

## Student Newsletter - December 2010

April Heveroh, Editor – [SNLeditor@caldra.org](mailto:SNLeditor@caldra.org)

### Reporter and Student Events:

#### **DRA's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

**Date:** Friday, February 18-20, 2011

**Location: Disneyland Hotel**  
Anaheim, CA

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to learn about reporting, see firsthand the cutting-edge technology in reporting equipment, and enjoy yourselves at the fabulous Disneyland Park!!!

#### **Steno Reporters v. Machines**

As many of you are aware by now, a few months ago Governor Schwarzenegger was quoted as suggesting that court reporters should be replaced by machines. His quotes demonstrated such a complete misunderstanding of our profession that DRA felt a more personal and direct response was appropriate and in fact overdue. President Lisa Michaels composed a video with a point-by-point rebuttal and response to the Governor's comments. It has had well over 13,000 hits! It can be viewed at <http://www.caldra.org>.

On October 7, 2010, the Deposition Reporters Association asked you in an e-note to vote in the on-line Orange County Register poll asking whether court reporters could be replaced by machines. Your response has been nothing short of remarkable. Currently in excess of 750 votes have been cast, with 95% against the idea that reporters can be replaced by machines, and the numbers continue to rise every day. The individual comments that have been posted are very entertaining and enlightening. This comment sparked a barrage of responses: "Gee, another shocker. Court reporters who make a living at court reporting think that modern technology cannot replace their services and consequently take away their source of income. I once knew a guy who used to repair rotary dials on telephones. He thought he was irreplaceable too."

Vote results and comments can be viewed at:

<http://totalbuzz.ocregister.com/2010/10/01/oc-womans-jab-at-arnold-makes-her-a-court-reporting-star/41576/>.

*FORTUNATELY, DUE IN LARGE PART TO DRA'S EFFORTS TO EDUCATE THOSE INVOLVED, THE LEGISLATURE HAS COME UP WITH A BUDGET THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE REPLACING COURT REPORTERS WITH MACHINES.*

But the issue is sure to persist into the next administration. We cannot afford to let up on our education efforts. We must take advantage of every opportunity to point out the benefits of live reporters and the fallibility of machines. DRA has compiled an entire library of historical and anecdotal data on the failings of digital recording in the judicial arena, available to anyone who would like to access it, for the small price of membership. Your support allows us to continue our ongoing efforts to protect and preserve this profession: **DRA Document Library**

#### **West Valley Update**

If you attended the Deposition Reporters Association's February 2010 Convention, you might remember that DRA publicly vowed to save the court reporting program at West Valley College in Silicon Valley. The college's policy-making Academic Senate had already slated the program for elimination. Those opposed to closure had just weeks to get the Senate to reverse itself and save the program.

**In that few short weeks, DRA accomplished the following:**

Mobilized three area Assembly members to help, all three of whom submitted letters of support, two of whom sent representatives to speak at the critical Senate hearing on the decision whether to close or retain the program.  
Submitted a petition with well over 100 CSR signatories asking that the program be retained.  
Did the organizing required to pack the hearing room with vocal DRA members opposed to closure of the program.

Working together with our membership, we won! The Senate reversed itself and voted to save the program. The West Valley College court reporting department is now celebrating the honor of having been successful in its application for a U.S. Department of Education grant for \$262,838!!! The title of the grant is "Training For Realtime Writers."

**A big thank-you to all those who joined DRA in playing a role in this success story!**

Is there an issue you would like to know about? Have a question or a story to share? Write to [SNLeditor@caldra.org](mailto:SNLeditor@caldra.org)



## April's Briefs

Accident	- SDENT	Does	- SD
Accident happen	- SDEP	Does not	- SD-N
Accident happened	- SDEPD	Doesn't	- SD-NT
Accident happening	- SDEPG	Opportune	- TUN
Accident occur	- SDUR	Opportunity	- TUNT
Accident occurred	- SDURD	Police	- PLES
Accident occurring	- SDURG	Policeman	- PLAM
Desire	- SDAOIR	Policemen	- PLEM
Desired	- SDAOIRD	Police officer	- PLAOFR
Design	- SDAOIN	Police Dept.	- PLEPT
Designed	- SDAOIND	Satisfy	- SAF
Designing	- SDAOING	Satisfied	- SAFD
Disease	- SD-Z	Satisfaction	- SAFGS
Diagnose	- D-G	Satisfactory	- SAFT
Diagnosis	- D-GS	Satisfactorily	- SAFLT

## Is Court Reporting Still a Viable Profession?

Part 2

By April Heveroh

By now I'm sure many students have pondered over whether or not it is worth it to stick it out in reporting school when there is so much talk of the threat of being replaced with electronic recording. Many of you also may have viewed the video by DRA's President, Lisa Michaels, addressed to our Governor setting the record straight. If you haven't, you are missing out on one of the best examples of why our profession is so unique and irreplaceable.

Besides the opportunities for court reporters to work in court or freelance in the deposition world, there are other means of reporters making a living.

Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), also referred to as realtime captioning or live-event captioning, is a way to transcribe the spoken word into readable English text using a stenotype machine, notebook computer, and realtime software. Through the services of CART providers using the latest realtime technology combined with a stenotype machine and notebook computer, the text appears on a computer monitor or other display and serves as an important communication tool for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or learning a second language. CART provides a complete translation of all spoken words and environmental sounds for the benefit of an individual consumer or larger group in a variety of settings, including classrooms, courtrooms, religious services, conventions and conferences, personal appointments and events, civic events, cultural presentations, or anywhere communication access is needed. Increasingly, CART is being provided remotely via the Internet or a telephone connection.

A CART provider is a highly trained professional who possesses the advanced skills required to impartially, effectively, and accurately perform realtime translation.

The Americans with Disabilities Act specifically recognizes CART as an assistive technology which affords "effective communication access." Communication access more aptly describes a CART provider's role and distinguishes CART from realtime reporting in a traditional litigation setting.

## CART FACTS

CART providers most often work as independent contractors.

More than 28 million Americans are considered deaf or had some form of hearing loss.

In 1995 one-third of persons 70 years of age and over were hearing impaired.

Broadcast captioners, also called stenocaptioners, use stenotype machines and realtime technology to produce instantaneous English text, which appears on the television screen for the benefit of the more than 28 million deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans, as well as non-native speakers of English who are learning the language and for general use in noisy places, like gyms, bars, and airports. Captioners work for local stations and networks captioning news, emergency broadcasts, sporting events, and other programming.

Broadcast captioning offers people who are deaf or hard of hearing the ability to obtain news and other vital information from live television. Broadcast captioning also opens up the world to the deaf and hard-of-hearing by allowing them to interact and participate in civic and personal events, such as city council meetings, medical appointments, church services, etc.

## CAPTIONING FACTS

Captioners may work from home as independent contractors or in-house for established companies.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires that by 2006, 100 percent of all new programming in the top 25 markets must be captioned.

More than 28 million Americans are considered deaf or hard of hearing.

In 1995 one-third of persons 70 years of age and over had some form of hearing loss.

Empirical research demonstrates that captioning can help the 12 million young children learning to read and the 30 million people for whom English is a second language.

## Did You know??

- Many students have their convention fees sponsored by reporters?
- DRA's newsletter is now available to members and non-members? DRA's Mentor Program is FREE to student members?
- 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\_TWEETS

