

Total Immersion – The A to Z Program



By Stephen A. Zinone, RPR
NCRA Immediate Past President

Boy, do we live in exciting times! The National Court Reporters Association has developed a basic introduction to court reporter theory called the A to Z Program.

The theory has been developed from a prior project that NCRA conducted called the Total Immersion Project.

The A to Z Program consists of 26 lessons, which teaches the very basics of court reporting to the participant, over an eight-week period of time. Each week the various A to Z classes that are taking place all over the country meet for two hours and receive instruction by a volunteer, oftentimes a state leader from one of our fabulous state associations, utilizing the materials provided by NCRA. Then it is up to the participants to work on their own during the week on the lessons provided.

The goal of the A to Z Program is to allow interested people to “kick the tires” so to speak, of our timeless profession. The steno machines utilized by the participants have all been graciously donated by court reporters, schools, retired court reporters, and vendors so that there is absolutely no cost incurred by anyone participating in the program.

Additionally, the A to Z Program serves a very important purpose of vetting potential students, which, in turn, will serve as a feeder program for our court reporting schools. As all of us working reporters know, when our fingers first hit the keys on the steno machine, we fell in love with it and worked hard and are enjoying magnificent careers.

The A to Z program is raising awareness of our timeless profession to many, many people from all walks of life. We are very fortunate here in New York to have our President, Meredith Bonn, spear-heading the effort here. President Bonn completed teaching her first class the end of January and is starting her second A to Z class in February.

Our President held an informational meeting in Rochester City Hall on January 10, 2017, at 6:00 pm, which resulted in 71 people signing up for the A to Z Program! Also, Mayor Lovely Warren and her office have allowed us to utilize rooms in City Hall to teach the program and to have further informational meetings. The New York State Court Reporters Association is very fortunate to have a very hard-working Board of Directors, who are setting up these A to Z classes all over our state.

Please volunteer if you are interested, or please help get the word out to people whom you think may be interested in participating in the A to Z Program. Additionally, we need operational manual machines, electric machines, along with paper ribbons and ink. So if you have one of those beautiful green or grey or any other color steno machine in your closet, please send me an email or President Bonn so that we can put it to good work and hopefully help a prospective court reporting student begin their journey through the evolution of our timeless profession.

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Upcoming Events & Current Employment Opportunity

February 11 - Open House at Realtime Center For Learning, Inc. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at 71 Clinton Road, Garden City, NY. Space is limited. E-mail hbrenner@realtimecenter.com. Next Theory Class: April 6. For appointment call 516-590-7258.

February 21 - Next Theory Class at Long Island Business Institute, 6500 Jericho Turnpick, Commack, NY 11725. Contact Libi Commack at 631-499-7100.

Coming Soon: Statewide practice sessions for Certification exams and Civil Service exams. Watch for details.

Current Employment Opportunity

from the State of New York — Statewide positions are immediately available in NYC Criminal and NYC Family Courts. Classification: Provisional. Base Salary \$71,185.