

Minutes to LSI Interest Group business meeting
Friday, April 10th, 2026 5:30-6:30, (East N, Sheraton, Birmingham, AL)

Chair: Robert R. Agne, Auburn University

Vice Chair/Program Planner: Dorothy C. Andreas, Abilene Christian University

Vice Chair Elect/Program Planner for 2027: Varaidzo Nyamandi, University of Texas, Arlington

Secretary: Eugenie Almeida, Fayetteville State University

Attendees:

- Robert R. Agne (chair)
- Dorothy C. Andreas (vice-chair/program planner)
- Eugenie Almeida (secretary)
- Note: Varaidzo Nyamandi (vice-chair elect) could not make the conference do to logistical complications with flights.

Submissions report:

- Chair's report from the Executive Committee meeting.
 - We had about 420 attendees at this year's conference
 - This is the first year SSCA conference has gone paperless with programs, using an app.
 - From the financial chair.
 - Reports from NCA Legislative Committee show this is the first year NCA recognized that they are having money problems. At the current spending and revenue rate, NCA expects to run out of money in 8 years unless something is done
 - NCA has promised to be more transparent about their financial issues in the future
 - NCA is working on ideas to generate more money (e.g., raising registration fees, membership fees, and adding other expenses)
 - The Southern States Communication Journal is the only thing that makes SSCA money.
 - Convention cost about \$80-100K
 - Options to adjust membership fees and categories were discussed.
 - Membership fees will likely increase by about \$10 in the next year
 - Long and heated discussion took place about changing the name for SSCA's DEI initiatives.
 - The policy committee chose to substitute "community building" for DEI.
 - A minority of members advocated for standing our ground and keeping with DEI
 - Some argued that changing the name is just a game of semantics.
 - After some other names were suggested and voted down (Member Well-Being Advocacy Commission" and "Member Enhancement and Innovation") "Community Building" was the wording voted to take the SSCA Legislative Committee.

- Locations for future SSCA conferences
 - 2027 – Mobile, AL
 - 2028 – Memphis, TN
 - 2029 – Charlotte, NC
 - 2030 (SSCA's centennial) – The planning committee are on the fence between choosing Myrtle Beach, SC and Jacksonville, FL.
- Vice Chair's report.
 - The interest group had 5 submissions and accepted 4
 - The interest group was provided 2 slots for the conference
 - 1 paper panel
 - 1 for the business meeting
 - Top Paper Awards
 - Faculty: Neill Korobov, *University of West Georgia*, "The use of praise upgrades in compliment sequences in natural conversations between young adults in dating relationships."
- The group discussed a possible name-change for Language and Social Interaction Interest Group to reflect the National Communication Association's change of the "Language and Social Interaction Division" to "Discourse and Social Interaction" Division. The Language and Social Interaction By-Laws, Article 10 say,
 - "The By-Laws of the Language and Social Interaction Division may be amended at any annual business meeting by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. Amendments must be submitted in writing to the Chair and circulated among the members at least one month in advance of the scheduled convention at which they will be voted upon. Publication in a division or Association newsletter shall constitute circulation to the membership. The By-Laws of the Division may also be amended by two-thirds majority of those voting in a mail ballot coordinated by the Executive Committee."
 - Rob Agne will submit a proposed amendment to the name to the chair at least one month before the 2027 conference.
 - The amendment will propose a name change from Language and Social Interaction Division to Discourse and Social Interaction Interest group.
- Theme for next year's conference (in Mobile, AL) is Curiosity
 - The group brainstormed a few ideas for how the theme might be used to attract submissions to the LSI Interest Group.
 - The LSI Interest Group is an attractive group for methodological curiosity as it has always welcomed multiple different approaches to studying language and social interaction (such as ethnography of communication, conversation analysis, critical discourse analysis, action-implicative discourse analysis, discursive psychology, interactional sociolinguistics)

- We could encourage papers and panels that focus on the language of wonder, imagination, and play.
 - How is curiosity animated in interaction? How is it animated in strange and unique places and situations?
 - How does using the word "curiosity" and other words associated with it, like "imagination," "wonder" and "play", animate workplaces, academia, religious spaces, relationships, social media, sports places, legacy media and social groups?
 - How does language use and social interaction create and shape situations to make them unique and curious.
 - What interactional challenges do places and situations of wonder, imagination, and play present to participants?
 - "How would you be an Alice in Wonderland in today's communication landscape?"
- Officers
 - Outgoing Chair – Robert R. Agne (Auburn University)
 - Incoming Chair – Dorothy C. Andreas (Abilene Christian University)
 - Incoming Vice-Chair, Varaidzo Nyamandi (University of Texas, Arlington)
 - Vice-Chair Elect, Lionnell “Badu” Smith San Francisco State University

From Elizabeth at SSCA (reports@ssca.net)

- **There is a new form to submit your updated officer lists, bylaws, and business meeting minutes.**
 - **Access the form on the SSCA.net website. Access either the DIVISION or INTEREST GROUP tab, and you will find the button at the top of the page.**