

Given that one of this year's two candidates for First Vice President Elect of the Eastern Communication Association will coordinate the 2019 Convention in Providence, Rhode Island, I have to say that there is a certain poetry to my candidacy. My very first ECA Convention was the 1985 Convention held in Providence. I was, at the time, a graduate student working on my thesis in the M.A. program in Media Studies at Queens College of the City University of New York. My thesis advisor and mentor was ECA Past President James W. Chesebro. Jim, who had served as ECA President in 1983, suggested that it was about time for me to join ECA, to jump start my participation in the professional life of our discipline and to begin to build my network beyond our M.A. program and the Ph.D. program in Media Ecology I would enter at New York University that Fall. I shared a room with another student (who, to this day, still owes me for his share!). And thus began both my career as an academic and my involvement with this Association that has been one of my great academic homes-away-from-home ever since.

I will admit that I have not attended every convention since that time. (For instance, in 2014, I missed the convention my colleague and friend Tom Flynn coordinated in Providence when my wife underwent an emergency appendectomy the day before the convention began.) However, I have, over the course of 31 years, participated in at least 25 conventions as a paper presenter, chair, and respondent. I served for five years, from 2009-2013, as program planner for the Media Ecology Association's program at the ECA Convention. (The MEA is an affiliate organization of the ECA. We programmed as many as seven panels a year during these years.) Since 2015, I have served as program planner for yet another affiliate organization, the Institute of General Semantics. I have served on the Associate Editor Board of *Communication Quarterly* (and, early on, as an Assistant Editor) and the Editorial Board of *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*. I have also served, on more than one occasion, as a competitive paper reviewer for the Mass Communication Interest Group.

Beyond my work for ECA, I have been the President of three professional associations: the Media Ecology Association, the New York State Communication Association, and the New Jersey Communication (twice). In serving these organizations, I have coordinated **six** conferences. I coordinated the MEA's 2012 Convention in New York, which brought together an international group of scholars from as far away as Brazil, China, Russia, and the Philippines. My keynote speakers were Jaron Lanier and Sherry Turkle. In 2007, I coordinated the English-language portion of the academic program for the MEA's Convention in Mexico City. The opening ceremonies of that convention were attended by over 800 people, and featured then Governor of the State of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto (now Mexico's President), the Mayor of Mexico City, and the publisher of Mexico's third largest newspaper by circulation, *El Universal*. In 2000, I coordinated NYSCA's conference. (2017 will be NYSCA's 75th anniversary year, making it the oldest state association in our discipline.) Finally, I co-coordinated, with Susan Jasko, the NJCA's inaugural conference in 1997, its 1998 conference, and its 10th anniversary conference in 2006.

I am also a member-in-good-standing of the National Communication Association and the International Communication Association, and, as a result, attend and participate in as many as seven conferences a year.

I believe this sum total of my experience working on behalf of our various professional associations, but especially ECA, makes me a viable candidate to mount the succession of offices, and to carry out the work the Association so greatly requires. In addition, when I look back over the record of ECA's Past Presidents, and see the names of so many scholars whose work has influenced me, so many women and men of great reputation, and so many people I have come to respect and admire, I can only say that it would be a great honor and privilege to serve this oldest professional association in our discipline, and to work to ensure its strength and continuity into the future.