

# TexaSPEAKS

**Special points of interest in this issue:**

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- M'Liss Hindman Bio
- Convention Info
- Slate of Candidates

**WE NEED YOU!**  
**Renew your membership today.**

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## Vice President Elect Changes

The TSCA leadership faced a new challenge early this summer when Vice President-Elect, Shawn Wahl, announced his intention to follow a new and exciting opportunity to teach out of state.

Based on TSCA's by-laws, active members and officers must currently teach at a school within the state of Texas to hold office. Though the body had elected Shawn Wahl, who was fully-prepared to fulfill the obligation bestowed on him by the voting membership, he could not continue to serve as TSCA VP Elect while living and teaching outside of Texas. Wahl respectfully resigned his office earlier this summer.

TSCA's leadership then prepared for the task of finding another deserving and willing member to fill the gap left by such an active member and officer. Fortunately, according to the policies of TSCA executive elections, more than one person is vetted and found worthy of holding office at election time.

M'Liss Hindman, the original opponent of Dr. Wahl in the last election, has agreed to take on the challenges of the office. The responsibilities of VP-Elect continue on a four-year cycle, culminating in the Presidency. Hindman will be stepping into the second year of the cycle.

We will miss Shawn's presence in TSCA's leadership,



but we are encouraged by the eagerness of M'Liss Hindman to pick up the challenges of the VP-Elect role.

Join us in congratulating M'Liss Hindman as the acting Vice president Elect.

## M'Liss Hindman: Educator and Leader

M'Liss Hindman—educator, coach of the Tyler Junior College speech team, wife, and mom—has agreed to take on the responsibility of Vice President-Elect of the Texas Speech Communication Association.

Mrs. Hindman, a 37-year member of TSCA, moves into the VP-Elect position with many years of experience and tremendous enthusiasm. A former newsletter editor and comptroller for the association, she has served as chair of many com-

mittees and has presented countless sessions at TSCA conferences.

As a respected teacher and forensics team coach at Tyler Junior College, M'Liss possesses quite a resume of state and national awards.



<http://drtlibrary.files.wordpress.com>

## 2012 Convention in the home of the Alamo

The 2012 TSCA Convention will return to San Antonio October 11-14, 2012.

Members will have a chance to attend a litany of important and informative sessions at the conference while also being able to experience one of the iconic cities of the Southwest. A draft of the convention program is available at <http://etsca.com/convention.asp>.

Taking in sights such as the River Walk and the Alamo, as well as eating some of the best

Mexican food in the country, make this convention destination a must for the entire membership.

Convention registration and hotel information can be found on the Association's website at [www.etsca.com](http://www.etsca.com)

The Omni Colonnade in San Antonio promises to be a beautiful and accessible host for the membership at large.

For the best convention experience, please take advantage of the Omni Colonnade's ameni-

ties, offered to members at an extremely competitive rate of \$119 per night. The deadline for reserving rooms at this rate is September 19.

At a cost of \$150 for a sustaining membership and \$20 for the delectable luncheon, TSCA convention and membership continue to provide speech and communication educators of all levels from junior high to the university level with economical access to professional development.

*"Please remember your vote counts and is appreciated..."*

## Nom Com Announces 2012 Slate of Candidates

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Amy Tilton-Jones, has provided the TSCA membership with what can only be described as a fantastic slate of candidates for the 2012 conference cycle.

Thank you to Amy and her hard-working Nom-Com for finding a series of talented and

dedicated individuals, any one of whom would be effective additions to TSCA's Executive Committee.

For VP Elect, the committee has given us candidates from two geographic extremes in the state. Long-time members, Ronda Craig from Hallsville High School and Mellessa

Denny from Amarillo High School round out the nominees for Vice-President Elect.

Brent Hinkle leaves a gap in the office of Executive Secretary that Lou Ann Seabourn from Amarillo College and Gilbert Casas from McCollum High School in San Antonio will contend for.

## McKee Chooses Inspirational Conference Theme

Each year, the TSCA Vice President must choose and implement a conference theme with the express goal of inspiring the entire body of TSCA membership to challenge themselves and to become more effective speech educators at any level. With that goal in mind, TSCA Vice President

Connie McKee has chosen a memorable theme for the TSCA 2012 Convention: "Facing Challenges and Making Choices."

Committee and interest group chairs have designed programming with the theme in mind, providing a cohesive experience

for attendees.

Navigate to [etsca.com](http://etsca.com) to view a draft of the 2012 conference program.

Please join us in "Facing Challenges and Making Choices in San Antonio from Thursday, October 11 through Sunday, October 14, 2012.



**Facing Challenges and Making Choices**

## Leadership Handbook Updates Continuing

Former President Natalie Bryant has been working hard on updates and corrections to the TSCA Leadership Handbook.

Over the years, a transition away from the Association's heavy dependency on paper as well as structural modifications have changed the job descriptions and tasks of many of the leadership positions in TSCA.

Bryant, a loyal and dedicated member of TSCA took it upon herself to do a thorough over-

haul of the informative and extensive document, beginning in the time of her Immediate Past Presidency.

If you currently serve as a chairperson, officer, or other leadership capacity in TSCA, please read and familiarize yourself with the duties of your office by going to the TSCA website and looking at the Leadership Handbook online.

In addition, if you do not cur-

rently serve in a leadership role but have in the past, you may participate in the editing process by reading the posted information and making suggestions and submitting changes to Bryant.

TSCA thrives from the continued and varying stream of educators willing to serve the membership. Please consider increasing your involvement by serving and leading the association.



Bryant affects the world of TSCA leadership roles for the better

## Speech In or Out of "The Block?"

In a recent email to TSCA members, Vice President Russell Kirkscey noted: "The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board made substantial changes to several areas of the core curriculum for Texas colleges and universities that will take effect in the fall of 2014. The total number of semester hours in the revised core curriculum recommendations is 42, with six hours mandated for communication courses instead of the traditional

nine hours. Some colleges and universities may allow students to take two English composition courses for their six hours and forgo taking a speech communication course."

Faced with budget cuts and mandatory modifications to staff, many post-secondary institutions have made the choice to cut foundational speech courses.

The Block, the collective name for undergraduate prerequisite coursework, can vary slightly from school to school, and therein lies the problem.

M'Liss Hindman stated, "I have been involved very heavily in this issue on my own campus. However, the real problem is that each college can make its own policies, so it is difficult to present a united front about these cuts."

*"...the real problem is that each college can make its own policies..."*

## Swap Your Ideas

The TSCA Convention always proves to be a fun time of trading ideas, thoughts, and strategies for teaching effectively. Teachers and students

alike can benefit from the free exchange of our talents and abilities.

Come to TSCA this year armed with copies, examples, and supplies for

your favorite and most effective lessons throughout the year. Look in the program for the perennially-popular GIFTS session for even more ideas.



Find time to trade ideas with other members at TSCA Convention in San Antonio

# TSCA

See the complete draft of the convention program on our website!

We're on the web:

*www.etsca.com*



*Texas Speech Communication Association is the largest and most active state educational speech association in the country.*

*Be an energetic member of an amazing group of educators who strive to make a difference in the lives of our students and in each other.*

*Start by joining TSCA and attending the conference each fall, but stay active by volunteering throughout the year.*

## TSCA Executive Officers

Contact your officers with questions or concerns

**President Connie McKee**— West Texas A&M University  
**Vice President Russell Kirkscey**— Blanco High School  
**Vice President-Elect M'Liss Hindman**— Tyler Junior College  
**Comptroller Mike Jones**— Del Mar College  
**Executive Secretary Brent Hinkle**— Joy of Tournaments  
**Newsletter Editor Aimee Kasprzyk**— Ennis High School  
**Journal Editor George Pacheco, Jr.**— Angelo State University  
**Archivist Jana Riggins**— University Interscholastic League  
**Past President**—Kandi King, retired

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<http://etsca.com/members/directory.asp>