

Minutes from the Business Meeting of the Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group

Meeting Held: April 28th during the 2018 Eastern Communication Association Conference in Pittsburgh, PA

Minutes prepared by Jason Edwards

The meeting was called to order by Valerie Schrader, Chair of the ECA Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group and Interest Group Planner for the 2018 Conference.

A sign-up sheet was passed around to ask for volunteers to be paper reviewers for the 2019 ECA Conference in Providence, RI.

2018 Interest Group Conference Report

Valerie announced that we:

- Had 10 panel slots for the 2018 Convention. That did not include any sponsored trips.
- There were 19 submissions; 14 papers and 5 panels.
- Two panels were not programmed
- There were 14 volunteers who reviewed papers for the 2018 convention.

Executive Council Report

The Undergraduate Scholars Conference (USC) currently accepts papers via e-mail, but because of the amount of submissions they are looking into changing that system. At NCA, there was a discussion about how to overcome the idea that regional conferences were “lesser” than national ones.

The new editor of *Communication Quarterly* is Chris Morse from Bryant University.

They are increasing the Centennial Awards from \$250 to \$500. They are also considering offering a “free” membership to the Top Paper winners and Centennial Scholars.

The Executive Council is asking ECA members to subscribe to the YouTube channel.

Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group Elections

Jason Edwards of Bridgewater State University will be planning the 2019 Conference in Providence.

Elections were held for the Program Planner for 2020, Secretary of the interest group, and Executive Council Representative starting at the 2019 convention.

Valerie Schrader of Penn State—Schuylkill was elected as the 2020 Program Planner.

Abbe Depretis of Temple University was elected as the Secretary for 2019

Christine Hirsch of SUNY-Oswego was elected as the Executive Council Representative starting in 2019-2021.

Top Paper Awards

Valerie announced the top papers for the 2018 Interest Group were:

“Citizen Cartography, North Korea, and the Visual Economy of Satellite Imagery”
Timothy Barney, University of Richmond *

“Laughing at Demokratia”
Matthew R. Meier, West Chester University

“Nannie Burroughs on African-American Political Power in the 1928 Presidential Election”
Michele Mason, University of Maryland

“Finding the Right Voice: Promoting and Sustaining Individual Branding on Food Blogs”
Alane Presswood, Hollins University

2019 ECA Program Planning Ideas

Katherine Thweatt (SUNY-Oswego) First Vice President and Program Planner for the 2018 Convention in Providence has announced that the convention theme will be “Creating Our Future.” Katherine has encouraged interest groups to not only submit traditional papers and/or panels, but also think about paper and/or panel ideas that can be connected to the community of Providence.

Attendees at the 2018 Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group meeting proposed different panels and/or connections in the area such as:

- Getting connected with Crossroads of RI and co-sponsoring a panel with Voices of Diversity
- The 2018 Rhode Island Gubernatorial election will take place. Obtaining representatives or discussing the communication strategies of Governor Gina Raimondo and her potential opponents might be interesting.
- Connecting with the local League of Women voters might be a good panel to have.
- Possibly getting a panel of legislators to talk about rhetorical strategies on the local level.

We also wanted to encourage more graduate students to review for the Rhetoric and Public Interest group.