



Q&A's with the 2015-16 and 2016-17 NCJCL Student Officers

2016-17 President – Laura Schoeck, Master’s Academy

Q: Can you give us a description of your position on the board in your words?

A: President is the leader. Basically, the president presides over the meetings, makes agendas, and holds people accountable for their jobs. If board members are not doing their jobs, the president has to step in and make sure everything is done properly.

Q: What is the most challenging part of being president?

A: The most challenging part is definitely holding people on the board accountable. Some people will do things exactly how you want them when you want them done, but others will not send information in a timely manner or not follow the instructions of the jobs assigned to them. The first thing you have to learn is how to ensure officers do their jobs without being annoying about doing it. The second is you have to make sure the state chair is made aware of any people that repeatedly do not do their jobs.

Q: What makes the office of president so unique?

A: The office of president is unique because you never know what is going to come your way. If the technology coordinator quits, you have to step in and fill that position until a new one is found. If someone isn't doing their job on the board, you have to be persistent and make sure that they get it done. Also, you have to work closely with teachers. The teachers use the president as a resource in making sure that information is spread to the students and that the students have a say in anything that goes on on the board.

2016-17 1st Vice-President – Elle Trejo, Master’s Academy

Q: Can you give us a description of your position on the board in your words?

A: I take over the duties of the President when the President is unable to attend to them (i.e. leading meetings/events if necessary). I aid the Membership Chair and Middle School Representative in recruiting new JCL chapters and members, and I’m in charge of organizing the Poetry Contest results.

Q: What is one reason you would give to others to convince them to join JCL?

A: Honestly, I would tell them to switch to Latin from any other language just for JCL. JCL truly does foster a sense of brotherhood and belonging. Everyone, and I do mean everyone, can find their place

(and eventually their home) in JCL. I feel truly accepted and encouraged by my fellow JCLers; I can automatically feel a connection with anyone I meet at convention just by the fact that they are a JCLer! The people in JCL are unlike any others you will anywhere else, and I do mean that in a good way. Every JCLer is a member of a unique, highly supportive, enthusiastic, competitive, fun-loving family that they will never forget and continue to be a part of for the rest of their lives.

Q: What should the relationship between the President and 1st-Vice President be like?

A: Close-knit. The two should be in contact about what is going on in JCL and the 1st VP should be ready and willing to aid the President in what he/she asks of them. Should the President have an emergency that would cause an untimely and unfortunate absence from a JCL event, he/she should notify the 1st VP as to what their role is going to be ASAP.

2016-17 2nd Vice-President – Leo Rangel Jimenez, Riverside High School

Q: Can you give us a description of your position on the board in your words?

A: As an office focused entirely on spirit and service projects, 2nd VP tends to provide the greatest space for creativity. By being in charge of the state service project, I have found that I can take my goals for service in literally any direction I wish, and because of this, the office has a reputation of establishing connections between NCJCL and many non-profit organizations. The office is also in charge of creating rubrics for judging spirit. This is a much easier task, but it is good to have a good grasp of what makes a "good" cheer, in order to build your criteria off of. Who knows? Maybe YOUR rubric will become the official way of judging spirit.

Q: What kinds of qualifications are needed to be 2nd VP?

A: In general, very few things are really needed. In the case of 2nd VP, like all other offices, many different personalities can make for a productive term. However, one thing I would strongly encourage is a good sense of communication, since you are expected to lead spirit and create rubrics for judging the contest. This also carries on to the service portion of the office, where despite being able to have any type of service project at State, having to set it up may require varying amounts of outreach and even networking. Don't let this faze you, the Executive Board has a tendency to be extremely helpful in providing resources for you.

Q: What makes a good cheer?

A: In the past, many cheers have been graded on noise level, quality, unity, originality and their overall effect. Although the cries of hundreds of JCLers will most likely be blurred together after the first 5 minutes, being original is quite important, from body movement to chants, mainly because we seek that which sets you apart from everyone else. Your cheers DO NOT have to contain any or only Latin, (though dude, if they do, perks for you. I just hope you used the right verb tense) but tying your cheers back to say the convention theme *cough* hint *cough* or anything Latin related is quite important. In terms of body movement, what you should aim for is something that is eye-catching. For example, crouching down and standing up in a set rhythm can create a great wave effect from up on stage. I know cheers can be very hard to coordinate, so to start off, take very familiar tunes and replace some words. Remember, the more practice your clubs can get in, the better your movements will be. I'm very excited to see your creativity bloom! Feel free to show me your cheers personally!

2016-17 Parliamentarian – Caris Gross, Master's Academy

Q: Can you give us a description of your position on the board in your words?

A: I have two main jobs. The first is maintaining the NCJCL Constitution and Bylaws, which mainly include descriptions of all board positions and yearly events, as well as guidelines for how certain things are done. Every two years the current Parliamentarian has to review the Constitution and Bylaws to make sure that they are up to date. If I find something that needs to be changed, I propose an amendment to the board and we vote on it later. Second, I organize and run everything that has to do with the NCJCL elections and running for office throughout the year. This consists of recruiting candidates, providing them with the necessary information, and making sure that all election events at State Convention are run in accordance with the rules in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Q: How does someone actually go about running for office?

A: The first thing you should do is discuss it with your sponsor and your parents, since they have to sign your candidacy forms. This year I set up a Google Form to submit, so everything is now digital. Fill those out, shoot the Parliamentarian an email with the required information, and you're done until State Convention. At State, you'll have to give a 2-minute speech at the General Assembly and answer questions from the Parliamentarian and the audience at the Meet the Candidates meeting. If you are voted in, you will be sworn in at the Closing Assembly as an NCJCL Officer!

Q: Can you run for office as a Member-at-Large?

A: You can! All you need is an adult willing to become your sponsor and a voting member of the Executive Board. If you check out Article 5, Section 3 of the NCJCL Constitution (which you can find at ncjcl.org :D), you'll find all the information you need about candidate requirements and such.

2016-17 Secretary – Aislinn Niimi, Master's Academy

Q: Can you give us a description of your position on the board in your words?

A: The Secretary takes the minutes during the four Executive Board meetings throughout the year. These give the Student Officers and the Executive Board a reference for what was discussed and decided on in previous meetings.

Q: What exactly are minutes and how do you take them?

A: Minutes are like another word for notes. The Secretary writes down everything that happens in the board meetings, such as members present, votes, and discussions. Most Secretaries (including myself) type their notes during the meeting in a Word document.

Q: What happens to the minutes?

A: After the meeting, the Secretary will edit and finalize the minutes then send them to the State Chair and Executive Board for any corrections. After that, the Technology Coordinator will post them on the NCJCL website, under the Executive Board Resources tab, so everyone can view them.

2016-17 TORCH Editor – Parker Klinck, Riverside High School

Q: Can you give us a description of your position on the board in your words?

A: Being the TORCH editor is just making information about the JCL presentable to those who may not know much about it. I take contest results, officer information, and anything else you might need to know and put it in a way that makes it easy and interesting to read.

Q: What's the hardest thing about being the TORCH Editor?

A: The hardest thing about being the Editor is getting people to reply to my questions for the Torch. I just have to nag them over and over until I get what I need.

Q: What made you want to be the TORCH Editor?

A: When I saw Michael Bono elected as the Editor in 2012, and I thought it was the coolest thing. I decided I would do that myself, so I did.

2015-16 Co-Historian – Reanna Brooks, Member-at-Large

Q: Can you give us a description of your position on the board in your words?

A: My position on the board was definitely an eye opening experience. It was the first time I was in a state level position and I had never been to a "professional" board meeting before then. I gained a lot of insight from being on board like how to stay organized and follow a timeline to meet deadlines, etc. My position as historian mainly revolved around making the state scrapbook. That included getting pictures and memorabilia sent directly to us and also setting up a Dropbox online to get photos. The process of making the scrapbook took months to complete due to the amount of detail that goes into it, but at the end it's definitely worth it see it all come together in a final product.

Q: What differentiates a good scrapbook from a great one?

A: What I think differentiates a good scrapbook from a great one is the details. For instance, our yearbook had ribbons and patterned paper detail along the sides, and was color coordinated based on sections. Also, I think the quality of the art plays a role, as if the book looks really outstanding there is greater chance it will place higher.

Q: What is your opinion on digital scrapbooks?

A: I do think that a digital scrapbook would cut back time and the meticulous gluing and cutting process. However, some of the art might be lost in that because digital art is very different from the traditional fine art. So I think it's a matter of weighing the pros and cons.

2015-16 Publicity Chair – Kaylene Lu, Reagan High School

Q: Can you give us a description of your position on the board in your words?

A: The role of the publicity chair is to help promote the classics to the non-classical community and contribute to the executive board in terms of giving ideas and helping at events. Some of the things I had done when I was publicity chair included designing and running a workshop, creating slide shows for Fall Forum and State, and judging the publicity notebook contest. Last but not least, the publicity chair is in charge of obtaining the proclamation from NC's governor for State convention as a yearly tradition.

Q: What are your ideas on how to spread the word about JCL to both non-Latin lovers and enthusiastic classicists alike?

A: A method to spread the word could be a publicity competition during the week leading up to State convention. Chapters can for example hold Roman themed parties and invite non-Latin lovers. This way, JCL can get the chapters to participate and be more involved and also encourage them to branch out within their communities.

Q: What is the most effective medium to publicize JCL membership and events?

A: I believe there are several ways to publicize JCL membership and events which lead to greater involvement. It would be beneficial to send out newsletters every so often to Latin teachers all around the state. Other mediums could include social media postings and promotional videos.

2016-17 Technology Coordinator – Zach Litzinger, Riverside High school

Q: Can you give us a description of your position on the board in your words?

A: As technology coordinator, I manage the state website throughout the year, making necessary updates as needed. I also am in charge of NCJCL social media, so I oversee or run the NCJCL Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.

Q: How can I create a website?

A: There are many different ways to create a website for your chapter. Personally, I used Google Sites for my chapter website because it is free and easy to use. You can also use online website creators such as Weebly, Wordpress, or Wix.

Q: What is the most important aspect in creating a good website?

A: Simplicity. Make it easy for people who visit your website to find what they are looking for without having to navigate through a bunch of junk.

2016-17 Middle School Representative – Anna Trejo, Master’s Academy

Q: Can you give us a description of your position on the board in your words?

A: The Middle School Representative increases Middle School Membership in the State, makes sure Middle Schoolers are well represented, and keeps in touch with current Middle School members in NCJCL.

Q: What are the requirements for Middle School Representative?

A: You need to attend all the JCL activities, you need to have attended at least one State Convention, you have to be in Middle School, and you need to be able to attend all the board meetings.

Q: What is the best way to interest schools in JCL?

A: Send them information about JCL (Events, Fees, etc.)