

DRAFT

**Minutes
National Communication Association
Legislative Assembly Meeting
November 19 & 22, 2025
Denver, Colorado**

Presiding: Jeanetta Sims, President

Parliamentarian: Nicole A. Learson (Wednesday) & Lola Fehr (Saturday)

Recording: Justin Danowski, Executive Director

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

Call to Order: President Jeanetta Sims called the 2025 Legislative Assembly (LA) meeting to order at 12:19 p.m. Central on Wednesday, November 19.

Land Acknowledgement: President Jeanetta Sims read the land acknowledgment.

NCA would like to acknowledge that the land on which we gather for the 111th Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado, is the traditional territory and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Ute nations, and is now home to members of over 200 tribal nations. We honor the Indigenous peoples who have stewarded this land since time immemorial and recognize their continued presence and contribution to our shared communities.

NCA acknowledges that it has often gathered upon unceded lands and that those gatherings manifested the exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the grave harm that colonialism brought to these lands, in particular, the erasure of both Indigenous and African identities via slavery and racist laws that segregated all peoples into binary classifications of “white” and “black.” This acknowledgment demonstrates our commitment to beginning the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism.

In Memoriam: The Legislative Assembly observed a moment of silence to honor those who have passed away during the past year.

Erwin Bettinghaus
Daniel Stewart Brown Jr.
Karlyn Kohrs Campbell
Thomas M. Conley
Richard E. (Dick) Crable

Dan Egley
Joyce Ferguson
Patricia Ganer
Gary Gumpert
William (Bill) Huddy

J. Vernon Jensen
Elsie Patterson
Larry Schnoor
Lois S. Self
James R. Smith
Donna Weimer

Credentials Report: First Vice President Tina Harris announced that at 1:04 p.m., 98 delegates were registered from the 155 members of the LA. *A motion was made that the roll of delegates submitted be the official roll of the voting members of the assembly. Seconded. Motion carried.*

Standing Rules: President Jeanetta Sims directed the body to the standing rules on the meeting webpage. *A motion was made to adopt the standing rules as presented. Seconded. Motion carried.*

Agenda: President Jeanetta Sims directed attention to the proposed agenda. *A motion was made to adopt the agenda. Seconded. Motion carried.*

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Association Updates: President Jeanetta Sims provided an update on her presidential theme, A Collective Year of L.I.F.T.

President Jeanetta Sims recognized the following individuals:

- First Vice President Tina Harris updated on important sessions and events at the convention.
- Second Vice President Shaunak Sastry provided an update on convention planning for 2026 convention in Denver, CO.
- Immediate Past President Marnel Niles Goins provided an update on her time as an elected officer of NCA.
- Executive Director Justin Danowski provided an update on the current work of the National Office.
- IDEA Council Chair Julie-Ann Scott-Pollock updated the LA on council goals.
- Mentorship and Leadership Council Chair Laurie Lewis provided an update on the council's goals.
- Publications Council Chair John Sloop updated the LA on council goals.
- Research Council Chair Benjamin Warner updated the LA on council goals.
- Teaching and Learning Council Chair Katherine Thweatt updated the LA on council goals.

Recess at 1:53 p.m. for 10 minutes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

LA Wellness Check: President Jeanetta Sims led a discussion on the Legislative Assembly's and its constituents' wellness.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Financial Reports: President Jeanetta Sims introduced Finance Committee Chair Candice Thomas-Maddox to present the financial reports. Thomas-Maddox updated the LA on the Association's financial status and the proposed 2026 calendar-year budget.

- *A motion was made by the Finance Committee to adopt the proposed 2026 budget. Discussion ensued. Motion carried.*

With no further business, President Jeanetta Sims adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

**Saturday Session
November 22, 2025**

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

Call to Order: President Jeanetta Sims called the 2023 Legislative Assembly (LA) meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Eastern on Saturday, November 23.

Credentials Report: President Jeanetta Sims recognized First Vice President Tina Harris to give the credentials report. First Vice President Harris announced that at 8:15 a.m., 122 delegates were registered from the 180 members of the LA.

- *A motion was made that the roll of delegates submitted be the official roll of the voting members of the assembly. Seconded. Motion carried.*

Standing Rules: President Jeanetta Sims reminded the body of the standing rules in the meeting binder.

Presidential Citations: President Jeanetta Sims recognized the recipients of the 2024 Presidential Citations.

Outgoing Executive Committee Members

- Laurie Lewis, Mentorship & Leadership Council Chair
- Benjamin Warner, Research Council Chair
- Marnel Niles Goins, Elected Officer
- Candice Thomas-Maddox, Finance Committee

Outgoing Editors

- Billie Murray, Communication and Democracy
- Srividya Ramasubramanian, Communication Monographs
- Brandi Lawless, Communication Teacher
- Kimberly Moffitt, Critical Studies in Media Communication
- Rachel Griffin, Critical Studies in Media Communication
- Stacey K. Sowards, Quarterly Journal of Speech
- Stephen Croucher, Review of Communication

Universities

- Duquesne University, Host of the Institute for Faculty Development
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Host of the Doctoral Honors Seminar

INFORMATION ITEMS

Nominating Committee Report: President Jeanetta Sims provided a report on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The Second Vice President Candidates, Srivi Ramasubramanian and Katherine Thweatt, both spoke for five minutes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

EC Strategic Priorities: President Sims led a discussion among LA members on the Executive Committee's progress toward its five 2025 priorities. Each table was assigned one of the five strategic priorities, and LA members were asked to consider the following questions:

- What is NCA doing well in the area of your assigned strategic priority?
- What needs to be enhanced, improved, started, or stopped in the area of your assigned strategic priority?

Responses were collected and will be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

Recess at 9:09 a.m. for 10 minutes.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Election of Leadership Development Committee Positions: President Jeanetta Sims provided a summary of the two open positions on the Leadership Development Committee. The following LA members expressed interest in serving on the committee:

- Melissa Harris
- Narissra M. Punyanunt-Carter

With two candidates for two positions, President Jeanetta Sims declared the above elected.

Leadership Development Committee Report: President Jeanetta Sims recognized Leadership Development Committee Chair, Marnel Niles Goins announced the slate of candidates nominated by the committee.

A motion was made by the LDC to approve the slate of candidates. The motion carried.

Legislative Assembly, LA Director

- John Nash
- Sebastiaan Gorrisen

Publications Council Chair-Elect

- Heather Zoller

Nominating Committee Chair

- Roseann Mandzuik

Publications Council

- Niya Miller
- Debbie Dougherty

Nominating Committee At-Large

- Lesli Pace

Research Council

- Don Shin
- Laramie Taylor

Finance Committee

- Ambar Basu

Teaching and Learning Council Chair-Elect

- Shauntae White

Mentorship and Leadership Council

- Denise Polk
- Seokhoon Ahn

Teaching and Learning Council

- Jonathan Bowman
- Michael Strawser

Resolutions Committee

- Kundai Chirindo
- Laura Bruns

Convention Committee

- Adam Raineer
- Stephen Warren

Bernard J. Brommel Award for Outstanding Scholarship or Distinguished Service in Family Communication

- Leah Bryant
- Colleen Warner

Diamond Anniversary Book Award Selection Committee

- Andrew Parzyck
- Amy Zufelt

Distinguished Scholar Award Selection Committee

- Qingwen Dong

Donald P. Cushman Memorial Award for Student Scholarship Selection Committee

- Ant Woodall
- Taisha McMickens

Franklyn S. Haiman Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Freedom of Expression Selection Committee

- Billie Murray

Gerald M. Phillips Award for Distinguished Applied Communication Scholarship Selection Committee

- Yan Zhao

Global Communication Award

- Godfried Asante

Golden Anniversary Monograph Award Selection Committee

- Lisa Calvente
- Robin Jensen
- John Lynch

Interpretation/Performance Studies Selection Committee

- Ethan Hunter

Mark L. Knapp Award Interpersonal Communication Selection Committee

- Erin Parcell
- Margaret Bennett-Brown

Marsha Houston Award Selection Committee

- Shardé Davis

Orlando L. Taylor Distinguished Scholarship Award in Africana Communication Selection Committee

- Darrian Carroll

Professional Service Awards Selection Committee

- Shane Tilton
- Jordan Atkinson
- Scott Myers

Rhetorical Scholarship Award

- Chuck Morris III
- Eric King Watts

Stephen E. Lucas Debut Publications Award

- Haijing Ma

Committee on International Discussion and Debate (CIDD)

- Carolyn Calloway-Thomas

Doctoral Education Committee

- Jae-Hwa Shin
- Ashleigh Shields

Leathers Fund Trustee Selection Committee

- Desiree Montenegro

Resolutions Review

President Jeanetta Sims provided an overview of the resolution process.

NCA Organizational Development Manager Jennifer Fletcher provided a review of committee work.

President Jeanetta Sims recognized Resolutions Committee member Heather Walters.

1. **Extended Solitary Confinement and Torture:** *The Resolutions Committee moved to reaffirm the resolution as is. Motion carried.*
2. **Credo for Net Neutrality, Free and Responsible Use of Electronic Networks, and the Digital Divide:** Walters provided a rationale for the resolution. *The Resolutions Committee forwards the resolution as revised. Motion carried.*
3. **Statement on the Protection and Defense of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression for Communication Scholars:** Walters provided a rationale for the resolution. *The Resolutions Committee forwards the resolution as revised. Motion carried.*
4. **A Code of Professional Ethics for the Communication Scholar/Teacher:** Walters provided a rationale for the resolution. *The Resolutions Committee forwards the resolution as revised. Motion carried.*
5. **Role of Communication Courses and Communication Faculty in General Education:** Walters provided a rationale for the resolution. *The Resolutions Committee forwards the resolution as revised. Motion carried.*

Affiliate Approval: President Jeanetta Sims reviewed the process of Affiliate renew with the LA.

- **Pi Kappa Delta:** *A motion was made to approve Pi Kappa Delta for the term of January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2029. Seconded. Motion carried.*

Adjournment: With no further business, President Jeanetta Sims adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Justin Danowski
NCA Executive Director