

# Candidates for 2022 Presiding Officers

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# New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

## Katrina Christopher Candidate for Governor

Years in Youth and Government: 3

### **Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

3 years of debate experience, previous committee chair, and Youth and Government President in School.

### **Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this office because I want to enact a positive change in youth and government. I feel that I can build relationships with people and help to create an environment of open communication and trust that would encourage all delegates to be 100% involved and included. I would like to make the legislative family larger and reach out to many other delegates through webinars and social events, so everyone is aware that they have a place to speak their mind about topics that they are passionate about.

### **Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is where the main goal of the leader is to serve. I believe that I am a Servant Leader because I share power and put the needs of the people that I am serving first and I help people develop and perform as highly as possible. I am a strong believer that you do not need to acquire a label to be a leader. For example, in group projects, I tend to lead conversations and help them flow so that everybody has a chance to voice their opinions. I didn't have a label as 'leader of the group', but that doesn't mean I didn't exemplify leadership skills. I am in many positions where there is a 'label', but I certainly do not abuse that label for my benefit. If I were to be elected, I wouldn't control people, instead, I would guide them and their debate during meetings/conferences. I would work with them, not above them. I was recently involved in a virtual leadership training and the whole focus was on how to better become a leader. One substantial aspect that was emphasized is that empathy is crucial in being an effective leader. I believe that I apply empathy in not only my leadership work but everyone that I come into contact with. The reason for this is because I build relationships with people and I help to create an environment of open communication and trust and I would do the same if I were to be elected into office.



# New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

## Orion Crossman Candidate for Governor

Years in Youth and Government: 3

### **Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have been in this program since I was in 8th grade. Not only have I seen all there is to see in Youth and Government over the years I have been a part of it, but I have grown as a result in so many different ways and have met so many amazing people along the way. I first joined my YAG journey in judicial as an eighth-grader who knew almost nothing about the program. Since then, I've only ever been in the legislative branch. I was fortunate enough to attend the YMCA National Judicial Competition in Chicago with the Brooklyn district attorney's office during the summer of 2019. I was able to build my attorney skills at this competition as well as meet many different teenagers from YAG's all across the country. I've been an alternate for CONA for a total of 2 years and finally was able to attend virtually last year. The conference on national affairs was truly an amazing experience as I got to know so many amazing people from around the country as well as from New York. I have had the great honor of serving in the past 2 governors cabinets as well as having the honor to serve in the cabinet this upcoming year. This has given me a unique view into not only how to write better legislation but also how to be the most efficient when it comes to the cabinet. I also had the huge honor of serving in Y-Corps which taught me the importance of being a servant leader and how amazing community service and helping others can truly be. Last, but definitely not least, I was the Mayor of Teens Take the city (TTC). It's essentially a smaller version of YAG based in New York City and around NYC laws. It was truly a challenging and rewarding experience that taught me what it truly means to run a YMCA program and what goes into it and the skillset that you need. I also helped implement a new curriculum the year that I was elected.

### **Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this office because I want to be able to give back to this amazing program. Youth and Government has been such a large influence on my life as a growing adolescent and has changed it for the better. It has allowed me to meet some amazing people across this beautiful state and country who I am proud to call my friends. It has exposed me to politics and has helped me shape my political identity over the years. It has fueled a passion for bill writing and debating that I had no idea I was capable of. The opportunity to give back as a servant leader for this program is why I seek this opportunity. I feel that I have the most experience to offer this office as well as the most passion for this program out of anybody else running for this position. I want to use my experience in this program to help those who truly need it and not only to be an example, but a servant leader. I promise to do my best to help any delegate who needs it and to do anything I can to make their Youth and Government experience more positive and impactful. The most important thing I have to offer for this program will be my hard work and determination to be the best governor that I can be.

### **Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership means a lot to me and is something that I always try to use in my life outside of the YMCA and YAG as well within. To me, servant leadership is the idea that you lead by treating those around you with compassion and respect. It can be as simple as a compliment or a positive post-it note. Servant leadership can also be going out of your way to help someone who needs it and lending a helpful hand. I would incorporate servant leadership into the governorship by making sure to be a friend and a helpful hand to all delegates. I will be a strong leader and make sure everyone has the opportunity for a great experience with Youth And Government. I will make sure that every delegate reaches their best potential as a leader, legislator, attorney, lobbyist, or PO. That I know that they can be. I will make it my mission for every single delegate who enters this program to leave this program with a huge smile, the same smile I have felt for the past 3 years. I will be a servant leader the way that those before me were, as they have truly inspired me to do my best as a determined leader.



# New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Sarah Duenzl**

## **Candidate for Governor**

Years in Youth and Government: 3

### **Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

My Youth and Government experiences have been wide ranging, and have been most impactful on my life. I have been in Youth and Government for 3 years and am currently a member of the Governor's cabinet in the capacity as Commissioner of Agriculture and serve as my club's vice-president. Last year, I took part in the first ever YMCA Youth Advocacy program that allowed me to put my skills learned in this program into action at the Capitol building in Albany. There, I advocated for all of the students involved in Youth and Government in hopes of expanding the program, speaking with senators, legislators, and leaders of the YMCA. This experience allowed me to apply the skills that I have acquired in Youth and Government in a real life application that I felt fully prepared for, and hope to expand in the future as part of our program.

I have, also, had the pleasure of being a CONA delegate last year connecting with other Youth and Government members across the country, gaining insight into and an appreciation of varying viewpoints on the many topics that we debated, and being a part of our strong New York delegation.

### **Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this office because I have developed a great passion for Youth and Government throughout my years in this program. It would mean the world if I could help be a part of bringing this club to new heights and leading you all in the best year of Youth and Government yet! I will try my best to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect, while also making friends and getting to see all of you apply your talented debate skills and feel comfortable and confident about it. I plan on bringing back the Conference Life Committee which includes 2 delegates from each district that can put forth their ideas and possibly include them at the state conference! This will bring us together and allow for more student input in the actual conference which is what makes this program so special.

### **Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

I would define servant leadership and leading a group of people for the greater good. By this, I mean leading in a way that benefits everyone that you are leading and not just yourself. A servant leader is never selfish, and always has the best intentions of everyone in mind when making any decisions. I will incorporate this if elected into office by looking at situations from every perspective and make decisions based on benefitting all students, no matter what branch, throughout the year and during conference. Zoom meetings will be held bi-monthly to touch on certain topics such as bill writing, discussing case facts, parliamentary procedure, and a few other topics as well. This will improve our delegates greatly before conference and we will be more prepared for a conference than ever before! I will be a fair leader that leads not for the benefit of myself, but for the benefit of each and every student in this program.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Sawyer Nelson**

### **Candidate for Governor**

Years in Youth and Government: 1

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

My first year I was In Judicial as a Councilor and this my second year I participated as A Delegate In The Legislative Branch. I served as President at my school in 9th grade. And as an adviser on a student government board in 7th grade. I am part of the YMCA leaders club as a first year.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

Because I was encouraged to run and even if I dont win I still Want the Experience of having run for Office. In My opinion a governor or any elected Official works for the people. I'f Elected I will uphold the voice of the people and work towards the goal of the people and not towards a privet agenda.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant Leadership is not just being willing to but actually getting down on the ground and and serving those that you are In charge of. Helping the people no matter who, Getting down on your own hands and knees to make sure that the people are taken care of. Doing things that need to be done despite any recognition given or even a lack there of. Not putting yourself above any task and being more than willing to do anything that needs to be done whether its asked, expected or not. And making sure that you take care of the people before you take care of yourself. Sacrificing personal wants for theirs. I plan to incorporate this as best I can (despite the effects of the current Virus outbreak) by proceeding as I have Previously stated Leading by example (doing the same things you ask of those you lead.) and serving both on a leader level (by making sure all voices are heard.) and on a personal level (by serving the people individually via. Helping when they need it, answering questions and doing what needs to be done no matter what the task, and I will do it willingly no matter what level of recognition or praise if any is given.



# New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Myesha Alam**

## **Candidate for Lt. Governor**

Years in Youth and Government: 3

### **Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

In my first year of Youth and Government, I became branch liaison for Greene County and it had helped shape me into a better leader. I was communicating between my branch and my district and leading discussions throughout the year. Last year, I was awarded Best Lobbyist at state conference. This year, I have the privilege of serving as Head Lobbyist and it taught me the inner workings of the program. I have been able to work closely with many leaders in the program as well as my fellow lobbyists. I have also been a part of other leadership teams such as my school's volunteer service club. Pre-Covid, I would frequently volunteer at my local food pantry and other events like blood drives. With my experience as a leader, I plan to use all the knowledge that I have to help guide my fellow delegates for the best Youth and Government experience.

### **Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this position because I want to strengthen our program as a whole and help assist delegates like the people in this position once did for me. Now that I've had enough experience, I want to dedicate my time giving back to this program and to the people of this program. I realize how hard it once was in your shoes and I will strive to do everything that I can to help you reach your full potential. Lieutenant Governor has the responsibility of leading the service learning project and with my experience of volunteer service, I intend to lead an engaging service learning project that brings great change and awareness. Another role of Lieutenant Governor is to preside over chambers and although I may not be a legislative delegate, I understand how much effort and dedication goes into the bill making process. As a lobbyist, I am familiar with the way bills are structured and I know the components that make a bill. If elected as Lieutenant Governor, I aspire to lead a fair and respectable chamber, create an impactful service learning project while also serving the needs of delegates.

### **Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is a way of guiding others and supporting them with their goals. I plan to incorporate servant leadership as Lieutenant Governor by making myself accessible and approachable to others for help. I will encourage delegates to reach out to me if there are any problems. I also want to make chamber a comfortable place where delegates aren't afraid to speak out and use their voices. I also will be dedicated to working closely with everyone to help make myself familiar to others and to ensure that they achieve their goals. I truly want to create a space where people feel like they are accommodated for and respected.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Samantha Towle**

**Candidate for Lt. Governor**

Years in Youth and Government: 2

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have been involved in Youth and Government for two years. I have served as the secretary for my club, and have chaired at our district conference and meetings throughout the year. These experiences have taught me to be very organized, focused, and attentive to the needs of all of our members.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this position in office because I remember my first time in Albany and presenting my bill with the feeling of nervousness and apprehension. I want every delegate in the program to feel comfortable and confident in their bills, and in themselves. I want the feeling of being judged to go away and make everyone feel they can succeed and have the right tools and people to help them along the way. Chairing at my district has helped me realize the struggle of speaking but has also gave me the chance to help everyone get out of their shell and be confident and be confident speakers. I believe that I will pose the necessary skills, passion, and dedication to the Youth and Government program to insure that the conference is successful for all participants, and for the future.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

To me a servant leader is a person who leads the future/ new members of Youth and Government on how to be a leader and be confident to become the future leaders of the club. I plan to incorporate this if elected by always being a familiar face to all members. This will help members feel that they can always rely on me when they have any questions or concerns and at the same time it can be used as a teaching moment to show them what it takes to be a leader. I would accomplish this idea by sharing all my social media platforms to the delegates so they all will have the chance to reach out to me about anything. Another way to inspire delegates to be the future leaders is by doing zoom meetings with all delegates inspired to be a leader of the club in the future. I would have the whole state board members on this meeting and would have them all explain the qualifications to be a state leader and inspire them to be the next leaders and be successful. This would help the delegates be prepared for their future and the role they may want to achieve when it is their time to shine. This would also connect the board members to our delegates which is always a wonderful plus since without their brilliant minds we would have no club. Another idea is I would love to incorporate the peer emails again because since COVID we stopped doing it this year. My 9th grade year my peer and I met at Albany and talked and ended up being social media friends. This was extremely helpful to meet someone new and she helped me learn many tips and inspired me to be running for a leadership role.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Frederick Beaudry**

### **Candidate for Chief Justice**

Years in Youth and Government: 3

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have been an attorney for case A in my first year and won. The following year I was a Justice and then a Principle Justice following that for District 4. In other areas, I have been the Secretary General for Model UN, President of Student Council and President of the Garden Club at my school so I am experienced in diverse and unique leadership roles. I also have experience in Mock Trial as an attorney.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I'm seeking this position because of the profound impact Youth and Government has had on my life. As someone who has dealt with pretty severe anxiety my whole life, YAG has given me an outlet to meet amazing and intelligent people, build my confidence, come out of my shell and take part in life changing experiences that I will hold with me forever. I feel like I can offer a genuine passion and love for YAG and my peers. I feel like I can offer positive and supportive leadership so I can help others experience the same love and growth I felt from my Judicial experiences. I want to "pay it forward," so to speak, and help build my peers up so we can all be the best possible versions of ourselves. Billy Dee Williams once said "Success is nothing without someone you love to share it with," and I hope to help make judicial even more successful so we can all share it, celebrate it, and grow together.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is not about being above others or bringing everyone else down. It's about getting everybody on the same level so we can rise together. Servant leadership is about leading by example and being a firm pillar that others can lean on. Servant leadership is exemplifying honesty, perseverance and dedication to the people and things you love most. I will incorporate servant leadership if elected into office because of my love and dedication for YAG and all the extraordinary people who help make it so great. I plan to do this through open communication using GroupMe and meeting with justices and attorneys through methods such as Zoom in order to prepare for the conference. Everyone deserves the chance to be successful and I want to help facilitate that. I plan to try and help build the confidence of those around me so we may have a wonderful conference and have fun while doing it.





## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Rachel Oriuwa**

### **Candidate for Chief Justice**

Years in Youth and Government: 3

#### **Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have been in Youth and Government for three years. During my first year in Youth and Government, I was an attorney on Case A. After months of hard work, I won my case during the State Conference. A year later, as a sophomore, I was granted the privilege of being a justice. As a justice, I helped attorneys understand their case's facts, present their arguments, and write briefs. I even had the privilege of going to Greenkill, where I collaborated and exchanged ideas with the other bright minds of both judicial and legislative. I am currently still serving as a justice; however, I hope to expand my knowledge and influence across the entire program. Outside of Youth and Government, I serve as a secretary of Future Business Leaders of America, where I coordinate and organize meeting agendas and come up with new ideas. I am also a member of National Honor Society, where servant leadership is practiced continuously, from providing handwritten letters to people in nursing homes and tutoring my peers during extra help, I truly appreciate the opportunity to serve others. Outside of my clubs, I run Cross country, Winter Track, and Spring Track. Running has taught me the importance of dedication and willingness to sacrifice in order to achieve my goals. I will use these skills to the Chief Justice position and continue to innovate and improve the judicial program.

#### **Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

During my first State Conference as a freshman, I had the opportunity to meet so many new people all across the districts. Between watching legislative PO's sing karaoke to playing charades with my fellow attorneys, the in-person conference's social aspects were an invaluable experience. As chief justice, I want to create a space for attorneys to interact with one another in a safe environment. To accomplish this, I will host attorney game nights, where attorneys from across the districts can mingle with one another before and during the conference. With the implementation of game nights, new members will be more enticed to stay in the program, and attorneys can build positive memories of the conference that isn't completely associated with arguments. I also want to create an attorney to justice hotline on Google Forms. Given the virtual nature of our conference, attorneys have more difficulty reaching out. However, with a district-wide hotline, attorneys and justices can ask one another questions ranging from case review to State Conference procedure. Lastly, I want to implement justice biographies on Instagram. Justices will take a photo of themselves, with a brief explanation of their years in the program, and any other fun facts, along with their contact information. These biographies will help attorneys become more familiar with all the justice before the state conference, and it will help ease their nervousness. I will do everything within my power to make the judicial program a fun and inspiring environment for both justices and attorneys.

#### **Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is essential to me. I spent my 10th-grade summer helping children in the Long Island Maritime Museum explore Stem and biology. Servant leadership is a significant and fulfilling experience that every member of Youth and Government should participate in. Servant leadership not only means giving back to your community but also acting selflessly and encouraging others to do so as well. I want to encourage all Youth and Government members to complete service leadership projects throughout their community, and I hope to encourage more participation in the existing community service projects.



# New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Emily Yin**

## **Candidate for Chief Justice**

Years in Youth and Government: 2

### **Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

In my two years in the YAG judicial program, I've had experience being both an attorney and a justice. My first year was incredibly rewarding and fun, but it was also very confusing and difficult to navigate at times, as I'm sure some of you can attest to. My perspective as an attorney gave me insight into what worked and what didn't work, and I brought those ideas into my role as district co-chair. I worked to develop a solid, planned curriculum, complete with instructional slides and examples, not only because I knew I would have appreciated it as an attorney, but also because I recognized the difficulty of having to complete a brief and oral argument without ever getting in-person guidance. I have leadership experience in our school's Senate, several district boards and committees, Class Council, Speech and Debate, Math and Science Honor Societies, and Robotics, among other things. Many of these positions have been multi-year positions, which has enabled me to, as with YAG, get a big picture idea of what works in leadership. These skills of leadership, as well as those of public speaking and time management, lend themselves well to YAG, where I would be honored to make a difference serving as your Chief Justice.

### **Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

My interest in running for Chief Justice originated from one sole idea: I saw the potential that the program had. Having the perspective of being both an attorney and a justice / co-chair has shown me what makes the judicial program great, like frequent district and leadership meetings. It's also shown me what doesn't work, and what we're missing - we still struggle as a program with large-scale communication, and with recruitment. Of course, this is entirely understandable, as our efforts for the last year were focused on simply adapting an in-person program to an entirely virtual one, but I firmly believe that this upcoming year has the potential to not just accommodate, but to take advantage of and utilize our digital world. Even this year, we saw this work with our new lawyer meetings - as Chief Justice, I would like to continue similar meetings, but to also add a better outlined curriculum like we did this past year on our district. Providing regimented guidance on brief writing was extremely helpful for some of our new attorneys, and certainly would have been helpful for me in my first year of being an attorney. These materials, including Google Slides, templates, and example briefs, will be distributed statewide and saved onto Google Drive for anyone to reference at any time. Furthermore, I will focus on recruitment in this upcoming year. Again, it's entirely understandable why we weren't able to recruit as much as usual this past year, but I really do see our virtual environment as a resource and not an obstacle. I'd like to focus on active promotion - engaging with others, rather than simply leaving posters or Instagram Stories up - because our future YAG attorneys are out there, they just need to find out what YAG can give them, like it has with all of you. With a larger program comes a bigger group to collaborate with, and ultimately a better State Conference.

### **Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

By now, I'm sure all of you are well-versed with the definition of servant leadership: leading through selfless action to help others through service. However, something that is less often discussed is how that manifests in an individual. Truthfully, I had never heard of "servant leadership" before joining YAG two years ago, but upon hearing the definition I quickly realized that it was a hallmark of great leadership in general, even among people who weren't familiar with the term. In my leadership experience, I've always prioritized the fact that the role of a leader is that of any job - to serve the people who "hired" them. My first priority is always to do everything in my power to make the experience of those I lead better. In our high school's Math and Science Honor Societies, where I serve on the officer team for each, I programmed and implemented my own automatic point tracking software, which entirely revolutionized the process for club members. Given that the role of Chief Justice is to serve the Judicial Branch, I will establish methods of communication both ways - both from myself to all of you, and vice versa - so that ideas can be shared, discussed, and improved upon. I will dedicate my time and energy into carrying out my promises - everything that I hope to do will get done, because that will be my job in serving all of you.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Jae Kim**

### **Candidate for Senate Pro Tempore**

Years in Youth and Government: 2

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have been a member of the Youth and Government program for the past two years. I have also debated countless times and I have chaired during our club meetings. I have also had chairing practice during my district conference.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this position in the office because of the impact that I know that I can have. I want to help people and speak for those who aren't heard. I feel that I have the experience, dedication, and passion that a leader should have in order to effectively motivate everyone. Sometimes it can be hard for new members, or even veterans, to find motivation for this club especially due to the pandemic and Youth and Government being held virtually but I believe that I can help my fellow delegates find a topic that they are passionate about again. I have been involved in a whole range of activities from academic clubs to music programs and even to sports. This wide range of past experience allows me to connect well with others and this would allow me to connect well with future and current delegates, providing them with the guidance and motivation that they need.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership means being a leader that helps and serves the people that I work with. It is something that every great leader does. If I were to be elected into office, I would work together with my fellow delegates instead of just telling them what needs to be done. I would aim to connect with them on a personal level. Being a leader isn't about giving commands, it's about being there to help guide your peers. It's about taking the time to listen to their concerns and opinions. Throughout my time in this program, I have seen many servant leaders and those people have instilled the ideals of servant leadership into me, allowing me to grow so that I can help other delegates who need guidance. These ideals have inspired me to work together with my community and work alongside the rest of the Youth and Government family. As your President Pro Tempore, I will continue to represent the ideals of servant leadership and uphold my commitment by valuing the needs of the delegates above all else.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Aaron Mattupurath**

### **Candidate for Senate Pro Tempore**

Years in Youth and Government: 3

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have gone to one GreenKill I was a Committee Chair in 2019-2020 YAG year, I am District 2's Legislative Co-Chair

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I have always looked up to Leadership when it comes to YAG and I remember myself being a young delegate and once I got into the Desmond being a deer in headlights but Orion Crossman and many other leadership came to me asking if I needed help and knew where I was going I would love to be that for someone in YAG be them new or old. I believe I can offer a perspective of a younger YAG delegate and I also wish to be able to inspire young delegates through my Public Speaking abilities.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

I believe that a Servant Leader is a person who would rather spend time going over bill ideas one on one with delegates than just giving them a sheet cold turkey. I believe a Servant Leader serves his peers to the fullest of his ability, and is accountable for their actions, those actions which benefit the program not just to benefit him/her. That person wishes to see something thrive rather than shrivel when they exit their power. I would like to hold more State webinars as I believe that they are a source for the delegates to meet more people, especially with the Talent Show and Game Nights. I would make myself available to all delegates be them new or my own D2 peers, During Chambers I would call upon all delegates be them great speakers or a new delegate meekly holding up their placard for the first time.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Matthew Fagerheim**

### **Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Freedom**

Years in Youth and Government: 2

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have served in Youth and Government as a Freshman and Sophomore in High School, and in 8th grade as well. I went to the Conference on National Affairs (CONA) last summer and thoroughly enjoyed it, and meeting some of the brightest young minds in the country. I currently serve on Cabinet as the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. I am also on our district's leadership, I am co-treasurer and lead the legislative branch.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am running for Speaker of Assembly Freedom as I want to help lead Youth & Government. I have been inspired by so many great previous leaders, and I want to help lead and encourage my peers. I have always loved politics and history, and have wanted to be as involved as possible in YAG. I think that the program is so amazing, getting students involved in democracy. One of the most important things I have learned over the past few years is that youth are not just the future of democracy, but they have the ability to shape our government, and our world today. I want to help continue the impact that YAG has made on me to so many other students, as education is the key to a good democracy, and every person should be as involved as possible in their government. Everyone has a voice, experiences, and valuable opinions, and I would like to help all delegates realize their passion.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is listening to those you lead. A leader must remember to put those who they serve above themselves. I will try to not just listen to all YAG members, but try to implement their suggestions, to ensure that everyone's voice is heard. I will reach out to as many delegates as possible, and assist them as well, because for me it has been older officers that have made the biggest impact on my YAG experience. Humility is also the key to good leadership, in the words of C.S. Lewis, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." And while I cannot and will not be a perfect leader, I will try my best, and rely on feedback and advice from those around me. I have been so greatly impacted by many great YAG leaders, and I want to continue their legacy to all other delegates.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Sean Guffanti**

### **Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Freedom**

Years in Youth and Government: 1

#### **Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I've been in Youth In Government for two years now and in that time i've learned many valuable lessons along the way. I spent my first year of Youth in Government working on a bill to find alternative and more efficient energy sources in nuclear power. This bill would have supplied all of New York State with a sufficient power supply that is also safe. During this year I grew more confident with my debating skills and my ability to work under pressure with other delegates. i chaired at my district conference and club meetings giving me a great understanding of the demands of parliamentary procedure. Chairing was an eye opening experience that really made me appreciate the work that goes into Youth in Government meeting and conference. I also run track and something I've learned from my 3 years in track I've learned perseverance, I've learned this through the countless amounts of long cold nights competing and preparing for competitions. This will translate to Youth and Government because it will give me the energy to work with many delegates in a given meeting to help them get better and their speeches and bills.

#### **Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this position for a plethora of reasons, one of those is to have a positive impact on the future of the delegates. The impact I want to make is to show them that no matter what they can strive for in anything they do. I hope to do this by being able to work one on one with delegates helping them fix mistakes in their bill but also instilling confidence in them so they feel like they can take the next steps in Youth In Government to become a more confident and influential speaker. Over my time in this organization I have found a love for everything the organization stands for, it stands for the idea that anyone can make a change in this world and I believe that's something everyone needs to hear. I hope to make this organization better by working closely with my other state officers and helping new members feel more comfortable with the organization, this would help create a strong young group of delegates to continue what this organization stands for.

#### **Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is the idea that a leader should serve directly by providing support for them not only in legislation, it's also about being a leader in your community by lending a helping hand to your neighbor in any sort of way you can. This is important because that's what our government is built on, the idea that the people we put into power will serve our needs, it's important for an officer to have this trait because people look up the officers for support and if they don't have this trait then people will lose faith in the organization. I know I can fulfill that need for our delegates because I know how to comfort struggling members of the organization and help them fix issues that might be wrong with their speech but also teach them along the way how to improve all aspects of their bill. I will incorporate service leadership into my role as an officer by being a person where any one with any level of experience can come to and talk about anything from their concerns with their bill to even a personal issue and I will be able to comfort and help them in any way they need.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Emma Hanlon**

### **Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Freedom**

Years in Youth and Government: 1

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

Last year was my first year participating in Youth and Government. Although it was online, I was still able to learn from older delegates about the qualities a good leader has. Their impact has made me a better delegate in the chambers, as well as in our weekly D2 meetings. In addition to my previous Youth and Government experience, I am involved in many clubs that require strong public speaking skills, and the ability to work well in a team. This year specifically, I am the sophomore class Vice President which created a tremendous opportunity to showcase my ideas, as well as voice the opinions of my peers. I have been successful in creating a better school environment through leading student discussions and projects during our meetings, as well as in our upcoming "Warrior Wellness Day" ( a mental health awareness day designed by students).

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am extremely interested in the Assembly Freedom Speaker officer position in Youth and Government because it allows me to have the opportunity for increased participation in the program. I aspire to be more involved in YAG because I enjoy our focus on legislative procedure, and government processes. The goals of this program also align with the path I would like to take as an adult. Additionally, I would like to become a leader within our team environment, working to encourage high level participation, and draw out purposeful topics in this office. As a Youth and Government delegate, I have been constantly engaged, and consistent with attendance and participation every week. I also partake in meaningfully in bill discussion, and provide helpful feedback when it is welcome. I also take constructive criticism to make myself better as a person, and in YAG. My peers also view me as responsible in and outside of Youth and Government. The opportunity to apply and be a delegate within this program is something that I am very grateful for, and I hope to pass along my passion to younger leaders.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is a leadership tactic that switches the typical approach of managing for results, and instead creates a friendly environment that creates results. Servant leadership has many unique qualities that are very different from the typical leadership style, and is often more effective. Replacing self interest for service to others, focusing on their strengths instead of weaknesses, and continuously listening, creates empathy, authority, and respect within the environment without "barking orders". Using servant leadership in Youth and Government will create an inspiring community that is able to have large benefits on current and future generations. As a leader in this method it is important to adapt to change, like when changing bill topics, helping struggling peers, and creating an admirable reputation. By using servant leadership, I will be able to motivate delegates to persevere through struggles they may come across, while using servant leadership's success to facilitate change. By creating a sense of community through everyone being respectful, creating a more interactive and friendly environment, and encourages more delegates to participate.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Samir Ghimire**

### **Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Liberty**

Years in Youth and Government: 5

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

2 time district leader of D5      2 time committee chair member      One time CONA member (2019)

Apart of this years cabinet as the Commissioner of Economic Development

Part of the Teens Take the City program as the Public Advocate and Queens Borough President.

Was a guest speaker to the Board of Directors for the YMCA of greater New York.

Had the opportunity to go to D.C to talk to our legislative officials about the changes we wanted to see in our state and community.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

When starting Youth and Government as a scrawny little seventh grader, the number one goal for me was to meet new people, create new opinions, and not being afraid of letting people hear what I have to say. At first these goals were hard to reach, but with the help of my friends and the speakers I met along the way I was able to achieve these goals. For me personally, the number one reason I am running to be your next Speaker of Assembly Liberty is to give back the help and resources I was given in the beginning so first years and second years can experience Youth and Government the way I did. To me getting chosen as a speaker would be an honor but the main goal if chosen to help as much people as possible whether it's the little things like figuring out how to get to your chamber to the big things like helping delegates with their bills. Youth and Government is a resource not many people have so we as the lucky ones should do as much as possible to make sure we can make the program as best as it can be. Now to do this, I knew I needed experiences from all angles, so the goal for me was to climb the ladder one step at a time. What I mean by that was first I wanted to be a committee chair, then a part of cabinet and after I take all these steps and feel like I'm ready then I should take the leap as a Speaker. So for me one of main things I can offer is to help people from all types of positions whether you are a first year, committee chair member or a member of cabinet. The main thing I can provide with this advantage is always being open to hearing all sides of the story and being able to guide people who need a push in the right direction. At the end of the day we are all in this program for one reason which is to make changes in our states and communities we think will benefit the people. So with this advantage I feel like I am able to connect with all sorts of people and when talking to people I don't look at their position but rather at their personality and what they have to offer.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant Leadership has such a broad definition that it has a lot of meanings for different people. For me when talking about servant leadership I like to keep it short and simple which is to serve the people you were elected by. What I mean by that is we tend to forget that having a position as a Governor to a position as a legislator all have the same goal which is serve the people that put you in the position you are in today. If elected into office my goal is to make sure that the voice of a presiding officer weighs the same as the voice of a first year. The reason I want to do this is because the people we serve all different types of people whether it's where they live, to their race and even from their experiences. Servant Leadership is also sharing the power you have with others so you can make the biggest impact possible on all people. So in order to make the impact, you also as a servant leader have to share the experiences you have with others so people know how to solve the issues you faced before and by doing that it's a great opportunity to pass the torch to the younger generation. It's all well and good for you to make change yourself but we sometimes tend to forget that a single twig breaks but the bundle of twigs are strong, meaning that we as individuals can only do so much but with the help of a group we can make change that was never thought possible. At the end of the day what servant leadership means to me is to be a great leader and waking up everyday and asking myself how can I serve the people to the best of my ability no matter the circumstance.





## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Sara Kellenberger**

### **Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Liberty**

Years in Youth and Government: 2

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have been in youth and government for 2 years. I have been chair at club meetings and have good knowledge of parliamentary procedures

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this office so I can do what the leaders before me did for me, I'm seeking it so I can be there for those who need help and to help those who are just like how I used to be, quiet and scared to talk because I know how it is like to want to talk but not be able to make the words come out. I can offer my peers a safe and judgement free place to come to for all their problems and I can offer a person who is open minded and willing to help

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is the ability of a leader to help make their communities better by their example. Community service has always been apart of youth and government I will help identify community service projects that delegates in this program can participate in to help their community



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Matthew Tobin**

### **Candidate for Speaker of Assembly Liberty**

Years in Youth and Government: 4

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I joined YAG when I was in 7th grade. At the middle school conference, I served as Lieutenant Governor and won the award for "Outstanding Bill," honing my skills in parliamentary procedure and bill writing. Last year, I founded my high school's YAG Club, where I am the Vice President. I had the opportunity to attend the Greenkill Steering Committee and meet the leaders of YAG who showed me how to serve others and inspired me to run. Additionally, I was chosen for the Conference on National Affairs, also known as CONA, where my proposal passed in the General Assembly. This year, I learned how to lead my club in work and teach them how to debate. I also serve on the Governor's cabinet as Commissioner of Transportation.

Outside of YAG, I have been an ambassador in the Active Transport Healthy Community/Safe Routes to School Program since its first year. This inspired me to start my school's Safe Routes Club, where I serve as president. In my Boy Scout Troop, I was the Senior Patrol Leader and I am a Life Scout currently working towards Eagle Scout. I have also received Special Congressional Recognition for Outstanding and Invaluable Service to the Community.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am running for Speaker of Assembly Liberty because I want to give every delegate the opportunity to succeed. Youth and Government has given so much to me and serving you, my fellow delegates would be the best way to give back to YAG. In many ways, the Y defines my life. Youth and Government is the largest investment I have made. I spend approximately 12 hours a week working on Youth and Government during the time leading up to the conference (I really counted). There is no feeling comparable to helping and leading others in Youth and Government for me. I want to continue to work with others towards something greater than myself. If chosen, I promise to give you more than just my best debate and parliamentary procedure; I will work tirelessly to serve you and I will be your #1 supporter. In the same way that I have led and helped my club's delegates, I will lead Assembly Liberty and help every delegate by making myself constantly available and creating a community network for all delegates, experienced and new.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership, to me, means serving others above and before yourself. I have learned through leading my school's YAG club that all true leadership is servant leadership. During our weekly meetings, I helped my club members prepare their debate. I attended and ran multiple meetings a week and read through all of my delegate's materials. I never worked on my bill during the meetings, though, because it was important to me to help my club members before helping myself. I promise that I will continue to serve others above and before myself and I will make every personal sacrifice possible to benefit anyone I can, even if it is just one person.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

### Justin Brucato

### Candidate for Deputy Speaker of Assembly Freedom

Years in Youth and Government: 2

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have been involved in Youth and Government for two years, and my committee chair training has properly prepared me to preside over this prestigious chamber. I am familiar with parliamentary procedure and have had high ranking bills. I am passionate about debate and engaging all participants. I believe that I am ready to make our conference the best that it can be.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I want to encourage new delegates to see their abilities at becoming better debaters. I will encourage everyone to join a zoom meeting a week before the conference to get to know everyone in their chamber so they won't be shy, and raise their hand during debate, so we can guarantee success from all participants.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership means to continuously promote success for all delegates in our program. I want to encourage all members of Youth and Government to seek out and help members of their own community. Giving back to the community is an important part of our program.



**New York State  
Youth and Government  
Officer Application**

**Aaron Lener**

**Candidate for Deputy Speaker of Assembly Freedom**

Years in Youth and Government: 1

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I participated in the legislative sector Youth and Government last year and went to the virtual conference. This year, I am a student ambassador for the Active Transport Healthy Communities Program and I am also a committee chair at conference.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this office to better my personal leadership skills and to serve my fellow delegates. I feel that I can lend a helping hand to those who may be struggling with this or that. I consider myself to be very open minded as well, which will help me to ensure that everyone's opinions are given due respect and consideration. If elected, I will enter this position with my peers in mind, and will do everything in my power to give them the best possible experience.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is the institution, and more or less mindset, that one is in a position solely to serve their constituents. And that person must carry out their duties with the best interests of those constituents at the forefront. In a leadership position in Youth and Government, my constituents would be my peers. So if elected, I will walk in or sign on (depending on how Covid goes) to every meeting and event with the wants and needs of my fellow delegates at the top of my list of priorities. And I will do everything that I can to make the events the most enjoyable and the best experiences that they can be for my peers.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**DeAnna Faison**

### **Candidate for Deputy Speaker of Assembly Liberty**

Years in Youth and Government: 3

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have been in Youth And Government for three years. With Youth And Government I have learned how important it is to use your voice. I used to be terrified of public speaking but with Youth And Government I've really learned how to express myself while speaking. This state program is all about public speaking, at first I was not too sure about joining Youth And Government but it is most definitely the best decision I have made. I have experience with being a chair at both the state and district conference last year.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I would like to be the Deputy Speaker for the Assembly Of Liberty because I think it is important to realize how many people this state program has helped. I want to make group chats with people who have related bill topics so they can share ideas and get to know each other before the state conference. I think it would help everyone be more comfortable with speaking and debating on their bills. I want to encourage new delegates to use their voice. Even with everything going on around the world Youth And Government is still finding ways to keep going and I think it is important to continue, and I hope to play a part in making sure it is successful in the future.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

I think servant leadership isn't about being in control, I believe it is being an example for people to look up to. Many people look at the word leadership and think of the word control. The purpose of their position is to set examples and to make sure everything is running smoothly and efficiently. I would incorporate this into our state program by making people more comfortable with meeting each other. I know how shy new members can be and how scary it can be during your first debate and I think If we all get to know each other before the conference we will guarantee the success of each participant.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Olivia Kelly**

### **Candidate for Deputy Speaker of Assembly Liberty**

Years in Youth and Government: 1

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

My first year in Youth And Government I had my bill passed and signed by the governor. Along with that, I've had experience in my own schools debate team, and my own schools senate and student government. Holding these positions defines a quality of leadership someone needs in order to hold such a respected position. Holding presidential positions in student government has shaped me into who I've become today. Taking on group responsibility from a young age molded my views into exactly where they need to be to take control in a healthy and well done way.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this office simply because I know I have what it takes to hold this position. I can offer a new insight on how legislative can be handled, and work with fellow delegates on both what they want, and what YAG needs. Communication is one of my top skills, and communication is a large part of being the Deputy Speaker of Assembly Liberty. Coming in, I want to not only be seen as leadership, but also a friend. Someone who will be there for when you're confused, because they have the experience and empathy to let you know they were once confused too.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is a form of leadership that needs someone who truly needs to be both ready to take control, and yet also ready to serve. If elected, I will be sure to cater these into effect. Listening to delegates who need help, but also being able to listen to someone who can help me. A leader needs to be able to take criticism and needs to be able to adapt and I'm ready to do that. If elected, taking control over a room while making sure everyone feels loved and heard is my number one priority.



**New York State  
Youth and Government  
Officer Application**

**Coen Nelson**

**Candidate for Deputy Speaker of Assembly Liberty**

Years in Youth and Government: 1

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I've been doing YaG for a one year prior to this one and i've chaired a few times at inter district conferences.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

Being a younger member of YaG i feel that i could offer encouragement to younger members to do the same.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is when somebody in a leadership role takes their position to lift up and help others, I plan to use this to lift up younger members of YaG and encourage them to run for office.



**New York State  
Youth and Government  
Officer Application**

**Celia Holden**

**Candidate for Deputy Pro Tempore of Senate Freedom**

Years in Youth and Government: 2

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

Vice President of White Plains Club, committee chair. I manage the men's varsity swimming team at my high school which has given me lots of experience overseeing and organizing large group events.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking the office of Deputy Speaker of Assembly Liberty because I want to give back to the YAG community. I would be honored to serve in this position since the speakers of my assembly made my first two YAG conferences a great experience. As speaker, I would offer a friendly face going into conference, organized bill presenting sessions, help and support to any delegates before and during the conference.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is putting the people you serve over yourself and making sure that they are your first priority when in a position of power. I would incorporate servant leadership by working as much as I need to (and then some) so I can ensure that the delegates I represent have the best conference experience possible. I have never been afraid to go above and beyond and win or lose I'm excited to apply that to my last year in YAG!





## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Tyler Michaels**

### **Candidate for Deputy Pro Tempore of Senate Liberty**

Years in Youth and Government: 1

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I participated in Youth and Government last year, where my bill was signed into law. Although the program was virtual last year, my experience taught me that the more I participated and spoke, the more I enjoyed YAG. I would like to help other participants gain what I learned from my experience by ensuring everyone is recognized in my chamber. I was also the Senior Patrol Leader for my Boy Scout Troop, which allowed me to lead other young adults and grow comfortable with leadership. This winter I organized and led a holiday lights recycling event in partnership with the City of Troy, which collected over 1,200 pounds of lights to be recycled and raised over \$300 for Toys for Tots.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this office because I want to help other delegates have a positive experience in the program like I had, and because I want to give back to Youth and Government. YAG gave me the opportunity to speak in public through formal debate. I want to ensure all delegates, even those uncomfortable with public speaking, will have a welcome opportunity to speak on the floor of the Senate. I know that I can help the program in this position, and would help ensure that every delegate is recognized.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

To me, servant leadership means the leader tries to help those who elected him/her. I would incorporate this by doing my best to help my fellow delegates, and maintain helping others as my top priority. I will remember that in public service, I serve those who put me in a position of responsibility, and they have trusted me to carry out my duties fairly and to the best of my abilities.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Rachel Bouwens**

### **Candidate for Attorney-General**

Years in Youth and Government: 2

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have been an attorney for two years and, as it stands, I am the most qualified attorney in my district, having served as attorney for two years and attended two conferences, with this being my third year in the program.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this office because I want to show that even people from a smaller district can make a difference and achieve big things in this program. I am fairly introverted and don't talk to new people easily, and I want to be encouraging to other people who are like that to show that Youth and Government is something for everybody, regardless of how well you do in public speaking or if you find it easy to talk to new people or if this is your first year or your last year. If I become Attorney-General, I hope to be encouraging to other people, to show that women can do anything and that it doesn't matter where you come from, it matters who you are and what you say. As I will be a senior, I will be able to look back and give advice to freshmen and reminisce with fellow seniors, helping anyone in between who I can.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership people devoting themselves to leadership. Servant leadership is extremely important to efficiently running a program. And in a program as student-led and driven as Youth and Government, student servant leadership is so important. The best officers the program has seen have been wholly devoted to Youth and Government, something that everyone benefits from. As Attorney-General, I will devote my time to this program and be the best leader I can be for whatever the world is going through during the 2021-22 school, whether we are still separated by screens or allowed to meet in person again. Going through this past year has made me realize the privilege of being able to meet in person with people from across the state and being elected to Attorney-General will allow me to make the most of whatever situation for myself, my fellow future seniors, and anyone who chooses to be a part of Youth and Government.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Emily Muñiz**

### **Candidate for Attorney-General**

Years in Youth and Government: 2

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I have spent 3 years in the Youth and Government program. When I initially joined as a freshman, I started on case A but was eventually switched to a case B attorney after proving my dedication at my school's district conference. I only had about two months to prepare for the state conference, so I devoted my time into making sure I knew all the points of my argument. I used every opportunity to practice my argument, working on my tone and confidence to really make sure I would perform well at the conference. Not only did I win my case at the state conference, but I was also awarded the best brief award. My first experience at Albany was certainly one to remember, and it was truly so much fun. The following year I was selected to be an attorney again, where I worked vigorously on my case despite setbacks from COVID. It was at this point that I began to recognize how passionate I truly was about public speaking despite entering the program as an anxious freshman. After much preparation, I ended up winning the best attorney award at the state conference for 2020. I currently serve as a Justice my junior year, where I joyfully help attorneys learn and analyze their cases, as well as giving them pointers on how to perfect their arguments. In addition to Youth and Government, I am an active member of my school's Student Government program.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

It would be such an honor to serve as Attorney-General for a multitude of reasons. Primarily, I am an experienced and highly qualified candidate. I have a passion for justice and public speaking, and I look forward to debating within the program. Being a member of this program for the past three years has inspired me to speak up about my thoughts, and to express myself without the fear of judgement or denial. I characterize myself as diligent, passionate, and considerate. I enjoy helping attorneys to the best of my ability, ensuring that they are comfortable speaking and presenting in front of others. If selected to be Attorney-General, I plan to uphold the principles of the constitution, and to represent the state to the best of my ability in our mock government. I also plan to teach others about the impact that our words have on the world around us. I want to remind others that it is okay to speak up, and that we should use our voices to spread awareness about situations that are near and dear to our hearts. I want future attorneys to feel confident and at ease within the program, so I will do all that I can to see that their experiences are both enjoyable and educational. If given the opportunity to serve on this platform, I will spare no effort to see that I continue the legacy left by all the incredible former Attorney-Generals.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is working to ensure that everyone around you feels included within the program. As a natural empath, nothing prides me more than helping others feel passionate and pleased. I was once the scared freshman who felt afraid to ask questions, but it was my justices and past Attorney-General / Public-Defender officers that made me feel at home within this huge program. I wouldn't want anyone to feel afraid or intimidated, so I plan to do my best to make sure that everyone involved in the program has a positive experience. I want to motivate others to be confident speakers. Additionally, I will incorporate servant leadership into the Attorney-General position by serving as a mentor towards others that demonstrates the impact of confidence and tone. I want others to know that it is okay to make mistakes, and that asking questions is not at all a bad thing. I plan to help others embrace their views, no matter what they are. I am willing to risk personal time to make sure that attorneys are confident with their arguments. Given this position, I will serve as a dedicated leader to all the attorneys at the 2022 state conference.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Kyle Caputo**

### **Candidate for Public Defender**

Years in Youth and Government: 2

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

This is my second year in the program, last year I was a closing attorney and won my on all points with help from working with the justices that year and was privileged enough to be appointed as a justice this year and was able to continue helping others prepare and find their voice. In my community, I also volunteer with the local ambulance company where I am able to directly help my community.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

As a Public defender, it is my job to prevent government overreach and represent the people's voice in government, the reason I would be best for this position is that I will work for popular change in our program starting with a better connection between districts and coordinating events cooperatively, as well as, reaching out to our delegates directly to look for possible changes I am able to make and implement them to the best of my ability or pass on to my successor. Some immediate changes I am looking towards is a more structured process for case review in a "digital district" similar to this year as well as an Instagram account to help coordinate the judicial branch collectively with the Chief Justice and Attorney General.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is accommodating the needs of everyone when possible. With this mindset, I will remain constantly in contact with all districts to directly help through new ways of teaching argumentation and how to prepare their cases and coordinate inter-district communication for answering questions that if I am unable to answer them myself.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Nik Kruman**

### **Candidate for Public Defender**

Years in Youth and Government: 1

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

I was in Youth and Government for a year doing Judicial, I argued my case at Inter-Districts in person, and didn't get to go to the online conference. I volunteered with Youth and Government during a bicycling event to raise money in 2019 summer, and I got acquainted with the program in 8th grade by doing a pseudo-bill for legislative and coming and participating in some meetings.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking this office because I want to become more involved in the Youth and Government program. I can work hard, offer my ideas, and help others when they need it.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is where a leader's purpose is to serve the needs of the group. A servant leader should work for the group and take input from the group, not just having a monopoly on ideas. Someone who listens to what the other people need and expect and guide everyone toward that collective decision.



## New York State Youth and Government Officer Application

**Meline Kalishian**

### **Candidate for Editor-In-Chief**

Years in Youth and Government: 1

**Previous Youth and Government experience and/or other qualifications:**

This is my second year participating, and I am co-head of press for Tappan Zee High School. I also participated in the making of the podcast with current press members, "Spill the Liber-tea," and currently working on an article that will hopefully be put on the Instagram.

**Why are you seeking this office and what do you feel you have to offer your peers if selected as one of their leaders for the coming year?**

I am seeking the position of Editor-in-Chief because I'm passionate about the press. I am very organized, prepared, and responsible. I am willing to put time and energy into projects, and activities that excite students and motivate them. I'm offering my dedication, leadership, and most importantly my friendship. My goal as editor-in-chief is to make everyone feel included while issuing work that inspires more students.

**Define servant leadership and describe how you plan to incorporate this if elected into office:**

Servant leadership is when a leader serves their teammates in a way that benefits the whole group. I plan on consolidating servant leadership next year by listening to my peers. I will be guiding them, rather than pushing them in what I believe is the right direction. Servant leaders listen, focus, and devote themselves to helping the needs of their members. I am ready to devote not only myself, but time and energy to support my fellow delegates toward accomplishing their individual goals.