

March Gladness

Chalk Talk: Board



Member Prayer

Your Stoa board members and committee chairpersons are praying for you as we all head together into the last months of this speech and debate season. And it's our prayer that as we celebrate the reality of our Savior's resurrection this month, that what Jesus did for all of us with His atoning sacrificial death on the cross will become more rooted in our hearts and lives. "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

Romans 11:36 (NASB)



Speaking of Assists

You're probably familiar with two crucial Stoa committees: Speech and Debate. And while they're fundamental to the purpose of our league, did you know that there are other committees and subcommittees that you can serve on as a member of Stoa?

Please contact your loyal servants on the Stoa board if you'd like to assist with speech, debate, marketing, IT, communications, or tabbing protocol. Send us a note at stoa.board@stoausa.org, or tap on our shoulder the next time you see one of us at a tournament!

NITOC Schedule Alley-oop

According to Prov 16:9, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."

Please keep praying for your NITOC Team, as they make plans and follow the Lord



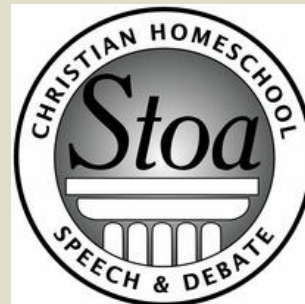
NITOC Schedule Information While we are still ironing out details, here are a few answers to commonly asked questions:

- Sunday, May 22 afternoon/evening - check-in and the opening ceremony.



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A Letter from the Board of Directors

Craig Smith, Stoa USA Board Member



Sports analogies aren't popular with everyone, but since it's March we feel compelled to use one from basketball. (The Bible uses sports analogies when it refers to wrestling and running, so we know they're useful at making a "point," so to speak!) It's seldom in a basketball game when a player dribbles down the whole court and then shoots a basket without anyone else on their team touching the ball. Instead, there's all sorts of passing the ball and teamwork involved in scoring points. A statistic in basketball that is ranked only second to actual goals scored is "assists." An assist is when a player passes the ball to a teammate in a way that leads to a basket. When an assist is done with finesse it can be quite spectacular to watch!

As members of Stoa, we should always be looking for ways to assist. It's our way of giving Christian service to those on our team. At a local tournament, assisting as a parent or alumni can mean being part of a specific function, such as ballot distribution and collection, facilities, or giving orientations. But if you're on the "visiting team," your primary way of assisting is to judge. We all enjoy being spectators, whether it's at a sporting event or a presentation, but the real thrill comes when we're on the court or on the stage participating. And generously serving as a judge is the way for parents and alums to be credited with an assist at tournaments.

As competitors, you Stoa students are clearly participating. But don't be a "ball hog." Look for ways to serve those that you're competing with at the tournament. A word of encouragement, supporting each other in prayer, sending a community judge in the right direction, and respecting the facility you're being blessed to compete at are all ways to assist. The reality is that all of us who call on the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ are members of the same team. Assist away!

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

[Email the Board](#)

March-ing towards May

Some areas in the great Stoasphere have less stipulations when it comes to script submission requirements. And that's one of the things we love about being in this league - there's autonomy for local leadership. That being said, if you're NITOC bound, we highly encourage you to practice script submission the same as you would a speech. Just as

- Monday, May 23 BRIGHT AND EARLY - TP, LD, and Parli debate begins.
 - Parli will be completely woven into the NITOC schedule, with Parli rounds interspersed throughout the tournament.
- Tuesday, May 24 morning - check-in for speech only students, and rounds begin for speech in addition to TP, LD, and Parli

Stay Connected



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

Facebook:

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

Twitter: [@StoaUSA](#)

Instagram: [Stoa USA](#)

Stoa Mobile App (for iPhones and Androids): Visit

<http://www.stoausa.org/app> 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@yahoo.com

For Tournament Coordinators: stoa-tournament-coordinators@yahoo.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, [Email the Board](#)

Debbie Snyder (Speech Chair) [Email the Speech Committee](#)

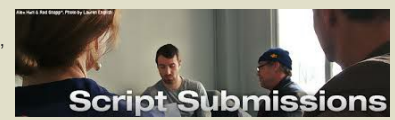
Mary Winther (Debate Chair) [Email the Debate Committee](#)



For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. Romans 11:36 (NASB®)

He is risen, Indeed!

there is a dress code and other rules to be followed, script submission parameters also exist. Happily, our tournaments are speaking competitions, not scripting contests. But the main reason we have script submission criterion is to respect those work we are using and to give credit where credit is due. More on that below from our stellar Speech Committee.



Regarding Copyright & Publishing Rules

Debbie Snyder, Speech Committee Chair

The speech committee tries hard not to tack on unnecessary rules, as it is good to remember that sometimes less is more. Even God, realizing the ignorance of mankind, chose to hand down a mere ten rules to follow and then further broke those rules down to two: Love God Love others. Keeping things "above board" can be as simple as setting out basic rules and expectations. In the end, competitors will have to choose to do right. It is a heart issue. While preparing your speeches, remember one of the Ten Commandments is "Thou shall not steal." As far as it depends on you, please make ALL your work ORIGINAL work. The results will be better for you and better for the league.



Coaches, parents, and competitors all, please, be extra diligent about using a transcription website. We've been finding many Monologue (and other interp) sources to be transcription sites. Here is one simple way to determine if your site may be a transcript site: Transcription sites generally have a "disclaimer" at the bottom of their page. In the disclaimer they state the legal use of most anything for limited educational purposes in a couple paragraphs from the "Fair Use Act" regarding copyright. They also tend to state that if an author does NOT want their material on the site, they will remove it upon request.

While these sites have material that is "legal" to use for our educational purposes, Stoa has set the bar higher and does not allow the use of these **unpublished works**.



Please, please, please double check any internet sources for any question of compliance with the Stoa rules. We do not want to reject any scripts for non-compliance during the electronic script submission for NITOC.

Stoa Academy Jumpshot

Angela Childress

Stoa Academy, July 28-30 in St. Louis, Missouri

Early bird discounted registration ends April 1st!

Please plan now to join us for three days of learning, inspiration, practical hands on coaching techniques, and of course, a great deal of fun!

If you have attended the academy at one of our past locations (Modesto, Dallas, Denver) you know the value of concentrated coach and parent targeted sessions that allow you to learn how to better equip your speakers and debaters. Treat yourself to this time away and learn at the same time. As parents, you spend a great deal of time and money on tournaments for your students so that they can gain skills. Think of this as a "tournament for you" to gain the skills you need to be a better instructor, as well as the needed refreshment and re-invigoration, whether a new or long time coach.



Consider getting a group of parents from your club to attend together. This will allow you to share some of the expenses associated with travel, as well as ensure that your group will come home with the same vision for your club.

We are offering classes for all experience levels across every speech and debate event. Our speakers include coaches, parents, speech and debate committee members, and board members from around the country. Did we mention fun? A real Riverboat Cruise and dinner will give you a local experience that can't be beat. Plus the sweet fellowship of meeting others from around the country that share the Stoa vision, will leave an impact on your heart.

Register today! For more details, please visit the [Stoa Academy webpage](#):

Angela Childress and Mary Winther,
Stoa Academy Directors



Debate NITOC Bracketology

He is not here;
he has risen,
just as he said.
Matthew 28:9



Mary Winther, Stoa Debate Chair

Your Debate Committee, NITOC tab staff, and the Stoa Board wanted to make you aware of a few debate tabulation changes for NITOC 2016. These changes were made by asking the question: “**What is the goal of NITOC debate?**”

If our objective is to determine the tournament champion in each of our different forms of debate, then we need to use a process for pairing debate rounds that will help us best achieve that goal. We are continually evaluating our methods and processes so that we can provide tabulation that is excellent and transparent. With continuous improvement, change occurs that enhances previous methods. We also considered and evaluated those requests and ideas for improvements brought



forth by membership. We asked you what you thought about certain practices such as state protect and club protect. We surveyed coaches and parents around the country. We talked to folks from small clubs to big clubs, from dense Stoa areas to sparse areas. Many of these changes are ones that were requested by you. We believe that all of the changes lead to overall improvement in our methods that help us to meet the NITOC debate goals and keep Stoa strong at the grassroots level. The following will be for all forms of debate except as noted:

- 1) Debate pairings will be random for round one, and power matched for rounds two through six.
- 2) State protect has been removed.
- 3) Club protect will be in effect for preliminary rounds one through four.
- 4) For TP and LD only: When the double elimination portion of out-rounds is completed (before semi-finals), the final four teams will be re-ranked based on double elimination result standings. At this point, single elimination will take effect. (Parli out-rounds will all be traditional single elimination.)

None of the above changes will affect the way you prepare for or compete at NITOC. These are not changes to the event rules, only changes to the tournament procedures for tabulation. If you have any questions, please contact me at marywinther@gmail.com

Contact: apps@stousa.org

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