



The Tennessee Torch



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Welcome From the President

Salvete, amici Romae!

As the seasons change once again, we turn to a new school year and the decisions that this new beginning brings. One of these decisions is whether to continue membership in or to join the Junior Classical League. For many of you, the decision to rejoin is an automatic one, and we appreciate your continued support of the JCL's mission "to hand on the torch of classical civilization in the modern world." However, others of you may be wondering what JCL membership can really bring to your students.

Many times, the question is posed to me, "Why take Latin when it's a dead language?" It may be technically true that the Latin language is dead, but through the JCL, tens of thousands of students across the nation learn that the study of classics is very much alive. Through the *Torch*, conventions both at state and national levels, and various other activities, the JCL brings the classics to life.

In addition, the JCL provides a community for all those interested in the classics. By using a common interest in the classics, the JCL brings people from many diverse backgrounds together. As many will attest, lasting friendships between complete strangers are formed because of the framework that the JCL provides, friendships that at first are based on mutual respect for the classics but then develop into much more.

Finally, membership in the JCL is a way to expand students' interest in Latin. Through the JCL community, students find that they are not alone in studying the classics. In addition, inspired by the life that the JCL breathes into the classics, many students find the study of Latin an increasingly engaging subject. Many new Latin teachers have been produced from former JCLers inspired by the JCL experience. The question shifts from "Who would want to study a dead language?" to "Why would anyone not want to study such a vibrant subject?"

Therefore, I would like to encourage every one of you to bring the unique JCL experience to your students. The work involved in maintaining a TJCL chapter is not very large, especially in comparison with the enormous benefits JCL membership can bring to your students and your Latin program. There are also many veteran sponsors throughout Tennessee who would be more than willing to help in setting up a new chapter.

As we look forward to the new year and new opportunities, remember the opportunities that the JCL provides for Latin students across the country. I hope you will agree that by bringing the JCL experience to your students, you will be opening the doors to the future of the classics today.

Sincerely,
Austin Chu
TJCL President, 2002-2003

2002
National Convention

The 2002 National Convention at the University of Kentucky at Lexington was a great success! Some of Tennessee's top honors included:

- 1st – Roll Call
- 1st – Friday's Spirit Contest
- 2nd – Overall Spirit – Large States
- 4th – Upper Level Certamen
- 5th – Lower Level Certamen
- 5th – State Scrapbook
- 6th – State Publication (TN *Torch*)
- 6th – Academic Sweepstakes
 - Charlie Bergen
- 7th – State T-Shirt Contest
 - Designer: Cody Taylor

Special congratulations go out to D. J. Johnson, state 2nd Vice President, for leading our state to an unprecedented ranking in the spirit contest, and to Gillian Hunt, 2001-2002 state Historian, for her creativity and effort on Tennessee's nationally ranked scrapbook. We would also like to thank Brenda Edmondson and Jim Long for their wonderful jobs as the State Co-Chairs these past three years. They will be greatly missed!

Be sure to look out for our first complete issue of the *Torch*, due out in November. It will feature a full list of winners from Nationals as well as a summary of the activities. If any JCLers have any fond memories they wish to share, feel free to send them to either of the *Torch* editors. If these memories are in the form of pictures, please send them to Claire Patterson so that they may be placed in this year's scrapbook.

2002-2003
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The 50th anniversary of National JCL conventions is approaching this upcoming summer. The convention will be hosted by Trinity College in San Antonio, Texas on July 29-August 3. We hope to have another wonderful delegation from Tennessee!

Any school that does not have a *Torch* correspondent should contact one of the *Torch* co-editors. These people will provide information about their chapters to be published in the state *Torch*.

Plan ahead! This year's State Convention will be held, once again, at Smyrna High School on April 11-12. Those of you who want to show your undying devotion to JCL should consider running for a state office.