

Dear TSCA Colleagues,

All of us would agree that we are living in difficult times which require difficult decisions. Your TSCA officers have been carefully monitoring the COVID-19 situation in the state of Texas. We realize that some of you have concerns about traveling or being around large groups of individuals. However, we also know that many of you are looking forward to having an in-person convention and are able to attend. After careful deliberation, the TSCA Executive Committee voted to have the 2021 TSCA Convention in a traditional, face-to-face format. We are not planning for a virtual or hybrid option – all panels and business meetings will be held in person.

While we are excited about seeing our friends and colleagues again, we want you to know that we are committed to adhering to all national, state, local and facility health and safety guidelines in an effort to support the mission of our organization by providing educational workshops focused on speech pedagogy and competition training.

For those of you who are planning to attend convention, please note the following:

- We will do our best, with the hotel's cooperation, to conduct our convention in accordance with current CDC guidelines for meetings.
- Unvaccinated individuals are **strongly encouraged** to wear masks for the safety of themselves and other attendees.
- Fully vaccinated individuals are not required to wear masks during meetings and sessions, but are **encouraged** to do so.
- Space and seating will be set and maintained to provide appropriate social distancing for meeting space and meal functions whenever possible.
- Obviously, if you have COVID-19 or symptoms, we ask you to stay home for your own good and out of courtesy to others. When in doubt, err on the side of caution.
- The hotel will be doing extra sanitizing and cleaning and hand sanitizers will be available.

A recent announcement from the National Communication Association, which is also holding an in-person national convention, stated, "we also are heartened by the recent CDC finding that nearly 92 percent of the U.S. population holding a bachelor's degree or higher has been fully vaccinated. Please know that we will seek to do our very best to address issues relating to COVID-19 and health as we embrace this in person format for our convention." Your TSCA officers echo this sentiment and are planning to bring you a great convention with outstanding panels that will inspire you. We look forward to seeing you October 14-16 at the San Antonio Colonnade Hotel!

If you have not yet registered for the 2021 TSCA Convention, please do so by going to etsca.com/convention. The schedule is posted on the website. A copy of the convention program will be posted soon.

To reserve a room at our convention hotel, call the hotel direct (210) 699-8888 or email sacolonnadehotel@gmail.com with your information to make the reservation (name, email, phone number, dates, room type, and the name of our group, "TSCA.") If you email, someone from the hotel will respond with the confirmation number.

Sincerely,

The TSCA Executive Committee