

# Minutes

National Communication Association  
Legislative Assembly Meeting  
November 20 and 23, 2013  
Washington, D.C.

**Presiding:** Steven A. Beebe, NCA President

**Parliamentarian:** E. Marie Wilson, November 20; Collette Collier Trohan, November 23

**Recording:** Nancy Kidd, Executive Director

**Location:** Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington D.C.

## INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

**Call to Order:** President Beebe called the 2013 Legislative Assembly (LA) meeting to order at 12:00 pm, Eastern Time on Wednesday, November 20.

**Introductions:** Members of the LA were asked to stand and introduce themselves by name and the group represented.

**Credentials Report:** First Vice President Kathleen Turner announced that at 12:05pm 104 delegates were registered from the 177 members of the LA.<sup>1</sup>

*A motion was made that the roll of delegates submitted be the official roll of the voting members of this assembly. Seconded. Motion carried.*

**Standing Rules:** President Beebe directed the body to the standing rules in the meeting binder. *A motion was made to adopt the standing rules as presented. Seconded. Motion carried.*

**Agenda:** President Beebe thanked the Agenda Committee for their work. *Given no objection to the adoption of the agenda, the agenda was adopted.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Legislative Assembly observed a moment of silence to honor those who have passed away.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Please see Appendix A for the full list of meeting attendees on November 20.

<sup>2</sup> Alfred J. Albrecht, James A. Aune, Jack A. Barwind, Samuel L. Becker, Dennis R. Bormann, Robert N. Bostrom, Angela L. Brenton, Kenneth L. Brown, Ann E. Burlin, Henry L. Ewbank, Joyce M. Flocken, Donald P. Garner, Nancy L. Harper, Joseph J. Hemmer Jr., Diane S. Hope, Mary Frances Hopkins, Thomas J. Kane, Robert J. Kastenbaum, Sarah Sanderson King, Joseph B. Laine, Gilbert A. Maddox, Clifton W. Mangrum, James C. McCroskey, James L. Owen, Daniel S. Prentice, William K. Price, Paul D. Skalski, Jimmie D. Trent, Nick L. Trujillo, Donald F. Ungurait, Albert J. Weitz, William W. Wilmot.

Philip Backlund provided a report from the Educational Policies Board, John Greene provided a report from the Publications Board, Kristin Muñoz provided a report from the Research Board, and Nancy Kidd provided a National Office report.

NCA Chief of Staff Mark Fernando presented the report of the 2013 Nominating Committee,<sup>3</sup> and each of the candidates for Second Vice President, Stephen Hartnett and Tom Socha, provided remarks to the LA.

President Beebe referred the LA to the written meeting binder for additional important reports.

## **BUSINESS**

**Election of the 2014 Committee on the Agenda:** The LA was asked for nominees for two positions on the 2014 Committee on the Agenda. Denise Oles-Acevedo and Armeda Reitzel were nominated.

*A motion was made to approve the nominations for 2014 Committee on the Agenda. Seconded. Motion carried.*

**Nominations for the 2014 Committee on Committees:** The LA was asked for nominees for two positions on the 2014 Committee on Committees. Liane Gray-Starner, Robert Leonard, Shane Tilton, Michelle Violanti, and Jennifer Willis-Rivera were nominated. President Beebe said that the election would take place on Saturday morning at which time each candidate would have one minute to address the Legislative Assembly.

**Constitution/Bylaws Revision:** President Beebe explained that our current governing documents state that amendments may be initiated by majority vote of the Legislative Assembly. *A motion was made to consider the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Seconded. Motion carried.*

Executive Committee member Bobby Patton introduced the proposal. He described the reasons for engaging in revision and the nature of and logic for the specific revisions under consideration.

*A motion was made by the Executive Committee to adopt the proposed bylaws to replace the current constitution and bylaws and initiate a membership ballot to rescind the current constitution. Adoption of the revised bylaws is subject to the following provisos:*

- 1. In accordance with the requirements of the NCA Constitution, a full membership ballot shall be distributed to allow the members to vote on whether to rescind the constitution; the affirmative vote of two-thirds of those returning ballots shall be required. If the membership vote fails, any approval of this revision by the Legislative Assembly is automatically revoked.*
- 2. In accordance with the requirements of the NCA Bylaws, a two-thirds vote of the Legislative Assembly is required to approve the revised bylaws; however, such approval*

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<sup>3</sup> Candidates for Second Vice President: Stephen Hartnett, Tom Socha; Candidates for Legislative Assembly: Jonathan Bowman, Anne Mattina, Stephanie Norander, John H. Saunders, Rebecca Townsend, Vince Waldron; Candidates for Committee on Committees: Lynn Disbrow, Sandra Faulkner, Lindsey Harvell, Lynne Webb.

*shall be conditional on ratification by the members, and the affirmative vote of a majority of those returning ballots shall be required. If the ratification vote fails, any approval of this revision by the Legislative Assembly is automatically revoked.*

3. *The revised bylaws shall go into effect on January 1, 2015. During the interim, the following conditions shall apply:*
  - a. *At-Large Governors: During 2014 there shall be a special ballot of the membership to elect three at-large governors for terms beginning January 1, 2015. One of the governors shall be elected for a three-year term, one of the governors shall be elected for a two-year term, and one of the governors shall be elected for a one-year term.*
  - b. *Convention Committee: During 2014 the Legislative Assembly shall elect two members of the Convention Committee for three-year terms beginning January 1, 2015. Continuing members of the committee shall serve until their terms expire.*
  - c. *Resolutions Committee: During 2014, the Legislative Assembly shall elect two members of the Resolutions Committee for three-year terms beginning January 1, 2015. The term of one member of the Resolutions Committee elected in 2012 and expiring in 2014 shall be extended for one additional year. If more than one of the affected committee members volunteer to serve the additional time on the committee, the member whose term is extended shall be chosen by lot. The terms of two of the members of the Resolutions Committee elected in 2013 and expiring in 2015 shall be extended for one additional year. If more than two of the affected committee members volunteer to serve the additional time on the committee, the members whose terms are extended shall be chosen by lot.*
4. *Although provisions are being put in place for the transition to the new bylaws in 2015, the current bylaws, including the amendment provisions, will be in force during 2014. This means that the 2014 Legislative Assembly will retain the authority to make changes to the revision before it goes into effect. Amendments will be subject to the provisions of the current bylaws until January 1, 2015.*

Debate ensued.

*The Legislative Assembly voted on the Motion. Motion carried with 83 for and 34 against.*

The LA took a ten minute recess.

**Resolutions Review:** President Beebe explained that in 2011 the LA endorsed the report of the Task Force on Policy Platform Review and mandated review of almost all of the current resolutions in our platform over the next couple of years. Four resolutions that are currently part of our platform were brought to the LA for consideration, with recommendations for amendment or archiving by committees with expertise in the respective areas.

The NCA Resolutions Committee reviewed each of the recommendations for revision or archiving and ultimately concurred with the judgment of all of the review committees. In some cases, the review committees made revisions to the specific language of their proposals in light of discussion with the Resolutions Committee.

**Digital Divide:** Resolutions Committee Chair Elizabeth Desnoyers-Colas introduced the resolution (see Appendix B) and indicated that the Resolutions Committee concurs with the review committee's recommendation to amend the resolution. The review committee included representatives from the Mass Communication Division and the Human Communication and Technology Division: Andrew Billings, Nicholas Bowman, Adam Earnhardt, Marina Krmar, Star Muir, and Arturo Ramirez.

*A motion was made by the Resolutions Committee to adopt the resolution as amended. Motion carried.*

**Credo for Free and Responsible Use of Electronic Communication Networks:** Resolutions Committee Chair Elizabeth Desnoyers-Colas introduced the resolution (see Appendix C) and indicated that the Resolutions Committee concurs with the review committee's recommendation to amend the resolution. The review committee included representatives from the Mass Communication Division and the Human Communication and Technology Division: Andrew Billings, Nicholas Bowman, Adam Earnhardt, Marina Krmar, Star Muir, and Arturo Ramirez. *A motion was made by the Resolutions Committee to adopt the resolution as amended. Motion carried.*

**Standards for Speaking, Listening, and Media Literacy in K-12 and Endorsing Comprehensive Language Arts:** Resolutions Committee Chair Desnoyers-Colas introduced the two resolutions and indicated that the Resolutions Committee concurs with the review committee's recommendation to archive them. With the updating and passage of the new High School Communication Education as a Graduation Requirement resolution in 2012, the ideas behind these two resolutions, which were originally passed in 1996, were incorporated into the new resolution and hence are unnecessary. The review committee was the Educational Policies Board led by Philip Backlund.

*A motion was made by the Resolutions Committee to archive the Standards for Speaking, Listening, and Media Literacy in K-12 and Endorsing Comprehensive Language Arts resolutions. Motion carried.*

**Extended Solitary Confinement and Torture:** Resolutions Committee Chair Desnoyers-Colas reported that the review committee, composed of Deborah A. Cai, Edward L. Fink, Charles Pavitt, and Michael S. Stohl, recommended that supporting documentation be submitted. The Resolutions Committee was satisfied with that documentation and no further action is necessary. The supporting documentation can be found on the NCA website.

President Beebe thanked all of the review committees and the Resolutions Committee for their good work.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:58pm.

**Call to Order:** President Steven Beebe called the 2013 LA meeting to order at 8:07am on Saturday, November 23.

**Credentials Report:** First Vice President Kathleen Turner announced that at 8:06am 97 delegates were registered from the 177 members of the LA.<sup>4</sup>

*A motion was made that the roll of delegates submitted be the official roll of the voting members of this assembly. Seconded. Motion carried.*

**Special Recognition:** President Beebe presented awards to members of the association who have provided significant service to NCA. Outgoing Executive Committee members Kristine Muñoz, Ronald Shields, and Richard West were recognized, as were outgoing editors James Hay, Katherine Miller, Cheri Simonds, Kent Ono, Ronald Jackson II, Shiv Ganesh, and Raymie McKerrow. Presidential citations were given to Isa Engleberg for her work chairing the Task Force to Explore the Identification of Common Core Competencies for the Basic Course, Igor Klyukanov for his work chairing the Task Force to Enhance the Internationalization of Communication, Roseann Mandziuk for her work chairing the Task Force on Affiliates, and Cheri Simonds for her work chairing the Task Force to Strengthen the Basic Course.

**Election of the 2014 Committee on Committees:** Each of the people who were nominated on Wednesday made a brief statement to the Legislative Assembly and delegates were asked to vote using printed ballots.

**Enhanced Publications Benefit for Membership:** President Beebe explained that the Executive Committee of the Legislative Assembly recommends to the LA a change in our publications member benefit. Specifically, the proposal is to shift to all members receiving electronic subscriptions to all eleven of NCA's journals instead of the current, much more limited, print subscription benefit. The primary virtue of making this change is that most members will receive more journal content than they currently receive. A key element of our strategic plan is dissemination of scholarship, so allowing for broader dissemination than our current model is consistent with our mission. More content is likely to be especially important for members, or potential members, who do not have ongoing access to institutional libraries, such as adjuncts, and it is also consistent with our mission to provide unaffiliated teachers/scholars with support so that they can be active contributors to our disciplinary efforts. In addition, this will be more environmentally friendly.

*A motion was made by the Executive Committee to change the publications benefit that comes with membership as presented. Motion carried.*

**Awards Policy:** President Beebe said that the NCA Awards Policy requires periodic review for the purpose of updating. The Executive Committee of the Legislative Assembly has endorsed routine revisions for consideration by the full Legislative Assembly.

*A motion was made by the Executive Committee to endorse the proposed changes to the NCA Awards Policy. Motion carried.*

**Financial Reports:** President Beebe introduced Finance Board Director Ronald Shields to present the financial reports. Shields talked about the financial results from FY12-13. He informed the LA that NCA received an unqualified opinion on our independent audit, which means our financial statements present fairly our financial position as of our fiscal year-end and the results of our operations for the fiscal year are in accordance with generally accepted

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<sup>4</sup> Please see Appendix D for the full list of meeting attendees on November 23.

accounting principles. He then talked about the implications of our statements of financial position and cash flow. The bottom line is that we are in a strong financial position. Shields also referred the LA to the line-by-line comparison of the FY12-13 budget to actual, which was included in the meeting materials and shows that we ended the year with an operating budget surplus.

*A motion was made by the Finance Committee to adopt the FY12-13 audit report. Motion carried.*

Shields then described the proposal for the FY13-14 operating budget.

*A motion was made by the Finance Board to adopt the FY13-14 budget. Discussion ensued. Motion carried.*

**2013 Committee on Committees Report:** Committee Chair Richard West announced the slate of candidates nominated by the committee.<sup>5</sup>

*A motion was made by the Committee on Committees to adopt the slate of candidates as presented. Motion carried.*

**Results from the Election of the 2014 Committee on Committees:** President Beebe announced that Robert Leonard and Jennifer Willis-Rivera have been elected by the Legislative Assembly to serve on the 2014 Committee on Committees.

**Adjournment:** President Beebe adjourned the meeting at 8:53am.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kidd, Executive Director

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<sup>5</sup> **Governance Committees:** *Legislative Assembly:* Belinda Stillion Southard, Sara Weintraub; *Doctoral Education Committee:* Keith Berry, Jeffrey Child, Adrienne Kunkel, Mary E. Stuckey; *Nominating Committee Chair:* Candice Thomas-Maddox; *Nominating Committee At-Large Member Elected by the LA:* Eletra S. Gilchrist-Petty; *Resolutions Committee:* Tobi Mackler, Jimmie Manning, Casey Maugh; *Resolutions Committee Chair:* Sue Weber; *Committee on International Discussion and Debate:* Ted Sheckels; *Leathers Fund Trustee Committee:* David Cratis Williams; *Educational Policies Board:* Ann Darling, Shannon Van Horn; *Educational Policies Board Director-Elect:* Scott Myers; *Finance Board:* Annette Madlock Gatison; *Publications Board:* Leanne Knobloch, John Louis Lucaites, *Research Board:* Travis Dixon, Ashley Duggan; **Award Committees:** *Bernard J. Brommel Award Committee:* Erin Sahlstein Parcell; *Leslie Irene Coger Award Committee:* Dustin Goltz; *Michael and Suzanne Osborn Community College Outstanding Educator Award Committee:* Mark Butland; *Donald P. Cushman Memorial Award Committee:* Heather Carmack; *Diamond Anniversary Book Award Committee:* Randy Lake; *Douglas W. Ehninger Award Committee:* Robin Rowland; *Golden Anniversary Monograph Awards Committee:* Robert Asen, Teresa Bergman, Jillian Tullis; *Franklin S. Haiman Award Committee:* David Cratis Williams; *Lilla A. Heston Award Committee:* John Anderson; *Mark L. Knapp Award Committee:* Jennifer Bevan, Amanda Martinez; *Stephen E. Lucas Award Committee:* Janie Harden Fritz; *Marcella E. Oberle Award Committee:* Jean Ann Streiff; *Gerald M. Phillips Award Committee:* Steven Venette; *Professional Service Awards Committee:* Angela Cooke-Jackson, Deanna Sellnow (chair), Shawn Wahl; *Karl R. Wallace Award Committee:* Jason Black.

**APPENDIX A.**  
**Meeting Attendance for Wednesday, November 20**

Affirmative Action & Intercaucus Committee Chair	Shawn Long
Asian/Pacific American Caucus	Chin-Chung Chao
Caucus on LGBTQ Concerns	Justin Boren
Disability Issues Caucus	Kelly Herold
La Raza Caucus	Amanda Martinez
Women's Caucus	Lakresha Graham
African American Communication and Culture Division	Eletra Gilchrist
	Shawn Long
American Studies Division	Denise Oles-Acevedo
Applied Communication Division	Heather Carmack
	Mark Leeman
	Stephanie Norander
Argumentation and Forensics Division	Jeannie Hunt
Asian/Pacific American Communication Studies Division	Chin-Chung Chao
Basic Course Division	Melissa Broeckelman-Post
	Angela Hosek
Communication and Aging Division	Christine Rittenour
Communication and Law Division	Alphonso Atkins
Communication and Social Cognition Division	Tamara Chock
	Michael Kotowski
Communication and the Future Division	Lonny Brooks
Communication Apprehension and Competence Division	Amber Finn
	Suzanne Prentiss
Communication as Social Construction Division	Austin Babrow
Communication Assessment Division	Philip Backlund
Communication Ethics Division	Melissa Cook
	Lisbeth Lipari
	Tatyana Dumova
Critical and Cultural Studies Division	Kevin Ayotte
	Donovan Conley
	Radhika Gajjala
	Michelle Rodino-Colocino
Environmental Communication Division	Richard Besel
	Samantha Senda-Cook
Ethnography Division	Christopher Poulos
	Lisa Tillmann
Experiential Learning in Communication Division	Lori Britt
Family Communication Division	Rene Dailey
	April Trees
Feminist and Women Studies Division	Katherine Denker
	Yahui Zhang
Freedom of Expression Division	Adria Battaglia
	Paula McKenzie
GLBTQ Communication Studies Division	Michaela Meyer
	Danielle Stern
Group Communication Division	Torsten Reimer
Health Communication Division	Jake Jensen
	Lance Rintamaki
	Elaine Wittenberg-Lyles
Human Communication and Technology Division	Star Muir

Instructional Development Division	Art Ramirez
International and Intercultural Communication Division	John Spinda
Interpersonal Communication Division	Joseph Mazer
Language and Social Interaction Division	Shawn Wahl
Latina/ Latino Communication Studies Division	S. Lily Mendoza
Mass Communication Division	Yoshitaka Miike
Nonverbal Communication Division	Sean Horan
Organizational Communication Division	Mark Morman
Peace and Conflict Division	Jennifer Samp
Performance Studies Division	Heidi Kevoe-Feldman
Philosophy of Communication Division	Danielle Pillet-Shore
Public Address Division	Matthew Brigham
Public Relations Division	Josue David Cisneros
Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division	Shane Tilton
Spiritual Communication Division	Norah Dunbar
Theatre, Film and New Multi-Media Division	Amy Ebesu Hubbard
Training and Development Division	Karen Lee Ashcraft
Visual Communication Division	Loril Gossett
Communication Centers Section	John Lammers
Community College/ Two-Year Institutions Section	Jessica Jameson
Elementary and Secondary Education Section	Gregory Paul
Master's Education Section	Mindy Fenske
Student Section	Marie Radford
Undergraduate College and University Section	Angela Ray
Editor, Communication and Critical Cultural Studies	Mary Stuckey
Editor, Communication Teacher	Michael Palenchar
Editor, Critical Studies in Media Communication	Daniel Brouwer
Editor, Journal of International and Intercultural Comm.	Jessica Prody
Editor, Quarterly Journal of Speech	Kristen Blinne
Editor, Review of Communication	Patricia Friel
Elected, At-Large (2010)	Liane Gray-Starner
Elected, At-Large (2011)	Peter Jorgensen
Elected, At-Large (2012)	Chuck Goehring
	Brian Lain
	Jennifer Ellis
	Robert Leonard
	Susan Ward
	Anna Wright
	Barbara Baker
	Jimmie Manning
	Lindsey Aloia
	Dayna Chatman
	Armeda Reitzel
	Kent Ono
	Cheri Simonds
	Kent Ono
	Shiv Ganesh
	Raymie McKerrow
	Pat J. Gehrke
	Leah Bryant
	Anne Mattina
	Jennifer Willis-Rivera
	Bernardo Attias



Elected, Legislative Assembly (2010)  
Elected, Legislative Assembly (2011)  
Elected, Legislative Assembly (2012)

Educational Policies Board Director  
Executive Director (non-voting)  
Finance Board Director  
Finance Board Member  
Finance Board Member  
First Vice President  
Immediate Past President  
President  
Publications Board Director  
Research Board Director  
Second Vice President  
Second Vice President-Elect

Association for Communication Administration  
States Advisory Council  
Regional Affiliate, CSCA - Community College  
Regional Affiliate, CSCA - K-12 Rep  
Regional Affiliate, ECA - Community College  
Regional Affiliate, ECA - K-12  
Regional Affiliate, SSCA - Community College  
Regional Affiliate, SSCA - Four Year College  
Regional Affiliate, WSCA - Community College  
Regional Affiliate, WSCA - Four Year College  
Regional Affiliate, WSCA K-12 Rep

James Cherney  
Richard Vatz  
Anastacia Kurylo  
Diane Forbes Berthoud  
Casey Maugh  
Jillian Tullis

Philip Backlund  
Nancy Kidd  
Ronald Shields  
Bobby Patton  
Kathleen Glenister Roberts  
Kathleen J. Turner  
Richard West  
Steven A. Beebe  
John O. Greene  
Kristine Muñoz  
Carole Blair  
Christina Beck

Helen Sterk  
Susan Tomasovic  
David Bodary  
David Wendt  
Tobi Mackler  
Jean Streiff  
Kirsten Heintz  
Michelle Violanti  
Robert Becker  
Dana Cloud  
Robert Stockton

## **APPENDIX B.**

### **Digital Divide**

The National Communication Association (NCA) reaffirms its commitment to urge the development of free and low-cost ways of accessing the means for processing and distributing information in electronic forms. Moreover, NCA continues to urge the development of communication technologies that require minimal training but that still allow wide use of worldwide electronic resources. Additionally, as electronic resources continue to become increasingly demanding in terms of bandwidth, NCA asks that service providers ensure connection speeds necessary to competently utilize said resources. Moreover, while many argue that economic barriers to technology have been greatly reduced, technology and information literacy barriers must be addressed with equal attention so that those with access to technology are able to use it effectively. Given these commitments, NCA resolves to take a leadership role in closing the Digital Divide through scholarship highlighting access, usability, and empowerment issues. NCA officers and staff will support legislation aimed at providing universal access to electronic means of communication. NCA will work with other organizations to ensure that communities in the U.S. and elsewhere have adequate electronic communication resources available to all. NCA members have a responsibility to increase awareness of the Digital Divide as a comprehensive social issue that considers socio-economic as well as literacy and empowerment dimensions. NCA urges its members to take an active role in increasing awareness of the Digital Divide through research, education, incorporating material on this problem into courses, through community consultation and education, and by advocating for appropriate policies at all levels of government, as well as supporting the production and distribution of open source software, as well as continued education on using said software.

#### **Amendment Rationale**

1. Rationale for why it merits Legislative Assembly consideration and how it meets the criteria for inclusion in the Public Policy Platform specified in the Preamble,

The Digital Divide is one of the greatest communication issues of social equity that people of all nations face - it is an issue of information access and literacy becoming increasingly central to public discourse as well as economic, social, and cultural welfare at the individual, local, national, and international level. Much has happened regarding the divide since the original resolution 14 years ago, most notably a broadened focus on the Digital Divide as being an issue not only of access but also of usability and empowerment. As the principal scholarly entity in the field of communication studies, it is imperative for us to provide a timely statement that truly incorporates the increasingly prominent role of digital media as an integral component of human communication in our world today.

2. Background information regarding the public policy issue being addressed  
By the end of the 20th century, digital communication technologies had become an integral component of the modern economic, social, and cultural environment of many modern nations. Yet, the increased focus on networked technologies assumed all people to have connectivity - and this was not the case. Anecdotally, it seemed that divisions between those with and without access (the technology “haves” and “have-nots”) seemed related among lines associated with social status indicators, and there were concerns that while networked technologies held great promise for society, a “rich get richer” situation was quickly becoming apparent with more privileged populations benefitting more from the technologies. In response to these observations, in 1995 the National Telecommunications and Information Administration released their first of a series of studies, “Falling Through the ‘Net’” to better understand the phenomenon, citing the Federal Communications Commissions broad charter of “universal service.”

In their reports, the NTIA detailed systematic gaps between populations with and without service - labeling the phenomenon as a “Digital Divide” and suggesting it to be an issue of great social, political and economic concern. Some of gaps identified in those early studies were found to be a function of geographic location (urban spaces being more connected), age (older populations were less connected), race (minorities were disproportionately unconnected), and income (poor populations were less connected). Follow-up studies into the early 2000s reported these access gaps to be closing with the falling cost of computing technology, such as a writing by technology scholar Jakob Nielsen who argued in 2006 that computer prices had fallen to levels

largely within reach of most people. However (and we recognize that access concerns are still a concern), many argue that gaps in technology literacy and usage, often along the same socio-demographics found by the NTIA, exist still today.

As a matter of public policy, it must be recognized that the Digital Divide is not closed. If broken down into the components suggested by Nielsen, we might understand the divide as an issue of (a) access to the technology, (b) usability of the technology, and (c) empowerment from the technology. All three are equally important in understanding the larger socio-cultural issues of technology access, and are prominent issues that demand our academic attention.

3. Demonstration of the relationship of the issue to existing communication scholarship, including specific citations

Below, we have included key citations (with abstracts) that speak to the increased prominence of the Digital Divide as an area of focus among communication scholars.

*For the full list of references, please refer to the NCA website.*

4. Specific action being requested of policy makers  
Primary actions being requested are an acceptance of and commitment to:
  - A. Awareness that a systematic Digital Divide exists across several socio-demographic variables at the individual, local, national and international level
  - B. Understanding how universal access to communication technologies is necessary for improving economic, social, and cultural welfare of citizens
  - C. Advocating for programs and policies that (a) improve access to free and low-cost communication technologies; (b) enhance citizens' comfort and skill with communication technologies; and (c) imbue citizens with a sense of empowerment and a knowledge of the benefits of communication technology use.
5. Specific actions the Association will be expected to take if the resolution passes  
As a resolution largely focused on awareness of Digital Divide issues rather than deliberate actions for addressing the issue "head-on," NCA's commitment to awareness would largely take the role of public address and advocacy. In this, NCA might be expected to engage in education campaigns designed to address specific publics – starting with internal publics within the organization (such as Association members and university students) and perhaps expanding out to more lay-publics. These campaigns might include (a) digital press kits highlighting the history and contemporary issues of the Digital Divide, (b) a digital repository of key readings and research findings associated with the Digital Divide, (c) sponsoring, co-sponsoring, and/or organizing lecture series on Digital Divide topics, and (d) actively promoting qualified members of NCA to local, national, and international press to discuss scholarship related to the Digital Divide.
6. An explicit statement of the resolution  
*See above*
7. Consideration of how this fits with the rest of the current public policy platform, and

The current public policy platform of NCA includes statements on Political Communication and Extended Solitary Confinement and Torture in an effort to highlight issues of communication central to free and fair political discourse (the former) and improper and injurious usage of communication (the latter). Similarly, our proposed resolution on the Digital Divide locates communication as central to a civil, connected, and collaborative digital society. In some respects, we might suggest that the Digital Divide - given that many of the technical concerns related to the ability to physically connect to digital networks have been addressed by advances in computer science (and to a smaller extent, public policy) - is an issue uniquely associated with the study of human communication. While issues of physical connectivity are still important, the individual, relational and societal implications of the manner in which humans interact using these connections has become a central debate of the 21st century.

8. An assessment of the resources required (both financial and human) to implement the resolution (to be determined in consultation with the Executive Director) and justification for priority of this expenditure

In Point five above, we specify four main types of education and advocacy activities that NCA might consider:

- (a) digital press kits highlighting the history and contemporary issues of the Digital Divide,
  - Resources here might include space on the current [www.natcom.org](http://www.natcom.org) webpage, perhaps maintained but the current public relations staff working in tandem with NCA members. No additional financial costs are expected, with human costs being minimal (current staff and members).
- (b) a digital repository of key readings and research findings associated with the Digital Divide, and
  - Again, resources for such a repository would likely include space on the current [www.natcom.org](http://www.natcom.org) webpage. Financial costs might include potential copyright permissions for distributing some proprietary information. Human costs should be minimal (current staff and members).
- (c) sponsoring and/or organizing lecture series on Digital Divide topics.
  - Financial costs associated with this might include speaker's fees and honoraria, travel arrangements and accommodation expenses for hosting speakers, as well as costs associated with organizing speaking spaces
  - Human costs would include identifying people to coordinate such events - including current public relations staff and NCA members - that would be asked to contribute time outside of the normal scope of their positions.
- (d) actively promoting qualified members of NCA to local, national, and international press to discuss scholarship related to the Digital Divide.

Note that we see the first and second points here as mission-critical to NCA's interest in promoting this policy statement (assuming an active rather than a passive advocacy role), while the third point as more tangential.

## **APPENDIX C.**

### **Credo for Free and Responsible Use of Electronic Communication Networks**

The principles of free and responsible communication have long been a hallmark of communication study. Since 1963, the National Communication Association (then the Speech Communication Association) has included among its core documents a Credo for Free and Responsible Communication in a Democratic Society. Recognizing the advent and emergent role of electronic means of global communication accessible to the general public, we members of the National Communication Association endorse the following statement of principles relating to free and responsible use of electronic communication:

- We recognize that there is limited ability for one to engage in the freedom of expression if access to communication technology is limited by financial ability. We therefore urge the continued development of free and low-cost means of accessing the means for processing and distributing information in electronic forms. These includes access to cost-effective computing technology and software as well as reliable distribution infrastructures.
- We realize that access is limited if specialized expertise is required to take advantage of the necessary technology. We therefore urge the development of hardware and software that requires minimal training but that still allows wide use of worldwide electronic resources.
- We support freedom of expression and condemn attempts to constrain information processing or electronic communication, especially expressions that are offensive to some or even most of the populace. Such constrictions include restricting access to electronic networks as well as the information on those networks. While supporting free expression, we nevertheless consider the maintenance of intellectual property rights to be crucial to the encouragement of creativity and originality. We, therefore, urge the designers and regulators of electronic forms of communication to use special vigilance to insure that the works of individuals or groups are protected from unfair use by others.
- We support a right to privacy, both in the ability to maintain the integrity of individual message exchanges and in the ability to shield oneself from unwanted messages. We thus encourage the development of technologies that grant users individual control and ownership over their information.
- We accept the need to educate students and the general public how to use electronic forms of communication effectively and responsibly by providing the technical and theoretical knowledge of communication technology and by helping students recognize their role as 'netizens', or citizens in the shared space of the Internet.
- We call upon users of information processing and distribution networks to do so with respect for myriad demographic and psychographic dimensions they may encounter in others. There must be a recognition that communication technologies allow for communication among and between truly global audiences.
- Finally, we encourage communication researchers to continue to produce findings that will guide policy decisions concerning the social impact of electronic communication and to make those findings available widely. Likewise, we encourage the designers and regulators of electronic forms of communication to take credible findings about the social impact of their work into account as they implement new products and services.

#### **Amendment Rationale**

1. Rationale for why this statement merits Legislative Assembly consideration and how it is reflective of beliefs of those in the communication discipline

As a group of scholars dedicated to the study of human communication, we must recognize and consider in an official capacity the role that electronic communication networks has played in the manner in which we interact and share information with each other – be it as a matter of interpersonal, organizational, mass or other style of communication. Notably, the edits suggested here are a result of suggestions from the Report of the Task Force on Public Policy Platform Review from 2011, who marked this particular document for revisions, specifically citing “...the time that has elapsed since the adoption of some resolutions and the rapidity of technological, social and instructional methodology, updates and revisions are needed to enhance the relevancy of the policy platform.”

## 2. Relevant background information regarding the ethical issue

The original “Credo on Free and Responsible Use” was drafted in 1994, at a time in which electronic communication networks were in their infancy – in many ways, the credo was written as a prognostication of how networks might be used ‘in the future’. Much of the original document was focused singularly on issues of access with some mention of bureaucratic or sovereign interference, but the pith of the original credo was one focusing on closing the Digital Divide.

Yet, as the adoption and usage of electronic communication networks continues to grow, so have the issues associated with those networks. For example, much of the early focus on access divides – the digital “haves” and “have nots” – has evolved to a focus on issues of digital literacy and information privacy; that is, ensuring access to technology does not necessarily mean that all of those online are able to use the technology to its fullest extent, or use it in a manner that does not expose them to new threats. Current debates in the USA surrounding digital surveillance by the National Security Agency on US citizens’ mobile phone and e-mail exchanges, for example, suggest that the ethics of electronic communication are becoming an issue of “who has access to my information” rather than “do I have access to the network”. Similar debates involving information privacy include employer access to employees’ social media profiles and the role (and restriction) of social media in political dissidence also suggest that our attention might need to shift from “access” to “usage”. The revised resolution suggests that we consider the ethics of electronic communication networks as more than an issue of access as a statement of equality but should consider a focus on teaching networked users how to “be networked” in a responsible and secure manner.

**APPENDIX D.**  
**Meeting Attendance for Saturday, November 23**

Caucus on LGBTQ Concerns	Justin Boren
La Raza Caucus	Amanda Martinez
Women's Caucus	Lakresha Graham
African American Communication and Culture Division	Eletra Gilchrist
American Studies Division	Denise Oles-Acevedo
Applied Communication Division	David Worthington
Argumentation and Forensics Division	Heather Carmack
Basic Course Division	Mark Leeman
Communication and Aging Division	Jeannie Hunt
Communication and Law Division	Melissa Broeckelman-Post
Communication and the Future Division	Angela Hosek
Communication Apprehension and Competence Division	Margaret Pitts
Communication Assessment Division	Christine Rittenour
Communication Ethics Division	Alphonso Atkins
Critical and Cultural Studies Division	Lonny Brooks
Environmental Communication Division	Amber Finn
Ethnography Division	Suzanne Prentiss
Experiential Learning in Communication Division	Tatyana Dumova
Family Communication Division	Philip Backlund
Feminist and Women Studies Division	Melissa Cook
Freedom of Expression Division	Lisbeth Lipari
GLBTQ Communication Studies Division	Kevin Ayotte
Group Communication Division	Radhika Gajjala
Health Communication Division	Michelle Rodino-Colocino
Human Communication and Technology Division	Samantha Senda-Cook
Instructional Development Division	Christopher Poulos
International and Intercultural Communication Division	Lisa Tillmann
Interpersonal Communication Division	Lori Britt
Language and Social Interaction Division	Toni Whitfield
Latina/ Latino Communication Studies Division	Andrew Ledbetter
	April Trees
	Katherine Denker
	Barbara Parisi
	Adria Battaglia
	Michaela Meyer
	Danielle Stern
	Torsten Reimer
	Lance Rintamaki
	Elaine Wittenberg-Lyles
	Star Muir
	John Spinda
	Joseph Mazer
	Amy Heuman
	S. Lily Mendoza
	Yoshitaka Miike
	Sean Horan
	Katheryn Maguire
	Jennifer Samp
	Danielle Pillet-Shore
	Matthew Brigham

Mass Communication Division	Josue David Cisneros
	Stanley Tickton
	Shane Tilton
Nonverbal Communication Division	Norah Dunbar
	Amy Ebesu Hubbard
Organizational Communication Division	Karen Lee Ashcraft
	Loril Gossett
	John Lammers
Peace and Conflict Division	Jessica Jameson
	Gregory Paul
Performance Studies Division	Mindy Fenske
Philosophy of Communication Division	Marie Radford
Political Communication Division	Jill Edy
	Sharon Jarvis
Public Address Division	Angela Ray
	Mary Stuckey
Public Relations Division	Brigitta Brunner-Johnson
Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division	Daniel Brouwer
	Darrel Wanzer
Spiritual Communication Division	Kristen Blinne
Theatre, Film and New Multi-Media Division	Patricia Friel
Training and Development Division	Liane Gray-Starner
	Peter Jorgensen
Visual Communication Division	Brian Lain
Communication Centers Section	Russell Carpenter
	Jennifer Ellis
Community College/ Two-Year Institutions Section	Robert Leonard
	Susan Ward
Elementary and Secondary Education Section	Anna Wright
Master's Education Section	Barbara Baker
Student Section	Lindsey Aloia
	Dayna Chatman
Undergraduate College and University Section	Armeda Reitzel
	Jimmie Manning
Editor, Communication and Critical Cultural Studies	Kent Ono
Editor, Communication Teacher	Cheri Simonds
Editor, Critical Studies in Media Communication	Kent Ono
Editor, Quarterly Journal of Speech	Raymie McKerrow
Elected, At-Large (2010)	Leah Bryant
	Anne Mattina
Elected, At-Large (2011)	Jennifer Willis-Rivera
Elected, At-Large (2012)	Bernardo Attias
	James Cherney
	Richard Vatz
Elected, Legislative Assembly (2010)	Anastacia Kurylo
Elected, Legislative Assembly (2011)	San Bolkan
	Diane Forbes Berthoud
Elected, Legislative Assembly (2012)	Casey Maugh
	Jillian Tullis
Educational Policies Board Director	Philip Backlund
Executive Director (non-voting)	Nancy Kidd
Finance Board Director	Ronald Shields



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Carole Blair  
Christina Beck

Association for Communication Administration  
States Advisory Council  
Regional Affiliate, CSCA - Community College  
Regional Affiliate, ECA - Community College  
Regional Affiliate, ECA - Four Year College  
Regional Affiliate, ECA - K-12  
Regional Affiliate, SSCA - Community College  
Regional Affiliate, SSCA - Four Year College  
Regional Affiliate, SSCA - K-12  
Regional Affiliate, WSCA - Community College  
Regional Affiliate, WSCA - Four Year College  
Regional Affiliate, WSCA K-12 Rep

Helen Sterk  
Susan Tomasovic  
David Bodary  
Tobi Mackler  
Brandi Frisby  
Jean Streiff  
Kirsten Heintz  
Michelle Violanti  
Kristen L. Cockrell  
Robert Becker  
Dana Cloud  
Robert Stockton