

## A Word About the New TSCA Constitution

At the fall, 1980 meeting of the Tennessee Speech Communication Association, a decision was made to revise the Constitution of TSCA to update it and make some areas of it more workable. The Executive Committee charged this writer with chairing the work of revising it. Shortly after Christmas, by mail and telephone vote, the Executive Committee approved the revised Constitution by a 10-0 vote with 3 not voting. In accordance with the Constitution, the revised Constitution was then submitted to a mail vote of the members of the organization. A 2/3 majority of those responding by February 20 was required for passage. The result was that the revisions easily passed.

One problem TSCA has had in the past has been in locating a good copy of a Constitution. Consequently, the newly revised document has been published in this Journal so everyone will have a copy available when needed.

Several changes should be pointed out--some of these are minor; some are more significant. Some of the minor changes include replacing references to "chairman" with "chairperson," and references to "the Association" with "TSCA." Some changes reflect what, in effect, we are already doing. We have a chairperson of the Religious Speech Communication group, but there was never a vote

previously on adding this interest group. If you have been using a really old Constitution, you may notice that "Broadcasting" was not listed as an interest group; this was voted on and accepted by the membership, but a revised Constitution has not been published since that date.

The old title "Director of Research and Publications" has been replaced with "Journal Editor," and his duties include the obvious--editing and distributing the Journal. The title of Vice-President has been changed to President-Elect. Along with this change of title has come a change in responsibility that should make the work of the President much smoother--the President-Elect now has the responsibility of planning for the fall meeting.

Standing committees have been reduced to two. The old Committee on Research and Publications has its work accomplished, in effect, by the staff of the Journal. The Committee on Professional Ethics has not been a very active one over the years. This leaves TSCA with the two critical standing committees--the one on Membership, of which the President-Elect is chairperson, and the Committee on Awards, whose chairperson is appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee. Of course, any special committees which are deemed necessary may also be appointed.

A major change concerns the date of elections and the date of installation of officers. Elections have been moved from February to May and installation of officers has been changed from May 1 to the time of the fall meeting. The belief has been voiced by several that this will result in smoother transitions and better planning.

One final change concerns the dues paid each year. Prior to this time, the dues have been set by the By-Laws; now the responsibility rests with the Executive Committee. The result is that TSCA has an easier mechanism to adapt to different economic times.

The current officers of TSCA shall serve until the fall meeting of 1981, with the exception of the Journal Editor who was re-elected by the Executive Committee for another two year term last fall. By May 1 of this year, you will have received from the Executive Secretary, if you are a paid-up member, your ballot for new officers. On the following pages is the text of the revised Constitution and By-Laws.

## CONSTITUTION

## TENNESSEE SPEECH COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

Article I: Name

The name of the organization shall be the Tennessee Speech Communication Association, hereafter referred to as TSCA.

Article II: Purpose

TSCA seeks the improvement of speech education at all levels in Tennessee, encourages research in speech communication, and fosters community recognition of effective communication.

Article III: Membership

Membership in TSCA shall be open upon application and payment of dues to any person interested in promoting its purpose.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1: The officers of TSCA shall be a President, President-Elect, Executive Secretary, and Journal Editor. The President-Elect and Executive Secretary shall be elected by the membership of TSCA: the Journal Editor shall be nominated and approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 2: The President and President-Elect shall serve for a period of one year in that capacity. The Executive-Secretary shall serve for a period of three years; the Journal Editor shall serve for a period of two years.

Section 3: The duties of each officer shall be as follows:

- A. President: It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all business meetings of TSCA and of the Executive Committee, to appoint committees

and committee chairpersons with the approval of the Executive Committee; to serve as a liason officer between TSCA and all related organizations; to serve as ex-officio member of all standing committees; and to perform such other duties as are usually attached to the office of President.

- B. President Elect: It shall be the duty of the President-Elect to serve as membership chairperson; to plan the program of the fall meetings; and to assist the President with the total work of TSCA as the President may assign. The President-Elect shall become President at the conclusion of his term.
- C. Executive Secretary: It shall be the duty of the Executive Secretary to perform the usual duties of secretary, treasurer, and business manager including the keeping of the minutes of meetings, the receiving and dispersing of funds, and the preparation of periodic reports on the financial condition of TSCA, and to perform such other duties as the President may assign.
- D. Journal Editor: It shall be the duty of the Journal Editor to edit and have distributed the Journal of the Tennessee Speech Communication Association and other publications TSCA may sponsor; to promote research among the membership

of TSCA; to direct the scholarly publications of TSCA.

Section 4: The President-Elect shall succeed the President should the President's office become vacant.

Section 5: The Executive Committee shall have the authority to fill any vacancy other than the Presidency.

Article V: Executive Committee

Section 1: The Executive Committee shall consist of the current officers of TSCA (as defined in Article IV, Section 1), the immediate past President, and the chairpersons of the standing committees and interest groups.

Section 2: The Executive Committee shall discharge the work of TSCA.

Article VI: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws may be initiated by a majority of the Executive Committee or by a petition submitted to the President by any ten members of TSCA.

Section 2: All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for its consideration. If the Executive Committee approves the proposed amendment, it must be submitted within thirty days of endorsement to a mail vote of the membership. If the Executive Committee rejects the proposed amendment, the President must submit the matter at the next business meeting of TSCA. If a majority of those present and voting at

the TSCA meeting endorses the proposed amendment, it then must be submitted to a mail vote of the membership within thirty days.

Section 3: Final action on an amendment shall be taken by a mail ballot. A two-thirds majority of those voting shall be required for adoption of the amendment.

Section 4: Amendments shall take effect immediately following their adoption.

#### BY-LAWS

##### Article I: Dues

Section 1: There shall be five classes of membership in TSCA: Student, Regular, Sustaining, Emeritus, and Honorary.

Section 2: Full-time high school, undergraduate and graduate students may be admitted to student membership. Annual dues for student memberships shall be set by the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Any other person may be admitted to regular membership. Annual dues for regular members shall be set by the Executive Committee.

Section 4: Any other person willing to contribute additional financial support may be admitted to sustaining membership. Annual dues for sustaining membership shall be set by the Executive Committee.

Section 5: Any member of retired status because of age or disability who has held continuous membership in TSCA for fifteen years shall be granted upon application to the

Executive Secretary an emeritus membership and shall be exempt from payment of dues and entitled to all privileges of TSCA.

Section 6: Any person who by virtue of service or performance has contributed substantially to the purposes of speech communication in Tennessee may be elected to honorary membership by a majority of the Executive Committee. There shall be no dues for honorary members.

#### Article II: Meetings and Conferences

Section 1: A business meeting of TSCA shall be held during the fall term at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee. Additional business meetings may be called by the Executive Committee.

Section 2: An annual conference of TSCA may be held during the fall term at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee.

#### Article III: Nominations and Elections

Section 1: No later than March 1, the President shall appoint with the approval of the Executive Committee a Nominating Committee of at least five members of TSCA who shall name at least two candidates for the office of President-Elect and at least two candidates for the position of chairperson of each interest group. Every third year the nominating committee shall name at least two candidates for the office of Executive Secretary beginning in 1975. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall



notify the membership of the time and place of the meeting at least ten days in advance of the meeting, extending an invitation to any member in good standing to make suggestions to the Committee, either in writing or by appearing in person. No later than April 15, the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall make his report to the Executive Secretary of TSCA.

Section 2: Voting for President-Elect, Executive Secretary (during every third year), and interest group chairpersons shall take place during the month of May. Ballots shall be mailed to the entire membership by the incumbent Executive Secretary by May 1. The ballots shall always provide for Write-in candidates. Only ballots postmarked on or before May 20 will be counted.

Section 3: It shall be the duty of the incumbent Executive Secretary to notify the entire membership by mail of the results of the balloting by June 1. If the Executive Secretary announces a tie vote for any office, the names of the two candidates receiving the most votes shall be submitted to a run-off ballot by mail.

Section 4: Installation of new officers shall take place at the time of the annual Fall business meeting of TSCA.

#### Article IV: Committees

The Committee structure shall consist of standing committees. The committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee. All standing committees

shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee and shall exercise such powers as authorized by the Executive Committee. Those committees with standing status are:

- A. Committee on Membership, whose function it shall be to encourage persons interested in the purposes of the organization to become members.
- B. Committee on Awards, whose function it shall be to determine recipients of the awards authorized by the Executive Committee.

#### Article V: Interest Groups

Section 1: Interest groups shall be established to represent major specializations in speech communication, their activities to be directed by elected chairperson. Standing interest groups are: Theatre, Forensics, Curriculum, Rhetoric and Public Address, Interpersonal-Group Communication, Interpretation, Broadcasting, and Religious Speech Communication.

#### Article VI: Representatives to

##### Southern Speech Communication Association

The President is ex officio a representative to the Southern Speech Communication Association. He shall appoint one other representative. One of these representatives shall be a teacher of speech communication in high school, the other shall teach speech communication at the junior college level or above. These representatives shall represent TSCA at meetings of SSCA Executive Councils held at the annual SSCA Convention.

Article VII: Quorum

Section 1: A quorum at any meeting of the Executive Committee shall be a simple majority of its membership.

Section 2: A quorum at any business meeting of TSCA shall be those members attending.

Article VIII: Amendments

Amendments to thses By-laws shall be through the process described in Article VI of the Constitution.