



THE OFFICIAL CWR

REGIONAL BOARD APPLICATION

5778-5779



Shalom Prospective Regional Board Candidates!

While it may seem soon, we are already nearing the time to elect our new regional board for the 5778-5779 term! This past year our region experienced challenges, and much change but through it all remained strong as a *Kehillah Kedosha*, holy community, and I could not be more thankful for that. As my time on regional board comes to a bittersweet end, I am enlightened to watch as the future of our region shifts to an incredible new group of leaders. Due to our ever growing and loving region, it could not be a better time to run for Regional Board! We are continuing to make positive change with new resources from the URJ and continuing to expand our leadership opportunities, as well as programming to better our community. If elected, your tenure with NFTY will have a wonderful impact on the future of the region! In this letter I will explain how the election process works: how to run, what to be prepared for, and what will be expected of you as a candidate.

The seven positions in gavel order are: President, Programming Vice President (PVP), Social Action Vice President (SAVP), Religious and Cultural Vice President (RCVP), Membership Vice President (MVP), Communications Vice President (CVP), and Fundraising and Merchandise Vice President (FMVP).

It is important to keep in mind that while regional board is open to all NFTYites, it is a duty NOT to be taken lightly. Regional board is a HUGE responsibility and significant commitment. It is fair to assume that regional board obligations will take up **at least one third** of your weekends during the school year, as well as many hours during the school week. Aside from attending regional events and performing the tasks unique to your position, each board member must attend an in-person board meeting prior to every event (and be available to host one of these meetings), attend a five-day regional board training event at the URJ Kutz Camp in Warwick, NY, late July 2018, attend NFTY Convention in a TBA location in February 2019, work with their Temple Youth Group networks, support their cabinet committee, and help contribute to our growing region. As a regional board member, of course health, family, and school come first, and we expect that NFTY is your **top priority of all extracurricular activities.** Regional board is a fun, amazing, and completely rewarding experience, and not a job to be taken lightly. Regional Board is a once in a lifetime opportunity to provide for your NFTY community. Each and every one of you should feel incredibly proud to be taking this first step toward being a leader in our region. This is an incredible chance to work with your peers, and truly make an impact in this exciting time in CWR. I wish you all the best of luck!

With love,

Moriah Chedekel, NFTY-CWR President 5777-5778

Dear NFTY CWR Parent/Guardian,

We are writing you this letter because your teen is planning to run for a position on the NFTY Central West Regional Board. It is so exciting that your teen feels dedicated to a Jewish youth organization and wants to explore their leadership potential!

I hope that your teen has taken the time to discuss this decision with you. Making the decision to run for a regional office is easy for some, and for others it is something to be considered at great length. A regional board position requires a large commitment from any high school student. Some youth are more successful when devoting all of their extracurricular time to NFTY functions, while others feel confident participating in a variety of activities. In this light, it is very important that each candidate, as well as his/her parents, are aware of the expectations of a regional board position.

In NFTY CWR, we stress that the top priorities for our board members will always be school, family, and health during the year that your teen serves on the regional board. Regional board members will work on time management skills while keeping a balance of schoolwork, NFTY, and typical high school activities. You may want to discuss with your teen whether he or she will feel overwhelmed if faced with too many extracurricular activities, and the possibility of cutting down on other time-consuming activities if elected to serve on the regional board.

We expect that regional board be the **number one extracurricular priority** for all regional board members. The time commitment that will be asked of board members is the following:

- 1) Attendance at all regional events. There will be 4 next year. The calendar for these events can be found on the **last** page of the packet. These dates are tentative, and final dates will be shared soon.
- 2) Attendance at regularly scheduled board meetings, 5 per year, and participation in weekly conference calls.
- 3) Preparation for regional events, including programming, social media posts, and pre/post event outreach (approximately 20 hours per event, upwards of 25 hours for Regional President).
- 4) Participation in *Mechina*, July 2018, and *NFTY Convention* which takes place in February (over President's Day Weekend). These are important North American events, and regional scholarship is available to offset the costs of these events.
- 5) Caravanning to youth group events around the region, as well as continued support of the board member's own youth group, regional network, and cabinet committee.
- 6) Impromptu or emergency board functions.

There are situations where a prior family commitment exists, or where travel is simply not a possibility. These situations will be given consideration as long as the challenge is communicated within an appropriate time frame.

The financial responsibilities of a board member are the following:

- 1) **Board members will be expected to attend and pay for every regional event.** Regional board members receive a **50% discount** on the cost of each NFTY CWR event, provided they register **before the early bird deadline**, and meet all deadlines in completing their responsibilities for the event. In addition, regional board members are still eligible to apply for general regional scholarship for events.
- 2) **Participation in *Mechina*, July at URJ Kutz Camp in Warwick, New York, July 22-26, and NFTY Convention.** These are important North America events where our board members serve as voting delegates for the region. The region will supply some funds to help defray the cost (approximately \$225 toward *Mechina* and \$200 toward *Convention*, exact amounts to be determined). In addition, teens may apply for travel equalization for *Mechina* if flights are over a certain threshold. NFTY will make every effort to help your teen financially for these programs. You or your teen are always welcome to speak with myself (Sierra) about specific financial situations.
- 3) Depending on the regional board position, he or she may be asked to purchase supplies, copies, etc., and then be reimbursed. Reimbursement requires pre-approval and receipts. Payment is typically received no more than one month after receipts are submitted.
- 4) Although there is a financial obligation, we do not want money to be the reason your teen does not run for regional board. **If the financial obligations are a serious concern, please speak with me about this anytime.** NFTY will always do its best to make regional board possible for any teen who wants to run.

The travel/familial responsibilities of a board member are the following:

- 1) Regional Board meetings often take place at the homes of the board members themselves. Exact locations are determined by who is elected, shortly after elections. We ask that each family be willing to host one regional board meeting. These events are day-long and take place on Saturdays or Sundays. Hosting a meeting includes providing a space for the board to meet, and providing snacks.
- 2) Regional board members are expected to attend all meetings and coordinate their own transportation. **Regional board members are allowed to drive themselves to day-long regional board meetings, but are not allowed to drive themselves to or from NFTY regional events.**

If offered the position, your teen will be a regional officer from the time he/she is elected in April through May of 2019. He/she is expected to follow and uphold the NFTY Code of Conduct at all times during events. If your teen fails to do so, he/she can be removed from the position, in addition to facing additional consequences.

Holding a position on the Regional Board can be extremely fulfilling and rewarding. This is a wonderful opportunity for your teen to learn and enhance leadership, time management, and communication skills, as well as create wonderful memories. The teens are the ones responsible for running the bulk of our programming throughout our regional weekends, and the experience of regional board has been such a positive one for thousands of teens. In addition, the skills learned and utilized are applicable in high school, college, and even the work field. I commend your teen for deciding to take the chance and run for a position.

As is the case every year, we will most certainly have more qualified, dedicated, and passionate teens that run for regional board than we have positions available. We sincerely hope that your teen will remain an active member of CWR next year, regardless of the outcome of elections. We have expanded the number of extended leadership positions and opportunities in NFTY CWR, and sincerely hope that everyone will have a chance to take on a leadership role, regardless of title.

If you have any questions regarding positions on the regional board, please feel free to call me at 415-991-0291, or email me at smeszaros@urj.org. This year, we are asking that each candidate and one parent have a conversation with myself prior to running. I look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,
Sierra Meszaros
NFTY Central West Regional Advisor

Running for Regional Board:

Although the application process is different than traditional elections, there are two ground rules to take into consideration during the application process: **NO CAMPAIGNING** and **NO NEGATIVE SPEECH TOWARDS OTHERS**. These rules, established by NFTY, are taken extremely seriously. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Intimidating, **in any way**, someone else who is running for the position you plan to run for (before, during, or after elections)
- Speaking poorly about another candidate in person or through social media
- Asking people to vote for you outside of the formal elections process
- Publicly sharing campaign platforms in advance of Spring Conclave
- Posting about running for regional board on social media

All prospective candidates will be required to do **THREE things prior to submitting their application:**

- 1) Each candidate is required to submit a letter of intent to NFTY CWR Regional Advisor, Sierra Meszaros, NFTY CWR 5777-5778 President Moriah Chedekel, and NFTY CWR 5778-5779 President Elect Sam Duman. This letter will outline that the applicant understands the NFTY CWR Regional Board commitment and expectations, as well as outlines what unique qualities they bring to this position, and the NFTY community.
- 2) Each candidate must also create a “Meet the Candidates” Poster. Further information and questions for this document are listed in the “Meet the Candidates” section of the packet. This is an opportunity for the region to better understand your goals and character.
- 3) Each candidate must submit a “Regional Board Application,” signed by a parent or guardian and your youth group advisor/director or Rabbi. These signatures should only be received after speaking with your parent/guardian and youth group advisor or Rabbi. **Completed applications must be submitted here by April 8th:**
<https://urjyouth.wufoo.com/forms/s1y6dc3802rgk2k/>

Submitting Candidate Materials

All candidate materials (Regional Board Application, “Meet the Candidates” Poster, and letter of intent) **are due by Monday, April 8th. Please scan and upload documents, with all appropriate signatures, to this link:**
[https://urjyouth.wufoo.com/forms/s1kasd970ozy9py/.](https://urjyouth.wufoo.com/forms/s1kasd970ozy9py/)

Additional Information about “Meet the Candidates” Position Poster

Your “Meet the Candidates” Position Poster gives the regional board a chance to learn more about you and your ideas to strengthen CWR. Please answer the questions listed on the following page. Your answers should be creatively implemented any way you like on your 8 ½” by 11” flyer. Remember, you want the region to understand your platform by making the flyer as visually appealing as possible. Some websites that you can use (but are not limited to) are canva.com, befunky.com, and picmonkey.com.

Position Poster Questions

NFTY-CWR Elections 5778

General Questions (all candidates must answer these):

- 1) Why are you applying for regional board?
- 2) What is your favorite event of the year and why?
- 3) What new ideas or solutions do you have for our region in response to talking with a NFTY CWR member? (Please use part of the response to explain if this person was a new/young/etc member)

Position Specific Questions:

Social Action Vice President:

- 4) Our region stretches from Santa Rosa to Hawaii to Mongolia to the Yangtze River Area, and Jews live all over the world. How do you plan to lead NFTY-CWR in reaching out to the larger community? What is your vision for spreading social action messages within NFTY?
- 5) Why is it important to make social action relevant to teens today, and how do you plan to do so?

Communications Vice President:

- 4) How do you plan to effectively connect our region to our TYGs and our TYGs to each other? In what ways do you see improved communication strengthening our region?
- 5) In what ways do you plan to utilize and involve your CVP network, and how will this benefit the region and its TYGs?

General Expectations of Regional Board Members

- **Role Model**-Recognize that the members of your region look to you to set an example. Model ideal behavior and attitude at all times, even when you are not actively leading, because it will rub off on those around you. Make sure to lead by example and always be aware of the NFTY *Brit Kehillah*. Also maintain an appropriate online presence.
- **Approachability**-Board Members need to be approachable at all times. NFTYites should know how to reach you, and most importantly, feel comfortable doing so. At events, it is easy to spend your down time with your close friends, but it is important to remember that you are there for the entire region, and that everyone should feel included

by you. There are *always* new people to meet and get to know. Being a regional board member is all about making that personal connection.

- **Attendance**-As a role model, it is an expectation that you attend all regional events, meetings, and conference calls. **By running for Regional Board, you are making a commitment that NFTY will be your primary extracurricular activity.**
- **TYG Outreach, Cabinet Support, and Network Support**-As a board member, you are supporting and acting as a resource for your TYG networks. It is important to remember that this is one of your biggest responsibilities, and that it is your job to remain in constant contact with your TYG networks. It is also important to do your best to remain supportive to your own TYG. It is an expectation that you will attend multiple events of TYGs around the region. Additionally, you are a prime resource for your position network, and will oversee and support your candidate. It is important for you to continue to support and develop regional and TYG leaders.

Article Nine: Elections

Section 1. Eligibility:

1. The candidate must have been a member in good standing (see Article 4, Section 2) of the Central West Region for at least one (1) year and have attended at least two (2) regional events of the Central West Region.

Article One: Expectation of Executive Board Members

- I. All Executive Board Members must be active members in good standing of their local TYG and shall remain as such if elected to regional office.
- II. All Executive Board Members are expected to help with, and oversee the planning of, all regional events.
- III. All Executive Board Members are expected to attend all regional events and all Executive Board meetings.
- IV. Executive Board Members are expected to be in regular contact with the current Regional Advisor, their TYG counterparts, and their NFTY North American counterpart.
- V. Every Executive Board Member is expected to serve as a liaison to a certain number of TYGs in the region and to make regular visits to the synagogues in the region.
- VI. Each Executive Board Member is expected to attend the Old Board/New Board Overnight at the beginning and end of his/her term.
- VII. Each Executive Board Member should recognize that much time, energy, and money must be spent to be a successful Executive Board Member and that he/she will need all personal expenses approved by the current Regional Advisor in order to guarantee reimbursement.
- VIII. Each Executive Board Member is expected to be knowledgeable about, to enforce, to uphold, and to act in accordance with the NFTY Brit K'hillah (Code of Conduct).
- IX. Once elected, Executive Board Members are expected to familiarize themselves with, and practice, the Central West Regional Constitution and parliamentary procedure.
- X. Executive Board Members are expected to always act in an appropriate manner and to lead by example.
- XI. Executive Board Members should always keep in mind that they are representing NFTY and the Central West Region and should present themselves in a mature and respectable manner.

XII. Executive Board Members are strongly encouraged to attend Mechina and the Leadership Academy at URJ's Kutz Campus in Warwick, New York as well as NFTY Convention or NFTY Veida.

XIII. All Executive Board Members are expected to serve as a resource for, and promote, NFTY Competitions.

XIV. It is believed that each Executive Board Member has a "vision" and goals toward which he/she strives, and that this officer will do everything possible to achieve his/her goals and live up to the promise(s) he/she has made to the region.

XV. Executive Members will foster Hanhagah L'dorot (generational leadership) by being mindful of all of their predecessors and finding at least one (1) successor.

Article Two: Individual Responsibilities of Regional Executive Board Positions

Section 1. The responsibilities of the **PRESIDENT** include, but are not limited to:

1. Overseeing all activities of the region and the Regional Board, including helping with subregional events
2. Chairing Regional Board meetings, including preparing agendas for all meetings.
3. Working closely with the NFTY Regional Team and adult leadership.
4. Attending NFTY North American Board meetings as a voting delegate.
5. Serving as a member of the North American President's Network.
6. Preparing the schedule for each regional event, including deciding the menu for each meal for each regional event.
7. Possessing sCWRmy, the Regional Flag, and the Regional Gavel.
8. Leading the Regional Board in developing a vision for the year, individual goals and initiatives, including supporting Regional Board members in achieving such
9. Overseeing the Regional Event Chairs.
10. Overseeing TYG President's Network
11. Serving TYGs as a resource, including visiting or presenting at growing TYGs or JYGs, and communicating with clergy or youth advisors

Section 2. The responsibilities of the **PROGRAMMING VICE PRESIDENT (PVP)** include, but are not limited to:

1. Coordinating, running, and overseeing programming at regional events.
2. Assisting fellow regional board members in planning and running programming at regional events.
3. Serving as chair in the President's absence.
4. Attending NFTY North American Board meetings as a voting delegate.
5. Working with the Programming Committee.
6. Overseeing the region's PVP Network and serving TYGs as a resource for programming ideas and information.
7. Serving as a member of the North American PVP's Network.

Section 3. The responsibilities of the **SOCIAL ACTION VICE PRESIDENT (SAVP)** include, but are not limited to:

1. Coordinating, running, and overseeing social action programs at regional events.
2. Implementing Tikkun Olam (repairment of the world) throughout the region.
3. Attending NFTY North American Board meetings as a voting delegate.
4. Maintaining contact with the Regional SAVP Network and with the North American SAVP

5. Following updates by the Religious Action Center (RAC) and Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) regarding the URJ's stance on issues
6. Informing the region of important occurrences happening throughout the world.
7. Overseeing the SAVP cabinet.
8. Creating meaningful leadership opportunities for SAVP cabinet members.
9. Overseeing a TYG SAVP's Network and serving TYGs as a resource for social action programming ideas and information.
10. Serving as a member of the North American SAVP's Network.

Section 4. The responsibilities of the **RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL VICE PRESIDENT (RCVP)** include, but are not limited to:

1. Coordinating, running, and overseeing all services at regional events, which include but are not limited to Friday night and Saturday morning T'fillah and Havdalah.
2. Leading prayers at regional events
3. Serving as the regional "expert" on Israel and leading Israel discussions and programming.
4. Attending NFTY North American Board meetings as a voting delegate.
5. Incorporating and emphasizing Jewish culture in the region (i.e via leading cultural programming)
6. Overseeing the Regional RCVP cabinet committee
7. Overseeing the Regional Song-leaders cabinet committee
8. Overseeing a TYG RCVP's Network and serving TYGs as a resource for religious and cultural information as well as general leadership skills.
9. Serving as a member of the North American RCVP's Network and working with RCVPs from other regions throughout the year.

Section 5. The responsibilities of the **MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT (MVP)** include, but are not limited to:

1. Coordinating, running, and overseeing all mixers at regional events.
2. Overseeing regional membership and working to increase membership in TYGs and CWR.
3. Helping to create a safe and inclusive environment.
4. Picking and handing out beads and necklaces at each event.
5. Hosting New Member Meetings and creating and updating new member packets.
6. Contacting potential NFTYites
7. Overseeing the Membership committee
8. Overseeing a TYG MVP's Network and serving TYGs as a resource for mixers and membership information.
9. Serving as a member of the North American MVP's Network.

Section 6. The responsibilities of the **COMMUNICATIONS VICE PRESIDENT (CVP)** include, but are not limited to:

1. Taking minutes (notes) at all board meetings and phone calls and distributing these minutes in a timely manner
2. Creating call lists, and assigning regional board and cabinet members participants to call, (and crossing off members who have already signed up.)
3. Taking pictures throughout each event, creating a slideshow to show on the Sunday of each event
4. Selling NFTY notes on Sunday morning of each event
5. Taking responsibility for all general regional correspondence

6. Running all Social Media accounts
7. Creating marketing plans for each event and publicizing for events on Social Media (creating fliers and posts, etc)
8. Overseeing the Communications Committee
9. Overseeing TYG CVP Network and serving TYGs as a resource for communications
10. Serving as a member of the North American CVP Network

Section 7. The responsibilities of the **FUNDRAISING AND MERCHANDISE VICE PRESIDENT** include, but are not limited to:

1. Designing, ordering and distributing regional merchandise.
2. Communicating with adult leadership about design ideas.
3. Operating the Shuk during NFTY events.
4. Overseeing the FMVP committee.
5. Organizing fundraisers during and outside of NFTY regional events.
6. Overseeing the TYG FMVP network and serving as a resource for those in the network.

Central West Region

Regional Officer Board Application

Please scan and upload completed application to this link:

<https://urjyouth.wufoo.com/forms/s1y6dc3802rgk2k/>

Candidate Information:

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

TYG: _____ Current TYG Board Position (If applicable): _____

Regional Board position I am seeking: _____

I, _____, understand that serving on the NFTY-CWR Regional Board is an extremely exciting, rewarding and educational experience. I also understand that it will require considerable time, responsibility and dedication. I realize that by assuming this position I will be expected to travel to board meetings, regional events, North American events, and other functions. These programs will take place in various locations around the NFTY-CWR region and the country. I understand that I am expected to follow and uphold the Brit Kehillah at all times during all NFTY events, and that failure to do so may result in removal from my position along with additional consequences. I understand that I will receive a discount on event fees as long as I meet any deadlines set by the regional director. With my signature below, I acknowledge and understand the requirements of the position I seek, and if elected, I will devote the time and energy necessary to fulfill my responsibilities.

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Please Complete the Following Questions:

1. Why do you want to be on Regional Board? What is the driving force that helped you decide that this is what you want to dedicate your time to? Please address Regional Board and the position you are applying for specifically.
2. What unique qualities do you possess that will be an asset to the Regional Board?
3. What is the best kind of program for a NFTY event?

4. If selected for the Regional Board, what is one major contribution you would like to bring to the region?

Parent/Guardian Information:

I have read the “NFTY CWR Parent/Guardian Letter” and spoken with the regional director, and understand that being on the NFTY CWR Regional Board is a serious commitment. I recognize that if elected, my son/daughter will be expected to participate in both regional and North American events as well as board functions, including *Mechina* and *Veida*. I understand that my child will receive a discount in event fees as long as he/she meets all deadlines and requirements set by the regional director. I am supportive of my son/daughter’s involvement on the NFTY CWR Regional Board, both financially and emotionally. I am confident that my son/daughter is entering the regional election process with complete knowledge of what it means to be a Regional Board Member. I will do my best to enable my teen to perform his/her duties should he/she be elected.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Rabbi/Youth Professional Information

I understand that _____ is applying for a position on the 2018-2019 NFTY CWR Regional Board. He/she is a member in good standing of both our temple youth group and our synagogue, and I give permission for him/her to run for Regional Board. I have had a conversation with him/her about the responsibilities and time commitment of board. Furthermore, I believe that he/she demonstrates good leadership qualities and is capable of handling the responsibilities of a Regional Board Member.

Signature of Youth Professional or Rabbi: _____ Date: _____

Please scan and upload completed application to this link:
<https://urjyouth.wufoo.com/forms/s1y6dc3802rgk2k/>

Best of luck to you again, and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the regional advisor, Sierra Meszaros!

2018-2019 NFTY CWR & North America Dates

**Dates & Locations are being finalized, final Calendar will be released as soon as completed*

Event	Date	Location
Gesher Kallah	April 27-29, 2018	Congregation Sherith Israel, San Francisco, CA
Mechina	July 22-26, 2018	URJ Kutz Camp in Warwick, New York
C-Dubb Smash	October 19-21, 2018	Congregation Rodef Sholom, San Rafael, CA
Fallinter	November 30- December 2, 2018	Congregation Beth Am, Los Altos Hills, CA
NFTY Convention	Presidents Day Weekend, 2019	Dallas, TX
Spring Conclave	March 15- 17,2019	Congregation B'nai Israel, Sacramento, CA
Gesher Kallah	April 26-28, 2019	To Be Announced

*NFTY Heller High Candidates Exempt