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# The Torch

[www.tsjcl.org](http://www.tsjcl.org)

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# Marcus High School

Salvete Omnes,

We have been hard at work with our studies, but it is now time to get pumped for this year's State Convention at Marcus High School in Flower Mound, TX. Your TSJCL Board has been hard at work meticulously planning every detail for this year's convention. So, since we have been putting in our work, I call you all to do the same. Whether it be art, Classical Civilization or the Decathlon, it is time to start studying for State!

Now, if you feel like you would like to do more with Latin but you don't know how, I have the answer: Run for a State Office! While on the board you not only get to have a say in how the convention is run, but you also get to bond with an outstanding group of people. Being on the board has taught me more than how to responsibly meet deadlines, but also how to work as a team in a business-like environment. Sure, there is work, but the reward is irreplaceable.

Once at State there will be so many opportunities to strut your stuff. Not only does the strive for excellence propel you towards State, but also the chance to reunite with old friends and teachers or to renew old rivalries. No matter the reason for coming, it is going to be an awesome convention filled with the typical TSJCL spirit that has been present in all past years. Come one, come all, and show us what you can do!

Bonam fortunam omnibus,  
Reeves Smith  
TSJCL Torch Editor



Salvete Omnes,

The first half of our school year is over and we've finally made it to the second semester, which I often refer to as "Latin Season". The Area Conventions mark the beginning of this joyous time, so it's time to dust off those flashcards, start putting together that mixed media artwork and schedule a bunch of long Certamen practices. Area Convention is a great opportunity to try something new for the first time. Check out the Academic and Classical Civilization Contest rules on [www.tsjcl.org](http://www.tsjcl.org) and find something that might interest you. Not crazy about academic tests, but you have a love for acting? Dramatic Interpretation may be your calling! I urge each and every one of you to step outside of your comfort zone and try a new contest.

But all of the excitement for the Area Conventions is just a small taste of the State Convention on April 12th and 13th at Marcus High School in Lewisville, Texas. The entire TSJCL Executive Board has been working very hard to put the State Convention together, and we have really incredible things planned! The weekend will be filled with competition, spirit and fellowship. Last year I promised that if I was elected President, I would strive to make State more about spirit than ever before. During the Winter Board Meeting, the entire board brainstormed together and we decided to hold a State spirit orientation to better awareness of Texas cheers and increase overall spirit. If anyone has suggestions for new cheers, please email them to [president@tsjcl.org](mailto:president@tsjcl.org)

Be sure to mark those dates on your calendar, and sign up as soon as you can so that you don't miss out on all the fun! It will certainly be a weekend to remember and I look forward to seeing you all there!

E Corde,  
Owen Smitherman  
2012-2013 TSJCL President



Salvete omnes,

My name is Emily Sparks and I am the state convention coordinator this year. My co-consul, Sam Karnes, is assisting me in the running of this year's convention. I hope everyone is gearing up for the Texas State convention at Marcus High School on April 12-13. This year's theme is:

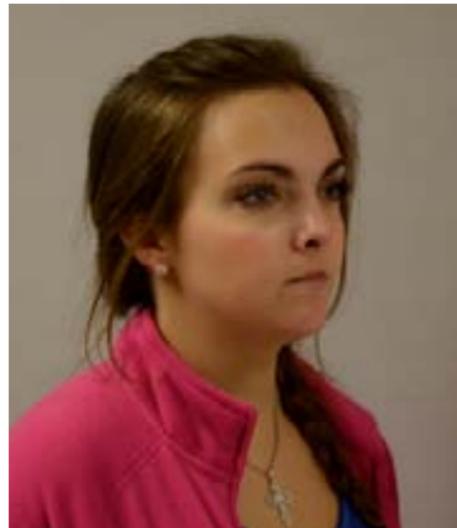
*Quid sit futurum cras, fuge quaerere, et quem fors dierum cumque dabit, lucro appone.* –Horace

We have been working diligently on preparations in order to bring y'all the best convention possible! We have two great local restaurants providing dinner on Friday and Saturday. Salerno's will offer lasagna or pasta with the trimmings on Friday night. Village Grill will offer a chicken or vegetarian dish on Saturday night. Saturday's lunch will be offered by Subway. There are restaurants in the area, but the meals offered on campus will be the most efficient way to get everyone fed and keep the masses happy.

We will be offering the Ludi Catapult competition in conjunction with the SCL again this year. Rules are included in the registration materials. Do you have any great talent in your JCL? If so, I encourage you to sign up for the Talent Show!

Starting on February 22th registration will be available online at: <http://www.tsjcl.org/convention2013>. This year all registration will be done online. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Flower Mound.

See y'all soon!  
Emily Sparks



Salvete Omnes,

As the State Convention in Dallas approaches, I would like to remind every school, student and sponsor that that each club present at State must send a delegate to the Program of Works Committee, where we shall review, discuss, and vote on proposed changes to the rules by which TSJCL is governed. This year's Program of Works will focus on proposed changes to the TSJCL Bylaws concerning finances.

Currently, the Bylaws say little about the involvement of State Chairs in TSJCL finances, and what they do say is, in a legal sense, vague. On the pro bono advice of a lawyer, changes have been proposed to the language in the Bylaws which would better align them with Texas state law and make the Bylaws far more precise and air-tight.

The proposed changes would require a State Chair to sign off on any financial contracts undertaken by TSJCL, and would also require that the majority of Chairs to approve of any such transaction.

Please keep these proposals in mind as State approaches, and make sure that your club's delegate(s) are cognizant of the importance of Program of Works to our League, and of the issues we will be discussing and their ramifications. I look forward to seeing you and your delegates at State.

Sincerely,  
Bryson Kisner



Here is a side-by-side comparison of the current Bylaws and the proposed revisions. Please ensure that your delegates view this before attending.

#### ARTICLE VI – POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE STATE CHAIRPERSONS

- a. Shall solicit prior to the State Convention invitations to host the next State Convention and be responsible for the selection of the State Convention site from the invitations received.
- b. Shall be in charge of the distribution of the Officers Handbook and electronic letterhead.
- c. Shall attend all Student Executive Board Meetings.
- d. Shall oversee the production of all written academic contests for the State Convention.
- e. Shall mentor student officers as assigned.
- f. Shall oversee the finances of the TSJCL including, but not limited to, preparing and filing federal tax returns and auditing the TSJCL Treasury.
- g. Shall serve as the liaison for all issues concerning the State Delegation at the National Convention when present.
- h. Shall serve as the liaison for all legal and disciplinary issues at the State Convention.
- i. Shall oversee the TSJCL website.
- j. Shall serve as liaison to the TCA.

#### ARTICLE VI - POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE STATE CHAIRPERSONS (PROPOSED CHANGES ARE UNDERLINED)

- a. Shall solicit prior to the State Convention invitations to host the next State Convention and be responsible for the selection of the State Convention site from the invitations received.
- b. Shall sign any legally binding contractual agreements (such as, but not limited to, contracts for convention arrangements.) Such contract must be signed by at least one member of the State Chair Advisory Board in order for the TSJCL to enter into any legally binding contract. Entrance into any legally binding agreement requires the approval of a majority of the State Chairs.
- c. Shall be in charge of the distribution of the Officers Handbook and electronic letterhead.
- d. Shall attend all Student Executive Board Meetings.
- e. Shall oversee the production of all written academic contests for the State Convention.
- f. Shall mentor student officers as assigned.
- g. Shall be responsible for the timely filing of any required federal and state filings, such as, but not limited to, tax filings, and those filings required by the State Comptroller's Office and the Secretary of State's Office.
- h. Shall be responsible for auditing the TSJCL Treasury on an annual basis.
- i. Shall serve as the liaison for all issues concerning the State Delegation at the National Convention when present.
- j. Shall serve as the liaison for all legal and disciplinary issues at the State Convention.
- k. Shall oversee the TSJCL website.
- l. Shall serve as liaison to the TCA.

Salvete Omnes rursus,

As we enter a new semester, we also enter a season of convention and competition. And while we all may look forward to Certamen, ludi, and other arenas of competition, there is one matter whose importance goes far beyond any trophy or ribbon. For as we gather to compete this spring, we also gather to advance our organization and secure its future through the election of a new State Board.

A creative Historian; the committed Secretary; a dedicated and efficient Treasurer; the First and Second Vice Presidents, who are behind many of the contests you will engage in at State and Area; finally, our President will all step down this coming April to make way for a new generation of leaders for the TSJCL. For those of you wishing to extend your participation in our League—whether you are already a local officer or simply a committed member—there is no better way to do so than by serving on the Board.

Being a Board member is a highly rewarding experience. Along with your fellow Board members you will largely be responsible for the running of TSJCL. This may sound like a heavy burden, but, while the responsibility is great, the distribution of the load amongst the team of officers (and the supporting coterie of teacher mentors) creates a balanced system of specialization. Whoever holds each position must make use of their specific talents and abilities.

The responsibilities of a Board member do include attending meetings which are often in distant parts of our state. Yet the TSJCL will ensure that you will bear no extraordinary cost.

If you wish to become a candidate, do not hesitate to gather your school (and possibly your area) behind you. In order to win election at the state convention, you must impress delegates from other schools with your campaign. While this centers on whatever you have to say in your speech, a well-organized campaign will illustrate your skills as a leader.

There may only be one elected Board member from a school. Before you file any paperwork regarding your candidacy, please consult your local Latin Club's officers and ensure that this rule is obeyed.

Note that being an officer is advantageous to those besides incoming seniors. While a Board position is an excellent way to cap a TSJCL career, it can be a stepping stone to higher office, perhaps on a National level, for those who manage to be elected as sophomores or freshmen. And if you try and do not succeed as an underclassman, you will have the benefit of experience should you try to run again.

I personally never expected to be a state officer—the position always seemed distant, something for those whose experience and ability lay beyond my own. But now that I am here, I can say that it is one of the best things I have done in my high school career. I have made dear friends and served an organization I have grown to truly love. I am confident that we, the 2012-2013 Board, will pass the torch onto a new generation of leaders.

In order to run for TSJCL office, Follow this link to access the 2013-2014 Nomination Form: <http://www.tsjcl.org/index.php?page=Downloads>, which must be submitted to the parliamentarian (parliamentarian@tsjcl.org) no later than the Ides of March (the 15th). If you have any questions about officer positions and/or running for them, please look to the TSJCL website at [www.tsjcl.org](http://www.tsjcl.org), or contact me at [parliamentarian@tsjcl.org](mailto:parliamentarian@tsjcl.org). I look forward to receiving your applications. And if any of you run and don't win, remember that there are the unelected positions of webmaster, convention coordinator, editor and parliamentarian to be filled following State, and good, though not victorious, candidates from other races may find a home there.

Sincerely,  
Bryson Kisner  
Parliamentarian, TSJCL

# Name That Board Member!

This new segment in the Torch is meant to test your knowledge of what really happens inside TSJCL. If you think you know everything about everything concerning TSJCL, there is only one true way to find out: play Name That Board Member! Good luck to all!

## Five Fun Facts

1. Favorite type of music: country
2. Favorite food: sushi
3. Favorite sport: softball (I've played for 12 years)
4. Favorite movie: Breakfast at Tiffany's
5. Favorite color: Pink
6. Favorite TV Shows: *Mad Men* and *The Walking Dead*



Salvete iterum,

I have decided in an effort to get you all involved in the Torch that I will be opening up a publications contest. This contest will test your creativity and knowledge of the Classical world. It is open to all who are members of the Texas Junior Classical League. The prompt is as follows.

Imagine This: It is August 24, 79 AD. You are a Roman living in Pompei. Give an eyewitness account of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius.

The prompt is purposely open ended. It is meant to give you as much artistic license as you see fit. Wow us! Show us something we don't expect! All submissions must be emailed to [editor@tsjcl.org](mailto:editor@tsjcl.org) or mailed to the following address by April 1st.

1204 West 9th Street  
Austin, TX 78703

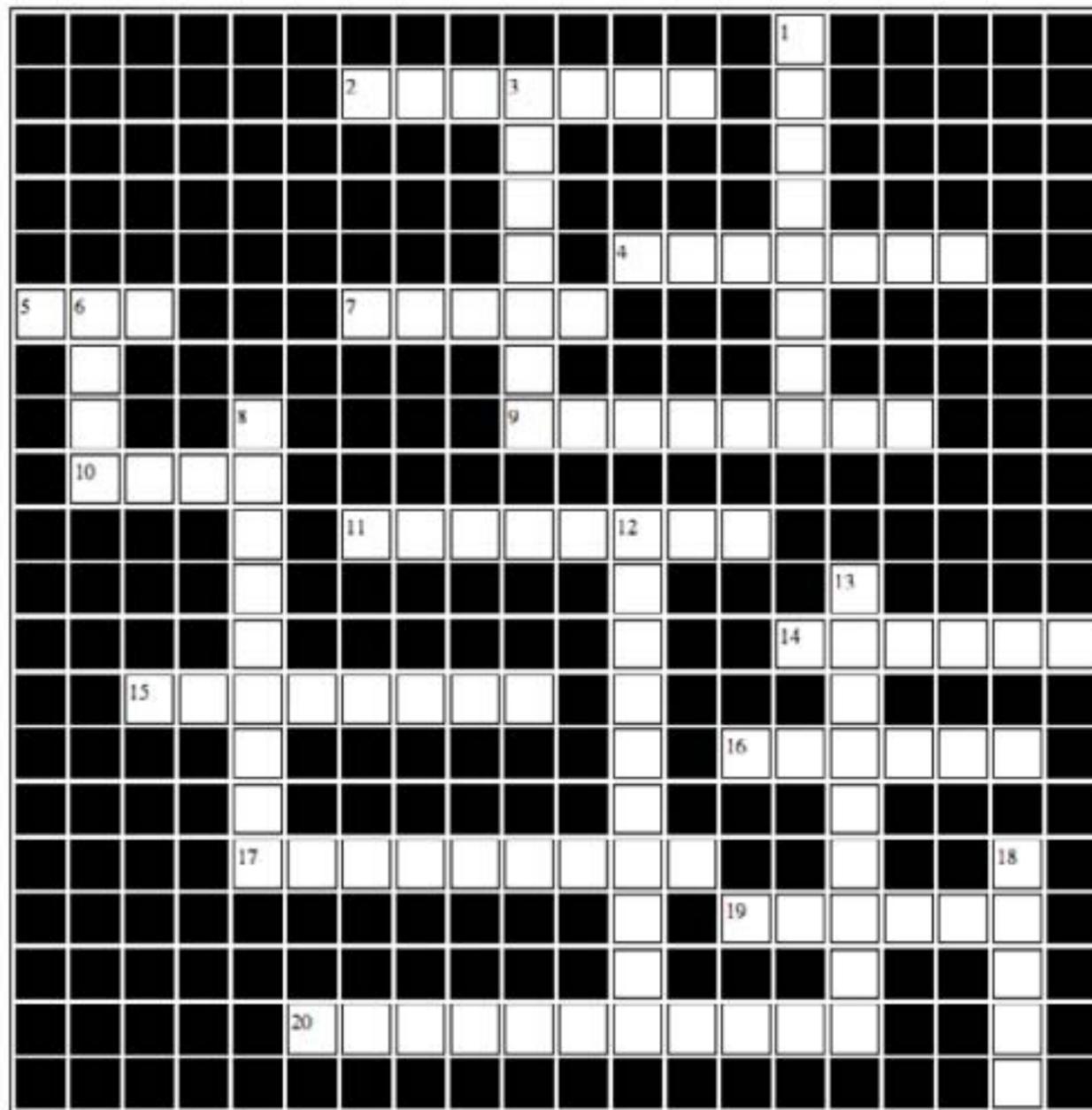
The winner will be chosen within those two weeks leading up to the Convention and will be published in the addition of the Midnight Torch. Let your creative juices start flowing, and may the best contestant win! I'm sure this will not be an easy decision.

Hope you all submit!

Gratias tibi ago,  
Reeves Smith



## Classics Crossword



Across

Down

2. Cedant arma togae is the motto of what state?
4. Octavian's famous general
5. The dowry for a Roman
7. The Roman senate house
9. The Romans called it Caledonia, we call it
10. Quid Significat "Audeo"
11. Wrote poems to Delia and Nemesis
14. The oldest Greek at Troy
15. Author known for being a painter
16. Coined the phrase 'carpe diem'
17. Agamemnon sacrificed this daughter so that his ships could sail to Troy
19. Quid Significat "Frenum"
20. Ceyx and Alcyone were turned into \_\_\_\_\_

1. Roman war machine equivalent to the trebuchet
3. Lucretius dedicated his "De Rerum Natura" to this man
6. Author whose cognomen means 'nose'
8. Shakespeare based his "Comedy of Errors" of this play by Pl
12. A derivative of lugeo meaning 'overly mournful/gloomy'
13. Arbiter Elegantiae under Nero
18. Quid Significat "Nex"

# And the answer is...



## Sam Bankson

Hi! My name is Sam Bankson, and I am the 1st Vice President of the 2012-2013 TSJCL board. I've taken Latin for 4 years now, and I plan on studying it in college. Around this time last year, my teacher approached me about running for a state office. My first reaction was 'Sure! How hard can it be?' I found out that going to Area and State for the past three years had not come close to preparing me for the madness of actually running for office. After NomCom my thoughts started changing to things like 'What am I getting myself into?' The morning of campaigning was the craziest; I was so hopped up on Red Bull and 5 Hour Energy, my hands were shaking. My experience on the Board so far has answered my previous question; I figured out I had gotten myself into a group that would yield life-long friendships and fun responsibilities. All in all, running for office has been one of the best decisions I've ever made- thanks to my teacher.