

The

...57 (Y)Ears of telling it like it isn't



# Convention Ear

The official publication of the National Senior Classical League for the National Junior Classical

Monday, July 24, 2017

Volume LVIII, Issue I

25 Hour Convention Coverage

## Tips to Triumph at Troy:

- In order to combat the Trojan heat, we introduce the NJCL WATER drinking game. You must take a drink of WATER every time...
  - There is a joke about Troy. (So, that's one)
  - The heat is mentioned.
  - You are thirsty.
  - You are in awe of the SCL (Always).
  - You hear a pun.
  - You are not sleeping.
  - Every time some one says the theme.
- The NJCL Office is located at Trojan Center in room 119. The phone number for the office is: [513-461-1301](tel:513-461-1301).
- Goggles can help you see underwater! Use them at Olympika Swimming!

**Creative Arts Registration** is from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM in the Hawkins Lobby. Contestants in all Creative Arts Contests must confirm their intent to participate by signing up on the appropriate poster. **Costume** contestant must do this and turn in receipts and photos in the provided envelope upon your arrival at the contest.

## From the Desk of the JCL President

*Salvete omnes*, and welcome to the 2017 National Junior Classical League Convention! I'd like to begin this welcome by bringing attention to this year's theme from Seneca the Younger: "*Omnis ars naturae imitatio est.*" All art is but an imitation of nature. This quote, I believe, perfectly sums up the JCL experience. Let me take you, age by age, through the life of a typical JCLer and explain why.

When you arrive at your first convention, you have no idea what to expect. Some of you for whom this is your first Nationals may be feeling this sense of excitement, confusion, and even fear as you read this letter. I remember my first nationals at Wake Forest University in 2012; I was a young, shy seventh-grader who was honestly terrified by the overwhelming environment of a JCL convention. I soon learned (after I came out of my room), however, that this overwhelming feeling is the

good type of overwhelming. The type that makes you want to jump out of your seat to cheer at GA, to lose your voice in spirit, to fill your already packed schedule with more events because they're all so fascinating, to sit with someone new at a meal. You see what other JCLers are doing, how they are taking advantage of the JCL experience, and you begin to craft your own.

Of course, if you are able, you come again and again, year after year. You build upon your first memories to create your own, individual experience, complete with lasting friendships, dedication to certain aspects of Nationals, and fun traditions that you look forward to every year. As you continue through the JCL, you look up to and find inspiration in other JCLers to enhance your own experience, while simultaneously serving as a role model for others, even if you don't realize it. As you go through your JCL journey, you find that the JCL is a collective, rather than individual, experience.

We take from each other, from the people and the events around us, to make our own memories. We are constantly inspired by our

teachers, sponsors, mentors, officers, and fellow JCLers.

The people and activities that surround us encourage us to add things to our JCL experience, to imitate them and build off of their experiences. At the same time, however, we take our environment and use it to create something that is our own. We use that inspiration to make our own work of art. Thus ends my extended metaphor.

T.L., D.R. version? The JCL and the environment it fosters, much like the natural world around us, encourage and inspire us to make our own works of art in our JCL experiences and memories. It's a crazy, wild ride full of creativity, love, and unforgettable people and memories. So go out there this week and be artists!

*E corde,*  
Lyle Seeligson  
2016-2017 NJCL President

## Do you love JCL?

Want to share that love with friends, fellow-JCLers and non Latin and Greek students? Sounds like you're the perfect participant for an NJCL promo video we're shooting at convention this year. Keep an eye out in the *Ear* and listen even more intently than normal to those General Assembly announcements to learn when and how you can participate.

## From the Desktop of the SCL President



Hello and welcome to Troy University!

I speak for the entire SCL when I say we are excited for the week ahead of us all! We can't wait to help proctor your exams, referee Ludi, and make you laugh with *That's Entertainment!* We can't wait to see you sleep deprived JCLers on the fields with us, who are also sleep deprived. Never tried Ludi before? I challenge you to try it out. Sure, it's early in the morning-- but why not start your day with the Omniscient, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Indispesible SCL? You might pick up a trick or two...

Interested in learning more about the SCL? Join us for our mixer! There will be refreshments and games too!

Come hang out with us. Check (and circle) the SCL Mixer on your schedules RIGHT NOW! And if you're a graduated senior, then be sure to stop by the SCL Registration table today.

Pax,  
Bob McDonald

## The Edited Letter from the SCL Editor

Hey y'all, my name is Trace Turner and welcome to the first edition of the 2017 *Convention Ear!* Now for those newbies out there going: who's this guy, what am I reading, why does this seem so cool?? This is the *Convention Ear* a.k.a. the number one station for your favorite fake news. Here you can find the topical stories of the convention and the occasional life lesson. So kick back, enjoy the *Ear*, go do cool stuff, and welcome to **Troy!** (\*intense music plays\*)



**ATTENTION GRADUATED SENIORS: Don't begin to despair over your last year as a JCLer!**  
There is life after JCL, and it's called the ~Senior Classical League.~  
Become a SLASHER this convention and continue to carry on the torch of classical civilization! Go to the SCL registration table to learn more!

## NJCL Officer End of Year Reports

### President, Lyle Seelingson

*Salvete* JCL!

I cannot believe that a year ago on the Indiana University Bloomington campus I was walking around, campaigning with badges and posters, meeting JCLers, and getting tons of blisters on my feet. Even after being in the JCL for five years at that time, it was only then that I believe I truly and deeply came to learn

just how amazing this organization is, and how much it is filled with outstanding and remarkable people. Having the honor to serve as your NJCL President since then has only solidified and reaffirmed this belief, and I am so grateful for the opportunity!

This year, for me, was all about making the 2017 NJCL Convention as memorable

and JCL-worthy as possible. Working with Ms. Sturgill and Ms. Robertson, my mentors, I created agendas for and ran both the Fall and Spring Planning Meetings, in Troy, AL, and Boston, MA, respectively. At these meetings, with both the NJCL Officers and National Committee present, much was accomplished in terms of scheduling,

(continued on pg. 3)



exploring Troy University's campus, raising and answering logistical questions, discussing new convention activities and improving old ones, and establishing connections among everyone that made communication and work throughout the year more effective and enjoyable.

Additionally, the NJCL Officers were very happy to see a new event on the schedule this year, a meeting for first-time JCLers so y'all can find each other and learn from us a bit more about JCL traditions and lingo before the

week gets in full swing. Hope to see y'all there!

Outside of the Fall and Spring Planning meetings, the officers and National Committee members were hard at work for the JCL regularly. On the officer side, we held Google Hangout sessions (after we realized that we really could not work Skype--whoops) to make sure we were meeting appropriate deadlines and accomplishing work for various JCL events and activities throughout the year, like National Classics Week and the NJCL

Packet Award.

We are all excited to see how our work will come to fruition this week, and have great hopes for this year's convention! Again, thank you, JCL, for this opportunity, and for one of the best years of my life.

*E corde,*  
Lyle Seeligson  
2016-2017 NJCL President

## First Vice President, Emmalee Volk

*Salvete,*

What seems like a few short months ago, you elected me as your First Vice President. Now as I write this report, detailing what I have done over these past ten months, and I realize what a crazy year it has been. I never realized how much work goes into being a national officer, and that it is not all about what you do at convention. There is so much work that goes on outside of convention, and I had the opportunity to gain insight into that as First VP. In my eyes, I believe that we had a pretty successful year, and I hope that the next First VP continues some of my efforts.

We had an awesome National Clas-

sics Week this past April, and I loved seeing everyone's celebrations! Much of the beginning of my term was spent working with Trini creating the packet for NCW. I had never before created a packet, especially one of such size and importance. It was truly a laborious task, especially when trying to live up to the packets set forth by Michael Kearney and Maya Nandakumar, and one that could not have been completed without the help of Trini, Ms. Sturgill, and Ms. Jankowski.

Michael had told me that he hoped for more publicity of the Promotional Video Contest, and so I worked revamping the rules and putting a flyer out for the contest to get more people engaged. My hope was

that by doing this, we would increase submissions. It is definitely a perk of this position to get to view and help out with a contest like this, which promote and publicize what it truly means to be a part of the JCL.

In these last few months of my term, I hope to lay the foundation for a packet program that could be implemented in the next year. These packets would cover starting a JCL, growing a JCL, and helping other schools or states grow their JCL's, starting a big brother/sister program etc. I would like to once again thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your First Vice President. It has been an honor and joy. *Gratias vobis ago!*

## Second Vice President, Trini Kechkian

This past year, I have been working on the Club of the Month competition, creating the Google forms and judging the submissions.

Winners from September on include Gilbert Classical Academy JCL, Woodbridge High School JCL, Boston Latin School JCL, Baton Rouge Magnet High School JCL, Oak Hall JCL, Flint Hill School Classics Club, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Latin Club, Falls Church

High School JCL, and St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Latin Club.

Apart from Club of the Month, I have been busy organizing National Classics Week with Emmalee Volk. After creating the promotional video with all the officers (which is on YouTube if you have not yet watched it), Emmalee and I created a National Classics Week packet with a few community service and promotional ideas for each themed day, as well as all the information needed to orga-

nize your very own Classics Week in your school.

Lastly, I have dedicated much effort to being as transparent in my work as possible, creating two packets before NJCL convention — a "Guide to Nationals" packet and an "All Things NJCL Service & Spirit" packet — all the information on the national service project, coin wars, roll call, spirit, and everything else attendees need to know in order to have an amazing experience at nationals.



## Communications Coordinator, Shay Pezzulo

Hey everyone!

First, a warm welcome to Alabama! I hope you have an amazing time and I cannot wait to meet new friends and catch up with old ones. I just wanted to say thank you all for everything. It's been wonderful working with you all—my fellow officers, the National Committee (especially my mentor, Mrs. Vasquez), and Website Contest Chair Ms. Fillion—throughout this year!

Since the new NJCL.org website is already on its way (and cannot be edited by any student officer), I've decided to focus on some other projects throughout the year. For the Website Contest, I've really worked on publicizing it (creating several infographics & posters), reminding people about each deadline, and sending out confirmations to submitters each month. We've received a record number of chapter submissions this

year (approx. 45). I also completely revamped the judging rubric—adding descriptions to clarify each criteria—and created a new currency rubric that I'd judge all entries by each month. Ms. Fillion and I have also done a lot of behind-the-scenes work for the contest (recruiting judges, checking chapter standing, and other logistics).

I've made sure to emphasize communication/outreach, being sure to regularly email all local and state CoCos regularly and to keep in contact with all state officers as well. In addition, I've revitalized the JCL Secretaries and Webmasters Facebook group, posting regularly and growing from 50 to 300+ members. I also planned, publicized, and hosted the first NJCL Skype event—we reached our maximum number of participants and had some great discussions. I'll be working some more events closer to Convention!

Throughout the year, I've had a wonderful time taking minutes and working with my fellow

board members on planning National Convention during Fall Planning Meeting and Spring Planning Meeting. As officers, we've done everything from the planning & recording the NCW video to running the Packet Award and figuring out GA speakers. Individually, it's been lovely to attend the MassJCL State Convention (presenting a workshop and giving a speech at GA), contribute to some other state Torch publications, publicize things for the officers on social media, and create the Convention Snapchat geofilter.

There's still more to come, of course, and can't wait for you all to see it come to fruition this week. I hope you have a wonderful time!

With JCLove.

## Parliamentarian, Ram Gollapudy

*Salvete omnes!* This year has certainly been a busy one for me and for all of the other officers. In August, I reviewed Robert's Rules of Order in preparation for Fall Planning Meeting. I also developed amendments to the Bylaws and reviewed the proposed amendments to the Chapter Handbook with the help of my mentor, Mr. Webb. At Fall Planning Meeting, Mr. Webb and I presented the amendments to the Bylaws and the proposed amendments to the Chapter Handbook. The amendments to the Bylaws were approved by the National Committee and they will be voted on later this week. The amendments to

the Chapter Handbook were also approved.

In addition, at Fall Planning Meeting the other officers and I rewrote the lyrics to Katy Perry's "Last Friday Night" and filmed the National Classics Week Promotional Video. We also scouted the Troy University campus and helped the National Committee with planning this convention.

After this, my focus shifted to elections. I developed this year's *Campaign Corner* and made it more interactive by including videos and including links to past Torch: US issues and the actual nomination form for national candidacy. I tried to distribute it to as many people as people by using

social media and email.

Throughout the year, I reached out to as many potential candidates as possible, many of whom you will hear from this week. I encourage you all to go to the Nominations Committee Meeting, Meet the Candidates, and Candidates' Open Forum to hear all about their ideas and experiences.

Finally, I'd like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as a national officer this year. I'm sad to see my term end, but I'm excited about this convention and I hope you all have a great time this week! *E corde.*

The NJCL Forecast:		
<p>YESTERDAY:</p>  <p>70% Chance of staring hopefully into the future</p>	<p>TODAY:</p>  <p>A high chance of standing tall on the first day of convention.</p>	<p>TOMORROW:</p>  <p>Idk. Sweating, probably.</p>



**Troy proposed!  
And I said, YES!!**

*-The JCL Torch, probably*



## Historian, Eric Wang

*Salvete Omnes!*

It feels like just yesterday, I was elected to serve as your NJCL Historian. Now, I'm sad to say that my term is coming to an end. It has been an honor to serve as your Historian and I am extremely grateful that you all allowed me to do so. One of my first duties as Historian was setting up a historian contact list that allowed me to keep in touch with various local and state Historians. Next, I worked on establishing and publicizing

the NJCL Photo of the Month Contest. I'm happy to say that I was able to get this contest up and running and we've had a great year of submissions. I also set up a new method for state and local historians to submit to the scrapbook. This new method, which uses Flickr groups, is intended to be faster and more secure.

I have also worked on

various videos throughout the year. I filmed and edited a new Classics Week promotional video and am in the process of completing filming on a new JCL promotional video that I hope to have done soon after national convention. Additionally, I worked on the NJCL scrapbook, which will be out before convention begins. Of course, I have also been planning national convention with the rest of the national officers and I hope that you find this

## NJCL Delegate Emotional State Tracker:



year's convention as exciting as we think it will be. Finally, I want to thank everyone who has submitted photos to the scrapbook and POTM contest. I truly believe that one of the best ways to publicize the JCL is through photos and I've been continually impressed throughout the year by the stories you all are able to tell about the JCL through your photos.

## Editor, Angela Kubicke

This year I have been honored to be your editor and learned so much from all of you! As the editor I have been able to publish four issues of the *Torch U.S.* In each issue, there was a feature of a different aspect of the classical world.

This year I have worked to increase student participation in the *Torch U.S.* I did this by including convention memories and having the Certamen winners speak on their successes. Also, I had the pleasure to read and review each of the local and state publications, and I was so impressed with the amount of talent in the JCL. Thank you all for a great year and hope to see you all in the future!

## Let's get personal...

Do you want to write a cute note to your friend/JCLove but don't know how to get it to them? Well, you can publish it in the personals section of the *Convention Ear*. Just write your personals **legibly** on the paper provided at the JCL desk. Then put your personal along with \$1 in the provided envelopes and give it to someone at the desk. Space is limited, so be brief. The Editor reserves the right to edit or discard any inappropriate personals.

## Interested in writing for the *Convention Ear*?

Any story ideas or photos should be sent to NSCL Editor Trace Turner at [editor@nscl.org](mailto:editor@nscl.org). The earlier you submit, the more likely it will be reviewed and included.

The Ear staff does not guarantee publication of submissions. All editorial decisions are at the discretion of the NSCL Editor and NJCL Publications Chair.