

In this issue >>>

- *Letter from President Randy*
- *Officer Articles*
- *Upcoming events -State & National*



Issue 2024/2025 III June 2025

News and updates from the OK JCI Senate 2024/2025

FOCUS OKLAHOMA



It has been a fantastic year #1 and I am looking forward to year #2! As we look back over last year, we started in June with a trip to the Glenn Cole Memorial Shrimp Boil. We had the National President Hal Williams, swear at a lot of us and presented a well-deserved Senatorship to Amelia Martinez! We then traveled to Tampa Florida for the US JCI National Annual meeting, and my main job was to promote our Fall Board meeting.

July saw us head to Linn, Kansas for the annual Linn Picnic and what a great time was had by all. Games, socializing, their local parade and watching the new board for the Kansas JCI Senate get sworn into office. July 26th was the Presidential Kick Off and BBQ. The weather didn't quite cooperate with the social, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves along with Director Gloria Albers assisting with serving shots.

In August we went to Shawnee for the Firelite Balloon Festival and then we began our weekly tele-conference calls preparing for Fall Board.

September saw us "Livin' on Tulsa Time" and host the best and most organized board meeting the US JCI Senate has had – at least that I have attended. We did not run out of food, drinks or hospitality at any time. Congratulations to Pat Reffett who was our outstanding chairman and to everyone that helped make the meeting a gigantic success.

After Fall Board, I was hearing "No Mas" from several members, so to give everyone a chance to catch their breath and re-energize, we took the month of October off.

But we picked back up in November with a membership meeting in Sapulpa, a visit to the Sapulpa Christmas Chute and a fantastic social at Nancy & Debbie's home. December saw Senators from all over the state participate in Wreaths Across America.

January saw many of us travel to the coldest place in the US, New Orleans, for US JCI Winter Board. I have never been to a meeting where folks wore coats and hoodies during the meetings. I had a few senators come up and ask me 2 questions – where is the girl to do the massages? and can I bring out more food? I had to remind them that we hosted the meeting in Tulsa, not New Orleans. On February 8th we had our outstanding Scholarship Chairman Becky Edwards, and the selected judges, go thru the applications and rate them for the scholarships. The 2 picked the best by the OK JCI Senate also won scholarships on the US JCI Senate level. The scholarship team also requested a special scholarship for a student due to personal belief in that student and it was approved by at the meeting the following weekend. We continued February and had our membership meeting in Moore and then went to the Murder Mystery dinner. It was great to see so many of our folks there and the playwright added a mention of the OK JCI Senate scholarships into her play!



RANDY SURSA #49485

FOCUS OKLAHOMA

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS CONTINUED....

In March we traveled to the Southwest part of the state and socialized at Vic & Sheri Menedez's home with a potato bar and all the fixings. Games of all types were being played, and some were watched on TV.

April brought on the remaining Regional meetings and first was the Region VI meeting in Branson. The last weekend was the Region VIII meeting in Richardson. While in Richardson, a group of us visited the George W. Bush Library and Museum. Of course, there was a section about the election between GW Bush and Al Gore with 2 words - "hanging chad". Going thru the museum really brought back a lot of memories about other things that have happened in America, including 9/11. Back at the regional, there were a lot of new fans of Hillbilly golf!

In May we visited the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. Again, many memories and heartstrings were stirred. All of us remember the day of that tragedy and the days and weeks that followed. In the middle of May we were in Atoka partaking at Reba's place and the local shops. A special thank you to LaQuita Thornley for organizing the meeting.

June is around the corner and packed with several events and socials scheduled including horse racing on the 6th, the Glenn Cole Memorial Shrimp Boil on the 7th, National Convention in Chicago from the 14th – 20th and the Kick-Off Bar-B-Que and social on the 28th. We are setting up a Balloon Festival social and night at the ballpark in OKC.

This year we tried to hold meetings and socials all around our beautiful state. We will plan to do the same this year. Our goal is to have folks that live in those areas come out and join us. Currently I have sent out over 100 letters to our members. Some were discussing Life Time Members, some about upcoming events in their area and others a reminder that they are welcome to attend any and all of our socials, events and meetings. My goal this year is to get 10 of our inactive members to a meeting, social or event! Thank you for everything you do!! Focus on Family and Friends!

**IN MEMORIAM:
ANDREAS VANDOVER #77413
FORMER REGION VIII NVP
Member of KS & OK JCI Senate**

Sympathy cards can be sent to:
Amie Unruh
203 N Roosevelt
Marion, KS 66861



FOCUS OKLAHOMA



Nancy Cloud #52750 - Bob Henry Memorial Award Chair

Thank you very much for the honor of being presented the Bob Henry Memorial Award at our year end meeting. I was completely surprised and honored to receive it. The sneaky approach makes a lot of sense now. Bob was a dear friend to both Jack and I and this was Jack's project, so this honor is much more special. Thank you again.

It is not too early to be thinking about nominating someone for next year. Start thinking about or watching fellow Senators this next year. The nominations will be due sometime next April.

This last year was a wonderful year for the Oklahoma JCI Senate as we shined with hosting the US JCI Fall Board Meeting. Chairman Pat Reffett organized a wonderful meeting and President Randy Sursa showed everyone how hospitality should be done. The whole Oklahoma team worked hard, and it showed. We have been working hard on activation, and I have liked we have had activities in different parts of the state.

I personally enjoyed this last year bringing ice breakers to our meetings. I hope that you have enjoyed them and have learned more about our fellow Senators. If you have an ice breaker that you would like us to do at a meeting, please send it my way.

PEGGY RIDER #58293



I want to tell everyone how much I've enjoyed this year serving as your chaplain. I had kind of a slow start this year. I've worked hard to try to send out cards for illness, sympathy cards, or cards of encouragement. Please, if you have a need, or if you know anyone who might need encouragement because of an illness or death in their circle, or any other reason, please let me know.

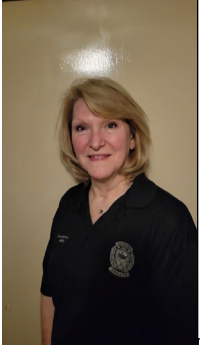
We have had some great times this year. Lots of socials to have time to visit with everyone and some very interesting meetings. I hope, if you have been out of pocket, that you will decide to come join us at some of our upcoming events. We miss you.

Where God guides, He provides. Isaiah 58:11

Chaplain 2024-2026

FOCUS OKLAHOMA

Cindy Empting #65595 Chair of the Board



It is hard to believe that this last JCI Senate year is ending. I appreciate all the hard work President Randy did this past year. He has done a great job of focusing on our Oklahoma family and friends. He has great expectations, and I look forward to this next year under his leadership. Randy has laid a good foundation to build and grow our team. Thank you to all who have helped President Randy by taking on leadership roles for this coming year. There will be many opportunities to meet and socialize with our Oklahoma Senate family. I look forward to seeing all of you at some point.



Pat Reffett #77848 V.P.

Thankful. Grateful. Blessed.

As we approach the end of the 2024-25 Senate year, I look back on the wonderful year we have experienced. Despite my bad luck with health issues related to every Tulsa trip starting last June, I have thoroughly enjoyed this past year serving as your Vice President. We have tried to hold socials, events, and meetings throughout the state so that more members (active and inactive) had the chance to participate. I want to thank Laquita Thornley for her assistance in planning the outing at Reba's Place and for the May meeting location at the Atoka library. The tour of the garden and the Thornley home was a treat for all who attended. Thank you, Laquita and James, for welcoming us, and we are grateful to have you both as active members.

We have other events planned for the coming months and are looking for more events of interest to our members. Horse racing will be held on **June 6** in conjunction with the Tulsa picnic weekend. We hope to attend a baseball game in OKC this summer for sure. More ideas will be discussed at our Board of Directors meeting on **June 28**; so please offer some ideas for socials and/or meeting locations to President Randy or to me before then.

I have to say one more time how thankful, grateful and blessed I am to be part of the Oklahoma JCI Senate. This is a special organization of former Jaycees who continue to live the Jaycee Creed in action and spirit. You all proved, once again, by your hard work, dedication, and hospitality in running the US JCI Senate Fall Board Meeting in September that Oklahoma JCI Senators are the best! I was lucky to get to chair that project and witness your commitment. ***"Earth's great treasure lies in human personality!"***

I also want to extend my special thanks to President Randy and First Lady Sharron Sursa for hosting us in your home for meetings, socials, and "meal prep" parties. Randy, you are unwavering in your leadership and sincerity in caring for people! I look forward to serving alongside you as we enter our 2025-26 year. We are blessed to have First Lady Sharron and her support.

Take care. See you soon. God bless you all!

Hello Senators!

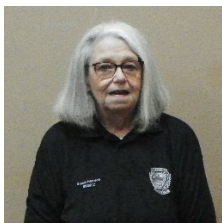
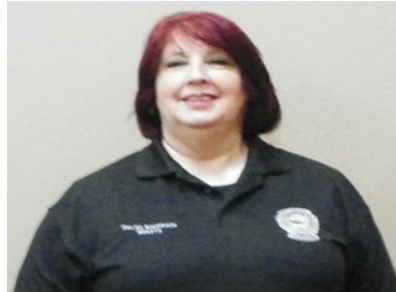
We are in the Green! Thanks to those who have sent in their dues and those who have paid Lifetime membership! By the end of this Senate year, we should be converted over to our new money management software! We will have the Trustee Committee perform an audit on the accounts. The Great Expectations for this next year are: streamlined dues invoices; detailed reports & activate our membership to bring in more members and increase our dues!

Family and Friends with a Focus on FINANCES

DeLisa Anderson #54310

OK JCI Senate Treasurer

FOCUS OKLAHOMA

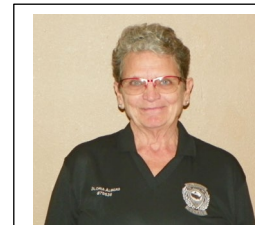


Sissie Harmon #63902 "Pay It Forward"

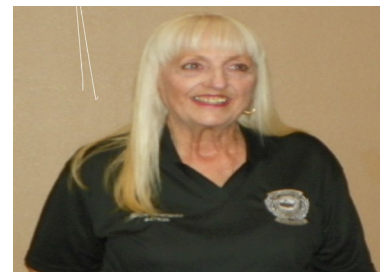
First, I would like to thank the Oklahoma JCI Senate for all their support and loyalty to this program. Second, I need to congratulate Leslie Talbot as the winner of the \$305. Good luck to all next year!

Gloria Albers #79536

I thoroughly enjoy doing the birthday and anniversary cards and getting feedback from people who like and enjoy them. If I am missing anyone, please let me know and I will make sure those are mailed out.



**SHERI MENENDEZ #47839 Membership Leader
Activation/Retention Bv-Laws**



BOB HENRY MEMORIAL AWARD 2ND NOTATION

The Bob Henry Memorial Award is presented each year to a member that exemplifies the dedication and personality of our friend and mentor, Bob Henry. The member should be an example of someone that is involved with their family; community; and Senate organization.

The committee had a very difficult decision to make this year in selecting this year's recipient. **Nancy Cloud** is the epitome of the Bob Henry Award. She is dedicated to taking care of her sister, Debbie, and giving her full care while working at her job full-time. **Nancy** is involved in her community working not only with Senate projects, but also through the Vietnam Veterans Auxiliary, and her church. **Nancy** is always the first to offer her home for any social, committee meeting, game night, or dinner. She works on every Senate project or activity. Nancy has served as the chairman of the Bob Henry Memorial Award, along with her husband, Jack, since the award was conceived. Jack and Nancy have also sponsored the award for many years. She reluctantly had to retire as chairman this year when the by-laws were changed to state the award chairman must be a past recipient. Fortunately, it was a short-term retirement. **Nancy** is so very deserving as the recipient of the Bob Henry Memorial Award and we're very fortunate to have her in our Senate family.

CONGRATULATIONS, NANCY!!

**BY-LAW COMMITTEE REPORT:**

The By-Law committee will be meeting in July to discuss some house-keeping changes. If anyone has anything you want to change or bring to our attention, please let us know.

Sheri Menendez - Becky Edwards - Cheryl Kincannon
By-Law Committee

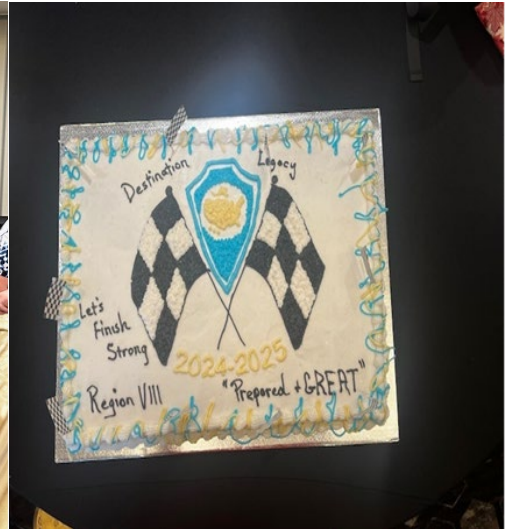
Socials & Events -

June 7 th	Glenn Cole Memorial Picnic in Tulsa (National Pres Bruce is attending)
June 15 th – 19 th	Annual JCI National Meeting in Chicago
June 28 th	BOD Meeting at 10am then Membership Social at 12pm – Randy's Home
July 10 th – 13 th	Linn Picnic in Linn Kansas
Sept 11 th – 14 th	Fall Board 2025 in Columbus, OH

**Becky Edwards #62937 Scholarship Chair**

VERY SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Both of the scholarship winners from this year also won the \$1,000 JCI FOUNDATION Scholarship. Our winners were:
Brooke Clark from Mountain View-Gotebo High School who currently attends Tulsa Community College. Her plans are to obtain a BSN.
Kendal Brunk from Southwest Covenant High School in Yukon. She has been accepted to OSU and plans to earn her bachelor's degree in Applied Exercise Science-Pre-Professional.

THE OKLAHOMA JCI SENATE STAYS BUSY ALL YEAR WITH REMEMBERING OUR PAST, FUN, ANNUAL MEETINGS, FUN, REGION VIII MEETING, FUN, REGION VI MEETING, FUN, EATING TOGETHER, FUN, SOCIALS, FUN AND BUSINESS. JUST A FEW PICTURES FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT!







YOUR OKLAHOMA SENATE TEAM

PRESIDENT	Randy Sursa	randysursa@aol.com
COB	Cindy Empting	ckempting@gmail.com
Vice President	Pat Reffett	lpmm@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Nancy Cloud	okjicisecretary24@gmail.com
Treasurer	DeLisa Anderson	delisakay75@gmail.com
Director	Charles Edwards	chasnbeck@aol.com
Director	Sissie Harmon	sissie21@sbcglobal.net
Director	Fred Williams	s2m8r1@gmail.com
Director	Gloria Albers	mamag5479@yahoo.com
Chaplain	Peggy Rider	peggy_rider12@yahoo.com
Bob Henry Program	Nancy Cloud	mrscloud9@aol.com
Scholarship Chair	Becky Edwards	beckyllynne53@gmail.com
Sgt At Arms	Charles Edwards	chasnbeck@aol.com

Senate Trustees

Dale Crouch #77010

Bill Werner #60976

Jim Harmon #63903

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 one 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.

