

Robert “Bob” Jones

CHSSA HALL OF FAME 1989



Robert is a graduate of Merced High School in northern California where he began his involvement in forensics competition under the directorship of CHSSA Hall of Famer Betty Perkins.

Upon completion of his post-secondary degree from Fresno State University, Robert began his teaching career at Reedley High School where he taught from 1965-1973. At that point, he transferred to Fresno High School where he taught and coached competitive forensics until his retirement.

Bob Jones's students achieved a great deal of competitive success. His speakers qualified for the state tournament twenty-two consecutive years. Amongst his many finalists were two state champions:

One in impromptu and one in thematic interpretation

Bob will perhaps best be remembered for the many ways that he served the California High School Speech Association and its students. He began his time on the CHSSA council as the Southern Valley Forensic president, but then remained on the CHSSA council for many years in a variety of positions: representative at large; area II chairperson; and CHSSA president from 1980 to 1983.

Bob said that he was especially proud to have helped CHSSA by conducting its affairs during the legal challenges of 1980-1982. After his time as president, Jones remained as a member of the CHSSA council by serving as Bulletin Editor for fifteen years. Bob also served a long tenure as California's representative to the Debate Topic Selection Committee of the National Federation where he communicated to NFL coaches from across the nation the excellent work done by the CHSSA. Both a member of the CHSSA council and the NFL, Jones was always looking for ways to develop the positive national reputation of our speech activities.

A triple diamond National Forensic League coach, Bob Jones also served as NFL District Committee chair and coached eight students to national competition. These students represented a second and fourth place finalist in student congress and a national champion in impromptu speaking. Jones also coached a Voice of Democracy national champion.

In addition to Bob's important work representing CHSSA nationally Bob feels that his greatest contributions to speech in California includes the redesigning of student congress during the 1970-1971 school year.

In retirement since 1999, Bob continues with his hobby of hot-air balloon flying and works "nearly full time" as a bankruptcy examiner.

For his dedication to the California High School Speech Association and its students, Bob Jones was inducted into the CHSSA Hall of Fame in 1989.

