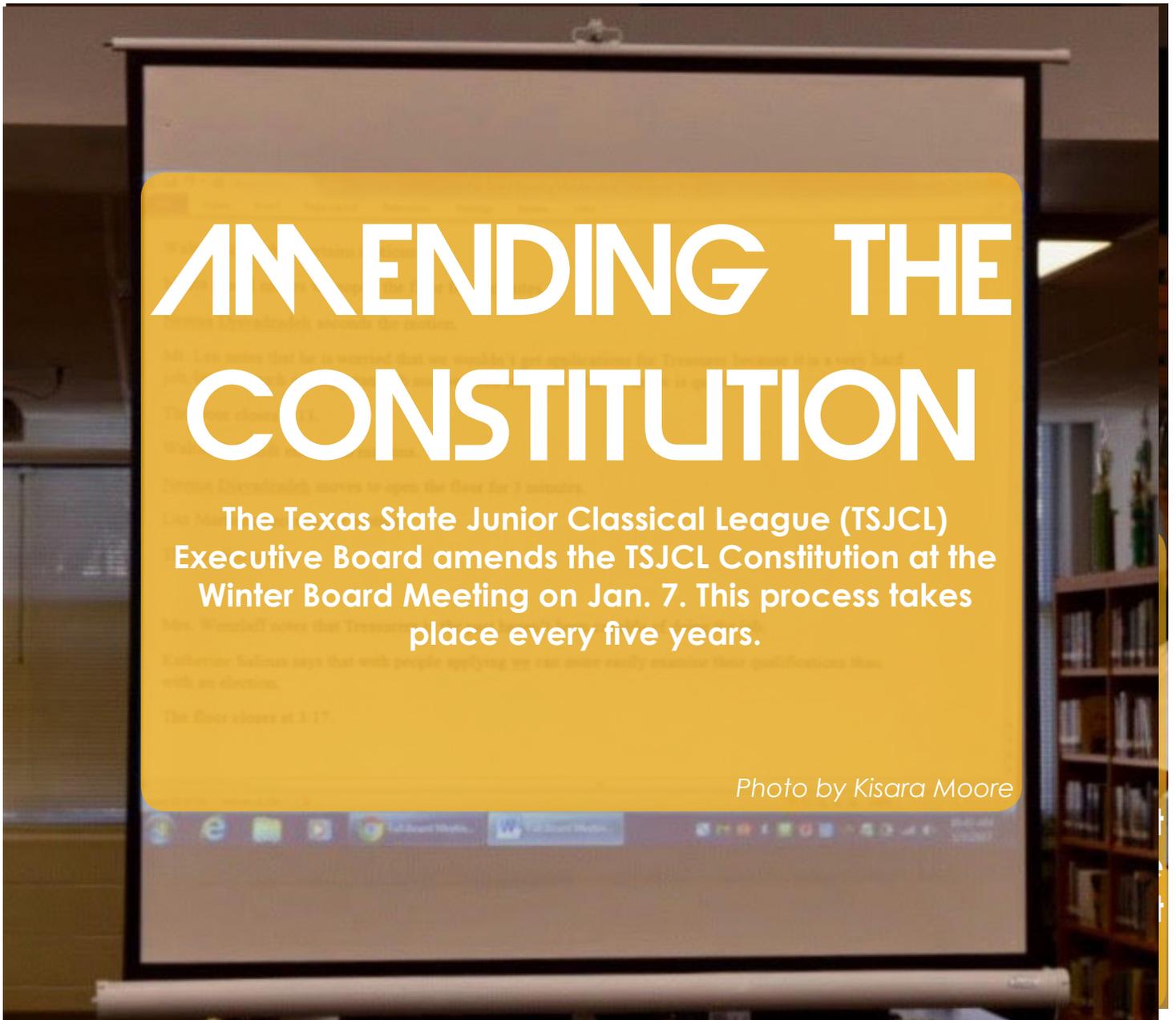


THE WINTER TORCH



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Winter Board Meeting

On Jan. 7, members of the TSJCL Board met in San Antonio, TX at the 2017 state convention site to attend the Winter Board meeting. This meeting specifically focused on state convention as a whole to ensure that everything is on track towards a successful state convention.

At the meeting, officers first stated what they had done in accordance to their duties since the Fall Board Meeting. Officers then discussed the updated and finalized contest rules

for state convention and made any necessary revisions to the documents. Treasurer Neema Djavazadeh gave the updated treasurer report.

After that, the board took a tour of the high school, led by Convention Coordinator Diana Brickmann. The board discussed the locations of various events and contests. The Convention Coordinators then presented a "Convention Update," which included a draft of the registration packet with a preliminary con-

vention schedule.

Parliamentarian Katherine Salinas gave an update on the potential candidates that may run or apply for positions for the 2017-2018 term. She then presented the ballot measures and the proposed amendments for the board's approval (see page III for more information).

The meeting adjourned around 4pm.

Caught Red-Candid: Winter Board Meeting



Photos by Kishan Moore

+ CERTAMEN

Area F has biggest turn out on one out of three Certamen tournaments held this school year

On Jan. 15, Area F held their last Certamen tournament before Area F convention at Rouse High School.

In past years, Area F typically runs about two to three tournaments, prior to the one at Area Convention. Other tournaments in Area F this school year included the Westlake High School on October 15 and the "Crusader Classic" tournament at St. Andrew's Upper School on November 12.

"The purpose and philosophy...is to offer a fun, welcoming opportunity for students to both use and gain knowledge about Latin & the

Classical world and ultimately to have fun with learning," said State Chair Lauren Dill.

The Crusader Classic tournament had the biggest turnout thus far, with schools from the Austin-area, San Antonio, Fort Worth, and Houston. In total, there were about 33 teams from 13 different schools.

Area F offers a Middle School division separate from the Novice division, which is primarily for Latin I students in High School

"It does open up more opportunities to have more teams participate, at least from middle schools," Ms. Dill said.

The Certamen tournaments at Area F help form bonds between competitors, according to Ms. Dill.

"These pre-Area tournaments tend to be a pretty different competitive vibe than during athletic events," she said. "Many students who play Certamen multiple years in school become quite good friends with their competitors because they see each other multiple times at these Fall-Winter tournaments, and often again at Area and State and even National conventions."

Area B holds three tournaments leading up to Area B Convention

Local JCL chapters in Area B have had three Certamen tournaments this school year: One at Tom C. Clark High School on Oct. 22, another at Ronald Reagan High School on Dec. 3, and the most recent one at Central Catholic High School on Jan. 28.

Former teacher at MacArthur High School and TSJCL State Chair Doris Kays original-

ly brought about the inception of Certamen in the 1970's to early 1980's. Since then, Area B has around three tournaments throughout the year, not including the Certamen tournament at Area B Convention.

According to TSJCL State Chair William Lee, the tournaments follow a syllabus which is sent out to all Texas teach-

ers in the fall.

"The goal is to get the students excited about Classics and the game of Certamen and to guide them in preparing for bigger competitions like state and nationals," Mr. Lee said.

Fort Worth Country Day hosts Certamen tournament prior to Area C convention

On Jan. 28, Fort Worth Country Day hosted a Certamen tournament between Fort Worth Country Day, St. Mark's School of Texas, and Highland Park High School.

In the Novice division, Fort Worth Country Day's seventh grade team got first, St. Mark's School of Texas got second, and Highland Park High School got third. In the Intermediate division, St. Mark's School of Texas got first, Fort Worth Country Day got second, and Highland Park High School got third. In the Advanced division, St. Mark's

School of Texas got first, Highland Park High School got second, and Fort Worth Country Day got third.

There are not very many opportunities for our kids to play Certamen except at [Area C convention], so we have been going to Austin occasionally to play," said Fort Worth Country Day Latin teacher Clint Hagen. "We (myself and the Upper School's Latin teacher, Bryan Carlson) wanted to try to get some pre-area tournaments started in Area C."

The tournament had volunteers from the Fort Worth

Country Day Upper School Latin club and Middle School National Junior Honor Society. There were 60 questions per round, three rounds per division, and three divisions total.

"The hardest part [of hosting], I think, is writing questions, proofreading them, and getting them into rounds," Mr. Hagen said. "That can be a lot of work, as you need 540 questions, not including extras."



Photos courtesy of Clint Hagen

Buzz Words: Fort Worth Country Day, St. Marks School of Texas, and Highland Park High school Latin students compete in a tournament.

St. Thomas Episcopal School hosts tournament in Houston, features bagpipe band performance

On Feb. 4, St. Thomas Episcopal School hosted a Certamen tournament in Houston. Participating schools include Clear Falls High School, Klein Collins High School, St. Johns High School, St. Thomas Episcopal School, Baylor College

of Medicine Academy, Belaire High School, J. Frank Dobie High School, Atascocita High School, and Clear Lake High School.

Clear Falls High school won the Advanced division, St. Thomas Episcopal School won

in the Novice division, and St. John's won in the Intermediate division.

The tournament featured a performance from a couple of bagpipe players during lunch.



AMENDMENTS

Number of votes to number of members ratio increases

Ballot Measure #2

In Article IV Section 2, the constitution states how many votes a TSJCL chapter of a certain size gets at state convention.

Originally, the pattern was one vote for every ten members. The proposed amendment will change this pattern to as follows:

5-50 members: two votes
51-75 members: three votes
76-100 members: four votes”

Any chapter with between 5-50 members will receive two votes. The chapter will receive one more for every additional 25 members.

“The reasoning behind this is

to minimize the large disparity in the amount of votes each chapter receives and to ensure that each chapter of the TSJCL has a proportional voice in elections,” the ballot measure states.

Cheat Sheet to the TSJCL Constitution

Article 1: Meetings

Article 2: Quorum

Article III: Qualifications of Officers and Area Chairpersons

Article IV: Duties of the Officers

Article V: Powers of the Student Executive Board

Article VI: Powers and Duties of the State Chairpersons

Article VII: Powers of the Representative Assembly

Article VIII: Standing Committees

Article IX: Special Committees

Article X: Elections

Article XI: Election of TSJCL State Chairs

Article XII: Authority

Article XIII: Amendments

Article XIV: Ratification of the Constitution

Create a new elected office

Ballot Measure #6

In Article IV Section 1, there is a proposition to create a new office of "Outreach Coordinator."

"This new office would focus on newly relevant initiatives for the TSJCL that don't have a place in the duties of any existing offices," the ballot measure reads.

Currently in the constitution, there are no officers specifically with the duties of handling publicity, coordinating spirit at state, or coordinating service projects throughout the year. In the National

Junior Classical League, the 2nd Vice-President handles duties pertaining to service projects and spirit. In the TSJCL, the 2nd Vice-President is primarily in charge of Classical Civilization contests, unlike the NJCL 2nd Vice-President. However, the TSJCL Constitution did not specify duties of coordinating service projects or spirit to any officer, thus the TSJCL 2nd Vice-President assumed these duties as the NJCL 2nd Vice-President would.

As a result, the office of

Outreach Coordinator has been proposed to assume the responsibilities of "social media, publicity, spirit (e.g., writing cheers, coordinating props for nationals, teaching cheers), service, and general outreach."

In the event the office is created, a section would be added to Article IV, before the section of Historian, and it would list all the duties of the Outreach Coordinator.

Proposed Duties of the Outreach Coordinator

- a. *Shall be responsible for updating and maintaining all official TSJCL social media accounts.*
- b. *Shall work to promote and publicize the TSJCL throughout the year to both TSJCL and non-TSJCL affiliated entities.*
- c. *Shall be responsible for coordinating spirit at the NJCL Convention.*
- d. *Shall coordinate communication between the TSJCL Board and the members of the TSJCL and ensure that the decisions of the board are effectively and efficiently communicated to the TSJCL chapters.*
- e. *Shall encourage service projects at the local level and assist local clubs in service as needed.*
- f. *Shall organize the statewide service project(s).*
- g. *Shall submit the TSJCL service projects to the NJCL Community Service Contest."*

Appoint or elect the Treasurer?

Ballot Measure #5

In Article IV Section 1, the office of Treasurer is listed underneath “Elected Officers.” The amendment would move the office of Treasurer to Article IV Section 2 under “Appointed Officers,” listed before the Parliamentarian. The rationale, as stated in Ballot Measure #6, is as follows:

“Changing the office of Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position would ensure that candidates for the office of Treasurer are specifically interested in the office and its duties. This is important because the Treasurer has very specialized duties. The appointed office application process would allow the board to evaluate each candidate’s experience and suitability through an appli-

cation and interview in order to appoint the most qualified candidate.”

If the amendment is passed, candidates would no longer run at state convention for the office of Treasurer, nor would the position be elected by the Representative Assembly, otherwise known as TSJCL delegates. Instead, candidates would submit an application and attend an interview. The Treasurer would later be appointed by the TSJCL Executive Board at the Spring Board Meeting after state convention.

In the event the above amendment is passed, the wording in Section 1 and 5 in Article IV would be amended to “be consistent with the office of Treasurer’s position.”

OTHER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Ballot Measure #1

Covers wording, clarification, and other minor amendments

Ballot Measure #3

“All officers and area chairpersons are expected to attend every Student Executive Board meeting. Any officer who is unable to attend a meeting should send an informed proxy from his/her school.”



“All officers and area chairpersons must attend all Student Executive Board meetings and the state convention unless excused by a state chair, in which case the officer or area chairperson must send an informed proxy from his/her school.”

To read the all the official
ballot measures:

GO TO TSJCL.ORG IN THE “CURRENT
DOWNLOADS” FOLDER

+ CANDIDACY

Salvete, omnes!

I believe that serving as an officer is one of the most rewarding and beneficial things one can do as a TSJCLer. I became an officer during my freshman year, and as I approach the end of my senior year, I find it difficult to envision what my high school experience would have been like without the constant of working as an officer to give back to the TSJCL community. After serving as Area F Chair, I fell in love with holding TSJCL office; being an officer has been a highlight of my time as a JCLer, and I encourage everyone - whether in 7th grade or 11th - to consider running or applying for office. The amazing thing about being an officer is that you don't have to be a Latin genius or a skilled artist or a Certamen whiz. You don't have to win every award at convention or cheer the loudest at GA at nationals. If you love the TSJCL and are willing to work hard, you can hold office. So, if holding office sounds even a little appealing to you, don't hesitate to email me (parliamentarian@tsjcl.org) and let me know! I'll send out general information about the election/application process so you know what's required

of you and when; I'll also send out information about the different offices so you can figure out which office you may want to run/apply for. Also, go to the TSJCL website (www.tsjcl.org) and do some research - find the office that speaks to you! All officers' duties are listed in the TSJCL Bylaws (tsjcl.org/Downloads/Current/Miscellaneous), so look there to get a sense of what each office entails and ensure that you meet candidate requirements. Talk to your sponsor to make sure they're on board with sponsoring a state officer. Look for the 2017-2018 Nominations Form on the TSJCL website and in the State Convention registration packet. This form will be due March 7, 2016 if you want to run for elected office. You can scan and email the form to me. If you're interested in an appointed position (Parliamentarian, Webmaster, Editor), your application will be due after State Convention. Want to hear what other officers have to say about holding office? The 2016 Winter Torch (tsjcl.org / Media / Past Torches / 75.2 | 2016 Winter Torch) contains a Parliamentarian's Letter with some statements from former officers like David

Mann, the 2015-16 TSJCL President. The 2016 Winter Torch also contains an article from Trace Turner called "Why I Did JCL," which provides insight into his time as a JCLer and his experience holding office. You can also contact members of the current board (find their emails at www.tsjcl.org/board); they would be happy to talk to you about their experience holding office. I'm so excited to hear from you - I know that holding office can seem scary and stressful, but it truly is an experience like no other, and I have had an absolute blast on the TSJCL board. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me (parliamentarian@tsjcl.org) with any questions you have.

Gratias Maximas,

*Katherine Salinas
TSJCL Parliamentarian
2016-2017*

Advice for interested candidates

Considering running or applying for office? Here is some advice from current TSJCL Board Members.

“Never procrastinate and try to always be on top of things.”

Conrad Li
Area A Chair

“My best advice is to make sure that you know your sponsor well, because you will be working with them a lot. Make sure that you start working on the earliest stages of planning at the beginning of the school year. There’s a checklist you’ll receive for that. It’s also very helpful to be able to reuse things from previous years and to contact the previous host school/chairperson. I highly encourage running for area chair. It’s been a great experience for me, and I think anyone could benefit from it.”

Matthew Frizzel
Area F Chair

“Salvete! If you are considering being the next TSJCL secretary here is some advice for you.

1. Attend everything you can.

Make sure that you are taking in every aspect of JCL conventions and events, have fun at them and also think about any ways that you think they could be improved. Attend lots of colloquia and think of ones that you would like to see at future conventions. Also, as a TSJCL officer make it a priority to attend all board meetings, as well as nationals.

2. Technology is your friend.

It is an immense help if you are tech savvy or have a really nice computer. As secretary it is your duty to take minutes at all the board meetings, therefore, it’s important to be able to type quickly and keep track of them.

3. Make friends with the rest of the officers

You’ll spend a lot of time with the rest of the officers at nationals and at the board meetings, so make it fun.”

Mila Wetz
TSJCL Secretary