

VERBATIM REPORTERS OF LOUISIANA

Post Office Box 40062, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70835

(225-315-8234)

(www.vrlaonline.org)

June 1, 2017

Dear Fellow Court Reporter:

Verbatim Reporters of Louisiana is sponsoring a Continuing Education Seminar on **Saturday, August 26, 2017**, at the Baton Rouge Marriott Hotel, 5500 Hilton Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This seminar has been approved for the following CE credits: State, 12 credits (includes 4 Ethics credits); NVRA, 6 credits; NCRA, .6 credits.

Block of rooms available until July 25, 2017 for \$129 per night plus tax.

Marriott Hotel: 1-225-924-5000. Group Name: Verbatim Reporters of LA

Please see the enclosed agenda for the topics to be presented for what's sure to be an informative day!

- **State-required Ethics Credits are included in this seminar.**
- **Seminar Registration Deadline is August 16th, 2017.**
- **No On-Site Registration and No Refunds!**
- **CCRs 65 and older are exempt from CE credits.**
- **VRLA Members in good standing by April 15th, 2017 pay the Member rate for the seminar.**
- **Breakfast and afternoon snacks will be provided.**
- **Attendees responsible for their own lunch.**
- **Mrs. Wells' Bio and Session Descriptions available on our website.**

Register Online at www.VRLAONLINE.ORG using the PayPal option and receive an email confirmation of your registration or download additional Registration forms from our Website under the Seminar tab.

Please note that your membership in VRLA is separate from your licensure with the CSR Board. Only through your participation and leadership can this organization succeed, grow stronger, and benefit our profession. We hope that with greater numbers we can present our profession as an important and unified group with a strong voice.

Please direct any seminar/membership questions to Treasurer@VRLAOnline.org

Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, August 26th, 2017!

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

JOHN ANDRESSEN, CCR (Retired), LA CSR Board Member

MILTON DONEGAN, JR., CCR, LA CSR Board Member

DAVID MARCELLO, CSR Board Attorney, Sher Garner Law Firm

MARGIE WAKEMAN WELLS

Margie Wakeman Wells is a lifetime credentialed teacher in the state of California and is certified as a CRI. She is in her sixth decade of teaching -- with 40 of those years in the field of court reporting. As a reporting instructor, she has taught from the theory level through the exit speeds as well as all manner of English courses – both on campus in a bricks and mortar school and online.

She has presented, under the auspices of NCRA and state court reporting organizations, over 300 seminars for reporters on English-related topics as well as seminars for teachers and students.

Court Reporting: Bad Grammar/Good Punctuation, her best-selling reference text, and the workbook that accompanies it are available at margieholdscourt.com. In addition, she has published *Word Pares, Pears, Pairs*, a reference work of 2,000 word pairs with definitions, examples, and idioms for the words, and is currently writing a grammar text. She has also written a drill book series for improving accuracy: *Practice Really DOES Make Perfect*.

Her latest book, *All Things English*, is a bit of a departure from the others. It is one vocab word, one spelling word, one idiom, one word pair, and one fun English fact –each day for 120 days.

Margie operates “Margie Holds Class,” her online school, for both live and recorded classes and writes her blog, “All Things English,” at margieholdscourt.com. Margie currently serves as the Education Liaison for the California Court Reporters Association.

VRLA CE Seminar Session Descriptions

August 26, 2017 - Baton Rouge

FIRST SESSION: FRAGMENTS AND ALL THOSE COMMA RULES!

Are there really 473 comma rules? Close. We will begin the day by looking at a way to classify those 473 (or so) comma rules and talk about how to pinpoint the trouble spots.

We will look further into fragments, which abound in court reporting, and the fact that English books don't really deal with them because we don't use them in formal English. We will discuss the fragment thoughts from witnesses and attorneys -- even from the judge! -- and resolve the punctuation issues that surround them.

SECOND SESSION: THOSE OH-SO-IMPORTANT COUPLE OF SEMICOLON RULES!

We will clarify "Cardinal Rule No. 1 in all of punctuation" and get straight on how we have to deal with it. And this will bring up a discussion of a couple of the semicolon rules. "I haven't used one for several pages; so it must be time" is NOT a rule for the semicolon. The semicolon serves a vital (and often little-known) role in creating readability when some of those 14-line sentences pop up in the transcript.

THIRD SESSION: SOME OF THOSE PESKY PROBLEMS THAT KEEP COMING UP – AND THE RULES!

We will discuss those issues that every reporter in the land wants an answer to. Come with your questions so that we get those answered too.

This is a day for the punctuation-savvy reporter to hone punctuation skills and for the "Help me; help me" reporter to get a handle on some of the intricacies of punctuation.

FOURTH SESSION: Ethics

A review of Title 46, Professional and Occupational Standards for Certified Court Reporters, Chapter 13, Code of Ethics, and LA Revised Statutes and Rules and Regulations for Certified Court Reporters. This presentation will also include Q/A to allow attendees an opportunity to ask questions on guidelines and procedures, including how to handle difficult ethical and unusual situations.