

Jesse Aseoff

TSYG

Why do you want to be on Regional Board?

Since my first NFTY event in 8th grade I got this warm feeling when I was at events. No matter what I was doing or whom I was with, I felt part of something. At each event this feeling grew stronger; my love for NFTY grew deeper. There are so many things I love about Missouri Valley, but ultimately...it's the people. It's the warm people of Missouri Valley who give me this unexplainable feeling at events. It's these people who make me lie in bed after an event figuring out the days until the next. It's these people who I know will have my back whether they live 5 minutes from me, or 500 miles. NFTY has given me the chance to grow positively as a friend, a leader, and a person. I'd like to be the Western Membership Vice President because I want everyone to not only see, but also feel the depth NFTY Missouri Valley has. I want to open the gates to prospects and present not just a youth group, but a community. NFTY has given me endless opportunities, and there's nothing that would please me more than to help others find their place in our region.

What are your qualifications for the position for which you are running?

Throughout the past 3 years in NFTY, I've taken on a variety of leadership roles that contribute to my qualifications for Membership Vice President. During Freshman year I was on TSYG's Leadership Development Team where I shadowed the MVP. This experience introduced me to the position itself and helped me develop my passion for strong relationships and increased membership in both TSYG and Missouri Valley. Sophomore year, I was TSYG's Membership Vice President and I had the opportunity to chair the mixers committee for Spring Chavurah. This past year I've been the President of Temple Sinai Youth Group and the Colorado NFTY 678 Coordinator. I was also one of the chairs for Winter Chavurah this past January. I've been lucky enough to go to every JYG Chavurah in High School where I've built strong connections with our future members and leaders. From decision making roles at my own temple, leadership positions on a 678 level, and responsibilities on a regional level, I am confident I have all the dimensions of experience necessary to successfully fulfill the duties of Western Membership Vice President.

What traits do you possess that would make you an effective regional board member?

First off, being part of regional board means being part of a team. One key trait I possess is the ability to effectively work in a group. For me this not only means personally taking on individual responsibilities, but also knowing when to step back and let others lead. It is very important

that a Membership Vice President is both welcoming and approachable. It's important to me as an MVP and as a person to balance these two traits. I am able to initiate conversations with new and old faces, but I also make sure that my actions are inclusive to everyone so any person feels comfortable approaching me. In terms of programs for the upcoming year, my opportunistic attitude will allow for a fresh perspective and an open mind. I am always thinking of programs to create, and new things to do. I'm always looking to maximize my own experiences as well as the ones of those around me, and such a mindset could lead to the growing opportunities and experiences Missouri Valley has to offer.

What have you achieved in positions of leadership in NFTY you're proud of?

Although there are many things I've done in NFTY that I'm proud of, what stands out most to me is the impact I've had on TSYG's freshmen and eighth graders. Every year my TYG board has what's called the "Leadership Development Team" which allows freshmen to shadow board positions and help lead programs throughout the year. For the three years I've been on board, I've never seen a more motivated group on this team. What makes me even prouder is that in addition to the four freshmen on board, there were even more who wanted to help write programs for winter. As one of the winter chairs, I was able to use my past experiences to help with the programs and also get to know all of them better. TSYG has also been letting eighth graders come to programs since the beginning of the year. I've gotten the chance to really get to know each and every one of our newest members, and the unity of the group really impresses me. Being able to connect and grow my TYG's newest members is something I'm very proud of and want to have the chance to execute on a regional level.

What are you looking forward to accomplishing for MV?

My main goal for the year is to help create a more transparent and inclusive group. I want to present new opportunities that get both current members and prospects excited. In order for Missouri Valley to thrive, we must not only build excitement in events, but also outside of events. There is much more we can offer outside of events than what has been done in the past, and that is surely something I want to build on this upcoming year. Bridging this gap between events will not only create more enthusiasm, but also make MV more visible to prospects throughout the year. I also want to make sure that the MVP network is strong and collaborative. I will make it a key point to initially get to know each TYG's MVP if I don't already, and figure out not only what they can do to help our region, but what I can do to help their temple. Lastly, I want to strengthen the NFTY 678 program. I truly believe that if we continue presenting more opportunities to middle school aged students, we will continue growing our membership and our community in the years to come.