



# THERE'S SO MUCH TO *celebrate* IN 2024

By Annemarie Roketenetz

2024 will be a year of celebration! This year marks NCRA's 125th anniversary and the history of the Association, and the expansion and growth of the stenographic court reporting and captioning professions will be highlighted during the next 12 months.

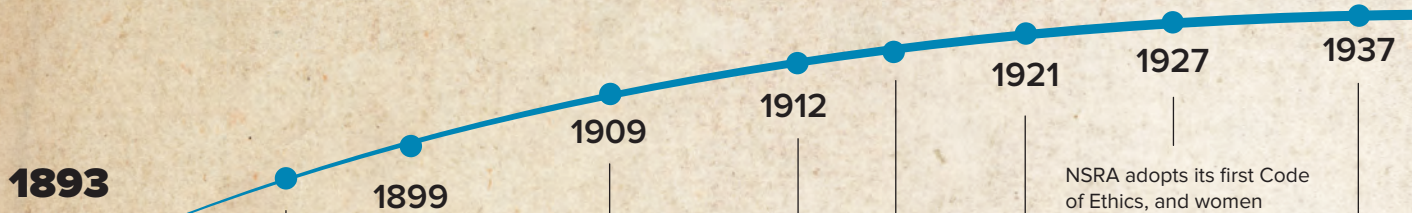
Founded in 1899 as the National Shorthand Reporters Association, the organization was renamed in 1990 to the National Court Reporters Association. Throughout the years, other changes have included moving from pen writers to the steno machine, the introduction of new technology to aid in providing realtime, the offering of captioning and CART services, the addition of new certifications, programming, and more.







# Honoring our past ... Embracing the future



**1893**

A Stenographers Day is observed in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration held in Nashville, Tenn., and a committee is formed specifically to arrange the first meeting of a new association.

**1897**

## NSRA

The first convention of the National Shorthand Reporters Association (NSRA) convenes in Chicago, Ill., and the first president to serve, Kendrick Hill, receives unanimous votes. The 56 reporters attending the convention become charter members, and the Association adopts a constitution and bylaws.

Attendees at the World's Congress of Stenographers held in Chicago, Ill., express interest in forming a national organization of shorthand reporters.

**1899**

*The Shorthand Writer* becomes NSRA's official publication, and the annual National Speed Contest is established. The first contest marks the beginning of one of two great eras of championship steno writing. Pitman and Gregg pen writers dominate the first era.



Isaac Pitman, 1900

NSRA's constitution is amended to admit to membership any person demonstrating to a committee of one or more members appointed by the president that (a) he is of good moral character, (b) possesses a high school education or its equivalent, and (c) can write in shorthand general matter at not less than 150 wpm for five minutes and transcribe the same with at least 95 percent accuracy.

**1913**

Thomas Bengough, a chartered shorthand reporter from Toronto, Canada, stresses the need for training, testing, and certification of reporters, and urges NSRA to increase its admission speed requirement from 150 to 175 wpm.



A new emblem is adopted that features the letters NSRA surrounded by a notebook on which rested a hand holding a pen (the logo was later modified to incorporate the shorthand machine).

**1921**

NSRA adopts its first Code of Ethics, and women reporters were finally given the opportunity to play a more active part in future convention proceedings.

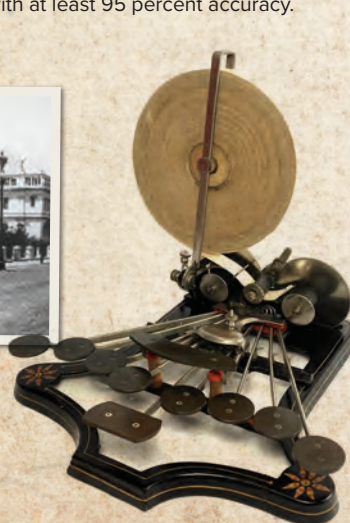
**1927**

NSRA holds its first Certificate of Proficiency (CP) test at five locations around the country, and 27 members pass the test. The CP is later replaced with the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification, of which more than 5,700 members currently hold.

**1937**



Pictured: Music Hall and Peristyle (left) and Women's Building at site of the World's Congress of Stenographers







1948

NSRC celebrates its 50th annual convention in Atlantic City, N.J.

1951

Other highlights of the Association's growth happening in the 1950s included a membership swelling to nearly 3,000 members, an increase to seven directors in leadership serving alongside the officers of President, Vice President, President-Elect, Treasurer, and Librarian-Historian, and the election of the first two women to serve in the presidential role.

1952

The National Speed Contest is re-established, with contestants writing on steno machines, and the first annual NSRA-sponsored seminar is held. The event becomes the precursor to the annual Conference & Expo.

1960s

In the 1960s, NSRA members record American astronauts' words as they landed on the moon and explored its surface, kept the official Congressional Record updated as the Civil Rights Movement became the focus of the nation, and are chosen over the use of electronic recording to keep the record for the Warren Commission's investigation into President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Recommendations of a management survey of the Association include: enlarging the Board of Directors; increase the use of the President's Advisory Board; develop the Academy of Professional Reporters (FAPR); establish a registry of professional reporters; establish a council on approved reporter training; form a delegate consisting of representatives from each state (NCSA); create internal departments such as legislative, legal, public affairs, and so on within the Association; and employ a full-time executive director; and the opening of a national headquarters in the most advantageous location.

1972

1980

1990

1991



A new logo is adopted, and the name of the official membership magazine becomes the *Journal of Court Reporting*.

1999

The National Realtime Contest is launched and NCRA celebrates its 100th Anniversary during its convention in Boston, Mass.

2024

A group rate insurance program goes into effect, providing NSRA members with an added benefit.



The Heritage Foundation is established, and it later becomes the National Court Reporters Foundation.

NSRA is renamed the National Court Reporters Association.

You can read more about the history of NCRA at [NCRA.org](https://www.ncra.org), search History.

# Celebrating our quasquicentennial

During the next 12 months, those and other accomplishments will be showcased not only the *JCR* print magazine, but also in the *JCR Weekly* and in conjunction with Court Reporting & Captioning Week happening Feb. 3-10, Volunteer Month in April, Celebrate Certification Month in May, and more.

“Celebrating a 125th, our quasquicentennial, anniversary is a monumental mark in history. NCRA celebrating 125 wonderful years of existence is a true testament to the important role stenographic court reporters play in the judicial and captioning venues where capturing the spoken word is a vital skill that involves dexterity and precision,” said NCRA President Kristin M. Anderson, M.A., RPR, FCCR, an official court reporter from Denton, Texas.

“It also reflects the expansion and growth of the profession from yesterday’s pen writers to the skills of today’s realtime writers who stream text instantaneously in the legal setting and who provide communication access of the spoken word to those in the deaf and hard-of-hearing community,” she added.



A special 125th Anniversary commemorative logo has been developed to recognize the event and will be incorporated into all marketing and communications materials produced throughout 2024. The logo includes the tagline: “Celebrating 125 years of accuracy and integrity.” Above is a glimpse of what the NCRA’s Communications Team has planned to help members, state affiliates, schools, firms, and others celebrate.

The 125th Anniversary logo will be made available to NCRA members, state affiliates schools, and others via a downloadable file on a special resources page. The page will also feature links to important stories and feature articles from past issues of the *JCR* print magazine.

The 125th Anniversary logo will be made available to NCRA’s Merchandise Store so that members can order customized clothing and gift items to help celebrate.

“I know that collectively we embrace that this profession will continue to thrive as our unique set of skills continue to be recognized as ingenuity that cannot be replaced by other means of capturing the spoken word so accurately,” Anderson added.



Members can participate in the 125th Anniversary celebration by responding to any of the following questions:

- What is a favorite memory you have that involves your NCRA membership?
- What are your predictions for the stenographic court reporting, captioning, and legal videography professions for the next 25, 50, 100, or even 125 years?
- Is there someone that you associate with NCRA? Can you share a story about the person and what impact they have had on your life?
- Has an NCRA certification, event, conference, or committee affected your career path? Would you be willing to tell us about that experience?
- Have you researched a pivotal moment for the Association that you believe members should know about and that you want to share?

Share your stories, memories, and more (electronic only please!) with Jacqueline Schmidt, Editor of the *JCR*, at [jschmidt@ncra.org](mailto:jschmidt@ncra.org). To make it into the 2024 volume, contributions will be accepted through June 1, 2024.



**More reasons to**

# *celebrate*

**in 2024 coming soon**

Mark your calendars because other great reasons to celebrate NCRA members and the court reporting, captioning, and legal videography professions in 2024 will be here before you know it.

NCRA's 2024 Court Reporting & Captioning Week will take place Feb. 3-10, but you don't have to wait till then to celebrate the profession. Be sure to visit the 2023 Court Reporting & Captioning Week resources page at [NCRA.org/events](https://www.ncra.org/events) for the latest in downloadable marketing and promotional items designed for this year's observance.

As always, there are press release templates, social media tips, the official 2024 Court Reporting & Captioning Week logo, and so much more. You can

also find a link on the page that will take you back for a look at how the week was celebrated in 2023. Be sure to visit the page for more ideas about how you can celebrate, or how to secure an official proclamation from your state leaders or judges that recognizes the week. Stop back often as new resources will be added as the celebration dates get closer.

As part of this year's celebration, NCRA's Communications Team will be distributing a series of press releases and media advisories that showcase the history of stenographic court reporting and how far the profession has come in conjunction with the Association's 125th Anniversary.

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and all eyes will be on how NCRA members give back to the profession, what encourages them to do so, and more about the many ways you can get involved at the national and state levels. Stories about the good work NCRA members are doing to promote the profession, support their communities, and what they get in return for their selflessness and dedication will be featured in the *JCR* print magazine as well as the *JCR Weekly*. Everyone is encouraged to participate by sharing their own stories about how they give back, what volunteering means to them, or stories about the work of others but contacting [pr@ncra.org](mailto:pr@ncra.org).

# *Thank you*

**volunteers**

**It's a great time to add more**

# *letters*

**to your name**

In May, members are encouraged to invest in themselves by committing to earning a new certification, finishing the outstanding legs to complete one in progress, or just celebrating the certifications they already hold as well as those held by their peers during Celebrate Certification Month. Again, in conjunction with NCRA's 125th Anniversary, members will be given access to an array of resources that will incorporate the official Celebrate Certification Month materials along with the special commemorative logo.

Members are encouraged to share with NCRA why certification are important to them and how earning them have helped to boost their careers. Share your stories at [pr@ncra.org](mailto:pr@ncra.org) by April 15, and you might just end up in a *JCR Weekly* article!