

## American Society for the History of Rhetoric SSCA Business Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:07a.m. by Jim A. Kuypers. Kuypers presented a report detailing preparation for the 2009 convention. Email him ([Kuypers@vt.edu](mailto:Kuypers@vt.edu)) for details. Sean O'Rourke nominated Cynthia P. King for vice-chair and program planner for the 2010 Little Rock convention. Beth Bennett seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. There was no old business and no new business. Meeting adjourned at 8:25a.m.

Officers:

Chair: Jim A. Kuypers

Vice Chair and program planner: Cynthia P. King

## 2009 Norfolk Convention SSCA Division and Interest Group Officers Report

Association for Communication Administration

### **Minutes from 2009 meeting in Norfolk**

Janie Harden Fritz called the meeting to order and reviewed the minutes from 2008.

Carl Cates discussed issues related to ACA at the national level. More people attended the ACA meeting at NCA in 2008 than previously and Carl's hope is for 20-25 to attend in 2009. John Cook is the chair at the national level. Although ACA had two panels and a business meeting in 2008, only one panel and the business meeting are committed for 2009. NCA continues to quote documents from the earlier incarnation of ACA but the association seems ambivalent about supporting the current group. A suggestion was made to scan and post documents from the past. A question also arose about whether the Central States Communication Association has a group associated with ACA.

Ideas for the 2010 convention included focusing on administrative structures rather than administrators, issues of sustainability, and types of information that would help chairs defend their programs from cuts.

A strategy for developing the interest group is to include various types of administrators – course directors and graduate and undergraduate advisors as well as department chairs. A final suggestion was to create a list serve or email list for administrators in SSCA and the region.

**Southern States Communication Association  
Applied Communication Division  
2009 Business Meeting – Norfolk, VA**

**Chair:**  
Elissa Foster  
Leigh Valley Hospital  
[commscholar@hotmail.com](mailto:commscholar@hotmail.com)

**Vice Chair:**  
Jennifer Mize Smith  
Western Kentucky University  
[jennifer.mize.smith@wku.edu](mailto:jennifer.mize.smith@wku.edu)

**Vice Chair Elect:**  
Maria Dixon  
Southern Methodist University  
[madixon@smu.edu](mailto:madixon@smu.edu)

**Secretary:**  
Kristina Drumheller  
West Texas A&M University  
[kdrumheller@wtamu.edu](mailto:kdrumheller@wtamu.edu)

- I. Call to order and introductions of officers at 6 p.m.
  - A. Minutes to be emailed to members; vice chair elect Maria Dixon unable to attend
  - B. Agenda Overview
- II. Officers Reports
  - A. *Chair – Elissa Foster*
    1. Report from SSCA Executive Council - Budget for association is healthy and the membership is holding steady at 683 and may grow some. The special issue on qualitative research received 118 submissions exceeding expectations for the Fall Issue (75:7). Tom Socha is on the committee to research the feasibility of making the second journal permanent. SSCA 2010 in Memphis will be planned by Tom Socha with the theme of *Positive Communication*. Little Rock (2011), San Antonio (2012), then Louisville (2013) at the Seelbach Hilton.
    2. Membership for the Applied Division was 119 last year and 112 preconference but we expect it to rise. Rhetoric is at 183; Interpersonal is at 127; MCOM has 113 and Applied has 112. Membership is robust but we haven't done a good job at rallying participation and communication around membership. Elissa and Jennifer will work together to help with that.
  - B. *Vice Chair-Jennifer Mize Smith*
    1. We had 10 program slots just as last year – 5 paper panels, 4 panels and business meeting. We did a joint panel with comm. theory for combining service and theory. Submissions were down with only 33 papers, but interpersonal division submissions were down so we're not sure why. 4 out of 5 panels were accepted and 17 out of 21 papers were accepted (mean 72% & 2 yes votes). We had 11 reviewers.
    2. Members requested more communication from SSCA and officers on the call for papers, reminder about deadline in month & in 2 weeks; another call for UHC; send out email to members with the minutes. Members were asked to send program ideas directly to Maria (request with her email will be sent with the minutes).

C. *Vice Chair Elect – unable to attend*

III. Awards

A. Top Paper went to Maggie Pitts and Kimberly Adams Tufts of Old Dominion University: *What Parents Need to Know about the New Virginia HPV Vaccine Mandate: Implications for Information Seeking and Parental Decision-Making*

B. Top Student Paper went to J. Jacob Jenkins, University of Arkansas-Little Rock: *The Role of Postmodern Communication in a Modern/PreModern Organization*

IV. Vice chair elections

A. Nominations were taken and Beth Eschenfelder elected as Vice-Chair elect

B. Joann Keyton, Chuck Grant, and Abby Brooks were elected to the Nominating Committee. Their responsibilities are to convene to determine nominations for vice-chair elect and secretary.

V. Old Business

A. Web site/Listserv – It was determined that we do need a way to communicate more with membership but websites and listservs can be difficult to manage with changing host sites. Members decided that the secretary would create an email distribution list from the division membership to send out updates such as when submissions are due and to try and recruit members. Also suggested changing “Business Meeting” to “Membership Meeting” or something like that to encourage more participation. Need to continue to request that top 4 panel and meeting be placed back-to-back.

1. Several complaints about this year’s conference program and multiple typos but liked that next year’s call was placed in the program.

VI. Announcements - None

VII. Passing of the Jump Drive – (ceremonial passing took place between Jennifer & Maria on Saturday when Maria was able to attend the conference)

VIII. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 5:50

April 2, 2009  
5:30 PM  
Norfolk, VA Marriot

### Kenneth Burke Interest Group

Chair: Kim Golombisky, University of South Florida (absent)  
Vice-Chair: Christina Moss, North Carolina State University (absent)  
Vice-Chair Elect/ Secretary: C. Wesley Buerkle, East Tennessee State University

**Comedy:** As Kim Golombisky was unable to attend this year's convention and as Christi Moss was busy participating on a panel at the same time, the meeting was called to order by Wesley Buerkle. Upon distributing last year's minutes members quickly began identifying errors in the record of last year's events, an especially surprising feat as few of those making corrections were actually at last year's meeting, including the person who took the notes. Corrections were taken in the spirit intended, chuckling at the following changes:

- ♦ Mistyped "university" in two places
- ♦ Added a gratuitous "k" to Gershberg's first name
- ♦ Wrote "Roanoke" in place of "Norfolk" – I knew it was one of those I am never sure how to pronounce

All this being noted by the secretary, the minutes were approved.

**Burlesque:** A report was made regarding the executive meetings of SSCA. Primary attention was given to the theme for 2010, "Positive Communication: Come to Memphis. Sing the Blues. Be Happy." The group quickly became nattering nabobs of negativity.

**Didactic:** A report on this year's panels was made in absentia. We had only 2½ panels, but all were well attended. Turning to next year, ideas for panels were solicited. Important topics to spark panels include:

- ♦ Burkean discussion of Martin Luther King, Jr., as he was assassinated not far from the convention site
- ♦ Burke and Elvis—can you say "velvet paintings"?
- ♦ Burke and the Southern Agrarian (the secretary was intrigued by this title as he is a western agrarian)

Primary attention was given to a session on the essential Burke in the college classroom. Even Richard Thames agreed to participate. We are contemplating requesting this be a duel session with 20-30 minute presentations on the essential Burkean theory to be taught in college courses.

**Epic:** Anna Turnage (North Carolina State University) was elected by acclamation (or reaffirmed, if you read last year's notes) to begin serving as vice-chair elect/secretary in 2010.

Seeing as how there was no other business and alcohol was being distributed only yards from our meeting room, we adjourned.

Yours in Burke,  
C. Wesley Buerkle

Communication Theory Division  
2008 SSCA Convention  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Savannah, Georgia  
April 4, 2008  
SSCA Minutes

Sherry Ford called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm and welcomed all members. There was a motion from the floor to approve the minutes, which received a second, and subsequently, the members of the division voted to approve the minutes from last year's meeting.

## REPORTS

### Chair's Report

Sherry Ford reported that the location of the 2012 SSCA Convention would be San Antonio, Texas. She also reported that next year's convention title will be Communication Across Ideologies. The top scholar for this year was reported as Dr. Will Powers and his spotlight would be Saturday at 9:30.

### Vice-Chair's Report

Monette Callaway-Ezell reported that there were 27 submissions to the division for this year's conference, with 12 student papers, 2 faculty and student papers, 10 faculty papers, and 3 panels. Of these 10 student papers were accepted, along with 2 faculty and student papers, 6 faculty papers, and 3 panels. The top student paper for the division was submitted by Khaled Nasser of Louisiana State University, titled "I Hate the United States: Nationalism and the Self Concept." The top faculty paper was submitted by Frances Brandau-Brown, Rick Bellow, and J. Donald Ragsdale of Sam Houston State University, titled "Attachment Style and Tolerance for Ambiguity Effects and Relational Repair Interpretation Among Remarrieds."

## OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Elections were held for vice chair elect, secretary, and nominating committee. Dave Sutton was nominated for vice chair elect.

a. A motion was entertained from the floor and received a second to close nominations. Upon the vote of division members, Dave Sutton was elected as vice chair elect for the upcoming year.

b. Ray Ozley was nominated as division secretary and he accepted the nomination. A motion was entertained and received a second to close nominations. Upon the paper ballot vote of the division members, Ray Ozley was elected as division secretary.

c. Division members volunteered Todd Goen, Joann Keyton, and Megan Wilson to nominating committee for the upcoming year.

2. Trish Amason discussed the SSCA convention for the upcoming year, to be held in Norfolk, Virginia. She plans to focus on collaboration within this convention through special sessions, workshops, roundtable discussions, and brainstorming sessions. She also hoped to have panels between new scholars and past top scholars.

3. SSCA Nominating Committee is seeking nominations.

4. SSCA is considering a qualitative research journal. They plan to start with a special issue of the Southern States Communication Journal to gauge the number and quality of submissions. Then the association will create a proposal to fully investigate the commitment to a new qualitative journal. The current proposal is to start with 6 issues in 2012.

#### 2008-2009 OFFICERS

Chair: Monette Callaway-Ezell, Hinds Community College, [mezell@hindsc.edu](mailto:mezell@hindsc.edu)

Vice-chair: Stephanie Coopman, San Jose State University, [sjcoopman@yahoo.com](mailto:sjcoopman@yahoo.com)

Vice-chair elect: Dave Sutton

Secretary: Ray Ozley, University of Montevallo, [ozleyr@montevallo.edu](mailto:ozleyr@montevallo.edu)

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan L Wilson

## **Communication Theory Division**

2007 SSCA Convention

Meeting Minutes

Louisville, Kentucky

Friday, 30 March 2007

SSCA Minutes

Cole Franklin called the meeting to order at 10:31 am and welcomed all members. There was a motion from the floor to approve the minutes, which received a second, and subsequently, the members of the division voted to approve the minutes from last year's meeting.

### **REPORTS**

#### *Chair's Report*

Cole Franklin reported the results of the association elections, noting that Trish Amason is the new vice-president elect. He also reported that the 2011 convention site will be in Little Rock, Arkansas.

#### *Vice-Chair's Report*

Sherry Ford reported that the division received 20 competitive papers submissions and four panel submissions, which represents an increase from the previous year. The division received three time slots and requested a fourth, which was granted. This allowed the division to accept nine papers and two panels.

- The top paper award for the division went to Will Power and Paul Witt. Will Powers distributed copies of the top paper to individuals who were unable to attend the top paper panel the previous evening. He also thanked Jim McCroskey, Ralph Benhke, Margaret Fitch-Hauser, and wife Lois Powers for their support and assistance.
- The top student paper for the division and division's nominee for the Bostrom award went to Todd Lee Goen.
- There were no nominations for an outstanding theorist award.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Given the complete and utter dearth of nominations for the division's outstanding theorist award, the officers reminded members to consider this award for next year. There was some disagreement as to whether or not the division should form a selection committee for this award. After consulting the division bylaws and past presidents attending the meeting, Cole Franklin clarified for the membership that the selection committee for this award consist of a committee of the division officers with the division chair serving as the chair of the committee. Sherry Ford invited members to submit nominations for next year. Discussion

then ensued as to how best to continue this valuable tradition. The following suggestions resulted:

- a. An e-mail call to the division members for the outstanding theorist award.
  - b. Contacting specific division members and asking them to nominate someone.
  - c. Consulting the list of previous winners in the hope that members might think of persons deserving of this honor.
  - d. A panel of previous winners to talk about the state of theory.
2. Many members expressed dismay at the number of panels granted the division. Several members noted that the acceptance rate for the division was lower than most NCA divisions for the previous year. Lynne Webb made suggestions for obtaining more panels in future years. Several members noted the need for continued encouragement for submission of both papers and panels in the future.
  3. Joy Hart distributed a survey for members regarding electronic submissions for future conferences. She is a member of an ad hoc committee investigating the use of an electronic submission system for future SSCA conventions. A lively discussion of the costs and benefits of moving to an electronic submission system.
  4. Several members discussed potential for panels for next year. There was a suggestion that the division actively seek to co-sponsor panels with other divisions. Division members decided that the division should definitely have a Communication Theory Scholar Spotlight Panel. One suggestion for this panel was to bring together previous recipients of this honor for a round table discussion.

## **ELECTIONS**

### *Vice-Chair Elect*

The division elected Stephanie Coopman to this position by acclamation.

### *SSCA Nominating Committee Representation*

Given a change to NCA's constitution, there was no need to elect someone for this position. Division immediate past chairs will now serve in this capacity. Cole Franklin will serve as the division's representative next year. He encouraged members to submit names of individuals interested in serving the association to him.

### *Division Nominating Committee*

The division elected Lynne Webb, Ryan Lloyd, and Steven Weiss as members of the division nominating committee. Webb and Lloyd will serve as co-chairs. Cole Franklin charged the members of the committee to develop a slate of candidates for next year's election.

There was a motion to adjourn and a second from the floor. Hearing no objections, Cole Franklin adjourned the meeting at 11:25 am.

**2007-2008 OFFICERS**

Chair: Sherry Ford, University of Montevallo

Vice-Chair: Monette Calloway-Ezell, Hinds Community College

Vice-Chair Elect: Stephanie Coopman, San José State University

Secretary: Todd Lee Goen, University of Georgia

Immediate Past Chair: Cole Franklin, East Texas Baptist University

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Lee Goen

Division Secretary

## **Communication Theory Division**

2006 SSCA

Meeting Minutes

Dallas, TX

Saturday, April 7, 2006

Heather Stark was unable to attend the meeting. Vice-Chair, Cole Franklin, called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. and welcomed all members.

### ***Reports***

#### Chair's Report: (Cole Franklin standing in for Heather Stark)

- Franklin provided a brief overview of the situation pertaining to the directorship of SSCA over the last few years and reassured everyone that the Association's current standing was good.
- Franklin reported that the recommended site for the 2010 convention is Memphis, TN.
- Discussion occurred concerning use of media equipment at conventions—stressing the cost-effectiveness and availability—and suggestions were made to use such equipment only when necessary.

#### Vice Chair's Report: (Cole Franklin)

- Franklin reported that the division had 11 papers submitted. Of the 11 papers, 9 were selected for convention slots by blind reviewers. The 9 papers were programmed into 2 panels for the division.
- One panel submission was received and programmed by the division.
- Panel Summary: 3 complete panels were slotted for the Communication Theory Division.
- There were no nominations for the Communication Theory Outstanding Scholar Award; therefore, no award was given.
- Top Paper: "What Do You Mean By That? Interpretation of Relational Repair Messages as a Function of Equivocation Level and Marital Satisfaction." by Rick Bello, Frances Brandau-Brown, & J.D. Ragsdale, Sam Houston State University
- Communication Theory Division nominee for the SSCA Bostrom Award: "The Effects of Hierarchical Distance on the Frequency, Rehearsal, and Catharsis Functions of Imagined Interactions." by John DeBerry, Louisiana State University

***Unfinished Business:*** none discussed

#### ***New Business:***

- Sherry Ford asked for ideas for next year's convention and received suggestions such as having focused roundtable discussions and a spotlight scholar in addition to thematic panels.
- Elections were held and all officers were accepted by acclamation.  
2007 Officers:

Chair: Cole Franklin, Louisiana College

Vice Chair: Sherry Ford, University of Montevallo

Vice Chair Elect: Monette Callaway-Ezell, Hinds Community College  
Secretary: Todd Goen, University of Georgia (to serve 2007, 2008, 2009—new  
election in 2009)

Nominating Committee Representative: Rick Bello, Sam Houston State  
University (to serve 2007 & 2008—new election in 2008)

***Closing Remarks:***

Cole Franklin thanked the reviewers and members. After a motion to adjourn, Franklin adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m. 2007

Elections for 2008:  
Vice Chair Elect

## *Ethnography Special Interest Group Meeting*

*4/4/09*

*Norfolk, VA*

*5:10 pm*

Chair: Cris Davis

Vice Chair: Linda Vangelis (absent)

Vice Chair Elect: Michael Arrington (absent)

Co-Secretaries: Christine Kiesinger, Elissa Foster

Elections: Chris Poulos

*5:15 pm*

Agenda

Elections

Report from Rebecca

Journal

Division Status

### *Vice Chair Report*

~Rebecca indicated enjoying this process

~Expressed gratitude to all who participated

~Extended special thanks to Cris Davis for her support

~Indicated that 6 panels accepted at SSCA

~2 were co-sponsored with Performance Studies and Rhetoric and Public Address

~9 papers reviewed by Rebecca and two others in groups

~ 2 papers were rejected because they were a poor fit; one passed on to another division

~4 student papers—no top student paper awarded

QUESTION: Were the number of papers down from last year?

Yes.

QUESTION: Did the deadline change?

*Yes. Deadlines were earlier this year. This was problematic in that it may have led to fewer submissions.*

QUESTION: Is it electronic?

*Only insofar as it is done by e-mail. Expecting higher submission for Memphis.*

*5:24 pm*

~Award

Beverly Kennedy awarded *Top Paper in Ethnography* plaque to Joyce Hocker for her paper: *"I Could Tell You Stories: A Year in the Dakota Plains"*

~SSCA Ethnography panels were well attended (13, 11, 10, 25) attendance at our panels, 11 attended Business Meeting.

~Indicated that the VP Elect of the Association will be asking all VP Elects of the Divisions to review Undergraduate Honors Conference papers and to act as a respondent or chair for one of the UHC panels.

*5:27 pm*

### *Journal Report—Ken Cissna*

~Indicated that there were 118 submissions.

~Manuscript Central did not work. All done by e-mail.

~Started numbering at 001 because anticipated a higher number of submissions but had no assistant or release time.

~Getting papers was fine but getting reviews back was overwhelming. Caught up over spring break. Only 2-3 reviews outstanding,

~Remaining still in process.

~Agreement was for one issue, maybe two. However, there will only be one.

~A lot of interest in an additional qualitative journal.

- ~Proposed name: QRC—Qualitative Research in Communication
- ~Proposal is with Taylor and Francis now, feasibility study presented at EC meeting of SSCA.
- ~SJC will go from 4 to 5 times per year.

### *Announcements*

~Next convention 2010/Memphis, 2011/Little Rock, 2012/San Antonio, 2013/Louisville

~In 2009 members at 152—up from previous years—137 in 2007, 104 in 2008

~Second largest of the Interest Groups

### *New Business*

~Division Status. Chris indicated speaking with Emmet about becoming a Division. Cons: will lose 75% of members immediately. Pros: does not change the number of panels allowed at conference.

~Were not invited to attend EC but it looks like Chairs of Interest Groups will be invited in the future. May need future discussion about this.

~Budget? Does not think there are any funds for divisions. Interest Groups also get the same plaques for awards.

~Recommendations—stay as we are for at least another year and revisit.

5:41 pm

### *List serve*

~Cris set up listserv but it was restricted to 25 members

~Comment: benefit of a distribution list over listserve? Cris indicated feedback about listserve—that it did not work.

~Question about what one would want to send out. Response: List of officers, Call for Papers, Minutes

~Need to get Excel Spreadsheet from SSCA after the conference. Chair can request and send to all officers.

QUESTION: How is the list managed?

*Harder to deal with people who do not want to be contacted by going in to each e-mail to delete them. One could remove them from the Excel file.*

~Discussed the benefits of the listserv

~Recommendation: try the e-mail list for next year.

*5:50 pm*

### *Next Year's Program*

~Michael Arrington was not present. Plan B is Chris Poulos to plan. Becky agreed to follow up with Michael about planning.

~Theme: *Positive Communication*

~Come to Memphis, sing the Blues, Be happy!

~Comment about ducks from the Peabody handed out by Tom Socha to promote the conference

~Discussion about less expensive hotels across the street from the Peabody

~Larry Frey—Keynote—Activism

~Emphasis on Reconciliation and Forgiveness// Health and Well Being

~How can we tap into this?

~Parody (each panel should have a blues song title)

~Possibly include music in presentations

~Field Trip to Graceland—Frenz as tour guide with a panel that features field notes from the trip. Possibly write up as a publication. Arrive early and visit 2 sites—Graceland and the Lorraine Hotel (site of a growing Civil Rights Museum).

~Request a double panel to present field notes.

~Panel idea about the tools of research to share with students—Co-sponsor with the Instructional Division.

~Discussed: can there be a session that features a single person's work—a session where we hear 'more' of one's paper?

~Indicated that this has been done in the Performance Studies Division

~Perhaps have more than one respondent—one paper and 4 respondents?

~Perhaps put out a call for one person's ethnography to 'spotlight' as part of a competitive process.

~Could program the others as regular submissions

~Make sure we leave it up to the planner as to whether or not we have a paper good enough to spotlight so as to generate real discussion about the paper.

~Book Review Session (2009) was very successful. In the future, we must be intentional about having the authors present to respond to questions.

~Comment made about liking the part of the SSCA 2010 call that emphasizes communication and wellness.

~Other conferences offer activities that highlight wellness—can we do so? For example, a session about the body/mind—emphasizing body-mind communication as it can be used toward wellness (yoga/meditation techniques).

QUESTION: Can we give up a session for that?

*To date—we've had everything paneled to fill the conference slots.*

~Wide appeal to the suggestion.

QUESTION: Spotlight on a scholar?

*Yes. Nominations: Art Bochner, Bud Goodall, Norm Denzin. Lots of possibilities.*

*Gerry Phillipson—let's think out of the box.*

~Comment: might be more willing to come if the invitation was initiated by someone who knows the scholar, as we cannot offer him/her anything.

QUESTION: Can we compensate anything for these visitors?  
*Have not had any success with this in past history.*

~Tom Frenz will talk to Art Bochner about Norm Denzin.

~Christine Kiesinger will take the lead on a proposal for Communicating Toward Health.

~Need to draw more people into this process for planning and not limit it to those present at the Business Meeting.

~Agreed to send the pre-conference idea to Michael Arrington.

~John Nicholson offered to partner with Michael to help plan the pre-conference event.

6:19 pm

Meeting Adjourned

Southern States Southern Forensics Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2008

6 moved to 4 in the report, and present the awards.

Darren – on attendance sheet mention school and if you will chair, VC, or review for the conference.

In attendance –

Darren Goins – Chair

Tyler Thornton – Vice Chair

Brian McGee – Vice Chair Elect, 2009 Program Planner

Tom Hubner – Carson Newman

Dan Schabot – Cameron

Dave Nelson – Northwest Missouri State

Nina Joe Moore – Appalacian State

Two names I didn't know

Minutes from 2007 approved by the body

Darren Report –

We have 30 members. Nina Joe says we are safe because of the history and nature of the program. The conference comes at a time in the year when people can't attend. We are naturally a smaller group. We won't lose our group.

Pay pal a convenience to pay for membership and stuff this year. Finance committee will make sure its there next year.

Second journal, they will continue looking at whether it should be done and a special issue and incoming editor. When it comes for a vote we should support it especially since it comes online. Scholars should get their work in print.

We should try to get the town hall as a spotlight and show case. Good for getting people involved, there are others with forensics backgrounds.

Hand out awards – we submitted our information in time but the plaques didn't get ordered in time. Top Faculty paper awarded to Darren Goins, Top Graduate paper went to Crystal Lane Swift at LSU. Coach of the Year from 2007 was Tyler Thornton. Nominations for 2008 Coach of the Year were Crystal Lane Swift, Nina Jo Moore spoke on her behalf; Jason Hough, and Dan Schabot spoke on his behalf; the vote for 2008 was Jason Hough of John Brown University.

Bryan McGee report on planning for next year –

It's a bit different this year but it will work the same as usual. Come to the conference its in Virginia, if dates don't conflict you should come out.

Election Results for next year: Vice Chair Elect Dave Nelson, Co-secretaries, Kris and Marian Willis.

#### Old Business –

Talk to executive council about getting the name changed in the constitution. Until it is approved by the general membership and put in constitution it will not be changed.

#### New Business –

Darren suggested we keep the scales Tyler Thornton used as a formal criteria for how to review and accept papers in the future, formalize the process. Schabot said planners should have the right to use their own form. Darren said consistency would be better, Tom Hubner agreed. Brian McGee suggested we use the form but it can be changed as necessary. We can vote different categories, change the scale, etc. Also make tech changes, just use the form as a blue print. Darren wanted this form to be permanent. Bryan disagreed, said we need to be able to have evolution for changes. Dave said we can comment on the blue print. Darren argued that papers represent the division. Brian would adopt this one even if its not used in the future. *No vote or formal process put into place other than what we are already doing.*

#### Treasure Report –

350 in the account 2 CDs with 2400, 1 renewed at 2%. The economy is down. We moved our bank a year ago, works better. Email a copy of the report to everyone. Darren asked if we are contributing to the division, awards and stuff. Nina asked what we are doing with the old money. Every year the plaques are paid for by SSCA so this money could be potentially used for something else like a tournament or something?

Darren encouraged Tyler and Bryan to get plaques here in advance. Talk with director and everyone else so our plaques get here. There were still problems this year even though we put in the order. We put it in the wrong place. We need to send the result to Emmett for plaques, not just put it in the program for the planners.

Dan Schabot proposed we give money for top paper awards, 50.00 for each paper. Nina didn't know where that money would come from. Darren says we use the SSCA money for plaques. Dan said if money is available within the division we should use it. Motion withdrawn. Bryan said we'll note a cash prize, and if SSCA won't cover it, Charleston will sponsor the money.

Bryan made a new motion – SCRC rhetoric people in South East discussion, no meeting or programming for it. We should support this group if we like the idea. Darren said we lack room space. There was a motion to endorse the SE colloquium – the motion passed. We also need a link to the community college division, do a combined panel in order to get another slot.

There was some talk about panels for next year and the meeting was adjourned.

Contact information and availability for next years panels:

Dave Nelson – Northwest Missouri State - chair/respondent [dvnelson@gmail.com](mailto:dvnelson@gmail.com)

Dan Schabot – Cameron University - chair/respondent [dschabot@cameron.edu](mailto:dschabot@cameron.edu)

Tom Huebner – Carson Newman –Reviewer

Marian Willis – Appalachian State – reviewer, chair, correspondent [willismr@appstate.edu](mailto:willismr@appstate.edu)

Kris Willis – Appalachian State – chair, respondent [williskw@appstate.edu](mailto:williskw@appstate.edu)

Nina Jo Moore – App State – reviewer, chair, respondent, whatever [moorenj@appstate.edu](mailto:moorenj@appstate.edu)

Carl Cates – Valdosta – [ccates@valdosta.edu](mailto:ccates@valdosta.edu)

Bob Glenn – Owensboro, [bojglenn@kctcs.edu](mailto:bojglenn@kctcs.edu)

Tami Morris - Georgia State – [tami@2bpress.com](mailto:tami@2bpress.com)

Tyler Thornton – University of Oklahoma, review, chair, respondent, whatever we need

[darthvt@yahoo.com](mailto:darthvt@yahoo.com)

Brian McGee – College of Charleston, [mcgreeb@cofc.edu](mailto:mcgreeb@cofc.edu)

Southern Argumentation and Forensics Division  
Southern States Communication Association  
2009 Business Meeting @ Norfolk, VA Conference  
April 2, 2009, 4:00 PM

AGENDA

I. Roll Call, Approve 2008 Business Meeting Minutes

Darren Goins, [drdarrencgoins@netscape.com](mailto:drdarrencgoins@netscape.com), Stevenson University  
Karl Kates, [ckates@valdosta.edu](mailto:ckates@valdosta.edu), Valdosta State University  
Dave Nelson, [dnelson@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:dnelson@nwmissouri.edu), Northwest Missouri State  
Tyler Thornton, [tthornton@ou.edu](mailto:tthornton@ou.edu), University of Oklahoma  
Tyler proxy for Dan Schabot, [dschabot@cameron.edu](mailto:dschabot@cameron.edu), Cameron Universtiy

II. Old Business

A. Change division name? Needs to go to executive council and voted on, then added to the constitution before its official. Continue to work on this issue. Take this to the constitution committee to get this fixed. President Trish Amerson, Karen Brown head of constitution committee, Get this on the NCA docket and voted on at Chicago 2009 if possible.

B. SCRC connection/update – talk to Bryan, attend the panel

C. Get Community Colleges Involved – Phi Ro Pi, get email list to network with coaches. Dave will talk to Bill Cue at Longview, email Tom Heubner for list. It would be nice to get more people in the division.

D. Money for top paper awards? Good idea. Association should be sponsoring this. Tyler will talk to Bryan about this issue. Where does plaque money come from – can we use the leftover for awards.

III. Chair Business Report – I was absent, Darren and Karl were there, we have small numbers but can still exist. We need to grow in numbers. Name change might capture some people that would want to get involved in argumentation side of our division. Dave suggested removing Forensics as the name, Darren disagreed, wants to keep the name, it draws some people. Tyler says argumentation needs to be on the report. Some discussion on the Undergraduate Conference – how can we get them involved? Darren - Push for in state institutions especially in the State of Tennessee. Dave – make a call out to people like Scott Jensen, Tom Heubner. We could sponsor some undergraduate panels and there is plenty of room. Also Dave will email Jack Rogers. Darren says papers are individualized, but could submit a panel of papers might work. Would the panels be UHC organized, or in the division – we should pitch it as part of UHC specifically so they can get awards.

#### IV. Vice Chair/Planner Business Report –

General discussion - What about doing a showcase or town hall debate – people miss them. It could help community colleges not worried about writing papers. Could help showpieces for administrations.

Get a town hall going again. Historically SSCA had a huge town hall people went to. Darren made a topic last year and invited coaches to participate in the debate. Darren – we could add scholars from other disciplines, we can do interdisciplinary work. Dave – who are the top people we would like to bring in. Tom Prince, Mary Stuckey, Andy King, Marlyn Young, Osborns? Darren – make sure we have forensics ties. Carl Cates – could vote by people walking out the door like English parli style. Needs to be in a big room and have a spotlight panel, need a big president sponsor. Could do a Memphis and Little Rock do a big deal.

Darren – how many panels did we have last year – roughly four panels. Tyler – planner needs to be doing the planning and getting people out. Tyler tried to do this and others in the past have tried to get people involved, but because of travel schedule, it is difficult to get people involved. Darren – community college panel possibilities, what are their major issues they are dealing with in forensics. Dave – what are the possibilities, things like fund raising, or a particular focus area like funding, recruiting, transferring, other possibilities? We recruit at the community college level so we need to be talking about this. Darren - The community college should be in the call. Round table should be in the call; position papers would be a great idea. People are trying to do panel papers and then have lots of discussion David Terry – NC Chapel Hill, write a two-page position panel and then have discussion. Need academic and practical. Also, figure out who teaches argument and advocacy. There are people with scholarship and convention needs we could contact to increase numbers.

V. Treasurer Report – Tyler reported last years minutes, and we previously had a discussion on some money issues like money awards for top papers.

#### IV. Hand Out Awards –

Top faculty – Merrissa Ferrara and David Chase from Charleston College, “Why my parents don’t know: Family communication style, anxiety, guide and intrapersonal argument”.

Top Student – Tyler Thornton, University of Oklahoma, Ethnography of Parliamentary Debate

Coach/Educator of the Year - no one submitted this year that we know of. Tyler opened discussion for making this a stronger award. Carl – is it education, coach, or the year? Darren and Tyler say educator. Carl suggested we should be looking more broadly for many people who may help forensics, not just coaches directly involved in activities. Dave says this should be like the PKD All American kind of award. Darren – we are having a difficult time getting coach of the year. Dave suggested getting a roster from coaches/membership lists and see who is going to what event and talk to those people. Darren – we need a large mailing list we send out to stuff. Dave – we should do a social gathering with coaches/the division. Dave would like to help doing

some of the things we have discussed. We could reach out better to NFA, IPDA, PKD programs. NDT/CEDA folks not involved in much. Some discussion on NDTCEDA getting involved.

VI. Elections for Vice-Chair Elect – Dan Schabot will be new vice chair elect next year.

VII. Darren will attend nominating committee as last duty – help select or solicited membership for vice chair elect, and NCA reps. Tyler will be on the committee next year as final chair duty.

SSCA  
Instructional Development division  
Norfolk  
Minutes:

I. Meeting called to order by Deborah Hefferin at 5:00 on Saturday April 4, 2009

II. Members introduced themselves.

III. 2008 minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Officer Reports

- A. Chair-Deborah Hefferin –review of executive committee meeting
- B. Vice-Chair-Deanna Dannels-10 papers received-8 paneled in two panels.  
8 panels received-6 paneled
- C. Vice-Chair Elect-Rick Falvo-reported later in meeting

V. Old Business (none)

VI. New Business

A. Division Awards

Faculty Top Paper: Carol Reston and Cole Franklin

Student Top Paper: Amy Gaffney

B. Election of Officers

Vice-Chair Elect—Jennifer T. Edwards

C. 2009 Convention Program Theme-Positive Communication

Vice Chair Rick Falvo talked through important dates for submission and review.

VII Announcements

- A. Deanna Selnow put in a plug for submissions to NCA Journal Communication  
Teacher assessment sections.

VII. Adjournment at 5:44

Respectfully submitted by  
Richard Quianthy, Secretary

Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of  
Interpersonal Division of  
The Southern States Communication Association

Norfolk, Virginia

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Chair, Abby Brooks-Fitzgerald, called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

**Introductions**

- Officers introduced themselves, providing name and institutional affiliation
- Members present introduced themselves, providing name and institutional affiliation
- Lynne Webb presents special introduction of Rich West who is running for NCA President

**Officer Reports**

**Chair: Abby Brooks-Fitzgerald**

- Next year's convention
  - To be held in Memphis
  - Located at the Peabody Hotel, price should be comparable to the price of the current Norfolk convention
  - Theme: Come to Memphis, Sing the Blues, & Be Happy. Submissions consistent with happiness theme are encouraged
  - All varieties of submissions are encouraged, including traditional papers, as well as non-traditional formats such as round-tables
- Interpersonal is underrepresented in terms of submissions, so please submit

**Vice-Chair: Todd Goen**

- Acceptance rates for Interpersonal Division Submissions:
  - 19 papers received, 1 panel proposal received
  - 1 paper forwarded to Language and Social interaction division for consideration
  - 12 of 28 remaining papers were accepted, resulting in a 67% acceptance rate
  - The panel was recommended for acceptance. Discussion with Stephanie Coopman resulted in the decision that Communication Theory and Interpersonal should jointly sponsor their respective panels
  - Resulted in a total of 5 panels sponsored by the Interpersonal Division
- Top Papers
  - Division: "Emotional Intelligence and Conflict in Romantic Relationships among College Students" by Claire Moreledge and Lynne Webb of the University of Arkansas
- Student: "Would You Like to Join Us?: Ostensible Speech Acts and Women's role in the Biological and Inter-marital Family and their Influences on Perceived Marital Success" by Heather Floyd of Old Dominion University
- Solicits members to volunteer to reviewers for next year's papers

### **Vice-Chair Elect: Monette Ezell-Calloway**

- Elections
  - Vice-Chair Elect
    - Terry Thibodeaux was slated by the nomination committee
    - Terry Thibodeaux made statements regarding his desire and capability of serving
    - Motion made to vote on Thibodeaux, motion seconded
    - Terry Thibodeaux was elected unanimously to serve as next year's Vice-Chair Elect
  - Nomination Committee
    - Two slots open on the nomination committee
    - Nomination committee slated Lynne Webb and Megan Wilson
    - Motion made and seconded to close nominations
    - Motion made and seconded to accept slate by acclamation
    - Unanimous acceptance of slate by acclamation, resulting in Lynne Webb and Megan Wilson being elected to the nomination committee

### **Secretary: Carrie Oliveira**

- Last year's minutes were unavailable for acceptance
- Nothing else to report

### **Old Business**

None

### **Additional New Business**

None

### **Announcements**

- Abby ceremoniously "Passes the Duck", signifying the change of officers for next year's meeting by distributing rubber ducks provided by the Peabody.
- Abby solicits a motion from the floor to adjourn
- Todd interrupts – presents Abby with a plaque for her service as Division Chair
- Abby is moved, thanks Todd for the unexpected recognition
- Todd subsequently asks for other announcements, there are none
- Todd then makes the announcement the Osborne Party is set to begin at 6:30
- Todd entertains motion to adjourn, motion is made, then seconded, and the meeting is adjourned by unanimous vote at 5:20pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Carrie M. Oliveira,  
Secretary

**SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION**  
**79<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**

April 1 – 5, 2009

Norfolk, VA

Minutes of the Language and Social Interaction Division Business Meeting

Marriott Norfolk Waterside – Washington Room

Saturday, April 4, 2009

8:00 a.m.

Attending: Christine Davis, UNC – Charlotte; Susan Gilpin, Marshall University; Slavica Kodish, Eckerd College; Carolyn Lee, Rollins College

In the absence of Heather Gallardo, Chair, the meeting was called to order by Division Vice Chair, Slavica Kodish. Susan Gilpin was elected Secretary by acclamation.

Kodish reported on some of the active division members who could not attend this year's meeting, including Cole Franklin, East Texas Baptist University, incoming Vice Chair and Program Planner. Kodish collected names of members interested in being paper reviewers, respondents, and panel chairs for the 2010 convention and will forward that information to Franklin.

Eugenie Almeida, Fayetteville State University, could not attend the LSI division meeting, but had expressed an interest in serving as Vice Chair Elect and Program Planner for 2011. Davis moved and Lee seconded Almeida's nomination. Almeida was elected by acclamation.

Kodish announced that the 2010 SSCA convention will be held at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, TN. The convention theme will be "Positive Communication." In addition, she reported that membership in both the Association and the LSI Division increased in the past year. Division membership now is 57.

Members brainstormed panel ideas and LSI spotlight panel presenters appropriate for the 2010 convention theme. Davis and Gilpin offered to contact possible panel presenters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Gilpin

Minutes for the Performance Studies Division Business Meeting  
SSCA Annual Convention, Norfolk, VA, April 2, 2009

The meeting was opened by Performance Studies Division Chair, Rebecca Kennerly. The minutes to last year's meeting were distributed and discussed, after which they were approved by acclamation.

Becky reported from the Executive Council Meeting on the next several SSCA conferences. They will be held in Memphis (2010), Little Rock (2011), and San Antonio (2012). Because the Memphis convention will take place in the Peabody Hotel, famous for its parading ducks, the rubber ducky has become the quasi-official mascot of SSCA '10, and was handed out in order to whip up enthusiasm. So great is the love of the duck that SSCA officers will accompany the ducks on their nightly sojourn from their roof-top abode down to the fountain. It is hoped that this, along with the promise of a newly-refurbished Peabody Hotel, will bring a sizable contingent to next year's convention despite downturns in the economy and resultant cuts in travel, faculty development, expendable personal income, and the like.

The theme of the 2010 convention is "positive communication," a theme which, upon reflection, can offer a wealth of opportunities, including activism, communication reconciliation, forgiveness, and much, much, more. The promoters of the convention are using the motto, "Come to Memphis, Sing the Blues, Be Happy." Do with that what you will.

In an update about *Southern Communication Journal's* upcoming issue featuring qualitative research, Becky reported that over 110 manuscripts were submitted. Darren Goins added that of the 118 submitted, 77 were rejected, 20 are in process, and 12 are categorized as revise and resubmit. It would seem that *SCJ* received evidence that there is ample material for a journal that features the sorts of qualitative work that we do. In fact, there is a tentative title for such a journal, *Qualitative Research in Communication*. It is, of course, a lengthy process to begin a journal, and at NCA in Chicago, it will be discussed further. Darren noted that in making a proposal to publishers, it would be to our advantage to submit good examples of qualitative research.

Becky noted that she had talked to Mary Stuckey, journal editor of *SCJ* about its submission guidelines questioned its practice of publishing pieces largely from the field of rhetoric "Well, I receive a lot of (those)," said Stuckey, who can be reached at [scj@gcu.edu](mailto:scj@gcu.edu).

Becky passed the gavel to Justin Trudeau, this year's conference planner, and the in-coming Chair of the division, and congratulated him on planning a wonderful conference. Justin thanked everyone for help with the panels, for the participants, those who agreed to review papers and serve as respondents, and he thanked Becky for being his mentor throughout the process. He noted, too, that 13 panels were submitted, 2 of which were cosponsored with the Ethnography division, and all were accepted. Becky added that that tied with the greatest number of panels accepted at SSCA, and noted that the momentum continues. As our division continues to grow, so do the opportunities for further involvement, including greater student involvement. Justin added that we should be proud of our panels which are an "eclectic mix of performances and papers."

Justin made the awards presentations, first to Melanie Kitchens who received the Top Paper Award for “Biomechanical Woman Walks With a Watering Can.” Tracy Stephenson Shafer was awarded the Distinguished Scholar Award for, as Justin noted, “a distinguished career within the performance studies community generally, and the SSCA performance studies community specifically. He added that the many letters he received in support of Tracy’s nomination testified to the outpouring of respect for her work, and, perhaps more importantly, for “making the world other, better than how it is,” and “making the world light when it has gone dark.”

Jacqueline Burleson, our incoming Vice-President and convention planner for 2010, asked that in thinking about the theme, positive communication, we look at what Obama calls the “spirit of community,” what we do specifically in times of trouble, looking at the uplifting, perhaps, rather than telling sad narratives. She suggested that we may want to consider digital communication, or performances using mixed media. How do we get together and perform community? We can look at group and individual performance, poster board sessions. She also suggested that we create a collage that is ongoing during the entire conference and then discuss it at the end.

In New Business, the elections for Vice President –Elect and Secretary were held. We had two nominees, Lisa Flanagan and Judi Truitt. Flanagan is our VP elect, and, in a popular move, Truitt agreed to serve as secretary.

Becky suggested that we adopt a committee to look at the criteria for the Scholar of the Year award. It was decided that the officers could fill that role nicely. Becky opined that the officers may want to think about what narrative does the award promote, i.e. how can it be used to establish our profession within our own institutions and beyond.

Becky and Judi will be looking at the by-laws of other divisions in order to make recommendations about what we as a division may want to adopt. At this time, SSCA does not have a by-law requirement for its divisions, but it may be to our advantage to adopt some.

Becky announced that she shall write a letter to *Perforum* and to the University of North Texas applauding Justin’s efforts and outlining how he made the 2009 convention exemplary. Justin will write a letter to LSU lauding Tracy and outlining her virtues as they pertain to the award.

Noting Justin’s overall achievements, Tracy mentioned the Desert Readers, a performing troupe from Arizona, and how they have influenced her decision to teach a class on performance and special communities. She said that this is one example of how our participation and scholarship can expand and enrich others’ lives.

The following announcements were made:

The Pace Fest will be held at Georgia Southern University. The date has been set for Jan 29-10, 2010.

Petit Jean is happening April 16-19. Mondo Bizarro are the featured artists.

The Lake Superior Festival will be held Oct. 10-13, and the theme is oral history and performance. Becky Kennerly will be the featured artist.

Anyone who isn't on the performance studies listserve can send an email to Amy at [amy.burt@gcsu.edu](mailto:amy.burt@gcsu.edu). Ideas, articles, etc. for the next issue of *Perforum* are due by May 1, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Burt  
Georgia College & State Univ  
[amy.burt@gcsu.edu](mailto:amy.burt@gcsu.edu)

April 4, 2009

5:00 PM

Norfolk, VA Marriott

### **Popular Communication Division**

Chair: Mike Eaves, Valdosta State University

Vice-Chair: Wesley Buerkle, East Tennessee State University

Vice-Chair Elect: Danielle Williams, Georgia State University

Secretary: John Saunders, Columbus State University

#### **I. General Business**

- A. Meeting called to order by Wesley Buerkle.
- B. 2008 minutes submitted, distributed, and approved.

#### **II. Other Business**

- A. Mike Eaves was unable to attend.
- B. Brief report from the Legislative meeting.
- C. Wesley gave the planner's report. 28 papers were submitted. 12 student submissions. 16 papers were accepted. 3 panels were submitted
- D. All awards were given at the panel sessions this year.
- E. Wesley mentioned that receiving all submissions via a gmail account worked well, but suggested that all future submissions should be in pdf form for ease of removing author information.

#### **III. New Business**

- A. Danielle introduced the conference theme for next year.
- B. Topics suggested for the Memphis conference:
  - 1. Debbie Phillips had suggested a Great Ideas in Teaching Popular Communication panel.
  - 2. Jason Black suggested a panel to help define exactly what Popular Communication is and its current status in the discipline.
  - 3. John suggested a panel on the blues, Elvis, and/or BBQ.
  - 4. Trudy suggested an offsite event at the Civil Rights Museum and Danielle suggested a panel on civil rights issues that involve popular communication that would not fit into public address.
  - 5. John mentioned that Joey Watson (absent) knows filmmaker Craig Brewer and could most likely get him to come give a presentation on filmmaking in Memphis. This was further discussed as a spotlight panel.
  - 6. Danielle suggested a wrestling panel due to Memphis being a regional hub for amateur and professional wrestling.
  - 7. Wesley, once again, offered to post any calls for panels on CRTNET for the division.
- C. David Nelson was elected as secretary for the next two years.
- D. John Saunders was elected as vice-chair elect.

**SSCA PR Division  
Minutes  
April 4, 2009  
Norfolk, VA**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Laura R. Walton.

*Members present:* VC Corey Hickerson, Secretary Christie Kleinmann, Brigitta Brunner, Myleea Hill, Doo-Hun Choi, Kelly Williams, Barbara Nixon, James Pickett, and Dean Kruckeburg.

**Chair Report:** Laura provided an update from the Executive meetings for the 2009 conference. She noted that the public relations division had increased to 55 members and encouraged members to attend the 2010 conference in Memphis, TN at The Peabody. She also reviewed next year's conference theme.

Laura formally thanked Corey Hickerson for the public relations programming this year. She noted that he did an outstanding job in putting a comprehensive program together.

**VC/Program Planner report:** Corey thanked all reviewers for their help. He noted that submissions were down somewhat from last year with five professional papers and four panel submissions with an overall 60% acceptance rate. Joo-Hun Choi was awarded "top student paper," and Cynthia P. King was awarded "top paper" for the division.

Corey noted the joint sponsorship with mass communication was a success and something that the division may want to consider next year. He also noted that the public relations division panels were well attended, averaging 20 people in attendance. Myleea Hill formally thanked Corey for working with the Mass Communication division in this joint sponsorship.

Final remarks: Laura thanked the division for allowing her to serve as Chair. A formal resolution was passed thanking Laura for her guidance and leadership of the division.

**Change in Chairmanship:** Nominations were taken for the VC-Elect position. Myleea Hill voiced a self-nomination. The motion was seconded by Corey Hickerson, and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The following members will serve the public relations division for 2009-2010: Chair Corey Hickerson, VC Mary Jackson-Pitts, VC-Elect Myleea Hill and Secretary Christie Kleinmann (second year of the two-year term).

**Other Business:** Programming suggestions were taken for the 2010 conference. Ideas included a practitioner panel and/or a practitioner spotlight from the Memphis area. Corey asked the membership to send either him or Mary any programming suggestions. The suggestions will be used to craft a unique public relations division call that reflects the conference theme and the division's interests.

Membership noted the improved communication on division panels at the conference. A Facebook page was suggested as facilitating communication during the planning process. Laura will develop a Facebook page for the division.

No other business. Meeting adjourned.

## Rhetoric and Public Address Divisional Meeting

Minutes of April 3, 2009

“Accentuating the Positive”

It was a few minutes past 6:00 p.m. and already the feeling tone began to set in. A curious blend of sartorial splendor graced our three prominent officers. Chair Ann Burnette was resplendent in black slacks, white blouse, and a warm silk salmon blazer matched by the rims of her glasses—this was not an accident. Vice Chair Bob Frank held up the Division’s classic tradition in a tasteful grey suit, red tie that mirrored my own, and “sensible” black shoes. And then there was Vice Chair-Elect Jason Edward Black—the acknowledged “hottie” of the group—wearing, as in “duh,” black for power, erotic attraction, and a certain aura of mystery. There was, I felt, a certain tension among those three conflicting costumes that would, in all likelihood, erupt during the meeting in unexpected ways. I was right.

Like precious few before her, Ann was organized; she had an actual written agenda. I’m looking at the turquoise version right now just to keep the names straight. This thing is really special with indentations, important stuff boxed, really important stuff in bold-faced print. It could easily have been bulleted into a power point presentation, but then we would have had to pony up \$600 to the Marriott for the media equipment just to see the agenda—so we didn’t, and old-fashioned hard copies prevailed.

The first agenda item, of course, was out of order. In terms of *The Trickster’s Rules of Disorder*, the first order of business should have been the Chair’s report, but perhaps sensing that Chair’s reports were real sleepy-time deals, Ann decided to stir things up a bit by starting off with the election of Divisional officers. Now we’ve not had a bona fide election of officers in R & PA for 17 years. As those of you who have been following along at home may recall, we just fixate on somebody not present, appoint him or her to some office, and then alert him or her to his or her duties by e-mail.

Not this year. Somebody nominated Richard Leeman for Vice Chair-Elect. When asked why he might possibly want the job, Richard said something about always liking rhetoric. That was enough for most of us. But then, before anyone could move that nominations be closed, low and behold, Patrick Wheaton leaped to his feet and shouted, “What about me?” Someone was gauche enough to ask, “Yeah, well, okay, what about you?” to which Patrick said, “Well, I wanna be Vice Chair-Elect too.” “Why on earth would you want to do that?” someone shot back. “Because it would look good on my vita and, like Rick back there, I’ve always sort of liked rhetoric too.” Go figure.

So there we were with two nominees. Double trouble. What could we do? With no other option in sight, we had to vote on the damned thing. And that meant (1) tearing up lots of itsy-bitsy pieces of paper, (2) making sure that everyone had one, (3) cleverly using the names of both candidates in pre-election small talk so that the members might at least approximate spelling the name of their choice correctly, and then (4) selecting a rhetorician who could count to tally up the votes (no easy task in and of itself). Someone—I believe it was Ann—chose Mary Stuckey, the ever popular editor of the *Southern Communication Journal*, to do the counting. It only took Maid Mary 23 minutes and 17 seconds to count 30 or so votes. During all this time I kept thinking, “Geez—there’s only one vote per piece of paper and only two names to consider. How hard can this be?”

But finally, hanging chats notwithstanding, the results were in and Richard Leeman reigned supreme. When Patrick went into a very serious funk, we quickly reassured him that having been soundly defeated for an office nobody really wanted would not affect his stature in the field or in our Division. I now think that our assurances avoided that dreaded call for a recount. In point of fact, and you heard it first here, dollars to doughnuts that we s/elect Patrick Vice Chair-Elect next year unopposed—by acclamation—if, that is, somebody remembers to close the nominations immediately after Patrick’s probable second self-nomination.

And then Ann gave her Chair report of the Executive Council’s annual love fest. As always, it contained this year’s view of last year’s stuff. Carl Cates would do his very best as the new Executive Director, next year we’d convene in Memphis at the famous Peabody hotel (hoping that the ducks would only walk to and from the roof of the hotel and not ball one another on their way like they did the last time we met at the Peabody), that we’d segue over to Louisville, KY in 2013, and that the idea for a second, qualitatively-based journal to be sponsored by SSCA was in proposal form and on its way for review by Taylor & Frances for their input. You know—fascinating stuff like that.

And then, for a rhetorician, Vice Chair Bob Frank laid some pretty heavy numbers on us. He said something like this: The Division had 17 paper submissions of which 13 were accepted. We had 4 panels, 2 populated by graduate students, 2 by faculty. Then things got a little messy. I think Bob told us we had 8 panel proposals in all that 7 were accepted (but I thought he said 4 earlier), and that 3 of those were co-sponsored with other Divisions. I probably missed something in here, but it was just so gratifying to see a rhetorical scholar spitting out numbers, percentages, and figures that it really didn’t matter that the figures didn’t quite add up.

Time for Jason-all-in-black to warm a few hearts. He began well—by standing up—but then he made his first major rhetorical blunder. He announced the convention theme for Memphis—“Positive Communication.” In a very tasteless act, someone—all right, it was me—cried out in anguish, “Are you shitting me?!?” and things quickly devolved from there. After acknowledging that

our Division would have the same number of panels next year as it had this year, Jason made his second significant gaffe—he asked if anyone had any panel ideas regarding “Positive Communication.” “Parody!!” someone shouted (and this time it wasn’t me). “Invite the ‘Up With People’ troupe to perform,” groused another disgruntled member. Trying to add some *phronesis* to this madhouse, Mike Osborn said some positive things about Graceland, and then someone suggested we pray, not right away, but as part of a panel I believe. Don’t you just love these responses to the “Has anyone any theme-related panel ideas?” query? Thankfully, Ron Carpenter wasn’t with us this year or he would have erupted with something like, “Well, winning World War II was an extremely positive experience.” Ye gods!

Desperate now, Jason turned to numbers—like Bob had before him. “The call for paper this year is May 12<sup>th</sup>.” Hiss, boo. “The deadline for submissions is September 11<sup>th</sup>.” Hiss, boo squared. “And all reviews must be back to me by October 2.” Standing hissing and booing cubed. Obviously, this was not Jason’s finest hour—but hey—he’s young, good looking, and can only get better with age and more Division meeting experience.

Now every Division meeting of Rhetoric & Public Address has a high point, some moment of rhetorical eloquence when the discourse all but transcends the occasion. This year that moment came when James Darsey spoke on behalf of the Southern Colloquium on Rhetoric. Now old J.D. needed to salvage some things here, for if you’ll remember, Mike Osborn was supposed to hawk this idea last year, but he butchered the presentation so badly that nobody knew what the hell this Colloquium was all about. I actually thought it was our Division’s answer to “Club Med,” but J.D. quickly set the record straight on that one.

Best I can now figure, this Colloquium is for folks interested in rhetoric who never see each other, who have no one to talk to, who live down south, and whose lives are pretty much, well, pretty much open to any and all kinds of intellectual stimulation. After making that much clear, J.D. asked, “So—would anyone like to meet in Atlanta this July?” Yeah, right, everybody just jumped on that one like a duck on a June bug—**NOT**. But this is probably an idea whose time has come and if anybody can boot it up to orbit speed, it would be J.D.

The query sounded innocent enough. “J.D.—can you give us the e-mail addresses of any contact people—aside from yourself, that is, who might be into this Colloquium thing?” Whoa—was that ever the wrong thing to ask. Now for those of you who know J. D., you know that he’s extremely well spoken with a deep bass voice supplemented by a firm body, a natty hand-tied bow tie, and a very erect posture. Nevertheless, spouting off e-mail addresses orally just unwrapped the entire package. Good grief, just listen to this: “Ummm—yes—quite—you can write Joe Bob at—let’s see now—that would be jobo—no—check that—it’s joseph—no—check that too—it’s thebobber@hotmail--no--he just changed that—it would now be thebobber@yahoo.edu--no--yahoo.com.” And he jerked and sputtered on like this for exactly 4 minutes and 47 seconds.

Hopefully, he'll send them to all the interested others (both of them) electronically.

As she does at every Division meeting, Kathie Turner put the finishing touches on this one by hawking the Hope Conference. Carole Blair and Raymie McKerrow would be this year's VBDs (visiting big deals).

And that was it friends and neighbors. No. Wait. One more very important item. Ann, Bob, and Jason turned back this year's bonuses for which they received a standing ovation for their collective moral character.

Your obedient manservant,

Thomas Frentz, Secretary