



TexaSpeaks

A Publication of the Texas Speech Communication Association
Summer 2019 Edition



The West Texas town of Amarillo will host the 2019 TSCA Annual convention in October.

TSCA to be held in Amarillo in October

The 2019 Texas Speech Communication Association Annual Convention will again invade West Texas this October in Amarillo. Convention will be held October 3-5th at the new Embassy Suites Hotel in Amarillo.

Amarillo is already planning on rolling out the hospitality one can only find in West Texas this October. In addition to the professional development opportunities provided for middle school and high school teachers as well as university and college professors, there are many other reasons to attend convention this year.

First, Amarillo is a great spot. Palo Duro Canyon is only minutes away as well as the historic Route 66. Organizers encourage everyone to stay Saturday night once the Convention is over to ex-

plore some Amarillo and all of the character it has to offer.

The Embassy Suites is a brand new facility and has a lot of things to offer. The hotel offers a free breakfast and a complimentary happy hour with snacks each evening. TSCA will also provide free dinner on Thursday evening (right before the Committee meetings) and Friday at the Presidential reception. The luncheon on Friday only costs \$10.

Educational programming this year will include the new UIL interpretation categories, UIL OAP and online courses as well as many others. TFA Business meetings will also be held as well as planning meetings for the 2020 Convention.

Other opportunities include a special tour on Thursday of the Panhandle Plains Museum with a

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not-to-be-missed Professor's Performance Hour.

Registration and Membership Information can be found at www.etsca.com. Deadline for hotel reservations is September 11, 2019. You can call the hotel at (806) 803-5500.

Past President's Corner

Combating Truthiness



Wade
Hescht

It was in the summer of 2016 when University of Rhode Island's communication studies professor, Renee Hobbs, found herself seconds away from sharing an alarming post in her Facebook feed. The announcement from WTOE 5 News declared, "Pope Francis Shocks World, Endorses Donald Trump for President." As her cursor hovered over the share button, the professor said to herself, "Wait a minute! This can't be right. Pope Francis?!?!" With a few minutes of research, professor Hobbs was able to discern that WTOE 5 was not a real news outlet, and Pope Francis had not endorsed any American presidential candidate. Sadly, according to the November 2017 issue of Educational Leadership, in those very polarized days before the 2016 election, nearly one million people did share the story.

Unfortunately, this is the reality of living in the Post-Truth era. According to Ralph Keyes, author of the book, *The Post Truth Era* "... borders blur between truth and lies, honesty and dishonesty, fiction and nonfiction." The post-truth era is one in which truth is less meaningful, less influential, and as Stephen Colbert taught us, truth is less important than the "truthiness" of something – the way we feel about whether or not

something is true.

So, what does all of this truthiness have to do with us educators? Everything.

Fake news and prejudice are substituted as facts and "truthiness" is finding its way into our classrooms. In his article for PBS, "Truth and the Modern Classroom," Marcus Walker, a US History teacher reminds us, "Objective facts, not solely emotions or party ideology, must inform public opinion. Public opinions—and hearts and minds—are developed in classrooms across our nation." Our classrooms. As educators, we must stand as models of critical thought and objectivity and share that commitment to seeking truth in our classrooms.

Our students are coming of age in a post-truth culture. It is undeniable that they receive most of their news and information from social media, and research has proven that most students are unable to accurately judge the truth or falsity of a news story. Many of our students are becoming increasingly ambivalent about truth. They are asking questions the likes of which I haven't heard before in my 25 years of teaching. During classroom discussions, how many of us have heard questions like: was 9/11 an inside job, was Barack really born in the United States, isn't climate change simply history repeating itself, wasn't the Civil War about state rights and not slavery, or is the New York Times really any better than Fox News?

For all of these reasons, I felt compelled to select as this year's

convention theme: Combating Truthiness: Teaching in a Post-Truth Era. Today, I am going to lay at the feet of you amazing and talented instructors yet another responsibility: I am going to urge you to defend the truth in your classrooms. Teaching Tolerance Magazine points out that in this post-truth era, defending truth – and teaching students to seek it – will not be easy, but it is a worthy fight. Therefore, I have compiled three proposals inspired by the Center of Teaching Innovation and Excellence that we can take on, as educators, to challenge the threat of truthiness within our classrooms.

First, we must take more seriously the task of helping students evaluate sources of information. For those of you who might think that our students have no trouble identifying credible sources, think again. Stanford University's History Education Group recently tested nearly 8,000 students for "civic online reasoning" skills. They found that more than 80% of the tested students couldn't tell the difference between real news articles and fake news. Let me repeat that: 80%. We must do more to help our students achieve digital literacy.

One way to achieve this goal is by working in close partnership with our library, and our librarians, to educate our students about online information literacy. In partnership with them, we can develop new and sustained ways to help students navigate this complicated information world.

Another approach to information literacy is offered up to us by

the previously cited Professor Hobbs. She recommends that we all should resist using terms such as “Fake News” and “Truthiness” all together. She believes that we would far better serve our students by providing them with more precise definitions and concepts of other terms such as click bait, partisanship, disinformation, propaganda, hoaxes, sponsored content, and satire. These more precise terms need to be a fundamental part of what we teach in our classrooms.

Which brings me to my second proposal. I propose that we must continue to be the critics that we are trained to be. As critics, we should be emphasizing, at every possible turn, evidence-based reasoning. We must help our students learn how to find relevant, corroborated, and verifiable evidence – to seek truth based on facts and not emotions – and to question not just the assumptions of others, but their own assumptions as well.

Additionally, as critics, we need to be willing to explore current events through the lens of multiple sources, including ones that are misleading. We need to teach our students to ask questions about all information flowing their way. A PBS News Hour piece from July of 2017 suggests that this could be achieved by asking our students to subject any and all information to three simple questions:

1. What, if anything, is missing from this message?
2. How might different people interpret this message differently?
3. Is this fact, opinion, or something else?

My third and final proposal is that we must ensure that our campuses remain welcoming, diverse, and supportive. As Parker Palmer, the author of *The Courage to Teach* put it, the

post-truth environment poses many problems for all of us, but it presents particular threats for the most vulnerable among us who are at risk of being bullied, harassed, physically threatened, denied opportunities or even deported.

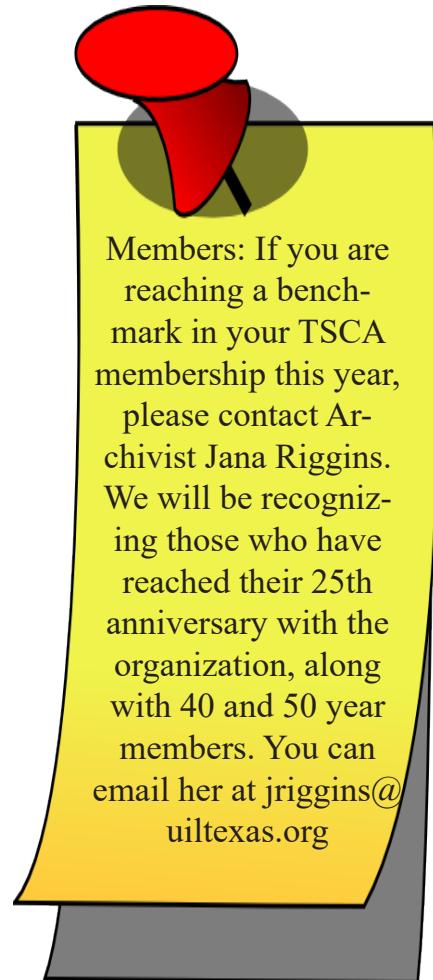
Our campuses must remain not just welcoming for, but fundamentally protective of these communities. In order to defend truth, we must also defend inclusiveness and call out any attempts to challenge it. While a difference of opinion in our classrooms is always welcome, we must teach our students that opinion and fact are never synonyms.

As your President, I want to point out that these proposals do not limit themselves to just the classroom. As an organization, TSCA can benefit from applying the same propositions when conducting business. We need to be better critics. We need to remind ourselves to constantly ask questions about the validity of all information flowing our way. We must strive to never operate on misinformation and half-truths. TSCA must continue to strive to be a welcoming and diverse organization to survive. As our Past President Russell Kirkscey stated back in 2012, we must find more and better ways to increase our numbers. We must find more and better ways to communicate with the political and administrative powers that be. We must find ways to be proactive rather than reactive.

In summary, I think that University of Kansas professor Mirla Gonzalez put it best – as students, how they internalize the truth is ultimately up to them. All we can do, as instructors, is teach students the facts and hope that they will use the knowledge to demand change and make the

world a better place. As educators, and members of TSCA, the best way to confront a post-truth environment is to continue to do what we do, but to do it better because so much is riding on us. Mr. Keyes reminds us that “Post-truthfulness builds a fragile social edifice based on wariness. It erodes the foundation of trust that underlies any healthy civilization.” Because of this, we must say: no more. We must say: not in our classrooms. We must in the chaotic storms of misinformation and post-truth remain the ever steady and constant beacon that our students can turn to for objectivity and clarity. We must continue with humility and conviction, and with the knowledge that failure is unthinkable.

And that, my friends and colleagues, is a fact.



Resolutions 2018-2019

Marriages

Whereas, a competitive coaches schedule does not a good dating life make

Whereas, love is patient, love is kind and love can feel like a really really bad 1AR

Whereas, sometimes it's easier to just get a fainting goat then to get married (Robert Shepherd)

Be it Resolved that we congratulate Tasha Jones, Neil White, Andrew Barrett, Ashley Freeman, and Joe Muller for tying the knot! (not to each other)

Retirements

Whereas, service in any field should be commended, and

Whereas, these individuals have done such an exemplary job, and

Whereas, they are not getting old.... just well seasoned...

Be it Resolved that TSCA and TFA must recognize the great contributions of Rhonda Smith, Cheryl Potts, Wanda-Cormeaux Harrell, Rebecca Sibley, Debbie Johnson, Carolyn Mackey, Terri Robinson, and Jonni Davis, as you receive the retirement facelift.

May you be able to contain your excitement when you realize that free weekends are no longer a thing of fantasy.

Bereavements

Whereas, our community is wonderful at communication, but situations can still leave us at a loss for words, and

Whereas, our bonds and friendships are bound to last a lifetime

Be it resolved that the organization stands beside Charles Wise through his wife's recent health problems, and the unfortunate passing of his daughter, Marcella Jean Douglas Wise.

Funny

Whereas, good senators are hard to find

Whereas, sometimes skateboarding, punk rocker kids make great politicians

Whereas, El Paso has more to offer than damn good Mexican food

Be it Resolved that the body thanks El Paso for giving us Beto O'Rourke

Dad Jokes

Whereas, we love him for the amazing person he is, just as he is, and

Whereas, most of us are still confused about the race tie bit, and

Whereas, a hush fell over the crowd... in lieu of laughter

Be it Resolved that the body formally bans Seth Pietsek from dad jokes from this point forward

Gay is Back

Whereas, your mattresses are not safe

from the pool.... and your science labs aren't safe from explosions.....

Whereas, those amazing back rubs are back, yo.

Whereas, if you haven't heard her ode to Starbucks , it's an interpers dream.... or a nightmare, depending on your perspective.

Be it Resolved that the body enthusiastically welcomes Gay Hollis back to coaching after her battle against cancer

Middle School State

Whereas age ain't nothing but a number, and

Whereas, we believe the children are our future, and

Whereas, the future of our organization depends on the steps we take now,

Be it Resolved that the body thanks host Colin Malinak and site director Ryan Hennessey and others who helped make the first TFA Middle School State tournament a reality.

Omni Thank you

Whereas, the food, the setting, and the hospitality this year was outstanding,

Whereas, the memories made in the hallways and public seating areas are sure to last a lifetime,

Whereas, we all enjoyed the beach-front views on our balconies during our stay,

Be it Resolved that this body thanks the Omni Bayfront Tower for providing excellent service and hospitality during TSCA Convention 2018.

TSCA Body

Whereas, they do not eat, sleep, drink, or live life for a long period of time,

Whereas, the bacon-wrapped dates were a surprisingly great idea,

Whereas, they have created an amazing setting for all of us to meet up and do what we do best -- communicate,

Be it Resolved that this body thanks our TSCA Board of Directors - TSCA President Wade Hescht, Vice-President Colin Malinak, Vice-President Elect Mendy Meurer, Executive Secretary Carolyn Baum, Comptroller Mike Jones, Comptroller-Elect Kandi King, Journal Editor Dr. Leslie Rodriguez, Archivist Jana Riggins, and Immediate Past President and presenter, Melissa Witt.

Amarillo 2019

Whereas, the food, the people, and the hospitality are said to be like none other in the state,

Whereas, everyone is excited about the leisurely 5... or 10 hour drive to the venue,

Be it Resolved that this body says GOODBYE to Corpus Christi, and HELLO to the 2019 TSCA Convention Host city, Amarillo.



Around the Organization

* Higher Ed Swag Table

* Vendor Tables for Convention still available for just \$100. Contact Aimee Kaspryzk at akaspryzk@bgrove.org for more info.

* The TACA Committee has been dissolved.

* Districts that increase their membership the most will receive a conference scholarship.

Dr. Kelly Quintanilla named TSCA 2019 Communicator of the Year



Dr. Kelly M. Quintanilla assumed the role of President of Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi in August 2017. She earned her PH.D in Communication from Pennsylvania State University and joined the Texas A&M Corpus Christi faculty the same year.

She was a professor of communication for 16 years, teaching courses in Business and Professional Communication, Teamwork & Leadership, Organizational Communication, Public Relations and Public Speaking. She

was also a member of TSCA and has attended convention over the years.

"When I was named President, I was asked what I wanted my legacy to be. I thought it was a silly question but I said I think I already had my legacy in that they are my students when I see them succeed. They come back to you and they tell you something incredible that they have done in their own careers 20 years later. That is the legacy of anyone who is in education at any level," said Quintanilla in her speech.

Educators of the Year 2018



*Amy Alridge
Sandford*

*Texas A&M
Corpus Christi*



*Mellessa
Denny*

*Amarillo
High School*



*Jeremy
Hutchins*

*Texas
State
University*

Outstanding Service 2018

*Brent
Hinkle*

*Joy of
Tournaments*



*Kandi
King*

Retired

Texas Speech Communication Association

Highlights:
up to 20 CPE Hours
Access to the UIL State Director
Panhandle Plains Museum Tour
Globe News Center for the Performing Arts Tour

Featured Panels:
“Breaking Silos and Building Bridges”
“Rhetoric of the West”
“Bridging the Gap: Where have all the Interpers Gone?”
“Stage Combat: Safe Practices for the High School Stage”
“Make it Work: The Pedagogical and Creative Aspects of Work Sessions”

Convention 2019 “Echo Chamber”
October 3-5, 2019

Committee Assignments 19-20

Ad Hoc Committee to Examine the Need for Caucuses

Mleissa Witt (Chair)
 Jennifer Adams
 Kim Falco
 Renita Johnson
 Kathryn Kelly
 Arturo Martinez
 Leslie Rodriguez
 Raul Ruiz
 Jonathan Stansbury

Bylaws Committee

Ann Shofner '21 (chair)
 Sara Jane Barro '19
 Julie Welker '20
 Kathy Owens '19
 Kristi Braley '20
 Seth Phillips '21

College and University

Justin Blacklock (Chair) '20
 Casey Garcia '20
 Rebecca Kerr '19
 Trey Guinn '20
 Meghan Pace '19
 Rachel Riggs '20

Committee on Educator Training

Mellessa Denny (chair) '19
 Tracy Matthies '19
 Stacey McGee '19
 Krista Nix-Buckner '20
 Victoria Graves '20
 Angie Richard '20
 Kirsten Nash '20

Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee

James Thompson
 Ross DeLeon
 JP Fugler
 Melissa Witt
 Sarah Contreras
 Floyd McConnell

Educator of the Year Committee

Kari McKenzie '19 HS (Chair)
 Ralph Long '20 CC
 Barbara Mayo '20 Univ
 Amanda Jo Ratcliff '19 CC
 Julie Schniers '20 HS
 George Tennison '20 MS
 Rachel Warnecke '21 MS

Fiscal Review Committee

Brent Hinkle (Chair)
 Greg McGee '21
 Melissa Witt '20
 Noah Recker '21

Governmental Affairs Committee

Sami Womack (Co-Chair) '20
 Ryan Lovell (Co-Chair) '20
 Linda Alderson '21
 Andrew Griffith '21
 Greg Mayo '20
 Seth Pietsek '20
 Ruben Richardson '21

Local Arrangements

Lacy Cannon
 Trudy Hanson
 Ann Shofner
 Connie McKee
 Mellessa Denny
 Lou Ann Seabourn
 Heather Goheen

Nominating Committee

Melissa Witt (Chair)
 Rory McKenzie
 Amy Jones
 Kim Falco
 Linda Alderson
 Greg Arp

Public Relations Committee

Michael Merritte '20 (Chair)
 Martha Pierson '19
 Charles Wise '20
 Deanne Christensen '20
 Kyle Peterson '21
 Jeffry Van Slycke '21

Resolutions Committee

Adesuwa Omoruyi '19 (Chair)
 Jayson Anderson '19
 Adrian Gallardo '19
 D'Nan Mathis '19
 Janice Singleton '20
 Karen Schilling '19
 Kasey Willeby '19

Special Awards Committee

Connie McKee '20 (Chair)
 Amy Tilton Jones '19
 Russell Kirkscey '20
 Barbara Mayo '19

Wade Hesch '21

Norma Coston (external resource)
 Colin Malinak (Ex Officio)

Speech and Theatre in Public Schools Committee

Max Thompson '20 (Chair)
 Ramon F. Arana '19
 Andrew Barrett '19
 Angi Burns '19
 Carolyn Mackey '19
 Janice Valenzuela '19
 Heather Wallace-Weinette '21
 Xochitl Callejo '21

Speech and Theatre in Four Year and University

Speech and Theatre in Two Year and Community Colleges
 Justin Blacklock (Chair) ('20)
 Rebecca Kerr ('19)
 Meghan Pace ('19)
 Casey Garcia ('20)
 Trey Guinn ('20)
 Rachel Riggs ('20)

Task Force on Strategic Planning

Amy Tilton Jones (Chair)
 Rory McKenzie
 Connie McKee
 Brent Hinkle
 M'Liss Hindman
 Sara Jane Barro

Time and Place

M'Liss Hindman (East) (Chair) '21
 Lou Ann Seabourn (West) '22
 Victoria Beard (South) '21
 Michelle Watkins (Central) '20
 Kandi King (Ex Officio - Comptroller)

UIL Advisory Committee

Eloise Blair (Chair) '19
 Ross DeLeon '20
 JP Fugler '20
 Joanna Hickey '20
 Victor Martinez '20
 Louie Pacheco '20
 Bryan Winn '20
 Nicole Cornish '21
 Yolanda Silva '21

TSCA Elections on slate for October Convention

The Nominating Committee is excited to present an excellent slate of candidates for our upcoming elections.

If you hear the call and would like to serve in one of these positions, please contact Nominating Committee chairperson Melissa Witt at melissawitt2010@gmail.com as soon as possible!

Candidate information will be posted on the TSCA website in early September. Current candidates for these positions include:

TSCA Leadership

2018-2019 Executive Officers

President: Colin Malinak, Saint Mary's Hall
Vice President: Mendy Meurer, Del Mar College
Vice President-Elect: Aimee Kasprzyk, Blooming Grove High School
Executive Secretary: Carolyn Baum, West Texas A&M
Comptroller: Kandi King, Retired
Newsletter Editor: Kendra Willeby, Foster High School
Journal Editor: Leslie Rodriguez, Angelo State University
Archivist: Jana Riggins, University of Texas, Austin
Immediate Past President: Wade Hescht, Lone Star College – North Harris
Webmaster: Brent Hinkle, Joy of Tournaments
Convention Coordinator: M'Liss S. Hindman, Tyler Junior College
Parliamentarian: Lou Ann Seabourn, Retired

2018-2019 District Chairpersons

District 1 Vanessa Chapa vanessa.chapa@mcallenisd.net
District 2 Tasha Jones tkneis@tmisd.us
District 3 Joanna Hickey jhickey@bolingsd.net
District 4 Lillian Adeyemi lillian.adeyemi@cfisd.net

Vice President-Elect

Julie Welker, Howard Payne University

Executive Secretary

Carolyn Baum, West Texas A&M
Sami Womack, Hereford High School

Journal Editor

Amanda Jo Ratliff, Tyler Junior College

Newsletter Editor

Stef Cambra, Plano Senior High

District 5 Andre A. Favors afavors@lamar.edu
District 6 Deanne Christensen dchristensen@conroe-isd.net
District 7 Kari McKenzie mckenziekd@lisdeagles.net
District 8 Amy Kemp amy.kemp@txkisd.net
District 9 Shawn Duthie shawn.duthie@hollidayisd.net
District 10 Racy Grant rlgrant@prosper-isd.net
District 11 Eric Mears mearse@lisd.net
District 12 Michael Allen mdonaldson@chinaspringisd.net
Donaldson
District 13 Kyla Brookshier-DeLeon Kyla.brookshier@wimberleyisd.net
District 14 Seth Pietsek seth.pietsek@abilineisd.org
District 15 Julie Schniers Julie.schniers@saisd.org
District 16 Sami Womack sawomack@dimmittisd.net
District 17 Louie Pacheco lpacheco@muleshoeisd.net
District 18 Aaron Cox aaron.cox@ectorcountyisd.org
District 19 Brandon Cohn bcohn@episd.org
District 20 Tania Kelley mrstkelley@gmail.com