

DR. TRACEY DERWING

REPORT ON 2023 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY



You will recognize Dr. Tracey Derwing from the 2023 Fall Conference agenda where she gave a talk on Accent Myths and Realities and introduced us to the Speech Accent Archive. When she went looking for published research relevant to shorthand reporters' experience with accented speech, she found very little, which led her to survey our membership to determine how ASRA members are dealing with several issues and our opinions on the role AI may take over the next few years. Thirty-eight reporters participated in the survey, some of whom Dr. Derwing later interviewed; she also arranged an interview with a lawyer to better understand the stakes and the answers she was given.

Dr. Derwing now returns for the 2025 Fall Conference to share her report and findings with us from the first study of its kind on our specific industry. She will take us through some of the reported job challenges; technology challenges; the AI "threat"; the most rewarding aspects of the job; and finally, the advice that members would give newcomers to the field. She will then take us through her conclusions and recommendations going forward.

Tracey Derwing is a Professor Emeritus from the University of Alberta's Teaching English as a Second Language program in the Faculty of Education, and an adjunct professor of Linguistics in the Department of Linguistics at Simon Fraser University. Her research interests include improved communication on the part of L2 learners and their interlocutors (especially with regard to pronunciation), immigrant and refugee settlement issues, and citizenship education.

Among other things, she has investigated native speakers' speech modifications for second language speakers, and interventions to enhance native speakers' comprehension of second language accented speech. Tracey currently serves on a committee advising the Canadian government on federally-funded language training programs for newcomers. She has published widely (11 books and over 100 articles), has co-organized several Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching conferences, and serves on the Editorial Boards of several journals.

TREVOR HACKL

UNDERSTANDING E&O INSURANCE



Trevor will discuss the following for court reporters:

- How to minimize your CGL & E&O exposure while working as a court reporter.
- Review the various key wording and exclusions in the program.
- The different coverage options and how they are intended to protect you.

Whether you're actively working, retired, or semi-retired, Johnston Meier has a customizable program option to meet all your insurance needs.

Attendees will have the opportunity at the end to ask questions about the current program and other commercial insurance queries and will leave with a better understanding of how their insurance works and confidence that they have a broker who is working to make sure all their exposures are adequately covered.

Trevor Hackl is a experienced Commercial Account Manager of the long-standing company - Johnston Meier Insurance Agencies Group. He has been in the insurance industry for over a decade as has found success working closely hand-in-hand with his clients to source out the most affordable coverage with the best scope of protection - with a focus on building beneficial, long lasting business relationships with both the insurance markets and his clients to better service everyone's insurance needs.

CATHY PENNISTON

RPR, CRI

MOTIVATION



Motivation is one of the strong components of success, and knowing how to keep yourself inspired is vital to ensuring the health of your career. Learn how to measure the impact motivation has on your business. Also, learn how to rekindle the spark to deliver the best service possible to your clients as well as potential clients.

Cathy Penniston is a court reporting teacher and independent broadcast captioner from Waukee, Iowa. Penniston worked as an official court reporter for the state of Iowa before transitioning into her broadcast captioning and teaching career. Cathy has also worked as a freelance reporter and a CART captioner.

Cathy holds a Master of Arts Degree in Education, a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration, and an Associate's Degree in Court Reporting. Penniston holds the national professional certifications of Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) and Certified Reporting Instructor (CRI).

At the national level, Penniston has served on numerous NCRA committees. She has served as a member of the NCRA Board of Directors since 2018, including serving as Secretary-Treasurer and Vice President.

At the state level, Penniston has served as president of the Iowa Court Reporters Association. She is a recipient of the Roy Voelker Memorial Award for Distinguished Service for the court reporting profession of the state of Iowa, the Indian Hills Community College Vision Award for Alumni Entrepreneur of the Year in 2014, and the Educational Excellence Award by the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International in May of 2024.

WILSON HO CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS - PROTECTING YOUR DIGITAL LIFE



Wilson will walk us through:

- Introduction to Cybersecurity
 - Password Security
- Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)
- Recognizing and Avoiding Phishing Attacks
 - Best Practices for Online Safety
 - Responding to Cyber Incidents
 - Quick Note on AI

Wilson Ho is an innovative leader with more than 20 years of innovation experience who drives transformation within organizations, creating value for a wide audience. Wilson's track record includes launching companies to new heights in fintech, edtech, and the aviation and energy sectors.

Among clients served include:

University of Calgary, WestJet, Shaw Communications, Bow Valley College, Government of Alberta, Kal Tire, Shell, and Government of Canada.

Currently, Wilson serves as a Public Member to Alberta Shorthand Reporters Association.

DR. JAMES MAKOKIS LATERAL VIOLENCE AND INCLUSION



Amid ongoing challenges within the small stenography industry and ASRA community, Dr. Makokis will explore the topic of lateral violence—how it manifests in Indigenous communities, its impacts, and the pathways to healing and understanding. Dr. Makokis shares his personal experiences, Indigenous knowledge, and compassionate understanding, with an aim to celebrate each person's uniqueness and inspire others to self-improvement for the collective betterment of the human experience.

Dr. James Makokis is a leading figure in North American healthcare, renowned for pioneering one of the most progressive family medical clinics committed to serving both the LGBTQ2S+ and First Nation peoples across Canada. He actively challenges stereotypes and stigmas faced by Two-Spirit individuals within and outside Indigenous communities, dedicating his efforts to education, inclusivity, and acceptance. Internationally recognized for his holistic approach blending Western and Indigenous Medicine, he has become of Canada's most well-known voices for the advocacy of human rights, access and equality by breaking down barriers and stereotypes and challenging discriminatory views towards First Nation and LGBTQ2S+ Peoples.