

MASSACHUSETTS JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE
MINUTES FOR PRESIDENTIAL RESOLUTION MEETING | MS. SINACOLA'S HOUSE
MAY 17, 2015 -- A.D. XVI KAL. IUN. A.U.C. MMDCCCLXVIII

Board Members Present:

Allyson Ping	1 st Vice President (Acting President)	BLS
Veena Lagare	2 nd Vice President	BLA
Daniel Sherman	Secretary	BLS
Anusha Kulkarni	Treasurer	AMSA
Dalena Nguyen	Parliamentarian	BLA
Najla Nassar	Publications Editor	MTG
Anushree Iyengar	Technical Coordinator	AMSA

State Chairs:

Tamara Bauer		At-Large
Janet Fillion		BLA
Catherine Foley		BLS
Nancy Sinacola		At-Large

Guests:

None

Regrets:

Viet Luong	State Chair	BLA
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Highlights:

1. The Board and State Chairs voted between Mary Abrahamyan and Linda Qin for President.
2. Linda Qin from BLS was elected President.
3. The position of Historian is open to anyone from any school except BLS. Each school may submit one candidate and that candidate must write a letter of interest explaining why s/he wants to take on the responsibilities of that position and what s/he has to offer to that position. The final due date for the Historian application is May 29. Historian candidates, if in attendance at the Transitional Board Meeting, are not allowed to give speeches. See Minute 10:45 for a specific list of all requirements for running for Historian.
4. The next MassJCL Board meeting is scheduled for May 30 and will be held at the Northborough Library.

Minutes:

I. Beginning of Meeting 10:13 A.M.

10:13 – At the 2015 State Convention, both candidates for President, Mary Abrahamyan and Linda Qin, received an equal number of votes from the collective body of all schools present at Convention. Consequently, a state of emergency was called, and so the elected 1st Vice President, Allyson Ping, assumed the role of Acting President.

10:13 – Allyson calls the meeting to order.

II. Resolving the Presidency State of Emergency

10:14 A.M.

- 10:14 – The idea of having co-presidents is dismissed. Instead, the Board and State Chairs will vote on one of the two candidates at States. Both candidates have prepared letters of interest for the Board’s perusal. Allyson reads aloud Mary’s and Linda’s letters, which outline their continued interest in the position of President as well as their goals if elected. Officers and State Chairs have digital copies of Linda’s letter and physical copies of Mary’s letter.
- 10:20 – Upon completion of reading the letters, discussion ensues.
- 10:35 – The Board decides to now hold the voting. Dalena, the Parliamentarian, collects the ballots and counts them privately. Each Board member is given one vote, and the four State Chairs, who are present, collectively cast three votes. A two-thirds majority is needed for one candidate to win.
- 10:37 – After the ballots are counted, there is a clear majority, and it is determined that Linda Qin is the new MassJCL President.

III. Resolving the Historian State of Emergency

10:38 A.M.

- 10:38 – Some members of the Board propose that Mary be offered the open position of Historian, which currently lacks an officer on account of a vote of no confidence during State Convention for the candidate, who ran.
- 10:38 – All schools will be offered the opportunity of nominating a candidate for Historian, except for BLS. Ms. Bauer has already sent out an email explaining the vacancy and this opportunity to fill it. All schools have been instructed to have their candidates send their applications to Ms. Bauer. These applications are due by May 29, the day before the Transitional Board Meeting.
- 10:40 – Ms. Bauer specifies not to send this application to her State Chair address, which she rarely checks. Rather she wants it to be sent to her personal email.
- 10:41 – Ultimately, it is decided that Historian candidates are allowed to come to the Transitional Board Meeting, where this matter will be finalized, but they shall not make a speech and they will have to exit the meeting when voting happens.
- 10:42 – Ms. Bauer will forward all applications, which she receives to Dalena, the Parliamentarian.
- 10:43 – Dalena suggests that the candidates could, perhaps, include a piece of their own artwork or a sample scrapbook page as part of their letter of interest. It would provide the Board with an understanding of their artistic capabilities. However, Ms. Bauer and Ms. Fillion emphasize that the position of Historian does not necessarily have to be occupied by the most artistically skilled person, rather by someone with creativity and the ability to delegate artistic tasks to others. The Historian needs to be a leader, have a vision of how the scrapbook should look, and formulate a plan to accomplish his/her vision. The Historian must be able to synthesize the work of several people into a cohesive scrapbook and have the layout and design ideas, which eventually make the scrapbook a fluent work. Others, who have tried to complete the entire scrapbook independently, usually do not succeed. Thus, the idea to attach sample art is dismissed.
- 10:44 – Since Linda is President, the MassJCL Board now contains three officers from BLS. Consequently, BLS may not offer a candidate to run for Historian.
- 10:44 – Otherwise, all other schools are allowed to send candidates. If there are more than two candidates, the Board will host a round of elimination, whereby only the two most qualified

candidates will be selected for further consideration. Then, the Board members will cast their votes to determine which one of the two will be the next Historian.

- 10:45 – Issues about their presence at the meeting are raised. Ms. Fillion would like to discourage them from coming because it would create an uncomfortable situation and these delegates would consume more space. However, it is an open meeting and Ms. Bauer has already distributed an email, discussing the requirements for running. Thus, it is finally decided that they will be neither prohibited nor encouraged to come. They may decide free from any prompting towards either approach.
- 10:45 – In the email sent to school sponsors, Ms. Bauer provided the following the stipulations:
1. Candidates must have attended two State Conventions: the most recent convention and any convention prior to the 2015 one. This rule provides the same requirements, which were imposed on all officer candidates this year, i.e. they had to have attended at least one State Convention prior to the one they were attending at that time.
 2. Only three officers from the same school are allowed on the Board.
 3. Each candidate must put together a letter of interest, stating his/her reasons for running, experience, and plans.
 4. Each candidate must indicate whether s/he is attending National Convention this summer.
 5. May 17 to May 29 is the time period, during which candidates may submit their applications.
 6. Candidates should expect a reply within one day after submitting their applications.
- 10:46 – Anusha and Anushree indicate that they had already chosen a delegate from AMSA to run for Historian, but this delegate does not meet the first requirement. Consequently, Mary could still be offered the position.
- 10:47 – There is also some discussion about the location of the next meeting. It was previously determined via email that Northborough Library would be the most suitable for all officers. That library does have a policy, however, stating that only a resident of Northborough can reserve a room. Consequently, Allyson has been in contact with Amol Punjabi, who hopes to soon acquire confirmation that the MassJCL Board may use a room there on May 30.
- 10:50 – Some suggest using a function room at the Olive Garden in Worcester on Route 146. Ms. Sinacola calls this Olive Garden to see if they have a function room, which we can use. The obvious advantage is that they could supply us with food directly, thus circumventing the typical procedure of ordering takeout from a restaurant. More discussion, socializing, and eating commence while Ms. Sinacola makes this call.
- 11:02 – Ms. Sinacola informs the Board that the Olive Garden in Framingham does have a separate room, but this is not a function room and it cannot be reserved for four hours. The one in Worcester completely lacks a separate room. Thus, it is agreed that the Northborough Library is the best option. Amol is delegated with the responsibility of reserving a room for us.
- 11:03 – The discussion moves to the topic of food at this meeting. It is proposed that we order takeout from Olive Garden or an Italian restaurant known as Linguine's. Ultimately, however, Anushree's idea of bringing Indian food supersedes these other culinary suggestions.
- 11:04 – Anushree knows where good Indian food restaurants are located and she knows many of the finer aspects of this style of cuisine. There are several options, which she has in mind, including Bollywood Grill in Shrewsbury.

- 11:06 – Ms. Bauer will take care of the financial aspects of this plan. Technically, it is decided that the budget will be unlimited, but the cost should approximate \$200 – \$300. This cost will hopefully accommodate the estimated 25 people, who most likely will be in attendance at the Transitional Meeting.
- 11:10 – Returning back to the subject of Historian, Allyson indicates that AFK is sending a candidate and that Rising Tide may want to send a candidate as well.
- 11:12 – The Board would like to introduce either an amendment or bylaw into the Constitution, by which Ted, who counts the votes for all the officer positions, informs the Board and State Chairs of who has been elected. Thus, in future, if there were ever a state of emergency, the Board and State Chairs could settle the conflict before the Sunday General Assembly. This regulation will, thus, prevent the rather confusing ordeal on Sunday of being elected 1st Vice President and being required to assume the role of President on the spot and conclude the meeting without any prior knowledge of this responsibility, as was the case during the 2015 State Convention. Such a bylaw/amendment should be proposed by the Parliamentarian, who should also decide whether such a rule would be considered an amendment or bylaw.
- 11:15 – It is also suggested that those elected to a position find out prior to the third General Assembly so that those who have won and those who have lost have time to process the news.
- 11:16 – On an unrelated, note, Ms. Bauer recalls that she must order a new plaque for one of the Gao brothers, both of whom tied for 1st place in the overall individual awards.
- 11:17 – There is a brief discussion of spirit plans for Nationals. These deliberations, however, are confidential.
- 11:28 – It is also necessary that the State Chairs have a list of names for the people heading down to Texas as a group via plane this summer.
- 11:29 – One final note is made regarding the position of Historian. Ms. Bauer indicates that if two students from the same school both send letters of interest, then she will let them know, and they have one day to resolve the conflict among themselves. If they fail to do this, they are both disqualified. Each school may offer only one candidate for consideration.
- 11:30 – The meeting is unofficially adjourned. Allyson officially adjourns the meeting at 12:37 p.m. in the car ride home.

IV. Meeting Adjourned

11:30 A.M.

Duration: 1 hour, 17 minutes

Summary:

This meeting was the first MassJCL meeting of the 2015-2016 year. Its purpose was to resolve the Presidency state of emergency, discuss the course of action in resolving the Historian state of emergency, and deciding officially on a location for the next meeting. In summation, Linda Qin was elected President. The candidates for Historian may come from any school, other than BLS, and they must submit a letter of interest stating why they are running for the position and what they have to bring to it. The next meeting, known traditionally as the Transitional Board Meeting, will be held on May 30 in the Northborough Library.

Upcoming Events:

- Due Date for Historian Application _____ May 29, 2015
- MassJCL Meeting _____ May 30, 2015
- National Junior Classical League Convention _____ July 27 – August 1, 2015

Inspirational Latin Quote: *Etenim si vectigalia nervos esse rei publicae semper duximus, eum certe ordinem, qui exercet illa, firmamentum ceterorum ordinum recte esse dicemus.*

In truth, if we have always considered taxes to be the sinews of the republic, certainly we will correctly say that that order, which collects them, is the support of all other orders.

— Marcus Tullius Cicero, *De Imperio Cn. Pompei* 7.17

Minutes by Daniel Sherman