WHAT DOES CAPTIONING ADVOCACY MEAN?

CCAC is a volunteer community of hundreds of members on a mission! We advocate for “inclusion of quality captioning universally.” Issue one of this newsletter explored reasons we say the “power of captioning” (c). http://ccacaptioning.com/2012_CCACnews_issue1.pdf

Captioning of many sorts is required by millions of citizens for equal access, and is beneficial for millions more due to a list of good reasons.

Future issues will explore what captioning means because many people don’t yet grasp the significance, variety, and necessity of rich speech-to-text in everyday life. We will also examine the concepts of universality, universal design, and inclusiveness. This issue tackles advocacy.


MEET CCAC CONSUMER ADVOCATE ANGELA HILL

by Pearl Feder

Angela Hill has a hearing loss since the age of 3 or 6, later being diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa at the age of 12. Over the years her hearing loss has fallen into the profound range, forcing Angela to stop doing what she loves most, playing piano. However, more recently, Angela has found a new love, as a consumer advocate for CART.

Pearl: How did you come to discover CART?

Angela: I found out about CART actually due to an unfortunate situation. I had lost my mother unexpectedly in the year 2004. My husband and a cousin of mine were trying to figure out how I was going to get through the funeral. They contacted a local news-station because of the news being captioned; asking what can be done for me. They were informed to contact an organization in Alexandria, Virginia, who in turn told them to contact a local court reporting firm. What could have been an even more stressful situation was made easier when I had CART at my mother’s funeral.
From that point, I received CART at other places such as at church, meetings with the Norfolk Mayor’s Commission for Persons with Disabilities, etc.

Pearl: You’re very involved in advocacy, what has helped you with reaching your goals and how did you and others benefit from it?

Read more... [link]

TECH CORNER: TECHNOLOGIES USED BY CAPTIONING AND CART PROFESSIONALS - A CCAC CAP IN PROGRESS

Last month we published an article about “walking CART” that many enjoyed reading. This month, again thanks to CCAC member providers’ input, we publish this data about technologies – hardware and software – used by professional captioners and CART experts. It’s a work in progress (see the link), and readers are invited to share the information, send in new items.

[link]

Read more... [link]

Management Minute:

Understand important needs for captioning and CART at work that are not met now in too many places. See what your company can do to collaborate with others – a training video for new salespersons? CART provided for weekly work conference? Remote captioning for conference calls? Make it happen, your company will get a gold star from the CCAC. Be sure to tell us about it, ask us questions, and we’ll record it. Look over the summary of CCAC CAPS in this issue and find the gaps – opportunities!

SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY CCAC CAPS (CAPTIONING ADVOCACY PROJECTS)

by L. E. Storck, Executive Editor and CCAC Founder

As in issue one, we dive into the very active CCAC Membership Forum online and create this public summary of many sorts of grass-roots captioning advocacy done by CCAC members. You have asked for it. Now you have it here. Support the newsletter with your sponsorship soon! CCAC uses ten “categories of life” here:

1. Telecommunications and Internet Captioning
   - A CCAC provider member captions music video online in response to CCAC consumer member request. CART provider is teaching (self) new skills, using online resource called Universal Subtitles. See ccac web for more DIY tools: [link]

2. DVD subtitles discussed

3. Live subtitling and Re-speaking conference summarized for membership, with related commentary about “live” (respoken) and “blocked” captioning on television (for pre-recorded programming).

4. CCAC active advocate in D.C. alerts membership to lack of captioning mandate for much new programming coming online and more soon, e.g. new programs not created for television.

5. CNN lawsuit in CA discussed in membership, social media, etc. CCAC sends letter to CA advocates, expressing thanks.

6. CCAC member initiates “audio only online” captioning advocacy (audio presentations, streaming live events, etc.)

7. Example from Ireland of conference audio streaming live online is noted – well done!

8. Concern about “deaf” videos online without captioning for all.

9. Major international business (technology giant) has ability to offer 24 hours of online training for a product, with live captioning

“The Power of Captioning” (c) - A Powerful Concept. Why does the CCAC advocate for inclusion of quality captioning universally? For vital needs of mega-millions of citizens who are...

* Learning to read - text in class, television, online
* Learning new language
* Need translations
* Need immediate transcript - no need for notetakers or flawless memory
* Employed and working with different accents, poor acoustics, noisy backgrounds - to boost productivity
* Managing good lives with different learning and listening styles
* Doing business to reach wider markets - Search Engine Optimization
* Using captioning in situations rather than loud volume so as not to disturb others
* Navigating life with different hearing or no hearing (46 million in USA alone, one in five globally) to contribute skills and abilities
Major international business (technology giant) has ability to offer 24 hours of online training for a product, with live captioning announced in languages. How to harness this richness for so many who need equal communication access everyday online for other good reasons?

- Here’s a small sample of what many CCAC members do every week: asking for, or saying thanks, to people who include quality captioning! See [http://www.nbcbayarea.com/video/#!/news/local/Mozzeria--Captioned-/139931033](http://www.nbcbayarea.com/video/#!/news/local/Mozzeria--Captioned-/139931033). We message and applaud the reporter, whom we are told, did the CC here himself, or had it done quickly. It’s large across the screen, yet very nice to be included. Hooray for access.

- New CCAC member introduces idea of captioning (live realtime quality speech to text) for google plus hangouts. Developing discussion among membership internationally.

- Live streaming (e.g. ustream) of events of national interest – membership collaborated to advocate for captioning inclusion via emails, telephone, and letters to producers and broadcasters who send replies such as “not our responsibility). Continuing advocacy, thanks to CCAC member interest and action.

Copyright Concerns: CCAC advocates are concerned about how to best provide quality captioning where none exists now. For online materials, so many and blooming so rapidly, when creators of online content do not include quality captioning, we aim to educate all about the need, and CCAC volunteers also offer free captioning at times (very limited, or mission is to advocate, not to provide free services except when it educates and allows others to start the ball rolling). Copyright is a major developing world story, keep tuned, yet meanwhile, here’s a suggestion from one CCAC member about YouTube videos.....(go to continuation on the web, and also see the link with the spreadsheet there), spreadsheet (link here also).


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**WHAT CAPTIONING ADVOCACY ARE YOU DOIING TODAY? JOIN THE CCAC TO SHARE IDEAS, FIND**