

NCA Public Address Division
2014 Chair's Report
Submitted by Karrin Vasby Anderson

As we celebrate NCA's centennial, I am happy to report that our division is poised for another great century of scholarship and disciplinary leadership. I'd like to begin this meeting by thanking my fellow Public Address Division officers (or, as we've come to call ourselves, "the matriarchy")—Immediate Past Chair Mary Stuckey, Vice-Chair Leah Ceccarelli, Vice-Chair Elect Lisa Keranen, and Secretary Cindy Koenig Richards. They are prompt, professional, personable, and a pleasure to work with. They made my job not only easier, but much more enjoyable. We also owe a great debt of gratitude to our web spinner (and honorary matriarch?) Trevor Parry-Giles, who not only ensured that our website ncapad.com was up-to-date throughout the year, but also helped us with last minute NCA-related questions. Thanks, Trevor! Speaking of NCA, I'd like to convey my appreciation for all the national office does to guide division chairs and program planners through the necessary convention planning processes and procedures. Mark Fernando's clear emails and consistent reminders were quite helpful. Thanks, also, to the members of our division who served on committees this year:

Marie Hochmuth Nichols Award Committee:

- Mary Stuckey (chair)
- Robin Jensen
- John Lynch

Benson-Campbell Award Committee:

- Shawn J. Parry-Giles (chair)
- John Murphy
- Belinda Stillion Southard

PAD Nominating Committee:

- Bjørn Stillion Southard (chair)
- Paul Achter
- Timothy Barney
- Jennifer Borda
- Katie Langford

Wandering Scholar:

- Robert Terrill

Finally, thanks to so many of you who submitted papers to our division, served as paper and panel reviewers, and who encourage your students to submit to our division. We couldn't do our work without all of you, and the consistently high quality of the scholarship submitted to this division is a testament to your good writing, teaching, and service.

Our membership as of the January 1 NCA census date was 642, up from 604 last year. We were allotted \$960 in our 2014-15 budget from NCA. That money was used to fund award prizes and plaques. Funds are also typically available to cover the small charge for Survey Monkey when the vice-chair uses that to solicit reviewers. We typically do not spend our full budget and the officers discussed whether or not we should explore additional ways to spend remaining funds that might benefit the division. This year, however, we were glad to have the extra money since one of our award-winning papers had multiple authors, increasing the expenses associated with the award.

We had no major initiatives this year, since in recent years we completed a revision of our bylaws, established the Benson-Campbell dissertation award, and updated our website. Although the division doesn't have an official social media presence, if you're on Twitter, check out the #TeamRhetoric hashtag as well as Jennifer Merceica's Team Rhetoric list—there's always a lively discussion going on and it's a great place for faculty and grad students to mingle virtually. Some of us use that hashtag to organize "tweet-ups" with our classes during live events like the presidential debates and state of the union addresses.

Speaking of lively discussions, we just completed an outstanding Public Address Conference at Georgia State University. Thanks to the indefatigable Mary Stuckey and her grad students for all their hard work. There were many conference highlights, but my personal favorite was Mary's choice to punk Marty Medhurst by asking him to chair the psychoanalytic criticism panel. In 2016, the Public Address Conference will be hosted by Syracuse University. I know we're all looking forward to that. In other conference news, we've got RSA's Summer Institute in June of 2015, hosted by the University of Wisconsin. The Alta conference will be held in early August of 2015. Its theme is "Recovering Argument" and the conference will feature keynote speakers Bill Balthrop and Carol Blair. Conference director Randall Lake is accepting submissions through March 2. See <http://2015.altaconference.org/>. Finally, in Spring of 2016, Texas A&M is planning a conference on Gender and Citizenship. At the end of today's meeting there will be time for additional announcements from the floor if I've missed any upcoming conferences or if you have something of general interest to the division. Next, I invite Vice Chair Leah Ceccarelli up to deliver the Vice-Chair's report and honor our paper award winners.