

**NYL Foundation Board**  
**Annual Meeting—July 31, 2017**  
**Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair**

\*\*\*

**Agenda Item VI: NYL Scholarships, 2017-2018**

- \$500 NYL Scholarship: Skyler Bradley (Claremont McKenna College)
- \$500 Assemblyman Lynn Stewart NYL Scholarship: Kaitlin Tucci (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
- \$500 Assemblyman Lynn Stewart NYL Scholarship: Savanna Strott (American University)
- \$500 Senator Valerie Wiener NYL Scholarship: Evan Gong (UC/Berkeley)
- \$500 Senator Valerie Wiener NYL Scholarship: Scott Harrison (UC/Berkeley—deferred)

Ten extraordinary applicants for five available scholarships.

To learn who has received these scholarships through the years, see Attachment: “NYL Scholarship History.”

Based on feedback from prior recipients, we will accept applications earlier in the academic year. If anyone on the Board would like to establish a scholarship, we would welcome this. We could also consider increasing the annual amount from \$500 to \$750.

**Agenda Item VII: Chair’s Report—NYL Activities, 2016-2017**

1) NYL 2016-2017 Annual Report

Written by NYL Chair Spencer Lang, the NYL 2016-2017 Annual Report was submitted to the Governor, Legislators on the Education Committees, and the NYL Foundation Board, as prescribed by NRS. The report contains details about the second year of the 2015-2017 term, including: the one-day training in Las Vegas on September 12, 2016, monthly meetings/trainings related to the BDR process, and activities surrounding presentation and advocacy of the NYL bill. Throughout all of the trainings, we had great success involving legislators from each caucus, sitting as training panels, as well as two NYL Alumni (in person or via telephone), for each training.

The report also highlights NYL Day at the Legislature on April 11, 2017, when the NYL Program was recognized with proclamations by both the Senate and the Assembly to celebrate the 10-year history of the NYL Program. Youth Legislators attended committee meetings in both houses and sat with their members on the floor in each house. They also had the opportunity to attend the Senate Education Committee work session on SB 108 and were thrilled to witness the passage of the bill out of committee.

Agenda Item VI A-1 (NYLBoard) Meeting Date: 07-31-17
---

## 2) 2016-2017 NYL Year

During the first year of this 2015-2017 term, we expanded the required “outside activities” to include submitting a plan for their town hall and DYAC meetings. We also allocated “half-unexcused absences” to any of the five outside activities that Youth Legislators do not report to the NYL Foundation Board Chair. Each report had to be submitted electronically to the NYL Foundation Board Chair within 10 days following the deadline for the activity. NOTE: Each half-day training/meeting is assigned a “full-unexcused absence” if the Youth Legislator does not notify the NYL Foundation Board Chair within 24 hours preceding a training/meeting or within seven days following that training/meeting about missing the required meeting/training. NRS states that a Youth Legislator cannot have two unexcused absences during his/her two-year term.

Consistently, Youth Legislators engaged substantially in both trainings/meetings and their outside activities. Reports were enlightening for the Youth Legislators and the NYL Foundation Board Chair.

At the end of the first year of the 2015-2017 term, only two Youth Legislators did not fulfill their requirements and were released from the program. During 2016-2017, four Youth Legislators were released, and Youth Legislators were appointed to fill three of these vacancies. The fourth seat was not filled, because all program requirements, including meetings and outside activities, had been completed, and the only optional activities remaining were the annual reunion, NYL Day at the Legislature, and a conference call.

## 3) NYL Legislative History

One way to appreciate the value and impact of the NYL Program during its first 10 years is reflected in the legislative history of the measures proposed by the NYL.

NYL’s 2009 bill—SB 77: Providing a program for teen mentoring in public high schools.  
Passed

NYL’s 2011 bill—SB 14: Requiring the State Board of Education to develop a model curriculum for English language arts and mathematics.  
Passed

NYL’s 2011 bill—SJR 1: Proposing to amend the Nevada Constitution to allow the Legislature to authorize the operation of a state lottery for the support of public education.  
Failed

NYL’s 2013 bill—SJR 6: Proposing to amend the Nevada Constitution to create the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Trust Fund.  
Failed

NYL's 2015 bill—SB 464: Prohibiting the sale, distribution, purchase, possession, or use of powdered alcohol; exempting a person under 21 years of age from criminal liability for the consumption or possession of alcohol when the person requests emergency medical assistance for himself, herself or another person in certain circumstances; exempting a person for whom such assistance is requested from such criminal liability. Passed

NYL's 2017 bill—SB 108: Requiring the State Board of Education to create a subcommittee to study the manner in which to include certain instruction in criminal law in the required units of credit in social studies and specifies certain crimes which frequently involve persons under the age of 18 years that must be included in the instruction. In addition, this bill requires that such instruction emphasize personal responsibility for understanding and complying with the law and lists specific topics to be included as part of this instruction. In addition, the instruction must include information to assist victims and witnesses of such crimes and lists specific topics for this instruction. This bill requires: (1) the State Board of Education to report the findings of the subcommittee to the Legislative Committee on Education, including any actions it has taken or intends to take to include the instruction in the social studies courses; and (2) the Legislative Committee on Education to consider the report and transmit any recommendations for legislation to ensure the instruction is included in the curriculum for social studies to the 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature. Passed

*Collateral NYL Successes:*

Senator Valerie Wiener's 2009 resolution (on behalf of former Youth Legislator Kyle Denison)—SCR 13: Urging colleges and universities in this State to establish campus safety programs for the prevention and intervention of violence. Adopted

Senator James Settelmeyer's 2013 bill (at the request of former Youth Legislator Grant Gabriel)—SB 305: Authorizing high school pupils who satisfy certain qualifications to complete a public or private internship and receive credit toward the academic credit requirements for graduation from high school. Passed

Senator Joyce Woodhouse's 2015 bill (at the request of former Youth Legislator Evan Gong)—SB 220: Requiring instruction on financial literacy in public middle schools and junior high schools. Failed

Senator Joyce Woodhouse's 2017 bill (involving former Youth Legislator Evan Gong)—SB 249: Requiring instruction in financial literacy for certain pupils enrolled in public schools; requiring a pupil enrolled in a public high school to receive instruction in economics; creating the Account for Instruction in Financial Literacy in the State General Fund making an appropriation. Passed

#### 4) Awards

Currently, the Legislature's website indicates 23 awards. From 2014 to 2015, the program earned the following awards: Hermes Creative Awards-Platinum Award; MarCom Awards-Platinum Award; Communicator Awards-Award of Distinction; and Communitas Awards-Community Service Award of Excellence.

From 2015 to 2016, the program earned the following awards: Hermes Creative Awards-Platinum Award (Pro Bono); Hermes Creative Awards-Platinum Award (Training Manual); Communicator Awards-Award of Distinction; Communitas Awards-Community Service Award of Excellence.

From 2016 to 2017, the program earned the following awards: Hermes Creative Awards-Platinum Award (Writing); Communicator Awards-Award of Distinction; Communitas Awards-Community Service Award of Excellence.

This brings the NYL to **34** prestigious state, national, and international awards.

Thanks so much to the 10 years of volunteer staff support that made all of this possible. Thanks for the Legislative Staff who have consistently volunteered the highest level of professionalism and dedication to ensure that the Nevada Youth Legislature is one of the premier youth leadership programs in the nation.

### **Agenda Item VIII: Chair's Report—NYL Activities, 2017-2018**

Following the August 3-4, 2017, training in Carson City, the first year of the NYL training will focus on skills development. This will include: constituent outreach, listening, message accountability, negotiation skills, conducting public meetings, and more.

Based on input from the most recent former Youth Legislators and LCB Staff, we have refined the program requirements. This includes expanding outside activities and providing materials to assist Youth Legislators in their roles.

#### **1) Outside Activities: Requirements**

Following are the outside activities that the NYL requires during the two-year term. For each of these that a Youth Legislator does not complete or fails to submit a report, that Youth Legislator will receive a one-half unexcused absence. The required reports include: \*

- Written plan for a town hall meeting (new)
- Written plan for a District Youth Advisory Council (DYAC) meeting (new)
- Appointment of DYAC members (new)
- Written report of DYAC meeting
- Written report of town hall meeting
- Bill Draft Request (the BDR itself satisfies the “report” requirement)
- Written report of testimony before a public decision-making body
- NYL recruitment letter (new) \*\*

\* Youth Legislators have already been participating in seven of these activities; Where “(new)” is indicated, this means that we have added a reporting requirement to allow Youth Legislators to share their experiences with the NYL Foundation Board Chair, the LCB, and their legislators.

\*\* Based on input from former Youth Legislators and LCB staff, we often face challenges in recruiting applicants for the NYL Program. Since we believe that the Youth Legislators themselves are the best recruiters, we have added a requirement for them to write a letter of recommendation for the NYL Program and submit it to at least one organization with which they are affiliated.

**NOTE:** Former Youth Legislators also expressed their concerns about not being able to connect with their Senators and suggested that we create ways for them to communicate with them. We listened. So, in addition to submitting their required reports to the NYL Foundation Board Chair, Youth Legislators will be submitting reports of these eight outside activities to their appointing Senators, as well as their Assembly members. To kick-start these communications, Youth Legislators will be sending an email to their legislators at the completion of their August training. This email will serve as a re-introduction, description of the training, and request for a meeting with their legislators.

We have provided Youth Legislators with detailed templates for each of these outside activities to help them maximize their experiences, from planning to engaging to reporting.

## 2) Reunion

On the festive side, in January 2018, we will celebrate the Eleventh Anniversary of the Nevada Youth Legislature at our annual reunion events in both Carson City and Las Vegas.

## 3) Expanding NYL Connections

Several years ago, we created an NYL Facebook Group Page. However, this has been inactive for a few years. At about that same time, former Youth Legislator Laurel Cavallo offered to establish and manage an NYL Linked-In connection. This is progressing, and we anticipate that this opportunity to create a meaningful connection for NYL Alumni will be inaugurated very soon.