

BRENDA L. FAUBER LEADERSHIP AWARD



Merriam-Webster defines leadership as follows:

lead-er-ship noun \ˈlē-der,ship\

1. a position as a leader of a group, organization, etc.
2. the time when a person holds the position of leader
3. the power or ability to lead other people

Perhaps it is time for Merriam-Webster to update its definition by adding a fourth definition: Brenda Fauber.

By all accounts, Brenda Fauber had a wonderful summer. NCRA awarded Brenda their Distinguished Service Award at the annual convention. This completed the hat-trick of distinguished service awards. She has previously been awarded the distinguished service awards of the Nebraska Court Reporters Association and the United States Court Reporters Association. She also has piled up a list of initials after her name: CSR, RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, FCRR and FAPR.

USCRA wanted to honor Brenda for all of her accomplishments within USCRA and to the profession. But she had won all the awards we had to bestow. When we reviewed all of Brenda's work, it was a remarkably easy decision to create a new award. And it was an even easier decision to name the award for her.

Each year, USCRA's Executive Committee can recommend a candidate for this honor to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will vote to bestow the award. Given the high standards Brenda has established, we don't anticipate the award being bestowed very frequently.

She has served as USCRA's Reporter Testing Chairperson for the last ten years. Over 900 people have taken USCRA's realtime certification exams under Brenda's leadership. She writes, administers and grades exams twice a year for USCRA. But that tells only part of the story. Brenda has a stake in seeing that every person passes the test. She holds hands, provides last minute reassurances to the test takers and ensures the test room is perfect. Anyone who has spent time with Brenda on the morning of the test can verify her dedication. I have witnessed her taping down extension cords in hotel rooms an hour before the test when the hotel has not finished the job properly. She tracks down cables, cards, flash drives, power cords and any number of items needed for the test takers. She wants her test people to pass. She often conducts seminars on the Friday before the test to help people prepare for the big day.

But she does so much more for USCRA than chair the test committee. She is an invaluable resource to USCRA's

Board of Directors. She spent hours working on the new manual this year. Her vast knowledge of the manual has helped countless individuals perform the job better. She provides historical perspective on many issues. On our Facebook page, Brenda is often the first one to chime in with a response and usually with the code section that pertains to the question.

She also manages to do this with a certain amount of grace and joy that is a wonder to behold. Brenda is a great leader. She leads by example. She has inspired a generation of future leaders who have had only to look to her great example of dedication and hard work. USCRA presented the Brenda L. Fauber Leadership Award to Brenda at our 69th Annual Convention in St. Petersburg on October 11, 2014.

