



# Annual Report 2019

# Letter from the President



**“Training homeschool students to speak boldly and change the world for Christ.”**

Stoa has been pursuing this mission for ten years! And God has blessed our efforts in incredible ways. There are now countless Stoa students and alumni who are changing our world for Christ. I am so grateful to our Lord for the part Stoa has played in developing these young people to be warriors for His kingdom.

As we look forward to the next ten years, the evolving world of homeschooling and our increasingly toxic culture demand that we remain relentless in teaching the next generation of college students, husbands, wives, parents and community leaders how to listen, speak, read, write, research and think critically. I am continually amazed by the multitude of outstanding Stoa volunteers who are dedicated to accomplishing our mission.

Stoa offers an excellent product, and yet we reach only a tiny fraction of the hundreds of thousands of Christian homeschoolers in America. So many families are yet to benefit from Stoa’s excellence. Because the last ten years has produced a financially healthy and stable organization, I am pleased to report that the Stoa Board of Directors is now investing significantly to address this. We have hired Angela Childress as our full time executive director, and we are increasing our focus on marketing and training and development, all with the goal of growth – growth in numbers while maintaining excellence.

As we look toward the future, we must acknowledge our complete dependence on God. Growth and continued excellence will only come if He is in it. So please pray. Pray for your leaders. Pray for your clubs. Pray for your families! Pray for God’s blessing over all of us.



**GREG DEJAGER**  
*Stoa President, Board of Directors*



# 2018-2019 Recap



## States with Clubs



## NITOC Competitors



## NITOC by the Numbers

	2018	2019
Apologetics	161	161
Cold Reading	244	n/a
Demonstration	52	48
Dramatic Interpretation	31	29
Duo Interpretation	52	86
Expository	40	34
Extemporaneous	125	140
Humorous Interpretation	40	37
Mars Hill	92	94
Open Interpretation	82	72
Original Oratory	156	136
Persuasive	75	86
Lincoln Douglas Debate	123	135
Parliamentary Debate	65	75
Team Policy Debate	114	125
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,452</b>	<b>1,258</b>



## Members

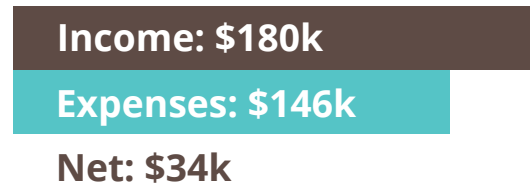


## Tournaments

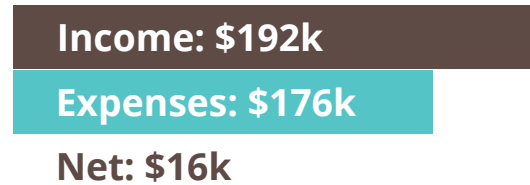


## Financial Overview

### 2017-18



### 2018-19



# 2018-2019 Highlights

## NITOC 2019

The annual National Invitational Tournament of Champions is Stoa's premier event. In May 2019, the best speakers and debaters from across the nation gathered at Dallas Baptist University. An impressive 526 students representing 24 states came to compete. NITOC 2019 also celebrated Stoa's 10 year anniversary as a national tournament. Not only were we blessed with excellent competition, amazing judges, informative vendors, and caring Stoa staff but we also had the privilege of hearing from Lars Jorgensen, a founding Stoa visionary. God was glorified throughout our national competition and celebration!

### Quotes from NITOC 2019:

"I always love volunteering to work at NITOC. It gives me the chance to meet wonderful people from all over the country. The experience of interacting with great people and seeing the body of Christ in action is priceless."

"I totally have NITOC withdrawals. I love working with these incredible people."

"Wonderful location! Wonderful people! We would love to have NITOC at Dallas Baptist University again!"

## Stoa Academy 2019

The majestic Rocky Mountains served as the backdrop for Stoa Academy 2019 as we met in Evergreen, Colorado. Our theme "Keys to the Future" was well represented through 34 unique workshops focused on equipping and encouraging participants in practical coaching and teaching skills. The Stoa Board of Directors is committed to providing high-quality leadership training, skills development, and networking opportunities through our annual Stoa Academy, believing that all members deserve strong, local leadership.

### Quotes from Stoa Academy 2019:

"Best information I've ever received. I wish I had done this when we first started Stoa!"

"I couldn't wait to get home and start working with my kids on speech ideas! It was all very informative, encouraging and motivating."

## NITOC Venue Search

When searching for venues to host NITOC, Stoa looks for universities who share our vision of creating world changers for Christ. We seek more than beautiful campuses with adequate competition rooms. We seek long-term partnerships. The goal is to develop mutually beneficial relationships with three rotating universities across the United States, saving Stoa significant time and resources. NITOC returns to Union University this season, and following the success of last season, we are already discussing future plans with Dallas Baptist University. We praise God for the amazing partnerships He is creating.



# What's New for 2019-2020

## Training & Development Committee

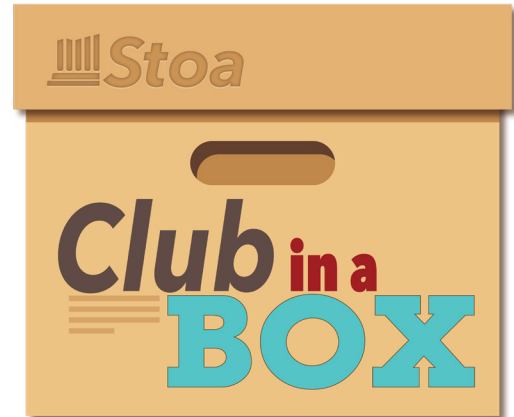
In June 2018, Stoa formed the Training & Development Committee. The committee was commissioned with creating tools to assist Stoa members in accomplishing our mission to “Speak boldly and change the world for Christ.” Tools will include how to:

- Start new clubs
- Run existing clubs
- Train students in all events
- Run tournaments

As the Training & Development Committee wraps up its first year, the committee is excited to launch *Club in a Box*, a tool for starting and running clubs. The committee is also producing a series of training videos to help families new to Stoa get started in the world of speech and debate. In addition to educational materials, the Training & Development Committee manages Stoa's presence at homeschool conventions around the country, all in an effort to bring the valuable world of speech and debate to more homeschool families.

## Club in a Box

*Club in a Box* contains detailed information about how to get new clubs up and running. New coaches will find step-by-step instructions for starting strong. More experienced coaches will find new ideas and tools. However, these are just suggestions, not requirements. Stoa highly values local control. Club directors may run clubs how they see best, using the ideas and resources that fit their needs. *Club in a Box* is set to release in November 2019.



# Stoa Sponsors



Stoa's corporate partnerships are flourishing as we connect with like-minded companies who share our vision of "changing the world for Christ". These valuable partners help fund NITOC and Stoa Academy while reaching families with their valuable products and services.

## THANK YOU

### TO OUR 2018-2019 STOA SPONSORS

Azusa Pacific University

Criswell College

Courageous Speech

Dallas Baptist University

Economic Thinking

European Initiative

Family Life

Grove City College

The King's College

Lasting Impact!

Oak Brook College of Law

Monument Publishing

National Institute for  
Homeschool Debate

Patrick Henry College

Scott Link Media

Unbound/Lumerit

Union University



Lumerit Unbound is proud of our partnership with Stoa. Our relationship gives us the opportunity to help Stoa students navigate college smarter.

- WOODY ROBERTSON,  
*Chief Development Officer*

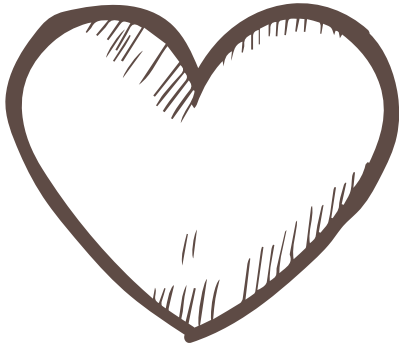


I can't think of a better activity to sponsor than homeschool speech and debate which is why my business gladly sponsored Stoa Academy 2019.

- CHRIS JEUB,  
*Owner*



# Support Stoa



**You can support Stoa instantly by making a donation of any amount and encouraging others to do the same.**

How is Stoa funded? The majority of Stoa funding comes from annual membership registration. NITOC registration fees also generate funds, but Stoa works to keep NITOC fees as low as possible as we know that families incur significant costs with travel and lodging. Another source of funding is our growing list of vendors and sponsors, which we continue to pursue with enthusiasm. These organizations, that share our vision of honoring Jesus Christ, partner with Stoa by hosting booths at NITOC and Stoa Academy. Finally, individual contributions to Stoa are key. Member donations help to keep all fees low and also fund the creation of exciting resources that improve the league for all members. Please consider making an individual donation to Stoa at:

**[stoausa.org/donate](https://stoausa.org/donate)**



# Key Contacts

*You can contact us any time, and we will help. That's why we volunteered.*

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*More information available at:*

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