



SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

Constitution Committee

To: Frances Brandua, Executive Director – SSCA; Patrick Wheaton, President - SSCA

From: David R Nelson, Chair – Constitution Committee

Date: 2/4/2026

Re: Constitution Committee Updated Mid-Year Report

During this past year, the Constitution Committee remained in constant communication (email, via Teams, 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 is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions that came from the breakfast business meeting on April 5, 2025, and a request to help protect members who could be impacted by keeping diversity, equity, and inclusion within the constitution.
- II. Proposed change two: The committee is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions that came from the breakfast business meeting on April 5, 2025, and a request to help protect members who could be impacted by keeping diversity, equity, and inclusion within the constitution.
- III. Proposed change three: The committee is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions that came from the breakfast business meeting on April 5, 2025, and a request to help protect members who could be impacted by keeping diversity, equity, and inclusion within the constitution.
- IV. Proposed change four: The committee is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions that came from the breakfast business meeting on April 5, 2025, and a request to help protect members who could be impacted by keeping diversity, equity, and inclusion within the constitution.
- V. Proposed change five: The committee is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions. The request is to provide the EC with the authority to fill association-wide officer vacancies when they are vacated due to emergencies, death, or sudden resignation. Vacancies at the division and interest

group level should be addressed by their respective leadership teams and notice of any change should be directed to the EC to update the association roster

- VI. Proposed change six: The committee is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions. The proposed change addresses an omission of wording.
- VII. Proposed change seven: The committee is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions. The proposed change corrects an omission in Article V, Membership, Section 1, regarding the Community Building Committee Chair.
- VIII. Proposed change eight: The committee is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions. The proposed changes to Article Four, Appointment Section Two, are intended to align with other standing committees.
- XI. Proposed change nine: The committee is making changes based on the suggestions and discussions of the Community Building Committee leadership and membership, which is currently not in the constitution
- X. Proposed change ten: The committee is making changes to provide the executive director with the ability to open a local bank account to pay SSCA bills, and would help the Finance Committee with its charge to review and advise on our financial matters.

Items were suggested, but the committee feels the executive council and membership should discuss them before proposing any constitutional changes:

1. Article X Divisions Section 6 Establishment of New Divisions.
 - Discuss changing the percentage required for a division (currently at 5%).
2. Article X Section 2 Division Names
 - Removing Section 2 and assigning someone on the administrative council to be the holder of the list?
3. Article V Executive Council Section 3 Meetings
 - Authorize the mid-year EC meeting to include the attendance of members remotely (i.e., Zoom) who are unable to attend NCA during the scheduled meeting time at NCA

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 ~~a 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

Highlighted Items: Additional proposed changes since the midyear report submission.

Item #1	
Recommendation Article V Executive Council Section 1	A. Officers: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Executive Director, Journal Editor, Strategic Communication Director, Community Building Diversity Equity & Inclusion Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee Chair, Finance Committee Chair, the National Communication Association (NCA) representatives
Justification	Diversity, equity, and inclusion have become a loaded term; changing it to community building preserves the intended spirit of the position and committee.

Item #2	
Recommendation Article IX: Committees Section 1.	A. Administrative Committee, whose purpose shall be to lead the strategic planning and direction of the Association. The Administrative Committee shall be comprised of the Officers of the Association, the Community Building Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair, and the Finance Committee Chair.
Justification	Diversity, equity, and inclusion have become a loaded term; changing it to community building preserves the intended spirit of the position and committee.

Item #3	
Recommendation Article IX: Committees Section 1.	J. Community Building Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, whose purpose shall be to promote the global engagement diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives for the Association, including soliciting committee and leadership nominees, advising the organization on increasing opportunities diversity, equity, and inclusion interests , and determining the recipient of the Minority Community Building Recruitment/Retention Award.

Justification	Diversity, equity, and inclusion have become a loaded term; changing it to community building and increasing opportunities preserves the intended spirit of the position and committee.
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Item #4	
Article IX: Committees Section 2.	C. Members of the Standing Committees, except the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Committees, the Rose B. Johnson Award Committee, the Resource and Membership Development Committee, and the Community Building Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, shall be appointed for a term of three years, with staggered terms, are eligible for reappointment, and shall have each member ascend in seniority each year until serving as the chair of the committee during the final year of service.
Justification	Diversity, equity, and inclusion have become a loaded term; changing it to community building preserves the intended spirit of the position and committee.

Item #5	
Recommendation Article IV Vacancies Section 5.	A. The Executive Council shall have authority to fill any vacancy, other than the Presidency, created by the death, resignation, or disability of an elected officer of the Association. D. Vacancies at the division and interest group level should be addressed by their respective leadership teams, and notice of any change should be directed to the EC to update the association roster.
	If there is a vacancy of one of the officers of the organization who is appointed versus elected (e.g., Journal Editor, Strategic Communication Director), an appointment to replace them cannot be done by the EC – their replacement must wait until elections occur in January/February, which limits the organization in these areas.

Item #6	
Recommendation Article V Emergency Procedures Section 5.	A. In case of an emergency that would make it either impossible or impractical for the president to convene the Executive Council, the President may call for an emergency meeting, held remotely (conference call, online, etc.) of the Executive Council.
Justification	This is a simple omission of the term, as the context of the sentence implies the word may.

Item #7	
Recommendation Article V Membership Section 1.	<p>A. Officers: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Executive Director, Journal Editor, Strategic Communication Director, Community Building Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Chair, Finance Committee Chair, the National Communication Association (NCA) representatives.</p> <p>D. Additional members: 2nd Vice President-Elect, Constitution Committee Chair, Publications Committee Chair, Resolutions Committee Chair, Finance Committee Member 1, Finance Committee Member 2, Time & Place Committee Chair, Resource, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Chair, Community Building Committee Chair, & Membership Development Committee Chair, & any Ad Hoc Committee Chair(s).</p>
Justification	<p>Section 1 lists the members of the EC, breaking it down by 'categories' with sub-section A listing the officers. It lists the Community Building Committee chair as an officer, which they are not under Article IV – Section 1.A. The simple solution to correct this would be to move the Community Building Committee chair from sub-section A to sub-section D (Additional members). This does not in any way reduce their role, rights, responsibilities, or position within the organization; it is simply a clerical change for clarity. The Community Building Committee chair remains a member of the Administrative Committee as per Article IX – Section 1.A, they would just not be categorized as an officer of the EC (which they are not, as per Article IV – Section 1.A)</p>

Item #8	
Article IX Appointment Section 2	<p>C. Members of the Standing Committees, except the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Committees, the Rose B. Johnson Award Committee, the Resource and Membership Development Committee, Community Building Committee, Resources Committee, and Inclusion Committee, shall be appointed for a term of three years, resources with staggered terms, are eligible for reappointment, and shall have each member ascend in seniority each year until serving as the chair of the committee during the final year of service.</p>
Justification	Adding the Resource Committee to the same consistent membership rotation as all other standing committees.

Item #9	
Article IX Appointment Section 2	E. Members of the Community Building Committee should consist of five members, and two shall serve as co-chairs, that shall have each member ascend in seniority each year until serving as the chair of the committee during the final year of service
Justification	Currently, the constitution does not specify the committee's membership and leadership.

Item #10	
Article IV Appointment Section 2 Subsection D	6. As Treasurer, the Executive Director is authorized to open or close any account, and to have signature authority for said accounts, at a financial institution of their choosing, on behalf of and in the name of the Association. They may also designate any Association member in good standing as an additional signatory on said accounts, such as, but not limited to, the chair of the Association's Finance Committee.
Justification	Provides the executive director with the ability to open a local bank account to pay SSCA bills and would help the Finance Committee with its charge to review and advise on our financial matters.