

96th Annual Convention
Southern States Communication Association
Sheraton Birmingham Convention Center

Breakfast and Annual Business Meeting

Friday, April 10, 2026 – East M, 8:00 – 10:00 am

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER – Patrick G. Wheaton, President

2. WELCOME TO BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of 2025 Business Meeting Minutes (Published on [SSCA website](#)):

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. OFFICERS' REPORTS

5.1 President & Committee on Committees: Patrick G. Wheaton, *Georgia Southern University*

5.2 1st Vice President: Narissra M. Punyanunt-Carter, *Texas Tech University*

5.3 2nd Vice President: Leland G. Spencer, *University of South Carolina*

5.4 Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee: Carl M. Cates, *University of Texas, Permian Basin*

5.5 Executive Director: Frances Brandau, *Sam Houston State University*

5.6 Immediate Past Executive Director: John Haas, *University of Tennessee*

5.7 Strategic Communication Director: vacant

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

5.9 NCA Legislative Assembly Representatives:

Laurie Metcalf, *Blinn College*

Ryan Tabrizi, *Syracuse University*

Antonio Spikes, *Georgia Southern University*

5.10 NCA Nominating Committee Representative: Heather Ashley Hayes, *University of Alabama*

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1. Committee on Committees: Patrick G. Wheaton, *Georgia Southern University*

6.2 Constitution: David R. Nelson, *Valdosta State University*

6.3. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Mary M. Meares, *University of Alabama*

Kimberly P. Johnson, *Tennessee State University*

6.4. Finance: Nakia Welch, *San Jacinto College*

6.5. Nominating Committee: Carl M. Cates, *University of Texas, Permian Basin*

6.6. Publications: Keven James Rudrow, *Mississippi State University*

6.7. Resolutions: Breann Murphy, *Jacksonville State University*

6.8. Resource & Membership Development: Michelle Groover, *Georgia Southern University*

6.9. Time and Place: Scott Christen, *Tennessee Technological University*

6.10. Strategic Communications Director Search: Elizabeth Hanson Smith, *Austin Community College*

6.11 Administrative Committee: Narissa M. Punyanunt-Carter, *1st Vice President*

7. DIVISION & INTEREST GROUP REPORTS

- See Reports from the Executive Council Meeting, and/or included in the e-packet

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

10.1. Introduction: Narissra M. Punyanunt-Carter, *First Vice President*

10.2. Presidential Address: Patrick G. Wheaton, *Georgia Southern University*

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. ADJOURNMENT

Officers' Reports

5.1 President – Patrick Wheaton

SSCA President's Report 96th Annual Convention, Birmingham, Alabama Sheraton Birmingham Convention center April 2026

It has been my honor to serve the Association as President for the past year. Since we last met in Norfolk, the Administrative Committee met six times via Zoom between July 2025 and March 2026. A mid-year year report was issued for the meeting of the Executive Council at the NCA Convention in Aurora, Colorado in November and is available in the minutes of that meeting posted on the Association Webpage. At the NCA Convention, Frances Brandau, our Executive Director, and I met with the presidents and executive directors of NCA and the three other regional communication associations.

Some issues I will leave to be reported by the various Standing Committees of the Association and the other officers of the organization. I want to report on four matters:

1. The 2026-2030 Strategic Plan

A draft of the new Strategic Plan was developed and discussed by the Administrative Committee. That draft was provided to the Executive Council for comment last November. The finalized Strategic Plan is attached and is posted on the Association website [here](#). .

Related to that Strategic Plan, we have worked on several goals, including

- Develop resources for SSCA leadership
 - We are in the process of updating the Association's Officers Manual. The revised manual has been renamed the SSCA Leadership Manual and includes information for officers, administrative staff, and Division and Interest Group leadership.
- Plan conference sessions spotlighting SSCA award winners
 - This year's convention includes a session spotlighting the first two winners of the Katherine Grace Hendrix Instructional Development Award.
- Assess and budget for a new website that may include our convention planning functions
 - The Association has expanded its contract with X-CD to include a new website, conference and membership registration, an online program, and an app for the convention program.
- Increase Revenue: transition away from the costly production of a printed program without sacrificing program advertising income
 - This year we will print a limited number of programs, on request. The conference program is now available on the Association website and via a forthcoming app

- The online program and app will include program advertisements. Frances Brandau, our Executive Director, the Finance Committee (chaired by Nakia Welch), and the Resource & Membership Development Committee (chaired by Micelle Groover) developed new convention support and sponsorship categories and fees, including program and conference app ads.
- Prepare for the 100th Anniversary of the Association
 - See item 4 below regarding Commemorating Our Centennial

2. Appointment of a new Strategic Communication Director

At the request of the Executive Director, I appointed an ad hoc committee to advise the Administrative Committee and Executive Council on the appointment of a new Strategic Communication Director. The position has been vacant for the past year. The committee consisted of Francis Brandau, Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, Michelle Groover, Elizabeth Hanson Smith (as chair), and me. The recommendation of the committee will be reported by the committee chair.

3. Communication with and Feedback from the Members of the Association

Beyond the EC meetings, the association-wide business meeting at the annual conference, emails and the newsletter, the Association leadership remains committed to communication with the members of SSCA. To that end, we are continuing our recent tradition of convention programming for open conversations. In addition to the regular EC and Business meetings, Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, our 1st Vice President and Birmingham planner, has scheduled two sessions for communication and feedback: the SSCA Officers' Office Hours (Thursday, April 9 @ 5:30, before the Welcome Reception) and the SSCA Town Hall Meeting (Friday, April 10 @ 10:15, following the Breakfast and Business Meeting).

4. Commemorating Our Centennial

The Association will hold its 100th conference in 2030, just prior to the 100th anniversary of the association's chartering. The association was chartered in Birmingham, Alabama on May 2, 1930. We would like to celebrate that anniversary, and that requires planning – planning that should not wait until the 2030 planning cycle in 2029. To that end, we should appoint an ad hoc committee. Per the Constitution, ad hoc committees appointed by the President expire with the end of the President's term, but "the Executive Council may authorize the appointment of special committees to serve longer than one year" (Article IX. Section 4B).

I request that the EC authorize the appointment of a special committee, the **Centennial Celebration Committee**, to serve until the end of the 2030 conference. The charge of the committee will be to gather Association history, including oral histories, and assist in planning conference programming to celebrate our centennial. A call will then be issued for volunteers to serve on the committee. Per the Constitution, the chair of such a committee will also serve on the Executive Council (Article V. Section 1D). As my term expires, appointment of that committee will fall to our next president, Narissra Punyanunt-Carter.

Proposal: The Association shall appoint a special ad hoc committee to be called the Centennial Commemoration Committee. The purpose of the committee shall be to plan for the Association’s centennial commemoration at the 2030 convention. The committee shall be comprised of 3 to 5 members in good standing, appointed by the president to serve a term of 4 years. The committee shall:

- 1) gather and record the history of the Association including but not limited to oral histories of the Association and its members; and,
- 2) work with the 2029-2030 First Vice President to develop and coordinate special centennial commemoration programming for the 2030 convention.

In the first year, the committee shall also develop a timeline, list of tasks, an action plan, and an annual budget (if any, for the purposes of gathering histories including visits to the Association archive, and to be approved by the Finance Committee and the Executive Council).

2020-2026 Strategic Plan (also found on the SSCA website at <https://ssca.memberclicks.net/strategic-plan>)



SSCA 2026-2030 Strategic Plan

Background

The SSCA Constitution states that the officers shall meet for the purpose of strategic planning and that no more than five years shall elapse between such meetings. Prior to the work on this strategic plan, the last strategic planning meetings were held in 2016, 2021, and 2022.

Current Planning Process

The 2024-2025 Administrative Committee, under the leadership of President Carl Cates, started the process of planning. At the 2025 Norfolk convention, a session was held to discuss the strategic plan and receive input from the SSCA membership. The 2025-2026 Administrative Committee, under the leadership of President Pat Wheaton, processed the members’ input, studied previous strategic plans, developed ideas relevant to the organization today, and developed and finalized the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. The SSCA officers involved in this two-year process included:

Frances Brandau, Sam Houston
State University
Ann Burnette, Texas State University
Carl Cates, University of Texas-Permian Basin

Xiaoti Fan, University of Alabama
in Huntsville
Rebecca Fox, Texas State University

John Haas, University of Tennessee
Knoxville
Jerry Hale, University of Tennessee
Chattanooga
Heather Hayes, University of Alabama
Kimberly Johnson, Tennessee State University
Mary Meares, University of Alabama
Laurie Metcalf, Blinn College

Leslie Pace, Southeast Missouri State University
Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, Texas Tech University
Leland Spencer, University of South Carolina
Antonio Spikes, Georgia Southern University
Ryan Tabrizi, Syracuse University
Nakia Welch, San Jacinto College
Pat Wheaton, Georgia Southern University

Accountability for this plan includes

- Reporting strategic plan accomplishments at the mid-year Executive Council business meeting and the annual convention business meetings • Scheduling a session on strategic planning at the annual conference.

1. Planning for an Engaged Community

SSCA's officers and members have repeatedly expressed their commitment to making SSCA a welcoming and inclusive organization. To accomplish this strategic goal, we will:

- Recruit in different areas to expand membership, including recruiting at HBCUs, community colleges, and institutions located near the site of the annual conference.
- Develop resources for SSCA leadership, sharing such resources through convention sessions and a web page section
- Develop engagement plans to engage communities outside of the membership, including but not limited to K-12 teachers and forensic educators
- Develop conference sessions with scholars to discuss engagement, inclusion, and leadership
- Enhance relationships with state associations, including offering speaker resources for state associations (focusing on past presidents)
- Plan a conference session for the Undergraduate Honors Conference on selecting and applying to graduate programs, perhaps in conjunction with the UHC Breakfast
- Plan conference sessions spotlighting previously selected awardees of SSCA teaching and scholarship awards, such as recipients of Sisco teaching Award, Freshley New Teacher Award, Osborn Teacher-Scholar Award, Osborn Community College Educator Award, Rushing Early Career Research Award, and Hendrix Instructional Development Award

2. Continue Improving Communication

Although SSCA has made improvements in our communication channels (web site, emails, podcasts, newsletters) in recent years, we recognize that there is additional, important work to do to communicate with our members more effectively and more consistently. To improve these channels of communication (because, after all, we are communication scholars), we will:

- Assess and budget for a new website that may include our convention planning functions
- Improve and expand our communication, including the use of social media to communicate, with members and other external stakeholders
- Plan conference informational and listening sessions pertaining to SSCA business and other association-related matters beyond the formal discussions of the AC, EC, and the annual business meeting
- Send quarterly emails to include
 - Updates on association matters and progress on strategic initiatives
 - Updates on conference planning
 - Reports from committees, divisions, and interest groups
 - Spotlights on member accomplishments, including awards and other honors both within and outside the association
- Develop Crisis Communication plans

3. Increase Revenue for the Association

Although SSCA is currently financially strong, we know that it is imperative that the leadership continue to bring in revenues, keep membership and conference rates reasonable, and reduce the deficit spending on the convention each year. With rising food and beverage minimums for future convention locations, future conventions will increasingly spend more than they generate in revenue. We will

- Explore more options for revenue streams more broadly, including options that provide revenue throughout the year, rather than just at the time of the conference, such as web advertisements and other member services
- Transition away from the costly production of the printed program without sacrificing the income that program advertisements bring.
- Fundraise for named awards and for conference receptions so that less funding is required in the SSCA annual budget
- Continue to reassess the role and duties of the Strategic Communication Director
- Investigate the legal option for establishing a foundation/endowment to financially support SSCA
- Consider changes in membership categories, dues, and conference fees

4. Study the Future of our Conference

With changes in communication technology affecting the way we communicate, and in light of the instability of institutional support for faculty travel, we will

- Survey members to better understand their needs and desires pertaining to the annual conference
- Explore the practical and financial implications of offering online or hybrid options for participation in the annual conference, including

- the effect of online or hybrid options on room block and food & beverage requirements in contracts with host sites
- the audiovisual requirements for supporting online or hybrid options, including availability of such equipment and costs
- the possibility of day rates for members, particularly graduate students, who may not be able to attend or afford to attend a multi-day conference
- Survey members post-conference to gather conference feedback to improve future conference planning and delivery
- Review the current conference planning and development process, including
 - Site selection and planning timeline
 - Review of online platforms for submission, review, and programming
 - Planner and reviewer training, particularly in the use of the online platform
 - Development of alternative session options including poster sessions, scholar-to-scholar sessions, and research-in-progress roundtables
 - Revision of review forms to be more applicable to submission types (competitive papers, panels and roundtables, posters, research-in-progress)

5. Prepare for the 100th Anniversary of the Association

SSCA was founded in 1930 and held its first conference that year in Birmingham, Alabama. Our 100th conference location has yet to be determined but will occur in the Spring of 2030. To commemorate and celebrate our centennial, we will

- Solicit members to serve on an ad-hoc Centennial Commemoration Committee, to be established by the Executive Council per the provisions of the SSCA Constitution for ad hoc committees serving more than one year
- Gather information and oral histories to create a “History of SSCA”
- Develop special programming for the 2030 conference to commemorate the Association’s centennial

5.2 Vice President – Narissra Punyanunt-Carter

The First Vice President will provide a more detailed report about the 2026 Convention planning at the meeting. But the draft program is now available for Division and Interest Group planners and EC members to review. The draft program is available at <https://www.xcdsystem.com/ssca/program/6Vc9wD2/index.cfm>

Tallies for SSCA 2026

African American Communication Division	4
American Society for the History of Rhetoric Interest Group	2
Applied Communication Division	8
Argumentation & Forensics Division	4
Association for Communication Administration Interest Group	3
Communication Theory & Methodology Division	5
Community College Division	6
Ethnography Interest Group	5
Freedom of Speech Division	5
Gender Studies Division	7
G.I.F.T.S.	2
Health Communication Division	9
Identity, Inclusion, & Social Justice Division	7
Instructional Development Division	14
Intercultural Communication Division	5
Interpersonal Communication Division	11
Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group	3
Language and Social Interaction Interest Group	2
Mass Communication Division	7
Performance Studies Division	11
Philosophy & Ethics of Communication Interest Group	3
Political Communication Division	7
Popular Communication Division	6
Public Relations Division	7
Rhetoric and Public Address Division	12
State Associations Interest Group	2
Southern Colloquium on Rhetoric	2
Poster Sessions	2
President/Vice-President Spotlights	7
Undergraduate Honors Conference	16

5.3 Immediate Past President & Nominating Committee – Carl Cates

Will report at meeting

5.4 Vice President Elect – Leland Spencer

UHC had 74 submissions and accepted 47 of them for a 63.5% acceptance rate. The planner thanks all of those who reviewed papers and/or agreed to chair and respond to panels.

5.5 Executive Director – Frances Brandau

At the recommendation and with the assistance of Dr. John Haas, I have been working with X-CD to move SSCA from MemberClicks to a WordPress platform managed by X-CD. After consultation with the Finance Committee (especially Chair Dr. Nakia Welch), former Executive Director Dr. Haas, and the Administrative Council, the transition to the new website platform and program app was approved at the August 29, 2025 Administrative Council meeting. This change will enhance the website’s appearance, improve ease of editing and updates, and streamline the management of backend data and organizational processes.

We anticipate using a convention app similar to that used by NCA, allowing us to communicate program changes and updates through real-time notifications rather than inserting loose pages into printed programs. Once fully implemented, we expect long-term cost savings, as we will no longer incur the more than \$8,000 in annual expenses for layout, printing, and shipping of paper convention programs.

X-CD Pricing	Current (2024-25)	Proposed (2025-26)	Proposed (2026+)
Abstract & Speaker Management (Core Module)	\$3000	\$3000	\$3000
Track Chair Module	\$1000	\$1000	\$1000
Print Output Generator	\$500	\$500	\$500
Container Mobile App	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500
Membership & Assoc. Management (Core Module)	-	\$5000	\$5000
Attendee Registration (Core Module)	-	\$3000	\$3000
Website Develop & Design	-	\$7500***	
Website Hosting & Database Integrations	-	\$3500	\$3500
X-CD Total	\$7,000	\$26,000	\$18,500
Memberclicks and Printed Programs			
Memberclicks (2024)	\$6800		
Printed Programs (2024, including shipping)	\$9200*	\$3000**	
Donation to offset migration		(\$5000)	
TOTAL COST TO SSCA	\$23,000	\$24,000	\$18,500

**Estimated charges based on 2024 pricing; these costs have been rising in recent years and it is expected to continue to increase year after year.*

**\$3000 fee for printed programs is a complete guess – we will provide a basic printed program in 2025, in addition to the use of the phone app.

***\$7500 charge is fee to convert website over from Memberclicks to X-CD; one year only charge

**Southern States Communication Association
Membership Report 2025 Pre-NCA
Current as of 3Mar26**

Membership Categories												
Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Regular	187	158	165	226	214		375	255	244	271	230	210
Sustaining	197	233	178	170	126		92	66	91	75	87	73
Patron	20	15	16	14	12		8	12	8	7	8	7
Student	172	204	171	192	173		168	148	151	148	117	113
Life	61	65	69	73	73		77	78	81	78	86	84
Emeritus	24	28	27	27	29		28	27	27	3	4	6
Total	658	703	626	702	628		678*	594	606	582	532	493
Regional Journal	17	15	8	9	7		5	8	7	7	10	11
Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Institutional	22	12	13	31	27		14	17	22		17	24
Renew-Inactive							70					

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

Reports: All Division and Interest Group chairs, please submit your officer updates, bylaw changes, and business meeting minutes using the form found on the SSCA website > Division/Interest Groups. If you have questions about what information to submit, please contact the webmaster, Elizabeth Hanson Smith at webmaster@ssca.net

Remember to submit your updates within one week of the conference so the website can be updated with the new information.

Divisions as of 3Mar26												
Division	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
African Amer										36	47	43
Applied Comm	159	46	134	139	117		124	96	84	81	59	67
Arg & Forensic	20	48	32	45	42		56	38	35	37	33	28
Comm Theory & Meth	101	209	92	81	88		95	73	60	60	62	68
Community College	38	123	36	44	31		43	29	39	36	28	29
Freedom of Speech	21	30	25	39	28		32	32	22*	24	25	27
Gender Studies	69	75	89	106	91		96	58	57	59	45	42
Health Comm									24*	51	39	37
Ident, Incl, Soc Justice									31	59	37	33
Instructional Dev	57	97	66	72	71		97	70	76	72	56	60
Intercultural Comm	52	64	58	72	59		63	48	37	62	34	30
Interpersonal Comm	105	86	114	117	107		107	80	96	95	73	70
Lang & Social Interaction	50	74	45	41	26		30	30**	21*			
Mass Comm	73	46	75	93	72		90	70	58	58	49	44
None Selected		175	97	124	95		102	97	229	57	74	50
Performance Studies	46	32	49	53	49		43	41	27*	42	27	25
Political Comm	61	63	73	78	85		77	66	46	44	46	44

Division	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Popular Comm	140	74	51	56	56		64	56	47	45	41	38
Public Relations	35	44	51	47	45		51	44	41	41	49	33
Rhetoric & Public Address	221	<i>§J</i>	166	19	129		197	<u>169</u>	151	118	113	108

Interest Groups as of 3Mar26												
Interest Group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Am. Soc. Hist Rhetoric	349	474	298	278	272		244	209	183	167	150	141
Assoc. Comm. Admin.	141	140	110	109	96		106	86**	89	80	74	74
Burke Society	145	119	104	119	101		103	86	67	61	59	52
Ethnography	152	165	151	159	141		146	132	109	114	92	95
None Selected		20	407	534	454		541	291	543	133	106	98
Lang & Social Interaction	50	74	45	41	26		30	30*	21*	87	73	76
Philosophy & Ethics of Communication	154	167	148	155	143		138	124	107	87	103	100
States Association		38	36	50	49		46	42	66	49	61	58

* First year below 5% membership requirement for divisional status

** First year probation for not electing officers

Harvard

AND ASSOCIATES, PA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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, 2025 and 2024, 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 March 23, 2026

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**SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND
NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS
JULY 31, 2025 AND 2024**

ASSETS	2025	2024
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 424,186	\$ 411,608
Total Current Assets	<u>424,186</u>	<u>411,608</u>
 Property and Equipment		
Computers	4,749	4,749
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,018)</u>	<u>(339)</u>
Property and Equipment - Net	<u>3,731</u>	<u>4,410</u>
 Total Assets	 \$ 427,917	 \$ 416,018

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Net Assets		
Unrestricted	\$ 427,917	\$ 416,018
Total Net Assets	427,917	416,018
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 \$ 427,917	 \$ 416,018

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES AND
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS'
REVIEW REPORT.

**SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND
OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JULY 31, 2025 AND 2024**

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Royalties	\$ 42,719	\$ 39,722
Membership Dues	36,085	37,255
Convention Fees	25,178	39,350
Subscriptions	10,682	14,478
Donations	7,995	1,760
Interest	2,818	4,462
Total Revenue	125,477	137,027
Expenses		
Convention Expenses	77,486	97,334
Travel and Meeting Costs	10,445	5,493
Website	6,355	4,940
Professional Fees	5,200	3,300
Contract Services	4,000	14,500
Bank Charges	2,817	4,097
Southern Communication Journal	2,294	3,882
Dues and Subscriptions	1,716	1,574
Insurance	1,309	1,271
Office Supplies	1,277	1,982
Depreciation	679	339
Postage and Shipping	0	4,736
Donations	0	713
Marketing	0	300
Journal Exchange	0	190
Total Expenses	113,578	144,651
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 11,899	\$ (7,624)
Beginning Net Assets	416,018	423,642
Ending Net Assets	\$ _____	\$ _____
	<u>427,917</u>	<u>416,018</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES AND
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS'
REVIEW REPORT.

SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JULY 31, 2025

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, 2023, 2024, and 2025 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 23, 2026, 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, 2025 and 2024.

5.6 Immediate Past Executive Director: John Haas

Will report at meeting

5.7 Strategic Communication Director – vacant

No report submitted

5.8 SCJ Editor – Rebekah Fox

As of 10/20/25

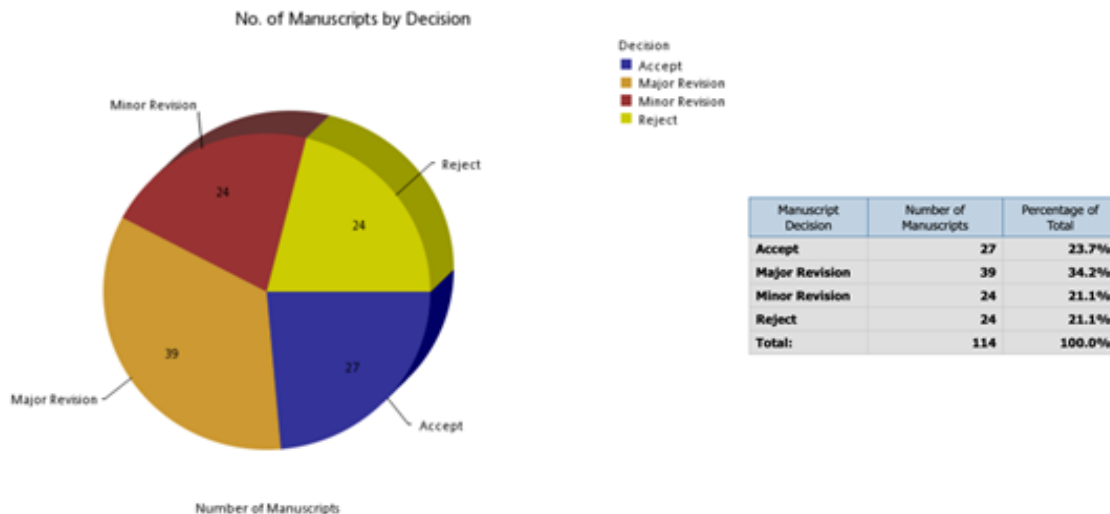
Statistics at a glance

Manuscripts Decided for Southern Communication Journal

Estimated Data Date: Oct 23, 2025 3:48:02 PM

Information based on all manuscripts whose submission date is On or after Oct 23, 2024 and decision date is On or after Oct 23, 2024

Grouped by: Manuscript Decision



Notes:

1. 46 unsubmitted manuscripts (IRB, bad fit, etc.)
2. Restrictions around special issue (I will discuss this in the meeting)
3. Issues with T&F production
4. AI issues with authors is one thing, but reviewers submitting AI generated reviews will need to be addressed.
5. Publication committee may need to help craft policy language.
6. International IRB approval remains a problem

5.9 NCA Legislative Assembly Reps –Laurie Metcalf, Ryan Tabrizi, & Antonio Spikes

NCA Legislative Assembly Report
SSCA Mid-Year Executive Council Meeting
November 2025, Denver, CO

Report from April 2025 Legislative Assembly Meeting

- I. Journal editor approvals
 - A. *Communication and Race*, Sudeshna Roy, Marquette University
 - B. *Communication Education*, Narissra Punyanut-Carter, Texas Tech University
 - C. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, Rahul Mitra, Wayne State University
 - D. One-year extension: *Journal of International and Intercultural Communcation*, Mahuya Pal
- II. Strategic Planning Sessions—Unclear on what, if anything, will happen with the results of these discussions
 - A. LIFT Leading with Imagination and Forward-Thinking--What should NCA be most forward thinking about?
 1. Regarding response to controversial issues, responses were varied including:
 - a) be more collaborative
 - b) respond to political environment and its effect on members’ teaching and research
 - c) “ needs to move from ‘is it an atrocity?’ to ‘how radical should our response be?’”
 2. Support members’ careers
 - a) Through involvement in NCA
 - b) Supporting under-represented and under-privileged members
 3. Support the basic course
 4. More financial transparency
 - B. Assessing the progress with regard to NCA’s strategic plan
 1. Majority voted that the most progress has been made on embracing and enacting diversity, equity, and access
 2. The least progress has been made on promoting communication’s value

5.10 NCA Nominating Committee Representative: Heather Hayes

No report submitted

6. Standing Committee Reports

6.1 Committee on Committees – Patrick Wheaton

Committee on Committees Report

The Committee on Committees, consisting of the members of the Administrative Committee, met on April 6, 2025 in Norfolk, Virginia. In May and June the following individuals were appointed:

- Finance Committee: Jean Dehart
- Publications Committee: John Saunders
- Resolutions Committee: Dinah Tetteh
- Resource & Membership Development Committee: Jessica Beckham
- Time and Place Committee: Scott Christen was asked to chair following the death of the 2025-2026 chair. Scott will chair again in 2026-2027, in what would have been his normal year to chair. Jerry Hale was asked to serve a 1-year term, filling the unexpired term of Pam Bourland-Davis.
- Constitution Committee: Dave Nelson was asked to serve a 2nd year as chair as Todd Goen stepped off the committee to serve as Parliamentarian. Chris McCollough was appointed.
- Johnson-Paget Award Committee: Kevin Davis-Bryant
- Rushing Award Committee: Jonathan Edwards
- Sisco Award Committee: Brian Lain
- Long Award Committee: Ashli Stokes
- Freshley Award Committee: Wesley Buerkle
- M. Osborn Award Committee: Andre Johnson
- S. Osborn Award Committee: Shaquille Marsh
- Ragsdale Award Committee: Ryan Neville-Shepherd

6.2 Constitution – David Nelson

a. Constitution found on the website Our Story>Constitution & Bylaws and [here](#)

Update: Version 3 of the committee report is found [here](#) (20Feb26).



Constitution Committee

To: Frances Brandau, 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 ~~strike through~~ 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	A. Officers: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Executive Director, Journal Editor, Strategic Communication Director, Community Building Diversity Equity & Inclusion
Executive Council	Committee Chair, Finance Committee Chair, the National Communication Association (NCA) representatives
Section 1	

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 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 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.
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	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.

Section 5.	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.
Justification	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.	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. D. Additional members: 2 nd 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, <i>Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee Chair</i> , Community Building Committee Chair , & Membership Development Committee Chair, & any Ad Hoc Committee Chair(s).
Justification	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)
Item #8	
Article IX	C. Members of the Standing Committees, except the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Committees, the Rose B. Johnson Award

Appointment Section 2	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.
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.

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

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 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 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 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.

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.

6.3 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Mary Meares and Kimberly Johnson

DEI Committee Report for the NCA Mid-Year EC Meeting 2025

- **Members**
 - Mary Meares (co-chair), University of Alabama
 - Kimberly P. Johnson (co-chair), Tennessee State University
 - Janine Armstrong, Manchester University
- **Point of Interest**
 - New Members: We are working on naming two new members.
- **DEI Keynote Speakers:** The DEI Committee has committed to creating events that promote the knowledge and education around diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - We were delighted to have Dr. Heather Hayes present the 2024 DEI Keynote in Norfolk. She spoke on Mapping Accessibility in the Communication Discipline: Reframing Inclusion for the Future We Want, in a two-part session with a keynote and workshop.
 - We are currently negotiating with a potential keynote speaker for the Birmingham Convention. More details will be available soon.
- **DEI Committee Name:** Due to the controversies around the concepts and terminology of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, a number of discussions were held at Norfolk about the potential re-naming of the committee. These discussions have continued as the attacks on DEI

have escalated in many of our states. The DEI Committee has been discussing alternatives and we will share our recommendations at the Denver Mid-Year meeting.

6.4 Finance – Nakia Welch

To: Frances Brandau, Executive Director – SSCA
Patrick Wheaton, President - SSCA
From: Nakia Welch, Chair – Finance Committee
Date: 03/04/2026
Re: Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee remained in constant communication since the start of the fall semester, via email with updates of the banking information and multiple Zoom meetings to discuss the state of the finances of the organization and opportunities, options, etc. The committee members have read-only access to the bank accounts, but the chair also sends updates of the financials approximately every 4-6 weeks for convenience.

In the fall, the Finance Committee discussed the financial pros/cons of adopting X=CD as the web hosting provider (currently it is Member Clicks) as well as moving away from a printed program and adopting an electronic app (phone app) for the convention. Ultimately, the committee recommended the move, but to provide both a printed program and the app for the 2026 convention to better prepare membership for the eventual move of no longer providing a printed program.

Throughout the year, the committee discussed the erosion of purchasing power due to inflation and increases in costs for goods and services, especially known substantial increases in Food and Beverage expenses. These forecasted issues motivated the Finance Committee Chair to perform a thorough review and analysis of the financial records, practices, and procedures related to the committee’s charge. This analysis resulted in identification of several areas where implemented changes could help strengthen the budgeting, transparency, accuracy, and processes of the organization as we prepare for future financial stresses.

The number and types of memberships and registrations over the previous 3-4 years was used to predict the anticipated revenue that would be generated while deducting the known and anticipated expenses based on four fee variation options. This led to robust discussion by the committee. The goal was to identify the best strategy to reduce the financial losses while considering the financial obligations the resulting options would have on membership. However, the committee could not come to a consensus regarding several of the topics and potential solutions that were discussed. Details of fee structure changes of four options are provided below, as well as the predicted net results of implementation of these fee changes on the organization over the next four years.

Respectfully submitted,



Nakia Welch
Chair – Finance Committee

Financial Balances *(as of March 24, 2026)*

CHECKING ACCOUNTS	BALANCE
Truist	\$123,599.68
PNC	\$49,743.87
TOTAL	\$173,343.55
CD INVESTMENT	
BALANCE	
Life Membership CD	\$55,403.14
AWARDS	
BALANCE	
Theodore Clevenger Jr. UHC (not an award!)	\$8,548.76
Franklin Shirley Award (Top CUHC Paper)	\$7,235.47
Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award	\$8,127.81
Minority Recruitment and Retention (DEI)	\$11,232.99
Shawn D. Long Outreach Award	\$8,393.35
Dwight L. Freshley Outstanding New Teacher Award	\$6,783.64
T. Earle Johnson- Edwin Paget Distinguished Service Award	\$6,714.68
J. Donald Ragsdale Mentorship Award	\$10,844.97
Rose B. Johnson SCJ Article Award	\$7,050.21
Suzanne Osborn Community College Award	\$10,498.12
John I. Sisco Excellence in Teaching Award	\$10,754.40
Michael M. Osborn Teacher-Scholar Award	\$15,450.76
Janice Hocker Rushing Early Career Research Award	\$79,957.59
TOTAL	\$191,592.73
DIVISIONS	
BALANCE	
Communication Theory and Methodology (Outstanding Scholar Award)	\$30.00
Freedom of Speech (1st Amendment Article of the Year Award)	\$10.00
Intercultural Communication	
Performance Studies (Performance Scholar Award)	
Mass Communication	\$5.00
Rhetoric and Public Address	\$25.00
Argumentation and Forensics (Forensic Contributor/Educator Award)	\$5.00
Instructional Development (Katherine Grace Hendrix ID Article of the Year Award)	\$1840.00
Applied Communication	\$15.00
Gender Studies (Gender Scholar Award)	\$25.00
Popular Communication	\$20.00
Interpersonal Communication	\$35.00
Public Relations	\$5.00
Community College	
Political Communication	\$10.00
Health Communication	
Identity, Inclusion, and Social Justice	\$10.00
African American Communication	

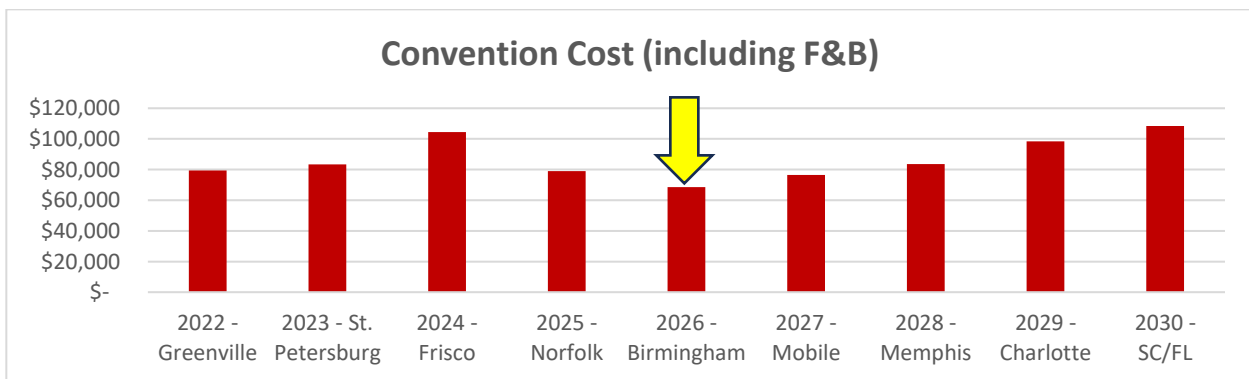
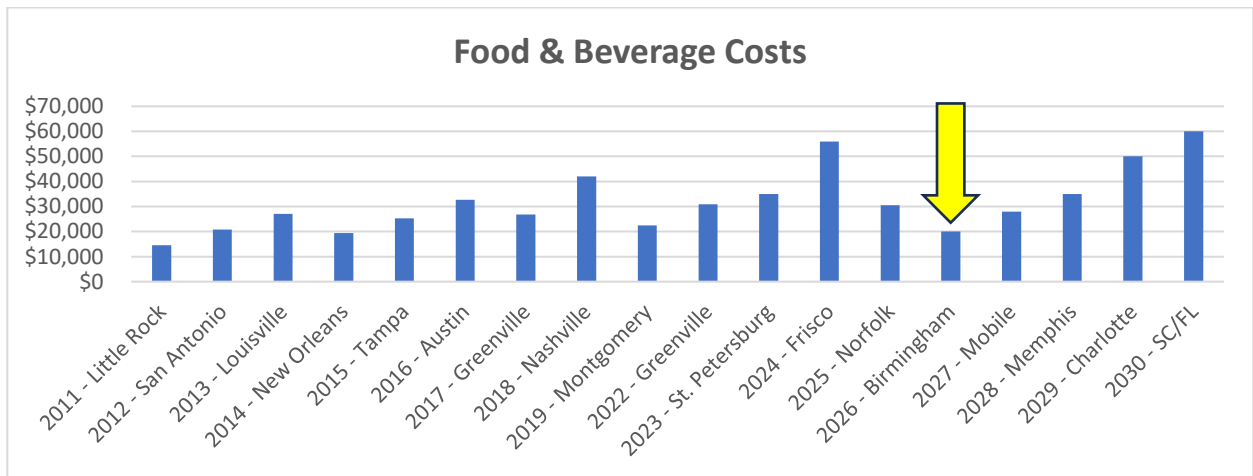
2026 - 2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

Expenses

OPERATIONS - ADMINISTRATIVE (32.1%)		
Accounting/Legal		\$5,500
Executive Director Stipend		\$10,000
Administrative Support		\$2,800
Webmaster Stipend		\$7,980
Strategic Communication Director Stipend		\$-
Marketing Budget		\$500
Centennial Celebration Committee		\$500
X-CD Website Hosting		\$3,500
X-CD Membership & Assoc. Management Module		\$5,000
Financial Charges (bank fees, merchant services, etc.)		\$2,000
Insurance		\$1,750
Operating Expenses (postage, shipping, printing, technology, etc.)		\$2,370
	TOTAL	\$41,900
SJC – SOUTHERN COMMUNICATION JOURNAL (9.5%)		
Taylor & Francis (Print fees, editorial fees, etc.)		\$8,000
Editor Stipend		\$4,400
	TOTAL	\$12,400
CONVENTION - OPERATIONS (17.0%)		
Conference Direct		\$8,200
X-CD Abstract & Speaker Management Module		\$3,000
X-CD Track Chair Module		\$1,000
X-CD Print Output Generator		\$500
X-CD Container Mobile App (program smartphone app)		\$2,500
X-CD Attendee Registration Module		\$3,000
X-CD Usage Fees (\$2/submission & membership)		\$2,000
Misc. (name badges, office, ribbons)		\$1,100
Printing & Shipping (program, signage, etc.)		\$900
	TOTAL	\$22,200
CONVENTION - PROGRAMMING (7.3%)		
President's Convention Support		\$4,000
1st VP Convention Support		\$4,250
2nd VP-Elect Convention Support		\$750
Executive Director Convention Support		\$500
DEI Convention Support		\$2,500
Awards (plaques, certificates, etc.)		\$2,000
	TOTAL	\$9,500
CONVENTION - FACILITIES (34.1%)		
Travel (Time & Place, site visits, etc.)		\$6,000
Audio-Visual Equipment Rental		\$3,500
Food and Beverage		\$35,000
	TOTAL	\$44,500
2026-2027 SSCA TOTALS		\$130,500

F&B and Convention Costs

Year/City	F&B	Year/City	F&B
2011 - Little Rock	\$14,500	2022 - Greenville	\$30,893
2012 - San Antonio	\$20,754	2023 - St. Petersburg	\$34,927
2013 - Louisville	\$27,000	2024 - Frisco	\$56,000
2014 - New Orleans	\$19,363	2025 - Norfolk	\$30,460
2015 - Tampa	\$25,220	2026 - Birmingham	\$20,000
2016 - Austin	\$32,670	2027 - Mobile	\$28,000
2017 - Greenville	\$26,809	2028 - Memphis	\$35,000
2018 - Nashville	\$42,004	2029 - Charlotte	\$50,000
2019 - Montgomery	\$22,419	2030 - SC/FL	\$60,000



Fee Options

- **Option A:** Status Quo – No changes to pricing
- **Option B:** Increase everything across the board by \$5/each
 - Except Life Memberships, which will increase by \$200
- **Option C:** Targeted minimal increases (avg \$10-\$15) to most fees
- **Option D:** Targeted increases (avg \$20-\$25) to most fees

MEMBERSHIP	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Life	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Regular	\$ 65	\$ 70	\$ 70	\$ 75
Sustaining	\$ 100	\$ 105	\$ 200	\$ 200
Patron	\$ 200	\$ 205	\$ 200	\$ 200
G. Student	\$ 30	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 25
Emeritus	\$ 30	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 50
Institutional	\$ 100	\$ 105	\$ 125	\$ 125
Premium Aff.	\$ 125	\$ 130	\$ 150	\$ 150

REGISTRATION	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Regular	\$ 60	\$ 65	\$ 80	\$ 75
Sustaining	\$ 100	\$ 105	\$ 200	\$ 200
Emeritus	\$ 30	\$ 35	\$ 50	\$ 50
G. Student	\$ 30	\$ 35	\$ 50	\$ 50
UHC	\$ 50	\$ 55	\$ 65	\$ 75
Guest/Day Pass	\$ 35	\$ 40	\$ 45	\$ 50
Nonmember			\$ 150	\$ 150

Patron/Premium Affiliate - Reg. Included w/membership

Predicted Outcome (4-year totals)

	Mobile	Memphis	Charlotte	SC/FL	4-YR NET
Option A	\$ (14,688)	\$ (21,688)	\$ (36,688)	\$ (46,688)	\$ (119,752)
Option B	\$ (10,133)	\$ (17,133)	\$ (32,133)	\$ (42,133)	\$ (101,532)
Option C	\$ (2,958)	\$ (9,958)	\$ (24,958)	\$ (34,958)	\$ (72,832)
Option D	\$ 417	\$ (6,583)	\$ (21,583)	\$ (31,583)	\$ (59,332)

Estimated 4-year net losses of Option A: (\$119,752)

Option A (Status Quo)								
	Memberships	Cost	Birmingham	Mobile	Memphis	Charlotte	SC/FL	
			Total					
Life	2	\$ 1,600	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	
Regular	251	\$ 65	\$ 16,315	\$ 16,315	\$ 16,315	\$ 16,315	\$ 16,315	
Sustaining	80	\$ 100	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	
Patron	9	\$ 200	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	
Student	142	\$ 30	\$ 4,260	\$ 4,260	\$ 4,260	\$ 4,260	\$ 4,260	
Emeritus	15	\$ 30	\$ 450	\$ 450	\$ 450	\$ 450	\$ 450	
Institutional	15	\$ 100	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	
Premium Affiliate		\$ 125						
AVG Revenue			\$ 35,525	\$ 35,525	\$ 35,525	\$ 35,525	\$ 35,525	
AVG Expenses			\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	
NET			\$ 18,093	\$ 18,093	\$ 18,093	\$ 18,093	\$ 18,093	
			Total					
	Registration Attend.	Cost						
Regular	168	\$ 60	\$ 10,080	\$ 10,080	\$ 10,080	\$ 10,080	\$ 10,080	
Sustaining	80	\$ -	\$ -					
Patron	4	\$ -	\$ -					
Emeritus	2	\$ -	\$ -					
Student	94	\$ 30	\$ 2,820	\$ 2,820	\$ 2,820	\$ 2,820	\$ 2,820	
UHC	45	\$ 50	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250	
Guest/Day Pass	12	\$ 35	\$ 420	\$ 420	\$ 420	\$ 420	\$ 420	
Nonmember			\$ -					
AVG Revenue			\$ 15,570	\$ 15,570	\$ 15,570	\$ 15,570	\$ 15,570	
AVG Expenses			\$ 101,013	\$ 109,013	\$ 116,013	\$ 131,013	\$ 141,013	
NET Convention			\$ (85,443)	\$ (93,443)	\$ (100,443)	\$ (115,443)	\$ (125,443)	
Operations + Convention Registration			\$ (67,350)	\$ (75,350)	\$ (82,350)	\$ (97,350)	\$ (107,350)	
AVG 'other' Convention Revenue			\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	
Investment Interest			\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	
Journal Revenue			\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	
TOTAL/NET (Profit/Loss)			\$ (6,688)	\$ (14,688)	\$ (21,688)	\$ (36,688)	\$ (46,688)	

Estimated 4-year net losses of Option B: (\$101,532)

Option B							
			Birmingham	Mobile	Memphis	Charlotte	SC/FL
	Memberships	Cost	Total				
Life	2	\$ 1,800	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
Regular	251	\$ 70	\$ 17,570	\$ 17,570	\$ 17,570	\$ 17,570	\$ 17,570
Sustaining	80	\$ 105	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400
Patron	9	\$ 205	\$ 1,845	\$ 1,845	\$ 1,845	\$ 1,845	\$ 1,845
Student	142	\$ 35	\$ 4,970	\$ 4,970	\$ 4,970	\$ 4,970	\$ 4,970
Emeritus	15	\$ 35	\$ 525	\$ 525	\$ 525	\$ 525	\$ 525
Institutional	15	\$ 105	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575
Premium Affiliate		\$ 130					
AVG Revenue			\$ 38,485	\$ 38,485	\$ 38,485	\$ 38,485	\$ 38,485
AVG Expenses			\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432
NET			\$ 21,053	\$ 21,053	\$ 21,053	\$ 21,053	\$ 21,053
	Registration Attend.	Cost	Total				
Regular	168	\$ 65	\$ 10,920	\$ 10,920	\$ 10,920	\$ 10,920	\$ 10,920
Sustaining	80		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Patron	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Emeritus	2		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Student	94	\$ 35	\$ 3,290	\$ 3,290	\$ 3,290	\$ 3,290	\$ 3,290
UHC	45	\$ 55	\$ 2,475	\$ 2,475	\$ 2,475	\$ 2,475	\$ 2,475
Guest/Day Pass	12	\$ 40	\$ 480	\$ 480	\$ 480	\$ 480	\$ 480
Nonmember			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
AVG Revenue			\$ 17,165	\$ 17,165	\$ 17,165	\$ 17,165	\$ 17,165
AVG Expenses			\$ 101,013	\$ 109,013	\$ 116,013	\$ 131,013	\$ 141,013
NET Convention			\$ (83,848)	\$ (91,848)	\$ (98,848)	\$ (113,848)	\$ (123,848)
Operations + Convention Registration			\$ (62,795)	\$ (70,795)	\$ (77,795)	\$ (92,795)	\$ (102,795)
AVG 'other' Convention Revenue			\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Investment Interest			\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Journal Revenue			\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662
TOTAL/NET (Profit/Loss)			\$ (2,133)	\$ (10,133)	\$ (17,133)	\$ (32,133)	\$ (42,133)

Estimated 4-year net losses of Option C: (\$72,832)

Option C							
			Birmingham	Mobile	Memphis	Charlotte	SC/FL
	Memberships	Cost	Total				
Life	2	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Regular	331	\$ 70	\$ 23,170	\$ 23,170	\$ 23,170	\$ 23,170	\$ 23,170
Sustaining	 	 	 	 	 	 	
Patron	9	\$ 200	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
Student	142	\$ 35	\$ 4,970	\$ 4,970	\$ 4,970	\$ 4,970	\$ 4,970
Emeritus	15	\$ 35	\$ 525	\$ 525	\$ 525	\$ 525	\$ 525
Institutional	15	\$ 125	\$ 1,875	\$ 1,875	\$ 1,875	\$ 1,875	\$ 1,875
Premium Affiliate		\$ 150					
AVG Revenue			\$ 36,340	\$ 36,340	\$ 36,340	\$ 36,340	\$ 36,340
AVG Expenses			\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432
NET			\$ 18,908	\$ 18,908	\$ 18,908	\$ 18,908	\$ 18,908
	Registration Attend.	Cost	Total				
Regular	229	\$ 80	\$ 18,320	\$ 18,320	\$ 18,320	\$ 18,320	\$ 18,320
Sustaining	 	 	 	 	 	 	
Patron	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Emeritus	2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Student	94	\$ 50	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,700
UHC	45	\$ 65	\$ 2,925	\$ 2,925	\$ 2,925	\$ 2,925	\$ 2,925
Guest/Day Pass	12	\$ 45	\$ 540	\$ 540	\$ 540	\$ 540	\$ 540
Nonmember		\$ 150	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
AVG Revenue			\$ 26,485	\$ 26,485	\$ 26,485	\$ 26,485	\$ 26,485
AVG Expenses			\$ 101,013	\$ 109,013	\$ 116,013	\$ 131,013	\$ 141,013
NET Convention			\$ (74,528)	\$ (82,528)	\$ (89,528)	\$ (104,528)	\$ (114,528)
Operations + Convention Registration			\$ (55,620)	\$ (63,620)	\$ (70,620)	\$ (85,620)	\$ (95,620)
AVG 'other' Convention Revenue			\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Investment Interest			\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Journal Revenue			\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662
TOTAL/NET (Profit/Loss)			\$ 5,042	\$ (2,958)	\$ (9,958)	\$ (24,958)	\$ (34,958)

Estimated 4-year net losses of Option D: (\$59,332)

Option D							
			Birmingham	Mobile	Memphis	Charlotte	SC/FL
	Memberships	Cost	Total				
Life	2	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Regular	331	\$ 75	\$ 24,825	\$ 24,825	\$ 24,825	\$ 24,825	\$ 24,825
Sustaining	 	 	 	 	 	 	
Patron	9	\$ 200	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
Student	142	\$ 25	\$ 3,550	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100
Emeritus	15	\$ 50	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750
Institutional	15	\$ 125	\$ 1,875	\$ 1,875	\$ 1,875	\$ 1,875	\$ 1,875
Premium Affiliate		\$ 150					
AVG Revenue			\$ 36,800	\$ 40,350	\$ 40,350	\$ 40,350	\$ 40,350
AVG Expenses			\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432	\$ 17,432
NET			\$ 19,368	\$ 22,918	\$ 22,918	\$ 22,918	\$ 22,918
	Registration Attend.	Cost	Total				
Regular	229	\$ 75	\$ 17,175	\$ 17,175	\$ 17,175	\$ 17,175	\$ 17,175
Sustaining	 	 	 	 	 	 	
Patron	4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Emeritus	2	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Student	94	\$ 50	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,700
UHC	45	\$ 75	\$ 3,375	\$ 3,375	\$ 3,375	\$ 3,375	\$ 3,375
Guest/Day Pass	12	\$ 50	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600
Nonmember		\$ 150	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
AVG Revenue			\$ 25,950	\$ 25,850	\$ 25,850	\$ 25,850	\$ 25,850
AVG Expenses			\$ 101,013	\$ 109,013	\$ 116,013	\$ 131,013	\$ 141,013
NET Convention			\$ (75,063)	\$ (83,163)	\$ (90,163)	\$ (105,163)	\$ (115,163)
Operations + Convention Registration			\$ (55,695)	\$ (60,245)	\$ (67,245)	\$ (82,245)	\$ (92,245)
AVG 'other' Convention Revenue			\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Investment Interest			\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Journal Revenue			\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662	\$ 36,662
TOTAL/NET (Profit/Loss)			\$ 4,967	\$ 417	\$ (6,583)	\$ (21,583)	\$ (31,583)

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

From: Nakia Welch, Chair – Finance Committee

Date: 10/17/2025

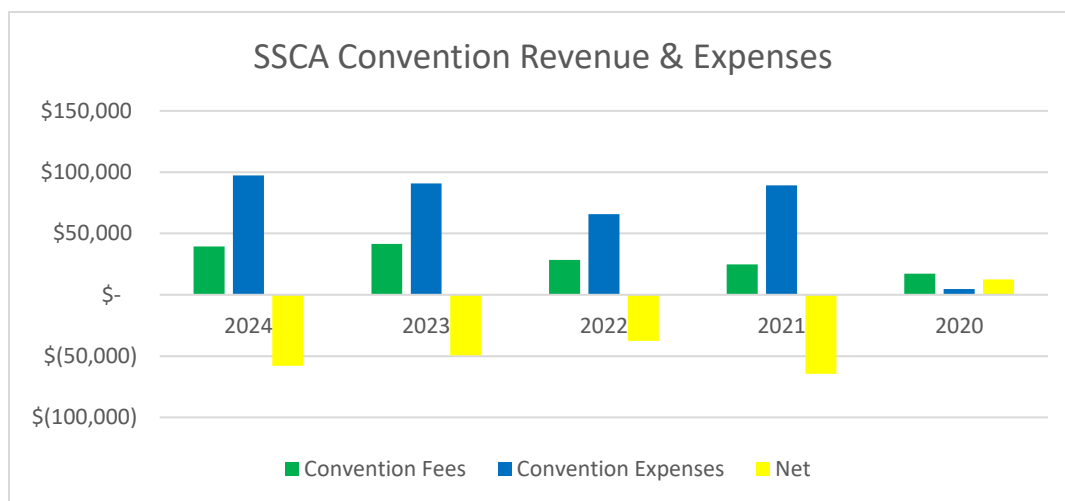
Re: Finance Committee Mid-Year Report

The Finance Committee remained in constant communication since the start of the fall semester, having met via Zoom on 8/21/2025 and continued communicating via email subsequently. The committee members have read-only access to the bank accounts, but the chair also sends updates of the financials during the first week of each month for convenience. The approximate balances of the checking accounts, organization CD and Award CD balances are provided in Appendix A.

The Finance Committee discussed the financial pros/cons of adopting X=CD as the web hosting provider (currently it is Member Clicks) as well as moving away from a printed program and adopting an electronic app (phone app) for the convention. Ultimately, the committee recommended the move, but to provide both a printed program and the app for the 2025 convention to better prepare membership for the eventual move of no longer providing a printed program.

In the absence of a Strategic Communication Director and/or Marketing Director, the Finance Chair has been working with the Executive Director and the Chair of the Resource Committee in creating pricing guidelines for advertising and sponsorship for the upcoming convention, which includes both printed program advertising options and convention app sponsorship options (in addition to the traditional sponsorship options, such as exhibit tables, etc.). Additionally, an option for a lanyard sponsor has been added, which would allow a sponsor to provide branded lanyards with the SSCA name badges to attendees. The goal in these moves is to increase revenue through sponsorships for the organization.

Finally, the Finance Chair has evaluated the financials of the convention for the past few years as provided by Harvard & Associates and has identified an issue that warrants a recommendation to the organization to evaluate and consider a change to its fee structure. The organization has been losing an average of about \$50,000 hosting the convention each year, with the total losses increasing year over year. The prediction is this trend will continue as hotel Food & Beverage requirements for future convention sites have doubled and tripled from just five years ago. A chart/table has been provided (appendix B) that shows the convention revenue and expenses, as reported by Harvard & Associates.



Checking Accounts		
Truist		\$81,387.51
PNC		\$80,759.93
Checking Total		\$162,147.44
CD – SSCA Organization		
PNC		\$54,666.02
CD – Awards		
Theodore Clevenger Jr. UHC (not an award!)		\$8,501.00
Franklin Shirley Award (Top CUHC Paper)		\$7,195.00
Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award		\$8,083.00
Minority Recruitment and Retention (DEI)		\$11,171.00
Shawn D. Long Outreach Award		\$8,347.00
Dwight L. Freshley Outstanding New Teacher Award		\$6,746.00
T. Earle Johnson- Edwin Paget Distinguished Service Award		\$6,677.00
J. Donald Ragsdale Mentorship Award		\$10,785.00
Rose B. Johnson SCJ Article Award		\$7,011.00
Suzanne Osborn Community College Award		\$10,440.00
John I. Sisco Excellence in Teaching Award		\$10,695.00
Michael M. Osborn Teacher-Scholar Award		\$15,365.00
Janice Hocker Rushing Early Career Research Award		\$79,514.00
Katherine Grace Hendrix Instructional Development Article of the Year Award		\$1,800.00
CDs Total		\$246,501.02
TOTAL BALANCES		\$409,148.46

Convention Revenue & Expenses

	<i>Frisco, TX</i>	<i>St. Pete., FL</i>	<i>Greenville, SC</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>*Covid*</i>
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Convention Fees	\$ 39,350	\$ 41,468	\$ 28,355	\$ 24,770	\$ 17,189
Convention Expenses	\$ 97,334	\$ 90,822	\$ 65,827	\$ 89,230	\$ 4,741
	\$ (57,984)	\$ (49,354)	\$ (37,472)	\$ (64,460)	\$ 12,448

(Data pulled from Harvard & Associates Financial Reports)

6.5 Nominating Committee – Carl Cates

Will report at meeting

6.6 Publications – Keven James Rudrow

No report submitted

6.7 Resolutions – Breann Murphy

Resolutions Presented at the 2026 Annual Meeting Sheraton Convention Center Birmingham, Alabama

Recognition of SSCA Officers

WHEREAS, Carl M. Cates has served SSCA with distinction as the current Immediate Past President; and
WHEREAS, Patrick Wheaton has served SSCA with distinction as the current President; and
WHEREAS, Narissra M. Punyanunt-Carter has served as 1st Vice President, and skillfully planned a wonderful 2026 conference; and
WHEREAS, Leland G. Spencer has served SSCA with distinction as 2nd Vice President and skillfully planned the 2026 Theodore Clevenger Jr. Undergraduate Honors Conference; and
WHEREAS, Frances Brandau has served SSCA as the Executive Director; therefore
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the association gives special thanks to the officers of SSCA.

Recognition of SCJ Editor

WHEREAS, Rebekah Fox has provided skillful editorial leadership for SSCA's *Southern Communication Journal*, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the association thanks her for her service as the SCJ editor.

Recognition of SSCA Representatives to NCA

WHEREAS, Laurie Metcalf, Ryan Tabrizi, and Antonio Spikes have served as NCA Legislative Assembly Representatives; and
WHEREAS, Heather Ashley Hayes has serve as the NCA Nominating Committee Representative, therefore
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the association gives special thanks to these representatives for their service.

Recognition of Service on Standing Committees

WHEREAS, the following individuals have served SSCA as the Chair of the following standing committees:

Committee on Committees: Patrick G. Wheaton,

Constitution: David R. Nelson,

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Mary M. Meares and Kimberly P. Johnson,

Finance: Nakia Welch,

Publications: Keven James Rudrow,

Nominating: Carl M. Cates,

Resolutions: Breann Murphy,

Resource Development & Membership: Michelle D. Groover,

Time and Place: Scott A. Christen, and

WHEREAS, the work of standing committees provides necessary leadership to the association; therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the association thanks the standing committee chairs for their years of service on SSCA standing committees.

Recognition of Service on Awards Committees

WHEREAS, the following individuals have served SSCA as Chair of the following awards committees:

Rose B. Johnson SCJ Article Award committee: Rebekah L. Fox,
Dwight L. Freshley Outstanding New Teacher Award committee: Pui Charoensap-Kelly,
John I. Sisco Excellence in Teaching Award committee: Margaret Butcher,
Janice Hocker Rushing Early Career Research Award committee: Joshua H. Miller,
Shawn D. Long Outreach Award committee: Kennaria Brown,
T. Earle Johnson – Edwin Paget Distinguished Service Award committee: John W. Haas,
Michael M. Osborn Teacher-Scholar Award committee: Jaason Edward Black,
Minority Recruitment and Retention Award committee: Mary M. Meares and Kimberly J. Johnson,
Suzanne Osborn Community College Award committee: Karen Hill, and
J. Donald Ragsdale Award for Mentoring: Matt Spialek, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SSCA thanks the awards committee chairs for their service to the association.

Recognition of Lauralee Shapiro of ConferenceDirect

WHEREAS, Lauralee Shapiro of ConferenceDirect has provided support and invaluable assistance to the SSCA President and members of the administrative committee in site selection; and

WHEREAS, Lauralee Shapiro has provided ongoing support to the association’s Vice Presidents and Executive Director in planning SSCA’s annual conventions; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SSCA gives special thanks and recognition to Lauralee Shapiro for her service to the association.

Recognition of SSCA Member Service Director

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Hanson Smith worked diligently to coordinate member services, maintain the SSCA website, and make the conference a success,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the association thanks her for her dedication and service.

And finally,

In Memoriam Recognition for Dr. Pamela Bourland-Davis

WHEREAS, we thank our dear friend and colleague for her years of service, mentorship, and guidance to SSCA; and

WHEREAS, we thank her for her time as SSCA 2020 President as well as her many other officer and service roles to this association; and

WHEREAS, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and academic community who grieve her loss; and therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that SSCA hereby recognizes and commends Dr. Pamela Bourland-Davis for her dedication to the field of communication.

6.8 Resource Development – Michelle Groover

CONVENTION SUPPORT TIERS

PLATINUM \$1,800	GOLD \$1,200	SILVER \$900	BRONZE \$600
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibitor table for three days Two full page ads in printed program Inside or outside cover of printed program Banner ad on the app Splash ad on the app Listed in the program as a convention sponsor Logo included at bottom of official membership email Push notification ads via the app 2-4 times/year, after the convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibitor table for three days Full page ad in printed program Banner ad on the app Listed in the program as a convention sponsor Push notification ads via the app 2-4 times/year, after the convention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibitor table for two days Half page ad in printed program Banner ad in the app Listed in the program as a convention sponsor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibitor table for one day Half page ad in printed program Listed in the program as a convention sponsor

SSCA SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

EVENT SPONSORSHIPS

SSCA WELCOME RECEPTION SPONSOR \$300 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listed logo on the signage at the event Listed in the program and app as a convention sponsor 	SSCA MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING SPONSOR \$300 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentioned by the speaker as the sponsor of the breakfast Listed in the program and app as a convention sponsor 	PANEL SPONSOR \$100 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor a specific panel (will be provided a list to choose from) Listed in the program and app as a convention sponsor
UNDERGRADUATE HONORS CONFERENCE BREAKFAST SPONSOR \$300 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentioned by the speaker as the sponsor of the breakfast Listed in the program and app as a convention sponsor 	AWARDS LUNCHEON SPONSOR \$300 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentioned by the speaker as the sponsor of the luncheon Listed in the program and app as a convention sponsor 	DIVISION/INTEREST GROUP BUS. MEETING SPONSOR \$100 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentioned by the speaker as the sponsor of the meeting Listed in the program and app as a convention sponsor

A LA CARTE PRICING

TABLES \$325 Exhibitor table for one day \$500 Exhibitor table for two days \$600 Exhibitor table for three days \$150 Graduate Fair recruitment table \$150 UHC Recruitment table	PRINTED PROGRAM ADS \$400 Inside cover of printed program (limit of 2) \$450 Outside cover of printed program (limit of 2) \$250 Half page ad in printed program \$300 Full page ad in printed program \$400 Two full pages in printed program	LANYARD SPONSOR* \$2,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lanyard with publisher's name/logo (optional included option; SSCA will order for sponsor's convenience) Banner ad on the app Half page ad in the printed program Exhibitor table for two days Listed in the program as a convention sponsor <small>*Limit 1 lanyard sponsor per conference</small>
CONFERENCE APP ADS \$200 Splash ad <small>Logo appears at app launch</small> \$100 Banner ad <small>Logo appears on certain screens in the app</small>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Interested? Need more info? www.sscanet.net director@ssca.net </div>	

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This is the mid-year report for the Resource & Membership Development Committee.

Since SSCA currently does not have a Strategic Communication/Marketing person, Michelle Groover, chair of the committee, has been meeting via email with Nakia Welch, finance chair, and Frances Brandau to discuss pricing for print ads and ads for the new conference app (see below for draft)

Michelle and Jessica Beckham, committee member, have met to discuss next steps regarding selling/promoting the ads, as well as sales for and promoting the Caring Connections program. The committee has developed a list of all graduate schools with communication programs in the states which represent SSCA, as well as a list of publishers to contact to sell ads, exhibition tables, etc. These entities will be contacted once the price list is finalized.

Caring Connections can be pre-purchased through the SSCA website or in person at the conference.

6.9 Time and Place – Scott Christen

To: Dr. Frances Brandau, Executive Director, SSCA
From: Lauralee Shapiro, ConferenceDirect Global Account Executive
Date: Monday, October 27, 2025

Re: SSCA Time & Place Committee Report for 2030 Convention

Request for Proposal sent to Myrtle Beach SC, Charleston SC, Amelia Island FL and Jacksonville FL.

South Carolina:

- * RFP sent to 5 hotels in the two above-mentioned cities in South Carolina
- * 4 hotels turned down the RFP for various reasons
- * Received bid from Hilton / Embassy Suites complex in Myrtle Beach, SC
- * After the site visits, it was determined that the Embassy Suites was a better option than the Hilton

Florida:

- * RFP sent to 2 hotels in the two above-mentioned cities in Florida
- * Only the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville could accommodate the RFP needs

Site inspections of the top two choices, Hilton / Embassy Suites complex in Myrtle Beach, SC and the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville in Florida. The site visits were conducted September 14 – 16, 2025 with Frances Brandau, Scott Christen and Lauralee Shapiro from ConferenceDirect.

Embassy Suites by Hilton Myrtle Beach Ocean Front Resort

- Beachfront resort with 7 swimming pools, tennis, pickleball, golf simulators, golf courses in the area, and a free shuttle within a 2-mile radius.
- 30 minutes from the airport. Uber is about \$0. CVS is 1.2 miles from hotel.
- Barefoot Landing is an entertainment area with tons of dining, bars and shopping.
- Asking CVB for sponsorship funding but it is too far out for them to commit.
- Dates offered are March 26 – April 1, 2030 (avoids all holidays)
- Room rate is \$230 – includes breakfast and managers reception. All rooms are suites so attendees can easily share.
- Daily resort fee, \$45, is waived.
 - Includes basic Wi-Fi in guest rooms, resort recreation and shuttle.
- Self-parking has been reduced to \$15 per day.
- Staff rooms discounted to \$215 (6).
- Up to 15 total break-out rooms. Good flow with the meeting rooms – all in one area.
- Charging \$4,000 rental for meeting space on top of F&B minimum
- Food and beverage minimum is \$50,000.00
- \$5 per user, per day for internet in meeting space
- Complimentary hard wired internet for registration – 3 lines
- Three (3) VIP upgrades to oceanfront rooms
- 1:40 comp policy
- \$100 one-time charge for all table for vendors / grad fair
- 10 comp easels
- 10% off in house AV and 2030 banquet menus

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville

- 25 minutes from airport
- Uber about \$35
- Downtown location, walking distance to dozens of bars, restaurants and entertainment options
- Hotel lobby bar is very large and conducive to networking
- Asking CVB for sponsorship funding but it is too far out for them to commit.
- Offered April 2 – 7, 2030
- Room rate \$189.00
 - Room rate is for two beds, city view.
 - Upgrades available for additional fees
 - City View King: \$20.00 Additional per room, per Night
 - River View Queen: \$30.00 Additional per room, per Night
 - River View King: \$40.00 Additional per room, per Night
- Staff room \$129.00 (6)
- Minimum 12 breakout rooms
- No resort fee
- Self-parking \$34.00 overnight – there are public parking garages in the area
- Food and beverage minimum is \$60,000.00
- Complimentary internet in meeting space
- Complimentary hard-wired internet for registration – 3 lines, not to exceed 4MBPS per line
- Three (3) VIP upgrades to oceanfront rooms
- 1:45 comp policy
- 15 comp table for vendors / grad fair
- 15 comp easels
- 15% off in house AV
- Hotel has discounted association menus but will also customize menus to meet budgets

6.10 Strat Comm Director Search – Elizabeth Hanson Smith

An ad-hoc committee was created on the recommendation of the President to advance the search for a new Strategic Communication Director after the previous Director resigned the office in December 2024. Committee members consisted of Michelle Groover, current Resource Development chair, Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, current 2nd VP, Frances Brandau, Executive Director, and Elizabeth Hanson Smith, SSCA Member Services Director, who served as Chair. The committee met via email and Zoom to discuss viable and interested candidates.

The committee puts forth **Nakia Welch** to be appointed to the 3-yr position of Strategic Communication officer to begin duties at the conclusion of the April conference in Birmingham, upon approval of the membership.

6.11 Admin Committee -- Narissra Punyanunt-Carter

Will report at meeting

7. Division & Interest Group Reports

7.1 African American Communication Division

No report submitted

7.2 Applied Communication Division

Applied Communication Division 2026 Report

I. Officers

Past Chair: Amanda Walsh, University of Southern Mississippi

Chair: Mai Nou Xiong-Gum, Furman University

Vice Chair / Division Planner: Alex Rister, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Vice Chair Elect: Matthew Marin, University of Southern Mississippi

Secretary: Katrina Marks, Longwood University

II. Programming

A. Total Conference Slots: **8** (same for 2024 and 2025 Conventions)

Total Submissions: **25** (up 47% from 17 submissions for 2025 Convention)

- Faculty Papers: **9** (2 debut submissions)
- Student Papers: **6** (5 debut submissions)
- Panels: **3**
- NEW Research-in-Progress Submissions: **7** (4 student, 3 faculty)

Acceptance Rate: **88%** (rejected 3 submissions)

- 2025 Convention Acceptance Rate = 83%

Top Paper Award:

“Supervisor Humor as a Predictor of Employee Voice and Intention to Quit”

Stephanie Kelly, North Carolina A&T State University

Cheng Zeng, North Dakota State University

Mike Cundall, North Carolina A&T University

Matthew C Ramsey, Shippensburg University

7.3 Argumentation & Forensics Division

The Argumentation & Forensics Division continues to support strong scholarly engagement in areas related to debate, argumentation theory, and applied forensics. This year reflects continued interest in both traditional and emerging areas of research within the division.

Submissions & Program:

The division received a total of 4 submissions for the 2026 conference, all of which were accepted for inclusion in the program. These submissions reflect a diverse range of topics, including public-facing debate initiatives, AI and debate interactions, pedagogical approaches to argumentation, and critical analyses of rhetoric and logical fallacies.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Brian Lain for his work in organizing and putting together the program.

Membership:

The division maintains a stable membership of 65 members, reflecting continued interest and engagement in argumentation and forensics.

Strengths:

- High acceptance and participation rate in submissions
- Diverse and timely research topics
- Continued integration of emerging areas such as AI and public scholarship

Challenges:

- A relatively small number of submissions this year
- Ongoing need to expand membership and engagement

Future Goals:

- Increase submission numbers for future conferences
- Strengthen outreach to scholars in related subfields
- Encourage graduate student participation
- Continue fostering innovative and interdisciplinary research

Acknowledgments:

Thank you to all reviewers, authors, and participants for their contributions to the division.

7.4 Communication Theory & Methodology Division

SSCA Communication Theory and Methodology Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

I. Officers

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| a. Past Chair: | Kelly Morrison | U. of Alabama Birmingham | kmmcc@uab.edu |
| b. Chair: | Dennis McCarty | U. of Florida | d.mccarty@ufl.edu |
| c. Vice Chair: | Michael Kotowski | U. of Tennessee Knoxville | Mkotowk@utk.edu |
| d. Vice Chair-elect: | Amanda Walsh | U. of Southern Mississippi | amanda.walsh@usm.edu |
| e. Secretary: | Steve McCornack | U. of Alabama Birmingham | smcc911@uab.edu |

II. 2026 Convention Programming

a. Submissions

- a. We are afforded, apart from the business meeting, four sessions for use at 2026 SSCA.
 - i. Our paper submissions were organized into two sessions, one for theory and one for methodology.
 - ii. Our panel submissions was organized into one session.
 - iii. One session was set for the Communication Theory and Methodology Outstanding Scholar for 2026 presentation.
- b. We received eight individual paper submissions.
 - i. We accepted eight individual papers. I

- ii. We rejected zero individual papers.
- iii. The acceptance rate was 100%.
- c. We received one panel submission.
 - i. We accepted one panel.
 - ii. We rejected zero panels.
 - iii. The acceptance rate was 100%.

b. The review process

- a. We had three reviewers who each conducted nine reviews.
- b. Each submission had at least three reviewers.

C. Awards and recognitions

- a. No student papers were submitted, so no Top Student Paper will be awarded (considering that papers with faculty as secondary authors do not qualify as “student” papers).
- b. The Top Faculty Paper will be awarded as part of our theory panel:
Xiaoti Fan (U. of Alabama Huntsville) - “Truth-Default in Communication Studies: Rethinking Public Speaking Anxiety Management”.
- c. 2026 Outstanding Scholar in Communication Theory and Methodology: Lindsey Aloia (U. of Arkansas).

IV. 2025 Business Meeting [found here](#)

7.5 Community College Division

SSCA Community College Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

I. Officers

- a. Immediate Past Chair: Shaquille Marsh, Pellissippi State Community College
somarsh@pstcc.edu
- b. Chair: Karen Hill, Volunteer State Community College
karen.hill@volstate.edu
- c. Vice Chair: Samantha Chapuseaux, Florida Gateway College
samantha.Chapuseaux@fgc.edu
- d. Vice Chair-elect: Brad Bailey, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
brad.bailey@mgccc.edu
- e. Secretary: Twyla Coy, Lone Star College-Kingwood
twyla.m.coy@lonestar.edu

II. 2026 Convention Programming

- a. Submissions
 - a. We received 0 individual paper submissions.
 - i. We accepted 0 individual papers.
 - ii. We rejected 0 individual papers.
 - iii. The acceptance rate was 0%.
 - b. We received 18 panel submissions (5 panel submissions; 13 GIFTS submissions).

- i. We accepted 17 panels (5 panels and 12 GIFTS).
 - ii. We rejected 1 panel (1 GIFTS).
 - iii. The acceptance rate was 94%.
 - b. The review process
 - a. Each submission had at least three reviewers.
 - c. Awards and recognitions
 - a. The committee is currently accepting nominations for the Suzanne Osborn Community College Educator of the Year award.

III. 2025 Business Meeting: [Posted](#)

IV. New Information: The Division will be creating an online repository of GIFTS from each year's conference under the Division's webpage on the SSCA member site.

7.6 Freedom of Speech Division

SSCA Freedom of Speech Division 2025–2026 Convention Report

I. Officers

- a. Immediate Past Chair: Ben Medeiros, State University of New York at Plattsburgh
bmede001@plattsburgh.edu
- b. Chair: John Banister, University of Georgia, john.banister@uga.edu
- c. Vice Chair: Joshua Guitar, Kean University, jguitar@kean.edu
- d. Vice Chair-elect: Shanna Schultz, Independent Scholar, shandschultz@gmail.com
- e. Secretary: Chandra Maldonado, Campbell University, chandraanmaldonado@gmail.com

II. 2026 Convention Programming

- d. Submissions
 - a. We received 8 individual paper submissions (to include extended abstracts).
 - i. The acceptance rate for individual papers and extended abstracts was 75%.
 - b. We received 2 panel submissions.
 - i. The acceptance rate for panels was 100%
- e. The review process
 - a. We had 11 reviewers who completed a total of 20 reviews.
 - b. Each submission had at least two reviewers.
- f. Awards and recognitions
 - a. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as a part of our top papers panel.
 - i. The winner of this award is Jessi Boaz for the submission "Rankin's Apologia and Accusation: Reclaiming a Lost Voice in History."
 - ii. This panel will be held on Saturday 11 April from 09:30am-10:45am in the VIP Lounge.
 - b. The Top Faculty Paper will be awarded as a part of our top papers panel.
 - i. The winner of this award is David Dewberry "How Much Have You Had to Drink?" and Other Questions to Ask the Police: Reading Bakhtin vis-à-vis Free Speech"

- ii. This panel will be held on Saturday 11 April from 09:30am-10:45am in the VIP Lounge.
- c. Nominations for the 2026 James Madison Prize were solicited via COMMNotes and informal networks on 20 January 2026.
 - i. Three nominations were received as of 18 February 2026.
 - ii. After review by at least two division members, the winner will be selected and presented with the award at the Division Business meeting, to occur on Friday 9 April at 5:30pm in Room East G.

III.2025 Business Meeting:

Members conducted a business meeting in Norfolk, VA as directed by bylaws. Shanna Schultz was nominated and elected to the position of Vice Chair Elect. Chandra Maldonado was nominated and elected to the position of Secretary.

IV. Any other issues or business during the previous year?

Division reached double-digit submissions for the second consecutive year. The option to submit an extended abstract expanded interest in the division’s conference events, but reviewers found it challenging to assess abstracts and full papers using the same criteria. I recommend revisiting review criteria for abstracts.

7.7 Gender Studies Division

No report submitted

7.8 Health Communication Division

No report submitted

7.9 Identity, Inclusion, & Social Justice Division

No report submitted

7.10 Instructional Development Division

SSCA Instructional Development Division Mid-Year Report

I. Officers

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| a. Immediate Past Chair: | Jacob Metz
jmetz@tntech.edu | Tennessee Technological University |
| b. Chair: | Colleen Mestayer
cmestayer@tntech.edu | Tennessee Technological University |
| c. Vice Chair: | Elizabeth Hanson Smith
ehansonsmith@yahoo.com | Austin Community College |
| d. Vice Chair-elect: | Cynthia Sampson
csamps7@lsu.edu | Louisiana State University |
| e. Secretary: | Jessica Rogers
jlrogers44@tntech.edu | Tennessee Technological University |

II. 2026 Convention Programming

a. Submissions

1. We received 8 individual paper submissions.
 - a. We accepted 6 individual papers.
 - b. We rejected 2 individual papers.
2. We received and accepted 12 panel submissions.
 - a. We CO-SPONSORED with Community College and IISJ
3. We received 5 poster submissions. A NEW submission category for IDD

b. The review process

1. We had 15 reviewers who all conducted 2-5 reviews.
2. Each submission had at least two reviewers.

c. Awards and recognitions

- a. A SPOTLIGHT panel honoring Katherine Grace Hendrix was created
 - a. Invitees are the two award winners and Dr. Hendrix
- b. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
- c. The Top Faculty Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.

III. 2025 Business Meeting: [found here](#)

7.11 Intercultural Communication Division

SSCA Intercultural Communication Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

I. SSCA ICD Officers

Immediate Past Chair: Lionell “Badu” Smith, San Francisco State University

lsmith1914@sfsu.edu

Chair: Amy N. Heuman, Texas Tech University

a.heuman@ttu.edu

Vice Chair and 2026 Program Planner: Curtis Chamblee, University of Memphis

c.chamblee@memphis.edu

Vice Chair Elect: Sophia Flemming, University of Georgia

sophiamf@uga.edu

Secretary: Carolina Perez, Texas Tech University

caro.perez@ttu.edu

II. 2026 Convention Programming

The Intercultural Communication Division received a total of 13 submissions for the 2026 Annual Convention. This included 11 competitive paper and 2 discussion/roundtable panel submissions. We accepted 10 competitive paper and 2 discussion/roundtable submissions. This translates to accepting 12 submissions (93%) and rejecting one (7%) competitive paper submission. These have been submitted as 5 paneled slots, including 4 presentation panels and 1 annual IC Division Business Meeting.

III. 2025 Business Meeting

No other business to report at this time.

7.12 Interpersonal Communication Division

SSCA Interpersonal Communication Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

I. Officers

- a. Immediate Past Chair: Lindsey Aloia, University of Arkansas
aloia@uark.edu
- b. Chair: Erin Basinger, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
ebasinge@charlotte.edu
- c. Vice Chair: Kellie Brisini, Louisiana State University
kbrisini1@lsu.edu
- d. Vice Chair-elect: Quinten Bernhold, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
qbernhol@utk.edu
- e. Secretary: Aubree Herman, Texas Tech University
aubree.herman@ttu.edu

II. 2026 Convention Programming

- a. Submissions
 - a. We received 20 individual paper submissions.
 - i. We accepted 17 individual papers.
 - ii. We rejected 3 individual papers.
 - iii. The acceptance rate was 85%.
 - b. We received 4 panel submissions.
 - i. We accepted 4 panels.
 - ii. We rejected 0 panels.
 - iii. The acceptance rate was 100%.
- b. The review process
 - a. We had 18 reviewers who all conducted 2-3 reviews.
 - b. Each submission had at least 2-3 reviewers.
- c. Awards and recognitions
 - a. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as part of our top/contributed papers panel.
 - b. The Top Faculty Paper will be awarded as part of our top/contributed papers panel.

III.2025 Business Meeting: [found here](#)

The division met during the annual convention in Norfolk on Friday, April 4, 2025, 4:15-5:30pm to conduct division business, recognize award winners, and elect new officers.

7.13 Mass Communication Division

2026 Conference Submissions and Panels

I. 2026 Convention Programming

- a. The Mass Communication Division received a total of 16 submissions. There were 13 papers and three panel submissions. Of those, 9 papers and 3 panels were accepted.
- b. Awards: The division's top student paper award went to Shah Jahan Shuvo and Darlinton Nwachukwu, both of *The University of Alabama* for their paper "Understanding Public Reactions and Resistance to the Tiktok Ban: A Textual Analysis."
- c. The division's top faculty paper award went to Zahedur Arman, *Mississippi State University*, Mahbulul Haque Bhuiyan, *University of Minnesota*, Nandikoor Prashanth Bhat, *University of Huston*, and Md Mostak Ahammed, *Grand Valley State University* for their paper "Beyond Borders: An Analysis of Protest Paradigm in National, Diaspora, and Exile Media Coverage of Bangladesh's 2024 Uprising."

7.14 Performance Studies Division

SSCA Performance Studies Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

I. Officers

- a. Immediate Past Chair: Nicole Costantini, Savannah College of Art & Design-Atlanta
ncostant@scad.edu
- b. Chair: Colin Whitworth, Georgia College & State University
colin.whitworth@gcsu.edu
- c. Vice Chair: Alex Davenport, Northern Virginia Community College
adavenport@nvcc.edu
- d. Vice Chair-elect: Laura Oliver, Xavier University, Louisiana
loliver5@xula.edu
- e. Secretary: Seth Knievel, Louisiana State University
ckniev1@lsu.edu

II. 2026 Convention Programming

- a. Submissions
 - a. We received 11 individual paper submissions.
(including extended abstracts and Page to Stage submissions)
 1. We accepted 8 individual papers.
 2. We rejected 3 individual papers.
 3. The acceptance rate was 72%.

- b. We received 7 panel submissions.
 - 1. We accepted 7 panels. (on request, contingent on space)
 - 2. We rejected 0 panels.
 - 3. The acceptance rate was 100%.
- c. We received 2 individual performance submissions
 - 1. We accepted 2 individual performances
 - 2. We rejected 0 individual performances
 - 3. The acceptance rate was 100%
- b. The review process
 - a. We had 17 reviewers who all conducted between 1-6 reviews.
 - b. Each submission had at least two reviewers.
- c. Awards and recognitions
 - a. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
 - b. The Top Student Performance will be awarded as part of our top/contributed performances panel
 - c. The Top Competitive Debut Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
 - d. The SSCA Performance Scholar of the Year award will be awarded as part of our division's business meeting
 - e. The Outstanding Publication in Performance Studies award will be awarded as part of our division's business meeting

III. 2025 Business Meeting: [found here](#)

IV. Any other issues or business during the previous year?

The division undertook a fairly major revision of our by-laws, including a number of new awards. Additionally, the division has continued to host a digital symposium about performance practice, hosted in February, and represented at the conference through a response panel.

7.15 Political Communication Division

SSCA Political Communication Division 2025 Mid-Year Report

I. Officers

- a. Immediate Past Chair: Carson Kay, Washburn University, carson.kay@washburn.edu
- b. Chair: Matt Farmer, University of Memphis, mkfarmer@memphis.edu
- c. Vice Chair: Colin Cameron, Ohio University, cc217821@ohio.edu
- d. Vice Chair-elect: Shana Bridges, Georgia Southern University, smbridges@georgiasouthern.edu
- e. Secretary: Melissa Smith, Mississippi University for Women, mmsmith@muw.edu

II. 2026 Convention Programming

- a. Submissions
 - a. We received 14 individual paper submissions.
 - i. We accepted 11 individual papers.

- ii. We rejected 3 individual papers.
 - iii. The acceptance rate was 78.6%.
 - b. We received 4 panel submissions.
 - i. We accepted 4 panels.
 - ii. We rejected 0 panels.
 - iii. The acceptance rate was 100 %.
- b. The review process
 - a. We had 2 reviewers who all conducted between x reviews.
 - b. Each submission had at least two reviewers.
- c. Awards and recognitions
 - d. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
 - “Unpacking Digital Sovereignty: A Comparative Analysis of Left- and Right-Wing U.S. News Media Coverage of the TikTok Ban”
 - Mario Cerna, University of Alabama
 - Junyan LU University of Alabama
 - e. The Top Faculty Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
 - “How the 2024 U.S. Presidential Debates Shaped Candidate Brand Associations”
 - Josh C. Bramlett, University of Alabama
 - Benjamin Warner, University of Missouri
 - Breck Gillespie, University of Missouri

III. 2025 Business Meeting: [found here](#)

- a. Held 4/4/25 at 5:30pm in the Imagination Room

7.16 Popular Communication Division

No report submitted

7.17 Public Relations Division

No report submitted

7.18 Rhetoric & Public Address Division

SSCA Rhetoric and Public Address 2025 Mid-Year Report

I. Officers

- a. Immediate Past Chair: Jonathan Edwards, University of South Carolina
jjedwards@sc.edu
- b. Chair: Sara Baugh-Harris, Davidson College
sabaugh@davidson.edu
- c. Vice Chair: Lionell Badu Smith, San Francisco State University
lsmith1914@sfsu.edu
- d. Vice Chair-elect: Celnisha Dangerfield, Transylvania University
cdangerfield@transy.edu

- e. Secretary: Alyson Farzad-Phillips, University of Tennessee
afarzadp@tennessee.edu

II. 2026 Convention Programming

d. Submissions

- a. We received x individual paper submissions.
 - i. We accepted x individual papers.
 - ii. We rejected x individual papers.
 - iii. The acceptance rate was xx%.
- b. We received x panel submissions.
 - i. We accepted x panels.
 - ii. We rejected x panels.
 - iii. The acceptance rate was x%.

e. The review process

- a. We had x reviewers who all conducted between x reviews.
- b. Each submission had at least two reviewers.

f. Awards and recognitions

- a. The Top Student Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.
- b. The Top Faculty Paper will be awarded as a part of our top/contributed papers panel.

III. 2025 Business Meeting: [found here](#)

IV. Any other issues or business during the previous year?

Updating bylaws and increasing interest in division, particularly among grad students.

7.19 Association for Communication Administrators Interest Group

No report submitted

7.20 American Society for the History of Rhetoric Interest Group

No report submitted

7.21 Ethnography Interest Group

No report submitted

7.22 Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group

No report submitted

7.23 Language & Social Interaction Interest Group

A. **Submissions and review process:** We had 5 good submissions and 5 reviewers. Four papers of comparable evaluations were slotted (the other was scored much lower).

B. **Accepted:** We have 2 panels for SSCA: one for the business meeting and one for the presentations.

7.24 Philosophy & Ethics of Communication Interest Group

No report submitted

7.25 State Associations Interest Group

SSCA Group State Association Interest 2025 Mid-Year Report

I. Officers

a. Immediate Past Chair:	Name	Institution	Email
b. Chair:	Shaquille Marsh,	Pellissippi State Community College	somarsh@pstcc.edu
c. Vice Chair:	John H. Saunders	University of Alabama in Huntsville	Jhs0011@uah.edu
d. Vice Chair-elect:	Karen Hill,	Volunteer State Community College	Karen.Hill@volstate.edu
e. Secretary:	Ray Ozley,	University of Montevallo	ozley@montevallo.edu

II. 2026 Convention Programming

- a. Submissions
 - a. We received 0 individual paper submissions.
 - i. We accepted 0 individual papers.
 - ii. We rejected 0 individual papers.
 - iii. The acceptance rate was 0%.
 - b. We received 1 panel submissions.
 - i. We accepted 1 panels.
 - ii. We rejected 0 panels.
 - iii. The acceptance rate was 100%.
- b. The review process
 - a. We had 2 reviewers who all conducted 1 review.
 - b. Each submission had at least two reviewers.
- c. Awards and recognitions
 - a. N/A