

**Southern States Communication Association Breakfast Business Meeting**  
**Friday, April 7, 2006; 8:00 – 10:15 a.m., Marriott Quorum - Salon E**  
**2006 SSCA Annual Convention, Dallas, TX**  
**Ken Cissna, University of South Florida, presiding**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Welcome**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of 2005 SSCA Breakfast Business Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA (published on the SSCA Web Page at <http://ssca.net>)**
- 4. Approval of Agenda**
- 5. Officers' Reports:**
  - 5.1 President – Ken Cissna**
  - 5.2 Vice President – Charles Tardy**
  - 5.3 Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee – Terry Thibodeaux**
  - 5.4 Vice President Elect – Craig Smith**
  - 5.5 Executive Director – J. Emmett Winn**
  - 5.6 Advertising Manager – Jean DeHart**
  - 5.7 SCJ Editor – John Meyer**
  - 5.8 NCA Legislative Assembly Representatives – Dave Sutton, Lea Clayton, Deborah Hefferin**
  - 5.9 NCA Nominating Committee Representative: Kim Golombisky**
- 6. Standing Committee Reports**
  - 6.1 Committee on Committees – Ken Cissna**
  - 6.2 Constitution – Robert Frank**
  - 6.3 Finance – Patricia Amason**
  - 6.4 Local Arrangements – Paul King**
  - 6.5 Minority Recruitment and Retention – Tony DeMars**
  - 6.6 Publications - Roseann Mandziuk**
  - 6.7 Time and Place – Hope Bock**
  - 6.8 Resolutions – Dana Gibson**
  - 6.9 Resource Development – Frances Brandau-Brown**
- 7. Unfinished Business**
- 8. New Business**
- 9. Announcements and Adjournment**

## Minutes

1.0 President Ken Cissna called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2.0 Dr. Cissna welcomed all to the business meeting and recognized several important visitors.

3.0 Approval of Minutes of 2005 SSCA Breakfast Business Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA was moved and seconded. The motion passed.

4.0 A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded. The agenda was approved.

5.0 Officers' Reports:

5.1 President Cissna noted that this had been a difficult year for SSCA as two hurricanes had significantly affected our members' lives during the Fall convention submission season. President Cissna explained that several problems arose in the transition between EDs. The former ED retained all SSCA records and continued to administer the finances of the association until late August of 2005 when most of the SSCA office materials were transferred to the new ED. Most of the financial records, however, remained with a member of the former ED's staff, and despite repeated requests that the financial records be forwarded to the new ED, they were not received. The Executive Committee and the Finance Committee initiated a listserv to allow them to discuss these issues more efficiently. They also met at NCA in Boston in November of 2006. The result of that meeting was a communication that demanded the financial records be sent to the new ED. The records were delivered to the new ED in the last week of November 2006. A close investigation of the records at that time revealed a number of problems, including that the records were incomplete and in disarray; proper invoicing and billing procedures had not been followed resulting in a loss of income for the association; some monies owed by the association in past years had gone unpaid resulting in the present year's budget being stretched to pay arrears; no federal Income Tax filings were made for 2003, 2004, or 2005; the constitutionally mandated annual reviews had not been prepared for 2003, 2004 or 2005; and SSCA's liability insurance lapsed in January 2004. Dr. Cissna explained that no monies were missing, that SSCA continues to be in good financial health, and that the new ED has been able already to remedy most of these problems, including that the association now has D&O insurance and event liability insurance and that the current ED had these prepared and filed the past due tax returns (and that IRS eventually forgave the \$9625 in penalties that it levied against SSCA). Cissna also explained that he contacted the former ED and offered him the opportunity to respond to the Executive Council about these issues, either in person or in writing. Cissna also emphasized that former ED staff member, Pat Harrell, was not responsible for any of the problems that he described.

Considerable discussion of this situation ensued. Many members expressed disappointment and wanted to take some action against the former ED. A motion to censure the ED was made. After discussion, it failed to pass. Discussion continued and a motion was made that the former ED's employer be contacted and made aware of the problems detected during the transition. After further discussion, this motion also failed to receive a majority of votes.

5.2 Vice President Charles Tardy thanked the membership for their submissions which made the Dallas convention a great success with over 500 in attendance and charged the membership with encouraging others to get involved in SSCA so that our future conventions could top 1000 attendees. Dr. Tardy also gave the following report: At the fall meeting of the Executive Council, I gave a comprehensive description of the process by which I planned our association's 76th annual convention. Since then my time and energy has been devoted to carrying out those plans. The printed program embodies that work. I'm pleased with the outcome and ready to help make sure everything keeps on schedule. I would like to call your attention to a few program sessions. Saturday morning one of the roundtable discussion topics will focus on how to improve our association. Sunday morning, several of the officers will be in the lobby to discuss reactions to the convention. At your division or interest group's business meeting, please remind your members and encourage anyone who with ideas, concerns, opinions, complaints, suggestions, or questions to attend.

5.3 Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee Chair Terry Thibodeaux: Thanked the officers and the finance committee members for their work and praised Dr. Cissna for his outstanding leadership.

#### 5.4 Vice President Elect Craig Smith gave this report:

##### 1. Theodore Clevenger, Jr. Undergraduate Honors Conference

a. Call for Papers: deadline of 12/16/5 with electronic submissions only.

b. 1,000 flyers distributed at NCA and posted on the SSCA web site for members to download and post on their campuses.

c. We received 93 submissions: 72 papers are being presented, 11 were rejected and (at least) 10 authors are unable to participate.

d. This year we tried a very different review process with a strikingly similar outcome. Recent planners have routed the submissions through a panel of some 30 readers to achieve multiple reviews of each paper. Because asking 30 members to quickly review papers over the holidays still produced 70% acceptance rates I experimented with a targeted process. I sorted the papers into thematic clusters and began inviting scholars to serve as chair/discussants, empowering them to screen the papers for their own sessions. This process imposed upon half as many members, brought a comparable number of papers to the conference and insured that the chair/discussants and their student presenters would be in tune with one another. This approach seems to have worked reasonably well and I would offer it as a viable option to future Clevenger Conference planners.

e. Reflections and recommendations:

i. I would tweak my review process in an obvious way. Since the VP-Elect plans the UHC on the way to planning the convention with the Vice-chairs, the Vice-chairs elect could be empanelled as the readers and chair/discussants. This has two advantages: it begins our working relationship a year earlier and it eases the process of identifying personnel.

ii. The Clevenger Conference is too big and too long. We have become accustomed to having some 70 papers and 13-14 panels of student papers running from Thursday through Sunday. But that is longer than most of our members care to be away from home and campus, and it is certainly longer than appeals to many seniors. It seems to me that relatively little would be lost and much would be gained by cutting the conference to Friday-Sunday (possibly noon Friday through noon Sunday). The Vice-president Elect could raise the bar for and collect the pre-registration fee or turn to an alternate paper.

iii. I anticipated having conferees participate in two off-paper programs. But the number of papers selected for inclusion made that impossible.

iv. The Clevenger Honors Conference at SSCA has a long history. It came to us from Memphis State, where Walt Kirkpatrick had briefly replicated the Undergraduate Honors Conference he had started at DePauw University in the 1970s. But over the years, the conference has changed; and I think we have lost more than we have gained. Walt's DePauw Conferences were memorable intellectual experiences because students worked in seminars with distinguished faculty. Put differently, students did not simply present their papers in standard public panels, they engaged with scholars in private conversations to deepen their understanding and whet their appetite for research. We could do this: but it would mean revising our expectations of success and providing support for the faculty facilitators rather than receptions and certificates and awards. As I reported in November, our SSCA Task Force on conventions heard that, "Panels are fine, but the really interesting conversations happen in the restaurants, hallways, elevators and bars." Yet we channeling honors students into the very panel format that we tend to find unsatisfying. I could not break the cycle; but I look forward to assisting Gerry Hale should he care to tackle this challenge.

##### 2. 2007 Convention Theme: "Relationships and Communities in the Digital Age"

a. The Vice-President's highest priority is to use the 2007 convention to fulfill our Constitutional mission "to promote study, criticism, research, teaching, and application of the artistic, humanistic, and scientific principle of communication" in ways that cannot be achieved apart from our convention. Therefore, my highest priority will be interactive programs and workshops that promise to enable our constituents to return from Louisville better able to do whatever they do. For example, I hope to see workshops for current or prospective Department Heads, Graduate Officers, Basic Course Directors, SACS Teams, etc.

b. All submissions as e-mail attachments; no mail. Special address: SSCA@ncsu.edu. Used the process for Clevenger UHC successfully.

c. Call for paper by May 15th; Submissions by September 15th; Vice-chair material to VP by October 31st; draft for NCA.

d. I will be on leave from July 1 through December, spending most of that time in London. Fortunately, I will be on-line throughout the year and I will be at NCA. I anticipate no significant difficulties because of this.

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
Southern States Communication Association  
77th Annual Convention  
March 29 to April 1, 2007  
Marriott Louisville Downtown Hotel  
Louisville, Kentucky

**Relationships and Communities in the Digital Age**  
Our personal relationships, universities, politics, leisure activities and professional associations are being transformed by new communication technologies. People in workplaces and communities the world over are seeking sound advice to help them use these new technologies to enhance their communication.

The Vice President is especially interested in papers and programs that explore topics related to the conference theme. Divisions and interest groups are encouraged to develop one panel consistent with this theme. Co-sponsored panels are also welcome.

In addition to traditional panels of papers, the Vice President is interested in workshops and interactive programs that maximize engagement.

Program proposals that do not fit within SSCA's divisional and interest group structure may be submitted directly to the Vice President for consideration as part of the Vice President's Spotlight Series.

The complete call for papers will be posted on SSCA's website at [www.scca.net](http://www.scca.net) and appear in the summer issue of SSCA's newsletter, Connections. All program proposals and papers are due to the appropriate Division or Interest Group Vice Chair (or, to the Vice President under the paragraph above) by September 15, 2006.

As you plan your submissions, please limit your requests for audiovisual equipment, which is difficult to transport and prohibitively expensive to rent.

For more information, contact Craig Allen Smith of North Carolina State University at [ssca@ncsu.edu](mailto:ssca@ncsu.edu).  
See you in Louisville in 2007!

**5.5 Executive Director Emmett Winn reported that in order to correct some of the problems he inherited, he cut one member of his ED staff in order to save money and to give himself full control of the association's finances. His staff converted all financial record keeping to Quick Books Online. This accounting program allows real time accounting procedures to be accomplished via the Internet, which allows Finance Committee chair, Trish Amason, real-time access to all association financial records and reports. Dr. Winn also reported that the Finance Committee is once again in control of the budget as directed by the constitution and the association has a Certified Public Accountant to file its taxes and perform its annual reviews. Dr. Winn presented the pre-conference registration and membership numbers and the results of the CPA's statement of Assets and Liabilities for the 2004-2005 year.**

**5.6 Advertising Manager Dr. Jean DeHart explained that she had raised \$5,500 in Ad and Exhibit revenues. She encouraged all members to visit the exhibitors to make their trip worthwhile. Dr. DeHart explained that it is important for us to show the exhibitors that we are interested in their materials so that they will choose to visit us in the future. She also reported that she had spearheaded a very successful SSCA exhibit at NCA in Boston. Dr. DeHart closed by encouraging all those interested in procuring ads in next year's convention program to please contact her.**

**5.7 SCJ Editor John Meyer made the following report:**

1. I began receiving new manuscripts in the summer of 2004. Since then, we have been up and running with the receiving and reviewing process. I have had terrific help from two editorial assistants, Matthew Ramsey and Emily Cain. Hurricane Katrina slowed us down dramatically last fall, as it did much in our part of the country, but during the past two months we have gotten as caught up as we can be taking in, sending out, and making decisions on manuscripts.
  2. Manuscripts for SCJ Vol. 71 Issue #1 were sent to our new publisher, Taylor and Francis, in November. It should be mailing out as we speak. Relations with the new publisher have been smooth and pleasant, and all of their deadlines have been met by us. As far as we are able, the journal is on schedule, with Issue #1 to be dated March, 2006.
  3. The next issue, 71 #2, will be a special issue in tribute to the life and scholarship of Janice Hocker Rushing. Guest Edited by Art Bochner and Thomas Frentz, it is filled with scholarly analysis of her work as well as narratives about her. I am excited about its publication, scheduled for June.
  4. Next year, a special issue is planned that focuses on Communication and Commitment in Close, Personal Relationships, guest edited by Lynn Webb. Its submissions are now currently under review. I am discussing potential special issues or sections on communication responses to Hurricane Katrina, as well as the history of our association. Decisions will be made on these within weeks, and I welcome comments from those with ideas about how those can and should happen.
  5. Submission numbers seem to be running somewhat ahead of this point during the previous editor's term. I am excited by the variety of research areas and methods represented by submissions and very grateful for the expert help of our very able and hard-working editorial board.
  6. So far, I have received 182 manuscripts. That number includes several forwarded from Joy Hart, including 5 that had undergone one round of review under her editorship. I counted them as new manuscripts, but tried to use the same reviewers for those 5 as much as possible. That number does not include any manuscripts submitted for special issues or manuscripts submitted a second or third time as revised and resubmitted to me.
- Manuscript disposition at this point may be classified as follows:

Received	Not Accepted	Under Review/Possible Revision	Accepted	% Accepted
182	132	35	15	8.2

**5.8. NCA Legislative Assembly Representatives: No report**

**5.9. NCA Nominating Committee Representative: No Report**

**6.0 Standing Committee Reports**

**6.2 Constitution Committee, Bob Frank (Chair), Norma Cook and Rick Bello, moved that the following changes be made to the constitution. The motions passed.**

**Motion 1:**

Amend Article IV, Section 4, and subsection F concerning the duties of the Advertising Manager by deleting "procuring advertising for the Southern Communication Journal, with" so the section reads: F. The Advertising Manager shall perform duties connected with procuring advertising and exhibits for the annual convention, and with procuring funding for other activities of SSCA as directed by the Executive Council.

**Motion 2:**

Amend Article VIII, Section 2, concerning the setting of certain fees by deleting "library subscriptions, individual copies of the Southern Communication Journal, advertising fees for the Southern Communication Journal, . . . international postal surcharges" and insert "advertising fees for the convention program," so the section reads:

**The Executive Director and Advertising Manager, in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall set fees for the following: exhibitor fees, advertising fees for the convention program, and ads for job postings.**

**6.3 Finance Committee Chair Trish Amason presented the proposed 2006-2007 budget. The budget was approved with changes. Dr. Amason explained that the Finance Committee had formulated the budget by using the budgetary history of the previous ED office; however, in computing the budget she had realized that previous budgets had errors. Dr. Amason remedied this situation by putting the past budget history into an Excel file and recalculating the correct totals. These new totals showed that past budgets had been incorrect by several thousand dollars. The newly computed budget information sets the record straight.**

**6.5 Minority Recruitment and Retention Chair Tony DeMars reported that his committee had been very busy. The committee issued a special call for papers for the convention. The committee had initiated special email contact with members of underrepresented groups. Dr. DeMars indicated that no award was made by the committee this year.**

**6.6 Publications Committee Chair Roseann Mandzuik reported that there is interest in SSCA starting a new journal and that Taylor and Francis has expressed interest. Dr. Mandzuik also announced that it is time to begin the search for a new Editor-Elect of SCJ. Dr. Mandzuik also announced that a review of SSCA's publications' policies and practices is needed in order to formalize our policies.**

**6.7 Time and Place Committee Chair Hope Bock reported that the committee had reviewed proposals from Knoxville, Memphis, New Orleans, and Hot Springs. The committee moved that Memphis be considered for the 2010 convention site. The motion passed.**

**6.8. Resolutions Committee Dana Gibson moved that the following resolutions be adopted by SSCA. The motion passed. The resolutions are:**

**Recognition of Ken Cissna, Charles Tardy, and Emmett Winn for their Outstanding Service to SSCA. Whereas, we value their service to SSCA; and Whereas, they have been a great help to SSCA as officers this year, therefore**

**Resolved, SSCA formally thanks Ken Cissna, Charles Tardy, and Emmett Winn for their service and recognizes their efforts as outstanding.**

**Recognition of Paul King's Outstanding Service to SSCA.**

**Whereas, we value our member's service to SSCA; and Whereas, Paul King and Texas Christian University has been a great help to SSCA in Dallas' therefore**

**Resolved, SSCA formally thanks Paul King for his service and recognizes his efforts as outstanding.**

**Recognition of Dick Ranta's support for SSCA's Osborn Reception.**

**Whereas, We value the financial support that our generous members provide; and Whereas, We benefit from the opportunity to honor our Award winners at the Osborn Reception; therefore**

**Resolved, SSCA formally thanks Dick Ranta and the University of Memphis for financial support of the Osborn Reception.**

**Recognition of Ms. Mary Finch and Houghton Mifflin Publishers' support of the Osborn Reception.**

**Whereas, We value the financial support that our generous publishers provide; and Whereas, We benefit from the opportunity to honor our Award winners at the Osborn Reception; therefore**

**Resolved, SSCA formally thanks Ms. Mary Finch and Houghton Mifflin Publishers for their financial support of the Osborn Reception.**

**Recognition of Mary Eleanor Anderson of Mississippi State University – for her long and Outstanding Service to SSCA.**

**Whereas, We value her service to SSCA; therefore**

**Resolved, SSCA formally recognizes Mary Eleanor Anderson for the life she lived, and recognizes**

**her service as outstanding.**

**Recognition of Dr. Gregg Phifer– for the life he lived and for his Outstanding Leadership and Service to SSCA.**

**Whereas, We value his service to SSCA: as one of our past presidents and a leader in the field of freedom of speech and parliamentary law. Whereas, Gregg Phifer has been a great help to SSCA; therefore**

**Resolved, SSCA formally thanks Dr. Gregg Phifer for the life he lived, and recognizes and remembers his service as outstanding.**

**Recognition of Dr. Bernard Brock – for the life he lived and for his Outstanding Leadership and Service to SSCA.**

**Whereas, We value his service to SSCA: as a national scholar and leader – dedicated to the study of Kenneth Burke and to continued support of his students and colleagues up to the time of his death.**

**Whereas, Bernard Brock has been a great help to SSCA; therefore**

**Resolved, SSCA formally thanks Dr. Bernard Brock for the life he lived, and recognizes and remembers his service as outstanding.**

**Recognition of the many SSCA members for Outstanding Service and Dedication to Provide educationally and physically for the many students and faculty who were displaced by the past year’s hurricanes. Whereas, their kindness has benefited SSCA, therefore, Resolved, SSCA formally thanks these members for their efforts and recognizes their service as Outstanding.**

**7.0 There was no unfinished business.**

**8.0 A motion from the floor that that SSCA formally censure the previous Executive Director failed.**

**9.0 President Cissna thanked all for their participation and encouraged all to make charitable contributions to SSCA via Caring Connections.**

**10.0 Dr. Cissna adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.**