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Sartell woman tapped as director of National Court Reporters Association

Jeanna Zunker took on her new role July 17.



Jeanna Zunker was elected for a three-year term in July to become the National Court Reporters Association's newest national director on July 17.

Contributed / Susan Brown



By [Jack O'Connor](#)

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News Reporting

ST. CLOUD — Jeanna Zunker, a freelance court reporter and owner of the St. Cloud-based [Advantage Court Reporting](#) , has really come up in her world. The National Court Reporters Association recently elected the Sartell resident to a three-year term as their newest national director.

She will join a group of seven directors who will set organization policies, oversee the NCRA's finances, ensure accountability and update board members across the country about news within the organization and industry. She also will be a personal liaison to the [NCRA's A to Z program](#) , free education teaching the basics of steno machine shorthand. Court reporters typically provide word-for-word transcripts of legal proceedings.

Throughout her more than three-decade-long career, Zunker has helped current and aspiring court reporters take the next step forward. For the [Minnesota Association of Verbatim Reporters and Captioners](#) , she served in multiple positions, including director and president. She has also presented at mock depositions for Anoka Technical College and a local high school.

"I want to work for the greater good," Zunker said. "That's why I've always looked to be in service positions and I just want to be a part of our future and help in any way that I can."

Zunker began her term July 17 and will serve in the role until at least 2029.

Her career began right out of college in 1994 as a court reporter in Alexandria. Four years later, she founded Advantage Court Reporting and acquired her former employer's business at the suggestion of her old boss. Since then, Advantage has expanded to offices in St. Cloud, Maple Grove and Fargo. She also taught stenography as an adjunct professor at Anoka Technical College.

Her selection isn't all that surprising for people who know her, freelance court reporter Ryan Ziegler said. Ziegler, who has often freelanced with Zunker's firm, said Zunker is someone who both takes pride in producing high-quality, precise work and goes above and beyond to mentor those new in the industry.

"I think she's just a person who spends time committed to things bigger than her," Ziegler said. "And you know, when she believes in something, she puts her time and her energy there. Even though she is probably the busiest person I know, that's part of what I consider her strong integrity. That when she believes in something, she's going to put the time in and finish the job."

That mentorship work is especially important, Ziegler said, given that new freelancers often don't know who to turn to for guidance and that there is a nationwide shortage of court reporters.

Zunker encourages those looking to follow her footsteps to get involved in the industry's working groups — both national and local.

"I found the service aspect to be really fulfilling," she said. "I'm still on our continuing ed committee at the state level, which is organizing our fall and spring conferences as a way we can get together and mentor the students that come in. And it brings you renewed enthusiasm in your career each time."

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