

Colorado Court Reporters Association

SPRING SYMPOSIUM – APRIL 11, 2011

Embassy Suites Hotel, Spa and Conference Center, Loveland, CO



What's Inside RAMBLINGS?

Advertising Rates	2	New Executive Director	9
Annual Luncheon Wrapup	14	New Member Applicants	14
Application for Membership	18	Nominating Committee Report	10
Calendar of Events	17	Officers & Directors of CCRA	2
CCRA Civil Access Pilot Project Response	8	President's Message by K. Davis	3
Civil Access Pilot Project Speech - K. Davis	7	Pro Bono Volunteer Opportunity	9
Dear Nancy	12	Realtime Task Force Update	12
Did You Know . . . ?	17	Spring Symposium Agenda	5
Fall Retreat Save-the-Date	10	Spring Symposium Registration	6
NCRA Spring 2011 Update	11	Student Committee Report	12
New Chief Examiner	9		

CCRA RAMBLINGS

PO Box 7645, Loveland, CO 80537 ~ 970.593.0017 ~ fax 970.797.1059 ~ www.ccra.info



RAMBLINGS NEWSLETTER

PLEASE NOTE CHANGES:

EDITOR ~ Erin Valenti
970 498-6235
eev2133@yahoo.com

Submit articles and stories you would like to be considered to RAMBLINGS. For questions, contact the editor at 970 498-6235 or eev2133@yahoo.com.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ~ Judy Saffell
P.O. Box 7645
Loveland, CO 80537
970 593-0017 ~ fax 970 797-1059
ccra@frii.com

For information regarding **Advertising**, contact Judy Saffell at 970 593-0017 or ccra@frii.com.

Reprints granted to all NCRA-affiliated publications; all others by written permission of CCRA.

RAMBLINGS and **RAMBLINGS on the Web** reserve the right to edit or reset material submitted for space or aesthetic considerations. Letters to Editor may be published anonymously; writer must so request. All articles express the opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of CCRA.

RAMBLINGS and **RAMBLINGS on the Web** do not verify the content of any ads or Web links, are not responsible for any representation made therein, and do not endorse any vendors, advertisers, etc.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President Kathy Davis
303 257-9778
kdavis@agren.com

Vice President Erin Valenti
970 498-6235
eev2133@yahoo.com

Secretary/
Treasurer Tracy Masuga
tcmasuga@comcast.net

Directors Amanda Maze
amanda@coloradoreporters.com
Gina Meyer
gina_meyer@comcast.net
Kathy Myers
kathy@myerslegalvideo.com
Kathy Scheer
kscheer1@gmail.com

Alternate Director Michelle Goodbee
mmgoodbee@msn.com

Past President Pat Graves
pat.graves@captionfirst.com

ADVERTISING RATES

DEADLINES FOR COPY/ADS FOR UPCOMING ISSUES:

Next Issue Copy / Ads Due: June 5, 2011

AD Size	Dimensions	Rate
Full Page	7 1/2" X 10"	\$125.00
Half Page	7 1/2" X 5"	\$75.00
Half Page	3 5/8" X 10	\$75.00
One-Third Page	3 5/8" X 7 1/2"	\$60.00
One-Fourth Page	3 5/8" X 5"	\$50.00
Business Card	3 1/2 " X 3 15/16	\$40.00
Classified Ads Members	9 Lines max Pre-pay	\$10.00
Classified Ads Non-Members	9 Lines max Pre-pay	\$20.00

Please Submit your Ad and Check payable to CCRA at:

CCRA RAMBLINGS

P.O. Box 7645
Loveland, Colorado 80537

President's Message

by Kathy Davis, RMR, CRR, CMRS, RDR

NO ROOM FOR APATHY

Wow! Time for my last President's Message to you, members of CCRA. The year certainly flew by!

As I've crossed paths with so many of you over the past year, my pride in this profession has grown. Sifting through the outward signs of loyalty, dedication, desire to better yourselves through continuing education, striving to meet your deadlines and not ask for extensions, saying "yes" to your clients, the seriousness with which so many of you face this challenging career each day, what I've seen is your passion for this profession. Surely, the judges, firm owners, and the CART and captioning public also see that passion and your pride in a job well done. One doesn't accidentally fall into this profession. It takes talent, for sure, but also perseverance – to get through school, obtain those certifications, and actually perform the work of a court reporter.



If we could show the legislature the work ethic of most officials, the superior product produced by a live court reporter, and the cost savings of a court reporter when compared to the recording equipment failures with ER, there would be no digital recording threat. CCRA, of course, through Betsy Clark Murray, our lobbyist, does its best to educate legislators on these things. Your incoming President, Erin Valenti, has wonderful promotional ideas for educating the legislature, the judges, and the public about realtime, the service only court reporters can offer, making them superior to digital recording. In addition to the efforts of Betsy, Erin, and your CCRA board, though, every single reporter must take up the cause and help with the education.

One of the biggest enemies of the court reporting profession is our own apathy. Unfortunately, it is not enough to give 100 percent to our daily jobs. In this profession, not only do each of us need to excel at our particular jobs on a daily basis, but we must make ourselves indispensable.

We must support NCRA and CCRA, not only financially, with our annual dues, but with the commitment of our time. The ten people that show up to the board meetings and "run" CCRA volunteer their time

and put as much effort as they can into furthering this profession. They, however, just like you, have all of the other commitments that go along with life these days. They have all of the other pulls on their time. It is an unrealistic expectation that this small group of people will be able to fight the fight on their own.

While, in many ways, this is a solitary profession, we need to pull together as a team. Let's pat each other on the back and say, Hey, great job! Let's help each other practice for and pass the RPR and CRR tests. Explain to your non-CCRA member workmates the importance of banding together as members. The \$23,000 we pay annually to employ our executive director and our lobbyist would be less of a burden if shared by 100% of those receiving the benefits of Judy's and Betsy's efforts, which, by the way, includes every single court reporter and writer in the state. Shouldn't everyone contribute their fair share? We are professionals and must reinvest in our profession.

If you haven't volunteered for CCRA or have only dabbled, get involved. With many working together, we could accomplish so much, including carrying forward the court reporting profession for succeeding generations. We will not retire from the profession of court reporting if there is no profession from which to retire. Now, as I'm 50 this year - yes, the big five oh - that's not as much of a threat to my livelihood as it is to someone just entering the profession. But, boy, this profession's been good to me, and I feel a responsibility, as should we all, to give back.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Do you have some fun PR ideas? Want to help make a movie of judges and officials promoting realtime? Interested in the behind-the-scenes, on-your-own-time editing of our Ramblings newsletter? Love to throw a party (in the form of a seminar, luncheon, or a creative way to attract new members)? If you answered even a quiet yes to one of those questions, please e-mail me directly (kdavis@agren.com) with your particular interest, and I'll get you hooked up with a new or ongoing committee. No experience is required; just enthusiasm and love for this profession!

My best to you all. Thanks for a great year. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the members of CCRA as President.

Sincerely,
Kathy Davis



Hunter + Geist, Inc.

1900 Grant Street
Suite 800
Denver, Colorado 80203

303.832.5966
303.832.9525^{fax}
800.525.8490

www.huntergeist.com
depo@huntergeist.com

In-House Videoconferencing
Realtime Reporting
Realtime Reporting Over the Internet
Videotape Depositions
Multiple Conference Rooms
Scanned/Linked Exhibits
On-Line Scheduling
Nationwide Deposition Scheduling

Colorado Court Reporters Association

2011 SPRING SYMPOSIUM - April 16, 2011

**Embassy Suites Loveland - Hotel, Spa & Conference Center
4705 Clydesdale Parkway Loveland, CO 80538
1-800-EMBASSY**

Reference group code CCR for discounted room rate



**.60 CEUs Applied For
Registration form also on the web at www.ccra.info**

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. - Past Presidents' Breakfast**
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. - Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - K.I.S.S. Keep it Short Steno – Part 1, presented by Lesia Mervin, CSR, RMR, CRR.

Lesia Mervin has been an official for 30 years and is a Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, NCRA Realtime Contest Medalist, and NCRA Speed Test Qualifier. She is the Past President of the California Court Reporters Association, the present chair of CCRA's technology committee, and a member of the NCRA Realtime Certification Committee. Whether you're a pro or novice realtime writer, you will find helpful tips in this seminar to improve your writing by writing shorter. Tweak your own writing with these helpful hints. Come learn the tips and tricks of the pros, including Q&A briefs, left-and-right bank briefs, and punctuation briefs. No steno machines are necessary.

**10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. – Break - Time to Network, Visit our Vendors,
and Check Out the Silent Auction**

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - K.I.S.S. Keep it Short Steno – Part 2, presented by Lesia Mervin, CSR, RMR, CRR
A continuation of the previous seminar with more helpful tips and tricks.

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. ~ BUSINESS MEETING, INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD, AWARDS & LUNCHEON

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Joe Clingan & His Amazing Police Dogs, presented by Kim H. (Joe) Clingan.

Joe Clingan has been training police and personal protection dogs since 1973. As a police officer for the Fort Collins Police Department, he established the K-9 unit and has provided direction in establishment of K-9 units throughout the U.S. and Russia. Officer Clingan trains dogs for patrol duties and narcotics and explosives detection. Joe is going to offer a blend of technical knowledge and practical police experience in handling police service dogs. He will be accompanied by one or two of his four-legged friends!

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Break - Last chance to check out the Silent Auction!

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Do Yourself Justice; Creating Core Confidence, presented by Karyn Ruth White.

Karyn Ruth White has been entertaining and motivating people for over 20 years. She has over a decade of experience in the field of stress reduction through humor. Her real-life experience and down-to-earth style create an instant connection with her audience. She is a unique blend of motivator, business coach, philosopher, and stand-up. Karyn Ruth will help us think better thoughts, gain a feeling of personal control over stress, and use humor as a powerful life skill.

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. ~ Board of Directors Meeting



Colorado Court Reporters Association

2011 SPRING SYMPOSIUM

April 16, 2011

Embassy Suites Loveland – Hotel, Spa & Conference Center
4705 Clydesdale Pkwy., Loveland, CO 80538
(970)593-6200

Reference group code CCR for discounted room rate

COST:

- _____ \$189.00 ~ CCRA Member
- _____ \$235.00 ~ Non-Member/Out of State
- _____ \$99.00 ~ Students and DACR Teachers
- _____ \$135.00 ~ Non-Member Student (Includes Membership w/ Application)
- _____ \$55.00 ~ Social Only (Saturday Business Meeting/Lunch)

We are happy to provide the CCRA Member Rate to members in good standing of other state associations!

**** Register by April 5th, 2011 ****

(After April 5th, Late Registration Fee of \$50 applies)

To Register for the Seminar, Please Complete the Registration Form and Submit per Instructions to:

CCRA, PO Box 7645, Loveland, CO 80537

Or FAX to (970)797-1059. MasterCard, Visa, or Personal Checks Only.

() MasterCard () Visa

Name (PLEASE PRINT): _____ Phone: _____

Visa or MasterCard Credit Card No.: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

e-mail address: _____

*** Please check here for Vegetarian option at Annual Business Meeting Lunch ***

SPONSOR a STUDENT (Suggested Donation \$99.00) _____

QUESTIONS? Contact Gina Meyer at gina_meyer@comcast.net

CANCELLATION POLICY: A refund will be given for seminar fee only, minus a \$10 processing fee, provided written notice of cancellation is given 10 days prior to the event.

PLEASE NOTE: No refunds will be given due to weather or road conditions.

CIVIL ACCESS PILOT PROJECT

(The following is the speech delivered to the Colorado Supreme Court by CCRA President Kathy Davis on January 19, 2011.)

May it please the Court. Kathy Davis, President of the Colorado Court Reporters Association. Our association is comprised of two major groups: official reporters, those court reporters who work for the court system; and freelancers, those court reporters who take depositions. What we have to offer you today is our years of experience in court and in deposition, which tell us that Rule 10.1(d) of this pilot project will not be good for the people of the state of Colorado, as litigants or as taxpayers.

In my 30-plus years as a court reporter, I have worked as an official in the Boulder courts (way back in the day when your lawyer, Carol Haller, was the law clerk and I was the court reporter for Judge Mike Enwall), and for 25 years I have worked as a freelancer doing depositions. As you might imagine, I've seen it all.

In all seriousness, though, that's why CCRA feels it has helpful information for you today. Court reporters see more deposition and trial testimony than anyone. We see cases settle based on the discovery deposition of an expert witness. We see the issues of misinformation and lacking information come to light in the deposition. We see witnesses lie under oath. More cases will go to trial if attorneys are not allowed to test their cases through the deposition process.

I have seen firsthand the seven-hour expert witness deposition pared down to one hour of trial testimony. However, without that seven hours of inquiry and

probing out of court, the attorney would not know the relevant questions to pose during trial and would have to conduct his or her discovery of the expert during cross-examination in front of the judge and jury. Expert testimony can be confusing enough without extraneous issues being explored during the trial for possible relevance.

This discovery cross-examination at trial will increase the length of trials, frustrating the judge and forcing jurors to take more time away from their work and lives. And while money may be saved in the discovery process, the costs of trying a case will rise.

We believe that forcing attorneys to rely solely on the expert witness report filed before trial will cause more motions related to expert reports to be filed before, during, and after trials, further clogging the court system.

How will an attorney file a Shreck motion without deposition testimony? Our view is that it will become an automatic alternative and that judges will hear what should have been deposition testimony in the form of a motion in limine.

Discovery cross-examination of an expert witness will cost either way. Rather than 95% of cases settling, that number will drop to 85 or 90%. Rather than a trial lasting five days, it will now go for six days. Will the parties bear the costs of proving their cases, or will that burden fall upon the backs of the Colorado taxpayers as the discovery process is moved into the court system?

Thank you.

We're Calling for Mentors!

CCRA is still in need of Mentor volunteers! If you are interested in helping out a future reporter, please contact Michelle at mmgoodbee@msn.com to be matched with a hard-working student!

Thank You!

**COLORADO COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION'S
RESPONSE TO THE OCTOBER 2010
CIVIL ACCESS PILOT PROJECT APPLICABLE TO BUSINESS AND MEDICAL
NEGLIGENCE ACTIONS IN DISTRICT COURT**

The Colorado Court Reporters Association respectfully files the following comments in response to the Civil Access Pilot Project of October 2010:

First and foremost, we would like to thank the Court for its efforts to look at ways to provide for more speedy and inexpensive determinations of civil actions. However, as court reporters, we see the Pilot Project Rules as one more limitation in the discovery process. Years ago, the number of depositions was limited. Then Rule 16.1 eliminated depositions in cases under \$100,000. Now the proposal is to further restrict parties' rights to their day in court and the ability to prove their case.

As the neutral party involved in various litigation matters, we know the importance of depositions in discovery. We know that over 95 percent of cases settle before trial. We also know the critical role that appropriately conducted depositions play in that settlement process. Often, one or two critical depositions are what lead to the settlement of a case. Those critical depositions that lead to settlement may have been a direct result of questioning that brought to light areas an expert had not even addressed in a final report. A deposition will highlight a strength or weakness of a witness that the litigators had not previously taken into consideration. Most importantly, the deposition is the **only safeguard** that an attorney has to ensure the accuracy and fairness of the opposing party's disclosures.

The fact that in many cases attorneys choose to take depositions of expert witnesses is proof in itself that by simply reading an expert's report, one does not garner sufficient knowledge of the depth and entirety of the expert's opinion.

Quoting from a law firm's website, "Depositions serve to uncover relevant evidence and to narrow claims so that by the time of trial the parties have a reasonable expectation of an outcome that will be based on the merits of the case."

Conducting an examination for the first time at trial and only discovering strengths, weakness, and disclosure deficiencies at that time will lengthen trials, increase the level of surprise to every party, ramp up factors of confusion and disorganization in presenting to the triers

of fact, and serve to bring in unpredictability to the result of a claim that, given an appropriate level of discovery, could have been resolved fairly and efficiently before trial.

PPR 9.2 talks about impeachment of a witness. Without the deposition transcript, with what testimony is the expert to be impeached? An expert who wishes to avoid impeachment can generate a report vague enough to preclude impeachment on specific points, secure in the realization that the report cannot be challenged and narrowed through deposition testimony.

However, if it is incumbent upon the attorney calling the witness to ensure that a report is narrowly drafted, this presents several issues: 1) The attorney then may be seen as suborning the expert's testimony to the attorney's desired opinion; 2) The attorney then acts as a gatekeeper for the evidence to be used by the opposing side. This act threatens the attorney's ethical obligation to be a zealous advocate. It further increases the liability for accusations by any party on any side, for either deviousness in the filtering of evidence or for diluting the effective strategy of a case by giving away too much.

We have a proposal for the Court. As a collective entity, court reporters in private practice see depositions, effective and ineffective, efficient and wasteful, every day of our combined careers. An experienced reporter will see far more depositions than an experienced trial attorney. While we are not qualified to opine on the merits of an interrogation, perhaps the Court will grant that we bring a unique perspective and experience to this process. We see the merits and abuses more times than any other member of society. We would be happy to bring our collective experience, encompassing many, many thousands of depositions, to this process to help the Court formulate ways to increase accessibility to the public, improve the efficiency and economy of litigation, and provide for a more fair experience for all parties.

Ultimately, the Colorado Court Reporters Association feels that a lawyer and his or her client should have the right to structure their case in the way they see fit and to conduct appropriate discovery that will either help prove their case or help settle the matter fairly and with greatest efficiency to our judicial system.

Thank you.
Kathy Davis, President
Colorado Court Reporters Association

SPRING 2011

Meet CCRA's new Chief Examiner!

We are happy to announce that Claudia Booton, RPR, is now Colorado's Chief Examiner for all certification testing! Claudia has worked as a court reporter for a little over 14 years. During that time, she was a teacher at Denver Academy of Court



Reporting for four years before returning to reporting full time. For the last ten years, Claudia has worked with Bruno Reporting, becoming a firm owner at the end of 2009 with what is now Bruno & Booton.

CCRA is grateful for her willingness to take on this responsibility. If you're planning on taking any tests on the next exam day (May 7th), please be sure to thank her. And if you're not taking any tests, feel free to volunteer to help! Claudia can be contacted at crbooton@gmail.com.

New CCRA Executive Director Named

The Colorado Court Reporters Association is pleased to introduce Judy Saffell as its new Executive Director. Judy accepted this position in mid-January. She has a wide array of knowledge and past experience in the functions and duties of association management. For the past eleven years she worked as the Program Manager for a nonprofit association. Although she hasn't been with us long, she has already put in a great deal of time to help CCRA become a more efficient association, and we look forward to working with her in the future.



Come and meet Judy at the CCRA Annual Business Luncheon on Saturday, April 16th, at the Embassy Suites in Loveland!

How About You?

Would You Consider Volunteering for Pro Bono Projects!

If this is something you would consider, please contact CCRA's 2010 Pro Bono Chairperson,

Amanda Maze at 720/244-4986 or amanda@coloradoreporters.com

Amanda would like you to contact her with your willingness to help out when CCRA receives requests for a deposition to be reported, scoped, and proofread on a pro bono basis. The depo time is limited, as is the travel time, so the burden will not be heavy on one person.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in this valuable program!

Meadors Court Reporting, LLC

Court Reporting & Video Services

417 West Mountain Avenue
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521
E-Mail: meadors@reporterworks.com

Phone: (970) 482-1506
(800) 482-1506
Fax: (970) 482-1230

Hansen & Meadors, LLC

Court Reporting & Video Services

109 East 17th Street, Suite 46
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001
hansenmeadors@reporterworks.com

Phone: (307) 432-4061
(888) 622-5888
Fax: (877) 482-1230

**SAVE THE DATE – SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2011
CCRA FALL RETREAT**



Court reporters just wanna have fun! And our Fall Retreat will be Fun! Join us at the beautiful **Cheyenne Mountain Resort** in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Better yet, take a mini vacation. The room prices are discounted for retreat attendees for three days before and three days after the retreat itself. Check out the beach on the property, splash in one of the swimming pools, play a round of golf, visit the Air Force Academy or the Royal Gorge. Join us for the spelling bee Friday night. There will be a small fee to enter, CEUs will be applied for, and cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners!

Could we be any more excited? **Yes!** We have a fantastic speaker already on board. The speaker

is...going to be revealed at the Spring Symposium on April 16th at the Embassy Suites in Loveland. Mark your calendars!

RM ROCKY MOUNTAIN
REPORTING

phone 720.872.9910
toll-free 877.228.4487
fax 720.872.9099
e-mail angie@rmreporting.com

Angie A. Baca, RPR

13762 Colorado Blvd. #124-175 | Thornton, CO 80602 | www.rmreporting.com

Realtime Reporting, Inc.

Sherry Wallin, RMR, CRR
Providing realtime to attorneys since 1999
Over 30 years' experience

Phone: 303.883.2114
Fax: 303.438.0379
SWallinCRR@gmail.com

Nominating Committee Report

By: Pat Graves - March 2011

The Nominating Committee, comprised of Joyce Martin, Elaine Javernick, Carol Bazzanella, and Richard Matt, conducted interviews on Saturday morning on February 26, 2011, for the 2011-2012 Executive Committee of the

Colorado Court Reporters Association. My thanks to all the members. And a special thanks to Elaine Javernick for the extra help and support and for allowing the committee to meet and conduct these interviews at her office.

After interviewing the prospective candidates, it is the Nominating Committee's recommendation that the following slate of nominees for the year 2011-2012 be approved and voted upon:

- Past President** – Kathy Davis, RDR, CRR, CMRS
- President** – Erin Valenti, RPR, CRR
- Vice President** – Tracy Masuga, RPR, CRR
- Secretary/Treasurer** – Kathy Scheer, RMR, CRR
- Director** – Amanda Maze, RMR, CRR (year 2 of 2)
- Director** – Kathy Myers, RPR, CLVS, CPE (year 2 of 2)
- Director** – Debbie Davis, CRR, CCP, CBC, RDR (year 1 of 2)
- Director** – Wendy Bustos, CRR, CCP (year 1 of 2)
- Alternate Director** – Debra Garcia, RPR (year 1 of 1)

NCRA Spring 2011 Update

Submitted by Pat Graves

I have had the privilege of serving on the NCRA Board of Directors. It has been a wonderful experience...challenging, exciting and incredibly eye opening! I had no idea that NCRA members are so involved, savvy, interested and committed to the profession of stenographic court reporting! It is humbling to see the time devoted by these members.

And I encourage you all to get involved, too. There are monthly "chats" of different communities of interest, such as: freelance, officials, CART, captioning, teachers, students, tech evaluation, managers. Check on the NCRAonline.org website to see the opportunities. There are listservs that you can join and chat with your peers around the country. Get involved! It is "fun" and extremely enlightening!

There are so many things that NCRA association and Board of Directors are working on. One very exciting member outreach endeavor is called "Writing Our Future." The NCRA Board is in the midst of a year-long initiative to gather feedback on what members would like the future of the stenographic court reporting profession to be, and what NCRA's role in that future should be. We started phone interviews with the committee members across the association and we documented the responses. Then each Board member was given a list of random member names. We have been reaching out to those members via email and/or phone. We have documented those responses.

If you look online at www.ncraonline.org, there is a place you can indicate that you want to be interviewed in order to have the opportunity to pass on your thoughts. I encourage you to do that. Your voices and opinions are important and need to be heard!

Group thoughts are gathered when the NCRA Board members have the honor of attending state conventions. Opinions were gathered at the Firm Owners Conference. Member feedback will be gathered at the NCRA Midyear Conference in Baltimore, March 25-27. And there will be a membership-wide summit, all-member meeting at

the annual conference in Las Vegas, July 28-31, in an effort to determine our direction at the annual conference.

Your voices and opinions are important and need to be heard! Let's Write Our Future together.

I want to mention The Stenographic Opportunities in the Courts Task Force. "Steno Opps" for short. The task force is headed up by Lesia Mervin, an official from California, and many other people from around the country.

The Task Force just met in early February in Reno to put final touches on a large-scale survey that will examine the future for official court reporters through the eyes of key influencers. Those key influencers are: judges, attorneys, court administrators, and, of course, court reporters. Additionally, NCRA has commissioned Judge William Dressel from the National Judicial College to conduct a study, which includes the survey as well as extensive qualitative research in the form of one-on-one conversations with the same "key influencer" constituent groups. With Judge Dressel's knowledge and expertise, we will also have the benefit of hearing from: attorneys (plaintiff and defense bar), trial support groups, specialty practices within the ABA and other attorney organizations, public advocacy groups, court reporting and related technology vendors and others.

This is a way to interact, collaborate, educate and ensure that court reporters are known, respected and welcomed as integral members of the legal system. It is imperative that we are seen as integral and irreplaceable to all these key influencers. A report is expected to be available for the Annual Convention in July.

Flowing from our incredibly involved members, to encouraging members to participate in "Writing Our Future," to surveying and educating key influencers about the value and necessity of the stenographic court reporter in the entire legal system, let me encourage all of you to be get involved, stay involved, and "Write Our Future" together!

Realtime Task Force Update

Julie Matt, Chairperson

As any court official in Colorado can tell you, we are all facing a deadline. By July of 2011, we all need to be realtime certified. If one of us currently doesn't hold an RPR certification, he or she has until July of 2012 to become realtime certified.

The realtime task force was formed by CCRA President Kathy Davis and it has been working for the last year to try to get the non-realtime certified officials throughout the state ready to take the CRR or the FCRR exam. We have met in different districts throughout the state and have offered an open forum to discuss the difficulties the reporters are having in this regard; and for practice exams,

writing them and grading them. We have been sending out a twice-monthly newsletter via email called "OBlasts," which contain a myriad of informational tidbits. They include brief form ideas, motivational snippets, ideas for passing the exams, and anything else a contributor thinks someone preparing for taking the realtime exam might find beneficial. All of our Oblasts can be found at the CCRA website at

<http://ccra.info/index.cfm/ID/75/Realtime-Task-Force/>.

Vice-President Erin Valenti has elected to continue the task force into her term. Our activities will be listed on the CCRA website. Members of the current task force are: Julie Matt (Chairperson), Mary George (Co-Chairperson), Kathy Davis, Michelle Goodbee, Anne Lamborn, Joyce Martin, Clydine Pabst, Christine Reeder, Kerry Rink, Catherine Rodriguez and Kathy Scheer.

Student Committee Report by Michelle Goodbee

Claudia Booton, who is now moving into the position of Chief Examiner for the NCRA tests, was also the speaker to the DACR students on January 25. She delighted the students with her eloquent speech concerning how she came to be a court reporter in Colorado and what hurdles she's overcome to be where she is now. Claudia was a wonderful example to the students of the heights they can strive to reach in their careers.

On February 11 and 12 the regional high school mock trials were held in Adams County, and four brave reporters volunteered to be reporters for the day. Although a general belief was that the session would be no longer than 1 hour in length, I was informed that on Saturday the morning session went quite a bit longer than that. Kudos to Wendy McCaffrey, Danielle Moore, Jennifer Binnendyk, and Tiffany Campbell who stepped outside their comfort zones to be part of this once-a-year opportunity.



Dear Nancy

Nancy Varallo RDR/CRR/FAPR, owner of Court Reporting & Management Services, LLC, offers customized business and office management services to court reporters and reporting agencies.

Nancy has been a court reporter since 1979, and has trained hundreds of court reporters, and fielded thousands of questions from reporters. Please ask your question at www.dearnancy.com.

Dear Nancy: *I keep hearing witnesses say the phrase "a whole nother" thing, instead of saying "a whole other" thing or "another" thing. Would you write "nother" with or without an apostrophe?*

Signed: A Brother from a Whole Nother Mother

Dear Brother from a Whole Nother Mother:

I Googled *whole nother* and found entire blogs devoted to this phrase. I couldn't believe it. They MUST be court reporters! We're the only ones who care about such things. But I learned this phrase had teachers, editors, writers, and just plain folks blogging. I must confess, I was overcome, teary-eyed with relief. They care, they really, really care! For years I've imagined the grammarians of the world had been force-marched to Transcivania, the work camp where Those Who Care would be terminated. But, oh joyous news, they have survived! And they're blogging. Which brings me to those fascinating blogs, rich with factoids crucial to the working reporter. Here's what I learned: "Whole nother" requires no apostrophe. The phrase was born between 1955 and 1960. (So were most of us, if you gaze around you at an NCRA convention!) I learned that seven (imagine, seven!) people want to eradicate its usage. I learned *whole nother* is a metanalysis of *an other* or *another*. Then I learned that *metanalysis* is not a word. *Meta-analysis* is, of course, but that's a whole nother blog.

Dear Nancy: *I'm a CART provider in business for myself, but I also subcontract for another firm on a semester-long basis. I'm always careful to mention my affiliation with the agency when introducing myself to CART consumers, and I make sure all significant communication with them gets cc'd to the office. I often wind up developing a good rapport with the CART consumers. If they offer me positive feedback about my work, would it be inappropriate of me to ask the firm owners whether I can use those testimonials on my website? I don't want the firm to feel as if I'm threatening their client base. I would never poach a client, and I want to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. What should I do?* **Signed, Tentative Self-Promoter**

Dear Tentative Self-Promoter:

You seem to have a firm handle on your personal and business ethics. Congratulations! Professionals often worry about the appearance of impropriety. And they should! But this is an opportunity for you to take the worry and turn it into a fruitful dialog.

It appears you and this agency have an excellent working arrangement. Talk to them. Ask the owners if they would permit you to use these testimonials on your website. As long as you're okay with the answer, be it yes or no, your discussion can produce valuable ideas about how each of you can benefit the other. I'm all in favor of pursuing brainstorming sessions like this because they promote a positive give-and-take. They improve relationships.

Testimonial pages tend to be a website's most frequently visited pages. A prospective customer wants to know who makes use of your services, are they satisfied, and what do they choose to say about you. It's important to keep testimonials up to date. In fact, the trend among court reporting firms is to skip the standard reporter bios and, instead, highlight testimonials from their own reporters describing what a great place it is to work.

Don't be tentative; be confident. Dear Nancy knows you can work this out!

Dear Nancy: *I am a 180 student ready to start my court reporting internship. I've been reading about the replacement of court reporters by digital recorders and other methods. I know this subject has been debated and discussed for many years. What are the skills and work habits that today's court reporting students need to strive for to keep pace with these trends, and to become and stay gainfully employed?* **Signed, Living on Uneasy Street**

Dear Living on Uneasy Street

If you're ready to start your internship, my guess is you've got some pretty good work habits and skills already. Keep your focus, review theory principles regularly, and keep up with your speed and accuracy practice, especially once you start interning.

Take full advantage of your internship opportunity. Try out all kinds of court reporting assignments. Sit out in court and depositions. Ask a captioner and a CART provider if you can shadow them. (Contact me if you need help connecting with any of these professionals.) Importantly, take some time to introduce yourself to agency owners, especially those who arrange for you to sit with their clients. Dress well; be punctual; conduct yourself like a professional; say thank you. A *good* first impression leads to a job interview. A *poor* first impression leads nowhere.

Here's advice you've heard before, but I want to underline it and put it in bold, all caps: **Stay in school until you attain graduation speeds and get your diploma!** Don't succumb to the temptation to go to work for an agency before you're done with school. You won't be adequately prepared to meet the challenges you'll face; they will overwhelm you.


Only by completing your speed tests will you be prepared to pass the RPR. Choosing to work for that credential is the smart career decision. The RPR will open doors for you, whether or not your state has a licensure or CSR requirement. Down the road when you may be job-hunting, your RPR certification will keep your career options open. But don't stop with the RPR. In today's marketplace, realtime skill and RMR certification are the hallmarks of a true professional.

There's competition out there, from digital recording, voicewriters, tape recording systems. Don't fret unnecessarily about it. There are many positions that require the skills of a realtime-capable, steno reporter. I can't say it too often: The better writer you are, the more options you will have. Your realtime skills are your calling card. Make sure yours are good.

Good luck with your internship. And, please, finish school! We need you in this profession.



WELCOME NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS



Steve Laner – Vendor
Tracy Greene - Official

**CCRA Annual Luncheon Wrap-up
Remarkable turnout – 45 attendees!
By Tracy Masuga**

CCRA’s Annual Luncheon was held February 19 at Cinzzetti’s Italian Market. We had a terrific turnout of people from every aspect of the court reporting community to enjoy a fun social gathering and to hear relevant updates concerning our court reporting community, all while enjoying a delicious Cinzzetti’s brunch!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Judy Saffell was introduced as CCRA’s new executive director. She’s replacing **Judi Ericson**, who received a beautifully engraved clock and a fond farewell for her 13 years of service to our organization.

We had a chance to meet the new NCRA Chief Examiner for Colorado, **Claudia Booton**, who replaces **Sylvia Noneff** in that position.

We learned that **Erin Valenti** will be taking over the duties of Ramblings editor from **Lisa Kelly**, who has moved to Wyoming.

After years of working in the background with our vendors and with the silent

auction, **Shelly Hunter** has passed the baton to **Mindy Cominiello** as the fundraising chairperson.

COMMUNITY ACTION:

CCRA’s president, **Kathy Davis**, spoke about the Civil Access Pilot Project, which threatens to limit expert witness depositions in certain civil cases. She summarized CCRA’s involvement in trying to prevent its implementation, including oral argument presented by Kathy Davis and **Jason Meadors** to the Supreme Court. Betsy Murray received positive feedback regarding their presentation. Implementation of the pilot project has been postponed.

Kathy Davis next filled us in on the incredible and tireless work of the Realtime Task Force that was put in place to assist official reporters in improving their realtime skills and in ultimately passing the realtime exam. With a multitude of people pitching in and a robust curriculum, the task force is sure to have an impact. So far they have met with reporters in every district at least once.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS:

CCRA's lobbyist, **Betsy Murray**, updated us on the goings-on at the legislature and the financial problems facing the state. She handed out updated pink brochures and encouraged us to contact our representatives. We look forward to the next Day at the Capitol, currently slated for the end of April 2011.

Chair of the Legislative Committee, **Tracy Masuga**, gave us a heads-up that Colorado will be seeking certification/licensure for court reporters with the help of NCRA. With the foundation already being laid by the Realtime Task Force, she envisions a similar program in the future for helping reporters pass the RPR.

Pat Graves, our very own past president and now NCRA board member, brought us up to speed on the national environment, focusing especially on the efforts of the Ethics First program that seeks to encourage reporters to foster the impartiality and neutrality of the reporting profession. Also, in line with NCRA's efforts, Pat encouraged us to be involved in our profession.

In her role on the Nominations Committee, **Pat Graves** invited everyone to submit names for board nominees as well as Distinguished Service Award recipients. If you need a nomination form, you can find it online at ccra.info.

Campus Director of Denver Academy of Court Reporting, **Sue Kuhl**, talked about

the wonderful support the school receives and encouraged everyone to visit. There are numerous opportunities for reporters to be part-time teachers or to participate in the mentoring and internship programs. Sue put a spotlight on new national rules and legislation that could put pressure on proprietary schools like DACR. She also highlighted DACR's professionalism and involvement in the community.

Student Committee chair, **Michelle Goodbee**, had to leave early, but not before emphasizing the importance of supporting students, which we did by passing the hat and taking up a collection to help defray the cost of students attending CCRA functions.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Gina Meyer, in charge of the Spring Symposium, gave us a brief rundown of the upcoming event, which will be held April 16 at the beautiful Embassy Suites in Loveland. Topics include briefing, learning about police dogs, and a humorist.

The Fall Retreat, so renamed by **Kathy Scheer** and **Kathy Myers**, and with the motto "Court Reporters Just Want to Have Fun!" will be held the weekend of September 9, 10, and 11 at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs. Kathy Scheer assured us that there will be plenty of opportunities for relaxation and fun, as well as CEU's.

Thank you to everyone who attended! I look forward to seeing you next year!!

Get some R & R with...
COURT REPORTERS CLEARINGHOUSE
write & relax...we'll handle the rest.

REASONS REPORTERS LOVE CRC!

We pay on bill out.

We handle your calendar.

We take care of your production.

We offer overflow jobs.

We provide you with your own website.

We make you look like a big firm.

We provide all the latest technology.

We provide you with marketing materials.

We take care of your invoicing and collections.

We allow you to focus on what you do best - Report.

www.CRCnational.com

GROW YOUR OWN FIRM - NOT SOMEONE ELSE'S!

**COURT
REPORTERS
CLEARINGHOUSE®**



The Ultimate Court Reporter's Solution

303-573-0387

Paula@CRCnational.com

3773 Cherry Creek Drive North, Suite 575, Denver, CO 80209



Calendar of Events



Apr 16	CCRA Spring Symposium & Annual Business Meeting – Embassy Suites, Loveland, CO CCRA Board Meeting
Apr 30	USCRA Federal Certified Realtime Exam , Las Vegas, NV
May 07	NCRA ~ Testing Day at Denver Academy of Court Reporting, Westminster, CO
June 05	Ramblings deadline
Jul 27-31	NCRA Annual Convention , Las Vegas, NV
Sept 9-11	CCRA Fall Retreat – Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs, CO

CCRA WEB SITE CALENDAR OF EVENTS LINK: <http://ccra.info/index.cfm/ID/3/Events/>

Did You Know ...?

...that CCRA member **Cathy Holiday** is a member of one of America's premier handbell ensembles, which has recorded with Yo-Yo Ma? Go to www.pikespeakringers.com for more information and a schedule of their upcoming events!

... CCRA's Spring Symposium & Annual Business Meeting are scheduled for April 16th? Go to www.ccra.info for more details!

... CCRA has a new Executive Director? Come meet **Judy Saffell** at the Annual Business Meeting on April 16th!!

... Colorado's new Chief Examiner is **Claudia Booton**? Read more about it on page 9.

... that CCRA is on **Facebook**? Search for Colorado Court Reporters Association and "friend" us!

... that CCRA needs your **current e-mail address** to keep you informed? Please e-mail any updated information to Judy Saffell at ccra@frii.com.

...CCRA will be hosting a **Fall Retreat**? Check it out on page 10 and **Save the Date!**

...if you have something noteworthy – or even just something you'd like to share – you can send it to Erin Valenti at eev2133@yahoo.com and we'll put it right here in the "Did you know" section of Ramblings?



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2011-2012

I, _____
hereby apply for membership in the Colorado Court Reporters Association.

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Business Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Home Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Home phone will be printed in the CCRA Membership Directory. If you do not want your home phone listed, leave space blank.

A CCRA Membership Directory will be provided to all Members. Names & phone numbers will be published on CCRA's Web site.

CHECK HERE if you do NOT want your information to appear on CCRA's Web site.

CATEGORY:

Professional Shorthand Reporter/
Participating Member -- \$110.00

____ Official
____ Freelancer

____ CART Provider
____ Captioner

Associate Member -- \$82.50

____ Teacher/Instructor
____ Scopist/Proofreader

____ Videographer
____ Vendor

____ Other

Student Member -- \$27.50

____ Student - Current Speed: _____

Retired Member -- \$27.50

____ Retired

CERTIFICATIONS HELD

CSR: State _____ Date _____

RPR: Date _____

RMR: Date _____

RDR: Date _____

CRR: Date _____

Other: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

____ I would like to volunteer for pro bono projects.

____ I would like to serve on a committee.

____ I would like to be a mentor (or would like to be assigned one if a student).

METHOD OF PAYMENT: ____ Check enclosed ____ Charge my Visa or MasterCard

Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature of Cardholder: _____

In submitting this application, and if I am accepted for membership, I hereby swear or affirm that I will uphold all of the provisions of the Constitutions and Bylaws of the Colorado Court Reporters Association and the Code of Professional Responsibility.

My application includes my check payable to CCRA or my Visa/MasterCard authorization for the appropriate dues and is endorsed by a current CCRA member.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

ENDORSED By: _____ Date: _____

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:
Colorado Court Reporters Association, P.O. Box 7645, Loveland, Colorado 80537**

Dues payments to CCRA are NOT deductible as charity deductions for federal tax purposes; amounts may be deductible as a necessary business expense.



PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BROOMFIELD, CO
PERMIT NO. 139

CCRA RAMBLINGS P.O. Box 7645 Loveland, CO 80537

Dress Your Documents for Success!



Reporters Paper & Manufacturing Company

- Serving Court Reporting Professionals for over 50 years.
- Comprehensive Line of Court Reporting Products and related Supplies.
- Over 20,000 satisfied customers.
- Fast Nationwide Delivery.
- Order Toll-free (800) 626-6313.
- Order online at www.rpmco.com.
- Our professional staff is ready to serve you.



P.O. Box 436987 • Louisville, KY 40253 • www.rpmco.com
(800) 626-6313 • (502) 267-4100 • fax (800) 276-2500

