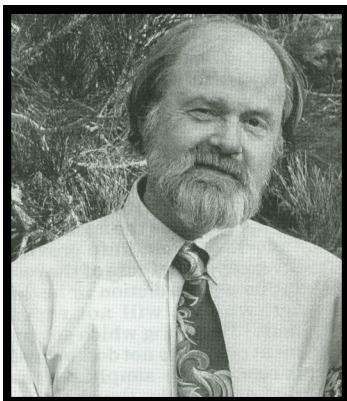


# Ray Schaefer

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## CHSSA HALL OF FAME 1993



Many of Ray and wife Judy's students have earned honors as semi-finalists and finalists at state championship tournaments over the years. Ray served on the state speech council at various times for over twenty years as a league president or as curriculum representative for area III.

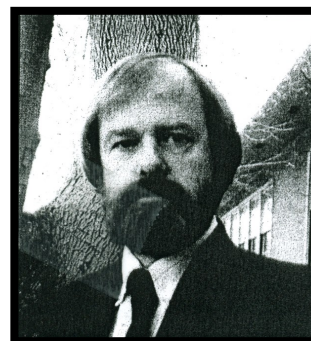
Ray began coaching in 1973 in the West Los Angeles NFL District. He developed NFL chapters approaching 200 degrees and more at Sylmar High School, San Fernando High School, and Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies. He and his wife Judy coached students to the National Tournament and over fifty students to the California State Championships. A most effective NFL couple Ray and wife Judy were outstanding mentors and regularly sent brigades of their varsity kids out to new schools to teach them the ropes. His door was always open to new coaches, and many took advantage of his generosity. There were even a couple of years when Taft High School did not have a coach, and Ray made himself available to those kids as well.

With a keen interest in speech curriculum, Ray wrote many articles for the California High School Speech *Bulletin* dealing with various ways to include meaningful oral communication in the classroom. He also worked diligently on the first *Coach's Handbook* which CHSSA published, and he was instrumental in the development of original prose and poetry as an event.

Ray and his wife-partner taught high school students to believe in themselves and address important issues. They believed we need a vocal rather than a silent majority. In a way, Ray was like the Walt Whitman of California Forensics: The walls of his speech room were covered with quotations which often seemed to turn up in the impromptu and extemp speeches his kids would give in rounds.

Ray gave annual league parties out at his ranch in the Leona Valley, and many have fond memories of cherry-picking in his orchard, and listening to the bullfrogs croak in his pond. The ranch had horses, chickens, cats and dogs, and an assortment of house-guests. He affectionately called his ranch "Shangri-La," and there were times in the winter that he and Judy were snowed in.

Each year, the Schaefers would bottle their own cherry wine and give it as gifts at Christmas time. Judy worked for the Los Angeles Unified School District as a transportation manager, but she seemed to spend almost as much time in Ray's classroom as he did. Judy did all the driving for the two of them, and Ray used the two-hour commute back and forth from his Leona Valley ranch to grade his AP papers.



In recognition of his contributions to the California High School Speech Association and its students Ray Schaefer was inducted into the CHSSA Hall of Fame in 1989!