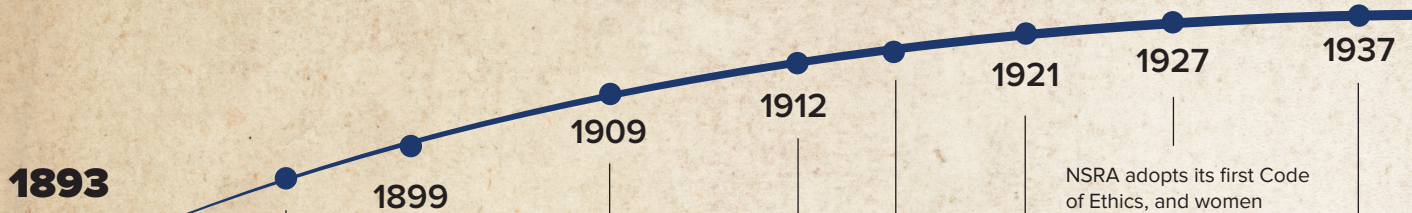


Honoring our past ... Embracing the future



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).

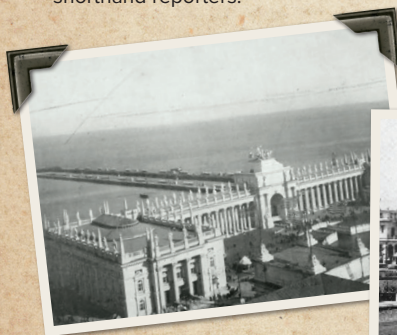
1921

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.

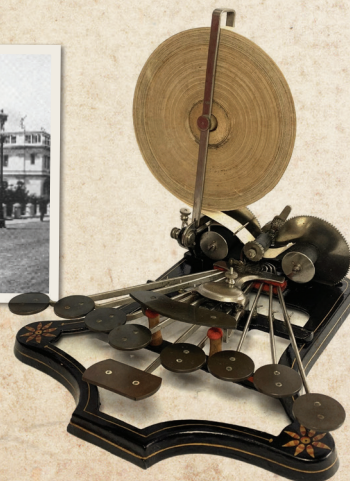
1927

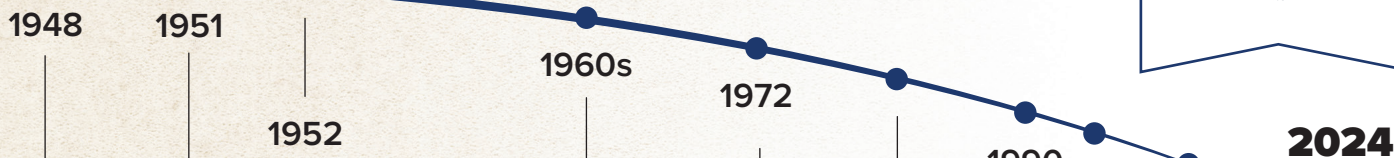
NSRA holds its first Certificate of Proficiency (CP) test at five locations around the country, and 27 members pass the test. The CP is later replaced with the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification, of which more than 5,700 members currently hold.

1937



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





1948

1951

1952

1960s

1972

1980

1990

1991

1999

2024

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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



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

NSRA is renamed the National Court Reporters Association.

Learn more about NCRA, its history, and career opportunities in court reporting and captioning at [NCRA.org](https://www.ncra.org).