

From: California Court Reporters Association <communications@cal-ccra.org>

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 5:00 PM

Subject: A Message From CCRA President, Sandy Walden



President's Message



Dear CCRA Members,

February is here! As promised, here comes my monthly President's Message! CCRA had our quarterly board meeting on February 1 and 2, 2020, in Sacramento. While we are working on many things, here are the important highlights:

The AB 5 Task Force gave its first report and made recommendations to the CCRA Board of Directors. The Board has voted and directed our legislative committee to work with the Task Force to move forward with very specific exemption language, along with educating our members on how to comply in the AB 5 world as it stands now. Therefore, CCRA will

be working on two paths: legislative solutions and educating our members. Look for the educational component to kick off next week with podcasts and written materials from our employment law attorney, Karen Tynan. The Task Force will continue working on the legislative piece with our lobbyist and the Board of Directors. You'll want to make sure you're a current CCRA member so you don't miss any AB 5 updates.

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AB 1469 (Low) is the firm registration bill that carried over from last year's legislative session. CCRA has been advocating for many years for firm registration. We believe it is the best way to even the playing field amongst the firms currently working in California. Most importantly, this bill will give the Court Reporters Board the administrative authority to ensure CSR owned firms and non-CSR owned firms comply with California laws. While CCRA still does not endorse the RIC language currently found in AB 1469, we do support firm registration and are working with Assemblymember Low on the exact language of the bill. Stay tuned.

Anyone want a transcript rate increase? CCRA will never stop fighting this fight on behalf of all California CSRs. Although the Governor did not include money in his January budget for a transcript rate increase, we are still advocating that money be allocated in the May revise version of the Governor's budget. Senator Lena Gonzalez has agreed to author the transcript rate increase bill this year as SB 991, and we look forward to working with SEIU on this bill.

CCRA's committees are gearing up to get work done for our members and are looking for more members to be involved. If you have an interest in being a part of any CCRA committee, please email me. The important groundwork of any board is always done at the committee level. The committees report to the board on what areas of our profession need attention and then make recommendations to the Board of Directors. We appreciate any time you have to give, and you can choose your level of involvement. No hard sell here, but we do invite you to participate in committee work. Please see the "Membership" tab on our website (www.cal-ccra.org), then click on "Volunteer Opportunities" to see a list of our committees.

If you haven't already heard, CCRA's A to Z programs are doing amazing! We currently have two programs in full swing - Sacramento and Downey - and we are eagerly looking forward to the next two programs in San Mateo and San Diego. We are asking our members to help fund these programs and our profession by donating to our A to Z program fund. Every bit helps. Each one of these programs leads to new court reporting students that we will eventually welcome as California CSRs. We can do great things, but we need your help.

[Donate Now!](#)

We hope you have followed us on social media this week as we have celebrated Court Reporting and Captioning Week 2020. It is so inspiring to see the day-to-day details of each facet of our profession and the difference an accurate record can make in people's lives. Let's continue celebrating steno all year long! Whether you are still a student working toward your CSR, or a freelancer, official, CART captioner, or broadcast captioner, CCRA celebrates you and we are here for you! Go steno!

Talk to you soon!



Sandy Walden, President
California Court Reporters Association

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