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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### My fellow colleagues,

I want to thank the membership for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your president. I am honoured and excited to serve in a year that will see great opportunity for our profession in Ontario. Let's first reflect on our successful convention and keep in the forefront of our psyches the success of self-taught stenographic reporter, Stan Sakai. Let's relish with pride in the model of world-class court reporting achieved by our talented Senate reporters and remind ourselves of not only the role they play in sustaining our profession in Ontario, but the role they play in the healthy

democracy of this amazing country of ours!

Let's be comforted with a renewed vigour going forward to tackle the challenges ahead of us; namely, court reporting in our Ontario Courts.

Technological solutions are being embraced and driven by lawyers in this province like never before, and court reporting will have an obvious role to play in the high-stakes litigation that reaches courtrooms in this province. Electronic trials are here, and our mandate is to see that court managers understand the true value of real-time court reporting in the administration of justice.

As an association, we will bring to the attention of all the stakeholders in the justice system that, despite the choice of our government to wholly embrace digital recording, our members have stayed abreast of voice-to-text technology and continue to offer the most technologically-advanced court reporting at a cost that is economically sound. We will continue to insist that all our members, should they desire, be grandfathered onto the ACT List and that the government's cost-saving methods of providing substandard captioning/note-taking is an affront to the Ontarians with Disabilities Act. We will remind them that if they had only heeded our advice of yesterday there would be no need to wholly resort to digital recording monitors and substandard transcription.

I encourage all of us to keep educating anyone and everyone regarding the deficiencies of voice recognition/trained speech recognition and remind them it is stenographic reporters who are the gold-seal providers of live captioning worldwide at present with every indication that that will continue well into the future.

Let's hold our heads high, demand respect in this province for the professionals we are, encourage new reporters, and relentlessly educate stakeholders on the true value of professional court reporters - you, me, us, Ontario's Chartered Shorthand Reporters.

Angela Gunn, CSR  
President, CSRAO 2015-2016  
[president@csrao.net](mailto:president@csrao.net)

### CALL FOR ARTICLES:

It only takes a second. Why not make a list of things as they occur to you and send them to [webmaster@csrao.net](mailto:webmaster@csrao.net) when convenient. Please submit your best tips and shortforms. As a working reporter with experience, what helped you the most in your first two years is an example. Put on those thinking caps and remember back to the days of yore, folks.

# CSRAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Executive Board Members (2014 - 2015)

President	Angela Gunn, CSR	<a href="mailto:president@csrao.net">president@csrao.net</a>
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Bench and Bar Liaison	Angela Gunn, CSR	<a href="mailto:president@csrao.net">president@csrao.net</a>
Webmaster	Rachel L.A. Rosenberg, CSR	<a href="mailto:webmaster@csrao.net">webmaster@csrao.net</a>
Associates	Cynthia Yan, Jenn Fantin	
Student	Danice Brown	

For membership issues, please contact the Secretary.

For fees, dues and convention/seminar registration issues, please contact the Treasurer.

For student liaison, please contact Examiner Lisa Barrett, CSR, RPR, CRR, CCP..

## OUR SPONSORS and ADVERTISERS

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	<p>Suite 711, 136 – 2446 Bank Street Ottawa, Ontario K1V 1A8 (613) 521-0703 <a href="mailto:info@stenotran.com">info@stenotran.com</a></p>

# THE CSR EXAM RETURNS!

By: Lisa Barrett, Lisa Barrett, CSR, RPR, CRR, CCP  
[vice-president@csrao.net](mailto:vice-president@csrao.net) and [examiner@csrao.net](mailto:examiner@csrao.net)

## **Chartered Shorthand Reporters' Association of Ontario By-law No. 4.(1) - Educational Powers**

The Association shall have power to promote and increase by all lawful ways and means the knowledge, skill and proficiency of its members in all things relating to the business or calling of a shorthand reporter, and to that end to establish classes, lectures and examinations and prescribe such tests of competence, fitness and moral character as may be thought expedient to qualify for admission to membership, to grant diplomas and certificates of efficiency and to authorize the members to use the distinguishing title "Chartered Shorthand Reporter" or the letters "C.S.R."

Due to popular demand, and as a good warmup prep for writing the RPR, the renewed CSR exam will be run in late September 2016, exact date to be announced.

The tests will be run at:

160 wpm Literary  
180 wpm Jury Charge  
200 wpm Q & A

There will also be a general knowledge written exam.

You can write/pass one, two or all three legs in one sitting.

Results will be kept on file for the next year.

Your transcript AND steno notes will be loaded onto a USB key for marking.

Reporters who have been working for three years in a legal setting will be entitled to write the exam and, upon passing, will be able to use the letters "CSR" after their name as a professional designation.

Reporters will need to be current in their membership as of September 2016.

I will run some preparatory classes in the weeks prior.

The fee for writing the exam will be \$100, payable to the CSRAO.

Start practising and get those letters beside your name that you so deserve!

Please contact me should you have any questions:

Lisa Barrett, Lisa Barrett, CSR, RPR, CRR, CCP  
[examiner@csrao.net](mailto:examiner@csrao.net)

## PRACTICE HINTS:

Besides television newscasts, try:

[www.myrealtimecoach.com](http://www.myrealtimecoach.com)!

[www.stenospeed.com](http://www.stenospeed.com)

[www.stenolife.com](http://www.stenolife.com)

[www.stenotube.com](http://www.stenotube.com)

# CONVENTION 2016!

**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, November 5, 2016**

By: Lisa Barrett, Lisa Barrett, CSR, RPR, CRR, CCP  
[vice-president@csrao.net](mailto:vice-president@csrao.net) and [examiner@csrao.net](mailto:examiner@csrao.net)

I started reporting in 1979. The year I started reporting, I was appointed to CSRAO Council. In fact, Teresa Forbes and I both were. We were associates. The Association looked a lot different then. We had big conventions at hotels for an entire weekend, reception parties, dinner dances and large AGMs with lively debate.

Our profession has dwindled and our resolve may have weakened, but "only in the darkness can you see the stars".

That brings me to the point: I have volunteered to organize the 2016 annual conference. Here's a sneak preview: We are so far planning to have the infamous Jade King speak at our conference this year, tentatively Saturday, November the 5th, 2016, so save the date! (Date will be firmed up shortly.) You may have been living in a fish hut up in North Bay and may not know who Jade King is, so you can catch up on some of her blogs. She is court reporter/captioner extraordinaire. She's an inspiration to us all. I'm lucky to have her as a friend and colleague. <https://jadeluxe.wordpress.com>.

Pencil in the conference because you sure won't want to miss this one.

Also, make sure you spread the word and start budgeting your money! The 2015 conference was amazing. Thank you to Terry and Co. for a job well done! Many people said it was the best conference they had been to for a long time, and Stan entertained and regaled us with amazing stories, reminding us how there are still young reporters around who are fresh, forward-thinking and ambitious!

We will attempt to meet together to this end approximately the second week of March, either via dinner or Skype. So please, if any reporters out there, junior or senior, would like to join mem on the Conference Planning Committee, feel free to contact me, Lisa, at [vice-president@csrao.net](mailto:vice-president@csrao.net).

**2016 (January to December) MEMBERSHIP FEES NOW DUE, FOLKS!**

**For convenient payment via PayPal, please visit**

<http://www.csrao.net/index.php/membership.html>

# Webmaster's Report

By: Rachel L.A. Rosenberg, CSR  
[webmaster@csrao.net](mailto:webmaster@csrao.net)

As many of you may recall, on reviewing expenses for our web site at the 2014 Convention it became clear that we needed to reduce the costs for web and e-mail funds of CSRAO. As you may or may not know, hosting a web site involves registration and hosting, and e-mail is generally a separate entity unto itself.

During the very attractive redesign of [www.csrao.net](http://www.csrao.net), those three items became hosted in separate places. However, we have consolidated all three matters with one host with resulting cost savings as follows.

Web Services up to 2014		Web Services 2015 and Onwards	
Web Hosting	\$ 406.80	Web Hosting \$427.14/3 years Domain registration CSRAO E-mail accounts Basic support	142.38
Web Support	\$ 868.97		
Domain Registration	\$ 50.00		
CSRAO E-mail accounts	\$ 349.92		
Annually	\$ 1,675.69	Annually	142.38

Going forward, we will have all hosted web services with one provider, reducing basic annual costs down to \$142.38.

We are grateful for the design assistance from our previous hosting provider which was instigated by previous boards, but the transition to this lower-cost hosting service together with our cost-free communications with members provided through our Facebook site, mean that members' dollars can be conserved and/or spent elsewhere on items of significance to our membership.

[www.csrao.net](http://www.csrao.net)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/CSRAO](http://www.facebook.com/groups/CSRAO)



# BACKUP! BACKUP! BACKUP!

## Your professional life may depend on it!

By: Rachel L.A. Rosenberg, CSR  
webmaster@csrao.net

We have come to take computers, and the electrical grid, so for granted that the rather mundane, even pedantic exercise of backing up one's work seems an added burden or irritant in our otherwise busy days.

However, all it takes is for a power surge or flicker to freeze a computer, and if you've not backed up your work at least to an external hard drive or USB key, you may have hours of attempting to reconstruct, re-edit a transcript, which may well have been a rush job.

True, you may think that, well, I've always got the electronic notes in my steno machine, I've got the notes plus basic translation in my laptop so I can just get it from there and redo it. Unfortunately, if you use your laptop as reporting and editing tool instead of transferring to a PC for editing and your laptop corrupts a file, you are now down to your steno machine and any digital backup you may be using. Not of great assistance in an expedite situation.

One advantage of a laptop over a PC is the laptop's internal battery, a feature which will allow you to continue working while power is out. Nevertheless, if you're not using a surge protector with it, an unwanted electrical fault can scupper your best laid plans.

Our CAT software does its best to create transcript backup copies as we go along merrily editing away and a sudden backup copy if a power or other type of fault occurs. But you will have more peace of mind if you practise safe text by having good backing-up habits.

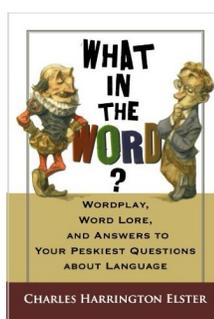
For example, do not leave your transcript on the screen if you leave your computer for pretty well any length of time. Close out of the file and back it up to a USB stick or external hard drive which you keep permanently attached to your PC. Doing so within your CAT software is quick and painless.

Once a week, back your CAT files to an external hard drive with a large capacity, say 1 TB (terabyte), including your sound files. The newer external hard drives are SSD drives, or solid state drives, which rely on memory chip technology, as opposed to the old HDD, or hard disk drive technology, which is just a computer drive but outside the computer. The SSD drives are fast and compact and of a much larger capacity than USB thumb drives. But why not use both USB thumb drive for quick backup and SSD for a weekly backup?

As Joni Mitchell said in "Big Yellow Taxi": "...you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone."

Better safe than sorry!

### READERS' CORNER



What in the Word? by  
Charles Harrington Elster

Although it doesn't always help us when it comes to having to take verbatim speech, it's still good to know!

<http://www.amazon.ca/What-Word-Word?>