

TSCA has been a valuable resource since I began my career as a debate coach, and it remains an essential source of professional development for coaches across the state. That role in member development should not be overlooked. As school budgets continue to face constraints, TSCA must look closely at the value of the professional development it provides. Panel programming should be viewed through the lens of administrators facing impossible budget decisions. Convention must offer clear value to districts if our members are to continue attending and benefiting from it. We must take a hard look at whether what we have always done is what we should continue to do.

In the current political landscape, TSCA's advocacy role is just as critical. Advocacy requires constant engagement with leaders at all levels of government. Members should receive frequent communication from TSCA about legislation and policies that affect education broadly and speech education specifically. White papers on specific policy decisions provide real value to our membership. However, as districts ask our members to take on more and more responsibilities, we also owe them quick, easy access to information. The officers do not have to carry sole responsibility for the organization's advocacy. Instead, they should create opportunities and provide the information members need to advocate for speech education and for education as a whole.

If elected, I will make these two areas my focus. TSCA has done so much good for coaches and educators for many years, but we can't let good be the enemy of great.

Nicole Cornish