



# On The Record

## Houston Court Reporters Association

### From The President:

Dear Fellow HCRAers!

Since this is my last letter to you all as current President, I would like to take some time and reflect upon my term. If you remember, I dubbed this a Genesis year in hopes of bringing new things to an established organization. I believe that this year was a huge success in many ways, and I thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to contribute back to a profession I am proud to be in.

We started out this year with a goal of providing more communication, yet spending less money doing so. With the implementation of G-Mail, we were able to get out broadcasts of important newflashes and also save at least \$2,000 by sending the newsletter out in the same manner. Many thanks to those of you who let us know how much you liked the new format.

In April we tried out the Mini-Seminar approach. Even though a good time and good learning was had by those at that seminar, we decided that this was not the approach to take. Trial and error is sometimes the only way to find what really works. We did cancel the Fall Mini-Semi due to the overabundance of seminars being offered at the same time. We felt your money would not be well spent for a small crowd. With that, we did send out a blast asking for opinions and what was needed from your association. Come to find out from the responses, you do want seminars and you do want communication via newsletters and issues that come up from time to time. I'm thankful to know that we are keeping up with the needs of reporters.

Another change in this Genesis year was that the annual party was moved to July. The reasoning behind this is pretty obvious. Everyone is very busy at this time of the year, making it difficult for you to participate and making it difficult for the Board to find time for planning and participation on our part as well. So we opted for a nice middle-of-the-year party. The Casino Night was a blast! If you couldn't make it, we certainly hope you will mark your calendars for the next one coming. It was truly classy and fun, with lots of prizes and great food.

This coming year will be the year of "Community." Dorothy Rull, current President Elect, already has some wonderful ideas to truly make it a year of Community. In addition to continuing our regular course with seminars and information, her goal will be to

reach out and work together with the Houston Bar Association on two main efforts. The first one available is to help them raise funds for their Habitat for Humanity Project in which they will be building two houses. Even the smallest of contributions will be worthwhile for a good cause. The next step of this effort is to join with them in the building of their homes in the spring.

The HBA will also have their annual Fun Run. Dorothy has already contacted them and asked how we could help with this event. As told to her by them, the best contribution we can give is to just participate in the event. That is so easy that we can't turn it down. I'm sure you can see the benefit to us all in participating in these events; so be sure to keep an eye out for more info as the Board votes on and implements this wonderful outreach. I know you won't want to miss out!

We do still have an Official Director seat available on the Board. This is something you might want to consider yourself for. We will be trying to implement events that include something along the lines of a judge's appreciation luncheon and will need full Official representation for that. We also have the President Elect position open as well. This position will put you in with a Board ready, willing and able to help make this the best association ever. You will start as President Elect under Dorothy Rull and then follow in her footsteps the next year as President. They are both great opportunities for you to give back and, as I've discovered, reap some benefits from. The camaraderie and networking that I've been privy to has bestowed many benefits upon me, when all I was wanting was to give back to a profession that has given me so much. Please consider taking on one of these board positions. When the purpose is to give, it's always so amazing to find that you end up getting back instead.

To close, I would like to thank you all for allowing me to give some of my time to each of you, but would also like to thank each of you for giving back to me. Your participation and encouragement these past two years has made my job great fun, and I will never regret having had my arm twisted so hard by Jennifer. Thanks, Sister!

May God bless each of you in this coming year. And as I always say: TTFN (tah, tah for now) and Kisses!

V  
Vonda P. Treat, CSR  
2007 HCRA President

#### Inside this issue:

HCRA Officers and Directors	2
Inauguration of 2008 Officers	3
A Call for Help	4
TCRA Director's Corner	5
HBA Habitat for Humanity Project	6
What Was Meant for Evil, Pt. III	7
Classifieds	8

## 2007 HCRA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### Reporter Sites of Interest

CRCB Web Site:  
www.crcb.state.tx.us

HCRA Web Site:  
www.hcrainfo.com

TCRA Web Site:  
www.tcra-online.com

NCRA Web Site:  
www.NCRAonline.com

**PAST PRESIDENT ... Jennifer L. Wilson, CSR**

Cell: (281)725-2579

E-mail: jennifercsr@peoplepc.com

**PRESIDENT.....Vonda P. Treat, CSR**

Cell: (713)410-9985

E-mail: Vpttx1@aol.com

**PRESIDENT-ELECT.....Lettie B. Witter, CSR**

Cell: (713)907-7215

E-mail: lettie\_witter@ccl.hctx.net

**VICE PRESIDENT.....Kate Piper, CSR**

Cell: (713)498-5690

E-mail: stenokate@hotmail.com

**TREASURER.....Kendra Garcia, CSR, RPR**

Cell: (832)368-0028

E-mail: kgarcia\_rpr@yahoo.com

**SECRETARY.....Barbara Brock, CSR**

Home: (281)367-6053

E-mail: brockjn@earthlink.net

### OFFICIAL DIRECTORS

**Karen Field, CSR**

Cell: (713) 962-2530

E-mail: karen\_field@ccl.hctx.net

**Nancy Capetillo, CSR**

Cell: 281-344-7973

E-mail: capetnan@sbcglobal.net

### FREELANCE DIRECTORS

**Janice McKinney, CSR, RPR**

Cell: (713)594-0933

E-mail: mckinneyjanice@sbcglobal.net

**Kim Thompson, CSR**

Cell: (713) 906-7235

E-mail: ktuttsr@aol.com

Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the individual contributor and do not necessarily imply an opinion or endorsement of the officers and directors of HCRA or the editorial staff of *On The Record*. Reproduction is permitted, but please credit *On the Record*. *On the Record* welcomes your professional listing but does not endorse or warrant the services provided.

# WORDSETC

Proofreading  
Case Catalyst Scoping  
Word Processing

Your bridge to a professional product

Julie Matson

www.wordsetcplus.com

(281)955-5330

matson\_julie@yahoo.com



**Date:** Monday, January 28, 2007

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Baba Yega's, Upstairs in the Jasmine Room  
2607 Grant Street  
Houston, Texas 77006

Please join us in welcoming HCRA's new Board of Directors at the 2008 Inauguration Ceremony to be held at Baba Yega's. Dinner will be provided, so come hungry!

2008 Board of Directors

<b>President:</b>	<b>Dorothy A. Rull</b>
<b>Past President:</b>	<b>Vonda P. Treat</b>
<b>President Elect:</b>	<b>(Vacant)</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Shirley Baker</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Mylinda Faircloth</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Keva Van Slyke</b>
<b>Official Position 1:</b>	<b>Kaetheryn Kryell</b>
<b>Official Position 2:</b>	<b>(Vacant)</b>
<b>Freelance Position 1:</b>	<b>Vickie MacNaughton</b>
<b>Freelance Position 2:</b>	<b>Peggy Donnell</b>

## A Call for Help

By Jennifer L. Wilson, CSR – HCRA Past President

I glanced at my calendar this morning, and I was shocked to see how close we are to the end of 2007 – it seems that just last week we celebrated its arrival! It's amazing how fast time flies when we're busy with family, friends, and career! Life is at warp speed! With the end of the year fast approaching, we must begin to prepare for next year to ensure that HCRA stays vital and strong.

Any professional association is only as strong as its membership. Houston, as the fourth largest city in the United States, should incorporate one of the largest and strongest local associations in the nation. But dedication to the cause seems, regrettably, to be slipping. The growing apathy within our profession alarms and saddens my heart. As Past President, I'm obligated to call out a warning. If you're inclined to interpret this blunt statement as overwrought or melodramatic, I assure you, the potential for HCRA's dissolution is very real and could carry a negative consequence for our profession.

We are strong today, but we need your help to stay that way, and frankly, the future of the Association – *your* Association – may very well be at stake. This is the last year of service for many of our hardworking Board members, each of whom has given years of her time, and each of whom will be missed, both personally and functionally. As of January, we will be left with several open positions on the Board, and your help is essential to filling them. Without a Board there is no Association, and without an Association, there is no local voice promoting your best interests.

The professional well-being of reporters and related professionals living and working in and around Houston is the reason HCRA exists, and we need your commitment to ensure the continued success of our efforts. To those of you who have given your time and served before, those of you who have the wisdom, guidance, professional experience and life experience, it is my strong desire to re-energize your interest. To those of you who have never been involved before, now is the time to emerge from the sidelines and join the team on the field. You owe it to yourselves and to the team to join a committee and get to know your fellow reporters, to help HCRA continue to thrive and grow toward the security of our profession and, most importantly, to stay connected with what is happening in your profession. If you care, you must stay in the loop.

Let's face it, folks, in this high-tech world, with e-mails, faxes, and overnight delivery, the tendency can be to become somewhat isolated and remote. As an active member, you'll find family and community in a profession that can easily make you feel like an island, adrift and alone in a sea of pages.

Any good President is only as good as the colleagues who support him or her. I was lucky to have great support when I served as President. I ask that the HCRA membership continue this tradition by supporting next year's President, Dorothy Rull. This involves stepping up to the plate and getting involved. We are seeking a President-Elect for 2008 who will take over as President in 2009. Without an effective leadership, the Board cannot function. As if that weren't enough, the crucial position of official director is also being vacated with no successor lined up. The membership is the pool from which we must fill these positions.

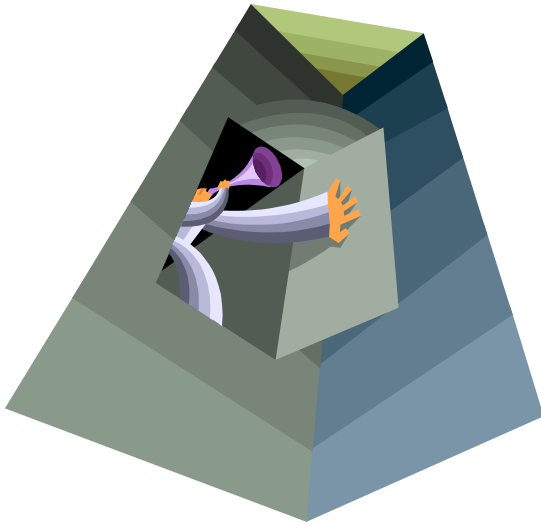
So please, members, search your hearts, acknowledge the contribution HCRA has made to your profession, and resolve to do your part – to give back to the profession that has been good to you. We need you. An association is only as strong as its volunteers. No volunteers; no association. No leader; no association. Please make the time. Remember the saying you don't know what you've got until it's gone? Please don't make that a reality for HCRA. Help keep HCRA alive and connected.

Don't delay. We need you now. Do you have what it takes to be President-Elect or an official director or a committee volunteer? Now is the time to get out of your chair and onto the field. Ready to play? Please contact Vonda Treat at: [vpttx1@aol.com](mailto:vpttx1@aol.com) or (713) 410-9985. Call now. Let's make 2008 the best year ever!



***We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give.***

***~ Winston Churchill***



## TCRA Director's Corner

By TCRA Seat 8 Director, Jo Anne Horn Leger

It has been one heck of a year for Texas court reporters!!

This past legislative session was a lot of work and we owe a great deal of gratitude to our Legislative Chair, Glenda Fuller, and our lobbyists, Jimmy Evans and Charlie Evans. The legislative podcasts were very useful in keeping our members updated. A legislative summary can be found on Page 33 of The Texas Record.

The TCRA website is now up and running with a new look! You can renew your membership online, register for upcoming seminars, purchase products, etc. There is also a Members Only section that allows you to view/download The Texas Record in PDF format, check your current CEU status for Texas-sponsored events, and lots more!!

TCRA held a joint convention with NCRA in August. The 2007 Annual Convention Wrap-up is on Page 9 of The Texas Record, but here are some highlights:

- ◆ The 2007 TCRA Distinguished Service Award recipient was Susan Simmons of Marshall, Texas.
- ◆ Mark Kislingbury placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the National Speed Contest and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the National Realtime Contest and also won the TCRA Paul Burris Cup speed contest. Dana Hayden placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the TCRA Realtime Contest.
- ◆ The Above & Beyond Awards were presented to Jo Anne Leger and Glenda Fuller.

Newly installed TCRA Directors:

- ◆ Seat 1 – Terri Loy, Amarillo
- ◆ Seat 3 – David Burks, El Paso
- ◆ Seat 5 – Phyllis Morris, Alice
- ◆ Seat 7 – Kathy Carroll, Austin
- ◆ Seat 9 – Stephanie Moses, Plano.

The Jaye Thompson Scholarship Fund has been established to benefit court reporting students. Applications and requirements can be found online or in The Texas Record.

Upcoming events:

- ◆ December 8, 2007 – TCRA Board Meeting – Austin
- ◆ January 25, 2008 – CRCB Meeting – Austin
- ◆ March 1, 2008 – TCRA Board Meeting – Austin
- ◆ March 29 – 30, 2008 – TCRA Officials/Freelance/Firm Owners Retreat – Galveston
- ◆ April 2008 – CRCB Meeting – Austin
- ◆ June 19 – 22, 2008 – TCRA Annual Convention – San Antonio

### HCRA & BACRAT join HBA Habitat for Humanity

'Tis the Season for hearth and home. 'Tis the Season for family, food and giving. This year, HCRA and BACRAT are joining with the Houston Bar Association's efforts to help others in need by cooperating with HBA's Habitat for Humanity community project.

Houston Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1987 [and] is a Christian-based housing ministry. Embracing all faiths, the organization is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing in our community by helping low-income families purchase a simple, decent home in which to live. To date, Houston Habitat has built over 650 affordable homes and served more than 2,700 people – half of whom are children. Based on annual home production, Houston Habitat is consistently listed in the top ten among the nearly 1,700 Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the United States". (<http://www.houstonhabitat.org/>)

To date, according to the August 2007 Houston Bar's *Bulletin*, the Houston Bar Association has built nine Habitat homes, serving 37 people, including 24 children. Fundraising for the 2008 HBA Habitat homes is in full swing, and the HBA is hoping to raise \$120,000 in order to build two Habitat homes in the spring of 2008.

I encourage each and every one of you to support HBA in its efforts! Donations in **any** amount are appreciated. Remember, donations are tax deductible as a charitable donation.

Thank you,

Meredith Shoemaker, BACRAT President  
Vonda Treat, HCRA President



\*\*\*\*\*

#### HCRA & BACRAT join HBA Habitat for Humanity

Make your check payable to Houston Bar Association Habitat Project and mail it to:

Houston Bar Association  
Attn: Habitat Project  
1001 Fannin, Suite 1300  
Houston, Texas 77002

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: Texas ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT WAS MEANT FOR EVIL Part II By Mylinda Faircloth

**I hope you never have to go through what I went through, but here are a few things I have learned along the way that I hope will help:**

**What they don't know:** YOU may know that your equipment will do them no good, that there's no money in your purse, and that there's only paperwork in your tote bag - but THEY don't know that.

**Move it or lose it:** Never leave your equipment case, tote bag or purse in plain sight in your vehicle. Before arriving at your destination, move anything you're not taking with you to the trunk. If you have a vehicle with a hatch, use binder clips to attach a dark-colored blanket to the net across the back so it covers what's underneath. Never, ever move your purse to the trunk or hatch at your destination. According to the police, most vehicle burglaries occur within five minutes of the occupant leaving their vehicle - which means that someone is watching.

**Know what you own:** Keep your owners' manuals and receipts for your equipment in a common file. If you have to get replacement value on something, you're going to need to know the brand and model number you started with.

**Make sure you are insured:** Do you have homeowners' insurance? Do you need business owners' insurance? Extra items in your car are usually not covered by your auto insurance. They are normally covered by your homeowners' insurance. In my case, since I have a separate office and this was business equipment, my homeowners' insurance would NOT have covered it. If I hadn't had business owners' insurance, it would have been uncovered.

**Replacement value:** First of all, make sure your insurance covers your equipment. Second of all, make sure it's for the full replacement value, not simply depreciated value. You will need to be able to go out and immediately repurchase everything to get those fingers flying again.

**It's worth it:** Just a few months before this, my business owners insurance renewal had arrived - and it had gone up approximately 35%. I balked at the increase but, in the end, paid it. I was truly glad I did!

**Keep the card:** I was fortunate to not have a job on my steno machine or in my briefcase. Had I been coming FROM a job instead of going TO a job, every part of it would have been gone - notes, tapes, disks, exhibits - everything. With my new Mira, I simply remove the memory card and put it in my purse if I have to leave my briefcase in my van for awhile.

**Don't forget the accessories:** I was stunned by the number of items when I made the list. You will remember your tape player and steno machine, of course, but don't forget things like the briefcase itself, tripod, paper tray, battery, charger, machine cover, real-time cables, connectors, adapters, other cables, power cords, microphones and headphones.

**Don't forget the small items:** The small items may not cost much individually, but add them up and it's still money out of your pocket at replacement time. Don't forget your extension cords, audiotapes, exhibit stickers, recorder batteries, stapler, duct tape, pens, markers, business cards, Post-it notes and flags, etc.

### REMINDER

**We still have two positions to be filled, a president elect this year, for the 2009 president's position, and we have one official reporter's position available. If you have never served before, we need reporters to serve at least once during their career. Please email us at [vpttxl@aol.com](mailto:vpttxl@aol.com), if you are interested or have any questions.**

**We need an association now more than ever, so please participate and give back to your profession.**

***There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life -- happiness, freedom, and peace of mind -- are always attained by giving them to someone else.***

***~ Peyton Conway March***

# CLASSIFIEDS

OLYMPUS DIGITAL SYSTEMS \* MIRA  
SONY \* SANYO \* STYLUS \* MARANTZ  
FUSION \* FLASH \* CYBRA \* PROTEGÉ



**Houston Dictating & Steno Machine Co.**  
MAJOR BRANDS NEW AND REBUILT

**Efrain (Efran) De Leon**  
Sales & Service

281-449-8445  
1315 Aldine Bender Rd.  
Houston, TX 77032



### Join MemberSource Today!

As an HCRA member, you are eligible to join MemberSource Credit Union! All it takes is a deposit of \$5 or more to open your membership savings account. Then you're eligible to take advantage of all MemberSource's great products and services. From the everyday needs of Savings and Loans to FREE Checking and Online Banking, we've got the right account for you.

If you would like to become a member or if you would like additional information on MemberSource Credit Union's services, call (713) 627-4000, (800) 877-8828 or visit us online at [www.membersourcecu.org](http://www.membersourcecu.org)

The next time you're at Randall's, pick up a Remarkable Card application at the courtesy booth to fill out and link your card to our account. Randall's will pay us a percentage of our account total, so be sure to use your card every time you shop. By using your card, you will also be eligible for exclusive discounts, giveaways, enter-to-wins, direct mail rewards and air miles.

Clip out the card below and take it with you to the store as your reminder of our organization's Good Neighbor Program account number to fill in on your Remarkable card application. HCRA's organization number is 6081.






6081

---

Organization Number

Don't forget to link our Good Neighbor Number to your Remarkable Card and help us raise funds the easy way!