

# Torch: MDJCL



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Welcome to the Maryland Junior Classical League State Convention, hosted by Easton High School and located at the Country School! This year's two day long Latin extravaganza is jammed packed with a variety of events ranging from the academic, such as a certamen tournament and academic testing, to the athletic, such as ultimate discus and gladiator fights! There are also plenty of activities and competitions for the creative folk out there, who are interested in showcasing their talents. We have art competitions, impromptu art colloquia, and our always-dazzling talent show! This weekend will be absolutely spectacular and I hope you all have an incredible experience!

## Meet This Year's Election Candidates!

### **Edmund Obeng- Presidential Candidate** ←

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The MDJCL in the past year has significantly strengthened its communication between both officers and with the general membership. This increase in efforts to strengthen communication has ultimately proven essential to the expansion plans/ activities for the MDJCL I am proposing in the following year. Mainly, I hope to continue efforts this year in diversifying the range of activities that members of the MDJCL participate in, hopefully establishing trips in the same vein as the museum trip with higher frequency and allowing for an increase of both competitive and noncompetitive events centered around schools and within the community (the most prominent example coming to mind being the Latin spelling bee of Loyola held earlier this year).

IN addition, should I be elected, my administration will also take on efforts to establish a connection with other classical organizations both in the state and nationally. Unfortunately, the senior classical league of Maryland has proven inactive for the past few years (though there are attempts at its revival being made). This has severely limited a number of opportunities for the MDJCL in terms of grant money and the conduction of activities under the parent organization of the our JCI branch. However, it has come to my attention that there exist several other organizations and institutions which maintain a focus on the same area and are willing to aid in the fulfillment of the MDJCL's endeavors (such as the subsidy of national convention packets). Immediate communication and cooperation with such organizations can only benefit and help the overall progression of the MDJCL both in the following year and years to come.

### **Ella Joshi- Presidential Candidate** ←

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While the MDJCL is a fantastic organization, there are ways that it can be improved. Last summer, I was fortunate enough to attend the National Junior Classical League Convention, where I was astounded by the unification of the members of the league as well as the amount of good the NJCL does for the community. This year, it is wonderful that we are having a canned food drive at the State Convention, but I want to do more. As president, I would want to have the MDJCL give more to our community, and to not just see some chapters doing sporadic community service projects. I would like to have one service project at each certamen, such as doing a winter clothing drive for children in need at our Saturnalia certamen, or having a statewide bake sale with the funds being donated to a certain charity the officers agree on, or writing letters to soldiers like we had proposed to do this year. Also, during one of our meetings, coin wars for the future 2016-2017 board officers that would occur throughout the year were proposed, and, if we do this, the money raised (or some of it at least) could be donated to a charity voted on by the rest of the MDJCL members on our website, such as UNICEF or the Red Cross.

### **Brady Wright- Presidential Candidate** ←

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To make MDJCL a better organization, I want to expand its awareness to other schools across Maryland. I want to not only make JCL a household club name in the schools that already participate, but I also want to welcome more Maryland schools into this great organization. We can increase our use of social media to spread the word of what JCL is and what we do at our conventions to the students of other schools and encourage those students to get a club up and running. We could even invite students or teachers from schools without JCL chapters to certamina to see if it would be something they would be interested in. I believe that if they saw how enthusiastic and academic we are, they would love to join. Whenever I talk to my friends from Calvert Hall or Towson High about JCL, they have never even heard of JCL. I want to change that.

**Michael Zimmerman- Vice Presidential Candidate** ←

This year I was the Advertiser for Dulaney High School's JCL branch. My job consisted of pushing for greater JCL membership through social media, commercials, and flyers, as well as helping to develop and run meetings. Helping to run meetings in general contributed in large part to my exercising of how to plan, organize, and control a meeting, but no meeting was more important to testing my abilities at leading in such a capacity as the gladiator meeting at the beginning of the year. In my eyes it was the most important meeting of the year as it helped students who weren't sure about joining decide if they would keep coming back to the club. I was placed in charge of this meeting and had to mix in educational aspects of Roman culture with the gladiator fighting. After demonstrating how the gladiator fights would work we brought up volunteers to demonstrate how Roman soldiers fought and moved in groups, then we formed the gladiator tournament. The difficulty was clear, dozens of excited students with weapons that had to be maintained without hurting the fun. Finding this balance of chaos and organization was tricky, but through organizing the courtyard we were utilizing into a tournament arena and an arena for those not involved in the tournament or who had been knocked out, allowed everyone to fully participate and enjoy the experience. My presence in the JCL community for all of my high school career has helped develop and foster a love of Classical Culture that I want to return to the JCL community, and my ability to plan, organize, and control meetings helps to demonstrate my ability to lead within JCL.

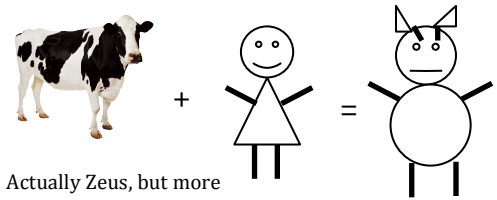
**Daniel Longest- Parliamentarian Candidate** ←

My idea to make MDJCL a better organization is to make the election process easier by providing more information for the candidates. When preparing to apply for the position of Parliamentarian, I went to the MDJCL Constitution to find out exactly what the job entails (which it does say in Article 3, Section 3), but after reading it I was still left wondering on some aspects. How does one do things like "organize and conduct" an election? I doubt many people have experience doing that. So my idea is to provide more details or instructions for aspiring candidates, such as descriptions of the job given by people who have actually held that position, not just what is stated in the Constitution, so a person does not apply for the position not fully knowing what they are getting into.

**Will Zhao- Editorial Candidate** ←

The Junior Classical League is a great organization. But what makes a great organization great? Yes, JCL is both a place for learning and for fun, but what makes any organization great is the motivated people who are interested enough to contribute and put in the effort to make it better. The MDJCL already has many such people - you can look to those students willing to learn, to participate in their clubs, and to compete in certamina, to those students who are running for an officer position to implement their own ideas and make MDJCL even better, and to those teachers who make this all possible. But, we can always get more people interested and more people involved. Every year, we try to think of new ways we can expand MDJCL, to get more schools - more students - to be a part of MDJCL. Certamina may be one of the greatest parts of the JCL experience, but it is not the only part. Arts, dramatic interpretation, skits, costume contests, ludi - these are all other parts of the JCL experience, and with a subject matter as broad as the entire age of the ancient Greeks and Romans, of course we should expand into these areas. By supporting events like museum trips or Latin Alive, we can expand interest in JCL through exploring those ancient cultures and histories.

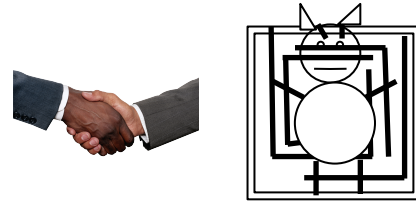
**This year’s State Convention is Theseus and the Minotaur themed and though I am certain that all you wonderful Latin students are familiar with this myth, I figured I would provide a brief, little run through.**



Actually Zeus, but more bull-like.

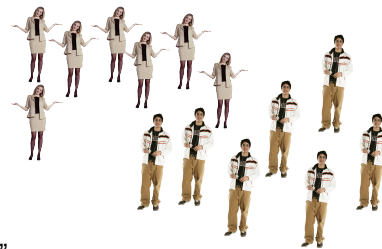
This one time, well, this one of many times, Zeus morphed into a bull, who then spent a night with Queen Pasiphae of Crete. This resulted in THE MINOTAURRRRRR.

King Minos, her husband was like, “Ugh this sucks, well we’re gonna have to get rid of this thing somehow.”



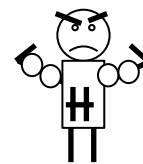
So, he commissioned a really famous dude named Daedalus to build a labyrinth to contain the Minotaur.

Meanwhile, Minos’ son, Androgeus, was playing some games or whatever in Athens when he was suddenly killed.



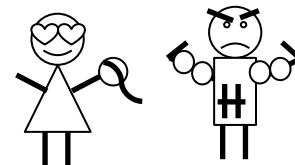
Minos said, “Hey Athens, that wasn’t cool. Every year you’re gonna have to give me seven of your strongest men and seven of your prettiest ladies to enter the labyrinth as a sacrifice to the Minotaur. Ha! Take that, Athens!”

So this happened for a few years until some hunk named Theseus said, “Wait, hold up. This isn’t cool. You know what I’m gonna do? I’m gonna volunteer as tribute and be one of the seven men to enter the labyrinth, BUT, while I’m in there, I’m gonna slay that man-bull/bull-man.”



Theseus told Minos what he was planning to do and Minos responded, “Nuhuh! You’re just gonna get lost #lol #Mino\$Rule\$.”

But, Minos had a cool daughter, Ariadne, who had the hots for Theseus, who according to myth had really nice buns. Anyway, Ariadne said to Theseus, “Take this string and do the thing you’re gonna do. Use it to escape or whatever.”



Theseus did the thing and everything was great. He even got the girl in the end, but then he abandoned her on an island. That’s life, you know.



**MDJCL member Elizabeth Troiano of Eleanor Roosevelt High School joined us on an MDJCL day trip to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia and here’s what she had to say:**

I will never forget the wonderful day when I took a trip to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia with some of my fellow MDJCLers. We went for the Vatican art, but ended up staying for the gift shop, in which one could easily spend much more money than they had budgeted. But, getting back to the exhibit—there was Church history everywhere, going back hundreds of years. It felt like we had magically arrived in Vatican City after only two hours in the car. It was such a spiritual place, and I felt very connected to my Catholic religion walking through the exhibit. I enjoyed it so much that I was the second-to-last one to leave.

I think one of the most memorable moments for me was when I went to the Rocky steps, which lead up to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, with half the group after lunch (the other half went back to the Franklin Institute). Once we climbed the steps, we looked up and to our right, we saw a bunch of gods and goddesses on the top of one of the sides of the building. Being the classics nerds that we are, we immediately began to see if we could name them. We may have had to consult the internet a little bit (don’t tell anyone), but we eventually got them all. The view of the city from the top of the steps was stunning as well.

Overall, I had a great time, not only because of all the stuff I just mentioned, but also because I had my first cheese steak while we were there. It totally changed my life, as I was told it would be the people around me at the restaurant. Judge me all you want for not having eaten a cheese steak before, but at least I had my first in Philly. Traveling with my fellow MDJCLers was an amazing experience and I’m so glad I got the chance to explore Philadelphia with them.

-Elizabeth Troiano





**National Convention**

This year's National Junior Classical League Convention will be held at Indiana State University, Bloomington from July 25-30.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN AT NJCL.ORG! SPACES ARE LIMITED!

If you are interested in attending, please visit the National Convention colloquium, held Saturday afternoon during the colloquia block.



**Information**



Website: [www.mdjcl.org](http://www.mdjcl.org)

Twitter: @MDJCL



Facebook: Maryland Junior Classical League

