



2024



Stoa

Stoa Annual Report

SPEAK BOLDLY. CHANGE THE WORLD FOR CHRIST.

| Letter from the President



As Stoa passes the 15-year mark as a league, we find ourselves in an equally exciting and also challenging place. Many of our original or early members and leaders have transitioned out, making way for relatively newer people leading clubs and tournaments, serving on our various committees, and taking on the challenges we currently face and those we can see on the horizon. Simultaneously, we have experienced a tremendous growth of over 70% in the past three years. While both of these things are exciting, they bring with them the very real threat of cultural erosion and mission drift.

Stoa's Board of Directors celebrates the fact that so many more students and families have embraced our mission of training young people to speak boldly and change the world for Christ and are part of our robust and unique national homeschool community, but we also take seriously the need to preserve our culture and identity as an organization. We have taken several meaningful steps to preserve our heritage and the qualities that make Stoa, Stoa. In the fall of 2023, we hosted an in-person gathering of our national leadership team, including the Board of Directors, our Executive Director, and all of our Committee Chairs. We read through our founding documents and position papers, discussing how they should inform our current decision making. We worked together to formulate a five-year strategic plan that takes into consideration our growth and leadership turnover.

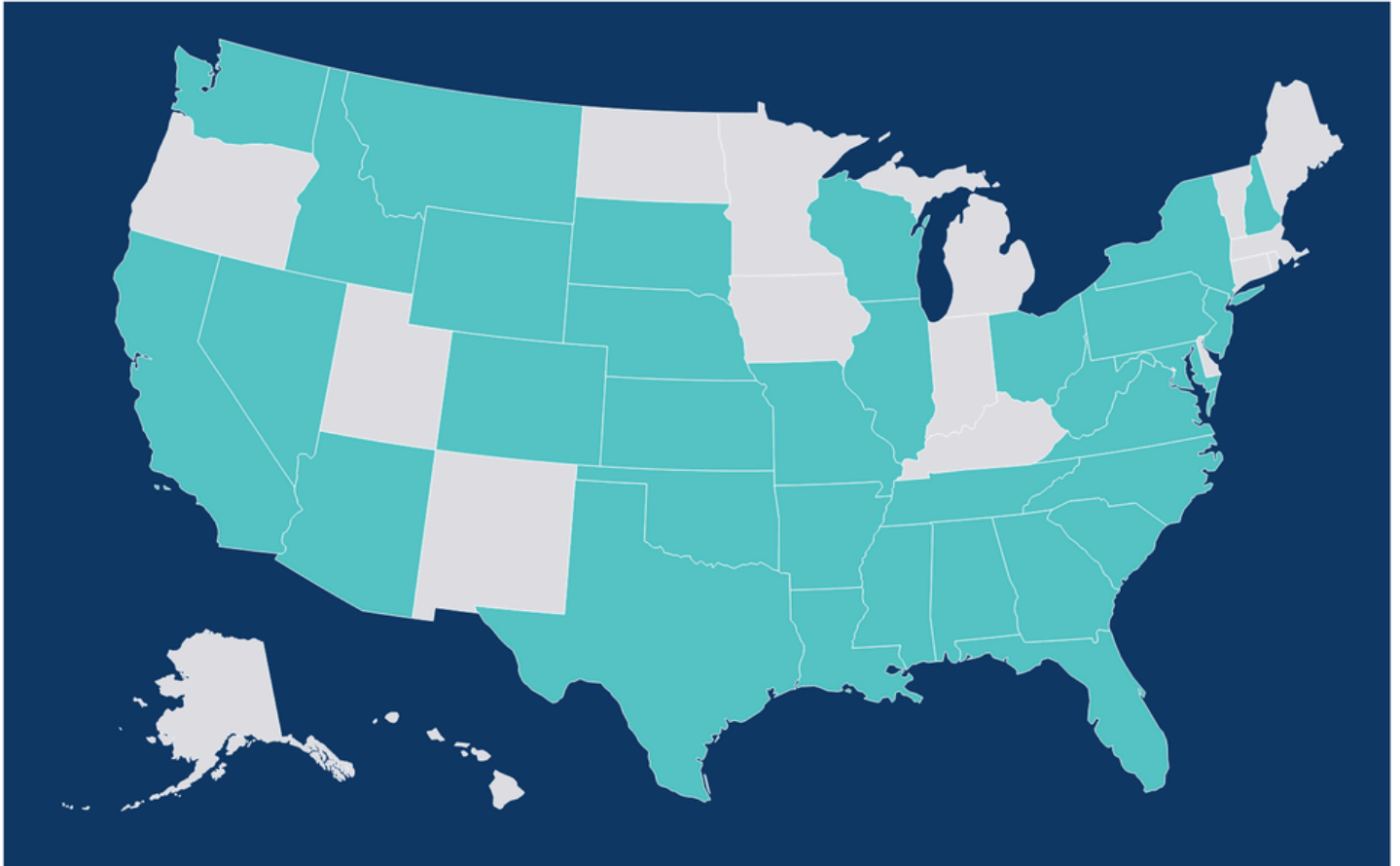
At NITOC, various members of the Board took time to explain our six foundational pillars during the morning meetings each day. In addition, we significantly increased the production and availability of training documents and resources to our members in the form of regular webinars and a new debate-based video training series.

More than ever before, we are committed to passing on the knowledge and cultural foundations of our organization to the next generation of members and leaders.

This is an exciting time for Stoa, and we can't wait to see what the Lord will do with this amazing ministry!

For His glory,
Lynda Sloneker

Major Highlights



2023-2024
1367 Families
2264 Students
595 Students at NITOC

33 States

89 Tournaments

149 Clubs
(includes 24 new)



SERVANT HEART A W A R D

The Stoa Board gives recognition to both individuals and clubs growing in their character and speaking skills through the Servant Heart Award, desiring this will inspire all Stoa students and clubs to share their skills to change the world for Christ.

The 2024 Individual Servant Heart Award winner is Ben Janssen. Ben spent more than 200 hours teaching God's Word and befriending underprivileged refugee children as well as hosting a three day VBS-style camp. Ben exemplified a servant heart in his ongoing lifestyle of service and evangelism.

The 2024 Club Servant Heart Award winner is AIM of Spokane, Washington. AIM partnered with Heroes of the Nation to provide teaching and the first international Stoa tournament in Kenya, Africa.

Mike Winther A W A R D

The Stoa Board of Directors, in 2022, established the Mike Winther Award to honor the memory of one of Stoa's founders, Mike Winther. Mr. Winther was integral in the development of many of our original documents and processes. The award recognizes excellence in character as demonstrated in student leadership, civic involvement, and the understanding of the Biblical role of government.

Luke Laquey from Texas demonstrated excellence in character as well as active civic involvement, to be recognized as the 2024 Mike Winther Award recipient.



Stoa Impact: *Favorite Memories*



"NITOC ALLOWED MY STUDENT TO SHARE HER FAITH IN A CREATIVE, THOUGHT-PROVOKING WAY."

"Devotions were timely and I loved how joyful all the staff and volunteers were daily."

"...I LOVE OUR CLUB AND THE PEOPLE IN IT, BUT I ALSO LOVE THE WIDER STOA COMMUNITY. NITOC ISN'T JUST SOMETHING YOU ATTEND; IT'S SOMETHING YOU'RE A PART OF."

"Standing on a bench in the pouring rain listening to music with friends."

"THE ABSOLUTELY BEST NITOC AWARD CEREMONY EVER!!!! KUDOS TO ANGELA AND THERESA!!! IT WAS SMOOTH AND QUICK, BUT ALSO STILL MEANINGFUL."

Stoa Alumni

Stoa impacted them. Now they go forth to impact others.



JARED COCHRANE

CAPTAIN IN THE ARMY, DATA SCIENTIST

"God has chosen to lend you gifts and talents for the purpose of serving others."



EMMA BUSTETTER

ARCHITECT

"Speech and debate gave me the tools to think on my feet and answer critics."



CARTER SCHRUM

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

"There's something special about a friend you can argue with bluntly and valiantly behind one door, and laugh, pray, and cry with them behind another."



DAVID VASQUEZ

ENERGY AND TAX POLICY ANALYST

"Christ calls us to celebrate His victory, through our total surrender to Him."



HANNAH MORGAN

CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFE

"Stoa is the very essence of iron sharpening iron."



ANNA SASAKI

LAW CLERK

"Appreciate the foundation your upbringing built, but own what you believe!"



You Make a Difference

ALUMNI

Stoa is made up of a strong community of dedicated volunteers. With two standing committees, seven operational committees, and two focused teams, Stoa was blessed with 64 year-round chairs and members bringing to reality the shared vision of our Stoa seven-member volunteer Board of Directors. The Executive Director ensures execution of the approved Stoa goals, and the Stoa Administrator performs much of the operational work. Our clubs and tournaments, including NITOC, are led by an army of volunteers seeking to honor God through giving to these students and guiding them to speak boldly and change the world for Christ.

COMMUNICATIONS

We are all Better Together synergizing our strengths to multiply the benefit for our Stoa community.

In the 2023-2024 season, Stoa continued to grow and improve with increases in memberships, tournaments, clubs, sponsors, webinars, and training materials.

Not only did Stoa grow and improve, but we introduced many new and innovative benefits to our members:

- First National Yearbook featuring Stoa clubs and tournaments from across the nation
- Refreshed Stoausa.org website with easier navigation and streamlined look
- First full Introduction to Team Policy debate curriculum
- User-friendly Resource Finder to locate the growing collection of Stoa resources
- Customized webinars by alumni, sponsors, and committees that meet your needs and interests
- New integrated software, StoaHub, which includes individual registration, club registration, and tournament posting
- First international Stoa tournament in partnership with Heroes of the Nations-Africa
- Two connections made between alumni and employers that resulted in employment
- Stoa Christmas Market with original Stoa merchandise
- First Club Leader and Committee Appreciation Receptions at NITOC
- First Classical Conversations podcast with CEO Robert Bortins

Praise God for blessing the Stoa community with an encouraging 2023-2024 season -- for His glory!

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

MARKETING

VENUE SEARCH

TOOLS & TABULATION

SPEECH

ADVANCEMENT & PARTNERSHIP

DEBATE

| NITOC

The pinnacle of Stoa's year arrived with the National Invitational Tournament of Champions. For this forensics competition, Stoa returned to Union University in Jackson, Tennessee for a third time. We were warmly welcomed by the university and spent a week full of competition and bringing glory to God.

Our theme, Better Together, encompassed our times of devotion, worship, social events, and fellowship. Together we also impacted the local community by donating almost \$5000 in goods to the Dream Center, a local Christian organization that provides housing for women and their children who have experienced crisis and/or loss.

We were pleased to welcome 595 competitors and their families representing 26 states which almost reached the record of 630 in 2014! Several hundred local community judges volunteered their time to serve our community. We were also blessed by a large number of alumni and parent judges. The efforts of our volunteers contributed to the success of this week. Almost 300 parents served in tournament staff roles. We truly are Better Together.

| Stoa Family Academy

Stoa Academy 2024 was held online this year, allowing more participants than ever before. This annual event showcased the skills and knowledge as well as the culture that makes Stoa the outstanding Christian homeschool speech and debate league that it is.

There were 70 different sessions for students and parents/coaches that included topics ranging from speech and debate training to tournament preparation. In addition, our general sessions focused on topics such as Stoa's culture, leadership development, and competing with integrity. There were several roundtables in which participants were given the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback to national leadership on a variety of issues. Our online format allowed families to participate without having the expense of travel and, therefore, reached a broader base of families than an in-person format. We were blessed by our time spent together, and we look forward to Stoa Academy 2025!

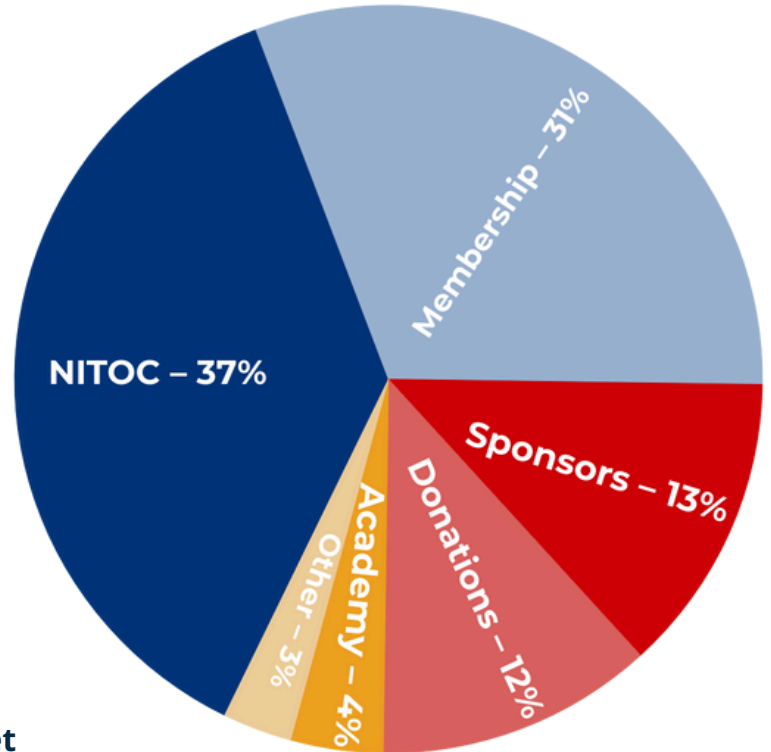


Stoa Financials

Total Assets	\$352,671
Liabilities	\$10,046
Allocated Assets	\$39,626
Net Assets	\$302,999

Note: Net Assets includes \$31,506 Software Asset

Revenue



| Looking Ahead

Stoa is Worth It! Whether you are a parent, alumni, student, sponsor, or friend of Stoa, we believe you know it is worth your time, energy, commitment, and resources. We want even more homeschool families to experience the benefits of Stoa Christian Homeschool Speech and Debate, so we may grow students who are bold to share Christ with others.

We project that our membership will grow and thrive across the nation. We strive to not just grow new clubs but strengthen the current clubs through additional training tools and workshops for our club leaders, parents, and students. This season, we will launch our new Lincoln Douglas debate curriculum, new webinar topics and speakers, and more targeted club and family support. Our first Stoa Yearbook was a success, and we cannot wait to roll out our second edition, so everyone can enjoy the sense of community depicted in our club and tournament photos. StoaHub, our fully-integrated tournament software system, is a reality and we look forward to experiencing it within our tournaments this season. Even more Alumni connection and internship opportunities are being provided through NITOC socials, the Alumni Post, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Our trademark Stoa Family Academy will continue to provide exceptional quality teaching for both adults and students, with excellent quality video training easily accessible to all Stoa members.

We cannot do all we do without the support of like-minded organizations that come alongside Stoa as year-round sponsors and NITOC Friends of Stoa. With increased participation at both local and national homeschool-related conventions, our name recognition is now widespread.

May the Lord continue to bless our families, supporters, volunteers, and communities as we train up homeschool students to speak boldly and change the world for Christ! The season ahead will be unforgettable and we hope to share it with each of you. Stoa is Worth It!

Angela Childress
Executive Director



Friends of Stoa

Thank you to our year-round Sponsors

 Lifetime Sponsor	
 Titanium Sponsor	
 Platinum Sponsor	   
 Gold Sponsor	   
 Silver Sponsor	         
 Bronze Sponsor	

Thank you to our NITOC Event Sponsors

Team Policy: Patrick Henry College | Lincoln Douglas: Monument Publishing
Parliamentary: Union University | Apologetics: Cedarville University
Duo Interp: NACCAP - North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals

Stoa Leadership



Lynda Sloneker
President



Theresa Ellington
Treasurer



Janice Tham
Secretary

Our Stoa Board of Directors



Kimberly Farley



Daniel Hinton



Wayne Johnson



Mary Winther



Denise Sprimont-
Vasquez
Alumni Committee Chair



Stephanie Dropping
Advancement & Partnerships
Committee Chair



Julie Earnest
Communications
Committee Co-Chair



JoAnn Pattara
Communications
Committee Co-Chair



Danny Lyda
Debate Committee Chair



Josh Axelberd
Marketing Committee Chair



Anna Plummer
Speech Committee Chair



Michelle Hawkinson
Training and Development
Committee Chair

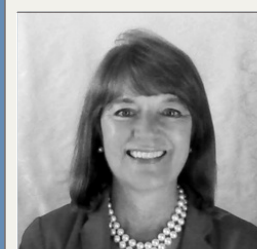


Mike Diaz
Tools and Tabulation
Committee Chair



Shelley DeJager
Venue Search
Committee Chair

Our Stoa Committee Chairs & Executive Director



Angela Childress
Stoa Executive Director