

Lauren Bayne

SETYG

Why do you want to be on Regional Board?

Social action is what helped me find my voice in NFTY. At my first event, I was painfully shy and was so terrified of seeming strange that I barely talked to anyone. My first social action program allowed me to discuss issues I cared about, and it helped me find my voice in NFTY. From that moment on, NFTY and social action have inspired me to speak up for those who are excluded or oppressed, talk about problems in our society with teens who care as much as I do, and raise my voice for what I believe in. I would love to be a regional board member to help encourage others to find their voice and use it to fight for justice. Everyone has a cause they care about, and I want to use my voice in NFTY to inspire others to use theirs.

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

For the past two years, I have had the honor to serve as SAVP for my TYG. My time on SETYG's board has allowed me to create social justice opportunities on a wide variety of topics in a wide variety of ways, from educational programs at lounge nights to working directly with refugee families in the St. Louis area. Currently, I am also the Social Justice Education Chair on Regional Cabinet alongside Marni Frischer, which has given me the opportunity to write and lead social action programs for several regional events. On the North American level, I serve on both the Inclusion Task Force and the Internal Structures Committee. These committees have taught me the importance of making NFTY accessible to everyone, and it has shaped my outlook on social action programming. Finally, I was the head of the Social Action Committee for JYG 2018 and served on the Mixers and Programming Committees, where I helped to make programs as inclusive as possible. Outside of NFTY, I am the secretary of my school's bipartisan Politics Club, where I help to educate students on political issues and ensure that everyone has a voice.

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

Through all of my leadership positions, I have learned vital skills that will help me to be an effective board member. In SETYG and on Cabinet, I have been fortunate to work with a co, which has taught me how to communicate with people and collaborate effectively. I really value talking to people one-on-one, and I pride myself on being a good listener, which will help me to work more closely with the people in my network as well as develop close relationships with other NFTYites. My preference for having individual conversations will also help me be approachable to everyone, including introverts. I am an optimist and see the best in everything, so I will make the best of difficult situations. That being said, I am incredibly analytical and will

ensure that every detail is in its place. I have a very strong work ethic, and my passion for social action is tireless. Most importantly, I believe that social action programs should be hands-on and unique. I am very creative, so I will be able to build programs that make social action fun and meaningful.

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

During my two years on board, I am proud of creating social action opportunities that stretch beyond our synagogue's walls. In my sophomore year, SETYG partnered with the International Institute, which helps refugee families adapt to America. We went to the Magic House, a children's museum in St. Louis. Two teens were partnered with each family, and they got to bond with the children and the parents despite the language and cultural barriers at a museum that many of us adored in our childhood. This past year, for our annual Social Action Shabbat Shul-In, it was my idea to combine social justice with a bus-rush style event, where we went to different locations to learn about racial justice in St. Louis. My favorite moment was going to the Old Courthouse, where slaves were once sold on its steps, and watching the participants build a timeline of racial discrimination and progress in St. Louis. Combining history with social justice at such a historic location, with the Arch directly in front of us, was truly a moment of pride, as it really emphasized where we came from and where social action can take us.

What are you looking forward to accomplishing for MV?

If elected, I want to promote inclusion and social action at the local level. I will work with each SAVP to create an individualized social action plan for each TYG to set specific goals with a clear method of accomplishing them. These social action plans will not just be between the SAVPs, but will be shared with the President and/or the advisor of the TYG to ensure that the SAVP's goals have a place within the TYG's broader goals of the year. I also want to help organize city-wide social action projects that get TYGs out into the community to create lasting change. TYGs near each other will collaborate to help fight for local justice. For TYGs that are more geographically isolated, I will work to partner them with other organizations near them to create a bigger impact. Finally, I want to make social action opportunities more accessible, besides just social action programs at events. This includes having social action calls with polls on what topics to cover and increasing opportunities for all NFTYites to get involved in social action planning.