



February 2016 News-at-a-glance:

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Greetings from your Stoa Board of Directors. As 2016 gets off to a rapid start, it looks like Stoa'ans are showing up everywhere in the country! Looking at SpeechRanks makes us think that the upcoming NITOC may be one of the best and most talked about NITOCs ever. Thanks to all who are dedicating their family's efforts to making this happen, and glorifying God.

February gives families a chance to attend tournaments in Texas, California, Washington, Virginia, Colorado, Tennessee, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Hawaii! Literally tournaments are happening coast-to-coast! And remember, you are welcome to attend and compete wherever your heart leads you. We have been truly blessed with such a strong start to our year. Looks like there will be record amounts of scholarships at this year's NITOC as well. We can hardly

wait to announce the offers from schools from across the country.

Wild Card events and resolutions for next year are being vetted as we speak. We also are excited to be organizing these amazing topics for you to decide and vote on this spring! The Stoa board only meets a few times each year face-to-face to conduct the timely discussions and information you entrust in us. Please be praying for our upcoming meeting in early February in California held simultaneously with the Inland Club Challenge. We look forward to meeting many of you that will be at the tournament (when we aren't in our meeting)

Final thoughts.... The beginning of a new year means resolutions for many. Our guest speaker from last year's Stoa Academy, Dan Bobinski, wrote a book called "Removing Obstacles to Success." His final thoughts in the book include this suggestion for us all as we start out our year:

"Keep your feet moving, or in other words, keep doing something! Everyone has motivation, but some people experience resistance and stop moving." It's not wrong to experience this, but if you stay stopped, it will be hard to start again. Don't let resistance stop you. Keep your feet moving and keep doing something."

God's Blessings to each and every one of you in 2016!

Mark Russell, Stoa Board President

Your Stoa Board of Directors - Mark Russell, Angela Childress, Craig Smith, MelRae Ambs, Robert Kwong, John Eyth, Dave McKinley



New to running a tournament and have a question?

Social media has become the "go to" when getting an answer fast, and at Stoa tournaments we seem to always need some help immediately instead of later on in the day. So in response to several tournaments requesting assistance, we will begin to utilize our "real time" effort through Facebook to be responsive quickly and effectively. Let us know if you use this and how it works for you! <https://www.facebook.com/stoausa>



If you have a suggestion or question for the Stoa Board, you have two easy ways to connect: email and Facebook. To send the Board an email, use stoa.board@stoausa.org. To ask a question by Facebook, either post on our Stoa Facebook wall or send a private message. Both of these venues are monitored frequently and you will receive a speedy response!



Stoa Academy 2016 registration is NOW open!

When? July 28-30, 2016

Where? The Gateway city of St. Louis, Missouri

Why? For R&R! Refreshment & renewal for the upcoming season in knowledge, application, and relationships!

Register early to take advantage of the **early bird discount!**

Go to <https://stoacademy2016.homeschooldebate.net>

Join your Stoa friends & leaders to continue on 'your gateway to success'

Stoa Academy 2016! Hope to see you there,

Angela Childress & Mary Winther, your 2016 Stoa Academy directors

"From the Speech Committee:"

This year the definition of literature is very broad (internet definitions) and will remain broad throughout this season. Rules are never changed mid-year. However, next year the definition of literature will be tightened to encourage deeper literature choices.

It has come to the speech committee's attention that some competitors have been copying you-tube videos verbatim as well as using blogs for scripts.

This is what our 2015-2016 rules say:

2. Media transcripts are not permitted. A "media transcript" is a script or selection that has been transcribed by an individual from a live or recorded performance (including theater, movies, television/radio broadcasts, webcasts, internet streaming, YouTube, blogs, etc.).

YouTube videos are great for getting possible ideas, but a competitor **MUST** make the piece his own with original cuttings and blocking. Otherwise, it turns into a form of plagiarism. As one wise person recently stated, "The chance of someone making a cutting that is verbatim to someone else's is somewhat better than a monkey's writing Shakespeare."



Producing original work will result in much better personal benefits, so it is a win/win for everyone. This also means that scripts may not come from internet blogs.

Debbie Snyder, Speech Committee Chair and the Speech Committee



Please note that all Submission Forms have been revised for clarification of the following points:

- Interpretive Speeches - photocopy of publication copyright page.
- Platform Speeches - All sources must be cited in text.
- Please be sure to use the updated forms.

something
NEW

GREAT WAY TO MAKE SOME MONEY & HELP STOA!

The Christian Community Credit Union has set up Stoa to be able to receive \$50 for every new account opened, utilizing Group Code #1374. If someone opens an account, in addition to Stoa receiving \$50, the individual will get \$100. For those interested, a CD with 5% interest is also available.



When you sign up, be sure to use **GROUP CODE # 1374**, so Stoa will get credit.

Link to promotional copy and banners:

<https://www.mycccu.com/promotem4m>

John Eyth, Stoa Board treasurer

Board Member Prayer:

As our season goes into full tournament mode God has given us all a fixed set of abilities and strengths to go forth in His service. We can all accomplish great things and glorify You, Lord. Enable us all to understand and complete our purpose. Even if it entails hardships and challenges so that Your kingdom will be exalted.

-Dave McKinley, Board Member



BITS AND PIECES:

WANT TO STAY AWARE OF LATE

BREAKING STOA NEWS???

Load Stoa Alert! It's a tool created by a former competitor (Adam Allevato, CO) that scans our Stoa USA Calendar and sends the subscriber an email alert **every time** a new tournament is added. The subscriber can choose a state, multiple states, or the nation.

<http://stoaalert.cryolite.com>



NITOC News & Nuggets

The Iowa Caucuses
Groundhog Day
The Super Bowl
Chinese New Year
Valentine's Day
Presidents' Day
Grammy Awards
Academy Awards
Black History Month



What do all these have in common? They all occur in the month of February 2016!!

Guess what else is happening during the month of February 2016? Over fifteen (15) Stoa speech and debate tournaments are being held across the country, from the exotic shores of Hawaii to the historic state of Pennsylvania! That is what's happening!

If you've been preparing your speeches and debate cases this season, February is the perfect opportunity for you to continue your training through competition at any of the tournaments listed on the calendar of the Stoa website. Continue attending tournaments through March and April. Then...

At NITOC 2016 in May, you will not only be celebrating your successes, but you'll be coming together with other Stoa members from across the country who have worked just as hard, trained just as consistently, and focused just as intently as you to get to NITOC.

This is your journey. This is your personal journey. Along the way, you will go through experiences that stretch you, disappoint you, surprise you, and encourage you...all at the same time. As you go through this journey, remember that you are learning and training to speak boldly for Christ. You are using your voice for Christ. You are changing the world for Christ.

Have a great month of learning, training, and running for Christ!!

In His Service,
Joanne Quan
NITOC 2016 Tournament Director



\$\$\$ Update on Scholarships for NITOC 2016! \$\$\$

We are in conversations with different colleges who are excited to give out scholarships to participants and champions of our national tournament. As schools commit to their offers, we will list them in the Stoabyte and Stoa Usa website. Each school will also have a link to a page to explain about the school and to announce the specific scholarships they are offering. Our first two colleges:

Oak Brook College of Law (CA)

Drury University (MO)

John McGee, NITOC Scholarship and Vendor Coordinator



NITOC 2016 HELPERS NEEDED!!

It takes many hands with servants' hearts working in many different areas at NITOC to make the tournament run smoothly and efficiently. Would you consider serving at NITOC 2016 with your gifts, time, and talent? Whether you have experience or not, we want you to be a part of NITOC. With your help, NITOC 2016 will be a wonderful event and experience for all our students and families from across the country.

Tournament teams include:

Student Check-In/Welcome
Judge Ballot Administration
Judge Ballot Collect
Judge Hospitality
Judge Greeters
Hall Monitors
Timer Training
Campus Security
Vendors
Social Event
Facilities Building Facilitators

If you will be available to help in any of the above areas, or if you don't have a preference and just want to serve wherever you're needed, we need and want you to be part of our team!

Please send an email to: nitoc2016td@gmail.com and include your preference for the area(s) you'd like to serve, any prior experiences you've had, and/or skills you want to offer at NITOC 2016. We'll work together to make NITOC 2016 the best tournament ever!!

Thank you!!



Questions? Contact us!

Did you know Stoa is active on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter? Follow us on your favorite social media for the latest news!

Website: <http://www.stoausa.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stoausa>

Twitter: @Stoatweets

Instagram: @Stoa_USA

Stoa Mobile App (for iPhones and Androids):

Visit <http://stoausa.mobapp.at/landing/Desktop> or the App Store for your device

Yahoo Groups: Subscribe to either or both of these groups by sending an email to the address below and telling us your name and the name and location of your club (or where you compete, if you are not affiliated with a club).

For Stoa Coaches: stoacoach-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

For Tournament Coordinators: stoatc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

These Yahoo Group 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.

Contact [MelRae Ambs](#) if you need help or have questions.

[Your Stoa Board:](#)

[Mark Russell](#), Angela Childress, John Eyth, 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®)

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