



THE MIDNIGHT TORCH



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS STATE JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE

VOL. LXXIV ISSUE NO. 3

Certamen Results:

Novice: Area A, Area B, Area F

Intermediate: Area B, Area C,
Area F

Advanced: Area A, Area B, Area
F

Meet the Candidates

President: David Mann

1st VP: Cass Plowman

2nd VP: Nikhil Rao

Secretary: Shavri Lam, Hannah Zawatski

Treasurer: Jack Mason, Emilie Vawter

Historian: Walton Schmidt, Spencer Rhea

Candidate for President: **David Mann** (Latin III student)

How many conventions have you attended? Are you planning to attend Nationals this summer?

I have been to Area three times, State twice, and Nationals twice. I am very excited to go to Trinity this summer.

Why did you decide to apply for office?

When I played Gus in Role Call at Nationals this previous summer, I had the opportunity to spend some time with the current state officers. That was the first time I actually realized how much I loved doing things for the TSJCL and at that time, I promised myself I would find a way to be more involved.



What experiences do you have that will aid in the specific duties of your office?

I have a copy of Robert's Rules of Order that, from time to time, I study to gain a better understanding of parliamentary procedure. Also, when I was in a Quorum Presidency for my church, I spent at least an hour every week in council meetings for several years, which really helped me to understand how board meetings should be organized and run. Finally, I have been in Theatre classes for a number of years, so I am very accustomed to speaking in front of enormous crowds and I am not afraid to take charge when a leader is needed.

What is your greatest strength and how do you plan to use it in performing your duties?

My greatest strength is, without a doubt, my love for serving others and helping any time or place I can. I love the feeling of helping people with a struggle, stepping back and seeing their joy and success evident on their face. This skill translates well to working in leadership, because I really want to give everyone the best convention experience they can have and so I plan to do all I can to make any TSJCL events as smooth as possible.

Describe your favorite mythological scene and write a clever Instagram-style caption.

My favorite mythological scene is definitely the story of Baucis and Philemon, who were an old, poor married couple. One day, they accepted two travelers into their home and gave almost everything they had for these total strangers. When Baucis and Philemon tried to cook their only goose for the strangers' soup, the strangers revealed themselves as Jupiter and Mercury and offered the old couple anything they wanted in return for the hospitality they had shown the gods, to which the couple replied they wished to die together, so they would never live without each other. Later, on their deathbed, the gods transformed Baucis and Philemon into an oak and a linden tree, so they would always be intertwined. #RelationshipGoals #FamilyTree #NoSoupForYou

Caligula declared war on the sea. What geological feature would you go to battle with?

Definitely Lake Superior; it is far too arrogant. When I have conquered its supercilious shores, I plan to rename it Lake Mediocre.

Candidate for 1st VP: Cass Plowman (Latin IV student)

How many conventions have you attended? Are you planning to attend Nationals this summer?

I have attended 4 Area conventions, 4 State conventions (counting this one), and 3 National conventions. I am planning to attend Nationals at Trinity this summer.

Why did you decide to apply for office?

I have greatly enjoyed my experiences in the JCL over the last few years, and I would like to become more involved in and contribute back to the JCL.

What experiences do you have that will aid in the specific duties of your office?

I have participated in the maximum allowed number of academic contests at the Area, State, and National levels. I have also participated in Sight Recitation. Additionally, I know many people who have participated in the Dramatic Interpretation contest. All of these things will help me in managing these contests.

What is your greatest strength and how do you plan to use it in performing your duties?

My greatest strength is that I work very hard on everything that I do. This strength will ensure that all of my duties are performed at a high level.

Describe your favorite mythological scene and write a clever Instagram-style caption.

My favorite mythological scene is Atlas holding the world on his shoulders. Caption: Don't shrug, Atlas!

Caligula declared war on the sea. What geological feature would you go to battle with?

I would go to battle with the desert because it is so unsuitable for human life.

Candidate for 2nd VP: Nikhil Rao (Latin III Student)

How many conventions have you attended? Are you planning to attend Nationals this summer?

This is my 11th convention (3 national conventions, 4 state conventions as of now, and 4 area conventions). I plan on attending Nationals this summer.

Why did you decide to apply for office?

I decided to apply for office because I wanted to be a part of improving and running an organization that I hold close to my heart.

What experiences do you have that will aid in the specific duties of your office?

I have participated in the Essay Contest before, as well as the photography, mosaic, and pottery contests, so I am familiar with Classical Civilization contests. Especially in consideration of the Essay Contest, my experience with it will help me in writing a new essay prompt. I helped behind the scenes with registration for the Area C Convention with my sponsor (Mrs. Romanosky) both this year and last, so I am familiar with the logistics of JCL conventions.

What is your greatest strength and how do you plan to use it in performing your duties?

I believe my greatest strength to be my passion for the JCL, and it's manifestation in fueling my work and ideas.

Describe your favorite mythological scene and write a clever Instagram-style caption.

My favorite mythological scene is the story of Hyacinthus. Hyacinthus, a male lover of Apollo, was killed by a discus thrown off course by the West Wind, Zephyrus, who was jealous that Hyacinthus only had eyes for Apollo but not him. Apollo, refusing to let Hyacinthus go to Hades, made him a flower, the Hyacinth, from his blood. I would probably caption this scene: "When mythology from 2000+ years ago is more progressive than mainstream media today" followed by 3 of the "eyes" emojis.

Caligula declared war on the sea. What geological feature would you go to battle with?

I'd probably go to war with an isthmus (a narrow strip of land connecting two larger pieces of land, surrounded on both sides by the ocean) because if I was in a position to declare war on a geological feature, I would declare war on an annoying one. An isthmus blocks passage in between two big pieces of land, making it more difficult to get to a desired destination. As an emperor, I'd imagine I'd probably go to war on something that made my war plans more difficult. Also isthmus is difficult to say so that's on the table too.



Candidate for Secretary: **Shavri Lam** (Latin IV Student)

How many conventions have you attended? Are you planning to attend Nationals this summer?

I've attended 9 conventions so far, and I can't wait to attend Nationals at Trinity this summer!

Why did you decide to apply for office?

I decided to apply for office because being a part of the JCL has been such a great experience for me, and I want it to be a great experience for all other members as well. Throughout my years, I've developed a love for Latin, and I hope to spread an admiration of the Classics among future members of the JCL!

What experiences do you have that will aid in the specific duties of your office?

During my terms as secretary and president of my high school's Latin club, I was able to help plan fundraisers, parties, and multiple club events, as well as keep our club organized by taking minutes and communicating with other officers. I hope to use these experiences to successfully help plan our next TSJCL convention with my fellow officers.

What is your greatest strength and how do you plan to use it in performing your duties?

I consider communication my greatest strength. I plan to carry out duties such as developing seminars for our next state convention, recruiting new TSJCL chapters, and keeping accurate records by contacting the right people, asking important questions, and relaying information to others.

Describe your favorite mythological scene and write a clever Instagram-style caption.

My favorite mythological scene is when Zeus has a terrible headache after swallowing his first wife, Metis. His headache gets so bad that he asks Hephaestus split open his head, and out jumps Athena. My caption: #tbt to when Zeus became a lot more open-minded after having Athena.

Caligula declared war on the sea. What geological feature would you go to battle with?

I would go to battle with the Sahara Desert because I absolutely hate hot weather. What good has the heat ever done anyone, right? Good thing I live in Texas.

Candidate for Secretary: **Hannah Zawatski** (Latin III Student)

How many conventions have you attended? Are you planning to attend Nationals at Trinity this summer?

I have attended 3 Area B, 3 State (including Amarillo), and 2 National conventions. And I can't wait for Trinity!

Why did you decide to apply for office?

I chose to apply for office because the TSJCL has given me so many opportunities, and I think my abilities are perfectly suited for the office of secretary.

What experiences do you have that will aid in the specific duties of your office?

Just a few of my experiences that will aid me in secretarial duties are my immense familiarity with leadership, both on the field and in the classroom. I'm a Clark JCL officer, as well as Contest Captain for two subjects. Since I have been a secretary for a major organization before, I am familiar with Robert's Rules, Microsoft programs, and would be willing to learn any other programs in order to fulfill my tasks quickly and efficiently.

What is your greatest strength and how do you plan to use it in performing your duties?

My greatest strength is my drive to help others. I plan to use it to motivate me to not only complete my tasks, but to help fellow officers in their quest for success as well.

Describe your favorite mythological scene and write a clever Instagram-style caption.

My favorite mythological scene is the episode between Odysseus and Circe, who turned his crewmen into swine. #mmmbacon

Caligula declared war on the sea. What geological feature would you go to battle with?

I would declare war on volcanoes, because I really think they were pretty rash with the whole "erupting on Pompeii" thing.



Candidate for Treasurer: Jack Mason (Latin III Student)

How many conventions have you attended? Are you planning to attend Nationals at Trinity University this summer?

I have attended two National Conventions, and I'm planning on attending this year's National Convention at Trinity University.

Why did you decide to apply for office?

I have been very involved in my local JCL chapter, and I would like to take my experience and leadership to a state level.

What experiences do you have that will aid in the specific duties of your office?

My experiences that will aid in the Treasury position are my leadership roles in my school JCL club and my experience in planning and running Area C's past two conventions.

What is your greatest strength and how do you plan to use it in performing your duties?

I think my greatest strengths are my willingness to learn from my predecessors and employing advice from people of greater experience than myself, using these resources to aid in my attempts to be a great Treasurer for the TSJCL.

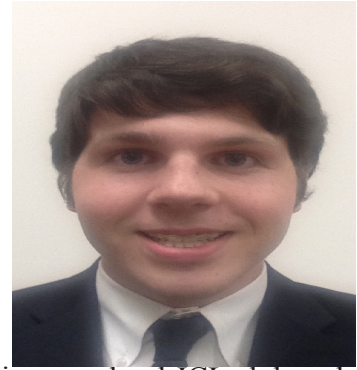
Describe your favorite mythological scene and write a clever Instagram-style caption.

My favorite mythological scene is when Phaethon, being confident in his abilities, attempts to drive Helios' chariot that pulls the sun. He ends up losing control and scorches the Earth, creating the Sahara desert.

Caption: "Should've had a V8"

Caligula declared war on the sea. What geological feature would you go to battle with?

I would personally go to battle with an active volcano. I figure I wouldn't win the battle against a geological feature, but at least I would go out with a bang!



Candidate for Treasurer: Emilie Vawter (Latin III Student)

How many conventions have you attended? Are you planning to attend Nationals this summer?

This is my third state convention, I have been to three area conventions (one of which my school hosted), two Rice Owl Certamen competitions, and two district competitions that Clear Creek Independent School District hosted for local schools, for ten competitions total.

Why did you decide to apply for office?

I applied for treasurer because I feel Clear Falls is becoming more of a contender and participant in conventions, and that we as a rising school should be more involved in the competitions that all of our students love. I feel that I would be a great addition and contribution to TSJCL and am able to fulfill my duties asked of me and more.

What experiences do you have that will aid in the specific duties of your office?

I have experienced as treasurer for my school's Latin club. I also excel in math and responsibly manage the money I earn from working weekends and holidays.

What is your greatest strength and how do you plan to use it in performing your duties?

I feel that I am a very strong natural leader. When put in large groups I quickly assume a leadership role. As an officer for TSJCL, I hope to contribute positively for the state as well as lead the other students who share my love for Latin and other classics.

Describe your favorite mythological scene and write a clever Instagram-style caption.

Eurydice following behind Orpheus out of the underworld: When you can't take your eyes off bae #wcv
Caligula declared war on the sea. What geological feature would you go to battle with?

I would declare war on hills with windy roads. I get very motion sick and just packed medicine just in case for my trip to Amarillo, so war on hills! It's a good thing I live in Houston.



Candidate for Historian: **Walton Schmidt** (Latin III Student)

How many conventions have you attended? Are you planning to attend Nationals this summer?

I have attended 4 Area Conventions, this is my 4th State Convention, and 3 National Conventions. I do plan to attend Nationals at Trinity this summer.

Why did you decide to apply for office?

I really enjoy working with the TSJCL, both as an officer and as a student. I decided on Historian because I think it speaks to my talents the most, and I think I have the right skill set to complete this job well.

What experiences do you have that will aid in the specific duties of your office?

I am Quaestor (Treasurer) of my Latin club, and from 2012-2013, I was the Area F chair. My job as Quaestor really helped me refine my organization skills, and my experience as Area F Chair gave me valuable insight into how the TSJCL board works and what is expected of me as an officer.

What is your greatest strength and how do you plan to use it in performing your duties?

My greatest strength, in my opinion, is my ability to really manage my time wisely and be efficient with my work. I tend to do homework very efficiently, leaving lots of time for extracurriculars, like the JCL. I can use this to my advantage so that I never get behind in my duties such as making the scrapbook.

Describe your favorite mythological scene and write a clever Instagram-style caption.

My favorite is the story of Baucis and Philemon. To sum it up, one day Jupiter and Mercury were walking around on Earth looking for a place to stay, and Baucis and Philemon, even though they were very poor, let the gods into their house for dinner. Jupiter and Mercury, as a reward for their generosity, turned the old couple into oak and linden trees when they died. I really like this tale because it is a great example of how generosity and kindness to everyone can have positive effects you did not expect, and I see this myth as a good lesson on how you can live your life. My Instagram caption would be: *Sparkle emoji* “It is in giving that we receive” – St. Francis of Assisi *Sparkle emoji*.

Caligula declared war on the sea. What geological feature would you go to battle with?

Sinkholes. Honestly, if you can find anyone who genuinely likes sinkholes, I would love to meet them. They just appear out of nowhere, and if you or anything else is above them, you fall in. It’s just a really bad situation in general.

Candidate for Historian: **Spencer Rhea** (Latin III Student)

How many conventions have you attended? Are you planning to attend Nationals this summer?

I have attended 3 area conventions and one state convention (2014). I do plan on going to nationals. It’s such a great opportunity that it is in our home state

Why did you decide to apply for office?

My school hosted state last year and I saw how much work went in to putting on a state convention and I would really like to help put on next year’s convention.

Why do you believe that you will excel at your specific office?

I believe I would excel at this office because I love JCL and I would be very interested in collecting pictures from all the JCL chapters to make a great scrap book.

What experience(s) do you have that will aid in the specific duties of your office?

I helped at the last state convention and I gained valuable experience that will help me to be a better JCL officer. I also helped make Westwood’s JCL’s scrapbook this year.

What is your greatest strength and how do you plan to use it in performing your duties?

I believe my greatest strength is that I enjoy helping others and will try to help people all that I can. I also have taken classes in school where I worked with photoshop and other programs that will help me make a great scrapbook.

Describe your favorite mythological scene and write a clever Instagram-style caption.

I love when Apollo is chasing Daphne and she turns into a tree. Hop off Apollo.

