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All contributions to this e-news are published under the full responsibility of their authors only.

President's message



My dear Intersteno Friends,

First of all, words of thanks go to Victor Gonzalez for the warm welcome in Córdoba. He and the people around him made it an unforgettable event, which made the long journey worthwhile for many. The Council meetings were productive, as were the workshops, a report of which is included in this e-news, and the Diametic 8 Conference. Many of the topics will be revisited during the congress in Liverpool, which was previewed during the council meeting. Suggestions were also discussed for the 2028 congress and the Council and IPRS meetings in 2027, for which candidates have already come forward. You can read all about it in the reports of the meetings, which will be sent out soon.

The next e-news will appear in December 2025. The deadline for submitting articles is at the end of November, to be sent to marlenerijkse@intersteno.org.

Rian Schwarz-van Poppel
Intersteno president



Annual Convention and Expo of the National Court Reporters Association

By Kristian Wawrzynek

The National Court Reporters Association held its annual Convention and Expo in Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 24th to 26th. More than 500 reporters from the U.S. and other countries gathered for three days of seminars, workshops, and events.

NCRA is the American “National Court Reporters Association” and has as members stenographers working for US courts (both federal and state) as well as freelance reporters and captioners.

An Intersteno representative was invited by the NCRA’s immediate past president Keith R. Lemons. He welcomed me very warmly and introduced me to everybody during the NCRA Premier Session.

Among the highlights was keynote speaker Kristi Johnson, who gave an inspirational speech about how stenography and court reporting helped her and saved her in the hardest time of her life. We were all touched by her tear-jerking story that she Johnson shared with us.

With over 50 different seminars and workshops to choose from, it was a very busy time in Minneapolis! The seminars and workshops were closer or further related to court reporters’ work and everyone could find something for themselves.

AI is, as usual, a hot topic. As last year there was one lecture related to AI, this time we could choose among five of them.

It is important to underline that AI is not an enemy, but it may be a powerful tool for all the captioners and reporters, so after all – it should be a friend.

But if someone is still afraid, or asked: is AI going to take our jobs away? The answer is still no. Just to remember, how are court reporters and captioners better than AI?

- Able to instantly apply factors such as non-verbal context to aid in translating speech to text.
- Able to recognize when speech is lost due to adverse conditions.
- Able to quickly develop familiarity with new accents or dialogues or turns of phrase.
- Punctuation, period.

My personal favorite, though maybe not directly connected with reporting or captioning, was the lecture “The JFK Assassination Revisited” held by Hon. John R. Tunheim, who was a member of the Warren Commission, established to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the subsequent killing of Lee Harvey Oswald. Now, after unsealing the rest of documentation related to the assassination of President Kennedy, he gave us new and interesting insights in this matter and denied some conspiracy theories.

A very interesting event was the Opening Reception in Expo Hall. Everyone was able to talk and find out more about the wide range of services offered by over 30 exhibitors.



2024 Jim Bouley Family Lifetime Award for Altruism received Deborah A. Kriegshauser, an official court reporter from Dallas, Texas. The wide description of many reasons why she deserved such a reward you can find [here](#).

Also, the results of the Speed and RealTime Contests were revealed at the luncheon. This year's champion in RealTime is Angela Sundell with overall result of 96.483 %. In the Speed Contest, the best was Sherry Bryant with an overall result of 99.198 %. Congratulations on such great results! All results from the competition you can find [here](#).

Also, congratulations to the new NCRA's president, **Cindy Isaacsen**. We wish her a good, fruitful and calm year as a president.



An Intersteno Workshop on Parliamentary Reporting Strategies in Córdoba, Argentina, 18th September 2025

By Eero Voutilainen

Introduction

On Thursday, 18th September 2025, Intersteno organized a workshop on parliamentary reporting strategies at the library of the Deliberative Council in Córdoba, Argentina. The workshop was a part of the activities surrounding the Intersteno Council meeting held in the city from 18 to 21 September.

The workshop emerged from the recognition that many parliamentary and other professional reporters felt the need for a low-threshold forum to engage in practical discussions about reporting strategies, principles and practices. Many also sought peer support and encouragement to address ongoing challenges in their work. Since most countries have only one parliament, it is especially valuable to connect with colleagues from other nations to share experiences and exchange best practices.

The three-hour workshop was divided into four thirty-minute sessions, each focusing on a timely and practical topic. Sessions included an introduction followed by a discussion. The themes covered were subtitling, human-computer interaction, work processes, and well-being at work.

Subtitling in Parliament

The first topic was parliamentary subtitling, introduced by Quality Officer Henk-Jan Eras from the Reporting Office of the Dutch Parliament. Eras presented several groundbreaking projects carried out by him and his colleagues, including on-demand subtitles, manual live subtitling for selected parliamentary debates, and the option of automatic subtitles for all debates. Alongside a video stream with sign language interpreting, these various subtitling services are a part of the office's commitment to ensuring accessibility for all individuals, including people with disabilities, to follow parliamentary sessions.

After outlining these services, Eras compared them across key aspects, such as cost, public appreciation, scalability, and maintenance and support. His insightful introduction was followed by a lively discussion covering topics such as how to measure public appreciation, assess costs, and understanding the nature of scalability, as well as the role of sign-language interpreters in parliamentary settings.

Human-Computer Interaction in Parliamentary Reporting

The second topic in the workshop focused on human-computer interaction in parliamentary reporting. The session began with an introduction by Associate Professor Carlo Eugeni from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom. In his introduction, Eugeni explored various aspects of human-computer interaction and outlined a four-stage model to understand it in professional reporting:

- 1 fully human (e.g. shorthand)
- 2 computer-aided (e.g. machine stenography)
- 3 human-aided (e.g. post-edited automatic speech recognition)
- 4 fully computerized (e.g. automatic subtitles).

Eugeni also introduced the concept of universal reporting which he described as the future of the field. This approach involves transforming a speech event in real-time into multiple types of speech-to-

text products tailored to the needs of different audiences – such as verbatim reports, live subtitles, easy-to-read reports, translations, and summary reports – through interaction between professionals and computer systems.

The introduction sparked an active discussion on the types and degrees of human-computer interaction in participants' services, the pros and cons of these processes, and future development plans. Many of these themes were set to be explored further at the Diamesic 8 conference the following day which focused on the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in professional reporting.

Work Processes in Parliamentary Reporting

The third topic focused on work processes in parliamentary reporting. I began the session by introducing a survey conducted among European parliaments on how reporting work is organized and how its quality is ensured. The motivation for the survey stemmed from developments in our own reporting office in the Finnish Parliament, which has had to rethink its reporting processes due to the adoption of AI-based automatic speech recognition (ASR) and the need to reduce overtime for financial reasons.

I shared some key findings from the survey. Work processes varied widely – from simple workflows involving just transcription and publication, to more complex ones with multiple pre- and post-transcription stages. Most offices continue reporting in real time until the end of the session, even when it runs late into the night. Others implement a cut-off time and resume next morning or operate in shifts.

Publication practices also differ. While most offices publish the whole report soon after the session, others do so the next day or later. Some publish individual speeches online as they are transcribed and edited, while others release only the full report. Publishing formats vary as well where some offices publish exclusively online, while others produce printed versions along with it.

Following the introduction, there was a rich discussion about various ways reporting processes are organized across different parliaments.

Ensuring Well-being in the Reporting Workflow

The fourth topic of the workshop focused on managing well-being in the reporting workflow. The session began with an introduction by D'Arcy McPherson, Director of Hansard Services at the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, Canada. Hansard Services recently revised their workflow to maintain high reporting quality despite an increased workload – while minimizing strain or stress on staff.

The process began by identifying pain points in the workflow, revising schedules and tasks, and establishing new roles. Staff feedback was continuously gathered through practical workshops. The goal was to eliminate unnecessary effort, clarify responsibilities and avoid excessive checking, all while keeping quality at the centre of the reporting process.

According to McPherson, the project led to the introduction of a new editorial review stage to increase quality. This was made possible by the recent adaption of ASR which freed up time previously spent on writing. New job aids, such as check lists, were created to help editors work systematically. The team also introduced concurrent break times, allowing staff to recharge and connect more with each other. The workflow improvements were guided by principles of lean management, flexibility, and a focus on making many small changes rather than chasing one big solution.

Following the introduction, there was an active discussion on how to implement workflow changes to support parliamentary reporters' well-being and work-life balance.

Networking and Live Subtitling

In addition to the introductions and subsequent discussions, some time was also reserved for networking over a cup of coffee. Besides the official program, participants were warmly welcomed by the council's administration.

As a fantastic service, the entire workshop was live subtitled by professional stenographers Sheryll Holley and Andrew Howell. These subtitles were also automatically translated into several languages for the participants. This was a great demonstration of the possibilities enabled by new technologies combined with the expertise of skilled professionals.

Eero Voutilainen is a parliamentary reporter and leads the linguistic accessibility team at the Parliament of Finland. He also serves as the editor-in-chief of Intersteno's online journal Tiro – The Journal of Professional Reporting and Transcription.

Intersteno in South-America, a great adventure!

By Victor Gonzalez

For me a dream came true: you came to my city for the Intersteno Córdoba Council Meeting 2025.

From the arrival of the various delegates, who were welcomed by the team, and with the help of tourism students from the Provincial University of Córdoba, everything was planned so they could enjoy our city. We always wanted to make them feel Córdoba, from the logo used for the meeting, where a pictograph depicted the primary form of communication of our indigenous peoples.

The first activity, the workshop organized in the City Council library, was very important due to the topics covered by the speakers and the participation of various colleagues.

At the Córdoba Legislature, everything was prepared with great care, from the photographs of the Argentine Pampas on display to the remarks by the authorities highlighting both our profession and the work carried out by Intersteno. Likewise, the recognition given to each of the Intersteno board members was very important. There, we were also able to enjoy tango and folklore, as well as typical Argentine dishes.

On the second day of the meeting, the activities took place largely at the Córdoba City Council, where very interesting lectures on current topics were held, with a large turnout of colleagues and students. The authorities also welcomed us there, we toured the venue, and they emphasized the importance of the activity carried out by Intersteno.

On Saturday, after the Council Meeting, we strolled through the city together until we reached the Ferreyra Palace, where we all enjoyed a very special tea. Afterward, with great joy and excitement, we shared dinner at the restaurant, where we also enjoyed our traditional dishes, music, and dancing. Here, we were even surprised by the fireworks, which led us all to toast Intersteno.

The last day was a day of great enjoyment and relaxation for everyone. We were able to spend the day at Estancia La Paz, where the sunny day, the lake, and the gardens provided the backdrop for a great meal, conversation, and laughter that we will always remember.

A huge thank you to the authorities, staff, colleagues, and the entire team who were responsible for helping and collaborating to make everything go as smoothly as possible. Of course, I also thank Carolina for her constant assistance.

Please also excuse any mistakes that may have occurred, but know that we always put our heart and soul into making sure you could feel at home. Thank you so much, Intersteno family, for coming to Córdoba and experiencing our city. We look forward to seeing you again whenever you want. It will be an honour for all of us!













Impression of the Council and IPRS meetings in Córdoba

By Marlene Rijkse

It was an honor and a pleasure to make the trip to Córdoba with one of Intersteno's honorary members. Joke Bakker and I flew with Europa Air via Madrid to Córdoba. The flight started with a one-hour delay, leaving less than an hour for our connection in Madrid and a walking distance at the airport that would take at least an hour for an 80-year-old. A challenge for me to walk quickly, with a sort of invisible rearview mirror so that I would reach the gate on time while keeping Joke in sight. With our tongues hanging to our shoes, we joined the check-in queue. One could easily get in a bad mood, but not Joke. She quickly went to grab some snacks at the last minute, because she loves that. On the plane, we settled in for the long flight. Joke was prepared and pulled socks out of her bag that promoted blood circulation. But just try putting them on in the tiny space you have. For Joke, no problem. Her friendliness brings out the best in a fellow passenger.



With a little help



President and Secretary-Treasurer



Danny eating an icecream

Upon arrival early in the morning, there was no stress to leave the airport as quickly as possible. We enjoyed a leisurely coffee, with the option to pay in euros or dollars. Argentine pesos are nowhere to be obtained outside of Argentina, as their exchange rate fluctuates too much. We visited the lady at the tourist information office, a first encounter with the friendliness of Argentinians. We took the bus to the hotel, because Uber drivers are exploiters, according to Joke. Once there, we even caught breakfast. What a relaxed way to start the day!

In the afternoon, we took a walking tour in the neighborhood with our Dutch-speaking conference attendees (Danny, Rian, Anneke, Henk-Jan). What stood out were the numerous small shops, interspersed with a few beautiful buildings, a square where a demonstration was taking place at that moment, and also some visible poverty.



The next day began with a workshop organized by Eero Voutilanen, who works at the Finnish Parliament. A report on this is included in this e-news. Friday started with the council meeting. For what was discussed there, I refer to the reports, which will be available at the end of the month. In the afternoon, there was the Diamesic 8 Conference, organized by the Scientific Committee and IPRS. A separate report will also be made on that. The day concluded with a reception by the Deliberative Council of Córdoba. There were speeches, snacks and drinks, and beautiful Argentine dancing, accompanied by live music.



Workshop



Council meeting



Conference

Saturday again began with a Council meeting, followed by a visit to the historic center of Córdoba. What impressed me the most was the “fingerprint” formed by the many names of people who disappeared during the military dictatorship in Argentina (1976-1983). We ended the day's program with a tea ceremony at The Ferreyra Palace. The farewell dinner proceeded as usual: relaxed faces among the organizers, because the organization work is almost over and everything has gone well; relaxed faces also among the council members, because all topics have been discussed to satisfaction; and relaxed faces among the workshop and conference participants, because the topics were well presented. It can therefore only be expected that the closing evening ends in a conga line.



Visit Legislature of Córdoba



Deliberative Council Library

On the last evening, we were sitting on the little square where every evening we would have another drink (or two). Young and old danced the tango there, accompanied by a small orchestra. It was Argentina at its best. The cheerfulness was palpable. My travel companion Joke sighed that this alone made the entire trip worthwhile. She had been taking tango lessons for two years and could put them into practice like no one else. Her sigh just before we took the bus to Córdoba—'what am I even going to do there, I have no input, no role anymore'—proved to be unfounded. An Intersteno person keeps going until they can't anymore.

*Farewell dinner**Jari and Joke dancing the tango**Happy people*

ZAV 100 - 2025

Jonáš Vala and Helena Zaviačičová



Invitation to the ZAV-100 – 2025 competition with free participation in your mother language on

- Tuesday December 2nd, 2025, 12:00 CET
- Saturday December 6th, 2025, 14:00 CET

Results are published in real time on Intersteno YouTube.

Rules

The aim of the contest is to pass **25 one-minute transcripts from the computer screen in a selected language**. The penalization for leaving an uncorrected error is **100 penalty points**. Errors can be corrected both by using Backspace and by using CTRL + Backspace (which erases the whole word). At the beginning of the competition, each competitor's score is 0 characters per minute. After having reached a better score, half of the improvement of the result counts in comparison with the current score.

Example:

- First minute's score was 400 points -> 200 points was admitted. Why? $[0 + (400-0)/2]$
- Second minute's score was 420 points -> 310 points were admitted. Why? $[200 + (420-200)/2]$
- Third minute's score was 300 points -> 310 points were admitted. Why? Because the score was lower than the up-to-now marked one.
- Fourth minute's score was 460 points -> 385 points were admitted. Why? $[310 + (460-310)/2]$

Click [here](https://www.zav.cz/100) for information, registration, training and competition.

Wind of change



By Georgette Sante

July 15 & 16, 2025, the Intersteno Organization Committee for the 2026 Liverpool congress met in Adelphi Hotel.

Sometimes we had to leave the hotel through a back door, and if I was able to visit the competitions premises, it required a supervised appointment: no question of disturbing a film shooting!

We learned that the film was about a rock band formed in the sixties: The Scorpions. I had already heard this name, and I wanted to help my memory with the Internet.

Effectively, it was a band created in 1965 by Rudolf Schenker, not in Liverpool but in Hanover, Germany. They are a world-famous hard rock and heavy metal band.



It is ... not it was ... because in this year 2025 the group celebrates its 60th anniversary. Rudolf Schenker (rhythm guitar founder of the group) is still active together with Robert Meine (vocals), who joined the band in 1969. Their first album (Lonesome Crow), in a psychedelic rock style, was released in 1972. In 1984, Still Loving You, a true romantic song, was the best-selling single of the year in France. Scorpions' latest album, "Rock Believer", was released in February 2022.

Wind of Change

It is the title of their famous track written in 1988, while the Scorpions played 10 concerts in Russia, when the Soviet Union was still under communist rule, so becoming the first Western hard rock band to perform in the country. This ballad became the symbol of the end of the Cold War. It evokes hope, freedom and political upheaval in Eastern Europe. When the Berlin Wall fell in November 1989, "Wind of Change" accompanied the moving scenes of East Germans walking through the Brandenburg Gate and entering the West for the first time.

Of course, I know this music... nostalgia... and many of you, too, even young people:

Some links:

- Scorpions - Still Loving You (Official Video)
- Scorpions - Wind of Change (Official Music Video) .

Wind of Change

It is the title of the biopic on the Scorpions being filmed in 2025, tracing their journey from their beginnings in Hanover to their global rise in the '80s.

Even though it seems that the group didn't perform in Liverpool at that time, the Victorian architecture and the majestic salons of the Adelphi Hotel provide the perfect backdrop for period scenes and the city center as well. Some of its streets were transformed to represent Berlin at the end

of the 80s. Moreover, the Liverpool Film Office facilitates licensing and logistics for international production.

It will be much more than a musical film: a historical and human fresco on the power of rock, freedom and connections across borders...

Connection across borders ... like Intersteno ... isn't It?

Wind of change ...

In Intersteno as well, there is a wind of change, ...

- from the mechanical typewriter to computers (Was Brussels 1991 the last congress with mechanical typing machines?),
- from stenography to speech-to-text ... in 2024, 13 competitors from 6 countries were successful in graphic shorthand ...
... among them a famous musician who could perhaps take his guitar with him and play this mythic song ... you know who I mean ...

and now AI ...



Wind of change – First images of the film

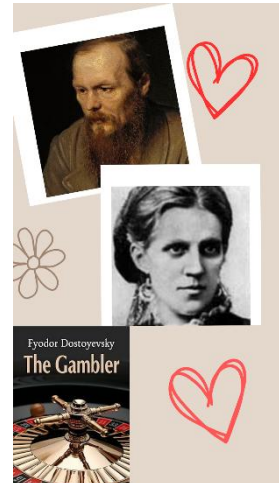
The love story between Russian writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky and his stenographer, Anna Grigoryevna Snitkina

By Marcela Beatriz Kobe (Tucumán, Argentina)

A story taken from her book: "*SHORTHAND. Origins, stories, personalities, writers, and present*"

Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoyevsky (1821-1881):

Dostoyevsky was one of the leading writers of Tsarist Russia; he is considered one of the greatest writers of the West and of world literature. He is widely recognized for his profound exploration of human psychology and the complexities of human nature, which has earned him a reputation as a master interpreter of the soul. His novels, populated by tormented characters and moral conflicts, reveal an astonishing understanding of the contradictions and passions that lie at the depths of human beings. Among his works, we mention just a few: *Crime and Punishment*, *The Gambler* –the one that brings us together–, *The Idiot*, and *The Brothers Karamazov*.



1866

Dostoyevsky had a great "weakness": roulette. This caused his debts to increase steadily. In 1866, he was forced to sign a "usurious" contract with the publisher **Stellovsky**. This document stipulated that the writer would receive three thousand rubles (Russian currency) in exchange for the publishing rights to all his works, and the commitment to deliver a new novel that same year. If it was not delivered by November, he would receive a heavy fine, and if it was still not ready by December, he would lose all property rights to his works, which would pass to **Stellovsky**. **Fyodor**, with the idea of speeding up his writing, hired **Anna Grigoryevna Snitkina**, a young stenographer to whom he dictated his novel *The Gambler* in just 26 days, a record time in world literature.

This novel is considered an autobiography because in it the writer recounts the protagonist's (Aleksei Ivanovich) gambling addiction, but really he was writing about his own suffering and affliction with this addiction.

Dostoyevsky, My Husband

I'm recounting some excerpts from the book written by **Anna Grigoryevna**, no longer as a stenographer but as a writer and editor, entitled *Dostoyevsky, My Husband*. In this book, Anna recounts how she met the writer, already famous in Russia by that year (1866), how they began working together, their love grew, and their marriage, which lasted until the writer's death.

It all began when her shorthand teacher offered her the job. Anna recounts that on October 3, 1866, she was, as usual, in sixth grade attending Professor **Pavel Matvevich Olkin's** shorthand lesson. She was studying the Gabelsberger system (a method of shorthand or stenography invented by the German **Franz Xaver Gabelsberger** in the early 19th century). She sat down in her usual spot and had barely begun to organize her notebooks when the professor sat down next to her and asked if she would like to take a shorthand writing job. He'd been asked to find a shorthand writer, and he thought she might agree. The young woman accepted her professor's offer, eager to get started, but even more so to meet the writer, who was already famous at that time.

She met the author for the first time, and to start a conversation, he asked her how long she had studied shorthand. She replied that she had been studying for six months. They organized their work sessions: he dictated and she recorded in shorthand, and then the young woman returned home where she transcribed the notes. This was their working system. **Anna** recounts that as the days passed and they progressed with the writing, **Fyodor** became very happy, and she was equally happy to see him joyful.

November 1st approached: They reached the date in question and finished the work perfectly. She received the money for her work, and they said goodbye.

When Anna returned to her shorthand classes, her teacher, **Olkin**, told her that **Fyodor** had written to him and that he was very grateful for the shorthand writer he had recommended, without whose help he would not have been able to finish the novel. He added that he found the new working method very comfortable, so he planned to adopt it permanently, and for this reason the writer contacted her to continue working together on his novel Crime and Punishment. Then they fell in love and got married.

Shorthand YouTube Channel created by shorthand writer Marcela Beatriz Kobe

Shorthand writer **Marcela Kobe** (from Argentina, Tucumán) has recently created a YouTube channel to present her research on Shorthand. She will mainly make programs –this year, 2025– based on stories from her book, published in 2024. She will also develop videos based on stories that were not published in it. She is already working on new research. Marcela invites you to subscribe and watch the videos on her channel.

The link to access the channel is the following:

<https://youtube.com/@marcelabeatrizkobe?si=jxr3uN8-NfDCrwFU>



Invitation from China

During the Diamestic 8 Conference in Córdoba, the speaker from China made the following invitation:

‘On behalf of the China Stenography Association, I would like to extend an invitation to all countries to join us in China in January 2026 for our friendship competition and event. We will cover all expenses within China, including accommodation, meals, and domestic transportation. Except for international travel costs. Thank you.’

You can request more information about this event via the following email address: liaoqing41@163.com.