

CONSTITUTION OF THE WESTERN FORENSICS AND ARGUMENTATION
ASSOCIATION
February, 2019

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 States Communication Association and the American Forensic Association.

Article III. Membership

Membership is open to any member of the Western States Communication Association with an interest in argumentation scholarship, those directing or teaching forensics in educational institutions, and/or those interested in advancing forensics education and scholarship. Members must be in good standing with the Western States Communication Association (WSCA) and have affiliated with the WFAA on their Western States Communication Association membership application or renewal and/or advise the Executive Director of the WSCA.

Article IV. Officers

- Section 1. The officers of this association shall be: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.
- Section 2. Upon election by WFAA at its annual meeting, the Secretary will serve one-year term before succeeding to the office of Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair will serve a one-year term before succeeding to the office of Chair. This succession process will take place starting in at the 2019 annual meeting after elections have been conducted for each office.
- Section 3. The Chair shall promote the opportunity to submit program ideas and/or competitive papers to the association, coordinate the review process for competitive papers and panels, and plan the Interest Group's program for the next annual WSCA convention. The Chair shall be responsible for planning and conducting the next annual business meeting, presenting such competitive awards as may be authorized by the association at the annual meeting, and ensuring that the work of the Interest Group (including preparing annual reports and budget requests) is completed. The Chair shall also serve as a representative of the Interest Group on the WSCA Legislative Council. Finally, the Chair shall also serve as the Interest Group's

representative on the Association's Nominating Committee, as part of the periodic rotation of membership on that committee amongst interest groups in the association.

- Section 4. The Vice-Chair shall represent the association at the WSCA Legislative Assembly during their year of office and attend convention planning meetings to prepare for their year as Chair of the association. The Vice-Chair will serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.
- Section 5. The Secretary shall record all the minutes of the association and submit minutes to the WSCA Executive Director for posting to the WSCA webpage. In addition, the Secretary shall distribute and tabulate election ballots. In the absence of a Secretary, the Vice-Chair will assume these duties.
- Section 6. In the event of a vacancy on the Officers between annual meetings, the remaining members will be promoted to the next highest vacant office. The highest ranking elected member of the Officers will appoint a member of the WFAA to fill the newly created vacant office until the next annual meeting at which time an election will be held to fill all vacant positions.
- Section 7. Members elected to Officers shall assume their office on March 1st following the WFAA annual meeting or immediately after the WFAA annual meeting if WSCA is held later than March 1st.

Article V. Elections

- Section 1. The election of Officers shall be conducted at the WFAA's annual business meeting.
- Section 2. Balloting shall be conducted at the annual WFAA meeting with ballots counted by the Vice-Chair and Secretary, and results will be announced at that time.
- Section 3. When possible, a Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Chair and consist of three members. The committee will be charged with identifying one or more candidates for each open Officer position.

Article VI. 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 VII. 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 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 to all members at least seven days before the date of the annual meeting. In the absence of a Secretary, the Chair will execute these duties.

Article VIII. 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 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. Amended at the annual meeting on February 30, 2016 held in San Diego, CA. This edition: February 24, 2019. Amended at the annual meeting on February 24, 2019 held in Seattle, WA.)