



BE NOISE MAKERS

By Jennifer Kissic • President-Alabama Court Reporters Association

This is my last FTR article as Alabama Court Reporters Association's president. A great chapter in my life is coming to a close. Never in my life would I have imagined being the president of our state association. I give all the glory to God! I am NOT a natural born leader. I am NOT a rockstar court reporter. Do I love my job? Yes! Am I amazed of what we do in our jobs? Every day. I see the importance of doing our job as guardians of the record and doing it with integrity and class. I hope that I have led our association and represented our profession well.



Jennifer Kissic
ACRA President

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This was the title of my first article. I hoped to inspire you all to take some part in our association. I said it once and I'll say it again, it has been an awesome experience for me! We can all make a difference and it takes everyone doing their part to make a great team. If one member isn't doing their part, the game isn't won. So be an advocate for Alabama court reporters through your professionalism, your attitude, your conduct, and take pride in a job well done.

An Alabama Summer. At the time of writing this article, I was halfway through my time as president. Whew! Halfway there. I had begun to form a plan of action. I now could see the need for advocacy and that we need to stop sitting on our hands and wait to see what happens. What can we do? How do we get this accomplished? Plan loading. . .

Strong. A call to action! Prompted by a fellow board member who had found her voice and saw growing concerns in other states, ACRA Strong was born. We now have a game plan! We have some great ideas and are looking at ways to advocate in our great state. Want to know more? Email us at ACRAStrong@gmail.com! Do your part every day! It doesn't take any extra time or money to be a professional and do everything in our power to do our jobs well. If we exude confidence and professionalism, this is the reputation we leave judges, attorneys, and parties with for all court reporters. Our jobs are important, and we want others to understand how seriously we take our jobs as guardians of the record.

“You have to fight. You have to make some noise to be heard.” These are the final words of my last FTR article that I want to

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Be Noise Makers

continued from the front cover page.

leave you with. This is a quote from a movie I was watching several weeks ago. It hit me like a ton of bricks. I am not one to speak out of turn or cause a scene. When I went to court reporting school at Gadsden State, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Towe both taught us to be seen and not heard. They taught us not to call attention to ourselves, but did emphasize, “Get it the first time.” As guardians of the record, it is our duty to speak up from time to time. We do this to clarify a word that may have been mumbled, if someone coughed and we

didn’t hear the word, stop parties from talking at the same time, if a train goes by, or to ask a lightning-fast attorney to slow down to humanly manageable writing speeds. I could go on and on. **We must make some noise to be heard.**

*Be the Best Version of You!
Be Noise Makers!*

ACRA EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOMINEES 2023

Immediate Past President - Jennifer Kissic

President - Sabrina Lewis

President-Elect - Mary Heinfeld

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Secretary - Vicki Clark

Treasurer - Tatelyn Noda

Director, District I - Lori May

Director, District II - Jessica Pitts

Director, District III - Tracye Blackwell

Director, District IV - Paula Price

Parliamentarian - Cindy Greene

2023 ACRA Nominees continues on page 4.

MEET OUR 2023 NOMINEES

BIOGRAPHIES



Jennifer Kissic
Immediate Past President

After completing the court reporting program at Gadsden State in 2001, Jennifer began her career as a freelance court reporter with Tyler Eaton Court Reporters. In 2003, she was hired into her dream job as an official court reporter for Presiding Circuit Judge Julian M. King in Talladega County. Upon Judge King's retirement in January of 2020, Jennifer was hired by the new presiding judge, Judge Chad E. Woodruff. Jennifer is a member of the National Court Reporters Association. She has served ACRA as district director, secretary, Vice President, Membership Chair, President-Elect, and is the 2022 President.

Jennifer has been married to her husband, Jamie, for 21 years. They have two beautiful daughters, Layla (17) and Alaina (14).

"I am thankful for the opportunity to serve ACRA in the many different capacities over the years and all the opportunities it has provided me. I hope that I served our association and its members well and will continue to advocate for our profession for years to come."

Sabrina Lewis, CCR, RDR, has been a court reporter since 1978. Sabrina has worked as a federal official, state official, and a freelance court reporter. She served on the Alabama Board of Court Reporting. Sabrina has presented seminars at the national and state level and has published articles in the National Court Reporters Association's Journal of Court Reporting and the Alabama Court Reporters Association newsletter, For The Record (FTR).



Sabrina Lewis
Nominee for President



Mary Frances Heinfeld
Nominee for President-Elect

Mary Frances Heinfeld, CCR, has been an official court reporter for the Tuscaloosa County Circuit Court for 26 years. She brings to the Alabama Court Reporters Association her previous years of experience on various ACRA committees, the Board of Directors, as well as a year of service on NCRA's National Committee of State Associations. In the past, she has served on the Legislative Committee and planned ACRA conferences as well.

Mary is a mother of two boys, Thomas and Ford. She hopes to eventually retire and pursue her dreams of traveling extensively.

Meet Our 2023 Nominees continues on page 5.

Meet Our 2023 Nominees

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Jordan Groves
Nominee for Vice-President

Jordan Groves is a freelance court reporter in the Montgomery, Alabama, area since 2015. Jordan is an active member of the Alabama Court Reporters Association and the National Court Reporters Association. She is currently on the ACRA board and served on the NCRA New Professionals Advisory Committee from 2016 to 2020. Jordan is currently serving as co-chair of the ACRA Strong committee. She was selected to serve as a speaker at state and national conferences, with topics ranging from new professional's perspective, professionalism, and licensed court reporting in the state, as well as speaking to College of Court Reporting's procedures class for numerous semesters.

In the summer of 1986, Vicki left Alabama headed to Plainview, Texas, to attend Lippert School of Court Reporting. The only problem was that she had just met her future husband a couple of months earlier.

Being homesick and in love, in November of 1986, she came back to Alabama where she then attended Prince Institute. She was married in June of 1987.

Vicki graduated from Prince in November of 1988 and then went to work! She freelanced for ten years and then became an Official in Montgomery where she presently works for Judge Greg Griffin.

She and her husband, Chris, have been married for 35 years and have three children. They are looking forward to their first grandchild in February!



Vicki Clark
Nominee for Secretary



Tatelyn Noda
Nominee for Treasurer

Tatelyn Noda, RPR, is a graduate of Prince Institute and started her career in Montgomery, Alabama. In 2014, she relocated to Miami, Florida where she specialized in maritime, medical malpractice and aviation litigation. She was awarded Court Reporter of the Quarter in 2017 and held multiple regional titles with her firm. In 2018, she relocated to Alabama.

She previously served as the District IV Director and hopes to continue to serve the members of ACRA as Treasurer for 2023.

Tatelyn and Carlos Noda reside in Jackson, Alabama with their three sons, Harrison (7), Everett (4), Walker (3) and their six rescue dogs. They enjoy traveling, spending time with family, and volunteering at their local animal shelter.

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Meet Our 2023 Nominees

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Lori May
Nominee for
Director, District I

Lori May, CCR, has been a court reporter since 1991. After attending Gadsden State Community College, Lori moved to Sebring, FL, for a year where she had the opportunity to do court and freelance work. She moved back to the Birmingham area in 1992 and worked with National Court Reporting until 1995 when she married Mike and moved back to her hometown of Oxford, AL. She worked with Noble & Associates Court Reporters until 2001 when she and Mike moved to Chelsea, AL. This move gave her the opportunity to start May Court Reporting.

Mike and Lori have been married for 27 years, and they have a Miniature Schnauzer named Cooper.

Hello. My name is Jessica Pitts. I am extremely honored to accept the position of 2022 Director for District 2. I live in Glencoe, Alabama with my canine rescue companion, Sydney. After graduating from Gadsden State Community College's Realtime Reporting Program in May of 2015, I began my career by working exclusively for court reporting firms. During that time, I began building my client base and dedicated myself to improving my skills. I have been working as Jessica Pitts, CCR, since March 2021. In addition to supporting my clients, I work overflow for firms across the state and nation and fill in for officials when requested. I am fortunate in that I get to experience all the best aspects of court reporting with a broad scope of topics and content. I enjoy mentoring and bringing Gadsden State RTR interns with me on jobs to help them gain an understanding of not only the job but what it is like to be a freelance court reporter. I was asked by a fellow reporter and friend to take this position. I am eager to represent the members in District 2 and look forward to enhancing my career with the honor of being District 2 Director for the Alabama Court Reporters Association.



Jessica Pitts
Nominee for
Director, District II

My name is Tracye Blackwell, and I am honored to be nominated as the new District III Director. After graduating high school in 1988, I enrolled into Prince Institute the very same year. I "rang the bell" in April of 1991 and have been freelancing for nearly 33 years now. I have been blessed with many wonderful mentors through the years, and I strive to pay it forward to the reporters that I am fortunate enough to build relationships with. I think knowledge is power and that we can all continue to learn and grow by coming together in this great profession.



Tracye Blackwell
Nominee for
Director, District III

I live in Montgomery with my husband and best friend, Mark. We have two daughters and sons-in-law and the most precious granddaughter, Wyatt. I truly love what I do and look forward to serving my district and association and hopefully making new friends along the way.

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Meet Our 2023 Nominees

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Paula Price
Nominee for
Director, District IV

I am Paula Morgan Price and I am so blessed to live in the great State of Alabama and in beautiful Baldwin County. I am honored to be your District IV Director with Alabama Court Reporters Association.

I have been a Court Reporter since 1987 after graduating from Gadsden State School of Court Reporting. I have experience in freelance and official reporting, with some realtime reporting for hearing-impaired. I have my RPR, CRR, and CRC with the National Court Reporters Association, and my CCR with the State. I do believe we should always strive to be our best version of ourselves and never lose sight of our goals.

I live in Bay Minette, Alabama with my husband, George - who is also my high school sweetheart - and our 13 year old Yorkie-Poo, Ellie. I am mother to two adult children, Tyler (28) and Haley (25). And I am privileged to be Nonni to four beautiful grandchildren, Karoline, Kadeyn, Kailynn, and Kam. Grands really are the best!

I am fortunate to work as an official in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit for Judge Scott Taylor where I have served since 2004. I am happy to represent you in our Association. Please feel free to call on me anytime.

After completing the court reporting program at Faulkner State in 1992, Cindy began her court reporting career as a freelance court reporter with Howard & Associates. In 2000, she was hired by Mobile County as a court reporter covering judicial proceedings in the juvenile court for Circuit Judge John Butler and District Judge George Brown. Cindy began her employment with the State as a Special Roving Court Reporter for the 13th Judicial Circuit (Mobile County) in 2004. In 2006, she became the Official Court Reporter for Circuit Judge Robert Smith, and remained in that position until his retirement in January 2019, at which time she became the Official Court Reporter for Circuit Judge Ben Brooks. In September 2020, Presiding Judge Michael Youngpeter appointed Cindy as the Special Roving Court Reporter for the 13th Judicial Circuit, where she stays very busy covering proceedings in Circuit Court, District Court, Drug Court, or wherever a court reporter is needed.

Cindy is a member of the National Court Reporters Association and holds the certification of Registered Professional Reporter (RPR). She has served on the ACRA Board as District 4 Director, Secretary, Vice President, Membership Chair, President-Elect, the 2019 Convention Chair, the 2019 ACRA President, the Court Reporters Manual Committee, Chair of the Legislative Committee, and Immediate Past President. Cindy is currently serving her first year as Parliamentarian and is looking forward to serving a second year in that position on the ACRA Board.



Cindy Greene
Nominee for
Parliamentarian








“THE RESILIENT COURT REPORTER”

CONFERENCE 2023

JANUARY 20 & 21, 2023

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7:00 – 8:00 am	Registration	(.10 CEUs)
8:00 – 9:00 am	Tech Tips Mike Hensley, RDR In this fast-paced session, Gadget Guru Mike Hensley shows you the tech gadgets and apps you can start using now to make your personal and professional life easier.	(.10 CEUs)
9:00 – 9:30 am	Break – (Southern Buffet Breakfast Provided)	
9:30 – 9:45 am	NCRA Update NCRA Director Erika Sjoquist, RPR	
9:45 – 10:45 am	Mindfulness in the Midst of Chaos Reggie Parker, LPC Licensed Professional Counselor and Certified Hostage Negotiator Reggie Parker discusses maintaining your cool when people all around you are losing theirs.	(.10 CEUs)
10:45 – 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Have A Seat: Human Factors in Workplace Design: Designing Spaces That Are More Naturally Human Kibibi Springs, PhD When we feel better, we work better. Ergonomics expert Dr. Springs shows us how, by considering human factors in workplace design, we can create our own more naturally human work space that helps to improve our health, comfort, and connection.	(.10 CEUs)
12:00 – 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own	
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Rule 29 Panel Nathan Wilson, Clerk of the Court for Civil Appeals Scott Mitchell, Clerk of the Court for Criminal Appeals Bob Maddox, Esq., Legal Division, Alabama Office of Courts ACRA's Cindy Greene, CCR, RPR Rule 29 governs all things court reporting in Alabama, affecting freelancers and officials. Learn about the new provisions of Rule 29.	(.10 CEUs)
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Break	
2:45 – 3:45 pm	Bending Without Breaking Kimberly Xavier, RDR Your photo should be in the dictionary beside the word “resilient” because there is no one more resilient than the court reporter. Kim shares tips for finding success while navigating life’s constant changes.	(.10 CEUs)
4:00 – 6:00 pm	Opening Reception – Sponsored by TBA – friends, music, hors d’oeuvres	



“THE RESILIENT COURT REPORTER” CONFERENCE 2023 JANUARY 20 & 21, 2023

7:00 – 8:00 am

Registration

8:00 – 9:30 am

The Heavy Hitters Panel | Co-Moderated by Sabrina Lewis and NCRA Director Erika Sjoquist | Panel includes: Arrowood, Butler, Clark, Decker, D. Isbell, McGalliard, A. Miller, D. Miller, Price, Robinson, Sinkfield, Stimpson, Tolleson. What does it take to get to the top? More importantly, what does it take to thrive there? Find out from some of Alabama’s most successful and well-respected court reporters in this informative Q&A session.

(.15 CEUs)



9:30 – 10:00 am

Break

10:00 – 11:00 am

Your Recipe for Resilience | Kimberly Xavier, RDR
Each of us is different, fearfully and wonderfully made. As such, we each face different challenges that have nothing to do with our duties as guardians of the record. Kim Xavier leads us in this interactive session designed for you to write your own recipe for resilience. You will leave with a self-developed plan of action to increase your personal and/or professional resilience.

(.10 CEUs)



11:00 – 1:00 pm

ACRA Annual Business Meeting (Lunch Provided)*

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Spreadsheets Can Save the Day | Mike Hensley, RDR
In this session, you will get an introduction to the wonder of spreadsheets. Learn how this flexible tool can come to the rescue, increasing your resilience and resourcefulness both personally and professionally.

(.10 CEUs)

2:00 – 2:15 pm

Break



2:15 – 3:45 pm

Court Reporter Trivia | Moderated by NCRA Director Erika Sjoquist
Exciting trivia competition.
Prizes awarded.

(.15 CEUs)

3:45 – 4:00 pm

CONFERENCE WRAP-UP · BASKET RAFFLE DRAWING



The Resilient Court Reporter...
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THE OFFICIAL HOTEL OF ACRA'S
**"THE RESILIENT
COURT REPORTER"**
CONFERENCE 2023



The hotel is located at: 3590 Grandview Parkway
Birmingham, Alabama 35243 • (205) 968-3775

- \$149 plus tax room rate for King or Double Room includes free wireless internet.
- The hotel is located on Highway 280 near The Summit.
- Free on-site parking in the open parking lot.
- Reserve your room quickly, as they fill up fast.
- Last date to book at ACRA's special group rate is January 9, 2023.

Book your group rate for Alabama Court Reporters Association at: www.marriott.com
or mention Alabama Court Reporters Association when calling to receive our special group rate.



ALABAMA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

FANTASTIC GIFT BASKET RAFFLE

Donate a basket! Or donate an item(s) and we'll create a specially-designed basket for you. No item too BIG or too SMALL! We will pick up your basket from you OR you may bring your basket/items to the conference and drop them off at the Ways & Means table.

THE RESILIENT COURT REPORTER CONFERENCE - FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 20-21, 2023,
BIRMINGHAM MARRIOTT, HIGHWAY 280

VISIT WWW.ALCRA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

Bring your basket/items to conference OR we can pick up from you. Contact sabrina.lewis@bellsouth.net.

DATES TO REMEMBER

ACRA 2023 Conference: January 20 & 21, 2023

CR & Captioning Week: February 4 - 11, 2023

2023 NCRA Leadership & Legislative Boot Camp:

February 26 - 28, 2023 • Alexandria, Virginia

CCR Exam Dates (must register online):

April 14, 2023 • Gadsden State Community College

NCRA 2023 Conference & Expo: July 27 - 30, 2023 • Houston, Texas

BECOMING THE BEST

By Paula Price

As Court Reporters, we constantly hear that our jobs are soon to be obsolete, almost to the point of hearing that ad nauseum. I have been a reporter for 35 years and we've fought this battle at least that long, with it getting stronger as technology grows. Now we are faced with electronic recording. Honestly, I left one position I had almost 20 years ago because of Court Smart taking over our reporting jobs in the courtroom. I refused to learn to record on their software and then have to transcribe what I am skilled at doing from attending court reporting school on my writer.

This reminds me of a trial I reported a few years back here in Alabama. A patient in a local hospital had died because the doctor had dictated his report and then it was sent to a transcriber. The transcriptionist lived in India. This was a South Alabama doctor, so I'm sure his dialect was quite different than an Indian accent. But nevertheless, that transcriptionist wrote the incorrect dosing amount of a medicine in the chart, then the hospital nurses administered what was written in the chart, thus causing the patient to die. This is a very drastic but true example of what happens when a Certified Court Reporter is not utilized in deposition or court proceedings.

I knew the moment I wanted distanced from the Court Smart situation that I must do anything I could to better myself in my profession. That was when I pushed myself into unfamiliar and not-so-comfortable situations out of my comfort zone. I had already obtained my RPR several years previous, so I began working on my Realtime by always, always, always writing to my laptop in court-but just for my eyes at the time. If you don't see your writing and know what you're messing up on, you cannot better your skill. I also attended Caption Masters--as I am dating myself here--which was a very intense weekend of captioning taught by Judy Brentano and Heidi Thomas, and soon afterwards passed my CRR and CBC, also known as CRC.

Though I have never been a captioner for television stations, I did have an opportunity to caption for the deaf community at their conference one year. Through contacts in my captioning education, I was referred to our very own Alabama native, Alan Peacock, who asked me to come to the conference and caption a seminar speaker for the SERID conference in Mobile that year. That was a great opportunity for me to briefly experience the life of a captioner and know that I was also helping the consumer in attendance learn from their conference. It is a great confidence booster as well. One of my spiritual gifts is serving, and this was definitely a service I could provide.

I never followed through in captioning as my job as different opportunities opened for me in a court setting and one which I truly love. I was able to return to my hometown and work in our courthouse, which I had always dreamed of working there when I began this journey years ago.

As you improve on your writing skills, strive to be the best you that you can be. Challenge yourself. Get out of your comfort zone often. Take tests to better you. No one has to know if you pass it or not. Just be a great court reporter so that recordings can't take our jobs!

Thankfulness

By Tatelyn Noda

I had an instructor say something in the middle of a fitness class that changed my entire outlook on life.

That's right. I had a life-changing experience in the middle of sweating profusely, saying a few choice words under my breath and watching my stopwatch like a hawk, praying the interval (read: hell) would be over soon.

You see, in the midst of the hardest part of our interval, I heard the words: "You don't have to do this minute. YOU GET TO." I snapped out of the stopwatch focus immediately. I stopped charging forward. I stopped moving completely.

It hit me like a ton of bricks. I get to? What? Where did that come from? But then it all made sense. You know, it never dawned on me just how much I take for granted.

I took for granted the ability to be in those hellacious intervals. I took for granted the ability to put on my shoes, to get ready that

afternoon in my workout gear and to even have the ability to feel a sense of dread.

At the end of the day, not everyone gets to do the things you're doing. Dreading going to work? Not everyone has a job. Dreading going grocery shopping? Not everyone is able to buy groceries. You get the gist.

But this hits even more when it comes to our amazing skill. Very, very seldom do we sit in the same room as someone who possesses the skill of stenography. Think about that for a minute. How many people in that same room can write 225 on a steno machine? We get to be skilled professionals, but yet we seem to take that crazy skill for granted at times.

I am committed to changing that mindset, and I am so thankful for each and every day that I get to wake up and put my fingers on those keys!

What are you thankful for this season?

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!

By Ashley Dickey

I hope you've read through the Court Reporters Manual and are finding it to be a helpful resource. Lots of volunteer man hours went into updating it. If you have any questions or ideas for topics that might need to be included in the manual, please reach out to me.

As a reminder, the manual can be found on www.alcra.org under the CR Manual tab. If you click on the heading of the tab, you will see the manual index. You can also click on each chapter. The manual is also at www.alacourt.gov and www.abcr.alabama.gov.

Recipes



Slow-Cooker Pizza Dip

- ½ pound ground beef
- ½ pound pork sausage
- 1 can (28oz) crushed tomatoes
- ½ cup diced green pepper (optional)
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1 garlic clove, minced (I use roasted garlic)
- ¾ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- Hot garlic bread



Directions

1. In a large skillet, cook and crumble beef and sausage over medium heat until no longer pink, 5-7 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer meat to a 3-quart slow cooker. Stir in all remaining ingredients except garlic bread.
2. Cook covered on low 2-3 hours or until heated through. Serve with garlic bread.



BUYER BEWARE!

Your guide on how to quickly interpret online ads for cars.

IF IT SAYS:

IT REALLY MEANS:

Rare model	Nobody liked them when it was new either
Older restoration	Can't tell it's been restored
Needs engine work	It's been frozen for 30 years
Uses no oil	Just throws it out
No rust	Body and fenders missing
Rough	It's too bad to lie about
One owner	Never been able to sell
No time to complete	Can't find parts anywhere
Needs interior	Seats are gone
Rebuilt engine	Has new spark plugs
May run	But it never has
Low mileage	Third time around
Many new parts	Keeps breaking down
Clean	It sat out in the rain yesterday
Best offer	About what I expect to get
Always driven slowly	Won't go any faster
Stored 25 years	Under a tree
Real show stopper	Orange with purple fenders
Easy resoration	Parts will come off in your hands
Top good	Only leaks when it rains
Good investment	Can't depreciate any more

Have you visited the ACRA Website lately?

Please visit us at www.alcra.org. We are working on adding lots of information for our members.
We welcome any suggestions you have for content on our website.

EXTREME COLD

When you are outside, frostbite and hypothermia are possible so you need to protect yourself.

1. Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing.
2. Wear a hat. Try to stay dry and out of the wind.
3. Cover your mouth to protect your lungs from extreme cold.
4. Mittens, snug at the wrist, are better than gloves.

Ice Safety

Please visit this informative link <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/thickness.html>

To keep pipes from freezing on an outside wall:

1. Let hot and cold water trickle or drip at night from a faucet.
2. Open cabinet doors to allow more heat to get to un-insulated pipes under a sink or near an outer wall.
3. Make sure heat is left on and set no lower than 55 degrees.
4. If you plan to be away: (1) Have someone check your house daily to make sure the heat is still on to prevent freezing, or (2) drain and shut off the water system (except indoor sprinkler systems).

If Pipes Freeze:

1. Make sure you and your family knows how to shut off the water, in case pipes burst.
2. **NEVER** try to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch. Use a hair dryer instead.
3. Always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.

Carbon monoxide poisoning is a silent, deadly killer claiming about 1,000 lives each year in the United States.

1. Install a carbon monoxide detector.
2. **NEVER** run generators indoors.
3. Open a window slightly when using a kerosene heater and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
4. **NEVER** use a gas oven to heat your home.
5. If your heat goes out, you can keep warm indoors by closing off rooms you do not need, dressing in layers of lightweight clothing, and wearing a cap.

Wood-burning stoves, fireplaces and heaters:

1. Always keep a screen around an open flame.
2. **NEVER** use gasoline to start your fireplace.
3. **NEVER** burn charcoal indoors.

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Extreme Cold

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4. Do not close the damper when ashes are hot.
5. Use only safe sources of alternative heat such as a fireplace, small well-vented wood or coal stove or portable space heaters. Always follow manufacturer's instructions.

Animal and Pet Safety:

1. Bring pets inside
2. Provide shelter and fresh water
3. Keep salt away from paws

Vehicle Preparation:

1. Check you battery
2. Check your fluids (coolant, wiper fluid, oil, etc)
3. Check your tires
4. Have jumper cables
5. Pack a blanket

For More information please see:

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/cold-wind-chill-chart>

<http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>

<https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/winter-storm.html>

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acra-4-you



ACRA

Alabama Court Reporters Association

Visit our website at: www.alcra.com

HOW TO STAY SAFE WHILE

CHRISTMAS

— shopping! —

Safety Tips for Online Shopping

- Only shop at secure websites (https vs. http)
- Update your passwords regularly
- Keep track of shipped packages, porch bandits are real!

- Never input personal or financial information into "pop-up" windows
- Never respond to emails with personal or financial information
- Use a "locker" or PO Box, thieves could break and enter if it looks like no one is home.

Safety Tips for In-Store Shopping

- Use the same credit card for all purchases, it's easier to keep track in case of fraudulent charges.
- If other shoppers are aggressive, back off. It's not worth risking personal injury or worse.

DID YOU
KNOW ?

- Keep your purse in front of your body or in sight while in the shopping aisle
- Make sure your vehicle is locked and parked securely
- Keep shopping bags out of sight in your car.
- Don't shop alone late at night.

Sources: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/276267758367620834/>
<https://www.kaspersky.com/blog/infographic-tips-for-safe-holiday-shopping/863/>

Credit: INFOGRAPHIC: How To Stay Safe While Christmas Shopping - Sunset West Legal Group, PC (sunsetwestig.com)

WHAT'S A CONTRONYM??

Contronyms are single words that have two contradictory meanings. They are their own opposites and are quite rare. Below is a list of ten contronyms:

1. **Apology** – a statement of contrition for an action or a defense of one.
2. **Bolt** – to secure or to flee
3. **Bound** – heading to a destination or restrained from movement
4. **Cleave** – to adhere or to separate
5. **Dust** – to add fine particles or to remove them
6. **Fast** – quick or stuck or made stable
7. **Left** – remained or departed
8. **Peer** – a person of the nobility or an equal
9. **Sanction** – to approve or to boycott
10. **Weather** – to withstand or to wear away

COMMONLY MISUSED WORDS

receive - ACCEPT

EXCEPT - exclude

information - (n.) ADVICE

ADVISE (v.) - to give advice

to influence - (v.) AFFECT

EFFECT (n.) - result

to be worried about something - ANXIOUS

EAGER - to look forward to something

city or resources - CAPITAL

CAPITOL - a building for lawmakers

accessory - COMPLEMENT

COMPLIMENT - praise

a trusted friend - CONFIDANT

CONFIDENT - certain or assured

mentally functioning - CONSCIOUS

CONSCIENCE - knowledge of right and wrong

composed of two parts, double - (adj.) DUAL

DUEL (n.) - combat between two people

physical distance - FARTHER

FURTHER - extension of time or degree

disturb, bother, or embarrass - (v.) FAZE

PHASE (n.) - a stage or step



First Annual Convention Photo - 1913

In Memory of Roy E. Durham, Sr.



Roy Durham passed away Monday, October 31, 2022 at the age of 77. Roy is survived by his wife, Sabrina Durham; son, Roy Edward Durham, Jr. (Carol); siblings, Robert Durham, Nora Ann Urquizo, Charlseza Buzzelli; granddaughter, Courtney Durham; and great-grandchildren, Emma, Rylee, and Hadley Tyson.

Roy was not a small town court reporter, but worked for different judges all over the United States. In 2011, Roy retired after working for 43 years as a court reporter. In an article written about him and his retirement, Roy was quoted saying, "I've had a great career and it hasn't been easy. It's very hard work. It's a challenge, but I enjoy a challenge." Let us all live up to the Roy's legacy and "enjoy the challenge."

CYBERSECURITY IS THE LIFELINE

YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED

By Keith Lemons

I'm a security nerd. I have NortonLifeLock on all my cards and loans, I have Home Title Lock on my mortgage, and I try to use PayPal when I think of it. I even have used Capital One's virtual card to pay for things I get on Amazon that are from Amazon partners.

Yet here I am again. Someone opened a BankAmericard in my name, using my information, garnered from who knows where. They made themselves an authorized user of my new card and paid payments on it without my ever being aware of it, until I got a call from Bank of America wanting to ask me about it. This person had already charged \$6,100 on the card and was requesting a credit increase. Talk about chutzpah!

The first words out of my mouth were: "But I don't have a Bank of America credit card." After verifying all my information, we concluded that I was the victim of identity theft, and I needed to report this theft to the credit bureaus. I decided to just call LifeLock and get it squared away. LifeLock only has one credit bureau that they are affiliated with. They very kindly gave me the link to the other ones, so I could protect my credit.

The three major credit bureaus are: Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian. You can get free accounts at Equifax and Experian where you can freeze/unfreeze (not thaw, sorry) your credit accounts. You can sign up for TransUnion for about \$30 a month, or you can sign up for companies that will do it all for you for around \$10 a month.

According to Top10.com, the three best credit monitoring companies out there are: LifeLock, Aura, and Identity Guard. There are others, of course, and they all have their pros and cons. Here are the pros and cons of what are, in my opinion, the top three:

COMPANY	PROS	CONS
NortonLifeLock	First in the biz/highly rated	Hard to figure out site
Aura	Highly rated	Fixed plans
Identity Guard	Highly rated/cash fund/3 bureaus	No 24/7 service

If you have been struck by the identity thieves, freeze your credit at the bureaus. Make sure you have two-step verification on all your credit cards. This will prevent a hacker from accessing your cards because if they do log in with your stolen information, the credit card company can send a text message to you on your cellphone for additional verification so that the thieves cannot continue with their fraud.

We all must treat our cybersecurity as if we were walking outside, after dark, in our pajamas, in a bad neighborhood, holding thousands of dollars of cash in our hands, and a blue light special alerting all customers.

Keith R. Lemons, FAPR, RPR, CRR (Ret.), was a court reporter based in Brentwood, Tenn., and is NCRA's Vice President. He can be reached at k.lemons@comcast.net.



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