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LeBron is BACK with the Cavaliers!

Cleveland is hot, hot, HOT right now, and rightly so. Not only is the Republican National Convention coming to town in 2016, but LeBron James, NBA player of the century, is coming home, as he stated, and everyone is rejoicing at the prospect.

Dare we even believe that we just might finally get a national title after a long dry spell with our professional sports teams? Even if that doesn't happen, we do know that Quicken Loans Arena, known as the "Q" and the home of the Cavaliers, will be providing far better accommodations in the future for those with disabilities than it has in the past.

Back in December 2012, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Ohio reached an agreement with the Q to upgrade their accommodations to be in compliance with ADA regulations. This resulted in some major changes, especially for the deaf and hard of hearing, with improved captioning access both on screens and with mobile and hand-held devices. A



From the Director's Viewpoint **Wishing can make it so...**

When I was a little girl, I used to love those times when people told me to "Make a wish," like blowing out the candles on my birthday cake or waiting for the first star to appear on a warm summer night. No matter how old we get, there is a small part of us that still believes if we wish hard enough and long enough our wishes just might come true.

Maybe it was too many Disney movies as a kid! Just recently I found myself saying, "I wish," when it comes to captioning and communication access real-time translation (CART). Maybe some of my CART/captioning wishes are yours, too. So here's the short list:

I wish:

synopsis of the agreement can be read here: <http://www.justice.gov/usao/ohn/news/2012/13deccavs.html>

So now all fans will be able to cheer on the Cavs as they go for a title. Let's hear it for the Q and the Cavaliers!



The Republican National Convention coming to Cleveland in 2016

It's been quite a summer here in Cleveland, and keeps getting better! The Republican National Convention Committee chose Cleveland as the next host for their convention in the summer of 2016, and already everyone is gearing up to provide all the services and supplies needed to ensure a resounding success.

Of course, captioning will play a critical role in making sure all people have access to each speech, vote and discussion AS THEY HAPPEN, in real-time. In today's world, everyone wants to know when things happen as they are occurring, not 5 minutes later. And that certainly applies to the deaf and hard of hearing, who will want to applaud the Republican nominee for President as the name is announced, along with everyone else. Captioners who work in real-time can do that, and definitely will be working every minute to provide that service to those who need it.

Another interesting fact about captioning: Did you know that many hearing people use closed captioning? In an informal survey done by Aberdeen, only 1% of 345 respondents who used captions daily were deaf! Other reasons included: noisy environments; not to bother others; learning to read; non-English speaker; and working out at the gym.

The RNC will be a noisy, exciting environment, so caption availability and accessibility will be of paramount concern, not only for deaf and hard of hearing populations, but also for those who don't want to miss one minute of this exciting and historical event.

- Every student or client who wants CART and captioning could have it for every class, event or meeting, without worries about cost, availability or access
- All venues had great acoustics so that my captioners would be able to hear everything clearly and accurately
- Everyone understood the empowering benefits of using CART/captioning for all clients
- Every speaker had a microphone in a multiple-speaker event such as a meeting or webinar
- Professors and moderators would repeat audience questions/comments so captioners can hear them
- I never have to hear the words "budget cuts" or "too expensive" when discussing the advantages of CART/captioning
- Government and other sources would consider finding ways to fund CART/captioning, especially for college students.

Well, there you have it – my wishes in a nutshell. Do you have any wishes you would like to add to my list? If you do, I'd love to hear from you. Email me at: margaretdowns@premiervisualvoice.com

Your input helps me to find ways to provide this accommodation to your clients and students while working within your budgets and your needs. Of course, we can always "wish" for a big lottery win! But if no lottery win materializes this year, and you need our services, we will try to make your wishes come true with our exemplary, cost-effective captioning services.

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