

## **Information on Court Reporter Certification from Sheryl Culver, President, Iowa Court Reporters Association**

**For the State CSR**, reporters are tested in skills and written knowledge. The written knowledge portion consists of 100 questions which must be passed with a score of 70 percent or better. Included within the questions are questions pertaining to **transcript production**.

The skills portion of the CSR consists of technical testimony at 180 wpm; nontechnical testimony at 225, and nontechnical multi-voice at 200 wpm from which one minute is chosen for read back. The 180 and 225 skills portions must be transcribed with at least 95 percent accuracy to pass, and the read back must be at 95 percent accuracy.

**The National Court Reporters Association tests reporters for the following certifications:**

### **Registered Professional Reporter:**

Written Knowledge: 110 questions in the following areas: reporting, **transcript production**, operating, and professional issues and continuing education. The written knowledge test must be passed with a score of 70 percent or higher.

The skills portion consists of literary dictated at 180 wpm; jury charge at 200 wpm, and two-voice testimony at 225 wpm - all of which must be transcribed at 95 percent accuracy to pass.

### **Registered Merit Reporter:**

Written Knowledge: 110 questions in the areas of reporting, **transcript production**, administration, professional and continuing education. Again, must be passed with a score of 70 percent or higher. The skills portion consists of: literary at 200 wpm; jury charge at 240 wpm, and two-voice testimony at 260 wpm - all of which must be transcribed at 95 percent accuracy to pass.

### **Registered Diplomat Reporter:**

Written exam only - 110 questions in the areas of reporting, management, marketing, **transcript production**, education, and professional issues.

NCRA also offers certifications for CRR (Certified Realtime Reporter). This test is a practical test that consists of five minutes of literary dictation. Although the test candidate is only graded on the material turned in, the test actually consists of the ability to set up equipment; accurately write the dictation at 180 wpm, and then converting that material to an ASCII text file. Again, test candidates must pass the skills portion at 95 percent accuracy.

NCRA also offers certification for Cart providers, captioners, and videographers. NCRA offers a CRI program which is a Court Reporter Instructor program.

NCRA has retired one of their certification programs as of the last convention, the CMRS, Certified Manager of Reporting Services.

NCRA now offers two additional educational/certificate opportunities: Realtime Systems Administrator and a Trial Presentation Certificate.

The Realtime Systems Administrator program provides the reporter with the technical knowledge and troubleshooting skills needed to become the key player in providing realtime technology to clients or judges and attorneys in a court proceeding.

The Trial Presentation program deals with the use of trial presentation software to present evidence in court. It focuses on the use of this software to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of trial procedures.

Reporters are required to earn CEUs. Our CEU requirement runs in a three-year cycle. We must earn 3.0 CEUs during that three-year cycle.