TSCA Bylaws
Revised through Convention 2026

Article I – Purpose and Mission

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be the Texas Speech Communication Association.

Section 2: TSCA envisions a better world enhanced by effective communicators.

Section 3 The Texas Speech Communication Association is a professional, academic association committed to excellence in communication instruction, student performance, research, scholarly accomplishment, professional service and political advocacy through:

- Promoting effective communication,
- Advocating for public policy regarding communication curriculum for students in the state of Texas,
- Stimulating the intellectual and professional enrichment of our members,
- Developing a partnership among the various disciplines and professions in the field of communication,
- Providing quality academic programs at the annual convention, and
- Enhancing proficiency in communication instruction.

Article II - Membership

Section 1: Membership in this Association shall be open to any Institution or teacher of Speech Communication or allied field, any resident of Texas interested in the promotion of Speech Communication, and students interested in the field of Speech Communication. The prerequisite for holding any appointed or elected leadership position in the Association will be current membership and residency in the State of Texas.

Section 2: Individual membership in TSCA shall be required for membership in any Interest Group or participation and voting in any of the meetings of the Association.

Section 3: Levels of membership are delineated in Article IX Finance. Levels of membership are Regular, Sustaining, Life, Student, Retired Instructor, Institutional and Emeritus. Emeritus members are designated by the Executive Council.

Article III - Officers

Section 1: The officers of the Association and their duties shall be:

President shall preside at the annual business meeting and other meetings as necessary and shall enforce the Bylaws. This officer shall be President of the Executive Council Members. This officer shall execute any duties assigned to him or her by Bylaws or Executive Council. This officer shall appoint committee members and Ad Hoc Committees and designate the chairperson of each committee. The President shall appoint a parliamentarian to serve

annually. The week following convention, the President shall appoint a Convention Coordinator to serve a three-year term beginning at the completion of the current convention at which time the new President will appoint the next Convention Coordinator. Term would end at the completion of their third convention in this position.

Vice President shall be responsible for the annual convention program and shall arrange the program in consultation with the Interest Group chairpersons and other officers. This officer shall submit a draft copy of the convention program at the May Officers' Retreat and make available to all interest group chairs a copy of the program by the end of May. By July 1, a draft of the convention program shall be posted online for the membership with the final copy of the convention program posted online no later than August 1. The Vice President shall see that the program is suited to the needs of the Association. This officer shall preside over the organization in the absence of the President, and at such meetings as this officer may be assigned to preside over by the President.

Vice President Elect shall coordinate recruitment activities and be responsible for membership orientation at the convention. This officer shall preside over the organization in the absence of the President and Vice President, and at such meetings as this officer may be assigned to preside over by the President.

Executive Secretary shall be the secretary of the organization. This officer is responsible for the minutes of the Association and shall provide a clearinghouse for all information concerning the Association. This officer shall see that proper membership solicitations shall be conducted. Executive Secretary should not be an officer in one of the other affiliate organizations of the TSCA.

Comptroller of Accounts shall provide for accurate and timely receipt, disbursement, and investment of funds of the Texas Speech Communication Association, keep full and accurate accounting records of such funds, present a balanced budget to the TSCA at its annual convention, present the records for audit on a timely basis, and shall sign the contract with the selected convention hotel. The Comptroller of Accounts shall be bonded at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary shall be alternate signatory. An audit shall be conducted by a committee at the end of the fiscal year. Comptroller of Accounts should not be a financial officer of the affiliate organizations of the TSCA.

The Journal Editor shall be responsible for the publication of the Texas Speech Communication Journal.
The Communications Director shall be responsible for publication of the Association's newsletter and all official TSCA social media.

Archivist shall preserve the records of the Association as found in minutes, publications, etc.; solicit from past officer's records and correspondence from their administration; preserve a master file of convention programs, and presidential addresses; maintain appropriate photographic materials, catalog all of the above as appropriate for retrieval; and secure

storage for all of the above. Archivist shall be in charge of New Member pins, 5, 10, 15 and 25 Year Member Pins and Special Recognition for 40, 50 and 60 year memberships.
The *Immediate Past President* shall serve on the Executive Committee in an ex-officio capacity for one year after his/her term as President and shall be responsible for updating the Leadership Handbook.

The *Web Administrator* will be a non-voting, advisory member of the Executive Committee.

The *Parliamentarian* will be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

The *Convention Coordinator* will be a non-voting, advisory member of the Executive Committee serving a three-year term. At the end of the Convention Coordinator's second term, the current President shall appoint the next Convention Coordinator so the new appointee will have one year of training. The Convention Coordinator will work with the Comptroller of Accounts to negotiate details in selecting convention hotels. The Convention Coordinator shall be responsible for convention hotel logistics and will coordinate with the Vice President before and during the convention.

The *Texas Forensic Association Representative*, appointed by the Texas Forensic Association Executive Council, shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee

Section 2: The method of electing office shall be:
a. At the conclusion of the annual convention, the Vice President shall succeed to Presidency and the Vice President Elect shall succeed to Vice Presidency. The Vice President Elect shall be selected at the annual convention.

b. The Executive Secretary, Comptroller of Accounts, Journal Editor and Communications Director, and Archivist shall be elected at the annual convention one year in advance of taking office and shall hold office for a period of three years or until their successors are elected.

c. A list of nominees for all offices listed in Article III, Section 1 (except the President and Vice President) shall be prepared by a Nominating Committee and presented at the mid-year officers retreat and submitted to the membership in the summer edition of the newsletter.

1. The Nominating Committee shall recommend candidates for each office to be elected in a given year. The Nominating Committee shall receive from each candidate these documents:
(a) a vita with pertinent activities of the candidate
(b) a review of service by the candidate to TSCA and the field of speech in the state
(c) a letter by the candidate accepting the nomination and including the candidate's perspective for furthering the goals of the Association; and
(d) a letter from the candidate's immediate supervisor, if applicable, indicating support.

2. At least two candidates shall be offered for Vice President Elect. Candidates shall be from the K-12 membership on even years and from the College and University membership on odd

years. Each candidate must be an active member of TSCA for five years and have served in a leadership position (including other association officer positions, district chairs, interest group chairs or committee chairs).
•• The report of the Nominating Committee shall be made to the membership on the TSCA website and will include the candidates' vitae and perspective for furthering the goals of the Association. The nominating committee shall conduct an election during the general session. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect. Anyone nominated from the floor shall follow guidelines in c. 1.

d. In the event no candidate receives a majority, a run-off shall be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes.

Section 3: The installation of officers shall take place at the final Executive Council meeting of the annual convention.

Section 4: In the case of a 2/3 vote of no confidence of any officer of the TSCA, that officer shall be immediately removed from office. If any office is vacated before the end of the term, the highest ranking officer in consultation with the Executive Committee has the authority to appoint a member of the Association to fill the office until the next annual meeting.

Section 5: The Executive Council shall set forth other duties of the officers not specifically stated in the Bylaws.

Article IV - Executive Council

Section 1: The Executive Council shall consist of the President, Vice President, Vice President Elect, Executive Secretary, Executive Secretary Elect, Comptroller of Accounts, Comptroller of Accounts Elect, Journal Editor and Communications Director, Immediate Past President, and Archivist for the period of their respective offices. The Parliamentarian, Web Administrator and Convention Coordinator along with District Chairpersons, Interest Group Chairpersons and Standing Committee Chairpersons shall serve for the period of their respective offices. The Texas Forensic Association Representative shall serve until another is assigned by the Texas Forensic Association Executive Council.

Section 2: Regular meetings of the Executive Council shall be held each year at the annual state convention. The President, who presides at Council meetings, may call other meetings. The Executive Council shall be authorized to conduct the routine business and professional arrangements for the Association.

Section 3: The Executive Council shall examine the financial report of the Comptroller of Accounts and make whatever recommendations regarding revenue and expenses that seem appropriate to fulfill the functions of the organization and assure its financial stability. The Council shall further provide the proper auditing for the books of the Association.

Article V - Meetings

Section 1: Regular annual conventions of the Association will be held, preferably in the fall.

Section 2: The time and place of each convention will be decided by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Convention Coordinator. The hotel contract shall be approved by the Executive Committee at least two years in advance of the convention. The Comptroller of Accounts shall sign the contract.

Section 3: Under the following force majeure events: (a) acts of God; (b) a natural disaster (fires, explosions, earthquakes, hurricane, flooding, storms, explosions, infestations), epidemic, or pandemic; (c) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (d) government order or law; (e) action by any governmental authority; (f) national or regional emergency; TSCA will be authorized to hold a virtual convention. Roberts Rules of Order concerning electronic meetings will be followed as well as all the rules of the organization.

Article VI - Geographical Districts

Section 1: The state shall be organized into Districts in conformity with the Educational Service Center plan. TSCA Districts may meet at such times in addition to annual conventions as deemed appropriate by the District chairperson or a majority of the district membership.

Section 2: Group meetings of each district shall be held at annual conventions for the following purposes:

a. To enable delegates to discuss problems of particular interest to their district.

b. To discuss matters that have developed at Executive Council meetings to enable District Chairpersons to express the views of their constituency at subsequent Executive Council meetings.

c. In alternate years, to elect a District Chairperson. Even-numbered districts elect in even-numbered years and odd-numbered districts in odd-numbered years.

Section 3: The duties of the elected District Chairpersons shall be as follows:

a. To begin a term in the Executive Council at the conclusion of the convention when elected.

b. To encourage membership in TSCA and attendance at TSCA conventions by means of an annual letter (to be mailed in September) to all speech and drama teachers in his/her District. Expenses for the mailing will be borne by the Texas Speech Communication Association through the comptroller of Accounts, if requested by the District Chairperson.

c. To prepare an annual report to the Executive Council. The report will contain:

•• copies of the letters referred to the subsections b. and c. above;

**copies of written communication with the State Board of Education members as a part of their work with the Governmental Affairs Committee.

d. To assist the Governmental Affairs Committee to facilitate the political goals of the Association: including communication with the State Board of Education and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding TSCA concerns.

Section 4: In the event any District is not represented at the Council meetings, the President is empowered to appoint a Chairperson.

Article VII - Interest Groups

Section 1: The Interest Groups
•• Argumentation and Debate
•• Opportunity and Engagement
•• Interpersonal/Organizational Communication
•• Instructional Development in High Schools
•• Instructional Development in Middle Schools/Texas Junior Speech and Debate Association (TJSDA)
•• Instructional Development in the Colleges & Universities
•• Performance Studies Interest Group
•• Rhetoric and Communication Theory
•• Texas Forensic Association/TFA
•• Texas Intercollegiate Forensic Association/TIFA
•• Texas Community College Forensic Association/TCCFA
•• University Interscholastic League

Section 2: There shall be a chairperson and a vice-chairperson elected for a one-year term by each Interest Group. The vice-chairperson shall succeed to the office of chairperson.

Section 3: Persons or groups interested in forming a new interest group shall obtain the signatures of 50 members and obtain the endorsement of the Executive Council and present their proposal to the By-laws committee.

Section 4: The duties of the interest group officers: The *Interest Group Chairperson* shall
•• preside at the meetings of the Interest Group;
•• serve as a liaison person with the members;
•• be responsible for the interest group's program submissions at the next annual convention;
•• serve as an advisor to the TSCA Vice President in planning convention programs,
•• represent the interest group on the Executive Council,
•• shall be responsible for submitting pertinent news to the newsletter editor and web administrator, and
•• shall serve as an advisor to the TSCA Vice President by meeting the Vice President's set deadline for submitting programs.

The *Vice-Chairperson* shall
•• preside in the absence of the chairperson;
•• be responsible for any workshop program sponsored by the interest group for the annual convention; and assist in other ways.

•• For the Performance Studies Interest Group, the Vice Chairperson should submit a Professor's Reading Hour or a Meet the Author program every year.
Section 5: The Interest Groups shall encourage worthwhile activities and shall recommend to the Executive Council considerations or proposals as needed.

Article VIII - Committees

Section 1: The standing committees and their duties shall be:

a. The *Bylaws Committee* shall propose revisions and amendments to the Bylaws. The Bylaws Chairperson shall attend each Executive Committee and Executive Council meeting during the year.

b. The *College and University Committee* shall work to encourage and improve communication, speech and theatre arts instruction in colleges and universities in the state of Texas.

c. *The Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee* will consist of six members and they will select 12 members based on equitable distribution of teaching level and District representation to be candidates for the Nominating Committee. See Section 3 for details on the process.

d. The *Educator of the Year Awards Committee* shall select an individual in accordance with the established regulations for that award.

That committee shall have five members, two being from middle school, two from high school and one from college/university. The chairperson shall receive packets from all Educator of the Year nominees by August 1. The committee shall report the nominees to the Executive Committee by August 15. Recipients will be announced at the convention.

e. Committee on Educator Training shall produce educational materials for the TSCA website, introductory materials, and training sessions. This committee shall act as mentors for new members and shall recruit experienced speech
educators to assist in serving as mentors for new members. Additionally, they will attend convention to meet new members and provide guidance. The chair of the Committee on Educator Training shall update the TSCA President by December 1 and March 1 of each year regarding the progress, successes, and concerns of mentor educators working with first year members. The Committee shall be composed of seven members with representation from middle school, high school, and higher education with geographic representation when possible.

f. The *Executive Committee* shall be made up of the officers listed in Article III, Section 1. This committee shall be authorized to take such action and make appropriations as are required by emergencies arising between conventions. No expenditures or commitments for reimbursement of expenditures shall be made for TSCA without prior approval by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will annually hire and set the salary of a web administrator. The Executive Committee has the authority to call electronic meetings for their committee using appropriate internet services. These meetings shall be subject to all rules of the organization. The Executive Committee should select those individual members who are eligible for the

Rising Star Award which will recognize up and coming members who show potential for leadership. They must have been a member of TSCA for five years or less and participated on committees, interest groups, region groups and/or programs.

g. A *Fiscal Review Committee* of three members, at least one of whom shall be a former TSCA Comptroller of Accounts or Executive Secretary, shall be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Executive Committee at the annual meeting. This committee shall publish a report of the Comptroller of Accounts and the Executive Secretary annually.

h. *The Governmental Affairs Committee* shall monitor or contract a monitor with the approval of the Executive Committee to research governmental activities affecting speech communication and theatre. This committee is authorized to request funding as needed from the Executive Committee to complete its monitoring and research responsibilities. The chairperson shall be appointed by the President for a three-year term or until a successor is appointed. Members shall be appointed by the President with preference given to members in the Austin, Waco and San Antonio areas. At least one member shall be employed by a middle school, and at least one member shall be employed by a college or university. The chairperson shall attend each Executive Committee and Executive Council meeting during the year to report to the association, and shall develop communication networks and strategies to respond to governmental issues concerning speech communication and theatre in Texas. The District Chairpersons shall distribute information from the Governmental Affairs Committee Chairperson to the membership.

i. The *Local Arrangements Committee* shall make arrangements for amenities and details related to the annual convention, including the selection of the recipient for the Communicator of the Year. The President will name the Local Arrangements Chair(s) who will select committee members from the area of the next convention. The chair shall serve for one year and serve as an ex-officio member of the committee the following year.

j. The *Nominating Committee* shall propose a slate of officers to the Association to be placed in nomination at the general meeting. Refer to Article III, Section 2 for methods for officer elections.

k.The *Public Relations Committee* shall publicize the work of TSCA, seek appropriate ways to improve the public image of TSCA, and recruit new members. Committee shall prepare and present to the general meeting appropriate resolutions pertaining to the annual meeting.

l. The *Committee on Special Awards* shall consist of five former officers of TSCA. The committee shall select those individuals eligible to receive the TSCA Outstanding Service Award, and recommend Emeritus member(s) to the Executive Council. Emeritus members must have been retired for three years or have twenty-five years service in the organization and maintain active membership and participation in TSCA. Recipient(s) will be announced at the annual convention.

m. The *UIL Advisory* Committee shall encourage Interscholastic contests and propose improvements.

Section 2: Each committee shall be composed of three to seven members who shall be appointed by the President and shall serve for a period of three years unless otherwise specifically stated in the committee descriptions. No member shall be appointed to more than one standing committee except by unanimous consent of the Executive Committee.

Section 3: The Nominating Committee will be elected in the following manner:
At the general session at each convention, the twelve candidates selected by the Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee shall be announced and each delegate will vote by ballot for two nominees. The person receiving the highest number of votes will serve as chairperson and the next five highest will complete the committee. The person receiving the second highest number of votes shall assume the chair of the committee should the chair be unable to complete the term of office. Any member who has served on the Nominating Committee within the previous three years shall be ineligible to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Section 4: Any position paper issued to external organizations by a TSCA committee bearing TSCA identification must have prior approval by a majority of the TSCA Executive Committee, after polling by President.

Article IX - Finances
Section 1: The membership year shall begin on June 1 and end on May 31 of the following year.

Footnote: These dates have been established in compliance with documents filed with the Internal Revenue Service of the federal government.

Section 2: The dues for the regular membership in the Association shall be *$200.00* per year. Regular members shall have access to the electronic directory, journal, newsletters, and convention program.

Section 3: The dues for the sustaining membership in the Association shall be *$300.00.* Sustaining members shall have access to the electronic directory, journal, newsletters, and convention program. This fee includes the convention registration fee.

Section 4: Life memberships shall be *$1000.00.* Life members shall have access to the electronic directory, journal, newsletters, and convention program. The names of Life members shall be listed in the convention program. Life members attending convention will be charged half of the convention fee. Life members prior to 2019 will be exempt from paying this fee. A sustaining or regular member who wished to upgrade membership may do so by paying the difference by May 31 of the same membership year.

Section 5: The dues for student membership shall be *$50.00.* Those holding student membership cannot hold full-time teaching positions, full time debate coaching positions, or full-time communication professional positions. Student members shall have access to the electronic directory, journal, newsletters, and convention program. Student members may not be appointed to committees.

Section 6: Retired Instructor membership shall be $100. Retired Instructors shall have access to the electronic directory, journal, newsletters, and convention program.

Section 7: Institutional memberships shall be open to any educational institution. Dues shall be *$200.00.* Institutional members shall receive two copies of journal issues and newsletters, one directory, and one set of mailing labels upon request.

Section 8: Emeritus Members, as designated by the Executive Council, shall have all dues and convention fees waived and shall have full rights of membership.

Section 9: A *$200.00* Convention Registration fee shall be charged. Emeritus members, Life members prior to 2019, Sustaining members, Retired members, and Student members shall be exempt from payment of this fee. Any non-member who attends the convention will be charged the convention registration fee. This fee shall entitle non-members to attend convention meetings, programs and free events. Non-members shall not have voting privileges.A *$50.00* fee should be charged to any non-member who attends the convention. The fee shall entitle the non-member to attend convention meetings, programs and free events. Non-members shall not have voting privileges.

Section 10: Individual members may receive a printed copy of the journal for a fee of $25.00.

Article X - Representatives

Section 1: The President of TSCA shall appoint an official representative from the Association to the National Communication Association. This representative shall attend the NCA States Advisory Council for TSCA.

Section 2: The TSCA Executive Council may authorize payment of part of the travel expenses for the official TSCA representative to attend the annual NCA convention.

Article XI - Affiliate Organizations

Section 1: Affiliate organizational membership shall be open to any communications related organization. Affiliate organizations are encouraged to hold an annual meeting in conjunction with TSCA. Each member affiliate organization shall hold the status of Interest Group.

Section 2: Affiliate organizations should encourage their members to join TSCA.

Section 3: Members of affiliate organizations must be members of TSCA in order to attend and participate in TSCA programs.
Section 4: Affiliate organizations are encouraged to co-sponsor programs with other Interest Groups.

Article XII - Parliamentary Authority

Section 1: Except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be used as the parliamentary authority.

Section 2: Forty (40) members of the Association shall constitute a quorum at any regular business meeting of the Association. One-third of the Council membership shall constitute a quorum for the Executive Council.

Article XIII - Amendments

Section 1: The Bylaws may be amended at the annual meetings of the Association by a majority vote of the membership present, provided that written notice of the amendment has been forwarded to the membership at least 30 days before the annual meetings.

Section 2: In the event that no prior notice has been given, proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be adopted by a ¾ vote of the members present at the general session of that convention.

Article XIV - Dissolution

Section 1: In the event that the Texas Speech Communication Association should decide to dissolve, the Executive Committee shall, after paying all liabilities, dispose of the remaining assets as follows: (1) donate them to The Southern States Communication Association, which is an exempt organization under Section 501 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or, in the event that the organization no longer exists, (2) donate them to some other educational organization which qualifies under Section 501 C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and which is concerned primarily with the field of communication.

Revised per convention action
11/5/2026 Mellessa Denny, Executive Secretary
10/29/2025 Mellessa Denny, Executive Secretary
10/14/2024 Mellessa Denny, Executive Secretary
11/10/2023 Mellessa Denny, Executive Secretary
11/15/2022 Mellessa Denny, Executive Secretary
01/25/2022 Carolyn Baum, Executive Secretary
11/30/2020 Carolyn Baum, Executive Secretary
02/20/2020 Carolyn Baum, Executive Secretary
06/04/19 Carolyn Baum, Executive Secretary

12/27/17Lou Ann Seabourn, Immediate Past Executive Secretary
11/2/16 Lou Ann Seabourn, Executive Secretary
1/12/16 Lou Ann Seabourn, Executive Secretary
9/22/14 Lou Ann Seabourn, Executive Secretary
10/20/12 Brent Hinkle, Executive Secretary
10/22/11 Brent Hinkle, Executive Secretary
10/12/09 Natalie Bryant, Chair, Bylaws Committee