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**In This Issue:** [Thank You from the First Vice President](#) | [Thank You, 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Sponsors and Exhibitors](#) | [NCA 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Call for Participants: Renewal and Transformation](#)

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## Thank You from the First Vice President

After a tremendously challenging year filled with isolation, concern, and the unknown, we were finally able to meet as a community for our first-ever completely virtual convention. It was not a normal convention by any means, but it was such an incredible experience and a tremendous opportunity to illustrate the strength and resilience of both the Communication discipline and the membership of this association. Gathering with you all was reinvigorating, and I hope you were equally strengthened and encouraged for the future.

Thank you to all attendees and submitters who made the outstanding, challenging, and engaging, paper sessions, panel discussions, G.I.F.T.S sessions, Short Courses, Preconferences, and other sessions this year possible.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Communication at the Crossroads sessions and to everyone who took part in this year's Opening Session. Thank you to this year's Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Thomas K. Nakayama, for a phenomenal presentation. And, thank you to Dr. Kent A. Ono for an inspiring Presidential Address.

A special thank you to our convention sponsors for their generosity and vision: Routledge, Taylor & Francis and the Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all those involved in convention planning, which includes the National Communication Association officers, the Executive Committee, the Diversity Council, the Publications Council, the Research Council, the Teaching and Learning Council, the National Office staff, and unit leaders including division, caucus, and section officers.

Thank you all for your commitment and dedication to Communication teaching, scholarship, and service. I am looking forward to gathering again with you all for the NCA 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Seattle!

--[David T. McMahan](#), NCA First Vice President, Missouri Western State University

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## Thank You, 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Sponsors and Exhibitors

Thank you to all of the exhibitors, advertisers, and sponsors who contributed to the NCA 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

Thank you to the following convention sponsors for your support:

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## NCA 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Call for Participants: Renewal and Transformation

We are living during extraordinary times, necessitating that we face the immense task of navigating numerous public and personal crises and their aftermaths. The COVID-19 pandemic, economic strife, political turmoil, and struggles for racial justice challenge us as Communication scholars, teachers, and professionals to consider why our contributions matter more than ever before. We will meet for our Annual Convention in Seattle, a beautiful city known historically for innovation, enterprise, and the pursuit of social justice. In accordance with the theme of “Renewal and Transformation,” the convention will focus on how we can engage in the essential tasks of restoration and change.

One meaning of “renewal” is to resume after an interruption, to begin or take up again. The last year has brought upheavals to our personal and professional lives, to our campuses, to our classrooms, and to our communities. Far from the comfort of continuity, we now are living in a time that is fraught with anxiety, but also rich with possibilities. For our 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, we invite provocative paper and panel submissions that examine questions of regeneration and reconstruction, such as: What is the relevance and value of our scholarship and teaching as we recover from this time of crisis? How can Communication researchers, teachers, and practitioners contribute to rebuilding and restoring our communities? What should be done to replenish and advance our discipline? “Renewal” also refers to the act of making, saying, or doing something again. Our 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will provide a significant opportunity for us to take stock of our collective commitments to equity, justice, access, and dialogue, and to renew our resolve to enact these principles in our teaching, research, and service.

Yet, renewal is only a first step. We also should seize this moment to consider and create avenues for “transformation,” thorough and dramatic change that alters something’s character, structure, or composition. As we renew our priorities, reinvigorate our hopes, and seek to restore the fabric of public discourse, we have the opportunity at the Annual Convention to engage in dialogues that envision powerful changes that could improve the communities in which we work, live, and serve. We invite submissions that explore how Communication scholarship and teaching can be transformative, especially at this particular point in our history. The theme of “transformation” also challenges us to consider how to orient our disciplinary, academic, and community institutions in new and meaningful ways that honor all voices.

We look forward to your submissions and invite you to engage in these significant and dynamic conversations at our [107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention](#) in Seattle. NCA Convention Central will open January 11, 2021, for submissions. The submission deadline is March 31, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific. Together, as an academic and professional community, we will explore the ways we can—and must—contribute to the crucial processes of renewal and transformation.

--[Roseann M. Mandziuk](#), NCA Second Vice President, Texas State University

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