



name: **Leech, Alexandra (Allie)**

office: **Second Vice President**

sponsor: Sean, Minion

school: Sycamore

grade: 10

Classics/JCL Experience:

Years of Latin/Greek: **3 1/2+**

State Conventions attended: **2**

National Conventions attended: **0**

Will you attend all Executive Board Meetings, Fall Forum 2020, and State Convention 2021?

(Y/N): **Yes**

Will you attend the 2020 National Convention at the University of Richmond in Richmond, Virginia? (Y/N): **Yes**

Experience/Activities:

Club Offices:

None. We did not hold elections this year due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. However, I have played an essential role in running club meetings and preparing for OJCL Convention this year.

Relevant experience or traits, general and with specifics for the given Office:

I have helped to organize several charity events at my school, for example, I assisted in the operation of a gently used school supplies drive during locker cleanouts in previous years. More recently I was assisting in the organization of a drive for Cleats For Kids as a part of my participation in my district Superintendent's Advisory Council. Which is a nomination-based group that meets on a monthly basis to discuss district-related issues with our superintendent. Our meetings are mostly student-led, we choose our topics and invite different district staff to speak to us. A long-running project of ours has been our work on the Districtwide Master Facility Plan. We have been a part of the process since the very beginning and have shaped aspects of upcoming remodels and newbuilds within our district. I also am a natural planner and take great pride and joy in organizing events such as dinner parties and other gatherings. I believe that this interest and skill of mine will assist me in arranging convention contests. In addition, I am an avid participant in convention contests adding one or two more categories or competitive activities to my repertoire each year. I am fairly well versed in many of the contests as well as emergency repairs. Our club mascot "The Fungus" always seems to need a few repairs each day of Convention and even more after Convention. My contest experiences will assist me in convention contest preparations. In general, I am an organized person who loves to be busy and productive. Over the summer of 2020, I took a composition course at the University of Toledo through the College Credit Plus program, which greatly improved the quality of my writing. Thanks to this course I feel as though I would be able to create engaging and high-quality articles for the torch as well as a well-crafted report at the end of the year.

School & non-school related activities/sports/etc.:

I serve as a member of my school's Superintendent's Advisory Council and as a result of that, I have been able to participate in several focus groups for different occurrences at my school. Such as the group mentioned previously working with Cleats for Kids, as well as a small group working with teachers on the redesign of our intermediate school. In the last year, I have enjoyed doing some volunteer peer mentoring and tutoring in several ways. It began with work on a Homework Hotline, answering questions quickly and effectively. I also then began Mentoring as part of a peer mentoring program at my school and more recently I have been tutoring a younger student in Latin. I find all of these activities incredibly fulfilling because at one point I was the mentee, I know the impact having a mentor can have. In many ways, it is my way of paying it forward. I run Cross Country as well as both Winter and Spring Track and I am also interested in Triathlon. I enjoy reading and art as well as many other art projects. My life mostly revolves around school, and I enjoy challenging classes, such as AP European History and Accelerated Chemistry as well as fun ones like Architecture. One of my favorite hobbies is letter writing, I find it relaxing to get out my stationery and write a letter. My friends, however, do not feel the same way and I have yet to find myself a good solid pen pal so I take my time and write letters to those in need of some support during a difficult time. I enjoy writing letters for the organization More Love Letters as well as Letters of Love. Writing and sending these letters brings me a little bit of peace and mental clarity, in addition, the hope that I brought a little light to someone's day makes the whole process even more fulfilling.

Executive Board:

Ability to communicate with students and adults (chaperones, sponsors, teachers):

I am a naturally good communicator with adults and peers. I find talking to adults incredibly easy. For me, it is no different than speaking to a peer. I think this comes down partially to my personality as well as the way I was raised. I grew up as an only child around a lot of adults, and in turn, I find it easy to talk to them. Maybe even easier than speaking to students/peers! I am also proficient in email etiquette as well as being proactive and assertive using written communication and I am certainly not afraid to ask for help. Despite the fact that I find adults easy to communicate with, I am still proficient at communicating with my peers also! For example, this year's State Convention is a whole lot different from any in the past, because of this I wanted to make sure that everyone felt connected and came up with a few methods of communication for our club. I suggested that our Magister create a Remind for official announcements; however, Remind is impersonal and didn't allow for student connection so I created a Group Me. Already we have been able to answer some of the younger students' questions and make some connections. My hope is that in the coming weeks as well as over convention this group will be able to form the same bonds as we form at State Convention. I do not use social media so I will acknowledge my abilities to communicate through those methods are lacking, but I am willing to learn and attempt to incorporate those methods of communication. For campaigning, I am hoping to create an Instagram account and my hope is by doing this I will become more fluent with social media.

What have you done to understand the duties of the office you are seeking?

I have thoroughly read through the Constitution and By-Laws, the minutes of past meetings as well as several guides on running for an OJCL office. I also have reached out to the current 2ndVP Abby McKee. Abby was able to bring to my attention the magnitude of the work that the second VP must-do for our State Convention, which despite the details in the By-Laws I was not fully aware of. Abby's answers to my questions also helped me to develop a few ideas as to what I would be able to bring to the table as the Second Vice President (See next question). Lastly, I have gotten in touch with the Southern Gubernator Pierce Bruner about service and his experiences over the past year.

Do you have any goals/ideas for the Executive Board and/or the OJCL? Please be specific to the office you are seeking.

I would like to expand communication surrounding service opportunities, I have found it somewhat difficult to know when these events are happening, finding out about them just a few days before they happen without enough time to make plans to participate. I feel as though we NEED to do service, reaching out to the communities around us is incredibly important. For these are communities that allow us to thrive as students and participate in organizations such as the OJCL. Because a lot of communication for OJCL events such as service is conducted through platforms such as Instagram, students such as myself are unaware of them until the last moment. I would like to make sure that all of the service events are announced on the OJCL website well in advance (which in some cases they already are) and I would also like to offer a mailing list for students such as myself without social media to be alerted of these events without relying on a sponsor to inform them of the event.

As an expansion of our tradition of making cards at Fall Forum, I would like to consider the idea of writing letters to the elderly or those in need of a pick-me-up. There are several organizations for which I have written letters in the past, More Love Letters, Letters of Love, and Letters Against Isolation to name a few. This idea would work well in both a virtual and face-to-face environment. It also would work for a variety of different kinds of people, some people could choose to take their time to write a longer message while others could write a shorter message. Especially nowadays, people need connection, and even after the pandemic people are always lonely. I believe we could potentially add this on top of our current card making or could even implement it as a part of Make a Difference Day

Another important part of the 2nd Vice President's job is organizing competitions, prizes, and such for State Convention. I would like to write out a detailed guide for this organization process to be used in the future as well as to expanded upon by future 2ndVP's. This would likely distress much of the process for them. This idea came from the current 2nd VP's response to my question about what she felt the most important part of being the 2nd VP was. I feel as though although it is clearly outlined in the By-Laws it is not widely known. I think it is also a daunting task for anyone. I hope that I can figure it all out and that in the future someone like me will just be able to look at a sheet of paper and see roughly when and what they need to get done.

Why would you like to become a member of the OJCL Executive Board?

I remember my first OJCL Convention, it was the year Grant Bruner was running for president, it was the first time I had even learned there was an Executive Board. My friends and

I ran around with flyers stuck to our backs as mobile advertising, stuck pins on our lanyards, and rode up and down in the elevator telling people that Grant was the “Classic Choice”. In the years since I have seen so many incredible people be a part of the OJCL Executive Board as well as the changes and impact, they have had on students’ lives. I am excited at the possibility of being one of them. Following in their footsteps, I want to immerse myself and make a difference. I know that the OJCL Executive Board will help me grow in so many ways. I don’t know for sure where I will be after graduation. No matter where I end up, I know that the skills I will refine on the OJCL Executive Board will assist me. The amelioration of my leadership skills will allow me to find future leadership positions, in both recreational environments as well as within professional situations.

Other Biographical Information/Comments:

I have had to not do many of my activities over the last year due to the global pandemic we all have been living through. The opportunity to run for a position on the OJCL Executive Board is one of the first things that has arisen due to the pandemic that I wouldn’t have been allowed to do in a normal year.

Campaign Links:

[https://www.instagram.com/alexandra the great 2021/](https://www.instagram.com/alexandra_the_great_2021/)

<https://alexandrathegreatf.wixsite.com/alexandrasedcondvp>