

Anton “Tony” Hagglund

CHSSA HALL OF FAME 1989



Born in Henning, Minnesota, Tony was a graduate of Turlock High School where he met Vivian, his wife of fifty-two years. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and his Master's Degree from the University of California. Tony began his teaching career as an Assistant Professor of Speech at Florida State University in 1949 followed by the same position at Whittier College, California, in 1950.

And then it was high school forensics! He served as speech teacher and coach at Alhambra High School from 1951 to 1970. From the very beginning Tony was a natural leader and innovator in the forensics community.

Tony was a constant office holder in the Southern California Debate League, and as the CHSSA Vice President. Perhaps his most notable office, however, is as the first editor of the *California State Speech Bulletin*. Coaches from that era will tell you that the publication was informative and filled with “Hagglund humor”. Interestingly, Tony printed those first bulletins on a little printing press in his Alhambra High School classroom. Today, the *CHSSA Bulletin* remains a staple of the organization. Tony's innovative spirit was constantly trying to devise new ways to improve forensics for students and coaches. In an effort to give students constructive feedback from judges, Tony was the first to introduce critique sheets for contestants in both debate and individual events at Southern California tournaments.

Although Tony's students participated in many events, Tony was especially interested in student congress. While serving on the CHSSA council he authored the motion to establish student congress as a State Tournament event. Once the event was accepted, Tony worked tirelessly to devise the format and he ended up running the first two student congresses at State Championships.

Tony's students experienced a great deal of competitive success. He and his students earned many sweepstake trophies along the way. He coached more than twenty state champions and two of his thirteen national qualifiers were champions.

Despite this incredible success, Tony's primary concern was providing worthwhile experiences for his students. In his words, “It is not the techniques developed, not the positions held, not the trophies won, they and the memories tarnish; what is important are the telephone calls, the letters received from attorneys, college professors, ministers and business personnel, thanking me for having given them memorable experiences in their high school years. It is messages such as these that have made it all worthwhile.”

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

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