

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTHERN FORENSICS ASSOCIATION**

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

**The name of this organization shall be the Southern Forensics Association.**

## **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

**The purpose of the organization is to encourage the growth and development of forensics activities in varied forms throughout the region and the nation.**

## **ARTICLE III: PHILOSOPHY**

**The Association is a division of the Southern States Communication Association and is affiliated with a number of major forensics organizations including the Cross Exam Debate Association, the National Education Debate Association, the National Forensics Association, the American Forensics Association, the American Debate Association, and the National Parliamentary Debate Association.**

## **ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP**

**Members of SSCA with an interest in forensics, rhetoric, or argumentation may attend, participate, and vote on matters of concern to the organization.**

## **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1: The officers of the SFA shall include Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.**

**SECTION 2: The Chair and Vice Chair will each serve one-year terms. The Vice-Chair will be required to generate the call for papers and programs, select the programs for inclusion in the annual convention program, and notify submitters concerning the disposition of their program and paper proposals.**

**CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTHERN FORENSICS ASSOCIATION**  
**PAGE 2--SUBMITTED MARCH 1, 1998**

**SECTION 3: The SFA Secretary will be asked to record the proceedings of the annual business meeting and then prepare and submit the minutes to the SSCA Executive Director for inclusion in the organization's newsletter. The Secretary shall serve a 2 year term.**

**SECTION 4: The SFA Treasurer is required to maintain the organization's financial records and coordinate the disposition of deposits and withdrawals from the association's bank account. The treasurer will serve a 2 year term of office and may be reelected at the discretion of the membership.**

**SECTION 5: The officers will assume their duties immediately upon election. In the event an elected office is vacated, a special election may be held to fill the position.**

**SECTION 6: Officer elections shall be conducted at the SFA annual meeting. Nominations will be accepted prior to the convention and forwarded to the chair. Additional nominations for officers may be made from the floor. A minimum of five SFA members must be in attendance at the annual business meeting for voting to occur. In the absence of a quorum of five, the officers may be elected by a mail in ballot conducted within 30 days after the convention business meeting or those in attendance may allow the current Chair to appoint a nominated candidate to the post of Vice-chair so that SFA is represented at the convention planning meeting held during the convention's final days.**

**ARTICLE VI: GOVERNANCE**

**SECTION 1: The regular business meeting of the association shall be held during the annual SSCA convention at a predetermined time listed in the official meeting program.**

**SECTION 2: In the event of the absence of the Chair from the business meeting, the meeting shall be conducted by his or her designated alternate, selected from among the SFA membership.**

**CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTHERN FORENSICS ASSOCIATION**  
**PAGE 3--SUBMITTED MARCH 1, 1998**

**ARTICLE VI (CONTINUED)**

**SECTION 3: Measures may be initiated and presented by correspondence at any time. Upon the written request of any member institution, the Executive Secretary shall submit any germane proposal for a vote of the membership.**

**SECTION 4: For ordinary items of business, a majority vote of the voting membership is required for items submitted by correspondence. A majority vote of members present and voting is required for adoption of items presented at a regular business meeting.**

**ARTICLE VII: FINANCES**

**SECTION 1: The organization will fund awards and other valuable forms of recognition through use of the SSCA annual stipend and with the support of the SSCA Executive Director's office.**

**SECTION 2: Other funding for association activities will be gleaned from additional funds donated by the SFA membership and maintained in a separate organizational bank account administered by the SFA Treasurer.**

**ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS**

**This document may be amended by votes taken during the annual meeting and mail in votes where appropriate. A proposed amendment must be submitted to a regular business meeting, where it must receive a majority vote of those present and voting. Within 30 days of such an action, the SFA Secretary shall mail a ballot to all members. A two-thirds majority of SFA members responding within 30 days will be required for ratification of the amendment.**