

# RAMBLINGS



Winter 2012

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## President's Message

On the merits of fear:

I would like you to be afraid, not very afraid, just a little afraid.

In 1932 in Franklin D. Roosevelt's first inaugural address, he said, "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance." I'm not talking that kind of fear. I'm talking a little fear.

I'll digress into some background and then return to the fear.

I realized the benefits of fear the other day as I was thinking about the advancements of technology during my time as a court reporter. In 1990 when I bought my first equipment, I included a laptop along with my desktop. Of course I wasn't going to do realtime. That would be ridiculous! And it wasn't even hooked up to my steno machine. That would be even more ridiculous! Back in those days in Illinois, depositions were delayed sometimes for hours. Normal court reporters without their silly little laptops read magazines or books. I caught up on my work.

Then in 2002, I bought my first paperless writer. *What a great invention*, I thought. Others weren't so pleased. When I went to court they wanted me to leave my paper notes. My office wanted me to turn in my paper notes. *Computers crash. Data is lost. How will you re-create your jobs without your paper notes?* Time and technology have been on my side. My second paperless writer is even better than my first. *Look, Ma, no cables! Look, Pa, no endless boxes of notes!*

An even more daunting hill to climb was audio-recording my jobs. *You've been patient. This is where the fear comes in.* I thought audio was an even better invention than a paperless writer. Others thought it was


the demise of good court reporters. *What will the attorneys think? Hide your microphone.* But for me, oh, my gosh. I could revisit what they said when I heard, "The butter was in the fridge," and they actually said, "The murderer was on the ledge." Just kidding. But you get my point. I could listen a second time to what sometimes flies by at the speed of the spoken word (200+ wpm). *That word that I wrote, "biscuit-eater," was that actually what they said? Let's hear it again. In the testimony I wrote that it was Mr. Jones speaking, but I remember it as Ms. Miller. Let's listen again.*

Marvelous inventions. They bring us comfort and a little bit of ease. But beware. Lurking behind that audio is complacency, laziness, ineptitude. You go through the job only paying half attention. Suddenly the unthinkable happens. The attorney asks you to read back that answer because they didn't hear it/understand it. You didn't either, at least not all of it. Or the witness asks you to read back the question, but you didn't quite get it. You vow to pay more attention next time, to stay more awake, to write a little faster, to interrupt what was too fast to write or too soft-spoken to understand. Fear is the answer.

New reporters know the feeling. Your heart is racing, your fingers sweat, your nerves make your fingers jump. Someone walks in the room behind you and you leap out of your seat. You can't sleep the night before the job. You can't eat (or if you're like me, you eat more). That's probably a bigger dose of fear than you need.

With time as a reporter, your fear wanes. The once novel and frightening becomes everyday. You relax. You get soft in your comfortable chair. You forget to PAY ATTENTION!

(Continued on page 3)

 CCRA is in need of a new **NCRA Chief Examiner** to administer certification exams in Colorado. NCRA will not be administering tests via Realtime Coach, but will be using the trusty CD method. For more information, please contact Kathy Scheer at [kscheer1@gmail.com](mailto:kscheer1@gmail.com) or Claudia Booton at [crbooton@gmail.com](mailto:crbooton@gmail.com).



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Full Page	\$125	\$425
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Please submit ad and check payable to CCRA at:

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For information regarding advertising, contact Sherri Meadors at (970) 593-0017 or [colocra@gmail.com](mailto:colocra@gmail.com).

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## President's Message (continued)

You think it's good to finally be relaxed in your job, but it's not. Your transcripts suffer. Your editing time is drowning you. Hang on to the adrenaline rush of fear. Think about how you'll feel if they ask you to read back – right now. Imagine someone looking over your shoulder reading your every mistake, even your big ones.

Or . . . become a realtime writer, and I don't mean just for yourself. Maybe start by angling your laptop so someone else can see what you write. For no extra charge, put a laptop (or iPad) in front of a friendly attorney or judge and tell them you're working on becoming a realtime writer. Take the leap into the adrenaline pool. You'll be amazed at your new writing skill. *Did someone just give me a 5-hour Energy? Did I really write that cleanly when they were talking on top of each other at 230 wpm?* Yes. That's where fear is your friend. Plus your editing time will dry up.

Of course, there are different stages of fear for the court reporter. Newer reporters need no reminder to be afraid. It just comes with the territory. Realtime reporters also need no reminders. Even seasoned realtime reporters have that little twinge of fear the night before and an even bigger twinge of fear the first day they walk into a realtime depo/arbitration/trial where they don't know what to expect. No, it's mainly you middle-agers who need the kick. It's you who have become comfortable in your non-realtime world, who have forgotten the jitters before the first 500 depositions you went on (no exaggeration there). Reach back into time and pull up a healthy dose of fright, or reach forward to a world of realtime where fear – and the better reporter who lives inside you – is waiting to emerge.

Tracy C. Masuga, RPR, CRR, sometimes frightened reporter

[Tcmasuga@comcast.net](mailto:Tcmasuga@comcast.net)

720-244-6303

# CCRA Annual Luncheon



Saturday, February 23, 2013

11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Denver ChopHouse

1735 19th Street, Denver, CO 80202  
(Same venue as last year—but a larger room.)

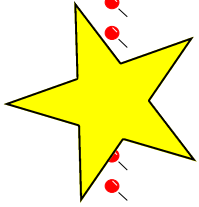
Mingle with fellow reporters and people active in the reporting industry for an enjoyable meal and lively conversation. We will discuss local community action, what's going on in our industry, what the movers and shakers have done the past year and are working on for this year, plus upcoming events to fill your calendar.



Two Stenograph machines in new condition for sale.

Both checked out by Ken Zoetewey, D.C. Electronics, Denver, in May 2012.

Elan Mira \$1,700 and Fusion with paper tray \$2,200.



## \* Save the Date \*

CCRA Spring Symposium

Saturday, April 6, 2013

The Inverness Hotel

Englewood, Colorado



## New Member Applicants

Debbie Easterly  
Freelance  
CART provider

Meleaha Glapion  
Student



**Congratulations to Colorado's newest  
certified reporters!**

Megan Strawn, RPR

Sarah Mitchell, RPR

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## CCRA BOARD NOMINATIONS 2013-2014

The Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for positions on the CCRA board. There are exciting challenges ahead for all of us in the court reporting profession. CCRA needs competent and energetic leaders to lead the way.

Take this opportunity to nominate a fellow court reporting professional who you think has the skills and talent to lead CCRA into the future and nominate them for a position on the CCRA Board of Directors. Nominees must be a CCRA member in good standing and hold a valid RPR or CSR certification in order to be considered for a CCRA board position.

Submit your nominee(s) in writing to:

CCRA Nominating Committee  
c/o Erin Valenti  
201 LaPorte Ave Suite 100  
Fort Collins, CO 80521  
or e-mail to [eev2133@yahoo.com](mailto:eev2133@yahoo.com)

**Nominations must be submitted by January 30, 2013.**

Nominations:

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Supportive comments: (attach separate sheet if needed)

# From the Archives . . .



## From the January 1973 issue of Ramblings:

Reporter Jeff Klein wrote, “What is perhaps more shocking . . . is the lack of support from reporters for our National and local organizations. I wouldn’t be surprised if the number of reporters not in support of an organization far exceeds the ones that do. Certainly, it couldn’t be a money situation. The reporter who says he hasn’t the money to pay dues is in the same dilemma as the man driving a Rolls Royce who can’t afford to put gas in his automobile. The real answer, I think, is a lack of interest, care or concern . . . The relatively small profession of reporting needs all the support it can get . . . Maybe one day the phrase, ‘Every member get a member,’ can read, ‘Every reporter is a member.’”

Colorado Springs reporter Fred Blackett and his wife recently returned from a trip to Kenya.

## From the February 1983 issue of Ramblings:

In the January 8th board meeting, discussion was had regarding whether to hold the fall seminar in Keystone or Grand Junction.

Mary Smith Agren notified CCRA members that she would be holding speed dictation sessions in preparation for the annual speed contest.

Eight Colorado reporters passed the RPR.

## From the January/February 1993 issue of Ramblings:

Winterfest I was held in Vail January 23-25, 1993.

CCRA Fundraising Committee Chair Kim Marchwick requested recipes and submissions of names for a cookbook the committee was putting together.

CCRA President Lois Spangler-Frank gave an update on certification changes. NCRA’s CM designation was going to be called RMR, and a new designation known as RDR was soon to be implemented.

## The world in early . . .

### 1973

The Miami Dolphins defeat the Washington Redskins at Super Bowl VII in Los Angeles.

U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade.

Elvis Presley television special “Aloha from Hawaii via Satellite” was aired internationally January 14th.

### 1983

Computer software program Lotus 1-2-3 released.

Final episode of M\*A\*S\*H aired in February.

Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” hits number one on the U.S. charts.

### 1993

In February ATF agents raid the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, TX, beginning a 51-day standoff.

Bill Clinton was inaugurated as the 42nd president.

For the first time the Super Bowl has a halftime performer: Michael Jackson.

## Steno Swap—Briefs for Arson Case

Submitted by Kathy Scheer and Kevin Carlin, 8th Judicial District

41.1	FOIN or FROIN	Point of Origin	POIR
ATF	A*FT	backdraft	BRAFT
Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms	A*FT/A*FT	Area of Origin	OIR
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms	BA*FT	Combustible	KBUBL
National Response Team	NRT/NRT	Combustion	KBUGS
NRT (Short for National Response Team)	NRT	Evacuate	VAEK
Certified Fire Investigator	SF*I/SF*I	Evacuates	VAEKS
CFI	SF*I	Evacuation	VAEKZ
Ingress	NERGS	Evacuating	VAEG
Egress	GRAOEGS	Alarm	LAERM
Hoodie	HO*ED	Fire Alarm	FERM
Flammable	FLABL	Surveillance	SWAINS
Extinguish	TWIRB	Surveil	SWAIL
Radiant heat	RAO*ET	Surveys	SWAILS
Incendiary	SEND/AER	Surveilling	SWAILG
Accelerant	SARNT or SLARNT	Fire Debris	FRAOEB
Convection	KWEBGZ	Balcony	BLAN or BA*
Oxidation	SHAEGS	Balcony	BLOENS or BA*S
Oxygen	SHEN	Laser pointer	LAIRP or LA*
Ignition	NIGZ	911	NOIN
		Speedy trial	SPROIL
		Canyon	KRON
		Stairwell	STWEL

# Calendar of Events

Jan 19	<b>CCRA Board Meeting</b>
Feb 23	<b>CCRA Annual Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Denver ChopHouse</b>
Apr 6	<b>CCRA Spring Symposium, Inverness Hotel, Englewood</b>
Mar 5	<b>Ramblings deadline</b>
May 5	<b>NCRA Testing</b> (Will be using CD method.)

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



# CCRA Membership Renewal 2012-2013



Please Return Form to:

**Colorado Court Reporters Association**  
**P.O. Box 7645, Loveland, CO 80537**  
Email: colocra@gmail.com

OR Fax your form with your CREDIT CARD information to: 970.797.1059

**Membership Renewal for March 1, 2012, through February 28, 2013**

**It's a new year!** For many, this is a time to resolve to improve different areas of our lives. Why not resolve to support and improve the court reporting profession here in Colorado through joining or renewing your CCRA membership?

CCRA continues to support its members through organizing seminars, providing opportunities for networking, utilizing a fantastic lobbyist, and keeping informed of current issues facing our field. The CCRA organization is here to serve you, but we need your support. *Please renew your CCRA membership today and invite a colleague to join with you!*

### ANNUAL DUES:

Associate	Freelance	Official	CART Provider	Captioner	Student	Retired	Honorary
\$82.50	\$110	\$110	\$110	\$110	\$27.50	\$27.50	\$0

### **PLEASE MARK YOUR METHOD OF PAYMENT:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed (Made Payable to CCRA)

\_\_\_\_\_ Visa or MasterCard# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Card Holder \_\_\_\_\_

**IN AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN ACCURATE INFORMATION, WE ASK THAT YOU COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW. PLEASE PRINT:**

A 2011 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.**

NAME as you want it to appear in the directory \_\_\_\_\_

DESIGNATION (i.e., Freelance, Official, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

CREDENTIALS \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to Volunteer for Pro-Bono projects. \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to Serve on a Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to Join the Mentor Program

***Your Continued Support is Invaluable to All Court Reporters in Colorado ~ Thank You!***

Dues payments to CCRA are NOT deductible as charity deductions for federal tax purposes.

Amounts may be deductible as a necessary business expense.