

Massachusetts JCL Executive Board Meeting  
Held June 17th, 2006 at UMass Amherst

In Attendance:

Executive Board Officers:

Vanessa Durand, President 2006-2007  
Tahisha Desir, First Vice-President 2006-2007  
Grace Laidlaw, Secretary 2006-2007  
Audane Leger, Parliamentarian 2006-2007  
Rebecca Gwaltney, Treasurer 2006-2007  
Zack Sheppard, Technical Coordinator 2005-2006 & 2006-2007

State Chairs/Sponsors:

Janet Fillion, State Chair (Boston Latin Academy)

Minutes:

10:35- Vanessa calls the meeting to order

10:36- Grace passes out copies of last meeting's minutes. The officers look them over and make corrections.

10:45- Tahisha offers the Historian's report on behalf of Michaella. She reminds officers that Meseret has been asking for headshots for several months, and would like them as soon as possible.

10:47- Zack offers the Technical Coordinator's report. He announces that our state website won first place in the national website competition. He then asks whether the officers have changed their e-mail addresses according to the instructions he sent out by e-mail several weeks ago. Several officers ask questions about the directions, which he answers. Vanessa requests a list of the officers' personal e-mail addresses.

10:54- Audane offers the Parliamentarian's report. She is enthusiastic about preparing for Nationals.

10:55- Rebecca offers the Treasurer's report. She informs the board that there are approximately 38,000 dollars in the state JCL account.

10:56- Grace offers the Secretary's report. She mentions that she typed the minutes for the last meeting and e-mailed them to the officers and passes around an e-mail list for anyone who did not receive the minutes to add their address to.

10:57- Audane invites all the officers to look over the Massachusetts JCL Constitution before the next meeting and offer suggestions for revision.

10:58- Vanessa offers the President's report. She has been busy planning and creating the agenda for today's meeting.

10:59- Vanessa offers a report from State Chair Ms. Miklosky. Ms. Miklosky, who was put in charge of looking into holding next year's State Convention at Barnstable High School in Cape Cod, has talked to her town council, and has received encouraging replies. She has even tentatively booked several hundred rooms at local hotels.

11:01- Rebecca moves to accept the officers' reports. Audane seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

11:02- Vanessa opens the discussion of contest rules and judging criteria for next year's Convention, beginning with the scrapbook competition.

11:03- Vanessa suggests that the board adopt the national criteria for judging scrapbooks. The board agrees to the adjustment of point values on the scrapbook rubric to fit the national criteria and help scrapbooks from Massachusetts to place at Nationals.

11:04- The chariot competition is discussed. The board discusses how to clarify the meaning of "chariot" as it is defined in the Convention rulebook.

11:10- Vanessa suggests finding chariot standards on-line. Audane volunteers to look up information on chariots from the rulebook. Other changes to the chariot regulations are discussed, including requiring a handle on the inside of each chariot as a safety feature.

11:13- Vanessa opens the discussion of the toga parade. She suggests that first, second, and third place winners be selected in each of the three parade categories (large, medium, and small school). Tahisha asks whether this will interfere with the scoring system for the state trophy. Ms. Fillion suggests adding points to the total state sweepstakes as a solution.

11:15- Vanessa suggests dividing schools into categories based on the total number of schools at Convention, rather than the number of delegates at each school (i.e. if fifteen schools attend, the five with the fewest delegates are classified as "small," the five with the most delegates as "large," and the others as "medium"). She also suggests splitting the schools up into judging groups so that no officer judges his/her own group.

11:17- Tahisha lists the judging criteria for the toga parade competition. Ms. Fillion asks about the "coordination" and "unity" categories, pointing out that the two are very similar. A discussion follows.

11:21- After discussing both judging criteria and point percentages, the board comes up with the following rubric for judging the toga parade:

Spirit/Enthusiasm: 15 points  
Volume: 10 points  
Creativity (Props): 10 points  
Unity of Sound: 10 points  
Creativity (Color): 5 points  
Visual Unity: 5 points  
Total: 55 points

11:30- The website competition is discussed. The board goes through Zack's rules and judging criteria, which are deemed very thorough and fair.

11:33- Vanessa suggests that Zack e-mail schools with JCL websites before the website contest is judged in order to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement of the sites.

11:34- Vanessa brings up the subject of objectivity. The board agrees that no one in charge of judging a contest should be involved with the contest at his or her own school.

11:36- A discussion is held about the state criteria for judging chapter websites and how they relate to the national criteria for local sites.

11:43- Because the website guidelines/judging criteria closely mirror those of the national competition, it is decided to leave them unchanged.

11:44- A brief discussion of the criteria for judging the publicity competition takes place. These criteria are also left unchanged.

11:45- Vanessa opens a discussion if the catapult competition. She says that the rules for building catapults should be changed because they cause too much confusion. Acceptable materials are discussed.

11:50- After discussing regulations for building catapults, the board decides that catapults must be made and operated by students, with adults acting only as supervisors.

11:53- Materials for building catapults are further discussed. Tahisha and Vanessa volunteer to research commonly used materials for ballistae and catapults.

11:57- The community service competition is discussed. Vanessa suggests giving out awards for individual as well as group community service. It is decided that JCLers should be allowed to document personal community service hours for individual awards. Awards will be based on the number of hours worked. Points in the individual competition will not count for the over-all state trophy.

12:05- Vanessa suggests splitting the group community service competition into two competitions, one based on the total number of hours worked, and one based on the number of hours divided by the number of people present (ie. fifty hours worked by a

group of fifty students would equal one hour per person, while fifty hours worked by a group of five people would equal ten hours per person) in order to give small schools a chance to win points for community service.

12:10- A discussion of the group versus personal service hours begins. It is decided that individuals will be given credit for work done as part of a group, but groups will not receive credit for work done by individuals.

12:23- Vanessa opens a discussion of the publications contest. She suggests that the state rules be adjusted to mirror those of the (newly created) national contest for local publications.

12:25- The board discusses whether or not points should be given for "tidbits" submitted by local newsletter editors to the state publications editor. It is decided that chapters will get points for submitting either newsletters (with information that the state publications editor can use to create tidbits) or tidbits one month before each publication of the *Forum Factorum*. The deadlines for newsletter/tidbit submissions will be November 1st (for the second issue of the *Forum*) and February 1st (for the third issue).

12:29- Vanessa brings up the question of point values for the different judging criteria of the publications contest. The point values are decided as follows:

Layout/Style: 25 points  
Mechanics: 25 points  
Variety of Articles: 30 points  
Frequency of Publication: 10 points  
Issues/Tidbits Submitted to State Editor: 10 points  
Total: 100 points

12:35- A discussion of the T-shirt contest begins. It is decided that submission must be postmarked by January 5th and/or given to a board member before the January meeting. Participants must submit color pictures of their designs for both the front and back of the state T-shirt, along with explanations of how the pictures relate to the convention theme. In order to be considered, each submission must include the convention motto in both Latin and English.

12:43- The community outreach competition is discussed. The board discusses the definition of community outreach versus Community Service. It is decided that, for the purpose of state competitions, "community service" will be defined as any activity that helps the community, while "community outreach" will be defined as activity that helps raise awareness about Latin or the JCL through interactive discussion or performance (i.e. presenting a play about Ancient Rome to elementary school students).

12:52- Vanessa suggests breaking the community outreach competition into two categories: "best," and "most." The "most" category would be judged based on the approximate audience size of each event and the number of events held.

12:53- A discussion ensues. It is decided that the "most" category will be decided based solely on the number of people reached, while the "best" category will be judged based on the creativity and location of each event. Vanessa says that the "best" category should be judged by more than one person. Ms. Fillion agrees. Vanessa says that the publicity contest should also be decided by a group. She opens up a discussion of other events.

1:05- Ms. Fillion suggests that all subjective contests should be judged by a committee. Vanessa suggests that even objective contests (those based only on numbers worked or number of people involved) should be judged by two people to make sure that the totals are accurate.

1:06- A discussion begins. Zack argues that some contests require specialized knowledge to judge. Others argue that, in the interest of fairness, more than one person must judge each competition in order to minimize bias.

1:21- After further discussion, it is decided that the webpage, publicity, and publications contests, as well as the "best" category of the community service contest will be decided by three-person judging committees.

1:22- Vanessa brings up the possibility of displaying folders of all the entries of various pre-convention contests at next year's Convention. It is decided that, if time permits, portfolios will be made of entries in various contests, and "report cards" will be given to schools with comments about their performance in the pre-convention contests and suggestions for improvement.

1:24- Vanessa opens the floor to other ideas/proposed changes regarding pre-convention contests.

1:25- Vanessa asks for a motion to accept the revision of the contest rules. Zack moves to accept the revisions. Grace seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

1:26- Vanessa says that because the board does not have exact figures or information about the cost of this year's State Convention, the board will postpone discussion of the price of this year's Convention until next meeting.

1:27- The date of the board's next meeting is discussed. It is decided that the next meeting will take place on August 20th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The meeting will be held at UMass if space is available. Lunenburg is discussed as an alternative.

1:29- Vanessa briefly runs through the topics to be discussed at the August meeting and urges everyone to attend.

1:31- Zack moves to adjourn the meeting. Audane seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

