

## Distinguished Service Award – Spring Symposium 2018

What is the Distinguished Service Award? It is the most prestigious award offered by our state association. It offers recognition for distinguished and exemplary service to our profession, service which has contributed to its good reputation, its general welfare, or its worthy accomplishments, including service rendered to state and other reporting associations, public affairs, and public relations; service as an officer, director, committee chair and/or committee member. A recipient of the award must be a member in good standing of the Colorado Court Reporters Association and involved in the reporting profession on an extensive level, adhering to CCRA's Code of Ethics and serving as a role model in the court reporting profession. When we talk about "service," we speak of a person's actions, efforts, deeds ... those demonstrations of caring for a particular person, group, or organization.

This year's award-winning professional shines through all of these parameters of distinguished service, and it is a sincere honor and a privilege to present the Colorado Court Reporters Association Distinguished Service Award for 2018.

I hope you'll bear with the suspense a few moments as I first speak more generally about our DSA recipient. This is a person who has served as director, secretary-treasurer, vice president, and president of CCRA and has attained the certifications of RMR and CRR. She currently works as an official court reporter and is known for her reliability. She is the kind of person who consistently asks, "What can I do for you?" This is someone who has a ready smile and who gets along easily with everyone.

In considering this individual's impact on the reporting profession, the committee was quick to acknowledge several key attributes of her service: Positivity, inspiration, and tireless effort. Her colleagues have said she is "very dedicated to the court reporting profession and has a real passion for reporters obtaining certifications." Fellow board members recalled her "quiet and thoughtful leadership," saying, "She had a knack for encouraging board members to be involved in committees and work that ... she truly felt we would enjoy. She is always very supportive and is a true champion of court reporters." Having been a court

reporter since at least 1978, “there has never been a time in her career that she hasn’t served in some capacity with NCRA, NECRA, or CCRA.”

There is great value to be found in one’s deeds, and there is a time-honored principle of allowing your deeds to speak rather than your words. In her quiet and thoughtful way, this person’s deeds speak strongly of her sincerity, and they offer evidence of her capabilities in the areas of leadership, integrity, wisdom, and encouragement. This is someone who has maintained a string of court reporting friends from Nebraska into Colorado, every single one of them inspired and encouraged by her genuine efforts to support the reporting profession. She “has been involved with testing through NCRA since probably the late ‘90s, as evidenced by her more than ten years as Chief Examiner in Nebraska.” At testing time, the Nebraska reporters were apparently very excited to see her arrive with donuts in hand so that “everybody got their sugar fix, and [they] thought it helped them write faster!”

“She has been the driving force behind the Certified Realtime Court Reporter exam,” “instrumental in connecting Colorado reporters to the United States Court Reporters Association for realtime testing,” and she “has just recently been involved in obtaining realtime speed contest material ... to provide a realtime contest here in Colorado.” This hardworking, quiet and thoughtful leader, extremely capable and inspiring court reporter is a bright light within CCRA and so deserving of this award.

If you haven’t yet realized who this year’s DSA recipient is, let me give you a major clue: She is the friendly face you see when you take a test.

Congratulations to this year’s Distinguished Service Award recipient, Kathy Scheer!