

Policy on Political Communication

(approved by the SCA Legislative Council, November 1995)

Resolved, that the SCA urges the Federal Communications Commission or other appropriate governmental body to require the public media to devote, either at their own or at public expense, significant amounts of air time to local and national political debates, conducted in citizen-sensitive formats, and taking advantage of the latest developments in debate theory.

Resolved, that the SCA urges local communities to develop their own computer networks to link politicians with their constituents. Likewise, we encourage state and federal officials to make themselves available for constituent questions and discussions via the Internet.

Resolved, that the SCA urges the passage of legislation requiring debates among candidates for President of the United States, Governors of the individual states, and candidates for the House of Representatives and the Senate in each state. We strongly encourage the staging of candidate debates in any contested election in the United States.

Resolved, that the SCA deplors the use of unfair, inaccurate or uncivil speech on the public airwaves. We call upon hosts of political discussion programs and those who create political advertising to avoid expression which is knowingly inaccurate or which demeans any particular group of the citizenry.

Resolved, that the SCA urges representatives of the news media to avoid speech which "demonizes" candidates for public office, and we urge candidates to do the same when characterizing the news media.