

**From the Desk of the PCRA President
*Susan E. Kiniry, RDR***



Summer is my favorite time of year, as I am sure it is for many of you. We kick off the season on Memorial Day, the season peaks as we celebrate Independence Day, and it winds down as we approach Labor Day. On those three holidays, we often find ourselves thinking of picnics, fireworks, festivals and family gatherings. On Memorial Day we remember those who fought for our freedom. Independence Day is a time to celebrate our nation's birthday and all of the rights and freedoms we enjoy. Labor Day is a day to celebrate the workforce, those who strive to make our country strong. Today, though, I thought about those holidays in relation to our great profession. I reflected on the hard working reporters in Pennsylvania and across the country who dedicate themselves every day to help make verbatim records that affect the rights and freedoms of our citizens. We caption and provide CART services to the hard of hearing community, so that they have the same opportunities to participate in the classroom, at meetings, a church service, or to enjoy television, movies and the theatre. This profession is integral to the rights, freedoms and opportunities we have in this country, so although we are often the "silent" participant, we must not forget the value of the role we play and the importance of keeping our profession alive and thriving.

As part of an awareness campaign, your board voted to spend significant funds on a digital marketing campaign to raise awareness about court reporting. We launched a three-month campaign beginning in March. The campaign generated over 29,252 visits to either our landing page or our website. The social media aspect of the campaign generated an amazing reach with 1,144,629 individuals reached and over 24,771 visits generated to those pages. We had more than 75 people provide us with their contact information to request more information on our profession. Those individuals were contacted by Immediate Past President Kathy McHugh or by me, as well as by the instructors at our schools. It is apparent people are interested in our profession!

We raised awareness. Now we need to keep the momentum going. Here are just a few of the things we are considering. We are compiling a database of county bar leaders and hope to network with local bar associations on activities they engage in that involve high school students. We are looking into additional marketing ideas, such as a digital campaign on Channel One, a show broadcast daily

in most high schools across the country, a new 30-second video spot, and/or a continuation of our spring digital campaign in the fall. Our marketing committee led by Colleen Wentz, could use more members, so please contact Colleen to become part of this very important committee at zenna@ptd.net. Again, we ask you to do your part by promoting our profession through word of mouth, on social media, and talking to local high school students.

There are many exciting things going on in your association. Be sure to read the articles on Rule 4000, our fall regional seminar, a radio interview with our own Donna Cascio, Amy Bowlen and Marybeth Johnson that broadcast on WDVE in Pittsburgh.

Lastly, don't forget our own Nativia Wood will be installed as NCRA President in Chicago in August. It will be an exciting time in Chicago, so stay tuned to our Facebook page as our members in attendance in Chicago will be sharing this event through posts and pictures.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! I hope it is filled with plenty of sunshine, and that that sunshine reminds you of the many ways we "shine" in this great profession!

Sincerely,
Susan E. Kiniry, RDR
PCRA President

PCRA Members Interviewed by WDVE Radio: Did you Tune In?



PCRA members Donna Cascio, Mary Beth Johnson, and Amy Bowlen

Currently PCRA member Donna Cascio and her husband live in a rural setting about 70 miles away from downtown Pittsburgh, but Donna lived in the city as a reporting student and always felt a part of that scene. One of the morning rituals in the Cascio home is waking up at 6 a.m. to the Morning Show with Randy Baumann on WDVE (known locally as DVE), a rock radio station.

Well, on Sundays Donna and her husband still get up early because they attend a 7:30 a.m. church service, so they let the radio come on automatically as per usual. On Sundays, DVE airs different programming, and one show is called Pittsburgh Sunday Morning, with Sean McDowell. It airs at 7:00 a.m. and is a public affairs program, often highlighting local charity events, such as runs or walks benefitting various organizations. He invites listeners to contact him if there is an upcoming event to highlight, and he emphasizes that the topic does not need to be related to a charity.

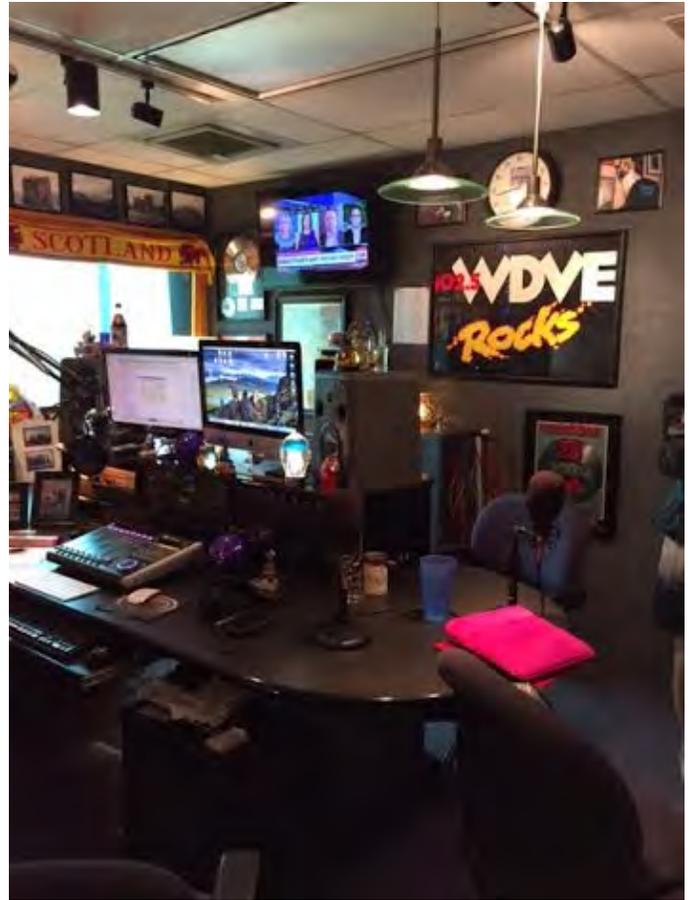
Because PCRA and NCRA did such a good job urging all of us in the court reporting world to highlight our professions to the community preceding National Court Reporting and Captioning Week in February, I immediately thought, Why not!

Donna emailed Sean on February 2 and he responded two days later. The rest, as they say, is history. Mary Beth Johnson, professor of court reporting at Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) in Pittsburgh, and Amy Bowlen, former head of captioner training at VITAC, were totally on board when Donna asked them to participate, and snapped up the opportunity Sean presented – the date of May 18, 2016, at noon, to record the interview. Although that was way past National Court Reporting and Captioning Week, the PCRA member team were thrilled to be able to talk about the profession they love.

As a prelude to the interview, Donna gathered material that NCRA had available on its website regarding our profession, asked a few questions, and even reached out to Nancy Varallo about the connection between reporting and music. Donna also had pertinent information from a recent interview she had done with a local newspaper.

Donna sifted through all of it and sent Sean some interesting facts and figures. He really did the rest! He was so thorough in covering the topics, and we reporters added comments throughout. Sean did a marvelous job hitting high points and seemed truly fascinated by what we do.

Because the folks at this radio station are “celebrities” to us, your PCRA colleagues had a great time meeting some of them after the interview and touring the studios. All in all, it was a GREAT experience.



NCRA Elections Committee to host Town Hall Candidate Forum



To assist its members in making an informed decision in the upcoming elections, the NCRA Elections Committee will host a live telephone town hall forum for the upcoming 2016 Board of Directors' elections on July 14 at 8 p.m. ET.

All candidates running in a contested election will be participating. Members who wish to attend should RSVP at elections@ncra.org in advance to ensure that a sufficient number of phone lines are accessible for call-ins. The town hall will be recorded, and the audio for listening/playback will be available shortly after the session concludes.

The Elections Committee is asking NCRA members to submit questions to the candidates. For more information on how to submit a question to the candidates and the deadline dates, please visit the [NCRA Election Center](#).

PCRA Regional Seminar: October 15 in Grove City

Register now! The 2016 PCRA Regional Seminar will be hosted on October 15 at the Hampton Inn in Grove City, PA. Presentations include ALICE training and Corporal Mocello, a fingerprint expert. You won't want to miss this CEU opportunity. Register now! Earn up to .5 CEUs.

2017 PCRA Annual Convention

Save the date and make plans to attend! The 2017 PCRA Annual Convention will be hosted in Lancaster, PA, March 31 – April 2 at the Doubletree Resort by Hilton Hotel Lancaster. Registration opens early 2017.

The Doubletree Resort by Hilton Hotel



Rule 4000: Update

Please note that PCRA is fighting for all Pennsylvania reporters, but as member dues are funding this fight, updated information on Rule 4000 is **only accessible by current members on the Rule 4000 tab under the Community page of this website.** Visit www.pcra.com for the latest information and updates!

Hope to See You in the “Windy City”



I hope you're having a fun and relaxing summer. I had a busy 4th of July weekend, enjoying live music, the beach, fireworks and family barbecues.

I'm looking forward to attending NCRA's national convention in Chicago in August. The national conventions are a wonderful opportunity to visit another part of the country, meet reporters from around the world, earn CEUs while learning something new about your writer, your software, best practices, and more.

Reporters from Pennsylvania are in for the added treat of seeing one of our own, Tiva Wood, be installed as NCRA's President. On Saturday night Tiva will host The Places You Will Go Gala, an evening of dining, dancing, and mingling with friends, old and new.

I hope you will join us in Chicago. I promise you'll have a great story to tell when asked to describe what you did this summer.

Kathy McHugh, RPR, CRR, CSR-NJ

Celebrating Tiva Wood, NCRA's Next President Kathleen McHugh, PCRA Immediate Past President

As you may know, Tiva Wood is being installed as the President of the National Court Reporters Association at its annual convention this summer in Chicago. Historically, the state association of the

incoming president honors that person in some way. In discussing possible plans with Tiva, we realize that she has a special place in her heart for the National Court Reporters Foundation - the philanthropic, or charitable, arm of NCRA. Tiva was NCRF's Chair in 1998, and she requested that we make a donation to NCRF in lieu of any social event.

We are reaching out to Tiva's fellow PCRA members, colleagues, family, and friends and hope you'll support this effort to honor her. It's a win/win all around. We honor Tiva, you receive a tax deduction, and we support programs that support the profession.

If you would like to contribute:

1. Make a check out to NCRF. **Note: NCRF.**
2. Mail it to PCRA, 43150 Broadlands Center Plaza, Suite 152-269, Ashburn, VA, 20148. For tracking and tallying purposes, PCRA is collecting the donations. They will be forwarded to NCRF, and you will receive notice of your tax-deductible contribution from NCRF for your tax files, so be sure to make your check out to NCRF. Whatever we collect will help support NCRF's scholarships and educational programs. For details, go to NCRF's website at www.ncra.org/ncrf.

We appreciate your consideration and hope that you can help us honor Tiva in this way. We'll announce our success at NCRA's convention.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at kathymchugh@verizon.net.

NCRF's 2016 Robert H. Clark Scholarship Recipient: CCAC Student

Aspen Keech, a PCRA and NCRA member, was received the NCRF's Robert H. Clark Scholarship. Aspen is from New Oxford, Pennsylvania. She is a final-level court-reporting student at the Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Aspen has maintained a high grade point average and has volunteered for the Academy of Trial Lawyers as a court reporter during their mock trial competitions. Aspen has also volunteered as a court reporter in Judge Jeffrey A. Manning's Trial Tactics classes that are taught in conjunction with the Duquesne University School of Law. Aspen is a proud member of PCRA and NCRA.

New NCRA Certifications

Congratulations to Pennsylvania Reporters with New Certifications from NCRA!

PCRA would like to congratulate member **Jessica Salada** of Etters who was been certified as an RPR.

Congratulations for your achievements!

Don't Forget to Update Your Credentials!

NCRA recently combined the professional certifications of Certified Broadcast Captioner and Certified CART Provider. The new certification is recognized as the Certified Realtime Captioner.

If you hold either of these certifications – CBC or CCP - please log on to both the NCRA and PCRA websites and update your credentials.

