

NITOC Hall of Champions

Year	Champion	State	Year	Champion	State	Year	Champion	State
1981	John Baker	CA	1982	David Smith	TX	1983	John Baker	CA
1984	John Baker	CA	1985	John Baker	CA	1986	John Baker	CA
1987	John Baker	CA	1988	John Baker	CA	1989	John Baker	CA
1990	John Baker	CA	1991	John Baker	CA	1992	John Baker	CA
1993	John Baker	CA	1994	John Baker	CA	1995	John Baker	CA
1996	John Baker	CA	1997	John Baker	CA	1998	John Baker	CA
1999	John Baker	CA	2000	John Baker	CA	2001	John Baker	CA
2002	John Baker	CA	2003	John Baker	CA	2004	John Baker	CA
2005	John Baker	CA	2006	John Baker	CA	2007	John Baker	CA
2008	John Baker	CA	2009	John Baker	CA	2010	John Baker	CA
2011	John Baker	CA	2012	John Baker	CA	2013	John Baker	CA
2014	John Baker	CA	2015	John Baker	CA	2016	John Baker	CA
2017	John Baker	CA	2018	John Baker	CA	2019	John Baker	CA

NITOC Hall of Champions Tournament Champions and Founders Award

Year	Champion	State	Year	Champion	State
1981	John Baker	CA	1982	David Smith	TX
1983	John Baker	CA	1984	John Baker	CA
1985	John Baker	CA	1986	John Baker	CA
1987	John Baker	CA	1988	John Baker	CA
1989	John Baker	CA	1990	John Baker	CA
1991	John Baker	CA	1992	John Baker	CA
1993	John Baker	CA	1994	John Baker	CA
1995	John Baker	CA	1996	John Baker	CA
1997	John Baker	CA	1998	John Baker	CA
1999	John Baker	CA	2000	John Baker	CA
2001	John Baker	CA	2002	John Baker	CA
2003	John Baker	CA	2004	John Baker	CA
2005	John Baker	CA	2006	John Baker	CA
2007	John Baker	CA	2008	John Baker	CA
2009	John Baker	CA	2010	John Baker	CA
2011	John Baker	CA	2012	John Baker	CA
2013	John Baker	CA	2014	John Baker	CA
2015	John Baker	CA	2016	John Baker	CA
2017	John Baker	CA	2018	John Baker	CA
2019	John Baker	CA	2020	John Baker	CA



Letter from the President



As we mark our 10th year together, I am once again honored to serve as Stoa's president. You are part of an extraordinary group of volunteers, coaches, parents, students, and alumni. The level of dedication and commitment you continuously display is like no other organization in which I have been involved. Stoa's mission is: "Training homeschool students to speak boldly and change the world for Christ." We train our students to do just that through competition and hard work.

Speech and debate is arguably the most powerful activity impacting a student's ability to read, write, listen, speak, research and think critically. For 10 years now, Stoa has been devoted to developing these skills and promoting the value of speech and debate to Christian homeschoolers.

Even businesses recognize the value of these skills. According to *Forbes Magazine*, the top three skills sought by employers

include: 1) The ability to work in a team structure. 2) The ability to make decisions and solve problems. 3) The ability to communicate verbally with people inside and outside an organization." We do all three of these things, and we do them well.

I look forward to my final year in this role as your president. We have an exciting year ahead of us. Highlights include our 10th NITOC, which will be hosted at the beautiful campus of Dallas Baptist University. We are excited to partner with DBU who shares our vision to follow Christ. Another highlight will be our fundraising campaign. Funds will go to improve Stoa software. Speechranks, Flowpad, Joy of Tournaments and StoaTrax need to be integrated for a seamless suite of tools. If you would like to become involved in these efforts, please contact the Stoa Board of Directors. We are always looking for volunteers who believe in our purpose and mission. In closing, it is truly an honor to serve you as we work together to further His kingdom and bring Him glory.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave McKinley".

Dave McKinley
Stoa Board President



2017-2018 Recap



States with Clubs



NITOC Competitors



NITOC by the Numbers

	2017	2018
Apologetics	132	161
Cold Reading	225	244
Demo	n/a	52
Dramatic Interpretation	33	31
Duo Interpretation	50	52
Expository	52	40
Extemporaneous	129	125
Humorous Interpretation	35	40
Mars Hill	87	92
Open Interpretation	69	82
Original Oratory	142	156
Persuasive	71	75
Lincoln Douglas Debate	114	123
Parliamentary Debate	77	65
Team Policy Debate	125	114
TOTAL	1,450	1,452



Members



Tournaments

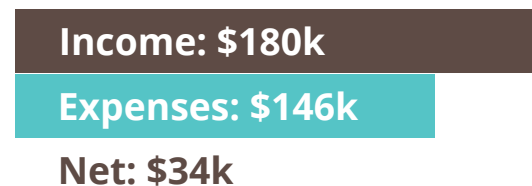


Financial Overview

2016-17



2017-18



2017-2018 Highlights

NITOC 2018

The annual National Invitational Tournament of Champions is Stoa's premier event. The best speakers and debaters from across the nation gather to compete. It is truly the pinnacle of the season. This year's NITOC was held at Point Loma Nazarene University in beautiful San Diego, California. We were blessed with excellent competition, amazing judges, informative vendors, and supportive and caring Stoa staff. Members met old friends from other clubs and regions and made new ones. An impressive 564 students representing 23 states came to compete. God was glorified!

Quotes from NITOC 2018:

"Great experience overall. Beautiful setting. Great team work and cooperative spirit among staff and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it a success."

"The entire facilities crew was exceptional! Friendly, cheerful and quick to respond. Excellent witness and inspiration."

"I really liked the Founder's Award night. It was super nice and meaningful and meant a lot that there was so much effort put into it. I loved the comedian!"

"NITOC was a wonderful experience for me and my family. A great blessing. Thanks for all your efforts."

Stoa Academy 2018

Stoa Academy was hosted in Irving, Texas. Our theme "Step Out", recalled the journey of Jesus' disciples who stepped out in faith. Stoa leaders were encouraged and equipped with informative teaching and practical tools. 36 unique workshops taught by over 20 presenters were offered. In addition, numerous Stoa vendors attended to both present and participate in our vendor hall. The Stoa Board of Directors is committed to providing high-quality leadership training and networking opportunities through our annual Stoa Academy, believing that all members deserve strong, local leadership.

Alumni Association

Stoa hosted an alumni party at NITOC this year. Over eighty alumni were in attendance from across the country, representing every graduating class since Stoa's inception. They enjoyed good food, an incredible view and most importantly, great conversation! An alumni survey was conducted and the outcome was clear. *Start a Stoa Alumni Association!* The purpose of the association is to create a network, build community, and give back to Stoa. We are currently organizing an Alumni Committee and are excited to see what is in store for 2018-2019!



What's New for 2018-19

Training & Development Committee

In June 2018, the Stoa Board of Directors fully launched the new Training and Development Committee. Working in conjunction with other Stoa leadership, Training and Development will produce tools to assist Stoa members in accomplishing our mission to “Speak boldly and change the world for Christ.” Tools will cover a wide variety of areas including:

- Starting new clubs
- Growing existing clubs
- Training material for all Stoa events
- Running tournaments (See the next article for a soon-to-be-released tool!)

All of these valuable resources will be available to our members at no cost. Stoa values local control, so all tools are simply ideas and inspiration. Members will be able to pick and choose what works for their region and club. Be on the lookout for more information about Training and Development resources in future StoaBytes.

Tournament in a Box



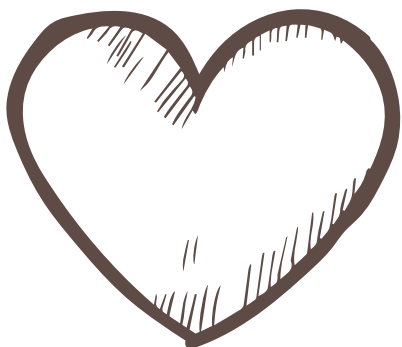
Stoa aims to equip members, so they may equip others. In that effort, we have designed **Tournament in a Box**, a resource to help Stoa members run tournaments. We have gathered ideas and resources

from tournament leaders across the nation and organized it all into an easy to use online format. Ever wondered how other tournaments recruit community judges? It's in there! Want crowd pleasing recipes for Judge Hospitality? It's in there too! First time organizers will find step-by-step instructions for starting strong, complete with detailed tournament job descriptions, budgets and timelines. More experienced organizers will find new ideas and inspiration to improve their existing processes.

Tournament in a Box is an optional resource. Stoa highly values local control which means members have the freedom to run local tournaments as they see best. Members may choose to use the ideas and resources that fit their needs. Look for the announcement in an upcoming StoaByte regarding the release of this valuable tool.



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



Impact

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One night in a relative's home, a non-believer began casually asking my children a few simple creation-related questions. When the questions were coming fast and furious and their faith was being challenged, my children were surprised to see that they actually had heartfelt, thought out answers. Their audience was not a row of 3 silent figures listening to six minutes of uninterrupted speaking but rather an honest inquirer who unwittingly asked questions from all 6 Apol categories! One child said, "The real world application of apologetics makes you think of the consequences of not speaking boldly for Christ."

MARIE U. — Stoa Parent

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The experience and opportunities that speech and debate offered me through Stoa are incomparable to anything I've learned in high school and college. The portable skills, critical thinking, and analysis helped me throughout college life and now in my career. Most importantly, the friendships I made in Stoa have given me a support structure I had never had before. Speech and debate truly changed my life for the better.

DAVID V. — Stoa Alumnus

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Being my first time judging, I was nervous. However after sitting through a couple of speeches, I was hooked! I very much enjoyed the engaging speeches, the professionalism of the speakers, and the compelling well presented arguments. I learned a lot and was thoroughly impressed beyond my expectations. Thank you for the opportunity!

GRACE O. — Community Judge

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Key Contacts

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

Stoa Board

stoa.board@stoausa.org

Add a Tournament

calendar@stoausa.org

Speech Committee

speechcommittee@stoausa.org

Debate Committee

debatecommittee@stoausa.org

*More information available at: **StoaUSA.org***

