

Aug 6, 2015



Your new Stoa Board welcomes you to the new Stoa Speech and Debate year. Warmest summertime greetings from the entire board:

Mark Russell – President
John Eyth – Treasurer
Angela Childress – Secretary
MelRae Ambs – Member
Robert Kwong – Member
David McKinley – Member
Craig Smith – Member
Debbie Snyder – Speech Committee Chair
Mary Winther – Debate Committee Chair

- You can find contact information for each Board Member and also the Committee members on the StoaUSA website at <http://www.stoausa.org/about/leadership>
- You can also read more about Stoa leadership on the Bio Page at <http://www.stoausa.org/serving-stoa-bios>
- The Board wants to hear from you and actively solicits membership input into all things Stoa.

There is so much exciting Stoa News to communicate!

- Stoa Registration 2015-2016
- LexisNexis Registration 2015-2016
- Speech and Debate Documents 2015-2016
- Lincoln Douglas Value Dual Resolution Debate Guidance
- NITOC 2016 Planning

[Stoa Registration 2015-2016](#) and [LexisNexis Registration 2015-2016](#)

- The above links are not yet live, but will be soon.
- Stoa expects to open registration earlier this year than last.
- The registration websites for Stoa and LexisNexis are ready to go, however...
 - When we built the sites we realized a need to change Stoa's financial services provider.
 - This means a short delay in getting the registration sites open but there are some distinct advantages.
 - Stoa does a small part in defunding Planned Parenthood.
 - Stoa is switching away from PayPal which financially supports Planned Parenthood.
 - PayPal has previously caused IRS tax problems for Stoa members.

- PayPal has caused issues for the registration site programmer.
 - Stoa is moving to a new financial services provider.
 - This requires new programming for the registration sites.
 - We are hoping to have the programming completed by this weekend.
 - We will then test the new financial services programming and open registration as soon as we are convinced that it is safe to do so.
 - We still expect to have registration open two to three weeks sooner than last year.
-

Speech and Debate Documents Posted to the StoaUSA website.

- Almost all of the 80 documents that must get posted to the StoaUSA website for each season are now on the site.
 - Stoa members requested additional documents posted in multiple locations.
 - Consequently documents are now posted on the main Speech and Debate pages and also on the unique event pages making it easier for the end user to find the information they need.
 - There are also Zip files available allowing users to download multiple documents at one time.
 - As happens every year, sharp eyes have caught a few minor issues that needed correcting.
 - The Speech and Debate committees believe that the necessary fine tunings have been made.
 - Make sure you have the latest version of the documents.
 - The final documents to be posted later this month will be the Orientation Slides for both speech and debate.
 - Almost every page on the StoaUSA website is just a click away from the front page of the website resulting in fewer clicks to find important information.
-

Lincoln Douglas Value Debate Guidance

The Stoa Board of Directors is making the following decisions and recommendations

- based upon consultation with the Stoa Debate Committee.
- the educational benefits and preparation requirements of these LD resolutions.
- the LDV resolution results from the recent Stoa membership vote.
- and the Stoa principle of local control of certain elements in Stoa tournaments.

1. Resolution #1 (Resolved: In formal education liberal arts ought to be valued above practical skills.) should be run from October 1, 2015 to January 30, 2016.

2. Resolution #2 (Resolved: Developing countries ought to prioritize economic growth over environmental protection.) should be run from February 1, 2016 to April 30, 2016.
3. Local tournament directors, who are most knowledgeable of local clubs and their respective needs, may decide to run one or the other or both resolutions at any given time during the 2015-2016 competition season.
4. Stoa tournaments scheduled in April 2016 may want to consider running both LD resolutions as preparation for NITOC 2016.
5. A LDV debater may qualify for NITOC 2016 by debating only one resolution. This is not unique since debaters may currently qualify for NITOC with any resolution in any Christian homeschool forensic league, but they must then prepare to debate both of the Stoa resolutions at NITOC.
6. The expectation at NITOC 2016 is for LDV debate to follow the same format as it did at NITOC 2015. This will require all LDV debaters at NITOC to prepare for and debate both resolutions. Please know that any changes decided on by the Stoa Board will be communicated to the Stoa membership.

NITOC 2016 Leadership Team meets in Springfield

Mark Russell (Stoa President) and Joanne Quan (NITOC 2016 Tournament Director) met together at the site of NITOC 2016 to further the advanced planning for the national championship.

Mr. Russell and Mrs. Quan met with the following groups over the course of three days:

- Administration at Drury University
- Directors from the Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Leadership from the local Stoa clubs

The meetings laid an excellent foundation toward making NITOC 2016 the best NITOC ever.

Retired Board Members

The Board thanks Van Schalin and Patsy Butman for their years of faithful service.

- Though retired from the Board, neither is retiring from service as both are continuing to serve Stoa and the Board.
-

Let's Talk Communication!

- Stoa is active on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Follow us on your favorite social media for the latest news!
 - Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stoausa>
 - Twitter: @Stoatweets
 - Instagram: StoaUSA

The Stoa Mobile App!

- *Yes Stoa has an iPhone and Android App*
- *The App will have all the important Stoa and NITOC information*
 - Visit <http://stoausa.mobapp.at/landing/Desktop> or the App Store for your device

Get Involved in the Stoa Coaches and Tournament Coordinators Loop

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/STOACOACH/info>

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/StoaTC/info>

- *Begun as a resource by the wonderful folks in Stoa South (think Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma), these forums are a fantastic repository of information about all things Stoa.*
- *These are not official “Stoa” sites, but many of Stoa’s best coaches and tournament coordinators participate on the sites to offer counsel and advice.*

Follow either or both of these links and click the button that says, “+ Join Group.”

Contact MelRae Ambs melrae@ambchem.com if you need help or have questions.

Your Stoa Board:

Mark Russell, John Eyth, Angela Childress, MelRae Ambs, Robert Kwong, David McKinley, and Craig Smith

Debbie Snyder (Speech Chair)

Mary Winther (Debate Chair)

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:36 (NASB®)

This email was sent from the Stoa Registration 2014-2015 by Flowpad. If you no longer wish to receive emails from this tournament, you may [unsubscribe by clicking here](#).