

CSCA Group Bylaws

Central States Communication Association *Public Advocacy and Forensics Bylaws*

Article I. Name

1. The name of the interest group shall be Public Advocacy and Forensics (currently Argumentation and Forensics)

Article II. Purpose

2. The Public Advocacy and Forensics Interest Group promotes investigation of the practical, pedagogical, and theoretical dimension of Forensic discourse. The Interest Group encourages research that uses an argumentative perspective to understand social problems, promote civic engagement, and encourage educational excellence in speech and debate training.

Article III. Membership

Membership in the interest group shall be open to all those who are members in good standing in the Central States Communication Association and who are interested in advancing the purpose of the interest group.

Article IV. Officers

1. The officers of the interest group shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Chair of the Committee on Scholarship, and an appropriate number of Reviewers as determined by the Chair. Terms shall be one year.
2. The interest group may elect/appoint other officers, for whatever time period, as per their needs, and shall decide on the process by which such additional officers are to be elected or appointed.
3. Only individuals who are members of the Central States Communication Association and the interest group (as designated at the time of convention registration and membership renewal) are eligible for office.
4. Succession from Vice-Chair to Chair shall be automatic during the business meeting held at the annual convention.
5. Reviewers, Treasurer, and Chair of Scholarship will be appointed anew each year at the discretion of the Chair.
6. The Chair shall serve as the presiding officer of all interest group business meetings. The Chair shall serve as program planner for the annual convention and attend all Association

business meetings pursuant to that obligation. The Chair shall be responsible for carrying out any activities requested by the Association in support of the interest group. The Chair shall be responsible for maintaining a written record of the business meetings of the interest group held at the annual meeting during his/her tenure as Chair. The Chair shall be responsible for providing the membership with copies of minutes for approval at the subsequent business meeting. The Chair shall appoint an interest group member to the office of the Treasurer (continuity in the position should be heavily considered). The Chair shall provide recommendations and appropriate documentation to the Committee on Scholarship relating to their selection of recipients of interest group awards.

7. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in planning the Interest Group's program offerings for the annual convention or any other activities as requested by the Chair or the Association. The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the event of that officer's absence or incapacity. The Vice-Chair is expected to attend all Association business meetings relating to his/her future obligations as Chair.

8. The Treasurer will be responsible for managing finances for the interest group. The Treasurer shall also serve as Chair of the Committee on Scholarship or may appoint someone to serve as Committee Chair.

9. The Chair of the Committee on Scholarship shall be responsible for purchasing and presenting awards at each conference. The Scholarship Chair will be responsible for initiating, and creating a committee to determine interest group awards.

10. Reviewers shall be responsible for making judgments about submitted papers and panels and any other activities requested by the Chair.

Article V. Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee of the interest group shall be composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Chair of the Committee on Scholarship and Treasurer.

Article VI. Meetings

1. An annual meeting will be held at the time and place designated by the Vice-President of CSCA at the annual convention. Additional business meetings may be scheduled if necessary by the interest group officers.

2. Six members of the interest group present at each meeting shall constitute a quorum.

3. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the interest group in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws and any special rules of order the interest group may adopt.

Article VII. Voting

1. All voting shall be decided by a simple majority, with the exception of changes to the bylaws.
2. The election of officers shall be conducted by written ballot. Ballots shall be tabulated by at least two members of the interest group.
3. All voting matters other than the election of officers shall be conducted by voice support of for/yes, against/no, or abstain. The voting majority shall be determined by the Chair. Should any member present deem the voting majority to be unclear by voice support, a second vote shall be conducted using hand-raising designation.
4. Members of the Argumentation and Forensics Interest group will be recognized as voting members.

Article VIII. Awards

1. The top competitive paper of the interest group shall be designated the Top Paper Award. The winner of this award shall be determined by the Chair of the Committee on Scholarship, based on Reviewer evaluations. Recipients will receive a plaque.
2. The top competitive panel of the interest group shall be designated the Top Panel Award. The winner of this award shall be determined by the Chair of the Committee on Scholarship, based on Reviewer and Committee evaluations. Recipients will receive a plaque.
3. When appropriate, an award recognizing lifetime achievement shall be conferred by the Committee on Scholarship. The membership of the interest group will nominate potential recipients. Recipients will receive a plaque.
4. The Committee shall be responsible for managing the selection process for any other awards the interest group may deem appropriate.
5. All awards will be presented at the annual business meeting or **the panel of which the award winner is participating.**

Article IX. Finances

1. The Executive Committee of CSCA allocates funds to each interest group each year. These funds shall be used in support of the interest group/caucus/section awards.

2. In the event that these allocated funds are less than \$100.00, the funds received shall be divided equally amongst the interest group/caucus/section awards.
3. In the event that these allocated funds exceed \$100.00, any remaining money following the funding of the interest group/caucus/section awards can be spent in support of the interest group/caucus/section at the discretion of the Chair.
4. All funds spent should be approved by the Executive Council. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all finances.

Article X. Amendment of Bylaws

1. Following their establishment, any amendments to the interest group/caucus/section bylaws can be proposed by any member of the Executive Committee or by a petition of five members of the interest group.
2. Interest group membership must be notified of any proposed amendments at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting. This notification is the responsibility of the Chair. So that the chair is provided with reasonable opportunity to notify membership, amendment petitions must be submitted to the Chair at least forty days prior to the annual meeting.
3. Amendments require the approval of two-thirds of the membership present at the annual meeting.