

**Welcome to the Eastern Communication Association!**  
**Originally Prepared by Janie Harden Fritz for the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the Eastern  
Communication Association**

**What is ECA?**

The Eastern Communication Association (ECA) is the oldest professional communication association in the nation. ECA's website notes, "The Eastern Communication Association (ECA) is a professional organization of scholars, teachers, and students of Communication Studies. The ECA was initially established in 1910 and continues as the oldest professional communication association in the United States" (from [www.ecasite.org](http://www.ecasite.org)). ECA celebrated its Centennial in 2009; *A Century of Transformation, Studies in Honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Eastern Communication Association*, edited by James W. Chesebro (2009, Oxford University Press), provides a comprehensive account of ECA and its various scholarly areas.

**Who can join ECA?**

ECA is one of several regional scholarly communication organizations. Its sister organizations are the Southern States Communication Association, the Central States Communication Association, and the Western States Communication Association. The states directly served by ECA are Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; however, anyone sharing ECA's goals of service, scholarship, and teaching in the broad field of communication is welcome, and ECA members hail from all over the United States. We're a regional communication association with national—indeed, international—reach. Most ECA members are professors, graduate students, or undergraduate students in the academic discipline/field of communication.

**How do I join ECA?**

Go to the ECA website ([www.eca.org](http://www.eca.org)) and click on the membership tab to learn about different categories of membership, including regular, student, retired, sponsor (which includes convention registration if paid prior to mid-March), and life membership—life membership includes all convention fees and subscription to ECA journals and all regional journals for life. Membership includes the opportunity to become part of up to three interest groups (more about interest groups later).

**What does ECA do?**

The major scholarly event of ECA is its conference or convention, typically held in late April, with programming Thursday through Sunday. Every other year, a Basic Course Conference is part of the convention, taking place on Wednesday. Participants present their scholarly work in the form of papers, roundtable discussions, student poster sessions, and other formats. The typical presentation form is the scholarly paper. Papers are competitively selected by a blind review process that conceals author identity from the reviewers. For faculty, students, and other ECA attendees, this conference offers an important opportunity to share original research, as

well as instructional, pedagogical, and curricular information. ECA publishes three peer reviewed academic journals, *Communication Quarterly*, *Communication Research Reports*, and *Qualitative Research Reports*. ECA also bestows a number of scholarly, teaching, and service awards. See the web site for further information.

### **How do I present my work at ECA?**

**Submitting.** Potential presenters send completed scholarly papers, panel proposals, or other appropriate contributions to interest group planners in October. The deadline for submissions is usually around October 15. The general Call for Papers is posted on the web site and is distributed to ECA members in the form of an e-mailed bulletin. Instructions for submission may be found on the web site, and any questions about the process are typically directed to a particular interest group planner.

ECA is composed of 20 interest groups that represent areas of the communication field or a particular institutional constituency and provides space for programming at the convention for four affiliate organizations:

American Society for the History of Rhetoric (ASHR) (Affiliate)	Interpretation and Performance Studies
Applied Communication	Kenneth Burke
Argumentation & Forensics	Lambda Pi Eta (Affiliate)
Communication & Technology	Media Communication
Communication Law & Ethics	Media Ecology Association (Affiliate)
Communication Traits	Nonverbal Communication
Community College	Organizational Communication
Health Communication	Philosophy of Communication
Institute of General Semantics (Affiliate)	Political Communication
Instructional Communication	Rhetoric & Public Address
Intercultural Communication	Theory & Methodology
Interpersonal Communication	Voices of Diversity

For each interest group's or affiliated group's mission and a description of purpose and aims, see the appendix of this bulletin or the ECA web site ([www.ecasite.org](http://www.ecasite.org)).

To submit your work to the appropriate interest group for consideration for presentation at the ECA convention, read through the description/mission or bylaws of interest groups to see where your work fits best. Your work may fit more than one interest group; contact an interest group planner for further details to help you discern the best fit for your work. Contact information for all interest group planners can be found on the website. Typically, the best way to reach an interest group planner is through email.

ECA adheres to these general guidelines for submission:

- You can submit a particular paper or panel proposal to only one interest group for a given convention for review.

- Submissions should not have been presented at another conference or published.

However, it is possible to submit more than one contribution for consideration for a convention. Some members submit one piece to one interest group and another piece to a different interest group, depending on the nature of the work.

Most submissions take the form of competitive papers or panels. A scholarly paper is a completed paper on an academic topic—perhaps a quantitative study, or rhetorical criticism of an artifact, an ethnographic account, an interpretive treatment of an area of communication study, or a theoretically-informed pedagogical paper, to mention just a few. Some submissions take the form of interesting exercises used in the communication classroom. Scholarly papers are sent for competitive review to the interest group planner with all identifying information removed, accompanied by a brief note asking to have the paper reviewed for possible presentation. A panel proposal is a submission consisting of abstracts (a paragraph or so) from several people, usually 3-5, for papers that will be ready for presentation at the time of the convention on a particular topic or theme, along with a rationale for the panel. Panels are reviewed competitively, but the identities of panel participants are not removed. Panels may also take the form of a round table discussion with a moderator.

Acceptances and rejections typically go out mid-January/early February, and the preliminary program goes up on the web mid-February/early March. If your work is accepted and you're on a program with a respondent, then you will need to provide a copy of your paper to the respondent a few weeks before the convention. Some interest group planners take care of that task; check with the interest group planner to find out the practice of that interest group.

ECA also offers short courses prepared and presented by members with expertise in a particular area; if you're interested in proposing a short course, a separate call will go out around the same time as the call for papers. Short courses are usually of two hours' duration and provide instruction on a topic relevant to the communication classroom—perhaps a content area of the communication field, such as public speaking across the curriculum, or a method of instruction, such as strategies for teaching on-line classes.

Although some planners ask for papers in hard copy, most planners now prefer on-line submissions. See specific calls on the web site for details.

ECA welcomes submissions from established, mid-career, and beginning communication scholars and researchers, from graduate students at all stages, and from practitioners with interest in the application of communication principles. There are poster session opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students, as well—more on that later. While undergraduates may submit completed papers for competitive review, it is more common for professors to work with undergraduates to submit a program that showcases student papers.

**Presenting.** The typical program is an hour and 15 minutes and includes 3-4 people who each take from 10-15 minutes to present papers followed by comments from a respondent and/or questions from audience members. Some presenters prefer to read their papers; others prefer to speak extemporaneously, highlighting major ideas. (ECA discourages the use of technology for

presentations—see the Technology Policy on the web site on the Call for Papers page.) Alternative formats include the panel discussion, in which several people offer perspectives or position papers on a topic, speaking for 5-7 minutes, or a round table discussion, which is less formal. There are even some performance panels with nontraditional presentation styles.

Generally, a chair fills the role of introducing the session and the presenters, keeping time, and directing the question-and-answer period at the end of the session. If you're not sure what format is appropriate for the panel you're on, ask the chair of the panel or the interest group planner.

A respondent's role involves commenting on the papers, usually both individually and as a set. Respondents may note what is interesting about each paper, offer constructive evaluative and formative comments, suggest implications of the work, and identify common threads across papers. Respondents vary in how they engage this task, but these are some common approaches. The respondent is usually allotted 10-15 minutes. Not all panels have a respondent. Time at the end of the panel is typically devoted to discussion/reactions from the audience; if there is no respondent, more time is generally allotted for questions, or presenters may take more time with each presentation.

Some sessions involve a considerable number of presentations on a topic, such as innovative teaching tips, and would be arranged differently.

### **How do Interest Groups work?**

Interest groups are the functional heart of ECA's convention planning. At every ECA convention, interest groups have business meetings to discuss ideas for the next convention, to select reviewers for the next convention's submissions, to decide who will serve as future planners for the interest group, to elect representatives to the Executive Council and to other bodies, such as the nominating committee, and to discern whether someone from that interest group might be put forth as a potential candidate for the office of vice-president elect (who will eventually succeed to the presidency) or other vacant offices.

Some interest groups elect a vice chair to serve as planner, and others assign the chair of the interest group that responsibility. Whoever is in charge of planning for that interest group receives submissions for the upcoming conference and works with the ECA vice president, who is the primary convention planner. The interest group planner has the following responsibilities:

1. Attend the convention planners' meeting at the ECA conference prior to the conference for which planning is to be done;
2. Secure reviewers for papers and panels (typically at the business meeting of the interest group);
3. Submit forms to the executive director and director of members services requesting data for the interest group (e.g., officers of the interest group, other information);
4. Monitor the process of submissions by sending out calls to interest group members through the executive director and the director of member services and by any other means that seem useful and promising;
5. Receive submissions for the conference;

6. Coordinate the review process by send submissions (papers and panels) out to reviewers;
7. Make final decisions about acceptance/rejection of submissions based on reviews;
8. Construct programs (panels) from submitted papers by arranging them into coherent groupings and generating appropriate descriptive titles;
9. Assign chairs and/or respondents, as appropriate and desirable, to constructed panels;
10. Format these panels/programs according to the template provided by the first vice president;
11. Submit formatted materials to the first vice president;
12. Generate interest group e-bulletins for distribution to members to generate interest in the convention (send to the director of member services and the executive director for distribution);
13. Provide the name of the next year's program planner (the chair or vice chair of the interest group) to the executive director and vice president, along with any other information requested, before the convention;
14. Run the interest group's business meeting at the convention (depending on how the interest group is organized).

It's a lot of work, but it's very rewarding! Interest group chairs act on behalf of their members, doing their best to encourage submissions and keep the interest group healthy and active. A certain number of spaces at the convention is guaranteed to an interest group based on how many members belong to that interest group (remember—you can join up to three interest groups on the ECA membership form). An interest group planner can request an additional slot or two from the first vice president, depending on the number of rooms available at the conference site.

### **What opportunities for service exist with ECA?**

There are many opportunities for service at ECA. Interest groups need officers (e.g., chair, vice-chair, perhaps a secretary), paper/panel readers, representatives to the Nominating Committee, and various representatives to the National Communication Association. During convention planning, the first vice president selects one or more second vice presidents, a local arrangements coordinator, a director of marketing, a director of publicity and promotions, and/or other positions as deemed necessary. For convention programming, in addition to interest group planners, someone is needed to be in charge of student poster sessions and of short courses. Every arena of service is vital to the success of the convention.

### **How do graduate students participate in ECA?**

Regional associations provide excellent opportunities for graduate student involvement through paper presentations and panel participation and through **graduate student poster sessions**. The call for poster sessions goes out later than the call for papers and panels and has a later deadline; students prepare their research in poster format. Poster sessions are held for undergraduate students, as well; more details on poster sessions are provided in a later section of this document (see What Does ECA Offer the Undergraduate Student?). Ph.D. students often serve as reviewers for submissions to interest groups.

As a graduate student, you will find ECA an excellent place to identify potential academic homes in the eastern region and beyond. As your experience increases and you enter your first academic position, you'll find your ECA colleagues to be an invaluable source of professional mentoring and support, and you will find increased opportunities for service to the discipline. ECA is an ideal location to learn about the field and to grow professionally.

### **How can undergraduate students get involved in ECA?**

ECA welcomes undergraduate student participation. There is a special membership rate for undergraduate students, and the convention fees are less than for regular members.

**The “Buddy System.”** ECA has a special “buddy system” for nonpresenting undergraduate students who want to try out a convention to see what it’s like. One nonpresenting undergraduate student registers at the regular rate, and another nonpresenting undergraduate student can come along for free! (The two can split the cost, of course, if desired.) Presenting undergraduate students, however, need to register at the regular student rate, taking on the responsibility of convention support in this appropriate manner. Presenting a poster or paper at ECA is an important way to develop professional experience, whether you’re planning to go on to graduate school or enter the marketplace or not-for-profit world.

**Student Ambassadors.** Undergraduate students may apply to be ECA student ambassadors at the convention. Student ambassadors work with the director of member services and/or the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president at a convention in exchange for convention registration. Student Ambassadors help with registration, run errands, and provide other appropriate forms of support during the convention.

### **What does ECA offer the undergraduate communication student?**

Regional communication associations offer an unmatched opportunity to meet the people who do the research that appears in the textbooks and articles you read in your communication classes. ECA is large enough to draw a good number of scholars from varied locations, but small enough to give you the opportunity to meet these scholars face to face. You might find yourself attending a panel with several figures you’ve known only by name. During the question and answer session, you can ask questions, and after the panel, you’ll have the opportunity to talk with them. Your professors can introduce you to scholars you would like to meet, as well, if you’re feeling reluctant to introduce yourself. The various receptions provide opportunities to connect, as well.

ECA also offers great opportunities to gain presentation experience through the **undergraduate poster sessions**. Students submit their work as a proposal for a poster presentation to the person in charge of poster sessions for the convention. The submission deadline for posters is generally two months later than that for regular papers and panels. Upon acceptance of a submission, students prepare their research, perhaps something completed for class or for a communication club like Lambda Pi Eta or PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America), either alone or with student co-authors, in condensed form on a poster board and place it on an easel (usually provided for you at the convention site) for public display and conversation so others can learn from their work at specified times during the convention. Usually, about 20 student posters are

arranged in one large area, and they're typically accompanied by an ECA Coffee Café complete with refreshments. This type of presentation format is conversational in style and gives a large number of people the opportunity to see your work. Awards are given for the top posters. Your professors can assist you as you consider submitting your work to the undergraduate poster session.

Sometimes a professor will put a panel together showcasing undergraduate student scholarship. If the panel gets selected for presentation, then you'll have a chance to present your work in a traditional panel format with other students. Perhaps you've written a paper for a class or conducted a study and written up the results either on your own or with others. This work becomes part of the panel, and each of you will take a turn talking about your work. Your professor will coach you regarding the length and format of your presentation—whether to talk through your main points extemporaneously or read from your work in a manuscript delivery style. You never know who might be in the audience—perhaps some of the scholars whose work you've read and admired!

The Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society is an affiliate of ECA and welcomes undergraduate papers and panels for competitive selection. The interest group planner's information is on the ECA web site ([ecasite.org](http://ecasite.org)).

ECA also provides access to graduate school information. Sometimes a formal Graduate School Fair is part of the convention, with representatives from schools in the eastern region of the United States (and even from outside the region) available to answer your questions. Sometimes these representatives are current or former graduate students in the program.

You'll also find potential mentors in the graduate students who attend ECA conventions. If you want to know what graduate school is like, who better to ask than someone currently enrolled? It's important to find out as much as you can about the particular programs you're considering, because programs vary a great deal in what they emphasize and the types of research they support. Some programs emphasize quantitative methods; others focus on rhetorical, philosophical, and/or interpretive approaches to research; others offer a blend of methods, and the research interests of various programs define a range as wide as the topics covered in ECA's interest groups and affiliates.

If you're aiming for the marketplace, not-for-profit, or public sector instead of the academy, you can benefit from the applied expertise of our members, who can tell you about their students' experiences (and their own) in these venues and provide examples of careers you might pursue with your communication background.

### **How is ECA governed?**

ECA is governed by an Executive Council consisting of voting and nonvoting members. Voting members include the president, the first vice president, the first vice president elect, immediate past president, executive director, and interest group representatives who are elected according to a rotating procedure. All Executive Council appointees, such as the editors of scholarly journals, the second vice president, and convention marketing manager, serve as *ex officio* members of the

Executive Council and do not vote. The first vice president plans the convention and succeeds to the office of president at the conclusion of the general meeting of the convention. The president presides over the convention meetings and moves into the role of immediate past president when the vice president steps into the presidency at the conclusion of the general meeting. The duties of the president and vice president are described in the bylaws (see the appendix of this document or the ECA web site for more details).

### **Is the annual ECA convention the only time officers and representatives meet?**

ECA's Executive Council meets at the National Communication Association annual convention in November as well as in April at the ECA convention.

### **What is the role of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President?**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president role is a support position for the 1st vice president/convention planner. The 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president works with local arrangements, serving as the eyes, ears, and hands of the 1<sup>st</sup> vice president. The 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president may be very involved in selecting menu items, touring facilities, and arranging events for the convention, or may serve in other ways, depending on the particular needs of the 1<sup>st</sup> vice president. More than one 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president may be chosen. The person or persons identified as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president are presented for approval before the Executive Committee. The 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president does not move into the office of 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, but works as an adjunct to the first vice president. Serving as a 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president is an excellent opportunity to gain first-hand experience with the details of a convention and to provide service to ECA.

### **What is the role of the Executive Director?**

The executive director is not elected, but is appointed by the Executive Council. The executive director serves as general secretary, treasurer, and business manager of ECA for a term of three years and works with the administrative assistant/director of member services to maintain communication with members, sending out e-bulletins related to ECA business. The executive director runs elections for ECA and prepares documents for the convention, such as the agenda and minutes from the last meeting. See the bylaws for additional information, located in the appendix and on the ECA web site.

### **How are officers chosen?**

A nominating committee consisting of representatives from the interest groups prepares a slate of candidates for vacant offices (see p. 19 of the appendix or the ECA web site for bylaws governing elections). Candidates have proved themselves to be committed to ECA and its goals through service to the organization and recognized leadership potential. Positions include first vice president elect (who succeeds to the vice presidency and then to the presidency), various positions on the National Communication Association Legislative Assembly, and the National Communication Association Nominating Committee. The immediate past president of ECA serves as chair of the nominating committee.

## **Conclusion**

This brief introduction to ECA offers just a few insights into the way this professional communication association operates. The best way to learn more is to join, talk to fellow ECA members at the convention, show up for interest group business meetings, volunteer as a reader for convention submissions, attend sessions at the convention, stay in touch throughout the year, and submit your work for conference presentation. The more you stay connected, the greater the opportunities that will emerge for you. ECA is growing each year—have a great convention, and help ECA build a great second century of communication excellence!

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NOTES

## Appendix

### Interest Groups and Affiliate Organizations of the Eastern Communication Association

#### Constitution & Bylaws

(from [www.ecasite.org](http://www.ecasite.org))

#### INTEREST GROUPS

(see ECA convention program for 2011 contacts)

#### **Applied Communication**

The Applied Communication Interest Group focuses on the application of theory and research to practical issues, problems, and situations.

Applied Communication research highlights the connection between theory and practice by demonstrating theoretical applications and the usefulness for potential users to understand and implement recommendations. Topics of interest to Applied Communication are contemporary social issues and the concerns of local communities that are addressed through projects grounded in communication theory.

The Applied Communication Interest Group is committed to help the general public solve socially relevant problems and to test the usefulness of communication theory in "real-world" settings.

#### **Argumentation & Forensics**

The purpose of the argumentation and forensics division is to explore the various theories and practices associated with argumentation, debate, and forensics as they relate to scholarly research, classroom pedagogy, and community life.

#### **Communication Law & Ethics**

Examines issues related to legal issues in communication and communication ethics.

#### **Communication & Technology**

To encourage the exploration and dissemination of information/communication technologies that influence our perceptions of human communication endeavors.

#### **Communication Traits**

The Communication Traits Interest Group (CTIG) is the newest Interest Group (IG) to be founded by ECA (in 2009). Most of the founding members of this interest group were students, and many will be authors of papers being presented at this convention. CTIG is very student oriented and welcomes students to join our IG, go to our meetings and programs at the convention, and submit manuscripts for CTIG programs for the next convention, and ECA Journals. This IG focuses on strong quantitative research (not qualitative or critical) relating to such areas as communication apprehension, verbal aggression, nonverbal behavior, and communication genetics, just to mention a few.

From the earliest days of ECA, our members have been concerned with the study of such communication traits as speech anxiety and avoidance behaviors. Beginning in the late 1960's, ECA members began researching other traits related to anxiety. But until the 1990's, many researchers thought that communication anxiety was learned and that it could therefore be reduced, if not eliminated, through speech classes. In the 1990's, this view was challenged significantly. We now know that these kinds of communication problems are caused to some extent by both learning and genetics.

To advance our knowledge of the causes and effects of communication traits, further research in this area needs to be encouraged and the findings disseminated throughout our field. The Communication Traits Interest Group seeks to fulfill this function. It is our hope that, through the efforts of this interest group, communication scholars will be able to identify more communication traits and understand how to control or influence them (if possible) and to apply the knowledge gained to various areas of the study of human communication.

Trait research is a thread that runs through and can potentially inform every area of study within our field. Therefore, we encourage scholars from all areas of study to consider joining the Communication Traits interest group.

The first officers of the CTIG were President James C. McCroskey (University of Alabama at Birmingham); Vice President Theodore A. Avtgis (West Virginia University); Vice-President Andrew S. Rancer (University of Akron); and Secretary Virginia P. Richmond (University of Alabama at Birmingham). Dr. McCroskey will complete his term as president at the CTIG Business Meeting at the convention in Baltimore. The remaining officers will move up one level and a new Secretary will be elected at that same meeting.

If you are interested in Human Communication Research, the CTIG is designed for YOU!

### **Community College**

The mission of the community college division is to promote the scholarship of teaching among community college communication professionals. The division explores a broad range of undergraduate, career training, and lifelong learning issues within the discipline.

Programs and initiatives focus on the ways in which communication theory, research, and skills

can best serve the educational need of diverse learning communities. The division actively promotes instructional innovation and provides opportunities for professional collaboration.

### **Health Communication**

The Health Communication Interest Group of ECA studies the processes, practices, and policies related to human and mediated communication in health care and health promotion. Research presented within this division evolves from a wide range of theories and methodological approaches that often address the ways individuals seek, interpret, and respond to health information. The interest group promotes scholarship that examines communication in health education and promotion, health care consumer-provider relationships, caregiving, healthcare organizations, health policy, health campaigns and interventions, communication and aging, lifespan development, risk communication, and e-health applications. The interest group welcomes submissions from scholars at all stages in their academic career, especially those interested in exploring and applying new theoretical perspectives to health communication.

### **Instructional Communication**

The Instructional Communication interest group is concerned with research and its applications related to Instructional Communication and Communication Education. Instructional communication is the study of the role communication plays in the teaching and learning process in traditional classroom settings, corporate training settings, mediated settings, and other applied contexts. Research in this area typically has examined teacher/trainer and/or student/learner communication variables or modes of instruction to better understand their influence on teaching and learning. Unlike instructional communication, communication education is focused solely on the teaching of communication concepts. Research in this area, such as that related to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, focuses on the ways in which communication concepts can be taught most effectively. Together these two areas of study complement each other and provide a rich contribution of scholarship to the Eastern Communication Association.

### **Intercultural Communication**

The Intercultural Communication interest group is dedicated to the study and practice of representing, performing, and negotiating cultural identities in face-to-face interaction and mediated communication in cross-cultural and international contexts.

### **Interpersonal Communication**

The purpose of the Interpersonal interest group is to focus on research topics including, but not limited to personal relationships as well as relationships in the workplace. Personal relationships encompass families, friendships, romantic relationships, the way messages are designed and interpreted, conflict, and contexts. Organizational relationships explore culture in the work environment, friendships, and small group communication. Theoretical and applied studies are welcomed.

## **Interpretation & Performance Studies**

The Interpretation and Performance Studies Interest Group of the Eastern Communication Association is committed to scholarship that encompasses a range of themes, methods, and presentational outcomes that include both publication and performance. Interdisciplinary diversity and collaboration between multiple participants is advocated. The Interpretation and Performance Studies Interest Group is broadly focused on visual culture, audience experience and reception, performance, and interpretive outcomes from a variety of perspectives.

## **Kenneth Burke**

The Mission of the ECA Kenneth Burke Interest Group: Kenneth Burke is considered among the foremost "thinkers" (many would argue THE foremost literary and social critic) of the twentieth century. Known for both the breadth and depth of his understanding and explorations, Burke has been influential not only in the field of Communication but also in such studies as Literature, the Arts and Humanities, Sociology, Philosophy, and Theology. His insight into the nature of the human being and the role of language in human existence provides a complex yet compelling tapestry of ideas that scholars continue to unravel and re-weave. The purpose of the Kenneth Burke Interest Group is to promote the ongoing study, understanding, dissemination, research, critical analysis, and extension of Kenneth Burke's work.

## **Media Communication**

The purpose of the interest group is to promote the research, teaching, and study of mass communication and to facilitate outreach efforts within the field of mass communication.

## **Nonverbal Communication**

The Nonverbal Communication interest group seeks to provide an outlet for communication scholars interested in those aspects of communication that are not verbal in nature, and which manifest themselves in a wide variety of contexts. Studies involving nonverbal communication elements such as facial expression, eye contact, vocal cues, gestures, body movements, spatial behavior, touch, time, and other aspects are emphasized.

## **Organizational Communication**

The purpose of the Organizational Communication Interest Group (OCIG) is to promote the study and teaching of organizational communication. Organizational communication focuses on research topics including, but not limited to, both personal relationships and relationships in the workplace, and explores communication, relationships, and cultures within the work environment, friendships, and small group communication. The OCIG welcomes both theoretical and applied scholarship.

## **Philosophy of Communication**

The **Philosophy of Communication Interest Group** supports scholarship that examines the philosophical presuppositions and implications of communicative praxis. This interest group provides an academic home for ethical, interpretive, qualitative, historical, and dialogic approaches to the study and application of communication.

### **Political Communication**

The purpose of the interest group is to explore the various theories and practices pertaining to the research, teaching, and praxis of political communication and to facilitate the dissemination and discussion of theories, methods, and analyses of political communication both within the field proper and larger academic and/or public communities.

### **Rhetoric & Public Address**

The purpose of the interest group is to explore the various theories and practices that pertain to the research, teaching, and study of rhetoric and public address and to facilitate both dissemination and discussion of those theories and practices within the field of rhetoric and public address.

### **Theory & Methodology**

1. To promote ideas of discovery and creativity in all areas of communication research. Thus, Theory & Methodology is an umbrella to all other interest groups;
2. To encourage the development of new methodologies to foster scholarship at all levels of research interest including the beginning researcher; and
3. To insure that a wide range of research be discussed in all areas of communication.

### **Voices of Diversity**

The purpose of the interest group is to explore the various theories and practices that pertain to the research, teaching, and study of communication within, between, and among diverse communities, especially as these communities are affected and/or marginalized culturally, economically, institutionally, politically, psychologically, and socially because of age, class, disabilities, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion or sexual orientation. The Voices of Diversity interest group seeks to facilitate dissemination and discussion of such theories and practices within the field of communication studies.

## **AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS**

### **The American Society for the History of Rhetoric**

The American Society for the History of Rhetoric was organized, in 1977, as the American Branch of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric. Its purpose is to foster the study of rhetoric in all historical periods in American as well as other cultures.

### **Institute of General Semantics**

Founded in 1938 by Alfred Korzybski, the Institute of General Semantics (IGS) promotes a scientific approach to understanding human behavior, especially that related to symbol systems and language, and the application of proven principles that guide advancements in critical thinking, rational behavior, and general sanity.

### **Lambda Pi Eta**

Lambda Pi Eta (LPH) is the official communication studies honor society of the National Communication Association (NCA).

### **The Media Ecology Association**

The Media Ecology Association (MEA) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting the study, research, criticism, and application of media ecology in educational, industry, political, civic, social, cultural, and artistic contexts, and the open exchange of ideas, information, and research among the Association's members and the larger community.

# CONSTITUTION

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## **Article I**

### **Name**

The name of this Corporation shall be the Eastern Communication Association.

## **Article II**

### **Purposes**

*Section 1.* The purpose of the Eastern Communication Association shall be to promote the study, criticism, research, teaching, and application of the artistic, humanistic, and scientific principles of communication.

*Section 2.* The Association, a non profit organization, exists for educational, scientific, and literary purposes only. No part of the organization's net earnings shall inure to the private benefit of any individual or group. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation. The Association shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

## **Article III**

### **Membership**

Membership shall be open to any person or institution interested in promoting the Association's purposes; in particular, persons or institutions within the states, commonwealths, federal districts and territories of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

## **Article IV**

### **Affiliate Organizations**

The Association shall recognize organizations which meet the criteria specified in the Bylaws as affiliate organizations. Recognized organizations shall have such Constitution and Bylaws/Page privileges within the Association as outlined in the Bylaws. Granting of such recognition shall constitute neither an endorsement of the activities of the organization nor a financial commitment to the organization on the part of the Association.

## **Article V**

### **Officers**

*Section 1.* The officers shall be: President, First Vice President, First Vice President Elect, Immediate Past President, Second Vice President, Executive Secretary, and the Editors of scholarly journals.

*Section 2.* The First Vice President shall succeed to the office of the President. The First Vice President Elect shall succeed to the office of the First Vice President. The First Vice President Elect shall be nominated and elected as specified in the Bylaws.

*Section 3.* The Second Vice President, the Executive Secretary, the Editors of all publications, and the Convention Advertising Manager shall be appointed by the Executive Council as specified by the Bylaws.

*Section 4.* To the extent possible, the terms of office for the Executive Secretary and Editors of scholarly journals shall be arranged so that they do not expire within a single year.

*Section 5.* No member of the Executive Council except the Executive Secretary shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself in the same capacity. The Executive Secretary, at the discretion of the Executive Council, may be appointed for one additional consecutive term only.

*Section 6.* The duties of the officers shall be as specified in the Bylaws.

*Section 7.* In the event of the incapacity of any officer, the Executive Council shall, at its discretion, elect a replacement or establish a nominating and election procedure for so doing.

## **Article VI**

### **Executive Council**

*Section 1.* The voting membership of the Executive Council shall consist of the President, the First Vice President, the First Vice President Elect, Immediate Past President, Executive Secretary, and Interest Group Representatives.

*Section 2.* All Executive Council appointees such as the Editors of scholarly journals, the Second Vice President, and Convention Advertising Manager shall serve as ex officio members of the Executive Council, without vote.

*Section 3.* The Executive Council shall establish fundamental Association policy and shall manage its resources and affairs.

*Section 4.* The President shall call one or more meetings of the Executive Council annually. Meetings may also be called by the Executive Secretary upon signed petition of three members of the Executive Council. A quorum for Executive Council meetings shall be a majority of the membership of the Executive Council.

*Section 5.* The method of election and term of office of Interest Group Representatives shall be as detailed in the Bylaws.

## **Article VII**

### **Interest Groups**

*Section 1.* The Association shall have such Interest Groups as shall be created by the Executive Council. Individuals wishing to form an Interest Group shall present to the Executive Council a petition signed by at least 25 Association members expressing their support for the proposed Interest Group. Approved Interest Groups shall elect a Chairperson, who will be responsible for convention program planning and such other duties as specified by the Interest Group's Bylaws; a Chairperson Elect, who shall succeed to the office of the Chairperson; and such other officers as specified in the Interest Groups' Bylaws. Elections for the Interest Group officers shall be conducted at the annual business meeting of the Interest Group held in conjunction with the Association's annual convention.

*Section 2.* Upon acceptance of an appropriate petition by the Executive Council, an Interest Group has official standing in the Association. Permissible grounds for rejection of a petition are: (1) insufficient signators; and (2) Executive Council determination that the proposed group presents a probability of excessive overlap with an existing Interest Group.

*Section 3.* Interest Groups formed within the Association shall continue to be officially recognized until such a time as any of the following conditions obtain: (1) a petition requesting dissolution of the Interest Group containing the signatures of a majority of the members of the Interest Group present at the Interest Group's annual business meeting is received by the Executive Council; (2) fewer than 25 Association members are affiliated with the Interest Group as of the close of any two successive membership years; and (3) attendance at the Interest Group's annual business meeting falls below 10 Association members. At such time as one or more of the

above conditions obtain, the Executive Council may discontinue official recognition of the Interest Group.

### **Article VIII Committees**

The Association shall have such standing committees as shall be specified in the bylaws. The Association shall have such ad hoc committees as shall be created by the Executive Council and shall be created by any officer with the advice and consent of the President.

### **Article IX Annual Convention**

*Section 1.* An annual convention to promote the purposes of the Association will be held at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Council. *Section 2.* A quorum for the annual business meeting at the annual convention shall be five percent of the members in attendance at the convention.

### **Article X Awards**

The Association shall make such awards for scholarship, teaching, and/or service as specified in the Bylaws.

### **Article XI Amendments**

*Section 1.* The Executive Council, by majority vote, may initiate amendments to this Constitution.  
*Section 2.* Any member of the Association may petition the Executive Council, which shall then mandate it to consider a proposed amendment.  
*Section 3.* Any 50 members of the Association may present a petition that will mandate the Executive Council to submit a proposed amendment to the full membership.

*Section 4.* Amendments initiated as specified in the Sections above shall be voted on by the membership by mail ballot. Such an Amendment shall be approved by a majority of the members voting.

### **Article XII Dissolution**

The Association may be dissolved only at a special meeting called for such purpose, and in the manner prescribed by the relevant state laws, by vote of three fourths of the members present. Upon any such dissolution of the Association, the Executive Council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all of the assets of the Association exclusively for the purposes of the Association in such a manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, literary, or scientific purpose as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal tax laws), as the Executive Council may determine.

## **BYLAWS**

### **Article I Membership**

*Section 1.* There shall be seven categories of membership in the Association: retired, student, regular, sponsor, institutional, life, and honorary life.

*Section 2.* Specifications for each membership category and for membership tenure will be established by the Executive Council. All categories of individual membership, in the Association shall include the option of affiliation with up to three Interest Groups.

*Section 3.* An honorary life membership shall be conferred upon all Past Presidents

as they retire from full time professional employment. An honorary life membership may also be conferred by a resolution of the membership upon other individuals whom the Association may desire to honor for their outstanding contributions to the profession. Honorary life members shall have all the privileges of regular members, they shall be provided with a paid up subscription to the journals of the Association, and they may register without fee at all Eastern Communication Association annual conventions. Emeritus members as of March 10, 1973, are designated as honorary life members.

*Section 4.* Association members may become members of Interest Groups by indicating preferences for affiliation when they become Association members; they may change such affiliations when they renew membership in the Association or, in the case of life and honorary life members, at the beginning of any membership year.

## **Article II Dues and Fees**

*Section 1.* Annual dues in each membership category shall be determined by the Executive Council in accordance with the Association's financial needs. Upon the petition of 10 percent of the active members, however, the Executive Council must submit any decision to change the dues structure to the active members for approval by mail ballot. A simple majority of those responding within 30 days shall constitute approval.

*Section 2.* Registration fees for the annual meeting and for other meetings and activities for the Association shall be established by the Executive Council. Charges for subscription to the Association's journal and newsletter, for services to affiliated organizations or

institutions, and for special publications shall be similarly established.

## **Article III Meetings**

*Section 1.* Meetings of the Association and of its constituent bodies are normally open to all members. Each body shall establish its own rules.

*Section 2.* The Association shall assume no responsibility for statements of opinion expressed by participants in the program of its annual convention or in such other conferences and meetings as it may sponsor.

*Section 3.* The Association shall sponsor a convention and meeting for the membership during each calendar year. The convention shall be under the general direction of the First Vice President with policy implementation and financial obligations subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

*Section 4.* The convention shall include a general Association business meeting, a business meeting for each officially recognized Interest Group, and program sessions distributed over a three day period at such site as approved at least one calendar year in advance by the Executive Council.

*Section 5.* Program sessions shall be assigned to Interest Groups on a basis proportional to the number of Association members affiliated with the Interest Group at the close of the previous year's convention, subtracting the following from the total number available for the Interest Groups: the number the Vice President chooses to sponsor (maximum 15%), the number assigned to affiliate organizations, and the number sponsored by the Executive Council. Each Interest Group shall be entitled to at least one program session. When an Interest Group does not provide

a program by an established deadline for a session to which it is assigned, that program session may be filled in such a manner as deemed appropriate by the First Vice President. *Section 6.* Convention social activities shall be under the general direction of the Second Vice President with policy implementation and financial obligations subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

*Section 7.* Each affiliate organization may be assigned one program session at the annual convention of the Association; such assignments shall be made by the First Vice President. Any program assigned to an affiliate organization need not be part of the First Vice President's assigned programs.

#### **Article IV Eligibility for Office**

*Section 1.* A person must be a member of the Association to be eligible for: (1) nomination to candidacy for any elective office of the Association; (2) appointment to any appointive office or committee position in the Association; and (3) election to any elective office in the Association. Such membership must be confirmed by the Executive Secretary at the time of nomination, appointment, or election.

*Section 2.* Any officer or other member of the Executive Council must be a resident of those states, commonwealths, districts, and territories cited in the Constitution, Article III, or be a member in good standing for five or more consecutive years at the time of his/her election.

*Section 3.* Any person elected or appointed to any office, committee post, or board membership in the Association must be a member of the Association throughout his or her period of tenure in such position. Should such an individual's membership expire during the tenure of office, notification of expiration will be sent by the Executive Secretary to said person and to the President

of the Association. If the person has not renewed membership within 60 days after such notification has been sent, the position shall be declared vacant by the President of the Association. If the vacant office is that of President or First Vice President, the procedures outlined in the Bylaws, Article VII, Sections 2 and 8, shall be in effect to fill the office. If the vacated office is any other elective one, the President, with the approval of a majority of the Executive Council, shall appoint an individual to fill the position until the next regular election. If the vacated position is that of any appointed member of the Executive Council, the President, with the consent of a majority of the Executive Council, shall appoint an individual to fill the office until nominations can be obtained and acted on. If the vacated position is a committee post, the President shall appoint an individual to assume the post.

#### **Article V Nominations, Elections, Appointment of Officers, and Elected Representative to the National Communication Association**

*Section 1.* The Nominating Committee shall prepare annually a slate consisting of at least two nominees for the office of First Vice President Elect, at least two nominees for each open position on the National Communication Association Legislative Assembly, and at least two nominees for the National Communication Association Nominating Committee.

*Section 2.* The Nominating Committee shall be composed of representatives of all recognized Interest Groups. The Interest Group representatives will be the Chairperson of that group or such person as the Interest Group shall delegate. The Immediate Past President will serve as the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

*Section 3.* The Nominating Committee will meet following the general session and before the end of the convention to begin deliberations for selection of the slate of candidates to present at the following convention.

The Nominating Committee will report their slate of nominees to the membership at the following convention's general session. Additional nominees for any office may be added by a majority vote of members attending that general session.

*Section 4.* In the Fall at the beginning of the academic year, a full membership secure ballot listing all nominees for each office shall be distributed by the Executive Director. Should no candidate for First Vice President Elect receive a majority of votes cast, a runoff election will be held between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected.

*Section 5.* Nominated by the First Vice President, the Second Vice President shall be appointed by the Executive Council and serve for a term of one year. The Executive Director and Editors of scholarly journals shall be appointed by the Executive Council and serve for a term of three years.

Nominated by the First Vice President, the Convention Advertising Manager shall be appointed by the Executive Council and serve for a term of one year.

*Section 6.* Elected association officers shall assume office at the conclusion of the general business meeting at the convention immediately following their election. The Second Vice President shall assume office at the conclusion of the general business meeting at the convention immediately following their appointment. The Executive Director shall assume office on July 1 of the year in which the term of his or her predecessor concludes on June 30. The Editors of scholarly journals shall assume office January 1, immediately following the

calendar year in which the term of his or her predecessor ends on December 31.

*Section 7.* To be entitled to vote in Interest Group elections, an individual must have been officially affiliated with the Interest Group on December 31 of the year immediately preceding the election. The Executive Director shall provide the Interest Group Chairperson a list of individuals so eligible prior to the business meeting of the Interest Group. The quorum for each interest Group's business meeting shall be established by the Interest Group itself in its Bylaws.

## **Article VI Interest Group Representation on the Executive Council**

*Section 1.* Each Interest Group shall be entitled to representation on the Executive Council, as provided in Section 5 of this Article.

*Section 2.* Each Interest Group Representative to the Executive Council shall serve a term of two years, commencing at the close of the annual business meeting of the group following the representative's election.

*Section 3.* At the annual business meeting of each Interest Group eligible to elect a representative, as detailed in Section 5 below, the Interest Group shall nominate and elect a Representative to the Executive Council. The Interest Group Representative so elected must be a member of the Interest Group at the time of election. The results of this election shall be reported immediately to the President and Executive Secretary of the Association.

*Section 4.* An Interest Group Representative to the Executive Council shall be ineligible to succeed himself or herself as representative of that Interest Group. This exclusion does not prohibit the individual from serving on the Executive Council in any other capacity.

*Section 5.* Interest Group representation on the Executive Council shall be rotated among all Interest Groups with each Interest Group represented on the Executive Council for two years, followed by a one year absence from the Executive Council. All Interest Groups shall be arranged in alphabetical order and assigned a number beginning with 01. Interest Groups shall be divided into three equal groups based on this ordering system. If the number of Interest Groups is not divisible by three, the last one or two Interest Groups shall be assigned to the second and/or third group. During the first year of implementation, the first third of the Interest Groups shall each have one representative on the Executive Council, current members at large shall complete their terms of office, and no new members at large shall be elected. During the second year of implementation, the representatives of the first third of the Interest Groups shall complete their second year of office, and the second third of the Interest Groups shall each have one representative on the Executive Council. During the third year of implementation, the representatives of the second third of the Interest Groups shall complete their second year of office, and the final third of the Interest Groups shall each have one representative on the Executive Council. Thereafter, this rotating system shall be maintained by the Executive Secretary. New Interest Groups formally recognized during or after the first three years of implementation shall be assigned to one of the three groups of Interest Groups by the Executive Council in a manner which creates as much as possible an equal number of Interest Groups in each of the three groups.

**Article VII  
Duties of Officers, Other Members of the  
Executive Council, and**

**Elected Representatives to the National  
Communication Association**

*Section 1.* The President shall serve as presiding officer of the Executive Council and annual convention and shall discharge responsibilities normally adhering to the office. The President shall be responsible for the general policy of the convention program and have particular responsibility for the organization of the general session.

*Section 2.* The First Vice President shall discharge the responsibilities normally adhering to the office and shall succeed to the Presidency whenever that office is vacated. This officer shall have responsibility for organization of the annual convention. The First Vice President shall succeed automatically to the Presidency at the conclusion of the general business meeting at the convention over which his or her predecessor has presided.

*Section 3.* The Second Vice President shall be selected from among members residing in the immediate area of the convention city, shall assist the President and First Vice President with particular responsibility for local arrangements at the annual convention, and shall perform such duties as outlined in Article III, Section 6, of the Bylaws.

*Section 4.* The Executive Secretary shall perform the usual duties of secretary, treasurer, and business manager of the Association. The Executive Secretary shall, subject to the approval of the Executive Council, be responsible for the administration of all Association funds and shall prepare an annual financial report to the Association. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the distribution of the tabulation of all regular and special ballots for voting on candidates and issues. The Executive Secretary shall have an up to date listing of current Association members available upon request. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the

publication and distribution of a periodic newsletter to the members. Within three weeks following the close of business on December 31 of a given year, the Executive Secretary shall provide to the Executive Council a detailed financial statement for the previous fiscal year. At the first meeting of the Executive Council during the annual convention, the Executive Secretary shall provide to the Executive Council a detailed statement of the Association's current financial standing, and a detailed statement of the Association's likely income and expenditures for the current and the forthcoming fiscal years. The Executive Secretary will be bonded by the Association.

*Section 5.* The Editors shall select editorial staffs and shall, respectively, perform the usual duties of an Editor-in-Chief. The Editors may, at their respective discretion, appoint an Advertising Manager to assist in the management of the publication for which they are responsible.

*Section 6.* The Convention Advertising Manager shall serve ex officio as a nonvoting member of the Executive Council. The Convention Advertising Manager shall be responsible, at the direction of the Executive Council, for all convention advertising arrangements for the Association, including obtaining advertising for the convention program; for securing publishers' and other exhibits for the convention; and for placing such advertising for the Association as may be deemed appropriate.

*Section 7.* Interest Group Representatives shall assist the other officers and other officials of the Association in the performance of their duties as requested. Interest Group Representatives shall chair major appointive committees of the Association. They shall assist the First and Second Vice Presidents in planning for and serving during conventions. They shall

attend all meetings of the Executive Council.

*Section 8.* The First Vice President Elect shall succeed to the office of the First Vice President whenever that office is vacated.

*Section 9.* The Association's Representatives to the National Communication Association Legislative Council shall attend the Association's Executive Council meeting as nonvoting members and shall report to the Executive Council.

*Section 10.* The Association's Representative to the National Communication Association Nominating Committee shall attend the Association's Executive Council meetings as a nonvoting member and shall report to the Executive Council.

## **Article VIII**

### **Recall of Officers and Other Officials**

In the event any officer or other official of the Association fails to discharge the office to which that person has been elected or appointed, the President shall, with the consent of a majority of the Executive Council, request that person's resignation. Any member of the Executive Council may petition the Executive Council for recall of any officer or other official who has not discharged the responsibilities of his or her office. Upon review of such a petition, the Executive Council may, by consent of three fourths of its membership, remove from office the person in question. In the event an office or other post is so vacated, the procedures outlined in these Bylaws for filling such a position shall apply.

## **Article IX**

### **Publications**

*Section 1.* The Association shall authorize publication of scholarly journals or such other publications it deems appropriate. The

Association authorizes the publication of two scholarly journals; *Communication Quarterly* and *Communication Research Reports*, respectively.

*Section 2.* All editorial, format, and financial policies governing *Communication Quarterly*, *Communication Research Reports*, and all other ECA publications shall be determined by the Executive Council. The content and substance of *Communication Quarterly* and *Communication Research Reports*, shall be determined by their respective Editors consistent with the policies established by the Executive Council.

*Section 3.* All material published in *Communication Quarterly* and *Communication Research Reports*, and in all other publications authorized by the Executive Council shall be copyrighted in the name of the Eastern Communication Association.

## **Article X Standing Committees**

*Section 1.* The Executive Council shall have the following standing committees: Convention Site Selection, Finance, and Publications. These committees shall be advisory and all recommendations of the standing committees will be subject to approval of the Executive Council.

*Section 2.* The Convention Site Selection Committee shall be responsible for investigating potential future sites for Association conventions and making appropriate recommendations concerning convention site selections to the Executive Council. The membership of this Committee shall be the President (Chair), Immediate Past President, Executive Secretary, First Vice President Elect, and the Immediate Past President once removed. If any of the mandated members of this Committee are unavailable for service, the President shall

appoint a replacement or replacements from the membership of the Executive Council.

*Section 3.* The Finance Committee shall be responsible for reviewing the financial health of the Association, evaluating proposals coming before the Executive Council which may have an economic impact on the Association, and making appropriate recommendations concerning financial issues to the Executive Council. The membership of this Committee shall be the President (Chair), Immediate Past President, First Vice President, First Vice President Elect, Executive Secretary, and a member of the Executive Council elected by the Executive Council. The Editors of *Communication Quarterly* and *Communication Research Reports* shall serve on this Committee (Finance) without vote.

*Section 4.* The Publications Committee is responsible for the general supervision of all publications of the Association, evaluating proposals coming before the Executive Council which may impact the Association's publications, and making appropriate recommendations concerning publication issues and nominations for editorial positions to the Executive Council. The membership of this Committee shall be the President (Chair), the First Vice President Elect, the Executive Secretary, the Immediate past editor of *Communication Quarterly*, and *Communication Research Reports* and two members of the Executive Council elected by the Executive Council. The Editors of *Communication Quarterly* and *Communication Research Reports* shall serve as ex officio members of this Committee, without vote.

## **Article XI Affiliate Organizations**

*Section 1.* Affiliate organizations are those groups whose objectives are consistent with those of the Association and have been

endorsed by both the Executive Council and the membership of the Association.

*Section 2.* If a group wishes to become an affiliate organization of the Association, it must petition the Executive Council for such recognition.

*Section 3.* If the petition is approved by a majority of the Executive Council members in attendance at a regular scheduled meeting of the Executive Council, the petition shall be submitted to the membership for consideration during the next regularly scheduled election. If the petition is approved by a majority of the membership casting ballots in the election, affiliate status shall be conferred on the petitioning organization.

*Section 4.* Affiliate organizations of the Association are the Association for Communication Administration; the Kenneth Burke Society, ECA Chapter; and the ECA Past Officers' Club.

## **Article XII**

### **Awards**

*Section 1.* The granting of any award for scholarship, teaching, and/or service in the name of the Association may be proposed to the Executive Council by any member of the Association.

*Section 2.* No award may include a monetary stipend drawn from the general funds of the Association. Any award carrying a monetary stipend can only be funded by an endowment provided by a source independent of the Association. Approval of the award by the Association shall terminate with the termination of that endowment.

*Section 3.* The recipient of any award [from] the Association shall be selected by a committee of no less than three nor more than five members of the Association. The method by which the committee membership is determined and the criteria for the selection of award recipients shall be

included in the initial award proposal to the Executive Council and are subject to amendment by the Executive Council prior to submission to the membership for approval. If any changes made by the Executive Council are not acceptable to the individual proposing the award, the proposal may be withdrawn by that individual prior to a vote of the membership of the Association.

*Section 4.* An award may carry the name of an individual providing that individual is a past officer of the Association or is deceased but was a member of the Association for a significant period of time prior to her or his death. The naming of an award for an individual shall be considered appropriate only if the award clearly is associated with the professional distinction of that individual. After December 31, 1987, an award shall not be named for an individual unless an endowment sufficient to cover all expenses associated with the award is established under the control of the Association.

*Section 5.* If a proposal for an award is approved by a majority of the membership of the Executive Council in attendance at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Council, and if any changes made by the Executive Council are approved by the individual initially proposing the award, the proposal shall be submitted for approval to the membership of the Association at the time of the next regular election. Approval of a majority of the members voting in the election shall constitute approval of the award.

*Section 6.* A listing of all Association awards and the criteria for selecting each award's recipient shall appear annually in an appropriate Association publication.

## **Article XIII**

### **Parliamentary Authority**

In the absence of any provision to the contrary in the Constitution or Bylaws, all business meetings of the Executive Council, of the Association, or the standing committees, and of other subsidiary bodies of the Association shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

#### **Article XIV Amendments**

*Section 1.* Amendments to these Bylaws may be initiated by a majority of the Executive Council or by a petition addressed to the Council and signed by 25 members of the Association.

*Section 2.* Proposed amendments to these Bylaws shall be presented to the full membership for mail vote. Such an amendment shall be adopted if it is approved by a majority of the members voting.

#### **REVISIONS**

**By laws; Article 5; Revised October 2005**

#### **BENEFITS**

Membership in the Eastern Communication Association features special opportunities to receive valuable information related to professional communication, current research projects, and essential contacts for networking opportunities. Membership also features the following professional services and activities:

- ◆ Subscriptions to two journals, *Communication Quarterly* and *Communication Research Reports*, and all association mailings, including ECA News.
- ◆ Subscription option to receive the regional speech communication journals of Western States Communication Association,

Southern [States] Communication Association, and Central States [Communication] Association.

- ◆ Professional opportunities to serve the membership in active roles of participation and leadership.
- ◆ Research opportunities to disseminate information, present professional position or research papers, and engage in panel discussions and workshops at high quality conventions.
- ◆ Professional affiliations with colleagues, consultants, management personnel and other communication-related scholars.