

The Convention E-ear

An Official Publication of the Junior Classical League



Friday, July 24, 2020

Volume LX, Issue 1

“Richmond,” “““Virginia”””

From the Desk(top) of Jocelyn Robertson, NJCL President

Salvete omnes! Welcome to the 67th annual NJCL convention! Who would have imagined that we'd spend this week at home, looking at our screens, instead of gathering together at the University of Richmond?

I know we all wish things were normal, but, as Albert Einstein said, “in the midst of every crisis lies great opportunity.” Though this year has provided immense challenges, it has also provided the opportunity to create something amazing and unique. Convention this year is incredibly special in its own entirely new way.

Yes, there are some aspects of convention we haven't been able to replicate. After all, what can replace the experience of randomly meeting a lifelong friend in the line for soft serve ice cream?

But there are so many new and different opportunities at this year's convention for you all to take advantage of! I encourage you to participate in as many events as you can. Make this year's convention a wonderful experience for you, whether it's your first, last, or somewhere in between.

E corde,

Jocelyn Robertson, NJCL President

From the Laptop of Kris Plunkett, NSCL Editor

We all miss our friends, especially the ones we see only once a year. I urge you to find One Positive Thing about being virtual. I'll start. I, personally, am relishing in the fact that no one will knock on my door for the Morning Sports™. I hate the Morning Sports™ and I, for one, do not miss being expected to stay up all night trying to be funny only to have some *morning person* wake me up a couple hours later at the crack of dawn to see if I want to watch children run farther than I ever could. I salute and thank ye for your indispensable servive, but I want no part of your 5am tomfoolery.

It is my sincerest pleasure to welcome you all to the first ever virtual National Junior Classical League Convention. May it always be remembered; may it never be repeated. To the slashers who feel cheated out of their last nats as a JCLer: joke's on you dude, because SCL is just as fun and it n e v e r e n d s. Plus, no one cares if you remember how to conjugate verbs! Seriously, don't ask us. We don't know anymore.

Catcha on the flip side,
Kris Plunkett, NSCL Editor

A (Text) Message from Alexandra Pasamihalis, NSCL President

Hello everyone! I am beyond excited to welcome you to your own computer for the 2020 virtual NJCL Convention. A lot of things in our lives may seem uncertain right now, but what you can be certain of is that the JCL and SCL make up a truly exceptional family that provides so much love, joy, fun, and friendship to so many people. Making this virtual convention possible in such a short amount of time was a challenge, so I thank each and every person who contributed their hard work, creativity, and dedication so that we could knock the *custom JCL socks* off of everyone!

JCLers, I hope you participate in our E-lympika contests and enjoy *That's Entertainment!* Recent grads, rush SCL!! Come to the NSCL mixer at 9pm EST tonight (7/24) so you can get to know us and see what our shenanigans are all about! Come to the SCL GAs as well for more info about us. SCLers, grab some Pop-Tarts and get ready for those late nights working on the *Ear* and TE. This convention may be virtual, but our traditions persevere. Remember to keep your eye out for a newly revised version of our Friendly Handbook as well! Everyone, go follow us on Instagram @nationalscl for updates, memes, and more!

I look forward to seeing old friends, making new ones, and having an absolute blast this week. Keep that spirit up, share your JCLove, and make this convention one to remember.

Alexandra Pasamihalis, NSCL President

Make it Personal!

Got something to say? Send it our way! This year, personals are free! Yes, free!

Email your submissions to editor@nscl.org with the subject line “PERSONAL.” Be sure to include your name, state, and ID!

Limit 250 characters.

I'll be counting, nerds.

Don't think you'll get away with any monkey business just because they're free! The *Ear* publishes a lot of semi-truths, grains of truth, and flat-out lies, but we don't publish spam.

Personals

To the Key Card Gang, Kyle, Kevin, Maddie, Lilly, and Hugo. Thank you so much for one whole year of an incredible friendship. You all have been my support system and a safe space for me. Thank you for all of our crazy jokes about lobsters, tank bakeries, and apartment buildings. I love you all so much and cannot wait for the next time I am able to see y'all. You are all my favorite people ever and I wouldn't know where I would be without y'all. *Legio aeterna, aeterna, victrix!*

With JCLove,
Maxine Mandt

Hey, LSCLers,
Thanks for being awesome and always running the show. You are the best!

Love,
Mr. and Mrs. Beck

Shoutout to Emma's cat for making SCL meetings cuter.

Hello to the cute guy from Louisiana. The one that doesn't wear shoes and comes from out the swamp. I'm a Florida Gator, you act like a gator. Maybe we can go out on a date sometime??? Jk, jk...unless....

With love, Alligator Angel

NJCL Officer Reports

Jocelyn Robertson, NJCL President

Salvete, omnes!

It's hard to believe that it's already been a year since we were all together, enduring the long walk to the FARGODOME and enjoying soft serve ice cream at every meal. This past year has been an incredible experience, and I cannot thank you enough for giving me the opportunity to serve you as NJCL President. I know I will treasure the lessons I've learned and the amazing experiences I've had for the rest of my life.

The “JCL year” started off well with a successful Fall Planning Meeting, during which the NJCL Committee and NJCL Officers made plans for the 2020 convention at the University of Richmond and discussed other important JCL matters. It was very enlightening to see the behind-the-scenes work of running the national convention. In summary, the NJCL Committee is an incredibly dedicated and impressive group! Soon after Fall Planning Meeting, I led a colloquium at my state's convention and held Skype calls for local and state presidents.

As 2020 began, your officer board finalized preparations for National Classics Week and opened applications for the NJCL Officers' Packet Award. But shortly

before National Classics Week, the JCL, along with the rest of the world, was faced with unexpected changes and challenges.

Seeing so many states' conventions, certamina, and other events cancelled or moved to a virtual format, followed by a similar change for the national convention, was undeniably unnerving. Seeing the spirit of the JCL persevere in all of your states, however, was such an encouragement!

At the national level, the officers immediately began to restructure National Classics Week and developed other ideas for virtual JCL connections during our regular Google Hangouts sessions. I developed an online alternative Latina Loquenda program during May and held a Skype call for state presidents to share virtual convention ideas.

For the past few months, the NJCL Committee and your officer board have been hard at work to make the first virtual NJCL convention a success, and we are so excited to see it happen!

Again, I cannot thank you enough for the opportunity to serve you this year.

E corde,
Jocelyn Robertson, NJCL President

Andrew Saverance, NJCL First VP

This year has been anything but anticipated, but I still had an enthralling time serving as your First Vice President. The responsibilities of this position revolve around publicity and membership, so that is where the majority of my efforts went into. I worked with individuals and state First Vice Presidents to provide them with ideas, advice, and several other initiatives to implement within their chapters to see an increase in membership. Another large proj-

ect that I undertook this year was National Classics Week. Athena and I chose the theme of 'Journeys in the Ancient World,' and with the initiative to make National Classics Week as non-patriarchal as we could we alternated between famous journeys of women and men. I also edited many documents that were outdated on the website to be year/location neutral. This included documents such as the scholarship and convention award press releases, the Proclamation Acquisition Packet, and all of the contests that fall under my domain. I also worked on sev-

eral promotional materials such as social media posts and editing this year's convention brochure with Mr. Little. After the virus struck, the officers collaborated to create activities while delegates were at home that included a game of Kahoot!, a bingo board, an art collage, and several videos. In total this year was an astounding experience and I thank you JCL for providing me with this special opportunity. #JCLove.

Gratias maximas,
Andrew Saverance, NJCL First VP

RUSH SCL

New and current SCLers will be gathering **tonight (7/24) at 9pm EST** for some shenanigans. Slashers (class of 2020) welcome! Come see what SCL is all about.

BUY SCL

Click [here](#) to visit the new online Agora! We're selling t-shirts, hoodies, stickers, and a 2020 novelty: SHOWER CURTAINS. Buy now!

Athena Davis, NJCL Second VP

On the campaign trail back in 2019 (which feels like a century ago!), I ran with a kitschy platform: A Vote for Athena is WISE! That four-part plan has guided me through my time as your NJCL Second VP. So, I'm going to go through each part of my initial platform and give some insight into what I've done and how my initial plans have changed since the COVID-19 outbreak.

Work: I've done work in a variety of areas outside spirit and service for JCL. I've written questions for the NJCL Kahoot!, attended countless virtual board meetings, flown to Richmond for convention planning, and helped my fellow officers whenever they needed me.

Inspire: With the help of my fellow officers, I created all of the spirit day themes (my favorite being Summer Spiders and Skeletons: Purple Rain and Golden Slumbers)! I wanted to inspire spirit participation for smaller chapters with fewer resources, so I proposed a GA 1 prop-free spirit competition. While in-person spirit is no longer happening, I've preserved the idea of "Clamate!" with students performing cheers without props.

Serve: I organized the NCW service activities and updated them to be virtual projects. Originally, the NJCL Convention community service project was going to be making blankets for shelters in the Richmond area. Now, the service project is two different digital activities: writing letters to elected officials about a plethora of issues and creating classics coloring pages. I'm excited to see how we can make a difference in our communities while staying safe!

Educate: To mentor state and local officers, I wanted to create spirit and service guide books (think Sparknotes for Second VPs), continue the GroupMe, and send personalized check-in emails. The spirit and service guidebooks are almost done and will be presented to the membership at virtual nationals! I've been successful in staying active in the GroupMe—I think I could have sent out more email correspondences, but I stayed in touch with state officers effectively through GroupMe and social media.

It's been an honor serving as your Second VP!

Maximas gratias,
Athena Davis, NJCL Second VP

Faith Woods, NJCL Parliamentarian

Salvete!

I hope that you enjoy our virtual NJCL Convention! Though this is not the end of the JCL year we expected or hoped for, we encourage you to make the most of this time and to have fun.

Since being elected in Fargo I have worked with Mr. Webb on amendments to the Chapter Handbook, Bylaws, and Constitution which were presented at both Fall Planning Meeting and virtual Spring Planning Meeting.

Though the constitutional amendments will not be presented this year, the two Bylaw amendments will be voted on. Additionally, while at the Fall Planning Meeting, Mr. Webb and I planned the location of events such as NomCom, Constitutional Amendments Committee Meeting, and Meet the Candidates. We also met with representatives from the University of Richmond regarding guidelines for campaigning on campus.

Following Fall Planning Meeting I continued to work on amendments for the spring and began to recruit potential candidates for national office.

The *Campaign Corner* began to take form, and I worked with the other officers to create a comprehensive document with advice, rules, and deadlines. Throughout the year I sent in the officer articles for the *Torch: U.S.* called Voices and completed end of the month reports for social media.

I also worked with my fellow officers to create a plan to promote diversity and inclusion within the JCL that will be worked on in the future. Additionally, I have worked with my fellow officers on projects such as the NJCL Kahoot!, the modified National Classics Week Packet, and other fun videos to keep the JCL united during this time of separation.

Since convention was moved online I have participated in frequent meetings to re-plan our convention and make it the most fun it can possibly be! I hosted a parliamentary Skype call to brainstorm and discuss the complexities of moving to online state conventions. And finally, as convention approaches I have been working with the candidates for office, Mr. Webb, and my fellow officers to ensure elections run smoothly.

Faith Woods, NJCL Parliamentarian

Andrew Cahall, NJCL Communications Coordinator

Salvete omnes!

First off, I want to thank you for giving me the incredible opportunity that has been this past year as NJCL Communications Coordinator. In getting to know and work with so many JCLers, the NJCL Committee, and the Executive Board, this year has been an absolute whirlwind of a ride, but I can't think of anyone better to have taken it with.

At Fall Planning Meeting in Richmond, I got my first taste of working with the committee and the board—looking back through the minutes and notes I took throughout, I'm reminded of how tirelessly (even sleeplessly) and diligently these amazing people work to make the year, the NJCL Convention, and the organization a welcoming home for all JCLers. Plus, the board and I had our share of fun along the way.

Following Fall Planning Meeting, I began the bulk of my duties as CoCo: making website recommendations and corrections, compiling directories of state officers/boards, and especially working on the Website Contest. I was blown away by the work I got to view throughout the year, and I'd like to congratulate all webmasters on jobs very well done.

Unfortunately, the remainder of my year as CoCo entailed a lot more "web" than anyone could have predicted. Many hours on my pet projects and objectives as CoCo instead gave way to working with the Executive Board on how to adapt the JCL and move forward during this unprecedented time.

However, this simply reminded me all the more of why I love the JCL. Again as I took minutes, this time from behind a Zoom screen, I jotted down countless ingenious ideas from my fellow officers on how to proceed and keep the JCLove alive. And from Kahoot!s to collages to challenges, the participation, engagement, and understanding flexibility I saw from the JCL family was just as heartwarming. Thank you for being so supportive and for bearing with us.

Even though it looks a little different, I know you will bring this same JCL spirit into this year's convention. Have a blast—I look forward to sharing it with you all!

Ab imo pectore,

Andrew Cahall, NJCL Communications Coordinator

Jason Juang, NJCL Historian

Salvete JCL,

It has been an incredible honor to serve as your NJCL Historian this year and to work for such a diverse and hardworking community. Although we have had a lot of consecutive surprises, we are finally at NJCL Convention.

Since the beginning of my election, I have asked for the officers to submit an end of month report to be published on the NJCL social media for transparency of what the officers were doing each month.

Since last summer, I streamlined the Photo of the Month submissions to be on Google Forms for ease of history tracking and judging. In total, I have received 127 Photo of the Month submissions. I have also achieved another goal that I campaigned for as I received several Chapter Spotlights from states from Texas to Georgia. NJCL Editor Elizabeth Foster and I created the National Classics Week Packet.

Outside of my roles as historian, the NJCL officers have kept close contact throughout the year in Google Hangouts to discuss our future plans. We wrote questions for the National Classics Week Kahoot!, created a social media bingo, and had a fantastic time becoming friends. In the last few weeks, I have been working on the [NJCL scrapbook](#) as well as helping plan for the virtual convention. It has truly been an incredible honor to serve as an NJCL officer. Thank you all, and have a wonderful convention!

Best,

Jason Juang, NJCL Historian

Write for the *Ear!*

They usually say “don’t get any funny ideas,” but not us! Email your submissions to editor@nscl.org with the subject

“**EAR SUBMISSION.**”

Don’t forget to include your name, state, and ID!

Hey you!

Did you know you can still participate in fun and competitive Olympika and Ludi events this year? For more information on E-lympika visit nscl.org! There you can find rules documentation and submission links!

Elizabeth Foster, NJCL Editor

Salvete amici!

Thank you so much for this past year and the opportunity to serve you as your editor. Over the past year, I have published four issues of the *Torch: U.S.*, with my fifth and final issue to be completed in collaboration with the 2020-2021 NJCL Editor.

The *Torch: U.S.* is only possible because of both those who submit content and those who read it. Members shared their favorite con-

vention traditions via Instagram poll for the winter edition. The JCL is an organization of people, not simply an organized convention. In my publications, I am excited to have featured so many authors and submitted articles, and through the editor GroupMe and video call, opened communication and article exchanges among state editors.

I continued to expand upon Anika Park’s (2018-2019 NJCL Editor) visually appealing changes to the *Torch: U.S.*’s design. I’ve also further increased accessibility to the *Torch: U.S.* through printer-friendly editions of my issues. These graph-

ic design skills have also served the National Classics Week Packet (in collaboration with Jason Juang and Andrew Saverence) and the [2020 virtual convention souvenir program](#).

What I’ve most valued and learned most from has been adapting and responding to change as an officer. The virtual convention is a testament to the NJCL’s ability to adapt and continue for this community of classics-lovers. Thank you so much for this past year.

Ab imo pectore,
Elizabeth Foster