

# **Candidates for Legislative Assembly (At- Large Members)**

*Three will be elected to serve three-year terms beginning in January 2018*

- Rebecca Hayes, Illinois State University
- Bryan J. McCann, Louisiana State University
- Lana McDonnell, Texas A&M University Kingsville
- George F. McHendry, Jr., Creighton University
- Mary Tiece, University of Akron
- Luke Winslow, San Diego State University

**Rebecca Hayes, Illinois State University**

Ensuring that the Legislative Assembly has a broad and diverse range of delegates, reflective of the membership both now and in the future, is incredibly important. Thus, I believe that the voice of those who will sustain the organization for the next generation should be included. As an early-to-mid career faculty member actively involved in NCA since 2008 with cross-disciplinary interests, I would serve members well in this role and help the LA reflect NCA's membership.



My scholarship is multi-method and interdisciplinary. Having presented, reviewed, chaired, and served on committees in several divisions of NCA (including public relations, human communication and technology, political communication, and mass communication), I have had the opportunity to work with and learn from numerous scholars across the field. My Ph.D., in Media and Information Studies, is from Michigan State University. Additionally, as a former practitioner of public relations and active liaison with alums currently working in the field, I have sought to stay abreast of emerging and critical trends both in the discipline and its implications for practice. Given this unique dual perspective, I am uniquely situated to speak for the membership of NCA as a member of LA.

I value NCA as an organization and believe that any organization's survival depends on the active involvement of its members. To that end, I hope you will consider me for a position on NCA's Legislative Assembly; and I look forward to the opportunity to serve as an advocate for the communication discipline both within the field and its applications beyond academia.

**Bryan J. McCann, Louisiana State University**

I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Louisiana State University, where I write and teach about rhetorical theory and criticism, social movements, race, and the cultural politics of crime. Since completing my PhD in 2009, I have taught at a small liberal arts college, an urban research university, and, a state flagship university. These experiences give me a firm grounding in the diverse academic traditions that NCA serves.



I have had many opportunities to serve NCA during fourteen years of membership. I am a founding member of the Prison Communication, Activism, Research, and Education collective, which is our discipline's go-to resource for scholars interested in addressing prison issues. I also served on the advisory board of NCA-Forum, which is dedicated to expanding NCA's public reach. I have worked closely in dialogue with fellow NCA members and leadership to address a range of issues associated with potential changes to the NCA bylaws. Lastly, I am an active member of three NCA divisions and serve on the editorial board of

*Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, as well as three other journals in communication and related fields.

As a member of my college's faculty senate and campus chapter of AAUP, I take shared governance incredibly seriously as a matter of responsibility and as a tradition worth protecting. I would view Legislative Assembly membership as an opportunity to enact and affirm members' role in shaping NCA's future. I am also committed to advocating for student, adjunct, non-tenure track, and junior faculty members. Lastly, I believe NCA has made important strides in making our conference and organization as a whole more attentive to the needs of underrepresented communities. Such work, however, is an ongoing process in which the Legislative Assembly plays a vital role.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

**Lana McDonnell, Texas A&M University Kingsville**

I am running for an At-Large position for the Legislative Assembly. Your vote would be a vote for passion and joy in our discipline.

I have been teaching communication courses in higher education for more than 20 years. I have taught at community colleges and universities primarily in Texas, but have also taught in Oklahoma, Kansas, completely Online, and California. The common theme in all of my teaching assignments is my love for working with first-generation college students.

For the last 3 years, I have served the Feminist and Women Studies Division of the National Communication Association in a developmental leadership role. This year I am the Vice-Chair and convention planner for my division. I feel passionate about the discipline of communication and believe that the Legislative Assembly can be part of positive change within our discipline. Voices from those less powerful are important in policy change and developing a vision for the organization that serves all members.

Last year my division and others supported keeping the Legislative Assembly part of our governing body. I am committed to serving the National Communication Association and would take on responsibility in this regard with gratitude and a positive attitude.

I am inspired by the service I am doing with NCA this year. To see all of the talent that is part of our organization, not only in academic research that is submitted for inclusion for the convention, but the expertise our members bring and commitment to excellence by serving as reviewers. I feel completely inspired and in awe.

Please vote for me for the Legislative Assembly. It would be a joy to continue to serve NCA well into the future.



**George F. McHendry, Jr., Creighton University**

My name is Guy McHendry and I am running to serve as an at large member of NCA’s Legislative Assembly. Currently, I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Creighton University. I received my Ph.D. in Communication at the University of Utah and my M.A. in Speech Communication from Colorado State University.



In the discipline, I locate myself in rhetorical studies, cultural studies, and performance studies. My research focuses on the engagements between between the traveling public and the Transportation Security Administration. I also work in critical theory, environmental movements, and participatory critical rhetoric.

I have long been an active member of the NCA community since first joining the organization as an undergraduate in 2005. In the years that have followed I have contributed to NCA by serving as a reviewer for multiple interest groups, chairing panels, and responding to panels. It is my hope to have the opportunity to expand my service by being elected to Legislative Assembly.

Legislative Assembly plays an incredibly important function in the operation of NCA. We are in the midst of a tumultuous conversation about the role of Legislative Assembly and NCA’s constitution. It seems clear that in the next few years the governing and functioning of NCA will undergo significant changes. If elected to Legislative Assembly, I will work to make sure that changes to our basic governing structure reflect the desires and needs of NCA members. I aim to be a voice for NCA members at-large and to work to integrate member’s needs directly into deliberation about the function and future of NCA.

I want to thank you for considering me for the role of at-large member on Legislative Assembly. I would appreciate your vote and would work during my term to serve our collective interests.

**Mary Triece, University of Akron**

I am a professor in the School of Communication and Interim Director of Women’s Studies at The University of Akron where I have taught courses in rhetoric since 1998. My scholarship, which focuses on the rhetoric of social movements, has been published in four solo authored books and in communication journals. In addition to an active teaching and scholarship agenda, I have demonstrated a commitment to the discipline of communication through involvement in the National Communication Association. Since becoming a member in 1997, I have regularly presented papers at the annual conference, have been a reviewer for a number of divisions, and have served as respondent and chair of numerous panels.



At this point in my career, I am eager to contribute more to the organization and I believe the Legislative Assembly is an important place to give my time and abilities. I have ample service experience having contributed to numerous departmental, college-wide, and university-wide committees at The University of Akron. I have also chaired committees, led discussions, and played an active role in visioning processes and curriculum change processes within my department. My leadership skills and experience in deliberative processes can benefit the Legislative Assembly. Additionally, my commitment to social justice and equality (evidenced in my scholarship and teaching) will be an asset to the Legislative Assembly, a body that serves as a liaison between the leadership and the broader, extraordinarily diverse membership of the organization.

I am willing to attend all Legislative Assembly meetings and to review, deliberate, and vote on issues brought to the Legislative Assembly, as laid out in the expectations for serving on the Assembly.

**Luke Winslow, San Diego State University**

I would like to express my interest in serving as an At-Large Member of the National Communication Association Legislative Assembly. I believe I have the passion, skill-set, and qualifications to make a unique contribution to the continued vitality of NCA.

I am currently an Assistant Professor at San Diego State University. I earned a PhD from The University of Texas at Austin in 2009 and have since been developing a record of teaching and research focused on the integration of rhetorical studies and social justice.

Relevant to my candidacy for this position, much of my scholarship is aimed at defending the value of higher education as a ladder of economic mobility against the social, political, and economic pressures of our present fiscal situation. NCA functions as the foundational support mechanism for our discipline and I think I can make an important contribution to its governance in light of this program of research. More specifically, I would seek to build on and extend the robust institutional value of our community as a bulwark against the continued neoliberalizing of higher education and marshal our resources in a way that draws attention to the social and civic value of our discipline and our profession.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

