

DIXIE COUNCIL ELECTIONS GUIDE 2013 – 2014 / 5773

for candidates aspiring for the 50th BBYO Southern Region: Dixie Council Board of the

B'NAI B'RITH GIRLS

My Sister B'nai B'rith Girls,

Welcome to the official Dixie Council 2013-2014 Election packet. I am very excited to see what the 50th board has to offer. And with that, I definitely encourage each of you to consider running for council board. However, I do have a few requests before you do.

Some people have chosen to run for a board position, whether council or chapter, for the wrong reasons. During this time of transition and change, Dixie Council needs the strongest leaders and the strongest board it has ever had.

When I began BBYO I never would have even imagined being on Council Board. I want to encourage each of you to take a minute and consider running. If it is for the wrong reason, like I said before, please leave the position open for someone who truly wants to do the job. Keeping that in mind, you might have the passion and drive to raise Dixie Council to new heights and you might not even know it.

Being on board has been one of the most fulfilling and amazing experiences of my high school career so far, and I know you will feel the same exact way if you run for a position. Also, please do not be swayed from running because your friend is. Dixie needs the best of the best and if you know that's you I encourage you to run no matter what. Please continue reading the rest of the election guide and put the specific dates and deadlines in your calendar. I wish you all the best of luck and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Respectfully submitted with undying love for each and every one of the amazing BBGs in Dixie Council,

I remain,

Bethany Anne Smith

49th Dixie Council S'ganit



TIMELINE OF CANDIDACY PROCESS

Step #1: Declaration of Candidacy • Due March 8

You must declare your candidacy by email to Jerry Emanuel (jemassoc@juno.com) and Sean Lynch (slynch@bbyo.org) with the following information:

- Name
- Position(s) considering
- Position(s) you would drop down to
- Grade
- Chapter
- Email Address
- Cell Phone Number

Keep in mind that this is not binding and you can decide later to change positions or not run at all. However, if you are considering running and do not send in a declaration you will not be allowed to run.

Step #2: Forms and Signatures • Due March 17

The official forms attached to this packet (*Declaration of Candidacy, Candidate and Parent Agreement, and the Candidate Agreement*) must be emailed to Jerry Emanuel and Sean Lynch (slynch@bbyo.org) by this date. You can sign and fill out the forms online by just typing your name and information in the spaces provided.

Step #3: Family Call with BBYO Teen Leaders and Staff • Due March 21

This call is a time for you and your parents to ask questions of Anita Bormaster, Ian Kandel, Gary Levin, or Sean Lynch, members of the AZA & BBG Professional Staff team that work with the Dixie Council AZA and BBG Boards. They will clarify with you and your parents what the rest of the election process will be, what your role as a Dixie Council AZA or BBG Board member will look like on a day-to-day basis, what your expectations are for this upcoming year, and make sure that BBYO and your family is able to support you in this role. Joining the call will also be various Dixie Council BBYO alumni and Sarah Minion (69th International N'siah).

Family Call time slots are as follows:

- March 18- 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 8:00 pm
- March 19- 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 8:00 pm
- March 20- 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 8:00 pm
- March 21- 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm

Please email Sean Lynch at slynch@bbyo.org as soon as possible to schedule your call time.

Step #4: Platform Submission • Due March 20

Your platform will be sent in to confirm that everything is factual and fits the standards set out in this packet. We are not responsible for any spelling errors, grammar mistakes – those are your edits to make!

Step #5: Dixie Council Spring Convention 2013 • March 22 - 24

You must be in attendance at Spring Convention (March 22-24, 2013) to participate in elections. If you are not able to attend and are interested in running, please let Jerry and Sean know immediately and certain circumstances will allow you to still run. You will still be required to complete all of the deadlines.

OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

All Officers of the 50th Dixie Council BBG Board will:

- Commit their entire term, from March 2013 – March 2014, to help advance our Movement and continue to build BBG.
- Develop relationships and work closely with chapter counterparts and communicate with them on a regular basis.
- Be there for support and feedback for all of Dixie Council.
- Work constantly and consistently with International Staff to help build events and campaigns.
- Work equally and cohesively with their AZA counterpart.
- Regularly meet requested deadlines for a variety of projects.
- Identify and recruit teens for year round and summer immersive experiences.
- Participate regularly in your chapter/regional/country BBYO program.
- Closely communicate with chapter/regional/international counterparts.
- Uphold BBYO policy as stated in the BBYO Code of Conduct and International Board contracts.
- Be a team player and work to help make AZA and BBG stronger regardless of your job description.
- Lead by example and serve as a positive role model in person, across social media and at all times, both in and outside of BBYO environments.

The 50th Dixie Council N'siah will:

- Have either attended an International BBYO program by election date or be registered to attend an International BBYO program the summer following elections
- Attend August Executives Conference 2013, February Executives Conference 2014, and International Convention 2014
- Represent and serve as the teen voice Dixie Council BBG
- Coordinate the efforts of the council officers
- Work closely with the Dixie Council Director and BBYO Staff
- Preside over all business meetings of the Dixie Council BBGs
- Present a written State of the Council at Spring Convention
- Interact and shares the BBYO story with a variety of existing and prospective stakeholder groups
- Coordinate Council Board Executive Conference
- Oversee the creation and appointment/selection of any Dixie Council chair or coordinator positions

The 50th Dixie Council S'ganit will:

- Have either attended an International BBYO program by election date or be registered to attend an International BBYO program the summer following elections
- Act as Dixie Council N'siah in the absence of the elected N'siah
- Oversee all programs of the Dixie Council B'nai Brith Girls
- Promote 6-fold and MBA programming
- Promote BBG/BBYO contests awards
- Promotes, coordinates, and participates in Dixie Council Spring Convention
- Coordinate and facilitates State of the Council ceremonies
- Run BBG council board meetings

The 50th Dixie Council Aym Ha-Chaverot will:

- Have either attended an International BBYO program by election date or be registered to attend an International BBYO program the summer following elections
- Be responsible for the recruitment, retention, education, and re-education of all of the BBGs in Dixie Council
- Promote, coordinate, and participate in Dixie Council AIT/MIT New Member Convention
- Promote four-year membership, LIFE membership, and Eternal Light Award
- Promote participation in Chapter Leadership Training Conference (CLTC)
- Work with Dixie Council Director to promote BBYO Connect

The 50th Dixie Council Sh'licha will:

- Promote Judaism, community service, and social action programming
- Coordinate and/or oversees all Dixie Council Shabbat and Havdallah services
- Organize and promote BBG Shabbat to all Dixie Council chapters
- Oversee the BBYO Speak Up Initiative in Dixie Council
- Develop and organize J-Serve at the chapter and council levels
- Implement creative and meaningful Judaic programming
- Advertise and promote Israel summer programs, and International Kallah, as well as BBYO Summer of IMPACT

The 50th Dixie Council Mazkirah will:

- Promote and maintain communication throughout the council
- Record, file, and distribute minutes at all council and executive meetings
- Develop and implement strategies to promote BBYO Summer Experiences
- Create or oversee the creation of a Dixie Council website, newspaper, and/or newsletter
- Create or oversee the creation of Senior Wills and/or a senior slideshow for Spring Convention
- Promote, coordinate, and participate in Southern Region Convention (SRC) with Atlanta Council Mazkirah
- Develop and implement programming and initiatives for BBYO Stand UP in Dixie Council

The 5th Dixie Council Gizborit will:

- Oversee all chapter and council fundraising efforts
- Work with the Dixie Council Director to develop creative and innovative fundraising techniques for the council and its chapters
- Raise money for a Dixie Council Summer Program Scholarship Fund
- Oversee all activities related to the International Service Fund (ISF)

SPRING CONVENTION 2013

Candidates Meeting

On Friday Night of Spring Convention, all declared candidates will meet. You must bring a copy of your platform to the meeting (if this is not the same platform that you sent Bethany, you will NOT be allowed to use it).

Elections

After dinner on Saturday, we will move directly into elections. When your position is called, you will be asked to "rise and remain standing." You will be asked three times, "if elected will you serve?" While the typical response is a simple "yes", many girls choose to give more creative alternative responses (ie: "with all my heart"). Please be appropriate. After asking for any honorable nominations from the floor, you will be asked to come to the front for meet the candidates, your speech, and elections.

** Please note: If you are running opposed, your opponent will be asked to leave the room during your Meet the Candidates and speech. **

Meet the Candidates

You will participate in a Meet the Candidates, a 5-minute process that allows you to distribute your platform, discuss your ideas, and answer any questions from the body. This is the first time you will be able to show your fellow BBG's just how qualified you are for your desired position! While you do not know what questions will be asked and thus it is difficult to prepare for this part of the election process, you do have the right to refuse any question asked unfairly.

BBG ELECTION GUIDELINES

PLATFORM GUIDLINES

Your platform enables you to be creative and innovative, and show everyone why you are the right person for your desired position. Most BBG's include goals, honors and awards, conventions and summer programs attended, and a short personal message (but feel free to include anything you want!). If you need an example of a past platform, please let Bethany know.

Guidelines

- Adhesives (tape, glue, staples, etc) are not allowed.
- Stickers are not allowed.
- Platforms may not be professionally designed.
- Paper weight may not exceed 60 lbs.
- Platforms may cover both sides of a sheet of paper that is no larger than 8 1/2 x 11.
- Platforms may be cut or folded into any shape desired as long as the original paper size does not exceed 8 1/2 x 11.
- All information on platforms must be true.

****Remember: your platform MUST be the same version that was submitted to Jerry and Sean on March 20, 2013 and brought to the candidates meeting****

SPEECH GUIDLINES

After Meet the Candidates, you will have an allotted amount of time based on your desired position to give a speech. This is a time for you to share your vision, goals, ideas, and passion about BBYO with your sister BBG's. Be sure to time yourself when practicing your speech; you will be cut off if it exceeds time limitations.

- N'siah candidates have a maximum of 6 minutes to speak.
- S'ganit candidates have a maximum of 5 minutes to speak.
- Aym Ha-Chaverot, Sh'lichah, Mazkirah, and Gizborit candidates have a maximum of 4 minutes to speak.

DROP-DOWN GUIDLINES

Candidates who choose to "slide" (lose one position and drop to another) will have 1 minute to say anything they would like. Any visual aids or special effects must be approved prior to Spring Convention. Any nominations from the floor (other than honorable nominations) will not be accepted.

VOTING

All candidates will be called back to the floor for voting. Unless there is a motion to acclimate a candidate, we will have ballot voting for each election. Every chapter in attendance will receive 5 votes unless they have less than 5 members present, in which case they will receive as many votes as they have members present. A majority (50%+1) is needed for a candidate to win; if a majority is not reached, a re-vote will occur.

POLITICKING POLICY

As a small council, it is understandable that we will know who is running for what position. However, under no circumstances, will politicking be allowed. Candidates may not campaign for a position by encouraging girls to vote for her or discourage girls from voting for her opponent. Additionally, the moment you declare, you are a part of a closed caucus. You may not discuss your candidacy with anyone (aside from BBYO Staff and your parents), and if word gets out that you have been doing so, you will not be allowed to run. This policy is to ensure that elections remain a fair process.

DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

I, _____, officially declare myself as a candidate for the high and honorable position of Dixie Council _____ of the B'nai B'rith Girls. I have met all candidate deadlines and taken all of the steps necessary to prepare myself for the election and, should I be elected, for my term on council board.

I understand the responsibilities of a council board member, and if elected, pledge to fulfill these responsibilities to the best of my ability from the day that I take office until the day that my term ends. I will strive to always uphold the principles of our organization, both inside and outside of BBYO events. I realize that serving the B'nai Brith Girls in this capacity involves a tremendous time commitment and may also involve, at times, a great deal of stress and frustration. I am prepared for this and vow to maintain optimism even in the face of adversity. If I am not elected, I will seek out other opportunities to serve the B'nai Brith Girls. I will not allow the experience to bring me down, but rather, I will learn from it. I will rededicate myself to the service of my chapter, council, and region. My commitment to the B'nai Brith Girls and its principles will not waver.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CANDIDATES & FAMILIES LETTER

Dear 2013-2014 Dixie Council Board Candidates and Families:

As you consider whether or not you plan to run for a Dixie Council BBYO Council Executive Board position, it is important that you as well as your family understand the commitment you are about to undertake.

It is made clear to all BBYO youth leaders that family and school obligations should always come before their BBYO responsibilities. However, if you choose to run for Council office, you should understand fully the large responsibility of these positions and be willing and capable to devote a significant amount of time to BBYO. Please discuss next year's plans regarding school and extra-curricular activities together so you can both be confident in your decision to run.

If elected to Council Board, on a day-to-day basis during the school year your primary responsibilities will be to communicate with your Chapter counterparts, to reach out to members of the Council, and ultimately, make the Chapters of our Council stronger. It's safe to say that you will spend a great deal of time on the phone and online. Attendance at ALL Council events is MANDATORY and attendance at BBYO International Convention in February is highly encouraged of all Exec Board members. They are also encouraged to take advantage of one of BBYO's Summer Experience offerings.

I cannot stress enough the importance that BBYO places on its Member Code of Conduct, specifically the penalties outlined regarding alcohol and drug use. If elected to Council office, your teen is expected to uphold this Code at all times. As such, if any Council Exec uses drugs or consumes alcohol at any point during his/her term, regardless of whether or not the usage occurs at a BBYO program, he/she will be immediately removed from office.

Servicing as a Council Exec can be an enormously enriching experience that will benefit your teen for a lifetime. If elected, your teen stands to grow tremendously from this experience, from leadership skills, to goal setting and planning abilities, to personal relationships with other Jewish teens from around the world, and just plain fun. If your teen isn't elected to Council Board, please encourage him/her to remain active locally. The options to hold leadership positions in BBYO are numerous including Chapter offices, Council Chair and Coordinator positions, and International Opportunities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if I can answer questions or be of further service.

Sincerely,

Gary Levin
Director of Field Operations, Southeast Hub

DIXIE COUNCIL BOARD CANDIDATE AND PARENT AGREEMENT

Your family will receive a signed copy of this agreement if your teen is elected to the 2013-2014 Executive Boards, immediately following Spring Convention.

Parent Agreement

We have read the above information and discussed the upcoming Dixie Council Executive Board elections as a family. We are aware of the responsibilities of a Council officer and support our teen's candidacy for office.

Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Teen's Name: _____ Date: _____

Candidate Agreement

I am prepared to uphold the values, traditions, and responsibilities that are essential to serving the Dixie Council of BBYO. If elected, I am ready to take the utmost responsibility for my actions, and to hold my fellow Board members accountable for theirs. I recognize that I am a role model for BBYO members, a representative of BBYO to my local Jewish community, and the Jewish community at large.

I understand that I am expected to be an example to other Jewish youth, and will enforce rules and policies when needed or appropriate. I will maintain the highest level of respect for all board members, BBYO professionals, and volunteers universally, and every member at all times on and off BBYO time. I support the BBYO Member Code of Conduct in its entirety, including, but not limited to, the penalties outlining alcohol and drug usage, any tobacco use, appropriate behavior, and the rights and responsibilities of being a BBYO officer. I will uphold the Member Code of Conduct at all times because I recognize that my peers and community members may not distinguish between BBYO time and non-BBYO time. If I am found breaking any of these policies or if I am not able to successfully fulfill my Council Board duties, I understand that I will lose my position on the Council Executive Board and all the privileges that are associated with this experience.

I will uphold the principles of our organization, both inside and outside of BBYO events. I realize that serving the Aleph Zadik Aleph and the B'nai B'rith Girls in this capacity entails a tremendous time commitment and that it may also involve, at times, a great deal of stress and frustration. I am prepared for this and vow to maintain optimism even in the face of challenges because I will have the support of my fellow board members and professional staff the entire time. My signature below indicates that I fully understand the commitment for which I am aspiring.

Candidate Signature and Date