

Student Newsletter - April 2011

Lorrie L. Marchant, Editor – studentnewslettereditor@caldra.org

Reporter and Student Events:

*** DRA'S STUDENT BARBECUE ***



Date: Saturday, May 21, 2011
Start Time: 11:00 am **End Time:** 2:00 pm
Price: \$5 member, \$15 non-member

Tilden Regional Park – Island picnic area
Berkeley, CA

1-888-327-2757
www.ebparks.org

AND

Cerritos Regional County Park
19800 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703

CEU Grab-n-Go

Date: September 24, 2011
Start Time: 9:00 am **End Time:** 5:00 pm
Location: TBD
San Diego, California
More Info: <http://www.caldra.org>

DRA's 16th Annual Convention

Date: February 24 - 26, 2012
Location: Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa
400 Cannery Row, Monterey, CA

Contact: Vicki Squires
Email: cal_dra@yahoo.com
Phone: 888-867-2074



Is there an issue you would like to know about? Have a question or a story to share? Write to SNLeditor@caldra.org

Current Legislative Update – April 2011:

DRA & CCRA Co-Sponsor Legislation to Require Continuing Ed for Reporters

The Deposition Reporters Association is pleased to announce that we are co-sponsoring California legislation with CCRA to enact continuing education requirements for court reporters, something that is long overdue and was one of the priorities set by *you*, our members, in DRA's "There Oughta Be A Law" fall seminars.

The legislation is Senate Bill 671, authored by Senator Curren Price. When Senator Price was an Assembly member, he introduced the law we wrote which is making it easier for you to collect from attorneys, AB 1211 (the major accomplishment of DRA's "Project Collect"). That law was also co-sponsored by CCRA.

As technology continues to change rapidly, as litigation grows more complex and the judicial system becomes more sophisticated, effective preparation and continuing education and development to meet the changing demands of the profession proves even more critical.

The goal of continuing ed programs is to raise the level of competence and professionalism of the practitioners in the industry. For the individual practitioner, continuing ed provides an independent validation of competence that reporters can use to distinguish themselves in the market. There is clearly a public stake in the competent performance of reporters, and in some cases life and liberty rely on the record.

In addition to the goal of protecting the public, regulatory programs have two primary objectives that benefit the occupation and the practitioner: to raise the standards of the profession and to raise the personal performance of reporters, requiring them to remain current in a rapidly changing field. Continuing education increases a reporter's respect and recognition, enhances marketability, provides professional credibility, assures professional competence and offers recognition of the individual's expertise and knowledge.

Furthermore, these benefits go beyond the individual reporter and profession to the users of court reporting services. When continuing education requirements are in place, judges, attorneys and the public know that they are paying for quality. By including a requirement for continuing ed, California can guarantee that it continues to have informed, up-to-date and knowledgeable reporters serving the needs of the justice system.

DRA Scholarship Winners

The Deposition Reporters Association has a scholarship program to award financial assistance to deserving reporting students throughout California. Scholarships are awarded yearly, based on the applicants' grades, financial need, participation in reporting activities and organizations, letters of recommendation, essays, and interviews conducted by the DRA Scholarship Committee.

DRA congratulates the 2010 winners of the \$1,000 scholarship awards:

Shirley Lynn from Downey Adult School

Tara Muckenfuss from Argonaut/Charles A. Jones Skills Center

Jessica Guardado from Downey Adult School

Congratulations to these very deserving recipients! DRA is proud to be able to help such motivated, enthusiastic, promising future reporters to attain their goals.

Two of our winners attended the DRA Disneyland convention and were honored at the Saturday luncheon. Here is what they had to say about their convention experience:



Jessica Guardado:

When I started the Court Reporter program I never dreamed that I would receive so much support from the Deposition Reporters Association. They have their annual student barbeque; students are invited to their seminars; they offer a fantastic scholarship; and they make sure to have a special student track at their annual convention. DRA goes out of their way to make sure that we students have the proper guidance and information.

My experience with the DRA scholarship committee has been an enjoyable one. From answering my questions during the application process, to the interviews, to the phone call notifying me of the award, there is not one thing that I would change about it.

Receiving my award in front of hundreds of court reporters made me a little tense, but that was such a small part compared to the vast number of events and surprises at the convention. I cannot express the gratitude I feel for every presenter, speaker, reporter, and student that attended the convention. I learned more in three days at Disneyland than I ever could have imagined. The wealth of information that the speakers have and are willing to share is invaluable. Perhaps the greatest value that weekend was not the amount of the scholarship, but the knowledge that I obtained.

Shirley Lynn:

The DRA convention was such an inspiring and informative experience. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to attend and be able to learn so much about our field.

All of the speakers were able to show me a greater perspective about what goes on in the working environment and what areas of court reporting there are to pursue. The speakers really opened my eyes to all the work DRA does in order to protect our jobs and to protect the way we are treated in the working environment.

I learned so much from each of the speakers at the convention and each fellow court reporter that attended the convention. Everyone was so willing to share their experiences, and for that I am grateful and a better person.

It was most inspiring to be among court reporters that are a part of the DRA who have made it and are out there working and making a difference. Each member has been in our shoes, and to hear each person's advice and encouragement really helped me to keep believing in myself and working towards the end goal.

My suggestion to anyone is to definitely come out to events held by DRA, who are there working on our behalf to make the working world a better place for us. It will definitely renew any aspiring court reporter and make you proud to be a part of this phenomenal career.

DRA's Mission Statement:

DRA represents Certified Shorthand Reporters who report depositions and out-of-court proceedings in the State of California, as well as captioners and CART providers. DRA strives to preserve and enhance the stenographic reporting profession, ensure its integrity, and maintain its high standards and impartiality wherever stenographic services are required. DRA is committed to ensuring that the stenographic reporting profession remains a viable and integral part of the legal system.

Did You know??

- DRA has an annual scholarship for students?
- A DRA Student Membership is **ONLY** \$30 annually?
- DRA has eight district reps to serve you, covering every county in California?
- DRA's Mentor Program is FREE?



DRA_TWEETS



Visit our Web site at www.caldra.org

Integrity, Leadership, Education