

# NETY-STR

## President Network Packet

### 2020-2021



**Prez-Net**  
101

# Welcome to Prez Net!

Hi everyone! **Mazel Tov** on being elected as President of your youth group!! I hope you are all excited for one of the most gratifying, exciting and busiest years of your life!! This year you are going to learn a lot about yourself, your congregation, your youth group, your region and the people you will work with- your board around you. This position is like no other. As president, you have the ability to **impact the future** of your congregation, **TYG** and this community of **NFTY STR**. You will **grow** as an individual and a leader, but will also have the opportunity to **learn** from those you interact with.

In addition to myself, this network will be an amazing support system to have throughout your term. You are a part of a group of people who are going through the same process as you and will be able to use each other to bounce ideas off of and to send references of programs, helpful documents, etc. As a member of this network, we are all here for one another. We are all in this together and we are all just a call, text, facetime away. Never hesitate to share a random story about school, talk about life, express when you are having a hard time, share when you wrote/led something successful, etc!!!!

Working on a board is like a puzzle. Each one of the pieces are included and have their own **unique role and purpose**. Without one of the pieces, the puzzle cannot be completed and could fall apart. I am hoping that this packet can give you a good idea of how to be a **great board member**, and an even better **leader** in your congregation community and in this community that can help educate and inspire others! I cannot wait to see and hear all of the amazing things each and every one of you do in this upcoming year. I am positive that we will all achieve great things this year together!!!

B'ahava (With Love),

Alyson Martinez

NFTY STR President 5780-5781

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# Learn the Lingo

**NFTY:** North American Federation of Temple Youth - The Reform Jewish Youth Movement

**URJ:** Union for Reform Judaism

**STR:** Southern Tropical Region (\*the best region!!)

**REGBO:** Regional Board

**NAB:** North American Board (like REGBO, but for all of NFTY)

**TYG:** Temple Youth Group

**JYG:** Junior Youth Group

**GAVEL ORDER:** The specific order that NFTY-STR recognizes: President, PVP, SAVP, RCVP, CVP, MVP

**PVP:** Programing Vice President

**SAVP:** Social Action Vice President

**RCVP:** Religious and Cultural Vice President

**CVP:** Communications Vice President

**MVP:** Membership Vice President

**PL:** Program Leader

**GL:** Group Leader

**PP:** Participants

**FVP:** Financial/ Fundraising Vice President (some TYG's have this position)

**ASEFAH:** A board meeting with the Regional and the General board held twice a year at Winter Regional and another event

**LEGISLATION:** Opportunity for teens in this region to create and submit an idea that will impact our region, that is presented and voted on at Asefah

**AMENDMENT:** Making a change to something in the constitution that already exists, they are voted on at Asefah and require a 2/3 majority to pass and then must be ratified at the following Asefah session

**RESOLUTION:** A statement on NFTY-STR's opinion about a certain topic that is presented at Asefah and required a 50% + 1 majority to pass

**HUC:** Hebrew Union College

**RAC:** Religious Action Center

**WUPJ:** World Union for Progressive Judaism

**CAMP JENNY:** NFTY-STR and NFTY-SAR's mitzvah project that takes place over Memorial Day weekend at URJ Camp Coleman

**LLTI:** Liz Leadership Training Institute

**KALLAH (PLURAL KALLOT):** A regional event consisting of youth group members from all over the state who come together for a few days of making friends and memories, singing, programming and having fun!!

# Get to Know Me!

Name: Alyson Martinez

Hometown: Boca Raton, FL

Temple Youth Group: BOFTY

Birthday: January 22, 2003

School: Boca High #gobobcats

Favorite Foods: sushi, salad (literally any kind), and fruit

Favorite Color: blue

Favorite Drink: coffee/ water

Free Time Activities: sing, play piano, run, go to the beach, make smoothies

Fun Facts: I've played piano since I was 3 years old, I can recite random lines from Finding Nemo, I can do a cool thing with my lip

## Contact Me!!

Instagram: @alysonmartinez\_

Snapchat: peacelovealy123 (i know its bad lol, but it's from fourth grade)

Facebook: Alyson Martinez

Phone Number: (954)-815-5568

Email: [alysonemartinez@gmail.com](mailto:alysonemartinez@gmail.com) or [str-rcvp@nfty.org](mailto:str-rcvp@nfty.org) (until May 15) or [str-president@nfty.org](mailto:str-president@nfty.org) (after May 15)

# All About You!

Name:

Hometown:

Temple Youth Group:

Birthday:

School:

Favorite Foods:

Favorite Color:

Favorite Drink:

Free Time Activities:

Fun Facts:

Contact Info:

# Ready, Set, Goal

## **Personal**

(for yourself, can be about anything!!) :))

## **Network**

(what you hope to get out of this network)

## **TYG**

(way(s) to improve/ sustain what is running well in your youth group)

# Presidential Expectations

Being a President is unlike any other board position. As President you do not have a specific realm that you are responsible for, like an MVP is focused on membership and recruitment. As president it may take a while to get adjusted into finding your groove of how you want to lead your board, but once you understand your board dynamic everything will fall into place. You will use all of your board members to help assist you when certain tasks need to be done and you will be the one who is responsible for setting the standard for your year.

Every president will have a different experience and role depending on your TYG. Some presidents may be more behind the scenes in planning on their own time and others may be present in working with staff and clergy and collaborating that way. Even though our experiences will be different depending on our circumstances, every president has the same goal of wanting their TYG to succeed and to lead the TYG to prosper.

As presidents we serve as a role model for not only other members of our TYG, but especially for our board. If we set deadlines, just because we are the president does not mean that we do not have to follow the deadline. We are the ones who set the example and the expectations for our board. The biggest thing to remember is that a successful board functions as a team so all hands on deck!

# The 5 W's

\*adapted from Ryan Marcus, NFTY STR President 2018-2019\*

In order to be a successful leader, you need to know your purpose for why you're doing what you're doing, what you are doing this for, why are you're doing this, where you are going to carry out your actions, and who you will be for your board and others of your community.

**The Who:** Obviously, 'the who' is you. You were either elected or appointed President of your youth group for the 2018-2019 year (yay!!!!). But remember, you are not just simply a President. You are simultaneously a PVP and an SAVP and an RCVP and a CVP and an MVP all at once. You must be knowledgeable about each position and know the responsibilities of the VP's on your board so you are able to help them as much as possible, and pick up any slack if a board member is not able to meet a deadline.

**The What:** Think about it, what is a President? What are your roles? Your responsibilities? What makes this position so unique and fulfilling? On a more basic level, you are running your youth group, making sure your board is functioning properly, and making sure everyone is having a good time when they come to your events. But along with those broader ideas, as President, you are tasked with the responsibilities to make everyone feel welcomed and involved, to empower your members and allow them to take on leadership roles, to maintain strong relationships with your adult counterparts and networks, and so much more that you will find out over the course of your (amazing) term.

**The When:** Your term as president of your youth group is one-year long. It will begin on June 1st and it will end the following year (on June 1st). This does not mean you cannot begin working on things such as event ideas and board bonding, and I even encourage you to start thinking about how you can make your year as great as possible, but technically speaking, June 1st is your big day

**The Where:** There are 2 main places you will carry out your role as president. The first being within your TYG, and the second within the region. Your responsibility to your TYG will include things such as running board meetings, delegating jobs to your Vice Presidents, and making sure everything is running smoothly. In terms of your relationship to NFTY-STR as a president, you will be a voting delegate during both Asefah and elections sessions. As voting delegate you are responsible for casting the vote that your TYG has decided on about either a piece of legislation or a candidate for regional board. However, having this responsibility does not mean you have all of the power. Your vote does not represent you as a person, but your youth group as a whole, so you must respect the conclusion your TYG comes to, even if it does not reflect how you feel.

**The Why:** Unfortunately, I cannot tell you why you chose to run for president. I can tell you I ran because of my passion for this movement and love for all of you. I wanted to make my time in NFTY count and really try to make a difference in our region and get to know our members on a different level. Take a moment to think about why you ran and why you wanted this position within your TYG. You can write it

down or think about it in your head, but it is very important to know why you are doing this in order to be successful.

## Let's Get Down to Business

Board meetings are needed in order to allow your board to have discussions to better your TYG. Your board meetings should be organized and focused in order to be efficient and effective. Creating an agenda for your board meetings allows the board to be productive and to stay focused on what is essential to be discussed. I have provided an agenda from one of my board meetings as an example, but know that you can write an agenda anyway that is beneficial to you and your board

### **NFTY-STR Regional Board Meeting**

- I. Call to Order/ Opening Prayer** - President begins meeting and RCVP opens with a quote or a prayer to start the meeting
- II. Board Reports & Updates**- Each board member explains what they have been working on (individually, locally and nationally)
  - A. Membership Vice President
  - B. Communications Vice President
  - C. Religious and Cultural Vice President
  - D. Social Action Vice President
  - E. Programming Vice President
  - F. President
  - G. Regional Director - Julie Marsh
- III. Old Business**- Topics that have been discussed at a previous board meeting that are relating to the current one
- IV. New Business**- Discussion about future planning of events, programs, etc.
- V. Good & Welfare**- Board members share something positive that happened to them the past week

VI. **Closing Prayer/ Quote-** RCVP

VII. **Adjournment-** President

## Bonding with your Board

Building a strong and deep connection to your board is essential to having a successful term. Your board is going to be the people that you want to confidently be able to rely on for anything and everything. The ways you can bond with your board are endless, you can team-build, do a mixer or even just go out to Starbucks and get coffee. Communication between board members is the key to having a smooth event, program and year. Board bonding should not be limited to only board and TYG related information, rather you should keep in touch with your board as often as possible. You can do this by creating a Snapchat, Facebook or Instagram group, etc. One example of something that our current elect board does every Tuesday is we send each other memes and vote on who's the best!! You will be spending a lot of time with these individuals on your board, so get to know them :)!!

When being a President, making friendships and board connections is amazing, but can also be nerve wracking. As President, you will most likely at one point or another have to critique or correct another board member who also happens to be one of your very best friends. This will be difficult, but it shows how deeply you care for this individual's success. It is extremely crucial to have both a business and casual relationship with your board members because putting your work aside, every person is an individual who has different things going on in life and may have struggles or successes and it is imperative that your board feels comfortable expressing these times to you!



# Built in BFF

(your advisor)

Get excited because this year, you are going to have a new best friend!!!! Guess who..... **YOUR ADVISOR!!** This year on board you are going to tell your advisor everything and anything. You and your advisor should be in **constant communication** to discuss your personal endeavours, TYG, board, etc. Your advisor will be your #1 **supporter** and cheerleader through everything you do. Your advisor is here because they want to see you succeed. In order to have a successful term, it is imperative that you feel **comfortable** going to your advisor to openly talk, ask questions, and be honest!!

Your relationship may have its **ups and downs**. You might have the most amazing and exciting idea and your advisor may say no, but they are doing it because they are looking at the overall picture of your success, **not to hurt you** personally. You will probably be **frustrated**, but remember that you can also say no (**respectfully**) to your advisor. Just because they are your advisor, it **does not** mean that you must agree with everything that they say or suggest. You are both **separate individuals** who will have different ideas and opinions and that's totally okay as long as you continue to treat your advisor with **respect**, are **open** to hearing their ideas and can find a **common solution that satisfies you both!**

## No Advisor... No Problem!!

If you don't have an advisor, don't freak out!!! There are so many resources you can use and so many available people to talk to. Your staff at your temple, clergy, adults are all accessible to you and I guarantee they would love to get to look at the amazing work you have created and give their feedback! I am also a resource!!! I will always love to look at your programs, talk about life, and help with anything I can! In addition to all of these resources, Julie Marsh is an amazing and supportive resource and so are all the other advisors in our region!!



# 10 Things Authentic Leaders Do

\*adapted by Rabbi Alan Litwak\*

Here are 10 things that authentic leaders do on a regular basis:

**Emet- Truth:** They speak their truth. In business today, we frequently 'swallow our truth'. We say things to please others and to look good in front of the crowd. Authentic leaders are different. They consistently tell the truth. They would never betray themselves by using words that are not aligned with who they are. This does not give anyone a license to say things that are hurtful to people. Speaking truth is simply about being clear, being honest and authentic.

**Ometz Lev- Strength of Heart:** They lead from the heart. Business is about people. Leadership is about people. The best leaders wear their hearts on their sleeves and are not afraid to show their vulnerability. They genuinely care about other people and spend their days developing the people around them. They are like the sun: the sun gives away all it has to the plants and the trees. But in return, the plants and the trees always grow toward the sun.

**Musariyut- Morality:** They have rich moral fiber. Who you are speaks far more loudly than anything you could ever say. Strength of character is true power- and people can feel it a mile away. Authentic leaders work on their character. They walk their talk and are aligned with their core values. They are noble and good. In doing so, people trust, respect and listen to them.

**Gevurah- Courage:** They are courageous. It takes a lot of courage to go against the crowd. It takes a lot of courage to be a visionary. It takes a lot of inner strength to do what you think is right even though it may not be easy. We live in a world where so many people walk the path of least resistance. Authentic leadership is all about taking the road less traveled and doing, not what is easy, but what is right.

**Kehilah- Community:** They build teams and create communities. One of the primary things that people are looking for in their work experience is a sense of community. In the old days, we got our community from where we lived. We would have block parties and street picnics. In the new age of work, employees seek their sense of community and connection from the workplace. Authentic leaders create workplaces that foster human linkages and lasting friendships.

**Tikkun Atzmi- Self Work:** They deepen themselves. The job of the leader is to go deep. Authentic leaders know themselves intimately. They nurture a strong self-relationship. They know their weaknesses and play to their strengths and they always spend a lot of time transcending their fears.

**Chozeh- Visionary:** They are dreamers. Einstein said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” It is from our imaginations that great things are born. Authentic leaders dare to dream impossible dreams. They see what everyone else sees and then dream up new possibilities. They spend a lot of time with their eyes closed creating blueprints and fantasies that lead to better services, better workplaces and deeper value.

**Bri’ut- Health:** They care for themselves. Taking care of your physical dimension is a sign of self-respect. You can’t do great things at work if you don’t feel good. Authentic leaders eat well, exercise and care for the temples that are their bodies. They spend time in nature, drink plenty of water and get regular massages so that, physically, they are operating at planet-class levels of performance.

**Ma’alah- Excellence:** They commit to excellence rather than perfection. No human being is perfect. Every single one of us is a work in progress. Authentic leaders commit themselves to excellence in everything that they do. They are constantly pushing the envelope and raising their standards. They do not seek perfection and have the wisdom to know the difference.

**L'dor V'dor- From Generation to Generation:** They leave a legacy. To live in the hearts of the people around you is to never die. Success is wonderful but significance is even better. You were made to contribute and to leave a mark on the people around you. In failing to live from this frame of reference, you betray yourself. Authentic leaders are constantly building their legacies by adding deep value to everyone that they deal with and leaving the world a better place in the process.

# Fishbowl

\*adapted from Ryan Marcus, NFTY STR President 2018-2019\*

## **The idea behind the fishbowl is simple:**

As president of your TYG you are seen as a **leader**, and you have people that **look up** to you. Whether you asked for it or not, **all eyes are on you** (like a fish in a fishbowl) and it is your job to present yourself in a **positive** manner. As a leader in your community, this can mean anything from keeping your social media accounts **'clean,'** to **not engaging in conversations about others** when they are **not present**, to putting on a happy face even when you are stressed out so people do not see you as a mean, unapproachable person. The fact of the matter is, **people talk and others listen**. Words spread like **wildfire**, if one person says something negative about you or how you present yourself, everyone will believe it to be true. The good thing is, you are in control. People will see you as who you truly are if you present yourself in the right way. Think about it this way: You are running an event and it is not going as planned, so you are ranting to your PVP about all of the things that are going wrong. You are so **wrapped up** in the problem you are having that you do not take into account how upset you look and how many people are around you. A member of your TYG sees you ranting to your PVP and thinks you are yelling at them, a **misconception**. Even though you are not yelling at your PVP, this member now has a negative view of you because they took what was happening out of context. Remember, it is **not this member's fault** as they are just trying to make sense of what they saw and this situation is what makes the most sense to them due to your body language and facial expressions. You do not want anyone to see you in a **bad light** for any reason, and even though you didn't actually do what people think you did, it is out there for people to hear. This is why you must try your hardest to **always put your best foot forward** and **don't give anyone a reason to take something you say the wrong way**.



# Peace out Prez Net

YAY!!! We did it!!! I hope I didn't scare you all too much with all that information! You might be feeling nervous, and that's totally okay. I just really want to thank each and every one of you for spending your time with me and being so amazing. I hope you all leave feeling as if we have built our own trusted and loved "family" within our network. I am also hoping after this that we can continue to grow these bonds and friendships and become closer with one another!

If you ever find yourself doubting why you are in this position or if you just had a bump in the road, remember all of the resources that you have throughout this year who want to see you succeed and have your best interest at hand. Remember the reason that you ran and remember your purpose for what you hope to achieve. Never forget the passion and determination that drove you to taking this step to run and earn this position that you deserve!

This year is not going to be perfect, but it is going to be what YOU make it!!! I know I've probably said it a million times, but I am ALWAYS here for you and so is this network!! We are all only a text or call away and I cannot wait to hear all about your fantastic year as President!!!

P.S.- never forget #PREZNETBESTNET

**NFTY STR Regional Director:** [jmarsh@uri.org](mailto:jmarsh@uri.org)

After June 1st, 2020 feel free to contact any regional board member:

NFTY STR PVP: [str-pvp@nfty.org](mailto:str-pvp@nfty.org)

NFTY STR SAVP: [str-savp@nfty.org](mailto:str-savp@nfty.org)

NFTY STR RCVP: [str-rcvp@nfty.org](mailto:str-rcvp@nfty.org)

NFTY STR CVP: [str-cvp@nfty.org](mailto:str-cvp@nfty.org)

NFTY STR MVP: [str-mvp@nfty.org](mailto:str-mvp@nfty.org)

