

CCRA's 2004 Distinguished Service Award

by Susan J. Becker

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This year's Committee was composed of myself, Lisa Knight, and Jason Meadors. And I would like to begin by quoting from the nomination the Committee received:

"Being a reporter for nearly 30 years and a firm owner since 1982, I believe I have met every kind of reporter there is, from the whiner to the go-getter, from the creative writer to the reporter who can quote rules to perfection. I finally met someone every reporter could emulate and be the better for that effort, not only professionally, but personally. CCRA has had the privilege of her ethics, her generosity, her hard work, and her dedication."

One of the criteria to be considered in presenting the Distinguished Service Award is years of service dedicated to the reporting profession. Although the recipient for the 2004 Distinguished Service Award has not served the number of years as compared to other DSA recipients, she has managed to pack 20 years' worth of service into 12 years.



(Susan presenting the DSA Award to Sylvia)

She has assisted with numerous committees; chaired the Freelance Committee; was the editor of Ramblings for a number of years; has mentored and assisted many students; and served as an executive board member, as vice-president and president.

Sylvia Noneff and her twin, Cindy, were born and raised in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, and moved to Denver in 1984. Sylvia has always been an achiever, receiving an associate's degree from Ball State, and zipping through reporting school at a shorter than normal pace. She first started freelance reporting in 1990 with Eileen Carpenter and then Theresa Coffman and is presently an independent freelancer.

In her personal life, Sylvia is not just an aunt to her sister's children, Eddie and Beth, she is also their parent and has assisted wholeheartedly in their upbringing. To know Sylvia is to know how truly dedicated she is to her family.

I first met Sylvia when she came onto the Executive Committee as a board member. It didn't take any of us on the Committee long to figure out that the word "no" is not in Sylvia's vocabulary. She volunteered for everything.

DSA Award (con't from page 5)

by **Susan Becker**

Sylvia and I shared a room in San Diego at the 2000 NCRA Annual Convention. In the evenings, while I sat in our room channel surfing with the remote, there was Sylvia hard at work producing deposition transcripts to E-mail back to her proofreader.

Sylvia is very dedicated to her work; in fact, so dedicated that she has been known to take depositions while in a thigh-to-ankle brace for a wrenched knee. And, having nearly choked to death on a cough drop and the deposition participants repeatedly attempting and finally successfully performing the Heimlich maneuver, Sylvia only needed a ten-minute break in which to compose herself, and the deposition continued on.

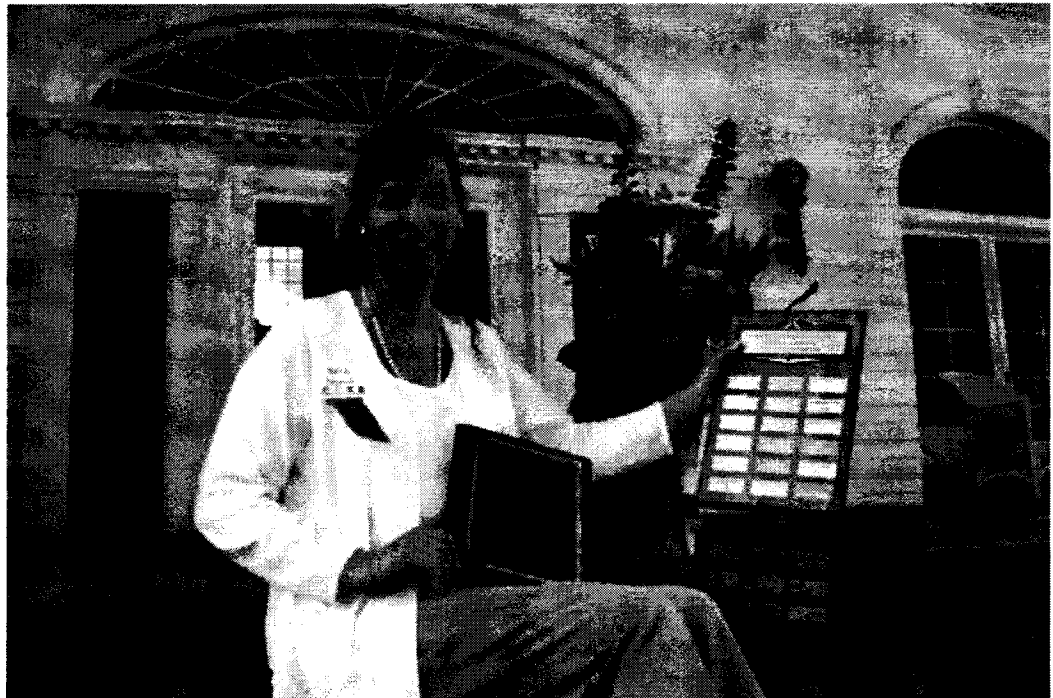
Most days, when Sylvia isn't volunteering for CCRA or taking a deposition, you'll find her at home working on transcripts with her "court reporting" doggies, Jolie and Jake.

As the 2001-2002 President, one of Sylvia's goals was to establish a CCRA web site. Through her involvement with the students at Denver Academy, Sylvia found and recruited Jeniffer Aloysius, our Webmaster, and the two of them together planned and created what is now known as CCRA.info.

One of the most daunting tasks Sylvia took on during her presidency was an unfortunate situation in El Paso County regarding a reporter who had quit working for the state, leaving behind a huge backlog of appellate transcript requests. Upon learning of this problem, Sylvia jumped right in and put in over 300 hours, at least, attempting to produce the overdue transcripts. In fact, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals was so impressed with her dedication and professionalism in this matter, he went on to nominate Sylvia for a businesswoman-of-the-year award.

Sylvia zealously performed all the duties and responsibilities of president, despite the loss of her mother and grandmother that year, and at the same time dealing with the family estate and arranging for the care of her disabled brother.

Another criteria the DSA Committee considers is continued involvement as a past president. Sylvia is still very active in CCRA. In fact, she is the current NCRA Test Examiner, along with Barb Birger, which is not an easy task.



(Sylvia on the veranda of the Historic Stanley Hotel)

So it is a great honor for me at this time, on behalf of the Colorado Court Reporters Association, to present the 2004 Distinguished Service Award to Sylvia Noneff.

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Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.

Voltaire