

# CCRA *online*

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for her transcripts  
as we are today!

## Features

- 3 **President's Message — Rally 'Round Reporters!**
- 4 **Federal Court Reporter Chris Bickham is One of the Best Court Reporters I Know!**
- 5 **Student Impact: Golden State Court Reporting**
- 6 **Student Impact: Speed Class: 180**
- 6 **Thank You — CCRA's Special Fund**
- 8-10 **Ask Mr. Modem! — [www.MrModem.com](http://www.MrModem.com)**
- 12 **The Quandry of the Apostrophe**
- 12 **Margie Wakeman Wells Blog**
- 14 **Briefs Online**
- 15 **Vocabulary Test No. 11**

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The deadline for ad and article copy for CCRA Online 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, 65 Enterprise, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 or call (949) 715-4682. Advertising inquiries also should be directed to the Association office. Photographs accompanying articles should be RGB color JPEG files with a resolution no less than 120 ppi.

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#### CCRA Online Committee

Lesia J. Mervin  
Debby Steinman  
Connie Parchman, Editor  
3275 Royalton Court  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
Tel: (510) 853-5260  
[parchman1@aol.com](mailto:parchman1@aol.com)

#### Main Office

CCRA  
65 Enterprise  
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656  
Tel: (949) 715-4682  
Fax: (949) 715-6931  
Email: [staff@cal-ccra.org](mailto:staff@cal-ccra.org)

Join us online at  
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Early Langley  
[early.langley@cal-ccra.org](mailto:early.langley@cal-ccra.org)

#### President-Elect/

#### Vice President Official

Kristi Garcia  
[kegarcy@comcast.net](mailto:kegarcy@comcast.net)

#### Vice President Freelance

Kim Thayer  
[kim.thayer@cal-ccra.org](mailto:kim.thayer@cal-ccra.org)

#### Secretary-Treasurer

Therese Claussen  
[TKClau@aol.com](mailto:TKClau@aol.com)

#### Past President

Debby Steinman  
[debby.steinman@cal-ccra.org](mailto:debby.steinman@cal-ccra.org)

### 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 — Rally 'Round Reporters!

By Early Langley, CSR, RMR  
CCRA President



Let's stand up and RALLY 'ROUND REPORTERS. Yes, we're faced with challenges. Yes, we may know someone who has just lost his or her job. Yes, we are mad. Let's turn that into PRO-ACTION.

**"We are Gold."** We stand up and spread the word. We've heard from Attorney Richard Manford who responded to the CRB's warning letter to CRSs in about civil transcript fees. To see the letter, [click here](#). We've heard from The American Board of Trial Advocates. They are vehemently opposed to the elimination of court reporters in civil courtrooms. ABOTA Lawyer John C. Adams, III, cites, "No other form of recording...could possibly compare to the quality, accuracy and practical utility, i.e., read-backs during trial or jury deliberations, appellate transcripts, etc., as Certified Shorthand Reporter transcripts."

**"We are Advocates."** We stand up and fight to retain court reporters in court through AB2076, the bill which allows counties to retain all civil reporter fees. AB2076 has passed out of the Assembly floor and heads for the Senate. We are halfway there!!

**"We fight ER."** We stand up and push for legislation to hold ER transcriptionists accountable for doctored-up transcripts.

**"We are Technology Impact."** We stand up and promote technology. Tune into our "Technology Impact" series and get ready for a real treat! On board you'll find our expert, Sandy VanderPol, with priceless tips about realtime and technology. Get the confidence you need whether you report in depositions, court or hearings. You're learning from the best.

**"We are Students."** We stand up and honor them! CCRA just awarded Jennifer Esquivel a \$500 scholarship for winning our student essay contest!

**"We are Interlocking Hands."** We stand up and fight for those who are not as fortunate. If you haven't contributed yet on behalf of your less fortunate fellow court reporter, please consider doing it now and [click here](#).



**Rally around COURT REPORTERS:**

**We are TOGETHER.**

**We are GOLD.**

**We are CCRA.**



# Federal Court Reporter Chris Bickham is One of the Best Court Reporters I Know! Her Judge Agrees:

**THE COURT:** Do me a favor and turn the box so that the barrel is not pointed at my reporter. Not that I'm paranoid about firearms, but I've seen accidents that supposedly happened with unloaded firearms.

**MR. SHEALY:** Judge, it was also pointed at counsel, I might add.

**THE COURT:** Oh, well, but you're replaceable. My court reporter is indispensable.

**MR. FLUKE:** I noted that the court did not--

**THE COURT:** I'm unconcerned about lawyers. Court reporters are hard to find.

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[pam.katros@cal-ccra.org](mailto:pam.katros@cal-ccra.org)

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Christine Taylor

[christine.taylor@cal-ccra.org](mailto:christine.taylor@cal-ccra.org)

**District B**

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[erobinson@aikenwelch.com](mailto:erobinson@aikenwelch.com)

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[brooke.ryan@cal-ccra.org](mailto:brooke.ryan@cal-ccra.org)

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[terryjrj@aol.com](mailto:terryjrj@aol.com)

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[ljcsr@aol.com](mailto:ljcsr@aol.com)

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# Golden State Court Reporting

Golden State Court Reporting and Captioning Students met with CCRA president Early Langley and NCRA Executive Director Jim Cudahy on June 6, 2012. Both Jim and Early spoke to the students and answered many of their questions. Some of their questions include the following:

**NO. 1 QUESTION: Does CCRA offer insurance for freelancers?** CCRA provides a health insurance plan that includes coverage for pre-existing conditions. Information may be obtained from the CCRA Website, or by Emailing the office at [info@cal-ccra.org](mailto:info@cal-ccra.org).



CCRA held a drawing for a free student membership, and the winner was **KYLE RAYMOND MCLEAN**. Congratulations Kyle, CCRA's newest student member!

**NO. 2 QUESTION: Are there jobs as officials?** For those that want to work in court, CCRA shared the information that depo firms can't get enough coverage for the courts right now with the layoffs. Good reporters are in demand in court and in depositions.

**NO. 3 QUESTION: How are we going to get up to technological speed?** CCRA has launched the Tech Impact series on YouTube to provide technical assistance to our members. There are many seminars provided by CCRA at our annual convention relating to technology.



## AOC V. Trial Courts?



By Jennifer Esquivel



## “I CAN’T DO THIS.”

Those are the four words that no one will tell you run through their mind when they’re up against a challenge they’ve accepted. Those four words are what we court reporting students secretly whisper to ourselves when we let the self-doubt creep into our heads. Those words are the wall you’ll hit when you suddenly realize you’re not sure you can do this.

In order to succeed at anything, I’ve learned you have to quiet that self-doubt. You have to replace it with pats on the back for even the smallest of victories in court reporting school. You have to

muster up every single ounce of courage and determination each time you take a speed test in order to survive the likelihood that you will fail it.

I came across a quote once on the Internet that I love, “There are so many people out there who will tell you that you can’t. What you’ve got to do is turn around and say, ‘Watch me.’” Little did I know, it was my own voice I heard for the longest time telling me that I can’t. Now, “I can’t do this” has been replaced with, “You’re doing it. Just keep going, Jennifer. You’re doing it.”



# Thank You

**A Big CCRA THANK YOU to the following reporters who answered the call and donated to CCRA’s Special Fund! We need to be at the table, not on the menu!**

Karen Aligo  
Jeanette Baker  
Renee Bencich  
Deborah Brown  
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### Ink Cartridge Shelf Life

**Q. What is the shelf life for unopened ink cartridges? I have two in my office that have been sitting there for about a year. Are they still good?**

A. Generally speaking, the industry-estimated shelf life for an unopened printer cartridge is two years. “Unopened,” within this context, refers to remaining factory sealed in its air-tight wrap.

Even though that is the estimated shelf life, I have used cartridges that were five years old and they were fine. A lot depends on the conditions within which they are stored. It's one thing to store a cartridge in a room-temperature office; it's quite another to leave it in the trunk of a car, in an unheated, uncooled garage, or on the porch if you happen to live in a rain forest.

**Q. I have the opportunity to purchase a used Mac laptop, sight unseen and of an uncertain age, at a very low price. I would like your opinion as to whether it is practical to purchase it, have it gutted and reinstalled with the appropriate programs. I have a repairman who charges a flat \$50 to do whatever needs to be done to fix a computer, plus parts. What do you think?**

A. First, do you want a Mac? They're great computers, but so are Linux systems. If you have always wanted something other than a Windows PC, this might be a chance for you to obtain one. On the other hand, are you only interested because this particular computer came to your attention?

If your answer to my initial query is yes, that you always wanted an Apple system, the next question is, “What are you really purchasing?” I would not

purchase any computer sight unseen or without knowledge as to its age and condition, and the specifics of any warranty. (It does have a warranty, doesn't it?) I also would not consider purchasing it without having it checked out by a reputable Apple-certified technician.

If you have confidence in your repair person — and it is unusual for any reputable technician to provide a flat-fee service without regard to the amount of time any repair will require — the other issue is the cost of parts. Apple parts are not inexpensive. If the system you're contemplating purchasing ultimately needs several hundred dollars worth of new parts, why bother? If it's what we in the biz refer to as an old beater, and you invest in all kinds of new components, it's still going to be an old beater that you then have far too much money invested in.

Personally, I would not consider it an “opportunity” to buy somebody's old computer without knowing a LOT more about it. Keep in mind that one person's opportunity is another person having found a sucker to unload something on. Bottom line: Caution is advised.

**Q. Is there any way I can organize my iPad apps into folders? Thanks, Mr. M.**

A. If you have oodles of apps on your Home screen(s), you can tidy things up by using folders to group similar apps. To create a folder, press and hold an app icon until it starts to jiggle. Using your finger, drag it on top of another app. Voila! Both apps are now in the same new folder. You can drag additional apps into any folder to create a nice collection of similar apps. You will need iOS 4.2 or higher (the operating system) to use this function. For additional life-altering iPad tips, check out <http://amzn.to/nw7pjf>.

*continued on Page 8*

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## Use Arrow Keys for Text Selection

**Q. Isn't there some way to use the arrow keys when highlighting text? I try to use my mouse cursor, but I always end up overshooting the mark or selecting an entire paragraph when I only want a few words or a sentence or two.**

A. There is indeed a way to use your arrow keys to select text. Place your cursor where you want to start highlighting, hold down your Shift key, then use your up and down arrow keys. If a section that you want to highlight is really large, use your Page Up and Page Down keys.

**Q. I'm using the latest version of Microsoft Office, but for the life of me, I cannot find the Close All command that I had in previous versions. Can you help, Mr. M?**

A. The Close All command comes in handy when you have multiple files open and you want to close them in one swell foop. It still exists, but it's hidden so it needs to be nudged out into the open which you can do with the Quick Access Toolbar, located by default in the upper left corner of the screen.

Use the down arrow to the right of the Quick Access Toolbar to select the More Commands option. Within the Customize category, use the drop-down list on the left to choose All Commands > Close All. Use the Add button to place it on the list for the Quick Access Toolbar, followed by OK. You will then be able to execute the Close All command from the Quick Access Toolbar.

**Q. I terminated my AT&T account for my smartphone because I didn't need all the Internet-related bells and whistles. Even though I no longer have Internet access by phone, can I continue using the phone's calendar, camera, etc? I'd consider selling it, but I don't know why anybody would want a year-old phone. Thanks for always providing honest, reliable answers, Mr. M.**

A. Honest? Reliable? Whew. I'm really feeling the pressure, but I'll do my best: Different phones function in different ways, so if the calendar and camera aren't dependent on Internet access, you should be fine, though you won't be able to forward photos and other items. If the calendar is Web-based and you were using your cell phone's wireless connection to the Internet, you will not be able to access that feature. The easiest way to check is to simply power up the phone and see what you can and cannot do.

As far as selling your phone, there are many people who do want older phones, particularly folks who may not be able to afford newer ones. If you do decide to sell it, Gazelle.com is one of several popular (and legitimate) outfits that buys and sells older technology.

**Q. At the top of my computer screen it shows my current printer and two other printers that I have not had for sometime. How can I remove these two former printers? I'm using Windows XP, if that makes any difference.**

A. Click Start > Settings > Printers and Faxes. You will see your printer icons there. Right-click any printer you want to remove and select Delete. Restart your computer and the icons will be gone with the wind.

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

### Astronomy Picture of the Day

Each day a different image or photograph of our fascinating universe is featured, along with a brief explanation written by a professional astronomer — as opposed to an amateur astronomer using an empty toilet-paper roll as a telescope.

<http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

*continued on Page 10*

*(continued from Page 9)*

## **Cleveland Clinic 90th Anniversary**

This world-class medical facility opened in 1921 and commemorates its longevity with this celebratory site. Start by clicking the arrows on the main image and scrolling through photos representing the various decades. Select one of the navigation tabs which include Welcome, Our Story, Historical Timeline, Cleveland Clinic Today and Wellness Events to begin your journey. I particularly enjoyed the historical time line which documents some interesting facts about the Clinic that have long been lost to history. For example, in 1929 an x-ray machine exploded and nearly destroyed the clinic. Who knew?

<http://bit.ly/gssSjd>

## **The Black Sea: Can You Dig It?**

If you ever wanted to make like Jacques Cousteau, but all that spooky, slimy underwater stuff gives you the heebie-jeebies, you can now become part of a team of divers that explored the depths of the Black Sea. Visit this interactive archeology exploration of the wreck of the Pisa, a ship sunk in a 1277 battle. Okay, maybe it was 1278. Here you can track the progress of this expedition by viewing pictures, journal entries and historical data.

<http://bit.ly/IGPzLh>

## **Best Senior Dating Sites**

This site was created to educate and counsel single seniors who are contemplating joining a dating Web site. Its objective is to provide information about the pros, cons and risks of online dating and how to minimize them; how to safely and securely create an online dating profile, and read reviews of online dating sites that cater to the “seasoned single.” This is not a dating site itself; its focus is assisting those who are interested in meeting others online, in a safe manner. I tested the site. Mrs. Modem was not amused.

[www.bestseniordatingsites.org](http://www.bestseniordatingsites.org)

## **Brain Age Games**

Medical researchers wearing white lab coats and carrying clipboards, tell us that as we age, it is important to exercise our brains and continue to use them to help ward off those increasingly frequent “senior moments” that most of us have come to know and...and...What was I talking about about? Through a series of five games/tests that focus on memory, attention to detail, language, and reaction times, this site will compute the age of your brain. Completing all the tests requires about five minutes. Upon completion you will be presented with your brain-age score. Ideally, it will be less than your current age. Mine was...barely.

[www.freebrainagegames.com](http://www.freebrainagegames.com)

## **FreeMD**

An online symptom-checker that can help determine if you need to head to the emergency room, make an appointment with your doctor, or have another slice of pizza and take a nap. Unless you have a death wish, don't use this site as a replacement for in-person medical care and consultation with a real physician or health care professional, but it does provide a convenient means of preliminarily evaluating symptoms.

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# The Quandry of the Apostrophe

By Margie Wakeman Wells

Margie Wakeman Wells is the author of the definitive work on punctuating the transcript, *Court Reporting: BadGrammar/Good Punctuation*, and an accompanying *Workbook*.

Margie has given over 300 seminars around the country on punctuation and English for reporting organizations around the country and always presents at the CCRA convention.

Look later this summer for Margie's online seminars completed in conjunction with CCRA. Check out her blog on "all things English" at [margieholdscourt.com](http://margieholdscourt.com). You will want to follow all of the crazy transcript sentences being discussed there.

We continue to struggle with the use of the apostrophe, seeing it used incorrectly over and over. Let's assume we know *they're* from the other two forms and the difference between *its* and *it's*. (No such thing as *its'*.)

A recent question was "Do we use an apostrophe in *homeowners' association*?" The answer is that formal English says it needs the apostrophe; the reality is that most reporters do not use it.

However, if we are going to use it, there are many homeowners. It has to be plural possessive: *...homeowners' association*. There is more than one worker: *...workers' comp*.

Names keep cropping up with the apostrophe in the wrong place. When a surname has the word *the* in front of it, it is ALWAYS plural.

...talked to the Millers at the dealership...  
...were not involved with the Hansons...

When the word needs to be possessive, make it plural first; then add the apostrophe.

...talked to the Millers' son at the dealership...  
...were not involved with the Hansons' case...

If a name ends in *s*, *z*, or *x*, make it plural by adding *-es*. Then make it possessive.

...saw the movie with the Wellses...  
...saw the movie with the Wellses' son...

...had dinner with the Foxes...  
...had dinner with the Foxes' son...

...called the Ruizes...  
...called the Ruizes' lawyer...

More next month on the apostrophe.

Happy punctuating.



**Margie Wakeman Wells, our resident English expert, has just launched a blog on "all things English." Go to [margieholdscourt.com](http://margieholdscourt.com) to read the blog.**

This several-times-a-week blog is a spot where we can go to ask questions and enter into the discussion or just read the punctuation discussion. It is hoped that this will be a place where we can discuss those "pesky" problems that seem to pop up in transcripts all the time.

As most of us know, Margie travels around the country, giving seminars on punctuation for national, state, and local organizations and always presents at our CCRA fall seminar.

Margie's definitive text on punctuating the transcript, *Court Reporting: Bad Grammar/Good Punctuation*, along with an accompanying *Workbook*, is available at [margieholdscourt.com](http://margieholdscourt.com).

Check out the blog on [margieholdscourt.com](http://margieholdscourt.com).

And coming soon is a free app for your smartphone for Margie Holds Court.



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## 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](mailto:CortRepr1@aol.com) or 1100 Van Ness, Dept. 50, Fresno, CA 93724-0002

### REQUESTED BRIEFS AND PHRASES:

About	-B
About an hour	BOUR
About half	BL-F
About half of	BLOFT
About half of the	BLOFT
About half of them	BLEFM
About half of these	BLOFZ
About half of those	BLOFS
About how far	BOUF
About how fast	BOUFT
About how large	BOURJ
About how late	BOULT
About how long	BOUNG
About how many	BOUM
About how many days	BOUMD
About how many times	BOUMT
About how much	BOUFP
About how often	BOUFN
About how wide	BOID
About the	-BT
About the same	BAEM
About the same as	BAEMS
About the same time	BAEMT
About the same time as	BAEMTS
About these	-BZ
About those	-BS
About what time	BOIM
About what time of	BOIFM
About what time of day	BOIFMD
About what time of the	BOIFMT
About whom	BHOM
About whom the	BHOMT
About whom these	BHOMZ
About whom those	BHOMS
Above	BOV
Above all	BOVL
Above all the	BOVLT
Above all these	BOVLZ
Above all those	BOVLS
Above and beyond the call of duty	Y-VD
Above-entitled	BOVLD
Above-mentioned	BOVMD
Above the	BOVT
Above them	BOVM
Above these	BOVZ
Above those	BOVS



# Vocabulary Test No. 11

By Debby Steinman

Most of these words came from reading, some came from court, and one came from a fellow reporter. If you have an interesting word or words you would like to contribute, please send them to me at [dsteinmancsr@cox.net](mailto:dsteinmancsr@cox.net).

1. **malaise (noun)**
  - a. feeling of debility
  - b. laziness
  - c. guilt
  - d. fatalism
2. **balacava (noun)**
  - a. tasty dessert
  - b. knit cap
  - c. confusion
  - d. hooligan
3. **pejorative (adj.)**
  - a. practical
  - b. reluctant
  - c. derogatory
  - d. reliable
4. **doltich (adj)**
  - a. comical
  - b. apologetic
  - c. classic
  - d. dumb
5. **inveigle (verb)**
  - a. to frighten
  - b. to overwhelm
  - c. to entice
  - d. to fascinate
6. **vicissitude (noun)**
  - a. change
  - b. affirmation
  - c. idea
  - d. transgression
7. **panacea (noun)**
  - a. a beautiful view
  - b. a spectacle
  - c. a perversion
  - d. a cure-all
8. **churlish (adj.)**
  - a. childish
  - b. ill-mannered
  - c. polite
  - d. focused
9. **eviscerate (verb)**
  - a. to dislodge
  - b. to disembowel
  - c. to penetrate
  - d. to infuriate
10. **prolific (adj.)**
  - a. productive
  - b. profitable
  - c. extravagant
  - d. idealistic

Vocabulary Test 11 Answers:

1. **malaise (noun): (A)** feeling of debility or lack of health
2. **balacava (noun): (B)** knit cap
3. **pejorative (adj.): (C)** derogatory
4. **doltich (adj.): (D)** dumb
5. **inveigle (verb): (C)** to entice
6. **vicissitude (noun): (A)** a change
7. **panacea (adj.): (D)** a cure-all
8. **churlish (adj.): (B)** ill-mannered
9. **eviscerate (verb): (B)** to disembowel
10. **prolific (adj.): (A)** productive





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