



Stoa Board Member Prayer

Debbie Snyder

To our Stoa membership:
In such a time as this:
May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord lift His countenance upon you
and give you peace.
May the Lord make His face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you. Amen.

Article 9-Annual Member Vote

Gentle Stoa Member:

Please know that in order for the upcoming vote to have any binding effect on any of the matters to be voted upon, there must be a quorum (i.e., minimum number of members voting) of the total Stoa membership or 25% of total membership. In other words, there must be a minimum of 291 members voting for the vote to count. (Stoa Bylaws Section 9.1) And as is the case for all votes or elections, there must be a majority of those voting for a particular item for it to pass. This applies to everything on the ballot – from wildcard event to new Board member. So please exercise your privilege and responsibility to vote!

In God's Service,

April 10, 2016



May

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"Sir, We Would See Jesus"

Craig Smith

Have you been to the NITOC 2016 website recently? The countdown's getting closer every day! For those who are heading to Springfield shortly, we are looking forward to the excitement of Stoa's national tournament in the "Show Me" State. It's a fitting location for us to show how God has been preparing and growing our communication skills in order to take them to a world that needs to see Jesus. Our motto at Stoa is "Speaking Boldly. Changing the World for Christ." And while NITOC is the culmination of the season, it's just the beginning for taking God's message of love and redemption to world in desperation. Whether your Stoa season is finishing in Springfield or in your hometown, the reason we do what we do is to bring glory and honor to our Lord. The Stoa board is praying for all our participant families; for safe travel and peace at NITOC 2016; for rest and preparation before next season; and for

Stoa Board of Directors

Stoa's Gone Mobile

MelRae Ambs

Download our mobile app for the most up-to-date news regarding Stoa, and share with us on your favorite social media:

Tag us @Stoa_usa (Instagram)
or @StoaTweets
or use #nitoc2016
or #stoa_usa

Post Facebook pics at NITOC 2016 or
make an album for the school year!
<https://www.facebook.com/stoausa>

Download the Stoa USA mobile app
<http://stoausa.mobapp.at/>

Questions or problems?
We can help! Email: Apps@stoausa.org

Please note!!

The mobile app will be our MAIN communication source for NITOC, including announcements and postings. If you plan to attend NITOC, download this app to your smart phone or tablet to stay in the "know".

Stay Connected



Website: <http://www.stoausa.org>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stoausa>
Twitter: @StoaTweets
Instagram: @Stoa_USA
Stoa Mobile App (for iPhones and Androids): Visit

success in speaking boldly for Jesus in the realm beyond Stoa.

[NITOC 2016](#)

Your Stoa Board: Mark Russell, Angela Childress, John Eyth, MelRae Ambs, Robert Kwong, David McKinley, and Craig Smith [Email the Board](#)

Voting is Still Open!

Let your voice be heard. Stoa voting closes THIS SUNDAY on May 15. YOUR vote counts. Please weigh in.

Speaking of voting, Missouri is one of the few states where even the residents can't pick a single pronunciation, Missouri vs. Missouri. Local politicians will even switch back and forth during speeches in attempt to appeal to all.

[Click here to vote.](#)



Meet Me in St. Louie!

Not going to NITOC but you've always wanted to go to Missouri? Stoa Academy 2016 is less than 3 months away! Don't miss out on all of the learning and laughing together at your St. Louis 'Gateway to Success' experience. Register

now: <https://stoacademy2016.homeschooldebate.net>
July 28-30, 2016, in the Gateway City of St. Louis, Missouri!

Included in the cost is a chance for some local fun... a real Riverboat dinner cruise!



FUN FACT:

The Gateway Arch in St. Louis is the tallest man-made national monument in the United States.

Competitors are Timers in Disguise

<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@yahoo.com](mailto:stoacoach-
subscribe@yahoo.com)

For Tournament Coordinators: [stoatc-
subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:stoatc-
subscribe@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](mailto:the-board)

Debbie Snyder (Speech Chair) [Email the Speech Committee](mailto:the-speech-committee)

Mary Winther (Debate Chair) [Email the Debate Committee](mailto: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®)

One of the thrills of getting to participate in NITOC is the chance to see amazing speeches and debates from around the



country. There's a way for you to get a front row seat at these presentations: be a Timer! It's a chance for you to support your fellow speakers and see what's been happening across our country during the 96(!) Stoa tournaments held this past season. What an opportunity! Since the NITOC schedule covers a whole week, there's still plenty of time for all the socializing fun during the course of the schedule. For many of you, being a Timer is how you got your start and began your road to NITOC. So refresh yourself on giving hand signals and we'll see you at the Timer Table!

Lights, Camera, Action!



We are looking for quick cuts of composed shots that we can use to make background video and use for B-roll in future marketing. All we need is raw footage, and we can edit it down to a loop. Stuff like the point of view from the podium (naturally at a non-critical time), shots of students competing, people applauding, and some establishment/environmental shots of people lining up, sitting down, etc. Can you help? Use either your camera or your smart phone. Here are links to a couple of sites that use the type of background loops that we're talking about <http://www.acts29.com> <http://buildingworship.com> Would you help us video at NITOC? Contact melrae@ambschem.com

Shoot for the stars! Speaking of stars, these famous people all got their start in Missouri: Brad Pitt, Dick Van Dyke, Vincent Price, Sheryl Crow, and Ginger Rogers

Blast From the Past!

Back in 2012, there were only two candidates up for election to fill two spots. We find ourselves in the same situation again this year. In a spring 2012 edition of the Stoabyte, the first president of Stoa, Scott York, penned these words, which we couldn't say better ourselves:

"The time commitment required from the Stoa Board of Directors for meetings, phone conferences, and extra projects for three years can seem a bit like that approaching sixteen-wheeler. The candidate search committee to replace outgoing board members vetted several excellent candidates this year [2012], but in the end, for very good reasons, only two were able to make the commitment to stand for election.

Two candidates for two vacancies begs the obvious questions about the validity of the electoral process at work. However, given the standards the search committee had to meet, and the number of people that were interviewed, I would turn this thought and suggest that the quality of the people standing for election and their willingness to make the sacrifices required on behalf of the community reflects well on the process and on the potential new board members. I would urge you to cast your vote not as an election, but as an endorsement of thanks and vote of confidence for the two individuals who are motivated to 'hop on Board' and commit a huge chunk of their lives in order to advance the cause of Christian homeschool speech and debate."

Other than Mr. York's miscount on wheels, we wholeheartedly agree!



Be Prepared

We're all praying for an event-less event, meaning no major mishaps. Even so, it's good to be prepared. Please help us identify doctors and nurses to be on call in case of any emergencies at NITOC. [Contact MelRae Ambs](#) if you are willing.

Missouri Fun Fact: While we don't want anyone at NITOC to get cut, Missouri is the birthplace of sliced bread.

Contact: apps@stousa.org