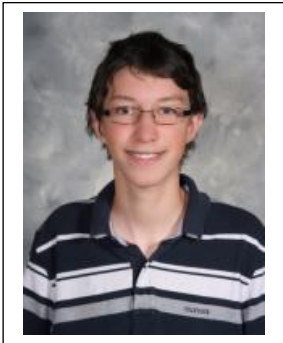


# JOOI MI News

## Special Edition:

## Meet the Candidates!!



### Letter from the Governor:

Hello JOOI Michigan! Members,

I am so happy as well as the candidates to be a part of our first ever elections over the internet. The rules are simple 1 vote per club and you **MUST** vote for 1 Governor, 1 Secretary/Treasurer, and 7 Lieutenant Governors otherwise your vote will NOT count. Voting will be taken place May 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. Here are all of the candidate's bios that are running for next year's office.

Good Luck to all, *Governor Sean*

### Running for Governor:



Tori Lee and Emily Lauer

I am Emily Lauer and I am a junior at Brighton High School. I am currently the junior class representative for my school club as well as a lieutenant governor for the Michigan board of directors. Since I have joined Junior Optimist, I have met so many fun, new people and have had many great opportunities to help people in our community. Junior Optimist has inspired me to help different people in our community and has motivated me to help give people the same opportunities to help others such as the ones that have been presented to me. I hope to do this through being elected Co-Governor this coming year.

I am Tori Lee and I am also a junior at Brighton High School. I am currently the president of our school club as well as a lieutenant governor for the Michigan district board. This coming year will be my third year in JOOI. Junior Optimist has brought an undeniable happiness to my life. JOOI is such an excellent way to not only make friends and help others, but have fun while doing it. I have been so blessed with all the opportunities I have been given and I hope to share my enthusiasm for JOOI and helping others with all of the Michigan Junior Optimist community!

Together as co-governors of the Michigan District, we hope to expand JOOI and create a more closely knit community. We hope to do this through personally connecting with as many clubs as possible by attending one of their meetings or come to one of their events throughout the year. We would like to have a greater number of clubs represented not only at the district convention, but at the international convention as well. Our goal is for clubs to intermingle and create more relationships in order to provide support and create a sense of worth for every JOOI Michigan member. It is important to us that the JOOI Michigan community becomes not only as strong as it can be, but also fully uses its potential. Winston Churchill once said, "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."



## ***Running for Secretary/Treasurer:***

I'm Elena Stefanko and I am a sophomore at Brighton High School. I'm currently the Treasurer of my school club and I would love to become part of the district board. I enjoy doing community service and getting involved; it's such a fantastic way to meet new people and give back to the community. I used to be a little shy, but Junior Optimist has helped me come out of my bubble. It has made me a better person.

As Secretary-Treasurer, I will get more involved with JOOI and its many events. I am responsible and have experience with community service events and fundraisers. I will work with the other members of the board of directors to help the Michigan District be the best it can be. The motto of the Optimist Club is "bringing out the best in kids". JOOI has truly brought out the best in me, and my goal is to help bring out the best in others.



Elena Stefanko

Dear JOOI members:

Hello, my name is Kyra Woodley and I have been a member of the Making A Difference Junior Optimist Club for almost two years now. I am currently serving as Vice President at the club level and I am running for District level Secretary/Treasurer. I think I would be a great Secretary/Treasurer because I have had two years of experience being secretary for the Student Congress of University High School Academy. Some skills that I possess are being very attentive, responsible, detail oriented, and being punctual - especially for deadlines. Overall, JOOI as an organization of wonderful purpose with amazing people holds much importance to me.

My secondary position that I am running for following the Secretary/Treasurer position is Lieutenant Governor. I have a strong leadership background from performing a lot of community service throughout the years, engaging in leadership camp, and participating in several conferences. I have a desire to both contribute more to JOOI and to develop and grow more personally and skillfully through the advancement of one of these great positions. I have been involved in various JOOI projects and events from Bicycle Safety, coordinating a party for the children at the South Oakland Shelter, collecting and delivering beanie babies to Children's Hospital, tutoring middle school students, participating in JOOI Experience, hosting at the Charles H. Wright Museum, attending the African Diaspora Conferences, numerous Optimist conferences/ conventions including district, adult level, and JOOI International. Additionally, I recently chaired our *Super Bowl of Caring* project which our JOOI club donated an estimated \$300 worth in non-perishable food items to the South Oakland Shelter. JOOI to me is not just a club, but it is a lifestyle. I choose to be committed to JOOI. I love being an Optimist and I love giving back. I know I am ready to serve on the board of the JOOI MI District because I am a self-driven, dedicated, and reliable person, with a great support system that is always willing to help me for the betterment of others. I am asking for your vote and I guarantee I will be the best me I can be in attending to duties for the progression of JOOI. Thanks in advance! , Kyra Woodley



Kyra Woodley



Jake Topham

Hello JOOI clubs of Michigan! My name is Jake Topham, and I'm running for treasurer/secretary. Failing that, I'm also running lieutenant officer. I feel that I'm an excellent choice for the job for a number of reasons. I've been a member of various JOOI clubs ever since elementary school, which has given me an intimate understanding of clubs from every age group. In addition to this, I'm also the current secretary for the Clarkston High School Octagon Club, giving me experience with all aspects of the position I'm running for. I'm hard working, intelligent and creative, but most of all I want to fix the world. I'm doing all I can right now on a local level, but my reach only extends so far, I can only do so much. That's why I want to be a member of our state level board, so I can say "Yes, I made Michigan a better place. Yes, I made the world a better place." But I can't do this without your support though. So please vote Jake Topham for secretary/treasurer, it would mean the world to me



## ***Running for Lieutenant Governor:***



Casey Izumi-Fowlkes

Hi you guys! My names Casey Izumi-Fowlkes, a lot of you met me at the District Convention. For those of you who didn't my names Casey and I'm running for Lieutenant Governor. I think I'd be good for this position because I'm a VERY optimistic person who had fallen in love with JOOI ever since last year and I think the board really brings that out. I love helping people and getting that feeling of happiness after you help someone in need. I'm very active in JOOI I have done ton of community service projects & I just have a passion for volunteering and I would like to ask for your help in reelecting me so I can continue on with it. Thanks so much you guys! :D  
- Have an optimistic day!



Tanalynn Johnson

Hello everyone, my name is Tanalynn Johnson, and I am a sophomore at University High School Academy. My experience with JOOI started three years ago when I was in the eighth grade. I attended an event where Mrs. Thames was describing some of the activities that JOOI clubs do. When she was finish explaining what JOOI was all about, I knew that it was a group that I would want to be a part of. After speaking with her about my interest in joining a club she informed me that I was not old enough to join the club that she advised. If I was going to be a part of a club I would have to make one. With a lot of work, together, we established the Do Something Wonderful (DSW) JOI club for middle school students. I have always loved to help people, and joining JOOI gave me the opportunity to help the whole community directly and indirectly; while participating in multiple service events I *was* actually doing something wonderful. One of my favorite service events of my year in office was the River Rouge Clean up. In his event we worked along with people in the community to clean out a selected part of the river. This year I am President of the Making a Difference (MAD) JOOI club. So far this year we have participated in eight community service events, and counting. A major accomplishment of the club is that we have received second place in the international CPA for part one of our bicycle safety project. JOOI has given me confidence, the ability to think out of the box, and better social skills. I am a good choice for Lieutenant Governor because JOOI needs governors with a background in leadership, a person with a passion to help people, and someone who will get things done. I will also make things fun and appeal to other youth by doing things that they want to do. I would like to do group community service events together and create an event that will help to recognize the deaf community. I have many aspirations for Michigan JOOI clubs and I will work my best to fulfill all of them as one of your Lieutenant Governors so VOTES FOR ME!

Tanalynn Johnson 2013