

2015-2016 NCSA STATE "TAKE NOTE" COMPETITION

"Are there challenges that lie ahead? Will we meet them head on? You bet we will. And I can assure you that we will stand united, work together, and give it 110 percent, which is what all of us do every day. It's just how we roll."

- NCRA President Stephen A. Zinone, September *JCR* President's Message

We are all familiar with the findings from the 2013-2014 Industry Outlook Report by Ducker Worldwide that predicts there will be a shortage of 5,500 court reporters by 2018. We know our numbers are dwindling. We know we need students in our schools, and we know we need students graduating from court reporting programs. Are these challenges? Yes, they are, but we are court reporters, and we face challenges every day.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Just as colleges and universities engage in athletic rivalries, you can join forces with court reporters and captioners in your state for a little friendly competition across state borders. In our profession, we are silent as we diligently do our jobs, but we really have a lot to say about our great profession. Now is the time to say it.

Where can we let our voices be heard?

- Presentations and demonstrations at high schools or career fairs in our communities
- Presentations and demonstrations at guidance counselor conventions in our states
- Participation in a Veterans History Project Day
- Participation in and promotion of Court Reporting & Captioning Week 2016

WHEN IS THE COMPETITION?

The competition is ongoing from Oct. 1 through Feb. 20, 2016. If anyone in your state has participated in an event during that time period, you can receive credit for it.

WHERE CAN I FIND MATERIAL FOR A PRESENTATION?

If you're preparing a presentation, there is no need to look any further than the NCRA website to find a wealth of information at your fingertips.

- [NCRA.org/awareness](https://ncra.org/awareness)
- [NCRA.org/Foundation/content.cfm?ItemNumber=14993&navitemNumber=14994](https://ncra.org/Foundation/content.cfm?ItemNumber=14993&navitemNumber=14994)
- crtakenote.com
- crtakenote.com/schools/
- careersincourtreporting.com

Consider contacting the business education, English, or music department at your local school to set up a presentation. Consider taking along a short transcript to school presentations. Let the students do some play acting so they can experience what goes on in a court proceeding or deposition. Everyone likes to be the judge.

If you have an idea that really works well for you and you want to share it with other states or if you are having difficulty getting the ball rolling and you are looking for ideas, email your regional rep or reach out to leaders@ncralists.ncra.org. We are all working together to fill our court reporting and captioning schools with students, and we are all here to help each other.

HOW DO WE DOCUMENT OUR STATE'S ACTIVITIES?

Documenting your presentations or demonstrations is quick and easy. Just click on [this site](#), fill in the information, and your event will be entered in the contest.

There is no limit to the number of contest entries your state can have. The greater the number of entries you have, the better the chances your state wins the competition. Did your state, county, and city government offices issue a proclamation commemorating Court Reporting & Captioning Week? Did you participate in a Veterans History Project Day? Did you present at a school, conference, or career fair? These are all great ways to receive recognition for your hard work, and they're each additional entries for your state in the competition.

Don't stop there, though. Post pictures of your presentations on your state association's website and social media pages, and don't forget to use the hashtag [#crTakeNote](#) so NCRA can share your hard work (note that only entries submitted through the online application qualify for the competition). Contact NCRA's Assistant Director of Communications Annemarie Roketenetz at aroketenetz@ncra.org for possible inclusion in the *JCR Weekly*. Let everyone across the country hear about your successful campaign to promote court reporting and captioning.

WHAT ARE THE PRIZES FOR THE COMPETITION?

The prizes for the competition are tiered. Each entry into the raffle-type competition qualifies for the first, second, and third prizes. Each prize awarded is to be used at the state's discretion, i.e. registrations for the president/delegate, raffle items/fundraising for future conventions, student gifts, et cetera. In addition, there is a grand prize for an individual reporter or captioner.

First Prize: Two complimentary registrations to the 2016 NCRA Convention & Expo, Aug. 4-7, Chicago, Ill.

Second Prize: Two complimentary registrations to the 2016 NCRA Legislative Boot Camp, March 20-23, Washington, D.C.

Participation Prizes: Two NCRA \$50 vouchers/credits (five sets/ten total to be awarded)

GRAND PRIZE: A complimentary registration to the 2016 NCRA Convention & Expo will be awarded to the individual reporter or captioner who does the greatest number of school, career day, guidance counselor convention presentations, VHP Days, and/or Court Reporting & Captioning Week events. In case of a tie, the prize will go to the reporter or captioner who completed and submitted their presentations first.

GOOD LUCK! LET THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT YOUR GREAT CAREER!