



MEMORANDUM

TO: SSCA Executive Council
FROM: Kenneth N. Cissna, SSCA Vice President
SUBJ: Interim Report
DATE: November 8, 2004

The *preliminary* program was completed Sunday and distributed Monday to all Vice Chairs and to the officers involved in planning the convention. Copies of it are available today, if you'd like to review it. I welcome anyone who is willing to read it critically and identify typos, misspellings, etc.

I think we're going to have a fabulous convention. As you know, the theme is "Communication, Dialogue, and Community," and we have a terrific set of programs consistent with that theme.

I had asked the vice chairs to bring some "stars" in their areas to the convention--and we will have programs featuring Sandra Petronio, Mary Frances HopKins, Art Bochner, Mark Knapp, Larry Frey, Jim McCroskey, and Karen and Sonja Foss--to name just a few.

We will have a terrific series of workshops--a new feature at this convention. These program slots will be 2 1/2 hours in length--one on Friday and another on Saturday--with only five workshops in each time slot. These will be participative and practical and will provide real take-home value. I hope our members will be even half as excited about these as I am. Workshops topics include getting an academic job, storytelling, teaching dialogue, performance, communication across the curriculum, service learning, improving teaching evaluations, surviving tenure and promotion, and structuring dialogic communication--all facilitated by the real expert(s) in that topic.

I am especially excited about the keynote address, which will be delivered by Sallyann Roth, one of the founders and principals of the Public Conversations Project in the Boston area. She will be speaking about how to prepare the ground for making dialogic connection when that seems least possible. Common to all of her work is a commitment to design, cultivate, and support ways for people who have been disconnected to connect through finding ways to speak what has seemed too difficult to speak and through hearing what has seemed too difficult to hear. I'm very pleased that she also agreed to facilitate a workshop for us as well.

We will also have a number of LSU-inflected programs, and a number with a local or southern flavor--including one honoring Marilyn Young's retirement, another on Janice Rushing's scholarship, and more than one on southern rhetoric and public address--again, to mention just a few examples.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION