

**National Communication Association
Public Address Division
2008 Chair's Report**

I. Thanks and appreciation

A. I would like personally to thank all of the members of the Public Address Executive Committee for making this a successful convention. We had more than the usual communication by email this year plus an informal meeting for those of us who were present at Madison, Wisconsin, during the public address conference, where we reflected collaboratively on the issues of discrimination, fair labor practices, and disability impacting the San Diego conference. Because we anticipate a lively discussion during new business, I am asking people to keep reports as brief as possible.

B. Charles Morris III deserves recognition for carefully planning our 31 panels. His dedication and hard work should be applauded.

C. I would also like to thank all members of the executive committee (past and present) and others who helped me to fulfill the various chair responsibilities, including Susan Shultz Huxman, Lisa Shawn Hogan, Charles Morris III, and Mari Boor Tonn, plus the division's webmaster Trevor-Parry-Giles. Thanks also to the secretary for the division, Jennifer Mercieca, and Kirt Wilson for serving in her place at NCA this year while she is in Italy. In addition, thanks to Mari Boor Tonn for serving in Chuck Morris's place during the business meeting.

D. Special thanks should be extended to the nominating committee and its chair, Cindy Koenig Richards, for preparing our ballot for today.

E. Please join me in wishing Mari Boor Tonn success as she plans the 2009 convention.

F. Finally, I would like to thank each of you who chaired a panel, reviewed papers, responded to panels, or submitted your work to our division. We acknowledge and appreciate your hard work.

II. Activity

A. Membership: As of January 2008, we have 696 members in the Public Address Division. In 2007, we had 698 members. In 2006 we had 711 members. So we seem to be slowly declining in our overall membership. Under new business, perhaps we should talk about how to reverse this trend.

B. During July 2008, at the request of Mark Fernando of NCA and after consulting with the Executive committee, I updated NCA's description of the Public Address

Division by using language from the mission statement on the website, as follows:

"The Public Address Division of the National Communication Association takes as its mission the practice and the promotion of the study of a wide variety of rhetoric that addresses publics. Although the term "public address" evokes a rich history of the study of political and religious oratory, we welcome and include not only traditional studies of "great speakers and speeches" but also work that focuses on rhetorical acts and artifacts from other cultures and from other media.

The Public Address Division is one of the oldest and largest divisions in NCA. Its members employ various analytical methods, including historical, descriptive, rhetorical, textual, and institutional critiques, as they examine the symbols that serve both to express and to shape public cultures. Scholarship in the division often leads to theoretical insight about the nature of public discourse at the same time as it enhances our understanding of particular discourses, rhetors or social movements. Despite the variety of critical perspectives, members of the division share a concern for the relationship between "text" and "context," the object of study and its scene."

C. Panels: We had 31 panels this year, which was the same number as in 2007 and in 2006.

D. The Carroll Arnold Lecture was presented on November 21 by Gerry Philipson. The title of the lecture was "Coming to Terms with Cultures."

E. 2010 Public Address Conference. On its twenty-second anniversary, the Public Address Conference will be hosted at the University of Pittsburgh from Sept. 30-Oct 2, 2010. The conference theme is "Human Rights Rhetoric: Controversies, Conundrums, and Community Actions." The conference will honor Professor David Zarefsky, former dean of Northwestern University. For further information, please contact Professor Lester C. Olson (me), organizing committee chair. The rest of the organizing committee consists of Barbara Warnick, John Lyne, Gordon Mitchell, and Lynn Clarke. You may learn about the conference as it develops by checking the website at: <http://www.pitt.edu/~olson/>

III. Budget

We operate on a modest budget. Our budget for this fiscal year (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008) is \$580. This budget allows us to offer small cash prizes along with a plaque for our two paper awards (Gunderson and Wrage-Baskerville at \$100.00 each) as well as for the Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award at \$200. The budget also covers the cost of the Public Address Web site, which costs \$30 per year. The remaining sum is ordinarily used to cover the cost of the division's three award plaques.

IV. Looking to the future

A. On behalf of the executive committee, I encourage all of you to submit papers and panels to the 2009 convention in Chicago, IL on November 12-15, 2009. The theme of the conference will be "Discourses of Stability and Change." The national office requests that all NCA units (divisions, sections, and caucuses) plan a "Five Years Out" panel. "Five Years Out" programs should address five questions:

- 1) What is the historical development of your area (division, section, caucus) in the discipline and at NCA?
- 2) What are the major themes and contributions of your area over its history? What is the state of the art?
- 3) Where is your area headed? What do you want to accomplish by NCA's Centennial?
- 4) What are the greatest resources you bring to the discipline and what are the challenges to meeting your goals?
- 5) What are your greatest contributions to communities inside and outside of the academy? Where does and where can your area make a difference?

B. I also encourage you to visit the PAD Web site at:
<http://www.ncapublicaddress.org/>

Thank you for your membership and support of the Public Address Division of the National Communication Association. We are one of the oldest and largest divisions in NCA and we want to keep it that way.