

**Board of Directors for Corporation for Public Benefit  
to Administer the Nevada Youth Legislature  
Annual Meeting**

**7-15-19**

**Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair**

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**Agenda Item VI: NYL Scholarship Program, 2019**

- \$500 Nevada Youth Legislature (NYL) Scholarship: Juan Gonzalez Madera  
University of Nevada/Las Vegas
- \$500 Senator Joyce Woodhouse NYL Scholarship: Evan Gong  
University of California/Berkeley
- \$500 Former Youth Legislator Tierra Patmavanu NYL Scholarship: Olivia Yamamoto  
Georgetown University
- \$750 Senator Valerie Wiener NYL Scholarship: Jamie Harrison  
University of California/Santa Barbara (deferred until 2020)

Ten former Youth Legislators applied for the scholarships. Two of these did not qualify, because they will be high school seniors during the 2019–2020 school year. NYL Board of Directors members Victoria (Tori) Carréon, Zhan Okuda-Lim, and Senator Wiener served as the Scholarship Selection Committee.

This year's NYL scholarship application was updated to reflect the NYL's expanding longevity. This allowed us to appreciate the importance of being more inclusionary and more reflective of the applicant pool. This ranges from newly graduating high school seniors to post-college graduate students. Also, we are weighing "activities" and "academic performance" in more balanced ways to reflect this evolving applicant pool.

**Agenda Item VII: Chair's Report—NYL Activities, 2018–2019**

**1) NYL Annual Report, 2018–2019**

Olivia Yamamoto, Chair, NYL, drafted the *NYL: Annual Report 2018–2019*, and Senator Wiener, Chair, NYL Board of Directors, edited it. This report was submitted to the Governor on May 30, 2019. Others who received this report included: the NYL Board of Directors, the Legislative Committee on Education, and all Legislators participating in the 2019 Session of the Nevada Legislature. Details of the second year of the 2017–2019 Term, including the one-day training in Las Vegas in August 2018, as well as each subsequent training and/or meeting activity, were explained. The focus of the second year is training and development around the NYL's bill draft request (BDR).

## 2) **Monthly Meetings/Trainings**

Following the August 20, 2018, full-day training in Las Vegas, each half-day training focused on providing Youth Legislators with information about developing their ideas for legislation. During the September 11, 2018, meeting, 19 of the 21 Youth Legislators presented their proposals for the NYL BDR from the witness table. They also answered questions from their NYL colleagues. By the end of that meeting, the NYL had selected seven bill proposals to advance to the October meeting.

During the October 16, 2018, meeting, Youth Legislators again presented the seven measures, which the NYL narrowed down to two final proposals.

These bill ideas addressed:

1. Banning the gay/transgender panic defense (proposed by Chair Yamamoto); and
2. Providing incentives for teacher recruitment and retention (proposed by Youth Legislators Vivek Yanamadula and Leaf Kaboli).

The two finalists received full legislative hearings during the November 14, 2018, meeting. At that time, the NYL selected the bill proposal suggested by Chair Yamamoto as its BDR for introduction during the 2019 Legislative Session. This was introduced as Senate Bill 97.

## 3) **NYL Legislative Activity**

Senate Bill 97, which was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee for two hours on March 19, 2019, was passed by the full Senate, 19-2, on April 16, 2019. It was heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee on April 24, 2019, and was passed by the full Assembly, 36-3-2-1, on May 7, 2019. Governor Steve Sisolak signed SB 97 into law on May 14, 2019 (Chapter 193, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*).

In addition, Youth Legislators worked with Legislators to introduce two successful bills:

1. Senate Bill 204 (Chapter 388, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*), introduced by Senator Patricia (Pat) Spearman, includes a requirement to mandate mental health curricula in classrooms, as requested by Youth Legislator Colyn Abron; and
2. Assembly Bill 338 (Chapter 483, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*), introduced by Assemblyman Jim Wheeler, mandates certain instructional requirements for persons under 21 years of age seeking a driver's license, as originally requested by Youth Legislators Nathan Tea and Jamie Harrison.

## 4) **Outside Activities**

In addition to the monthly meetings/trainings during each school year, Youth Legislators are required to complete eight "outside activities." Youth Legislators must complete and submit required reports about their activities, by pre-determined deadlines, to the NYL Board of Directors chair, the NYL program facilitator, and their Senate and Assembly members. Each report must be submitted electronically within 10 days following the deadline for the activity.

The required 2017–2019 activities included:

- District Youth Advisory Council (DYAC) Plan—2017;
- List of Appointed DYAC Members—2017;
- DYAC Meeting and Report—2017;
- Town Hall Meeting Plan—2018;
- Town Hall Meeting and Report—2018;
- Individual Youth Legislator’s Bill Draft Request—September 2018;
- Testimony Before a Public Decision-Making Body and Report—November 2018; and
- Outreach Recruitment Letter Supporting the NYL Program—January 2019.

Accountability is important in the NYL program. Chapter 219 of *Nevada Revised Statutes* has required that, if a Youth Legislator accumulates two full unexcused absences, this student shall be released from the NYL. To receive an excused absence from a required meeting/training, the Youth Legislator must notify the NYL Board of Directors chair within 24 hours preceding a training/meeting or within seven days following that training/meeting. NOTE: This attendance policy, now referencing “activity credits,” was changed to three full unexcused absences with the passage of Senate Bill 108 during the 2019 Legislative Session (Chapter 219, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*).

During the 2017–2019 Term, two Youth Legislators resigned from their positions, two moved out of their districts, and two were released due to attendance deficiencies. Five Youth Legislators were appointed to fill these vacancies. By the conclusion of the two-year term, 20 Youth Legislators remained in good standing in the NYL Program.

##### **5) Additional Activities and Involvement**

In addition to required activities, Youth Legislators made important contributions, representing the NYL, in other meaningful ways during 2017–2019 Term.

These included:

- Youth Legislator Caramia Phillips represented the NYL on the Nevada Educator Code of Ethics Advisory Group (Assembly Bill 124 [Chapter 420, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*]);
- Youth Legislator Olivia Yamamoto was on the list of potential members of the State Board of Education’s subcommittee to study the manner in which to include certain instruction in criminal law in the social studies courses required for graduation from public high school (Senate Bill 108 [Chapter 103, *Statutes of Nevada 2017*]); and
- Youth Legislators Spencer Abrams (2018) and Elliandra Bemoll (2019) represented the NYL, as consulting members, to work with the Nevada Association of Student Councils to nominate a student member of the State Board of Education.

**6) Status of Appointments of 2019–2021 Youth Legislators**

All 21 Senators have successfully appointed students to the NYL for the 2019–2021 Term. The inaugural training for the 2019–2021 Youth Legislators is scheduled for August 1-2, 2019, in Carson City. All NYL Foundation Board members are encouraged to attend any or all of the training activities.

**Agenda Item VII: Chair’s Report—Miscellaneous Business**

**1) Legislation Affecting NYL**

Senator Joyce Woodhouse, NYL Foundation Board of Directors member, introduced SB 108 to update the NRS, as it relates to the NYL program. This is the first legislation to update the NYL since 2013. Governor Sisolak signed SB 108 into law on May 29, 2019 (Chapter 219, *Statutes of Nevada 2019*).

**2) NYL Budget**

Rick Combs, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), has prepared the NYL Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019–2020 and FY 2020–2021. This budget, which is included in the Legislature’s operations budget, will be provided separately.

**3) National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) 2019 Summit, Nashville, Tennessee**

Senator Wiener will be representing the Nevada Legislature and the NYL at the NCSL 2019 Summit in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 7, 2019. This involves participation on a panel to discuss “Youth in the Legislature.”

**4) International Outreach**

During a trip to Australia and New Zealand, November 5 to December 17, 2018, Senator Wiener had the magnificent privilege to visit the Queensland (state) Parliament in Brisbane, the New South Wales (state) Parliament in Sydney, the Australian (federal) Parliament in Canberra, and the New Zealand (federal) Parliament in Wellington. During these visits, she had the opportunity to introduce the NYL to elected leaders and/or professional staff. As a follow up to these visits, she has sent personalized, hand-written thank-you notes and, after returning to Las Vegas, a New Year’s Eve email encouraging our collaboration to develop a similar program in their Parliaments. Since then, additional correspondence has been exchanged between Senator Wiener and the three Parliaments. Whatever “next steps” might evolve, the NYL has been introduced to leaders of Parliaments in two countries. The seeds have been planted!

**5) Awards**

Between 2018 and 2019, the NYL earned six awards for its exemplary training programs. Since 2008, the NYL has earned 43 prestigious state, national, and international awards from the following organizations: Communicator Awards, Communitas Awards, Hermes Creative Awards, MarCom Awards, National Federation of Press Women, and Nevada Press Women.

## Agenda Item VIII: Future Plans for NYL

\* (See VII, 4 above)

We will continue to maintain correspondence with the Queensland, New South Wales, and New Zealand Parliaments, via timely correspondence, to continue to nurture the possibility of collaborating on a similar and appropriate Youth Parliament Program in these parliaments.

\* NYL August 1-2, 2019, Training

-Changing “How a Bill Becomes a Law” (move to August 2020) to “Youth Legislator Accountability” (especially as it relates to changes incorporated in SB108, which updated the NYL and NYL Foundation).

-Engaging legislative members of the NYL Foundation Board in five mock hearings.

-Changing “Media Interviews” to “Mock Town Hall Meeting” with legislative members of the NYL Foundation Board serving as the hosts/speakers.

\*NYL, 2019-2021 Term

-Utilizing NYL Alumni Mentor/Trainers, who choose to participate via “active” status; other existing NYL Alumni Mentor/Trainers have chosen to be “inactive” for this term.

-Annual Gatherings each January will be up-leveled from an “optional” social activity to a “highly recommended” training/social activity. These annual events will be redesigned to include training about public interactions and conversations with elected officials. We plan to provide questions to each Youth Legislator for discussion with Legislators. We are also eager to include more Legislators in this annual event/training.

-An additional outside activity, which involves preparing for question-answer situations, will be added. Outgoing Youth Legislators offered this recommendation.

-Explore ways to elevate the role of the DYAC and DYAC members.

## Thank You

Thanks so much to the LCB staff for an extraordinary 12 years of professional support, which has made all of this possible. Thanks for the Legislative staff, which includes Constituent Services, Legal, Broadcast Services, Legislative Police, and others, who have consistently provided the highest level of professionalism and dedication to ensure that the NYL is one of the premier youth leadership programs in the nation. Also, thank you, NYL Foundation Board members, for all the ways you invest your heads and your hearts to enrich this distinctive youth leadership program.