

THE HISTORY OF THE STUDENT SPEAKERS CONTEST  
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WHEN DISTRICT 4 WAS SPLIT INTO FIVE SUB-DISTRICTS IN 1937, FRED SMITH (LATER INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT) BECAME THE FIRST DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF DISTRICT 4-C. HIS DISTRICT RAN FROM STOCKTON DOWN TO THE SOUTHERN END OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AND INCLUDED THE COASTAL AREA FROM PASO ROBLES THROUGH OXNARD.

HE REALIZED THAT THE CLUBS IN HIS NEW DISTRICT HAD NOTHING MORE IN COMMON THAN THEY DID WITH THE CLUBS IN SAN FRANCISCO OR SAN DIEGO. HE EXPRESSED THIS THOUGHT TO THE OTHER OFFICERS IN HIS DISTRICT AND ASKED FOR SUGGESTIONS.

ONE OF HIS DEPUTY DISTRICT GOVERNORS, FRANK COLSTON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS IN OXNARD, SUGGESTED A STUDENT SPEAKERS CONTEST FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE DISTRICT.

THE IDEA WAS APPROVED AS SOMETHING THAT WOULD GIVE ALL THE CLUBS IN THE DISTRICT SOMETHING IN COMMON AND HOPEFULLY; WOULD BRING THEM CLOSER TOGETHER AS A UNIT. FROM WHAT WE ARE TOLD, THE CONTEST WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

THE FOLLOWING YEAR, JAMES HODGES, DISTRICT GOVERNOR FROM COVINA, PROPOSED TO THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS THAT FRED'S SPEECH CONTEST BECAME A PROJECT FOR ALL OF DISTRICT 4. THE PROPOSAL WAS ADOPTED AND THE CONTEST HAS BEEN ONE OF OUR MULTIPLE DISTRICT'S PRINCIPAL PROJECTS EVER SINCE, DURING THE PAST SIXTY-PLUS YEARS, MANY GROUPS AND CLUBS HAVE FOLLOWED OUR LEAD BY ENGAGING IN JOINT SERVICE ACTIVITIES.

THE CONTEST IS ONE OF THE STARS IN OUR MD-4 CROWN.