

# E-VADE MECUM

1. Something a person carries about for frequent or regular use.
2. A book for ready reference; manual; handbook.  
[1620-30; < *vade mecum* lit., go with me]

*The ASRA is committed to advancing the court reporting profession by promoting court reporters as experts in the field of verbatim shorthand reporting; by providing continuing education to its members; and by advocating quality service, high ethical standards, and state-of-the-art technology.*

## GOODBYE, WADE...HELLOOOOO, SANDRA!



We all knew it had to end some time, and that time was November 8, 2008, at the Banff Park Lodge, the location of ASRA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention.

Wade Garner, our enduring president for 12 of the last 14 years, has made way for new leadership in the form of our own vivacious Sandra German, who was elected at the annual general meeting.

Thank you so much, Wade. Your leadership has meant a lot to many people in more ways than you know.

### *Our Yearning for Learning Journey*

by Sandra German

Wow! What a weekend in Banff! To all of you who attended, thanks for joining us and helping ASRA celebrate 50 years as an association. It was so wonderful to share and enjoy the weekend with alumni, old friends, colleagues, and their families. As convention chair, this convention was one of my favourite to plan and organize, and with the help of many, especially Wade, this convention will go down as one to remember!

And as life changes, so does ASRA. After 14 successful years as president, Wade has decided to step down. I can't begin to fill his shoes, but as I embark on a new journey in my court reporting career, I encourage all of you to jump on board with me as your new president.

cont...



In my never-ending quest to learn new things, I share with you a motto I've lived by since I was young. If you learn at least one new thing each and every day, your day will not be a waste! What have you learned today? A new word, something new about your spouse/child/parent, new vocabulary, something new while travelling, a new steno brief, a new idea while visiting with a friend, a new computer tip, or a new coping strategy to reduce stress? No matter how big or small, you're better today than you were yesterday for knowing one new thing!

We enjoy the most amazing career, whether as an official or freelancer, as a CART provider or captioner, as a firm owner or office manager, or reporting in the Senate or United Nations. We have so many opportunities to learn new things that I believe any seminar, workshop, guest speaker, topic or theme imaginable could and might someday be relevant in our jobs. As I've reiterated in the past: Never say never!



The Germans  
Mark, Rhonda, Sandra and Greg



I invite you to join me on Sandra's Yearning for Learning Journey! I have so many unanswered questions and so much yet to learn, I want to share that quest with each of you.

The conventions and seminar topics under my leadership might be a different type of learning from the typical punctuation/steno brief-type of the past. How many times have you wished you knew more about exotic salt and pepper shaker varieties, Jewish traditions, rare dog breeds, Italian pronunciations and spellings, John Deere tractor parts, natural gas exploration, the Greek alphabet, the endocrine system, or underwater basket weaving when you were suddenly confronted with strange vocabulary in court, in a Discovery, CARTing a class, or captioning the Discovery Channel? Well, I've encountered all of the above! Who woulda think I'd need to know this to be better at my job?

As part of this learning journey, I encourage all of you to maintain your CSR with ASRA and also to strive to attain your RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CCP, CBC, CPE, CRI, CMRS or CLVS credentials through NCRA. You will never regret it; you'll be a better person for it; your career will be more meaningful, enjoyable, and worthwhile; your job prospects will increase; your self-esteem and self-confidence will skyrocket; you'll be better equipped to fend off our competitors; and no day will be a waste as you achieve new goals and learn new "things"!

Due in large part to Wade's positive leadership, ASRA benefits from a high rate of member participation at conventions and seminars, and many ASRA members have attained NCRA credentials. Let's climb even higher!

If you have a colleague who is not presently an ASRA member, please encourage them to join. We don't want them to miss any of the amazing learning opportunities we're going to encounter in the coming months and years.

My dad often said: if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life. And with so much to learn every day in this amazing career of ours, he was right! Strap on your seatbelts, open your minds, sponge it up, and join me as we embark on the most exciting on-the-job PLAY of our careers!

*Sandra German, CSR(A), RDR, CRR, CCP, CBC, CPE, CRI*

*ASRA President*



### AMAZING SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

1. IF YOU'RE CHOKING ON AN ICE CUBE, SIMPLY POUR A CUP OF BOILING WATER DOWN YOUR THROAT. PRESTO! THE BLOCKAGE WILL INSTANTLY REMOVE ITSELF.
2. AVOID CUTTING YOURSELF WHEN SLICING VEGETABLES BY GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO HOLD THE VEGETABLES WHILE YOU CHOP.
3. AVOID ARGUMENTS WITH THE FEMALES ABOUT LIFTING THE TOILET SEAT BY USING THE SINK.
4. FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE SUFFERERS ~ SIMPLY CUT YOURSELF AND BLEED FOR A FEW MINUTES, THUS REDUCING THE PRESSURE ON YOUR VEINS. REMEMBER TO USE A TIMER.
5. A MOUSE TRAP PLACED ON TOP OF YOUR ALARM CLOCK WILL PREVENT YOU FROM ROLLING OVER AND GOING BACK TO SLEEP AFTER YOU HIT THE SNOOZE BUTTON.
6. IF YOU HAVE A BAD COUGH, TAKE A LARGE DOSE OF LAXATIVES. THEN YOU'LL BE AFRAID TO COUGH.
7. YOU ONLY NEED TWO TOOLS IN LIFE – WD-40 AND DUCT TAPE. IF IT DOESN'T MOVE AND SHOULD, USE THE WD-40. IF IT SHOULDN'T MOVE AND DOES, USE THE DUCT TAPE.
8. IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT WITH A HAMMER, YOU'VE GOT AN ELECTRICAL PROBLEM.



### THANK YOU

#### 2008 Banff Convention Exhibitors

- Stenograph -Michelle Parker-  
[mparker@stenograph.com](mailto:mparker@stenograph.com) (800) 323.4247 X 6286
- StenoCat-Cathy Logan-[CDlogan1@cs.com](mailto:CDlogan1@cs.com)
- The Steno Reno Man-Gus Baert - [ucanto@shaw.ca](mailto:ucanto@shaw.ca)  
780.435.3314
- Eclipse - Kathy Vail -[kath.vail@gmail.com](mailto:kath.vail@gmail.com)  
250.496.4268
- Beijo Bags -Sophie Dupuis-[beijo@shaw.ca](mailto:beijo@shaw.ca).  
403.619.2398
- Arbonne - Tamela Rankin-[peanut31@telus.net](mailto:peanut31@telus.net)  
780-455.7266
- PartyLite - Carrie Goodman [pcgoodman@shaw.ca](mailto:pcgoodman@shaw.ca)  
403. 420.1955
- Spice Wellness Systems - Whole Body Massage  
Andree Parenteau-Kraft [alpreporting@shaw.ca](mailto:alpreporting@shaw.ca)  
403.686.7676
- CHHA-Ed - Cindy Gordon, Marilyn Kingdon -  
[chha-ed@shaw.ca](mailto:chha-ed@shaw.ca) 780.428.6622
- Dictionary Jumpstart - Anissa Nierenberger  
[anissarae@att.net](mailto:anissarae@att.net)
- Magician -Josh Kim [magicman\\_jk@hotmail.com](mailto:magicman_jk@hotmail.com)

### Charlene Hodge – Treasured Treasurer



The ASRA executive would like to sincerely thank Charlene for her 20 plus years of dedicated service, many of them as treasurer. She kept us on budget and on track, and she will be missed on council. Best wishes in your future endeavours, Charlene!



The ASRA executive would also like to thank Aline McDougall for serving as council member responsible for member relations. Aline donated her skills and time for a two-year term.

We have Aline to thank for the fantastic decorating at our Black & White Affair in Banff. Wonderful job, Aline!

Good luck to you in future!



We'd love to hear about your experiences, whether you've travelled the world or stayed close to home, reported at a famous trial or in a strange situation. Share that epiphany you had at work or even the relief you felt to be done at the end of the day. Inspiration can be found in unlikely places!

Click [here](#) to share your stories.



## THE ELUSIVE DR. SOFFAS

submitted by Julie Pierson

I started school in 1990, but graduated in the fall of 1993 (took a year off to have a baby). I worked court reporting until 2001. I have been home full-time with my children since then. I have four kids: Kristen, 17; Brad, 10; Tyler, 7; Lexie, 6.

I have a funny story that I will never live down. I had been reporting for about six or seven years. I was in a discovery where about 20 different doctors' names were mentioned. I marked them on my machine to get the spellings later.

One I had marked was nowhere in the Statement of Benefits Paid. His name was Soffas. I looked in the phone book, listings of the CPS and even phoned CPS. No luck.

It drives me crazy if I can't be sure of a spelling. In desperation, I called my good friend, Kim Stasiuk, and asked her to listen to the tape over the phone.

She listened and said, "Yeah, doctor's office." There was dead silence on my end of the phone for a minute. I could only see it how I had written it on my machine.

She still laughs about it and mocks me to this day.

Ho Ho Ho

## 2008/2009 ASRA COUNCIL

**Sandra German**

**President**

Phone: (780) 639-4865

[sandragerman@asraonline.com](mailto:sandragerman@asraonline.com)

**Wade Garner**

**Past President**

Phone: (403) 347-8899

[wadegarner@asraonline.com](mailto:wadegarner@asraonline.com)

**Jeff Weigl**

**Registrar**

Phone: (780) 697-7178

[jeffweigl@asraonline.com](mailto:jeffweigl@asraonline.com)

**Donna Gerbrandt**

**Treasurer**

Phone: (403) 295-9685

[donnagerbrandt@asraonline.com](mailto:donnagerbrandt@asraonline.com)

**Diana Halvorsen**

**Secretary**

Phone: (780) 430-1805

[dianahalvorsen@asraonline.com](mailto:dianahalvorsen@asraonline.com)

**Lori Baert**

**Practice Review/Con Ed**

Phone: (780) 435-3374

[loribaert@asraonline.com](mailto:loribaert@asraonline.com)

**Cindy James**

**Newsletter Editor**

Phone: (780) 487-7679

[cindyjames@asraonline.com](mailto:cindyjames@asraonline.com)

**Roxanne Johanson**

**Events Co-ordinator**

Phone: (403) 252-9410

[roxannejohanson@asraonline.com](mailto:roxannejohanson@asraonline.com)

**Jennifer Duvold**

**Public Relations**

Phone: (780) 455-5564

[jenniferduvold@asraonline.com](mailto:jenniferduvold@asraonline.com)

**Brenda Sauve**

**Public Member**

Phone: (780) 422-4139

[brendasauve@asraonline.com](mailto:brendasauve@asraonline.com)





## ASRA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention Highlights

Banff Park Lodge, November 7-9, 2008

- by Cindy James



I came home exhausted, but that was to be expected after a weekend of fun and excitement!

This was the first time my husband Jeff and I have been able to get away without the kids, well, since before we had kids...the year 2000, to be exact. With that in mind, we drove to Banff a day early to have some time to ourselves.

On Friday we slept as late as we could before touring the townsite and heading up the gondola on Sulphur Mountain. The sun was brilliant, there was a mere skiff of snow cover, and the breeze was no more than a gentle play on our cheeks. The best thing of all is that we had the boardwalk to the summit nearly all to ourselves. There is definitely something to be said for Banff mid-week in November!



For those of tougher mettle than I, the Speed Contest was held Friday afternoon. A new champion was named, and you can find the results on page 10.

Friday night Sandra German hosted "Convivial Pursuit," an evening of socializing and challenge. Check out the pictures on the ASRA website, and try your hand, if you missed it, on pages 15-17. The Americans took top spots in the spell-off, with Kathy Lemons and NCRA President Karen Yates garnering 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thankfully, Lori Stocco saved Canadian face by finishing first overall.

The vocabulary/trivia contest was won by Gene Hayes finishing first overall.

"Fact or Crap" was the most fun with everyone standing up, closing their eyes, and indicating "fact" by placing their hands on their heads, or "crap" by placing both hands on their butts. Winner was council member Donna Gerbrandt with second place going to Bonnie Moore.

After the ASRA-sponsored Saturday morning's huge hot breakfast buffet, Bob Layton entertained us with humor and stories. Shannon Wiebe had her own brand of fun CARTing "The Copper Clapper Caper" and the numerous puppets in Bob's ventriloquist act. Bob has graciously forwarded us the Clapper Caper skit for reprint on page 14. In this profession, you really just don't know what you're going to get when you go to work.

There was no voting at the AGM this year, and after Sandra was pronounced our new president, Roxane Johanson, Jeff Weigl, and Lori Baert joined council as new executive members.

For the first time ever, a reigning NCRA President and NCRA CEO/Executive Director have been kind enough to attend our annual convention. President Karen Yates and CEO Mark Golden hosted a town hall meeting which provoked an interesting thread of discussion among members. Their presence at our convention was greatly appreciated!

cont....



Saturday night's "A Black & White Affair" was all class. The banquet room was impressively decorated by Aline McDougall. And somehow Sandra German found time to make hundreds of chocolate steno machines, one for each placesetting, alternating in dark and white chocolate. Dinner was preceded by close-up magician Josh Kim and superb singing by Roxanne Johanson. Linda Haymour gave the blessing in English and Arabic, and we were all treated to a butter-soft prime rib meal.



Gabe Boucher took us down memory lane, before being presented with a plaque that held the original sign to the court reporters office, donated by Harry Finnegan. The inscription on the plaque said "This sign from the original Calgary Courthouse is presented to Gabe Boucher for his never-ending contributions to the court reporting profession. May it be a constant reminder of the title we proudly hold. Presented in Banff, Alberta, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2008."

Garry Moore was introduced by his son, Scott Moore. Garry started the NAIT court reporting program and was one of the first to leave the government and start a freelance firm in Alberta. Garry was presented with an honorary membership in the ASRA.

Jerry Weigl was introduced (roasted) by Anne Henderson, Shauna Campbell, and Len Sperling. Jerry has attended 42 consecutive ASRA conventions and has instructed at NAIT for over 30 years. He's been a steadfast member of the ASRA and has the utmost respect of those who know him. Jerry was bestowed honorary membership as well. Marj Weigl also received an honorary membership for her unfailing support of her husband Jerry, and of the ASRA. She has attended almost 40 consecutive conventions!

A surprise vocal performance by Rhonda German brought her mother Sandra (and many others) to tears or close to it with her rendition of "You Raise Me Up," dedicated to both Sandra and Wade.

After a short break, songstress Laura Glover entertained us with a number of wonderful musical selections while Wade Garner, dressed in a tailed tuxedo, accompanied her on piano. It was a night to remember!

Sunday morning yielded a continental breakfast and Keith Lemons' informative Computer 101 presentation. (Did I mention his wife Kathy won the spelling contest?)

Then, after an immense ASRA-sponsored Sunday brunch, it was time to pack up and head back home to our families and life and work, all too soon. And to answer Scott Moore's reverberating question, "Why do we do what we do?" I think the answer may be simply "Because we can!"

**HEY, BABY!**  
Kerriann and Jim Desautels are pleased to announce the arrival of  
their new son Lennon on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008.  
Lennon joins his sister Leah and brothers, Liam and Linden.  
congratulations!



### **Thank you to Wade Garner and ASRA members**

Receiving an ASRA Honorary Membership at the Annual Convention in Banff on November 8, 2008, was a moving experience for me. I cannot begin to capture in print all the emotions I felt during the heartfelt presentation by my colleagues, Anne, Shauna, and Len; but I felt a little like it was my eulogy. I mean, who says nice things like this about someone when they're still alive? And what's with the ASRA surprising me with this award when I'm still working full time anyway? Historically, these types of honors are bestowed on old people with long service who are retired. Admittedly, I have long service, but don't they know that although I'm "eligible" to retire, I'm actually distressed by the prospect that one day I'm going to have to face that inevitability?

You see, my identity revolves around court reporting. I am in my element in the classroom. I look forward to the challenges of teaching and trying to influence students. I value the camaraderie of my peers. I enjoy the contact with reporters, the friendships that have evolved, and hearing of the many successes and tribulations of past grads through emails and at functions such as annual conventions.

In spite of my varied outside interests, I simply cannot think of anything that I would enjoy doing more than teaching and being part of the ASRA community. I say community because the feeling of caring and friendship permeates the Association membership. Thank you, Wade, Executive Council, my colleagues, and the many members who personally expressed their support at the gala. Your recognition through this Honorary Membership for whatever contributions I may have made to the Court Reporting profession over the past four decades is something I will cherish for the rest of my life.

I also treasure the recognition you have given to Marj. After my presentation, I think I was too dumbfounded to remember to thank my dear wife for her ongoing commitment to our marriage, our family, and my career. I am doing so now publicly: Thank you, Marj, for guiding me during the stressful times. Thank you for putting up with my antics and trying to rein me in on those rare occasions when I'd get a little too silly. As many of you have known for a long time, she has had and continues to have a tremendous impact on my life.

I wish the Alberta Shorthand Reporters Association continued success and look forward to taking advantage of my Honorary Membership for many years to come.

jerry weigl

### ***Thank you to all members of ASRA***

***Recognition is a wonderful thing, especially when you are totally in awe and admiration of those who have chosen to recognize you.***

*I wish to extend a most heartfelt thank you to the ASRA and to Wade Garner, President of ASRA, for his thoughtfulness in concocting this silly notion and recognizing me with an Honorary Membership. Thank you to Anne Henderson, Program Chair of Legal and Realtime Reporting at NAIT, who so eloquently supported this honor. And thank you to all reporters who continuously show their warmth and support.*

*Your kindness and generosity is overwhelming. You've lifted me to a position of honor – ranked with the top-notch masters of the trade.*

*my sincere thanks!*  
marj





Hi, Sandra,

Just wanted to say congrats again on being elected president of the ASRA. Also wanted to say WOW! about the chocolate steno machines on Saturday evening. They're so cute and soooooo yummy! : )

You are amazing! You must never sleep.

Cheers,  
Rosemary MacDonald

Dear Wade and Sandra:

We just had to send a note to thank you both once again for the invite to attend the ASRA convention in Banff this past weekend. Doug and I enjoyed our weekend immensely. We were welcomed by everyone we met. The keynote on Saturday morning was very amusing and Shannon is still recovering from CARTing the clapper caper! Congratulations on putting on an outstanding conference.

Sandra, best wishes as you begin your challenge as president of the ASRA. Your family must be really proud of you as we all are. And Wade, best wishes to you as well in whatever the future holds for you.

Hope you both had safe travels home and we look forward to keeping in touch.

... Marilyn and Doug Kingdon  
(CHHA-Ed President and representative)

Wade, Sandra and EVERYONE ELSE  
ON YOUR CONVENTION TEAM –

Thank you so much for a fabulous 50th Anniversary Convention. Susan and I had a great time and really appreciate all of the hard work and organization that went into this weekend's convention in Banff!

Please also pass on our thanks to the other many people that assisted you in making the weekend such a success!

Regards,  
Ernie Kuemmel and Susan Pickard

Please accept my apologies for not writing sooner, because I want to thank you for organizing and finalizing such a wonderful 50th anniversary convention.

I am so proud of you for all the professionalism that was put into this excellent convention, and also the accomplishments of all court reporters in Alberta.

To you, Sandra, you and Mark surely have produced beautiful and talented children. It was so nice to see you all again.

To you, Wade, you deserve a tremendous amount of gratitude from all court reporters in Alberta for having brought our Association to such a degree of professionalism. I thank you so much.

Thanks again to all of you, and continued success.

Gabe Boucher



## FOR THE LOVE OF GOOD FOOD

### ASRA E-COOKBOOK

NOW AVAILABLE FREE FOR DOWNLOAD IN .PDF FORMAT AT:  
[FOR THE LOVE OF GOOD FOOD - 2008 ASRA COOKBOOK](#)

#### *Becky's Best Brownies*

From Cindy James. "Warning: Do not make these when you are home alone. You may eat the entire pan. Not that I've done that."

<b>Brownies</b>	2 large eggs, beaten
2 cups flour	1 tsp vanilla
2 cups sugar	<b>Icing</b>
1 tsp baking soda	½ cup butter or margarine
1 cup butter or margarine	2 tbsps unsweetened cocoa
1 cup strong brewed coffee (or water)	¼ cup milk
¼ cup unsweetened cocoa	3 ½ cups icing sugar
½ cup buttermilk (½ cup milk + 2 tpsps lemon juice or vinegar)	1 tsp vanilla

#### **Procedure**

##### **Brownies**

- 1 In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, and baking soda. Make a well in the centre.
- 2 In a medium saucepan, melt butter. Add coffee and cocoa. Bring to a boil.
- 3 Pour coffee mixture into dry ingredients.
- 4 Add buttermilk, eggs, and vanilla. Mix well.
- 5 Pour into greased 17 ½ x 11 baking dish.
- 6 Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean.

##### **Icing**

- 1 In a medium saucepan, melt butter. Add cocoa and milk. Heat to the boiling point, stirring frequently until smooth.
- 2 Gradually add icing sugar ½ cup to 1 cup at a time, whisking constantly over medium heat until smooth. Icing will crystallize on spoon and sides of saucepan when there is enough sugar.
- 3 Stir in vanilla.
- 4 Pour over warm brownies. Cool.



### **2008 SPEED CONTEST WINNERS**

Congratulations to Janice Plomp for her 1<sup>st</sup> place finish with a mind-blowing score of 99.725%.

Former champion Jeff Weigl was hot hot hot on her heels with a score of 99.685%. What's that – the difference of a punctuation error?

Sandra German also earned an honourable mention with her third-place score of 96.785.

Lori Baert had no problem qualifying with her score of 96.65.

**Outstanding!**

### LINKS

[ASRA](#)

[NAIT - LRR Program](#)

[NCRA](#)

[CHHA-Ed](#)

[CHHA-National](#)

[ASRA Online Research Page](#)

[ASRA Employment Opportunities Page](#)

[ASRA Corporate Sponsor Page](#)

[Examiner Information](#)

[ASRA Library Page](#)

[CSRAO](#)

[BCSRA](#)

[Court Reporters Catalogue](#)

[Stenocast](#)

[Mozy Online Storage](#)

[World of Inspiration](#)



## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fall Convention Evaluation Comments

Nov 7-9, 2008, Banff, Alberta

\*\*Due to the overwhelming number of comments, we are only printing a sampling. We would, however, like to thank everyone who took the time to make their opinion known. It is very much appreciated by Council.\*\*

### Friday Speed Contest

- Please continue to offer the speed contest
- Congratulations, Janice! I would say "You go, girl!, but you already did!

### Friday Convivial Pursuit

- Fun! Where does Sandra find all this stuff?
- Friday night was so fun! And I learned a lot too.
- The Convivial Pursuit was outstanding!! Great idea.
- Great. Game could have been a little shorter – more time for socializing
- Spelling questions too "unique"
- Loved it! Makes me want to start Googling more.
- Enjoyed the challenging words and vocabulary. Interesting that non-court reporters either knew more or guessed better than court reporters to place higher!
- Great concept but words, vocab a bit too difficult
- Convivial Pursuit was so inclusive.
- Convivial Pursuit was fun. Thank you for all your hard work, Sandra!
- Convivial Pursuit was quite interesting. Neat thing to do! Here's one for you: What is the oldest form of corn? It's popcorn!
- Great camaraderie (sp?)

### Saturday Morning – Bob Layton

- Excellent, informative, and fun!
- Loved him and his stories!
- Very good. Enjoyable and value centered
- Entertaining but maybe should have only gone half morning
- As court reporters, we are trained to hear funny, sad, happy, shocking things – and maintain decorum so our crowd may not have reacted with as much emotion as one might expect
- Okay but too long.
- Good speaker. Intelligent man. A little too long

### Saturday Afternoon: ASRA AGM/NCRA Town Hall Meeting

- Run well
- Some interesting discussion
- Very efficiently run meeting. Interesting Town Hall meeting
- I was so proud of ASRA conviviality. I was impressed by the down-to-earth warmth of Karen Yates and Mark Golden
- Congratulations to all new council members. I learned a lot in the Townhall meeting. Thanks to Karen and Mark for coming up
- Business-like. I'm glad we didn't have to have an election
- Informative. Please consider advertising in lawyer listing "shorthand reporter" i.e. look for the "CSR" behind the name (marketing)
- Congrats to our new members! Guest speakers were dynamic, entertaining, and informative!
- Surprisingly interesting. Enjoyed the NCRA reps.
- All right but a bit long
- Good information. Important for the survival of our association and members
- Many thanks to Wade for his many years of dedication and hard work. Great NCRA presentation. Many thanks also to Charlene. Great job.
- Thanks to council for their work. Wade, we will miss you. Good luck, Sandra. Good job for 21 years, Charlene.
- Short and sweet. Interesting issues
- Nice and short!! Need everyone to use mike for speaking
- Interesting chat about "court reporter"



50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fall Convention Evaluation Comments  
Nov 7-9, 2008, Banff, Alberta

Saturday Evening Black & White Affair

- Had a wonderful time. Thank you organizers
- Adopt Roberts' Rules of Order – 4 minutes and "RED LIGHT"
- Pre-dinner entertainment was good. Meal was fantastic. Enjoyed Gabe's stroll down memory lane
- Very good evening. Some things got a little long and we needed to take a page from the Academy Awards when they play the music – but all in all I thought it went quite well and the food was excellent and it was nice to recognize those people who have helped this profession along.
- Fantastic soiree!! Enjoyed the roving magician. I'm still baffled! What a nice touch to have him there mesmerizing us.
- Nicely decorated. The steno machine chocolates added a special flair. Sandra, when did you have time to make those?
- Amazing! It was nice to be entertained by our own ilk: Roxanne Johanson, Sandra's daughter Rhonda, and of course Wade! Very enjoyable evening. Classy affair with everyone dressed so nicely in black and white. Memorable for many years to come.
- Dinner, atmosphere lovely. Singers lovely.
- Nice touches in pictures, etc. Meal and service great! Enjoyed the music/entertainment
- Enjoyed all the presentations, stories, surprises! Excellent. Loved the black and white theme. Good entertainment. Well done, Wade!
- Wonderful to see everyone dressed up. Honorary memberships well chosen and well deserved. Recognizing Marj was brilliant
- Roast beef was too RARE – uneatable. The rest of the meal was delicious, though.
- It was great to have the old guys tell stories.
- Musical performances tastefully done.
- A class act. Honouring honourable people. Touching. Music/singing was outstanding.

Sunday Morning – Keith Lemons

- Informational and interesting
- Going over the basics. Some interesting things. Always something to learn. Good.
- Found most content elementary
- Excellent, relevant, informative. Lots of valuable information
- Loved the idea of putting Keith's PowerPoint on ASRA website. No waste
- Appreciate ongoing availability via email.
- Portion after the break excellent
- Hard to concentrate after the big party but learned a thing or two.



The husband of a pregnant wife was thinking of buying insurance for his unborn baby.

So he asked **Great Eastern** and the agent said, "Don't worry man, we'll provide insurance right from the basket to the casket".

The man was impressed but thought that he should probably seek another opinion. He then approached **Prudential**. The agent replied, "Oh, we have a new insurance policy which can protect your unborn child from the womb right up to the tomb".

The man was stunned but thought that maybe all salesmen like to b/s and decided to see the agent from **AIA**. He told the AIA agent what Prudential and Great Eastern had to offer.

The AIA agent thought for a while, and then said, "Tell you something, we have one that is even better than Prudential and Great Eastern. We'll insure your child from "erection to resurrection".

--submitted by Jerry Weigl



Prepare for Your Manic Monday ... Sunday Evening SpeedBuilding



## SpeedBuilding & Theory

Start Writing in the Fast Lane



### Reporters

- R**etain your theory - just tweak it a little
- E**njoy more time with your family and friends
- A**chieve the speed you need
- L**earn to hone the skills you already have
- T**oday's demands far exceed yesterday's
- I**mprovement doesn't have to be burdensome
- M**ake more money with less time and effort
- ER** is not a threat to a realtime writer

Take advantage of what you already know

**O**ptimize output; Minimize input

**D**on't lose your job because of realtime

**A**dvance your earning potential

**Y**ou Can Do It!

**303.745.2800**

Be a Realtimer Today! [jen@courtreps.com](mailto:jen@courtreps.com)

**From the comfort of your own home for as little as \$100!**

Check us out at [www.courtreps.com](http://www.courtreps.com)

**Call before Dec 31 and save \$\$\$\$\$**

## Maximum Benefits



### Minimum Effort

### Online - Anytime

#### Student? New or Advanced We can make a difference!

- Practice not making you perfect? (We can't promise to make you perfect, but who knows?)
- Practicing but not getting anywhere? (We can get you to where you want and need to go)
- The only numbers increasing are your student loans? (Our tuition is extremely affordable)
- Fuel prices ruining your day? (Our online fuel mileage is excellent)
- Is your travel time taking away from your practice time? (No travel time here)
- Want to practice late at night or on weekends? (You can - anytime you want)
- Want to learn from a human and not just a book or tape? (You've come to the right place)
- Wish somebody would have recorded the session you just missed? (We did :)
- Flexible program. Sign up for a month or a year - one class or full program - your choice!
- Is your time important to you? (It is to us)



## THE COPPER CLAPPER CAPER

\*\*First-year LRR student Kyla Rutley was hilarious in performing this skit with Bob!\*\*

**BOB:** This is the village – Banff, Alberta. Some people rob for pleasure. Some people rob because it's there. You never know. My name's Friday, I'm a cop.

(SFX: dragnet music)

**BOB:** I was working the day watch out of robbery when I got a call from the Banff School Bell Company. What can you tell me?

**KYLA:** There's been a robbery.

**BOB:** Yes. What was it?

**KYLA:** My clappers!

**BOB:** Your clappers?

**KYLA:** Yeah, you know those things inside a bell that makes them clang.

**BOB:** The clangers?

**KYLA:** That's right! We call them the clappers in the business.

**BOB:** A clapper caper.

**KYLA:** What's that?

**BOB:** Nothing! Now can I have the facts? What kinds of clappers were stolen In this clapper caper?

**KYLA:** They were copper clappers!

(SFX: dragnet music)

**BOB:** And where were they kept?

**KYLA:** In the closet!

**BOB:** Do you have any ideas who might have taken your copper clappers from the closet?

**KYLA:** Maybe. I once I fired a man and he swore he'd get even!

**BOB:** What was his name?

**KYLA:** Claude Cooper!

**BOB:** So, you think... ?

**KYLA:** That's right! I think Claude Cooper copped my copper clappers kept in a closet.

**BOB:** You know where this Claude Cooper is from?

**KYLA:** Claude Cooper is from Cleveland.

**BOB:** That figures!

**KYLA:** What makes it worse is that they were clean!

**BOB:** Clean copper clappers? Why do you think that Cleveland's Claude Cooper would cop your clean copper clappers kept in your closet?

**KYLA:** Only one reason!

**BOB:** What's that?

**KYLA:** Claude Cooper from Cleveland is a kleptomaniac.

**BOB:** Who first discovered the copper clappers were copped?

**KYLA:** My cleaning woman Clara Clifford!

**BOB:** Let me see if I got the facts straight here. Cleaning woman Clara Clifford discovered your clean copper clappers kept in a closet were copped by Claude Cooper a kleptomaniac from Cleveland. Now is that about it?

**KYLA:** One more thing. If I ever catch kleptomaniac Claude Cooper from Cleveland who copped my clean copper clappers from the closet....

**BOB:** YES?

**KYLA:** I'll clobber him!

\*\*\*\*\*

(Editor's Note: Well, Shannon, it definitely could have been worse...everything could have started with Z, or X!  
Way to go!)



### Convivial Pursuit - Spelling Words

\*\*The top winner with 14 out of 20 was Lori Stocco, Calgary. Kathy Lemons, non-court reporter and wife of Sunday's speaker, Keith Lemons, from Tennessee, placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the spell-off, and our very own NCRA president, CART Provider from Nevada, Karen Yates, earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the spell-off.

1. Passchendaele – recent movie released, filmed in Calgary, on 1917 Battle of WWI between Britain, Canada and South Africa vs Germany
2. qat (pron KAT) – leaves similar to marijuana creating euphoric stimulant
3. gnocchi – pasta made from mashed potatoes
4. succotash, noun, a cooked dish of kernels of corn mixed with shell beans, esp. lima beans, and, often, with green and sweet red peppers
5. commonweal, noun, the common welfare; the public good
6. Marquesas islands – part of French Polynesia, 12 islands, NE of Tahiti
7. hasta la vista – pron AUST/A/LA/VEEST/A – Spanish for goodbye until we see each other again
8. misogynist – one who hates, dislikes, or mistrusts women
9. immanent – inherent
10. Hare Krishna – a religious sect
11. picot (PEE/KOE) – one of a series of ornamental loops in embroidery or along the edge of lace or ribbon
12. curmudgeon – a bad tempered, difficult, cantankerous person
13. mau-mau – pron MOW/MOW – to terrorize, intimidate, or threaten
14. raconteur – a person skilled in telling anecdotes
15. shekel – an ancient Hebrew coin or unit of weight
16. dinghy – small boat
17. Kathmandu – capital city of Nepal, pron KAT/MAN/DOO
18. indite – to write down, to proclaim
19. raisin – dried grape
20. cosine, in trigonometry, (in a right triangle) the ratio of the side adjacent to a given angle to the hypotenuse

#### Spell-Off Words

1. mojito, An alcoholic drink made of rum, sugar, lime juice, crushed mint leaves, soda water, and shaved ice
2. pari-mutuel – a form of betting and of handling the betting on horse races at racetracks, in which those holding winning tickets divide the total amount bet in proportion to their wagers, less a percentage for the management, taxes, etc.
4. aficionado, noun, an ardent devotee; fan, enthusiast
5. precipice, noun, a cliff with a vertical, nearly vertical, or overhanging face; 2. a situation of great peril: *on the precipice of war*
6. farcical – FARS/kal - ludicrous, absurd
7. morceau, mor/SOE - piece; morsel; 2. an excerpt or passage of poetry or music
8. roux, noun, ROO - a cooked mixture of butter or other fat and flour used to thicken sauces, soups
9. fuchsia – pink colour
10. variegate – diversity, different colours

## YOU EARNED IT!

The ASRA gives continuing education credits for passing an NCRA certification test.  
Contact Lori Baert @ [loribaert@asraonline.com](mailto:loribaert@asraonline.com)

note: continuing education credits are based on the calendar year January to December.



Convivial Pursuit – Vocabulary/Trivia

(answers bottom of page 17)

Top winner was Gene Hayes

1. What is Alberta's Motto:
    - a. Glorious and free
    - b. I remember
    - c. Strong and free
    - d. One defends and the other conquers
  2. Which of the following is NOT a reason for denying bail?
    - a. If the person is accused of being a serial killer
    - b. If the person was previously accused of contempt of court
    - c. If the accused has no ties to the community
    - d. If the person is accused of stealing
  3. Who invented Wii?
    - a. Sony Playstation
    - b. Microsoft
    - c. Nintendo
    - d. Atari
  4. 80% of deaths in casinos are caused by what?
    - a. stampeding
    - b. anxiety
    - c. heart attacks
    - d. Falls (off chairs/stools)
  3. upset spouses
  5. Crazy Craving is the mascot for which cereal?
    - a. Cocoa Pebbles
    - b. Honey Comb
    - c. Trix
    - d. Cookie Crisp
  6. When was NSRA formed
    - a. 1880
    - b. 1899
    - c. 1906
    - d. 1922
  7. What is NOT an official symbol of Alberta?
    - a. lodgepole pine
    - b. wild rose
    - c. Rocky Mountains
    - d. great horned owl
    - e. petrified wood
    - f. bull trout
  8. Who DIDN'T hail from Alberta?
    - a. Joni Mitchell
    - b. k.d. lang
    - c. Jann Arden
    - d. Michael J. Fox
    - e. Leslie Nielsen
    - f. Nickelback
    - g. Terri Clark
    - h. Eric McCormack
    - i. Ian Tyson
    - j. None of the above.
  9. Which was NOT a law in Alberta?
    - a. It was illegal to tie a male horse next to a female horse on Main Street in Wetaskiwin
    - b. It is illegal to paint wooden logs in Alberta
    - c. It is illegal to set fire to the wooden leg of a wooden legged man
    - d. If released from prison, it is required that you are given a handgun with bullets and a horse, so you can ride out of town
  10. Which of the following was NOT invented by a Canadian?
    - a. Blackberry
    - b. Poutine
    - c. Basketball
    - d. Superman
    - e. Insulin
    - f. Model T Ford
  11. Which Canadian word is similar to the American term "Miranda Rights"?
    - a. Arrest
    - b. Arraignment
    - c. Charge
    - d. Caution
  12. What other name is Paul Rennee Belobersycky known as:
    - a. Paul Bunyan
    - b. Paul Brandt
    - c. Pope John Paul II
    - d. Paul Revere
  13. Which is NOT a type of shorthand machine
    - a. Stenotype
    - b. Stenowrite
    - c. Brevitype
    - d. Sokutaipu
    - e. Palantype
  14. What does HTTP stand for?
    - a. Hypertext Transfer Protocol
    - b. Hypertext Transmission Protocol
    - c. Hypertext Transport Protocol
    - d. Hypertext Tagged Protocol
  15. Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, and Dostoyevsky were all what?
    - a. Musicians
    - b. Epileptics
    - c. Hard of hearing
    - d. Roman Catholic
  16. Which town/city recycles more than any other in the world, per capita?
    - a. Banff
    - b. Edmonton
    - c. Stockholm, Sweden
    - d. Vancouver
  17. How many time zones in Canada?
    - a. 10
    - b. 6
    - c. 8
    - d. 8-and-a-half
  18. Who or what is a cyclamen?
    - a. Roman soldier
    - b. plant
    - c. cyclical fruit
    - d. bicycle repairman
  19. What or who is Harajuku?
    - a. Japanese peg game
    - b. Gwen Stefani's backup dancer group
    - c. Item of karate outfit
    - d. Japanese emperor
  20. Alberta's first wheat was grown where?
    - a. Lethbridge/Coaldale area
    - b. Camrose area
    - c. Lac La Biche area
    - d. Provost area
- Vocab/Trivia Off
1. What does senectitude mean?
  2. Sports question: In baseball, how many outs are there in an inning?
  3. "Fortnight" is a British term for a certain amount of days. How many days makes up a "fortnight"?
  4. How many strings does a violin have? Take your choice: four, seven, ten
  5. Before becoming Prime Minister, Lester B. Pearson was a: lawyer, teacher, economist?



## Fact or Crap?

(answers bottom of page)

1st-Donna Gerbrandt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bonnie Moore.

1. Bulls dislike the colour red.
2. Canada's largest mountain National Park is Jasper.
3. Warton Willy, Canada's groundhog is brown.
4. Celine Dion is one of 14 children.
5. The most landed on space in the Monopoly Board Game is Atlantic Avenue.
6. All turkeys gobble.

### Searching For Increased Energy? Better Health? More Wealth?



*Just imagine losing 5-15 lbs of fat safely and quickly in as little as 9 days -- as well as building lean muscle -- while you're sitting at your steno machine or editing on your laptop.*

*I've lost 62 lbs, 59 inches, went from a size 22 to 11/12, have tons of energy, and sleep like a baby in just a few short months on a nutritional cleansing program called Isagenix. You can too! ☺*

The programs Isagenix offers are not only for weight loss, but there are programs for athletes, kids, anyone looking for better health and increased energy.

To learn more about these pure, organic programs, please visit my website at

[www.LookNoFurther.ca](http://www.LookNoFurther.ca)

E-mail: [Jenufa\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Jenufa_2000@yahoo.com)

780-455-5564

Jennifer Duvold

ASRA COUNCIL WISHES EVERYONE  
A WONDERFUL AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!

WATCH FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER SPRING OF 2009!



#### Answers to Vocab/Triva:

1-C, 2-D, 3-C, 4-C, 5-B, 6-B, 7-C, 8-J, 9-4, 10-F, 11-D, 12-B, 13-B, 14-A, 15-B, 16-B, 17-B, 18-B, 19-B, 20-C

#### Answers to Vocab-Off:

1. old age 2. six 3. 14 nights (or two weeks) 4. four 5. Teacher

#### Answers to Fact or Crap:

1. False. Bulls are colour-blind. It's the movement that makes them angry. 2. False. The largest is Wood Buffalo  
3. False. He's an albino 4. True 5. False. Illinois Ave is the most landed on. Second is Go. Third is B&O  
Railroad  
6. False. Only the toms (males) gobble.

