

THE TORCH

The official publication of the Texas State Junior Classical League

Volume LXXIII, Issue No. 2

STATE CONVENTION CERTAMEN RESULTS

The following teams will advance to the finals:

Novice: Area A, Area B, Area F

Intermediate: Area B, Area F, Area A

Advanced: Area A, Area B, Area F



www.tsjcl.org

YOUR 2014 TSJCL OFFICER CANDIDATES



Isaiah Butcher, Candidate for President

Q) What is your grade level and level of Latin?

A) 11th grade, Level III

Q) How many years have you taken Latin?

A) I have taken Latin for 3 years, but my sister has been teaching me a bit of Latin on the side since 7th grade.

Q) How many conventions (including area, state, and national) have you attended?

A) I have been to Area Convention 3 times, to State Convention twice (this is my third), and to National Convention last year at UNLV.

Q) What do you feel qualifies you to run for this position?

A) I feel qualified to run for President as I've been in leadership positions in other groups outside of Latin, and I believe that the things I have learned as a leader will help me lead the TSJCL.

Q) What extracurricular activities do you like to do? (This includes anything Latin-related, sports, community service, etc.)

A) I am involved in a variety of things, including Certamen, Latin Honor Society, my school's Latin Club, Quiz Bowl, Science Bowl, Scouting (within which exists an honor society known as the Order of the Arrow, which I am also involved in), ROTC, National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, and Ocean Science Bowl. I also volunteer at my local library and play ultimate frisbee on the side!

Q) What new ideas do you have to help improve the TSJCL experience?

A) I plan to introduce new ideas to the Greek area of TSJCL, as well as something leaning towards Modern Latin or Latin Fluency. I also plan to create new cheers for Nationals, help unite the chapters, and plan for a convention next year that you'll really enjoy!

Q) What is your favorite mythological character/creature/story any why?

A) My favorite mythological story would probably be Orpheus and Eurydice. His love for Eurydice was so great that he couldn't bear to not see her for a moment longer; although this proved to be Eurydice's downfall, it's still very touching.



Hunter Atherton, Candidate for 1st Vice-President

Q) What is your grade level and level of Latin?

A) 9th grade, level II

Q) How many years have you taken Latin?

A) I have taken Latin for four years.

Q) How many conventions (including area, state, and national) have you attended?

A) I have attended three area, three state, and one national convention.

Q) What do you feel qualifies you to run for this position?

A) I am qualified to run for the position of 1st Vice-President overseeing sight recitation and dramatic interpretation because I have many years of experience with it. I started competing in Sight Recitation and Decathlon three years ago. While I don't compete in Decathlon anymore, I love Sight Recitation and will always sign up for it. My experience helps me to understand what works well and what could enhance everyone's experience.

Q) What extracurricular activities do you like to do? (This includes anything Latin-related, sports, community service, etc.)

A) I am a member of my school's Latin club and I work for Habitat for Humanity. I play volleyball for my high school as well as for my club team, and additionally help younger players at my old school work on their skills.

Q) What new ideas do you have to help improve the TSJCL experience?

A) I believe encouraging the judges to stay engaged during all the presentations in the performing categories could improve every contestant's experience; they will feel heard whether or not they win.

Q) What is your favorite mythological character/creature/story any why?

A) My favorite mythological character is Echo, because even though bad things always happen to her she keeps going; her voice will continue forever.



Jeff Khan, Candidate for 1st Vice-President

Q) What is your grade level and level of Latin?

A) 11th grade, level III

Q) How many years have you taken Latin?

A) 3 years of Latin.

Q) How many conventions (including area, state, and national) have you attended?

A) I have attended 6 conventions (3 area, 2 state, and 1 national)

Q) What do you feel qualifies you to run for this position?

A) I've held an office pertaining to Latin for 3 consecutive years, hosted the Area B TSJCL Convention this year (2014) which had 1500 people, and have many powerful connections throughout TSJCL.

Q) What extracurricular activities do you like to do? (This includes anything Latin-related, sports, community service, etc.)

A) I like to play League of Legends (favorite champion: Draven), walk my Beagle named Brady, and watch anime.

Q) What new ideas do you have to help improve the TSJCL experience?

A) I'd like to create more Ludi events such as dodgeball, wine (soda) tasting, and tug of war as well as create workshops in preparation for nationals like how to wear a toga and spirit seminars.

Q) What is your favorite mythological character/creature/story any why?

A) My favorite mythological creature would be the Ashiarai Yashiki, because it's pretty much a yokai (ghost) that's a giant foot that invades a person's home and demands the homeowner to wash it. It's just awesome.



Jack Emerson Sparks, Candidate for 2nd Vice-President

Q) What is your grade level and level of Latin?

A) 11th grade, Level IV

Q) How many years have you taken Latin?

A) I have taken Latin for 2 years.

Q) How many conventions (including area, state, and national) have you attended?

A) I have attended 2 area conventions, 2 state conventions, and 1 national convention. Totaling to 5 conventions.

Q) What do you feel qualifies you to run for this position?

A) I feel I am qualified to run for this because not only do I have good understanding of Latin, but also I have proven to be a good leader in many other organizations on all sides of the spectrum. To list a few, I am an Eagle Scout, I am a squad leader in my marching band, and I am the math honor society treasurer.

Q) What extracurricular activities do you like to do? (This includes anything Latin-related, sports, community service, etc.)

A) I have my own percussion business which I build instruments.

I am I the marching band at my school.

I often volunteer at a local retirement village, playing the piano so they can dance. I am also in many different clubs including National Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Math Honor Society, English Honor Society, and the Business Club.

Q) What new ideas do you have to help improve the TSJCL experience?

A) I want to find more ways where the chapters can gather as a whole and do fun things. Although the dance is fun, I'm sure there are even better ideas we can think of! In addition to gaining more of community feel for TSJCL, I want to have every member of JCL more involved throughout the year!

Q) What is your favorite mythological character/creature/story any why?

A) When Pyrrhus kills Priam in book 2 of the Aeneid. I enjoyed it because how Virgil went about describing it made it much more emotional and intense. Latin's superiority in description is shown perfectly through this passage.



Kathryn Marie Kilborn, Candidate for Secretary

Q) What is your grade level and level of Latin?

A) 10th grade, Level II

Q) How many years have you taken Latin?

A) I have taken Latin for 2 years.

Q) How many conventions (including area, state, and national) have you attended?

A) I have attended 5 conventions, including 2 area conventions, 2 state conventions, and 1 national convention.

Q) What do you feel qualifies you to run for this position?

A) I am extremely dedicated to the JCL and a hard worker. I tend to get things done in an orderly, professional like fashion.

Q) What extracurricular activities do you like to do? (This includes anything Latin-related, sports, community service, etc.)

A) I'm an active member of the Brandeis Chapter Latin Club, I act in my schools plays, pose in photographs for charity events, play guitar and piano, and have accomplished watching over 500 hours of Netflix.

Q) What new ideas do you have to help improve the TSJCL experience?

A) I want to continue to have success in TSJCL, and digitalize the Membership Packets, create public access to the Minutes via the TSJCL Facebook page, and keep the JCL spirit alive!

Q) What is your favorite mythological character/creature/story any why?

A) My favorite mythological story is the story of Midas and his daughter, because it shows how family is more important than money. (Even lots, and lots, and lots of it!)



Laura Bryant, Candidate for Treasurer

Q) What is your grade level and level of Latin?

A) 11th grade, level IV

Q) How many years have you taken Latin?

A) I have been taking Latin since my 7th grade year, so about 5 years.

Q) How many conventions (including area, state, and national) have you attended?

A) I have attended 12 conventions overall if you include this one and out of those 12, 2 of them have been national conventions.

Q) What do you feel qualifies you to run for this position?

A) I feel qualified to run for this position because I have been an officer in my local Latin club chapter for the past two years, holding the Treasurer position my sophomore year and the President position this past year. From my experience, I have become very familiar with what it takes to run a large club,

whether it's organizing meetings, planning fun and interesting service projects, or running fundraisers and competitions. Along with Latin, I partake in multiple clubs in and outside of school including student council, which has forced me to manage my time well and communicate with different organizations. Lastly, I am so dedicated to Latin, much like everyone at this convention. I have met so many amazing friends through Latin that JCL has become a family of sorts to me and I can't imagine anything better than becoming more involved with this organization and making it the best it can possibly be.

Q) What extracurricular activities do you like to do? (This includes anything Latin-related, sports, community service, etc.)

A) I absolutely love playing the viola! Outside of Latin, orchestra takes up the largest amount of my time. Besides my viola, I am a book lover through and through and as a result I work at a local bookstore both as an employee and as an intern, reading books and writing reviews for our teen blog. Volunteering is very important to me; I volunteer at the hospital during my summers and partake in various community service projects through student council and National Honor Society during the school year. Next to Latin, science is my favorite subject. I take part in various math and science club at our school and recently joined this program called High School Aerospace Scholars, which is all about space science and NASA. It is so much fun!

Q) What new ideas do you have to help improve the TSJCL experience?

A) I don't really hear much from the TSJCL outside of convention and The Torch and to me, that is a definite problem. I know Texas is such a big state and it's hard for all of us to get to know each other when we only meet for two days out of the year (or a week if you go to nationals) so we should organize events or projects that could bring us together. For example, I would love to organize state wide service projects, similar to what the NJCL does, but that pertain specifically to Texas. For example, when Bastrop went through that terrible fire, we could have organized something like making care packages or going to Bastrop itself and helping with various activities in order to rebuild the city. We could also do a sort of "secret Iuppiter" during saturnalia/Christmas season with kids across the state. The main point is that we as a state club aren't as tight knit as we could be, and we need to do everything to fix this

Q) What is your favorite mythological character/creature/story any why?

A) What is my favorite mythological creature/character/story? There's so many things to choose from! If I really had to choose just one, I'd say that I'm a rather large fan of the Muses. These nine goddesses are the embodiment of so many different aspects that I love: music, knowledge, dance. They are generally peaceful (as far as Greek gods go) and are overall some of the most accomplished goddesses in mythology.

Leilani Hamilton, Candidate for Historian

Q) What is your grade level and level of Latin?

A) 11th grade, level III

Q) How many years have you taken Latin?

A) I have taken Latin for three years.

Q) How many conventions (including area, state, and national) have you attended?

A) I have attended 3 area conventions, 4 state conventions and 2 national conventions.

Q) What do you feel qualifies you to run for this position?

A) At the most recent National Convention I won 13 awards and placed in the overall top ten for the graphic arts. I know how to work with almost all art mediums including Pastel, Acrylic, Black Ink, Colored Ink, Etching, and watercolor which I try to incorporate into my scrapbooks. Not only do I have crafty hands, but I also possess a trained eye when it comes to Photography. I have taken two professional photography classes and learned how to capture the best memories that last a split second, but with a simple click of my camera will last a lifetime. I have experience in making digital and traditional scrapbooks since 7th grade as a NJHS Historian for two straight years, SOAR Club Historian throughout my high school career, Assistant in Atascocita High School's Scrapbook which placed second at Nationals and as well as this year's scrapbook that I designed and crafted by myself.

Q) What extracurricular activities do you like to do? (This includes anything Latin-related, sports, community service, etc.)

A) However, graphic arts is only one of the extracurricular I participate in. Other activities include National Honor Society, President of Atascocita JCL, Girl Scouts as an Ambassador and National Council Delegate for a 3 year term. When I am not trying to make the world a better place I spend my time developing a curriculum to teach younger children the importance of the Classics.

Q) What new ideas do you have to help improve the TSJCL experience?

A) If I were elected your TSJCL Historian I would improve the TSJCL experience by sending mini tutorials and crafty techniques to club Historians every month so that they will be able to increase their success in capturing the precious memories of what it really means to be a JCLer even more. If you really think about it, experiences become even better when you are able to successfully reflect on them visually and emotionally. It is the job of the Historian to capture those moments. Therefore I want to direct my attention those behind the camera because as historians we can not effect the future but we can effect the past. By doing so, I will be able to affect every JCLer when they look at their scrapbook, increasing the experience of their past.

Q) What is your favorite mythological character/creature/story any why?

A) I am so glad you asked! My favorite mythological character is Nike. She is a minor goddess but plays an important role. I prefer Nike not only because it is my Latin name but because I think that I can also control my own destiny. With hard work and dedication I will fly with my own set of wings to victory. Choose me and I will be sure to take us there.

