

The Constitution and By-Laws of the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls



Updated and Revised on October 9, 2011
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Regional N'siah

Preamble

The Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls shall have for its purpose: The spiritual, mental, and physical development of Jewish youth; the advancement of commitment to the State of Israel and K'lal Yisrael; the inculcation of a love and understanding of Jewish cultural heritage; the stimulation of responsibility as good citizens; the encouragement of good among the youth of all people; and interest in humanitarian, philanthropic, and educational endeavors. The Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls are striving to give the individual member the chance to discover her purpose in life, her role in the Jewish community and instill the girl with character and leadership abilities that will assist her and her community throughout life.

Article I: Name

This body shall be known as the Lake Ontario Region of the B'nai B'rith Girls of BBYO.

Article II: International Order of the B'nai B'rith Girls and BBYO, Inc.

The provisions of the Constitutions and by-laws of the International Organization of the B'nai B'rith Girls and of BBYO Inc. are hereby made part hereof, and whenever there is a conflict between this document and the constitutions and by-laws of the International Organization of the B'nai B'rith Girls or of BBYO Inc. as they read or may later be amended, such provisions of this document shall be void and of no effect, and the constitution and by-laws of the International Organization of the B'nai B'rith Girls or of BBYO Inc. or the governing body of BBYO Inc. shall be supreme in every case. The Board of Directors of BBYO Lake Ontario Region shall be deemed to be acting as the designate in all local matters, which would otherwise be under the jurisdiction of BBYO Inc.

Article III - Object

The Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls shall be the coordinating body of all the B'nai B'rith Girls chapters in the region encompassing southern Ontario, excluding the greater Windsor and Ottawa areas. The Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls shall direct the activities of the B'nai B'rith Girls in accordance with the philosophy, the Constitution and by-laws of the International Order of the B'nai B'rith Girls and BBYO, Inc. It shall be the highest governing body of the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls. Therefore, each chapter constitution must be in accordance with the constitution of the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Eligibility

Eligibility for membership is based on a prospective member's grade level rather than by age. Membership shall be limited to eligible Jewish girls in grades 9 through 12. Chapters may accept eighth graders as of January 1st, provided staff approval is given. Membership in the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls shall terminate on June 30 after high school graduation, although full participation may continue on any level without re-registration until August 30. The only exception to this policy shall only apply to the International N'siah who must extend her membership of the B'nai B'rith Girls for a year.

Section 2: Transfer

A member of the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls may not transfer from one chapter to another unless she is a member in good standing. If said member was formally a member of another chapter in this region, or

any region, she must be free and clear of all debts and obligations to that chapter. Transfer is to be made through the Regional Office and must be approved by the Regional Staff.

Article IV: Regional Officers

Section 1: Name

The Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls shall have the following elected officers: N'siah, S'ganit, Morah, Mazkirah, Sh'lichah. In the event of the absence/resignation of the N'siah, the S'ganit shall assume the duties of the N'siah. In case of the absence or resignation of both the N'siah and S'ganit, the Morah shall assume the duties of the N'siah. The immediate past N'siah shall become Madrichah. The Regional Officers shall represent the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls to the Regional Board of Directors.

Section 2: Duties of Each Officer

Regional N'siah

- a. Represents the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls to all stakeholders and the community.
- b. Organizes and presides over Regional business meetings and Regional board meetings.
- c. Coordinates the efforts of all Regional officers.
- d. Serves on and works hand in hand with the Regional Board of Directors.
- e. Appoints all Regional committees and chairwomen, subject to ratification by the Regional Board.
- f. Serves as an ex-officio member of all Regional committees that exist during her term in office.
- g. Communicates regularly with staff, her board and male counterpart.
- h. Visits each chapter in the Region as needed.
- i. Communicates regularly with all Chapter N'siot and holds at least 3 counterpart sessions during her term in office.
- j. Makes every effort to attend all Regional programs, meetings and functions.
- k. Attends all annual training sessions unless excused by Regional Staff.
- l. Presents a State of the Region address at Spring Regional Convention.
- m. Enforces the provisions of this document.
- n. Serves as the Region's link to the International Organization by:
 - Representing the Region at the International Convention and at all appropriate International Business meetings unless excused by the Regional Staff;
 - Writing a Regional report whenever necessary; and,
 - Corresponding with other councils, regions and the International Organization when appropriate.

Regional S'ganit

- a. Promotes 6-fold programming.
- b. Promotes International simultaneous programming.
- c. Promotes Regional and International BBG/BBYO contests and awards.
- d. Plans Regional States ceremonies.
- e. Oversees appropriate Regional Chairwomen and committees.
- f. Promotes, coordinates and participates in Spring Regional Convention.
- g. Acts as Regional N'siah in the absence of the elected N'siah.
- h. Promotes the BBYO Program Bank.
- i. Serves as an ex-officio member of all Regional program committees that exist during her term in office.
- j. Visits each chapter in the Region as needed.
- k. Communicates regularly with staff, her board and male counterpart.

- l. Visits each chapter in the Region as needed.
- m. Communicates regularly with all Chapter S'ganim and holds at least 3 counterpart sessions during her term in office.
- n. Makes every effort to attend all Regional programs, meetings and functions.
- o. Attends all annual training sessions unless excused by Regional Staff.

Regional Morah

- a. Coordinates all Membership, Recruitment, and Retention efforts in the Region.
- b. Promotes the Eternal Light Award and any Regional membership awards.
- c. Promotes the BBYO Connect Program.
- d. Oversees appropriate Regional Chairwomen.
- e. Promotes, coordinates and participates in Regional Member-In-Training Convention.
- f. Visits each chapter in the Region as needed.
- g. Communicates regularly with staff, her board and male counterpart.
- h. Visits each chapter in the Region as needed.
- i. Communicates regularly with all Chapter Morim and holds at least 3 counterpart sessions during her term in office.
- j. Makes every effort to attend all Regional programs, meetings and functions.
- k. Attends all annual training sessions unless excused by Regional Staff.

Regional Mazkirah

- a. Promotes RSF, I\$F and Stand Up.
- b. Promotes Fundraising.
- c. Records and distributes minutes of every Regional meeting.
- d. Enhances and promotes communication within all levels of BBYO.
- e. Oversees appropriate Regional Chairwomen.
- f. Promotes BBYO publicity.
- g. Visits each chapter in the Region as needed.
- h. Communicates regularly with staff, her board and male counterpart.
- i. Visits each chapter in the Region as needed.
- j. Communicates regularly with all Chapter Mazkirim and holds at least 3 counterpart sessions during her term in office.
- k. Makes every effort to attend all Regional programs, meetings and functions.
- l. Attends all annual training sessions unless excused by Regional Staff.

Regional Sh'lichah

- a. Promotes Judaism, Community Service, and Social Action Programming.
- b. Heightens awareness of oppressed Jewry.
- c. Promotes Zionism and Israeli Awareness.
- d. Promotes International BBG Shabbat and March of the Living.
- e. Oversees appropriate Regional Chairwomen
- f. Visits each chapter in the Region as needed.
- g. Communicates regularly with staff, her board and male counterpart.
- h. Visits each chapter in the Region as needed.
- i. Communicates regularly with all Chapter Sh'lichim and holds at least 3 counterpart sessions during her term in office.
- j. Makes every effort to attend all Regional programs, meetings and functions.
- k. Attends all annual training sessions unless excused by Regional Staff.

Section 3: The Executive Board

The executive board shall consist of the elected Regional Officers. The board shall have the power to make emergency decisions and to co-ordinate future programs.

Section 4: Eligibility for Regional Office

A candidate must be present at the convention at which elections are held in order to be eligible for Regional Office, unless excused by Regional Staff. Furthermore, a candidate for Regional Office must be registered as a member in good standing of a chapter of the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls.

Section 5: Campaigning

The current Regional Executive Board, under the guidelines of the international policy, will determine campaigning guidelines for the election of Regional Officers.

Section 6: Election Procedure

Elected officers shall be elected annually at the Spring Regional Convention of the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls.

1. The only eligible votes for Regional Officers are those of the Regional Board and those delegated to the chapters.
2. Each officer shall be elected for a period of one year or until she has been discharged from her position.
3. The election procedure at the annual meeting shall be as follows:
 - a. Declarations.
 - b. Q&A Session – minimum 2 questions.
 - c. Speeches.
 - d. Reading of all the candidates' names.
 - e. Announcement of new Regional officer.
4. Each candidate, whether declared, or drop-down, shall be asked three times whether she accepts or declines the opportunity to run for that position. If a candidate answers in the affirmative, her name shall be placed on the list of the eligible candidates. If she answers in the negative, her name shall not be placed on the list of eligible candidates.
5. The order of speaking shall be in alphabetical order by last name.
6. The length of the speeches for declared candidates shall be as follows:
 - a. N'siah – 7 minutes
 - b. S'ganit – 5 minutes
 - c. Morah – 5 minutes
 - d. Mazkirah – 5 minutes
 - e. Sh'lichah – 5 minutes
7. Drop-down candidates shall have 1 minute to re-state qualifications to the position.
8. Each member of the Regional Board who is present at the meeting shall be issued a ballot. Each chapter delegate present shall also be issued a ballot.
9. All voting shall legibly write their respective ballots the name of one eligible candidate for whom they wish to vote, or they shall write "Abstain." All other ballots shall be considered spoiled.

10. There shall be no write-in candidates.
11. The N'siah shall complete a ballot on each election and each subsequent runoff and shall vote along with the general voting body. If the final vote results in a tie, the candidates will be asked two questions each by the chair and the questions will be the same for both candidates. After this period, a re-vote will occur. If a tie occurs, and open floor shall occur for five minutes per candidate, in which the general region can ask questions to the candidates. After this period, a re-vote will occur. During the question and open floor periods, only one candidate will be allowed in the room at a time.
12. Ballots shall be counted by the Regional Staff or his/her designate, in conjunction with the N'siah or an appointed delegate.
13. An entire ballot may be disqualified, prior to the announcement of the result, if, in the judgement of the chair or the Regional Staff, it is considered that there has been tampering, illegal voting, or that delegates were in some way misled or confused regarding the identity of the candidate or the voting procedures. Under no circumstance shall an entire ballot be disqualified after the result has been announced.
14. After a ballot has been tabulated, the chair shall inform the convention body as to the name of the successful candidate, or the names of those eligible for a run off, such as the case may be.
15. In an election where two or more candidates are running and when no one candidate receives a simple majority, a re-balloting shall occur, subject to the following:
 - a. The candidate receiving the least number of votes is removed from the list of eligible candidates.
 - b. If the number of votes received by the lowest-ranked candidate along with the votes received by the second-lowest ranked candidate do not equal the number of votes received by the third-lowest ranking candidate, both the lowest and the second lowest-ranked are removed from the list of eligible candidates.
 - c. Further names shall be removed from the list of eligible candidates if their votes received plus the votes received by the candidates ranked below them do not at least equal the votes received by the candidates above them.
 - d. In the event of a tie in the least number of votes received, all tied candidates are eliminated if the total of all votes received by the tied candidates does not at least equal the votes received by the candidate above them.
16. Any candidates who lose an election shall be allowed to drop down and run for any one other elected position, subject to advanced declaration.

Section 7: Impeachment

A Regional Officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote at a Regional Meeting. An election to fill the vacancy can take place at the same meeting.

Section 8: Resignation

1. If an elected Regional Officer, other than the N'siah, resigns from office, the Regional N'siah shall appoint a member in good standing of the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls to act instead of the resigned on a pro-term basis. A by-election shall be held to fill the vacant position at the next Regional Meeting.
2. If the N'siah resigns from office, the Regional S'ganit shall act instead of the resign on a pro-term basis. A by-election shall be held at the next Regional Meeting

Article V: Regional Committees

The Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls shall have Regional Committees, whose chairs shall be appointed by the Regional N'siah and the board member who oversees the committee by application process. Applications will be distributed after the installation of the new Regional Board.

Article VI: Guidance and Supervision

The Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls shall be under guidance and supervision of the Regional Staff who shall consult with the Regional Board of Directors.

Article VII: Amendments

This constitution may be amended at a regional meeting of the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegation, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors or its designate.

Additions to the by-laws may be made at a regional meeting of the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls by a simple majority vote of the delegation. Such additions shall become effective immediately, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors or its designate. No additions shall in any way conflict any provisions of the uniform and by-laws.

Approved, September 18, 2011.

001 Review of constitution

The constitution must be formally reviewed a minimum of every 3 years, the first of which being in 2014.

005 Regional Headquarters

The headquarters of the Lake Ontario Region B'nai B'rith Girls shall be located at the Prosserman JCC, 4588 Bathurst Street #1-22, Toronto, Ontario, M2R 1W6.

010 International Convention Delegates

Delegate status is awarded according to the descending order of the Regional Executive Board. If this method leaves delegate position available, the vacancies shall be filled at the discretion of the Regional N'siah and the Regional Staff.

015 Business Meetings

1. Regional Staff and/or an appointed designate must be present at all Regional Meetings or Regional Board Meetings or the meeting is deemed invalid.
2. Regional Meetings shall be held a minimum of 2 times a year.
3. There shall be at least one Regional Board Meeting between each Regional Meeting.

020 Life Ceremonies

In order for a departing member to qualify to have life membership presented to her at the Regional level, she must have served as a Regional Officer or Chapter President for at least her full term. Otherwise she must submit a written application to have life membership presented at her Regional Level. She must provide her reasons for the request, and both she and her Chapter President and Chapter Advisor must sign the application.

025 Availability of Constitution and By-laws

Immediately following elections, the incoming Madricha must send a copy of the constitution and by-laws to every newly elected Regional Officer at the start of each term.

030 Elected Officers

030.1: Candidates for Regional Office must adhere to the following eligibility rules unless granted an exemption by the Regional Staff in conjunction with the Regional N'siah:

1. No BBG shall be eligible to hold more than one position at a time on the Regional Board with the exception of the position of Regional Madricha.
2. No BBG that holds a chapter position shall be eligible to hold a position on Regional Board at the same time.

030.2: An office should automatically be declared vacant if the incumbent fails to re-register as a member of BBG in good standing for the following year, following the election in which she was elected, but no later than June 30.

030.3: Any elected officer that is suspended by the Regional Staff shall automatically forfeit her position.

035 Regional Beau

Nominees for Regional Beau shall be limited to Alephs in good standing without an elected position on any level.

040 Chapter Elections

The deadline for chapter elections will be set annually by the Regional Staff.

045 Chapter Elections

Where a chapter does not have a constitution, the election procedures outlined in this constitution shall be binding.

050 Regional Events

050.1: Only registered members and guests approved by the Regional Staff may attend any and all Regional events held in this region.

050.2: Training sessions shall be held at the start of the programming year. All elected chapter and regional officers must attend on their designated day(s), unless excused by the Regional Staff. The event shall be planned by the Regional Executive Board in conjunction with the Regional Staff.

050.3: Regional Leadership Training Convention shall be held in the fall. Any member in good standing may attend. The Regional Executive Board shall plan the convention, coordinated by the Regional N'siah.

050.4: Beauheart Ball shall be held in the winter. Any member in good standing may attend. The Regional Staff, in conjunction with the N'siah and Godol, shall choose the coordinator and all steering committee members through an application process.

050.5: Spring Regional Convention shall be held at the end of the programming year. Any member in good standing may attend.

055 Awards

The Regional Board, in conjunction with the Regional Staff, shall present regional BBG awards for Community Service Program of the Year, Social Action Program of the year, Recreational Program of the Year, Jewish Heritage Program of the Year, Creativity Program of the year and Sisterhood Program of the year.

The Regional Executive Board, in conjunction with the Regional Staff, shall determine the process for selecting all award recipients.

Revised: October 2011
By: Stacey Taylor Ramelson
Regional N'siah 2011-2012