

TexasSpeaks

**T h e N e w s l e t t e r o f t h e T e x a s S p e e c h
C o m m u n i c a t i o n A s s o c i a t i o n**

A MESSAGE FROM TSCA PRESIDENT, LOIS DAVIS

Even though you are reading this newsletter in the Summer, it is the last days of school that I write it! As I watch my students take their final exams, I am somewhat melancholy. I ponder about the first days that they began my “speech” class. Some were so afraid to stand and speak before an audience and many had no clue that communication was more than just talking. As the semester progressed and they began to understand the communication process and began to present themselves before an audience, bit by bit, little by little, they gained confidence in themselves! The Communication Applications class has provided the vehicle for students to gain confidence in themselves that they never believed they could achieve! I am saddened to know that this class very likely will become an elective and no longer a graduation requirement. By the time you read this newsletter we will know the absolute outcome. I know like me you understand its value. I send a special thank you to all who wrote letters, sent emails, and called legislators regarding HB3/SB3. I also send a special thank you to the “Golden Girls” Virginia Meyers and Maridell Fryar who even in (semi) retirement did not hesitate to work with me to get a letter to the Legislative Education Committee members regarding TSCA’s position on Communication Applications being a required class! Regardless of the outcome, TSCA must still fight the fight to have a required speech class in our public schools.

Now that I have had my moments of sadness, it is time to pull myself from that place and put on my happy face! ☺ I am so excited and looking forward to the 2009 TSCA Convention “Beyond Words: Nonverbal Communication –A Second Language”. In May, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Executive Officers at the OMNI Mandalay Hotel in Irving to plan for your coming October 7-10! Thank you officers from the depths of my heart for all the energy, time, and effort that you give to TSCA! Like other organizations, we have a few economic issues, but the officers, especially our comptroller Mike Jones, have worked hard to make sure that we have a quality convention! Our Interest Groups have sent educational panels, and Vice-president Ralph Long is busily organizing an informative convention program. It will go online in August for you to proof. The Local Arrangements committee led by Jane Boyd and Robert Shepherd has secured tickets for us to attend the State Fair of Texas as well as wonderful door prizes! You are in for a treat.

Please make preparations to attend this convention! Bring your smiles and happy faces and good communication skills to interact with each other on both personal and professional levels. Our ability to understand and use nonverbal communication are powerful tools that will help us connect with each other, express what we really mean, navigate challenging situations, and build better relationships.

Take care and have a wonderful new school year!

Lois Davis





CONVENTION 2009 IN DALLAS!

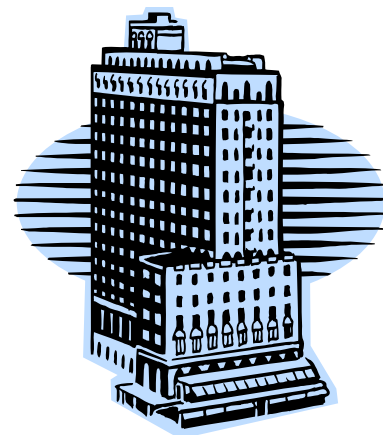
The 2009 TSCA convention will be held October 7-10, 2009 at the Omni Mandalay Hotel! Please peruse this newsletter for all you need to know to get ready for convention: registration information, program details, and hotel reservation information. Also check the website (www.etsca.com) at the end of August to get a sneak peak at the convention program.

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS BY SEPTEMBER 16TH

Convention 2009 is being held at the beautiful Omni Mandalay Hotel in Irving. Be sure to make your reservations early! Use the contact information below or access the custom TSCA hotel reservation page on the website: etsca.com.

Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas
221 East Las Colinas Boulevard
Irving, Texas 75039
(972) 556-0800

Reservations
(800)THE-OMNI



REGISTER ONLINE FOR CONVENTION!

Rates: \$149 single/ \$159 double

Go to etsca.com to register for convention 2009. You can pay online, reserve your ticket for the luncheon, and select your interest groups. The current prices are listed below:

Sustaining Membership: \$100 (includes convention fee and dues)

Luncheon: \$15

Save time at convention by registering and paying online!!!

FOOD! FOOD! FOOD!

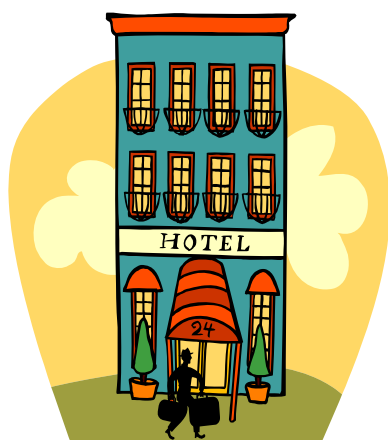
Due to rising costs, and current TSCA budget restrictions, we are unable to offer a continental breakfast at convention this year. At this year's convention, the staff at the Omni Mandalay has created a custom breakfast menu for us! This is how it works: pick up breakfast order forms at the registration desk, turn in your completed order form to the hotel registration desk by the established time, and arrange payment—either directly or by billing to your hotel room. The next morning, pick up your pre-ordered breakfast at the kiosk located on the first floor outside of the gift shop. You will also be able to pre-order lunch on Thursday following the same procedure. A sample of menu items and prices is below.

Breakfast

- Yogurt parfait with berries and granola \$4
- Hot ham and cheddar croissant \$4
- Egg and cheese burrito \$4
- Sausage and egg biscuit \$4
- Fresh pastry (Muffin, danish, scone) \$2
- Whole fruit (Banana, apple, orange) \$1.50

Lunch

- Chicken Caesar salad \$12
- Turkey and swiss on onion roll \$12
- Roast beef and cheddar on a French roll \$12
- Vegetarian wrap \$12
- All lunches include kettle chips, whole fruit, cookie, and a selection of beverages.



ADDITIONAL HOTEL INFORMATION!

If you have not already done so, go to the Omni Hotels website: www.omnihotels.com, click on "loyalty program," and register as a Select Guest. Being a Select Guest will get you the following perks at the convention hotel this year: free web access in your guest room, free morning juice, a newspaper each day, and free internet access in the main lobby of the hotel.

What are you waiting for? Register as A Select Guest today to enhance your convention experience!

CONVENTION REMINDERS!

- If you need audio visual equipment for your panel or presentation, you must **BRING YOUR OWN** or make your own arrangements. These items will not be provided.
- No continental breakfast will be provided this year. Please see above for the fast and inexpensive breakfast alternative that the staff at the Omni is offering.
- There are a variety of restaurants within walking distance of the convention hotel.
- Make your hotel reservations and register for convention by September 16th.



AN UPDATE ON SBOE AND COMM. APP. FROM TSCA PRESIDENT,

Let's just set the record straight.

It has come to my attention that many believe that TSCA (the executive officers) did not take an active role regarding Communication Applications being deleted as a required course in the high school curriculum. I refute that vigorously. From the moment that TSCA learned that the fine arts credit was in trouble with the original draft of HB3/SB3 an appeal was made to the TSCA body urging you to contact your representative. Later when we became aware that Communication Applications was in jeopardy of being deleted as a graduation requirement, I began posting information and concerns on the TSCA website. I also began a communication process with the executive officers, the chair of governmental affairs, and other members of TSCA via email and telephone calls.

On several occasions I communicated with Ron Dodson, chair of the TSCA Governmental Affairs committee regarding this issue. He informed me that he had aides at the Capitol reporting to him. Also, TSCA member Melissa Locke, (Lubbock ISD), provided continued updates. When I received information from them and others that was relevant to the membership, I posted it on the website or sent emails to selected members seeking advice, clarity and strategy.

In May, when the TSCA leaders attended the annual officers' retreat, we discussed how we could proceed to be heard by the Texas legislator regarding this matter. On my return from the retreat, one of the things I did was to contact members who had been instrumental in getting Comm App as a required speech course. I sought the guidance and assistance from past presidents Maridell Fryer and Virginia Myer. Under their direction, a position letter was drafted and sent to each member of the Senate and House Education Committees, communicating TSCA's position regarding these pieces of legislation. A copy of the letter was also sent to the executive officers.

When TSCA learned that the legislation had passed and it appeared that Comm App was no longer a required course, I asked Jana Riggins to meet with a group of TSCA members who would be in attendance at the UIL Capital Conference speech/debate coaches' workshop during July 10-12 for information/strategy planning. Prior to the conference, TSCA members (Janice Caldwell, Lindale ISD, etc.) had contacted TEA to get an official interpretation of the impact of the bill and also met with their individual superintendents (Racy Grant, Hallsville ISD) to understand implementation at the local level. These reports were given at this informal meeting at UT-Austin. Once Jana Riggins got an initial reaction from TEA regarding the status of Comm App, she called Ron Dodson, Chair of the TSCA Governmental Affairs committee and me on to discuss our strategy. Part of that plan of action was to have representation at the SBOE meeting on July 15. I asked Jana Riggins to attend this meeting to represent TSCA. On the Tuesday prior to the meeting, Kandi King informed me that Jay Stubbs was also going to attend this meeting. He was asked to speak as well. Jana Riggins, along with Janet Melton, was there to speak on behalf of TSCA, neither were called to speak. TSCA does thank Jay Stubbs for speaking.

However, there has been posting on Facebook, etc., that there was no TSCA representation at the meeting. **THAT IS NOT TRUE....There WAS representation from TSCA at the SBOE meeting.** I, the president was not there, but there had been communication regarding who was there to represent TSCA. Before attacks are placed on these channels, please get the facts.

TSCA executive officers have been working actively from the beginning of our knowledge of this legislation to keep you informed of what is happening regarding both Fine Arts and Comm App. I want to thank the executive officers and all of the members who participated in our quest to keep Comm App as a required course (or required elective whatever one wants to call it) at least for the time being. Yes, Comm App is safe for now, but to ensure that it stays safe for a long time, we must continue to be consistent in monitoring what is going on in Austin and attending meetings of SBOE. As your leader, I give you my word that TSCA will stay abreast of future happenings, will alert you of any changes, will have representation at the next SBOE meeting in Austin, and will give you the facts. Thank you for your support. I will keep you updated on the TSCA website. Enjoy the last days of the summer. I look forward to seeing you in October in Dallas.

Lois Davis, President TSCA

FYI, as a result of the passage of House Bill (HB) 3 by the 81st Texas Legislature, a "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) document (Volume I) pertaining to this legislation has been posted on the Texas Education Agency (TEA) website and can be accessed via the link provided below:

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/HB3index.html>

<<https://webmail.tamucc.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/HB3index.html>>

SBOE Update, Continued.....

In addition to the FAQ document, this webpage also includes a link to the enrolled version of HB 3 and a “Side-By-Side” Graduation Programs chart. Additional information and updates related to HB 3 will continue to be posted on the TEA website periodically. Here is a portion of what is posted regarding Communication Application:

House Bill 3 Graduation Requirements

Frequently Asked Questions – Volume One

Speech

13. If the law does not require speech, why are students still required to take this course?

The law limits the SBOE’s authority to require specific courses in the enrichment curriculum beyond what is required in law for the RHSP. Speech is part of English language arts and therefore, part of the foundation curriculum rather than the enrichment curriculum. Consequently, the SBOE still has authority to require speech and that part of the rule is still in effect. Students under all three graduation programs are still required to earn ½ credit in speech.

14. Are students still required to take Communication Applications as the speech credit?

Yes.

15. Why does the side-by-side chart indicate that speech may count as an elective?

Since speech is not required in law, but the SBOE still has authority to require speech, this course may count toward the 6 required electives so that students still only need 26 credits to graduate rather than needing 26 and ½ credits to graduate.

2009 Executive Officer Elections


Candidates that will be presented at the 2009 Convention in Dallas are as follows:

Candidates for Vice President-Elect

Connie McKee

Charles Wise

Please look for their candidate statements and vitas on the TSCA website, and vote at convention.



2009 Nominees for TSCA Educator of the Year

Middle School	High School	Community College
Cheryl Miiler	Ross DeLeon Kim Falco Cynthia Havron Russell Kirkscey Janet Melton Michael Merritte Robert Shepard	Wade Hescht Mike Jones Barbara Mayo
		University Debbi Hatton



TSCJ Online Journal Call

Call for Manuscripts Texas Speech Communication Journal Online 2010

Focus: Teaching Communication and the Millennial Generation

Co-Editors for this Special Online Issue:

Shawn Wahl, Angelo State University

Autumn Edwards, Western Michigan University

Chad Edwards, Western Michigan University

Scott Myers, West Virginia University

The *Texas Speech Communication Journal Online* issues a call for papers that focus on teaching communication to the millennial generation. Special attention should be given to civic engagement activities, use of online social networking sites (e.g., Facebook, MySpace, Twitter), and other teaching issues related to the topic.

The *TSCJ Online* is a publication of the Texas Speech Communication Association that focuses on pedagogical issues in teaching communication. This online format allows contributors to include visual images, as well as links that support their research or explicate a teaching strategy.

Manuscript submissions should be limited to 1000 to 1500 words and should fall between academic and journalistic discourse and should be designed to promote discussion, raising important issues about the teaching of communication to the millennial generation.

Deadline: January 15, 2010

Please send submissions in Word or Word Perfect format to:

tscj@live.com

The traditional print issue of TSCJ for 2010 will be announced at the TSCA Convention in October, and in the next newsletter.



In Memoriam Section on the TSCA Website

A new section has been added to the TSCA website. From the home page visit the “In Memoriam” tab. This section contains information about members who have recently passed away. An officer will make an initial announcement via e-mail once notified of a member’s passing, and then all additional information will be posted under the “In Memoriam” tab. This information includes funeral arrangements, how to make scholarship fund contributions when applicable, and links to obituaries and tributes. If you have additional questions, or know of a member’s passing, please contact Executive Secretary and Webmaster Brent Hinkle at tsca@joyoftournaments.com.



Visit the TSCA Website



Complete your registration for Convention 2009 on the TSCA Website!

Preview the Convention program, look at committee assignments, and book your hotel room!

Read the newsletter and look at the latest *TSCJ* Call for Papers!

West Texas A&M University announces an opening for an Assistant Professor in Mass Communication (Tenure Track). Position begins Spring 2010. To view the entire Job Call, including requirements and submission procedures, please visit the TSCA website, www.etsca.com.

Do you have an announcement you would like posted on the TSCA Website? Perhaps it is a job opening, a scholarship opportunity, or the passing of a TSCA member. If so, please send your information to Executive Secretary, Brent Hinkle, at tsca@joyoftournaments.com. If you also want the information included in the newsletter, send information to Newsletter Editor, Amy Tilton Jones, at ajones@delmar.edu.



Texas Speech
Communication Association

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See you at
Convention 2009!
Dallas
October 7-10, 2009



We Are On The Internet!
Www.etsca.com

TSCA is the largest Speech Communication State organization in the United States! It consists of educators from middle school through University level in the fields of Speech and Theater, Administrators from all levels, and Professionals from Corporate America. The Texas Speech Communication Association has a member base of approximately 700 members and growing!

2008-2009 TSCA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President: Lois Davis, Brazosport High School, LDavis2@brazosportisd.net

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