**Southern States Communication Association Executive Council Meeting**
**Wednesday, November 18, 2026** from **5:00 to 8:00 PM**
**2026 NCA Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA**
**Location: Edgewood AB – 4th Floor Sheraton**

Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, Texas Tech University, Presiding

**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order** – Narissra Punyanunt-Carter

2. **Welcome**

3. **Approval of Minutes of SSCA Executive Council Meeting**
   Published on the SSCA Web Page at https://www.ssca.net/business-meeting-minutes

4. **Approval of Agenda**

5. **Officers' Reports**
   - 5.1 President & Committee on Committees – Narissra Punyanunt-Carter
   - 5.2 Vice President – Leland G. Spencer
   - 5.3 Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee – Pat Wheaton
   - 5.4 Vice President Elect – Eletra Gilchrist-Petty
   - 5.5 Executive Director – Frances Brandau
   - 5.6 Strategic Communication Director – Nakia Welch
   - 5.7 Member Services – Elizabeth Hanson Smith
   - 5.8 SCJ Editor –Joshua Guitar
   - 5.9 Community Building Co- Chairs – Kimberly Johnson & Janine Armstrong
   - 5.10 NCA Legislative Assembly Representatives – Ryan Tabrizi, Antonio Spikes, Karen Hill
   - 5.11 NCA Nominating Committee Representative: Heather Hayes

**6. Standing Committee Reports**
   - 6.1 Constitution – Nakia Welch
   - 6.2 Community Building – Kimberly Johnson & Janine Armstrong
   - 6.3 Finance – Leslie Pace
   - 6.4 Nominating Committee – Patrick Wheaton
   - 6.5 Publications – Jenny Crowley
   - 6.6 Resolutions – Laurie Metcalf
   - 6.7 Resource Development – Michelle Groover
   - 6.8 Time and Place – Scott Christen

**7. Division & Interest Group Reports**
   - 7.1 African American Communication Division – Cicely Wilson
   - 7.2 Applied Communication Division – Alex Rister
   - 7.3 Argumentation & Forensics Division – Brian Lain

7.4 Communication Theory & Methodology Division – Michael Kotowski
7.5 Community College Division – Samantha Chapuseaux
7.6 Freedom of Speech Division – Josh Guitar
7.7 Gender Studies Division – Zane Willard
7.8 Health Communication Division – Emily Scheinfeld
7.9 Identity, Inclusion, & Social Justice Division – Josh Miller
7.10 Instructional Development Division – Elizabeth Hanson Smith
7.11 Intercultural Communication Division – Curtis Chamblee
7.12 Interpersonal Communication Division – Kellie Brisini
7.13 Mass Communication Division – Christopher M. Toula
7.14 Performance Studies Division – Alex Davenport
7.15 Political Communication Division – Matthew K. Farmer
7.16 Popular Communication Division – Jacob Dickerson
7.17 Public Relations Division – Breann Murphy
7.18 Rhetoric & Public Address Division – Lionnell "Badu" Smith
7.19 Association for Communication Administrators Interest Group – Chris McCollough
7.20 American Society for the History of Rhetoric Interest Group – Savannah Downing
7.21 Ethnography Interest Group – Curtis Ladrillo Chamblee
7.22 Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group – Wesley Buerkle
7.23 Language & Social Interaction Interest Group – Dorothy Andreas
7.24 Philosophy & Ethics of Communication Interest Group – Andrew Tinker
7.25 State Associations Interest Group – John H. Saunders

**8. Old Business**

8.1 Status of name alternative terminology for *Community Building* within SSCA

**9. New Business**

**10. Announcements and Adjournment**

*For those who are unable to meet in person, please join us via Zoom!*

Topic: SSCA Midyear Business Meeting at NCA's Annual Convention
Time: Nov 18, 2026 05:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://texastech.zoom.us/j/92887846623?pwd=SRltzZXotjbbW6zbbu9Sw1LaBZTe8o.1
Join and take notes
https://texastech.zoom.us/j/92887846623?pwd=SRltzZXotjbbW6zbbu9Sw1LaBZTe8o.1&mynotes=on
Meeting ID: 928 8784 6623
Passcode: 255044

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One tap mobile
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# 5.0 OFFICERS' REPORTS

## 5.1 President & Committee on Committees – Narissra Punyanunt-Carter

*President's report:*
The Centennial Celebration Ad Hoc Committee has been formed.

*Committee on Committees*
All committees have been formed and are posted on the SSCA website

## 5.2 Vice President – Leland G. Spencer

Many thanks to everyone who submitted to the conference or reviewed papers and panels.

Special thanks to all the division and interest group planners for their amazing work, to Pat Wheaton for endless help and advice with the XCD platform, and to Lauralee and Frances for help with the room assignments and space considerations.

**2027 conference by the numbers:**

- Total submissions: 341
- Unique submitters: 227
- Total authors submitting: 772
- Sessions scheduled: 189
- Items scheduled: 250
- Unique number of people appearing on the program as presenters, chairs, or respondents: 463

See the next page for the breakdown by unit.

Breakdown by unit:

| | 2026 allocation | 2027 allocation | 2027 actual | 2028 suggested allocation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| African American | 4 | 8 | 4 | 7 |
| Applied | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Argumentation & Forensics | 6 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Comm. Theory & Methodology | 5 | 10 | 7 | 9 |
| Community College | 7 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| Freedom of Speech | 5 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Gender Studies | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Health | 9 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Identity, Inclusion, and Social Justice | 8 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| Instructional | 14 | 9 | 12 | 9 |
| Intercultural | 8 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| Interpersonal | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Mass Comm. | 9 | 8 | 13 | 8 |
| Performance | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Political | 6 | 8 | 5 | 7 |
| Popular | 8 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| Public Relations | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Rhetoric & Public Address | 18 | 18 | 14 | 16 |
| American Soc. for the History of Rhetoric | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Assoc. for Comm. Administration | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Ethnography | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Kenneth Burke | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Language & Social Interaction | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Philosophy & Ethics | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| State Associations | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| VP Spotlight Panels | 6 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Undergraduate Honors Conference | 16 | 16 | TBD | 16 |
| SSCA | 15 | 17 | 17 | 17 |

Respectfully submitted,



Leland G. Spencer

## 5.3 Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee – Pat Wheaton

Following tradition, the Nominating Committee report will be provided at the meeting next Wednesday rather than being included in the e-packet.

## 5.4 Vice President Elect – Eletra Gilchrist-Petty

New Orleans, LA; November 18, 2026
Submitted by Eletra Gilchrist-Petty, The University of Alabama in Huntsville

### 2027 Undergraduate Honors Conference (UHC), Mobile, AL

- As SSCA 2nd Vice President, my prime responsibility consists of planning the Annual Theodore Clevenger, Jr. Undergraduate Honors Conference (UHC)
- Call for Submissions to the 37th Annual UHC is active.
    - The call was published on the SSCA website on August 26. For details see: https://www.ssca.net/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2027-UHC-Call-for-Submissions_corrected.pdf
    - The call appeared on COMMNotes on Sept. 3.
    - A reminder was also submitted for inclusion in the Fall 2026 SSCA newsletter
    - Reminders will also post on social media following the NCA conference
- The deadline for submissions is **Dec. 16, 11:59 p.m**. **PST**. Please spread the word and encourage undergraduate submissions.
- Volunteers are needed to Review, Chair, and Respond to UHC panels. I am soliciting volunteers for each role. Please email me at Eletra.Gilchrist@uah.edu to volunteer for these much-needed roles. Or, sign the volunteer sheet that will be circulated at the Mid-year Business Meeting.

SSCA

SOUTHERN STATES
COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION



Dr. Eletra Gilchrist-Petty
SSCA 2nd VP, UHC Planner

**REMINDER!**

# 37th Annual Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference (UHC)

**Join us during the Southern States Communication Association's 97th Annual Convention for the 37th Annual Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference (UHC)!**

UHC provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to present research and engage in conversations about scholarship and future research topics with faculty and other students. The goals of UHC include:

- *Supporting excellence in undergraduate scholarship and creative activity*
- *Providing opportunities for networking*
- *Allowing students the chance to explore graduate study options*

**April 7–11, 2027**

**Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel**
**Mobile, AL.**

## *Call for Undergraduate Submissions*

Undergraduate students are invited to submit papers, digital, and/or applied projects on topics relevant to the study of human or mass communication. Submissions are welcome from all subdisciplines and methodological approaches in the field of communication. *We especially welcome papers or projects that connect to the conference theme, "Curiosity" or PR campaign projects relevant to the city of Mobile, AL.* Undergraduate students from all types of institutions are invited to submit.

**Submission Deadline:**
**December 16, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time**

***Volunteers Needed!***

We are also seeking volunteers to Review, Chair, and Respond to UHC panels. Please email me at Eletra.Gilchrist@uah.edu to volunteer for these much-needed roles.



**Full Details Available at:**
https://www.ssca.net/convention/latest-convention/

# 5.5 Executive Director – Frances Brandau

**November 18, 2026 | New Orleans, Louisiana**

**Overview**
Since the 2026 Birmingham convention, much of our attention has focused on our website and membership platform, convention planning, financial oversight, and updating association procedures.

**Membership and Administrative Operations**
- Membership administration continues to include processing renewals, maintaining records, responding to member inquiries, and addressing issues associated with our transition from MemberClicks to X-CD. We are working to refine the platform to improve administrative efficiency and the member experience.

**Financial Oversight**
- Financial activities have included managing association revenues and expenditures, overseeing convention-related financial obligations, and implementing the revised awards procedures approved in Birmingham.

**Website and Communications**
- We continue to refine the association's WordPress website and X-CD platform, with particular attention to navigation, content accuracy, and functionality. Improvements include dedicated Undergraduate Honors Conference resources, registration information, and Know Before You Go materials.
- Our communications efforts also include website updates and revisions, newsletters, and improved access to association information. Special thanks to Elizabeth Hanson Smith for her continued work on the website.

**Convention Planning**
- Planning is underway for the 97th Annual Convention, April 7–11, 2027, at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, under the theme *Curiosity*.
- As part of our preparations, Lauralee Shapiro, our ConferenceDirect representative, and Dr. Leland Spencer, First Vice-President, conducted a pre-convention site visit to Mobile to coordinate meeting space, panel sessions, registration arrangements, and overall convention flow. Additional efforts include coordinating hotel arrangements, refining convention registration and digital programming, and exploring local hospitality for attendees.

**Awards**
- We are implementing the revised awards procedures adopted in Birmingham, which establish consistent funding requirements and monetary award guidelines.
- The Awards Namesake Biopic Project is also underway to preserve the histories and contributions of individuals honored through SSCA awards as we approach our centennial.

**Elections**
- Preparations are underway for the association's January 2027 officer elections.

**Closing**
- SSCA continues to make meaningful progress in modernizing its operations and improving services. I appreciate the continued dedication and collaboration of our officers, committee chairs, and volunteers, and I look forward to a successful convention in Mobile.

# 5.6 Strategic Communication Director–Nakia Welch

To: Frances Brandau, Executive Director – SSCA; Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, President - SSCA
From: Nakia Welch, Strategic Communication Director
Date: 11/6/2026
Re: Strategic Communication Director Mid-Year Report

It has been an eventful first half of the year, with a lot of work going into several projects. The main areas of which to report include efforts for the marketing of the organization, logistics and planning for the 2027 annual convention, website changes, and a report of the division and interest groups of SSCA.

**Marketing**

- Pricing and products for the convention was developed over the summer, and solicitation emails have been sent to potential sponsors and exhibitors several times. While convention is still over five months away and the expectation is to receive more responses closer to the convention, the marketing efforts have resulted in a full-page ad sale to Norton Publishers; traditionally, we only have program ad sales to universities, and average about 4-6 pages of ads each year, so this is a new and welcomed sponsors. Norton also still plans to secure an exhibitors table. Additionally, Norton also sponsored the new selfie station feature that is planned for the convention.
- Emails were sent to the 60+ universities with a Communication Graduate program soliciting their department to join SSCA. Changes were made to the Premium Affiliate category to include a complimentary grad student membership and convention registration OR a single UHC undergrad conference registration. Since the email, two institutions immediately joined as Institutional members. After the UHC deadline, my goal is to reach out to institutions who have an undergraduate student's paper accepted to the convention and pitch the Premium Affiliate membership benefits to hopefully increase our Premium Affiliate membership numbers.

**Convention**

- ***Moon Pies***: I've secured 200-300 additional Moon Pies from the company that produces them, to give out at Mobile. HOWEVER, they won't ship them – we will need someone to pick them up; they are located in Chattanooga, TN.
- ***Mobile CVB Ambassadors***: The Convention and Visitor's Bureau of Mobile will provide four hours of area experts who will set up in the main traffic area of the convention and serve as concierges – providing info to attendees of things to do, see, etc.
- ***Golf Cart taxi service***: There will be a $5/person flat fee charge for golf cart taxi service to the downtown area (usually up to about 2 miles from the hotel). This will be cheaper and faster than traditional Uber/Lyft, for attendees.
- ***Planning:*** Our parliamentarian and I added two new sessions to the convention for outgoing planners who will become chairs of their divisions and interest groups. The goal is to help them understand their role on the Executive Committee, basics of parliamentary procedure, etc.

**Website/Social Media**:
I have been working with Elizabeth Hanson Smith, our webmaster, as we continue with the transition from Memberclicks to X-CD as our website host. There are several new features we are developing for the website:

- ***Support link***: I am working to create a link on the website in which people can access it to donate to SSCA (Awards, Caring Connections, general donations, etc.) during the year versus only as part of their convention registration. The hope is this will increase financial donations to these endeavors as people may be willing to donate throughout the year and especially if the added costs of travel and registration to the convention are less of a burden to their generosity.

- ***Constitution Amendments***: The Constitution Committee will add a copy of the proposed constitutional amendments as well as a link for feedback or suggestions to the committee.
- ***Layout:*** We plan to make some visual and layout changes to the website, but not until after the convention, to hopefully attract more viewers during the year
- ***Awards Biopic***: I have started collecting pictures and information about the various individuals for whom we've named an award in SSCA. The goal is to add this information to the website so future generations of SSCA will know more about these giants in our field, especially those who received the awards named after the individual. This is a slow process, with the ultimate goal of having it completed by our 100th anniversary convention.

I am seeking guidance from the AC/EC regarding how best to approach posting material on our social media account that is created (whole or in part) using AI. Do we include that disclaimer or not?

**Division & Interest Groups**

I've been working with our Webmaster and our Parliamentarian to ensure the records for each division and interest group are up to date and accurate on the website. Our Parliamentarian reviewed all bylaws on record to identify anything that was out of date or in conflict with the greater organization's constitution. He notified the officers of those divisions and interest groups of the issues to correct.

- ***Bylaws***: I'm happy to report 100% compliance of all divisions; we have bylaws on file for all divisions. We still do not have bylaws for three of the interest groups. One of those three has reached out and is working to create their interest group's bylaws, but they must wait until the convention to approve in their business meeting.
- ***Meeting Minutes***: We have the meeting minutes for all divisions and all but one interest group. I would like to give a special shout-out to the Communication Theory & Methodology Division for their meeting minutes – they are FANTASATIC!
- ***Call for Papers***: All divisions and interest groups successfully posted their CFP
- ***Mid-year report***: Divisions and interest groups have some work to do in this area. I did not receive a report for five (5) of the 25 divisions and interest groups. I would like to stress to the division chairs and vice-chair/planners the importance of submitting this information by the deadline each year as this information is necessary for the organization to know the status of each division and interest group, especially as we prepare and plan for the annual convention. I will work to make improvements on the communication and submission process before the 2027 convention.

Below I have provided a table of each division and interest group's standing regarding submission of their bylaws, completion/submission of the post-conference report, submission of their business meeting minutes, ensuring their call for papers was communicated, and the reception of their mid-year report.

Additionally, there is a second table that provides a quick glance at the submission numbers and acceptance rates of papers, panels, roundtables, and GIFTS or Poster sessions. Following is additional reporting information from each division and interest groups regarding their review process, award recipients, and additional notes/information they shared. Finally, I did note some comments and concerns the Performance Studies Division shared. If they do not have a representative in attendance at the Executive Council meeting, I will share their notes with the council.

Respectfully submitted,



Nakia Welch
Strategic Communication Director

| Division/Interest Group | Bylaws on File | Post Conference Report | MTG Minutes on File | CFP Submitted | Mid-Year Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **DIVISIONS** | | | | | |
| Communication Theory & Methodology | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Freedom of Speech | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| Intercultural Communication | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| Performance Studies | Y | N | Y | Y | y |
| Mass Communication | Y | N | Y | Y | Y |
| Rhetoric & Public Address | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| Argumentation & Forensics | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Instructional Development | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Applied Communication | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Gender Studies | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Poplar Communication | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Interpersonal Communication | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Public Relations | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Community College | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Political Communication | Y | N | Y | Y | Y |
| Health Communication | Y | N | Y | Y | Y |
| Identity, Inclusion, & Social Justice | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| African American Communication | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| **INTEREST GROUPS** | | | | | |
| Association for Communication Administration | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| American Society for the History of Rhetoric | N | N | Y | Y | Y |
| Ethnography | N | Y | N | Y | N |
| Kenneth Burke Society | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Language & Social Interaction | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Philosophy & Ethics of Communication | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| State Associations | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |

Green = Met submission deadline
Yellow = Submitted after the deadline
Red = Did not submit

| SSCA 2027 Convention Summary | Papers | | | Panels | | | Roundtables | | | GIFTS/Poster* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | S | A | % | S | A | % | S | A | % | S | A | % |
| Communication Theory & Methodology | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Freedom of Speech | 1 | 1 | 100 | | | | 2 | 2 | 100 | | | |
| Intercultural Communication | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Performance Studies | 11 | 4 | 36 | 5 | 3 | 60 | | | | | | |
| Mass Communication | 12 | 12 | 100 | 7 | 7 | 100 | | | | | | |
| Rhetoric & Public Address | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Argumentation & Forensics | 1 | 1 | 100 | 1 | 1 | 100 | 2 | 2 | 100 | | | |
| Instructional Development | 5 | 5 | 100 | 9 | 9 | 100 | | | | 5 | 4 | 80 |
| Applied Communication | 6 | 0 | 100 | 6 | 1 | 86 | 7 | 0 | 100 | | | |
| Gender Studies | 10 | 0 | 100 | | | | 2 | 0 | 100 | | | |
| Poplar Communication | 6 | 4 | 67 | 3 | 0 | 100 | | | | | | |
| Interpersonal Communication | 10 | 0 | 100 | 6 | 1 | 86 | | | | | | |
| Public Relations | 5 | 3 | 63 | 3 | 0 | 100 | | | | | | |
| Community College | | | | 9 | 6 | 67 | | | | 26 | 19 | 73 |
| Political Communication | 9 | 3 | 67 | 1 | 1 | 100 | 1 | 1 | 100 | | | |
| Health Communication | 13 | 1 | 92 | 3 | 2 | 67 | | | | 14* | 13* | 93* |
| Identity, Inclusion, & Social Justice | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| African American Communication | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Association for Communication Administration | 0 | | | 6 | 1 | 16.7 | | | | | | |
| American Society for the History of Rhetoric | 3 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Ethnography | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kenneth Burke Society | | | | | | | 5 | 5 | 100 | | | |
| Language & Social Interaction | 5 | 5 | 100 | | | | | | | | | |
| Philosophy & Ethics of Communication | 0 | | | 0 | | | 0 | | | 0 | | |
| State Associations | | | | 1 | 1 | 100 | | | | | | |

# 5.7 Member Services – Elizabeth Hanson Smith

## Membership Report 2025 Pre-NCA (Current as of 3Nov25)

| Membership Categories | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Category** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** |
| **Regular** | 187 | 158 | 165 | 226 | 214 | | 375 | 255 | 244 | 271 | 230 | 206 |
| **Sustaining** | 197 | 233 | 178 | 170 | 126 | | 92 | 66 | 91 | 75 | 87 | 69 |
| **Patron** | 20 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 12 | | 8 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| **Student** | 172 | 204 | 171 | 192 | 173 | | 168 | 148 | 151 | 148 | 117 | 119 |
| **Life** | 61 | 65 | 69 | 73 | 73 | | 77 | 78 | 81 | 78 | 86 | 86 |
| **Emeritus** | 24 | 28 | 27 | 27 | 29 | | 28 | 27 | 27 | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| **Total** | 658 | 703 | 626 | 702 | 628 | | 678* | 594 | 606 | 582 | 532 | 492 |
| **Regional Journal** | 17 | 15 | 8 | 9 | 7 | | 5 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 10 | |
| **Institutional**<br>**Premium**** | 22 | 12 | 13 | 31 | 27 | | 14 | 17 | 22 | | 17 | 9/22<br>10/17 |
| Renew-Inactive | | | | | | | 70 | | | | | |

*Due to COVID, memberships were renewed for free - last row is number of memberships renewed that were not counted
**Institutional and Premium numbers are valid memberships/expired memberships

| Interest Groups | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Interest Group** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** |
| **Am. Soc. Hist Rhetoric** | 349 | 474 | 298 | 278 | 272 | | 244 | 209 | 183 | 167 | 150 | 172 |
| **Assoc. Comm. Admin.** | 141 | 140 | 110 | 109 | 96 | | 106 | 86** | 89 | 80 | 74 | 96 |
| **Burke Society** | 145 | 119 | 104 | 119 | 101 | | 103 | 86 | 67 | 61 | 59 | 63 |
| **Ethnography** | 152 | 165 | 151 | 159 | 141 | | 146 | 132 | 109 | 114 | 92 | 121 |
| **None Selected** | | 20 | 407 | 534 | 454 | | 541 | 291 | 543 | 133 | 106 | |
| **Lang & Social Interaction** | 50 | 74 | 45 | 41 | 26 | | 30 | 30** | 21* | 87 | 73 | 101 |
| **Philosophy & Ethics of Communication** | 154 | 167 | 148 | 155 | 143 | | 138 | 124 | 107 | 87 | 103 | 106 |
| **States Association** | | 38 | 36 | 50 | 49 | | 46 | 42 | 66 | 49 | 61 | 55 |

* First year below 5% membership requirement for divisional status
** First year probation for not electing officers

| Divisions | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Division** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** | **2026** |
| **African Amer** | | | | | | | | | | 36 | 47 | 41 |
| **Applied Comm** | 159 | 46 | 134 | 139 | 117 | | 124 | 96 | 84 | 81 | 59 | 78 |
| **Arg & Forensic** | 20 | 48 | 32 | 45 | 42 | | 56 | 38 | 35 | 37 | 33 | 26 |
| **Comm Theory & Meth** | 101 | 209 | 92 | 81 | 88 | | 95 | 73 | 60 | 60 | 62 | 68 |
| **Community College** | 38 | 123 | 36 | 44 | 31 | | 43 | 29 | 39 | 36 | 28 | 23 |
| **Freedom of Speech** | 21 | 30 | 25 | 39 | 28 | | 32 | 32 | 22* | 24 | 25 | 29 |
| **Gender Studies** | 69 | 75 | 89 | 106 | 91 | | 96 | 58 | 57 | 59 | 45 | 42 |
| **Health Comm** | | | | | | | | | 24* | 51 | 39 | 53 |
| **Ident, Incl, Soc Justice** | | | | | | | | | 31 | 59 | 37 | 31 |
| **Instructional Dev** | 57 | 97 | 66 | 72 | 71 | | 97 | 70 | 76 | 72 | 56 | 68 |
| **Intercultural Comm** | 52 | 64 | 58 | 72 | 59 | | 63 | 48 | 37 | 62 | 34 | 32 |
| **Interpersonal Comm** | 105 | 86 | 114 | 117 | 107 | | 107 | 80 | 96 | 95 | 73 | 73 |
| ~~**Lang & Social Interaction**~~ | ~~50~~ | ~~74~~ | ~~45~~ | ~~41~~ | ~~26~~ | | ~~30~~ | ~~30**~~ | ~~21*~~ | | | |
| **Mass Comm** | 73 | 46 | 75 | 93 | 72 | | 90 | 70 | 58 | 58 | 49 | 60 |
| **None Selected** | | 175 | 97 | 124 | 95 | | 102 | 97 | 229 | 57 | 74 | |
| **Performance Studies** | 46 | 32 | 49 | 53 | 49 | | 43 | 41 | 27* | 42 | 27 | 23 |
| **Political Comm** | 61 | 63 | 73 | 78 | 85 | | 77 | 66 | 46 | 44 | 46 | 45 |
| **Popular Comm** | 140 | 74 | 51 | 56 | 56 | | 64 | 56 | 47 | 45 | 41 | 33 |
| **Public Relations** | 35 | 44 | 51 | 47 | 45 | | 51 | 44 | 41 | 41 | 49 | 42 |
| **Rhetoric & Public Address** | 221 | *§]* | 166 | 19 | 129 | | 197 | 169 | 151 | 118 | 113 | 110 |

* First year below 5% membership requirement for divisional status

** First year probation for not electing officers

## 5.8 SCJ Editor –Joshua Guitar

No Report provided

## 5.9 Community Building Co- Chairs – Kimberly Johnson & Janine Armstrong

*Co-Chair Report | November 2026*

### Committee Purpose and Name

- The committee discussed the implications of the name "Community Building Committee," which was adopted by SSCA at the 2026 business meeting. Members noted that the current name and revised constitutional purpose may not fully communicate the committee's originally intended work.
- There was discussion of alternative names that could simultaneously address concerns to protect the people who would not otherwise be able to participate in any capacity at SSCA and meet the original intentions of the founders of this committee.
- The committee agreed that its purpose needs further clarification of how the name change may reshape the committee's ability to achieve its goals.
- A member asked about the status of the SSCA ad hoc naming committee.
- A shared Google document will be used to collect proposed language, name ideas, and related recommendations.
- Members also discussed surveying SSCA members about the effects and perceptions of the name change.

### Community Building Recruitment/Retention Award

- The committee discussed the need to publicize and potentially reframe the Community Building Recruitment/Retention Award.
  - Members raised questions about whether institutions feel able to apply, whether the award's current framing is appropriate, and whether recognition could include individual contributions, scholarship, and community engagement as well as institutional work.
- The committee will explore both departmental and individual award possibilities.
  - Janine Armstrong will draft a call for nominations/applications
  - The committee will also ask SSCA about funding for plaques and other award-related costs.
- The committee plans to meet again in December to continue developing the award's purpose, process, and timeline.

### 2027 Community Building Keynote

- SSCA has allocated money for the 2027 keynote speaker stipend /expenses. We hope SSCA will continue to provide a complimentary SSCA conference registration.
- Potential speakers discussed included Earle Fisher, Deborah D. Douglas, Stephanie Fryberg, Valerie Bridgeman, Joquina Reed, and Stacey Patton. The committee discussed the possibility of selecting a speaker whose work could engage the association's current conversations about the committee's name and purpose.
- A speaker will be confirmed by the end of November/December.

## Graduate Student Support and Engagement

- The committee discussed ways SSCA could better support graduate students attending the conference. The ideas are as follows: networking opportunities with faculty, a pre-conference Zoom session on navigating a first SSCA conference, and possible financial assistance.
- Members emphasized that support should be equitable and sustainable. Ideas included a shared fund, an individual "adopt-a-student" model, optional donations, and recognition or mentoring initiatives.
- Further information is needed about graduate-student attendance at recent conferences, eligibility for assistance, and available funding.
- Members also raised the possibility of adding graduate-student representation to committee leadership, while acknowledging potential professional risks and labor for graduate students.

## Leadership and Next Steps

- The committee discussed leadership for 2027–2028. A few members expressed willingness to step into a leadership role next year.
- A follow-up Zoom meeting is tentatively planned for December 18, 2026 (2:00 p.m. Eastern / 1:00 p.m. Central / 11:00 a.m. Pacific), pending confirmation with all members availability.

## Summary Items for Executive Council Awareness

- The committee is continuing to clarify how its name, constitutional purpose, award, and work should align.
- The award needs a clearer outreach and application process, with questions still open about framing, eligibility, recognition, and funding.
- A 2027 keynote speaker should be confirmed by the end of November/December; the committee is working within the $2,500 allocation plus complimentary registration.
- Graduate student support and representation remain exploratory and may require SSCA funding, data on attendance, and clarification of the committee's role.
- The committee may bring forward recommendations after further discussion and consultation and after learning of the status of the SSCA ad hoc naming committee.

## 5.10 NCA Legislative Assembly Representatives – Ryan Tabrizi, Antonio Spikes, Karen Hill

*Reports will be provided during the Mid-Year Executive Council meeting as the Legislative Assembly of NCA holds their first of two meetings in the hours immediately preceding the SSCA Mid-Year EC meeting*

## 5.11 NCA Nominating Committee Representative: Heather Hayes

*No Report at this time.*
*Information will be shared at the EC meeting based on NCA meetings on 11/18/26*

# 6.0 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

## 6.1 Constitution – Nakia Welch

To: Frances Brandau, Executive Director – SSCA; Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, President - SSCA

From: Nakia Welch, Chair – Constitution Committee

Date: 11/6/2026

Re: Constitution Committee Mid-Year Report

The Constitution Committee received some proposed amendment topics via email in early October 2016 in preparation for their discussion over the proposals via Zoom on 11/6/2026. Below is a summary of the topics discussed and the suggested edits that will be presented to the Executive Council at the 2027 Convention business meeting. The committee discussed three general topics, with the bulk of conversation revolving around specific constitutional changes that were identified. They are listed below; however, the committee welcomes additional suggestions or recommendations for discussion that may be added to this slate of proposals prior to the 2027 convention in Mobile, AL.

| **Item #1** | **Mid-year EC meeting remote attendance option:** |
|---|---|
| **Recommendation Article V, Section 3.B** | *Adding a new sub-section "B"*<br>B. The Executive Council may include remote attendance at the mid-year Executive Council meeting only (i.e., Zoom, conference call, etc.) held at NCA. |
| **Justification** | This ensures members of the Executive Council, who are unable to attend NCA, are able to attend remotely (i.e., Zoom). |
| **Outcome** | Arguments for doing so include: (a) it will increase participation for EC members by removing financial barriers; not every member of the EC can attend NCA each year, especially if doing so is only to participate in the one SSCA mid-year EC meeting; (b) there is precedent to conduct meetings remotely as per Article V – Section 5, not to mention an entire conference was held remotely – including all business meetings – for the 2021 Annual Convention.<br><br>The addition of this statement doesn't conflict with the requirement that a meeting is held during NCA, it just expands the option of inclusion of members to participate who would otherwise be excluded from participating in a meeting of a committee/council to which they belong and rightfully should have a seat and voice at the table. The remote option to attend a meeting would be restricted to the mid-year only (unless it falls under the 'emergency' category established and explained in the constitution) as it would be the only meeting specifically allowed to include remote attendance – the others must be held at the convention. |

| **Item #2** | **Resource & Membership Committee Chair term becomes a 3-year term of office** |
|---|---|
| **Recommendation Article IX, Section 2.E** | *Adding a new sub-section 'E'*<br>E. The chair of the Resource & Membership Development shall be appointed for a term of three years. |
| **Justification** | While managing Caring Connections isn't an especially large or difficult job, there is a learning curve. Given the importance of Caring Connections to funding our awards & honorariums, greater continuity in the committee's leadership would be beneficial. |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Currently, the Resource & Membership Committee operates under the system whereby a new member is added each year, ascending on the committee until their final year, in which they serve as chair, replacing the outgoing chair. |
| **Outcome** | The Resource & Membership Committee would continue to have a 3-person membership, plus the chair, plus the ex-officio member (five total), the three members would continue to continue to serve and cycle off after their third year. However, at the conclusion of the serving chair's term, a new chair would be appointed (by the nominating committee), ideally chosen from the pool of candidates who previously served a three-year stint on the Resource & Membership Committee, to serve a three-year term as chair. This ensures the chair has ample experience and understanding of the processes, needs, and practices of the Resource & Membership Committee. |

| **Item #3** | **Limit membership to the Executive Council to one voting member representing their constituents** |
|---|---|
| **Recommendation Article V, Section 1** | *Current*<br>Section 1. Membership. The membership of the Executive Council of the Association shall include:<br>*Proposed:*<br>Section 1. Membership. The membership of the Executive Council of the Association shall include *the following, with each position limited to one voting member:* |
| **Justification** | The constitution names members of the Executive Council and Administrative Committee; these are comprised of officers and chairs of various committees, divisions, interest groups, etc. Allowing a committee/division/interest group to have co-chairs where multiple co-chairs are part of the Administrative Committee and/or Executive Council would result in a disproportionate weight in the voting results of that single committee/division/interest group. Specifying in the constitution that only one chair (or co-chair) can serve on the Administrative Committee or Executive Council representing a committee/division/interest group, this eliminates the potential for an unfair imbalance in voting weight. Additionally, for the convention, the planner includes the names of the officials serving on the various councils and committees in the convention program. By requiring only one member to represent their constituents in a scheduled meeting, it ensures an accurate recording in the program of who would attend specified meetings. |
| **Outcome** | This amendment does not declare co-chairs are not allowed; this decision remains in the purview of the division, interest group, etc. Committees (where applicable), Divisions, and Interest Groups who wish to employ a co-chair system are allowed to continue with that practice (if constitutionally allowed). However, it does specify that only the chair, or one co-chair if applicable, may attend and vote in organizational meetings, such as the Administrative Committee and Executive Council meetings. |

Respectfully submitted,



Nakia Welch
Chair – Constitution Committee

## 6.2 Community Building – Kimberly Johnson & Janine Armstrong

*See the report provided in 5.9 above*

## 6.3 Finance – Leslie Pace

The finances of the organization are healthy. SSCA's current assets are $365,103.51

The balances on the individual financial accounts are as follows, as of November 13, 2026:

| PNC Bank | Balance |
|---|---|
| Checking Account | $28,033.04 |
| Money Market Account | $75,740.99 |
| **TOTAL (Checking accounts)** | **$103,774.03** |
| Lifetime Membership CD | $59,930.36 |
| Katherine Grace Hendrix Award | $1,859.43 |

| Awards CDs | Balance |
|---|---|
| Theodore Clevenger Jr. UHC (not an award!) | $9,153.26 |
| Franklin Shirley Award (Top CUHC Paper) | $7,397.62 |
| Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award | $8,581.78 |
| Community Building Recruitment and Retention | $11,826.69 |
| Shawn D. Long Outreach Award | $9,524.76 |
| Dwight L. Freshley Outstanding New Teacher Award | $7,315.25 |
| T. Earle Johnson- Edwin Paget Distinguished Service Award | $7,315.25 |
| J. Donald Ragsdale Mentorship Award | $11,416.09 |
| Rose B. Johnson SCJ Article Award | $7,315.27 |
| Suzanne Osborn Community College Award | $10,997.56 |
| John I. Sisco Excellence in Teaching Award | $11,109.87 |
| Michael M. Osborn Teacher-Scholar Award | $16,026.74 |
| Janice Hocker Rushing Early Career Research Award | $81,559.55 |
| **TOTAL *(Including K. Grace Hendrix Award)*** | **$201,399.12** |

## 6.4 Nominating Committee – Patrick Wheaton

The report is ready and will be emailed to the Executive Director; We have 4 excellent candidates: two for 2VP and two for NCA LA.

## 6.5 Publications – Jenny Crowley

No Report provided

## 6.6 Resolutions – Laurie Metcalf

New Orleans, LA

The Resolutions Committee is currently accepting suggestions for resolutions for the 2027 SSCA Convention. **In particular, it would be helpful to have assistance from the membership with regard to resolutions of recognition or condolence.**

Suggestions can be made to any resolutions committee member:

- Laurie D. Metcalf, Blinn College, laurie.metcalf@blinn.edu
- Dinah Tetteh, Arkansas State University, dtetteh@astate.edu
- Chad Harriss, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, chandler-w-harris@utc.edu

## 6.7 Resource Development – Michelle Groover

Based on last year's fundraising results, the Resource Committee has established a goal of raising $3,000 through Caring Connections at the 2027 SSCA Convention to support association awards.

Members are encouraged to pre-purchase their Caring Connections as part of their convention registration to help us reach this goal.

## 6.8 Time and Place – Scott Christen

The Time and Place Committee, consisting of Scott Christen, Lauralee Shapiro (ConferenceDirect), and Frances Brandau, has been actively evaluating potential locations and properties for a future SSCA convention.

To date, the committee has conducted site visits in Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky. An additional site visit to the InterContinental New Orleans is scheduled for November 19, following the Mid-Year Meeting. The Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel has also submitted a bid for consideration.

Following the final site visit, Lauralee Shapiro will contact the leading properties to begin contract negotiations and secure the most favorable terms for the Association.

The committee anticipates presenting its final recommendations at the 2027 SSCA Convention in Mobile.

# 7.0 DIVISION & INTEREST GROUP REPORTS

## 7.1 African American Communication

### OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Keven Rudrow | Mississippi State University | kjr357@msstate.edu |
| **Chair** | Cicely Wilson | Union University | cicely@cicelytwilson.com |
| **Vice Chair** | Natonya Listach | Middle Tennessee State University | natonya.listach@mtsu.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | | | |
| **Secretary** | Amber Alston | University of Memphis | aalston5@memphis.edu |

### REVIEWER INFORMATION

### PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

### AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | |
| **Author(s)** | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

### ADDITIONAL INFO

# 7.2 Applied Communication

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Mai Nou Xiong Gum | Furman University | mnxiong.gum@furman.edu |
| **Chair** | Alex Rister | Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University | ristera@erau.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Matthew Martin | University of Southern Mississippi | m.e.martin@usm.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Richard Cobb | University of Southern Mississippi | Richard.Cobb@usm.edu |
| **Secretary** | Betsy Heckert | University of North Alabama | betsyheckert@gmail.com |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

Evaluation took place during a two-week period. All submissions were assessed by two reviewers. Each reviewer received three submissions to review.

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

We have proposed 9 slots to accommodate our programming. This includes 1 business meeting, 1 research in progress roundtable session, 2 paper sessions, 5 panels.

## AWARD(S)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Faculty Paper in Applied Communication | |
| **Author(s)** | Jacquelyn Seymour | Andrew Ledbetter |
| **Institution Affiliation** | West Virginia University | Texas Christian University |
| **Title** | Bible Reading: Social Judgment Theory, Emotional Appeals, Involvement, and Religiosity | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

# 7.3 Argumentation & Forensics

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Gaby Lamura | | |
| **Chair** | Brian Lain | | |
| **Vice Chair** | Scott Thomson | | |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Mike Gray | | |
| **Secretary** | Brandon Reynolds | | |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

4 reviewers/ 3 reviews per submission

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

1 Business Meeting
1 Top Paper (I suggested/discussed with Leland about turning this into a panel/discussion)
2 Roundtables
1 Panel

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Paper |
| **Type of Award** | |
| **Author(s)** | Andri Kosasih |
| **Institution Affiliation** | Duquesne University |
| **Title** | Before Claims Come Questions: Curiosity as the First Act of Argumentative Orientation |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

# 7.4 Communication Theory & Methodology

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Dennis McCarty | University of Florida | d.mccarty@ufl.edu |
| **Chair** | Michael Kotowski | University of Tennessee at Knoxville | mkotowski@utk.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Amanda Walsh | University of Southern Mississippi | amanda.walsh@usm.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Jenny Crowley | University of Tennessee at Knoxville | jcrowle3@utk.edu |
| **Secretary** | Steve McCornack | University of Alabama at Birmingham | smcc911@usb.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

15 total reviewers
Each submission had at least 2 reviewers, 7 papers had three reviewers due to timing/top paper considerations/quality or completeness of reviews

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

| | |
|---|---|
| 7 division slots, 2 co-sponsored events<br>1 Business Meeting<br>3 Paper Panels<br>1 Research-In-Progress Session | 2 Outstanding Scholar in Communication theory Sessions<br>1 Co-Sponsored Quiz Bowl<br>1 Co-Sponsored Research Collaboration Session |

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Student Paper |
| **Author(s)** | Zainuddin Muda Zainuddin Monggilo |
| **Institution Affiliation** | University of Alabama |
| **Title** | Cognitive Immunization in the Age of Misinformation: Rethinking Prebunking as a Communication Process |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Faculty Paper |
| **Author(s)** | Quinten Bernhold |
| **Institution Affiliation** | University of Tennessee at Knoxville |
| **Title** | Toward a Focus of Culture in the Communicative Ecology Model of Successful Aging: A Test of (Non)Accommodation and Power Distance Orientations |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | 2027 Outstanding Scholars in Communication Theory |
| **Author(s)** | Steve McCornack & Kelly Morrison |
| **Institution Affiliation** | University of Alabama at Birmingham |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

# 7.5 Community College

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Karen Hill | Volunteer State Community College | karen.hill@volstate.edu |
| **Chair** | Samantha Chapuseaux | Florida Gateway College | Samantha.chapuseaux@fgc.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | S. Brad Bailey | Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College | brad.bailey@mgccc.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | William (Bill) Turner | Southwest Tennessee Community College | wgturner@southwest.tn.edu |
| **Secretary** | Twyla Coy | Lone Star College-Kingwood | twyla.m.coy@lonestar.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

7 total reviewers. 2-3 reviewers for each submission.

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

8 slots requested; 8 slated. Includes: 1 Business Meeting, 6 panel/roundtables, 1 GIFTS

## AWARD(S)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top GIFTS | |
| **Author(s)** | Jacquelyn Seymour | Katherine P. Johnson |
| **Institution Affiliation** | West Virginia University | West Virginia University |
| **Title** | Teaching the Elaboration Likelihood Model: Using a stratified version of the Socratic method | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

# 7.6 Freedom of Speech

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | John Banister | University of Georgia-Athens | john.banister@uga.edu |
| **Chair** | Josh Guitar | Kean University | joshua.guitar@kean.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Shanna Schultz | Independent Scholar | shandschultz@gmail.com |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Kellie Marin | Texas State University | Kellie.Marin@txstate.edu |
| **Secretary** | Chandra A. Maldonado | Campbell University | chandraannmaldonado@gmail.com |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

2 Reviewers per submission

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

4: 1 division meeting, 1 individual paper panel, 2 roundtable panels

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | |
| **Author(s)** | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

No Top Paper Awards will be recognized at the 2027 convention given the low number of submissions.

Kellie Marin, Texas State University, was recognized at the 2026 convention with the James Madison Prize for Outstanding Research in 1st Amendment Studies for her book chapter "See Someone, Say Someone: Doxing Vision as Usurping the Rhetoric of Whistleblowing"

The 2027 winner of the James Madison Prize for Outstanding Research in 1st Amendment Studies will be determined prior to the 2027 SSCA convention.

# 7.7 Gender Studies

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Janine Armstrong | Manchester University | jearmstrong@manchester.edu |
| **Chair** | Zane Willard | University of Southern Florida | zawillard@usf.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Melody Lehn | The University of the South | mjlehn@sewanee.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Cassidy Ellis | University of Cincinnati | ellis2cd@ucmail.uc.edu |
| **Secretary** | | | |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

8 reviewers, 1-3 reviewers per submission with each submission assigned at least 3; from the completed reviews, 2 submissions received 3 reviews, 4 submissions received 2 reviews, and 4 submissions received 1 review only

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

1 business meeting, 2 roundtables, 1 discussion session with Gender Studies Scholar of the Year, 1 top paper panel, and 2 paper panels composed of individually submitted papers and/or extended abstracts

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Student Paper |
| **Author(s)** | Ernest Dakhwa |
| **Institution Affiliation** | University of South Florida |
| **Title** | Surveilled Curiosity: Trans Youth, Medical Gatekeeping, and the Right to Not-Yet-Knowing |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Faculty Paper | |
| **Author(s)** | Leandra Hernandez | Stevie Muniz |
| **Institution Affiliation** | University of Utah | Utah Valley University |
| **Title** | Wicked Problems, Gender Violence, and Media Ethics: Reflections on Improving Journalistic Coverage of Violence Against Women | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Gender Studies Scholar of the Year |
| **Type of Award** | annual division award |
| **Author(s)** | Awardee to be determined - We do not require submissions for nominations until December |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | We are trying to revitalize the award by designating a session for the award winner and accompanying scholars (depending on the winner) to speak about their work and their impact for gender scholarship in Communication. |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

Our division received feedback from the SSCA parliamentarian on our bylaws. We have reviewed our bylaws and suggested changes to ensure they are current and comply with the requirements of

SSCA's Constitution. We will bring the proposed updated bylaws to the membership for a vote at the business meeting. The concerns brought forth included:

1) the officers do not include a secretary as required by the SSCA Constitution (and you're electing one)" The Vice-Chair Elect performs the role of Secretary. We will align the terminology with that of SSCA.

2) the bylaws indicate the division Immediate-Past Chair (in odd years) serves a two-year term as representative to the SSCA Nominating Committee - this is outdated as the Immediate Past Chair of the division holds that role per SSCA's Constitution." We will update the language to reflect the SSCA's Constitution.

3) the parliamentary authority referenced in the bylaws is out of date." We will update the language.

4) Article 4, Section 2 - Executive Board should read Executive Council" We will update the language.

Our division will send out a survey to division members soliciting more information about their vision/ideas for Gender Studies at SSCA.

Our division is planning to develop a newsletter that will highlight the accomplishments of division members in relation to their work in Gender Studies.

# 7.8 Health Communication

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Tyana Ellis | North Carolina Wesleyan University | tellis@ncwu.edu |
| **Chair** | Emily Scheinfeld | Kennesaw State University | escheinf@kennesaw.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Jenifer Kopfman | College of Charleston | kopfmanj@cofc.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Grace Hildebrand | Louisiana State University Shreveport | grace.hildenbrand@lsus.edu |
| **Secretary** | Kelly Morrison | University of Alabama at Birmingham | kmmcc@uab.edu |
| **Graduate Student Representative** | Diana Maame Agyeiwaa Agyei | University of Memphis | dmagyei@memphis.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

We had ten reviewers for the division. Each submission had two reviewers and each reviewer was assigned 6 papers, posters, or panels.

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

7 program slots requested, including 1 business meeting, 1 poster session, 1 co-sponsored research collab and happy hour, and 4 research panels (top papers, 1 roundtable, 2 paper presentations).

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Student Paper in Health Communication |
| **Author(s)** | Maisy Rainey Julius |
| **Institution Affiliation** | University of Kentucky |
| **Title** | No one is really seeking out rural health": The Structuration of Rural Medical Student Education |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Student Paper in Health Communication | | | |
| **Author(s)** | Sarah Marshall | Bianca Siegenthaler | Reema D Patel | Sidney Murray |
| **Institution Affiliation** | University of South Florida | University of South Florida | University at Albany State University of New York | College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University |
| **Title** | It's Sort of Like the Split in Me Being a Medical Student and a Queer Personâ: Queer Medical Students' Experiences of Minority Stress | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Paper in Health Communication | | | | |
| **Author(s)** | Brent Hale | Rubaiya Zannat | Srividya Karuturi | Laura Alberti | Ephraim Y'shua Church |
| **Institution Affiliation** | University of Southern Mississippi | University of Southern Mississippi | University of Central Arkansas | University of Southern Mississippi | University of Southern Mississippi |
| **Title** | Comparing Cancer Narratives and Social Support Provision Across Platforms: A Content Analysis of Cancer Content Shared on Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube | | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Paper in Health Communication |
| **Author(s)** | Warren Bareiss |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Institution Affiliation** | University of South Carolina Upstate |
| **Title** | Transcendence as a Health Benefit of Volunteering at an Equestrian Assisted Therapy Center |

# 7.9 Identity, Inclusion, & Social Justice

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Chandra Maldonado | Campbell University | chandraannmaldonado@gmail.com |
| **Chair** | Josh Miller | Independent Scholar | josh.h.miller08@gmail.com |
| **Vice Chair** | Rico Self | NC State University | cself@ncsu.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Shawna Sheperd-Murtagh | NC State University | ssheperd831@gmail.com |
| **Secretary** | Shawna Sheperd-Murtagh | NC State University | ssheperd831@gmail.com |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

| |
|---|
| |

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

| |
|---|
| |

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | |
| **Author(s)** | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

| |
|---|
| |

# 7.10 Instructional Development

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Colleen L. Mestayer | Tennessee Technological University | cmestayer@tntech.edu |
| **Chair** | Elizabeth Hanson Smith | Austin Community College | ehansonsmith@yahoo.com |
| **Vice Chair** | Cynthia Sampson | Louisiana State University | csamps7@lsu.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Laurie Metcalf | Blinn College | laurie.metcalf@blinn.edu |
| **Secretary** | Ethan Hunter | Louisiana State University | ebro124@lsu.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

We had 15 reviewers who conducted between 3-6 reviews each
Each submission had at least two reviewers, with more for the paper submissions

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

Paper Submissions: we accepted 5 individual papers; the acceptance rate was 100%
Panel Submissions: we accepted 9 panels; the acceptance rate was 100%.
Poster Submissions: we accepted 4 of 5 poster submissions; the acceptance rate was 80%
Hendrix Spotlight Panel: the deadline for submissions to the Katherine Grace Hendrix Article of the Year is December 5, 2026. Two former award winners will serve as respondents as Dr. Hendrix is unable to attend

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Paper |
| **Author(s)** | Funmilayo Ogunsanwo |
| **Institution Affiliation** | Georgia State University |
| **Title** | “Lazy, Inauthentic, or Resourceful? Student Perceptions of AI Users for Academic Work” |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

**2027 Business Meeting:** Saturday April 10, 2027, 4:15-5:30 in Renaissance Riverview: Riverboat

Please help solicit submissions for the Hendrix award this year. The deadline is quickly approaching!

# 7.11 Intercultural Communication

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Amy Heuman | Texas Tech University | a.heuman@ttu.edu |
| **Chair** | Curtis L. Chamblee | University of Minnesota | curtischamblee@gmail.com |
| **Vice Chair** | Sophia M. Flemming | University of Georgia | sophiamf@uga.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Samantha Guajardo | The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley | sguajardo385@gmail.com |
| **Secretary** | Lionnell “Badu” Smith | San Francisco State University | lsmith1914@sfsu.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

| |
|---|
| |

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

| |
|---|
| |

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | |
| **Author(s)** | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

| |
|---|
| |

# 7.12 Interpersonal Communication

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Erin Basinger | UNC Charlotte | erin.basinger@charlotte.edu |
| **Chair** | Kellie Brisini | Louisiana State University | kbrisini1@lsu.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Quentin Bernhold | University of Tennessee | quintenbernhold@gmail.com |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Lindsey Aloia | University of Arkansas | aolia@uark.edu |
| **Secretary** | Carolina Diaz | Florida Atlantic University | carolinadiaz2020@fau.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

12 people served as reviewers. Each submission had 2 to 3 reviewers.

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

12 slots were requested (1 business meeting, 1 top paper panel, 2 competitive paper panels, 2 extended abstract/research-in-progress panels, 6 collaborative panels)

## AWARD(S)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Student Paper | |
| **Author(s)** | Ngoc Bich Nguyen | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | Saint Louis University | |
| **Title** | You were the only person who wasn't coming up to me and being like lovely: Communicative Behaviors During Conflicts in Love is Blind | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Paper | |
| **Author(s)** | Leah E. LeFebvre | Marley Schrauth |
| **Institution Affiliation** | University of Alabama | University of Alabama |
| **Title** | Boo! When Ghosts Come Calling: Initiator's Anticipated, Attempted, and Actual Reconnection | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

# 7.13 Mass Communication

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Umisha KC | University of Maryland, College Park | ukc@umd.edu |
| **Chair** | Christopher M. Toula | Sam Houston State University | cmt077@shsu.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | William Harlow | Air Command & Staff College | william.harlow.1@au.af.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Srividya Karaturi | University of Central Arkansas | skaraturi@uca.edu |
| **Secretary** | Srividya Karaturi | University of Central Arkansas | skaraturi@uca.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

16 Reviewers completed at least 1 review. Generally, 2 per submission (1 for an in memorium)

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

13 Total: 1 Biz Meeting, 9 Panels, 4 paper panels

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Faculty Paper |
| **Author(s)** | MD Rafiqul Islam |
| **Institution Affiliation** | University of Louisiana Lafeyette |
| **Title** | The Street-Screen-Wall Model: Protest Slogan Circulation in Bangladesh's 2024 July Uprising |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

# 7.14 Performance Studies

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Colin Whitworth | East Tennessee State University | whitworthc@etsu.edu |
| **Chair** | Alex Davenport | Northern Virginia Community College | davenport.a.k@gmail.com |
| **Vice Chair** | Laura Oliver | Xavier University of Louisiana | loliver5@xula.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Alex Lockwood | University of South Carolina | al127@mailbox.sc.edu |
| **Secretary** | Mitchell Kahalley | Louisiana State University | wkahal1@lsu.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

Across the 16 submissions received, each submission had two reviewers. These reviewers were, predominantly, professors with a smaller selection of advanced PhD students. We had 13 reviewers, coming from 9 different institutions. Dr. Laura Oliver, or vice chair, was also able to skillfully assign reviewers to pieces in which they had relevant research interest/expertise.

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

We have been allocated five program slots currently (including our division meeting). We are currently seeking to do two things: (1) to substitute one of our planned programming slots and (2) requesting two additional programming slots for a total of seven. I will address each of these below.

First, in substituting one of our slots we are seeking to create a panel out of submitted student performances. This is extremely important for our division because this panel both corresponds to one of our division's awards and also continues a tradition of highlighting and mentoring emerging scholars in the tradition of embodied performance.

If we are able to do this, we are seeking, also, to include an additional two additional panels: The Stage and Its Phantoms (which would be removed to make room for the student performance panel) and Erratic Forms. There are a few reasons for this that are a little more nuanced than the reason for the substitution.

First, the panels we are seeking to have are performance panels that would, across the two, add 11 additional participants to our programming. For our division, it is also important that this would allow us to showcase additional performances, which is a hallmark of the work done in Performance Studies and helps to distinguish us from other divisions.

On a logistical level, we also wish to note that this is the second year in a row that our programming has been significantly decreased; despite a robust and healthy division. In 2025 we were given 13 panels, reduced to 11 last year after being awarded one additional (we were initially allotted 10). This year, from that 11 we have only been specifically guaranteed 5. Even if we are able to have six panels, this is still, effectively, a 50% reduction due to the fact that one of those panels is a business meeting.

With all of that being said, being able to have a total of seven panels (i.e. one additional panel) would provide a significant boost to our division-wide participation.

Our included submission data reflects what we have as our current acceptances, which would change slightly if we are able to substitute the currently accepted panel with the one created from student performances. If this change is granted we would have papers (which, for us, includes performances) as 7 accepted with 4 rejected, for an acceptance percentage of 63.63%, and panels with 2 accepted and 3 rejected, for an acceptance rate of 40%. If we are granted the two additional panels this would change our panel data to 4 accepted and 1 rejected, for an acceptance percentage of 80% (if we are able to have one additional panel the data is accurately reflected by what is included in this report).

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Competitive Student Paper |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Author(s)** | Nathaniel Aron |
| **Institution Affiliation** | Louisiana State University |
| **Title** | Consent as Methodology: Shifting the Frame of Consent in Dialogic Performance |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Competitive Debut Paper |
| **Author(s)** | Sean Maulding |
| **Institution Affiliation** | Southern Illinois University Carbondale |
| **Title** | The Benefits of Bespoke: Customizing A Drama Therapy Inspired Performance Studies Methodology for Solo Performers |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Student Performance |
| **Author(s)** | Decided at conference |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Outstanding Publication in Performance Studies Award |
| **Author(s)** | TBD |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | SSCA Performance Scholar of the Year Award |
| **Author(s)** | TBD |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

SSCA has expressed that it wishes to grow as a conference and, with the declining health and accessibility of NCA, it seems as if regional conferences like SSCA are in a strong position to attract participants. With that being said, the conference cannot do so if we continue to host in spaces with such low capacity. There is absolutely no reason that our division's acceptance rate for a conference should be (overall) near the acceptance rate for the regional journal. If we hope to grow our impact and the vibrancy of our conference we cannot just do good scholarship, which we do, or engage in thoughtful conversation and critique, which we also do, we must also actively work to create spaces for that scholarship to be showcased and for that conversation and critique to occur.

For the past two years, we have not done that.

I recognize that it is important to be good stewards of the resources SSCA has, and I recognize that monetary concerns are real. We spent a great deal of time last year talking about it. But we cannot hope to thrive if we do not shift our attention to capacity.

We can take the Performance Studies Division as an example. Working only from guaranteed slots, assuming that all panels consist of 5 people and that each of those are unique participants, programmatically that means we only have space to feature the work of 20 people in 2027. Using those same suppositions: in 2026 we would have been able to feature 45 unique participants, and 60 in 2025. So, what we see is that in the years where interest in regional conferences has every reason to grow, SSCA is restricting its participation.

I would ask: how is this helping us, as a conference, become healthier and more robust? Because, in my view at least, it is not.

# 7.15 Political Communication

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Matthew K. Farmer | University of Memphis | mkfarmer@memphis.edu |
| **Chair** | Matthew K. Farmer | University of Memphis | mkfarmer@memphis.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Shana Bridges | Georgia Southern University | smbridges@georgiasouthern.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Melissa Smith | Mississippi University for Women | mmsmith@muw.edu |
| **Secretary** | Chase Ezelle | Independent Scholar | caezell76@gmail.com |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

8-10 reviewers; approx. 3 reviewers per submission

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

5 total: 1 business meeting, 3 panels including 1 for top submissions, 1 roundtable.

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Paper in Political Communication Division |
| **Author(s)** | Josh Guitar |
| **Institution Affiliation** | Kean University |
| **Title** | The Rhetoric of a Health Democratic Body |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

Excellent work to Shana Bridges on her first time planning the division!
Thanks to the reviewers and thanks to those who have agreed to serve as chairs and/or respondents for panels.

# 7.16 Popular Communication

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | | | |
| **Chair** | Danielle Williams | Georgia Gwinnett College | dwilliams18@ggc.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Jacob Dickerson | Berea College | dickersonj@berea.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Kelli Fellows | Independent Scholar | drklfellows@gmail.com |
| **Secretary** | Danielle Williams | Georgia Gwinnett College | dwilliams18@ggc.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

9 reviewers, 3 reviewers per submission

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

1 Business meeting, 3 panel, 2 papers

## AWARD(S)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Faculty Paper | |
| **Author(s)** | Moumita Roy | Asha Winfield |
| **Institution Affiliation** | Louisiana State University | Louisiana State University |
| **Title** | Bearing Witness to Injustice: A Qualitative Content Analysis on Documentary Storytelling and Reproductive Rights in Belly of the Beast | |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Student Paper |
| **Author(s)** | Brandon Reynolds |
| **Institution Affiliation** | Louisiana State University |
| **Title** | Erik Killmonger Stevens as a Justification of Neoliberalism, |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

# 7.17 Public Relations

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | | | |
| **Chair** | Breann Murphy | Jacksonville State University | |
| **Vice Chair** | Breann Murphy | Jacksonville State University | |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Michail Vafeiadis | Auburn University | |
| **Secretary** | Tiffany McBride | Columbus State University | |
| | | | |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

13 reviewers; 2 reviewers per submission; each reviewer had 1-3 assignments

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

8 slots total; 1 business meeting; 3 panels; 2 paper sessions; 1 slot will be used to feature industry professionals from the local area; 1 slot will be used as a roundtable session for PR educators to provide advice and support to each other

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | |
| **Author(s)** | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

The PR Division will be awarding an inaugural Pam Bourland-Davis Excellence in Mentorship Award to one of our division members. This award is to recognize the mentorship and support that faculty provide to other faculty, students, and professionals, and it is created to honor the dedication of our past division member. This award is currently accepting applications until December 5th, and these applications will be reviewed thereafter by the division's executive board. The recipient of this award will be announced in March and recognized at our division's business meeting in Mobile.

# 7.18 Rhetoric & Public Address

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Sara Baugh-Harris | Davidson College | sabaugh@davidson.edu |
| **Chair** | Lionnell "Badu" Smith | San Francisco State University | lsmith1914@sfsu.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Celnisha Dangerfield | Transylvania University | cdangerfield@transy.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Alyson Farzad-Phillips | University of Tennessee | afarzadp@utk.edu |
| **Secretary** | Wallace Golding | Texas State University | ogl23@txstate.edu |
| **Graduate Rep** | Sophia Flemming | University of Georgia | sophiamf@uga.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | |
| **Author(s)** | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

# 7.19 Association for Communication Administration

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Lesli K. Pace | Southeastern Missouri State University | lkpace@semo.edu |
| **Chair** | Chris McCollough | Kennesaw State University | cmccol20@kennesaw.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Erin Ingersoll | University of TN-Chattanooga | erin-ryan01@utc.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Cole Franklin | Louisiana State - Alexandria | wfranklin@lsua.edu |
| **Secretary** | Erin Ingersoll | University of Tennessee - Chattanooga | erin-ryan01@utc.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

8 reviewers, 3 rated as strong recommendation to accept, 1 clear winner.

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | |
| **Author(s)** | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

A word of thanks to Dr. Erin Ryan for stepping up with the passing of Dr. Pamela Bourland-Davis in taking on the review process coming out of the September Deadline.

# 7.20 American Society for the History of Rhetoric

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | | | |
| **Chair** | Alexander Morales | Vanderbilt University | alexander.morales@vanderbilt.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Savannah Downing | Georgia Southern University | sdowning@georgiasouthern.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | | | |
| **Secretary** | Jack Wood | University of Georgia | jack.wood@uga.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

16 Reviewers
3-4 Reviews per Submission

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

1 Business Meeting
1 Paper Panel

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | |
| **Author(s)** | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

# 7.21 Ethnography

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Pamela Dykes | Florida Southern University | pdykes@flsouthern.edu |
| **Chair** | Curtis Ladrillo Chamblee | University of Minnesota | curtischamblee@gmail.com |
| **Vice Chair** | Pamela Dykes | Florida Southern University | pdykes@flsouthern.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Kenneth Avery, Jr | University of Memphis | Kavery5@memphis.edu |
| **Secretary** | Dinah Tetteh | Arkansas State University | dtetteh@astate.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | |
| **Author(s)** | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

# 7.22 Kenneth Burke Society

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | | | |
| **Chair** | Wesley Buerkle | East Tennessee State University | buerkle@etsu.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Amber "AD" Alston | University of Memphis | aalston5@memphis.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Richard Thames | Duquesne University | thames@duq.edu |
| **Secretary** | Samantha Guajardo | The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley | samantha.guajardo04@utrgv.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

2-3 reviewers per submission

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

1 panel and business meeting

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | |
| **Author(s)** | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

# 7.23 Language & Social Interaction

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Robert Agne | | |
| **Chair** | Dorothy Andreas | | |
| **Vice Chair** | Varaidzo Nyamandi | | |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Lionnell “Badu” Smith | | |
| **Secretary** | Eugenie Ameida | | |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

5 total reviews; 2 reviewers per submission

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

1 business meeting and 1 panel (2 slots total)

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Faculty Paper |
| **Author(s)** | Nicholas Elliot |
| **Institution Affiliation** | Independent Scholar |
| **Title** | "Pager Speak" |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | Top Student Paper |
| **Author(s)** | Raegan Weaver |
| **Institution Affiliation** | Abilene Christian University |
| **Title** | How Do They Want to Do This? Coordinating Shared Meaning Across Player and Character Frames in Critical Role Campaign Three |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

We intend to put a proposal to current LSI members about changing the name of our interest group from "Language and Social Interaction" to "Discourse and Social Interaction." The reason is that it makes the name of our interest group more consistent with the name of the related group in NCA. We will send this proposal to the LSI group members two months before our meeting in April.

# 7.24 Philosophy & Ethics of Communication

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | David Impellizzeri | Regent University | |
| **Chair** | Andrew Tinker | Pellissippi State Community College | |
| **Vice Chair** | Jodeyah Mills | Texas Tech University | |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | | | |
| **Secretary** | | | |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

No reviews occurred due to receiving no submissions.

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

1 - business meeting

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | |
| **Author(s)** | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

This is the first time our group has had NO submissions that I can remember in at least 10 years, including the COVID era. We intend to address this at our business meeting. We have plenty of members and we hope to solicit feedback/information about this process at this time.

# 7.25 State Associations

## OFFICERS

| Position | Name | Institution | Email |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Past Chair** | Shaquille Marsh | Pellissippi State Community College | somarsh@pstcc.edu |
| **Chair** | John H. Saunders | University of Alabama in Huntsville | jhs0011@uah.edu |
| **Vice Chair** | Brad Bailey | Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College | brad.bailey@mgccc.edu |
| **Vice Chair Elect** | Ray Ozley | University of Montevallo | ozleyr@montevallo.edu |
| **Secretary** | Marisa Hamilton | Jefferson State Community College | marisa.hamilton@jeffersonstate.edu |

## REVIEWER INFORMATION

| |
|---|
| 3 |

## PROPOSED PROGRAM SLOTS REQUESTED

| |
|---|
| 1 business meeting, and one panel slot |

## AWARD(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| **Award Name** | |
| **Author(s)** | |
| **Institution Affiliation** | |
| **Title** | |

## ADDITIONAL INFO

| |
|---|
| |

# 8.0 OLD BUSINESS

**DEI – Community Building name discussions**

Following thoughtful deliberation, the organization reached a consensus to replace references to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with Community Building. Although members acknowledged that this terminology may not fully capture the breadth of the committee's mission or the values that have historically informed its work, the change was viewed as a pragmatic and necessary measure, particularly in the current political and institutional climate. Importantly, the decision was understood as a strategic response to the evolving landscape rather than a departure from the committee's underlying commitment to fostering inclusive, supportive, and engaged academic communities. Members also agreed that the conversation should remain open and that the appropriateness of the revised terminology could be revisited as circumstances evolve. This was particularly important for those who expressed reservations about whether *Community Building* adequately represented the committee's purpose and scope.

At the time, David Nelson, then Chair of the Constitution Committee, explicitly welcomed continued dialogue, including suggestions, expressions of interest, and inquiries from members interested in serving on an ad hoc committee charged with reconsidering the name change. To date, neither the outgoing Constitution Committee Chair, David Nelson, nor other members of the Constitution Committee, including the current Chair, have received inquiries or expressions of interest from the membership regarding reopening this discussion.

# 9.0 NEW BUSINESS

# 10.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT