

November 2013

# Student Newsletter

DEPOSITION  
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION  
OF CALIFORNIA

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If you're getting ready to cross over into the working world, let DRA help you bridge the GAP from the classroom to working reporter. Our GAP training is a one-day seminar packed full of information from creating your résumé, landing and taking your first job, how to handle different scenarios you might face in the deposition room, all the way through to taxes and insurance. If crossing that bridge into the working world is making you nervous, you're not alone. Let DRA help you build that bridge across those shark-infested waters and start you off on the right foot.



**November 23, 2013**  
**9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**Lunch is included.**

#### **Location**

West Valley Community College  
14000 Fruitvale Avenue  
Applied Arts and Sciences Building, Room 10  
Saratoga, CA 95070-5698  
The seminar will be held in the AAS building located on the Fruitvale Avenue side of campus and is located near Parking Lots 3 and 4.  
Parking fees - \$3.00

[\*\*PRINT WEST VALLEY COLLEGE CAMPUS MAP\*\*](#)

**REGISTRATION FEES:** **Students:** Members - \$99 Non-members - \$139\*  
**Professionals:** Members - \$149 Non-members - \$309\*

*\*Save \$10, plus receive one year of DRA membership - [join DRA today!](#)*  
[\*\*CLICK HERE TO REGISTER\*\*](#)

~The nation's largest trade association dedicated to the freelance deposition reporter ~



HURRY – TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Don't forget to apply for DRA's \$1000 student scholarship!

There will be two lucky winners, so don't let this great opportunity for FREE money get away.

## Deposition Reporters Association of California, Inc.



### 2014 Scholarship

FOR  
MORE  
DETAILS  
OR  
TO  
APPLY  
[CLICK  
HERE](#)

#### Attention All Stenographic Court Reporting Students

*DRA is proud to offer two \$1000 Scholarships to two deserving California court reporting students! To qualify, the applicant must be a DRA student member, currently enrolled in CR school and at 180 wpm or above. What do you have to lose? **Application deadline is 11-15-13.** Apply today and DRA may help finance the path to your future career in court reporting!*



**THANK YOU TO OUR DRA CORPORATE SPONSORS!**



***Save the Date! February 21-23, 2014***  
***DRA's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention – Palm Springs***

**Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa**  
**71333 Dinah Shore Drive**  
**Rancho Mirage, CA 92270**



**You won't want to  
miss the Student  
Track at DRA's 2014  
annual convention!**



***A Year in the Life of a New CSR***

Mikey McMorran and Jessie Love share the ups and downs of their first year as new reporters. This is an excellent session for the advanced student and new CSR. Mikey and Jessie talk about their challenges and victories, what they'd do differently, tips for networking and finding work, and how they successfully made the transition from student to reporting professional.

***Bridging the Gap I and II***

Court reporting school prepares you for the CSR exam, but who will help you bridge the gap from student to working reporter? DRA is proud to introduce its groundbreaking Bridging the Gap training series for advanced students and new professionals. Get an introductory look at this first-of-its-kind intensive training and learn about working with agencies, building your professional image and reputation, equipment, software, exhibits, parentheticals, video and interpreted depositions, recordkeeping, taxes, and so much more. Don't miss this opportunity to increase your knowledge and make yourself a more confident, marketable reporter.

***Managing Student Loan Debt***

Are you ready to get a grip on your student loan debt? Widely recognized by school professionals and media representatives as an expert source of information, Heather Jarvis has trained thousands of students and professionals and is sought after for her sophisticated legal knowledge and accessible teaching style. Her serious legal expertise and plain talk unravels confusing student loan repayment information once and for all. This is an excellent opportunity for students, working reporters and parents to learn about their options, including repayment, consolidation, and even debt forgiveness.

**Mock CSR – Deposition**

**Mock CSR - Court**



## *My Journey to the November 2013 CSR Exam*

*By: Ivy Reid*

My journey to the California CSR began on January 2, 2008. At age 20, working full-time, I decided that I wanted to enroll into court reporting school. I was told that the court reporting program was intended for very hard-working and dedicated students. I always loved English and writing, so I knew this was for me.

Upon starting my theory, I realized that I loved the machine, and learning the new language of Steno. After being in theory for a year, I began my speed classes. Starting at 40 wpm was so exciting, and I loved the feeling of passing my tests. However, as my speed began to progress and with working full-time, going to school 3 days a week -- getting home at 10:00 pm was starting to catch up with me. But, hey, I was still dedicated. I even celebrated my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday at South Coast College in my English class -- that's dedication.

My first experience of hitting a road block was in 120 wpm. I was going through some personal issues, and feeling the pain of lack of sleep and feeling like there just wasn't enough time to practice -- I couldn't pass my last test. It took me 8 full months to complete all my 120 tests. After that experience I decided I needed to change up my practice routine and change my focus. I sought out the advice from my teachers who told me that I should go back to my theory book. I took their advice, and it ended up being just the push I needed to get me through 130-150.

Being a night student and working full-time is one of the most difficult things I've ever decided to do. Going through 150-170 wpm, I would say that I just coasted through. It was really hard at times to stay focused, and of course, having a full-time job, and late nights made it really difficult to transcribe tests or even practice on my free time. The best way to describe how I felt would be to say I was just "going through the motions." For almost 2 years I was a 170 goal student and could not pass my last test -- the dreaded 10-minute unfamiliar test. I was completely stuck.

If there's one thing in life you need, no matter what you're doing, it is support. Support from your family, support from your significant other, support from your friends. Without this, life can be very difficult. A lot of my success in school has been because I have had the emotional and motivational support from my family and friends. Sometime in early 2012 my family sat me down and told me that they wanted me to finish school, and they wanted to help me do that in any way they could. This thought still brings tears to my eyes, because 6 months later, after selling my car, paying off all my debt, and saving money, I was enrolled as a full-time day student, and my mom was enrolled as a full-time driver.

(cont'd on page 4)





## *My Journey to the November 2013 CSR Exam*

(cont'd from page 3)



August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 was my first day as a full-time student and still at 170 wpm. Within 3 months of my hard work – 30 hours or more a week practicing, plus 25 hours of school – I passed out of 170 and 180. For me, 170 was my most difficult and challenging speed. It came with a lot of tears and hard work. Finally, starting the new year of 2013 I was now at 190 wpm.

Being a 190 goal speed student, my whole outlook had changed on school. My love for my machine and my future career had been renewed. My eagerness to finish was insatiable. I couldn't wait to be done, so that I could finally start my new career. I heard about the DRA and signed up just in time to attend my first DRA convention in February. Talk about motivation. It was one of the coolest experiences I've had as a student to see all the reporters and be a part of their awesome energy.

Shortly after that I had heard that they had a mentoring program. I've always been told that I should have a mentor to help me with any questions that I may have as a student and in the future. So I applied for a mentor as soon as I had the chance. I was matched with one of the most amazing people I know, and I was able to complete some of my apprentice hours with her. And I continue to ask her questions almost weekly.

In the meantime, my practicing routine had changed drastically from practicing about an extra 5 hours a day to about 3, and I had started to transcribe a new 190 or 200 every day. My schedule was focused all around transcribing, yoga, and then on my machine practicing until about 8:00 or 9:00 pm. By April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, I had passed both 190 and 200 wpm, and was now in qualifiers. Unfortunately, even though I was told to finish my apprentice hours I didn't listen -- I tend to learn from my own mistakes, and did not have my transcripts or my hours finished. The day I passed my 190 and 200, I went straight home and spent 2 days working on my transcripts. By Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, I had turned in both transcripts that were required.

Then the wait began. I was not able to sit in qualifiers until my transcripts were fully correct. This process took approximately 5 weeks of corrections, going back and forth with my director to get them perfect. On June 12<sup>th</sup> my director had a meeting with me to explain the rules of qualifiers and how everything worked. This meeting made me so excited. I always had heard the scary stories of qualifiers and how they can be so challenging, however, at this point there was nothing stopping me and I ignored what everyone had said. I was so excited for what was to come. I didn't care about anything else.

(cont'd on page 5)



## *My Journey to the November 2013 CSR Exam*

(cont'd from page 4)

The night before my test, I practiced my normal 3 hours, and I went to yoga, and stayed focused. I honestly believe that I was so happy and excited no one could've ruined my mood either way. Thursday morning on June 13<sup>th</sup>, I arrived to my school at 7:00 am and began setting up my equipment, and then began practicing. I could feel a little bit of anxiety coming on, so I just told myself to breathe, and I was able to calm my nerves. Even though I had a good expectation of what was going to come next, I still felt a little lost and sort of followed everyone else's lead. At 8:00 am I walked into our qualifier room, signed in, pulled my seat number (row 1), and sat down. A good friend of mine had told me that it was good luck to sit in row 1. As I waited there patiently in my seat, I zoned out. It was just me and my thoughts about how I could do this, and not to pressure myself, I had taken plenty of 200 wpm tests before. My goal was to take the test and score at least under 100 errors. I could easily be happy with that, considering I was new to qualifiers. Even though I was setting an expectation for myself, I also thought to myself that anything is possible, and that I worked hard to be where I was sitting at that very moment, and that I could even possibly pass this test. I mean, I knew that at some point I would eventually, so who said I couldn't on my first one; right? Staring at the board with the November CSR candidates on it, I envisioned myself on that board. One day, soon, my name would be up there on that board. One day, I would be a CSR candidate. That day was June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013. I had qualified for the November 2013 CSR test.

As a student I always wondered what it would feel like to pass my qualifier and be the next CSR candidate. I wondered if I would be emotional, or wildly happy, or something else. As it turned out while I was waiting for my test to be finalized, which only took about 15 minutes, I had the worst feeling in my stomach. My director came back and she played a little trick on me and said she found some more errors and paused, but that I still passed. To my surprise, all those years of wondering how I would react, I quickly found out that all I could do was smile. For 3 days straight it really hadn't hit me what an emotional journey this had been, because in that moment, all I could do was smile.

Looking back on everything, I wouldn't have done this any other way. I wish that sometimes it was a little bit easier, or a little less stressful, but in the end, none of it matters. When I quit working I told myself I wanted to be done within a year. And 10 months later, I had passed 4 speeds and qualified. I am so thankful for those who have supported me through everything, and while I know it was my fingers, and my aching back that got me through this, it was also those people who helped too. I know that with hard work and dedication, no matter what, you can succeed. Every speed I thought how could it be possible to push myself that much harder, and then I realized it really wasn't that bad. It's the downs that make us that much stronger anyway; right?



**Deposition Reporters Association of California**  
**Student/First Year CSR Membership Application or to join online, [click here](#)**

Mail Application to:

DRA, 1900 Point West Way, Suite 222, Sacramento, CA 95815 888.867.2074

Fax to: 916.487.7105 E-mail to: [memberservices@caldra.org](mailto:memberservices@caldra.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ CSR # \_\_\_\_\_  
Firm/School \_\_\_\_\_ NCRA Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** Facebook

Direct Mailing      Internet search

Have you ever been a member of DRA before?      Yes      No

**\*\* I certify that the contents of this application are accurate and complete and will advise the association of significant or material changes to the membership information. I agree to abide by the DRA Bylaws, the written policies of the association, and in the decisions of duly constituted DRA Committees. I agree that my membership may be terminated immediately if this application contains false or misleading statements.**

**Initial**

**Student and first year CSRs ..... \$ 30**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed (payable to DRA) in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my:      VISA      M/C      Discover      AMEX

Sign me up for automatic Renewal

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
/ \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit pin

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

CC Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

*(Membership is for one year from the date dues are received. A portion of your dues will be used for lobbying activities as defined by the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993. For this year's dues it is estimated that the percentage used for such purposes will be 29%. This portion of your dues is not deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. **NOTE: Checks returned from the bank for any reason will be assessed a \$25 service fee.)***



# ***Your Mentor is Waiting!***

The Deposition Reporters Association of California is committed to ensuring that the shorthand reporting profession remains a viable and integral part of the legal system. To this end, we have designed a mentor program that melds the enthusiasm of new reporters and students with the maturity of the more seasoned reporter. Reporters (must be a student at or above 160-level speed or a new reporter within the first year of reporting and a member in good standing with DRA) and students will be matched up with experienced reporters in the state of California in order to provide them with relevant guidance, support and encouragement during the beginning stages of their new careers.

Do you need some extra help, personal attention, or have questions regarding reporting? If so, then sign up for our mentoring program and receive guidance or help from a professional working court reporter. Working reporters understand what difficulties you face as students and new reporters. We are willing to volunteer our time to get to know you, praise you for your achievements and lend encouragement for those tough times when you take the CSR, attend your first deposition, or are making the switch from being an official to freelance reporter.

If you are a current student at the 160-speed level and above or any reporter that wishes to be mentored, and you are interested in participating, please go to <http://www.caldra.org/get-mentored>

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## **DRA 2013-2014 Board of Directors**

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Counties Represented: San Diego and Imperial

**District 8 – Cheryl Haab** - [district8@caldra.org](mailto:district8@caldra.org)

Counties Represented: Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura and all Professional Members residing in counties or states other than California or the USA.





## ***PENGAD DRA MEMBER DISCOUNT***

***10% off all Regularly Priced merchandise for DRA members!***

Pengad is proud to support both your profession and your association. We are pleased to announce that we are continuing to work with the Deposition Reporters Association to make sure you, as a member, receive the best quality products and service at the best price. Effective January 1, 2013, members of the DRA are eligible for a 10% discount on all regularly priced merchandise purchased at Pengad. To take advantage of this offer, just call DRA member services for the DRA Member Only Coupon Code. The Member 10 Buying Program terms and conditions are as follows:

- 10% off merchandise only
- Minimum order is \$25.00
- Account must be in good credit standing
- Coupon may not be transferred or shared
- Coupon may not be applied to orders already invoiced
- Coupon may not be combined with other discounts, sales, or special offers
- Coupon may be used for multiple purchases
- Coupon effective October 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

### ***The Deposition Reporters Association of California's Mission Statement***

**DRA strives to preserve and enhance the freelance 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 freelance stenographic reporting profession remains a viable and integral part of the legal system.**

## **SAVE THE DATE !**

**DRA 2014 Scholarships  
Applications deadline is  
11/15/2013**

**GAP Training  
West Valley Community  
College in Saratoga, CA  
Saturday, 11/23/2013**

**DRA Board of Directors  
Meeting in Oakland, CA  
Saturday, 1/11/2013**

**DRA Annual Convention  
Palm Springs  
2/21 to 2/23, 2014  
Register for the  
Student Track!!!**



888.867.2074 | [www.caldra.org](http://www.caldra.org)

