

**From the Desk of the PCRA President
Kathleen McHugh, RPR, CRR, CSR**



Thank you to everyone who attended PCRA's annual convention at Seven Springs Resort and to those who made it such a wonderful experience.

This President's message is my big fat Irish thank you to everyone who has made my first term as President such an exciting and rewarding experience.

Thank you to our Executive Team, Mel and Liz, for all the work they do throughout the year for PCRA members, from putting on the convention, communicating with our members, arranging our Board meetings, publishing *The Outline*, updating our website, and so much more.

Thank you to the presenters at this year's convention for giving of your time and talents so we could all leave a little smarter and a lot more confident in our skills.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our auction at the convention, to those who sponsored a student, sponsored the convention, purchased raffle tickets or supported our vendors.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered on PCRA's behalf this past year to promote the court reporting profession through attending a career day, mentoring a student, earning some additional letters after your name or putting a bumper sticker on your car.

Thank you to those who represented PCRA at guidance counselor, PACM and CCBL conventions.

Thank you to those who administered the NCRA exams for our members, who transcribed a veteran's story or Flight 93 interview, or updated our social media sites.

Thank you to the official reporters who are acting as liaisons in their court house, disseminating information regarding Rule 4000 to your colleagues.

Thank you to our fabulous Rule 4000 committee who have spent countless hours working on the issue.

Finally, thank you to the PCRA Board who works tirelessly for the benefit of court reporters across the state. You make my job so much easier.

We have big challenges ahead of us but with your continued help I think we can accomplish great things.

**Sincerely,
Kathleen McHugh, RPR, CRR, CSR
PCRA President**

PCRA 2015 Annual Convention

I hope everyone enjoyed PCRA's 2015 annual convention at the beautiful Seven Springs Resort. I thoroughly enjoyed myself while learning so much. Big thanks to Melanie Dixon and Liz Matson, our Executive team, for all their hard work in putting together such a fun and informative convention. Thank you also to NCRA Vice-President and Pennsylvania's own Tiva Wood, RDR, CMRS, FAPR, our NCRA representative.

Special thanks to all of our presenters, especially Anissa Nierenberger, RPR, CRR, CBC, CCP, CRI, and Lisa Knight, CSR, RPR, RMR, CRR, CLR, RSA, who traveled from Michigan and Colorado respectively, requested only that their expenses be paid, and presented multiple seminars each. I heard wonderful feedback on Anissa's dictionary building workshops and on Lisa's gadgets seminar and her test-taking tips seminar. PCRA members told us they wanted technology and PCRA delivered big time.

With its close proximity to the Flight 93 memorial, it was only natural that we would have seminars on this American tragedy, presented by first responders, those at the scene, and the county coroner.

A Rule 4000 update was given by Melissa Keating, RPR, and Cheryl Hansberry, CRR, CCP, RDR, with help from Donna Cascio, RDR, CMRS, FAPR, and Tiva Wood.

Tiva Wood also conducted the Town Hall meeting, bringing us news of what's happening at NCRA and across the country.

Reporters also learned the importance of our posture in remaining comfortable as we write from chiropractor, Dr. Lauren Davis.

Lillian Freiler, RMR, CMRS, FAPR, presented the always fun seminar on trivia, vocabulary and spelling.

There was also plenty of time to interact with the exhibitors, take chances on the fabulous auction items presided over again by Barb Quinn, RPR, RMR, and mingle with new and old friends.

Please mark your calendars now for our next annual convention, April 1-3, 2016, and join PCRA at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank You Convention Sponsors, Donors and Exhibitors

We'd like to thank the many sponsors, donors and exhibitors who helped to make the 2015 Annual Convention so successful.

Thank you Johnson and Mimless for being a Presidential Reception Sponsor and Marjorie Peters Court Reporting for being a Silver Convention Sponsor.

Johnson and Mimless



Thank you to the student sponsors who helped bring a record number of students to convention.

Donna Cascio
Geiger Loria Filius & McLucas Reporting
Susan Kiniry
Kathleen McHugh
Miller-Verbano
Ruth Poscich
Barbara Quinn
Deborah Rowe
Keith Shreckengast
Suzanne Walinsky

James DeCrescenzo
Joy Hartman/Johnson & Mimless
Constance Lee & Company
Donna M. McMullen
Network Deposition Services
Dianna R. Pugliese
Joanne Rose-Kahny
Lori Scalise
Lenore Wagner

Once again, Barb Quinn organized an amazing raffle and collected a fantastic array of items. Thank you to the donors who helped make the raffle so spectacular.

Maureen Broderick
Donna Cascio
Court Reporters of Butler County
Dictionary Jumpstart - Anissa Nierenberger
Melissa Keating
Kathleen McHugh
ProCAT – Cathy Logan
Barb Quinn
Lori Scalise
Michele Sherry
Sten Ed
William E. Weber

Diane Brown
John Colasante
James and Sheila DeCrescenzo
Initials, Inc. - Bridget Bisbing
Sue Kiniry
NCRA
Dianna Pugliese
Joanne Rose-Kahny
Scentsy - Reva McClain
Sheila Stauffer
Stenograph – Lynn Peterson
Westmoreland County Reporters

Finally, thank you to the exhibitors who brought new hardware and software, helpful advice and beautiful accessories to the exhibit area.

Advantage Software
Initials, Inc.
ProCAT
Scentsy
ViVi Jewelry

Everbatim
Kris Feliciani State Farm Agency
Sabika Jewelry
Stenograph
Worth Business Equipment

Thank you all again for your contributions to the success of the 2015 convention!

Special Request

Many convention attendees had the opportunity to meet Gavin Jenkins, a freelance writer who became interested in the court reporting profession after being involved in a court case. He is working on an article that he hopes will be beneficial to court reporters and is asking PCRA members to email him with their thoughts and memories from/about their job. In particular, he's looking for weird cases, haunting cases that can't be forgotten, funny moments - like when someone represents themselves - or sad ones. As he says, "It's from these moments that, as a writer, I will be able to paint a humanistic view of court reporters. Because, right now, most people take CRs for granted." Gavin can be reached at gavinjenkins32@gmail.com.

Save the Date!
2016 PCRA Annual Convention
April 1-3, 2016
Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel
State College, PA



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Rule 4000 Committee – June Meeting Update

The first order of business was Judge Baratta polled the Committee concerning asking the Supreme Court to expand our members to include one or two members of the County Commissions Association of Pennsylvania. The thinking is that implementation of this rule will affect county budgets, so they should be included in the discussion. Everyone on the Committee agreed, so he's going to write a letter to the Supreme Court and then an invitation to CCAP. He's hoping for permission for two members, but he wants at least one.

Secondly, Judge Baratta wanted to clarify whether the rules contemplate reporters in the Commonwealth Court. He will be consulting with the new Court Administrator of Pennsylvania, Tom Darr, on this matter.

Much of the meeting was spent discussing page rates and the disparate rates throughout the Commonwealth. We discussed different ways to try to address the different factors in the various judicial districts. Judge Baratta shared his opinions:

1. There should be no difference in the rate between "private pay" and "government pay".
2. The rate should be below what is in the private sector because officials also earn a salary.
3. Reporters should be compensated fairly so they don't leave the employ of the Counties.
4. Rules should be adjusted to have an allocation of costs between both parties.
5. Clarified that Court Orders are NOT transcripts and are not subject to this Rule.

We will be having additional discussions on rates during the next and subsequent meetings. We did, however, emphasize that the page rate should be a direct pass-through to the court reporter. We will be advocating for that language to be contained in the rule.

Judge Baratta does NOT feel that the committee should address additional charges that may be made by reporters for things such as real-time feeds to attorneys, for technical material (asbestos, med mal., etc.), for rough drafts, but rather those fees should be decided by each county in their internal policies. Rule 4000 would have to be amended to permit this surcharge ability.

The discussion of court reporters being paid for copies was very limited. It appears that at this time the rule will not allow for copy fees for any transcripts. A fee in the range of .75 or 1.00 per page was discussed, however, the intent is for these monies to provide a stream of income to the administration of the courts, and therefore court administration will take over the task of providing copies of transcripts, and will collect and keep the funds. We are obviously against this and will be addressing this copy issue at the next and future meetings.

There was a lot of discussion regarding tying rate increases to the consumer price index and having rate increases every three years. A similar practice is built in for the Prothonotary's filing fees and works well. The particulars of how that works wasn't really explained.

Judge Baratta said he would circulate PCRA's Rule 4000 committee's suggested revisions to the rule and our summary to the rest of the committee and asked the committee to go through the rule point by point and provide the same kind of summary to him for our next meeting, which will be in September; a specific date will be determined later.

New NCRA Certifications

Congratulations to Pennsylvania Reporters with New Certifications!

PCRA would like to congratulate members **Sue Kiniry** of Johnstown, who was newly certified as an RDR, **Leah Blum** of Lansdale, who was newly certified as an RPR, **Dutcheen Cameron** of Harrison City, **Kimberly Spangler** of Johnstown and **Michelle Nicholas** of Throop, who were all newly certified as an RMR, and **Bonita Bell** of Greensburg, who was newly certified as a CRR, after the May tests.

We also congratulate Pennsylvania reporters **Molly Alber** and **Adrian Baule** of Philadelphia, both newly certified as an RPR, and **Cynetha McCartha** of Nanticoke, who was newly certified as a CRR, after the May tests; **Joshua Woodhead** of Johnstown, who was newly certified as a CLVS after the January tests; and **Susan Davido-Durkovic** of West Chester, who was newly certified as an RPR after the November tests.

Congratulations to all for your achievements!

Veterans History Project

PCRA participated in a Veterans History Project day on the Battleship New Jersey on Thursday, June 25. As part of the Tall Ships visit to the Camden, New Jersey and Philadelphia ports, veterans of all wars were invited for lunch, access to veterans' services and prime seating to view the Tall Ships.

Thank you to those who participated in this important event.

If you would like to transcribe a previously recorded interview, visit NCRA's web site, under "The Foundation," go to "Oral Histories," and you will see directions on how to go about doing that. If you would like to conduct your own interview of a veteran that you know, go to www.loc.gov/vets to receive a Field Kit that includes everything you need to do that.