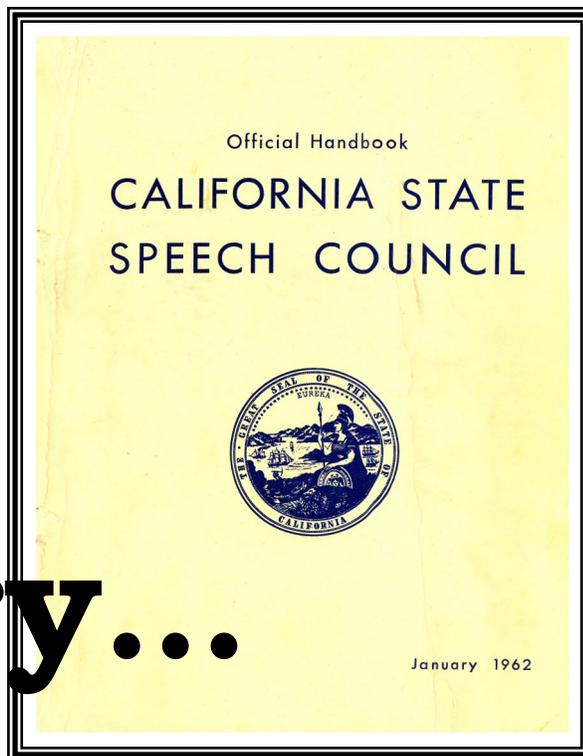


History...



Ralph Waldo Emerson once suggested that “There is properly no history, only biography.” In our case, the history of CHSSA is a collection of memories which have the future in common. By looking back through 50 years of shared stories, council minutes, and assorted records, we can remember why we undertook the enterprise in the first place: to serve our students – which is to say, to serve the future. Thanks to Larry Smith for undertaking the task of pulling together a unified memoir.

California High School Speech Association History

A Letter from Hall of Famer Larry A. Smith

THE HISTORY OF THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH ASSOCIATION 1958-2008

When Ron Underwood contacted me requesting my help with writing a history of CHSSA I thought, well, that would be an interesting task. Indeed. It has been interesting. It has also been amusing, frustrating, challenging, and difficult. I am not sure whether it has been a Herculean task or a Sisyphean task.

Historian Donovan Cummings provided binders full of minutes of past California State Speech Council meetings compiled by Natalie Weber, a considerable number of past CHSSA constitutions, and other materials for me to mine in search of historically interesting and important milestones in the fifty years CHSSA has served the speech education in California.

I also contacted past officers of the organization for some first person recollections of the half century. Unfortunately, many that I would like to have contacted are no longer with us, and their memories are lost to this effort.

At the outset I offered my editorial preference for the format of the narrative.

It had to be primarily a history of the organization rather than a collection of biographies about those dedicated coaches who had served the organization as elected officers or those coaches who were inducted into the Hall of Fame. That portion of the anniversary book will be written by others.

That is not to imply that the many, many coaches who have dedicated years to making CHSSA the success that it is are not important. Indeed, they were foundational in shaping and shepherding CHSSA into the outstanding organization that exists fifty years after its inception. It is none the less of lasting value for current coaches and future coaches to be aware of the evolution and development that has occurred for a half century.

I hope most of all having undertaken the challenge of balancing details with summaries and having sought to include interesting trivia and asides as well that this narrative proves to be interesting rather than merely a cure for insomnia.

Larry A. Smith

California High School Speech Association History

Before the Beginning

Speech classes, often called elocution classes, and competitive debate programs date back to the early 1900's. The National Forensic League, founded by Bruno E. Jacob, had been functioning for nearly two decades before the California State Speech Council was formed in the late 1950's.

During the 1920's "speech leagues" were initially formed to facilitate forensic competitions between schools, and during this time the gigantic Southern California Debate League was begun. There were also a number of National Forensic League districts scattered throughout California by the mid 1950's and a few non-NFL speech leagues.

There is no documentation regarding when or where the first state championship tournament was held prior to the formation of CHSSA. Those tournaments more closely resembled contemporary invitational tournaments where the college host determined the events which would be offered, the rules by which the contests would be conducted, the methods of schools qualifying to send contestants, and the fees charged per contestant. The "state championships" were organized and administered by various colleges and universities, the University of Redlands being the most often mentioned host.

Since most were sponsored by universities in Southern California, this process created considerable ill feeling, because many schools in the "rural" part of California were left out of the process of qualifying students. The iconic Mary Ritter (1961-62 CSSC President) noted on the intra state rivalry, "...it was like a Civil War." In short, those schools north of the Tehachapi Mountains felt as if they were treated like country bumpkins from the sticks. Indeed, it was a perilous trip, a white knuckle drive, over the Grapevine Ridge on Highway 99 to Southern California where the bulk of the "state championships" were hosted.

California High School Speech Association History

Before the Beginning

Brother Maguire noted in 1963, *“The State Speech Council developed in the early 1950’s. Frankly I am not sure of the exact date or place or personnel. The earliest record I have in the files is January 10, 1955, a paper refers to ‘Your State Championship Tournament Committee.’”* He goes on to note it was apparent a group of coaches had decided they were ready to become autonomous from the colleges and universities who had to that point governed the high school state championships. The coaches decided the number of state qualifiers would be divided into eight per event from the north and eight per event from the south, the dividing line the ever formidable Tehachapi Mountains.

Fortunately Dr. Upton Palmer of the University of California-Santa Barbara came into the picture as a supportive mentor-host and volunteered the campus for state tournaments. The tournament was still going to be run by college speech instructors, presumably Dr. Palmer and his assistants, but at least a semi permanent site that somewhat straddled the north-south division of the state had been found. Unfortunately there was still no consistency in the rules and regulations regarding the tournament scheduled for May 6-7, 1955, at UCSB. Some new events were added (apparently at the whim of the college instructors involved), there was a change in the number of qualifiers from each half of the state, and the rules for “interpretive speaking” were altered. Fees for entry were also increased.

James Dyer notes, *“In the spring of 1957*

at the state tournament in Santa Barbara a group of coaches talked about forming a high school organization.” To that end a proposed constitution was crafted and sent to all existing leagues for comment and ratification. In October, 1957, the first meeting of the California State Speech Council was convened. Edna Spelts was elected chairperson and the coaches present turned to the task of refining the provisions of the constitution. Present were: Duane Johnson, LA NFL District; Joe Lagnese, Southern California NFL; Polly Mayne, San Diego Speech League; George Armstrong, Citrus Belt Speech League; Bill Lewis, Southern California Debate League; Edna Spelts, Central California NFL League; Betty Perkins, Valley Forensic League; Carmendale Fernandes, San Francisco Bay NFL District; Natalie Weber, Coast Forensic League; Mary Ritter, member at large.

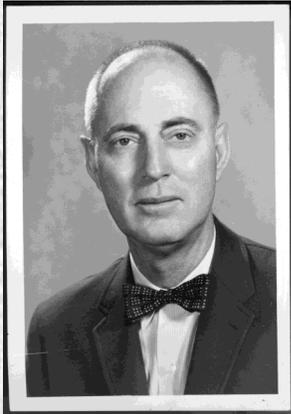
That first constitution focused on defining the rules for administering the state tournament. The state tournament was held on the Santa Barbara campus every year until 1968 under the direction of the fledgling organization known as the California State Speech Council. High school coaches had gained the ability to vest power in their own autonomous organization rather than relying on the colleges and universities.

Thus was the beginning of an organization that eventually became the California High School Speech Association, although to this day the governing body of the organization is still called the California State Speech Council.

California High School Speech Association History

Before the Beginning

In Memoriam - Dr. Upton Palmer (1905-1987)



The following memorial statement was released by the University of California Academic Senate upon the passing of Dr. Upton S. Palmer, educator, altruist and friend to CHSSA:

"Upton S. Palmer was lifted gently from this earth on September 22, 1987. Survivors are his wife, Francis Forsee Palmer, and several nieces and nephews. Dr. Palmer served this campus from February, 1947, when it was still Santa Barbara College of the University of California, until his retirement from the faculty on June 30, 1973.

All during his career, Palmer was a tireless missionary for the study of public speaking as a humane art based upon sound theory, and a critic of those modern sophists who deliver specious arguments in beguiling tones. As such, he joined the Speech Association of America early in his career, becoming a member of its legislative assembly for the years 1956-59, and rising to the nominating committee for the legislative assembly in 1959. He was more active in the Western Speech Association, the largest regional body of the SAA, wherein he was executive secretary for three years, a member of the Executive Council for nine, and president of the association in 1958.

Palmer so loved his chosen subject that he bought copies of books, now scarce, which are milestones in the development of rhetorical theory. He would cite passages from these books to clarify our muddled opinions about such things as Bishop Whateley's theories of debate, or the line of arguments that Charles James Fox used to rouse Parliament against the policies of King George III. Palmer gave 600 such books and periodicals to the Aronstam Library at California State University, Northridge, for the use of their students.

Palmer always supported the Santa Barbara campus and the University as a whole. When attached to the local offices of University Extension and Relations with Schools (1949-53) he apprised high school and community college counselors of the full-scale university campus that would soon become a general campus of the University of California. In 1959 he created the Summer Session Program for High School Juniors. His operating premise was that bright, conscientious students could succeed in regular lower-division university classes even though they lacked a year of high school preparation. Today many colleges have variations of this program.

The above attributes and accomplishments are familiar to all who knew him well. Unknown to anyone is the amount of aid that he extended to students at UCSB. At first there was no counseling center, and only a small one for years afterward, so students brought their concerns--social, parental, financial, academic--to Upton. He did not tally the hours he spent in advising them. There are no lists of services rendered, no ledgers to show the money he found--or took from his pocket--as loans and gifts for textbooks, fees, and emergencies. He was disappointed at times because not all benefactors sustained the qualities that Dr. Palmer saw in them, and not all colleagues shared his particular dreams for our campus. Nevertheless, he continued on his altruistic way until now this friend of all mankind, having passed the tests of this life, rests easily in an approving Heaven."

Academic Senate of the University of California; T. Hanley; E. Schoell; R. Quimby.

Research for this piece by Matthew Fraser, Director of Debate, Stanford University and The Head Royce School

California High School Speech Association History

Growing Pains 1958-1962

The California State Speech Council's task over the next few years was akin to a shakedown cruise of a major ship. Issues had to be resolved regarding the state tournament and its operation. The organization also realized they needed to gain recognition from various other speech and educational institutions as the official governing body for speech/forensics education in California. In sum, they needed to "get some respect" so they would not be considered a Rodney Dangerfield entity.

The first step in this quest for respect came in May, 1958, when a delegate to the National University Extension Association was considered. The NUEA was the national level body that considered and determined the potential debate topics for each year. In October of 1958 the NUEA recognized the CSSC as the regulatory body of California high school forensics. Natalie Weber was appointed as the delegate to the NUEA meeting to be held in December.

A second step to gain recognition and respect was suggested by Day Hanks at the May, 1958, meeting. His suggestion was that the CSSC should affiliate with the California Association of Secondary School Administrators. It was argued that if the Secondary School Administrators recognized the CSSC as the official voice for competitive and curricular speech in California it would give the fledgling organization status. This motion was referred to committee for further study.

The committee did its work, and in February, 1959, Bruce Lawson, principal of Mark Keppel High School-Alhambra, came to a CSSC meeting to broker the agreement for the affiliation with the Secondary School Administrators. As part of the agreement was that the CSSC would accept a member of CASSA as an ex-officio member. Additionally he noted that CASSA would delegate two of its member administrators to act as consultants with the coaches of the northern and southern areas of the state.

California High School Speech Association History

Growing Pains 1958-1962

At last, the CSSC had recognition and legitimacy; at least as far as the school administrators and the NUEA were concerned. The next step was to draft a constitution and bylaws.

According to an early draft of the constitution the membership would be composed of an equal number of representatives from north and south of the Tehachapi Mountains. The new name of the organization was to be the California State Speech Association. Moving at glacial speed, a final published draft in 1962 indicated the name had reverted to the California State Speech Council.

The membership of the CSSC was a mixture of individuals from both within and outside of the high school speech community. Amongst them were representatives from the recognized speech leagues as specified by the organizations' bylaws. Those included the San Diego Speech League, the Citrus Belt Speech League, the Southern California NFL District, the Southern California Debate League, the East Los Angeles NFL District, the West Los Angeles NFL District, the Central California NFL District, the Southern Valley Speech League, the Yosemite Speech League, the San Francisco NFL District, the Coast Forensic League, and the Golden Gate Forensic League.

In addition, a member of the California

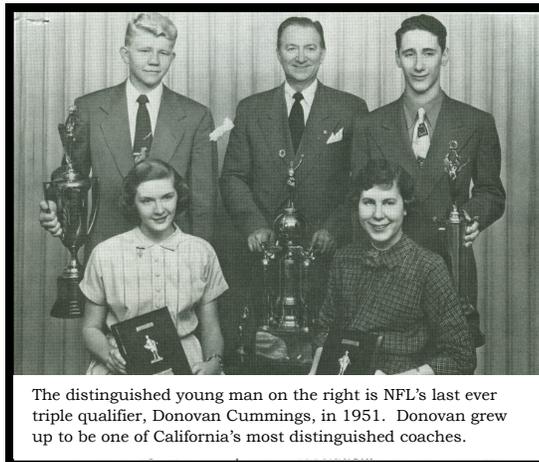
Association of Secondary Schools, and a representative of the California Department of Education served as ex-officio, non-voting members. The immediate past president of CSSC was also included. And representing the universities was a Coordinator of CSSC activities, who, as it turned out, was Dr. Upton Palmer of University of California, Santa Barbara.

The CSSC vested executive powers in the president, who was elected from the members of the CSSC, and the secretary-treasurer who was also elected from and by the council members.

The president was to represent the CSSC in its communications and relations with the California Association of Secondary School Administrators. The secretary-treasurer

was to keep necessary records and conduct correspondence along with being custodian of council funds, making disbursements at the direction of the president.

The coordinator of council activities, under the supervision of the council, was responsible for coordinating and promoting non-competitive and curricular phases of the speech programs in high schools, serving also as archivist, clearinghouse for debate materials, bibliographies, compilations of source materi-



The distinguished young man on the right is NFL's last ever triple qualifier, Donovan Cummings, in 1951. Donovan grew up to be one of California's most distinguished coaches.

als, etc, and adviser and consultant for symposiums, clinics and workshops: A rather large task for a full time university professor, Dr. Upton Palmer, UCSB.

In addition the state was divided in to four "conference areas". According to the council minutes, the goal was to

"secure [a] cooperative endeavor from the colleges and the high schools jointly, the purpose of each Conference Area shall be to conduct curricular workshops for teachers, coaching technique workshops, clinics for high school students and teachers for the purpose of improving performance, seminars, in-service training sessions, and to prepare speech units for courses of study, etc."

These conference areas were clearly a forerunner to the eventual inclusion of curriculum representatives from each of the four areas in the state. There is no indication whether or not a representative from each conference area was to be included in meetings of the CSSC. The conference representatives were supposed to work in cooperation with the coordinator of council activities in a variety of appointed tasks.

James Dyer noted in his thesis,

"The significant role of CSSC in the development of curricular speech was evident throughout the early 1960's. Courses of study were developed and circulated throughout the state, assistance in establishing speech programs was offered, and the functions of CSSC were extended to enable it to assume the role

of spokesman for most high school speech participants in the state as a whole."

Finance for the CSSC was through league payment of \$15.00 per allocated qualifier to the state tournament. So if a league had two qualifiers, for example, the league would pay \$30.00 to the CSSC. The awards, trophies, medals, and certificates for the state tournament would be paid from these collected fees, and any balance would revert to the CSSC administrative expenses.

Contestants in the state tournament would be assessed \$3.00 per individual event and \$5.00 per debate team, the monies collected to be utilized to defray the expense of judges and other expenses incurred by the tournament host.

Events for each state tournament, which was to be held on the first Friday and Saturday of May, were to be determined by the CSSC a year in advance. There would be thirty-six entrants in each des-

Interesting Trivia

Given that there were 11 state events at that time, with 36 entries in each event, there were a total of 396 qualifying spots. In 2008, with 17 events and between 32 and 90 in each event there are 966 spots to state.

ignated event held at the state tournament, eighteen from north of the Tehachapi Mountains and eighteen from south of the Tehachapi Mountains. That provided for a total of twenty more contestants for each event from the original sixteen (eight from the north and eight from the south) a few years earlier. The rules for various events were reasonably standardized and unchanging for a number of years.

There were to be two preliminary rounds of individual events cutting to semi finals. Debate teams were guaranteed four rounds with the top eight teams advancing to quarter finals where a loss meant elimination.

The original "Official Handbook" of the CSSC published in 1962 listed all schools participating in leagues

throughout the state. At first glance it is an impressive number, over 400. However, a second reading indicates most of those schools held dual memberships in the officially recognized leagues. For example, a school would be listed as a member of the Southern California Debate League and also be included on the list for the Southern California NFL District. This dual membership eventually caused considerable animosity and rancor and eventual changes in the constitution.

The CSSC, over a period of four years, had managed to become what the original intent was, an autonomous organization that was in control of the state tournament, and an organization that sought to foster growth in speech/forensic participation among California high



State Tournaments from 1958 to 1965

Policy Debate

Boys' Extemporaneous (BEXT)

Girls' Extemporaneous (GEXT)

Unlimited Original Oratory (UOO)

Girls' Original Oratory (GOO)

Humorous Interpretation (HI)

Dramatic Interpretation (DI)

Boys' Oratorical Interpretation (BOI)

Girls' Oratorical Interpretation (GOI)

Boys' Impromptu (BIMP)

and Girls' Impromptu (GIMP)

Meaning students were participating in events called GOO, GIMP, BIMP, BOI or GOI!!!

California High School Speech Association History

Potholes in the Highway to Success 1962-1965

It would be an incorrect assumption to conclude that the adoption of a CSSC constitution and bylaws in 1962 would have solved the majority of the problems regarding the state tournament that had precipitated the formation of the CSSC. On the contrary, the adoption led to a whole host of new questions, philosophical disagreements and spirited debate.

The primary issues were:

1. Continuous lobbying by the SCDL to gain a larger share of the qualifiers based on the argument that their number of schools and population density in Southern California warranted more qualifiers than the 18-18 north south division provided.
2. What to do regarding the four conference areas that were stipulated in the constitution.
3. Funding, which was increasingly inadequate to conduct all the tasks the CSSC had taken upon itself.
4. The mix of NFL districts with state leagues in the allocation of voting representation on the CSSC and the inequity of schools holding dual state league and NFL district memberships having, in effect, two opportunities for students to qualify to the state tournament and two representative league presidents on the CSSC.

California High School Speech Association History

Potholes in the Highway to Success 1962-1965

The issues regarding qualifier distribution

The first issue, the continuing SCDL demand for more qualifiers was listed in several of the minutes of CSSC meetings as "Hot Potato Department." Indeed it was. The northern part of the state had amicably and equitably divided their eighteen qualifiers, giving three in each event to each of the six leagues. Not so for the "south of the Tehachapi" leagues and districts.

The Southerners, to maintain the Civil War metaphor, had crafted the following allocation of their eighteen qualifiers through their adopted bylaws: Two from the SCDL Winter Tournament; three from the East Los Angeles NFL District Tournament; three from the West Los Angeles NFL District Tournament; one from the SCDL Spring Tournament; one from the Orange Spring Tournament; two from the Southern California NFL District Tournament; three from the Citrus Belt Speech League Tournament; and three from the San Diego Speech League Tournament.

The prevailing philosophy was apparently size matters, both in population and number of schools. SCDL was the proverbial 800 pound gorilla and managed to convince some of the NFL districts to relinquish some of the "allotted" qualifiers to SCDL. The minutes do not indicate how that bit of qualifier trading was worked out.

The CSSC held an open meeting for all coaches during the state tournament. At the meeting on April 27, 1963, Bro. Maguire's minutes noted: "*Egg in the Fan Department*" (his minutes continually provide a laugh) "*Mr. Higgins, (ELA NFL) recalled that at the 9/28/62 SCDL meeting a motion to withdraw the SCDL from participation in the State Tournament at the discretion of the SCDL President was defeated 26-25.*" In recording the various CSSC member comments, one, in particular, stands out:

This bizness (sic) of SCDL request for entrants to the State Tournament is perennial...and in all cases the SCDL has asked for more but has not presented any positive thinking on the matter."

Maguire pithily editorialized at the end of the discussion, "So, in the months to come we may expect the L.A. area to be rife with constructive ideas in a matter that to date has been solutionless."

The issue had been discussed at length the previous day at the CSSC meeting where many offered opinions and concerns. It was noted all the NFL districts could relinquish a qualifier if they wished (or could be so coerced). It was noted that the SCDL's 130 member schools actually included the de facto existence of two leagues. It was also opined that the current 18/18 division north and south was equitable and encouraged more schools in the less popu-

California High School Speech Association History

Potholes in the Highway to Success 1962-1965

lous north into participation in forensic competition. A motion was made to continue with the 18/18 system of allotment, which passed 9 to 3. It was noted the southerners needed to work out their own solutions regarding the distribution of their allotted eighteen qualifiers.

Interesting Trivia

Although it is not noted in any minutes, nor is it noted in the adopted CSSC constitution and bylaws, the California state champion in NFL national final events qualified to the NFL national final tournament. Since only the first place winner in NFL District tournaments qualified to the national final tournament, it is easy to see this double chance to qualify for nationals as an underlying motivation to qualify more students to the state tournament. The acceptance of state champions in NFL events to the national tournament continued until the mid 1980's.

Were conference areas "official"?

Although the original draft of a constitution had included a provision for "four conference areas," the final published document in 1962 made no mention of these. The original intent had been to divide the state into four areas where some person(s) would be appointed by the CSSC coordinator to the task of de-

veloping curricular materials and expanding the number of schools which offered speech classes.

The CSSC coordinator, Dr. Upton Palmer, UCSB, was to be in charge of the distribution of NUEA debate materials and the coordination of efforts to expand speech participation in the four areas, none of which was geographically defined in the 1962 constitution.

James Dyer's thesis indicates some headway was made in the area of curriculum development and school recruitment. *"In October, 1961, Norman McLeod, the new CASSA representative was introduced at the meeting of the Executive Council."* McLeod was very supportive of any council efforts in the development of curricular materials. To that end, *"...members of these conference areas were to conduct curricular workshops for teachers, coaching technique workshops, clinics for high school students and teachers....and speech units for courses of study."*

Dyer wrote, *"The significant role of the CSSC in development of curricular speech was evident throughout the early 1960's."* No specific individuals or examples were provided, however.

In October, 1962, the CSSC spent a considerable amount of time debating what should be done regarding the forgotten step child...the conference areas. Should a representative of each confer-

California High School Speech Association History

Potholes in the Highway to Success 1962-1965

ence area be seated on the CSSC? Should those conference representatives have a full vote or only be allowed a vote on curricular matters?

After a lunch time committee meeting, a proposed constitutional amendment was offered for inclusion in the constitution which would allow each conference area to select one representative to serve on the council.

To Article III, Membership would be added:

“C. Conference areas: to implement the purpose of the CSSC as stated in Article II, one representative from each of the four geographic areas (Bay, Valley, Los Angeles, San Diego) to be selected as the conference area(s) in each geographic region shall see fit.”

Not very precise, but at least there was a formative structure from which to begin to fill the CSSC’s stated purpose in Article II, Purpose, Section I: *“to foster a healthy and well rounded curricular and extracurricular speech program for the high schools of California.”*

In the minutes of November, 1963, it was reported that the leagues had ratified the constitutional amendment to add four conference representatives to the CSSC.

Was CSSC original funding adequate?

Income for the CSSC was miniscule by present day standards. The minutes of

the October, 1962 meeting, reported by Secretary-Treasurer Brother Maguire, showed an income of \$885.70 for 1960-61, with expenditures of \$673.26. The balance in the treasury was \$212.44, with “a few telephone bills unpaid.” The largest expenses noted were \$300.00 for NUEA travel and \$220.00 for tournament awards.

With thirty-six qualifiers to the state tournament, the league assessments came to a grand total of \$540. The entry fees at the state tournament were earmarked for payment to judges and other tournament expenses. The league fees were to cover the cost of awards with any excess yearly devoted to the needs of the CSSC in conducting its business. By 1964 it had become clear that some means of increasing the income of the CSSC had to be devised.

Interesting Trivia

Adjusted for inflation, even with \$1 in 1962 equaling about \$7 in 2008, the 1962 budget of \$885 (about \$6,000 in 2008 dollars) is only about one-eighth of the 2008 approximate CHSSA budget of slightly over \$50,000.

California High School Speech Association History

Potholes in the Highway to Success 1962-1965

Should NFL Districts be a part of CSSC?

Do oil and water mix? That was metaphorically the fundamental issue which caused considerable debate at CSSC meetings from 1962-1965.

A school which held dual membership in a state league and an NFL district in effect had two representative votes on the CSSC, a league president and a district chairperson. Students in these schools also enjoyed the advantage of having two opportunities to qualify for the state tournament, and by extension, since the California champion in NFL events advanced to the national tournament, two opportunities to qualify for the national contest.

To borrow from George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, all schools were equal, but some schools were more equal than others.

This went against the dictates of the CAS-SA which had given its blessing to the fledgling CSSC with the understanding that all high schools in the state would be provided an equal opportunity to qualify students to the state final contests.

The minutes of October, 1964, are lost, but an agenda for the October, 1964, meeting indicated that a proposed re-vamping and overhaul of the constitution and bylaws presented at the May, 1964, meeting by Kenneth Lynch, (SCNFL, CBSL) would be considered. Jim Dyer wrote, "A new constitution was drafted during the winter of 1965 and presented to the various speech leagues of the state in March, 1965. On April 30, 1965, it was reported that eleven speech leagues had ratified the new CHSSA constitution."



The Original Speech Leagues

San Diego Speech League	Central California NFL District
Citrus Belt Speech League	Southern Valley Speech League
Southern California NFL District	Yosemite Speech League
Southern California Debate League	San Francisco NFL District
East Los Angeles NFL District	Coast Forensics League
West Los Angeles NFL District	Golden Gate Forensic League

California High School Speech Association History

...and the CSSC Begat the CHSSA 1965-1970

Anyone picking up the 1965 constitution and bylaws today would recognize a mirrored resemblance to the most current constitution and bylaws. Under the newly ratified constitution, the California State Speech Council remained the executive and legislative body of the newly named California High School Speech Association. There have been hundreds of changes since 1965, but the foundational substance is to this day very similar.

The major changes incorporated into the 1965 version were:

- Legislative powers of CHSSA were still vested in the CSSC, and CHSSA provided representative membership on the CSSC to recognized leagues.
- All high schools could become members of CHSSA by joining the designated league in their geographical area and paying dues and assessments to CHSSA.
- NFL districts would no longer be considered recognized leagues.
- After approval by the California Association of Secondary School Administrators, CHSSA was allowed to assess a \$6.00 per school fee plus one half cent per each school's average daily attendance (the school's total number of students).

This new constitution resolved many of the problems that had caused so much controversy since 1962.

California High School Speech Association History

...and the CSSC Begat the CHSSA 1965-1970

There were other innovations in the new document. First, a part of the monies collected as dues and assessments was to be used to publish the *Speech Bulletin*, initially four issues per year. The first issue of the year was to go to all high schools and the other three only to CHSSA member schools.

Second, the state was divided into the four geographic areas that exist today: Area I, Area II, Area III and Area IV. An area chairman was to be elected by the member leagues in each area, and the duties of the elected chairman included acting as a liaison between the schools, the leagues, and the CSSC. The area chairperson was responsible for the collection of dues and assessments, the arbitration of area disputes, and the guidance of all speech programs.

Third, as resolution to the previous confusion regarding "conference areas" each area would have a curriculum representative who would be responsible for curriculum materials development and the dissemination of NUEA debate materials and other curricular materials developed by CHSSA.

Fourth, the area chairpersons were added to the CSSC executive body. It became the area chairperson's responsibility to find and appoint a curriculum representative and an "at large representative" in order to maintain balanced representation from the various areas.

Fifth, again with the Tehachapi Mountains as a dividing line, the North mem-

ber leagues were the Coast Forensic League, the Golden Gate Speech Association, the Yosemite Forensic League, the Southern Valley Forensic League, the Sacramento Valley Forensic League, and the Pacific Forensic League. South member leagues were the Southern California Debate League, the San Diego Speech League, the Citrus Belt Speech Region, the Orange County Speech League, the Southern California Forensic Association, and the Mar-Monte Forensic League.

A provision was also made for non-voting members including 1) a representative from the California Department of Education; 2) a representative from the Association of California School Administrators, 3) the immediate past president of CHSSA, and 4) one individual representing associate members. Associate members were entities that were not high schools, such as interested individuals or colleges and universities.

The executive powers of the organization were vested in the president, vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer. The president and vice-president were to be elected from and by the membership of the CSSC. The secretary and treasurer were to be appointed by the president.

Note: No copy of the 1965 document is available, so a 1970 version was utilized for much of this explanation, and there are indicators that it differs in some respects...more on that later!

California High School Speech Association History

...and the CSSC Begat the CHSSA 1965-1970

There were other rather seismic changes during the period 1965-1970. A reading of a set of minutes from March, 1966, quotes the treasurer's report showing a balance on hand of \$51.22. This anomaly in regards to funding seemed to be due to the fact that school assessment money turned in by the area chairpersons was not being deposited with CHSSA, but rather was being sent to the CSSC coordinator who was responsible for hosting the state tournament, the publication, printing and distribution of *The Bulletin*, and coordinating and promoting non-competitive and curricular phases of high school speech programs. Ballots and score sheets were provided by UCSB, but the CSSC's funds were responsible for trophy and awards costs. The other problem was that there was no clear deadline for schools to pay their assessments excepting the assess-

ments had to be paid prior to the state tournament. This disparity in funding collection was addressed in April, 1966, when the constitution was amended to have all assessment funds collected by CHSSA and placed into accounts for disbursement by the secretary-treasurer. A letter was written to the CSSC coordinator explaining the change in policy and re-

questing any remaining funds be transferred to CHSSA.

No minutes for 1967 survive, but Jim Dyer's thesis documented that a huge set of changes were made at the January, 1967, meeting. The Council voted to rotate the site of the state tournament among the four geographic areas of the state. This shift, after the UCSB hosting the tournament from 1955 through 1967, stemmed from several factors. Initially, there was a desire to visit more areas in the state. More importantly, Dr. Upton Palmer had announced his intention to retire. And, finally, there was a hope that by rotating the tournament to different sites they would be able to gain more autonomy over how the state tournament was run.

Sites for the next four years were named: Area One, Stanford University, 1968; Area

Three, Los Angeles State College, 1969; Area Two, University of the Pacific, 1970; and Area Four, Cal State Fullerton, 1971.

The tournament schedule: All four preliminary debate rounds, quarter and semi final rounds were held on Friday. The final round was to be held Saturday in the same facility where awards would take place. Individual events, two pre-



The 1st CHSSA perpetual sweepstakes trophy each winning school kept the trophy for one year before passing it on. This trophy was first awarded in 1958 from the CSSC.

California High School Speech Association History

...and the CSSC Begat the CHSSA 1965-1970

liminary rounds, cutting to a semi final of 12, plus a final of up to six were held on Saturday.

In 1967 the first change in state final events also occurred. Boys' and girls' oratorical interpretation became boys' and girls' oratorical analysis. The intent of this change can only be speculated because of a lack of minutes for the year, but it may have had something to do with upgrading the event from one where contestants simply delivered an abbreviated (ten minute) rendition of a published speech given by another speaker to an event where the contestant was to present an interpretation of the speech along with some sort of analytical material regarding the speaker, occasion or content. No actual "rules" for the event are available since the minutes for the year are missing.

In 1968 boys' and girls' oratorical analysis became unlimited oratorical interpretation and unlimited oratorical analysis.

At the October, 1969, CSSC meeting Professor Jack Cullen voiced concern that getting judges for \$1.00 per round would be a problem, since judges were used to

a higher rate. It was moved, seconded and passed that coaches be assigned to judge for three rounds and that LA judges would be paid \$2.00 per round. Coach judges would not be paid.

The 1968-69 proposed budget was delivered by Treasurer Jack Mansfield. He said curriculum area costs plus state tournament increased costs would cause a budget deficit unless fees were raised. It was moved, seconded and passed that state tournament fees be increased to \$4.00 per individual event entry and \$7.00 per debate team. That motion was amended to make the debate team \$8.00, and the amended motion passed.

At the October, 1968, meeting of the CSSC a bicameral student congress was established. Student congress was added as an event at the state tournament beginning in 1969. It would only remain bicameral for two years, however, before being converted to the unicameral congress we have today.

Finally, to close out this productive and busy half decade, the state tournament entries in individual events had been increased to forty-nine, debate teams

The "bicameral" student congress consisted of:

Area I:

*7 Senators
9 Representatives*

Area II:

*7 Senators
8 Representatives*

Area III:

*7 Senators
9 Representatives*

Area IV:

*7 Senators
8 Representatives.*

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also to forty-nine and in congress fifty-two. Tom Roper designed a system by which each area was allocated eight entrants in each individual event and debate. That totaled thirty-two. The other seventeen entrants were allocated to the areas based on a formula that considered the total amount of dues/assessments paid by the area over an average of three years.

Within each area, things were considerably less objective. Each speech league had to receive at least one entry per event. Any additional entrants would be determined within the area by the area chairperson and the league presidents of the area based on a) geographical distance, b) population, c) continued educational development, d) potential growth, f) overall participation, and g) sustained activity.

This highly subjective set of criteria led to a considerable number of acrimonious area meetings where qualifiers were distributed. Once the leagues knew the total number of qualifiers they had in each event, it was left pretty much up to the league how those qualifiers would be chosen to advance to the state tournament. The only CSSC constitutional restriction on the leagues was that eight schools must compete in each event and twenty schools had to compete in the state qualifying tournament as a whole.

1965-1970 was a period of very significant and broad ranging changes, from the inception of the new name, the California High School Speech Association, through entire constitutional and rules changes. Since then there has never again been a time period quite as volatile.



The New Speech Leagues

Northern Leagues

Coast Forensic League
Golden Gate Speech Association
Yosemite forensic League
Southern Valley Forensic League
Sacramento Valley Forensic League
Pacific Forensic League

Southern Leagues

Southern California Debate League
San Diego Speech League
Citrus Belt Speech Region
Orange County Speech League
Southern California Forensic Assoc.
Mar-Monte Forensic League

California High School Speech Association History

‘Stayin’ Alive’: Tap and Disco Dancing Through.... The 1970’s

One of Murphy’s Laws states, “Whatever can go wrong will go wrong, at the worst possible time.” In the 1970s CHSSA faced a Murphy’s Law number of issues. Much of the decade was spent trying to cope with three serious external threats. These were:

- The passage of the Ryan Act by the state legislature, 1970
- The University of California decreed that speech, forensic, drama, and journalism classes would no longer be accepted for English credit on the University’s list of required courses for admission.
- A legislative reform that required frameworks of instructions for teaching all subject matter in every school in the state. The state framework concept was a move to make sure that all students were learning the same core material in all areas at all levels.
- The state decided that all subjects should be criteria based, (Planned Program Budgeting System – referred to as PPBS).

Reviewing the 1970’s is somewhat breathtaking considering there were only three meetings of the CSSC per year. In the end these challenges resulted in a great deal of curriculum development and a more cohesive organization. It is, perhaps, to paraphrase Winston Churchill, amazing so much was accomplished for so many by the efforts of so few. It is a testament to the dedication of those who served on the California State Speech Council.

California High School Speech Association History

'Stayin' Alive': Tap and Disco Dancing Through... The 1970's

The Ryan Act

The Ryan Act was the newest attempt at “educational reform and standardization” in California. It abolished the speech/drama teaching credential and stipulated that those aspiring to teach speech and forensics, drama, and journalism would no longer be able to receive a credential in their chosen field. Instead a credential in the “more academic” areas of English or social studies would be required with a minor in speech, drama or journalism being acceptable for assignment to teaching those disciplines.

In addition, no longer was the State Department of Education in charge of issuing credentials, but instead a Credentialing Board was created. The number of education theory classes required for a credential was reduced to nine semester units, and the number of subject area courses increased.

Interesting Trivia

When Ryan came to California as an experienced teacher from the Midwest, he was angered by the fact he was required to return to college to take a series of education courses before he could get a California credential, and after he complied, it took months for his credential to be issued. His experience would significantly influence his years as an elected state legislator.

UC's will not recognize speech for their A-F admissions requirements

In 1976 the University of California Board of Regents announced that they would no longer accept courses in speech, drama forensics, or journalism as fulfillment of any year of the required four years of English in their “*Subject A through F*” courses necessary for admission to a UC. Prior to this time, students could enroll in one of these courses to fulfill a year of their UC English college admissions requirement.

Enrollment in public speaking classes dropped off dramatically in high schools throughout the state because of the UC's action. In response, schools with speech or forensic classes spent several years developing courses of study that would fit the English Framework and satisfy the UC's office of admissions, a few of which managed to do so.

The State Language Arts Framework

The CSSC spent a number of years, a considerable amount of money, and hundreds of person hours developing a framework for speech, appropriately titled *The Framework*, which would be included as an appendix to the English Language Arts Framework. Most language arts classes, however, continued with their focus on reading and writing, the comfort zone for the majority of English teachers. A considerable number, however, used the work of the curricu-

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lum committee either in part or in whole to infuse public speaking into their daily language arts curriculum. Though no formal study was done, the *Framework* did generate a considerable interest both state and nationwide. The VP Curriculum, Ron Underwood reported sales of the document for 1974 had been \$1,300 at \$3.50 per copy. Unfortunately that just about covered the costs of printing and mailing of each document, so there was no "profit" or "surplus" from sales of the *Framework*.

Frequent revisions of the constitution and bylaws

All of the tap dancing to cope with the external threats did not deter the CSSC from disco dancing their way through a considerable amount of tweaking and twiddling with their constitution and bylaws. The following tweaks and twiddles are clustered by type rather than chronologically, but the efforts were spread over the entire decade.

- Events were added, dropped, and then added again.
- The makeup of the CSSC was changed.
- Rules for events were frequently changed.
- Incorporation as a nonprofit entity occurred.
- Additions were made to the bylaws and constitution.

- The structure of the state tournament changed.

Events come...events go

In 1971 oratorical analysis was dropped and programmed reading (later renamed thematic interpretation) was added.

In the fall of 1972 it was decided that there would be a rotation between oratorical interpretation, humorous interpretation, and expository speaking. 1973 was to be a year of HI and expository with OI sidelined. In 1974 OI was to be reinstated along with expository. And in 1975, the state tournament was to offer HI and OI but not expos. By

CHSSA CURRICULUM

Dear Colleagues,

The curriculum committee has been busy and there is much good news. We hope we have something new and interesting to offer each of you.

The University of California Decision

The most crucial issue for many of us is, of course, the recent University of California decision to exclude speech, drama, and journalism from the A to F requirements for the Fall of 1977. In an effort to avoid immediate problems, we were advised to change course titles to exclude the words speech, drama and journalism. However, it now appears that that action was, after all, unnecessary. In a letter to the principals dated December 23, the University registrar has, in essence, rescinded that action. Although they are still concerned about the amount of expository writing that takes place in English classes, they have left all A to F requirements in the hands of the school principals. If you have not seen the letter or the California Notes on the subject, I will quote verbatim from the text:

"Please note that courses in drama, journalism, and speech will continue to be acceptable provided, however, that they contain 'substantial recurrent practice in writing expository prose composition of some length.' As in the past the responsibility for certifying the courses to be used in assessing eligibility for admission to the University rests with the high school principals."

Congratulations to all of you who helped in our struggle to again verify the recognition of speech as an academic discipline.

New Classroom Units

We have completed our unit collection of "fatigue" assignments. These units are designed to help us through the many classroom hours after the year's competition has come to a close. At present we have included assignments on banquet speaking, mock trials, radio and T.V. speaking, storytelling, and non-verbal communications.

There is also a new and exciting unit on Reader's Theatre for those of us who haven't already developed these skills. There are helpful classroom assignments, script suggestions, references and teaching aids as well. Many of the ideas were brought home from workshops provided at Western States Speech Convention in San Francisco last November.

The materials are available through your area curriculum representatives or through your Vice-President of Curriculum.

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May, however, the California State Council had changed its mind once again, and oratorical interpretation was dropped in favor of expository speaking.

In 1976, under a threatening cloud called Title IX, girls' original oratory was dropped and unlimited persuasion, later to become advocacy, was added. girls' and boys' divisions in impromptu speaking and extemporaneous speaking were still allowable because they offered "equal opportunity." That would soon change in the mid 1980's, however, when the National Forensic League, facing a lawsuit over the boys' and girls' divisions in extemporaneous speaking, dropped the designation and adopted the national and international extemp. events.

For the 1979 state tournament, original prose poetry was adopted and the boys' and girls' impromptu were combined into unlimited impromptu. Part of the reason for the change was again the threat of Title IX and equal opportunity legal actions, but more importantly, original prose and poetry was offered as a new event which encouraged student writing in a creative style. This was most likely influenced by the *Framework* and UC policy changes.

CSSC Officers change names and duties- Substantial changes in the makeup of the California State Speech Council occurred during the 1970's. In 1970 a

vice-president publications was added to the executive board, and the responsibility of that vice-president was the publication of the *Speech Bulletin*. After the implementation of student congress in 1969 a second vice-president was added: the vice-president congress. Each of these vice-presidential titles, however, were changed in 1973: One became the vice-president activities, who would be in charge of competitive activities and the state tournament; and the second would become the vice-president curriculum, who would be in charge of curriculum development and distribution. Both vice-presidents were to be elected from the membership of the CSSC. An editor of the *Bulletin* was added, appointed by the President. These three offices continue to this day nearly unchanged thirty-five years later.

During this same revision process, the positions of secretary and treasurer

Interesting Trivia

At the state tournament the year after oratory was made into an unlimited (non-gendered) event over half of the seven contestants in the final round were female.

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were divided, both positions appointed by the president. The four area chairpersons made up the balance of the executive committee. The league presidents, representatives at large, and curriculum representatives made up the rest of the membership of the California State Speech Council. There were still designated nonvoting positions for a representative from the Association of California School Administrators as well as a representative from the California Department of Education, although those positions were rarely, if ever actually filled by any persons directly associated with either entity. The immediate past president was also still listed as an ex-officio non-voting member of CSSC.

Event rule change after event rule change...

As contestants, and sometimes coaches, found creative ways to circumvent rules for an event or found ways to violate the "intention" of an event by doing things that were not specifically covered by a rule, a considerable amount of time was spent at every CSSC meeting "tweaking and twiddling" with these transgressions. It would be too lengthy to list all the changes in rules for events that occurred during the decade. Suffice, in general, to say there were a considerable number.

Expository, a new event, presented a couple of amusing incidents which necessitated additional rules for the event.

TOPICS FOR CONGRESS

The resolutions for debate at the State Congress will be selected from the following topic areas:

NUEA 1: What should be the domestic agricultural policy of the United States?

NUEA 2: What domestic economic policies should the federal government adopt?

NUEA 3: How can the health care of United States citizens best be improved?

Wild Card A: What should the United States policy be toward Vietnam?
(Admission to the U.N., establishing diplomatic relations, war reparations, trade policy.)

Wild Card B: What should be the California policy towards mass transit?
(Limiting auto use, freeways versus transit systems, funding.)

Wild Card C: What should be the United States policy toward illegal aliens?
(Rights of illegal aliens, deportation, employment.)

Congress Topic Areas for the 1977-78 State Tournament

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The first instance, involved a girl wearing a very traditional and revealing costume who performed an expository on belly dancing. There is no record on how well she did in the tournament, but it can be surmised her rounds were well attended. The result was the current rule requiring that contestants both put on and take off any costuming during the performance of their speech. The other incident involved a contestant who gave a speech on Down's Syndrome with his little brother who had Down's Syndrome as a visual aid. The result was the current rule prohibiting the use of another living thing (person or animal) as a visual aid.

Interpretation events were also a constant thorny issue, specifically regarding the concept of proof of publication and source of material. It was finally deemed that prepared selections from "Declamation Bureaus" would not be allowed, nor would materials only available in recorded but not printed sources. Extensive rules attempting to regulate these ongoing issues of proof of publication were implemented.

As a means of authenticating the suitability of the non-spontaneous, the written and the interpretation events, cover sheets were designed to be attached to each speech or selection with the signatures of the contestant, the coach, and a school administrator verifying that the speech or selection met all the rules of

the event and met the "community standard" of the contestant's school.

In 1974, Bob Jones presented a committee report on congress which recommended a considerable number of changes for the event. The recommendation passed, and the 1975 state tournament was the first to utilize the congress system which, for the most part, still exists. The May, 1975, minutes noted the president commenting, "It was the best congress ever."

At the end of the decade, the May, 1979, CSSC meeting possibly the most shocking and controversial rule change of all passed. Out of growing concern over the rapidity of delivery and the lack of "spontaneous speaking and thinking" in policy debate which was provoking concern primarily among lay judges and some coaches, rather than among ex-debater college student judges, a motion was passed to prohibit note taking by any persons in a debate round except the four contestants. That bombshell ended the meeting abruptly, all participants in shock at what had been wrought. This rule was also designed to thwart "scouting" of opponent cases by "spectators" sent into rounds allegedly for that purpose.

Funding woes...

Adequate funding for the operational needs of the CSSC and CHSSA presented an ongoing crisis of sorts. In a 1970 fall

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meeting the treasurer indicated that the anticipated income for the year plus a bit of carryover from the previous year would provide a budget of \$8,446. He also anticipated, even if there were no unexpected expenses, the balance at the end of the year would be a mere \$616.

At the state tournament in Fresno in 1974 Treasurer Jack Mansfield, humorously recalls that he had to "hide" through most of the tournament, finally writing an essentially unfunded check for the \$1,500 fee to the university late Saturday of the tournament. That shortage of funds was primarily caused by the fact that the area chairs did not turn in entry fee money in advance, but, instead, collected the fees at tournament registration time. The money had been collected it just was not in the bank, and Jack had to hope he could get home and deposit the entry fees before the \$1,500 check cleared the bank.

At the May 1974, meeting following that near disaster, the CSSC voted to increase the ADA assessment from the original one-half cent to one cent. The area chairs were to receive all entry materials, including payment of tournament entry fees no fewer than ten days prior to the tournament. In addition, a December 15 deadline was also set for payment of

CHSSA school membership fees. A rule change required all assessments to be paid before a school could enter a state qualifying league tournament, and there was a small penalty added for payment after December 15. Previously, many schools had delayed payment, waiting to see if they qualified any students to the state tournament before they would pay their assessment.

In 1974 Treasurer Jack Mansfield also sought the blessing of the CSSC to apply to the IRS and the State Franchise Tax Board for recognition of the California High School Speech Association as a non-profit education-

CHSSA - BUDGET 1976-1977			
PREVIOUS BALANCE:			\$ 8,000.00
INCOME:			
CHSSA Assessment	\$5,500.00		
State Tournament	3,500.00		
	TOTAL INCOME		17,000.00

EXPENSES:			
President	\$ 500.00		
Bulletin	2,000.00		
Curriculum	1,500.00		
Area Chairmen	1,200.00		
State Officers	2,100.00		
Legal Counsel	500.00		
Phone Calls	600.00		
Tax Preparation	150.00		
State Tournament	2,000.00		
USC State Tournament Fee	1,700.00		
	TOTAL EXPENSES		12,250.00
	BALANCE		\$ 4,750.00

al organization. There were clear reasons to do so. First, CHSSA was beginning to have a fairly large cash flow, which, sooner or later, would no longer fly under the radar of the IRS. Second, school districts often wanted a tax ID number before they would write a check to the organization. In addition, nonprofit status would allow CHSSA to use nonprofit bulk mailing rates for sending curriculum materials, yearly assessment forms, and the editions of the *Bulletin*. In May 1975, Treasurer Mansfield reported that CHSSA was officially recognized as a

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nonprofit organization by the IRS and Franchise Board. This, of course, meant that the treasurer would have to file yearly tax reports to both agencies forevermore.

Still adding to the constitution & by-laws

Several major additions were made in the constitution and bylaws during the 1970's. At the insistence of the Internal Revenue Service as a condition for CHSSA being granted nonprofit status, the constitution, Article II, Purposes had to have two sections added. Section VIII pledged the association would not engage in propaganda or otherwise attempt to influence legislation, nor would it be allowed to participate or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of any candidate for public office. Section IX required that no part of the net income or assets of the organization would inure to the benefit of any officers, and that in the event of dissolution all assets remaining would be distributed to a nonprofit fund organized and operated exclusively for "Scientific and Educational" purposes.

To comply with Title IX and other governmental dictates, a bylaws section was added establishing Article VII: Grievance Procedure and Article VIII: Initiative and Referendum Process. The first was a detailed process for any individual or school to file complaints against CSSC rulings, and the second provided a

means by which CHSSA coaches or schools could launch a "grassroots" movement to change the constitution and bylaws.

Tweaking the state tournament

There was a plethora of structural changes regarding the operation of the state tournament added to the bylaws during the decade. It is easiest to distill these changes into brief form, in no particular chronological order.

- Coaches not assigned operational duties at the tournament would be required to judge a maximum of four rounds. Initially a \$10 refundable fee was charged to insure compliance. In 1974 the fee was increased to \$25, and in 1979 to \$50.
- Debate rounds were increased to nine, with two rounds on Thursday evening.
- To enter a state qualifying league contest schools had to pay the CHSSA assessment no later than two weeks prior to the qualifying contest.
- Individual events rounds increased from two preliminary rounds to three.
- There was to be a general meeting for all CHSSA coaches at the tournament, but the CSSC would no longer meet during the tournament, instead meeting two weeks following the state tournament.

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- Area chairs were required to assign coaches to specific rounds, including semi final and finals rounds for judging obligations. Previously coaches were only required to be present on a standby basis.
- Results of individual events would be posted following round two, and debate ballots would be made available for reading by coaches following round two.
- All debate teams were guaranteed three rounds. Two loss teams were matched in round three.
- All contestants at the state tournament were required to be accompanied by a certificated adult coach or adult person approved by the school's administration for the duration of the tournament.
- The number of schools competing in league state qualifying contests was reduced to eight, with at least five schools entered in an event to retain qualifiers.
- In 1979 the single judge assignment room was expanded to three rooms as a means of expediting the assignment of judges.
- A student eligibility and transfer section was added to prevent students from changing schools, something like the CIF rules for student athletes.
- League state qualifying contests were to be conducted utilizing CHSSA rules, ballots, and tabulation procedures.
- Speaking positions in individual event rounds had to be changed so no speakers received the same speaking position, and in interpretation events, no two identical selections could be in the same panel.
- Entry fees were raised to \$8.00 per individual event entry, \$10.00 per congress entry, and \$15.00 per debate team.
- To insure proper decorum at the awards assembly, all contestants were required to accept their awards in proper tournament attire.

The decade proved to be a very busy one for the CSSC and CHSSA.

California High School Speech Association History

Sailing Through the Iceberg Filled Waters: The 1980's

The angst provoking issues of the 1970's carried over throughout the decade of the 1980's. The CSSC launched massive efforts to try to overcome the loss of the speech credential; undertook a huge effort to produce curriculum materials that would conform speech and forensic classes to the *English Framework* requirements for emphasis on literature and composition; and conducted several efforts to get the University of California to allow speech/forensic courses some place on their required courses for admission.

A small ripple of concern also occurred because of the passage of Proposition 13, the initiative in California that froze property tax rates and turned much of the funding for public education over to the state. School districts could no longer raise taxes to accommodate whatever they felt was necessary. Many districts cut back on financial support for co and extracurricular activities. For example, extra pay for extra duty such as coaching was cut, and many schools which had enjoyed some sort of supportive budget for their forensic programs found those funds abolished or severely reduced. Some decline in the number of schools participating in competitive speech did occur, but by mid decade the decline had reached an end and membership of schools stabilized to around 220-250 schools per year. Resourceful coaches found means to get needed funds. Many who were less willing or able to do so lost programs.

California High School Speech Association History

Sailing Through the Iceberg Filled Waters: The 1980's

There occurred another minor dust up regarding the National Federation of High School Activities Association. This organization held power over all activities, sports, drama, music, speech, etc., in the states that were affiliated with the association. It should be understood that California was not an affiliate state in any of the areas. There was an "activity director" serving each state, and the Federation soon began sending a delegate to the NUEA national committee which chose debate topics and the wording of the topics for each school year. California did send a delegate to that meeting each year.

Those who attended the wording committee meetings reported back that often a delegate from the Federation was a person who had no link to competitive speech and debate. It could be a wrestling coach, a band director, a choral director, whoever had been chosen by a state activity director. Many did not know why they were there, according to those who attended from California.

To compound the issue, the National Federation toyed for a couple of years with the idea of hosting a national final speech and debate tournament, clearly a threat to the National Forensic League's long standing national tournament. Fortunately the Federation elected a new president and the Federation and NFL came to an agreement; specifically that the NFL would be the

only host for a national final tournament although the National Catholic Forensic League national tournament still existed and continues to exist.

NUEA REPORT

The following is the NUEA topic area choice for next year:

National High School Problem Area 1977-78

How can the health care of United States citizens best be improved?

Debate Resolutions

Resolved: That the federal government should guarantee comprehensive medical care for all citizens in the United States.

Resolved: That the federal government should establish a national program of malpractice insurance for all health care professionals.

Resolved: That the federal government should establish a comprehensive program to regulate the health care system in the United States.

The following is a record of the votes cast for next year's problem area and debate resolutions. (Problem Area III is the one selected. The Debate Resolutions vote indicates that I (Medical care for all citizens) was favored slightly over III (Regulate the health care system)).

National Office, NUEA Committee on Discussion
and Debate Official Referendum Vote

State	Problem Areas			Debate Resolutions		
	I	II	III	I	II	III
	(Health Care)					
Arizona	2	1	3	2	3	1
Arkansas	3	2	1	2	3	1
California	3	2	1	1	3	2
Colorado	3	2	1	1	2	3
Connecticut	3	1	2	1	3	2
Florida	3	2	1	1	3	2
Illinois	3	2	1	1	3	2
Indiana	3	2	1	1	3	2
Iowa	3	2	1	1	3	2
Kansas	3	2	1	-	-	-
Kentucky	2	3	1	2	3	1
Maryland	2	3	1	3	2	1
Massachusetts	3	2	1	1	3	2
Michigan	3	2	1	1	3	2
Minnesota	3	2	1	-	-	-
Mississippi	3	2	1	1	3	2
Missouri	3	2	1	3	1	2
Montana	1	2	3	3	1	2
Nebraska	2	3	1	3	2	1
New Mexico	3	2	1	2	3	1
North Dakota	3	2	1	2	3	1
Ohio	3	1	2	1	3	2
Oklahoma	3	2	1	2	3	1
Oregon	3	2	1	1	3	2
Pennsylvania	3	2	1	2	3	1
South Carolina	3	1	2	1	3	2
South Dakota	3	1	1	1	3	2
Texas	3	2	1	-	-	-
Utah	3	1	1	1	3	1
Vermont	2	3	1	1	3	2
Virginia	3	2	1	1	3	2
Washington	3	2	1	-	-	-
Wisconsin	3	2	1	1	3	2
Washington, D.C.	2	3	1	1	3	2
NCFE	3	2	1	2	3	1
NFL	3	2	1	2	3	1
TOTAL	100	71	43	50	88	53
	(3)	(2)	(1)			
	Agric	Econ	Health			

NUEA topic area votes recorded by each state on the 1977-78 policy debate resolution as printed in the CHSSA *Bulletin*.

California High School Speech Association History

Sailing Through the Iceberg Filled Waters: The 1980's

The other issues contemplated by the CSSC were:

- Additions and revisions to the constitution and bylaws other than event rules changes
- Rules changes and additions of events for the state tournament
- Changes in the structure and operation of the state tournament
- Ongoing efforts to find solutions for the credentialing issue, curriculum development efforts, and continued attempts to gain UC acceptance for speech

Continuing additions and revisions to the CHSSA constitution and bylaws

In the newly published constitution and bylaws of 1986 there was an added Appendix D which clearly detailed the responsibilities of every person on the CSSC.

In 1980, the CHSSA was solvent enough to pay for the CSSC meeting expenses of the president, vice-presidents, ACSA liaison, treasurer, secretary, and the four area chairpersons. Previously, the area chairperson's expenses to the CSSC meetings had been paid by the leagues in their respective areas, a problem since many leagues managed to not pay in a timely fashion or not at all. In 1985 in acknowledgment of the huge efforts being made by those work-

ing on curriculum development, a motion to cover the expenses of curriculum representatives for CSSC meetings was approved. The assessments for member school were increased from \$25 to \$35 per year to help offset the added expense.

In 1982 some nonvoting members of the CSSC were given the right to vote on issues before the council. Those who "received the vote" were the treasurer, editor, secretary and past-president. In 1988, a historian, appointed by the president, was added to the CSSC. The historian's expenses to meetings were also covered by CHSSA funds. The position was a non-voting position, and the historian was required to attend only one CSSC meeting per year to report on his/her efforts in the tasks appointed to him/her.

During the May 1986 council meeting the proposal for a Hall of Fame was passed, with the stipulation that those first inducted had to be "Founding Fathers" The first nominees were to be presented during the September 1986 meeting. The ten founding members were officially inducted into the newly formed CHSSA Hall of Fame during the 1987 State Tournament.

Rule change after rule change...and new events with new rules

- Congress event rules occupied time on the agenda of almost every CSSC

California High School Speech Association History

Sailing Through the Iceberg Filled Waters: The 1980's

meeting of the decade. In the interest of brevity, a comment by one of the various congress committee members sums the ongoing twiddling with the event. "...Congress rules changes were offered by those who were interested in fairness and those trying to make the event more interesting." The congress event that exists today reflects that decade of discussion and revision.

- Interpretation events continued to be changed often. The issue of proof of publication underwent many alterations as did the requirements for prepared speeches such as oratory, expository, advocacy

and original prose and poetry. Long discussions regarding the question of singing and dancing in interpretation events finally distilled down to: Singing, dancing costumes and props were all prohibited.

- The "no flow" rule for debate was somewhat altered with the adoption of a ballot in 1979 that allowed for note taking on the ballot itself (read abbreviated flow) by judges. In May 1984 the "no flow" rule as it applied to judges was dropped all together.
- In 1985 in Expository "fabricated topics" were banned after a fictitious speech titled "Beef Salmon" raised the ire of the California State Speech Council.
- Debate rules underwent more changes. In 1986 debaters were allowed to request evidence from opponents, with said evidence to be returned at the end of the round. Judges, however, were prohibited from asking to see evidence. In 1989 a long section regarding the steps to be taken regarding an evidence protest was passed and added to the bylaws.

Interesting Trivia

At the 1984 state tournament a judge from Kennedy High School in Richmond "flowed" the debate on the back of his ballot, which he maintained met the letter of the state rules which at that time said that judges could "only take notes on the ballot itself." The judge was removed from the pool. The coach/judge, Matthew Fraser, now the Director of Debate at Stanford University and at the Head Royce School of Oakland, wrote a lengthy complaint to the California State Speech Council denouncing the "no-flow" rule as anti-intellectual and educationally unsound, which was printed in the *Bulletin*. The rule was overturned at the subsequent CHSSA meeting, but it is not known if these two events were related.

Two new events were added during the 1980's and two significantly altered.

- The first new event, Lincoln Douglas debate, was added for the 1980 tournament. A committee was ap-

pointed to present a list of rules for the event, but for the most part the NFL LD debate rules were utilized. In January, 1983, a ballot utilized in Arizona was adopted, with some minor alterations. The most contentious issue regarding the adoption of LD was regarding the topics. It was finally decided in May 1983 that there would be a fall and a spring semester topic with the NFL January-February topic utilized for the spring semester and state tournament. In 1989 the CSSC, after considerable grumbling about the NFL topics, decided that the CSSC standing LD committee would write topics for both semesters, five topics to be chosen at the fall meeting, with their leagues voting on the favorites. The second choice would be the fall topic, and the first choice the spring topic. Consequently long hours of nit picking discussion at CSSC meetings occurred as everyone stuck their finger in the LD committee wording pie.

- In response to a threatened lawsuit over separate girls' and boys' extemp., the NFL changed extemp. to national and international extemp. topic speaking. California adopted the change in October 1984, effective with the 1985 state tournament.
- The CSSC also adopted the National Forensic League's rule regarding topic draw for extemporaneous speaking. Prior to January 1985,

those writing extemp. topics had to write twenty-one topics per round, three each on a slip of paper assigned to a speaking position. The far easier method of having twelve separate topics per panel envelope was adopted: Each speaker to draw three and put two back. Hence there was a total randomness and the last speaker would still have a blind draw from the remaining six topics, which by random chance could be any of the original twelve. The topics for rounds were to be clustered topically: e.g.: National: Rd I, Congress; Rd II, Crime and Punishment; etc. International: Rd I, Far East; Rd II, Africa, etc.

Interesting Trivia

Early in the 1990's there was a challenge to the system of using the California generated LD topics at NFL District Qualifying Tournaments instead of the NFL topic by coaches in the GGSA. When the NFL Executive Secretary, Jim Copeland, ruled that if any one coach insisted upon the use of the national NFL topic for LD at the NFL District tournament that topic had to be used for the tournament to be 'certified' as legitimate. Soon after the CHSSA adopted the Sept/Oct and March/April NFL topics as the official California fall and spring semester topics respectively.

California High School Speech Association History

Sailing Through the Iceberg Filled Waters: The 1980's

Structural and operational changes to the state tournament

Again, in the pursuit of brevity, the structural and operational changes have been condensed to their essence without narrative clarification of the whys.

- In 1979 the tournament began on Thursday with four rounds of debate. Friday continued debate and preliminary rounds of individual events. Saturday was elimination rounds and finals in all events. The 1988 tournament format (still current) began the tournament on Friday, continued through Saturday, with elimination rounds and finals on Sunday.
- Entry fees increased over the decade from \$8.00 per individual event and Lincoln Douglas entry; \$10.00 per congress entry; and \$15.00 per debate entry in 1979 to \$10.00 per individual event and LD entry; \$12.00 per congress entry and \$20.00 per debate entry in 1987. In 1980 a deadline of April 1 was established for all qualifying materials to be in the hands of the area chairpersons.
- On the awards front: The traveling "Grand Sweepstakes" trophy was abolished. Coaches of first place winners were to be awarded a plaque. The point system of calculating sweepstakes points was revised.
- In 1981 a rule was passed barring "hybrid" teams (debate teams composed of two members from different schools) from entering the state qualifying contests.
- A rule to provide all judges with a "judge decorum" notice was initiated.
- A "run off" contest was established so leagues who did not meet the rule regarding number of schools or contestants in qualifying events would have their allocated entry in the events redistributed to other leagues in their area.
- Written rules regarding judging policy debate and Lincoln Douglas debate were developed and provided to all judges.
- An award of a \$100 "scholarship" for each state champion was instituted.
- The coach judging obligation increased from four to six rounds, with schools having more than six entries responsible for either an added six rounds or for providing an approved second judge.
- A third person was added to assist in each of the three judging houses. The added officials were to provide instructions to judges, answer questions, and generally keep judges from getting restless or disappearing

California High School Speech Association History

Sailing Through the Iceberg Filled Waters: The 1980's

while they were awaiting assignments.

- Judging houses were instructed to utilize all community judges, even if it meant the tradition (never a rule) of having one community, one college, and one coach per judging panel was not met. (good public relations move...).
- Coaches were to be assigned to “rounds” rather than “time slots” since the tournament did not operate on an exact time schedule. The most experienced coaches were to be assigned to the elimination and final rounds, rather than preliminary rounds. Missing a round was grounds for forfeiting the judging deposit, no matter what excuse was offered.
- The tournament time schedule was changed to intersperse individual event rounds between debate and LD rounds, with individual events beginning the first day of the tournament.
- New rules for pairing policy and Lincoln Douglas debates were adopted, as were new rules for paneling individual events and seating congress contestants. The congress time schedule was changed.

Curriculum, credentialing, and other university issues

The California Speech Council began crafting various approaches to the looming threat of non-credentialing issues; curriculum development, and devising a means of gaining recognition from the University of California. In 1987, after some years of hit or miss efforts, a task force composed of three committees was formed. The curriculum committee was charged with completing a large package of curriculum materials to meet *Framework* and UC requirements. A second committee was to explore ways to gain UC acceptance, including working directly with the University admissions office and working in cooperation with the California Speech Association, which was composed primarily of college speech instructors. The third committee, the public relations committee, was charged with the task of devising a means by which to publicize the importance of speech instruction to the public at large.

Normally CSSC meetings had begun with an Executive Council meeting beginning on Friday evening, with the full CSSC meeting all day Saturday. Under this new concerted effort all members of each committee arrived on Thursday evening or Friday morning and spent an entire day at their assigned tasks. By 1990, under the direction of Natalie We-

California High School Speech Association History

Sailing Through the Iceberg Filled Waters: The 1980's

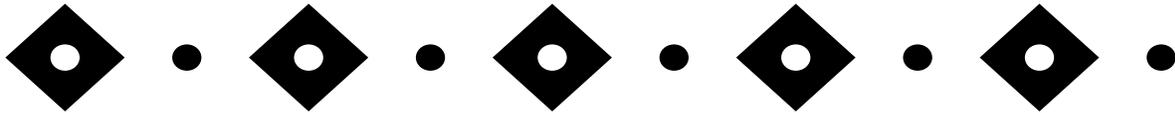
ber, a large curriculum packet was completed.

Noteworthy moments....

The CSSC meetings were visited several times by James Copeland, first as a member of the NFL Executive Committee, and last as the elected executive secretary of the NFL. At the last meeting he attended in the 1980's (1988) he complimented Donovan Cummings and Tom Montgomery for their work in crafting "the California Plan" for tabulating individual events at the National Tournament. Copeland also complimented *Bulletin* editor Bob Jones for

having produced the best state association news bulletin in the country.

The NFL Championship Tournament was to be held in June, 1990, at San Jose State University, and all coaches who did not have an entry were encouraged to come and judge. The NFL districts in the Bay Area were primarily responsible for tournament preparations. CHSSA voted to host a hospitality function for visiting coaches and to solicit donations of California items such as fresh fruit, raisins, nuts... but no wine... for distribution to coaches and contestants at the national finals.



Members of both the NFL and CHSSA Halls of Fame



(Left to right): Ron Underwood, Carmendale Fernandes, Donovan Cummings, Shirley Keller-Firestone, Larry Smith

Not pictured current members: Gay Brasher and Chuck Ballingal

California High School Speech Association History

More of the Same Old Same Old: The 1990's

It the September 1990 California State Speech Council meeting President Jack Stafford offered his goals for CHSSA as it entered into a new decade of change, development and opportunity. Even in this new decade, those goals had a familiar ring to them.

Specifically they were:

- To promote speech throughout California
- To strengthen the financial base of CHSSA
- To obtain greater recognition from the University of California and State Universities with the goal of training for speech teachers and credentialing of speech teachers as an end result.

The funding challenge for speech programs continued to grow. Despite the fact that educational funding in the State of California for K-12 education increased substantially during the late 1990's and into the early 2000's. " Unfortunately for speech and debate education, however, the growing emphasis, both at the state and national level, on addressing the needs of students with learning disabilities, infusing technology into the classroom, and standardized testing meant little money for extra-curricular or co-curricular activities like speech and debate.

The CHSSA was not discouraged, however. The task force of committees begun in the 1980's carried over and tirelessly continued their efforts towards meeting their goals.

California High School Speech Association History

More of the Same Old Same Old: The 1990's

Marketing speech throughout the state

By far the most concentrated and productive effort accomplished by the CSSC in promoting speech throughout California was the extensive work done in developing curriculum materials.

In the fall of 1990, *the Curriculum Guide* in basic oral communication was published and made available to any school, regardless of whether or not the school held a membership in the CHSSA. The *Guide* focused on methods of implementing oral communication skills into classrooms across the curriculum. It was advertised and marketed to language arts departments primarily, although the guides could be adapted to social studies and other courses at the secondary level. It proved to be popular and went through several printings to meet demand.

A summer conference was to be held in Fresno in August, 1991, funded with \$2,250 to pay expenses for any fifteen coaches who wished to attend and contribute. The purpose of the summit was threefold: 1) to find adequate means of funding CHSSA work; 2) to establish a clear set of goals to be used as a directive for CHSSA efforts; and 3) to find ways to encourage more schools to join and establish competitive speech and debate programs.

That fifteen coaches would give up a

weekend in August to attend attests to the dedication of those serving on the CSSC. The conference proved to be productive, and the results were shared with the CSSC at the September, 1991, CSSC meeting. Many of the recommendations were implemented and are documented in later accounts in this historical narrative. Brevity dictates that a detailed listing of the conference recommendations would not be prudent.

In 1992, a packet of materials for new coaches was completed and made available through league presidents. The packet, which contained a constitution and bylaws, explanation of various events with coaching tips, information on curriculum materials and other essential information were offered free to any new coaches of existing programs or any new schools beginning a program in forensic competition.

By mid decade a more extensive *Handbook for Coaches* was published through McGraw-Hill. This handbook was available on a nationwide basis with CHSSA to receive a small percentage of the sale price for each book sold. The last availa-

Interesting Trivia

The conference hotel was only three blocks from Treasurer Larry Smith's home. Smith hosted a sumptuous backyard tri-tip barbeque dinner and beverages for the first night. A good time was had by all.

California High School Speech Association History

More of the Same Old Same Old: The 1990's

ble report indicates over 200 had been marketed across the country by the publisher.

And finally, throughout the decade, various members of the CSSC made presentations at various professional conferences. Presentations were made at Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), the California Speech Association, the California Association of Teachers of English (CATE) and the California Department of Education (CDE).

From whence cometh the money?

At the September, 1990, CSSC meeting Treasurer Smith noted that CHSSA was "flat broke." Account balances were \$41.00 in checking; \$110.00 in savings; and \$11,353.00 in a certificate of deposit. Half of the CD would be transferred to the checking account in a matter of weeks when the CD came due. Until then, those attending the CSSC meeting would have to wait for reimbursement for their expenses. This resulted in some good natured grumbling. Smith pointed out they now had an incentive to make sure school assessments in their areas were paid promptly.

As a result of the recommendations on funding made at the August, 1991, conference, the public relations committee was charged with finding alternative sources of funding. Various businesses and corporations were contacted regarding financial support for either the

CHSSA or the State Tournament. Unfortunately none of the efforts produced any financial support. The public relations committee did, however, make the tournament program self funded through the sale of ads to leagues and schools, thus removing that cost from the state tournament expenses.

In 1995 the entry fees for the state tournament were increased to \$15.00 per contestant. In 1997 the school membership assessment was increased to \$50.00 plus two cents per ADA, the first substantial increase in over a decade. A \$10.00 charge was also added to state tournament entry fees to cover the costs of printing and mailing results to all participating schools.

In January 2000, Treasurer Smith had the pleasure of reporting the CHSSA was solvent with \$23,396 in the checking account; \$2,339 in the savings account; and \$7,800 in a Certificate of Deposit. The Scholarship Trust account had a balance of \$3,383 in checking and \$2,002 in savings. (Note: Scholarship Funds could not

Interesting Trivia

At the insistence of John Cardoza, Treasurer Smith acquired a computer in 1992 and advanced into the techno age by learning to do spread sheets for his reports.

What was wrong with notes on the back of a napkin, John?

California High School Speech Association History

More of the Same Old Same Old: The 1990's

be utilized for operational expenses.) That represented a considerable improvement over the January, 1990, report.

Wooing the UC's and State Colleges

Clearly all the Herculean efforts of the curriculum committees were undertaken to address the need for recognition by the University and State Colleges, and the State Department of Education.

Many avenues of approach were attempted to change the University of California's 1976 decision to eliminate speech/forensic classes from its Subject *a through f* list of required courses for admission. None met with any success.

In January 1994, Carla Ferri of the University of California Admissions Office accepted an invitation to attend a meeting of the CSSC in San Diego. Ms. Ferri was sumptuously wined and dined at a Friday evening dinner and met with the full council the next day.

Ms. Ferri explained she had no real power to change the entrance requirements. That was the domain of the Academic Senate of the University. She did note that she was impressed with the professionalism of the CSSC in its efforts, and offered a ray of hope for the future. She noted speech and oral communication classes would usually be approved for the "f" elective requirement. In order for speech classes to be approved for the "a" English requirement, however,

the course would have to have writing and reading in a substantial way. That meant students must actually comment in writing about books, magazines, etc. which were utilized in the course.

At the January, 2000, meeting it was announced that the University of California would add an entrance requirement for Visual/Performing arts to their admission requirements. The CHSSA took a "shotgun" approach, according to V.P. Curriculum, L. Williamson, and sent a large packet of curriculum materials in hopes of influencing the guidelines the university established for whatever courses were to be labeled 'visual and performing arts.'

More structural and operational changes to the state tournament

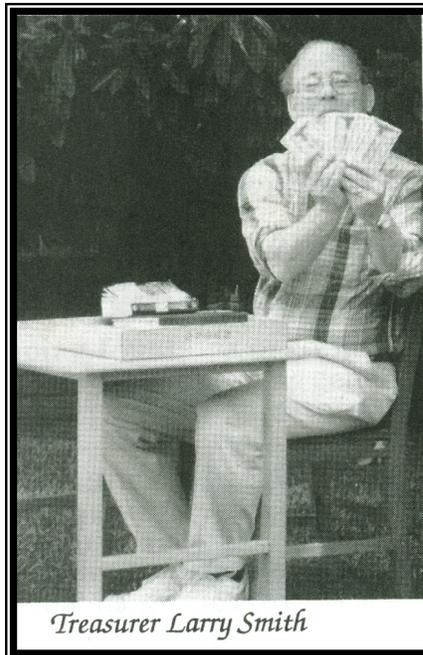
- Debate and Lincoln Douglas debate expanded to 64 entries each in 1991. Fourteen entries were allotted to each area with eight allocated to leagues through a bonus system based on percentage of league wins at the state tournament over a three year period.
- Bonus entries for individual events brought the totals to fifty-six per individual event; forty-nine for duo interp (later changed), sixty-four debate teams/LDers; eighty-four congress persons; and twelve presiding officers. Effective state tournament 1996.
- The number of rounds remained at

California High School Speech Association History

More of the Same Old Same Old: The 1990's

nine, and the often contentious issue of drawing byes with only forty-nine entries went away. Only one bye would be needed, at quarter finals for the undefeated team. All other rounds were balanced symmetrically.

- The amount of "hospitality" budgeted for the care and feeding of tab room officials and judging houses was increased to \$1,300.
- A student handbook for congress was developed and utilized in 1996.
- The requirement for additional judges to be provided by schools with large entries was adjusted: 6 entries/1 judge; 12 entries/2 judges; 18 entries/3 judges; 24 entries/4 judges. The coach judging deposit increased to \$100 to ensure coaches met their assignments.
- A trouble desk staffed by area chairs was added. All concerns and complaints filtered through the trouble desk, which kept coaches and contestants from interrupting the tabulation rooms.
- New judging instructions for policy and LD were adopted in 1994.



Treasurer Larry Smith

- 1997, the Tournament Host Handbook/ Guidebook was updated.
- Individual leagues were given power to devise and use seeding, pre-qualifying and/or auto qualifying. Qualifying tournaments were to be run as closely as possible to state tournament rules, with acceptable exceptions noted in the bylaws.
- Cover sheets for prepared speeches and interpretation selections were required to have a parent signature along with the student, coach, and school administrator.
- An "All State" designation was instituted with stipulations regarding each event as to which contestants would receive certificates as First Team, Second Team, and Honorable Mention.
- It became prudent to purchase a one million dollar liability insurance policy to cover the CHSSA during the state tournament.
- The tournament site host fee was increased to \$2,500.
- In 2000, the purchase of ten two way radios was authorized to save paying rental costs on radios each year.

California High School Speech Association History

More of the Same Old Same Old: The 1990's

- A move was made to standardize all judging house instructions.

Events added, events changed, more rules to learn

- At the state tournament in 1991 oratorical interpretation was resurrected.
- A no oral prompting rule for Debate and a guaranteed three rounds of competition were adopted in 1994
- Duo interpretation was added as a contest event for the 1996 state tournament. Rules adopted were basically the same as the NFL rules. (Later tweaked as issues arose regarding the event)
- In individual events the semi-finals would include eighteen and the final round seven contestants, effective with the 1995 tournament.
- Rules were adopted regarding materials from internet sources for debate, LD, and extemporaneous speaking. Selections from "declamation bureaus" were allowed in interpretation events.
- Rules for congress were tweaked yearly. Most notably, there was an allowance for bonus entries to the event and sessions were changed to four preliminary rounds of ninety minutes each to accommodate increased numbers.
- Cross examination was added to the

final rounds of extemporaneous speaking beginning in 2001.

- Rules regarding proof of publication for interpretation selections underwent many changes, as did the cover sheets for prepared events. All original manuscripts were required to follow strict rules which also got tweaked often.

The evolving Constitution and Bylaws

Because the CSSC meetings often became chaotic and confusing due to hasty motions made from the floor, a system of standing committees was established in 1994. No new business would be considered by the full council unless the issue was submitted to the proper committee prior to the meeting. The standing committees were: Public Relations, Curriculum, Congress, Debate and Lincoln Douglas: and Individual Events. Ad hoc committees were appointed as a need presented itself. All CSSC members were assigned to a committee of their choice, with no one person assigned to two committees.

A CHSSA mission statement was added to the constitution in 1995. The position of ACSA liaison was renamed vice-president lodging and hospitality. The position was to be appointed by the president for one year with a yearly renewal of the appointment allowed. In addition, the never filled position of a non-voting member of the State Department of Education was dropped.

California High School Speech Association History

More of the Same Old Same Old: The 1990's

A new printing of the constitution and by-laws was presented in 1999. This included all changes made since the last full publication. Future changes were to be sent yearly with pages dated so coaches could update their copies.

Noteworthy moments

- In 1998 the CHSSA received a generous contribution from Carmendale Fernandes and Natalie Weber. The funds were earmarked for establishment of, *The 21st Century Fund*, a trust fund intended to “support oral communication in California” through the provision of teacher training, workshops, and activities that would promote oral communication. By January 2008, the fund held nearly \$15,000.
- The CHSSA leaped into the high tech world in 1998 by establishing a web site: www.cahssa.org.
- The 1994 state congress final round was held in the California State Capitol building.
- The historian began a project of videotaping all CHSSA Hall of Fame members to provide a unique oral and video history of CHSSA. Past issues of the *Bulletin* to 1977 were located in the State Library, and an effort was made to find older issues to complete the collection.
- Debate coaching workshops were held twice during Fall CSSC meetings with presentations by veteran coaches .
- In September 1999, an Ethics Forum was held at Santa Clara University. Five leagues had participants. The key “conclusion” reached by the participants was that the forensics community must engage in a continuing dialogue and discussion of ethics. Important questions to consider: 1) What are the ethical guidelines provided to our students? 2) At what point does “pushing the envelope” become a question of unethical application of the rules? 3) How can the competitive arena provide an educational environment which supports the development of ethical responsibility?
- History lost forever. Only some thug knows what transpired at the September, 1993, CSSC meeting. Following the meeting some unknown person broke into Secretary John Cardoza’s car while it was parked in San Francisco. A new laptop computer, printer, voice recorder, and taped records of the meeting were pilfered by some nefarious person.

Another decade for the CHSSA ended, which coincided with the end of a century and a millennium. The decade ending was with neither a bang nor a whimper. Instead it marked only a moment in the continuum of the efforts to make the organization effective in meeting its goals.

California High School Speech Association History

A New Century Brings New Innovations: The 2000's

The new century brought with it new opportunities, but also new challenges for the California High School Speech Association. Brimming with the possibilities of a new technology powered era, the organization was also facing an increasing need to articulate its offerings with a larger educational arena.

The organization took a major leap forward in its adoption of technology to ease the burdens of the organization as it began making slow but incremental progress in addressing articulation with the University of California, maintaining and growing competitive speech programs in a budget strained state, getting oral communication curriculum materials into the hands and classrooms of educators and continuing to improve the state tournament.

Each of these challenges, however, were met with a team of people dedicated and equal to the task. As we round off our first 50 years we celebrate those who have given so much of themselves for the benefit of CHSSA, its students, and those who will lead for the next 50 years!

California High School Speech Association History

A New Century Brings New Innovations: The 2000's

The University of California

In 2000, the University provided a template for courses, which, if followed, was supposed to meet the criteria for inclusion in the UC Visual and Performing Arts requirement. Later the University provided a template for a course in rhetoric which might qualify for the English requirement.

It was a Catch 22 situation. Some schools following the templates had courses approved. Others did not. And many found it was impossible to “adapt” what happened in forensic classes to the oral interpretation or the rhetoric template. The issue still stood unresolved.

In 1994, the coaches in Fresno Unified School District were able to have a course titled *Rhetoric and Oral Communication* approved by the University of California system to meet their A-G Visual and Performing Arts Requirement. A copy of the course can be found in the April, 1994 *Bulletin* or on the CHSSA webpage.

In addition, the CHSA Curriculum Committee wrote a course titled *Oral Interpretation* which met the guidelines for the UC “f”, Visual and Performing Arts requirement. A copy of this template was published in the *CHSSA Bulletin* as well. As the decade continued the curriculum committee continued to produce standards based educational materials for its students.

Maintaining forensic programs and schools participating

- The original *Coaches Handbook* published and marketed by McGraw-Hill had sold out. The CSSC voted to not renew with the publisher, but, instead to update the publication and self publish a new version. Then, VP Curriculum Lynette Williamson led this charge, and the new handbook was available in 2002, and a supplement, *How to Host a Tournament*, was added in 2003.
- The number of schools fielding policy debate teams continued to decline, a cause for serious concern. James Copeland, executive secretary for the National Forensic League, visited the January, 2003, CSSC meeting. Copeland expressed concern about the decline in policy debate nationwide. Nationally the number of schools fielding debate teams had

Interesting Trivia

The rule in the bylaws that requires students to pledge to compete through the entire state tournament was the result of a school attending a state tournament the first day and then all four contestants leaving to go home for a prom on Saturday. Ironically, the penalty for violating the rule is disqualification!

California High School Speech Association History

A New Century Brings New Innovations: The 2000's

declined from 1,200 to 600. Some NFL Districts had no schools offering policy debate, and twenty districts had only one or two schools participating in debate. He noted on a positive note that Lincoln Douglas debate had become the largest event at the national tournament. He announced the new Ted Turner debate event, later renamed controversy debate and finally public forum debate, as one means the NFL was following to entice more students to participate in a debate type event.

- The CSSC, hoping to encourage more schools to field policy debate teams, held all day workshops in policy debate in Los Angeles in September 2004, and in San Jose in September 2005. Many local coaches attended each workshop, and reported to their league presidents that the workshops were helpful and provided them with many valuable materials. Unfortunately there is no data regarding whether or not any schools began policy debate teams as a result.
- Two ad hoc committees were formed to address the issue of how to encourage schools to participate in forensic competition. The first, in September 2001, a committee was appointed to draft a proposal for a communication teaching credential. In 2002, a “commission on recruitment and retention of coaches” was appointed.

The minutes of subsequent years do not record any specific results or actions taken due to the committee's work.

- Membership in CHSSA managed to remain consistent in the number of schools participating. The numbers fluctuated from year to year, but generally 225-250 schools were members each year.
- An Urban Debate League was formed. The purpose of the league was to engage schools in low income urban areas in speech and debate activities. Some of the schools eventually sought membership in the CHSSA, and joined established leagues of the CHSSA. There was also a “migrant student” debate league in some areas of the state. Donovan Cummings reported he had observed one of their contests and came away impressed. Both new “leagues” offered an avenue for further encouraging school participation in the California High School Speech Association.

Interesting Trivia

In 2005, an Urban Debate League sponsored team from Long Beach Jordan (Blackwell & Funches) defeated Bellarmine Prep in the final round and become the 2005 Policy Debate Champs!

California High School Speech Association History

A New Century Brings New Innovations: The 2000's



Mrs. Laura Bush enjoys a moment with Sal Tinajero Thursday, April 6, 2006, recipient of Hispanic Magazine's Teacher of the Year award in the Diplomatic Room at the White House. Along with being a World History teacher, Mr. Tinajero resurrected the Speech and Debate team at Fullerton Union High School in Santa Ana, California. White House photo by Shealah Craighead



Oprah Winfrey featured *Accidental Hero* on her television show awarding Tommie Lindsey and his program the \$100,000 Use Your Life Award as part of the Angel Network. Tommie Lindsey is the director of forensics for the very successful James Logan High School forensic team in Union City. Tommie currently coaches at James Logan High School in California. With a team of over 200 individuals, Tommie is fulfilling his love of giving students their own voices.

California High School Speech Association History

A New Century Brings New Innovations: The 2000's

Improving the state tournament... And a technological leap forward

- In 2002, the CSSC accepted bids for an official webmaster and developed CHSSA's first official webpage: www.CaHSSA.org.

Interesting Trivia

When the website was created the organization originally wanted the web address: www.chssa.org, but it was taken by a Connecticut company.

- In 2002 CHSSA president John Cardoza created a data base system that allowed the area chairs to enter state registration information on a spreadsheet. That data was then merged on to the tournament "cards" saving the area chairs hours of hand writing contestant cards.
- In 2005, CHSSA VP Activities Nermin Kamel began discussing the possibilities of computer tabulation with Brent Hinkle from the Joy of Tournaments. Mr. Hinkle attended the state tournament and shadowed the computer tabulation. The result showed the traditional hand paneling and recording had resulted in 35 errors. Most were things regarding ideal placements in panels but a couple would have effected breaks. After another trial run at the 2006 tournament, the CSSC voted to utilize com-

puter tabulation for the 2007 and 2008 state tournaments. For the first year the tournament was still tabulated on cards and shadowed on the computer. In 2007 the transition was made to do the tabulation on the computer and shadow on the cards.

- Through the use of the on line service "Joy of Tournaments" all registration for the state tournament was on line beginning in 2006.
- A slightly lower technology was also adopted in September 2006. A stopwatch would be provided to one judge in each panel of every event at the state tournament. The intent was to end dependence on wall clocks or someone's wristwatch and to have one designated judge the timekeeper who would notify other judges of any overtime violations.

More evolution of the Constitution and Bylaws

- In September, 2000, the CSSC voted to retain Einar Johnson, who had been serving in another position, as legal counsel for their meetings on a pro bono basis. In January, 2003, the CSSC created an official council position for the "CHSSA legal counsel" . The position was an appointive one, and the person appointed would have no vote, but, rather serve as describe, providing legal opinions regarding council actions.

- The process for voting on Hall of Fame nominees was changed in 2001. The voting was opened to leagues rather than being restricted to just those sitting on the CSSC. Leagues could present names for nomination by the September meeting. Each league would receive ballots for voting on the nominees.
- Because CSSC officers often found there was no longer the required $\frac{3}{4}$ membership present by mid to late afternoon Saturday because some members had airline reservations for early afternoon, the quorum needed to conduct business was changed to $\frac{2}{3}$ required presence to conduct official actions.
- Those who wished to run for the office of area chairperson would declare their candidacy at the winter CSSC meeting beginning in January, 2007. Area chairs would be elected by member schools casting ballots either at the state tournament or by mail.
- The process for voting on Hall of Fame nominees was changed in 2001. The voting was opened to leagues rather than being restricted to just those sitting on the CSSC. Leagues could present names for nomination by the September meeting. Each league would receive ballots for voting on the nominees.
- Originally these topic areas were to be decided by the IE committee each January, but the topic areas have stayed the same for the past three state tournaments.
- The All State Honor Awards system was dropped for the 2002 tournament. The tournament sweepstakes divisions underwent another overhaul with Division A designated for schools with four or fewer entries; Division AA for schools with five to sixteen entries; and Division AAA for schools with seventeen or more entries beginning with the 2006 tournament.
- The amount of money allocated for the care and feeding of judges and officials was increased to \$4,000 for the 2001 tournament, and presumably for every year thereafter. The host fee for the site of the tournament was increased to \$3,500 beginning with state 2006.

Perpetual changing of events and rules

- Beginning with state 2005, the state tournament extemp topics were written by an out of state company called Champcraft.
- A motion was passed in 2007 to standardized the topic areas in extemp. Each round was to have a separate theme in order to reduce the chance that a student could speak on the same

National Extemp

Round 1: Social Issues
Round 2: Federal Politics
Round 3: Foreign Policy
Semis: The Economy
Finals: California

International Extemp

Round 1: Middle East
Round 2: Europe
Round 3: Asia
Semis: Latin America
Finals: Africa

California High School Speech Association History

A New Century Brings New Innovations: The 2000's

- The state tournament date had traditionally been the last weekend in April or the first weekend in May. Early in the decade the date was moved back to late in April. The tournament had experienced too many problems with AP testing beginning the first week in May and other end of school year events such as proms.
- When a student cut her hair in the final round of expository during the 2006 state tournament a new rule was added prohibiting students from altering their appearance during their expos in a way that cannot be substantially restored by the end of the round.
- Falling into step with the National Forensic League, Ted Turner Debate, later known as Controversy Debate, and finally Public Forum Debate was added as a provisional event for the 2003 and 2004 tournament. Basically the rules provided by the NFL were adopted.
- Parliamentary debate was added in 2004 as a provisional event. In 2005 both parli and public forum became official events with 32 entries in each event. Students in Public Forum and Parliamentary Debate could not double enter in individual events or congress. That was changed in September, 2004, and entrants in both types of debate were allowed entry in an individual event.
- Assignment of panels of judges was finally embedded in the bylaws in January, 2003. Preliminary rounds were to have, as much as possible, one community, one coach, and one college student per panel. Semi finals in debate and LD would have three coaches, one community and one college judge. Individual events and congress finals would have three coaches, one community and one college judge. The use of first and second year college judges was to be discouraged and forbidden in semi and final rounds.
- Congress was changed for the 2007 tournament so there would be a unicameral semi final session of 90 minutes and two final sessions of 90 minutes. Eventually the final round became one longer session with a break in the middle and 9 judges!
- After countless years of dithering and debate, singing, dancing, sitting or lying down on the floor were deemed permissible in all events beginning with the 2001 tournament.
- New debate, LD and individual event ballots were adopted in September,

Student Congress

At the 2006 state tournament the final session of congress was again held in the state capitol building.

California High School Speech Association History

A New Century Brings New Innovations: The 2000's

2000. The focus was adding state language arts and social studies standards to the ballots.

- Observers of the final round of debate and LD would be allowed to take flow sheets for the 2002 tournament. And the prohibition of note taking by observers was eliminated entirely for all rounds for the 2003 tournament.
- A decision in January, 2003, allowed congresspersons to use visual aids.
- The single question asked of a speaker by another contestant in extemporaneous speaking in the final round was changed to a cross examination by another speaker for the 2005 tournament to match the final round at nationals. When the NFL changed their cross ex rule again the CSSC passed

a motion that basically said we would do whatever the NFL was doing in a given year for extemp cross examination.

- Events for the state tournament had to be established at the May meeting a year in advance.

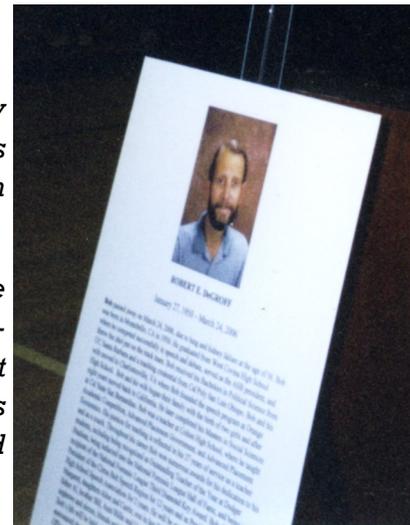
This lengthy narrative of 50 years of the California High School Speech Association marks only the first 50 years. The last documentation of that history is the minutes of the CSSC meeting in September, 2007. Today is now. Tomorrow is the future. But tomorrow will make today history. I hope someone else will record the history of the organization for the next decades and those decades will be successful for the CHSSA.

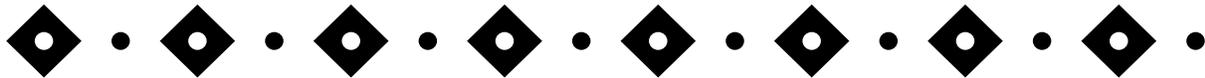


In memoriam

CHSSA president Bob DeGroff become very ill in early 2006. He resigned the CHSSA presidency to focus on his health and VP Activities Nermin Kamel served as interim president until a new election could be held in May.

Tragically Bob passed away of lung and kidney failure on March 24, 2006. The 2006 state tournament was dedicated to Bob by special proclamation of the student congress there assembled. Bob is remembered for his kind spirit, his devotion to CHSSA and its students and his enduring service to others.





HISTORICAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Historian Donovan Cummings and Ron Underwood provided a foot high stack of minutes, old constitutions and bylaws dating back to 1962-63 and other documents many of which were compiled by Natalie Weber over the years. Though there were missing minutes in some years, the material provided most of the grist for the history of CHSSA.

Brother Robert Maguire, council president 1963-64 provided a synopsis history in 1964 when he noted, *“The purpose of the lengthy regurgitation of past council activities is to give all of us some background information...some understanding of perennial council preoccupations and perturbations... to help all of us understand the impatience of some of us...to promote better understanding through knowledge. Those of us who are somewhat narrow in our outlook and who view speech primarily as tournament centered competition should try to raise our sights, to broaden our horizons, to stretch our minds.”* He was referring to the need for the CSSC to focus more attention on developing speech curriculum materials and for recruiting more schools in California to offer both speech and forensic programs.

Special thanks are also extended to James Ernest Dyer, Whittier College, *A Historical Study of the California High School Speech Association*, a Master of Arts thesis written in 1971 also contributed a great deal to the recollections reported in this brief history.

Finally, thanks to all of the secretaries who noted and transcribed the minutes of the CHSSA over the years. Brother Maguire served as secretary/treasurer for a number of the early years, and his “editorialized” minutes are funny and amusing to read. The man brought a sense of humor to all his efforts. This history seeks to follow Maguire’s example.

Working my way through fifty years of documentation I was impressed with how much continuity there was to the membership of the California State Speech Council. I am only going to name three individuals: Carmendale Fernandes, Natalie Weber, and Donovan Cummings. Carmendale and Natalie have served the CSSC in one capacity or another since the very beginning in the late 1950s. Donovan has served every year since 1962. That totals to around 145 years of service from three dedicated individuals.

Dozens of other great educators and coaches have served one, two, three, and even four decades in one position or another on the CSSC. I am hesitant to name them because I would leave someone off the list and feelings would be hurt. But the member schools of CHSSA should be grateful for those individuals' willingness to serve so long and work so hard.

What did their dedication provide that the organization needed? They provided continuity and stability. New faces appear on the council beginning as league presidents or curriculum representatives or representatives at large. Mostly these new faces are eager and enthusiastic about conducting the business of the CHSSA.

Too often, however, youthful enthusiasm must be channeled. Those with personal agendas need to understand the history

and workings of an organization before they "willy nilly" offer suggestions for changes. In short, they need some sort of adult supervision.

As a metaphor, think of congress or the state legislature. There is a clamor for "term limits." Some think there are too many in offices that have served too long and need to be replaced. Perhaps. More likely that would not be a good idea on a wholesale basis. Imagine an entirely new congress or state legislature and the chaos that could occur because of a lack of historical perspective and experience.

The CSSC has seen the retirement of many of those who provided continuity and stability through all the travails of the organization's first fifty years. It is my fervent hope that those now serving will be as long serving and as dedicated as those who have gone before. And I am confident that there are those who are now serving who will fulfill the task of providing continuity and stability in the decades to come.

Thank you for reading this far. It has been my pleasure to record this history. I hope it either proved to be interesting reading or provided a cure for your insomnia.

Larry A. Smith

