

CCRA *online*



An educational session at the 2006 CCRA Convention.

SAVE THE DATE!

CCRA 2007 Convention | October 6-8, 2007

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CCRA Online

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of the California Court
Reporters Association

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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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Bringing in the new year is always a time to reflect on what you have accomplished over the last year and a time to set and hopefully meet goals in the upcoming year. It's always with trepidation that I personally set New Years resolutions, as I'm afraid of falling short in successfully accomplishing those resolutions...until one year I phrased my resolutions in a positive way, such as:

I will spend more quality time with my family, not I will work less; I will become fit this year, not I will lose weight this year; I will make more money this year, instead of I don't want to always be so broke; I will offer my clients all the cutting-edge technology available to me, not if my client asks for more services, I will make them available.

I think oftentimes the basis of our resolutions are addressing our shortcomings rather than exploiting our attributes. So try this positive approach. Ask yourself questions like "What is not perfect yet? What exactly do I want? What is happening now? What is the difference?" Again, be positive in setting your resolutions. You may be pleasantly surprised at how successful you will be in accomplishing them.

I have had a few months serving as president to now understand the commitment and dedication that this "job" takes. It's very time-consuming yet very rewarding. It's an awesome responsibility to be the ultimate person responsible for the association's activities. I have the security of knowing that "my" board is very dedicated, intelligent and visionary. Together we will be resolved to lead our profession into 2007 with a positive attitude and positive approach to any issue that arises and will continue to commit to our goals/resolutions and objectives.

On the lighter side of the New Year, and to pass on a little trivia, did you know that the celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays? It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring).

Did you know that the top ten New Year resolutions are 1) Lose Weight and Get in Better Physical Shape, 2) Stick to a Budget, 3) Debt Reduction, 4) Enjoy More Quality time with Family and Friends, 5) Find My Soul Mate, 6) Quit Smoking, 7) Find a Better Job, 8) Learn Something New, 9) Volunteer and Help Others, 10) Get Organized.

Did you know the kiss shared at the stroke of midnight in the United States is derived from masked balls that have been common throughout history? As tradition has it, the masks symbolize evil spirits from the old year and the kiss is the purification into the new year.

Did you know that the song, "Auld Lang Syne," playing in the background, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year? At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."

As you strive to successfully accomplish your resolution(s), I would offer you the following quote from Henry Ford, "There is joy in work. There is no happiness except in the realization that we have accomplished something."

May you all have a healthy, happy and prosperous 2007!



*Sandy Bunch
VanderPol
CSR, RMR, CRR*



The 2007 CCRA Official Compendium and 2007 CCRA Freelance Compendium should be available for sale by early February. Watch your email for an announcement of their release!

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Thank You!

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO YOU, THE GENEROUS REPORTERS who chose to sponsor a student to the Convention in October. The 17 students who attended had a wonderful time and learned a lot. They also got a practice run at the CSR, both machine and written portions. Several of the following also contributed to the Student Scholarship Fund by purchasing raffle tickets.

Gerie Bunch	Charolette Freeman
Sandy Bunch Vanderpol	Bill Greenley
Robin Casey	Donna Lee
Shery Cherland	Connie McAlister
Nancy Dasovich	Leigh Ann Orozco
Allen Edelist	Thomas Pringle
Ray Eggebraaten	Starlette Soniega-Armijo
Caleen Espinoza	Sheri Turner

NCRA Testing in California Thank You's

Here is the list of helpers for the NCRA tests held on Nov 4.

Shelly Applegate
Lucy Blevins
Kristi Garcia
Raquel Robles
Mark Brickman
Sarah Domenico
Debby Steinman
Tara Rainer
Lauren and Sage Somma
Diane Bissegger
Christie Mathes
Phil Livoni



ENGATE LOSES APPEAL ON REALTIME PATENT CLAIMS

By Sandy Bunch VanderPol

Over the past several years, CCRA has been following closely the litigation involving Engate claiming patent infringement by realtime reporters. Recently NCRA, through its NewsFlash, has informed us that Engate has lost their appeal in its entirety. Engate still has appeal rights, however. The following is from NCRA's NewsFlash:

"The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit issued a 14-page decision on Wednesday in which it ruled against Engate and provided a complete victory on appeal for the two remaining defendants in the Engate litigation, Esquire Deposition Services LLC and Atkinson-Baker Inc.

The Court of Appeals affirmed the district court's earlier decisions that there was no direct or indirect patent infringement by these two defendants. More important, the Court of Appeals affirmed the district court's decision that 21 of Engate's patent claims were invalid and also

reversed the district court's decision that a 22nd patent claim was valid, declaring it invalid as well. Although Engate asserted hundreds of patent claims in its original demand letters, this means that all of the key patent claims that were actually asserted by Engate in the litigation were held invalid and cannot be asserted by Engate against any other reporter or firm."

For the complete article, you may go to CCRA's website: www.cal-ccra.org.

CCRA would like to thank the two remaining defendants in the Engate case, Esquire Deposition Reporters and Atkinson-Baker, for their dedication to the profession in fighting the battle to defeat Engate and its allegation of patent infringement by all realtime reporters.



Cal-E-Licious

By Gerie A. Bunch, CSR, RPR, Public Relations/SOS Committee Chair

Easiest Raspberry Mousse

1 lg. pkg. Raspberry Jell-O

2 c. hot water

1 14 oz. can cranberry jelly

1 sm. container raspberry yogurt

1 container fresh raspberries lightly sugared

Put first four ingredients in a blender; be certain to secure lid tightly,

blend on high until frothy. Place in a bowl. Gently fold in raspberries and let set.

What In The World Have I Gotten Myself Into Now?

Charlotte Freeman, CSR 3084, RDR, CRR, CMRS

When I walked into the room for my first “Speed Contest,” I had no idea what to expect ... that is, expect of myself. Sure, I’d passed the State licensing exam decades ago, and I’d done the NCRA certification programs; so I should do okay at this; right?

I’d remember being exposed to lightening-fast speeds as I sat with hundreds of reporting professionals and students listening in on Mark Kislingbury’s first attempt in 2003 and also his second attempt in 2004 and his success in attaining Guinness World Records. I remembered as I sat listening and visualizing myself writing right along in that seemingly unattainable speed, I had found myself thinking: This is doable! I guess it’s the same thought we all experienced in our speedbuilding classes. As you progress and become more proficient on that funny little steno machine, you sense the nearness of success in reaching the next goal. As a result of Mark’s first demonstration, a friend and I talked about seeing how we could each fare in a speed contest and decided we would prepare and enter a NCRA Speed Contest.

So before you know, the time for the contest has arrived. I thought maybe there would be a few of us who would be sitting to see how accurate we can be at extraordinary speeds. I had not seen so many people sitting there and doing the same thing on that funny little steno machine since my State licensing exam. So my first thought? What am I doing sitting here? Throughout the room were the absolute best, the epitome of seeming perfection of our profession. Here they are, sitting in one room, all going after the same goal: To do the best one can do on one particular day. Isn’t that what we all do each day in our jobs? So it was going to be a process of just doing the same thing here: **Focus, concentrate, and just write... Fast!**

Do you find that there are some jobs when you think that you are all over the keyboard, just hoping you’ll figure out the mess of notes you expect to deal with, only to discover your notes are incredibly good compared to what you were thinking? That’s the same scenario I go through on some takes of a speed contest.

As reporters we strive for perfection. It’s a part of who we are...well, a part of who I am. Although I went into my first speed contest with no expectations of passing/qualifying – qualifying is the jargon – I was ecstatic with my qualifying in the testimony leg. So that set the foundation for my participating in more speed contests. My score was far from perfect. I felt I could do better next time, and I wanted to excel beyond my expectations. Well, I’m not there yet; but I’m getting closer.

Speed contests have been a very humbling experience for me. I have always been accomplished at things I love, be it sports or music or even now court reporting. I found my preparing for speed contests necessitated and stimulated my desire to learn new briefs in order to gain more speed. The reward has been reporting made dramatically easier in the courtroom. It’s still a challenge and difficult many times. Even though we get better at our reporting skills, the legal community is not getting any better at making a clear, concise and intelligent verbal record, and thereby making our jobs more strenuous. The side benefit of speed-contest participation is realizing I am struggling less on a daily basis to get those horrifyingly fast arguments that I encounter in my current assignment.

So in thinking I possess this daily confidence, and I have improved skills, I sign up for yet another speed contest. CCRA has brought back the CCRA Speed Contest to its Annual Convention. I do dream of the day that I attain a medal at the NCRA Speed Contest; but I really treasure the unique CCRA Speedwriter Wings that participants are presented when they finish with qualifying scores. You can’t wear a medal every day. The certificates hang on the office wall. The championship trophy is too large and considered a lethal weapon, so it’s inappropriate to display on the courtroom desk. The CCRA Speedwriter Wings, those Apollo-like wings, you can wear on your lapel. The Wings are special.

So with the fun of possessing the CCRA Speedwriter Wings, with the benefits of skills improvement, I decide I’ll do another speed contest. So I prepare the best I can and walk into The Room on contest day and ... I just wanted to turn around and go home. I am only the third participant, and the other two participants are both NCRA medal winners. I think what little wind I had in my sails to do the contest, my sails suddenly felt like a huge rip occurred and that I would just end up floundering. I sat down anyway and thought, just write and do the best I can. I was not thinking about winning a first, a second or even a third, by default. I was praying I would not embarrass myself with not even qualifying/passing on at least one segment by attaining the minimum percentage of accuracy.

So off we go, and the process starts. The first take, the literary, supposedly the slowest take of the three to be given – the other two being the legal and the testimony – was of such a seemingly difficult material that it felt like writing 300 words per minute. When the reading was concluded, all three of us were stunned. We looked at

Continued on page 7

What In The World Have I Gotten Myself Into Now?, continued

each other and said: Did anybody get that? Remember, I wanted to turn around and leave when I first stepped into the room; now, I just wanted to run away. Oh, well, what the heck, only two more takes, ten more minutes. What in the world have I gotten myself into now?

This most certainly has been a reality shocker for me. I've felt poorly about my performance in some contests, but this one take makes me want to bury myself in the sand and hope nobody sees that I was even there.

We move on to the jury charge and testimony. It seemed that I did fine on those two, and I could at least have something to prepare and not hide myself later and say: What speed contest?

When it came time to prepare our transcripts, I initially was going to skip that "rhesus monkey" literary but then thought, no, maybe if I jump right into that one first, my mind would not be so muddled when I get to those terribly unreadable sections of my notes. After all, I should practice what I preach; right? Whether you are a student or taking a test or certification exam, prepare everything; you just might surprise yourself and squeak by with a passing score. Taking every minute allotted for transcript preparation, I put the finishing punctuation in that Speed Contest Literary and, with a huge sigh, turned it in.

Then I continued on to prepare the other takes. In each I wondered: Did the reader misread? Did I mishear? Do I change things to what makes readable sense? Did anybody else catch the misread? Will they grade it with the misread, if they even caught it? What do I do? Gee, maybe I should have taken that available seat in the front row instead of the seat I chose? Nope, second row was better as the first row was closer to that distracting noise coming from the room behind us ... or was that noise inside our room?

Speed contests; what an incredible exercise in focus, concentration, and trying to block out extraneous factors in order to accomplish your goal.

Will wonders ever cease? We, especially me, could not believe it when it was announced that we passed/qualified on that "rhesus monkey" literary. There was quite a "whew" of relief resounding from the three of us. Normally we would not have known the results until announced at the party on Saturday night; but as all three of us were commenting and joking about how poorly we did, the proctors decided to let us know the results of the literary take, that we had all at least "passed."

So I'm thinking I, at least, did not embarrass myself and, boy, I'd better make this one my last speed contest in which I participate.

Can you imagine my surprise and elation when the announcement came Saturday night that all three passed all takes? More amazingly, there was only a 1/100 of a point difference between first, second and third place. Although I came in third, I thought, this third was so very close to being first; I finally have proven myself to be of the same caliber of writer as those amazing medalists.

As my career is one of being an official reporter, my perspective can speak to encouraging those working in the courts to participate in programs and events made available to you by your local, state, and national organizations, even participating in a speed contest now and then. The knowledge and skills you can obtain will provide a great improvement in your machine skills and confidence in doing your job. The official reporter will oftentimes be writing at speed-contest levels, although not for the sustained five minutes of writing, and with the ability to interrupt. You have the ability to earn your Wings; you just might not know it.

What in the world have I gotten myself into now? A renewed excitement and confidence about my writing/machine abilities and skills; a renewed outlook on what can sometimes be a monotonous boredom in a courtroom which I can now turn into speed-contest "practice" sessions and overcoming those courtroom distractions and challenges, and smiling internally and thinking of them as just a group of rhesus monkeys that might momentarily distract me from my goals of clean, accurate, and high-speed writing.



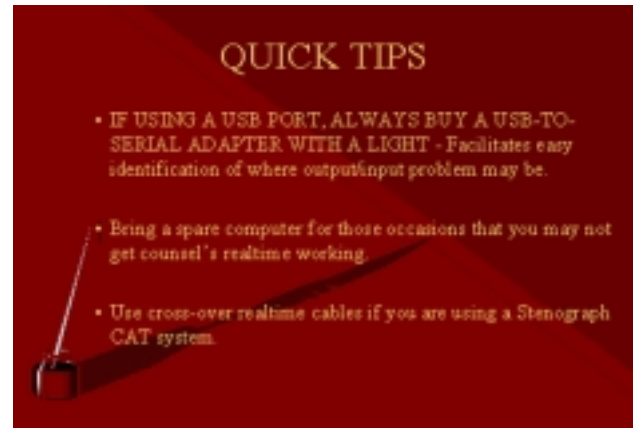
Realtime Troubleshooting Scenario #5

By Sandy Bunch VanderPol

A few “Quick Tips” to make your realtime troubleshooting more effective and easier to accomplish is the topic of this month’s article.

If you need to use a serial-to-USB adapter, always buy the adapter that has a light on the adapter itself. (Personally I like to use the IOGear Part #GUC232A - www.iogear.com, which costs about \$30.) This simple feature on the adapter could make your troubleshooting efforts, simply put, much easier. If you are trying to isolate any output or input problem, having this light will allow you to immediately identify or eliminate the area of this problem.

For instance, if you are using the serial-to-USB adapter to output from your computer to your client’s computer and they are not receiving the text feed, the light on this device will help identify whether the problem is with your output or the client’s computer setup. If the light is not flashing, it indicates that no data is being sent from your computer. If the light is flashing, you can now isolate the problem to your client’s computer. Of course, always keep in mind, if all else fails, that it could be a bad cable or a bad adapter.



If you are on Stenograph’s CAT software, you need to make sure that you are using crossover realtime cables versus straight-through cables. Most vendors sell straight-through cables. Of note, all CAT software products can work properly when using crossover cables.

An easy way to identify which type of cable you have is to position the two RJ11 plastic tips side by side. If the colors of the wires inside are in the same left to right position, the cable is straight through, otherwise the cable is crossover.



The Reporting Yogi

By Carolyn Dasher

Seven steps to Happiness

Commitment. Whether it’s to get a certain amount of work done or take the night off, make the commitment and stick to it!

Character. If you have a certain pattern of behavior, you can look yourself in the mirror and be happy with what you’ve accomplished for the day.

Dignity. When you stay within the boundaries of your character, you gain dignity!

Divinity. Going the extra mile to get that transcript done for someone else.

Grace. Developing stamina so you have the power to sacrifice.

Power to Sacrifice. Your ability to get the job done.

Happiness. Having the chance to be thankful for being these seven things.

Remember, you’ve made the commitment to be a Reporter. You will always be you, whether you’re stuck in a depo or trial all day. Keep that happy face and feel good about where you are and what you’re doing. Not everybody can be you!!



Briefs Online

Looking for a quick brief for those hard to write words or common phrases? If you have a word or phrase that you would like a brief form for, let me know, and I will publish your requested brief in the next CCRA Online. If you have briefs that you would like to share with our members, please send them to Doreen Perkins, CortRepr1@aol.com or 1100 Van Ness, Dept. 50, Fresno, CA 93724-0002

REQUESTED BRIEFS AND PHRASES:

Analyst	NALTS
Analysis	NALZ
Analyzes	NALSZ
Analyzed	NALD
Easy	AEZ
Easier	AERZ
Easiest	AERS
Disburse	SDBURS
Disburses	SDBURSZ
Disbursed	SDBURD
Disbursement	SDBURMT or BURMT
Disbursing	SDBURG
Disperse	SPERS
Disperses	SPERSZ
Dispersed	SPERD
Dispersing	SPERG
Dispersion	SPERGS
Government Code	G-K
Government Code Section	G-X
Penal Code	P-K
Penal Code Section	P-X
Vehicle Code	V-K
Vehicle Code Section	V-X



One Word/Two Words

By Margie Wakeman-Wells

The decision for whether to make words like any more/ anymore, every day/everyday, and some time/sometime one word or two keeps needing to be made each time these words occur.

We will cover a few of them here and more in next month's edition. Please let us know specific combinations you want to discuss.

Awhile/a while

A while can always be two words, and in many instances, it has to be two words. For grammar reasons, there is never a need to make it one word. Therefore, don't even put it into your dictionary as one word.

Anymore/any more

Anymore as one word means "from this time forward or from now on." It is related to the words no longer.

I don't like him anymore.

He is not there anymore.

Any more as two words means "anything or anyone additional." If you can substitute the word additional for more, you want this to be two words.

I don't need any more to do.

He does not see any more that he needs.

Everyday/every day

Everyday as one word is used only as a direct adjective (right in front of the word it modifies) and means "usual, ordinary, routine."

It is one of my everyday jobs.

She does her everyday chores each morning.

Every day as two words means each and every individual day. Unless it is a direct adjective, it is two words.

I will go with her every day.

She does that every day that she is here.



In the News...Stenomask Proposal

By: Diane Cullivan, President, California State Hearing Reporters Association

The State of California is seeking to amend through legislation the language of Labor Code 5708 which directly affects the State Hearing Reporters. The statute currently requires that a stenographic reporter record and transcribe all proceedings within the Division of Industrial Relations. The proposal for legislative change would add the additional language of utilizing stenomask reporters for proceedings in the DIR venue.

The reasoning behind the proposal is the lack of ability of the State to satisfactorily fill the hearing reporter positions throughout the Division. Over the past several years, due to attrition, the small number of applicants for hearing reporter positions, and the inability to attract applicants due to insufficient salaries within State employment, the State of California has endured a shortage of hearing reporters. The difficulty, as viewed from State stenographic reporters' perspectives, is that as we are presently fighting several battles of our own with administration, including changing bargaining units to gain professional recognition (as opposed to general clerical classification) and wage parity with the rest of the reporting venues in California, the addition of stenomask reporters may hinder our ability to gain professional status within the State of California classification system, as well as the ability to obtain a wage increase that would bring State Hearing Reporters, at a minimum, to the earnings level of deposition and official reporters.

Stenomask reporters are utilized in military proceedings, as well as in a small number of Federal courts and courts in some areas of the southeastern U.S. Though there are stenomask reporters who are using real-time technology, the opinions vary as to its effectiveness and accuracy in relation to certified stenographic reporter real-time work product. The general opinion of California reporters is that unless and until stenomask reporters are licensed by the Court Reporters Board of California and recognized by both the national and state associations, those reporters should not be permitted to practice within the State of California. The concerns include the possibilities of diluting the ranks of the certified reporters, as well as threatening the pay scales, including page rates, California reporters are, even now, fighting to increase.

The dilemma of the California Division of Industrial Relations hearing reporters may in fact spill over into the venues of deposition and official reporters throughout the State. If the proposed legislation passes and the language of the Labor Code is amended to permit stenomask reporters, in addition to stenographic reporters, that language may set a precedent for amendments to the Business and Professions Code. Currently, the lobbying firm for the California Shorthand Reporters' Association (CASHR), Capitol Strategies Group, is diligently perusing upcoming legislation for any proposed amendments for any mention of 5708, as well as conducting lobbying efforts among the new legislators to garner support for the California reporters. The lobbying efforts include garnering support for parity of the California Hearing Reporters, payment for transcripts and training to ensure State Hearing Reporters' viability in any venue within the State.

Additionally, the members of CASHR are pursuing their own plans of action in concert with Capitol Strategies Group, as well as SEIU, and strengthening ties with CCRA in an effort to achieve those goals beneficial to all reporters, including protecting the work product of reporters, increasing transcript fees and ensuring reasonable wages for State Hearing Reporters in order to attract qualified certified applicants.



Good News In Fresno!!

By Doreen Perkins

For those of you that are currently in negotiations, and those that soon will be, just thought I'd share with you some of the great benefits that we've been able to secure in Fresno recently.

Fresno now has a new Government Code Section, 70046.5, that makes all of our transcripts pensionable. I won't say that it was an easy task, but if anyone is interested in pursuing this for your county I would be glad to help you in anyway that I can.

Our court recently contracted with ACORN so that we can upload our steno notes into the web-based repository, which will now enable us to use the paperless writers. I pushed them to make a decision, because I don't know about you, but getting floppy disks these days is difficult!

We also were given internet access, which will allow us to use Lexis-Nexis from court computers that they have placed on each floor or on our own equipment in our offices or at home. We have been trying to negotiate this for five years. They finally gave in and gave it to us. This will make our research of case cites so much easier.

Lastly, our court has agreed to purchase an Official Compendium for each of our reporters and the appellate clerk's staff annually. I know of two other counties, Orange and Tulare, that are also doing this.

And to think that we were able to garner all of these things this year and we're not even in negotiations! Remember, it doesn't hurt to ask, they might say "YES."



Keeping The Phone Ringing

By Rose M. Goni, RMR, CSR

Yesterday, on a break from my depo, my phone calls to return all related to work and my availability for Tuesday the 21st. Firm A needs coverage for a 10:00 and 1:00. Firm B has a 1:30 depo. And Firm C has the not always tempting but good to have around 5:00 p.m. downtown doctor depo. Oh, it's good to feel wanted! Although most days don't have this many calls, by working with more than one reporting firm, your chances of keeping busy, I've found, are much better.

Now, granted, it can be confusing and frustrating getting multiple firms' formats down and figuring out who wants original signed certificates and who doesn't want a footer on page one and who requires an ASCII disk and who doesn't. And, of course, my briefcase has floating around in it business cards from ten different firms. But these can be just minor inconveniences that are outweighed by the prospect of getting more pages on my desk.

One of the reasons I enjoy working with multiple reporting firms is it allows me to work with a wider variety of attorneys in the community. One depo firm may have as its client counsel who represent an insurance company, so when I work for them I'll most likely be hearing about an auto accident. Another firm may have as its client someone specializing in wrongful termination or sexual harassment or construction defects or family law. I enjoy meeting new people and hearing testimony on different subject matter.

Another benefit of not putting all your eggs in one firm's basket is the multiple pay checks that you have coming in. So even though I won't necessarily get one guaranteed check every two weeks, maybe I'll get half-a-dozen checks of varying size throughout the month. And I always seem to forget that one firm will pay on the 1st and 15th, while the other pays on the 5th and 20th, and then, oh yeah, there's that day I worked in court, so there's my per diem from whatever county I happened to work in. That's always a welcomed surprise in the mail.

So next time your phone rings and it's a firm you haven't done business with before asking you to cover a job, consider all the potential positives of working with someone new.



TECHNOLOGY ALERT!...The paperless transcript repository

By Sandy Bunch VanderPol

CCRA has received information that county plaintiff bar associations throughout the State of California are advocating to their members to upload depositions to TrialSmith deposition bank! This year alone they are touting that more than 32,000 new depositions were contributed nationwide, with 325,000 depositions immediately available at CASD.org. You may check out this service at www.trialsmith.com or call 800.443.175.

What does this mean to us as deposition and official reporters?

What we do know is that California attorneys are uploading official reporter's trial transcripts in violation of statute. CCRA will be working diligently to make sure that this does not continue to happen.

Is this a violation of statute when they upload deposition transcripts? There is no statute in the Code of Civil Procedure that mandates that the transcript be purchased from the CSR, such as there is in the Government Code for official reporter's transcripts. We must begin, as technological reporters, to think into the future. Paperless is the future, and it is here now.

How can we make our transcripts more valuable to the consumer and counsel? Simple. By adding encryption and digital signature to our electronic transcripts.

Will this simple process make all counsel buy our digitally-signed transcripts in the future? Who knows at this point. But it is our job to educate counsel on the benefits of the digitally-signed transcript and what it means to their client and their case, so that counsel will value this service and, thus, be willing to pay for the digitally signed electronic transcript.

In a proactive manner, CCRA has focused on the protection of your copies. In 2005 we introduced legislation, AB 1293, which would mandate the encryption and password protection of electronic transcripts sent to the witness for review. Unfortunately, this legislation was not supported by the industry as a whole and did not pass.

The time is NOW to again promote best business practices of freelancers, firm owners and officials to use the technology that is available to protect the integrity of the record...digital signature, password protection, encryption of our electronic transcripts.

CCRA's board is commencing a pilot project to test the available software products available to you, our members, which will allow each of you to password protect, digitally sign and encrypt your electronic transcript. Look forward to the results of this pilot project in February's CCRA Online.



Centennial Convention Committee

By Doreen Perkins, Past President, Chair

President Sandra Bunch Vander Pol has appointed a committee to begin planning for CCRA's 100th annual convention. This historic event belongs to all of us. We should all have some input into the decision about where we all gather for our 100th Convention. We have set up a simple survey. Please click on the link and let us know where you want to go in 2010. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=512213045153>

Survey: Where should we celebrate CCRA's 100th Annual Convention?

Anaheim	San Diego
Los Angeles	San Francisco
Monterey	Santa Ana
Napa	Tahoe
Newport Beach	Yosemite
Palm Springs	Other
Sacramento	



Blast from the Past – circa 1995

Headlines

TAPE IN OKLAHOMA BOMBING HEARING COMES UP BLANK - from the Detroit Free Press: "The official court tape recording of an extraordinary secret federal hearing for James Nichols was found to be blank when it was unsealed recently." We coulda told 'em!

Too many Court Reporters? Not enough work, too many court reporters. That was only 11 years ago. What happened?

OJ Reporters In the News Court reporting technology in the trial of the century grabbed worldwide attention.

Majority of CCRA's resources devoted to anti-contracting and anti-gift giving legislation. CCRA hired lobbyist Barry Brokaw to work with Frank Murphy on SB 795, CCRA's anti-contracting bill.

Legislative Issues

AB 1289 - CCRA's anti-gift giving legislation.

SB 795 - CCRA's anti-contracting legislation.



Computers...Male or Female?

From Arnella

A Spanish teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine.

"House" for instance, is feminine: "la casa."

"Pencil," however, is masculine: "el lapiz."

A student asked, "What gender is 'computer'?"

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether "computer" should be a masculine or a feminine noun.

Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that "computer" should definitely be of the feminine gender ("la computadora") because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.

3. Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval.

4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine ("el computador") because:

1. In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on.
2. They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves.
3. They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem.
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won.

NCRA'S 2006 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Once again, NCRA offered their leadership training course to all state leaders this past November at the Ritz-Carlton in Tysons Corner, Virginia. Representing CCRA were Sandy Bunch VanderPol and Lesia Mervin, president and president-elect respectively. In addition to the leadership conference, we arrived a day early to attend NCRA's board meeting. It was a pleasure to see firsthand how NCRA functions as a board. Many subjects were addressed by the board, including new procedures and logistics for online testing proposed to be implemented for upcoming NCRA certifications beginning in 2007.

At the conference NCRA offered many seminars focusing on leading an association, such as membership ideas, how to negotiate contracts, association bookkeeping, and much more. We enjoyed each of the seminars and learned a little from some and a lot from others. Particularly enjoyable is the camaraderie shared with leaders from all across the nation. Each state has specific issues, and the exchange of information between the leadership in attendance is a valuable tool in troubleshooting, resolving, and planning for past, present, and future issues that we may be face right here in California.

The opening reception was held at NCRA headquarters in Tysons Corner, Virginia. Lesia and I had the pleasure of touring headquarters with Marshall Jorpland, NCRA Director of Communications, and Robin Sunkees Casey, CCRA's past president and NCSA vice-president (see picture). Of particular interest were the many archived NCRA publications, some dating back to the early 1900s! CCRA's past historian, Bob Clark, had donated many of his reporting treasures to NCRA several years back, and we also found those treasures inspiring - old steno machine, old steno pads, old court reporting newspaper articles.

The focus of the leadership training this year related to electronic recording and its spread throughout the United States. Did you know that NCRA has experienced a 40% increase in calls regarding ER in 2005? Twenty-four states, Federal courts and the District of Columbia have approached NCRA with ER issues over the past two years? Almost 85% of counties who responded to NCRA's ER inventory utilized ER in their courts of record? Almost 27% of counties who responded to the inventory stated that there are projected plans for ER within their county within the next few years? As a result, NCRA will begin an aggressive campaign to educate its members regarding the use of ER. Watch for more information in this regard as this educational series is launched.

As we from California reflect on these facts as stated by NCRA, we think, "Been there; done that." CCRA's legislative history, as a result of its many successes, has provided the California court reporter with laws that not only protect the stenographic reporter's job and future, but also protects our transcript income. I come away from leadership proud of the fact that CCRA had visionary leaders, with enough vision to protect our jobs with statute.

In one of the seminars an extensive discussion was held in regards to NCRA's proposal for online member voting. Questions addressed included the logistics of the timing of the voting, when the votes would take place, how long the voting would remain open, Web streaming of the business meeting, security concerns in regards to multiple member voting, and password protection.

At the closing reception, the NCRA PAC organized a karaoke fund-raising event. It was a surprise when Aaron Frey, now a law student and a former member of the NCRA Legislative Affairs staff, started the karaoke off with a bang! In addition, you all would have been proud that all the leaders of California, including COCRA, DRA, and California Federal reporters, enjoyed the evening's festivities together and finished off the evening by dancing to the Beach Boys hit "California Girls."



CCRA leaders at NCRA Leadership

CCRA New Members

Rebeca Baltodano
Nuevo

Kelley DeYoung
Carmichael

Monique Gentry
Clovis

Kami Inthilatvongsy
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