

CONSTITUTION OF THE WESTERN FORENSICS AND ARGUMENTATION
ASSOCIATION
February, 2016

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be: Western Forensics and Argumentation Association (WFAA).

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to foster the study of argumentation broadly defined, to facilitate the promotion of forensic activities (debate, speech, oral interpretation, and other associated forensics activities), and to cooperate in promoting the purposes and activities of the Western Speech Communication Association and the American Forensic Association.

Article III. Membership

Persons engaged in argumentation scholarship, as well as those directing or teaching forensics in educational institutions and/or those interested in advancing forensics education and scholarship shall be eligible for membership. Forensics shall include debate, extemporaneous speaking, oratory, oral interpretation, readers theatre, and other related speech activities. Membership shall be granted upon membership in the American Forensic Association or by individual application to the Western Forensic and Argumentation Association under the auspices of the Western Speech Communication Association.

Article IV. Officers

- Section 1. Officers. The officers of this association shall be: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer, each of whom will assume office on March 1st following their election at the annual meeting in February, shall serve for a period of two years, and preside over two annual meetings.
- Section 2. Chair. The Chair shall preside over all business meetings of this organization and shall assume all the duties of the chief executive officer. The Chair shall be ex- officio member of all standing committees. The Chair shall serve as representative of this association on the National Council of the American Forensic Association.
- Section 3. Vice-Chair/Program Planner. The Vice-Chair shall act on behalf of the Chair in the event of the Chair's unavailability, illness, or incapacity, and shall assume the office of the Chair upon the resignation or death of the elected Chair. The Vice-Chair's primary responsibility shall be

arrangement of programs for the Western Speech Communication Association Convention.

- Section 4. Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall record all the minutes of, and the transactions of all business meetings and shall conduct official correspondence. The Secretary-Treasurer shall collect any fees, keep official count of all funds of the association, pay bills and accounts from the existing funds of the association, and make financial reports at annual meetings and when called upon by the Chair. In addition, the Secretary-Treasurer shall distribute and tabulate election ballots. In the absence of a Secretary-Treasurer, the Chair will assume these duties and, as appropriate, assign them to the Vice-Chair/Program Planner and/or other members of the Executive Council.

Article V. Executive Council

- Section 1. The Executive Council of this association shall be comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chair/Program Planner, and the Secretary-Treasurer. The Chair, Vice-Chair/Program Planner, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected. In the event of a vacancy on the Executive Council between annual meetings, the remaining members will be promoted to the next highest vacant office. The highest ranking elected member of the Executive Council will appoint a member of the WFAA to fill the newly created vacant office until the next annual meeting at which time a special election will be held to fill the vacant position until the next regular election.
- Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council to carry out the expressed wishes of the membership, to select the Special Committees and Standing Committees for the special duties and projects of the association and to act on behalf of the association between annual meetings.
- Section 3. The members elected to the Executive Council shall assume office on March 1st following election and shall serve for a period of two years.

Article VI. Election Procedures

- Section 1. When possible, a Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Council and shall consist of three members. The committee will be charged with identifying one or more candidates for each of the three positions on the Executive Council.
- Section 2. Elections shall be conducted at the annual meeting. Members unable to attend the annual meeting should register their proxy votes, in writing, with the Secretary-Treasurer or another member of the Executive Council. Only members of WFAA may vote in elections.

Section 3. The Nominating Committee, when convened, shall prepare a slate of candidates to be presented to the annual business meeting at every other annual business meeting beginning with nominations in 2015. These nominees, together with any nominations from the floor, shall constitute the official election ballot. The Secretary-Treasurer, or another member of the Executive Council not nominated for an office, will distribute the official ballot to all members in attendance at the annual meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer, or another member of the Executive Council not nominated for office, shall count the ballots in the presence of the attendees of the annual meeting. Results will be announced at the close of the annual meeting and announced via email to the membership (based on available membership rosters) within two weeks of the annual meeting.

Article VII. Meetings

Section 1. The regular meeting, which is the annual business meeting, and election of officers, shall be held at the time and place of the WSCA convention.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the Chair with the approval of the Executive Council upon the notification of all members of the association.

Section 3. A quorum shall consist of the active members in the attendance at the annual meeting. For a special meeting a quorum shall consists of one-fourth of the membership.

Article VIII. Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the voting membership present at the annual meeting. Amendments may be proposed by any member provided such proposal is submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer at least thirty days before the date of the annual meeting, and provided that a copy of the proposed amendment has been sent by the Secretary-Treasurer to all members at least seven days before the date of the annual meeting. In the absence of a Secretary-Treasurer, the Chair will execute these duties.

Article IX. By-Laws

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The parliamentary authority of this association shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

Section 2. Procedure of Amending By-Laws. The by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members in attendance at the annual meeting. Amendments may be proposed by any member provided such proposal is submitted by the Secretary-Treasurer to all members at least ten days before the date of the annual meeting.

(Adopted by the WFAA members in the meeting on November 25, 1960 held in conjunction with the WSA Convention at the Hotel Benton, Corvallis, Oregon. Amended at the annual meeting on November 28, 1964 held in conjunction with WSA Forensic Tournament at Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho. Revised copy published 1-1-73. Amended at the annual meeting on February 15, 1981 at the San Jose Hyatt House held in conjunction with the WSCA convention and tournament. Amended at the annual meeting on February 19, 1984 in Seattle, Washington. Amended at the annual meeting on February 16th, 2014 held in Anaheim, CA. This edition: February 2014. Amended at the annual meeting on February 30, 2016 held in San Diego, CA)