

Andara Macdonald

CHSSA HALL OF FAME 1995



Andara Macdonald was born in 1949 in Seattle, Washington, to a family with a competitive speech background. Her mother, an early California state oratory champion, delivered, a speech about how someday a new electronic invention would allow pictures and sound to be beamed into the home for all to see and hear.

At Bainbridge High School on Bainbridge Island, Washington, Andara first became involved with speech and debate. It was not a class she wanted to take. Her parents had to bribe her with a new pair of snow skis to take it, but when she found out that speech members got out of school to go on trips, she was ready to become involved.

Andara remembers her first debate as a freshman in high school. She and her partner were ready. They were on the affirmative and Andara was the first speaker. She got up with her case. She felt herself turning red at the tip of her toes and could feel it move up her body until it got to the ends of her hair. At that point, she tried to speak and nothing came out, nothing at all. As she tells it, "it was like my tongue was taped to the roof of my mouth."

Luckily Andara did not let her first experience with competition scar her. She went on to compete four years in high school and entered college, as most former debaters do: As a political science major. In her first semester in college, she tried to leave speech and debate behind her, but finding herself more miserable than most college freshmen sought out debate coach Dr. Larry Kraft. As soon as she started debating again, she found that her life became better. She competed for the rest of her time in college.

After the University of Washington, Andara moved to extreme southeastern California and a small town called Holtville. When asked where Holtville is, she tells people, "Holtville is 120 miles east of San Diego on Interstate 8, 40 miles west of Yuma, Arizona: 90 miles south of Palm Springs and 10 miles off the Mexican border. It is not the end of the earth, but you can see it from here." With the plan of spending only one semester there, she fell in love with the desert and has now taught and coached in Holtville for thirty-seven years.

As a member of the SDIVSL, Andara served as both vice-president and president. On the CSSC she served as: Area IV curriculum rep, area IV chair, and CHSSA president. She still lives and teaches in the desert and enjoys traveling and spending time with her extended family. When pressed on what words of wisdom she wished to pass on, she quoted favorite Russian author Dostoevsky and his work *The Brothers Karamazov*. After spending long days at school together Karamazov remarks to his brothers: "We shall soon part....and whatever happens to us later...if we attain to great honour or fall into great misfortune... let us remember how good it was once here, when we were all together united by a good and kind feeling which made us, for the time we were... [here], better perhaps than we are." Speech she says has made her a better person.

