

suffixes, distinguishing between *maybe* and *may be*, *sometime* and *some time*, etc., so that everything I now write comes out clean. It's hard work, but I passed the CRR five years ago.

Four years ago I took a four-day boot camp for CART and broadcast reporting because I thought I wanted to slow down from working as a freelancer to doing CART or broadcast reporting. I soon found out that it's just as hard but in a different way. I didn't have to overhaul my dictionary this time, but I learned to input a good job dictionary before I start a job and make brief forms for the parties' names and subject matter.

There is one thing that all reporters who have 25 years or more experience have in common: When we report now, we can't let our subconscious take over. We have to pay attention to what is being said. The work is just as hard; it's just that the hard work comes in the process of reporting, not in the editing.

*Kimberly Ganz, RMR, CRR
Okawville, Ill.*

Have I changed my dictionary? My goodness, yes! Since I've been reporting for more than 25 years, I've had to change. I started before computers, conflicts, word boundaries, and writing parentheses for realtime. You didn't need numbers to "come out."

I used to write everything out. Now I find briefs are my friend. I actually keep not only a word list, but a steno list for each particular case. I find when I'm stroking less I have time for more accurate realtime.

In changing my dictionary I find that briefs have to "click" or "look" like the word. The quickest jump I ever made in my writing style was when I took retraining at Green River Community College. I learned how to deal with word boundaries and conflicts. It was not a major overhaul of my writing, but it helped me develop a strategy to improve my writing.

I would highly recommend any type of education a reporter can find, whether it be by seminars, conventions,

returning to school, the JCR, steno swaps, or talking with other reporters about writing.

I am continually amazed at ways others write words, and I try to steal every good idea I find!

*Marcella Wing Maddex, RPR
Woodinville, Wash.*

STATE NEWS

Can One Person Make a Difference?

BY KATHY ZEBERT

I believe that the answer to this question is a resounding, "Yes." I was once told that if you want to see what difference you make in the world, you should put your finger in a glass of water. Of course, if you do that, you'll see no visible difference as

Court Reporters... your Notary commission can enhance your career!

If you're one of the many in the reporting and captioning profession that also serves as a Notary Public, then let the National Notary Association help you expand your career. We're the nation's professional Notary organization. We provide a wide range of training, services and support to help you advance in your career and to discover new income opportunities.

NNA Membership provides...

- Notary Application Assistance
- Notary and Career Enhancement Training
- Notary Bond and Insurance Products
- Notary and Career Supplies
- Notary News Publications and Updates
- Unlimited Hotline Support
- Member-only Rewards and Discounts

**20% Off NNA
Membership for
Journal of Court
Reporting Readers.**

Call 1-800-US NOTARY
today and mention
"code 603NCR."
(New memberships only.)



NATIONAL NOTARY ASSOCIATION
The Nation's Professional Notary Organization
1-800-US NOTARY (1-800-876-6827)
www.NationalNotary.org

From Court Reporter To Captioner

By Chris Crosgrove, AAS, BFAE, MM, CRI, CPE

Even better for 2006!

Save 15%
in May!

Captioning I: Basic Captioning Practices 3.0 CEUs

\$276.25 (Reg. \$325) #35318

Captioning II: Captioner's Realtime Writing Skills 3.0 CEUs

More numbers practice.

\$297.50 (Reg. \$350) #35319

Captioning III: The Captioning Session 3.0 CEUs

New captioners ethics module.

\$403.75 (Reg. \$475) #36086

You'll also get updated practice libraries, new research & dictionary building tools, and private personal mentoring and evaluations! Use with any CAT/captioning software.

Call 800-323-4247, ext. 7880 or
order online at www.stenograph.com

Call today!
Offer ends May 31, 2006.
Cannot be combined with other offers.



your finger is surrounded by the water. However, as you remove your finger from the glass, you'll find water on your finger. Therefore, you did make a difference in the amount of water in the glass. Imagine the difference all 10 fingers would make.

I'd like to share a recent bittersweet event in my family. I don't wish to evoke sadness or sympathy, but rather inspiration and strength.

As I write this, I have just returned from the funeral of a cousin who had been paralyzed by a diving accident at the age of 17, some 25 years ago. His parents, my aunt and uncle, had been managing his daily care for all of those 25 years. Having been married 50 years, that time amounted to half of their married life. Although some couples would have been torn apart by such daily sacrifice, these two remarkable people remained steadfast in their love and devotion to each other and their youngest son.

As I made the six-hour trip back to Tennessee from Mississippi, I reflected on the past few days, and I couldn't seem to get one picture out of my mind. It was the sight of my aunt and uncle holding hands under the tent at the cemetery. The strength that they exuded in this very difficult time had a life-

changing effect on me. Even though volunteering with the Tennessee Court Reporters Association has been a wonderful experience for me, I had started to lose my enthusiasm and wondered about the efficacy of my role. Although most would consider a funeral to be somber and emotionally draining — and it was those things for me — watching my family come together and hold each other up gave me more inspiration than any other event in my life.

I share this experience with you because I consider not only TCRA but the reporting community as a whole to be a family. This profession is small in number, and only other people in the profession understand the trials and tribulations we have, as well as value the accomplishments we achieve. We must maintain our strength as an association to accomplish the goals and to set the standards for this profession. We must stand together and join hands to support each other.

This year, each and every member, one person at a time, can make a difference within TCRA, the legal system, and the entire state of Tennessee. Please volunteer your time, your money, and whatever you have to give. It is an invaluable experience that will lead you to inspire others. In the near future,

you'll be called on to let your voice be heard with respect to licensure. I hope I've inspired some of you to, indeed, take the opportunity to make a difference.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the TCRA family. I dedicate this article to Sara Nell and Dale Zebert, my inspiration for writing it.

Kathy Zebert, RPR, is president of the Tennessee Court Reporters Association. This article appeared, in slightly different form, in TCRA's Volunteer Reporter.

MEDIA WATCH

LEGALINK, VITAC PARENT COMPANY SOLD

Merrill Corp. has acquired WordWave, parent company of LegaLink, VITAC, and WordWave International. Merrill is a global provider of technology-enabled services for legal, financial, real estate, and other markets. The company has more than 4,400 people in 60 locations.

WordWave was owned by Berkshire Partners LLC and Highland Capital Partners, both Massachusetts-based private equity firms. Terms of the transaction were not announced.

STENO BRIEFS

You Just Don't ...

BY JOSEPH A. MILLIKAN

My theory principle for the following set of phrases is SKWROU for "you just don't."

you just don't believe	SKWR O U BL
you just don't believe so	SKWR O U BL S
you just don't mean to say	SKWR O U PL TS
you just don't recall	SKWR O U RL
you just don't recall the	SKWR O U RL T
you just don't recognize	SKWR O U R Z
you just don't recollect	SKWR O U R B G
you just don't remember	SKWR O U R
you just don't remember the	SKWR O U R T

The theory principle for the "You don't" phrases is KWR O U.

you don't believe	KWR O U BL
you don't believe so	KWR O U BL S
you don't mean	KWR O U PL
you don't mean to say	KWR O U PL TS
you don't recall	KWR O U RL
you don't recall the	KWR O U RL T
you don't recognize	KWR O U R Z
you don't recollect	KWR O U R B G
you don't remember	KWR O U R
you don't remember the	KWR O U R T
you don't think	KWR O U PBG
you don't think so	KWR O U PBG S

Joseph A. Millikan is from Miami, Fla.