



Stoa

CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL SPEECH & DEBATE



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

LETTER *from the* PRESIDENT

Dear Families and Friends of Stoa,

It is my privilege to report Stoa is healthy, strong, and growing. In fact, we experienced a tremendous year of growth during the 2021–22 season, increasing the number of registered students from 1,304 to 1,745. New clubs popped up, and members stepped up to lead clubs across the country, and we are now in 30 states. We also welcomed Impromptu back as a NITOC qualifying competition event. We are grateful for God’s guidance and blessing on our league. The state of Stoa is strong.

At NITOC 2022, we enjoyed a blessed time of fellowship at Dallas Baptist University and also appreciated seeing the number of competitors was up from the previous year. In addition, our corporate sponsorships grew this year; working alongside like-minded folks is truly a blessing.

Our hearts were uplifted with many blessings this season. However, we also felt the heartache with the passing of one of our dearest friends, Mike Winther.

As we grow, it is at the forefront of our thoughts and actions to hold tight to Stoa’s founding principles. We are a private Christian homeschool league with a Biblical worldview. A community of families pursuing competitive excellence with a belief in limited central government and maximum local control, all while equipping and supporting our coaches. If you consider these foundational pillars carefully, you’ll find they echo the principles of homeschooling established at your own kitchen table.

As Stoa enters its 14th season, new names and faces in leadership and in competition carry Stoa’s mission forward. The Board of Directors, our Committees and the Executive Director look forward to the contributions of many newcomers and long-term members. At the same time, we work hard to assure Stoa’s future is built solidly on the wisdom and infrastructure contained in our founding principles. This commitment is a vital foundation for Stoa’s health and growth as an organization. The Board believes in passing that vision down to the next generation of leaders and competitors.

Maggie Carabelos

Stoa Board President, 2021–2023



STOA *through the* YEARS

2009

STOA FOUNDED

- Board of Directors established
- Speech and Debate Committees established
- Rules and ballots created
- 10 speech events
- 2 debate events
- Speechranks launched

2011

- NITOC: San Diego, CA
- 1st *StoaByte* published
- 1st Wild Card: Original Interp
- 1st Parliamentary Championship

2013

- NITOC: Siloam Springs, AR
- Parliamentary Debate joins NITOC
- Electronic Extemp at NITOC

2015

- NITOC: Greenville, SC
- Annual Stoa Academy launched
- Founder's Award created
- Electronic script submission used at NITOC
- "Speaking Boldly. Changing the World for Christ" coined

2010

- 1st NITOC: San Diego, CA
- 354 competitors from 12 states
- 1st Coaches Academy at NITOC
- Parliamentary Debate introduced at local tournaments

2012

- NITOC: Colorado Springs, CO
- Electronic script submission tested at local tournaments
- 1st NITOC vendor fair

2014

- NITOC: San Diego, CA
- Mars Hill added as an ongoing NITOC event
- Marketing Committee established

“

Absolutely brilliant students!

Community Judge



“

Many of [the finals speeches] brought me to tears.

Community Judge



2016

- NITOC: Springfield, MO
- StoaTraX tested at local tournaments
- Stoausa.org redesigned
- 1st alumni NITOC event

2017

- NITOC: Jackson, TN
- StoaTraX used at NITOC
- Venue Search Committee established

2018

- NITOC: San Diego, CA
- Training & Development Committee established
- *Tournament in a Box* published

2019

- NITOC: Dallas, TX
- Celebrated 10th NITOC
- Executive Director hired
- *Club in a Box* published
- Alumni, Communications, and Tab Committees established

2020

- Virtual Celebration
- Servant Heart Award created
- Internship program created
- 1st *Alumni Post* published
- Virtual Stoa Academy

2021

- NITOC: Jackson, TN
- Virtual tournaments implemented
- Stoa Alumni LinkedIn established
- Stoa Merch launched
- Community Connection webinars developed

2022

- NITOC: Dallas, TX
- First Stoa Silent Auction implemented
- Regular Club Leader Forum webinars established
- Mike Winther Award established
- Stoa NITOC Scholarship fund established



“

I LOVE Stoa! It changed my life forever.

Former Stoa Student



“

I'm always struck by the politeness and confidence of the student speakers.

Community Judge



VICTORY *through our* VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers put our foundational pillars into practice, keeping us moving toward our Vision: To develop world-class communicators who speak boldly and change the world for Christ. We are grateful to every volunteer who gives their time and talent to serve with excellence in committees, clubs, and tournaments. You are the undergirding of our operations, and you strengthen our community. Your efforts enable Stoa to grow and further our mission. You inspire and empower our Stoa students to speak boldly and change the world for Christ. Thank you, volunteers!

ADVANCEMENT & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Stoa Sponsor Program
Vendor Fairs
Stoa Member Benefits
Renovate to Innovate Campaign

PRAYER TEAM

Support Stoa Through Prayer
Foster Community
Encourage Intercession Nationwide

SPEECH COMMITTEE

Speech Ballots & Rules
NITOC Script Submission
Apol & Mars Hill Topics
Wild Card Events

ALUMNI COMMITTEE

Alumni Post
Alumni Database
LinkedIn
Social Media

TOOLS & TABULATION COMMITTEE

Stoa Operations IT
Tournament Software Tools

DEBATE COMMITTEE

Debate Ballots & Rules
Evidence Standards
Debate Resolutions

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

StoaByte
NITOC News
Member Surveys
Servant Heart Award

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Stoa2Go
Club in a Box
Tournament in a Box
10-Minute Lessons
Webinars

MARKETING COMMITTEE

Homeschool Conventions
External Connections
Creative Services
Promotional Materials

VENUE SEARCH COMMITTEE

NITOC Venue Contracts

SIX FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS OF STOA

1. We are a private Christian homeschool league.

2. We have a Biblical worldview.

3. We are a community.

4. We pursue competitive excellence.

5. We have limited central government and maximum local control.

6. We equip and support Christian coaches.

NITOC 2022

FOR *His* GLORY

Stoa was excited to return to the beautiful campus of Dallas Baptist University for the 2022 National Invitational Tournament of Champions. We hosted the nation's top speakers and debaters with the support of the staff at DBU and had a truly memorable week together as a league. Our 2022 theme was "For His Glory." We celebrated this important principle in our gatherings, devotionals, and music.

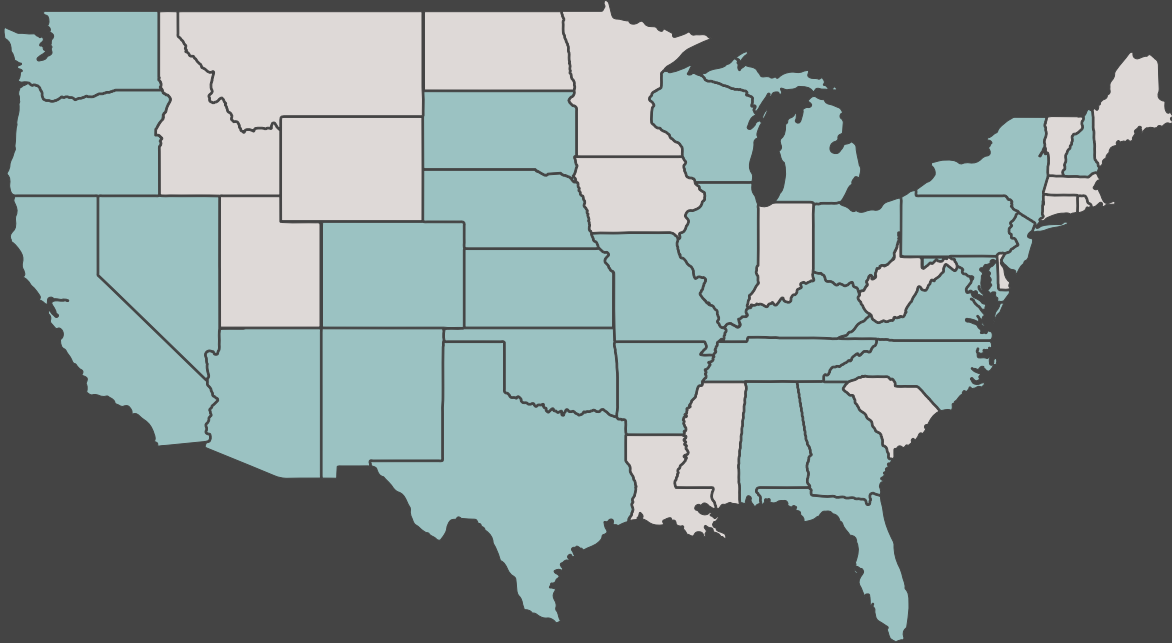
Stoa was thrilled to host 533 competitors and their families representing 22 states. In addition, several hundred local community judges blessed us by volunteering during the week. We enjoyed excellent competition and fellowship during the 7-day event, and each evening we ended our day with fun social events that included entertainment and special Texas-inspired treats. NITOC 2022 was truly a memorable week of growth in relationships and friendships, community building, and excellence in competition.



*"For from him and through him
and to him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen."
Romans 11:36*

2021-2022 GROWTH

■ *States with Stoa Members*



Total Stoa Students

2021

1,304

2022

1,747

Total Students at NITOC

2021

446

2022

533

2021-2022 FINANCIALS

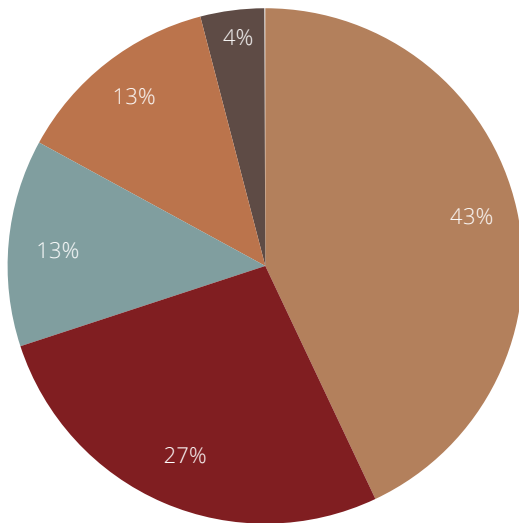
NITOC SCHOLARSHIP

Thanks to four generous donors, we gave our first needs-based scholarships to 14 families to help with their NITOC expenses this year. These scholarships were an answer to prayer. God loves his people and wants to bless us when we seek him. We look forward to seeing how God might use these new scholarships to bless others through giving and receiving.

14

*NITOC
Scholarships*

REVENUE SOURCES



*Club website, LexisNexis, insurance, advertising, and interest.

FINANCES

Opening Balance Equity

\$24,648.86

Retained Earnings

\$131,114.11

Net Income

- \$2,311.88

Total Equity

\$153,451.09

Stoa Leadership is committed to being a fiscally responsible steward of the resources entrusted to us. Stoa families, donors, and sponsors have generously given and provided for Stoa. Thank you to each of you who supported Stoa in 2021-2022.



The beautiful rolling Blue Ridge Mountains of northern Virginia provided the perfect backdrop for a soul-refreshing Stoa Academy. Parents, coaches, and club leaders from across the nation enjoyed 35 workshops in debate and speech as well as tournament and club leadership.

For the first time, we offered a Virtual Pass, enabling those who could not attend in person the opportunity to experience Stoa Academy live as it happened. In addition, we offered a Digital Pass, giving individuals and clubs access to recordings of all the sessions.

Stoa is committed to providing high-quality leadership training, skills development, and networking opportunities to equip members and strengthen local clubs through our annual Stoa Academy.

19

HOURS *of*
FELLOWSHIP

35

UNIQUE
WORKSHOPS

13th

ANNUAL
STOA
ACADEMY

"Unity paired with rich learning."

". . . gained a lot of practical knowledge to take back to my club."

". . . very Christ-centered . . ."

"Thoughts, experience, knowledge, and ideas from all over the country."

The IMPACT Stoa made...



“

God may call us to some things that seem pretty crazy at the time. ...Things that seem impossible. But if we let Jesus, our loving Savior, direct our paths, we'll never regret it.

Antonio Flores
Class of 2018



“

The strength of Stoa is in its community and that really shines through the regular tournament season.

Katherine Kwong
Class of 2013

“

Few activities have impacted my life as practically and significantly as my time in speech and debate.

Mikayla Hirsch
Class of 2014



“

We have all been blessed with incredible opportunities through Stoa! We have learned how to Speak Boldly, now it is time for us to Change the World for Christ!

Luke Litz
Class of 2019



“

...These are challenging times, and we need both critical thinking and compassion to represent Christ well in polarized, suffering communities.

Josiah McGee
Class of 2015



“

The skills I learned through writing, presenting, and coaching interpretation speeches are directly applicable to everything I do.

Audrey Cook Sowers
Class of 2017

Servant Heart Award

Beginning in the 2020–2021 season, the Stoa Board of Directors provided recognition to both individuals and clubs growing in their character and speaking skills through the Servant Heart Award. This award is to inspire all Stoa students and clubs to reach out and share their skills to “change the world for Christ.”

Our 2022 Club Category winner was Legacy Speech Club from San Jose, CA. Club members partnered with Star Kids, a ministry that serves ethnic immigrant children, to develop a speech curriculum and provide teaching & coaching for speech skills development of elementary-aged children.

The Individual Category winner was Adelyn Janssen from St. Louis, Missouri. Adelyn partnered with Christian Friends of New Americans, an outreach ministry to immigrants and refugees. Adelyn tutored children in reading comprehension, robotics, and other subjects sharing Christ’s love and the Gospel as she taught.



The Mike Winther Award



In November 2021, Mike Winther, one of the great leaders of the Stoa community, was transferred from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant. A man of unwavering faith, Mike served the Stoa community from its inception. In addition to serving on the Debate Committee for many years, he served on the Stoa Board of Directors from 2017 to 2021 and coached the Modesto Debate club with his wife Mary for nearly 25 years. We will always remember Mike as a man of God’s Word, integrity, wisdom, kindness, and prayer.

To honor Mike’s memory, the Stoa Board of Directors, in 2022, established the Mike Winther Award. The award recognizes excellence in character as demonstrated in student leadership, civic involvement, and understanding of the Biblical role of government. Benjamin Arroyave was the first recipient of this award, which was presented at NITOC 2022.



LOOKING AHEAD

God's riches and goodness toward Stoa were displayed in multiple ways as we concluded our 2021-2022 season strong and encouraged. Our membership grew and thrived as we provided more tournaments and built more clubs across the nation. Stoa's presence increased at homeschool conventions, as well as the HSLDA convention and Classical Conversations national meeting. Our operational vision for the new season sets in motion plans to improve and build Stoa even stronger by growing our clubs and tournaments, as well as developing resources to support both. Plans to reach into new states and grow Stoa membership through targeted efforts are moving forward. Increased member benefits of more webinars and discount programs are planned and being developed. We are making strides toward new tournament tools to enhance and update our tournament registration, tabulation, and reporting processes. Even more opportunities for our alumni to continue connection within Stoa as well as connection with potential employers are growing.

As we continue to expand into new states, we look forward to all that God has planned for Stoa. The future looks bright for Stoa as we trust God to guide and direct our efforts!



STOA PARTNERS

Our Stoa partners see the value in Stoa Christian Homeschool Speech and Debate and the impact Stoa makes on young people. They are like-minded and want to support and encourage the next generation toward excellence in their Christian walk. Stoa has been blessed this year with outstanding partners, and we are grateful to let our Stoa membership learn more about each one. Each is an integral contributor to our mission of training homeschool students to speak boldly and change the world for Christ.

Join us and make a difference in the lives of students across the nation. Contribute to our mission of training homeschool students to speak boldly and change the world for Christ.



Click to learn more about becoming a Stoa partner.

PARTNER WITH STOA



economic thinking
Understanding and Creating Prosperity



GREAT COMMUNICATOR
DEBATE SERIES

Lasting Impact!
Practical advice for making an impression.

KEY CONTACTS

We are here to help. *That's why we volunteered!*

Board of Directors

stoa.board@stoausa.org



Maggie Carabelos



Theresa Ellington



Jeff Eschen



Lynda Sloneker



Janice Tham



Mary Winther

Executive Director

angela@stoausa.org



Angela Childress
Executive Director

Maggie Carabelos, President Term 2017 – 2023

Jeff Eschen, Treasurer Term 2020 – 2024

Theresa Ellington Term 2022 – 2026

Lynda Sloneker, Secretary Term 2020 – 2024

Janice Tham Term 2022 – 2026

Mary Winther Term 2021 – 2025

KEY CONTACTS

Committee Chairs



Alicia Stunkel
Speech Committee

speechcommittee@stoausa.org



Colleen Enos
Debate Committee

debatecommittee@stoausa.org



Kate Creecy
Alumni Committee

alumni@stoausa.org



Mike Diaz
*Tools & Tabulation
Committee*

mike@stoausa.org



Kimberly Farley
*Training & Development
Committee*

kimberly@stoausa.org



Stephanie Dropping
*Advancement &
Partnerships Committee*

investinstoa@stoausa.org



Katja Randall
Communications Committee

communications@stoausa.org



Shelley DeJager
Marketing Committee

marketing@stoausa.org



Allisha Speed
Prayer Team

allisha@stoausa.org

DONATE TODAY

SUPPORT STOA. SUPPORT OUR MISSION.

Join us and make a difference in the lives of students across the nation. Contribute to our mission of training homeschool students to speak boldly and change the world for Christ.



 **Stoa**
CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL SPEECH & DEBATE

SPEAKING
BOLDLY

CHANGING THE WORLD FOR CHRIST

www.stoausa.org