

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026
.5 CEU (Full weekend: 1.5 CEUs NCRA Approved)

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Location: Franklin

OCRA Board of Directors Meeting

10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Location: Atrium

Registration and Vendor Setup

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Franklin and/or Dublin V-VI

Karoscik Realtime Contest Warmup and Karoscik Realtime Contest

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Franklin and/or Dublin V-VI

Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest Warmup and Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest

*** Friday lunch on your own ***

Session 1 (.2 CEU)

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Dublin I-III

Beyond the Bite: How Therapy K9s Are Transforming Trauma Response
(Ref. Article III, Sects. 3.02, 3.10, and 3.11 of the CE Program Rules)

Therapy canines are becoming an increasingly common presence in courtrooms and legal proceedings, particularly during sensitive, high-stress matters involving trauma victims, vulnerable witnesses, and emotionally charged testimony. Their presence directly affects courtroom dynamics and procedure, making it essential for court reporters and captioners to understand their role and impact within legal environments. This seminar examines the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Therapy K9 Program - established in 2017 as the first of its kind in Ohio - through its influence on courtroom operations and trauma-informed practices. Led by Sergeant Darrah Metz, the session focuses on how therapy canines are utilized in courtrooms, crisis situations, and other justice-system settings, and how proceedings may be adapted when a therapy canine is present. Attendees will gain insight into trauma-informed approaches that support professionalism, situational awareness, and stress management for court reporters and captioners routinely exposed to emotionally demanding proceedings. The program also addresses safety and deescalation considerations relevant to courtrooms, correctional facilities, and on-site legal assignments. The session does not address animal training, handling, or care, and no canines will be present, but instead centers on the procedural, professional, and safety implications of therapy canine programs within the justice system.

Sergeant Darrah Metz

Sergeant Metz is a Franklin County Sheriff's Deputy and a nationally recognized leader in the development of law enforcement therapy K9 programs. In 2017, she launched the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Therapy K9 Program, making it the first such program in Ohio and the sixth in the United States. Sergeant Metz holds a bachelor's degree in public relations and a master's degree in Interpersonal Leadership and Team Building. She has served the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in the Corrections Division, Patrol Bureau, and Community Response Bureau, and frequently speaks to schools, professional groups, and dog-trainer programs about therapy dogs, trauma response, and innovative approaches to community-centered policing.

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Location: Atrium

Vendor and Refreshment Break

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026 CONTINUED
.5 CEU (Full weekend: 1.5 CEUs NCRA Approved)

Session 2 (.15 CEU)

3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Location: Dublin I-III

Turning Sound into Access: Captioning Live Music Events
(Ref. Article III, Sects. 3.01 and 3.04 of the CE Program Rules)

Captioning live music for shows, concerts, and everything in between. Learn the nuts and bolts of preparing a script, script management, setlists, formatting overlapping lyrics, and more. How to deal with performers who deviate from their lyrics and tips for pushing script of foreign music.

Kim Falgiani, RDR, CRR, CRC, CSR(HI)

Kim has been in the court reporting and captioning profession for 45+ years enjoying work as an official, freelance reporter, business owner, and is currently an official court reporter with the Trumbull County, Ohio, Court of Common Pleas. Her passion for equal communication access led her to work in the broadcast captioning field, then working with the Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing community and the Visually Impaired community providing Captioning and CART remotely and on-site for the over 25 years. Kim is currently the Vice President of OCRA and has served on numerous committees and task forces for NCRA.

Denise Munguía, RDR, CRR, CRC, CSR(CA, MI)

Denise is a freelance court reporter with Munguia Court Reporting & Captioning, LLC who specializes in providing realtime in complex and technical litigation as well as CART Captioning in the education and business settings, Captioning for events, live theatre, and concerts. Denise is the 2021 recipient of the Ohio Court Reporters Association's Glenn W. Stiles, Jr. Distinguished Service Award and is a member of the National Court Reporters Association's Captioning Committee.

4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Atrium

Vendor and Refreshment Break

Session 3 (.15 CEU)

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Dublin I-III

Flex Your International Attitude: Intersteno
(Ref. Article III, Sects. 3.02, 3.04, and 3.10 of the CE Program Rules)

Recommendation for attendees: Bring your equipment (writers/realtime setup) to try out competition material. Join Tori as she shares her observations of prior Intersteno Congresses from various perspectives: educational sessions, travel experiences, and competitions! During the session you'll have the opportunity to try out both speech capture (speed) and realtime speech capture audio takes and perhaps inspire yourself to not only attend an international conference but also participate in one or more competitions. Intersteno 2026 will be held in July of 2026 in Liverpool, England. It will be a wonderful opportunity to cross the pond and participate in a Congress with an international flair without having to learn another language (well, kinda), to connect with international colleagues, meet other reporting professionals, network, learn about current topics, and to explore someplace you've probably not been before! ([Intersteno Liverpool 2026](#))

Victoria (Tori) Pittman, BA, CVR-CM-M, RCP, RVR (Ret. FAPR, RDR, CRI)

Tori Pittman is an accomplished court reporting professional who has performed in many subspecialties in the field (except captioning!). She began reporting in 1999 as a machine writer and officially transitioned to solely voice writing in 2011- 2012, when her bilateral tendinitis caused her to be unable to use the steno machine any longer. Tori loves all things court reporting and is honored to be a mentor, trainer, and presenter when offered the opportunity. She and her husband, Al Sternberg, relocated to Western North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains in 2021 and have embraced the slower pace of country life, participating in the local chamber of commerce as volunteers, taking part in various outdoor activities in the mountains, and visiting local wineries. Tori can be reached through her website at www.tori-pittman.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026
.7 CEU (Full weekend: 1.5 CEUs NCRA Approved)

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Location: Atrium

Registration and Continental Breakfast

Session 4 (.2 CEU)

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Location: Dublin I-III

Think Before You Click

(Ref. Article III, Sects. 3.04, 3.05 and 3.08 of the CE Program Rules)

Back by popular demand, cybersecurity expert Matt Lydy returns with an engaging, fast-paced session designed to help you stay ahead in an increasingly risky digital world. Cyber threats are no longer limited to obvious spam emails. Today's attacks are sophisticated, convincing, and often powered by artificial intelligence. From phishing scams and social engineering to AI-generated deepfakes and impersonation schemes, the tactics are evolving faster than ever. Matt will break down the latest digital red flags to watch for, share practical strategies to protect your devices and personal information, and help you build confidence in navigating today's technology landscape. You'll walk away with real-world examples, easy-to-apply tips, and a sharper instinct for spotting trouble before it strikes. Whether at work or at home, this session will empower you to think critically, click cautiously, and stay cyber-smart.

Matt Lydy

Matt is a seasoned professional with nearly 30 years of experience in the information technology industry, specializing in helping businesses navigate complex challenges and adopt innovative solutions. As a former Staff Technical Account Manager at VMware, Matt has worked extensively with enterprise and cloud technologies, earning numerous industry certifications. He has earned his education from various institutions, including Washington State Community College, Ohio University, and DeVry Institute of Technology. Matt, a dynamic speaker and mentor, blends his deep technical knowledge with practical insights to inspire audiences to embrace innovation and adapt to the rapidly changing digital landscape. In addition to his professional expertise, Matt and his wife, Erin, operate a Victorian bed and breakfast in Norwalk, Ohio.

10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Location: Atrium

Vendor, Silent Auction, and Refreshment Break

Session 5 (.15 CEU)

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Location: Dublin I-III

From Chaos to Calendar: Timing is Everything

(Ref. Article III, Sects. 3.08 and 3.10 of the CE Program Rules)

This session is designed to help participants transform disorganized schedules into structured, efficient time management systems. Through practical strategies, proven techniques, and interactive discussions, attendees will learn how to prioritize daily tasks, optimize calendars, and maintain productive habits. You will walk away with a clearer, more sustainable approach to managing time effectively.

Kelly Linkowski, RPR, CRR, CRC, CRI, CRE

NCRA Director

Kelly, who has worked as a captioner since 1993, is a Past President of OCRA and a current NCRA Director. She has worked from the comforts of home and around the world providing verbatim transcription and instant speech-to-text accessibility using the power of stenography. At the national level, Kelly has been an active volunteer, contributing to articles for publication, presenting seminars, and encouraging students through mentoring and as an advisory member of stenography programs. She has been involved with numerous NCRA committees and OCRA activities. Kelly is President of Caption First Incorporated, committed to providing equal access for everyone, bridging the communication barriers that exist for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, neurodiverse, or whose native language is not English.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026 CONTINUED
.7 CEU (Full weekend: 1.5 CEUs NCRA Approved)

12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Dublin IV-VI

2026 Business Meeting, Scholarships, Member Awards, Installation of Board, and Luncheon

**Plated Lunch Provided **

Session 6 (.15 CEU)

2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Location: Dublin I-III

My Journey to the U.S. House of Representatives

(Ref. Article III, Sects. 3.02, 3.04, and 3.10 of the CE Program Rules)

What does it take to transform a career built in local courts and freelance into an opportunity to serve at the highest levels of government? In this engaging and inspiring session, Tammy McGhee shares her personal and professional journey - from her early days in municipal court, to building a successful reporting firm, to navigating the evolving world of captioning, and ultimately to her current role at the U.S. House of Representatives. Tammy reflects on the skills, mindset, and adaptability required to grow with the profession while staying grounded in its core values. Attendees will gain insight into how strong technical skills, professional curiosity, and a willingness to embrace change can open doors far beyond what one might imagine at the start of a career. Tammy's story is a powerful reminder that court reporters are uniquely positioned to power the future - locally, nationally, and beyond

Tammy McGhee, RMR, CRR, CRC

Tammy is a Past President of OCRA and brings more than three decades of experience in the court reporting and captioning profession, with a career that reflects adaptability, leadership, and lifelong learning. She began her career in March 1990 at the Franklin County Municipal Court. After four years of public service, Tammy co-founded O'Donnell & McGhee, where she provided court reporting services for depositions, arbitrations, and state court proceedings from 1994 through 2016. In 2016, Tammy transitioned into broadcast captioning, a role she held for eight years, further expanding her technical expertise and professional reach. In June 2024, her career took a historic turn when she began working at the U.S. House of Representatives, where she currently serves - bringing the skills of a court reporter to the heart of the nation's legislative process. Tammy and her husband, Mike, will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in August. They are proud parents to Kirsten and Kyle and delighted grandparents to their grandson, Ellis. When she's not working on Capitol Hill, Tammy returns to Ohio whenever possible to spend time with "Little Man" and stay connected to the profession that shaped her journey.

3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Location: Atrium

Vendor, Silent Auction, and Refreshment Break

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026 CONTINUED
.7 CEU (*Full weekend: 1.5 CEUs NCRA Approved*)

Session 7 (.2 CEU)

4:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Location: Dublin I-III

Becoming Devoted

(Ref. Article III, Sects. 3.04, 3.08, and 3.10 of the CE Program Rules)

Looking to boost your writing to the next level, make your life easier, and enjoy the rewards of this fabulous profession a bit more? Daily practice is the secret sauce! In this seminar, you'll hear recommendations for what to practice, how to practice, as well as why on earth anyone would practice outside of the time we spend working as full-time court reporters and students. If the fast talkers of the world have you feeling dejected, learn the game-changing effect setting and achieving goals can have on your career. Amy can't wait to share the joy that "Becoming Devoted" to steno will bring!

Amy Doman, RDR, CRR, CRI, CSR (CA, IL, TX, and WA) , CCR (MO)

Amy has been a freelance stenographer since 1990. Born and raised in Texas, she attended Iverson Institute of Court Reporting in Arlington. As much as she misses her family - and winters - in Texas, Amy has enjoyed working around the country as a freelance reporter based in Indianapolis. She's had the opportunity to work in high-profile criminal and civil cases as the official and unofficial record, as well as providing CART and corporate services. She's been an NCRA speed contest qualifier each year since 2021. Amy was the first recipient of the National Court Reporters Foundation Court to CART grant in 2023. When not working, Amy enjoys family time with her husband of more than 30 years, their four almost-out-of-the-nest children, and her Havanese, Lucy.

6:15 p.m.

Location: Dublin I-III

Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest and Karoscik Realtime Contest Results

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Atrium

Silent Auction Ends at 6:00/Pick Up Winning Items

Vendor Wrap-Up

7:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Location: Dublin IV-VI

President's Saturday Reception

Main raffle winners announced

**Dinner Provided / Cash Bar Available **

Entertainment

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026
.3 CEU (Full weekend: 1.5 CEUs NCRA Approved)

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Location: Atrium
Continental Breakfast

Session 8 (.15 CEU)

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Location: Dublin I-III

StenoMasters: Public Speaking for Court Reporters and Captioners
(Ref. Article III, Sects. 3.01, 3.08, and 3.10 of the CE Program Rules)

StenoMasters was founded in 2021 as the industry's first nationwide community for stenographic court reporters, captioners, and students to improve their public speaking skills. We have tremendous collective experiences, insights, and real-world "tuition-free" legal education by virtue of our work, but we rarely have an outlet to share it all with each other. StenoMasters provides a safe, fun, interactive forum for this kind of sharing. Some speeches are directly related to the fields of reporting and captioning, and others are about personal lives, hobbies, and passions.

Joshua Edwards, RDR, CRR, CRC

Joshua is the co-owner of StenoCaptions LLC, the owner of JB Reporting, Inc., past president of the New York State Court Reporters Association (2019-2021), and past chair of the NCRA's National Congress of State Associations. Joshua is also a longtime member of Toastmasters and is the founding member of StenoMasters, the first public speaking club for stenographic court reporters, captioners, and students all over the country. He works full time providing stenographic realtime captioning for college and law school classes, public and private events, board meetings, theatrical events, and lectures, as well as captioning the American Theatre Wing's Tony Awards four years in a row. Before becoming a full-time captioner, Joshua worked for five years taking depositions in New York City and spent one year as an official court reporter for the Eastern District of New York. He is also a proud NCRF Angel donor.

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Location: Atrium

Refreshment Break

(extended break to allow for hotel check out)

Session 9 (.15 CEU)

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Location: Dublin I-III

Real Criminal Minds and CSI
(Ref. Article III, Sects. 3.02, 3.05, and 3.10 of the CE Program Rules)

Television crime dramas make investigations look fast, flashy, and simple, but real cases are built through analysis, collaboration, and attention to detail. In this fascinating session, retired Lieutenant Al Sternberg takes attendees behind the scenes of real criminal investigations to show how complex cases are actually identified, developed, and solved. Using real-world examples from homicide, fraud, identity theft, and cybercrime investigations, Lt. Al will explore how investigators analyze "micro" and "macro" financial transactions, build cases through criminal infrastructure patterns, and rely on partnerships with specialists. He also examines the craft of interviewing beyond the classic good cop/bad cop approach, the strategic use of evidence, and the often-overlooked realities of evidence room management. This session offers a rare look at how strong analytical skills and disciplined thinking power real criminal investigations, and the people and records that document them.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026 CONTINUED
.3 CEU (Full weekend: 1.5 CEUs NCRA Approved)

Session 9 Continued

Real Criminal Minds and CSI

Al Sternberg

Lieutenant (retired) Wake County Sheriff's Office

Evidence Custodian and Investigator

Lieutenant Al (Ret.) served nearly 30 years with the Wake County Sheriff's Office in North Carolina, building a distinguished career spanning patrol, crime prevention, public relations, complex investigations, and evidence management. Beginning his service in 1988, Lt. Al developed specialized expertise in computer crimes, fraud, homicide, and major investigations, ultimately rising to the rank of Lieutenant and serving as Evidence Custodian until his retirement in 2018. His investigative work included participation in more than 1,800 cases, including high-profile homicide, large-scale financial fraud, and identity theft investigations, several of which are now referenced in training materials and academic publications. His service has been recognized with multiple awards, including the Wake County Sheriff's Office "Mr. Z" Deputy of the Year Award and a special award of thanks for work on the Xavier Jennette identity theft case.

Since 2017, Lt. Al has brought his investigative and evidentiary expertise to the court reporting profession as a self-employed Eclipse scopist and North Carolina Judicial Transcriptionist, certified by the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts. He specializes in complex and non-traditional recordings, including police interviews, body-worn and dash-camera footage, jail phone calls, and other challenging audio sources. He also serves as a lead team scopist and document manager for an international arbitration daily copy team. Lt. Al's unique combination of law enforcement, evidence handling, and transcription experience offers valuable insight into accuracy, context, and integrity in the creation of the official record.

*** 2026 Annual Conference Concludes ***