



**APRIL 2018**

**Official Publication of the  
National Verbatim Reporters Association**

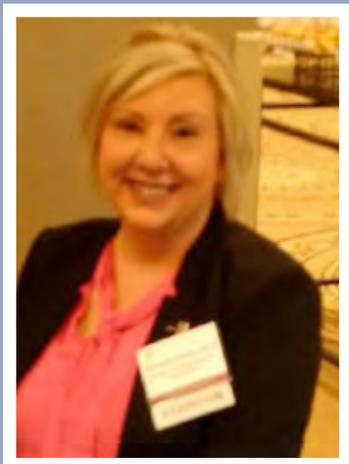
**CONNECTING  
THE VOICE  
WRITING COURT  
REPORTERS,  
CART AND  
CAPTIONING  
COMMUNITIES**

**[www.nvra.org](http://www.nvra.org)**

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## President's Message

### Maranda Murphy, RCP

Happy Spring, Members! First, I owe you an apology. I'm sorry we are so late on eVoice. Things got busy. Then things got really busy. I HAD to prioritize and unfortunately eVoice got bumped down a bit. Once you read all of the news, I hope you will forgive me!

I'm actually glad things worked out the way they did! Because I can give an update on all of the work that the Board got accomplished at the meeting in Atlanta, GA, at the end of March.

I'm so excited to announce that NVRA will be offering new certifications! Due to growing requests from our members, we will be offering the following certifications: **CLT- Certified Legal Transcriptionist, CLS- Certified Legal Scopist, RVR-M- Registered Verbatim Reporter Master**. Information about each test can be found in eVoice!

One of the things I love most about NVRA is that I've always felt so accepted. Many voicewriters know what it feels like to not be accepted or feeling like we always have to prove ourselves. I think that's the reason our members try to make people feel welcome and accepted; we know what it's like on the other side.

NVRA has had many inquiries over the past few months from NCRA certified reporters asking if we would consider granting our equivalent certifications if they join NVRA.

Our association accepts stenographers and voicewriters. We know the expense, work, value, and pride that goes into obtaining certification. Therefore, the board voted to offer these equivalent certifications:

CVR-S= RPR, CVR-CM-S= RMR, RVR-M-S= CRR, pending certain requirements. Details can be found in NVRA's Testing Policies and Procedures documents for the respective certifications. [www.nvra.org/testing](http://www.nvra.org/testing)

Our Board also voted to hire a lobbyist for help with our bill in Illinois. We had teams heading to Illinois last week for two different opportunities! We had a working mediation meeting at the Capitol on the wording of SB2965. And then, we had a presentation/demo at the ILCRA board meeting. Thank you to those who donated to our legislative fund! Every bit helps. I promise this Illinois Task Force is working very hard on this.

We have a new state association formed. We are proud to welcome Verbatim Reporters Association of Ohio!

# NVRA Supports Illinois Legislation

As you are aware, NVRA is supporting legislation in Illinois to allow certified voicewriters to work in the state.

**Background:** See message to membership announcing legislation on March 1, 2018. <https://conta.cc/2FK802u>

## Update:

Beth Kavelmann one of ILVRA and representatives from NVRA have been working tirelessly in an effort to move SB2965 forward. Many proponents have gone to the Illinois website and filed a witness slip indicating a willingness to testify in favor of the bill, either in person or in writing. Of course, there are opponents to the bill as well. So there is always a need for additional proponents. Please take the time to go and fill out the witness slip. See instructions in box.

NVRA has hired a lobbyist in Illinois. We determined that we would not be able to proceed with this legislation without the services of a lobbyist.

Senator Sam McCann, the sponsor of the bill, and his staff are working with our representatives to amend the language in the bill to assure that all methods of take-down are included and that the current "CSR" designation in Illinois is protected. On April 7, representatives from ILVRA and NVRA traveled to Peoria, Illinois, to make a presentation to the Board of Directors of the Illinois Court Reporters Association. While it is hoped that these meetings will reinforce the fact that steno writing court reporters and voice writing court reporters are all court reporters and are more alike than different, we know we will continue to face opposition. Assistance from all voice writers is needed to turn this dream into a reality.

What can you do to help? If you have the financial wherewithal to do so, please make a contribution to the NVRA Legislative Fund. <https://fs27.formsite.com/KellyEvans12/form8/index.html>

When the time comes, write legislators in Illinois in support of the bill. Below are updates from NVRA's recent meetings in the state.

## Senate Mediation Meeting, April 5, 2018

NVRA recently attending a meeting in Springfield, IL with the stakeholders' of SB 2965. In attendance for NVRA: Maranda Murphy, Becky Bazzle, Brenda Schmelz, Elizabeth Kavelman (Beth was representing ILVRA as well), and Phil Milsk, the lobbyist for NVRA.

Also in attendance: ILCRA lobbyist, and the Director of Legislative affairs.

We anticipated adding language to the bill that was agreed upon by the parties present. NVRA's goal is to have voicewriters be defined under the Shorthand Reporters Act and for reciprocity to given for NVRA certifications just as they are for the NCRA certifications.



Illinois State Capitol, April 2018, From left to right: Brenda Schmelz, Maranda Murphy, Becky Bazzle, Beth Kavelman and Phil Milsk, lobbyist.

## These are the instructions:

sign in to: [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov)

left hand column, type in "SB2965" in the box and enter GO.

Click on "Witness Slips."

Scroll down SB2965 and click on "Create a Witness Slip." Remember to click on "proponent" as we are in favor of approving this amended legislation.

Insert your personal information and click enter.

You will have to verify with your email account that you have filed an IL General Assembly witness slip.

Get out of [ilga.gov](http://ilga.gov) and then get back in it to verify your name and personal information is listed as a witness for the proponents (us).

## NVRA Supports Illinois Legislation (cont.)

The bill is currently a “shell” bill. It will be read again soon for the second reading. This way the bill stays “active” while we are working with IDFP, AOIC, and ILCRA to make sure the bill contains the proper language.

I feel like it was a productive and great meeting. We will keep everyone posted on the bill details as we get new information.

### ILCRA Presentation/Demo of Voicewriting, April 7, 2018

NVRA member Elizabeth Kavelman was able to secure a time and date for NVRA to present/demo voicewriting at the Illinois Court Reporters Association board meeting. This meeting came at the perfect time since we had a team in Illinois just two days earlier for the SB 2965 mediation meeting.

In attendance for NVRA: Maranda Murphy, Brenda Schmelz, Elizabeth Kaveleman, and Sarah Flynn. We planned the presentation to show the Board how voicewriting is done today. Sarah came to realtime the presentation and demo voicewriting.

We all felt very welcomed by ILCRA. They were very attentive, interested, and asked such great questions about our method of reporting. In fact, the presentation portion of the hour allotted time for our meeting was consumed with so many questions and discussions that we almost ran out of time. Most of the questions pertained to the similarities of steno and voice and some were detailed questions of how we dictate. There were also questions about NVRA certifications.

We were able to discuss the bill and help clarify some questions they had about the language of the bill.

I left the meeting feeling like it was a very productive and informative meeting for both ILCRA and NVRA. I’m thankful to ILCRA for giving us time out of their already full agenda to meet with us. I truly believe knowledge, mutual respect, and a willingness to learn from each other, is what it will take to help with the court reporter shortages around the nation.



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## NVRA Announces Three New Certifications:

The National Verbatim Reporter’s Association Board of Directors and Credentialing Committee are excited and pleased to announce new certifications programs to be available starting May 1, 2018.

- **Certified Legal Transcriptionist (CLT)**
- **Certified Legal Scopist (CLS)**
- **Realtime Verbatim Reporter – Master (RVR-M)**

Each of these certifications has been developed in response to increasing requests from our membership. Basic information on each certification is below.

### **Certified Legal Transcriptionist (CLT)**

The test for Certified Legal Transcriptionist (CLT) is comprised of a complete transcript production of a twenty-minute dictation of a proceeding that must be passed with 98% accuracy (72 errors allowed). The dictation includes an opening statement, jury charge, question and answer testimony, and a closing argument.

### **Certified Legal Scopist (CLS)**

The test for Certified Legal Scopist (CLS) is comprised of a scoped transcript production of a twenty-minute dictation of a proceeding that must be passed with 98% accuracy (72 errors allowed). The dictation includes an opening statement, jury charge, question and answer testimony, and a closing argument.

The **CLT** and **CLS** will be testing a transcriptionist’s and scopist’s ability to transcribe and edit a recorded file and produce an error-free transcript. NVRA Dictation Skills Tests will be professionally recorded and simulate actual court proceedings and transcripts.



Similarly, a Written Knowledge Test for both certifications covering a wide range of subjects related to the world of court reporting will also be administered. The Written Knowledge Test must be passed with a minimum score of 80%. The required areas of knowledge are transcript format, transcript production, spelling, vocabulary, legal terminology, medical terminology, punctuation, word usage, and number usage.

## **Realtime Verbatim Reporter – Master (RVR-M)**

The RVR-M was created to satisfy current requirements for the highest pay grade in federal courts. It consists of an 8-minute Q&A dictation at 200 words per minute with 96% accuracy. NVRA will continue to offer the Realtime Verbatim Reporter (RVR) exam in addition to the RVR-M.

Details and criteria for each of these new certifications can be found online at <https://nvra.org/nvra-certifications>.

In addressing our member's concerns and needs, NVRA continues to advance the understanding, practice, education and professional standards of verbatim reporters, CART providers, broadcast captioners and related professions by promoting ethical behavior, professional development, and educational opportunities.

NVRA conducts certification testing several times per year. Whether seeking certification in order to obtain employment, to receive increases in compensation, or simply to stand out, NVRA certification testifies to a person's professionalism and skills. With certification testing, NVRA is testing real world skills, not theoretical skills. An NVRA professional that is certified displays the highest professional standards, skills and abilities.

## **TESTING CORNER**

**Congratulations to our newly certified professionals.**

### **Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR):**

Sandra Arwood, CVR  
Lacy Caldwell, CVR  
Karen Dean, CVR  
Joan Drammeh, CVR  
Diana Farrell, CVR  
Donna Hinely, CVR  
Darlene Pastel, CVR  
Cami Shuman, CVR  
Patricia Szoke, CVR  
Eric Willhelm, CVR

### **Certificate of Merit:**

Shannon Flannery, CVR-CM  
Tammy Franklin, CVR-CM  
Trisha Ruckart, CVR-CM

### **Realtime Verbatim Reporter:**

Denise Halasey, CVR-CM, RVR  
Rebecca Carroll Ross, CVR-M, RVR  
Sarah Flynn, CVR-M, RVR

## **2018 Testing Schedule:**

May 19-20	Atlanta, GA
June 27-28	Myrtle Beach, SC (convention)
July 7-8	Little Rock, AR
August 18-19	Savannah, GA
September 22-23	Cleveland, O
November 3-4	Jacksonville, FL
December 1-2	Atlanta, GA

Beginning with the May testing, NVRA will offer on-site testing for the CVR, CVR-CM, RVR, RVR-M, CLT (Certified Legal Transcriptionist) and CLS (Certified Legal Scopist).

The Registered Broadcast Captioner-Master (RBC-M) and the Registered CART Provider-Master (RCP-M) tests are offered online only.

**Visit the website for details and registration information**  
**[www.nvra.org/testing](http://www.nvra.org/testing)**

### **Registered CART Provider-Master**

Caryn Broome, CVR-M-CM, RCP, RCP-M  
Leila Heckert, CVR, RCP-M

# Speakers Bureau

## NVRA Speakers Bureau Formed

If you are willing to be included in NVRA's speakers bureau to make presentations on behalf of voice writing court reporters, broadcast captioners, and CART providers, please let me know. Things are heating up across the country, and NVRA sure could use your help. This is your chance to make a difference and support voice writers!

Comment below or email me at [bschmelz@gmail.com](mailto:bschmelz@gmail.com) with your name, contact information, the areas/topics that you feel comfortable addressing, the types of groups you would be more interested in addressing; i.e., educators, counselors, judges, attorneys, court administrators, etc. If you are able to provide realtime demonstrations, please include that information.

Thank you so very much!!



## Student Resources Available NVRA Education Resources

**These education program listings are provided as a resource for prospective voice court reporting, CART and captioning students:**  
*Although NVRA does not accredit any court reporting schools or programs at this time, NVRA is grateful to the following paid sponsors of the NVRA Web site.*

**Baton Rouge School of Court Reporting**

*[brscr.com](http://brscr.com)*

**Cuyahoga Community College**

*<http://www.tri-c.edu/programs/captioning-and-court-reporting>*

**International Realtime Court Reporting Institute**

*[www.intlrealtime.org](http://www.intlrealtime.org)*

**Realtime Voice Academy**

*[realtimevoiceacademy.com](http://realtimevoiceacademy.com)*

**NVRA is continuously working to educate new students entering the voice writing profession.**

**Please visit our website for resources: [www.nvra.org](http://www.nvra.org), click on the "Education" tab.**

**Check out these great student resources:**

Questions to ask schools

Practice Material links

# NVRA Announces Slate of Nominees for 2017-2018 Board of Directors

NVRA's Nominating Committee has met and selected candidates for the following board positions. The candidates are:

## President-Elect

**Teresa Johnson, CVR-M-CM  
(South Carolina)**



Teresa Johnson is an Official Court Reporter with the South Carolina court system. She has served in the circuit court division for Greenville County for the last 18 years. Prior to court reporting, Teresa was employed as a Legal Administrative Assistant for the Bamberg/Barnwell Counties Public Defender Office. In that role, she supervised office support

activities, managed client relations and provided legal support for defense attorneys. Teresa is an avid participant in community service efforts, with a particular interest in child development and children's rights. In 2002, she founded Kids of the Future, Inc., a South Carolina-based private nonprofit organization, which focuses on the intellectual, social and emotional developments of adolescents as they grow and become more independent from their parents. Teresa enjoys traveling, shopping, cooking; and has recently honed in on a joy of assisting with the startups of a few local small businesses. She has two adult sons.

## Vice President

**Jan McLeod, CVR  
(Arkansas)**



Jan McLeod has been an Official Court Reporter for Division III Circuit Court in Benton County, Arkansas, reporting all juvenile cases, adult drug court, juvenile drug court, Veterans treatment court, and domestic relations since 2001. Jan previously served as an official reporter in domestic relations from 1984 through 1988. She began her court reporting

career in 1981 as a freelance reporter covering the gamut of federal grand jury work, Arkansas Workers' Compensation, depositions, utility hearings, military court martial hearings, just to list a few. Even taking depositions in a home, while the deceased owner "lies in state" on the living room couch covered with stuffed animals. She served as Vice President of Arkansas Court Reporters Association from approximately 1983 through 1988. Jan has served on NVRA's Board as Secretary and Treasurer.

## Treasurer

**Mike Ashcraft, CCR, CVR-M  
(Arkansas)**



Mike Ashcraft, CCR, CVR-M, has served as an official court reporter for the Tenth Judicial District, 1st Division, for the State of Arkansas for the past 33 years. He is currently the NVRA Credentialing Committee Chair, having served on the Board of Directors in the past as President, Treasurer

and Director. Mike is also the Treasurer of the Arkansas Court Reporters Association Board of Directors and a past President. He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. Upon graduating and traveling as a consultant for a year for the Sigma Nu National Fraternity, he trained under two-time NVRA President Marilyn Ashcraft before receiving his state and national certifications and beginning his practice in 1985. Mike is serving as a member of the Arkansas Board of Court Reporting Examiners for the State of Arkansas. He is also a member of the Arkansas Judicial Council/Administrative Office of the Courts Trial Court Committee in charge of court reporters and trial court assistants within the state and the Supreme Court Strategic Planning Committee. Mike is married and has five children and one grandchild. He enjoys weekends at his cabin, boating, and hunting.

## Two-Year Director

**Becky Young, CSR, RPR, RCP,  
CRP-M, CLVS  
(Oklahoma)**



Becky graduated from the court reporting program at Brown Mackie Business College in Kansas in 1978. She received state licensures in Kansas, Missouri and

Oklahoma using stenography and then worked as an official in state court in Oklahoma for twelve years. She began working as a freelance reporter in 1990 and operated a full-service reporting company, Young Reporting Services. During this time, she took several courses on captioning and voice writing and passed the Arkansas CCR exam using the stenomask and then began providing CART services in 2006. She achieved her RCP in September of 2012 and recently received the newest RCP-M designation. During her 40-year career, Becky has been involved in state and national associations in various positions and has focused much effort on the testing and examination of reporters, including a five-year term on the Oklahoma Board of Certified Shorthand Reporters. Since 2016, Becky has been strictly providing CART captioning and is transitioning to a new name of Total Access Captioning. The company employs other captioners who help her cover a variety of classes and live events in Oklahoma and across the country.

## One-Year Director

### Sarah Flynn, CVR-M, CCR, RVR (Arkansas)



Sarah Flynn, CCR, CVR-M, RVR, has been a working certified court reporter using the voice writing method since 1994 in the central Arkansas area. Sarah owned Flynn Legal Services, a statewide court reporting firm, for 13 years, which she sold in 2016 in order to concentrate solely on voice writer education. In 2005, Sarah began teaching the voice writing method of court reporting in a

brick and mortar school in Little Rock, and in 2010, she created an online court reporting program which now is known as the International Realtime Court Reporting Institute. Sarah now teaches students in 27 U.S. states and abroad, including Canada, the British Virgin Islands, and the UK. In 2011, Sarah was awarded the Value Award for Education by NVRA for the individual who works to establish standards for testing, certification, and continuing education. Sarah's goal is to spread the voice writing method to all U.S. states and the world to further promote the voice writing method of court reporting and to produce trained, high-quality, realtime voice writers using CAT software. In 2018, Sarah earned the Realtime Verbatim Reporter designation, and she encourages all of her students to achieve the highest certifications possible.

## One-Year Director

### Leila Heckert, CVR, RCP-M (Ontario, Canada)



Leila Heckert is a Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR) and Registered CART Provider (RCP-M) and has been working freelance in Ontario, Canada since 2011. She resides in the City of Burlington, an hour's drive from the Buffalo border. She studied law and psychology at the University of

Northampton in England although circumstances lead her to pursue a career as a telecommunications engineer. After a permanent move in 2006 from England to Canada, with her then young family, Leila's unwavering attraction to law and working with people eventually led her to pursue a career in court reporting. She has freelanced for Victory Verbatim and Simcoe Reporting, and was briefly employed by the Ministry of Attorney General of Ontario. She has worked with Nimigan Mihailovich Court Reporting and more recently Neeson's Reporting in Toronto. Her reporting experiences range from discoveries, cross-examinations, examinations under oath, family court questioning, consent and capacity hearings, and arbitrations. And she is currently entering the field of CART.

### Those who will continue on the board without election are:

Past President - Maranda Murphy, RCP

President - Don Scott, CVR-CM-M, RVR, RCP, RBC

Secretary - Gail Conaway, CVR

These candidates will stand for election at NVRA's Annual Business Meeting. The meeting will be held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, on **Saturday, June 30, from 8:00 am - 9:30 am**. Meeting room location will be announced.

## Nominations Procedures:

As a reminder, additional nominations from the members are welcome. Requirements as set forth in the Policies and Procedures Manual of NVRA allow additional nominations by any five members eligible to vote (general, military, honorary or retired members). These five members, not more than three from any one state, can nominate one candidate for each director and officer position to be elected. These five members must obtain a signed letter of consent from the nominee and attach it to a statement of biographical information of the nominee. In addition, individual statements from each of the five members identifying the position for which the nomination is made must be attached. This information must be emailed, faxed or mailed (postmarked) by June 15, 2018, to the NVRA Office.

If you have any questions or need additional information about this process, contact Kelly Evans, 601-582-4345 or email [nvra@nvra.org](mailto:nvra@nvra.org).



## 2018 NVRA CONVENTION AGENDA

### Wednesday, June 27, 2018

8:00 am – Noon

#### **READINESS SESSION FOR CVR – Certified Verbatim Reporter**

*Registration and separate fee required.*

This is four hours of intensive training to help prepare you for the CVR Dictation Skills Test. The Test Readiness Session includes practice and discussion of these topics: proper dictation techniques, audibility, transcription, the skills test schedule, policies and procedures, grading, a review of downloading techniques, and the Written Knowledge Test questions/concerns. The session includes practice dictation from a variety of sources, including retired tests.

1:00 – 3:00 pm

#### **NVRA Board of Directors Meeting**

12:30 - 5:00 pm

#### **Registration Open** – Convention Check-in at the DoubleTree Conference Center

1:00 - 3:00 pm

#### **TESTING – WRITTEN KNOWLEDGE TEST**

*Registration and separate fee required.*

- Certified Verbatim Reporter® (CVR®)
- Registered CART Provider - Master (RCP-M™)
- Registered Broadcast Captioner - Master (RBC-M™)

3:30 - 5:00 pm

#### **OPTIONAL SEMINAR**

#### **TEST READINESS FOR RBC-M (Registered Broadcast Captioner) and RCP-M (Registered CART Provider)**

No fee required for registered convention attendees.

Nervous about the online remote testing process for the Registered Broadcast Captioner or Registered CART Provider testing? Don't be. Join Barb Hartwig, RCP, RBC, RBC-M, and Maranda Murphy, RCP, as they explain the process from beginning to end – and every step along the way! You will leave the session feeling confident about the testing process. The session is free to all registered convention attendees and \$25 for non-registered attendees.

5:00 – 6:00 pm

#### **FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE RECEPTION**

Is this your first NVRA convention? Great! Begin your convention experience with our First-Time Attendee Reception. This is our opportunity to introduce first-time attendees to many of the names and faces of NVRA, to some of the many members who are eager to make your first NVRA convention your first-of-many. Spend some time with other first-timers and the NVRA board and let us welcome you to NVRA's convention!

Thursday, June 28, 2018

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

### **CVR-CM CERTIFICATION TESTING**

*Registration and separate fee required.*

- Certified Verbatim Reporter® (CVR®)
- Certified Verbatim Reporter® – Certificate of Merit (CVR-CM)
- Certified Legal Transcriptionist (CLT)
- Certified Legal Scopist (CLS)

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Registration Open** – Convention Check-in at the DoubleTree Conference Center

10:30 am – Noon

### **EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE**

Open to instructors, school owners, mentors, and others providing education. This is a great opportunity to network and share information with your peers.

Noon

Lunch on Your Own

1:00 – 3:30 pm

### **NASA | National Alliance of State Associations Leadership Meeting**

Open to registered representatives of state associations, by invitation.

2:30 – 3:30 pm

### **REALTIME CERTIFICATION TESTING**

*Registration and separate fee required.*

- Realtime Verbatim Reporter® (RVR®)
- Realtime Verbatim Reporter – Master (RVR-M)

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Open to all convention attendees...

#### ■ **MOCK TRIAL – “What to Expect When You’re Expecting”... to become a Court Reporter**

*Don Scott, CVR-CM-M, RVR, RCP, RBC, Mock Trial Coordinator*

*1.0 NVRA CEs | .1 NCRA credits pending | 1.0 Texas credits pending*

Walk a mile in the shoes of a court reporter as she enters the courtroom for trial. See not only what goes into the record but also what is behind the record. From set-up to marking exhibits to read backs, from equipment checks to seamless transition when you must turn to your Plan B, see “what to expect when you’re expecting, when you are expecting to become a court reporter. The judge enters the room, the case is called, and the trial is underway. This is it. And you are the court reporter!

4:00 – 5:30 pm

#### ■ **Opening General Session:**

##### **Seize the Wave!!**

*Tori Pittman, CVR-CM-M, RCP, RDR, CRI*

*1.5 NVRA CEs | .15 NCRA credits pending | 1.5 Texas credits pending*

SEIZE THE WAVE is a surfer term and, this year, Seize the Wave is our convention theme, too. Surfers will tell you that the big waves present them three choices: ignore the waves and get blind-sided, fight them and get battered, or Learn to Surf!! This theme is particularly relevant to our profession today. Politics, budgets, technology – the big waves are out there. Don’t get blind-sided or battered; seize the wave (voice wave) and Learn to Surf!



5:30 – 7:30 pm

## Welcome Reception and Auction



Welcome to Myrtle Beach! “Seize the Wave” and plan to relax and enjoy our convention kick-off social and auction! We’re pleased to welcome back our favorite surfer (auctioneer), Annette Myers, to entertain and delight us with her laid-back beach charm!

**PLAN AHEAD FOR THE AUCTION:** This year we are inviting members to make and bring some of their own art and handcrafted treasures for auction. We have oh-SO many talented members that this is sure to be a win-win and a huge success. Show us what you’ve got: display your talents and help NVRA at the same time! If you’re not feeling artistic, or perhaps your talents are, what we call, hidden, don’t fret. You still can donate a bag! Get thinking and CREATING!

## Friday, June 29, 2018

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

**Registration Open** – Convention Check-in at the DoubleTree Conference Center

8:30 am – 5:00 pm

### Vendor Area Open – Visit the Vendors

Our vendors are one of the top reasons people come to our convention. Need a CAT system? Need a new headset? A mask? How about spending some time hands-on trying out voice writing equipment and technology? Your biggest working investments are your tools of the trade. This is a unique opportunity to see and compare equipment and systems and to meet the “team” behind the company name!

8:30 – 9:00 am

### Continental Breakfast in Vendor Area

8:00 – 8:45 am

### National Realtime Championship Contest (Open and Closed Mic)

Competition is heating up for NVRA’s 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Realtime Championship contest! The contest consists of one eight-minute literary dictation at 180 wpm. No registration fee is required; however, you must be registered for at least one full day of convention and you must be a member of NVRA in good standing. Register prior to convention if you want to compete. Who will claim the top spots at the podium for 2018?

#### Contest rules:

- Participants may use either an open mic or closed mic or stenography.
- The administration and grading of the contest follow the RVR guidelines established by NVRA.
- Winners must score 85% or higher. A winner will be named in each category: open mic and closed mic.
- Each participant scoring 80% or higher will be awarded two CEs for NVRA.

9:00 -10:30 am

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1.5 NVRA CEs | .15 NCRA credits pending | 1.5 Texas credits pending

#### ■ Catch the Wave of Communication

*Pamela Whitney, Staff Interpreter/Statewide Interpreter Specialist for Delaware School for the Deaf and Statewide Programs*

This session will present an overview of what CART providers need to begin the journey of cultural competence when serving Deaf and hard of hearing consumers. Topics include Deaf culture, differences between English and American Sign Language, and basic ASL vocabulary relevant to providing on site services. Finally, see first-hand how CART and captioning services impact Deaf and hard of hearing consumers.



*Pamela Whitney has been privileged to serve the Deaf community for more than twenty-five years as an interpreter, teacher, mentor and mediator. In her current position, Pam is the Staff Interpreter/Statewide Interpreter Specialist for Delaware School for the Deaf and Statewide Programs, providing interpreting services, training, technical assistance and support. Pam has served as an adjudicator and mediator for more than twenty years with cases involving the Interpreter's Code of Professional Conduct and as a custody mediator for family court. She holds degrees in education, interpreting, Deaf Education, linguistics and law and certifications in interpreting, transliterating and legal interpreting. Most recently, Pam completed her initial voice writing and court reporting training and is now working toward NVRA certification as a CART provider. Pam is honored to be at the NVRA conference working toward better understanding and better service experiences for Deaf and hard of hearing community members and those who serve them. When she's not working, Pam loves being at the beach, reading and enjoying a cup of tea all the way through without reheating it.*

■ **New Tax Law Implications**

There is much to learn about the new tax laws - - 95% of us will be impacted in some way by the changes to the tax structure for 2018. Learn what to look for and what to look out!

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

■ **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**How Well Do You Know Your Dragon?**

*Michelle Guilbeau*

1.5 NVRA CEs | .15 NCRA credits pending | 1.5 Texas credits pending

Put your voice to work for you! Explore the updates and intricacies to Dragon from a Nuance Gold Certified Partner. This session is not CAT specific.



*Michelle Guilbeau joined the AudioScribe team in October 2000. Over the years she has provided support and training to our trailblazers before settling into her current position as Vice President of Sales, Training & Quality Control. In her current role, she leads the training program and works closely with the development team and coordinates alpha and beta testing for SpeechCAT upgrades, as well as for new products. Michelle continues to guide AudioScribe's support team in maintaining the stellar customer support and cutting-edge development that has become synonymous with the SpeechCAT name. Outside of her duties in the home office, Michelle often performs demonstrations of the product, makes convention appearances and provides training sessions and seminars around the country. She is also a Certified Partner with Nuance for the Dragon NaturallySpeaking product line and participates in the beta program for Dragon.*

■ **New Session Added: Transitioning from Steno to Voice?**

Join President Maranda Murphy, RCP, for a look at voice history, how we use our voice for theory and a brief demo.

12:30 – 2:00 pm

**Buffet Lunch in Vendor Area**

Meet the Vendors! Win prizes! We've got some great tech gadgets to be given away!

2:00- 3:00 pm

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

1.0 NVRA CEs | .1 NCRA credits pending | 1.0 Texas credits pending

■ **Unmasking the Mask (and other voice writing equipment)**

*Rebecca Young, RCP, RCP-M, RPR, CCR, CSR*

Join us for a discussion and hands-on display of different of masks and headsets, as well as how to maintain and get the most out of your voice writing equipment. Come prepared to share your favorite tips, tricks and products!

*Becky graduated from the court reporting program at Brown Mackie Business College in Kansas in 1978.*



*She received state licensures in Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma using stenography and then worked as an official in state court in Oklahoma for twelve years. She began working as a freelance reporter in 1990 and operated a full-service reporting company, Young Reporting Services. During this time, she took several courses on captioning and voice writing and passed the Arkansas CCR exam using the stenomask and then began providing CART services in 2006. She achieved her RCP in September of 2012 and*

recently received the newest RCP-M designation. During her 40-year career, Becky has been involved in state and national associations in various positions and has focused much effort on the testing and examination of reporters, including a five-year term on the Oklahoma Board of Certified Shorthand Reporters. Since 2016, Becky has been strictly providing CART captioning and is transitioning to a new name of Total Access Captioning. The company employs other captioners who help her cover a variety of classes and live events in Oklahoma and across the country.

### ■ Self-Care and Coping Techniques

*Roberta Bogle, MS, LPC-S, CCMHC, ICCS*

Court Reporters, TV Captioners and even CART Providers can experience vicarious trauma because of the work they do. It's the emotional residue of exposure from hearing traumatic stories during the course of your work day. It can create a state of tension and preoccupation. Roberta and Ron Bogle from The Center for Counseling & Wellness will teach us self-care and coping skills. More info to come.

*Roberta Bogle, MS, LPC-S, CCMHC, ICCS is the Clinical Director of the Center for Counseling & Wellness in North Myrtle Beach. As a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor and a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor, Roberta welcomes individuals, couples, and families.*

*Ron Bogle, Pastoral Care. Ron Bogle is the Executive Director and President of the Board of Directors. He is a pastor with an extensive background in pastoral care since 1999. He provides pastoral care to individuals, couples, and families as well as teaching spiritually based curriculum to help move people toward realizing their God-given potential. Ron is a certified Prepare/Enrich Marriage and Premarital Counselor and Trainer. He is also a board member at North Strand Helping Hand, North Strand Housing Shelter, and an Elder at Water Brook Church. Ron received his Bachelor of Science in Business from Redlands University in California, his Advanced Management degree from Northwestern University in Illinois, attended the MBA program at Pepperdine University in California, and completed course work at United Theology Seminary.*

3:00 – 3:30 pm

Afternoon Break in the Vendor Hall

3:30 – 5:00 pm

General Session:

### ■ Human Trafficking – Awareness can help save a life!

*1.0 NVRA CEs | .1 NCRA credits pending | 1.0 Texas credits pending*



Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery – a multi-billion-dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to 20.9 million people around the world. No matter where you live, chances are it's happening nearby. From the girl forced into prostitution at a truck stop to the man discovered in a restaurant kitchen, stripped of his passport and held against his will, all trafficking victims share one essential experience: the loss of freedom. Many myths and misconceptions exist. Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims, and it can help save lives.

**Carrie Fisher Sherard is an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of South Carolina.**

5:00 pm

Evening on your own

## Saturday, June 30, 2018

8:00 – 9:30 am

### **Business Meeting and Buffet Breakfast (Not the Same Old Thing!)**

Been to the NVRA Business Meeting before? This one will be different. We will still have our keepsake coffee mugs and share the business of the association, but this year we want your participation. Join us for a full buffet breakfast and the state of the association. *Mugs sponsored by AudioScribe.*

10:00 – 11:00 am

### **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

*1.0 NVRA CEs | .1 NCRA credits pending | 1.0 Texas credits pending*

■ **“Ears to You”**

*Rhoda McDuffie, CVR-M*

This is a *command-performance* session. You asked for it. You got it. The session will feature an overview on ears, sound, and the effects of sound on our lives. Information on hearing safety, hearing loss, hearing aids and the difference between hearing aids, and amplifications systems will be discussed.

■ **Excellence in Transcript Production**

*Rebecca Bazzle, CVR-M and Amanda Godfrey*

Our job is to transform verbal proceedings into a written document. The final transcript is a major factor in a court reporter’s reputation. Taking measures to ensure accuracy and integrity is a vital decision. The session will review questions about parentheticals, marking and indexing exhibits, proofreading, and exploring various formats for the final product.

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Lunch on your own**

Grab lunch and join us in the vendor hall for one last visit, purchase, or information from the vendors.

1:00 – 2:30 pm

General Session:

■ **ETHICS – Even Surfers have Ethics!**

*Annette P. Myers, CVR-CM-M, HM*

*1.5 NVRA CEs | .15 NCRA credits pending | 1.5 Texas credits pending*

**What? Surfers have ethics?** Believe it or not — yes. Most surfers try to stick to a certain set of guidelines when riding waves in a line up, especially a crowded one. Note that I said, “most.” Join Annette Myers as we explore how “Surfer Ethics” apply to court reporters, CART providers, and captioners.

2:30 -3:00 pm

Afternoon Break

3:00 – 5:00 pm

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

*1.0 NVRA CEs | .1 NCRA credits pending | 1.0 Texas credits pending*

■ **Connecting Remotely – What’s the Best Software for You?**

*Caryn Broome, CVR-M-CM, RCP, RCP-M*

This session will feature different methods of remote connection for our consumers and clients for remote feeds. We’ll provide an overview and demonstration of what’s available: StreamText, Adobe Connect, Zoom, 1CapApp, Bridge Mobile, and Blackboard. This session will be of interest to any Court Reporter, CART provider or Captioner utilizing remote connections.

■ **Firm Owners Roundtable**

Own a court reporting, CART, or Captioning firm? It can be tough to know all of the answers. Share your challenges, successes, and war stories with fellow firm owners. This is a great networking opportunity. Open to firm owners only.

6:30 pm until

**CLOSING BEACH PARTY**

**Changes in Lattitudes... Changes in Attitudes**

Put your convention knowledge to the test. *Don’t you just feel the change and the energy?* Make the most of this opportunity to hang out with your new friends and your old pals and just chill! Enjoy live beach music, games, food and fun on the hotel’s patio overlooking the ocean. Have some fun, Jimmy Buffett style! Search for the **Lost Shaker of Salt** and sample a **Cheeseburger in Paradise**. Prizes drawn every half hour! Win gift cards, free convention registration for 2019, free membership renewal and one BIG GRAND PRIZE – Apple iPad Pro 9.7”!



## Convention Hotel:

### DoubleTree Resort - Myrtle Beach Oceanfront

(800) 770-6895 - Use Code "NVR"

Room Rate: \$179 single or double\*\* Use Code NVRA

Cut-off for Room Reservations is **May 23, 2018**.

\*\*NVRA has negotiated this special rate for attendees. The resort fee has also been WAIVED for our guests. NVRA guests will enjoy the following amenities at NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE:

- o Unlimited basic internet in guest rooms
- o 2 bottles of water, per room, per day
- o Complimentary parking for one car per room
- o Unlimited access to the fitness center and the business center
- o Complimentary use of miniature golf course, volleyball, soccer, and corn hole toss

**Online Booking Link:** <http://group.doubletree.com/nvra>

**Group Name:** National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA)

**Group rates are good from June 24 through July 1, 2018.**



check-in.

#### About the DoubleTree

DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel Myrtle Beach Oceanfront, formerly Springmaid Beach Resort is set across 27 acres on the south end of Ocean Boulevard, this resort has beautiful private beaches, lively entertainment and plenty of activities, with Myrtle Beach State Park just to the side. Kick off your vacation with a warm DoubleTree chocolate chip cookie at

Why book at our convention hotel when you can stay somewhere less expensive?

It helps the convention! Did you know that every night you book a room helps the association meet its room block. There is no such thing as free meeting space – imagine if no one stayed overnight at the hotel – our convention fees would be at least double from the current pricing. It's also great for evening networking opportunities and provides a safe place to store your equipment and secure your stuff during the day. Sleep in without worrying about getting back on time, knowing the event is only moments from your door!

Our renovated guest rooms all have ocean views and private balconies. Enjoy complimentary WiFi, a 40-inch HDTV, mini-refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker. Accessible rooms are also available.

You'll find beautiful landscapes and a wealth of resort activities at our pet-friendly Myrtle Beach hotel. Plan outings at our Activity/Recreation Desk, available from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The Palmetto Building has a fitness center with free weights and cardio equipment. We also offer outdoor pools, heated indoor pools, and two lazy rivers.

- **NVRA's room block is NOT sold out!**
- **There are a very limited number of rooms available for Sunday and Monday check-in dates, but at press time we are working on adding some more rooms for early arrivals.**
- **There is still plenty of availability for the main convention dates - checking-in on Wednesday and out on Sunday.**
- **There are some adjoining rooms available – call the hotel directly to request.**
- **Having trouble booking? Call Nancy McGann at the DoubleTree, 800-770-7198. OR, contact the NVRA office, [nvra@nvra.org](mailto:nvra@nvra.org) or call 601-582-4345.**

#### Earn Continuing Education Credits:

Earn up to 13.5 NVRA CE credits (13.5 hours) – Include 1.5 Hours of Ethics.

NVRA CEs are approved.

NCRA and Texas credits will be submitted for approval per organizational requirements. Please check the NVRA

Web site for updates or contact the NVRA office, 601-582-4345.



**REGISTER ONLINE: [www.nvra.org](http://www.nvra.org)**

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM:**

NVRA Annual Convention | June 27-30, 2018

Myrtle Beach | DoubleTree Resort

Name for Badge (Please list credentials): \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

First time convention attendee?  Yes  No

Do you have any special dietary needs or special requirements to allow you to fully participate?  Yes  No

If yes, please attach a list.

FULL PACKAGE REGISTRATION	Early Bird Register by <b>May 1</b>	Regular Rates: <b>May 2-June 15</b>	<b>After June 15</b>	Registered for the Full Convention Package?? Your fee includes a free Comfort Color brand Convention Tee! Circle Size: S M L XL 2XL
	NVRA General Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$359	<input type="checkbox"/> \$379	
Student, Retired, Honorary or Guest*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$259	<input type="checkbox"/> \$289	<input type="checkbox"/> \$309	
Associate Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$409	<input type="checkbox"/> \$439	<input type="checkbox"/> \$469	
Professional Non-Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$509	<input type="checkbox"/> \$539	<input type="checkbox"/> \$569	

DAILY FEE – PER DAY CHARGE	Thursday, 6/28	Friday, 6/29	Saturday, 6/30	Register by June 15. Daily registration includes educational programs and activities listed for the day(s) that you register.
NVRA General Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49	<input type="checkbox"/> \$169	<input type="checkbox"/> \$169	
Student, Retired, Honorary Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49	<input type="checkbox"/> \$119	<input type="checkbox"/> \$119	
Professional Non-Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$59	<input type="checkbox"/> \$239	<input type="checkbox"/> \$239	
Guest*	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$119	<input type="checkbox"/> \$119	

\*Guest is defined as a spouse, partner, or family member who is not a working reporter, CART provider, or captioner.

OPTIONAL EVENTS & ADDITIONAL TICKETS		
RBC-M, RCP-M Test Readiness (Wednesday)	<input type="checkbox"/> No charge if registered for convention	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 fee if not registered
National Realtime Contest (Friday) No Charge. Must be registered for convention.	<input type="checkbox"/> open mic	<input type="checkbox"/> closed mic
Welcome Reception – Additional Ticket (Thursday)	\$35.00	One ticket is included in full package registration and daily registrations for the day that you are registered.
Closing Party – Additional Ticket (Saturday)	\$35.00	
T-shirt Sponsorship (details on online registration)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$200	Be listed on the convention t-shirts!

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check or Money Order (Payable to NVRA in USD) Credit Card:  Visa  MC  DISCOVER  AMERICAN EXPRESS

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: 629 N. Main Street, Hattiesburg, MS 39401  
Fax to: 601-582-3354 | Scan & Email to: [nvra@nvra.org](mailto:nvra@nvra.org)

# This Month's Free CE Quiz:

## GRAMMAR AND WORD USAGE

Quiz submitted by Brenda Schmelz, CVR-M



The following sentences may contain errors in grammar or word usage. Some of the sentences may be correct. No sentence contains more than one error, if there is one, and each possible error in the sentence is underlined. All other parts of the sentence are correct. If an error exists, select the underlined part that must be changed to make the sentence correct and circle the corresponding letter. If no error exists, circle the letter "d."

1. A panel of secretaries are researching the long-term effects of ergonomics in the workplace.

- a. are
- b. long-term
- c. we
- d. no error

2. The leavening agent which makes bread rise is yeast.

- a. which
- b. rise
- c. is
- d. no error

3. The Joneses' address is 1 Main Street, Pleasantville, Michigan, 48123.

- a. Joneses'
- b. 1
- c. Michigan
- d. no error

4. In a contingent fee matter, the amount of attorney's fees is based on a percent of the gross award.

- a. amount
- b. attorney's
- c. percent
- d. no error

5. I assure you that the policy you purchased will insure against losses due to fire and flood and will ensure your family's peace of mind.

- a. assure
- b. insure
- c. ensure
- d. no error

6. I appreciate you making the offer, but I do not think it is a good idea.

- a. you
- b. making
- c. is
- d. no error.

7. A healthy diet has many positive effects on a person's day-to-day activities.

- a. healthy
- b. effects
- c. person's
- d. no error

8. The project should be assigned to whomever is most qualified.

- a. should be
- b. whomever
- c. most
- d. no error

9. Complete the form and return it to either Jan or myself in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

- a. either
- b. myself
- c. self-addressed
- d. no error

10. For our fall seminar, 150 flyers were mailed, and we received sixty-five registrations.

- a. fall
- b. 150
- c. sixty-five
- d. no error

11. On June 15th I ordered copies of the defendant's X rays.

- a. June 15th
- b. defendant's
- c. X rays
- d. no error

12. Our patio set includes a table, four chairs, and a chaise lounge.

- a. includes
- b. four
- c. chaise lounge
- d. no error

13. Who do you want to act as the company's representative at tonight's reception?

- a. Who
- b. company's
- c. tonight's
- d. no error

14. A lot of paper is laying around because there is no time to file.

- a. A lot
- b. laying
- c. is
- d. no error

15. Whenever there is an invention, the air smells real bad.

- a. Whenever
- b. real
- c. bad
- d. no error

16. Choosing between options A, B, or C, I prefer the latter.

- a. Choosing
- b. between
- c. latter
- d. no error

17. Please call me at ((573) 555-6234) if you have any questions.

- a. call
- b. ((573) 555-6234)
- c. any
- d. no error

18. Either Kathy or Cindy plan to meet us there.

- a. Either
- b. or
- c. plan
- d. no error

Circle your answers. Please scan and email this page to [membership@nvra.org](mailto:membership@nvra.org).

We'll post your credit and email acknowledgement to you. Thanks!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for Submission: July 31, 2018