

CCRA *Connect*

FALL 2017 EDITION



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MISSION STATEMENT

CCRA continuously leads our industry through legislative advocacy, educational opportunity, and professional inclusion. We actively protect and unify the freelance, CART/Captioning, official, and student communities.

CCRA ONLINE COPY DEADLINES

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the year 2017 comes to an end, we look back on the past year. On behalf of the membership of CCRA, we would like to profusely thank Immediate Past President Brooke Ryan for her leadership and insight she has given as our CCRA President. Brooke participated in countless legislative visits, committee hearings, MOCK CSRs, and CSR exams. She also travelled around the state teaching reporters about E-filing. The work Brooke has done for our student community is unparalleled and she has supported students like no other reporter has. Thank you, Brooke, for all you do and have done for the court reporting profession.

I'd like to thank each of our members for their confidence and support. CCRA truly exists to serve you and to protect and promote court reporting in our great state.

We must work together to protect our CA freelance CSRs. We must work together to make legislative changes for an increased page rate. And we must help our Hard of Hearing community by growing our CART/Broadcast Captioning outreach. Together, we will be successful in our endeavors.

Happy 2017 and cheers to a very bright and successful 2018.



Carolyn

Carolyn Dasher, CSR, RPR, CMRS
CCRA President

Meet Your Board

President



**Carolyn Joy Dasher,
CSR, RPR, CMRS**

President Carolyn Joy Dasher, CSR, RPR, CMRS, is an official reporter for the Los Angeles Superior Court. She joined the CCRA Board of Directors in 2004. This is not her first rodeo being president. She was president in 2010. She is proud to say that she, along with other board members, have prevailed over electronic recording proposals time and time again. Carolyn enjoys spending time in Sacramento at the Capitol talking to legislators and testifying at hearings, as well as spending time with her little buddies, Truman and Oliver, Brooke's babies. She began her court reporting career in 1987 working briefly in the deposition field and then with L.A. Municipal Court. While working in the court, she also has been a CART provider to witnesses, litigants, and attorneys. She is a Past President for the Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association. Carolyn has been a mentor to many students and is open to have students sit in court with her in her long-cause felony trial court in Alhambra. In her spare time, Carolyn teaches yoga and spends time tending to her organic garden or walking her little dog, Lulu.

As President, she oversees all committee work and helps with the general running of the Association. Feel free to contact her anytime by text 626.482.0015 or by email carolyn.dasher@cal-ccra.org.

President-Elect



Rachel N. Barkume

President-Elect Rachel N. Barkume has been a CSR for six years and an RPR for five years. She's served on the CCRA Board of Directors since 2013 starting as a Director, then Secretary/Treasurer, and now President-Elect. She's spent most of her career in the official arena, but she's recently left the courtroom to pursue deposition reporting and CART captioning. The committees Rachel is involved with this year are Membership, Finance, Convention, and NCRA Liaison. She is also the BOOT CAMP chair for our 2018 event to be held on March 3, 2018! Rachel's goal this year is to build our court reporting community to live out the CCRA mission statement – to advocate, create opportunities, and embody professional inclusion. She can be reached by phone/text at (559) 978-2894 or by email at rachel.barkume@cal-ccra.org.

Welcome to 2018! This will be our year!

Vice President



**Debra Bollman, CSR,
CRR, CBC, RMR**

Debra Bollman, CSR, CRR, CBC, RMR, has been a court reporter for 18 years and has taken advantage of the many avenues our profession has to offer. She made headlines across the globe during the 2015 NCAA March Madness basketball tournament when Wisconsin Badger Nigel Hayes whispered, "Gosh, she's beautiful" over a hot mic during a tournament press conference at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California. Debra has captioned and provided real-time transcripts for events all over the world including the French Open, Presidents Cup, Breeders Cup, NBA Finals, and the World Series, just to name a few. She's been a state and federal official, CART provider, and broadcast captioner, but her specialty in sports has given her the most memorable moments. Debra is looking forward to promoting CART and Captioning along with her committee members and growing the awareness of this amazing extension of opportunities the court reporting field has to offer.

debra.bollman@cal-ccra.org

Secretary/Treasurer



**Jennifer Esquivel,
CSR**

Jennifer Esquivel, CSR, graduated from Sage College in July 2014 and earned her CSR license in October of 2014. Jenn has worked as a freelance court reporter, mainly covering depositions and occasionally family law trials.

Since joining the field of court reporting, Jennifer has made it a priority to move forward in the direction of becoming a Certified Realtime Reporter and has begun taking on more challenging work, such as business litigation and construction defect lawsuits. Mentoring students, speaking at local schools, and advocating for freelance court reporters have all been a great passion of hers and her drive to keep students motivated and productive has become even more apparent since the abrupt closure of Sage College in December 2016.

During her time in court reporting school, Jennifer was the recipient of multiple scholarships and worked as a volunteer file clerk in her local courthouse. She is excited and driven about serving as an advocate for freelance legislation through her service as chair of CCRA's Deposition Advisory Committee. Jenn has attended every CCRA annual convention since 2009 and looks forward to becoming more involved in the planning of the annual convention in years to come.

Upon accepting her new role this year as the secretary and treasurer of CCRA, Jenn looks forward to working more closely with the executive board and building a stronger foundation for the association's membership. She welcomes the challenge of balancing her new responsibilities with her first passion -- strengthening the field of freelance deposition reporting for her fellow colleagues statewide through legislation and continuing education. Her dedication to protecting the profession of court reporting for all of her colleagues, including CART/captioning reporters and officials, is what she hopes will motivate others to do the same.

Director, District A



Karly Powers, CSR

Karly Powers, CSR, has been a reporter for almost three years. She started out as a freelance deposition reporter and pro tempore court reporter for superior court where she gained great experience and learned a lot about herself. She now works for the State of California as a court reporter for the Public Utilities Commission. Her job is incredibly rewarding and challenging all at the same time. She feels grateful to be serving her state through her job every day. Along with her position on the Board of Directors for CCRA, she serves as the Co-chair of the Support Our Students committee. Her passion truly lies in supporting students and teachers and ensuring we have programs and seminars that help students feel confident in their abilities and allow them to become successful in all their endeavors.

Director, District B



**Sandy M. Walden,
CSR, RPR**

Sandy M. Walden, CSR, RPR, started her career in court reporting in July of 1999. She worked as a freelance reporter until she was hired as an official for Contra Costa County Superior Court in October 2007. This year, as CCRA co-chair of the legislation committee, she is looking forward to continuing to fight and to win a transcript rate increase for our profession. As the Director of District B, she's looking forward to connecting with reporters in her district and seeing what positive changes CCRA can do for our profession. Also, as co-chair for the CCRA convention in 2018, please reach out to her if you have a speaker you'd recommend or class you'd love to attend. Making strides for all court reporters in California in her passion and goal. sandy.walden@cal-ccra.org

Director, District D



Bob Sullivan

Bob Sullivan is one of our newest board members, representing District D, which encompasses the greater Southern California area. Bob is a member of the Membership Committee and is proud to co-chair the SOS Committee with Karly Powers. Bob has been a working California court reporter for the past 37 years and has loved every minute of his chosen career by keeping active in all aspects of the profession, including teaching, mentoring, and motivational speaking. After having read and proctored the State Court Reporters Test for the Department of Consumer Affairs for the past 28 years, he is often referred to as "The Voice of the California CSR." Bob holds the distinction of having worked on more than half of all Orange County Death Penalty cases over the past three decades, totaling over 40 Capital Cases.

Director, District C



Erin Spence

Erin Spence, District C Director, is very excited to continue on the board of CCRA for another year! As the director for District C, this means she is your liaison for the counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, and Ventura. She is also the chair of the Officials Advisory Committee and the chair of the Mentoring Program (a subcommittee of Support Our Students). She is a member of the Legislative Committee and a member of the newly-formed CART/Captioning Committee.

She currently works as an official reporter at the Ventura Superior Court. She has been there for 15 years. Prior to that, she worked as an official reporter in the Los Angeles Superior Court for 10 years. She enjoys giving back to our wonderful profession and its many facets. As it is ever evolving and growing, she believes we must keep our profession and our association strong.

Aside from court reporting, she spends a lot of her "free" time involved with animal advocacy. She is on the board of directors of a parrot sanctuary where they rescue and rehabilitate unwanted, abused, and orphaned companion parrots. She has been enrolled at the University of Illinois, Chicago in the Certificate in Nonprofit Management program.

Please feel free to contact her for any ideas or concerns you may have regarding court reporting (or parrots!). She will be very happy to talk with you!

erin.spence@cal-ccra.org · (805) 289-8968

Director, District E



Aimee Skochko, CSR

Aimee Skochko, CSR, has been a reporter since 1998. She attended Sierra Valley College of Court Reporting in Fresno, California. Upon passing the CSR, Aimee moved to the Central Coast and was hired as an official for San Luis Obispo County Superior Court. After two years in San Luis Obispo County, Aimee relocated to Orange County, where she was a deposition and hearing reporter for two years. Aimee became an official once again for Orange County Superior Court in 2005, where she is currently assigned to Orange County's Lamoreaux Justice Center in Orange, California, reporting family law matters. She is the legislative representative for her local association, Orange County Superior Court Reporters Association, and is an active member of their board.

As Director of District E for CCRA, an at-large directorship, Aimee is available to all CCRA members in the Southern California area. She currently serves as a member of the membership committee and the legislative committee. Aimee found and rescued her dog Remy, whom she adores. She enjoys spending time with family and friends, cooking, baking, and gardening. Aimee can be reached at aimee.skochko@cal-ccra.org.

Director, District F



**Aimee Edwards-
Altadonna, CSR**

Aimee Edwards-Altadonna, CSR, holds a Bachelor of Arts in Human Communications from California State University, Monterey Bay. She always knew that she wanted to have a career that involved the law, and when she found court reporting, she knew it was the perfect fit. Aimee entered online court reporting school while staying home with her son, Owen; took a family detour to have her daughter, Chloe; and shortly thereafter dove back into the pursuit of the field. She's been working as a freelance reporter covering the Bay Area, Central Valley, Sacramento, and Monterey County since the fall of 2014 and works very hard at honing her craft. In the short amount of time that she's been actively involved in the profession, it is evident that this is exactly where she wants to be. She's participated at state and national conventions as well as software user groups for a number of years and is proud to be involved as part of the volunteer leadership of CCRA representing freelance reporters. Aimee has been married to her husband, Vincent Altadonna, for 17 years, and they share a home and zoo – 3 dogs, 1 cat, and an escape tortoise named Sam – in Manteca.

As the director for District F, Aimee is an at large director and does not have a district with specific areas. Aimee is the co-chair of the Deposition Advisory Committee with Jennifer Esquivel. She looks forward to working with Jennifer to help CCRA understand and address the needs of freelance deposition reporters and the unique issues they are facing out in the field. BOOT CAMP for new professionals and soon-to-be new professionals is the seminar she is most looking forward to helping with, as well as attending the CSR in Sacramento to support the candidates as they showcase their skills.

Director, District G



**Regina DeMolive,
CSR, CRC, CCG**

Regina DeMolive, CSR, CRC, CCG, has been a Captioner for over 11 years. She has done on-site CART, remote CART, and Broadcast Captioning. She has done captioning in many different venues such as sports stadiums, universities, and churches, as well as remote captioning in different countries such as Canada and France. She is a founding member and current Chair of the CART/Broadcast Captioning Committee and a member of the Membership Committee. She has a passion for mentoring students as well as helping reporters transition into Captioning. A couple of her goals in the 2017-2018 year is to help get legislation passed for CART Captioning, continue to raise money for the Walk4Hearing, and help share the gift of CART Captioning with as many people as possible. In her new role as a board member, she hopes to bring a Captioning perspective to the table as well as continuing to educate on CART and Broadcast Captioning.

CCRA's 2017 Accomplishments

- **BOOT CAMP 2017** was a resounding success with Chase Frazier, Debra Bollman, Brooke Ryan, Josiane Bencke Goldman and Lesia Mervin.
- **Court Reporting and Captioning Week 2017.** President Brooke Ryan and CRB member Carrie Nocella were present at the Capitol while the Court Reporting and Captioning Week Resolution was read.
- Also, CCRA **highlighted numerous reporters/captioners** around the state.
- Attended **three CRB meetings** and gave input/suggestions/recommendations.
- Gave numerous **e-filing presentations** around the state.
- Held four **Board of Director meetings** and multiple **conference calls**.
- Held a week-long **"Fund the Need" campaign** that brought in much-needed revenue.
- **Met with multiple legislators** and attended Capitol meetings on numerous bills. We also attended and spoke during committee hearings.
- **Walk4Hearing** was a lot of fun and helped generated much-needed funding for our hard-of-hearing community.
- Held two well-attended **mock CSRs** to help calm and reassure future reporters!
- We had an incredibly well-attended **convention** in Newport Beach where many attendees expressed their hope for the future of our profession.
- We had **AB 1450 (Obernolte)** signed by the Governor!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2018

*From all of us
here at CCRA,
we wish you
and your family the
happiest of holidays
and the brightest
wishes for
the New Year!*

2017 Bylaws Changes

This year, CCRA made an exciting change in our Bylaws! CCRA now welcomes a CART/Broadcast Captioner to our Board of Directors. By adding a District G Board member to our board, CCRA opens our membership base to the new and changing field of reporting encompassing CART and captioning. See our Website for the CCRA Bylaws.

SAVE THE DATE



CALIFORNIA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

108TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 5-8, 2018

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**Written By Jennifer Esquivel, CSR No. 13976, Freelance
Deposition Reporter**

As a freelance deposition reporter, it's a struggle to stay connected. The chances of me running into a fellow reporter at a deposition are slim to nil. So I search for other ways to surround myself with my colleagues. The annual California Court Reporters Association convention in October each year is a fantastic way to invest in my career all while networking with agencies and celebrating my profession with fellow court reporters.

This year we gathered at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel in beautiful Newport Beach, California, and spent four days touching on new and



exciting subjects. Of course there were the usual software classes that told me all about the exciting upgrades, but, more importantly, I was lucky enough to find a seat in the Death Penalty Court Part 1 and 2 seminars with Robert (Bob) Sullivan. The class provided training in the guidelines and responsibilities that reporting a death penalty case requires. Aside from the mental and emotional aspect of it, reporters must be familiar with the specifics of reporting such a case.

On the other side of the spectrum, I had the privilege of meeting Joe Strickland, a recently retired congressional reporter who gave us insight as to the inner workings of reporting in Congress and how different a Congressional reporter's record is compared to the usual deposition and court transcripts we often see in our profession. Meeting Mr. Strickland and spending an hour or so chatting with him at Friday's evening reception brought forth yet another option to be considered as I move forward in my career. As the theme of this year's convention advertised, court reporting as a profession offers oceans of opportunity.

As the weekend came to a close Monday morning and I took the exam that would bless me with a certificate of completion in the training for the death penalty cases, I made sure to mark my calendar for next year's trip to Rancho Mirage for the 2018 convention, October 5th through 8th. Certainly, there is still more to learn and many more people to meet!



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Legislation Update 2017



2017 turned out to be a busy year with a big legislative victory with the passage of AB1450, CCRA's sponsored e-filing bill. The language gives court reporters time to get prepared for e-filing, but why wait? Save time, paper, and learn the latest technology for transcript preparation!

CCRA has been trying for years to pass legislation to require the out-of-state freelance firms to abide by the same rules and regulations as California CSRs. AB1660 was the follow-up bill to CCRA's sponsored SB270 from 2015-2016. Unfortunately, after many conversations and many language amendments, AB1660 was vetoed by the Governor. CCRA will keep trying to hold the out-of-state freelance firms accountable and protect our freelance members.

AB701 was a bill to help the Hard of Hearing community. That bill was held up in committee. CCRA thanks Assembly Member Gallagher for his steadfast support for our Hard of Hearing community.

After AB2629, the transcript increase bill, had gone through all houses only to be vetoed at the end of 2016, CCRA listened to the Governor and lobbied hard for a transcript increase in the California budget. Many of you and your family members wrote letters to the Governor. With so many different needs in California, the transcript rate increase was not included with the 2017 budget. CCRA has a strategic plan for 2018 and will be successful with your participation.

Mandating Family Law reporters has been another priority of ours. While it was not included in the

California budget; we got closer than ever before. The Assembly included mandatory Family Law reporters, but unfortunately the Senate did not. We are getting closer and closer. We must keep up the momentum!

Look for CCRA's e-filing class near you!

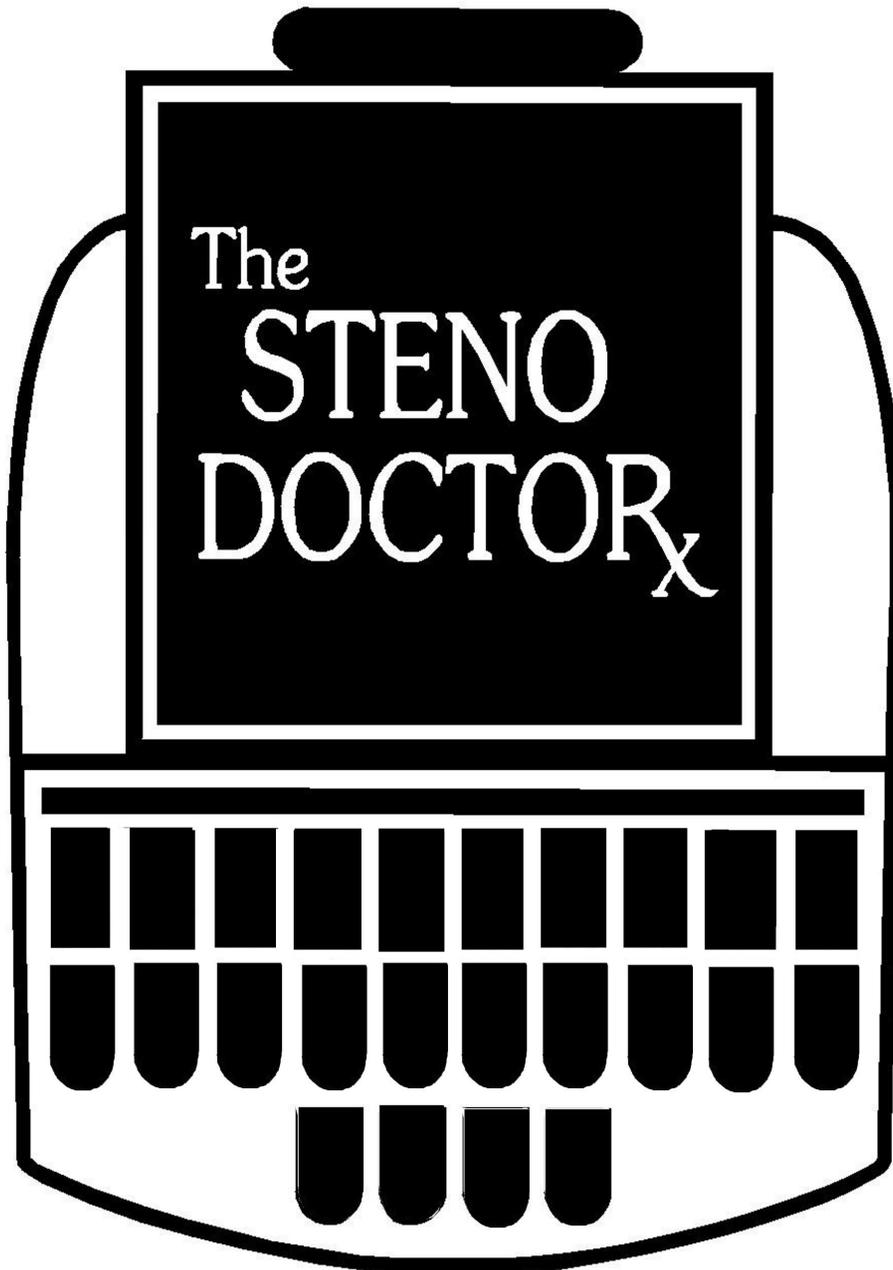


Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon with Carolyn Dasher and Cindy Rosales from LACCRA.



Assembly Member Ash Kalra with Carolyn Dasher and Cindy Rosales from LACCRA.

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BOOT CAMP

CALIFORNIA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

2017

Written By Chi Yang, Student

After the difficult November CSR exam and the surprise close of Sage College and days before the unprecedented CSR retest, the CCRA hosted its 4th annual Boot Camp. Despite being in court reporting school for many years, there are some things that school does not and cannot prepare students transitioning into the profession. Boot Camp helped fill in the gaps with professional and practical information about the many opportunities for students and professionals alike.

With the recent turn of events over the holidays for many court reporting students there grew a feeling of discouragement of the future, but that feeling was quickly thwarted thanks to the outpouring support from all those in the field. CCRA had set up a Mock CSR to alleviate the anxiety of those taking the CSR retest in just a few days. Students from Sage College were encouraged and sponsored to attend. Even though there was emphasis for students to go, Boot Camp also welcomed professionals. There were working professionals present, looking for new opportunities and knowledge.

**UPCOMING
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Schmitt Reporting & Video, Inc.

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Cheryl A. Mangio, CMRS, CRR, RMR, CCR
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Christine Randall, CSR, RPR
Wood & Randall—Owner and President



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CSR Exam & Clothing Drive

CCRA's December 1st clothing drive was a success! Look for the CCRA table at the March 23, 2018, CSR exam in Los Angeles, CA.



Shop Amazon. Benefit Your Profession.

Do you realize that you can help support CCRA by shopping on Amazon? It's true, simple, and easy.

As the holiday seasons are fast approaching, many of us will be using the internet to make our purchases. And simply by clicking on our specially made link, with every purchase Amazon makes a small donation to CCRA. And the best news, it doesn't affect your pricing at all.

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Tulare County STEM Expo

By Amanda Shein

Two of my favorite things are sunshine and court reporting; on March 11, I got to spend my day immersed in both while Rachael Espinoza and I represented CCRA at the STEM Expo put on by the Tulare County Office of Education. This event pulls in students interested in science, technology, engineering and math, with activities and booths aimed at fostering these interests and encouraging the pursuit of careers in these fields.

That may all sound a little boring, but it was actually a fun day interacting with students of all ages, as well as parents and teachers, and showing off the magic that is stenography. Everyone loved stopping by our table. And while some of the younger students may have been more entertained by pressing the 'delete' key on my laptop while I tried to show off Realtime, or writing on Rachael's machine with their nose, others shyly kept coming back to listen and watch some more. The older the students were, the more interested they were, realizing that what we were selling really spoke to them. Perhaps the best part of the day was reaching the adults that were there who got excited about what we were saying and wanted to take our message back to their students or children, or even look into pursuing court reporting for themselves! You never know who you'll reach.

*no equipment was harmed in the course of this event

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CCRA Student Scholarship

The California Court Reporters Association awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a student in the 160 to the qualifiers speed level. The recipient will be selected by the Support Our Students (SOS) Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. The CCRA Student Scholarship is made possible thanks to generous donations from reporters and local court reporting associations interested in preserving the profession of court reporting.

Stay tuned for the 2018 essay question!

2017 Essay Questions

What do you consider to be the best advice you ever received? Who gave you that advice and did you follow that advice or not?

Winner: Heidi Bunch

When you graduate and go to work as a reporter/captioner/CART provider, how do you plan to give back to students, to the profession, and the people who helped you achieve your goals?

Winner: Sarah Chun

Scholarship Application

Essay Instructions: Essay limit is no more than two pages, must be in legal format using line and page numbers and must use the Minimum Transcript Format Standards adopted by the Court Reporters Board. Your essay must be read, approved and initialed by your English instructor. If requirements are not followed, the essay will not be considered.

Eligibility Requirements

- Current member of CCRA.
- Speed level: 160-qualifiers speed level and in good academic standing. Do not send transcripts. The SOS Committee Chair will verify your eligibility.
- Essay must be read, approved and initialed for submission by your English instructor and include your name and speed level.

CART/Broadcast Captioning Committee **Paint & Sip**



If you are ever lucky enough to get a spot at the CCRA CART/Broadcast Captioning Committee's Paint & Sip event, you will surely have a great time! Yes, you too are an artist! We spend so much time behind our computers that it's time to get out and be creative with our friends and colleagues. The last Paint & Sip was held in Newport Beach during the 2017 Annual Convention. Look for the next Paint & Sip event near you!

One of the CART/Broadcast Captioning Committee's goals is to raise as much money as possible for the Walk4Hearing event. One way the committee meets this

goal is to host Paint & Sip events. This is an event where reporters, students, and captioners can meet to paint a beautiful picture on an art canvas using acrylic paint all while drinking their favorite adult beverage and learning about CART/Broadcast Captioning. This past year's Walk4Hearing was in Long Beach on June 10th. Altogether, the committee raised approximately \$1,575 towards the 2018 Walk4Hearing! This money helps provide support and resources to people with hearing loss.