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CCRA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Court Reporters Association is to advance the profession of verbatim shorthand reporting by promoting professional reporting excellence through education, research, and the use of state-of-the-art technology; establishing and maintaining professional standards of practice; and advocating before legislative and regulatory bodies on issues which impact the judicial system and others served by the court reporting profession of California.





President's Message – How is CCRA like your Computer's Operating System?

By Debby Steinman, CSR, CRR, RDR, CMRS, CPE CCRA President



If you missed the California Court Reporters Association annual convention in October, you really missed a fun time, including many wonderful seminars and the maximum amount of CEU points possible in two days.

We had an incredible one-time opportunity to spend time in the Assembly chamber and present our legislative issues. It probably would come as no surprise that the reporters won their issues. The presentations were realistic, and some were actually downright funny.

Don't miss the fun next year. Mark your calendar in October for Columbus Day weekend, October 7-10, 2011, in beautiful downtown San Diego at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina — right on the water. SAVE THE DATE!

I want to urge every one of you to get involved in CCRA. You might say, "What for?" California Court Reporters Association is like the operating system on Your operating system runs your computer. smoothly in the background and you don't think about it. Then all of a sudden, BAM!, your computer is not running smoothly because it's been attacked by a virus or worm, such as ER/DR or gift-giving. Just as you would turn to your local computer technician when you need support, CCRA wants to be there for you, but CCRA can't do it alone. We need you and your support.

Who are these people at CCRA? They're not just obscure, nameless people who have no life, who know all the answers and are just waiting for the next "virus" to attack. No, these are working reporters with families, transcripts, vacation plans, and lives to live outside reporting.

What separates them from most of us is that they respond to the "virus" attacks when they arise. That's what I want all of us to do. Contribute in any way you can. The small contributions of many are just as important as the large contributions by a few. We are very lucky here in California. We have a lot of very talented reporters who would be an asset to

CCRA. CCRA has been a leader for years throughout the nation in court reporting advocacy. I'm calling on all reporters who love this profession, but especially those of you who still want a career in five, ten, twenty years to contribute some of your talent to CCRA. If you're wondering how, ask a CCRA member.

It's unfortunate, but we will always have to fight the threat of ER/DR or an issue such as gift-giving. I've been reporting for 36 years, and the ER/DR threat was as real when I started school as it is today. The only reason why I have a career now is that people before you and me have fought and won this battle over and over.

We won the ER battle again last year, but it'll be back. It just won't go away! We're now in a fight regarding gift-giving. These battles take diligence, dedication and donations - PACCRA donations. PACCRA donations are bipartisan and are used to support legislators who support court reporting.

For those of you who have always been there with your support and donations, we applaud you. You should applaud yourselves. You have been among those who have understood what CCRA and PACCRA stand for.

Membership in CCRA and supporting PACCRA not only helps you, but it helps everyone. It also helps CCRA survive and keep up the fight that benefits all of us. You'll never be sorry for donating, BUT you may have to reflect someday on the fact that you didn't donate. Don't let that happen to you!

Now it's time to impress upon those people who have stayed on the sidelines that it's time to get involved. It's time to join CCRA and it's time to support PACCRA. There is too much talent out there that remains untapped.

I challenge each and every one of you to get one nonmember to join. Fill out the paperwork for them if you have to, provide the envelope and stamp, but get their application in the mail. They will be glad you did, and you will be making that contribution of your time to support your association.







*Realtime captioning requires training in court reporting on the stenotype machine and is the most commonly used method in Broadcast Captioning for live shows. Realtime captioning skills are also used in CART reporting using the computerized stenotype machine to translate speech to written text for instantaneous display for classrooms or meetings or a variety of other situations where realtime captioning is required.

* Offline captioning can be done typing from a computer keyboard (no steno skills necessary) to create and apply captions to various media whenever there are audio or video files that need to be transcribed into text format and made into captions.



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News from other states

GEORGIA

Georgia Court Reporters Board Wins In Gift-giving Lawsuit Against Brown and Gallo Associated Press — November 22, 2010

ATLANTA (AP) — The Supreme Court of Georgia has reversed a decision by the Georgia Court of Appeals, ruling that the Judicial Council of Georgia and its Board of Court Reporting are considered part of the judiciary under state law.

The Fulton County case decided Monday stems from a 3-month promotion conducted in 2008 by Brown & Gallo, a company of licensed court reporters.

As part of the promotion, the company offered a \$25 gas card for each deposition scheduled during the promotional period.

The Board of Court Reporting initiated an "administrative complaint" against Brown & Gallo for violating the Board's Code of Professional Ethics. Brown and Gallo filed a lawsuit challenging the rule as invalid.

The Supreme Court said a motion to dismiss the lawsuit should have been granted.

FLORDIA

Hi Fellow Reporters,

Thought you might want to read about what happened in court on Monday, October 25, 2010. Judge rules in favor of DeMichelle Deposition Reporters

http://demichelledepositionreporters.blogspot.com

If this guy turned my invoices in to be paid on his settlement back in 2007.....he will lose his license to practice law in Florida. I will keep you updated.

Sincerely,

Susan DeMichele, CSR #3095 www.demichelle.com



Writing Air Steno

By an Insomniac Reporter

When you're weary and you can't sleep, write air steno to fall asleep.

When my transcript load is way too tall, I remember when I had none at all, and I fall asleep, writing air steno.

I think about the jury and I picture sleepy bears, and one by one I watch them as they slumber in their chairs, and I fall asleep, writing air steno.

The clerk is loud and noisy as she slams the drawers and phone, and types loudly with wild abandon, which makes me sigh and groan, and I fall asleep, writing air steno.

Attorneys fill the gallery with all their papers and other stuff, they make a lot of racket, which puts me in a huff, and I fall asleep, writing air steno.

When counsel is talking at the speed of light, I roll my eyes and keep up the fight, and I fall asleep, writing air steno.

Court call is my anathema, I can't see and I can't hear, and some day I'll rip the phone out when my retirement is near, and I fall asleep, writing air steno.

I love my job as a court reporter, it's been very good to me, and no matter how difficult it becomes, it's the "bestest" place to be, and I fall asleep, writing air steno.





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Convention 2010



By, Pam Katros

Board of Directors, District A, California Court Reporters Association

Pam.katros@cal-ccra.org

I love going to CCRA's conventions. One of my favorite seminars is the CAT breakout session. I always come away with information on my software that I had no idea it could do.

This year was no exception. It was interesting to hear about the progression of our writers. I recently purchased the Diamante and absolutely love it, but I was thrilled to learn we were just an update away from being able to adjust the keys individually. I received the update this last week and have already adjusted the keyboard, and haven't been getting my dreaded –p anymore.

Being a busy official, I hate to admit I don't take the time to use my software to its fullest capability. I try and utilize the features, but don't seem to find the time, so when we have these breakout sessions, I can really see what I'm missing.

The follow-up email from Sharon Vartanian at Stenograph was great. I advised her of a suggestion I had for a change in the master indexing feature and she referred me to a little-known area of support where we can make suggestions. It's www.stenograph.com/enhancementform.aspx. So I submitted my request and I am now waiting to hear if the programmers are able to incorporate it into the software.

This feature lets me know that our CAT vendors are here for us, the reporter. They are interested in what we have to say.

This applies to CCRA too. CCRA is also here for us. CCRA is here to protect our profession, but CCRA also wants to hear from its members.

Think about it. What do you want from CCRA? Let them know how they can do a better job. We're in this together.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Wow, what an incredible Centennial Convention! Because of you, our members, we were able to pull off a spectacular live auction, raising over \$3K. CCRA would like to extend our thanks to all of the reporters, vendors and local associations that participated in this event. Your donations played an integral part in the fun and success of our convention. Thank you for your generous support of CCRA. It is because of you that CCRA will continue to be successful in protecting the reporting profession. We would like to give special thanks to the following associations, vendors, and individual reporters who donated auction items and beautiful baskets representing their region in the state:

Cradle Point
Fresno Official Reporters
Jan White
LACCRA
Laurie Miller
Los Angeles Official Reporters
Madera Official Reporters
Merced Official Reporters

Monterey Official Reporters Napa Official Reporters

Northern California Court Reporters Association
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Tulare Official Reporters

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Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!







A Special Offer from CCRA's Centennial Convention Keynote Speaker, Tom Crum:

For those of you who attended this year's convention and those unable to attend, our keynote speaker, Tom Crum, put on a fabulous presentation on centering your life. We hope that you enjoyed Tom's presentation at the CCRA 2010 Centennial Convention. Recognizing that centering is a life-long process, Tom offers monthly reminders called "Centering Hints." These stories, tips, and reflections are meant to support you in your journey to center. You can sign up for these hints at http://www.aikiworks.com/hints.html. We are told they have a mysterious way of showing up in your mailbox at just the right moment!!



Cal-e-licious

By Lowe-Fat Living by Robert & Leslie Cooper

STUFFING MUFFINS

Ingredients:

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 2 medium onions; one purple, one white, chopped (light a candle to keep tears away)
- 3 stalks celery, finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp. rosemary, crushed

2 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped

.

½ tsp. sage

½ tsp. thyme flakes

½ tsp. pepper

6 – 8 mushrooms chopped

1 c. chicken broth

1 c. port wine or white wine, your preference

1 14oz. Pepperidge Farm Stuffing mix which has wheat & white bread

2 c. low fat buttermilk, or 1 c. milk &

1 c. plain yogurt

2 lg. eggs

½ dried cranberries (or raisins if you prefer)

Preheat oven 425; spray muffin tin with olive oil spray.

Sauté the onions, celery & garlic in olive oil & butter about 5 minutes. Add spices and chopped mushrooms. Sauté another couple of minutes. Add broth and wine to the sautéed mixture, bring to a simmer. Remove from heat. In a large bowl, mix the stuffing mix, sautéed mixture, buttermilk, eggs and cranberries. (You could even add a 1/2 lb



cooked and drained sausage at this point if you like.) Let stand 5 minutes. Mound in muffin tins (makes 12 lg. muffins) and cook for 25 – 30 minutes. Let cool 15 minutes before eating. These can be made a couple days ahead of time and refrigerated in a Ziploc bag. Then 20/30 minutes before serving, replace them in the muffin tin and reheat in a 180-200 degree oven. This gives the muffins a nice crispy crust. They are easily halved.

I served these for Thanksgiving and even my husband, who typically doesn't like stuffing, liked them.

CORRECTION TO LAST MONTH'S SWISS DIJON CHICKEN ROLLS!

Last month, an important ingredient was left out of the recipe! The Dijon Mustard should be added in the quantity of 4 Tbsp.





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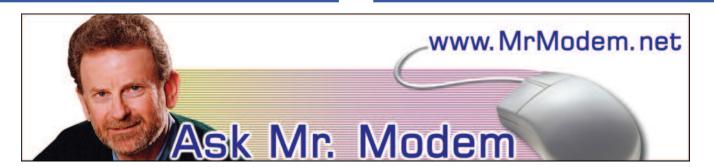




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Program Removal Options

- Q. What's the best way to remove a program?
- A. When you need to uninstall a program, the first place to look is Start > Programs > Name of Program, to determine if the program has its own uninstaller. Some do, some don't, but if it does, it's always best to use a program's integrated removal utility. If it doesn't have its own uninstaller, then go to your Control Panel and select Add/Remove programs as your next step. If you encounter a stubborn program that just won't budge, all is not lost. In that case, it's time to bring in the big guns and use a third-party uninstaller such as Revo Uninstaller (www.revouninstaller.com), which will get the job done.
- Q. I'm sorry my knowledge is so limited, but I am not sure what is meant by a "program." I tried looking it up and asking some friends, but I never seem to be able to get a straightforward answer that I can understand. If anybody can help me, I know you can, Mr. M.
- A. I'm feeling the pressure, so I'll do my best: A program, by definition, is a set of instructions that are grouped together to accomplish a given task or tasks. The instructions are written in code or a programming language that a computer can understand.

Windows, which is your computer's operating system, is a very complex program comprised of millions of lines of code. Think of your operating system as the engine that powers your computer and provides instructions to perform various tasks, as well as interacting with software (smaller programs) that you install.

A program is variously referred to as "software" or an "application," or "app," for short. Word, WordPerfect,

PowerPoint, Quicken, Internet Explorer, Thunderbird and Firefox are all popular programs.

- Q. I am running Windows XP. Can I create a desktop shortcut to turn my computer off? I look forward to your newsletter every Friday. It is extremely helpful and informative.
- A. Thank you. Yes, the exhausting process of clicking Start > Turn Off Computer > Turn Off can be circumvented with a shortcut. To do that, right-click your Desktop and choose New > Shortcut. In the Location field type in shutdown -s. (It has to be entered exactly as it appears here, with the same spacing: shutdown space hyphen letter "s".)

Click Next and either leave the existing "Shutdown" name or type a new name such as "Off" and click Finish.

Any time you want to turn off your computer thereafter, double-click your new Desktop shortcut. Presto, offo!

- Q. I need to establish a second email address. I am concerned that I not lose my current email address, nor end up with my email in the wrong email account. Blessings and thanks.
- A. I would suggest taking a look at Gmail (www.gmail.com), which is free, Web-based mail. You can create as many accounts as you wish and no matter how many Gmail accounts you create, they are all separate and distinct.

Let's say you create your first Gmail account as aardvark@gmail.com, and your password is crumpet. You then decide to create a second Gmail account and you select aardvarkmania@gmail.com as your email address and use cumquat as your password.

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Ask Mr. Modem! — www.MrModem.com

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When you want to check mail for your first account, you'll log in using aardvark with the password crumpet. When you're done with that, log out and then log back in using aardvarkmania and cumquat. Periodically, I check email in all seven of my Gmail accounts, so I just log in, check, log out; log back in to another account, check, log out, log back in to the third account, etc.

Each account is autonomous so no messages will be commingled with any messages in any other Gmail account.

Mr. Modem's DME (Don't Miss 'Em) Sites of the Month

Phone Scoop

With its breaking news coverage and in-depth reviews, Phone Scoop is one of the most comprehensive resources for cell phone shoppers, users, enthusiasts, and professionals, focusing on the U.S. market. The site's database includes specifications, feature lists, photos, links, and user reviews. Visitors can also choose specific phones in a variety of ways and view detailed side-by-side comparisons. www.phonescoop.com

YouTomb

There are millions of videos on YouTube, but thousands have also been removed. If any video footage online is challenged by virtue of copyright infringement, YouTube will remove it. YouTomb is a research project conducted by students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that archives the top videos removed from YouTube so we, the people, can make our own decision whether the removal was appropriate or not. We can't do anything about it, of course, but if you would like to see what was removed from YouTube, click on over to YouTomb. http://youtomb.mit.edu

For plain-English answers to your questions by email, plus great computing tips, subscribe to Mr. Modem's award-winning WEEKLY newsletter. To view a sample issue or subscribe, visit www.MrModem.com

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English

School Name	Total # Apps	Overall # Pass	Overall % Pass	 First Time Applicants	First Time # Pass	First Time % Pass
Argonaut	9	5	55.6%	6	4	66.7%
Bryan - Los Angeles	6	6	100.0%	6	6	100.0%
Bryan - Sacramento	2	1	50.0%	2	1	50.0%
Cerritos	1	1	100.0%	0	0	n/a
College of Marin	2	1	50.0%	1	1	100.0%
Cypress	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Downey	7	2	28.6%	3	2	66.7%
Golden State	1	1	100.0%	0	0	n/a
Humphreys	1	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
Sage - Moreno Valley	8	5	62.5%	2	1	50.0%
Sage - San Diego	3	2	66.7%	0	0	n/a
Sierra Valley	10	2	20.0%	3	1	33.3%
South Coast	7	7	100.0%	5	1	20.0%
Taft	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Tri-Community	4	2	50.0%	0	0	n/a
West Valley	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
SCHOOL TOTAL	62	35	56.5%	29	17	58.6%
Closed	2	1	50.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Five Plus	7	2	28.6%	n/a	n/a	n/a
O/S	1	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
RPR	4	1	25.0%	1	0	0.0%
Work	4	2	50.0%	0	0	n/a
TOTAL	80	41	51.3%	30	17	56.7%

Professional Practice

School Name	Total # Apps	Overall # Pass	Overall % Pass	 First Time Applicants	First Time # Pass	First Time
Argonaut	8	6	75.0%	6	5	83.3%
Bryan - Los Angeles	6	6	100.0%	6	6	100.0%
Bryan - Sacramento	2	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%
Cerritos	1	1	100.0%	0	0	n/a
College of Marin	2	1	50.0%	1	1	100.0%
Cypress	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Downey	3	3	100.0%	3	3	100.0%
Golden State	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Humphreys	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Sage - Moreno Valley	4	3	75.0%	2	1	50.0%
Sage - San Diego	3	2	66.7%	0	0	n/a
Sierra Valley	8	1	12.5%	3	0	0.0%
South Coast	5	5	100.0%	5	5	100.0%
Taft	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Tri-Community	2	1	50.0%	0	0	n/a
West Valley	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
SCHOOL TOTAL	45	29	64.4%	29	21	72.4%
Closed	1	1	100.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Five Plus	5	4	80.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
O/S	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
RPR	4	1	25.0%	1	0	0.0%
Work	4	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
TOTAL	59	35	59.3%	30	21	70.0%



online



Mensa Invitational 2010

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational once again invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

Here are the winners:

- 1. **Cashtration** (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
- 2. **Ignoranus**: A person who's both stupid and an asshole.
- 3. Intaxicaton: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
- 4. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
- 5. **Bozone** (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
- 6. **Foreploy**: Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.
- 7. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high
- 8. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
- 9. Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
- 10. **Osteopornosis**: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
- 11. **Karmageddon**: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
- 12. Decafalon (n.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
- 13. Glibido: All talk and no action.
- 14. Dopeler Effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
- 15. Arachnoleptic Fit (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
- 16. **Beelzebug** (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
- 17. Caterpallor (n.): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.





Announcing an Important Victory For All Licensed Deposition Professionals

U.S. Legal — A Firm Not Owned By A CSR — Has Been Fined By the Court Reporters Board for Violating The Board's Rules On Gift-Giving

CCRA and DRA believe that the California Court Reporters Board's ("Board") action is an important first step in ensuring fair and level marketplace competition between deposition firms owned by California CSRs (licensees) and those that are not owned by licensees.

U.S. Legal has been fined by the Board for violating its regulation limiting gift-giving. The regulation prohibits gifts to any person or entity in excess of more than \$100 per year.

You can read a copy of the original complaint that was filed and the Board's response on CCRA's home page (www.cal-ccra.org).

While the amount of the fine is modest (\$2,500), the Board's decision to use its long-standing and clear statutory authority over professional corporations is an important first step to ensure that firms not owned by CSRs are held to the same legal standards as firms owned by CSRs.

More broadly, the Board's decision to hold firms not owned by CSRs legally accountable for illegal acts is essential to the future of our profession.

It is imperative that the neutrality of deposition professionals — officers of the court who must even-handedly navigate between lawyers engaged in hotly-contested depositions involving life- and fortune-altering matters — be always beyond question.

This is true regardless of whether the deposition professional works with a firm owned by a CSR or not. Understanding the vital importance of this, the Board several years ago acted sensibly to restrain gifts provided to persons or entities, which includes law firms, to modest amounts that will not cause an

opposing party to question the neutrality of the deposition official whose every transcribed word could tip the balance in criminal and civil cases.

Nevertheless, while firms owned by CSRs have complied with the Board's modest regulation limiting the value of such gifts to \$100 annually, those firms owned by corporations have apparently ignored the regulation and have continued to offer increasingly more valuable gifts in exchange for business. This, of course, places firms owned by CSRs at a great competitive disadvantage to those owned by corporations when policy, law, or logic don't justify such a double standard.

Such rampant "Happy Meal" — like gift-giving also cheapens our profession, turning it into one where quality and cost of service provided becomes less important than the goodies dangled before the secretaries and assistants that select the reporter.

It is difficult to imagine doctors or lawyers credibly trying to solicit business by offering free trips, bottles of alcohol, or gift cards.

Both CCRA and DRA applaud the Board for this fair and sensible step and look forward to those firms not owned by CSRs deciding finally to obey the law that governs their competitors in the same marketplace and their elimination of practices that demean us all as licensed professionals.

If you are not a member of CCRA, please consider joining to help us continue to protect the court reporting profession. Membership costs just 37 cents a day! Click here to join.





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