

# CCRA *online*

Volume 10 | Issue 8



Sandy Bunch VanderPol and Bill Greenly —  
Academy of Professional Reporters  
Fellowship Award Winners see on Page 5

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### CCRA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Court Reporters Association is to advance the profession of verbatim shorthand reporting by promoting professional reporting excellence through education, research, and the use of state-of-the-art technology; establishing and maintaining professional standards of practice; and advocating before legislative and regulatory bodies on issues which impact the judicial system and others served by the court reporting profession of California.

# President's Message

*By Carolyn Dasher, CSR, RPR  
CCRA President*



While it seems like a fairly quiet year, let me tell you why. CCRA has worked hard in the past educating the key legislators about court reporting issues. We need to continue diligently educating them and their staff members.

We need your help doing that. First, we thank you for all the e-mails you've read, all the conventions you've attended, and all the requests for help you've answered. We are working together with the labor unions and special interest groups that share our concerns about our jobs and profession.

Keep in mind. Our unions represent the workforce; CCRA represents our profession. If we have no profession, we have no jobs. So it puts more pressure on us to be proactive in our quest to secure our profession.

We all need to work together in this endeavor. Let's strive to be the best reporter we can be. Let's buy that new paperless machine. Let's provide realtime daily. Let's learn how to stream our transcripts or how to send e-copies to attorneys.

CCRA is committed to helping you be the best reporter you can. By developing your software skills, your transcripts become easier and take less time. By learning the latest technology, you become a more valuable asset for your firm or court administration.

The California Court Reporters Association is presenting our Centennial convention October 15th through 17th in downtown Sacramento. That's right! For 100 years, CCRA has been promoting and protecting the profession of court reporting in our beautiful state. We would welcome the opportunity to meet you and have you visit the State's Capitol with us.

Our staff has negotiated a great price of only \$139 a night for a double or single room. There's a Starbucks right across the street (yes, when I lobby in Sacramento, I stop there before I take my walk around the Capitol in the wee hours of the morning).

I know we're all busy. I realize we can't do everything. However, you must take the time to improve your skills to become a greater asset in the legal profession. The time to begin is now. You have time to sign up for the convention, get the CEUs, learn, grow, and network with other professionals.

If you're not working as much as you used to, can you afford to let a networking opportunity like our annual conference go by? You may sit next to a firm owner who needs a reporter in your area.

The annual conference is the time to order products you need at a discount. Most vendors offer convention specials. If you need to stock up on covers, now's the time! If you want a new writer, you can try them all out and negotiate your best price there.

I truly believe we can make a difference. I wholeheartedly believe we all possess a spark that can help us all. I know you want to be proactive. Now is the time. Help yourself. Help us.



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-Earl

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## Academy of Professional Reporters Fellowship Award Winners

Bill Greenley and Sandy Bunch VanderPol were awarded the Academy of Professional Reporters Fellowship award at NCRA's Award Luncheon this year. This award is a professional distinction conferred upon a person of outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience in the field of shorthand reporting. Candidates for Fellow are required to have been in the active practice of reporting for at least 10 years and must have attained distinction as measured by performance (which includes publication of important papers, creative contributions, service on committees or boards, teaching, etc.).

**Congratulations,  
Sandy and Bill.  
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# Lesia Mervin Named Chair of NCRA Officials Stenographic Task Force Study



In July, an NCRA task force was launched in an effort to seek to identify new approaches official steno reporters employed by the courts might take to ensure and enhance their roles and create new opportunities now and in the future.

A third-party research partner will be chosen to analyze the viewpoints of individuals within the legal system and beyond who have insight into the current dynamics shaping the work situations for steno reporters in the courts. Also to be examined is what steps we as official steno reporters can take to protect our current positions, as well as expand our repertoire of services to ensure official reporters are relevant to the court system nationwide, now and in the future.

One outcome of the first in-person meeting was the selection of Lesia Mervin of Visalia, California, CCRA past president, as the chair of the task force. Lesia is joined on the task force by Kristen Anderson of Kansas City, Kansas; Sheryl Culver of Van Meter, Iowa; Erica Grund of Tucson, Arizona; SueLynn Morgan of Lawton, Oklahoma; and Nativia Wood of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. All task force representatives either are employed as official stenographic reporters or work as freelance stenographic reporters serving the courts.



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\* **Realtime captioning** requires training in court reporting on the stenotype machine and is the most commonly used method in Broadcast Captioning for live shows. Realtime captioning skills are also used in CART reporting using the computerized stenotype machine to translate speech to written text for instantaneous display for classrooms or meetings or a variety of other situations where realtime captioning is required.

\* **Offline captioning** can be done typing from a computer keyboard (**no steno skills necessary**) to create and apply captions to various media whenever there are audio or video files that need to be transcribed into text format and made into captions.

## NCSA in Chicago

*By Natie Alvarado*

NCRA's convention in Chicago was the perfect place for the National Committee of State Associations (NCSA) meeting this year. The purpose of this committee is to afford State Association leaders the ability to keep each other abreast year-round regarding issues affecting the court reporting industry in their respective states and to share concerns, ideas, and information.

The yearly meeting creates the opportunity for these leaders to meet face to face and update each other, as well as to report to NCRA about their legislative issues, fiscal impacts, reporter and student base, certification, as well as challenges they have conquered. In essence, it is a wonderful collaboration of passionate and dedicated professionals who participate in an information exchange which helps build rapport with working reporters across the United States.

**CCRA was represented by Carolyn Dasher, CCRA President,  
and Natie Alvarado, CCRA Vice President, Freelance.**





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## Test Your Knowledge: Who verses Whom

By Margie Wakeman-Wells

**Directions:** Give the correct form of *who/whom*.

1. Who/m did you say she intended to call?
2. Who/m are you waiting for?
3. Who/m was John thought to be?
4. Who/m do they think it was?
5. Who/m has Maryanne called in the past few days?
6. I know a man who/m they trust with that.
7. The man who/m most think did it is her dad.
8. The guy who/m they thought him to be turned out to look just like her.
9. I was sent to a doctor who/m I think I can begin seeing for this allergy problem.
10. Is he the one who/m you want to phone Mary?

CONTINUED — ANSWER KEY ON PAGE 11



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# Test Your Knowledge: Who verses Whom

Answer Key from Page 10

## Answers

**Hint:** Turn the sentence around and substitute *he/him* to see which works — *he* equals *who*; *him* equals *whom*.

1. **whom** — ...she intended to call him...
2. **whom** — ...waiting for him...
3. **who** — *he* renames John, which is a subject
4. **who** — ...it was who.... It is a predicate nominative.
5. **whom** — ...Maryanne called him...
6. **whom** — ...they trust him with that...
7. **who** — ...most think he did it...
8. **whom** — *him* renames the *him* in the sentence
9. **whom** — ...I can begin seeing him...
10. **whom** — ...you want him to phone Mary...



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# What Qualities Are Important to be a Successful Court Reporter

By Anita Rangel, CCRA Scholarship Recipient

## Editor's Correction:

In our last issue, Anita Rangel's article was incorrectly identified as the scholarship-winning essay. Actually, the following article is what was submitted and selected by the Scholarship Committee as the winning submission.

**COMMITMENT, INTEGRITY, and STRONG ETHICS** are what you must have to be the absolute best you can be, not only for you and others you work with, but also for the profession of court reporting.

Reporters face many challenges, and they must have the integrity to stand up for what's right and ethical without compromising themselves or the profession. It takes more than just being able to write at 200 wpm verbatim. It takes concentration and relentless determination to push through all the things that are required to be a reporter. You have to be proficient in an array of subjects such as the rules and regulations governing court reporters, technical terminology, as well as grammar.

Successful reporters are willing to do whatever it takes to be the best. They go that extra mile and take whatever comes with total confidence that they can do it and do it well. They aren't afraid to speak up and interrupt when they can't hear a speaker. They aren't afraid to take the tough jobs because they know that that job is going to make them a better reporter. To be a successful court reporter, one must make a conscious decision to do his/her best at all times in any situation.

I feel that the ability to be successful is in all of us. It's what we do with it that matters most.



## NCCRA IS JOINING THE MASSES!! WE'VE GONE GREEN.

I'm sure you've heard it many times already: The cost of fliers and postage have skyrocketed, and nonprofit organizations like Northern California Court Reporters Association have chosen to go paperless and go green. What does that mean?

Well, that means **WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS**, if you want to be a part of NCCRA, so that we can easily communicate with you. We'll be sending out the same fliers, but now they will be an attachment to your e-mail. You will just print the registration sheet and mail it in with your money for the seminars. We also would like to keep you informed throughout the

year of any important news affecting you.

So, do it right now, while you're reading this, so you can make sure you're always informed when our meetings will be and how you can continue to achieve continuing education points. E-mail Linda J. Hart, NCCRA President, at [ljcsr@aol.com](mailto:ljcsr@aol.com) and become part of our contact list.

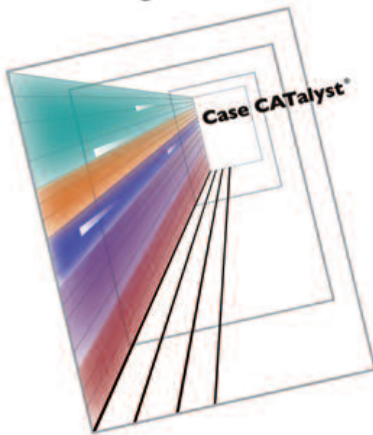
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### Laptops vs. Notebooks vs. Netbooks

**Q. What's the difference between laptop, notebook, and netbook computers? What are the pros and cons of a laptop computer and a desktop model?**

A. Years ago, when laptops made their debut, we called them "luggables" because they were like suitcases: large, heavy and cumbersome. That spawned the next generation of much smaller, lighter computers called notebooks, that were literally the size of a notebook. Today, rightly or wrongly, the terms are used interchangeably.

To further confuse matters, a netbook is not a misspelled notebook. Netbooks (sometimes called mini notebooks or ultra portables) are a very popular and growing category of small, inexpensive, somewhat limited-use laptop computers, best suited for accessing Web-based applications. They are often marketed as "companion devices" to full-featured laptop or desktop computers.

As far as the pros and cons of desktops versus laptops, a desktop computer is usually less expensive and it is easier to replace or upgrade its components. On the other hand, a desktop PC is more difficult to move, and you can't take it outside on a sunny day. Not easily, anyway.

A laptop/notebook computer is smaller, lighter, and flexible — not unlike Mr. Modem was 25 years ago. If you prefer a full-size keyboard or large monitor, you can easily connect them to a laptop and convert it to a quasi desktop, yet still have the flexibility of unplugging the monitor and keyboard (or docking station) for mobility, when needed.

**Q. When a message is sent using Outlook, can I get it back before it is opened at the receiver's end?**

A. Maybe. How's that for a definitive answer? If you and the recipient are both using Outlook, you may be able to retrieve a message. Realistically, the odds aren't terrific that that's going to be the case. Further, the message must be in the recipient's Inbox, it must remain unopened, and you must have a garlic clove in your left pocket. Well, okay, no garlic clove, but there are some very specific conditions that must exist for this to work.

In the unlikely event the above conditions do exist, to retrieve a message, open your Sent Items folder, double-click the message in question, select "Recall this Message" from the Tools menu, then select "Delete Unread Copies of this Message."

To replace the retrieved message with a new one, select "Delete Unread Copies and Replace with a New Message" followed by OK, then type a new message.

If you want to know if your desperate attempt to recall your message was successful, select the box labeled "Tell Me if Recall Succeeds or Fails for Each Recipient."

When it comes to retrieving email, I wouldn't get my hopes up. Ideally, you won't ever need to retrieve an email that's been sent, and hopefully never one sent in anger. My best advice is to never, EVER send a message written in anger. It's fine to compose it, pound the keyboard, vent your spleen, but then save your vitriolic message

*continued on Page 15*

*(continued from Page 14)*

and wait until the next day. Review it 18 or 24 hours later, and 99 times out of 100 you won't want to send it and you'll be very glad you didn't.

## Mr. Modem's DME (Don't Miss 'Em) Sites of the Month

### About Big Numbers

Enter the world of big numbers and discover just how big and how small our world is. Examples begin with items measured in thousands, such as average annual income, cost of a car, diameter of the earth, etc. From there you'll travel through millions, billions, trillions, quadrillions, quintillions, guacamoleons, all the way up to the almighty Googol. (Yes, Googol, not Google). Pop quiz: How many atoms are there in all the water on the surface of the earth? That's right, there are 142 quattuordecillion, give or take a quatt or two.

<http://pages.prodigy.net/jhonig/bignum>

### Contact Help

ContactHelp.com is the creation of a group of people who became tired and frustrated attempting to locate hard-to-find customer service telephone numbers. This free service provides phone numbers, shortcuts to reach live bodies, direct links to corporate customer service departments, options to add user comments, ratings, and even the uploading of recorded calls and video, some of which are very entertaining. For example, select Dell or Verizon Wireless and watch the YouTube videos of customer service calls.

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philosopher and renowned deep-thinker Mr. Modem are included. Probably just an oversight.

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# Vocabulary Test

By Debby Steinman

Most of the words for this test came from either the Commentary section of the newspaper or civil court hearings and trials. Also, one word came from the Bible, another one from the book *The Secret Life of Bees*, and another one came from *Parade* magazine in the Sunday paper. Enjoy!

1. **peregrinate** – *v.*
  - a. to stand still
  - b. to travel from place to place
  - c. to ponder
  - d. to vacillate
2. **torpid** – *adj.*
  - a. raging
  - b. brilliant
  - c. foul
  - d. sluggish
3. **truncate** – *trans. verb.*
  - a. to belittle
  - b. to lengthen
  - c. to slander
  - d. to shorten
4. **fecund** – *adj.*
  - a. fruitful
  - b. sterile
  - c. tenuous
  - d. vacuous
5. **endemic** – *adj.*
  - a. exotic
  - b. foreign
  - c. native
  - d. extrinsic
6. **modish** – *adj.*
  - a. dated
  - b. stylish
  - c. bashful
  - d. moderate
7. **mote** – *noun*
  - a. ditch
  - b. speck
  - c. method
  - d. emotion
8. **kvetch** – *v.*
  - a. to gripe
  - b. to commune
  - c. to laugh
  - d. to fetch
9. **propitiate** – *trans. verb*
  - a. to appease
  - b. to complain
  - c. to arouse
  - d. to anger
10. **capitulate** – *v.*
  - a. to placate
  - b. to summarize
  - c. to surrender
  - d. to resist
11. **reprobate** – *trans. verb*
  - a. to repossess
  - b. to acquit
  - c. to condemn strongly
  - d. to establish validity
12. **contretemps** – *n*
  - a. high fever
  - b. embarrassing situation
  - c. bad temper
  - d. guilty conscience
13. **nebulous** – *adj.*
  - a. concise
  - b. fair
  - c. indistinct
  - d. clear
14. **genuflect** – *intrans. verb*
  - a. to be obedient
  - b. to flex muscles
  - c. to speak
  - d. to be disrespectful
15. **slubber** – *trans. verb*
  - a. to toil laboriously without reward
  - b. a crewman responsible for swabbing a ship's deck
  - c. to eat soup, pudding or noodles in an unappealing manner
  - d. to perform badly and make a mess of things
16. **paragon** – *noun*
  - a. an idol
  - b. a model of excellence
  - c. a change in pattern
  - d. a scholar
17. **vitriolic** – *adj.*
  - a. caustic
  - b. vivacious
  - c. humorous
  - d. lethargic
18. **tautology** – *noun*
  - a. possession of more than one structure
  - b. needless repetition of words
  - c. repetition of same sound
  - d. study of the Greek alphabet
19. **onomatopoeia** – *noun*
  - a. sounds of imitating action
  - b. sound made by volcano
  - c. sounds in the distance
  - d. sounds made by an earthquake
20. **piquant** – *adj.*
  - a. energetic
  - b. monotonous
  - c. unsavory
  - d. stimulating

ANSWER KEY ON PAGE 17



# Vocabulary Test

## Answer Key from Page 16

1. **peregrinate** – *verb* – (b) to travel from place to place, esp. on foot; to travel through or over; traverse
2. **torpid** – *adj.* – (d) having lost motion or the power of exertion or feeling: dormant, numb; sluggish in functioning or acting, e.g., a torpid mind; lacking in energy or vigor, e.g., apathetic, dull
3. **truncate** – *trans verb.* – (d) to shorten by or as if by cutting off
4. **fecund** – *adj.* – (a) fruitful in offspring or vegetation; intellectually productive or inventive to a marked degree
5. **endemic** – *adj.* – (c) belonging or native to a particular people or country characteristic of or prevalent in a particular field, area, or environment <problems endemic to translation> <the self-indulgence endemic in the film industry>; restricted or peculiar to a locality or region <endemic diseases>
6. **modish** – *adj.* – (b) fashionable, stylish <a modish hat> <a modish writer>
7. **mote** – *noun* – (b) a small particle, speck
8. **kvetch**: *intrans verb* – (a) to complain, gripe
9. **propitiate** – *trans verb* – (a) to gain or regain the favor or goodwill of: appease, conciliate
10. **capitulate** – *verb* – (c) to surrender often after negotiation of terms; to cease resisting; acquiesce
11. **reprobate** – *trans verb* – (c) to condemn strongly as unworthy, unacceptable, or evil <reprobating the laxity of the age>; to foreordain to damnation; to refuse to accept, reject
12. **contretemps** – *noun* – (b) an inopportune or embarrassing occurrence or situation
13. **nebulous** – *adj.* – (c) indistinct, vague
14. **genuflect** – *intran verb* – (a) to be servilely obedient or respectful
15. **slubber** – *trans verb* – (d) to perform badly and make a mess of things
16. **paragon** – *noun* – (b) a model of excellence or perfection
17. **vitriolic** – *adj.* – (a) something felt to resemble vitriol especially in caustic quality; especially, virulence of feeling or of speech
18. **tautology** – *noun* – (b) needless repetition of an idea, statement, or word
19. **onomatopoeia** – *noun* – (a) the naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it (as buzz, hiss); the use of words whose sound suggests the sense
20. **piquant** – *adj.* – (d) pleasantly stimulating or exciting to the mind

