

Hoosier Shorthand Reporter

Summer 2006

President's Message...by Tina DeBone

As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun. It also flies when you are completely swamped! You look up from what you're doing and ask yourself, where did time go? How long have I been under my piles? My apologies for the late and abbreviated edition.

Time has certainly flown by as my presidency comes to an end in October. I have to say that my tenure as president has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my career! It's been extremely educational!

Thank you to the members that attended our certification workshop in May. A special thank you goes to Gail Malm-Armstrong for showing and sharing with us her skills and knowledge as a reporter. It's funny how we are quick to judge if we don't understand. She is an ER reporter that has had extensive training and experience. She has gone beyond her duty of an ER reporter to validate that she can contribute to the reporting field like the rest of us. Thanks, Gail!

After our certification seminar, a few of us became inspired and motivated/remotivated. I had several emails back and forth with Kathy Cortopassi, a captioner and CART

provider in Dyer, Indiana. She does a lot of work in Illinois, but is very interested in helping to bring up the standards in Indiana such as Illinois has done. Our emails came up with some pretty inspiring and sober thoughts. If we don't take action and follow through with our thoughts and efforts, we've determined that Indiana will

be the Nothing State. The nothing state? Yes, that's what we said. I'd like you to take a look at pages four and five to read what the conclusion of this seminar was, as well as the thought process of those attending and their concern for Indiana as a reporting state; and the reality of reporting that the state is in.

There are a lot of reporters in our state, whether they use steno or not. We all have a common goal: preparing an accurate, clean, and verbatim record. And if we all work as one, as a team, we can go far. But if we separate and segregate ourselves, we're simply outnumbered and we will be what we are right now, just a state association that struggles to be bigger than it is currently, with no voice to be heard because of the lack of member in-

terest.

Volunteerism is just that — giving a bit of your time. And the payout is having the best experience of your life! To be able to bring Mark Kislingbury to Indiana was truly exciting. It was one of the best con-

ventions because we had enthusiasm, member participation, and a want for it to be successful! Thank you to my officers and the officer-elects for all you've done in the past, currently, and in our future. It was a jackpot of a convention! What a reward! Wouldn't it be great to feel that reward of certification? Wouldn't you feel great knowing you were a participant of that process and we actually get it done? I know I would feel great to be a part of it and I dream of that day happening in my lifetime! I pray it doesn't take us 28 years like it did Alabama! I'll be 64!!!

Enjoy your summer and I hope to see you in New York for NCRA's annual convention!



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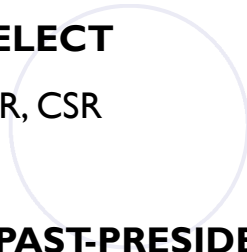
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Tina DeBone, RPR, CSR, CRI

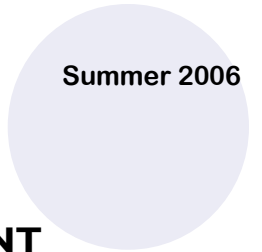


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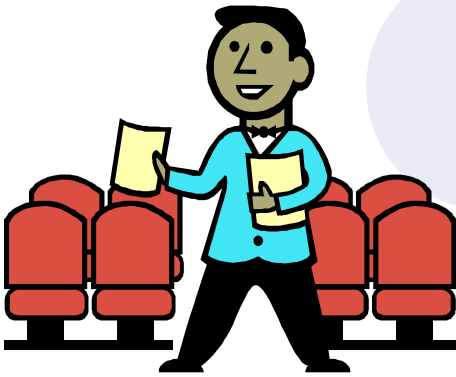
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SECRETARY

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WEBMASTER

Jeniffer Aloysius



2006 Convention Preview

Summer 2006

If you haven't already marked your calendars for this year's convention, get out a pen!

This year's ISRA annual convention will be held on
October 14th and 15th
at the Radison Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana.

We are pleased to announce that the speakers for the majority of this year's seminars are
Todd Ellison & Jon Matherne.

These well-informed individuals work for Microsoft
and specialize in speaking at seminars around the country.

Here are some of the topics you can look forward to learning more about this fall:

Workplace Safety

Identity Theft Protection

Internet Security Practices

Computer Technologies & Advancements

Additional speakers will be talking about Carpal Tunnel prevention
and Retirement & Investment planning,
and don't forget about our annual business meeting.

We're pleased to announce that you will have the chance to bid on TWO
Stenograph machines this year:
the Elan Mira and the Stentura Fusion.

Keep this in mind as you're planning your next equipment purchase.

This convention will cover topics for all reporters, ER or Steno.
Look for your registration forms in the mail coming soon!

ISRA'S CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP, May 13, 2006

Thanks to all reporters that came to our free certification workshop in Lafayette in May! Thanks to Laura Dennis for coming from NCRA HQ to help out in our seminar. It was a fact-filled mini boot camp session on what it will take to get certification in Indiana. As stated in the seminar, it took Alabama 28 years to get certification. Can we hang on for that long to push for certification? Our history speaks otherwise. Let's change that history and **DO** it! Here is a summary of what the results of that workshop are and what the attendees decided would be the route to go:

Legislative is the best method to pursue, but also the more costly method. It was decided the Legislative avenue was the way to pursue certification.

Generate membership drive to include ERs in the association and work with ERs in creating certification information.

Work with the AAERT (American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcriptionists.) They have extensive testing not only on their equipment, but in note-taking, terms, grammar, etc. It is also a verified written and skills test like the RPR or CSR. Understanding what the ERs do compared to steno. Coming together to embrace the REALITY of the state's record system.

Get materials together to start speaking to supporters and informing them of our want of certification. Make our presence known by grassroots lobbying and education.

Get member volunteers to replace the existing CSR committee to continue carrying the torch. Mini session in October at ISRA'S convention to inform the membership of the necessities and the importance of certification and what they can do as their part to help.

INDIANA'S NEW MOTTO: THE NOTHING STATE

By Kathy Cortopassi

Whether Indiana becomes a state to be reckoned with or not is up to you. "Me?" you ask. Yes, you. You as an individual and you as a group. And even the "yous" that are not members of ISRA yet but the "yous" who are members know who "they" are that are not members. "What difference do I make in Indiana being a Nothing state or not? I'm just a..." Wait. Before you complete that sentence, think for a moment. You are not JUST a court reporter. You are a member of an elite group of people who take the spoken word and transcribe whatever is said into the verbatim text. You do whatever research is necessary to put out that verbatim text. You work hard, long hours doing so. You have knowledge about your job that has taken years to attain. You worked hard enough just to BECOME a court reporter. Remember how hard school was??? Those of you that are certified, including ERs, remember how hard it was studying for and getting those certification letters behind your name? You are not JUST a court reporter -- you are AWESOME!

Now, let's rephrase that negative self-talk this way:

"What difference CAN I make? Can I be an integral part in changing Indiana from a Nothing state into a shining star? What can I do to help you make Indiana an example others wish to follow? I have talents and abilities uniquely mine that I can share. I don't have a lot of time, but I know you, ISRA, are not asking for hours and hours of my time but just a few minutes here and there. I know I can help in some way. Please, allow me to make a difference here. My name, phone number and email are ____."

If all of you reading this article were to do JUST THAT, we could change Indiana from a Nothing state to the ideal state of reporting we believe it can be. We Need You!!! Please Enlist in this War Against Apathy! Please help us fight the Enemy of Mediocrity! Please help your Leaders who are doing all the work by SHARING in the load. Please volunteer to do SOMETHING. Please PROVE your professionalism by volunteering to do a few of the millions of little tasks we have in order to reach our goals.

Now, what are some of the tasks we need done? See if any of the below are something you can do to help us. Send us names, addy, phone #, emails of reporters in Indiana. Recruit those reporters if you can, including ERs! Pass out flyers we provide to any attorneys and judges you work with/for. Ask everyone you know well or even slightly to support a bill we hope to introduce. Hand them the letter asking our politicians for support of this bill and ask them to sign it or forward them the email and ask them to fill it in and send it.

Keep submitting your ideas for seminar topics you wish we'd teach about at convention. Submit the info on good speakers you've run across and suggest them to us for convention. Write articles for our newsletter. Submit topics you'd like to have a webconference on. Some of us need the direction and some can instinctively know what needs to be done. The only instinct I have is when I'm hungry!!! Otherwise, lead me, guide me or watch me screw it up doing it myself!!! :) We just have to remember to follow through on all that we've said we would, and then we'll have done our part and then it's up to the members to do theirs. And if they do nothing, then we've heard what the members want and that is to do nothing and then Indiana will be known as the nothing state.

Please join us at our October convention October 14 & 15 when we will further explore and educate you on the certification process.

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this 'n that

For an application for membership or bylaws, please visit www.insra.info

Tina DeBone is still working with NCRA on CSR testing. Unfortunately, due to many things, she was not able to get all the info secured and mailed in time enough for the November testing. However, next May it will be in place, hopefully along with AAERT's testing so that we offer testing for all methods and a chance for all reporters to better themselves professionally and personally. Volunteers are needed to assist in this process. Please contact Tina DeBone if you are interested in assisting in implementing CSR testing for May 2007 testing date.

In the next few months, ISRA will be going through some changes as the new officers step up and the old officers retire...With that change, the website address will change slightly...www.insra.net

We will notify you when it goes into effect.



ENJOY YOUR SUMMER DAYS!!!



Tina DeBone, Editor

TO:



WELCOME TO ISRA!

Brenda Davis, IN Professional

Dana Miller, IN Professional

Sherie Tester, IN Student

Elizabeth Krouch, IN Student