

# CCRA *Connect*

WINTER 2018/2019 EDITION



## ***Meet Your New Board***

See Page 4

### ***In This Issue:***

2018 CCRA  
Convention pg 7

Distinguished  
Service Award pg 9

CCRA 2018  
Scholarship pg 13

Highlighting Our  
Members pg 16



**OFFICERS**

**President**

Rachel N. Barkume, CSR, RPR  
 rachel.barkume@cal-ccra.org

**President-Elect**

Sandy M. Walden, CSR, RPR  
 sandy.walden@cal-ccra.org

**Vice President**

Aimee Skochko, CSR  
 aimee.skochko@cal-ccra.org

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Jennifer Esquivel, CSR  
 jennifer.esquivel@cal-ccra.org

**CCRA OFFICE**

CCRA  
 320 Pine Avenue, Suite #1050  
 Long Beach, CA 90802  
 Tel: (949) 715-4682  
 Fax: (949) 715-6931  
 info@cal-ccra.org

[www.cal-ccra.org](http://www.cal-ccra.org)

**MISSION STATEMENT**

CCRA continuously leads our industry through legislative advocacy, educational opportunity, and professional inclusion. We actively protect and unify the freelance, CART/Captioning, official, and student communities.

**CCRA CONNECT COPY DEADLINES**

The deadline for ad and article copy for CCRA Connect is the first of the month prior to the scheduled publication date. Articles, ad copy, changes of address, complaints of nondelivery, and subscription requests should be directed to CCRA, 320 Pine Avenue, Suite #1050, Long Beach, CA 90802 or call (949) 715-4682. Advertising inquiries should also be directed to the Association office. Photographs accompanying articles should be RGB color JPEG files at least 600 pixels x 800 pixels with a resolution no less than 200 dpi.

©2019 All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be republished without written permission. Statements of fact and opinion in articles or advertisements are the responsibility of the authors and advertisers alone and do not imply an opinion on the part of the officers and directors of CCRA.



[facebook.com/California-Court-Reporters-Association-196128395623](https://facebook.com/California-Court-Reporters-Association-196128395623)



[www.instagram.com/cal\\_ccra](https://www.instagram.com/cal_ccra)



[@CCRAAssociation](https://twitter.com/CCRAAssociation)



[youtube.com/user/CaCourtReporters](https://youtube.com/user/CaCourtReporters)

# CCRA *Connect* | IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message .....	3	2018 CCRA Scholarship Winner .....	13
Meet Your New Board .....	4	A Tribute to Gary Cramer .....	14
2018 CCRA Convention Recap - Another Success! .....	7	California Association of School Counselors Convention .....	15
And the 2018 Distinguished Service Award goes to... ..	9	Highlighting Our Members .....	16
Oh, What a Convention Can Do For You .....	11		

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year, CCRA Members!

Seems like each year just passes faster and faster, doesn't it? 2019 is upon us, and we have so much in store for you, our wonderful members! We had our first CCRA Board of Directors meeting in early November, and it was a great success. We had several members join us as guests and each of them gave valuable input. We encourage you to join us when we're in your area. Meetings are open to our members, and we love to have new ideas brought to the table. Can't make it to a meeting but have an idea? Shoot me an email any time. I truly have an open door (or inbox?) and want to hear from you. My direct email address is: [Rachel.barkume@cal-ccra.org](mailto:Rachel.barkume@cal-ccra.org)

We will be releasing a full year's calendar shortly for 2019 events and important dates. Here's a preview!

CCRA's Board has committed to visiting every court reporting school in California at least once per quarter.

We'll be hosting freelance mixers throughout the state. So far we have two set! Details coming soon. This is a perfect time to meet up and talk shop with other freelance reporters since we so rarely see each other in the field!

We will continue our e-filing trainings for court transcripts. Freelancers who work in court, this is a perfect training for you too! Each county's official staff

has at least had an overview as of this date, and more counties are going live with e-filing as we speak. Keep up to date on the new requirements.

Our Mock CSRs for students will be returning before each CSR exam. We have some exciting new ideas for this that we're eager to share! Stay tuned.

The Dynamex court decision has turned our industry and many others upside down. We will be touring the state to give you tools and options to help you navigate this new business structure. Feel confident in your business decisions with our help!

And coming soon in March 2019, we will be offering our California Action Team Training (CATT) in Glendale, California. Our industry is in jeopardy every year, and it is CCRA as a constant at the Capitol that keeps our profession moving forward and upward. We need your help! Come learn from the best. You'll learn how to be a master negotiator, speaker, lobbyist, and advocate in no time! THIS IS THE TIME FOR ACTION!

I hope you enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. CCRA appreciates every single one of you. Cheers to 2019!

All my best,

***Rachel N. Barkume, CSR, RPR***

President, California Court Reporters Association

# Meet Your **New Board**

By Aimee Skochko

As many of you know, each October at our annual convention CCRA elects a new board to carry out the business of CCRA. We strive to elect individuals that can enthusiastically devote their time to leadership, mentorship, coordinating the many CCRA activities throughout the year, and supporting CCRA's legislative efforts. We think we nailed it this year! Allow me to proudly introduce to you the 2018-2019 slate of CCRA officers and directors. For full bios, please visit our webpage at [www.cal-ccra.org](http://www.cal-ccra.org). *(Not pictured are Immediate Past President, Carolyn Dasher, and Director, District D, Mark Crossley.)*



## President

Rachel N. Barkume, CSR, RPR, has been a reporter since passing the CSR in June 2011. She is a freelance reporter in the Sacramento/Auburn area, as well as a Remote CART Captioner and a proofreader. She was also an official for four and a half years in Madera County. Rachel has been on the CCRA Board of Directors since 2013, serving as a Director, Secretary/Treasurer, President-Elect, and now President.

## President-Elect

Sandy M. Walden, CSR, RPR, started her career in court reporting in July of 1999. She worked as a freelance reporter until she was hired as an official for Contra Costa County Superior Court in October 2007. Making strides for all court reporters in California is Sandy's passion and goal.

## Vice President

Aimee Skochko, CSR, has been a reporter since 1998. She attended Sierra Valley College of Court Reporting in Fresno. Aimee's work experience includes being an official for San Luis Obispo County Superior Court, a

deposition and hearing reporter for two years in Orange County, and now an official for Orange County Superior Court since 2005.

## Secretary/Treasurer

Jennifer Esquivel, CSR, began her career as a freelance court reporter, mainly covering depositions and occasionally family law trials. Since joining the field of court reporting, Jennifer has made it a priority to move forward in the direction of becoming a certified realtime reporter. Mentoring students, speaking at local schools, and advocating for freelance court reporters have all become a great passion of hers.

## Immediate Past President

Carolyn Dasher, CSR, RPR, CMRS, is an official reporter for the Los Angeles Superior Court. She joined the CCRA Board of Directors in 2004. She began her court reporting career in 1987 working briefly in the deposition field and then with L.A. Municipal Court. While working in the court, she also has been a CART provider to witnesses, litigants, and attorneys. She

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

is a Past President for the Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association. Carolyn is a strong advocate for the reporting profession in Sacramento and will continue to lobby for CCRA.

### Director, District A

Aimee Edwards-Altadonna, CSR, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Human Communications from California State University, Monterey Bay. She always knew that she wanted to have a career that involved the law, and when she found court reporting, she knew it was the perfect fit. She's been working as a freelance reporter covering the Bay Area, Central Valley, Sacramento, and Monterey County since the fall of 2014 and works very hard at honing her craft.

### Director, District B

Michael Hensley, CSR, RPR, RMR, (but please call him Mike) is a new breed of court reporter, having finished his entire education and a large part of his certification online. Because of that experience, he has developed a strong familiarity with utilizing technology as an everyday part of court reporting. He is excited to bring this experience and knowledge to the Technology Committee for CCRA.

### Director, District C

Stella Angeles, CSR, was employed by the Fresno Police Department while a full-time court reporting student from 2002-2009. As a data transcriber with FPD, Stella utilized the steno machine along with Rapid Text software to produce officers' reports used in police work. After obtaining her CSR, Stella worked in the deposition field from 2011-2012. In 2013-2014 she was a pro tem reporter for the Fresno and Madera Counties, and she obtained full-time Official Court Reporter status for Fresno Superior Court in 2015.

### Director, District D

Donna L. Foster, CSR, RPR, CRR, is an Official Court Reporter for the San Diego Superior Court. Donna began her career as a deposition reporter in 1988 and obtained her Officialship in 1991. Donna is a Past President of the San Diego Superior Court Reporters Association. In 2010 Donna received the ABOTA Award for Professionalism and Civility.

### Director, District E

Tamara Houston, CSR, RPR, CCRR, has been a California CSR for 33 years. She started her career freelancing both in criminal and civil court. Emerald Deposition Reporters was formed in 1995 by Tamara while she continued improving her skills and professional representation as a CSR within the industry. After obtaining her CCRR in 2010, Tamara joined Caption Colorado to do national broadcasting from home in her "spare" time while working as a full-time reporter. However, court reporting continued to be her passion and she dedicated herself to that realm. Tamara's daughter Kaitlyn passed the CSR in November of 2016 and joined her at Emerald Deposition Reporters.

### Director, District F

Dayna Hester, CSR, started her journey as a licensed reporter in 1992 in Santa Maria, CA, on Eclipse CAT software, working as a deposition reporter. In quick order, she filled an assignment as a pro tem reporter for superior court. Pre-1992, while in school, she dictated her OAH hearings for the Consumer Affairs Board. In 1997, Dayna moved to Los Angeles and joined the pioneering forces of realtime reporters. From 2003 to 2012, with an opportunity to be away from the profession and closer to her then-teenage children, she obtained a bachelor's degree from UCLA (majors in English and philosophy). In 2012, Dayna jumped back into the court reporting realm, this time on Case CATylst, with a stronger appreciation and respect for the profession. She, today, focuses on real-time depositions, solo daily trials in the Los Angeles area, and "giving back" to the CSR world in whatever meaningful ways possible.

### Director, District G

Mark Crossley is an official with the Sacramento Courthouse - not a reporter, but staff court interpreter, American Sign Language. He also works as a CART provider for the local university and online classes, working around his court schedule. He has 35+ years as a court interpreter and 18+ years as a realtime "stenocaptioner" (his choice of term, instead of CART provider).



A National Insurance Agency

# Court Reporter & Stenographer Insurance

Official General Liability  
and E&O Agency for:



## Our policy is designed for:

- Court Reporters
- Attorney Services
- Legal Videographers
- Interpreters
- Depositions

## Our Policy Covers:

- Commercial General Liability \$1,000,000  
Each occurrence \$2,000,000 General Liability
- Commercial General Liability Amendatory
- Errors and Omissions Liability (E&O)  
Endorsement \$1,000,000
- Sexual Abuse & Molestation \$100,000
- Business Personal Property Coverage \$50,000
- Care, Custody, Control Amendatory  
Endorsement \$100,000
- Cyber Liability Coverage \$300,000
- Lost Key Liability Endorsement
- Real Property Damage Amendatory  
Endorsement
- Additional Insured - Designated Person  
(Blanket)

**(800) 843-8550**

amisinsurance.com    mnowell@amiscorp.com



## 2018 CCRA Convention Recap – Another Success!

By Rachel Barkume

Thank you to everyone who joined us in Rancho Mirage this October for the 2018 CCRA Annual Convention! What a success it was!

As we heard from several attendees, CCRA's conventions always offer the most content for the best price. We pride ourselves on the open format of our convention. No one gets stuck in a "track" without the ability to explore other areas of interest. We will continue to offer the best conventions in the state and nationwide!

Want to know some thoughts of our attendees?

"So helpful and informative!"

"Real applications for real working conditions!" (And we're capitalizing on this sentiment for 2019. Stay tuned for our amazing convention lineup for October 2019 in the Bay Area!)

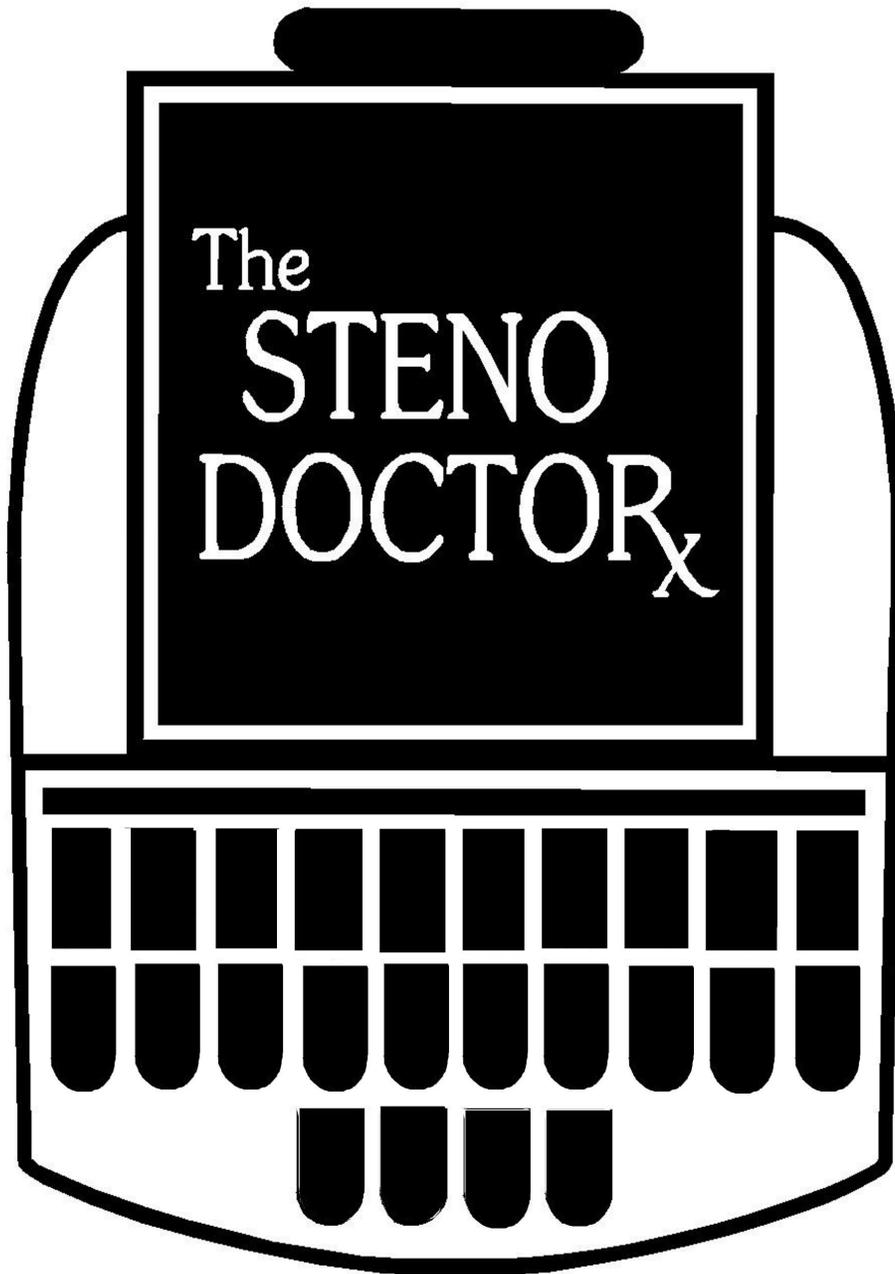
"Speaker was informative, knowledgeable, and captivating. He made it fun and upbeat while providing detailed information on how we could use the products discussed. One of the best technology/gadget sessions I've ever attended at any convention. Fantastic!"

"CCRA does an excellent job of including vendors – like nobody else – and we cover 50 states... by far, CCRA does it best"

"Very inspiring story! Made me want to look into CART captioning!"

CCRA's Convention Committee for 2019 has already met on their first conference call and sessions are being developed as we speak. The 2019 convention in the Bay Area (YAY, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA!) will be the best one yet. We continue to strive for an even better convention every year, so expect a dynamite schedule.

See you in San Mateo!



**The Steno Doctor**  
**2328 N. Batavia Street**  
**Suite 108 Orange, CA 92865**  
**714-937-5457**  
[www.stenodoctor.com](http://www.stenodoctor.com)



# And the 2018 Distinguished Service Award goes to ...

By Gerie Bunch

CCRA's Distinguished Service Award is conferred to a person who has been selected on the basis of demonstrated performance and distinguished service toward the improvement and benefit of the court reporting profession over a period of at least ten years.

The DSA recipient represents the type of individual who serves our association and ultimately our profession with untiring devotion, dedication, and energy. They are the type of people who effectuate change for the good of the profession. They make CCRA shine.

I was proud to be able to announce **Robin Sunkees** as CCRA's 32nd Distinguished Service Award recipient at our Annual Convention in October.

Robin is truly deserving of recognition because of the many years she has dedicated to the betterment of the court reporting profession.

After getting through court reporting school in record time because of incredible discipline, practicing before and after school each day, Robin started a career freelancing in the mid 1980s and, in 1991, landed an officialship in San Diego County.

Seeing the need for reporters to have more of a voice and wanting to be an advocate, Robin worked with the local San Diego Official Court Reporters Association and became an SEIU steward, where she negotiated better contracts for officials with the courts. Many presentations and instructional seminars were made by Robin to educate the reporters and encourage students at local court reporting schools.

Robin also joined CCRA, representing District D as a Board member, then President-Elect for officials, and then ultimately became president for the 2003-2004 term.

These were very pivotal years for CCRA. Court Reporters were under full attack by the Judicial Council. Because of a presumed shortage, Judicial Council wanted to implement electronic recording throughout the state. CCRA and SEIU began negotiations with Mr. Ardaiz

of the Judicial Council. Eventually SEIU backed out of negotiations. But Robin carried on, with the support of the CCRA Board, to secure the Court Reporters Protection Act with the Judicial Council. Among the many gains brought about by this agreement, there was a ten-year moratorium prohibiting the Judicial Council from any promotion of electronic recording legislation.

But Robin didn't stop there. Next she helped develop the CCRA Action Team, which was a grassroots program to quickly disseminate relevant legislative information throughout all the counties in the state to keep our members "in the know."

Concurrently, Robin was also a member of NCRA and became the Chair of the National Committee of State Associations and held that position for three years. Working on this committee led to a broader understanding of the troubles other states have faced, which helped CCRA craft legislation for more protection of the profession.

Robin devoted many hours over the years to the National Court Reporters Foundation, often being their highest fundraiser.

A supporter of CCRA student members, Robin has mentored and sponsored many students to attend conventions and develop lasting relationships that benefit the future of the profession. All of Robin's association, foundation, and committee work has been for the betterment and promotion of this great profession and CCRA.

Robin exudes dedication, devotion, selflessness, an engaging smile, and a great sense of humor, all of which have served her well throughout her career and her CCRA leadership.

Robin has a loving family of her sister Lori-Ann and her son Robert, who has two daughters, Sophia and Melia, with whom she gets to spend quality time.

Please join me and CCRA in celebrating our 32nd Distinguished Service Award recipient, Robin Sunkees. Thank you, Robin, for your years of service.

# POWER MEETS SOPHISTICATION.



*"The Luminox is the only writer I trust to uphold my reputation. Its precision allows the sophistication of my writing skills to take center stage.*

*Simply put – the Luminox has never let me down."*

Dee Boenau, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC  
Three-Time NCRA Realtime Contest Champion

## THE LUMINOX

STENOGRAPH.COM • (800) 323-4247

# Oh, What a Convention Can Do For You

By Heather Willaby, Court Reporting Student

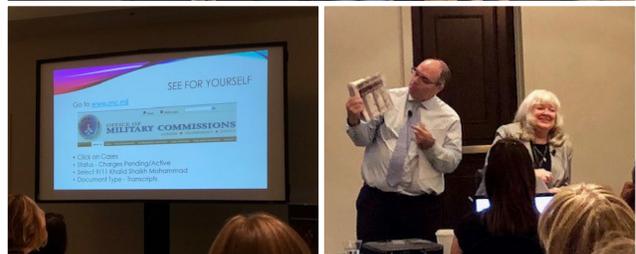
As students, we sometimes get caught up in going to school. We tend to let the stress and pressure of passing tests get in the way of why we decided to go to court reporting school in the first place. Trying to pass tests by the end of the semester to move to the next one often becomes daunting and we forget to have fun sometimes. Although I am a firm believer in school being a priority, sometimes we need to be able to go have fun for a weekend, but still be able to keep ourselves on track. It's easier to stay near the wagon than fall off completely and lose sight of it. One way to do this is to attend CCRA's annual convention.

I sometimes find it difficult to hang out with friends and them not understand what it is I go to school for. What the CCRA convention did for me was offer me a place where I could get away but still be near like-minded people and friends. I could go away for the weekend and still be able to learn and be on my machine to get my daily practice. I was able to get a more in-depth look at my software, take a mock CSR, sit in on seminars where amazing people were offering advice and their amazing stories, and got to meet the CCRA board. I found it enlightening, to say the least.

The resort the convention was held at offered a lot of beautiful views and we were able to walk around freely. We were close enough to restaurants where we could go to lunch and dinner with different people and talk about court reporting. It's refreshing to be able to air out concerns about school and get advice from many people. Both the board and convention attendees jumped at the chance to give advice and offer any insights into the future of the profession.

Attending conventions keeps us students in the loop about what's going on with our future profession in California. It allows us to learn about the legislature surrounding court reporting and what we can do to assist in working toward bettering the profession. The conventions also empower us by letting us feel as though we are court reporters already, just in training. I think we sometimes forget we are just developing the skill we have already learned. Even though we haven't achieved that speed that allows us to sit for our state exam, it is only a matter of time before we are with our fellow licensed reporters.

As students, the conventions also allow us to connect with other students and share our own individual school experiences and advances. I have found myself, at times, being discouraged with my progress or obstacles that are holding me back. Attending the 2018 CCRA convention, I found I am not alone. Many students share my doubts and misgivings about my advancement. We all advance at our own pace and our lives outside of school have a lot to do with the amount of time we can dedicate to practicing and development. While some students may have a full-time job, children, and only able to take classes online, others may be able to attend the brick-and-mortar only at night. We each have our own path but share one common goal: to get out there and get working. I may only be able to commit to 30 minutes to an hour outside of school to practice, but I will persevere. Attending the convention has given me the opportunity to pick up new practice techniques, make new friends and a mentor or two to get in touch with if I feel as though I am lacking the motivation on those stressful days. I would highly recommend attending a convention as often as possible because it will only reaffirm your opinion of the profession. You also may find yourself aspiring to be on the board someday because of the support and kindness you found yourself surrounded by.



# YESLAW PDF TRANSCRIPT

Automatic Hyperlinked Master Index,  
Automatic Hyperlinked Word Index,  
Secure Online Delivery, Free Technical Support

**YESLAW<sup>®</sup>.net**  
VIDEO \* TRANSCRIPT \* ONLINE

# CCRA is Proud of our 2018 Scholarship Winner

In 2018 the California Court Reporters Association awarded a **\$1,000 scholarship** to a student in the 160 – qualifiers speed levels.

To apply, eligible students had to submit an essay in court reporting transcript format that answered the following question:

**You are awaiting the results of the CSR Exam, which, by the way, you feel very confident about. What are some of the things you can do to promote yourself, and your skills, as you enter your new and exciting career?**

Thank you to all the wonderful students who applied for the scholarship. We enjoyed reading all the essays, and we send our best wishes to all our beloved court reporting students!

After careful consideration of all the essays, at our annual convention in October CCRA proudly announced Heidi Bunch as the winner of the 2018 CCRA Scholarship. We offer our heartfelt congratulations to Heidi and we've republished her essay below. Great job, Heidi!

.....



After taking the CSR and leaving with a good feeling, the first thing in order is a well-deserved pat on the back. Ensuring I am set to return to school while awaiting my results is one of the most important things in order to keep my writing speed up to par. Interning and sitting out with a working reporter is always beneficial. I would ask to be put on jobs that are more difficult than entry-level jobs in order to expand my knowledge and my current skill set.

Another thing on the list is creating an e-mail for work only. By keeping it professional and separate from my personal e-mail accounts, I will ensure important

information is not lost. Once I get my certification number, I want business cards printed and sent immediately as they will be needed for every job for which I sit. They will be professional looking, contain pertinent information, and have a sleek easy-to-read look. A bit of research on pricing will go a long way.

The next item on the list would be to start working on my cover letters and resumes to be sent to potential court reporting firms and courthouses with which I'm interested in working. Doing a little bit of research on the firm itself, their history, who the owners are, and the type of work they take on can open many doors, as I will personalize my cover letters and resumes for each firm. "A little extra work goes a long way" must have originated from a court reporter.

Attending any upcoming seminars or conventions with CCRA or NCCRA will be my priority. Attending these events helps me stay informed with what's going on in the profession, offering great opportunities to network with people in the field, and observe those that are making a difference so I can strive to be like them. I learn a lot by listening to others talk. Keeping notes of the people I meet enables me to follow up with an e-mail, note, or phone call, and that way people are more likely to remember me. Volunteering is always a great way to get your name out, and these events always need a volunteer or two.

Growing my career is a fun way to get some practice in and bring new interest to the field by attending job and career fairs. Talking about the stenography field helps rejuvenate my spirit, making me want to work all that much harder. I am ready for the kids to ask me to write the word supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, because you know they will inquire about it.

In conclusion, there are a lot of things I would do to prepare myself for the working world. These are just a few examples of what I would be doing while awaiting my test results.



# A Tribute to Gary Cramer

By Arnella Sims, CSR, RPR, CRR, FAPR (retired)

It is with great sorrow that I announce the passing of court reporter Gary Cramer of California on August 7, 2018. Gary succumbed to complications from Alzheimers.

With his foresight, Gary developed, drafted, and brought to the California Court Reporters Association and NCRA many initiatives and ideas, which he then pushed for implementation based on his tenacity and fierce advocacy for the court reporting profession. Often these were ideas ahead of their time.

These are just a few of the things he accomplished:

- developed the Transcript Reimbursement Fund law; it has paid for millions of dollars of reporter transcripts prepared for indigent civil litigants through part of the CSR license fees
- developed language that resulted in the passage of a law that allows privately hired freelance court reporters to appear as pro tempore reporters in civil court cases when an official reporter is not available (Although passed over 25 years ago, it was unfortunately put into use in 2010 after the layoff of hundreds of official reporters in the state, thereby providing work and keeping CSRs in civil courtrooms.)
- created strategy and defeated more than 25 electronic recording bills between 1973 and 2003
- wrote language that requires payment for transcripts on electronic media the same as a paper transcript (At the time, the only thing in use was 5-inch floppy disks, so this was way ahead of its time.)
- defeated a bill to reduce the sale of transcript copies
- wrote language that indemnifies the CSR for production of rough drafts and realtime
- negotiated an agreement with the Attorney General's office prohibiting the sale or giving away of court reporter transcripts
- appeared numerous times before the California state legislature to lobby and testify at hearings in support of court reporter legislation or against legislation harmful to freelance and official reporters
- addressed the Judicial Council of California against an electronic recording proposal that would have negatively impacted freelance reporters and their transcript income
- was the Legislative Advisor for CCRA from 1979 – 2001
- participated in 1974–75 in Xerox Corporation's pilot project to test and develop computer-aided transcription
- served on the CR Board for four years, two as its chair
- convinced the CR Board to conduct an experiment to test voice writers using computers on the same test as steno candidates to determine their ability and feasibility
- Chaired NCRA's legislative committee for several years and led the effort to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to protect reporters
- developed NCRA's Legislative Boot Camp and participated in training future leaders for nine years; the training translated to CCRA's similar CATT training
- was appointed by the Chief Justice of CA as a member of the Reporting of the Record Task Force that resulted in a comprehensive report that addressed official and freelance reporting issues
- coordinated pro bono CART reporting services for the House Ear Institute
- testified on behalf of court reporter issues in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

This brief list does not even touch on the work he did for the Los Angeles court reporter organizations and the unions in California.

Gary twice served as president of CCRA. He was an RPR and a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from both CCRA and NCRA. In addition, he was awarded a special "Innovator" award by CCRA to recognize the true extent of the unique work he did for the profession.

Many knew Gary's professional side, but most didn't know the personal side. He loved to eat, to play with

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 15**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14**

yo-yo's, to tell silly jokes, and to listen to doo wop, R&B, and the blues. He enjoyed traveling, and cruising in particular. Gary and his wife Sarah went on a cruise nearly every year, and after retirement they saw the world. The last cruise he went on was a cruise to Hawaii and back with a number of close friends.

After spending hours each day for 40 years poring over proposed legislation and code books (on top of proofreading a full transcript load), he had no time or interest in reading anything else. Upon retirement, though, Gary became an avid reader of novels (particularly spy novels) and kept a running list of all the books he read.

Over many years, the three of us saw the country by incorporating a road trip either before or after the NCRA convention. We drove across states we would never have traveled to otherwise. Many "adventures" ensued.

But the most important thing to Gary was his family. They were the light of his life and most precious to him. He was very proud of Cindy, a teacher, and David, an attorney. He adored Sarah, and they would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in April 2019.

I lost my best friend. The court reporting community lost its most ardent defender. It is not an exaggeration to say many reporters in California would not have a job as a court reporter today but for the efforts of Gary Cramer.

This has been a hard year for the Cramer family. At the beginning of the year, their daughter Cindy passed away. Gary's wife Sarah and their son David thank all those who have been supportive during this difficult time.

To recognize Gary's life work and passion for legislation, if you wish to donate to a cause, please do so on CCRA's website at [www.cal-ccra.org](http://www.cal-ccra.org) and click on the "DONATE TO PACCRA" tab.

# California Association of School Counselors Convention – October 18, 19, 2018

.....

One of CCRA's priorities is court reporting student recruitment. How do we get the word out to our new generation that court reporting is a viable career option?

CCRA, after inquiry with our management company, decided to become involved in CASC activities. CASC stands for the California Association of School Counselors. They have two conventions per year, one in Southern California in the fall and one in Northern California sometime early in the year. This year, the convention was on Thursday, October 18 and Friday, October 19.

High School Counselors are now focusing on trade-school-type careers. The career of court reporting, CART providing, and captioning obviously fall into this category.

CCRA agreed to find a captioner for their general session luncheon. They expected 1,500 attendees and CCRA felt it important to get the skill of captioning by a court reporter showcased to the counselors. Captions for both days' lunch meeting were captioned by Caption CART, Inc.

Representing CCRA and our profession was Bob Sullivan and Jeri Kusar on Thursday, October 18 and Carolyn Dasher and Diana VanDyke attended on Friday, October 19. They enthusiastically and professionally spoke to attendees.

CCRA was also an exhibitor at the convention. We paid to have inserts in the attendee bags, which were student recruitment brochures. We took a CCRA banner and tablecloth. We had student recruitment brochures on the table as well as a sign-up sheet for attendees to give us their contact info if they were interested in either the AtoZ program or having us come to student career fairs.

Overall, attending the convention was a success and CCRA looks forward to promoting our profession in this way and other ways throughout the years.

# Highlighting Our Members

The California fire season was devastating this past year in so many areas of our beautiful state. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by the fires, and we are so thankful for the first responders who sprang into action to protect life and property.

We would also like to take a moment to highlight three of our long-time CCRA members and their humanitarian commitment to those in need during these awful fires. They too dropped everything and sprang into action to help those in need within their communities.

Tamara Houston, firm owner and CCRA Board Member representing District E, immediately sprung to action when she realized how fast the Camp Fire was moving and how many animals needed rescuing. She rescued numerous horses as well as other animals. Her picture below was on the cover of the San Francisco Chronicle. Tamara expressed the following, "There are so many animals in need of help and medical attention that survived their Armageddon and deserve to live a good life and hopefully be reunited with their family." Tamara works closely with a local feed store. She has given 100% of donations to the feed store for food and whatever else the animals may need. If you would like to donate, please reach out to Tamara here: [tamara.houston@cal-ccra.org](mailto:tamara.houston@cal-ccra.org)

Sherri Kuebler is a newly retired court reporter from the Orange County Courthouse and a long-time animal activist. When the Woolsey Fire broke out, Sherri and her fellow ranch friends dropped everything and hooked up their trailers to get to Calabasas as quickly as possible. They were successful in saving many, many lives. They work very closely with their ranch owners and make sure that 100% of donations go directly to the proper medical care and food for all animals that have been saved. If you would like to donate to Sherri and their efforts, please get in touch with Sherri here: [sherrickuebler@verizon.net](mailto:sherrickuebler@verizon.net)

Heather Lofholm has been working as a court reporter for the last twenty-one years. She is a freelancer in the Sacramento region. She and her husband Eric responded quickly and succinctly to the Paradise Fire by creating a Facebook page entitled "Paradise Fire Adopt a Family." The purpose of the FB group is as follows: This Facebook group is a place where people affected by the Paradise Fire or any other recent fires in California can

come to find support. There are a number of families outside Paradise that weren't affected that would like to help by adopting families that were. This group creates a place where we can connect those that want help with those who want to provide help. A survey has been set up to help families to connect with those who would like to help.

We know there are other California court reporters and their families either affected by the fires or who helped others in need during this difficult time. We honor each and every one of you and we are grateful for you.



**Save the Date!**

**California Court Reporters Association**

# **109th Annual Convention**

**October 11-14, 2019**

**San Mateo Marriott**



### **Shop Amazon. Benefit Your Profession.**

Do you realize that you can help support CCRA by shopping on Amazon? It's true, simple, and easy.

Simply by clicking on our specially made link, with every purchase Amazon makes a small donation to CCRA. And the best news, it doesn't affect your pricing at all.

Please click and bookmark this link <http://bit.ly/CCRA-AMAZON> and help CCRA advance and protect your profession. Our CCRA Amazon link can be used by anyone who purchases on Amazon, so please share widely with your family and friends.