



On The Record

Houston Court Reporters Association

From The President:

Dear Members,

Good Summer, everyone! We have had a great year so far. Our two Association meetings, one in January and one in April, were wonderful. The only thing lacking was membership numbers. We would like more of you to take time out to join us. You will have a good time and meet new people and get to visit with old friends. Each event has welcomed new and different people, which is exciting for us all.

So the next opportunity we have for a gathering of reporters is the annual fundraiser. There is information enclosed in this newsletter about the Casino Night in July. Please look for this info and mark it on your calendar. I know you will have a great time while supporting your local chapter.

Do not forget to find the information inside this newsletter about the next mini-seminar. Those who attended enjoyed a great morning together, good food and learned a lot. Most importantly, they received CEU credits as well! Remember that you must have at least .25 of your credits in ethics, but you can actually have them all in ethics, as long as each ethics segment is different. All of our mini-

seminars will feature different topics so that we may help you fulfill your CEU credit needs. Twice a year for two years at \$40 a pop is only \$160 for all your points and no travel and no hotel!!! Easy as anything can be.

Our Association has managed to really cut the budget this year and keep funds in the bank for good times to have together and for legislative, state and national needs. So keep in mind that we, the Board, are good stewards of your membership funds and donations, making it nice to give to an organization that uses discretion with your donations. With that said, please come and support our Casino Night and bring a friend or two. The more the merrier!!!

God Bless,
Vonda

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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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2007

June 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 *	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 *	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 *	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 *	17	18	19	20 *	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 *	10 *	11 *
12 *	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 *	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 *	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 *	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 *	29
30						

JUNE

4

Deadline for Newsletter articles

18

HCRA Board Meeting

JULY

16

HCRA Board Meeting

20

Annual Party/Fundraiser: Casino Night
8:00-12:00 Courtyard

AUGUST

9-12

TCRA/NCRA Joint Annual Convention
Gaylord Texan Hotel, Dallas, Texas

20

HCRA Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER

3

Deadline for Newsletter articles

17

HCRA Board Meeting

28

CRCB Certification Exam

OCTOBER

27

Mini-Seminar

October 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 *
28	29	30	31			

November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Do you want to submit an article?
Contact HCRA.

COMMENTARY: HCRA's SPRING 2007 MINI-SEMI

By M. Nancy Capetillo

Session 1: Current Ethical Dilemmas Facing Reporters

Today by Vonda Treat
 Session 2: Uniform Format Manual Official/Freelance by Mylinda Faircloth and Lettie Witter

First, we want to thank all of those who attended the seminar held on Saturday, April 21st at Baba Yega's from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It was apparent from all the laughter and smiling faces that the event was exactly what we all needed, not only for the ethics necessary to maintain certification but for our soul!

Following are a few comments of the attendees:

- Love location.
- Enjoyed the gathering and hearing comments from others.
- Best I've been to in a long time!

Please keep in mind that the Court Reporter's Certification Board (CRCB) mandates that reporters have at least .25 Continuing Education Units (CEU's) in ethics. However, there are no limitations on the

number of Ethics points you may acquire. Your HCRA board has devised a plan so that by attending the Spring and Fall mini-semi's each year, you may secure the total 1.0 CEUs required for certification.

Here's a list of all the benefits gained by attending our mini-semi's:

- Located here in Houston (no hotel or travel costs)
- Low cost of \$160, total, for all your points
- Lunch included
- You're done in half a day, leaving the remainder of the day to continue with your busy lives with family, friends, and work

The importance of ethics in our work stays fresh in our minds, and if you have a question, a mini-semi isn't too far away to address the question

Our Fall mini-seminar is scheduled for Saturday, October 27th. We would love to see you there. The synergistic effect created when court reporters finally have an opportunity to get together and talk shop is fabulous!

Reporters, Don't Forget About Us

By Keith McCabe

Hello, Court Reporters. My name is Keith. I am a student at the Court Reporting Institute of Houston; one of the few schools in this part of Texas that caters to the craft. The staff is friendly here, the teachers are thoroughly dedicated to the students, and the students themselves are willing to learn and gain as much experience about their future trade as they can get their mitts on. This is where I believe you hardened professional reporters can be at an advantage. While we may not have our certifications just yet, we can be an asset to the field.

Students in their upper speeds spend hours each week writing and proofreading transcripts, ensuring that they are correctly written and properly formatted. We have skills in proofreading and scoping, that can be utilized by reporters, or baby reporters just out of school looking for experienced help –and dare I say, *discounted*? Many of us wish to know as much as we can about the trade, especially the high-tech areas of CART or closed captioning. Why not take a student under your wing, show them the ropes, and earn a friend and valuable colleague in the process? We are more than mere struggling students. We want to know as much as we can about the world of court reporting. This way you can give back to the profession that offers so many rewards. Contact the Court Reporting Institute of Houston to hire students, give demonstrations, or offer your assistance to those in need of advice or those that just wish to learn. You were a student once, too. So, please, don't forget about us.

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CASINO NIGHT

You are cordially invited to the
Houston Court Reporters Association's
Annual Fund Raiser . . . Casino Night!

Date: **Friday, July 20, 2007**
Time: **8:00 p.m. to 12:00 Midnight**
Place: **The Courtyard at St. James Place
in the Garden Room**
Location: **1885 St. James Place**

Tickets: **\$30 in advance**
\$35 per person at the door

Includes:

- Valet Parking
- \$3,000 in Starter Chips
- Champagne and Wine
- Hand-passed Hors D'Oeuvres
- Dessert Bar with Fabulous Chocolate Fountain
- Chinese Auction including lots of Great Prizes!
(Need not be present to win.)

*Invitations with RSVP cards are being
mailed . . . look for them!

Casino Tables

- Blackjack
- Craps
- Roulette
- Texas Hold 'em



Reporters: Invite family, friends, neighbors, clients, judges, co-workers, proofreaders, videographers, interpreters -- everyone! Invite your own group for a nice evening out and meet new people, too!

*If you haven't received an invitation by July 1st,
email Vonda at vpptx1@aol.com . . . or just show up on July 20th at 8:00 p.m.

WHAT WAS MEANT FOR EVIL

Part I

By Mylinda Faircloth

Ahhhh, the weekend at last! It was a Friday afternoon in early December, and I was on my way home. I had an early deposition on Monday morning, so I grabbed my rolling briefcase and business tote bag and tossed them into my minivan on the way out the door. After a full weekend, on Sunday night we attended an Appreciation Dinner at our church in Pearland. About 8:30 p.m., sated and content, we said our goodbyes and headed to the parking lot.

As we approached the van, nothing seemed amiss. But when I grabbed the door handle on my side, I knew that the door opened far too easily in my hand – as if it wasn't closed all the way. A quick, panicky look around the van verified my concern. My steno briefcase was gone – with \$6,000 worth of equipment inside. My husband realized his wallet was missing, as well. Then, as my heart sank, I realized my tote bag was missing with my business records, as well as my personal and business calendars. An entire year's worth of history was gone in an instant, along with all the equipment necessary to do my job.

About two minutes later, before we could digest what had happened, a police car pulled up. Apparently, the same creeps who broke into my van also hit three other cars in our church parking lot and four at a nearby funeral home! After spending a few minutes reeling from the feelings of invasion and insecurity that quickly closed in, I spent a few more minutes being very, very angry and having some very UN-Christian thoughts about the people who did this. Then, realizing that I had a deposition in 12 hours - and, of course, having no equipment with which to TAKE the deposition - I grabbed my cell phone.

(to be continued)

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HCRA's organization number is 6081.

