

Robert “Bob” Stockton

CHSSA HALL OF FAME 2004



When asked when he knew he was going into the field of education as a vocation, his response is always, “I really never thought of any other career. Members of my family were long-time teachers and it just seemed that I saw myself moving in the same direction.” He discovered drama in his senior year and what the voice is able to communicate with words and inflection. “I was hooked.”

Jane Spooner greatly influence in his thinking about a career using the power of the spoken word in all settings, After Community College, he met William Womack, whom he feels was an outstanding example of how far the influence of a communicator can possibly reach--Bob says he still feels that influence.

In 1968 Bob began his teaching career at South Jr. High School in Anaheim California after completing his student teaching. He identifies Dave Price, his master teacher, as his third mentor. After leaving South he transferred to Western High School in the same district in 1980, before finishing out his career at Katella High School in the Anaheim district where he taught speech and drama.

Bob was an active member of both his local league and the state organization. Over his more than thirty years in education he served in a number of offices: president and vice-president of the Orange County Speech League; area chairman for area IV; historian for CHSSA and “pitboss” for student congress tabroom at the state tournament.

The state tournament was not the only place where Bob directed congress tournaments. Over the last decade Bob became known as “Mr. Congress” as he traveled to tournaments with his portable congress tabroom – even at times directing congress even when his students were not competing. Always willing to help coaches in need, Bob Stockton quickly became a staple of many high school tournaments.

Professionally Bob developed a long standing association with the NCA, the California Teachers Association, Western States Communication Association, Western Forensics Association, and the National Education Association. For his contributions to the professional community Bob was nominated for the prestigious Oberle Award, one of his nominators wrote, “The Oberle Award seems designed to recognize just such a person as Robert Stockton. To even be nominated, a candidate must be considered an outstanding teacher, committed to high standards, quality education, and innovative and exemplary teaching practices. Bob Stockton personifies these criteria.”



Expanding on his career, Bob told us, “When I stand back to reflect on how fortunate and rewarding my career has been - from successful students to professional colleagues who have provided support and direction to countless others- I simply say : ‘The pleasure is there. Grab it and enjoy what it brings.’”

For his contributions to the California High School Speech Association and its students, Robert “Bob” Stockton was inducted in to the CHSSA Hall of Fame in 2004.