

# THE MIDNIGHT TORCH

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## *Meet the Candidates!*

President: Walton Schmidt, Giovanni Rivas  
1st Vice President: Nikita Jindal, Katerina Papanikolaou  
2nd Vice President: Kaitlyne Garza, Mallory Barndollar  
Secretary: Mila Wetz  
Treasurer: Neema Djavadzadeh  
Historian: Kisara Moore

## Questions

1. What grade and level of Latin are you in? How long have you been taking Latin?
2. How many Area, State, and National conventions have you attended?
3. Why did you decide to run for office?
4. What qualifications do you have that pertain to the office you are running for?
5. Caligula made his horse, Incitatus, a senator. If you could make any animal a senator, which animal would it be ?

Giovanni Rivas: Candidate for President

1. I am currently a sophomore taking Latin II, which have been the only two years of Latin that I've ever taken!

2. So far, I have been to two Area conventions, this is my 2nd state convention, and one National convention.

3. I decided to run for office because after Nationals, I was really excited, motivated, and in love with JCL! I had an amazing JCL experience, which inspired me to want to make sure others have the best possible experiences as well, and what better way than to help by becoming an officer?

4. I have been in several leadership positions before, so the pressure and responsibility is something I know I can handle. I was the Student Body President of Middle School in my eighth grade year, I am a member of a mentoring program for middle school students, I have been a group leader at my class retreat, and I helped host an Area convention. I not only have the experience, but I also have the time to be able to dedicate myself to my office.

5. I would probably make a pigeon one of the senators because I personally think pigeons are pretty smart, not that it would talk or anything, but it would be a nice senate pet that gives out its own justice every once in a while...



Walton Schmidt: Candidate for President

1. Currently, I'm in AP Latin 4. I had the opportunity to take an introductory Latin course in the fifth grade, and I've been enrolled in a Latin course every year since, totaling seven years.

2. Thus far, I have not missed a convention since I've been eligible to attend, so in total I have been to 5 Area, 5 State (this is my 5th) and 4 Nationals. (I am looking forward to my 5th NJCL convention this summer, and I'm already signed up to attend!)

3. I decided to run for office because I love the JCL. This is such a great community for students of the Classics to learn academically as well as bond socially. I have been on the TSJCL Board twice before (as Area F Chair in 2012 and Historian this year), and I really enjoy being able to help shape the TSJCL and make it a better organization overall. In addition, I appreciate spending time with all of my fellow officers. This year, I am running for President because I want to continue making the TSJCL a better organization for everyone involved, whether by helping to organize a great convention, or by working to update the Constitution (since the Constitution is being revised this year).

(cont. on next page)



Walton Schmidt (cont.)

4. In addition to my experience on the TSJCL board, I have been the Quaestor (our Treasurer equivalent) for my Latin Club for the past two years. My position in my school's Latin Club has strengthened my skills in organization and time management, which are necessary for fulfilling the duties of the President, such as creating the schedule for the State Convention and coordinating among the TSJCL Officers. I also serve on my school's Honor Council and am active in Tech Theater, working as a crew head for rigging and sound.

5. I would make a dolphin a Senator because dolphins are so smart. I am sure that all of our problems would be fixed in no time.

Nikita Jindal: Candidate for 1st Vice President

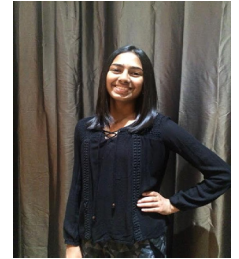
1. I am in 10th grade and I am currently taking AP Latin. I have been enrolled in Latin for 3 years.

2. I have attended two National conventions (and will attend the one this coming summer), three Area conventions, and one State convention.

3. I decided to run for office because JCL has played a huge part in my life in the classics. There are so many fond memories I have from convention that I will carry with me forever, whether it is the talent show, chariot racing, morning marathons, or even Certamen competitions. JCL contains so much spirit, love, and a sense of community that I want to be part of. I want to become even more involved so that I can further enrich the lives of JCLers not only today, but of JCLers to come in the future. The JCL community has given me a world of joy and now it's time that I give back.

4. I am currently the Secretary of the JCL chapter we have at Greenhill School. As secretary, I help coordinate different activities and service projects we do as part of the local chapter. I served as the class representative of my grade this past year and will be serving as their Vice President this coming year. These leadership opportunities will provide me with a wide set of skills that will aid me in undertaking my duties in JCL.

5. If I could make any animal a senator, I would make the senator a parrot. He or she would represent its population exceedingly well because it would simply repeat what others said. There would be no miscommunication.



Katernia Papanikolaou: Candidate for 1st Vice President

1. I'm in Latin III and I have been taking Latin for almost three years.

2. I have attended 3 area conventions, 3 state conventions, and 1 national convention at Trinity University.

3. As cliché as it sounds, seeing the officers cheer on the all of us at Nationals and watching them go around and meet everyone and really give everyone that JCLove is the main reason I want to run for office. I really want to get to as many people as I can and spread my love of Latin and I think that being an officer can really give me a boost in achieving that goal.

4. I have been an officer in several organizations like Student Council, Latin Club and even started my own club at my high school, so I have experience that I think can only help me for this office. I also have the advantage that if State is in San Antonio next year, I think that I have more direct access to make sure everything is running smoothly with the upcoming convention, without having to drive from out of town.

5. I would probably say my dog Leonidas would make the perfect senator. He's got that 'royal' quality, and by that I mean everyone waits on him hand and foot, just like servants would their master in Roman times.



Mallory Barndollar: Candidate for 2nd Vice President

1. I am a sophomore and currently in Latin 3 Pre-AP. I have been taking Latin since I was in 5th grade! It's always been a big part of my academic life, and I am so glad I chose to continue taking this language - it's been extremely beneficial!

2. I have attended Area for the last two years, State last year and this year, and I attended Nationals last year over the summer! It was an amazing experience, and I plan to go again this year.

3. I have been an active member of my Latin Club at Westlake High School, and have had such a good time being an officer. Although it takes work, I love it! I want to be a TSJCL officer because I think I can really help our delegation run smoothly, and I think my organizational skills and people skills are just what the 2nd VP position needs!

4. I have been in Latin Club since 7th grade. I have been an officer for the past two years, and I have helped my club put together this year's service project! We made and donated dog blankets to our local animal shelter.

5. I would probably make a dog a senator. I love dogs, I think their loyalty and compassion would be very beneficial for the senate, and they would most likely be too busy chasing a ball or a tail to start any wars.



Kaitlyne Garza: Candidate for 2nd Vice President

1. I am currently a junior at Atascocita High School and enrolled in Latin III. I started Latin my freshman year, so this is my third year to be taking Latin.

2. I have attended 3 Area conventions, 3 State conventions, and 2 National conventions, and have already made arrangements to attend Nationals at Indiana University this summer.

3. I decided to run for office because I'm very passionate about the JCL and art. Each Convention I've attended, I have entered art pieces because I find art relaxing and delightful to create. Art is an extraordinary way to express oneself and their point of view; it's the ultimate way to get to know a person. I fell in love with the Classics and the JCL after my first time experiencing the aura of Latin in its entirety. I had never felt so welcomed and accepted in any other organization that I've been a part of. The JCL is diverse and there is so many different ways for someone to excel, and that is what I find amazing about the JCL. The beauty of the JCL inspires me every day and I hope to continue the JCL legacy as your TSJCL 2nd VP.

4. I have experience on the TSJCL Board as the 2015-2016 Convention Coordinator, along with my co-chair Johnny Painter. Therefore, I know I have some ideas to enhance art by making the rules more detailed to prevent confusion from the students and sponsors. At past conventions that I have attended, I helped register and organize art, so I have an adequate understanding of how registration works. Throughout the past year, my sponsor and I have had many discussions about art "loop holes" and solutions to these.

5. If I could make any animal a senator, I would choose a chimpanzee because they are extremely intelligent mammals and are capable of learning sign language, so we could easily communicate. Chimpanzees have the capability to mimic the actions of a 5 year old, reflecting their ability to mentally adapt. They are passionate, loving, and empathetic creatures and they express their emotions just as humans do. They express their feelings to navigate their way through relationships, which could be beneficial to the government. Besides, they're adorable and playful, so who wouldn't want a chimpanzee as one of their senators?



Mila Wetz: Candidate for Secretary

1. I am a sophomore, I am in Latin 2, and I have been taking Latin for 2 years.

2. I have been to 2 area conventions, 1 state convention, and 1 national convention.

3. I really love the classics, and I love the people in the TSJCL. I really would like to give back to them in any way that I can.

4. I am currently the secretary of my school's Latin club. I have experience with leadership and technology, and I have been to many JCL conventions.

5. I would make a cute bunny rabbit a senator because they would never stab Caesar, or anyone else. I also think they would be able to get things done quickly and they would always be energized.



Neema Djavadzadeh: Candidate for Treasurer

1. I am in 11th grade, currently taking Latin III. I have been taking Latin since my freshman year.

2. I have attended all 3 area competitions and all 2 state competitions I have been able to go to. I qualified for Nationals both my freshman and sophomore years but decided against going due to internships and attending the Stanford Summer College.

3. I decided to run for office because I would like to do more for the Latin community. I love watching a group of people come together and be passionate about a topic, and leading a group of passionate people who enjoy the same thing I do would be a huge accomplishment and honor for me.

4. I am currently the president of the Clear Brook Classical League, and I held the Parliamentarian position my sophomore year. I feel like my leadership history in other clubs and extra-curriculars, along with my organization skills and passion about Latin and all that surrounds it can help the TSJCL community thrive.

5. If I could make any animal a senator, I'd make it a dolphin. Dolphins are known to be the smartest animals, outside of humans of course, which would greatly benefit any senate.

Kisara Moore: Candidate for Historian

1. I am in 11th grade and in Latin V. It is my fifth year of taking Latin.
2. I have attended six total conventions.

3. My biggest motivation to run for office was to become more actively involved in the classics community. I have been an avid learner of the classics for five years now, but my school has historically not been very involved in the JCL conventions, and so most of my exposure to the classics has been through my Latin textbooks. Because of these circumstances, however, it felt ever more important for me to spread word about the classics in order to get more people involved, both within my school and in the bigger classics community. One of the core duties of the Historian is the promotion of the classics, which I have a sincere interest in doing.

4. Aside from the classics, many of the people who know me would have to agree that one of the biggest highlights of my identity is my visual eye. Ever since I was little, I have had an inordinate passion for visual arts, mostly consisting of photography and painting. Over the years, I have especially been able to hone my photography skills by working with professional photographers. Therefore, when I learned of the importance of photography in being a TSJCL Historian, I became really excited! In addition, one of the most meaningful experiences I have gained during my high school career has been my leadership of my school's Japanese culture club. As founder and president of the organization, I have developed it to become one of the most popular and actively involved organizations on my school's campus. In order to start such a big organization from scratch, I learned to become best friends with the concept of promotion and advertising: the loads of fancy flyers, public announcements, and emails essentially gave birth to my club! The huge overlap with the Historian's duties in promoting Latin, such as through the Poster, Publicity, and Scrapbook contests, felt like a big shoutout to me to run for the position!

5. I would make the dove a senator because, while it is not to be democratically elected to become a representative of a group like a human senator is, the symbols it represents enable it to fulfill many of the tasks of a senator. The dove is commonly perceived as a symbol of peace, which has served as a way to keep the public in order both during Roman times and today. Furthermore, the dove's wings evoke freedom, which has also been an important civil right for the senatorial government to highlight, both in ancient times as well as today.



## Talent Show Finalists

Kevina and Joel - St. Thomas Episcopal  
 Matthew and Conrad - St. Thomas Episcopal  
 Michaela and Rishabh - Flower Mound  
 Movement - Palo Duro  
 Shallon - Mansfield BBCTA  
 Lydia - Coram Deo  
 Peyton and Victoria - St. Luke's  
 Paige and Ashley - Johnson  
 Victoria - Clear Falls  
 Paola - Regan  
 Rebecca - Antonian

Congratulations to our finalists!