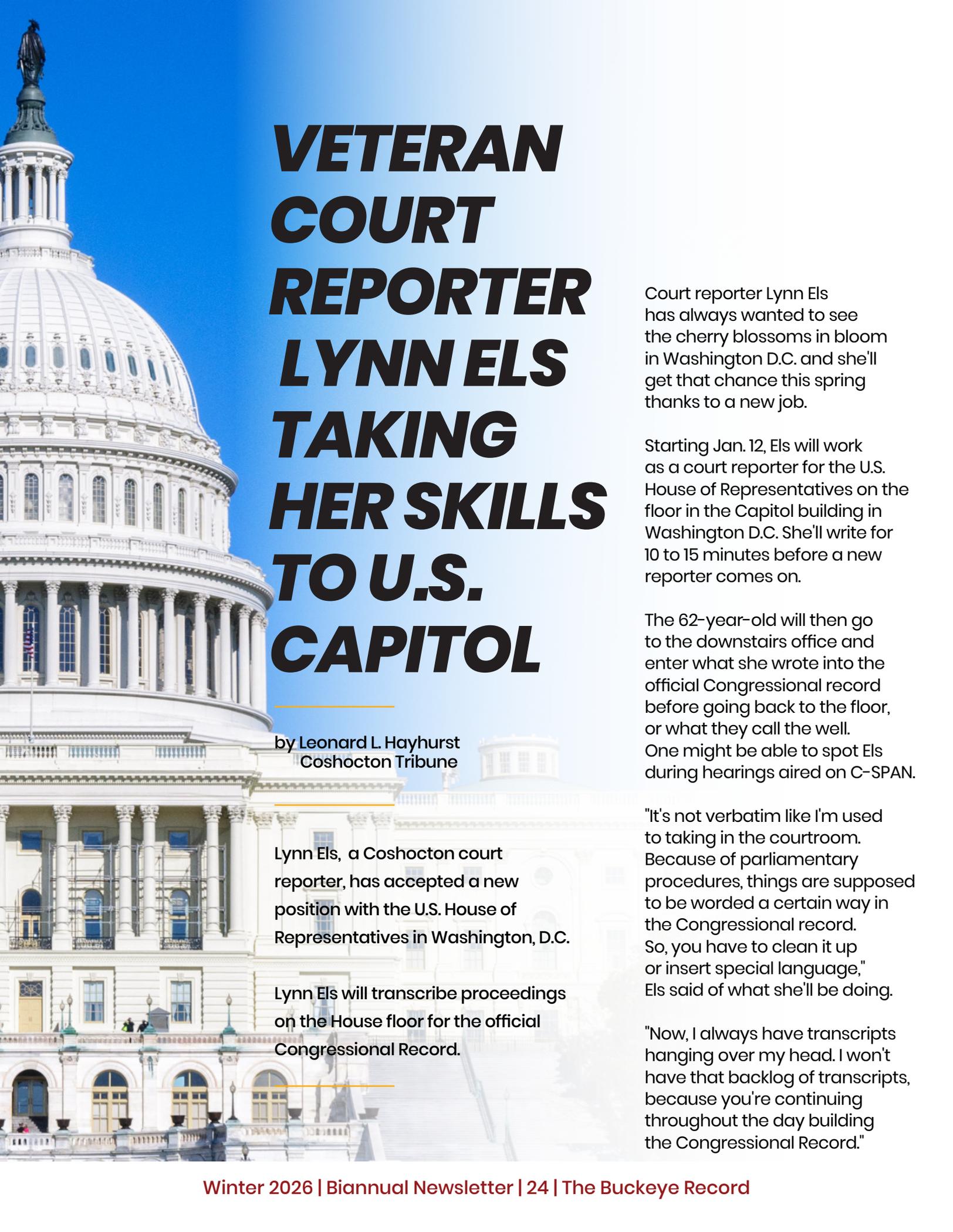
The Purple Gang's demise happened when they self-imploded as they turned on each other and eventually disbanded.

Our history is full of written records, many of which have survived to today.

Would we be able to decipher what is on a flash drive or recorded tape 100 years or more from now? Or access it in the Cloud?

A lesson is that written, printed records are a far more durable source of information for future generations to learn of history.





VETERAN COURT REPORTER LYNN ELS TAKING HER SKILLS TO U.S. CAPITOL

by Leonard L. Hayhurst
Coshocton Tribune

Lynn Els, a Coshocton court reporter, has accepted a new position with the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

Lynn Els will transcribe proceedings on the House floor for the official Congressional Record.

Court reporter Lynn Els has always wanted to see the cherry blossoms in bloom in Washington D.C. and she'll get that chance this spring thanks to a new job.

Starting Jan. 12, Els will work as a court reporter for the U.S. House of Representatives on the floor in the Capitol building in Washington D.C. She'll write for 10 to 15 minutes before a new reporter comes on.

The 62-year-old will then go to the downstairs office and enter what she wrote into the official Congressional record before going back to the floor, or what they call the well. One might be able to spot Els during hearings aired on C-SPAN.

"It's not verbatim like I'm used to taking in the courtroom. Because of parliamentary procedures, things are supposed to be worded a certain way in the Congressional record. So, you have to clean it up or insert special language," Els said of what she'll be doing.

"Now, I always have transcripts hanging over my head. I won't have that backlog of transcripts, because you're continuing throughout the day building the Congressional Record."



DISTINGUISHED DUTIES

Els has been a court reporter since 1984 and started with Coshocton County Common Pleas Court in 1986. She can type up to 300 words a minute. She was one of the first people in the nation to obtain a Certified Realtime Reporter designation in 1995.

"I'm excited for what's new, but sad because I've done this for so long and it's comfortable," Els said of leaving her current court post. "The thing about this job is that I always have work to do."

Along with serving as a court reporter for Coshocton County, Els has also done closed captioning for a variety of events. Everything from Cincinnati Bengals football games to the funeral services of Billy Graham and Whitney Houston to "Fox and Friends" to the royal weddings of Prince Harry and Prince William; all working remotely.

This has also included congressional hearings and recognition ceremonies at the Capitol starting in 2013, which was the connection to Els' new job.

She worked as an independent contractor through Alderson Court Reporting.

LANDING THE JOB

With a laugh, she said living in a small, rural community was actually beneficial. Since she worked remotely and transmitted captions via landlines, the older equipment in Washington D.C. could keep up better with Els' transmission, over digital lines from larger cities.

"They always kind of liked it when it was me. They knew they wouldn't have any disconnection problems. So, I became their preferred writer," Els said.

She was encouraged to submit her resume for the new position last summer. Els never dreamed she would get it, she just always wanted to travel to Washington D.C. to see what it looked like on-site.

Els went to D.C. for an interview and sat in on a committee hearing. She took notes and then typed them up back at the office. This was followed by a writing test and

current events test. Els said captioning for the morning news program "Fox and Friends" helped her with that part.

"Just being there was exciting. I did it. I survived that day and it wasn't bad," Els said.

Els was slated to start in October, but that was pushed out due to the government shutdown. She will be living in a condo owned by a court reporter friend who works for the International Monetary Fund. Els said she's received a lot of questions on her living situation, but she'll be back in Coshocton when not working.

She'll also continue to do some captioning work on weekends and her off hours, such as captioning for screens in the stadium for Bengals' home games.

"I do want to keep my skills built up. It's like playing a sport with captioning, because it's fast," Els said. "If you don't do it, you lose that skill."



WE NEED YOU!

We're Seeking Leadership!

Executive Director Opportunity
with the Ohio Court Reporters Association

Position Summary:

The Ohio Court Reporters Association (OCRA) is seeking expressions of interest from qualified professionals and dedicated volunteers to serve as Executive Director of the Association. This role presents a meaningful opportunity to support and advance the court reporting and captioning profession in Ohio while working closely with an engaged Board of Directors and membership.

OCRA is a member-driven professional association committed to promoting excellence, professionalism, and advocacy within the court reporting and captioning fields. As the Association continues to grow and evolve, strong administrative leadership is essential to maintaining continuity, supporting governance, and ensuring effective operations.

The Executive Director serves as the primary administrative officer of the Association and plays a key role in implementing the mission and strategic direction set by the Board of Directors. This position is ideal for an individual with strong organizational skills, attention to detail, and experience working with professional or nonprofit associations.



Key Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Planning, coordinating, and supporting Association meetings, events, and continuing education programs
- Working closely with the Board of Directors to ensure compliance with OCRA's bylaws, policies and procedures, and the laws within the state of Ohio
- Tracking all monetary transactions, maintaining accurate financial records, and coordinating with the Association's treasurer or financial professionals as needed
- Providing administrative support to the Board and committees, including preparation of agendas, reports, and records
- Managing routine correspondence, records, and communications on behalf of the Association
- Overseeing day-to-day operational matters and addressing issues that arise in the normal course of Association business

As with most executive director roles, this position encompasses a wide range of responsibilities that support the overall health and effectiveness of the organization. Flexibility, professionalism, and the ability to work independently are essential. A small monthly stipend is available for this position. The time commitment may vary throughout the year depending on meeting schedules, events, and Association needs, but the role is well-suited for individuals seeking a meaningful leadership opportunity with manageable, predictable responsibilities.

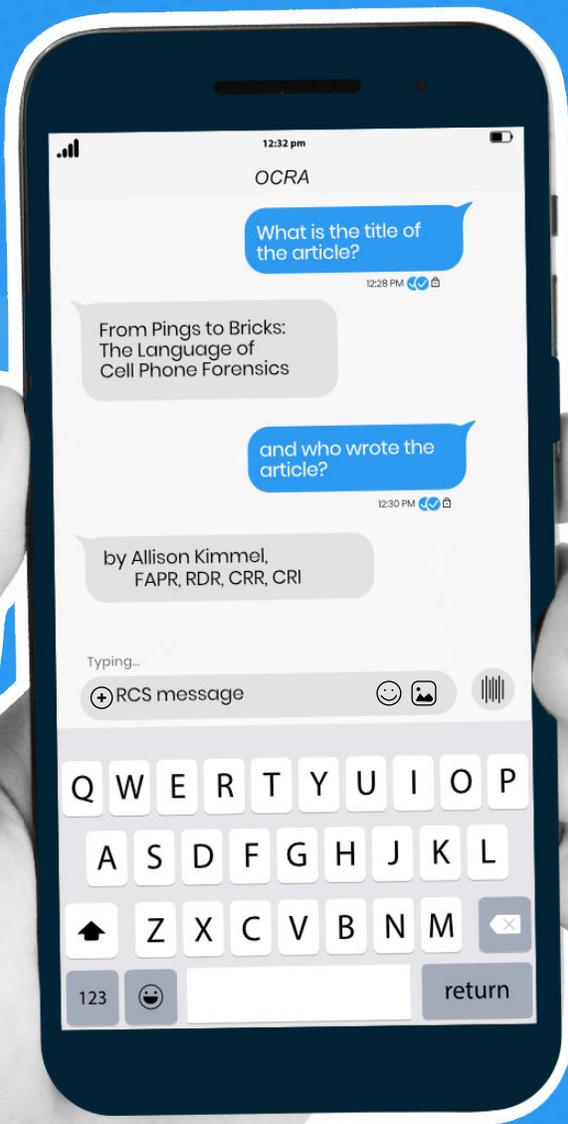
OCRA welcomes interest from individuals with experience in court reporting, captioning, association management, nonprofit administration, or related professional fields. A strong understanding of governance, financial tracking, and collaborative leadership is highly valued.

Those interested in learning more about this opportunity or expressing interest are encouraged to contact the Ohio Court Reporters Association for additional information. Serving as Executive Director is a rewarding way to give back to the profession and play a vital role in shaping the future of court reporting and captioning in Ohio.

Contact Us:

If interested contact the OCRA today at ocraonline@gmail.com or President Lance Boardman at labrderr@gmail.com for additional information or to express your interest!





When the phone takes the stand, this list helps your steno dictionary keep pace.

Device & Hardware

- Smartphone
- Feature phone
- SIM card
- eSIM
- IMEI (*International Mobile Equipment Identity*)
- IMSI (*International Mobile Subscriber Identity*)
- MEID
- Baseband
- Secure Enclave
- Internal Storage
- External Storage (*SD card*)
- Chip-off
- JTAG

Forensic Extraction Methods

- Logical Extraction
- Physical Extraction
- File System Extraction
- Advanced Logical Extraction
- Partial Extraction
- Full Dump
- Live Acquisition
- Dead Acquisition
- Cloud Extraction

Forensic Tools & Software

- Manual Extraction
- Deleted Data Recovery
- Cellebrite UFED
- Cellebrite Physical Analyzer
- Oxygen Forensic Detective
- Magnet AXIOM
- GrayKey
- XRY
- EnCase
- FTK (*Forensic Toolkit*)
- MOBILedit

Data Types Commonly Analyzed

- Call Detail Records (*CDRs*)
- SMS / MMS
- iMessage
- Voicemail
- Contacts
- Photos / Images
- Videos
- Audio Recordings
- App Data
- Browser History
- Cookies
- Cache Files

- Thumbnails
- Metadata
- EXIF Data

- Brute Force Attempt

Network & Communication

- Carrier Records
- Subscriber Information
- IP Address
- MAC Address
- Packet Data
- Data Session
- Roaming
- Signal Strength
- Ping
- Latency

Cloud & Account Data

- iCloud
- Google Account
- Cloud Backups
- Account Tokens
- Sync Logs
- Login Timestamps
- Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

Timeline & Usage Analysis

- Timestamps
- Unix Epoch Time
- Time Zone Offset
- System Clock
- User Activity
- App Usage Logs
- Screen On/Off Events

Location & Movement Data

- GPS Data
- Location services
- Cell Site Location Information (CSLI)
- Historical CSLI
- Real-time CSLI
- Tower dump
- Cell tower
- Sector
- Triangulation
- Geofence warrant
- Wi-Fi location data
- Bluetooth beacons

Security & Access

- Passcode
- PIN
- Pattern Lock
- Biometric Authentication
- Face ID
- Touch ID
- Encryption
- Full-Disk Encryption
- End-to-End Encryption
- Keychain
- Secure Lock Screen

- Power Events
- Boot logs

Legal & Evidentiary Terms

- Search Warrant
- Affidavit
- Probable Cause
- Scope of Search
- Chain of Custody
- Evidence Preservation
- Data Integrity
- Hash value
- MD5 / SHA-1 / SHA-256
- Forensic Image
- Authenticity
- Spoliation

Analysis & Interpretation

- Artifact
- Corroboration
- Attribution
- User-Generated Content
- Automated Process
- False Positive
- Data Gap
- Overwrite
- System-Generated Event

Informal / Slang Terms for Phones & Devices

- Phone
- Cell
- Cellie
- Burner
- Burner Phone
- Throwaway
- Trap phone
- Work Phone
- Line (Phone Number)
- Handset
- Device
- Brick (Older Phone)
- Slab (Smartphone)

Phone Usage & Behavior (Slang)

- Hit Up (Contact)
- Blow Up (Multiple Calls/Texts)
- Tap In (Connect / Respond)
- Tap Out (Stop Communicating)
- Ghost / Ghosted
- Slide In (DM)
- Check In (Message or Location Update)
- Lock It Down (Secure the Phone)
- Wipe It (Delete Data)
- Reset It

- Smash It
(Destroy Phone)

Data & Deletion Slang

- Wiped
- Cleared
- Scrubbed
- Clean Phone
- Dirty Phone
- Ghost Data
- Hidden Files
- Shadow Data
- Burner Trail

These lists

give court reporters the steno tools to handle cell phone testimony confidently, capturing technical terms and slang accurately for cleaner, faster transcripts.



In Memoriam



Peggy Tahyi

September 30, 1950

October 10, 2025

Peggy J. Tahyi, 75, of Conesville passed away on October 10, 2025 at Kobacker House in Columbus. She was born on September 30, 1950 in Dover, Ohio to the late Dale and Maggie (Rippel) Handrich. She was a 1968 graduate of River View High School. After graduation, Peggy began her professional journey as a court reporter - a calling that quickly became her lifelong passion. In 1969, she joined Judge Richard Hixson, beginning a partnership that shaped much of her early professional life.

Her determination and love for her work led her to open her own firm, Tahyi Video and Court Reporting in 1985, where she proudly built a team of ten court reporters. Known for her remarkable work ethic and love for her profession, Peggy never truly retired, continuing to work diligently until her final days.

Peggy is survived by her husband, Terry Tahyi, whom she married on December 27, 1970; children Troy Tahyi and Stefanie (Dustin) Brannon; grandchildren Nicholas (Destiny) Tahyi, Peyton (Carter Andreozzi) Tahyi, Natalie (Bryan Stalter) May, Grayce (Kade) Barnett and Beau Brannon; great grandchildren, Benjamin and Luca, as well as sister, Linda (Ralph) Hollingsworth and nieces and nephews.

Along with her parents, she is preceded in death by her in-laws, Fred and Velma Tahyi.

A MERRY & BRIGHT CONCERT IN DOWNTOWN BG

by Veronica Williams, RPR

On Sunday, December 14, 2025, the Wood County Courthouse welcomed the community for a festive afternoon of music. From 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., the marble steps inside the historic courthouse served as the stage for the Merry & Bright Courthouse Concert, filling the grand halls with holiday cheer.

The program opened with Tim Tegge, whose lively set—including songs like Fat Man on the Roof—brought energy and smiles to the audience. His voice carried warmly through the courthouse, setting a cheerful tone for the afternoon.

Next, Note to Self, the female cappella quartet, delivered flawless harmonies that resonated beautifully against the marble backdrop. Their crisp voices gave familiar carols a fresh sparkle.

Closing the concert was Abby Hunter from H2O Church, whose

powerful vocals provided a memorable finale. Her performance left the audience inspired and wrapped in the spirit of the season.

For me, attending with my mom made the afternoon even more special. This concert will now be a new holiday tradition we share together—returning each December to enjoy music, history, and community in the courthouse’s timeless setting.

The courthouse itself seemed to embrace the crowd, its historic architecture echoing with song and laughter.

In that space, the Merry & Bright Courthouse Concert became more than just an event; it became part of the rhythm of our holidays.



VISIT OHIO'S OWN STENO MUSEUM

AT THE MIAMI COUNTY SAFETY BUILDING

by Lin Riffle, RDR, CRR, CRC

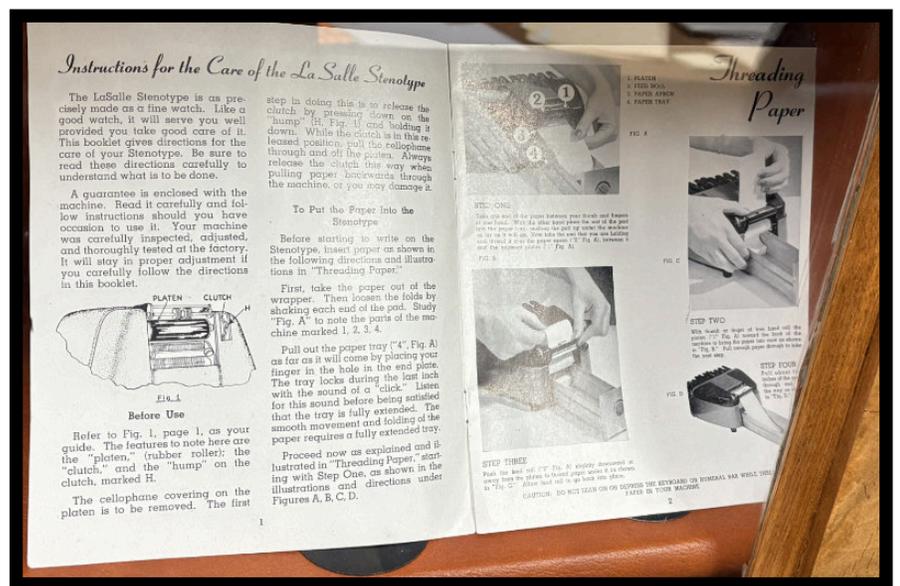
You may have heard about The Gallery of Shorthand in the Long Island Federal Courthouse, but did you know there is a display dedicated to stenotype in Troy, Ohio?

In the Miami County Safety Building (which also houses part of the Common Pleas Court), on the third floor right outside the Law Library is a cabinet with a display of printed materials and items related to stenotype.

Articles include "Skips Class to launch a Reporting Career at age 19," "Be a Stenotypist and See the World," "I.B.M. Employees Receive Company-Sponsored Training in Stenotypy," and "Aspirins, Bandages Part of Public Stenographer's 'Gear'."

A colleague brought this to my attention, and I'll be sure to check it out if I find myself in the area. Hope you will too!

Safety Building Photo Courtesy of Jimmy Emerson



**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!**

STENO LAND

Level Up Your Steno:
Certifications to Target in 2026

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





NUMBER ONE: CERTIFIED REALTIME REPORTER (CRR)

The CRR is the next step after the RPR, proving your ability to deliver immediate readable transcripts in real time.

WHAT IT IS:

The gold standard for instant translation.

WHY IT MATTERS:

Realtime is a non-negotiable requirement for high-profile cases, arbitrations, and complex litigation where attorneys need immediate text feeds for review and strategy.

THE PAYOFF:

CRR-certified reporters consistently secure premium assignments and higher per-job rates due to their specialized skill and speed.

2026 is the perfect time to elevate your professional game.

As the legal landscape evolves, expanding your certifications is the most effective way to stay competitive, command higher rates, and future-proof your career.

Here are the three most high-impact certifications to add to your resume this year:

NUMBER TWO: CERTIFIED REALTIME CAPTIONER (CRC)

Use your exceptional steno skills to expand your work beyond the courthouse and/or conference rooms into the growing accessibility market.

WHAT IT IS:

The certification proving your proficiency in both **Broadcast Captioning** (live TV/streams) and **CART** (Communication Access Realtime Translation for the deaf/hard of hearing).

WHY IT MATTERS:

It opens the door to lucrative, flexible, and often remote work, including providing communication access for universities, corporate meetings, and online events.

THE PAYOFF:

The CRC diversifies your income streams, making your career more resilient and allowing you to access markets with high demand outside of traditional legal settings.

NUMBER THREE: REGISTERED MERIT REPORTER (RMR)

The RMR is the foundational credential for the top tier of writers, requiring the speed to handle the fastest testimony.

WHAT IT IS:

The NCRA certification requiring a proven ability to write up to **260 words per minute (WPM)** with high accuracy.

WHY IT MATTERS:

Complex expert witness depositions and rapid-fire cross-examinations demand a speed cushion. The RMR proves you have the dexterity to handle the most challenging exchanges.

THE PAYOFF:

Achieving the RMR positions you among the elite, making you the preferred choice for assignments.

READY TO MAKE 2026 YOUR YEAR OF GROWTH?

The investment in your skills pays dividends in increased earning potential, job satisfaction, and professional recognition.

WHICH CERTIFICATION ARE YOU TACKLING FIRST?

Connect with Us on Facebook!

Share your 2026 certification goals and practice strategies on the Ohio Court Reporters Association Facebook page.

Use the hashtag [#ReporterGoals2026](#) to join the conversation and find a practice and accountability buddy!



OHIO COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 20-22, 2026

Columbus Marriott Northwest



POWERING THE FUTURE

Strong Minds, Strong Skills

1.5 CEUs Available

NCRA Approved

2026 Conference Location

Columbus Marriott Northwest
5605 Blazer Parkway
Dublin, Ohio 43017
(614) 791-1000



Single/Double Occupancy \$149 per night (plus tax)

The OCRA room block is available through March 2, 2026, or until sold out.

[Click here](#) for instant online reservations or call Marriott Reservations at 800-228-9290 and ask for the Ohio Court Reporters Association 2026 Annual Conference group rate to make your reservations over the phone.

*All OCRA activities will take place at the Columbus Marriott Northwest.
Included in your OCRA room block is complimentary parking and internet.*

2026 OCRA Contests

Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest and Karoscik Realtime Contest
Open to OCRA Members only who have attained NCRA RPR or CRC status

Friday, March 20, 2026

Location: Columbus Marriott Northwest

Visit www.OCRAonline.com for full contest rules, including a modification to the Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest rules beginning in 2026.

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.

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)	\$200
Refreshment and Vendor Break(s)	\$300
Breakfast(s)	\$400
Contest(s)	\$450
Silent Auction	\$500
Saturday Luncheon and Business Meeting	\$600
Saturday President's Reception	\$850

Annual Conference General Sponsors

Powerhouse Level	\$1,000 +
High Voltage Level	\$500 - \$999
Steady Current Level	\$250 - \$499
Connected Circuit Level	\$100 - \$249
Spark Level	\$1 - \$99
Student "Rising Energy" 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!

\$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

SILENT AUCTION

(To be hosted online with on-site displays)

Saturday, March 21, 2026

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.

2026 Awards and Scholarships

To be awarded during the Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon
March 21, 2026

2026 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Glenn W. Stiles Distinguished Service Award

This award is awarded for outstanding devotion and service to the court reporting profession and OCRA.

Martin Fincun Award

This award is given in recognition of a single but outstanding contribution to diligently promote the goals of our profession and our professional association.

Diplomat Award

This award acknowledges members of OCRA who consistently work to further the goals of the association. The intent of the Diplomat Award is to create a method of recognizing worthy service and accomplishments that might go unheralded because they do not fall under the criteria required to receive the Martin Fincun or Glenn Stiles Award(s). The Diplomat Award can be bestowed on one or more members each year.

Other (please indicate)

Other past awards have included but are not limited to: Legislative Award, Outstanding Associate Member Award, Meritorious Award, Special Award, and designation by the Board of Directors of Honorary Members.

2026 ROSALIE STEVENS AND SUE TERRY TECHNOLOGY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP(S)

ELIGIBILITY: Students must be a member of OCRA and cannot have previously won the award. If applicant is not currently an OCRA member, they may join at any time prior to submission of scholarship application. Applicant must be a resident of the state of Ohio or attending an Ohio-based program, either online or in-person classroom. Additional eligibility requirements vary depending on the scholarship applied for. Visit OCRA's website for additional information.

2026 VERNON C. STEELE NEW REPORTER SCHOLARSHIP

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

Do you know someone deserving of recognition for their hard work?

Do you know a court reporting student who meets the requirements of the Rosalie Stevens and/or Sue Terry Student Scholarships?

Do you know a new reporter who would be ideal for the Vernon C. Steele New Reporter Scholarship?

Don't Wait! Nominate/Apply Today!

Nominations/applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2026

Downloadable forms, online submissions, and further information available at www.OCRAonline.com

Friday, March 20, 2026

.5 CEU

TIME	CEU	SEMINAR/TOPIC	LOCATION
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.		OCRA Board of Directors Meeting	
10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.		Registration and Vendor Setup	
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.)	
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.		Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest Warmup (12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.) Contest and Transcription (12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)	
		Lunch On Your Own	
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Session 1 .2 CEU	Beyond the Bite: How Therapy K9s are Transforming Trauma Response Sergeant Darrah Metz Franklin County Sheriff's Office	
3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.		Vendor and Refreshment Break	
3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.	Session 2 .15 CEU	Turning Sound into Access: Captioning Live Music Events Kim Falgiani, RDR, CRR, CRC, CSR(HI) and Denise Munguía, RDR, CRR, CRC, CSR(CA, MI)	
4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.		Vendor and Refreshment Break	
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Session 3 .15 CEU	Flex Your International Attitude: Intersteno Victoria (Tori) Pittman, BA, CVR-CM-M, RCP, RVR FAPR, RDR, CRI (Ret.) <i>Recommendation for attendees: Bring your equipment (writers/ realtime setup) to try out competition material</i>	
		Dinner On Your Own	

Saturday, March 21, 2026

.7 CEU

TIME	CEU	SEMINAR/TOPIC	LOCATION
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.		Registration and Breakfast	
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Session 4 .2 CEU	Think Before You Click Matt Lydy	
10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.		Vendor, Silent Auction, and Refreshment Break	
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Session 5 .15 CEU	From Chaos to Calendar: Timing is Everything Kelly Linkowski, RPR, CRR, CRC, CRI, CPE <i>NCRA Director</i>	
12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.		2026 Business Meeting, Awards, and Luncheon <i>Plated Lunch Provided</i>	
2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Session 6 .15 CEU	My Journey to the U.S. House of Representatives Tammy McGhee, RMR, CRR, CRC	
3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.		Vendor, Silent Auction, and Refreshment Break	
4:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.	Session 7 .2 CEU	Becoming Devoted Amy Doman, RDR, CRR, CRI, CSR (CA, IL, TX, and WA), CCR (MO)	
6:00 p.m.		Silent Auction Ends	
6:15 p.m.		Hagestrom Cup Speed and Karoscik Realtime Contest Results	
7:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.		President's Reception <i>Dinner Provided / Cash Bar Available</i> <i>Main Raffle Winners Announced</i> <i>Entertainment and Dancing</i>	

Sunday, March 22, 2026

.3 CEU

TIME	CEU	SEMINAR/TOPIC	LOCATION
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.		Breakfast	
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Session 8 .15 CEU	StenoMasters Public Speaking for Court Reporters and Captioners Joshua Edwards, RDR, CRR, CRC	
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.		Refreshment Break <i>(30-minute break provided to allow for hotel check out)</i>	
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Session 9 .15 CEU	Real Criminal Minds and CSI Al Sternberg <i>Lieutenant (retired) Wake County Sheriff's Office</i> <i>Evidence Custodian and Investigator</i>	

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MARCH 20 TO 22, 2026

2026 OCRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Columbus Marriott Northwest
5605 Blazer Parkway
Dublin, Ohio 43017



Registration Form

Early-Bird: Register by 11:59 p.m. on 2/6/2026 and you will be entered to win a free registration (full reimbursement of paid registration).

Registration Deadline: Deadline to preregister is 3/6/2026. Registrations received after 3/6/2026 and on-site will incur a \$50 late processing fee.

Refunds: Full refunds are available prior to 3/6/2026. All voluntary cancellations after 3/6/2026 will incur a \$50 cancellation processing fee.

Cancellation of Event Notice: If the 2026 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

March 20-22
full weekend

	Member	Nonmember
With CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$450	<input type="checkbox"/> \$580
Without CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$380	<input type="checkbox"/> \$450
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200

SATURDAY-ONLY REGISTRATION OPTIONS

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

March 21
Saturday only

	Member	Nonmember
With CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$320	<input type="checkbox"/> \$450
Without CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> \$165

FRIDAY-ONLY REGISTRATION OPTION

Friday seminars and refreshment breaks included
.5 CEU available

March 20
Friday only

	Member	Nonmember
With CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$400
Without CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140

SUNDAY-ONLY REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Sunday seminars and refreshment break included
.3 CEU available

March 22
Sunday only

	Member	Nonmember
With CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> \$325
Without CEUs	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125

REGISTRATION ADD-ONS, GUESTS, AND EXTRAS

Sponsorship Options

Student "Rising Energy" Sponsorship	\$ _____
General Conference Sponsorship	\$ _____
Speaker (\$200)	\$ _____
Refreshment/Vendor Break(s) (\$300)	\$ _____
Breakfast(s) (\$400)	\$ _____
Contest(s) (\$450)	\$ _____
Silent Auction (\$500)	\$ _____
Saturday Luncheon/Business Meeting (\$600)	\$ _____
Saturday Reception (\$850)	\$ _____

Social Options for Guests

Saturday Luncheon and Business Meeting	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 each	_____ guests
Saturday Dinner Reception	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$60 each	_____ guests

Contests: Friday, March 20, 2026

Open to OCRA Members Only

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

TOTAL THIS PAGE \$ _____

IMPORTANT

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

As a presenter, vendor, and/or attendee, you recognize that your participation, involvement, and/or attendance at any event or activity hosted by the Ohio Court Reporters Association is voluntary. Social distancing should be practiced and face coverings worn in compliance with any then-current Ohio Department of Health's orders or recommendations to reduce the risks of exposure to and spread of COVID-19 and/or any other contagious/infectious diseases. While OCRA and the Columbus Marriott Northwest will put in place preventative measures to prevent spreading of contagious/infectious diseases, OCRA and/or Marriott cannot guarantee that its participants, volunteers, partners, or others in attendance will not be exposed to or become infected with COVID-19 and/or any other contagious/infectious diseases.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By registering for in-person attendance at the Ohio Court Reporters Association 2026 Annual Conference, I understand, acknowledge, and agree to the following:

1. I will comply with any and all state, county, or local orders and provisions in place at the time of my attendance including, but not limited to, social distancing and face coverings;
2. Participation includes possible exposure to and illness from infectious diseases including, but not limited to, COVID-19; and
3. I knowingly and freely assume all such risks related to illness and infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, through my voluntary attendance.

After reading the above safety information and acknowledgment, the checkbox on the registration form must be marked to indicate your full understanding, acknowledgement, and agreement in order for your registration for the 2026 Annual Conference to be processed.

Registration Form

CONFERENCE ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Name _____ NCRA ID _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Year Started Reporting _____

Certifications _____ Special Meal Needs/Requests _____

Are you staying at the Marriott? **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 6/30/2027 (student good through 8/31/2027)

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 3/6/2026. After 3/6/2026, add \$50 late processing fee. ****

Note: If the 2026 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 Derbin, Executive Director
2274 Chapel Road
Jefferson, Ohio 44047

FUN & 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!

WORD SEARCH: PINS TO PINGS

SU-DO-KU

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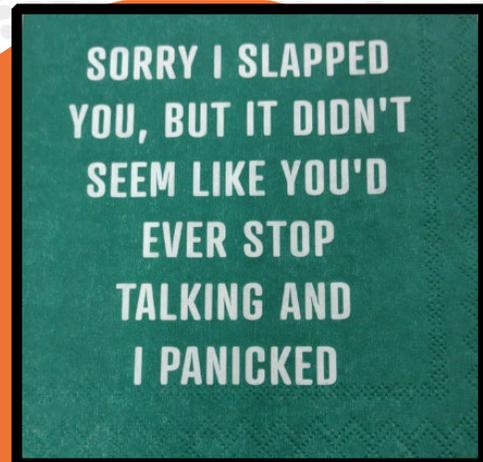
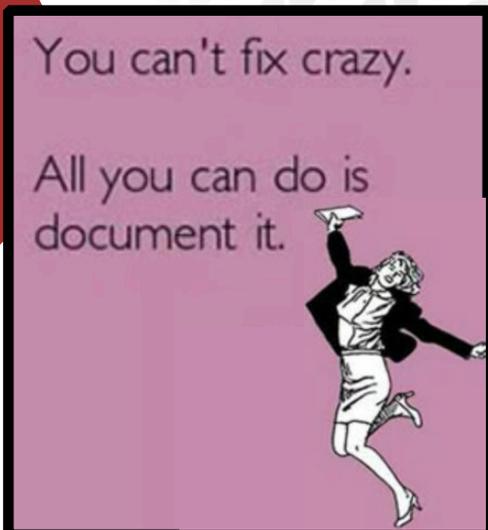
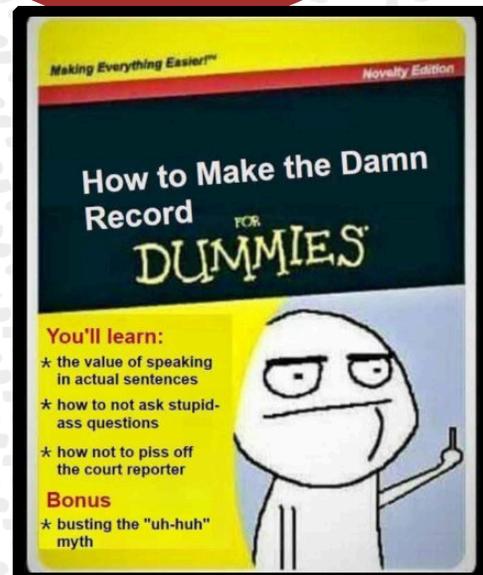
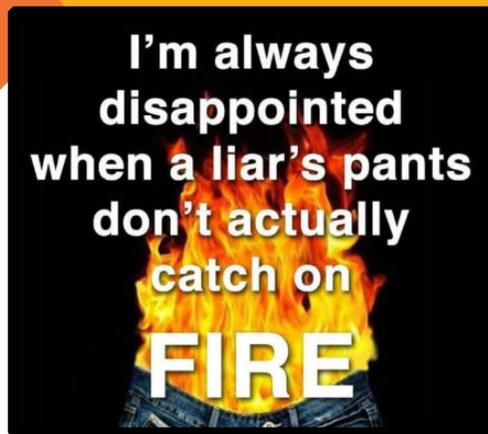
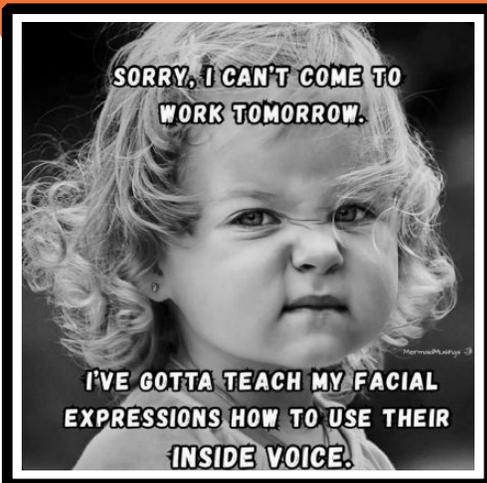
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 CMPANTWOU DR LFLTIMMIQ
 HPACZENGOFFNMKTPOSRN
 HSYKIVREWNECEHRMHNOR
 GNQIIZCOTMUASRICYOJM
 OKHNZDALDUJWJPABMVNC
 FXWGRKOOXICCUINRGYDE
 THNTJLWCOIOLUNGYEEEF
 VGDAPIXKARQNIUGUEQQYN
 FDXMHTUTUKTFSSLGXWWD
 SEIXBVI IQWAKLQAFMSNV
 ELPASSWORDCYAATDEMMS
 KETYAYFNVA TEXHISGFED
 STHUMBNAI LSS LKOCNGPS
 NEIGLYDMOSWGR LNC HN ZD
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| Cell Phone | GrayKey | Cookies | Geolocation | Encryption |
| Smartphone | Password | Cache | Extraction | Burner |
| Pings | Contacts | Deleted | Triangulation | PIN |
| Bricking | Thumbnails | History | Tracking | GPS |
| Cellebrite | Metadata | Cell Tower | Bluetooth | Timestamps |

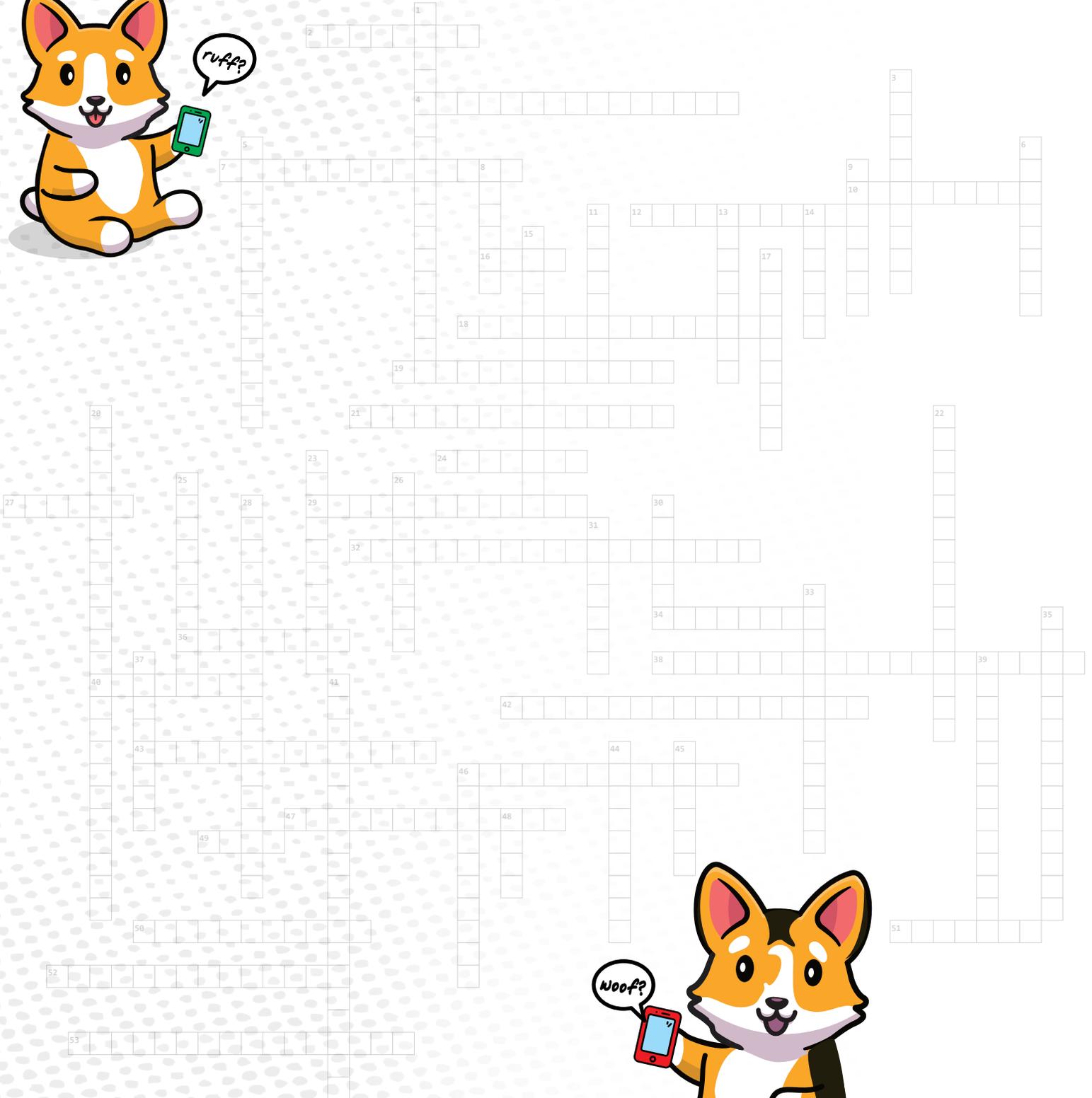
the PEANUT GALLERY



TAPPED & TRACED:

Mobile Forensics

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



▶ ACROSS

- 2. Method of physically removing a memory chip for data acquisition.
- 4. Obtaining data from a user's remote, internet-based account.
- 7. Market-leading hardware device for mobile phone data extraction.
- 10. Unique numerical label assigned to a device on a network.
- 12. Popular forensic tool that combines acquisition and analysis.
- 16. Slang term for a large smartphone.
- 18. The device's primary embedded memory for data and OS.
- 19. Number of seconds since January 1, 1970 UTC.
- 21. Data acquisition performed while the device is powered on.

▼ DOWN

- 1. Fast acquisition method using the device's operating system interface.
- 3. The intentional or negligent destruction of evidence.
- 5. Dedicated, isolated security coprocessor in modern devices.
- 6. Processor that handles all cellular communication.
- 8. Long-standing forensic software, often used for computer and mobile analysis.
- 9. Chip that authenticates the user to the mobile network.
- 11. A piece of data or residue left by user activity or a system process.
- 13. Tags attached to photos detailing camera settings and sometimes GPS.
- 14. Apple's suite of cloud services.

- 24. Using a mobile network outside of one's home service area.
- 27. Cheap, disposable phone used for illicit or temporary communication.
- 29. Digital key used to maintain a logged-in state without a password.
- 32. The process of restoring unallocated but still-present information.
- 34. Numeric or alphanumeric combination required to unlock a device.
- 36. Data about data, such as creation date or file size.
- 38. Acquisition of all user-accessible files, folders and system directories.
- 40. Apple's proprietary messaging service often encrypted.
- 15. An error where a non-event is mistakenly identified as an event.
- 17. Records of all devices that connected to a specific cell antenna in a given period.
- 20. Suite for data analysis, known for cloud and app support.
- 22. Legal order for all devices in a specific area during a set time.
- 23. Unallocated or hidden files that remain on a device.
- 25. Records of the moment an event occurred.
- 26. Forensic term for a complete, bit-for-bit copy of storage.
- 28. Bit-for-bit acquisition of the entire device memory.
- 30. To call or text someone repeatedly.
- 31. Controversial tool specializing in unlocking modern iOS devices.
- 42. Telephony metadata often obtained from the carrier.
- 43. Past records of a phone connecting to towers, from the carrier.
- 46. Judicial authorization for law enforcement to search a device.
- 47. Using signal strength from three or more towers to approximate a device's position.
- 49. Integrated, programmable version of the Subscriber Identity Module.
- 50. The device's internal time source, crucial for forensic analysis.
- 51. The delay before a transfer of data begins following an instruction.
- 52. Documented history tracking evidence handling and location.
- 53. Feature allowing apps to use the device's geographical position.
- 33. Simple, non-smart mobile device, often with a physical keypad.
- 35. Record of websites visited by the device's user.
- 37. Secure container on iOS/macOS for storing passwords and account tokens.
- 39. Confirmation or support of a piece of evidence by another source.
- 41. Security measure that protects all user and system data on the device.
- 44. Cryptographic fingerprint used to prove data integrity.
- 45. Apple's facial recognition system.
- 46. Modern pocket computer with an operating system.
- 48. 15-digit number unique to a mobile handset.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES & MARKETPLACE

STAFF STENOGRAPHIC REPORTER

Columbus, OH

Due to growing demand for in-person and remote depositions, Spectrum Reporting is looking to hire additional W-2 stenographers local to the Central Ohio market.

► [More Details](#)

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTERS FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS - GENERAL DIVISION

Columbus, OH

Common Pleas Court of Franklin County, Ohio, is seeking full-time and part-time Official Court Reporters.

► [More Details](#)

ASSISTANT COURT REPORTER CUYAHOGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS - GENERAL DIVISION

Cleveland, OH

Common Pleas Court of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, is seeking a full-time Assistant Court Reporter.

► [More Details](#)

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT - THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston, WV

The United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia is seeking applicants for an Official Court Reporter position located in Charleston, West Virginia.

► [More Details](#)

Have a posting for a career opportunity or a court reporting item you would like to sell?

Postings are FREE for OCRA members for 60 days.

► [SUBMIT](#) ◀

Court reporters:
Making the impossible look easy.



10 fingers - 22 keys -
4,194,303 possible strokes

ANSWER KEY FOR FUN & GAMES

WORDSEARCH KEY



CROSSWORD KEY

ACROSS

- 2. Chip-Off
- 4. Cloud Extraction
- 7. Cellebrite UFED
- 10. IP Address
- 12. Magnet Axiom
- 16. Slab
- 18. Internal Storage
- 19. UNIX Epoch Time
- 21. Live Acquisition
- 24. Roaming Records
- 27. Burner
- 29. Account Tokens
- 32. Deleted Data Recovery
- 34. Passcode
- 36. Metadata
- 38. File System Extraction
- 40. iMessage
- 42. Call Detail
- 43. Historical CSLI
- 46. Search Warrant
- 47. Triangulation
- 49. ESIM
- 50. System Clock
- 51. Latency
- 52. Chain of Custody
- 53. Location Services

DOWN

- 1. Logical Extraction
- 3. Spoliation
- 5. Secure Enclave
- 6. Baseband
- 8. Encase
- 9. Sim Card
- 11. Artifact
- 13. Exif Data
- 14. iCloud
- 15. False Positive
- 17. Tower Dump
- 20. Oxygen Forensic Detective
- 22. Geofence Warrant
- 23. Shadow Data
- 25. Timestamps
- 26. Full Dump
- 28. Physical Extraction
- 30. Blow Up
- 31. Graykey
- 33. Feature Phone
- 35. Browser History
- 37. Keychain
- 39. Corroboration
- 41. Full-Disk Encryption
- 44. Hash Value
- 45. Face ID
- 46. Smartphone
- 48. IMEI

SUDOKU KEY

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Ohio Court Reporters Association

Real People. Real Quality. Realtime.

605 North High Street, PMB 298 Columbus, OH 43215

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