

Southern States Communication Association Executive Council Meeting

Officer and Unit Report Minutes

Wednesday, April 2, 2025

4:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Hilton Norfolk The Main

Location: Granby Ballroom E

Carl Cates, University of Texas Permian Basin, Presiding

1. Call to Order

- a. At 4:02pm

2. Welcome

- a. Carl welcomed everyone to Norfolk 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.sscanet.org/business-meeting-minutes>
- b. Motioned and seconded

4. Approval of Agenda

- a. Motioned by Frances Brandau and seconded

5. Officers' Reports

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

- a. Resolution on Gaza will be discussed under old business
- b. Strategic plan is still pending. Listening sessions are scheduled at the convention and members are encouraged to provide input into the development of the plan.

5.2 Vice President – Patrick Wheaton

SSCA 2025 @ Norfolk, Virginia

Theme: Anchoring and Anchoring Communication

- Number of Submissions: 319
- Submissions Accepted: 261

- Invited Panels/Spotlights: 21
- Submissions Withdrawn/Incomplete: 7
- Acceptance Rate: 83.65%
- Participants: 490 (not including UHC participants)
- Reviewers: 234 (not including UHC reviewers)
- Submissions/Programmed Submissions
 - Note this does not include the UHC. See the 2nd Vice President's Report for UHC numbers.

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

- Special Programing Highlights:
 - SSCA Officer Office Hours; Coffee and Conversation with NCA First Vice President
 - Presidential Spotlight: Town Hall Meeting on SSCA Strategic Plan
 - VP Spotlight: Listening Session on SSCA Role in Public Advocacy
 - VP Spotlight: The Launch of the African American Communication Division
 - VP Spotlight: Political Communication and the 2024 Elections
 - Southern Colloquium on Rhetoric: Fearless Speech
 - DEI Workshop: Mapping Accessibility in the Communication Discipline
 - Poster Sessions (2)
- Panel Sessions Programmed: 204
 - Division/Interest Groups include Business Meetings
 - 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 Division	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, Prez 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	15
TOTAL	204

- Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award
 - 13 Divisions recognized a Top Student Paper
 - 4 reviewers read and rated those papers
 - Winner is Jack Wood, University of Georgia
 - “Rethinking ‘Resilience’ in the Rhetoric of Urban Planning”
 - Submitted through Rhetoric and Public Address Division

5.3 Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee – Ann Burnette

Congratulations to the newly elected SSCA officers:

- Dr. Leland Spencer, SSCA 2nd Vice President
- Dr. Antonio Spikes, NCA Legislative Assembly Representative
- Dr. Heather Hayes, NCA Nominating Committee Member

Special thanks to Dr. Scott Christen, Dr. Keven Rudrow, and Dr. Rachel Harlow for running for SSCA-wide office.

The SSCA elections highlighted an issue I want to bring to the association's attention. I spoke to many qualified SSCA members who wanted to serve the association by running for office. However, because of their departments' travel budgets, some of those members could not commit to attending the SSCA and NCA conventions in one year, which has been a requirement for SSCA positions such as NCA Legislative Assembly Representative and NCA Nominating Committee Member. SSCA may need to reexamine these requirements in the future.

5.4 2nd Vice President/UHC Conference Planner – Narissra Punyanunt-Carter

1. 2025 UHC @ Norfolk, Virginia

- Thank you to Kevin Bryant, for reaching out to undergraduate programs to solicit submissions and for always being at the ready to help me navigate XCD and answering all my questions.
- Thank you to Pat Wheaton, 1st. VP who helped me with this process and helped me tremendously with trying to put this together!
- Thank you to all my colleagues who volunteered as reviewers, panel chairs, and respondents.
 - 54 reviewers. All were assigned two reviews; some (23) were asked to review three/four. A special thank you to Julia Cui Wei and Sumeyya Akdilek who helped review some last-minute papers.
- David Nelson, Valdosta State University
- Abby Brooks, Eastern Kentucky University
- Richard Leeman, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Jim A. Kuypers, Virginia Tech
- Shana Bridges, Georgia Southern Univ.
- Linda Manning, Christopher Newport University
- Benjamin R. Bates, Ohio University
- Tracy Nichols, Austin Peay State University
- Jerry Hale, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
- Pamela Bourland-Davis, Georgia Southern University
- Michelle Groover, Georgia Southern University
- Renee Edwards, Louisiana State University
- Ashli Stokes, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Terrell Jake Dionne, University of Arkansas

- Jennifer Kowalewski, Georgia Southern University
- Caleb Micah Cates, University of South Carolina
- Aaron Dicker, Georgia State University
- Missy Plew, Georgia Southern University
- Camille Lewis, Furman University
- Todd Lee Goen, Virginia Military Institute
- Jean DeHart, Appalachian State University
- Laura Miller, University of Tennessee
- R. Brian Bowman, Campbell University
- Leah LeFebvre, University of Alabama
- Nick J. Sciallo, Texas A&M University - Kingsville
- John H. Saunders, University of Alabama, Huntsville
- Joshua Guitar, Kean University
- Nina-Jo Moore, Appalachian State University
- Dean Farmer, Campbell University
- Brandon Inabinet, Furman University
- Md Hamza Kamal Mostafa, University of Memphis
- Wendy Atkins-Sayre, University of Memphis
- Meredith Bagley, University of Alabama
- Quinten Bernhold, University of Tennessee
- Jason Black, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Stephanie Longo, Penn State Scranton
- Kate Stewart, Jacksonville State University
- Beatrice Welch
- Theorose Elikplim Dzineku, Kent State University
- Samantha Szczur, Eastern Illinois University
- Michelle Elaine Pence, University of West Florida
- Amy Whiteside, University of Arkansas
- Jon Camp, Abilene Christian University
- Thomas Socha, Old Dominion University
- Aubree Herman, Texas Tech University
- Folasewa Olatunde, North Carolina State University

- Alyson Farzad-Phillips,
University of South Carolina-
Upstate
- Wesley Buerkle, East Tennessee.
State University
- Margaret Baker, University of
Alabama in Huntsville
- Drew T. Ashby-King, East
Carolina University
- Albert Junior Nyarko, University
of Alabama
- Sumeyya Akdilek, Texas Tech
University
- Julia Cui Wei, Texas Tech
University
- The numbers: We had 68 submissions this year, with 10 rejections, leaving us with 58 accepted papers. I've scheduled the papers into 14 sessions, with most sessions having 4 papers each. There are two sessions with 5 papers to accommodate the total number.
 - Every paper was reviewed by two reviewers; in the case of conflicting reviews, a third review was sought.
 - Accepted: 58 papers, 60 Undergraduate Scholars representing 29 institutions across 13 states
 - Schools Represented:

- University Of Minnesota (Twin Cities)
- Berea College
- Old Dominion University
- University of Tennessee
- Fayetteville State University
- Abilene Christian University
- Schreiner University
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- University of Arkansas
- East Carolina University
- Auburn University
- Belmont University
- University of Montevallo
- University of Arkansas at Little Rock
- Campbell University
- Furman University
- College of Coastal Georgia
- University of Alabama in Huntsville
- The University of Southern Mississippi
- Georgia Southern University
- Transylvania University
- The University of Alabama
- Kean University
- East Tennessee State University
- Texas A&M University
- Sam Houston State University
- Southeast Missouri State University

○ States Represented:

Minnesota; Kentucky; Virginia; Tennessee; North Carolina; Texas; Arkansas; Alabama; Mississippi; Georgia; South Carolina; New Jersey; Missouri

- Acceptance Rate: 79%
- Panels: 14 (1 panel co-sponsored with Argumentation & Forensics Division)
- 4 Top papers reviewed by 3 additional reviewers to determine the winner of the Franklin Shirley Top Undergraduate Paper Award Tyler Yeatts, whose paper, "Rhetorical Genre of Pixar Movies: A Generic Description of Transformation Rhetoric in Toy Story, Monster's Inc., and The Incredibles,"
- At the same time, we want to recognize Angela Cisneros, Margaret Salisbury, and Rachel Schade, whose papers were also chosen as part of the prestigious Top Paper Session
- Session Details:
- 📌 UHC: Top Four Papers in the Undergraduate Honors Conference
- 📌 Chair: Dr. Narissra M. Punyanunt-Carter, Texas Tech University
- 🗣️ Respondent: Dr. Carl M. Cates, University of Texas Permian Basin
- 📅 Date: Friday, April 4, 2025
- ⌚ Time: 2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- 🏠 Room: Momentum 2/3 – A/V
- 📄 Session #: 3608
- Outstanding Papers:
- 🏆 Rhetorical Genre of Pixar Movies: A Generic Description of Transformation Rhetoric in Toy Story, Monster's Inc., and The Incredibles – Tyler Yeatts, Campbell University (Top Paper Award Winner)
- 👤 Navigating Gender Identities – Angela Cisneros, Berea College
- 📺 Not That There's Anything Wrong With That: Exploring LGBTQ+ Representation in Modern Television – Margaret Salisbury, Campbell University
- 🗣️ Amicable or Appropriative: Awareness, Perceptions, and Attitudes Towards Outgroup Dialect Use – Rachel Schade, Berea College

- 2025 UHC Panel Highlights
 - Top Paper Panel = Friday @ 2:45 in Momentum 2/3 – A/V
 - Undergraduate Honors Conference Breakfast – Saturday, 8:00 AM (Granby Ballroom E)
 - Osborn Reception – Saturday, 6:00 PM (Granby Ballroom E)

2. 2026 SSCA @ Birmingham, AL

- The 96th annual convention will be held on April 8-12, 2026 at the Sheraton Birmingham Convention Center Birmingham, AL The 96th Annual SSCA Convention in 2026 will mark the 8th time the conference has been held in Birmingham, Alabama, which holds historical significance as the site of the association's very first convention in 1930. Birmingham offers a unique backdrop for this forward-looking yet grounded theme. Known as the birthplace of the civil rights movement, Birmingham's legacy of community-building and social change underscores the importance of connection and understanding, making it a fitting location for this gathering.
- The Call for Participation is attached.
- 2025 Planners' Meetings at this conference:
 - Saturday, 2:45 – 4:00 Room: Granby C
 - Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Room: Momentum 2/3
- Anticipated Deadlines:
 - May 15, 2025: Division/Interest Group Calls from Vice Chairs
 - June 2025: Submission Portal Opens
 - August 2025: XCD Training for Division/IG Vice Chairs and Chairs
 - September 15: Submission Deadline
 - October 15: Recommended panels submitted to conference planner
 - Mid-December: Draft program circulated for review
 - Late January 2026: Final program, including UHC, available

SSCA 96th Annual Convention

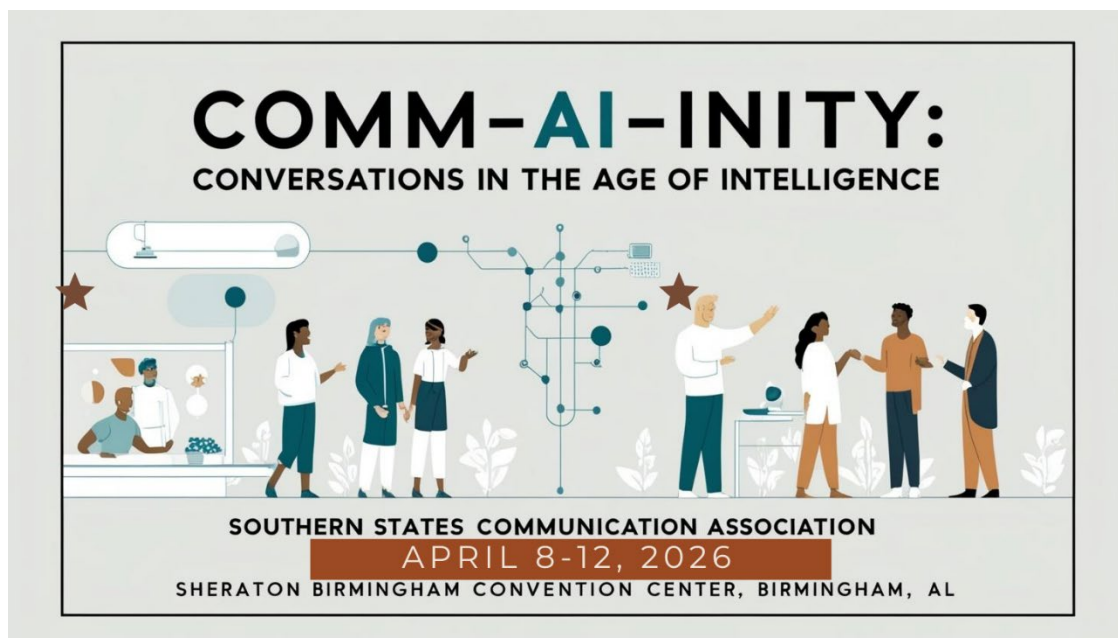
Call for Participation

April 8-12, 2026

Sheraton Birmingham Convention Center

Birmingham, AL

“Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence”



Southern States Communication Association’s 96th conference invites you to Birmingham, Alabama, a city steeped in history and vibrant culture. The Sheraton Birmingham Convention Center will serve as the perfect venue to explore this year’s conference theme: “Comm-AI-nity: Conversations in the Age of Intelligence.”

This theme blends the ideas of “community” and “AI,” emphasizing the evolving relationship between human and artificial intelligence in shaping communication. It encourages reflection on how communication fosters connection and shared understanding in an era increasingly influenced by advanced technologies. Papers and panels addressing these dynamics are encouraged, as are those exploring the challenges and opportunities of this new frontier.

The 96th Annual SSCA Convention in 2026 will mark the 8th time the conference has been held in Birmingham, Alabama, which holds historical significance as the site of the association's very first convention in 1930. Birmingham offers a unique backdrop for this forward-looking yet grounded theme. Known as the birthplace of the civil rights movement, Birmingham’s legacy of community-building and social change underscores the importance of connection and understanding, making it a fitting location for this gathering.

All divisions and interest groups are encouraged to program at least one panel on the conference theme. Division/interest group co-sponsored panels which provide unique opportunities to reflect on the theme are highly encouraged. Where entire panels are proposed, submitters are encouraged to diversify the institutional affiliation of the panel participants beyond two institutions, and to especially consider opportunities to include colleagues and peers who have not recently or never attended an SSCA conference. Program proposals which do not align with SSCA's divisional and interest group structure may be submitted directly to the vice president for possible review.

For Division and Interest Group calls, go to <http://www.ssca.net> and the Division (<https://www.ssca.net/divisions>) or Interest Group (<https://www.ssca.net/interest-groups>) pages.

The deadline for all submissions is September 15, 2025, at midnight Pacific Time. All submissions will be handled through the conference website: <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/member/>

For more information, contact Dr. Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, 1st Vice President and Program Planner, by email at ssca2026@gmail.com or n.punyanunt@ttu.edu We look forward to welcoming you to Birmingham in 2026!

5.5 Executive Director Report – John Haas

1. Association finances
2. Membership report
3. New Executive Director
 - a. New Executive Director is Dr. Frances Brandau, *Sam Houston State University*
 - b. Executive Director stipend proposal
 - i. Consistent with other Regionals
 - ii. Workload expectations
 - iii. Opens opportunities for non-administrators to pursue the position
4. Newsletter
5. Site Visits for 2029
6. Affiliation agreement with NCA fully executed



SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDED JULY 31,
2024 AND 2023**

HARVARD & ASSOCIATES, CPA'S, P.A.

Certified Public Accountants
Tallahassee, Florida

SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**AS OF AND FOR THE YEARS ENDED JULY 31,
2024 AND 2023**

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

To the Board of Directors

Southern States Communication Association

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Southern States Communication Association (a nonprofit organization) which comprise the statements of assets, liabilities, and net assets – cash basis as of July 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and other changes in net assets – cash basis for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting; this includes determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Accountants' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

Accountants' Conclusion

Based on our reviews, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with the cash basis of accounting.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note A of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our conclusion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Harvard & Associates, P.A.

Harvard & Associates, CPA's, PA

February 7, 2025

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**SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND
NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS
JULY 31, 2024 AND 2023**

ASSETS

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 411,608	\$ 423,642
Total Current Assets	<u>411,608</u>	<u>423,642</u>
 Property and Equipment		
Computers	4,749	0
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(339)</u>	<u>0</u>
 Property and Equipment - Net	<u>4,410</u>	<u>0</u>
 Total Assets	 <u><u>\$ 416,018</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ 423,642</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 416,018	\$ 423,642
Total Net Assets	<u>416,018</u>	<u>423,642</u>
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 <u><u>\$ 416,018</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ 423,642</u></u>

**SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND
OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JULY 31, 2024 AND 2023**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Revenue		
Royalties	\$ 39,722	\$ 39,947
Convention Fees	39,350	41,168
Membership Dues	37,255	34,860
Subscriptions	14,478	10,560
Interest	4,462	3,854
Donations	1,760	3,300
Total Revenue	<u>137,027</u>	<u>133,689</u>
Expenses		
Convention Expenses	97,334	90,822
Contract Services	14,500	13,000
Travel and Meeting Costs	5,493	2,783
Website	4,940	4,367
Postage and Shipping	4,736	1,092
Bank Charges	4,097	4,073
Southern Communication Journal	3,882	7,114
Professional Fees	3,300	7,850
Office Supplies	1,982	811
Dues and Subscriptions	1,574	1,405
Insurance	1,271	1,211
Donations	713	0
Depreciation	339	0
Marketing	300	0
Journal Exchange	19	778
Total Expenses	<u>144,651</u>	<u>135,306</u>
Increase in Net Assets	\$ (7,624)	\$ (1,617)
Beginning Net Assets	<u>423,642</u>	<u>425,259</u>
Ending Net Assets	\$ <u>416,018</u>	\$ <u>423,642</u>

SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JULY 31, 2024

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, 2022, 2023, and 2024 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 February 7, 2025, 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, 2024 and 2023.

SSCA Budget		
	Budget FY24	Proposed Budget FY25
OPERATING REVENUE		
Memberships/Registrations		
Regular	\$ 16,575.00	\$18,000
Sustaining	\$ 6,600.00	\$6,600
Patron	\$ 2,400.00	\$2,400
Student	\$ 4,440.00	\$4,400
Extra Journal Option	\$ 1,500.00	\$1,500
Institution	\$ 2,500.00	\$1,000
Miscellaneous		
Total Memberships/Conference Registrations	\$ 34,015.00	\$ 33,900.00
Southern Communication Journal		
Taylor & Francis Royalties	\$ 22,000.00	\$22,000
Taylor & Francis Editor Support	\$ 6,365.00	\$6,365

Journal Exchange (Regionals)	\$ 3,500.00	\$3,500
Royalties/Microfilm	\$ -	0
EBSCO	\$ 10,000.00	\$10,000
Total Southern Communication Journal	\$ 41,865.00	\$41,865
Total Interest from Bank Account, CDs	\$ 1,000.00	\$2,500
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 76,880.00	\$78,265.00
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Administrative		
Accounting / Legal	\$ 5,000.00	\$5,500
Executive Director Stipend	\$ N/A	\$10,000
Administrative Support	\$ N/A	\$9,000
Archives	\$ 1,500.00	\$500
Bank Charges	\$ 3,000.00	0
Equipment	\$ 500.00	0

Insurance	\$ 2,200.00	\$1,275
Postage & Shipping	\$ 1,500.00	\$2,500
Newsletter	\$ 1,000.00	0
Printing/Stationery	\$ 200.00	0
Relocation	\$ -	\$1,500
Office Supplies	\$ 1,520.00	\$2,000
Strategic Planning Meeting	\$ -	0
Websites	\$ 4,000.00	\$5,500
Total Administrative Expenses	\$ 33,420.00	\$37,775
Southern Communication Journal		
Editor	\$ 4,600.00	\$4,600
Past Editor		
Journal Publication	\$ 13,901.00	\$14,000
Journal Exchange	\$ 4,772.00	\$3,000
Total Southern Comm Journal Expenses	\$ 23,273.00	\$21,600

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 56,693.00	\$59,375
CONVENTION REVENUE		
Convention Pre-Registration	\$ 10,500.00	\$10,500
Convention Site Registration	\$ 8,000.00	\$8,000
Exhibits/Program Fees	\$ 1,500.00	\$2,500
UHC Registration	\$ 5,000.00	\$5,000
Convention Program Advertising	\$ 5,250.00	\$3,500
Past Presidents' Luncheon (paid tickets)	\$ 500.00	\$400
Awards Luncheon (paid tickets)	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000
Reception Support, UHC Sponsorships	\$ 7,500.00	\$4,000
TOTAL CONVENTION REVENUE	\$ 40,250.00	\$35,900
CONVENTION EXPENSES		
Program Printing, Shipping	\$ 2,000.00	\$3,000
Miscellaneous Office/Other	\$ 1,300.00	\$1,000

President's Convention Support Budget	\$ 4,000.00	\$4,000
1 st VP Convention Support Budget	\$ 4,250.00	\$4,250
2 nd VP-Elect Convention Support Budget	\$ 750.00	\$750
DEI Convention Support Budget	\$ N/A	\$2,500
Awards	\$ 3,000.00	\$3,000
Travel	\$ 3,500.00	\$1,500
Time and Place	\$ 1,500.00	\$2,000
Audio-Visual Equipment Rental	\$ 5,000.00	\$3,500
Total Food & Beverage	\$ 34,500.00	\$29,000
TOTAL CONVENTION EXPENSES	\$ 59,800.00	\$54,500

TOTAL SURPLUS

\$290

Southern States Communication Association
Pre-Conference Membership Report 2025 Norfolk

Membership Categories											
Category	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Regular	158	165	226	214		375	255	244	271	232	
Sustaining	233	178	170	126		92	66	91	75	87	
Patron	15	16	14	12		8	12	8	7	9	
Student	204	171	192	173		168	148	151	148	119	
Life	65	69	73	73		77	78	81	78	80	
Emeritus	28	27	27	29		28	27	27	3	4	
Total	703	626	702	628		678*	594	606	582	554	
Regional Journal	15	8	9	7		5	8	7	7	7	
Institutional	12	13	31	27		14	17	22	14	8	
Lapsed										438	

*Due to COVID, memberships were renewed for free

Divisions											
Division	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
African Amer									36	34	
Applied Comm	46	134	139	117		124	96	84	81	101	
Arg & Forensic	48	32	45	42		56	38	35	37	38	
Comm Theory & Meth	209	92	81	88		95	73	60	60	57	

Division	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Community College	123	36	44	31		43	29	39	36	48
Freedom of Speech	30	25	39	28		32	32	22*	24	38
Gender Studies	75	89	106	91		96	58	57	59	57
Health Comm								24*	51	49
Ident, Incl, Soc Justice								31	59	45
Instructional Dev	97	66	72	71		97	70	76	72	61
Intercultural Comm	64	58	72	59		63	48	37	62	45
Interpersonal Comm	86	114	117	107		107	80	96	95	82
Mass Comm	46	75	93	72		90	70	58	58	64
None Selected	175	97	124	95		102	97	229	57	65
Performance Studies	32	49	53	49		43	41	27*	42	39
Political Comm	63	73	78	85		77	66	46	44	45
Popular Comm	74	51	56	56		64	56	47	45	38
Public Relations	44	51	47	45		51	44	41	41	52
Rhetoric & Public Address	152	166	159	129		197	<u>169</u>	151	118	157

* First year below 5% membership requirement for divisional status

Interest Groups											
Interest Group	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Am. Soc. Hist Rhetoric	474	298	278	272		244	209	183	167	219	
Assoc. Comm. Admin.	140	110	109	96		106	86**	89	80	97	
Burke Society	119	104	119	101		103	86	67	61	44	
Ethnography	165	151	159	141		146	132	109	114	124	
None Selected	20	407	534	454		541	291	543	133	238	
Lang & Social Interaction	74	45	41	26		30	30*	21*	87	36	
Philosophy & Ethics of Communication	167	148	155	143		138	124	107	87	97	
States Association	38	36	50	49		46	42	66	49	40	

* First year below 5% membership requirement for divisional status

5.6 Past Executive Director – Jerry Hale

No Report

5.7 SCJ Editor – Rebekah Fox

1. Dr. Fox reported on submission data for the past year.
2. Editorial board membership changes discussed.
3. Support from Taylor & Francis discussed along with metrics involving Journal impact factors.

5.8 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chairs – Mary Meares and Xiaoti Fan

1. Discussion of workshop session scheduled for the conference

5.9 NCA Legislative Assembly Representatives – Eletra Gilchrist-Petty, Laurie Metcalf, & April Chatham-Carpenter

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

5.10 NCA Nominating Committee Representative: Brandon Inabinet

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

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

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

6.0 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Committee on Committees – Carl Cates

Cates reported on staffing standing committees and thanked the membership for their willingness to serve SSCA.

6.2 Constitution – David Nelson

Nelson noted that the Constitution Committee had discussed possible amendments to the Constitution regarding the submission process for resolutions that would be brought before the membership. The committee recommendations will be presented at the business meeting.

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

Mary Meares reported on the workshop sponsored by the DEI Committee. She discussed the legal and political issues surrounding DEI. She expressed concerns for the protection of individuals serving in DEI-related roles. An extended discussion regarding those concerns followed. A final reminder was also shared by Meares regarding the Diversity Keynote speaker.

6.4 Finance – Leslie Pace

The Finance Committee includes Nakia Welch, who will serve as chair next year, new member Eletra Gilchrist-Petty, and myself serving as committee chair. The committee met via Zoom on October 9th to discuss the mid-year report and used email to discuss Executive Director John Haas's proposal on March 11th.

John gave committee members read-only access to SSCA financial accounts fall 2024 to assure greater transparency, and the committee has continued to monitor transactions since being given access. SSCA currently has the following financial resources available.

Truist Accounts:

- Checking Account: Mid-year (Nov.) Balance \$160,086.87; Current (Mar.) Balance \$191,546.04
- CD Available Balance: \$54,675.53

UT Federal Credit Union: CD Available Balance -- \$189,017.65

John contacted me in March to discuss a proposal to begin paying a \$10,000 stipend to SSCA's Executive Director. The stipend could be used to buy out a course, to hire support staff, to take as salary, etc. Of note are the following:

- SSCA is the only regional organization that does not already provide a stipend
- the ED spends 40+ hours per week working on SSCA items/tasks
- it has been increasingly difficult to find people who are willing and able to hold the position
- the organization has been financially pragmatic and uses very little discretionary spending – the organization's money is used primarily for bills, conference expenses, insurance for officers, and accountant fees.

Overall, the committee supports providing a stipend for the ED, and given current available balances, it appears it would cause no hardship to the organization or its members. The committee offers the following for consideration:

- The amount of work being done without supplemental income is significant.
- Making clear the ways the funds can be used is highly desirable.
- Would this create a slippery slope with other positions expecting a stipend?
- How does a stipend change the nature of a volunteer position that is designed to provide service to the discipline?
- How would the stipend be funded? Would membership fees need to be increased? If so, how much would fees need to increase?
- When was the last registration/membership fee increase? How much was that increase?

Respectfully submitted,

Lesli K. Pace, Chair

SSCA Finance Committee

6.5 Nominating Committee – Ann Burnette

Congratulations to the newly elected SSCA officers:

- Dr. Leland Spencer, SSCA 2nd Vice President
- Dr. Antonio Spikes, NCA Legislative Assembly Representative
- Dr. Heather Hayes, NCA Nominating Committee Member

Special thanks to Dr. Scott Christen, Dr. Keven Rudrow, and Dr. Rachel Harlow for running for SSCA-wide office.

The SSCA elections highlighted an issue I want to bring to the association's attention. I spoke to many qualified SSCA members who wanted to serve the association by running for office. However, because of their departments' travel budgets, some of those members could not commit to attending the SSCA and NCA conventions in one year, which has been a requirement for SSCA positions such as NCA Legislative Assembly Representative and NCA Nominating Committee Member. SSCA may need to reexamine these requirements in the future.

6.6 Publications – Hsiu-Jung (Mindy) Chang

See report from E-Packet

6.7 Resolutions – Joshua Pederson

Resolutions will be presented at the Business Meeting by Todd Lee Goen

6.8 Resource Development – Carrie Reif-Stice

No Report

6.9 Time and Place – Abby Brooks

Report presented by new Executive Director Frances Brandau

Southern States Communication Association Executive Council Meeting**Part Two****Thursday, April 3****8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.****Hilton Norfolk The Main****Location: Granby Ballroom E**

Carl Cates, University of Texas Permian Basin, Presiding

Call to Order – 8:10 a.m.

Cates welcomed members to Norfolk and noted that the Hands Off protest may cause commuting problems on Saturday.

7.0 DIVISION AND INTEREST GROUP REPORTS**7.1 African American Communication Division**

To be presented at the Business Meeting

7.2 Applied Communication Division

To be presented at the Business Meeting

7.3 Argumentation & Forensics Division

Kevin Davis-Bryant reported for the Division. He reported submission information along with the Great Barbecue Debate.

7.4 Communication Theory & Methodology Division

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.

2025 Business Meeting

Session # 3804 Friday, April 4, 2025; 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Room: Momentum 1

7.5 Community College Division

Shaquille Marsh reported for the Division.

- I. Division Officers
 - a. Immediate Past Chair/Nominating Committee Representative
Jeff Sorrels- Collin College
 - b. Chair- Shaquille Marsh, Pellissippi State Community College
 - c. Vice Chair- Karen Hill, Volunteer State Community College
 - d. Vice Chair Elect- Samantha Chapuseaux, Florida Gateway College
 - e. Secretary- Twyla Coy, Lone Star College
- II. 2025 Convention Programming
 - a. GIFTS (Great Ideas for Teaching Students)-
 - i. GIFTS Session 1
 - ii.

Instructional Scaffolding in Online Environments to Increase Student Collaboration: Using Padlet to Create a Collaborative Annotated Bibliography that Can be Used Beyond the Classroom

Leveraging LinkedIn to Build Social Capital and Anchor Networking Success for Community College Students

Fostering Academic Citizenship and Engagement Through Open-Ended Online Discussion Forums

Create Your Perfect Boss Discussion Board Activity for Online Business Communication Course
 - iii. GIFTS Session II

Using a Word Game to Help Students Learn and Apply Strategies to Improve Their Verbal Communication

Patterns of Conflict Behavior

Shark Attack: A Role-Playing and Team-Building Exercise

Communication Models & Fishbowl

- b. Two (2) panels
 - i. Creating Anchorage for Community College Faculty: How Community College Faculty Can Find Support in the Communication Discipline
 - ii. Anchoring Accreditation: Connecting the ‘What’ to the “Why” in SACSCOC
- III. Debut Paper
Create Your Perfect Boss Discussion Board Activity for Online Business Communication Course
Kimberley Hannah-Prater, Community College of Baltimore County
- IV. Award
 - a. Suzanne Osborne Community College Outstanding Educator
Shaquille Marsh- Pellissippi State Community College
- V. Business Meeting
 - a. Friday, April 4 5:30 pm-6:30 pm
Room 3806

7.6 Freedom of Speech Division

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

7.7 Gender Studies Division

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

7.8 Health Communication Division

- A. Division Officers
 - i. Immediate Past Chair: Kelly Morrison, *University of Alabama Birmingham*
 - ii. Chair: Adam Richards, *Furman University*
 - iii. Vice Chair: Tyana Ellis, *North Carolina Wesleyan University*
 - iv. Vice Chair Elect: Emily Scheinfeld, *Kennesaw State University*
- B. 2025 Convention Program
 - i. Submissions – 17 total submissions: 10 competitive papers, 1 panel, 5 research-in-progress, and 1 roundtable
 - ii. Accepted – 16 submissions: of the above, 1 competitive paper was rejected
 - iii. Slots – 9: including business meeting, 2 roundtables, 5 paper panels, and a poster session
- C. 2025 Top Paper Awards

- i. Top paper: “Expanding the Communicative Ecology Model of Successful Aging to Include Communication About Death, Dying, and the Afterlife”
 - i. Quinten S. Bernhold, University of Tennessee; Anna McClure, University of Tennessee; Jalen Blue, University of Tennessee; Sarah Devereux, University of Tennessee; Cole Burns, University of Tennessee
- ii. Top student paper: “An Examination of the Rhetorical Construction of a University Counseling Center’s Mental Health Services”
 - i. Ananya Raka Chakraborty, University of Alabama

7.9 Identity, Inclusion, & Social Justice Division

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, 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*

7.10 Instructional Development Division

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

7.11 Intercultural Communication Division -- Lionnell "Badu" Smith – Chair, Amy M. Heuman – Vice Chair / Program Planner

The Intercultural Communication Division of SSCA will host six panels this year. We received a total of 10 submissions (9 competitive papers, 1 paper panel). We accepted all of the submissions giving us a 100% acceptance rate on individual papers and discussion panels. From the paper submissions, three panels were formed including the Division's top paper panel. The program planner received permission to propose two additional roundtable panels which brings the Division's programming to six panels plus our annual business meeting.

This year's ICD programming offers rich and nuanced inter/cultural perspectives. Roughly 40% of the submissions stress an international, transnational, or global communication focus which exceeds the data from 2020-2026 where only 31% of the submissions centered on international foci. This trend among others, including centering the voices of marginalized cultural communities, contribute to the resilience and vibrancy of the ICD.

ICD's top paper award goes to Benjamin Bates and Cora Farra of Ohio University won for "Painting murals to define a "successful childhood": An application of a culture-centered, art-based approach in rural Ecuador."

Finally, the ICD elected officials met in March to explore strategies to increase paper submissions, collaboration with other divisions, and the potential for an increased social media presence for the Division. In addition, we discussed potential changes to the division's bylaws, the creation of a newsletter, and the need for more aggressive marketing for next year's conference.

Division Officers

1. Immediate Past Chair: Mary Meares, University of Arkansas
2. Chair: Lionnell "Badu" Smith, San Francisco State University
3. Vice Chair: Amy M. Heuman, Texas Tech University
4. Vice Chair Elect: Curtis Chamblee, University of Memphis
5. Secretary: Carolina Perez, Texas Tech University

7.12 Interpersonal Communication Division

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

7.13 Mass Communication Division

The Mass Communication Division received a total of 19 submissions. There were 13 papers and three panel submissions and three poster submissions. Of those, 10 papers, 1 poster, and all of the panels were accepted. The poster presentation was added to the Vice President's Poster sessions.

The division's top student paper award went to Matt Martin of University of Southern Mississippi for his paper titled: "Image Identity Exchange - a truncated application of narrative transportation theory".

There were no other paper awards for the division.

7.14 Performance Studies Division

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

7.15 Political Communication Division

At the 2024 meeting of the Political Communication Division held in Frisco, Texas, Colin Cameron was elected Vice Chair-elect and will be the division planner for the 2026

conference to be held in Birmingham, Alabama. Thus, the division officers for the 2024-2025 year are:

- Immediate Past-Chair / Nominating Committee Representative
 - Melissa Smith, Mississippi University for Women
- Chair
 - Carson Kay, Washburn University
- Vice Chair / Division Planner
 - Matthew Farmer, University of Georgia
- Vice Chair-Elect
 - Colin Cameron, Ohio University
- Secretary
 - Cheryl Maiorca, University of Nebraska Omaha

Per Matthew, Vice Chair, for the 2025 Convention, the Political Communication Division received a total of 16 submissions, including:

- 12 competitive paper submissions
- 4 panel submissions

Of those, the division accepted all of the panels and 9 of the 12 papers. The division co-sponsored the Vice President Spotlight Panel, "Anchoring, Re-Anchoring, or De-Anchoring the

Body Politic: Reflections on Communication and the 2024 U.S. Elections – Vice President Spotlight Panel.”

The division is featuring the following panels.

- “Presidential Anchors and Their Legacies”
- “Anchoring International Perspectives in Political Communication”
- “Anchoring the Political Data”
- “From Joe Biden to Kamala Harris for President in the 2024 Election: Analysis of Communication by and about the Candidates”
- “Anchors Aweigh! Exploring the Stormy Seas of Political Communication in America”
- Anchors and Weights: A Roundtable Discussion of the Results of the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election”

The division’s top student paper award went to Frederick Daoyenikye of the University of Alabama for the paper entitled: “How Does Social Media Contribute to Affective Polarization? Mediating Role of Fake News Beliefs.” The top faculty paper award went to Noor Ghazal Aswad of the University of Alabama and Laura Partain of the Ohio State University for the paper entitled, “The Politics of Refuge: Communication, Power, and Asylum in the U.S.” The Division Business Meeting at the Norfolk convention is scheduled for 5:30-6:30 pm on April 4 in the Imagination Room.

7.16 Popular Communication Division

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

7.17 Public Relations Division

The Public Relations Division looks forward to the upcoming convention in Norfolk. Despite a slight decrease in submissions this year, the overall quality remained high, resulting in a 100% acceptance rate. In total, the division will still host a total of six sessions at the 2025 conference, in addition to our regularly scheduled business meeting. These sessions include two competitive student papers (both of which are debut papers), two panels, two roundtable sessions, and one GIFTS session.

During the 2024 business meeting, the division first discussed establishing a Social Media Chair role to promote PR division activities, recruit new members, and encourage submissions. This year, we plan to finalize and implement this position so it can play a pivotal role in driving engagement ahead of the 2026 convention.

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

**7.18 Rhetoric & Public Address Division -- 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

jjedwards@sc.edu

Secretary

Emily Kofoed

University of South Carolina – Upstate

ekofoed@uscupstate.edu

Vice Chair / Program Planner

Sara Baugh-Harris

Davidson College

sabaugh@davidson.edu

Graduate Student Representative

Matt Parnell

Penn State University

mkp5772@psu.edu

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

7.19 Association for Communication Administrators Interest Group

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 2025 convention.

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

7.20 American Society for the History of Rhetoric Interest Group

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

7.21 Ethnography Interest Group

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

7.22 Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

7.23 Language & Social Interaction Interest Group

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

7.24 Philosophy & Ethics of Communication Interest Group

To be presented at the Business Meeting.

7.25 State Associations Interest Group

Shaquille Marsh reported for the Interest Group.

VI. Division Officers

- f. Immediate Past Chair
Michael Gray- Louisiana State University
- g. Chair- none
- h. Vice Chair- Shaquille Marsh- Pellissippi State Community College
- i. Vice Chair Elect- John Saunders- University of Alabama-Huntsville
- j. Secretary- Ray Ozley- Montevallo University

VII. 2025 Convention Programming

- a. One panel
 - i. Where Do We Cast Our Anchors?: Finding the Best Conference Locations

VIII. Business Meeting

- b. Saturday, April 5 4:15 pm-5:30 pm
Room 4605

Cates reminded attendees about the Business Meeting on Saturday morning at 8:00

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 by Cates