

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



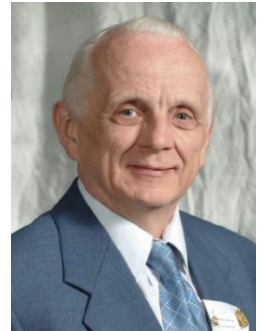
Donovan Cummings Service- Above-Self Award

Each year one person is selected by the executive council to receive this award, named after CHSSA's first historian, Donovan Cummings. This award is given to someone who goes above and beyond to spread forensics throughout the state of California.



Gay Brasher
2010

Ron Underwood
2011



Rita Prichard
2012

Nermin Fraser
2013



Hoon Ko
2014

Mikendra McCoy
2016



MATTHEW FRASER

2017 Donovan Cummings Service-Above-Self Winner



Each year, the prestigious Donovan Cummings Service Above Self Award is presented to someone who has gone above and beyond in service to others. Today, CHSSA is honored to name Matthew Fraser as the seventh recipient of this prestigious award. In many ways, Matt personifies the very essence of this award: a willingness to do the hard work, to sacrifice, to help without desire for recognition or thanks.

For nearly three decades, Matt has committed his life to helping students and coaches at both the high school and college level. CHSSA is honored to have this opportunity to the profound impact he has had on countless students, coaches, and our activity as a whole.

Today, CHSSA celebrates its 60th anniversary tournament, but few know that the 50th Anniversary book would never have made it to print without Matt. Though he insisted on his name never appearing in the bylines, Matt spent endless nights carefully editing and proofreading each page. He diligently researched bios of coaches who had passed to make sure their memories were



properly honored. He educated himself on self-publishing and book binding and arranged the vendors necessary to get the book printed on time and on budget. Since the printer and binder were over 60 miles apart, he went back and forth with proofs and batches of books to make sure each book was completed on time including stitched leather covers and coach names personalizing each copy.

In truth, for over a decade Matt has essentially co-directed the state tournament from the wings, sharing in all the hard work, but none of the recognition. From attending to the printing of the state program to single handedly arranging every vendor, every hotel, and every dinner dance contract, Matt quietly volunteers many hundreds of hours each year to help make CHSSA and the state tournament a success. Since the state tournament transitioned to computers, Matt has generously donated the computers and printers that have been used to tab the tournament. Throughout the tournament, Matt steps in to do whatever needs to be done, from hauling endless boxes of tournament supplies to making last minute food or supply runs. After months of tireless work, he has spent every one of the last ten awards ceremonies, quietly packing up the tabroom in preparation for the next year. Lexy Green, Director of Debate, College Prep writes, "In the over quarter century that I have known Matt Fraser, from his early coaching days at El Cerrito High School through his impressive career at Head Royce, his most outstanding characteristics have been his generosity and loyalty. He understands that our activity

is about the people who are in it, and when a fellow coach faces challenges or falls on hard times, Matt is always there." Despite never wanting to be in the spotlight or hold an official title, Matt has been instrumental in advising and assisting the council on many occasions. For example, he has reviewed every CHSSA contract and has researched and helped secure the organization's first annual insurance policy. CHSSA President Sharon Prefontaine writes, "His intelligence and knowledge of education, business, rules and regulations as well as his ability to remain professional at all times makes him an invaluable asset to CHSSA."

State Tournament Director, Nermin Fraser, writes of Matt,

"I could fill a hundred state programs with stories of Matt's humble generosity, his love and his compassion. The many things he does quietly and without fanfare. I have never met another human being more committed to doing what is just and right. No one could ask for a more fervent advocate or a more loyal friend and partner. Never aspiring for recognition, Matt inspires me to be a better person by always giving so generously of his time and his talents."