

 **NTY**
SOCAL



Elections Packet
2021-2022 | 5781-5782

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Dear Candidate,

Congratulations! I would first like to congratulate you for considering running for a regional board position!

Serving on NFTY SOCAL's regional board for the past two years has been one of the greatest and most unique experiences of my life. Being on regional board has brought me so many opportunities and tools that I am able to use in my future. The elections process alone is a major milestone and is extremely valuable for any candidate, win or lose.

The first step in beginning your journey is to understand the responsibilities and obligations required for each of the seven Regional Board positions. Every position requires great dedication, as well as both time and commitment.

Please thoroughly read through this packet with your parent/guardian and discuss the commitment that it will mean for you and your family if elected. It is also strongly encouraged for you to reach out to any past and present Regional Board members to discuss the process, commitment, and duties. I am here to support you throughout this process and beyond, and answer any questions that might pop up.

It is important to understand that as a NFTY SOCAL Regional Board member, you should be ready to dedicate yourself entirely to SOCAL: a commitment that you are willing and excited to make. You will be expected to follow the *B'rit K'hilah* (Code of Conduct) at all times and set a professional example at all NFTY affiliated events and beyond, as well as following "Fishbowl" standards.

In order to officially begin the process of running for the 2021-2022 Regional Board, please read through the entirety of this packet, and ensure you meet all deadlines. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Finally, On behalf of the current Regional Board, we are so excited and proud of you for expressing interest in running. We wish you the best of luck.

L'shalom,

[Lexie Korkis](#) | NFTY SOCAL President 5780-5781

Dear Candidates,

Mazel Tov on your decision to run for a regional board position! You have already completed your first task as a candidate...deciding to run for office. It is exciting to know that the future of our region lies in the hands of such enthusiastic leaders. It is important that you understand the many duties and obligations required of the seven Regional Board positions. All require dedication, a significant amount of your time, and a financial commitment. Please read over this material with your parent/guardian and your TYG advisor and discuss with them what being on a regional board will mean for you.

As a Regional Board member, you will be held to a higher standard than the other NFTYites. You will be expected to always follow and uphold the B'rit Kehillah during all NFTY programs, and failure to do so may result in removal from the regional board along with additional consequences. You are expected to set a good example at all TYG and regional events, North American events, and URJ summer programs. Your peers are the body of people who will vote you into office and they will hold you responsible for your actions and your duties.

In order to officially run for office, you will need to send back the Regional Board Contract. It is mandatory that you, your parent/guardian, your local advisor and your congregational Rabbi sign this contract, which will be in effect throughout your term. Your signature on the contract states that you understand the responsibilities associated with being on the Regional Board and are willing to meet all expectations if elected. To be considered as a candidate, all election documents must be received by the deadline. The application process for Regional Board requires that you speak with the person currently holding any position for which you may run. This may seem like a lot of work just to run but remember that being on the regional board is a big responsibility. If you are unable to make this deadline, please take the time to consider if you will be able to juggle the demands of school, home, and NFTY.

I am looking forward to next year! This is an amazing region, and we want to make next year even better than this year has been. The role of each board member will be very important. I have high expectations for all board members to work hard and shine as leaders!

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have about running for Regional Board.

L'Shalom,

Jackie Kleinstein
NFTY West Area Manager
JKleinstein@urj.org

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

COMMITMENTS

- Attendance at all NFTY SOCAL events.
Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, all NFTY SOCAL events have been virtual since March of 2020. Attendance to all events also applies to virtual kallahs, pop-ups and other events. As for in-person events, the Regional Board arrives early to each regional weekend event and may be asked to stay after participants have departed. Attendance at SOCAL 678 (Middle School programs) and Pop Up Events are also required. Your family will be expected to pay for every regional event.
- Attendance at North American events, including Mechina in June (dates TBD) 2021 and NFTY Veida in February 2022. Your family will be expected to pay the registration fees for each North American event, as well as flight expenses. Regional Board members will receive financial assistance from NFTY SOCAL towards these North American events.
- Attendance at all Regional Board meetings. This commitment also applies to in-person and virtual board meetings. In-person meetings may take place around six times per year and some may include an overnight element. Each teen is also welcome to host board meetings throughout the year--**we ask that each family be willing to host one regional board meeting. These events are either a weekend or day-long. Hosting a meeting includes providing a space for the board to meet, and providing snacks and meals.** Since all NFTY SOCAL events are currently virtual, regional board meetings are also virtual for the time being.
- Event preparation and deadlines. This includes an extensive amount of high quality work, individually and in groups, with strict timelines, parameters and expectations.

CAMPAIGNING

Campaigning is NOT allowed and will result in immediate disqualification. If you are unsure if something is considered a violation, please check with [Lexie](#). Violations include, but are not limited to:

- Discussing your candidacy or others' candidacy with participants to sway their vote.
- Utilizing social media to campaign for yourself or others.
- Distributing materials that aim to sway participant votes.
- Sharing inappropriate or negative material about fellow candidates.
- Sharing or reposting the link to the video speeches on any social media platform.

EXPECTATIONS

1. Communication: Regional Board members will be available for meetings, phone calls and weekly video chats. Regional Board members will respond to all e-mails, text messages and phone calls within 24 hours or less.
2. Organization: Regional Board members will maintain organized, detailed calendars, and practice top quality organization in their work.
3. Accountability: Regional Board members will be true, reliable owners for their work and commitments.
4. Behavior: Regional Board members will adhere to the B'rit K'hilah and the mutually determined "Fishbowl" rules throughout their full term.
5. Innovation: All ideas are welcomed and expected from all board members in order to promote growth in the region and the creation of the best programming possible. Similarly, all board members should be willing to provide and accept input on all programs and services, and act as a resource for all board members and non-board members throughout the year.

DEADLINES

REQUIRED READING & INTEREST FORM (BY 4PM PST, FEB. 7TH, 2021)

- **Required Reading:** Read the following with your parent/guardian: [Constitution](#), [B'rit K'hilah](#), and Elections Packet.
- **Interest Form:** Please fill out [this form](#) by 4 PM on February 7th. After submitting this form, you will receive a confirmation email from Lexie. Once you receive this confirmation email, you MUST respond to schedule your informational calls. These calls must be scheduled with the Area Manager and Lexie by 4 PM on Feb. 7th.

INFORMATIONAL CALLS (BY 4PM PST, FEB. 13TH, 2021)

Two required informational calls must take place to ensure candidacy: a candidate and parent/guardian call with the Area manager and Lexie, and a candidate call with a current Regional Board member. These calls will happen by 4 PM on Feb. 13th

- **Regional Board Call:** Calls are about 20 to 30 minutes and must include the candidate and the current Regional Board member in the position the candidate is running for.
- **OPTIONAL: Area Manager Call:** Calls are about 30 minutes, and include Area Manager, SOCAL President, the candidate and a parent/guardian.

ONCE YOU DO COMPLETE THESE DEADLINES, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN EMAIL FROM LEXIE WITH A LINK TO THE REGIONAL BOARD ELECTIONS APPLICATION.

ELECTIONS APPLICATION (BY 4PM PST, MARCH 5TH, 2021)

- **Elections Application:** A simple survey used to collect basic information and submit Photo, Letter of Intent, Video Speech, and Platform Sheet. The link to the Elections Application will be sent to candidates after the Informational Calls have been completed. Candidates will be asked to resubmit their materials until they have met all of the specific requirements as outlined below.

- **Photo:** A digital photo of the candidate. It must be 6-inches wide by 6-inches high, and 300 dpi. To submit the photo, please upload it to the Elections Application where prompted.
- **Letter of Intent:** An official document in which the candidate states who they are, their position(s) of interest and platform. It must be one page, single-spaced, 1-inch margins, Helvetica 12-point font and saved as a Word Document. To submit the Letter of Intent, please upload it to the Elections Application where prompted.
- **Video Speech:** See below for video speech instructions.
- **Platform Sheet:** See below for platform sheet instructions. It must be one page, single-sided and saved as a JPG (if you need any help, contact Lexie Korkis). To submit the Platform Sheet, please upload it to the Elections Application where prompted.

VIDEO SPEECHES

There is a 4-minute time limit for Presidential candidates, and a 3-minute time limit for all other candidates. There will be no drop-down speeches; however, candidates may include information about drop-down positions in their speech if they wish. The video must be filmed in one take, filmed horizontally, against a blank wall with no scene changes, props or people other than the candidate. Instructions and guidelines on uploading video speeches will be outlined in an email to candidates.

PLATFORM SHEETS

Platform sheets provide a visual component to your candidacy, and ensure every voting delegate has proper information of each candidate and each candidate's platform. They will be submitted in the Elections Application.

Guidelines:

- Include your full name, and the position(s) you are running for.
- Include at least one picture of yourself.
- You may use any graphic design software to create the sheet. We recommend [Canva](#).
- See [examples of platform sheets](#) from past NFTY SOCAL elections.