

MASSACHUSETTS JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE
MINUTES FOR PRE-NATIONALS MEETING | BOSTON UNIVERSITY (ROOM 315)
JULY 11, 2015 -- A.D. V ID. IUL. A.U.C. MMDCCLXVIII

Board Members Present:

Linda Qin	President	BLS
Allyson Ping	1 st Vice 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
Emily Bonnici	Historian	AKF
Anushree Iyengar	Technical Coordinator	AMSA

State Chairs:

Tamara Bauer	BLS
Janet Fillion	BLA
Nancy Sinacola	At-Large

Guests:

William Burnett	BLSJCL Co-Historian	BLS
Ada Chai	BLSJCL Co-Historian	BLS
Hanna Seariac	Former MassJCL 2 nd Vice President	AMSA
Anne Nelson	Teacher/Sponsor	AKF
Christina Yee	BLSJCL Historian Committee	BLS

Regrets:

Catherine Foley	BLS
Viet Luong	BLA

Highlights:

1. The Scrapbook for Nationals is complete, and Veena will be taking it down to Nationals with her.
2. At Nationals, state officers will lead the Fellowship meetings, nightly informational periods of assembly for the whole state delegation at which all necessities for the following days are discussed.
3. Officers will also preside over creation of superlatives, individualized awards for all members of the MassJCL delegation.
4. Board members must also attend the State Officer Dinner, at which they can meet other states' representatives and can learn of the activities, in which other states are engaged.
5. Those who wish to attend the Letters to Soldiers writing workshop are encouraged to bring their own writing and art supplies, for such self-sufficiency will accrue more points for Massachusetts.
6. The state officers must always reach out to everyone in MassJCL and not consider themselves to be part of an exclusive club. The function of the Board is to represent the

interests of everyone and see that JCL moves forward into the future efficiently and successfully.

7. State officers as well as other Massachusetts delegates should try to socialize with people from other states in addition to people they already know. It is a good time to meet new people, familiarize oneself with the customs of other JCL state chapters, and strengthen the ties between states.
8. In future, MassJCL will probably be using Google Calendars to monitor signing up to attend events instead of Evite.
9. The collective cost, which all those traveling by the group plane and shuttle to Texas must pay, is \$20. Of the \$20, \$10 is for the shuttle and the other \$10 is for spirit-related materials that all the delegates will be receiving.
10. MassJCL leaves for Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas on July 26 in the morning. We are scheduled to arrive mid-afternoon, and the Sunday of our arrival is usually used as a settling period for some, a period of intense academic cramming for others, or a time of extensive and rapid artistic creation for others. Note that there are now less than two weeks to prepare any projects and to study for any tests or competitions.

Minutes:

I. Beginning of Meeting

10:11 A.M.

10:11 – Linda calls the meeting to order. She welcomes Emily Bonnici, the new MassJCL Historian, to the Board.

II. Officer Check-ins

10:12 A.M.

10:12 – Veena will be taking the Scrapbook itself with her on the plane ride down to Nationals. She will find a suitable protective box for its transport at UPS this week. Veena indicates that she has completed the Scrapbook.

10:12 – Allyson mentions that the Board should discuss what all the officers' duties are at Nationals. First, the officers lead the Fellowships at Nationals. These meetings are typically held between 11 pm and 12 am at night, every night that we are at Nationals. They serve the dual purpose of informing and reflecting. During the Fellowships, the state officers and the State Chairs review all critical information that delegates should know for the day following the Fellowships, and delegates have the opportunity to discuss their thoughts, feelings, and suggestions. Their ideas and comments about how events were run, supervised, etc. are important, for they help make next year's convention even better. Additionally, cheers and other logistical issues are discussed during these meetings. Updates are provided regarding any changes in schedule, Certamen, and upcoming events.

10:12 – The MassJCL Parliamentarian, Dalena, is required to attend the Nominations Commission (NomCom) in order to learn more about the various candidates running for National office. With the information gleaned here supplemented with our delegation's interpretation of the candidates' speeches, Massachusetts can accurately and fairly judge all the contenders and subsequently vote for the best ones. Dalena will be leading the discussion during the Voting Fellowship and the votes that Massachusetts casts will be popularly determined by the entirety of our delegation.

- 10:13 – In addition to the officers’ duty to organize and run the Fellowship meetings and ensure that the Massachusetts delegation has been fully informed of necessary information, officers will also be in charge of writing the superlatives. Superlatives are specialized awards, which are given to every single member of the delegation. They represent the importance that MassJCL places on every single member as a vital component to the club. Each superlative highlights a specific quality, attribute, characteristic, deed, or achievement associated with a delegate. The Massachusetts delegation derives great enjoyment from hearing what the Board members have devised for each delegate. Some are quite hilarious.
- 10:14 – Linda is bringing paper and calligraphy pens so that the superlatives can look nice. Linda, Allyson, and Dan all have experience with calligraphic writing.
- 10:14 – Hanna advises the current state officers to post more on MassJCL’s various social media accounts. Currently, only the old officers are posting, and it would show more initiative on the part of the new Board to increase the frequency of posting on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.
- 10:14 – It is also noted that, at Nationals, a State Officer Dinner is hosted, in which officers from the various states in attendance congregate and meet each other, in many cases for the first time. This event affords us the opportunity to learn about other state JCL delegations, how their own chapters are run, what innovations or contributions they have made to the club, and more. The dinner thus serves as a social networking opportunity, during which state JCL chapters can strengthen the bonds between each other and reinforce the unions that ultimately constitute the National Junior Classical League itself.
- 10:15 – The National officers also run colloquia, during which they give informational lectures on the duties and responsibilities of the national counterpart to the positions that each state-level JCL has. They offer advice for anyone who wishes to attend about how officers should execute their positions.
- 10:15 – The Board is reminded that as state officers, they must set the example for the rest of the Massachusetts delegation as well as represent it at events, such as the State Officer Dinner.
- 10:15 – Since this year’s project at Nationals is Letters to Soldiers, Hanna encourages everyone to bring colored pencils, pens, markers, and other artistic materials to write and decorate letters. Massachusetts will receive points for bringing delegates who have come prepared with drawing instruments.

III. State Chairs & Other Matters

10:16 A.M.

- 10:16 – Ms. Bauer addresses the recommendations that the State Chairs have. Most importantly, the State Chairs want the state officers to reach out more to the entire body of JCLers. The Board should curtail any glorification of the political positions its members have and emphasize its high regard for everyone in MassJCL. This practice is exemplified by incorporating myriad photographs of many different people in lieu of mostly state officer pictures. Having a state officer position is a privilege, one that affords those who have attained positions the power to influence everyone’s JCL experience. It is not a celebrity position, but rather a position of service, whereby the officers represent the interests of the entirety of the delegation and must always strive to improve JCL in any way possible.
- 10:17 – The State Chairs also readdress a particular stipulation of the state officer farewell speeches at the conclusion of State Convention: no crying or sobbing or other forms of tear-producing actions are allowed during the speeches. The audience generally does not enjoy such heavy emotion. Additionally, limited references should be made to all the fun or exciting activities

that the Board members have done together, for it makes the state officers sound too elitist and the Board too exclusive. The farewell speech is the time to thank those, who have helped the speaker along his/her JCL experience, including the whole MassJCL delegation for electing the person in the beginning. It is not the time to relate overly personal things pertaining to one's social experience in the Board. Ms. Fillion notes that it would also be very nice to emulate a practice employed a couple times this year during the speeches: giving shout-outs to the smaller schools who attend. This good spirit shows not only that the state officers care dearly about every JCLer at Convention, but also that they recognize and value the presence of small schools. Such recognition encourages them to stay in the fold of MassJCL and to continue to grow and expand and spread the joy for the Classics that JCL epitomizes. The officers should show how the schools have affected them, and not how they have affected the schools.

- 10:19 – The State Chairs advise that even at Nationals, during lunch or intermediary periods of time, the state officers should socialize with delegates from other states to get to know them and demonstrate that Massachusetts extends its appreciation for its own members to members of other state chapters as well.
- 10:21 – Ms. Bauer also notes her grievance over the advertisement for Corona Beer posted on the Evite that Veena sent for the Spirit Party. Ms. Bauer hopes to be able to contact a representative of Evite; however, Ms. Fillion notes that there is a slim probability, even if she were able to contact a person, that s/he would be able to eliminate a particular advertisement even in view of the fact that many children use this website. Considering the improbability of ameliorating that issue, it is recommended that an alternative calendar system be adopted. Hanna suggests Google Calendar, which can be used in events' email notifications and serve to gather information on who can and cannot attend. The Board will further investigate Google Calendar and its capabilities at a later date.
- 10:25 – Veena indicates that the Spirit Party went well; however, she was unable to take videos of people performing the cheers. She only has photographs, which she will send to Najla for the purpose of creating the *Forum Factorum*. She will send the cheers to everyone in MassJCL attending Nationals. Those who did not attend the Spirit Party will be able to practice the cheers at the Fellowship meetings at Nationals.
- 10:26 – The following discussion concerns Massachusetts' spirit-related plans for Nationals, and, consequently, this information is temporarily confidential. Delegates of Massachusetts shall be informed on a daily basis at National Fellowship meetings of the props, cheers, and choreography, for which they must be responsible.
- 12:08 – Chartering a shuttle from the airport to the campus of Trinity University in San Antonio costs \$20 per person. However, United Airlines offered Ms. Fillion one free ticket. Instead of using the ticket for herself, Ms. Fillion decide to distribute the monetary value of this ticket across the Massachusetts delegation, and, consequently, the fee for chartering the shuttle has been cut in half. However, all delegates must still pay another \$10 to cover the cost of shirts and other spirit-related materials. Thus, if one is riding the plane with the group and taking the shuttle with the group, s/he owes MassJCL \$20, which should be sent to Ms. Bauer. An email concerning this matter has already been sent out to all Nationals attendants. For those, who are not taking the group plane or the shuttle, only \$10 for spirit-related items is owed.
- 12:10 – Confidential discussion ensues.
- 12:55 – The meeting is adjourned.

Duration: 2 hours, 44 minutes

Summary:

This meeting was the third MassJCL meeting of the 2015-2016 year. This meeting concerned preparations prior to Nationals. The MassJCL Scrapbook is complete. The state officers have various responsibilities at Nationals, including leading the informational Fellowship meetings at night and attending the State Officer Dinner, an opportunity for networking with officials from other states. In addition, as a piece of general advice, the Board members are counseled to interact more with everyone in JCL, not simply those people with local or state level positions. This policy holds true both in state and in Texas during various times of congregation, such as lunch or dinner. At Fellowship meetings, delegates will be reviewing cheers and associated choreographic movements for successful execution. For now, the plans for the Spirit Days shall not be disclosed. MassJCL departs for Nationals on July 26.

Upcoming Events:

- National Junior Classical League Convention _____ July 27 – August 1, 2015
- MassJCL Meeting (tentative) _____ August 8, 2015
- MassJCL Meeting _____ November 14, 2015
- Classics Day _____ December 3, 2015
- MassJCL Meeting _____ January 9, 2016
- BLA Certamen _____ January 30, 2016
- Snow Date for MassJCL Meeting _____ January 31, 2016
- BLS Certamen _____ February 6, 2016
- MassJCL Meeting _____ April 9, 2016
- Massachusetts Junior Classical League State Convention _____ April 29 – May 1, 2016

Inspirational Latin Quote: *O tandem magnis pelagi defuncte periclis
Sed terrae graviora manent.*

Oh, you, done with the great dangers of the seas!
Yet, graver dangers of the land remain!

— Publius Vergilius Maro, *Aeneid* 6.83-84

Minutes by Daniel Sherman