

Southern States Communication Association Executive Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 5:00 to 8:00 PM
2024 NCA Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA
Location: Edgewood AB – 4th Floor Sheraton

Carl Cates, *University of Texas Permian Basin*, Presiding

AGENDA

1. Call to Order (attendance listed on last page of minutes)

- a. At 5:01pm

2. Welcome

- a. Carl welcomed everyone to New Orleans and thanked them for attending the meeting
- b. A sign-up sheet was passed for attendance

3. Approval of Minutes of SSCA Executive Council Meeting

- a. Published on the SSCA Web Page at <https://www.scca.net/business-meeting-minutes>
- b. Motioned and seconded

4. Approval of Agenda

- a. Motioned and seconded

5. Officers’ Reports:

5.1 President – Carl Cates, *University of Texas Permian Basin*

- a. Resolution on Gaza
- b. Strategic plan is still pending
 - 1. Carl asked for feedback: Kevin Bryant noted the 2023 committee (chair: Wendy Atkins-Sayre) reworked the strategic plan but it was not voted on in St. Petersburg. Carl is receptive to drafting and getting it approved but said there is no rush. Carl wants to open discussion then take the draft to the members.

5.2 Vice President – Patrick Wheaton, *Georgia Southern University*

- a. Planner for SSCA 2025, Norfolk, VA Theme: Anchoring Communication
- b. Submissions: **319** Accepted: **261** Withdrawn: **7** Acceptance Rate: **83.65%**
- c. Participants: 490 (TBD: DEI and UHC students, chairs, respondents)
- d. Invited panels/spotlights: 21

1. Invited Panels/Spotlights include Division Spotlights/Workshops, Town Hall Meeting, Southern Colloquium on Rhetoric, DEI Workshop/Keynote, Presidential Spotlights, and VP Spotlights

	Submitted	Programmed
Papers	228	181
Panels/Roundtables	77	70
Posters	14	10
Invited Panels/Spotlights	21	21
Total	340	282

- e. UHC Available Session (not including breakfast): 18

1. We had 14 UHC Panels in 2024 at Frisco

f. Special Programming Highlights:

1. Presidential Spotlight: Town Hall Meeting on SSCA Strategic Plan
2. Presidential Spotlight: Celebrating SSCA at 95
3. VP Spotlight: Listening Session on SSCA Role in Public Advocacy
4. VP Spotlight: The Launch of the African American Communication Division
5. VP Spotlight: Political Communication and the 2024 Elections
6. Southern Colloquium on Rhetoric
7. DEI Workshop
8. Poster Sessions (2)
9. SSCA Officer Office Hours
10. Coffee and Conversation w NCA First Vice President

g. Panel Sessions Programmed:

1. Division/IG including Business Meetings
 - a. 3 Business Meeting Time Slots (8-9 each time slot)

African American Communication Division	7
Applied Communication Division	7
Argumentation & Forensics Division	7
Communication Theory & Methodology Division	5
Community College Division (includes GIFTS)	8
Freedom of Speech Division	4
Gender Studies Division	7
Health Communication Division	9
Identity, Inclusion, & Social Justice Division	10
Instructional Development Division	13
Intercultural Communication Division	7
Interpersonal Communication	10
Mass Communication Division	7
Performance Studies Division	13
Political Communication Division	7
Popular Communication Division	6
Public Relations Division	7
Rhetoric & Public Address Division	9
ASHR Interest Group	3
Assoc of Comm Admin Interest Group	2
Ethnography Interest Group	4
Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group	3
Language & Social Interaction Interest Group	3
Philosophy & Ethics Interest Group	2
State Associations Interest Group	2
Poster Sessions	2
Southern Colloquium on Rhetoric	2
DEI Workshop & Keynote	2
VP, Pres Spotlight, AC/EC Business Mtgs, Misc	12
Graduate Student Fair	1
Receptions: Welcome, Osborn	2
SSCA Standing Committee Meetings	4
2026 Convention Planning Meetings	2
UHC	TBD
Total	189

h. The draft program was sent to the EC and all division and IG chairs for comment

5.3 Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee – Ann Burnette, *Texas State University*

a. see report in e-packet

b. Ballots set for 2025/26:

1. 2nd VP (plans UHC in Dec 2025/26; plans convention in 2026/27)

a. Scott Christen

b. Leland Spencer

2. Rep to NCA Leg Assembly:

a. Keven Rudrow

b. Antonio Spikes

3. Rep to Nominating Committee (3-yr term)

a. Rachel Harlow

b. Heather Ashley Hayes

c. Ballots will open shortly after NCA

5.4 Vice President Elect – Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, *Texas Tech University*

a. Nothing to report

b. Asks us to encourage students and our cohort to submit to the UHC

c. UHC deadline December 15th

5.5 Executive Director – John Haas, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

a. See e-packet for report

b. Thanked JHale and CCates for leaving the Association in good financial position.

c. Hendrix fund has \$600 for award proceeds

d. Membership #s are in e-packet (not printed copy handed out)

1. Not attracting 4-yr regional members from conference location

2. Suggests including membership as a strategic plan consideration

e. Frances Brandau has been shadowing to begin as new ED in April 2025

f. Will be visiting properties in January for April 2029 conference locations (Charlotte, Greenville)

g. Suggests adding stipend for ED

1. All other regionals do it

2. Long-term commitment from this person so deserves compensation

3. We are out-of-step and need to rectify

4. Not an action for today but will include in proposed budget at SSCA in 2025

h. Newsletter sent and will be again in January to promote conference attendance

i. Affiliation agreement with NCA signed, but not yet accepted—will know after NCA

Questions:

1. Lakelyn Taylor—When we will get a copy of agenda and budget items (ie., stipend for ED)?

A: will put it out early

2. Carl Cates—What is the proposed stipend for ED?

A: \$10,000 per year

5.6 Strategic Communication Director – Kevin Davis-Bryant, *Clemson University*

a. Selling institutional memberships, but they are 1/6 of last year

b. Sold two ads for the program

c. Position ends in December and will enjoy being a participant only in April 2025

d. Training new person (Hanson Smith) for his position.

e. to Carl Cates: if you want my skills, let me know

5.7 Member Services – Elizabeth Hanson Smith, *Austin Community College*

a. Position started in July to help carry the load for Kevin Davis-Bryant. Duties are to manage and maintain the website and offload some of the member services work.

b. WHATs BEEN DONE

1. Familiarizing with SSCA website and other communication tools
2. **Bottom line:** SSCA's website is predominantly a CONFERENCE website
3. Conference prep for 2025
4. Vote for 2028
5. Worked w KB and PW to get their links updated for submissions

6. Catalog and inventory webpages and needed updates (ongoing)
 - ie: Added AACD and KG Hendrix to website, member forms for donations, award pages
7. Reorganize and streamline menu items
 - ie: Presidential Addresses under Our Story (no longer each year!)
8. Add Latest News
9. Membership updates
 - ie: Use tech more effectively so that everyone, including orgs, can renew/join online (vs paper copies now)
- c. As a COMMUNICATION association, we model consistent use of external communication:
 1. Created web emails for static positions so that communication remains consistent
 - a. Director@ for ALL EDs
 - b. Webmaster@ for ANY website needs
 - c. Reports@ for ALL reporting
 - d. Membership@ for member needs
 - 2.. Database/Listserv:
 - a. Tracking stats and sending follow up emails on campaigns
- d. And we need to tell our story:
 1. Candidates for upcoming positions
 2. Publications (learning all about regional listservs)
 3. Added COMMference podcasts to website
 4. Updated the contact template to include social sites
 5. Newsletters—working w ED to get those out regularly
- e. WHATs TO COME
 1. Share your ideas, esp on how I can make your job EASIER.
 - a. Use the website for officers
 - i. Group areas for IGs and Divs to conduct business
 - ii. Report forms to simplify and streamline SSCA post-conference reporting
 2. And I will continue to fill at least a part of Kevin's shoes by anticipating the cycle
 - a. Continue to create calendar of events/occurrences
 - b. UPDATE PAGES/LINKS each cycle as needed
 - c. Cull out-of-date info
- f. TO HELP:
 1. PLEASE update your own profiles annually so I can reach you effectively!
 2. Please email me at Webmaster@ with suggestions and needed updates

Questions:

1. Cynthia Sampson, Performance Studies: Can we add IG/Div pages for award winners, etc.

A: yes!

5.8 SCJ Editor – Rebekah Fox, *Texas State University*

- a. Thirty-three pieces under review currently
- b. Had 43 pieces 'unsubmitted' in the last year and a half, mainly because of the use of AI.
- c. Considering a policy on AI usage.

d. Special issue on Higher Ed in works with all invited and accepted to submit and abstracts accepted. There were enough submissions for two issues. Due date is Feb 2025 with reviewers already in place.

e. Asked John Haas about next SSCA newsletter due date—January 21, 2025.

5.9 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair – Mary Meares and Xiaoti Fan. Carl Cates reporting

a. Carl read Mary’s report

b. Highlighted inroads in DEI by reviewing Hayes’ bio

c. Mentioned Ron Jackson and CP3 participants

d. Podcast topic on DEI (Kevin Davis-Bryant said there is not a DEI podcast)

5.10 NCA Legislative Assembly Representatives – Eletra Gilchrist-Petty, Laurie Metcalf, & April

Chatham-Carpenter. Report presented by Laurie Metcalf, Blinn College

a. Affiliate orgs approved: African American Communication and Women of Color

b. Budget: still working on the fallout from the Presidential Address from 2023

1. Actions: Apologized to performers

2. Refunded fees

3. Featuring in Opening Session (Th, Nov 21 in Sher GB C)

4. VLO on genocide

5. Adding a Palestine statement to website

6. Defined security personnel’s role

a. Do not intervene in programming

c. Theme in Denver 2025: Communicate to Elevate

d. Budget was prominent in discussion that NCA is NOT going broke but...

1. If some changes are not made, then they will be broke

2. Operating at a \$1m/yr deficit

3. Less than a decade at that rate will equal bankruptcy

a. Cutting costs (lost staff from presidential address fallout from 2023)

b. Spend smarter (but hiring two new positions)

4. Goal is fiscal soundness

e. Membership dues increases by 16%

f. Conference fees will increase by 50%

g. 20% of voters were against the budget

Discussion/Questions:

1. Will this raise student fees? A: will minimize impact on students. Laurie has other #s to report

2. Will Adjunct and Lambda Pi Eta dues increase? A: yes.

h. Membership issues: currently 6000 members. Ten years ago there were 8000 members.

i. Cannot solicit donations because no longer registered for that (stopped bc of \$20k in legal fees)

j. Considered corporate sponsorships but NCA is “not a good payoff”

1. Jeanette got money from Aflac in the lobby of the hotel last night

2. Another corporation sponsored a meal for students

3. Money has been pledged from members for a

k. Mid-day break scheduled into program this year

Discussion/Question (regarding cost-savings for NCA):

1. NCA moved from Annandale to DC. The rent went up. Have they considered relocating?

A: no. NCA sees their building as an asset. One million for the property is being folded into the budget. It is worth between \$5-7m.

2. Workers going remote?

A: Other services, especially Leadership Institute is opening to more people (in-person). Impression is that NCA is trying to save these programs, but if #s don't change, then these programs may be the first to go.

3. Is NCA still paying for Leg Reps to attend NCA?

A: Unknown. Laurie did not get paid in 2023, but some Reps did. This year (2024), NCA is giving Reps who attended a \$200 Visa gift card, which doesn't cover the hotel cost and is a bit of an ethical dilemma for receivers bc of school funding.

4. What will be the security personnel restrictions? What will be the NCA official statement? Can we request a statement?

A: NCA is not planning an "official" written statement. A: Discussion on whether NCA pays for security typically. Kevin Davis-Bryant noted that because of the potential for a security concern last year, NCA hired security.

5. Ann Burnette asked how much NCA is discussing the Why of membership (6k now, 8k previously). SSCA has the same problems as NCA and other regional associations. How can we cooperate with NCA?

A: Rebekah Fox reminded us of the NCA 2022/23 survey on membership, but the data from an outside Chicago consulting firm had problems and was unusable. Laurie said that NCA is currently sending reminder emails to members who do not renew and then they send a survey. Discussion about the \$30k fee to the outside consultants and whether members could be paid for that work since it is our expertise. Concern about "unpaid" labor.

6. Scott Christen asked about the two new positions NCA is hiring for.

A: NCA currently has 12 full time staffers and are hiring two more. They are financially healthy.

Motion: Rebekah Fox motioned that SSCA conducts its business meeting online next year. Discussion that the point will be put on the agenda for 2025 meeting. Lakelyn Taylor suggested that the constitution be consulted to determine what procedures need to be followed.

Action: Motion withdrawn.

7. Kevin Davis-Bryant commented about the Denver costs (pricey) and how the 16% cost increase in membership will impact attendance in 2025.

8. Carl Cates said that SSCA will review the constitutionality of online meetings and noted the interesting relationship between regionals and the national office.

5.11 NCA Nominating Committee Representative: Brandon Inabinet (report by J Haas)

a. All meetings have been attended. Brandon will be turning the duties over to someone else.

5.12 NCA Regional Advancement and Promotion Advisory Board Representative – Carrie Reif-Stice

6. Standing Committee Reports

6.1 Committee on Committees – Carl Cates, *University of Texas Permian Basin*

a. All slots are filled

b. Pat Wheaton will get email out with duties and calendar to periodically ground people

6.2 Constitution – David Nelson

a. see report in e-packet

b. we can take up changes now or in April

1. Ann Burnette suggested we all familiarize ourselves with proposals and vote in April

6.3 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Mary Meares and Xioti Fan

6.4 Finance – Leslie Pace, *Southeast Missouri State*

a. see report in e-packet

b. Members have not had to meet because they have no charge

c. Please send budget requests as soon as possible

d. Asked about lifetime memberships. Kevin Davis-Bryant said no.

Question:

1. Is there a threshold for lifetime memberships? A certain amount? Kevin Davis-Bryant asked what budget lifetime memberships are paid out to.

A: Carl Cates said he will follow up on this.

6.5 Nominating Committee – Ann Burnette, *Texas State University*

- a. reported earlier

6.6 Publications – Hsiu-Jung (Mindy) Chang

- a. reported earlier by Rebekah Fox

6.7 Resolutions – Joshua Pederson

- a. no report

6.8 Resource Development – Carrie Reif-Stice

- a. no report

6.9 Time and Place – Abby Brooks

- a. reported earlier by John Haas

7. Division & Interest Group Reports

7.1 African American Communication Division

- a. see e-packet for report
- b. Kevin Davis-Bryant thanked Keven Rudrow for his proxy and getting it ‘conference-tized’
- c. Goal is to grow the division—reminder that all members can join 3rd division for \$5
- d. Recognized work of Kevin Davis-Bryant, Keven Rudrow, Tina Harris and Ron Jackson, through the CP3 (PhD pipeline program), in bring more people into the division.
- e. Patrick Wheaton noted that one of the panels (Ron Jackson’s CP3 grad student documentary) may also be on the NCA agenda and will be shown at SSCA 2025

7.2 Applied Communication Division

- a. Urged members to spend the extra \$5 and join their division.
- b. Working on ideas to bump membership #s and carve out a new spot
 1. Shared calls with other divisions
 - a. Sports
 - b. Rhetoric

7.3 Argumentation & Forensics Division

- a. Mic Davis-Bryant thanked reviewers
- b. Division also reorienting
 1. Difficulty with physical #s because of forensic tournament timing
 2. Considering hybrid format
- c. Thanks Narissra for continuing the undergraduate forensics

7.4 Communication Theory & Methodology Division

- a. see e-packet for report
- b. Echoed Applied’s report in trying to build membership #s
 1. Adding recipient for outstanding scholar

7.5 Community College Division

- a. no report

7.6 Freedom of Speech Division

- a. no report

7.7 Gender Studies Division

- a. see e-packet for report

7.8 Health Communication Division

- a. no report from chair
- b. Member reported the same issues as Argumentation: competing with Kentucky makes recruiting memberships difficult

7.9 Identity, Inclusion, & Social Justice Division

- a. see e-packet for report

7.10 Instructional Development Division

- a. see e-packet for report
- b. Trend of recycling same leaders. Need to draw new people for these roles

7.11 Intercultural Communication Division

- a. 10 submissions
- b. Considering partnering with other Interest Groups w a cultural focus
- c. fewer submissions this year
 - 1. considering changing the division's name.

Question:

- 1. What would a name change entail?

A: John Haas suggests reaching out to attorney Dave Nelson to help

7.12 Interpersonal Communication Division

- a. see e-packet for report
- b. Thanks reviewers and member
- c. Has had success in Roundtable sessions
- d. Offers recommendations to struggling divisions:
 - 1. Scholarly Quiz Bowl (connects senior and junior scholars)
 - 2. Pre-tenure panels
- e. Struggling with same things as other Divisions (low submissions) but staying optimistic

7.13 Mass Communication Division

- a. no report

7.14 Performance Studies Division

- a. see e-packet for report
- b. Thanked reviewers
- c. Numbers have doubled from Frisco (2024)
 - 1. Preconference symposium
 - a. Invited scholar to conference
- d. Updating bylaws
- e. Working on ideas to entice grad students which they will share if successful

7.15 Political Communication Division

- a. no report

7.16 Popular Communication Division

- a. see e-packet for report

7.17 Public Relations Division

- a. see e-packet for report

7.18 Rhetoric & Public Address Division

- a. see e-packet for report

7.19 Association for Communication Administrators Interest Group

- a. see e-packet for report

7.20 American Society for the History of Rhetoric Interest Group

- a. no report

7.21 Ethnography Interest Group

- a. no report

7.22 Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group

- a. no report

7.23 Language & Social Interaction Interest Group

- a. see e-packet for report

7.24 Philosophy & Ethics of Communication Interest Group

- a. no report

7.25 State Associations Interest Group

- a. no report

8. New Business

- a. No new business

9. Announcements

- a. What is the status of Freedom of Speech division? They have dropped beneath the threshold of membership numbers, similar to Language & Social Interaction (LSI) Interest Group.

A: an email has been sent to leadership noting the problem with an April deadline. No response yet. The Constitution lists divisions requirements (Div member #s as % of general membership) but does not show how to move beyond if their #s are low. Concern with ignoring the constitution (KD-B) balanced by extending grace and not “running off” members (JH). Target of 20% of current membership (581-KD-B) would be 20 members to maintain Division standing. LSI was a Division but dropped to an Interest Group because of member #s not meeting the constitutional division member threshold.

- b. Everyone is having trouble with membership
 1. Only \$5 to join new divisions
 2. Concern that as we add new divisions (AACD as an example), numbers continue to be a problem, so John Haas thinks we give grace
 3. Jerry Hale suggests multiple solutions such as a constitutional amendment to lower #s or % needed. Decrease requirements or “thin herd.”
 4. John Haas suggests that Strategic Plan might address this issue
 5. We are a volunteer service organization but we are lowering out numbers when we are already tapped. It’s okay to be an Interest Group rather than a Division.
- c. Invoicing for extra \$5 to join new AACCP: A: create an ad hoc invoice. Question on how to add more than 2 divisions (Webmaster to look into this)
- d. Other regional conferences are popular when scholarship is tied to that region. When scholars move, they don’t join regional associations

Comment/Question: Laurie Metcalf noted that institutions don’t typically pay for faculty memberships. As cheap to come to conference as a non-member, so can we package membership under an Institutional tier to incentivize joining?

A: John Haas noted many institutions will not pay for membership but will pay for fees.

Note: potential for institutional memberships through website

- e. Look forward to SSCA 2025 in Norfolk, VA.
 1. Performance Studies invites to NCA panel at 4pm with regional leadership as a bridge between common concerns.

10. Meeting Adjourned

- a. 6:35pm (Motion: KD-B and seconded)

Attendees:

John Haas

Carl Cates

Pat Wheaton

Elizabeth Hanson Smith

Rebekah Fox

Ann Burnette

Jerry Hale
Electra Gilchrist-Petty
Laurie Metcalf
Nicole Costantini
Cynthia Sampson
Lindsey Aloia
Kelly Morrison
Narissra Punyanert-Carter
Kevin Davis-Bryant
Mik Davis-Bryant
Lakelyn Taylor
Scott Christen
Lesli Pace
Lionnell “Badu” Smith
Amanda Walsh

Copy of e-packet items:

Executive Director Report – John Haas

- 1. Association finances**
- 2. Membership report**
 - a. Trends in membership**
 - b. Potential recruitment strategies**
- 3. New executive director**
 - a. Director stipend proposal**
 - b. Professor Brandau**
- 4. Newsletter(s)**
- 5. Norfolk site visit**
- 6. 2029 site visits**
- 7. Affiliation agreement with NCA**

Finances (as of 11/4/2024)

- **Truist Accounts**
 - **Checking: \$159,599.24**
 - **CD: \$54,675.53**
- **UTK Federal Credit Union**
 - **CD: \$188,417.65**
 - **Hendrix: \$600.00**
- **Total: \$403,292.42**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Revenue		
Convention Fees	\$ 41,168	\$ 28,355
Royalties	39,947	38,282
Membership Dues	34,860	38,435
Subscriptions	10,560	11,223
Interest	3,854	35
Donations	3,300	1,908

Other	<u>0</u>	<u>805</u>
Total Revenue	<u>133,689</u>	<u>119,043</u>

Expenses

Convention Expenses	90,822	65,827
Contract Services	13,000	5,000
Professional Fees	7,850	5,950
Southern Communication Journal	7,114	8,482
Website	4,367	4,159
Bank Charges	4,073	3,947
Travel and Meeting Costs	2,783	3,100
Dues and Subscriptions	1,405	405
Insurance	1,211	1,153
Postage and Shipping	1,092	314
Office Supplies	811	694
Journal Exchange	778	4,338
Newsletter	<u>0</u>	<u>210</u>
Total Expenses	<u>135,306</u>	<u>103,579</u>

Increase in Net Assets	\$	(1,617)	\$	15,464
Ending Net Assets	\$	423,642	\$	425,259

**SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION NOTES
TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JULY 31, 2023**

Note A – Nature of Activities and Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Activities

Southern States Communication Association (the Association) is a nonprofit organization that promotes the study, criticism, research, teaching, and application of the artistic, humanistic, and scientific principles of communication. It exists for educational, scientific, and literary purposes only. Southern States Communication Association began activities May 2, 1930.

Cash Basis of Accounting

The Association's policy is to prepare its financial statements on the cash basis of accounting; consequently, revenues are recognized when received rather than when promised or earned, and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements are not intended to present financial position and activities in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Association considers all highly liquid investments available for current use with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Income Taxes

The Association is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and classified by the Internal Revenue Service as other than a private foundation.

The Association’s Forms 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, for the years ended July 31, 2021, 2022, and 2023 are subject to examination by the IRS, generally for three years after they were filed.

Date of Management’s Review

Management has evaluated subsequent events through March 15, 2024, the date on which the financial statements were available to be used.

Note B – Concentrations of Credit Risk

The Association maintains cash balances at two financial institutions. Accounts at each institution are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$250,000. The Association had no uninsured cash balances as of July 31, 2023 and 2022.

**Southern States Communication Association
Membership Report 2024 Post Frisco
Current as of 19 Oct 2024**

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

*Due to COVID, memberships were renewed for free - last row is number of memberships renewed that were not counted

Divisions										
Division	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
African Amer										36
Applied Comm	159	46	134	139	117		124	96	84	81
Arg & Forensic	20	48	32	45	42		56	38	35	37
Comm Theory & Meth	101	209	92	81	88		95	73	60	60

Division	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Community College	38	123	36	44	31		43	29	39	36
Freedom of Speech	21	30	25	39	28		32	32	22*	24
Gender Studies	69	75	89	106	91		96	58	57	59
Health Comm									24*	51
Ident, Incl, Soc Justice									31	59
Instructional Dev	57	97	66	72	71		97	70	76	72
Intercultural Comm	52	64	58	72	59		63	48	37	62
Interpersonal Comm	105	86	114	117	107		107	80	96	95
Lang & Social Interaction	50	74	45	41	26		30	30**	21*	
Mass Comm	73	46	75	93	72		90	70	58	58
None Selected		175	97	124	95		102	97	229	57
Performance Studies	46	32	49	53	49		43	41	27*	42
Political Comm	61	63	73	78	85		77	66	46	44
Popular Comm	140	74	51	56	56		64	56	47	45
Public Relations	35	44	51	47	45		51	44	41	41
Rhetoric & Public Address	221	§j	166	19	129		197	<u>169</u>	151	118

* First year below 5% membership requirement for divisional status

** First year probation for not electing officers

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

* First year below 5% membership requirement for divisional

Constitution Committee Mid-Year Report

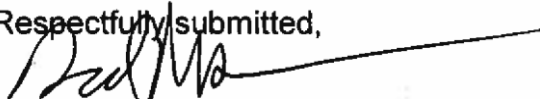
During this past year, the Constitution Committee remained in constant communication (email, via Zoom, etc.) to discuss identified topics regarding the SSCA Constitution to put forward to the Executive Council for adoption consideration by the organization's membership. The committee discussed three changes/updates to the constitution.

- I. **Proposed change one: The committee discussed creating a clear path for submitting resolutions that require a vote from the Association at the business meeting.**

- II. **Proposed change two: The committee is correcting the language to reflect the number of association business meetings held.**

111. **Proposed change three: The committee discussed and suggested creating clear language on what duties fall under the role of the Executive Director. With new roles within the Association occurring, the proposed changes keep up with changes made by the Association.**

Respectfully submitted,



David R Nelson

Chair - Constitution Committee

Summary of SSCA Constitutional Changes

Item #: Provides the proposed amendment number and a general explanation of the change. The order is in the order in which the proposed changes occur in the constitution, not as an indication of the rank or importance level of the change.

Recommendation: Provide the revised version of the phrasing as changed. The Article, Section information in the left column provides the position within the revised constitution where the proposed recommendation is located. For easy identification, the recommendation section uses strikethrough to identify words to be changed/removed and **blue** to identify words that are added/changed.

Justification: provides a brief explanation of why the change is recommended

Item #1	Resolutions
Recommendation ARTICLE VII: NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, AND RESOLUTIONS	<p>Section 7. Resolutions</p> <p>A. Submission must be from a member of the Association in good standing.</p> <p>B. Items requiring a vote at the Association Business meeting must first be introduced for discussion and debate at an Executive Council meeting. Such items should be submitted to the Resolutions Committee 45 days prior to the Association Business meeting.</p> <p>C. All other resolutions must be submitted to the Resolutions Committee for review.</p>
Justification	Provide clear directions for resolutions that require a membership vote.
Item#2	Business Meeting
Recommendation Article VI: Meetings Section 1	A. The Association shall hold at least two (2) one (1) business meetings at each annual convention.
Justification	The Association only holds one annual business meeting for the Association. Changing it eliminates any confusion.
Item #3	Executive Director Duties
Recommendation Section 4 Duties of Webpage Editor. Officers.	<p>3. The Executive Director has the authority to appoint Article IV staff to fulfill duties, such as a Newsletter Editor and a</p> <p>D. ED duties</p>
Justification	The constitution limits to only the existing two positions as appointed by the ED: Newsletter Editor and Webpage Editor. Changing to ¹ staff allows for adding new task positions to account for the organization's future growth and more evenly distributes the workload/duties to be completed throughout the year.

SSCA Finance Committee Report for mid-year Executive Council Meeting

The SSCA Finance Committee includes Nakia Welch, who will serve as chair next year, new member Eletra Gilchrist-Petty, and myself serving as committee chair.

ED John Haas gave committee members read-only access to SSCA financial accounts to assure greater transparency, and the committee has continued to monitor transactions.

The committee has not been given a specific charge for this academic year, nor have they been contacted by members of other committees, interest groups, divisions, or Executive Staff with concerns or questions.

Account balances for each account are as follows:

Truist Accounts:

- \$160,086.87 (checking account)
- \$54,675.53 (CD)

UT Federal Credit Union:

- \$189,017.65 (CD)

The Finance Committee met on October 9 to discuss the mid-year report. During that meeting we oriented our newest member to the committee, reviewed account activity, and discussed items that the committee would like me to present at the mid-year meeting. These include the following:

1. Request for access to budget requests as early as possible to allow time for the committee to discuss and make recommendations.
2. Request for information regarding the amount paid in life-time membership dues this year to determine if there is enough to require the committee to make a recommendation about how to invest it.

Respectfully submitted,
Lesli K. Pace, Chair
SSCA Finance Committee

AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNICATION DIVISION
Southern States Communication Association
2024 Mid-Year Report

OFFICERS

Chair: Keven James Rudrow, Mississippi State University, kjr357@msstate.edu

Vice Chair/Planner: Keven James Rudrow, Mississippi State University,
kjr357@msstate.edu

Vice Chair Elect: Cicely Wilson, Union University, cicely@cicelytwilson.com

Secretary: Rico Self, North Carolina State University, cself@ncsu.edu

SUBMISSIONS: The African American Communication Division (hereafter, AACD) received 8 submissions (3 competitive papers, 2 paper panels, and 3 roundtable panels). Though the AACD was estimated to have 4 slots (including the annual business meeting), we accepted and ranked submissions resulting in 6 slots (not including our business meeting). To accommodate all submissions, we requested 3 additional slots. In total, we had a 100% acceptance rate.

REVIEWING: Each submission, excluding 1 special program, was peer reviewed by at least two anonymous reviewers. In total, we had 9 reviewers, experts at institutions across the country, participate in the anonymous peer review process. We thank these individuals for their service to the AACD, the association, and the discipline.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION: The AACD organized 1 top paper panel, which will include 3 competitive papers. The top faculty and the top student paper will be recognized during our annual business meeting.

SPOTLIGHT PANEL: The division requested and received a spotlight panel focused on the emergence and goals of the AACD as the association's newest division. We thank the association for giving us the opportunity to introduce the AACD to the larger association.

CONCLUSION: That concludes our 2024 mid-year report.

SSCA Communication Theory and Methodology Division Mid-Year Report
October 18, 2024

Officers

Immediate Past Chair: Dr. Quinten Bernhold, University of Tennessee, bernhol@utk.edu.

Chair: Dr. Kelly Morrison, University of Alabama at Birmingham, kmmcc@uab.edu.

Vice Chair: Dr. Dennis McCarty, University of Florida, d.mccarty@ufl.edu.

Vice Chair-elect: Dr. Mike Kotowski, University of Tennessee, mkotowsk@utk.edu

Secretary: Dr. Steve McCornack, University of Alabama at Birmingham, smcc911@uab.edu.

2025 Convention Programming

Submissions

The division received 11 competitive paper submissions, 1 poster submission, and accepted 10 of the 12 submissions (83% acceptance rate).

The division did not receive any panel submissions.

The division did not receive any roundtable submissions.

The review process

Each submission was reviewed by two reviewers.

2025 Awards and recognitions

Top Paper Awards

Student: Lindsey Anton (Liberty University): “The Effects of Anti-GMO Rhetoric on a Potentially Life-saving Crop”

Faculty: Dr. Mike Kotowski (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) and Dr. Tim Levine (University of Alabama at Birmingham): “Ego-Validating: An Instrument Critique”

Faculty: Michelle Violanti (University of Tennessee, Knoxville): Validity Testing: An Underutilized Method

The recipient of the Outstanding Scholar in Communication Theory Award for 2025 is Dr. Jenny Crowley (University of Tennessee, Knoxville).

2024 Business Meeting

The division business meeting was held on Friday, April 5, 2024; 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Comanche Room, Frisco, Texas.

Gender Studies Division Report

- I. **Division Officers**
 - a. **Chair:** Hannah Tabrizi, Syracuse University
 - b. **Vice Chair:** Cassidy D. Ellis, University of Cincinnati
 - c. **Vice Chair-Elect:** Jonathan Bridenbaker, University of Memphis
 - d. **Secretary:** Nance Heise, Texas A&M University
- II. **2025 Convention Programming**
 - a. **Submissions**
 - i. 24 submissions received (+9 from 2023/24)
 - 1. 15 papers
 - 2. 8 extended abstracts
 - 3. 1 panel
 - 4. 14 debuts
 - a. 3 faculty
 - b. 9 students
 - ii. 18 accepted (+5 from 2023/2024)
 - 1. 11 papers accepted
 - 2. 7 extended abstracts
 - 3. 1 co-sponsored panel by programmer
 - iii. 6 rejected
 - 1. 5 papers rejected
 - 2. 1 extended abstract
 - 3. 1 panel rejected
 - iv. Overall acceptance rate = 75%
 - b. **Reviewing**
 - i. Reviewer pool: 21
 - ii. Each submission had 2 reviewers assigned
 - c. **Paper Panels**
 - i. **Hashtag Gender: Circulating Gender across the Twittersphere Conversing with Patriarchy**
 - ii. **Digital Divides: Gender, Identity, and Representation in Virtual Spaces**
 - iii. **Gendered Body Politics, Sexuality, and Power in Media and Life Narratives**
 - iv. **Fleabags, Black Widows, or Barbies?: Post-feminism in Recent Film and TV**
 - v. **(Un)anchoring Gender: Top Contributed Papers in Gender Studies**
 - d. **Roundtables**
 - i. **(Un)anchoring the South: Towards a Critical and Southern Worldmaking Project**
 - e. **Top papers**
 - i. **Top faculty paper:**
 - 1. **Women Stepping up to the Plate: Exploring the Effects of Gender on Media Framing in 2024 Men's College World Series**
 - 2. **Hanna Cooper, Troy University**
 - ii. **Top student paper:**
 - 1. **Gun Culture 2.0: The 2014 Concealed Carry Fashion Show**
 - 2. **Amelia Little, Abilene Christian University**
- III. **Award**
 - a. **Gender Studies Scholar of the Year**
 - i. TBD

**Identity, Inclusion, Social Justice Division Report and 2025 Programming
Southern States Communication Association – Norfolk, Virginia**

A. Division Officers

- i. Immediate Past Chair: Lisa Corrigan, *University of Arkansas***
- ii. Chair: Chandra Maldonado, *Campbell University***
- iii. Vice Chair: Josh Miller, *Free Agent***
- iv. Vice Chair Elect: Rico Self, *North Carolina State University***

B. 2025 Convention Program

- i. Submissions – (18 Total Submissions: 12 papers and 5 panels)**
- ii. Accepted 18 submissions (100%), 5 of which were panels or roundtables**
- iii. Slots – 12, including business meeting**

C. 2025 Top Paper Awards

- i. Student: "Framing Activism: DisCrit Perspectives on Whiteness, Futurity, and the 30th Anniversary of a Capital Crawl Image"
Shawna Shepard, *North Carolina State University*
- ii. Faculty: "Rejecting the (Empty) Rhetoric of Plurality: A multidisciplinary analysis of the US House speakership transition from McCarthy to Johnson"
**Joshua Guitar, *Kean University*
**Mansi Brat, *Kean University*
Brianna DeJesus, *Kean University*

SSCA Midyear Report (November 2024)
Norfolk, VA
Instructional Development Division of SSCA
Colleen L. Mestayer, Tennessee Tech University

The Instructional Division got 10 submissions: 10 panel submissions (we accepted all 10 panels), 4 faculty papers (we accepted 3), and 4 student papers (we accepted all four)

Of those papers accepted, 1 paper panel is faculty papers and consists of 3 papers; the other is a student paper panel consisting of all 4 student papers.

The total number of panels is 13, including the division business meeting

Immediate Past-Chair / Nominating Committee Representative
Scott Christen
Tennessee Technological University
schristen@tntech.edu

Chair
Jacob Metz
Tennessee Technological University
jmetz@tntech.edu

Vice Chair/ Program Planner
Colleen L. Mestayer
Tennessee Technological University
cmestayer@tntech.edu

Vice Chair Elect
Elizabeth Hanson Smith
Independent Scholar
ehansonsmith@yahoo.com

Secretary
Lakelyn Taylor
University of Vermont
lakelyn.taylor@uvm.edu

Interpersonal Communication Division - 2024 Annual Report

Immediate Past-Chair: Laura Miller, University of Tennessee

Chair: Lindsey Aloia, University of Arkansas

Vice Chair: Erin Basinger, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Vice Chair Elect: Kellie Brisini, Louisiana State University

Secretary: David Roaché, Christopher Newport University

A. Received 20 Total Submissions

- a. **Papers**
 - i. **9 received**
 - ii. **9 accepted, 1 rejected**
 - iii. **100% acceptance rate**
- b. **Posters**
 - i. **10 received**
 - ii. **8 accepted, 2 rejected**
 - iii. **80% acceptance rate**
- c. **Panels**
 - i. **1 received**
 - ii. **1 accepted**
 - iii. **0 rejected**
 - iv. **100% acceptance rate**
- d. **Overall acceptance rate: 93%**

B. Reviewing

- a. **Each submission had 2 reviewers unless there was a graduate student reviewer, in which case there were 3 total reviewers**
- b. **Thank you to the 12 reviewers for their service and timely feedback**

C. Proposed Programming

- a. **8 panels**
 - i. **4 paper sessions**
 - ii. **3 panels (one co-sponsored with Communication Theory & Methodology and Health Communication)**
 - iii. **1 poster session**
- b. **1 business meeting**

D. Awards and Recognitions

- a. **Top Student Paper: Speaking Parenthood: Mothers' Perspectives on Marital Communication Changes in the Postpartum Period**
Grace Nicholas, University of Alabama
- b. **Top Faculty Paper: "Trust yourself and your body": Advice from Fat Individuals on How to Navigate Fat Fertility, Pregnancy, and Birth**
Erin Basinger, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Maggie Quinlan, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Audrey Curry, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

E. Encourage growth

a. Submissions

I emailed our call to the division and asked them to share with their networks.

I also emailed as many universities as I could find with graduate programs in Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina to encourage faculty and graduate students (and undergrads!) to submit.

Poster submissions were a success but would like to find a way to encourage growth of paper submissions.

- c. **Reviewers**
- d. **Active members who attend the conference**

I. SSCA Performance Studies 2024 Mid-Year Report

II. Officers

- a. Immediate Past Chair: Dr. Cynthia Sampson, Louisiana State University,
csamps7@lsu.edu
- b. Chair: Dr. Nicole Costantini, SCAD Atlanta,
Costantini.nicole@gmail.com
- c. Vice Chair: Dr. Colin Whitworth, Georgia College & State
University, colin.whitworth@gcsu.edu
- d. Vice Chair-elect: Dr. Alex Davenport, St. Cloud State University,
davenport.a.k@gmail.com
- e. Secretary: Seth Knievel, Louisiana State University, ckniev1@lsu.edu

III. 2025 Convention Programming

a. Submissions

- a. We received 5 individual paper or performance submissions.
 - i. We accepted 4 individual papers or performances.
 - ii. We rejected 1 individual paper or performance.
 - iii. The acceptance rate was 80%.
- b. We received 13 panel submissions.
 - i. We accepted 13 panels.
 - ii. We rejected 0 panels.
 - iii. The panel submissions included our annual Page to Stage panel and a Chair's Spotlight panel.
 - iv. The acceptance rate was 100%.

b. The review process

- a. We had 11 reviewers who all conducted between 3-5 reviews.
- b. Each submission had at least two reviewers, with more for the Page to Stage submissions.

c. Awards and recognitions

- a. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
- b. We're looking forward to our second Pre-Conference Virtual Symposium, which will take place in early 2025 and have a response panel included in our programming at the convention in Norfolk. The Symposium is being planned by Dr. Colin Whitworth and will feature scholars from East Tennessee State University.

IV. 2024 Business Meeting: Friday 4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Room: Indian Trail - AV

V. Any other issues or business during the previous year? Nope! Thank y'all so much for working with us this year. We look forward to Norfolk 2025

**SSCA Popular Communication Division
2025 Report**

Immediate Past Chair: Dave Nelson, Valdosta State University

Chair: Rich Knight, Shippensburg University

Vice Chair: John Saunders, University of Alabama, Huntsville

Vice Chair Elect: Dani Williams, Georgia Gwinnett College

Secretary: Dani Williams, Georgia Gwinnett College

Programming

- **The division received a total of 9 submissions**
 - **4 papers**
 - **5 panels**

- **2 reviewers were assigned per submission**

- **Acceptance rate:**
 - **Papers 100%**
 - **Panels 100%**

- **5 sessions programmed.**

**SSCA PR Division Mid-Year Report
NCA 2024**

The PR division is planning for the 2025 conference in Norfolk. To foster engagement and growth, we are considering the creation of a social media chair to promote the division, with the discussion of an undergraduate or graduate student assuming this role. Although members discussed efforts to connect with graduate programs in the Norfolk area to increase submissions and participation, these efforts were not implemented. Overall, the number of submissions was slightly down compared to previous years, but the division will still have a total of six sessions, including five panels/roundtable discussions and one paper session featuring two papers. The division had an acceptance rate of 90% this year. Top paper awards have not yet been selected.

Chair

**Jessica Beckham
University of Tennessee at Martin
jbeckha4@utm.edu**

Vice Chair

**Kelly Williams
University of West Georgia
kwilliam@westga.edu**

Vice-Chair Elect

**Brann Murphy
Jacksonville State University
bmurphy5@jsu.edu**

Secretary

**Tiffany McBride
Columbus State University
mcbride_tiffany@columbusstate.edu**

SSCA 2025: Rhetoric & Public Address Division Report

Jonathan Edwards – Chair

Sara Baugh-Harris – Vice Chair / Program Planner

The Rhetoric & Public Address division of SSCA will host nine panels this year. These panels were formatted from 13 paper submissions and four panel submissions. We rejected six of 19 paper submissions, giving us a 68% acceptance rate on individual papers. Of the four panels submitted, all were accepted and praised by reviewers. Our overall acceptance rate was 74%.

We had a good mix of graduate student papers and faculty papers accepted, and we are particularly excited to see several excellent grad student submissions for 2025. We remain a robust division, and we are thrilled to be part of a growing, diverse, and engaged association.

The Top Student Paper and Top Faculty Paper awards have been determined. Jack Wood of the University of Georgia won the Top Student Paper award for “Rethinking ‘Resilience’ in the Rhetoric of Urban Planning.” Nikki Orth of Drake University won the Top Faculty Paper award for “Confrontational Memory and the Equal Justice Initiative’s Community Remembrance Project.”

Chair

Jonathan Edwards

University of South Carolina – Columbia

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Secretary

Emily Kofoed

University of South Carolina – Upstate

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Vice Chair / Program Planner

Sara Baugh-Harris

Davidson College

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Graduate Student Representative

Matt Parnell

Penn State University

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Vice Chair Elect

Lionnell Badu Smith

San Francisco State University

lsmith1914@sfsu.edu

Immediate Past Chair / Nominating

Brandon Inabinet

Furman University

brandon.inabinet@furman.edu

SSCA Association of Communication Administrators Report for mid-year Executive Council Meeting

ACA's officers include Past Chair Jerry Hale, Chair Lesli Pace, Vice-Chair Chris McCollough, and Secretary Pam Bourland.

As of the 2024-2025 membership list, ACA has 145 members.

We received and accepted 1 submission for the upcoming 2025 convention.

**Respectfully submitted,
Lesli K. Pace, Chair
Association of Communication Administrators**

**Language and Social Interaction Interest Group Report
Southern States Communication Association – Norfolk, Virginia
April 2nd-6th, 2025**

79 members

A. Division Officers

- i. Immediate Past Chair: Rick Pulos, *Texas A&M University***
- ii. Chair: Eugenie Almeida, *Fayetteville State University***
- iii. Vice Chair: Robert R. Agne, *Auburn University***
- iv. Vice Chair Elect:**

B. 2024 Convention Program

- i. Submissions – (6 Total Submissions: 5 papers and 1 panel)**
- ii. Accepted – 5 submissions, 1 of which was a roundtable**
- iii. Slots – 3, including business meeting**

C. 2024 Top Paper Awards

- i. Student: "Produce or perish: The productive ideograph
i. Sidney Miles, *Pennsylvania State University***
- ii. Faculty: "Managing jealousy within non-monogamous romantic
relationships: A critical discursive psychological approach.**

Neil Korobov, *University of West*