

Ohio Delegation Guide

NJCL 2014

Welcome to the Ohio Delegation for the 2014 National Junior Classical League Convention! With Convention right around the corner, it's time to go over a few pointers. Whether this is your first NatCon or your fifth, the next few pages will begin to address what you will need to know to represent Ohio and have a great time!

NB: Most of the following information is also covered in the White Booklet (the official guide to National Convention). Please check it out on the NJCL website.

What is National Convention?

Nationals is basically state convention on steroids.

Since Nationals is an entire week on a college campus instead of three days at the Ramada, everything is much bigger and (some might say) better. I'll start with what's basically the same: the tests and the graphic and creative arts competitions. Just like at State, you'll take these exams and submit artwork and hope to place. Granted, it is *a lot* harder to place at Nationals since there are so many more very talented people. One big difference is the addition of Ludi and Olympika. These are competitive athletic events that take place throughout the week and include many demonstrations of athletic prowess, whether you're actually participating or very enthusiastically cheering on your fellow Ohio delegates. Needless to say, Ohio usually dominates and we're not losing our reign this year- no pressure. Probably the biggest difference between States and Nationals is that there is much more downtime at the NJCL Convention. I highly recommend spending this time meeting delegates from across the country. I have found that delegates who make sure to bring their cards, guitars, ukeleles, or sonic screwdrivers tend to make the most new friends and are able to occupy themselves at all times of the day. If it's your first time attending, I'm sure you're a bit apprehensive about an entire week of the Classics, but trust me when I say that it is an incredibly rewarding and educational experience that you will always remember. I know that sounds cheesy, especially when I add that you'll make lifelong friends, but it really is true!

How do I prepare for National Convention?

How you get ready for National Convention is entirely up to you. Like States, you can create graphic arts projects, study for tests, or practice for creative contests. I do recommend that you don't go into NJCL Conference without prior preparation as it will probably make your experience a little bit more stressful and awkward.

Packing for National Convention is complicated. You need enough clothes for at least six days (more if you're doing pre-convention housing), but you have to also pack as light as possible. PLEASE refer to your White Booklet for more specific information about clothes (especially if you will be appearing on stage)- the information you need is on page 3 and page 10. While you're packing, make sure to remember the following (according to the 2014 NJCL Booklet): "alarm clock, personal hygiene items (toothbrush, shampoo, soap, etc.), swimsuit and towel, athletic shoes, toga, sunscreen, lip balm, moisturizer, water bottle, coat hangers, change for vending machines, and a hat. There will be no towel exchange. Therefore, extra towels may be appropriate." In terms of clothes, you will need business-casual attire for the Farewell Dance and normal summer clothes (t shirts, shorts, etc.- keep it PG for all of our sakes please!) for the rest of the week.

What happens at Convention?

The following is a list of general terms that I hope will help you understand all that will take place at NJCL Convention. There are a lot of different ways for you to be involved and meet people, so be active and do as much as you can, even if you're unsure of yourself.

Testing - Testing at Nationals is just like testing at States. You go in a big room and fill out bubbles. Please attend every testing session and take at least one test. Or go for all of them if that's your thing.

Graphic Arts - Number one for Graphic Arts: read the rules. Some of them differ from OJCL and there's nothing worse than getting disqualified because you missed a technicality. Beyond that, just go for it! Graphic Arts is a great way to showcase your individual talent and, more importantly, score Ohio some sweepstakes points.

Ludi & Olympika - Classical League athletic events are awesome. Olympika is a swim meet, a track meet, and a "Marathon" of less than two miles. If you've ever run, swam, or participated in field events (like discus) in your life you should absolutely enter these. Ludi involves a variety of team sports including volleyball and soccer. There's also chess. Our own Central Gubernator Tim Goldenberg is two year defending champ. We will be coordinating sign-ups and teams closer to the Convention, but if you're interested in competing talk to me (Will Emery) or Lindsey Dierig. If you want to start planning your team now, keep in mind that teams must be at least 50% female. I recommend just signing yourself up for the events you think you'll do best in and letting us make sure the teams are eligible.

Spirit - I hope all of you are ready for some crazy spirit this year! Treasurer Lindsey Dierig will be distributing a rather hefty document detailing our game plan for crushing the other large delegations in spirit, but the basic concept of Spirit is the same as it is at State.

Food - You'll be served whatever the college serves. Emory doesn't have that great of reviews, so if you have a little extra packing space you may want to throw in some Powerbars, Chex-Mix, Goldfish, or other snacks. Candy and gum are always great bribes.

Bazaar - The Bazaar is a big room where every night, states set up tables and sell fairly reasonably-priced classics-related merchandise. You can purchase everything from state t-shirts to NLE study guides here and it's definitely worth a visit. If you're thinking of purchasing anything, I would recommend bringing at least \$20. If you'd like to help run the Bazaar and/or help sell Ohio merchandise, please let the state officers know!

Dance - The dances are mostly fun because they are populated by teenagers taking a week out of their summer for a national Latin and Greek convention- interpret this how you want. Every night has a theme, often related to the city where Conference takes place (such as Gone With the Wind and Outbreak on the Dance Floor (aka the Walking Dead), and you can dance to that theme. Make sure to dress in formal attire (like a dress shirt) for the farewell dance.

Fellowship - Every night the Ohio Delegation will get together and review the events of that day and prepare for the rest of the week. We will also be using this time to address any questions or comments Ohioans have about the Convention. These meetings are usually fairly fun and very helpful. They are also mandatory, so make sure to be there.

General Assembly - Much like at OJCL, NJCL has GAs. Also like OJCL they're usually thought of as the really long sitting time after spirit. Obviously, GA is also mandatory.

Certamen - Ohio has an awesome national Certamen team, and they always appreciate support! The next day's rounds will be announced at Fellowship so please bring your spirit fingers to at least a few of their matches. If you would like to play Certamen, sign up for an open team.

Colloquia - Colloquia sessions are also offered throughout the Convention. These are informative lectures and discussions on Classics-related themes, and can range from hour-long power points on aqueducts to lively Q&A sessions on the works of Cicero. Try to make the time for the sessions that interest you- these are unique opportunities to really learn about Latin and Greek culture.

Etiquette - To paraphrase the great Ron Burgundy, Stay Classy Ohio.

What else do I need to know before we leave?

Elections - One big part of NJCL that I haven't mentioned yet is the campaigning for National Office. The selection of the national Executive Board is a little more complicated than the process at the state level and it will be addressed during our first fellowship.

Reaching out to other delegations - Finally, and this will also be addressed at Fellowship, a very big aspect to Nationals is fostering friendships with other state delegations. Although we are one of the biggest delegations and you could probably go the whole week without talking to anyone from beyond the Buckeye State, don't be that person. Since we are such a large group, it's our responsibility to show some midwestern hospitality/JCLove to students from across the country. If you see anyone looking lost or sitting alone at lunch, please reach out to them- this is truly the best way to make friends and it not only helps every student have an amazing experience at NJCL Convention, but it will also improve Ohio's reputation, making future conferences even more enjoyable for all.

There you go delegates, those are the basics of National Convention.

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to email me at president@ojcl.org, or contact any members of the Board through Facebook. I know that I don't just speak for myself when I say that I am excited to get to know you all at NJCL Convention- see you in a few weeks!

Yours,
Will Emery
2014-2015 OJCL President