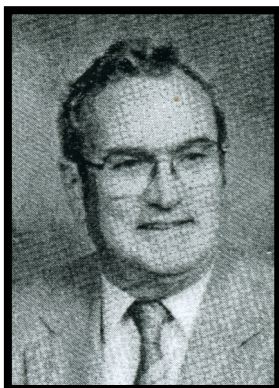


Chuck Johnson

CHSSA HALL OF FAME 1990



Coach Chuck Johnson began his speech and debate career in his hometown of Beresford, South Dakota. He attended Beresford High School where he competed in several individual events, including poetry and dramatic interpretation.

After graduation, he majored in speech, drama, and English at Dakota Wesleyan University, Northern State (S.D.) and San Diego State University. He began his teaching career in South Dakota where he coached forensics at several high schools for twelve years. When he finally made it to the sunny west coast he settled in San Diego, California, where he coached speech at Point Loma High School for three years and Patrick Henry High School for over twenty years. While at Patrick Henry High School he hosted the famous Patrick Henry Christmas Classic Invitational for many years. The tournament was for many years one of the largest high school run invitationals in California. Eventually the Christmas Classic tournament was adopted by La Costa Canyon High School and is still running strong years after his retirement from speech.

In addition to the work that Chuck did with his team, he was well known for his service to his league and the state. Over his more than twenty-five years of coaching in California he held many offices. He served as both league president and league vice president for the San Diego Imperial Valley Speech League. He also held several offices on the State Speech Council: area IV area chair; curriculum representative; representative at large. In addition, Chuck not only served on the NFL District Committee, but was the district chairman for a number of years.

Chuck had a deep love for working with children and took students to hundreds of competitions over the years with great success. He had many state finalists including a state champion in Extemp. Chuck also qualified students to nationals in every NFL event, and he had students who placed first, third and fifth in student congress.

Although Chuck coached all the events, when asked to name the three events that he most enjoyed coaching, he named original oratory, dramatic interpretation and student congress. He said that he considered original oratory to be the event most valuable to students' education and growth.

Perhaps his greatest pride came from encouraging, supporting, and assisting new coaches and their programs. Whenever a new school would join the league he would offer that coach great support and encouragement. In honor of his many contributions to the CHSSA and its students, Chuck Johnson was inducted into the CHSSA Hall of Fame in 1990.

**Originator
and Host of
the Iconic
Patrick Henry
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Classic
Invitational**

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