

The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Board of Directors	2
Board of Directors Slate for 2017-18	5
What's In Your Dictionary?	8
Ask DRA	9
Here Is What This Year's Attendees are Saying About GAP	10
Dress for Success	13
A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Points	14
Text and the City	16
CalDRA Visits Humphreys College	18
Help Wanted	19
What Are You Thankful For?	19
Pop Quiz	20
Taco Madness	21
Advertising Opportunities in the Deposition Reporter	22
NCRF Heroes Oral Histories	23
In Memoriam	25



THE NATION'S LARGEST TRADE
ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO
THE FREELANCE
DEPOSITION REPORTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MONYEEN BLACK, CSR, RPR, CCRR
DRA PRESIDENT

Thanksgiving is absolutely my favorite holiday of the year. It's a time when kindness is practiced in abundance, and an opportunity to reflect and be grateful for all that you have accomplished.

**"ONLY BY GIVING ARE YOU ABLE TO RECEIVE MORE THAN YOU
ALREADY HAVE."**

– KATHRYN STOCKETT, THE HELP

It's so easy to focus on what we can't do or haven't been able to achieve. But instead, I like to focus on the can-dos and all the things we are fortunate to have. It's a time where I enjoy giving – and by that, I don't necessarily mean something that was purchased. The gift of your time is often much more valuable to someone in need of a helping hand. An unexpected gesture, however small, can be even more special to its recipient. Imagine if we all just brought some extra lunch with us one day to give to somebody who is hungry or kept an extra sweatshirt in our backseat to give to someone who was cold.

There are so many ways to practice kindness during the holidays. Invite a new CSR to lunch or coffee and share your time answering all their questions or just lending an ear. Send a thank-you card to your favorite client to remind them how much you appreciate their business. Even an unexpected smile to a stranger has more impact

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT



MONYEEN BLACK,
CSR No. 10574, CRR, CLR
president@caldra.org

VICE PRESIDENT



JODI MONROE,
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SECRETARY



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DISTRICT 1



DIANE FREEMAN,
CSR 5884, RPR
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Counties Represented: Alameda,
Contra Costa, Marin, Mendocino,
Napa, Solano, and Sonoma

DISTRICT 2

VACANT

Counties Represented: Monterey,
San Benito, San Francisco, San
Mateo, Santa Clara and
Santa Cruz

DISTRICT 3



KIMBERLY D'URSO,
CSR No. 11372, RPR
district3@caldra.org

Counties Represented: Alpine,
Amador, Butte, Calaveras,
Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado,
Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen,
Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas,
Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta,
Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus,
Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne,
Yolo and Yuba

DISTRICT 4



CHERYL HAAB,
CSR No. 13600, RPR, CLR
district4@caldra.org

County Represented:
Los Angeles

DISTRICT 5



ANDREA RINKER,
CSR No. 13437, CCRR, RPR,
CLR
district5@caldra.org

County Represented: Orange

DISTRICT 6



VESNA WALTER,
CSR No. 11989, RPR, CCRR
district6@caldra.org

Counties Represented:
San Bernardino and Riverside

DISTRICT 7



TRICIA ROSATE,
CSR No. 10891, CCRR, RDR,
CRR, CLR
district7@caldra.org

Counties Represented:
San Diego and Imperial

DISTRICT 8



ERIKA SJOQUIST,
CSR 10574, RPR, CRR
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Counties Represented: Fresno,
Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera,
Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San
Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara,
Tulare and Ventura. (All
Professional Members residing
in counties or states other than
California or the USA.)

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 CALDRA

 CAL_DRA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

than you might know. These gestures, among countless others, are what this season is all about.

I am so grateful for all of you. I am always in awe of how generous the members of CalDRA are. There are so many of you who, while signing up for events and conventions, don't even think twice about contributing to the general sponsorship fund or personally sponsoring your favorite student or new CSR. You donate tirelessly to the War Chest to keep fighting for our profession. You bring first-class swag to our events to make each of our raffles amazing.

This Thanksgiving season, I am mostly thankful to serve as President to such an amazing group of reporters. Thank you for being a member of CalDRA.

I'll see you in Napa February 24th!



SMILES FOR CALDRA

"DRA has been a shining example of how professionals should act, despite our differences. I greatly appreciate the support it has given to COCRA over the years." - Anne Hall, California Official Court Reporters Association, President

"My favorite thing about CalDRA is their representation on difficult problems in the field; gift giving, the SoCal stip... I could go on, but it would take all night. DRA is amazing." -Kimberly Moore

"I love and trust DRA to be there to keep us informed about our 'hot topics,' and be there to back and support us all." -Virginia Groeneveld

"The best thing about DRA is how its members take care of their fellow reporters. Whether it's answering a newbie reporter question or referring amazing jobs and contacts to one another, I always feel taken care of, especially in my first year of working." -Jessie Frey

To Court Reporters who prefer:

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CALDRA INTRODUCES ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE FOR THE 2017-18 YEAR

As the calendar year and the board year both come to a close, CalDRA's nominating committee has yet again taken on the daunting task of assembling its lineup for the following year's Board of Director nominees. After months of schedule coordination, interviews, and careful thought, the following CalDRA members have been selected as Board nominees.

Below is each candidate's official nominating statement. Congratulations to all the nominees, and best wishes for another successful year at CalDRA!

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT



MONYEEN BLACK, CSR No. 10574, CCRR, RPR, CLR

The past year serving as the president of CalDRA's board has been a privilege. I am humbled to be asked to continue on for another year as your president. I am proud of the accomplishments CalDRA has achieved for the freelance court reporters. I will continue to promote the ethics of our profession and will work hard to continue fighting and supporting all issues that affect freelancers.

PRESIDENT ELECT



CHERYL HAAB, CSR No. 13600, RPR, CLR

It is my great honor to accept CalDRA's nomination as President-Elect for the 2017-2018 Board year. Having served on the Board of Directors since 2012, as Secretary-Treasurer, District Director, and Vice President, I feel confident that the experience I have gained thus far in these positions will only augment my ability to perform the sundry functions of President-Elect. This year, CalDRA's plate will be full with a host of focus areas: student development, continuing education, and the pursuit of legislation to protect and improve the profession. As your President-Elect, I plan to use our forward momentum in each of these areas to continue providing value to your membership, ensuring that our profession remains a viable part of the legal industry for many years to come. Thank you all for your support thus far, and I look forward to serving your interests for yet another productive year on the Board.

VICE PRESIDENT



DIANE FREEMAN, CSR No. 5884, RPR

Diane is a CSR and RPR, a partner in Freeman Reporting with Cherie Lubash in San Francisco, which was formed in 2007. She also freelances for other reporting firms. She lives in Novato.

Diane became certified in June of 1982 and immediately began working as a freelance reporter. She received her Registered Professional Reporter Certificate from NCRA in November of 1996. Diane joined the DRA Board of Directors in February 2014 as the District 1 Director. She is committed to advancing the Mission of CalDRA and ensuring the ethical practices of the profession. Diane's 2017 goals are to carry out her duties by supporting DRA's President and Board of Directors; continuing to support students and court reporting programs; opening communication with the State Bar of California, Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC), and other associations representing litigators. She also looks forward to continuing to communicate with and attend the Court Reporters Board of California meetings in Sacramento.

SECRETARY



VESNA WALTER, CSR No. 11989, CCRR, RPR, CLR

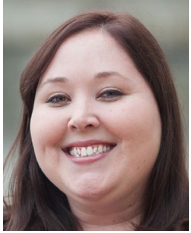
Vesna graduated from California School of Court Reporting (Sage) in 1999 and passed the CSR immediately thereafter. She is a longtime member of NCRA and CalDRA. She is a Registered Professional Reporter and has received the California Certified Realtime Reporter certification. She has been a freelance reporter in Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties for 17 years. She has been CalDRA Director for District 6 for the past two years and looks forward to serving as secretary. She co-chairs the mentoring committee and has been mentoring students for the past six years.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

CALDRA INTRODUCES ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE FOR THE 2017-18 YEAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

TREASURER



ANDREA RINKER-CHAVEZ, CSR No. 13437, CCRR, RPR, CLR

I am proud to be nominated concurrently on the 2017-2018 Board of Directors in the position of Treasurer and District Director.

As DRA's Treasurer, I will ensure that your hard-spent membership dollars are used efficiently and for purposes that will benefit you as our members. Together with our finance chair and our administrative director, our mission will always be to make sure DRA thrives as the premier organization for freelance reporters. Thank you again for your membership!

DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1



KELLI RINAUDO, CSR No. 6411, CCRR, RPR, RMR, CRR, RDR

Counties Represented: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma counties

It is a wonderful compliment to be asked to serve as the District 1 representative for CalDRA and to be involved with the outstanding Board of Directors for 2017-2018. Since day one of DRA's inception, I have admired the contributions it has made to our profession and would rarely miss a convention or seminar. This next year I look forward to interacting with the current membership, growing the membership, collaborating with the board for the common goal of protecting and promoting the profession of uniquely talented people that we are as Certified Shorthand Reporters.

Just a little background about me. I began my reporting career right out of high school in 1981 as a student at Humphrey's Business College in Stockton, California, graduating with an AS degree in 1983 and passing the California CSR exam in August of 1984. I joined NCRA and went on to earn certifications as an RPR, RMR, CRR and RDR, as well as passing the prestigious DRA realtime certification (CCRR). I am licensed in California as well as the states of Washington and New Mexico. Many years ago I also had the honor of serving as a board member of the Bay Area General Reporters Association in the 1990s.

After working as a freelance reporter for a few years in Stockton and San Francisco, I then moved to the beautiful Monterey Peninsula in 1988 and officially established myself as the owner of Monarch Court Reporting in 1997, where I continue to freelance and serve my own clients. I bring 33 years of combined experience reporting cases in depositions and court, public hearings, arbitrations, CART, etc. I strive to inform and educate myself to become a master on the use of current technological advancements in software, hardware, and equipment to be able to provide state-of-the art realtime streaming and video conferencing. I have been passionate and excited about the profession from the beginning and enjoy the diversity of every deposition or assignment and find there's always something new to learn.

Also, I am looking forward to Taco Tuesdays!

DISTRICT 2



KIMBERLY D'URSO, CSR No. 11372, RPR

Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Kern, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Tulare, Yolo and Yuba counties

Kimberly D'Urso is a graduate of Humphreys College. Kimberly is a freelance reporter and has been reporting in California for 20 years. She is a licensed CSR, RPR, working toward her CRR this year.

If elected, I welcome the opportunity to serve as your District 2 director in 2017. I have enjoyed being your District 3 director this past year and being of service to DRA. I value the leadership role that DRA upholds in its commitment to all reporters and the integrity of our wonderful profession of reporting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

CALDRA INTRODUCES ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS SLATE FOR THE 2017-18 YEAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

DISTRICT 3



ERIKA SJOQUIST, CSR No. 12350, RPR, CRR
Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties

I am a veteran court reporter, in the business since 1992. I was first licensed in the state of Washington in April of 1992, reporting depositions in almost every area of law, as well as the occasional pro tem in the courtroom. In 1999, I acquired my RPR certification, and in 2000, received my license in California. In 2001, I moved to Ventura County, CA, where I spent 10 years at Ventura Superior Court, and now am a freelance reporter, reporting depositions, hearings, arbitrations, trials, and special events in areas of California as well as internationally, most recently Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, and Ukraine. Wanting to always improve my skills, in 2009, I passed NCRA's CRR exam and attained my goal of being a realtime certified reporter. In 2015, I thought it was about time to be more involved in my career, making our court reporting profession better than it is, and I signed up to be a member of CalDRA. In February 2016, I became District 8 Representative of CalDRA. I look forward to keeping the momentum going. I love my profession and can't imagine doing anything else.

My home life is busy as well. I have two children, who are not really "children" anymore. My daughter is 21 and my son is 15. We also have a fur baby, Scarlett Darling, our Boxer, who is 8. I enjoy spending time with them, cooking French cuisine, working a bit in the garden/yard, spending time with good friends and family, and traveling.

DISTRICT 4



ANDREA RINKER-CHAVEZ, CSR No. 13437, CCRR, RPR, CLR
Orange County, plus all Professional Members residing in counties or states other than California or the USA.

I am honored and proud to represent DRA for a third year on its Board of Directors as a District Director for Orange County and our out-of-state members. I have been a freelance reporter since 2009, and have been a member of DRA since 2010. Last year I had the pleasure of serving on committees for our CCRR realtime certification test, our GAP seminars for students/new reporters, and chairing the student barbecue committee. I also currently teach the six-week deposition procedures class at South Coast College twice a year in the evenings.

As your District 4 representative, I will continue to pursue different avenues that will allow our profession to thrive, and encourage our members to continue learning and growing to be the absolute best we can be. Thank you very much for your membership, and I look forward to working alongside this distinguished slate of nominees.

DISTRICT 5



TRICIA ROSATE, CSR No. 10891, CCRR, RDR, RMR, CRR, CLR
Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties.

Tricia Rosate, RDR, CRR, is a freelance court reporter from Los Angeles, California. Licensed in 1995, Tricia's primary focus has been reporting depositions in patent, medical malpractice, and construction defect cases.

Tricia serves on the board for the Deposition Reporters Association of California as well as the membership committee. As a proud member of the National Court Reporters Association, she has earned the Registered Diplomat Reporter and Certified Realtime Reporter certifications. She is also a member of the Society for the Technological Advancement or Reporting and StenoCAT Users Network. She is a Certified LiveNote Reporter and holds DRA's California Certificate in Realtime Reporting.

Tricia now lives in sunny San Diego with her husband and three children where she continues to report depositions, arbitrations, and trials..

WHAT'S IN YOUR DICTIONARY?

Ahh, the personal dictionary. Every reporter needs one, and no two are exactly alike. With the ever-evolving climate of the news and new colloquialisms being introduced into our vocabularies on a daily basis, the CAT dictionary has become a fluid document, constantly in need of modification. Here are some entries that every great realtime reporter should consider adding to his or her dictionary:

CURRENT EVENTS	SOCIAL MEDIA	SLANG	CELEBRITIES	THE OBSCURE
Brexit	Twitter	Unfriend(ed)	Beyonce Knowles	Ratatouille
Bremain	Facebook	Bae	Lady Gaga	Helter-skelter
Theresa May	Instagram	Selfie	Taylor Swift	Epicurean
Zika virus	Snapchat	Emoji	Nicki Minaj	Synecdoche
Electoral College	Pinterest	Fleek	Kim Kardashian	Persnickety
Donald Trump	Yelp	LOL	LeBron James	Sophistry
Mike Pence	iPhone	Autocorrect	Gisele Bundchen	Play-Doh
Hillary Clinton	iCloud	Twofer	Pink Floyd	Chutzpah
Tim Kaine	iMessage	Uber(ed)	Ellen DeGeneres	Penumbra
Aleppo	iPad	Lyft	Cirque du Soleil	Scuttlebutt
Syria	iTunes	Bev	Kate Middleton	Narcissus
LGBTQ	Android	Swole	Bruce Springsteen	Usufruct
NAFTA	Spotify	Amazeballs	Paul McCartney	Billingsgate
Trans-Pacific Partnership	Dropbox	Bitcoin	Justin Bieber	Antediluvian
Dakota Access Pipeline	Gmail	Bromance	Tom Cruise	Huevos rancheros
ISIS	LinkedIn	Fro-yo	Angelina Jolie	Sambuca
Fidel Castro	Tumblr	Hangry	Brad Pitt	Ouagadougou
Vladimir Putin	YouTube	Twerk	Jay Z	Kerfuffle
Kim Jong Un	Reddit	YOLO	Madonna	Maracas

Special thanks to Rich Germosen and the participants of Facebook's "Is This In Your Dix" page for their contributions to this list!

HAVE AN ENTRY YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN OUR NEXT FEATURE? E-MAIL IT TO
NEWSLETTEREDITOR@CALDRA.ORG

Ask DRA Telephonic Depo Dilemma

TONI PULONE, CSR 3926

DEAR DEPO DIPLOMAT:

I have an issue that I would like your guidance on, please.

I'm sorry to pester you again – and I think I know the answer but would like your take on it – but if attorneys/parties stipulate that a court reporter can swear a deponent, a non-party deponent, over the phone in a telephonic depo rather than being present with the deponent, is that acceptable under the Codes? Seems to me that if everyone agrees and stipulates that they can stipulate to almost anything, but is that your understanding as well?

DEAR DRA MEMBER:

Yes, that's true, that if the parties stipulate to a modification of the usual procedure required under the Code of Civil Procedure ("CCP"), they can proceed per their stipulation.

However, in this case, there is no need for the stipulation, because the CCP already allows for the deposition of a non-party witness to be taken remotely, with the court's okay, though generally attorneys will simply agree to this and not ask for the court's permission. A party deponent is to appear in person and be in the presence of the depo officer, while the attorneys may be elsewhere and appear remotely, but even a party's depo may be taken remotely with the stipulation of all counsel. The California Rules of Court also contain similar language allowing for depositions to be taken and reported remotely.

And in either case, with the depo of a party or non-party, the deposition officer has the authority to administer the oath to the deponent when the depo is taken by telephone "or other remote electronic means," which could be via videoconference, streaming, Skype, etc. The authority for administering the oath remotely is provided in CCP Section 2093 (b)(2), which extends our power to administer oaths as CSRs to depositions taken remotely.

I'll paste the applicable code sections below for you so you'll have them handy for future reference. I hope this leaves you feeling confident that you can, even without a stipulation by counsel, swear in deponents over the phone or by other remote means.

CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

2025.510.

(a) A person may take, and any person other than the deponent may attend, a deposition by telephone or other remote electronic means.

(b) The court may expressly provide that a nonparty deponent may appear at the deposition by telephone if it finds there is good cause and no prejudice to any party. A party deponent shall appear at the deposition in person and be in the presence of the deposition officer.

(c) The procedures to implement this section shall be established by court order in the specific action or proceeding or by the California Rules of Court.

2093.

(b) (1) A shorthand reporter certified pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 8020) of Chapter 13 of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code has the power to administer oaths and affirmations and may perform the duties of the deposition officer pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 2025.010) of Title 4. The certified shorthand reporter shall be entitled to receive fees for services rendered during a deposition, including fees for deposition services, as specified in subdivision (c) of Section 8211 of the Government Code.

(2) This subdivision shall also apply to depositions taken by telephone or other remote electronic means as specified in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 2017.010) and Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 2025.010) of Title 4.

2016 CALIFORNIA RULES OF COURT

(d) Nonparty deponent's appearance

A nonparty deponent may appear at his or her deposition by telephone, videoconference, or other remote electronic means with court approval upon a finding of good cause and no prejudice to any party. The deponent must be sworn in the presence of the deposition officer or by any other means stipulated to by the parties or ordered by the court. Any party may be personally present at the deposition.

DRA Student Corner

HERE IS WHAT THIS YEAR'S ATTENDEES ARE SAYING ABOUT GAP:



“Hi! Here is a little about my experience: I left the GAP seminar feeling positive, excited, and supported. I am so grateful and appreciative of DRA and the other volunteers who took their whole Saturday -- not to mention the time it took to prepare everything -- to help make our transition into the working world easier.

The fact that the presenters incorporated their own personal experience into everything they were teaching us really helped me understand everything. Besides the big topics that were discussed like taxes and backing up, there were a lot of little things I got from the presentation. For example, reminding an agency that I am a new reporter not only when I first contact them but also when I first get scheduled for a job, asking the interpreter if they would like to state their information after swearing them and the witness in, little things to put on my resume, and a lot more.

This seminar is invaluable to us students. I HIGHLY recommend that a student going to the CSR, just passing the CSR -- no. I HIGHLY recommend that ANY student attend the next GAP seminar. Thank you all!”

SARAH SEITZ

“I’d like to thank Todd, Diane, Aimee, Monyeen, and everyone else who made this GAP training possible. There are so many questions that students have, and it’s good to know there’s professionals out there that are willing to provide answers. I definitely feel more prepared for the working world after attending GAP training. I highly recommend attending an event like this one to all students and new CSRs. Thank you, DRA!”

FRANCISCO FLORES

“There is a glut of vital information to absorb in court reporting. We get a skimming overview in classes as students, but DRA’s GAP Training helps us carve deeper grooves in our brains to retain the information we will need to recall as professionals.

The panel who delivered cautionary tales, useful briefs, financial guidance, and code reminders was diverse in experience. It was helpful to hear perspectives from a new reporter, seasoned reporters, and firm owners.

I learned (and will never forget) what a check interpreter is and how crucial it is to send invoices. I was reminded about the importance of backing up and that we must go on the record when one attorney wants to -- no need for all to agree -- and much more.

Thank you, Monyeen Black, Diane Freeman, Aimee Edwards-Altadonna, and Todd Combs for sharing your knowledge and experience to make the transition from student to professional a little smoother. And thank you to all others involved in making this motivational day happen.”

ANN BREITLER

“I really enjoyed the GAP training! Lots of useful information.

I’m a new-ish reporter (closing in on two years). I think that attending a training such as this both as a student and then also after working for a while is really beneficial. It gives the student new inspiration to finish as well as many things to think about that aren’t really discussed throughout school. I have found that, after working a bit, a lot of the information is now in context and can be put into practice. The presentations about backing up often and in the right way and also planning for tax payments were the most valuable parts of this training for me. The GAP book is also full of really great information, and I’m sure I’ll be referring to it again and again over the years.

Thank you for putting on these trainings; they really are worth every penny!”

CAMBRIA DENLINGER, CSR

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

HERE IS WHAT THIS YEAR'S ATTENDEES ARE SAYING ABOUT GAP:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

“DRA’s bridging the GAP training was an incredibly informative seminar. The transition between school and working as a reporter is something I think that everyone in this career path fears a little bit. This seminar answered all of the questions and worries I had about starting working. Monyeen Black, Diane Freeman, Aimee Edwards-Altadonna, and Todd Combs supplied us with all of their amazing knowledge and expertise in this field, and I don’t think we could have had a better panel to present all of this information to us. I loved hearing stories of theirs about what they have encountered in the real world and how they handled tough situations.

One of my favorite things about the court reporting career path is the community that comes with it. All of the experienced reporters are so eager to help students along to

get out of school, and the panel for the GAP training was no exception. They made sure all of our questions were answered.

This seminar gave me invaluable information as I make my way out of school and into the working world. I would recommend this to all students and new reporters alike. I definitely feel more prepared to start working after attending the GAP training.”

JULIA KALOYEROS





REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

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February 24-26, 2017

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TEAMDRA SUPPORTS DRESS FOR SUCCESS!

NEED A REASON TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET?

TeamDRA will be hosting a drive at the 2017 Napa Convention to benefit Dress for Success Worldwide - West, an international not-for-profit organization that empowers women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and the developmental tools to help women thrive in work and life. Dress for Success has provided clothing, confidence and career boosts to more than 925,000 women around the world since 1997. Since opening its doors in 2009, Dress for Success Worldwide – West has helped more than 6,000 women.

Bring your donations to the convention and we'll take care of the rest! Let's all pay it forward!



Clothing Drive Donation Guidelines

Dress for Success accepts women's office-appropriate, professional attire that is clean; ready-to-wear; new or gently used in all sizes, such as:

- Contemporary suits
- Dresses
- Blazers
- Skirts
- Pants
- Cardigans
- Dress shirts & blouses
- Twin sets
- Handbags & totes
- Accessories: jewelry, belts, scarves
- Dress shoes
- Boots (seasonal)
- New toiletries (must be new/ unopened): hygiene and grooming products, cosmetics
- New hosiery, undergarments and control undergarments

Dress for Success' greatest donation needs are:

- Women's plus-size clothing (size 14 and above)
- Women's business appropriate
- Control undergarments in large sizes
- New, unused, cosmetics

We kindly ask that all career appropriate clothing donations are laundered or dry-cleaned and are ready-to-wear. The following items are NOT accepted:

- Any items that are in need of cleaning or repair
- Sweatshirts, sweatpants, bathrobes and sleepwear
- Opened/ used toiletries, cosmetics, grooming and hygiene products
- Formal wear/ party wear
- Sandals or sneakers
- Children's or men's clothing

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Points



The old saying goes, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” But sometimes, and especially in the case of CalDRA’s photo collage contest, your pictures can be worth valuable points as well! Want to earn \$25 off your next DRA event and have your picture featured on our Instagram and Facebook feeds, as well as our next newsletter? Then play the photo collage game with DRA!

THE GAME WORKS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Collect nine photographs that meet the criteria below
2. Import all nine pictures into a photo collage app (both Android and IOS operating systems have several free photo collage apps available in their Google Play/App Stores)
3. Write a short description of each picture
4. Upload the picture to social media (Instagram or Facebook) with the hashtag #calDRAphotocollage
5. E-mail your submission to newslettereditor@caldra.org
6. The submission consisting of pictures with the highest total point value receives a \$25 credit off their next DRA event and a \$25 Starbucks gift card!
7. Submissions are due by April 30th, 2017.

THE CATEGORIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2 POINTS

- Picture of your setup at a job
- Picture of your shoes at a deposition
- Picture of your home office setup
- Picture of your Stenograph Diamante
- Picture of your ProCAT Impression
- Picture of your security badge/sticker from an office building

5 POINTS

- Picture of your Stenograph Luminex
- Picture of your ProCAT Expression
- Picture of your Stenovations Lightspeed
- Work outfit selfie
- Picture of your uncomfortable depo chair
- Picture of your CSR certificate

6 POINTS

- Picture of your pet with your equipment setup
- Picture of a child playing on your steno machine
- Picture of your realtime setup at a job
- Picture of your DYMO Labelwriter or other label printer as part of your job setup
- Picture of the coffee setup at a deposition

8 POINTS

- Picture of your crowded elevator ride on your way to a job
- Picture of a bumper-to-bumper freeway (from your conference room view only, please!)
- Picture of your steno bag with the stairs you have to navigate to get to your job
- Picture of you with a Board member of CalDRA
- Nighttime view from your conference room on a late deposition
- View of the sunset from your job

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Points

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

10 POINTS

- Picture of you in CalDRA apparel
- Picture of you with another CalDRA member
- Picture of you at a CalDRA event
- Picture of your CalDRA lunch bag at a job
- Picture of a parking sign at your job that charges more than \$40 maximum
- Picture of a job page count that exceeds 300 pages
- Picture of your RPR certificate

15 POINTS

- Picture of your RMR or CRR certificate
- Picture of your archived steno paper
- Picture of you at a deposition with a student intern
- Picture of you with CalDRA's president, Monyeen Black
- Picture of an animal attending your deposition proceeding

25 POINTS

- Picture of your steno setup with either the Golden Gate Bridge or the Hollywood sign in the background
- Picture of you with an attorney at a job
- Picture of your RDR certificate
- Picture of your personalized steno license plate

Contest Rules and Regulations: Only current CalDRA members are eligible to participate. One win per member per calendar year. \$25 Credit is nontransferable. Credit may be used for a single CalDRA event registration totaling at least \$99 before the earned credit is applied. Credit may not be used to pay membership dues. Credit must be used within 24 months of the date of issue. Multiple entries will not be accepted. Sorry, but CalDRA Board of Directors members are not eligible to participate.



Text and the City

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PLAYED TENNIS

BY VANESSA CAPARAS, CSR



In grade school, every summer my friend Karly and I attended tennis camp at Singing Hill Tennis Club in El Cajon. I liked tennis. I remember watching Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl, and the notorious Joÿ McEnroe

on T.V. after school at her house. I took lessons up through middle school and played on my high school team. I'm left-handed, but I could play as well with my right hand.

But I haven't played since graduating high school in 1991. So why did my doctor diagnose me with tennis elbow last year?

One morning in September, I wake up with my left elbow throbbing. Hmm. Maybe I just need coffee in my system? That seems to be the cure-all. I can already taste it in the air coming from the metallic hot pink Cuisinart auto-brew coffeemaker in my kitchen. Please let there be enough cinnamon vanilla creamer in the fridge to heal me. I just got back from working two days in San Francisco with over 700 pages, and my scopist is still at her yoga retreat.

At that time, I didn't dare venture out into Online Land to search for another potential scopist match. No way. That last one changed "laissez-faire" to "blase fare," and auto fender "grille" to auto fender "grill." The one before that kept having emergency situations that wouldn't allow her to complete my jobs, informing me on the agreed-upon due date. I've had better luck with online dating than online scopists. And if you know me, that's not a huge success. Ask Toni Pulone to tell you about the guy who lied to me about his height.

"I guess I'll just stay up all night and do it myself, then send it to my proofreader. I'll work out tomorrow afternoon. Too tired and I haven't eaten yet. Hmm. I have some yogurt, two bottles of Veuve and some sushi in my fridge."



Fast-forward a few weeks later – a diagnosis. Bilateral epicondylitis, more commonly known as "tennis elbow." I guess the coffee didn't seem to help, because a month later, I had it in BOTH arms. This condition is not good if you use your arms on a daily basis. It's even worse if you're a single, freelance court reporter without disability insurance. Yikes.

"So, Doctor, fix me. When can I go back to work? How long is this going to take? I've got upcoming expert depositions in a case I've been on for two years; that goes to trial in two months, and I am getting worse. I've taken three months off of work, done physical therapy, cortisone shots, anti-inflammatories, painkillers, ice, heat, chiropractic care, acupuncture, deep tissue massage, and two MRIs. What's next? Surgery? What are PRP injections? How long is the recovery? How soon can I get back to normal? But more importantly, when am I going to be out of pain?"

Each visit I would get more and more frustrated and impatient. My mind would race, and thoughts would go in every direction. I didn't have control. Everything was up in the air and unknown. I felt like I was just atrophying.

While having lunch with my friend, I said, "I feel the need

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CONTINUE ON PAGE 17

Text and the City

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PLAYED TENNIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16



to submerge myself in water and relax. My whole body just aches. Maybe I'll go in my pool and float around on a raft. I could use a tan. I haven't had a suntan since 2009. You've never seen me with a tan, have you? Maybe all I need is a healthy dose of Vitamin D."

He said, "Why don't you go to one of those float spas? You know, like the pods, the cocoon thing. Or the tank."

"No, I don't know what sort of alien space device you're describing. Stop making stuff up. I'm serious."

And so was he.

The next week, I found Flot on Yelp, and it just happened to be within walking distance of my place downtown. It's a spa that specializes in sensory deprivation tanks. For an hour, you float in a shallow pool of body-temperature Epsom salt water in an enclosed tank. It's pitch black. No sound.

I arrived at the facility, greeted by a lovely young woman who was excited that I was a new floater. She showed me to a room with a shower and a door that led to the tank. After a few instructions, she smiled and left.

I opened the door and stepped in. My first reaction was fear. Childhood fear. I felt betrayed, abandoned and hurt. Like, scared-of-the-dark fear. I sat up and cracked the door open, like a night-light. Just a sliver of light that gave me a sense of direction. I closed my eyes and started the breathing technique I learned in acupuncture. Breathe in for 4, hold for 7, out for 8. Repeat.

My mind raced. Did I just pay \$40 to be alone in the dark? The silence was unfamiliar. Then the thoughts started to march in. Intrusive thoughts, criticizing thoughts, all-the-things-I-have-to-do thoughts. They disrupted the quiet and crashed my float session uninvited. The more I countered them, the louder they got until I just let go.

It all stopped. The atmosphere shifted from madness to pure bliss. I was in space. Weightless. It was like swaying in a hammock in the sky at night, but I couldn't feel anything. I felt flawless. There was no noise or chaos. The only thing I could hear was my heart beating. That's when it hit me. "Stop. Just stop. Every day you jumpstart me with coffee filled with sugary creamer, then dive right into work, text messages or the news. You take me for granted and assume I'm going to keep going. You neglect and criticize me."

It took complete silence and freedom from all distraction in a pool of a thousand pounds of Epsom salt to hear what my body had been hinting at me for years, then more aggressively in September. "Be kind to me."

Be good to yourself.

CALDRA VISITS HUMPHREYS COLLEGE

BY KIMBERLY D'URSO, CSR, DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR

I recently had the distinct pleasure of speaking to students and CSR candidates at Humphreys College. What a thrill to see my past instructor, Kay Reindl, who is now Chair of the reporting program, as well as other faces from the past.

I thoroughly enjoyed sharing with the attendees my experiences from the past 20 years, answering their questions, as well as offering advice on what it takes to be an excellent reporter in the field. This is a bright and talented group of women.

Two CSR candidates, Rebecca Diaz and Kate Serpa, have just taken the November test and are now anxiously awaiting the results of their exam. DRA wishes them the best of luck!





Help Wanted: CalDRA ISO Volunteer Assistant Newsletter Editor!

Are you a CalDRA member that loves to write? Want to stay updated on current events in the industry? Looking for a great volunteer opportunity? Then look no further! CalDRA is currently in search of an assistant newsletter editor for our quarterly online publication, the Deposition Reporter. A qualified candidate should be a professional CalDRA member who is engaged in the industry and has a strong writing background. Tasks include: article brainstorming, member outreach for volunteer writers, and newsletter layout planning. No graphic design experience is necessary.

For more information or to apply for the position, please contact Cheryl Haab at

newslettereditor@caldra.org

We asked our Board of Directors... What are you thankful for this holiday season?

"I am thankful for expedites and realtime jobs, but I'm especially thankful that my (new) husband has dinner ready when I come home!"

.....
ANDREA RINKER, DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR

"I am deeply grateful for a career that affords me opportunities to work hard and make money, yet also allows me to take time off for family, like my father's recent quintuple bypass."

.....
KIMBERLY D'URSO, DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR

"I am grateful to be engaged in a career that offers not mental stimulation and competitive pay, but also the flexibility to devote time to pursuits that truly matter, such as spending time with the people I love most -- my amazing boyfriend and son, my biggest cheerleaders."

.....
CHERYL HAAB, DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR

"I am thankful for so much. I am always grateful for good health and a roof over our heads. I am also so blessed to have a very supportive husband. Without his encouragement, I never would have rode a motorcycle over 1000 miles in under 24 hours (Iron Butt Association). Without his encouragement, I would not have accepted the presidency position. He pushes me when he knows I am capable to achieve something but I doubt myself."

.....
MONYEEN BLACK, PRESIDENT



POP QUIZ!

CHARLOTTE A. MATHIAS



CSR 9792
California CSR 9792,
Oklahoma CSR 1976, RPR
Residence: Antelope, California
(Sacramento County)

How long have you been reporting?

23 years.

How did you first get involved with DRA?

Annette Snyder of Oakland got me involved many years ago when DRA was first beginning.

Where did you grow up?

South Bay Area (Sunnyvale, Santa Clara).

Tell us about your family.

I have one daughter, who served in the Air Force. I have one son, who got is his BM in vocal performance last year. He is also my scopist and proofreader. I have a lovely 6-year-old granddaughter named Abby. I also have five sisters.

Do you have any pets?

Yes. I've always enjoyed the company of cats, but in the last 10 years, I've been certified as a cat lady. I still don't know how it happened, but it is what it is.

Who is your celebrity crush?

Chris Hemsworth, he is a God.

What do you like to do when you're not reporting?

Hiking, hunting, fishing, sewing, Pokemon Go is my addiction right now. I used to rock climb in my fitter days. I also like whodunits. I also enjoy reading (not proofreading) historical novels or mysteries.

If you could do it all over again, would you choose court reporting as a career?

Yes. I was a costumer in the Bay Area prior to becoming a reporter. When I made the move to reporter, I didn't know the years would fly so fast. I enjoy the challenge and the fact I learn something new every day. I think I'm an advocate for the profession. I have an enthusiasm of the profession that I share with my intern group.

What is one professional accomplishment you would still like to achieve?

I want my realtime certificate. I'm working on it when I'm not reporting five days a week.

What is the most exotic place you have ever taken a deposition?

Unfortunately, I've not had the kind of exotic locations I was hoping for. A barn was the closest thing to exotic as I got. There was only one hay bale, and the attorneys sat down and looked at me. I gave them the "eye" and said, "Really?" They both got up and I got the prickly hay bale for a chair. The aroma was overwhelming the entire job. I had to have the witness repeat a few times as all I heard was the mooing and clucking of the critters around.

What is your secret talent?

I assume you want to know of my court reporting talent. I love to brief, write short and use the number bar in a manner not taught in schools. My secret talent not relating to court reporting is the costumes I make for my family. I love the Renaissance period and my children have costumes.

What advice would you give to a struggling court reporting student?

Don't worry about realtime while in school. Just write what you hear. Don't listen to the negative people in school. It's like a virus. You don't need the negativity disease. Practice, practice, practice.

Who do you turn to when you're in need of inspiration?

My son is great at refocusing my drive. He's a solid kid. Also, I'm pretty self-motivated when I need inspiration. I've had cancer twice, and it has given me some perspective that I didn't have prior to the cancer dance.

What is your favorite thing about your job?

Learning something new, the paycheck, the freedom to take time off (hahaha) when I want and no one bugs me about vacation time. The way the court reporting community came to help me when I had to have radiation therapy every day and they gave me local jobs for six weeks.

What is one thing you wish you could change about your job?

The SoCal stip.

How has your career changed for the better since you first started reporting?

No paper. Ease of realtime hookups.

What is the best reporting-related technology investment you have made thus far?

My steno machine. Couldn't do the job without that. My scanner for scanning exhibits. My Live Deposition system is great.

Why is DRA membership important to you?

It has helped me reconnect to reporters. This can be a lonely field. It's important to have mentors and friends you can share ideas and experiences with.

THE ANSWER IS... TACOS!

How does that old saying go? When the going gets tough, the tough... eat tacos!

CalDRA has spent much of 2016 engaged in the grand Californian practice of celebrating Taco Tuesday with its members. Here are some great snaps of our court reporter get-togethers across the state over some margaritas, chips, salsa, and guac.



Looking forward to many more to come!

For more information on our upcoming Taco Tuesday events, visit our CalDRA Facebook page, or reach out to your local District Director.




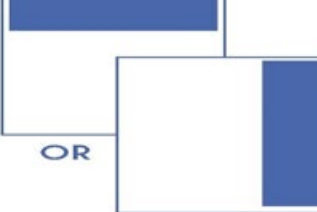
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NCRF announces new initiative for veterans who are hard of hearing

National Court Reporters Foundation expands its Oral Histories Program

RESTON, Va., Nov. 15, 2016— The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF), the charitable arm of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters and captioners, has unveiled the Hard-of-Hearing Heroes Project initiative as part of its Oral Histories Program. This project aims to capture the personal experiences of veterans with hearing loss for the Veterans History Project (VHP) through the use of Communications Access Realtime Translation (CART) captioning.

Since 2003, NCRF has collaborated with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project to both complete oral history interviews of the nation's war veterans and to transcribe pre-recorded interviews from the Library's collections. Court reporters are uniquely qualified to transcribe these interviews as certifications in their profession require keyboarding speed of at least 225 words per minute. The transcribed interviews are then archived by the LOC and made available for use by researchers and the general public. The new initiative is expected to reach a group of veterans who have been previously underserved but who can now share their stories for inclusion in the VHP.

According to the U.S. Veterans Administration, hearing loss is among the most common service-related injuries and is attributed in large part to the constant exposure to high noise levels in both training and combat operations. The statistics have continued to worsen as weaponry has become more advanced in more recent conflicts. According to the Hearing Health Foundation, 60 percent of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer some form of hearing loss.

"This is a common affliction among those who have served in war zones, which is why the Hard-of-Hearing Heroes Project will be beneficial in ensuring that all veterans have the opportunity to share their stories for the VHP," said Nancy Hopp, RDR, CRR, CMRS, NCRF Chair, from St. Louis, Mo. Hopp, a freelance court reporter, said her own father suffered a partial hearing loss from a shell that went off in his immediate vicinity during combat.



HARD-OF-HEARING HEROES PROJECT

At a typical VHP Day, multiple veterans are individually interviewed simultaneously while a court reporter takes the interview down live. For the Hard-of-Hearing Heroes Project, the process will be the same with the addition of a CART captioner to provide text in realtime on a screen in front of the veteran who is hard of hearing.

"The Hard-of-Hearing Heroes Project is a natural convergence of our current partnership with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project and the services that court reporters and captioners provide individuals who are hard of hearing on a daily basis," said Mike Nelson, CEO & Executive Director of NCRA and NCRF. "The written record of these veterans' interviews not only provides a searchable database that is used for research purposes by students, archivists, and Congress, but the interviews help us get a sense of the struggles of war and the sacrifices our protectors have made to guard our freedoms. We as a nation and society are so indebted to our veterans and so grateful for their selfless service."

NCRF will work with hearing loss and veterans organizations to recruit veterans with hearing loss to be interviewed at VHP Days hosted by NCRF, as well as those conducted by reporters across the country. One of these partner organizations is the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA).

CONTINUE ON PAGE 24

NCRF announces new initiative for veterans who are hard of hearing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

NCRF will host a kickoff event of its own during the 2017 Court Reporting & Captioning Week, Feb. 11-18, and encourages other firms and individuals to do the same.

“Caption First has provided realtime captioning to individuals with hearing loss in their work and personal lives for over 27 years. Our focus is to bring both access and dignity to persons with hearing loss. Deafness so often cuts people off, and reasonable accommodations reconnect them,” said Pat Graves, RDR, CRR, CRC, founder and president of Caption First, from Monument, Colo.

“Millions of veterans have returned from war with hearing loss, which is why linking them with the skills of realtime captioners is the perfect vehicle for capturing their personal stories for the Veterans History Project. We look forward to our involvement in this worthy endeavor and encourage other CART captioners across the country to participate as well.”

For more information about NCRF’s Hard-of-Hearing Heroes initiative, contact April Weiner, Foundation Manager at aweiner@ncra.org.

Career information about the court reporting profession—one of the leading career options that does not require a traditional four-year degree—can be found at crTakeNote.com.

About NCRA

The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) is internationally recognized for promoting excellence among those who capture and convert the spoken word to text for more than 100 years. NCRA is committed to supporting its more than 16,000 members in achieving the highest level of professional expertise with educational opportunities and industry-recognized court reporting, educator and videographer certification programs. NCRA impacts legislative issues and the global marketplace through its actively involved membership. Forbes has named court reporting as one of the best career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the court reporting field is expected to grow by 14 percent through the year 2020. For more information, visit NCRA.org.

WHAT’S NEW AT THE COURT REPORTERS BOARD OF CALIFORNIA?

“The mission of the Court Reporters Board is to protect the public health, safety and welfare by ensuring the integrity of judicial records through oversight of the court reporting profession. The CRB carries out this mission by testing, licensing and disciplining court reporters, and by recognizing the schools of court reporting that meet state curriculum standards.”

Minimum Transcript Format Standards

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In Memoriam



Anita Paul

CalDRA thanks you for your tireless service to the profession, and for the many lives you touched during your time with us.

You will be missed



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