NFTY CHICAGO AREA REGION

REGIONAL BOARD CANDIDATE PACKET
FOR ELECTION TO BE HELD AT NFTY CAR ELECTIONS, MARCH 19, 2017

This application packet includes the following:
1. Letter to Parents and Candidates
2. Candidate Information Form
3. Candidate Declaration Form
4. Rabbinic Certification
5. Temple Youth Group Advisor Certification
6. Selections from the NFTY Chicago Constitution
7. Current Regional Board Contact List
8. NFTY Brit Kehilla

The application procedure is as follows:
1. Prospective candidates must declare their intention, in writing, to run to the current NFTY Chicago Regional President, Jake Lewis, between the January Council Meeting (January 11, 2017) and March 1, 2017.
2. Upon receipt of this packet, candidates should read the enclosed selections from the NFTY Chicago Constitution detailing the responsibilities of the position in which they are interested.
3. Candidates should arrange meetings with their Clergy or Educator and Temple Youth Group Advisor in order to discuss their candidacy for Regional Board. If you do not belong to a congregation or do not have a TYG Advisor, please contact NFTY Chicago Senior Regional Director Logan Zinman so you can figure out who to speak to together. Forms certifying that candidates have had these conversations are enclosed and due March 5th, 2017.
4. Candidates must also have a conversation with the person who is currently holding the position they intend to run for. This conversation will serve to inform the potential candidate about what exactly the position entails.
5. Candidates must also have a conversation with either Jake Lewis, NFTY Chicago President, or Logan Zinman, NFTY Chicago Senior Regional Director. Candidates for President must set up times to speak to both Jake and Logan. Candidates for other positions can of course choose to have conversations with both Jake and Logan. This is to ensure that the candidate knows expectations about being on regional board ahead of time.
6. Candidates must write a Letter of Intent to be posted on the NFTY Chicago website prior to Elections. This letter must be ready to be copied and should be between 1 and 2 pages. Letters will appear in color on the website, and copies will be made by NFTY in black and white to hand out at Elections. Examples from previous years are available on our website, chicago.nfty.org, under “Our Leadership.” Letters of Intent are due March 5th, 2017.
7. Each candidate will have time to give a speech during elections. This speech may not exceed 3 minutes.
8. All candidates must have attended at least four NFTY CAR events, which may include the event in which the election is taking place.

Completed forms and Letters of Intent are due by March 5, 2017. They must be received by Logan by this date. All candidates should have declared their candidacy by this time, and no elections materials will be accepted after this date.

Materials should be scanned and emailed as PDF documents to lzinman@urj.org.

Questions regarding elections procedures should be directed to:
Jake Lewis, 2016-2017 NFTY Chicago President, or
Logan Zinman, NFTY Chicago Senior Regional Director

B’hatzlacha – Good Luck!
Dear Candidates and Families,

You are receiving this letter to describe the benefits and responsibilities of a position on the NFTY Chicago Area Regional Board. Each board member plays a very important role in the operation and future of our region and I want to take the time to explain the full nature of this position.

I hope that you have discussed this decision as a family. Making the decision to run for regional office is easy for some and requires a great deal of consideration for others. Regional Board is a serious commitment. It asks for a great deal of time management, prioritization, and sacrifices. Some students find it difficult to keep up with sports, theater and other extracurricular activities while serving in a regional position, and most will give up at least one of their other extra-curricular commitments. It is very important to me, and the region, that you fully understand the scope of responsibilities before you run for office. I hope that serving on regional board will offer a great opportunity to learn time management skills as you balance homework, NFTY and typical teenage activities. Family and school must always be your first priorities. By running for the Chicago Area Regional Board, you are making a commitment that NFTY will be your primary extra-curricular activity (above sports, debate, and other school or similar related activities). Failure to attend events, participate in board meetings, and/or an overall neglect of your responsibilities may be grounds for impeachment. The time and financial commitments are outlined below. The candidacy process also requires that each candidate meet with both their clergy/educator and temple youth group advisor. These mentors can help you understand everything that is required of you as a Regional Board member and help you decide if this position is right for you. If you do not belong to a congregation, or do not have a youth group advisor, please be in touch with me. And, as always, please feel free to contact me with any questions along the way.

There are some commitments we ask from your family also. Once the board has their initial planning meeting for the year, we will pick certain dates and times to hold our meetings. It is expected that the board members notify their families of these meetings and in return, we appreciate all support that each family can give in allowing your teen to make these meetings. The final calendar for the 2017-2018 school year will be ready in March. We will ask each board member and parent to sign a copy of the calendar acknowledging the commitment to be physically present at these events.

Now I don’t want to scare you…Regional Board can and should be a very rewarding and educational experience! Regional Board alumni walk away with a broad array of skills and have the opportunity to enjoy major successes and accomplishments throughout the year as they lead their region to do great things. Regional Board alumni have gone on to hold leadership positions in college and are successful in a variety of professional fields – you will be part of a network of leaders and professionals that support each other beyond high school. As the NFTY Chicago Director, I will be working closely in partnership with the board to provide support and guidance, and help the officers work together as a team. This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance leadership, time management, and communication skills as well as experience NFTY at a whole new level. You will get to make the magic of NFTY come alive for your friends and be part of a chain of leadership that stretches more than 75 years, and make decisions that impact the future of NFTY. I have the best job in the world because I get to work with you – and I commend everyone who is taking the challenge and running for a Regional Board position!

Throughout the year, Regional Board members will be expected to participate in the following:

- All regional events for high schoolers, occasionally arriving one day early, and 1-2 evening middle school events
- MVP and President: Junior Youth Group Kallah
- A council meeting and board meeting once per month, and board conference calls each week
- Event Prep Days (meeting at the Deerfield office during the week before an event)
- Summer Kallah Prep Meeting (Planning Weekend) with NFTY NO at OSRUI over the summer
- Old Board/New Board Training Retreat – April/May/June 2017 (Date TBD as a board)
- Mechina North American Regional Board Meeting at Kutz Camp in Warwick, NY – June 16-20, 2017
- NFTY Veida – President’s Day Weekend, February 2018 – Location TBD
- Regional Board Members interested in applying for Avodah at OSRUI must work in session Bet
There are some financial responsibilities included in this position also:

- As part of Regional Board, you are expected to attend every regional event. You will also be asked to attend occasional NFTY678 events on Friday or Saturday evenings, but will not be required to attend all of them.
- Each Regional Board member is expected to register on time and submit all forms for all events. Regional Board members are eligible to pay half of the cost of each NFTY Chicago event, provided they register on time and meet all deadlines along the way. Missed deadlines for programs or late registrations will mean paying full price or late fees for an event!
- As a Regional Board member, you are also required to attend Mechina (The North American Leadership Institute) which is held at Kutz Camp in Warwick, NY. The second North American board meeting (which you will be strongly encouraged to attend) will be held over President’s Day weekend. NFTY Chicago will do its very best to help subsidize the cost of these events.
- At some time throughout the year, Regional Board members may be asked to pay for supplies or other expenses and then be reimbursed for that money. These purchases must be pre-approved in writing and the receipt must be saved.

As a Regional Board member, you also have a responsibility to your home youth group. While you cannot hold a position on your TYG board if you are elected to Regional Board, we expect that you remain involved and support your youth group by attending events and being a model participant. When you go into a classroom or youth group event to invite middle and high schoolers to NFTY events, they should know who you are, and see you as a role model.

In running for NFTY Chicago’s Regional Board, you are publicly declaring that you satisfy the functional qualifications of your position. However, you are also accepting the responsibilities that come with being a role model selected by your peers. This is a challenging commitment, requiring adherence to the NFTY Brit Kehilla (Code of Conduct – a copy of which can be found on our website) at all times during, and sometimes even outside of, events. This document’s purpose is to uphold the k’hillah kedosha (holy community) that we are committed to in NFTY and you, as a Regional Board member, are responsible for maintaining this environment of holiness and kavod (respect). We are taught in the Babylonian Talmud that “It is not the position that honors the person, but rather the person that honors the position” (Taanit 21b). In light of this statement, I ask that you be prepared to act in a way brings honor and respect to your position on Regional Board throughout the year, and realize that your actions, even outside of events, are subject to the Brit Kehilla. Please understand that if a board member fails to fulfill these responsibilities, they will face consequences which may include suspension and/or removal from office. While we can discuss the practical implications of your conduct outside of NFTY-related activities, please understand that, at the very least, engaging in any illegal activity during your term in office is a violation of this Brit Kehilla. It is my expectation that you not only follow the rules, but that you go above and beyond what is simply required of you, by being a model participant and leader, encouraging and growing the leadership of others, and making NFTY an even more inclusive and welcoming youth movement because of your influence.

I again want to congratulate you for considering running for a position on board. It is your passion and commitment that will take our region to new levels. Thank you for your dedication up until this point and I am excited to continue working with you. If you or your parents have any questions regarding positions on the regional board, please feel free to email me at lzinman@urj.org. I look forward to working with you in the coming year!

Good Luck!
Logan Zinman
NFTY CAR Senior Regional Director
NFTY CHICAGO AREA REGION

2017–2018 REGIONAL BOARD
CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Name ___________________________________________________________

Candidate for ___________________________________________________

If not elected to the above position, you may “drop down” to the elections for up to one other position, or two positions if a position has no candidates running. You will be asked about your choice after the declaration period has ended.

Street Address ___________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ______ Zip ______________

Home Phone __________________________ Cell Phone ______________________

E-Mail __________________________________________________________

Birthday __________________________ Grade __________________________

High School ______________________________________________________

Name Parent/Guardian #1 __________________________________________

Phone __________________________ Email ____________________________

Name Parent/Guardian #2 (if applicable) ______________________________

Phone __________________________ Email ____________________________

Congregation __________________________ TYG _________________________

Rabbi/Educator __________________________

TYG Advisor _____________________________________________________

Four NFTY Chicago events that I have attended:

________________________ Year________
________________________ Year________
________________________ Year________
________________________ Year________

Office Use Only:

___ Declaration
___ Clergy/Educator Certification
___ Advisor Certification
___ Letter of Intent
___ Board Contact
NFTY CHICAGO AREA REGION

2017–2018 REGIONAL BOARD CANDIDATE DECLARATION FORM

I, ____________________________, am a member in good standing of the following Temple Youth Group (TYG): ____________________________ of NFTY’s Chicago Area Region. By signing below, I hereby openly declare myself a candidate for the position of _________________ on the NFTY Chicago Area Regional Board for the 2017-2018 School Year. My signature also indicates that I understand that serving on NFTY Chicago Regional Board is an extremely exciting, rewarding and educational experience. If elected, I will accept the full scope of responsibilities expected of me as a leader of the Region as outlined in the “Letter to Candidates and Their Families.” Furthermore, if I am elected, this form will serve as a contract between the region and me that I will uphold my obligations as a regional board member.

__________________________  __________________________
Signature of Candidate         Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATION

I understand that a position on the Regional Board of the NFTY Chicago Area Region will demand a significant commitment of time and energy from my child’s extra-curricular activities and dominate a great deal of my teen’s time. I also understand that my teen will be expected to uphold the Brit Kehilla during, and sometimes outside of, regional events. I understand that my approval is necessary for my child’s name to be placed on the ballot. By signing I indicate that I have read the letter to candidates and families, support and approve my child’s candidacy, and am prepared to support my teen’s commitment to NFTY Chicago Regional Board.

__________________________  __________________________
Signature of Candidate’s Parent or Guardian  Date

Return by March 1, 2017 to:
Logan Zinman - lzinman@urj.org
Dear Rabbi, Cantor, or Educator,

The above-named candidate intends to run for a NFTY Chicago Area Regional Board position for the 2017-2018 school year. Please take the time to meet with them for a significant meeting, and discuss both their potential as a regional board member as well as the responsibilities that come with leadership. After you meet with the candidate, if you feel this teen is mature and responsible enough to accept the responsibilities of regional leadership as outlined in the Regional Board Candidate Packet, please sign the bottom of this form, certifying your teen’s candidacy for the position above.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Jake Lewis
2016-2017 NFTY CAR President
847-922-8035 / car-president@nfty.org

Logan Zinman
NFTY CAR Senior Regional Director
lzinman@urj.org

I hereby certify that ___________________________ is a member in good standing of my congregation or youth group, I have met with them, and I certify them to run for the 2017 – 2018 NFTY Chicago Area Regional Board.

__________________________________________
Signature of Clergy/Educator

__________________________________________
Signature of Candidate

Return by March 1, 2017 to:
Logan Zinman - lzinman@urj.org
Dear Advisor,

The above-named candidate intends to run for a NFTY Chicago Area Regional Board position for the 2017 – 2018 school year. **Please take the time to have a significant meeting with them and discuss both their potential as a regional board member and the responsibilities that come with leadership.** After you meet with the candidate, if you feel this teen is mature and responsible enough to accept the responsibilities of regional leadership as outlined in the Regional Board Candidate Packet, please sign the bottom of this form, certifying your teen’s candidacy for the position above. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Jake Lewis
2016-2017 NFTY CAR President
847-922-8035 / car-president@nfty.org

Logan Zinman
NFTY CAR Senior Regional Director
lzinman@urj.org

I hereby certify that __________________________ is a member in good standing of my congregation or youth group, I have met with them, and I certify them to run for the 2017 – 2018 NFTY Chicago Area Regional Board.

_______________________________   ________________________
Signature of Advisor          Date

I certify that I have met with my Advisor to discuss my candidacy for the Regional Board.

_______________________________   ________________________
Signature of Candidate          Date

Return by March 1, 2017 to:
Logan Zinman - lzinman@urj.org
Article Five: NFTY CAR Regional Board Position Descriptions

Section A. President. The duties of the President shall be as follows:
1. To represent the Chicago Area Region as a voting member of NFTY.
2. To be the liaison between NFTY-CAR Regional Board and the NFTY-CAR Regional Advisor.
3. To be an active participant in the NFTY Presidents Network.
4. To maintain the NFTY-CAR President Network.
5. To act as an ex-officio member of all committees.
6. To coordinate the application and appointment of regional cabinet members.
7. To coordinate any activities and accept any other duties assigned by the NFTY-CAR Regional Advisor.
8. To oversee all programming of the Chicago Area Region.
9. To represent NFTY-CAR at all North American meetings that may occur during his/her term.
10. To represent NFTY-CAR as a voting member in Regional Meetings including the Great Lakes Council, Chicago Federation, and ARZA, when called upon.
11. To keep the region updated and informed about Netzer Olami.
12. To preside over Regional Council and Board meetings.
13. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.

Section B. Programming Vice-President. The duties of the Programming Vice-President shall be as follows:
1. To oversee and edit all written regional programming.
2. To compile and approve schedules for any NFTY-CAR event with the NFTY-CAR Regional Advisor, Regional President, and the other event chairs or committee members when applicable.
3. To be an active participant in the NFTY Programming Vice President Network.
4. To maintain the NFTY-CAR PVP Network.
5. To be an educational and programmatic resource to all of NFTY-CAR.
6. To support TYGs in their programming.
7. To create and distribute information regarding the study themes and encourage implementation at TYG and Regional events.
8. To take over the duties of the President in the event that the President of NFTY-CAR is absent.
9. To act as the Chicago Area Region Tikkun Olam (and any other Creative Programming) Award Chair.
10. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.

Section C. Social Action Vice-President. The duties of the Social Action Vice-President shall be as follows:
1. To organize Social Action opportunities for NFTY-CAR participants year round.
2. To specifically incorporate social action in each regional event.
3. To facilitate political activism and volunteerism in NFTY-CAR.
4. To encourage, aid/or co-coordinate the activities of Social Action among our TYG’s.
5. To coordinate, facilitate, and/or aid in Social Action oriented projects initiated by NFTY-CAR.
6. To keep participants aware of the Jewish commitment of Tikkun Olam.
7. To be an active participant in the NFTY Social Action Vice President Network.
8. To maintain the NFTY-CAR SAVP Network.
9. To coordinate the Summer Kallah Mitzvah Corps Day with the Regional Advisor.
10. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.
Section D. Religious and Cultural Vice-President. The duties of the Religious and Cultural Vice-President shall be as follows:

1. To assist all regional board members with their duties if need be.
2. To represent the Chicago Area Region as a NFTY Regional Board member.
3. To represent the Chicago Area Region as a voting member of NFTY.
4. To be an active participant in the NFTY Religious and Cultural Network.
5. To keep in contact with the North American Religious and Cultural Vice-President of NFTY.
6. To coordinate all religious services at regional events.
7. To act as a liaison with the TYG worship officers.
8. To regulate and maintain the Chicago Area Region Service Bank and Online Service Bank.
9. To be aware of and make known to the Chicago Area Region all Jewish Religious and Cultural Events in the Chicago area.
10. To represent the Chicago Area Region at all ARZA functions.
11. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.

Section E. Membership Vice-President. The duties of the Membership Vice-President shall be as follows:

1. To identify the needs of NFTY-CAR's membership and to address those needs, with the help of appropriate adult resources, Regional Board and/or Advisor, and committees.
2. To maintain and expand the membership of the Chicago Area Region.
3. To work to create an environment conducive to a friendly atmosphere.
4. To act as a resource for TYGs to maintain and expand their individual memberships.
5. To be an active participant in the NFTY Membership and Communications Network.
6. To maintain the NFTY-CAR MVP Network.
7. To keep an updated list of all active and potential members of the Chicago Area Region.
8. To work with membership related cabinet positions.
9. To coordinate and oversee CAR-avaning.
10. To coordinate outreach to participants before each regional event by the NFTY-CAR Regional Board.
11. To create and oversee the writing of all mixers for regional activities.
12. To hold meetings and activities for new members at each regional event.
13. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.

Section F. Treasurer. The duties of the Treasurer shall be as follows:

1. To facilitate the NFTY-CAR General board Network with the Regional Secretary and Communications Vice-President.
2. To be an active participant in the NFTY Membership and Communications Network.
3. To be in charge of the selling of regional merchandise at events.
4. To coordinate fundraising for the Chicago Area Region.
5. To work with the NFTY-CAR President and Regional Advisor to collect and track NFTY-CAR Dues.
6. Help budget for events and usage of NFTY-CAR Dues.
7. To introduce new merchandise throughout the year.
8. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.

Section G. Communications Vice-President. The duties of the Communications Vice-President shall be as follows:

1. To produce the Gesher (NFTY CAR’s Regional Newsletter).
2. To communicate with members of the Chicago Area Region about upcoming programming.
3. To be an active participant in the NFTY Membership and Communications Network.
4. To facilitate the NFTY-CAR General board Network with the Regional Treasurer.
5. To publicize Chicago Area Region events.
6. To keep each Regional Board Member up to date with the calendar of events for council meetings and other miscellaneous regional board and regional activities.
7. To compile content for the NFTY-CAR webpage.
8. To take minutes at all Regional Council and Board meetings.
9. To send copies of minutes to each Regional Board Member and the Regional Advisor via e-mail after each council meeting.
10. To make minutes from each council meeting available upon request to any member of NFTY-CAR and on the website.
11. To coordinate a yearbook for the Chicago Area Region to be distributed at the last event of the year.
12. To send thank you notes to advisors, rabbis, and any other staff members at regional events.
13. To handle all regional correspondence.
14. To undertake and coordinate any activities and additional duties which may be necessary to fulfill the above responsibilities.

Article Six. Elections, Appointments, and Dismissals

Section A. Elections. The following NFTY CAR Regional Board shall be elected annually in this order:

1. President
2. Programming Vice-President
3. Social Action Vice-President
4. Religious and Cultural Vice-President
5. Membership Vice-President
6. Treasurer
7. Communications Vice President

Section B. During a special NFTY CAR Council meeting called at Kolbo, NFTY CAR elections shall take place to elect the seven (7) NFTY-CAR Regional Board Members.

Section C. Election Procedures shall include the following:

1. Candidates shall declare by communicating their desire to run to the President of NFTY CAR after the adjournment of the January Council meeting until the beginning of the March Council meeting. No individual shall be nominated.
2. Candidates must meet all requirements set out by the NFTY-CAR Regional President and Regional Advisor in order to maintain eligibility. In special circumstances, the NFTY-CAR Regional Advisor and President can determine a candidate’s eligibility.
3. Candidates may change the position they are running for by re-declaring in writing to the President before the deadline. After the deadline, no declarations shall be accepted.
4. Each candidate must currently be a member of NFTY and will be a member of NFTY the following year in order to be eligible to run for Regional Board.
5. All candidates must have attended four (4) NFTY-CAR Regional events. If the candidate has moved from another NFTY Region, at least two (2) of the events must have been in NFTY-CAR. The Kolbo at which elections are held may be the fourth event.
6. Candidates must write a Letter of Intent, which must fit all criteria set by the Regional President and Advisor.
7. There will be a time set during Kolbo for a Meet the Candidates- Question/Answer period and TYG caucusing.
8. Drop Downs
   a. Candidates are allowed one (1) drop down only to an undeclared position.
   b. All candidates for election will be notified two (2) weeks prior to elections of any undeclared positions.
   c. Drop downs for undeclared positions must be declared one (1) week prior to Kolbo in writing to the President.
   d. If the candidate loses his/her undeclared drop down election, they are ineligible to drop down to a second undeclared position below said drop down.
9. Speeches
   a. One (1) speech shall be given by each candidate for each position run for.
      1. A speech for a declared position may not exceed three (3) minutes.
      2. A speech for an undeclared drop down may not exceed three (3) minutes.
      3. TYGs will be given a length of time determined by the regional President to caucus following the speeches for an undeclared drop down.
NFTY CHICAGO AREA REGIONAL BOARD 2015 - 2016

President: Jake Lewis (BJBE – Deerfield, IL)
847-922-8035 / car-president@nfty.org

Programming VP: Daniel Dodinval (Emanuel – Chicago, IL)
847-910-5121 / car-pvp@nfty.org

Social Action VP: Sophie Richardson (Or Shalom – Vernon Hills, IL)
224-406-0899 / car-savp@nfty.org

Religious & Cultural VP: Jake Hershenhouse (BJBE – Deerfield, IL)
847-513-1911 / car-rcvp@nfty.org

Membership VP: Marni Israel (BJBE – Deerfield, IL)
847-513-1739 / car-mvp@nfty.org

Treasurer: Spencer Lavin (Jeremiah – Northfield, IL)
847-850-9586 / car-treasurer@nfty.org

Communications VP: Lily Simon (Temple Chai – Long Grove, IL)
224-645-3438 / car-cvp@nfty.org

Senior Regional Director
Logan Zinman
1121 Lake Cook Rd., Suite D, Deerfield, IL  60015
lzinman@urj.org

2017-2018 NFTY Chicago Area Regional Dates

*The regional calendar will be created in January finalized by March 2017. When it is announced, please mark all dates on your calendar for next year!*  

2017-2018 NFTY North American and URJ Events

Mechina - June 16-20, 2017 at Kutz Camp in Warwick, NY

Regional Board Track at Kutz Camp – June 20-July 16, 2016. Consider spending 3.5 weeks of your summer at Kutz. This is a phenomenal leadership opportunity not just for regional board members!

URJ Biennial – December 6-10, 2017 in Boston, Massachusetts. Consider joining your synagogue’s delegation and learning with teens and adults from across North America!

NFTY Veida – President’s Day Weekend, February 2017. Location TBD.