

Why a membership dues increase is necessary for NCRA



By Dave Wenhold

In an ever-evolving professional landscape, the National Court Reporters Association remains a steadfast advocate for court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers across the country. To continue delivering the high-quality support, education, and advocacy our members expect and deserve, a modest increase in membership dues has become necessary.

First and foremost, NCRA plays a vital role in protecting and promoting the profession. Our advocacy efforts at both the state and federal levels are more critical than ever, as we face growing challenges such as digital recording encroachment and budget cuts in court systems. These efforts require significant resources — resources that ensure your voice is heard and your profession remains respected and viable. In the past year, NCRA has helped state associations fight back against licensure threats and even a state trying to remove the term “stenography” from the record making process. Insanity for sure! Our Association takes these threats seriously and fights back, but that takes resources. Additionally, NCRA has been successful in working with Congress to introduce a bill that will assist with the intrusion of AI into the court system. This is a huge effort, and NCRA is the leader in ensuring the human capacity remains in literally the most important aspect of maintaining the record of any proceeding.

Secondly, NCRA is committed to upholding the highest standards of professional excellence through certification and continuing education. Our certifications are nationally recognized and represent a gold standard in our industry by those that use your services. Maintaining the integrity and value of these programs requires continuous investment in testing platforms, educational content, and technical support — especially as we adapt to evolving technologies and remote learning environments.

Finally, like every organization and individual today, NCRA is not immune to the effects of rising costs. From technology and staffing to event planning and publications, operational expenses continue to climb. A dues increase is not being considered lightly; it is a strategic move to ensure NCRA can sustain and grow its offerings, support members more effectively, and remain a strong, unified voice for the profession. NCRA also listened to its members and adjusted the amount requested in any dues increase. The currently proposed dues increase is only \$30 per year, which equates to just 8 cents a day for a year — less than a dime a day to have an organization protecting and providing services to you.

We understand that any increase in cost must come with value. In general, no one wants to pay more for anything; that's human nature and we get it. That's why we are committed to transparency and accountability, ensuring that every dollar goes toward strengthening our community and securing the future of court reporting. As you know over the past six years, NCRA has trimmed all the fat, reduced our office space and staff, and even had to cut back on things like the size of the *JCR* print magazine. All of those cuts are great but there is no fat, only bone to cut now. A sensible and appropriate dues increase is needed (since there has not been one for over five years), and I am asking for your personal support when it comes time to vote in July.

Your investment in NCRA is an investment in your career and your livelihood. Is a dime a day too much to ask? I don't think so. Working together, we can ensure that the profession not only survives but thrives for generations to come. Thank you for your time and support.

Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC, is NCRA's Executive Director. He can be reached at dwenhold@ncra.org.

CONNECT WITH NCRA



**Member Services
Information Center**
Toll-free: 800-272-6272



Main Telephone
703-556-6272



Main Fax
703-391-0629



Email
membership@ncra.org



Website
NCRA.org



Twitter/X
twitter.com/NCRA



Facebook
facebook.com/NCRAfb



LinkedIn
[linkedin.com/company/
nationalcourtreportersassociation](https://linkedin.com/company/nationalcourtreportersassociation)



Instagram
instagram.com/ncraofficial



Headquarters
12355 Sunrise Valley Drive
Suite 610
Reston, VA 20191