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Issue 2024/2025 II

News and updates from the OK JCI Senate 2024/2025

FOCUS OKLAHOMA



Hello everyone,



We just finished our 2nd membership meeting in Moore and then had a great time at the Murder Mystery Dinner at Cattlemen's. So much happened at the membership meeting from discussion about our membership, a look at planned upcoming events to a few by-law changes.

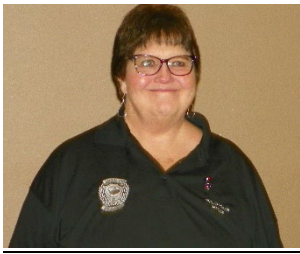
Scholarship judging has taken place, and we have two outstanding young people that will be receiving our Senate scholarship and sent to the US JCI Senate for judging also. Special thank you goes out to Chairman Becky Edwards and the fantastic judges that helped out.

General Patton once paraphrased a directive as "Lead, Follow or Get Out of the Way." I advised the membership that I like the phrase, but I like it changed just a little to say, "Help Lead, Get Others to Follow or Show Others the Way". This is OUR organization, and we need to do things in a positive manner to ensure the organization not only survives, but flourishes. But it will take everyone to accomplish this.

If you haven't been to a social or event recently, come out and see what you have been missing and reconnect with friends! There is a list of events with dates included in this newsletter, and some hit really close to home, such as visiting the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. So many of our members in 1995 were involved after the devastation, trying to help whomever we could. Please join us as we celebrate the lives of those lost and those changed forever.

Family, Friends with a Focus,

Randy Sursa, #49485
President



Nancy Cloud #52750 - Bob Henry Memorial Award Chair

It is time to start thinking about nominations for the Bob Henry Memorial Award which will be given at our year end meeting. The requirements are simple, there is no "application form" to complete and the recipient will be forever grateful for the honor and recognition. Bob Henry was involved with our Senate organization while staying involved in other civic and community organizations. He truly lived the line of the Jaycee Creed – "That Service to Humanity is the Best Work of Life." Please help us to recognize other "Bob Henry's" in our organization. I am anxious to see who you nominate and appreciate your support for this distinguished Memorial Award. Nominations are due to me on or before May 1st, 2025. Please email them to me at mrsccloudnine@aol.com.



Becky Edwards #62937 Scholarship Chair

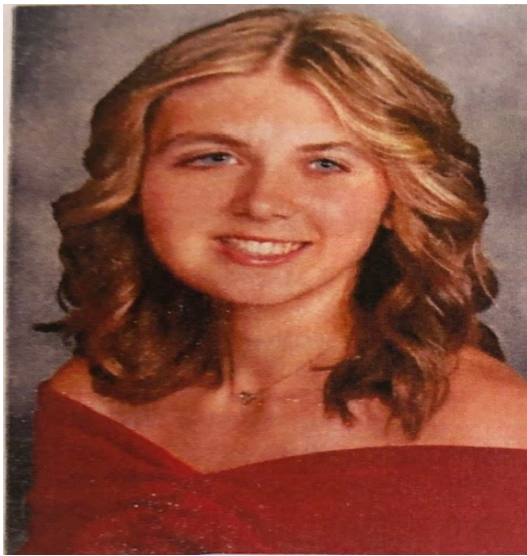
We had a total of 18 scholarship applications submitted from all areas of Oklahoma. The following students have each won a \$500 scholarship from the OK JCI Senate and have been submitted to the US JCI Senate for judging. If chosen these 2 outstanding students could earn an additional \$1500 scholarship.

Brooke Clark attends Mountain View-Gotebo High School. Her student activities in sports include Softball, Basketball and Cross Country. Her numerous awards include 4H Junior Citizen /award, Masonic Student of Today, Oklahoma High School Honor Society, Academic Excellence Award from her High School and Honor Roll at Tulsa Community College. Her community service include Chairing a fundraiser for her FFA Chapter, Mountain View-Gotebo Free Fair, School Concession Stand, Carnegie Food Pantry and volunteer in an elementary classroom with special need students. She has been accepted to OSU. She has already completed 18 college credits from TCC. Her plan is to major in nursing. Her goal is to pursue a BSN degree, with a focus on pediatrics and eventually become a pediatric nurse practitioner. She also plans to continue her community service by volunteering at local food pantries and hospitals.

Kendal Brunk attends Southwest Covenant High School in Yukon. She is active in 4-H and achieved both junior and senior 4-H Hall of Fame for Canadian Couty. She also received the State Award in the Dog Project area, certifying her own therapy dog. Her student sports activity was Basketball. She served as a water girl for the varsity football team and is currently serving as a manager for the track team. She plays flute in the concert band and works as a Summer Camp Counselor. She has volunteered with a local Equine Therapy program and shadowed Occupational Therapists in both a clinical setting and hospital setting. She has also been accepted to OSU and plans to earn her bachelor's degree in Applied Exercise Science-Pre-Professional. She has already completed 27 college credits, earned 33 on her ACT and has a 4.0 GPA. Her goal is to become a Doctor of Occupational Therapy. Her greatest passion is helping and serving young people and helping them embrace and overcome obstacles they face.

In addition to the above winners, a \$500 scholarship was awarded to a young man that our judges deemed hard working, deserving and in need of help. Joshua Merkle is homeschooled and lives in Claremore. He volunteers at two different nursing homes. He feels that singing to them brings a little hope and joy to these residents. He has 12 siblings and was always encouraged to think about what they wanted to be. This led him to believe he could become a nurse, work his way through college, then apply to medical school to become a doctor. He became a Certified Nursing Assistant and graduated top of his class. He is also a Home Health Certified Assistant and is currently taking an EMT-B class at Northeast Technology Center. He is hoping to eventually get a college scholarship and pursue his dream of becoming a doctor but has decided for now to major in Gunsmithing at Murray State College.

Thank you to the following Senators who served as judges: Bill Werner, Marcia Werner, Cheryl Kincannon, Scott Norfleet, Nancy Cloud and Karen MacCannell. I also want to thank Senator Pam Peters for her generous donation to be included in the scholarship for Joshua. We have an awesome group of Senators in the OK JCI Senate!



BROOKE CLARK – Mountain View – Gotebo High School



KENDAL BRUNK - Southwest Covenant High School in Yukon



Joshua Merkle is homeschooled and lives in Claremore

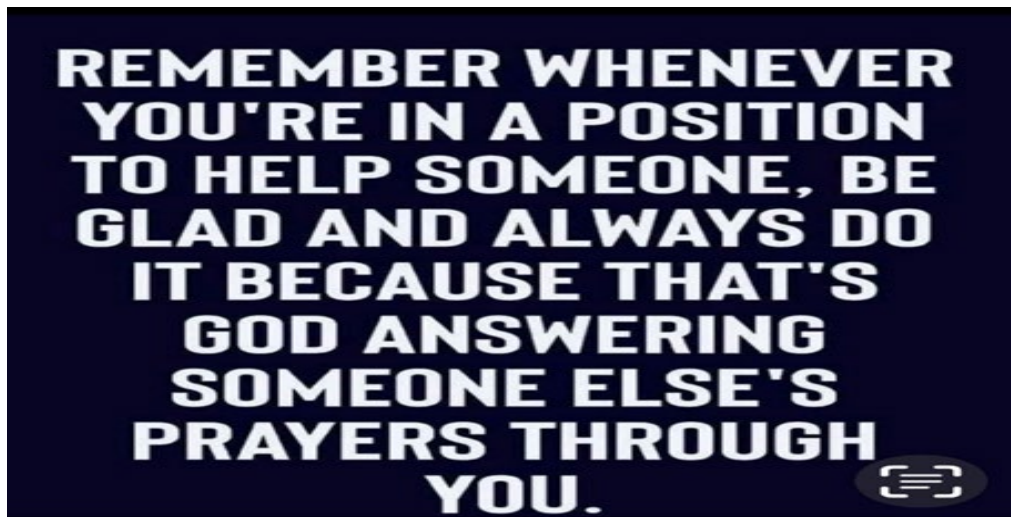


Hello Fellow Senators:

I pray everyone is doing well. Please let me know if you need prayers. I'll be glad to visit with you or if you want to I can post your need to ask for prayers. I do send cards for illnesses and for condolences. Please contact me by my email peggy_rider12@yahoo.com or call or text me at 405-760-8075.

Pray, Wait, Trust

Peggy S Rider
Chaplain of the OKJCI Senate



Charles Edwards #62936 Sargeant At Arms

Today it's 72 degrees - after last week's SUPER cold. I hope everyone stayed safe and warm. get out and enjoy the sunshine if you can.

As the JCI Senate year comes to a close, my two-year term as a director is ending. I have enjoyed working with President Randy and the other members of the board. I encourage you to submit your name to the election committee for the upcoming year.



FOCUS OKLAHOMA



Pat Reffett #77848 Vice-President

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast..."

From "An Essay on Man" by Alexander Pope

After spending the last two days under beautiful, blue Oklahoma skies filled with sunshine and warmth, the above quote from a poem came to mind. No matter how cold the wind blows or how we are impacted by the misbehavior of Oklahoma weather, the sun does come out and we are filled with hope and optimism.

I am optimistic about our Oklahoma JCI Senate Club in the days ahead. I know that we have many members who are not actively participating yet, but I am grateful for the ones who show up for projects, socials, and meetings. I know that with encouragement and communication to those who are inactive, we all can help our organization continue to operate and grow in renewed friendships and continued mutual focus on the principles embodied in the Jaycee Creed.

Our calendar of events provide a picture of the upcoming activities of our Senate. Please take the time to review and plan those dates in your calendar. If you have any questions or need specific directions on how to attend, please contact me via email at: lpmm@sbcglobal.net or text me at 580-585-2394. You can also call and leave a voice mail message, and I will return your call.

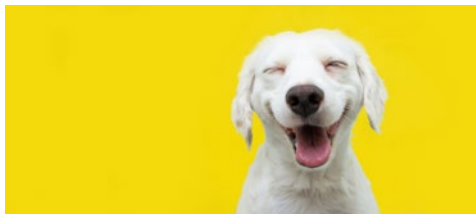
We look forward to the coming months with the hope that more of our members (and those who have not joined the Oklahoma JCI Senate Club yet) will join us in our planned activities.

Take care,

Pat



The brave souls who took the time to help judge the 2024-2025 scholarship applications

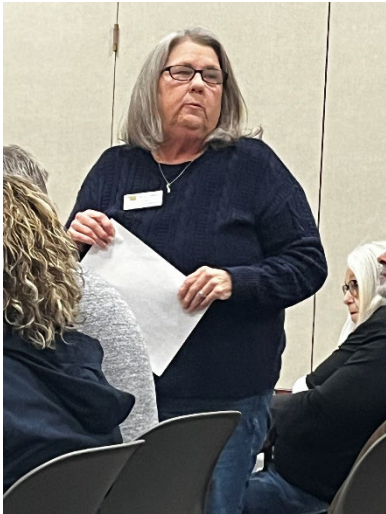
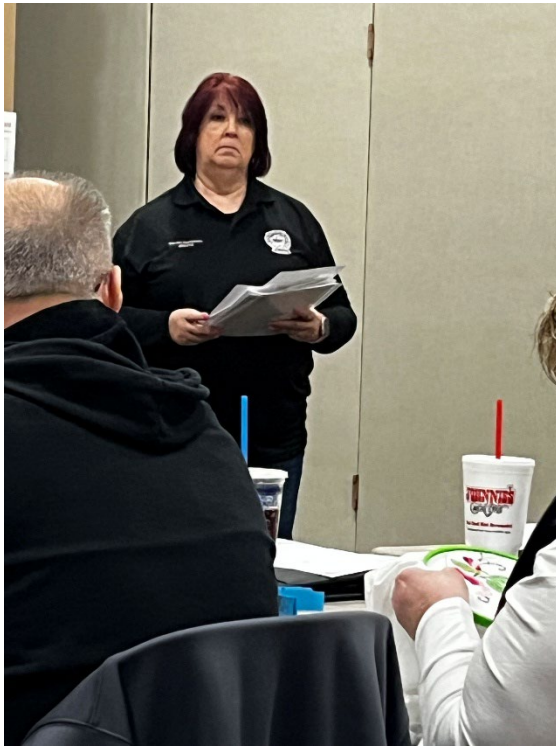


**FUN TIMES AT BOARD OF
DIRECTORS' MEETING.**

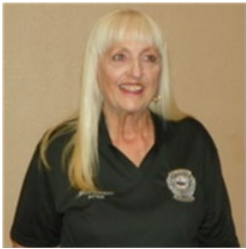
**BUT WHERE ARE THE
SMILES AND LAUGHTER?**

**IS SOMEONE GIVING
DELISA A HARD TIME?
FINANCES ARE NEVER
FUN!**

**RANDY – ARE YOU
ASLEEP?**



SHERI MENENDEZ #47839 –
Membership Leader –
Activation/Retention



ACTIVATION / RETENTION PROGRAM

The Directors and Officers are still conducting their activation program in an effort to reach out to all our senators. We want to be sure you are informed on any upcoming events and activities. Our goal is to have one more person attend each meeting, social, or project than we had at the previous event.

We realize that we all have “life” going on and it may be impossible to attend every event, but we’d love to reconnect with you sometime soon at one of our meetings or events. When another Senator contacts you they can give you the details of our calendar so you can make plans to join us.

Any questions or for more information – don’t hesitate to contact me.

Sheri Menendez

Membership Leader

Activation / Retention

US JCI SENATE FOUNDATION

It’s the time of year again when the US JCI Senate Foundation starts their 500 Club Ticket campaign. This project supports the scholarship program for the US JCI Senate Foundation.

The tickets are twelve (12) for \$100 or six (6) for \$50.00. You have 96 opportunities to win between \$50 and \$100 each month. The tickets are good throughout the year and you can win multiple times each month.

Jim Harmon and I have tickets and will be glad to get the tickets to you. Please give us a call, text or email and let us know how many tickets you want.

We appreciate your support to this important project.

Sheri Menendez & Jim Harmon, Trustees

US JCI Senate Foundation

sheri@aokoffice.com

BY-LAW COMMITTEE:

The By-Law Committee met and presented the by-law changes to the general membership at our last meeting. Thanks to the members attending all the by-law changes, updates and improvements were approved.

Please let us know if you need or want an updated copy of the latest issue of the by-laws. We’d be glad to send them to you.

Becky Edwards / Cheryl Kincannon / Sheri Menendez

Winter has kept a lot of us cooped up inside binge watching Netflix, or old movies, or listening to music. It made me wonder what movies, TV shows or songs our BOD members like. I decided to ask them for their favorite one-liner from a movie, TV show or song. There are some good ones that bring back memories. See if you think these one-liners fit the person who chose them!

President -Randy Sursa – “You need a bigger boat.”– Jaws movie.

Vice-President - Pat Reffett – “Don’t think. Just throw!” Crash Davis – Bull Durham movie.

Treasurer -DeLisa Anderson – “You’re killin me Smalls!!”– The Sand Lot movie.

Secretary - Pam Peters – “Thank you for being a friend.” Theme song to Golden Girls by Andrew Gold.

Director - Charles Edwards – “That’s what she said.”– Seinfeld TVshow.

Director - Sissie Harmon – “Yippe Ki-Yây, M..F..er!” – Die Hard - Is it a Christmas movie? What’s your opinion?

Director – Fred Williams – “I love it when a plan comes together.” The A-Team, Colonel John “Hannibal” Smith

Director – Gloira Albers – “Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn.”– Gone With the Wind movie.

Chaplain – Peggy Rider – “You got to nip it in the bud!” – Barney Fife – Andy Griffith TV show.

Region VIII NVP – Leesa Peebles – “I’ll have what she’s having!”– Harry Met Sally movie.

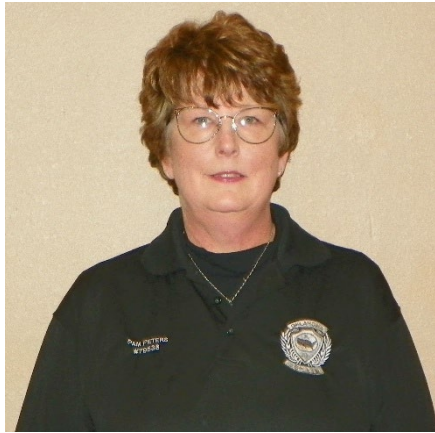
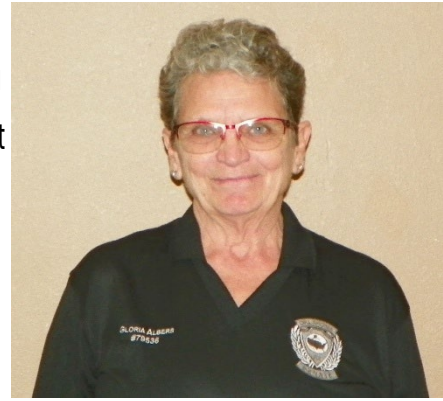
COB – Cindy Empting – “I’m not crazy! I’ve just been in a very bad mood for 40 years!!” – Steele Magnolias movie.



Cindy Empting # 65595 Chair(person) of the Board

I hope everyone is doing well and survived the storms. I had a great time at the mystery theater, and the meeting. It was good to see everyone. February cards have gone out. If you have not received one, please let me know. If you have an anniversary upcoming, please let me know so I can update our records. I can't wait to see everyone at one of the upcoming events.

Gloria Albers 79536



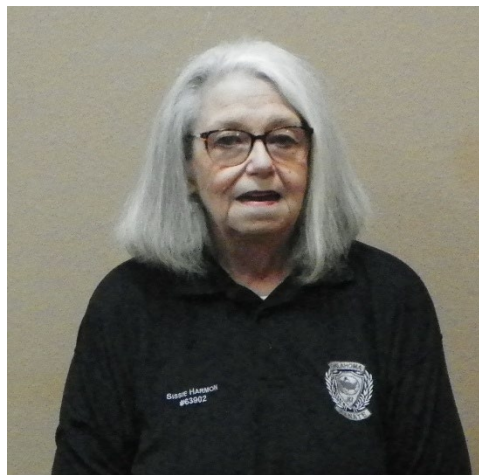
PAM PETERS, OK JCI Secretary #79538

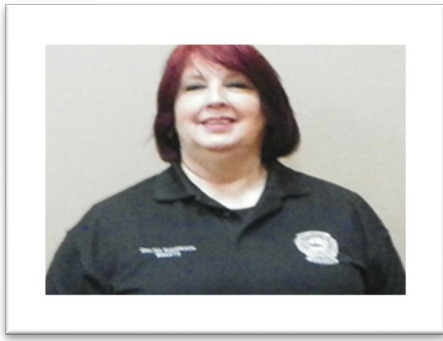
Hello Senators,

Hope all is well with you. The weather is beautiful now, a lot different than last week when it was below 0. We had a great time at the Cattleman's Restaurant . I want to Thank everyone for the birthday wishes, cake, cookies, strawberries and all other goodies. It made my day.

See you soon,
Pam Peters #79538

Sissie Harmon #63902
Director, OK JCI Senate





treasurer >>>

Senators,
Things are **Green and Good** with our accounts! I will be sending out invoices for your OK Senate Shirts if you have not paid President Randy. President Randy and I will be selecting a new Financial Software program and will present it to you soon.

Family and Friends with a Focus on FINANCES

DeLisa Anderson #54310

OK JCI Senate Treasurer







FUN TIMES WITH GREAT FRIENDS



group at Juniors



INVITATION

OKLAHOMA JCI SENATE

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SOCIAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025

AT THE HOME OF

VIC AND SHERI MENENDEZ

387 SUNSET

LAWTON, OK 73507

NOON TO 5:00 PM

FOOD: BAKED POTATO BAR WITH TOPPINGS AND MEAT

BEVERAGES: WATER AND ICED TEA WILL BE SERVED. BYOB IF YOU PREFER SOMETHING ELSE.

FELLOWSHIP AND FUN: GAMES AND CONVERSATION

A SHORT TOUR OF THE WICHITA MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE REFUGE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED.



PLEASE **RSVP** BY MARCH 13 VIA TEXT TO:

580-585-2394 (PAT) OR 580-512-3473 (SHERI)

OR E-MAIL lpmm@sbcglobal.net

\$5.00 per person - bring yourself and cash

DIRECTIONS:

From I-44, take exit 45 for Oklahoma Highway 49 toward Medicine Park/Carnegie. Turn West onto OK-49. Pass by Loves, Sonic and Burger King on the right. Watch for a line of evergreen trees running parallel to the highway on your right. Turn right onto Ketch Creek Drive and follow it north, then it turns west, then curves back north. Sunset Drive will be the next street sign before the road curves and takes a dip. Turn right onto Sunset and follow the road around two curves. Vic and Sheri's house will be on your left sitting diagonally on their lot.

Oklahoma JCI Senate – 2025 Calendar of Events

2025

March 15	Ok JCI Senate St. Patrick's Day Social	Menendez home Noon
April 11 th – 13 th	US JCI Senate Region VI Meeting	Branson
April 24 th – 27 th	US JCI Senate Region VIII Meeting	Richardson TX
May 3	OKC National Memorial & Museum	OKC /Time/Cost TBA
May 17 th	Lunch at Reba's Place	Atoka/TBA
	OK JCI Senate Annual Membership Meeting	Atoka/TBA
June 7 th	OK JCI Senate - Glenn Cole Memorial Picnic (National Pres Bruce is attending)	Tulsa
	Social following picnic at home of Nancy Cloud & Debbie Becker	
June 15 th – 19 th	US JCI Senate Annual Meeting	Chicago
June 28 th -	OK JCI Senate BOD Meeting 10am – 12	Sursa home
	General Membership kick-off 12 noon- ?	Blanchard
July 10 th – 13 th	Linn Picnic in	Linn, Kansas
Sept 11 th – 14 th	US JCI Senate Fall Board 2025	Columbus, OH

Oklahoma Senate Team

President	Randy Sursa #49485	randysursa@aol.com
COB	Cindy Empting #65595	ckempting@gmail.com
Vice President	Pat Reffett #77848	lpmm@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Pam Peters #79538	okjcisecretary24@gmail.com
Treasurer	DeLisa Anderson #54310	delisakay75@gmail.com
Director	Charles Edwards #62936	chasnbeck@aol.com
Director	Sissie Harmon #63902	sissie21@sbcglobal.net
Director	Fred Williams #51340	s2m8r1@gmail.com
Director	Gloria Albers #79536	mamag5479@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Peggy Rider #58293	peggy_rider12@yahoo.com
Bob Henry CH #52750	Nancy Cloud #52750	mrscloud9@aol.com
Scholarship Chair	Becky Edwards #62937	beckyllynne53@gmail.co
Sgt at Arms	Charles Edwards #62936	m_chasnbeck@aol.com

Trustees:
Dale Crouch #77010
Bill Werner #60976
Jim Harmon #63903

OK JCI Senate

To submit an article or pictures,
please send to:

ckemptin@gmail.com

or nickles1994@outlook.com

Cindy Empting #65595
Newsletter Editor
Barbara Nickles #62938

We Believe:

That faith in God gives meaning and
purpose to human life;

That the brotherhood of man transcends the
sovereignty of nations;

That economic justice can best be won by
free men through free enterprise;

That government should be of laws
rather than of men;

That earth's great treasure lies in human
personality;

And that service to humanity is the best work
of life.

