



## AAERT Welcomes Videographers

### The Question of Videographer Membership

by, Geoffrey L. Hunt, AAERT President

The world of the electronic court reporting community has evolved and experienced many changes over the past 50 years. Since the 80s, videography has become a prevalent means of recording deposition testimony. State and Federal Rules of Civil Procedure allow the taking of a witness's testimony by video. That video can then be used in lieu of the witness appearing at trial. The technology for the legal videographer has improved in the same manner that court recording systems have.

Many of today's legal videographers are members of the National Court Reporters Association. The NCRA provides this community with seminars at conference and testing for the Certified Legal Video Specialist certification or CLVS, but lacks in involvement and voting rights.

At this present time, AAERT has a small percentage of our members who are videographers. At our past conference in Atlanta, a group of videographers gave a presentation on legal videos. Jim McCranie, Gary Smith and Cliff Gonschery talked about the rules, equipment and procedures necessary to comply with state and federal statutes when taking legal video depositions.

Our Board of Directors has been discussing the merits of promoting more video memberships in AAERT. There are benefits for both. The greatest common thread we have is that we both use a form of electronic recording equipment to perform our jobs. Another similarity is, if you are a freelance court reporter, we are working for the same community of lawyers.

So, what is the benefit to the videographer in joining AAERT? We can provide networking and conferencing. We don't however, have a certification process in place for video at the present time. Under our Bylaws, the videographer would be an Individual Member with all the rights and privileges afforded them under that membership category. That includes a vote as an active member.

Becoming a member of AAERT will bring the video community closer to a parallel recording technology. Something they don't presently have. As Individual Members, videographers will be entitled to sit for our Certified Electronic Reporter certification test. This new relationship with our court reporting and transcribing members will provide the legal videographer with access to transcription services for their clients that they may not have had previously. Providing legal video and transcription services opens the door for increased market share and income for the legal videographer.

The greatest benefit to AAERT is increased membership, the possibility of a new video certification and the expansion of our sphere of influence in the court reporting community. I believe that there are positives for both of us. I encourage you to reach out to your fellow legal videographer and show them the benefits of joining our association. I look forward to hearing from you.