

# *BETH STY Constitution*

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## **Preamble**

We, the youth of Temple Beth Shalom, being conscious of our needs as Jewish youth and being aware that we have a stake in the future of Judaism, do establish this constitution in order that we may more effectively fulfill our purpose, upholding the principles of our faith and heritage.

## **Article I – Name**

The name of this organization will be Beth Shalom Temple Youth (BETH STY). When, for reasons of type-setting, *BETH STY* is not available, the orthography *BETH STY* may be substituted.

## **Article II – Affiliation**

Section 1: BETH STY will be associated with the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) and will be active in NFTY and NFTY's Ohio Valley Region. NFTY is an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism

Section 2: BETH STY will be governed by the NFTY Constitution and Bylaws in all situations not expressly provided for by this constitution and BETH STY Bylaws.

## **Article III – Purpose**

The purpose of this organization will be:

- A. To bring together the youth of Temple Beth Shalom in order to create a community of Jewish young people.
- B. To expose Jewish youth to their religious and cultural heritage, and to make the moral and social teachings of Judaism – as interpreted in the spirit of Reform Judaism – a functioning part of the outlook of all its members.
- C. To create within BETH STY an understanding of the land of Israel, and to raise both our consciousness of and commitment to a peaceful Jewish homeland.
- D. To promote social awareness, and to encourage all members to work toward the betterment of the greater community, participating in Tikkun Olam – repairing the world – through activities that promote equity, justice and peace.
- E. To prepare its members for responsible Jewish adulthood and for the intelligent loyal shouldering of their responsibilities as adult members of their congregations and communities.
- F. To support its parent bodies - Temple Beth Shalom, the NFTY Ohio Valley Region, the North American Federation of Temple Youth, and the Union for Reform Judaism – in the execution of their aims and purposes.

## **Article IV - Membership**

- Section 1: Members of BəSTY must be Jewish or engaged in the process of converting to Judaism.
- Section 2: All youth whose families are members of Temple Beth Shalom in New Albany, Ohio and are in grades nine through twelve will be members of BəSTY.
- Section 3: The K'neset of BəSTY will determine, collect, and utilize membership and regional dues, to be paid by every member who wishes to be considered a member in good standing.
- Section 4: A member in good standing is one whose dues are paid and whose BəSTY and NFTY – Ohio Valley privileges have not been revoked or suspended. Members in good standing will be members of NFTY – Ohio Valley. Only members in good standing will be eligible for attendance at NFTY – Ohio Valley events as representatives of Temple Beth Shalom.
- Section 5: Youth whose families are not members of Temple Beth Shalom may elect to become members of BəSTY by filling out a membership application form and paying dues. Membership is subject to a vote of approval by the BəSTY K'neset as specified in Article IX.
- Section 6: If an individual belongs to a congregation other than Temple Beth Shalom and is not also a member of Temple Beth Shalom, she or he must have permission from the youth director, youth group advisor, or Rabbi of that congregation in order to seek membership in BəSTY.

## **Article V – BəSTY K'neset**

- Section 1: The BəSTY K'neset will consist of any officer of BəSTY with a regional counterpart (President, Programming Vice President, Social Action Vice President, Religious and Cultural Vice President, Membership Vice President, Journalist, and Treasurer) as well as a ninth grade membership vice president. These will be the only voting members of the BəSTY K'neset.
- Section 2: The voting officers of the K'neset will be elected pursuant to Article X.
- Section 3: Other appointed offices may be created and filled as deemed necessary by the K'neset according to the provisions in Article VII. Appointed officers will be welcome at all K'neset meetings.
- Section 4: The term of office for all elected officers will commence with an installation to be held in the spring and concluded with the installation of the new K'neset in the following spring.

**Section 5: Impeachment of Officers**

- A. Impeachment should be considered if and when an officer fails to fulfill his/her stated responsibilities as detailed in Article VI, and such a failure is detrimental to the operation of the K'neset, Temple Beth Shalom, and/or B&STY's constituency. Impeachment will necessarily be considered in the event that a K'neset member ceases to be a member in good standing during his or her term in office.
- B. Impeachment procedures:
  - 1. A potential cause for impeachment of an officer will be brought to the attention of the K'neset by a K'neset member or by the B&STY advisor. This cause must be detailed and entered into the minutes.
  - 2. An informal hearing will be held in the presence of a quorum of the K'neset, presided over by the president (or next high-ranking officer in the event that the President is the officer in question). The officer in question must be given the opportunity to be present at the hearing and to present his or her defense.
  - 3. Following the hearing, a vote will be taken in which all members of the K'neset other than the defendant will be allowed to cast a vote.
  - 4. Impeachment is accomplished with the approval of the B&STY advisor and 2/3 of K'neset members present.

Section 6: B&STY, its organization and activities, will be governed by the B&STY K'neset.

Section 7: Any business to be transacted by the K'neset will be put on the agenda by the President.

Section 8: The K'neset will act for the good and welfare of the B&STY and will not be empowered to enact any measure not consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of B&STY, the Constitution and Bylaws of Temple Beth Shalom in New Albany, Ohio, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the NFTY Ohio Valley Region.

Section 9: B&STY K'neset members are obligated to attend every K'neset meeting! Any K'neset member unable to attend a K'neset meeting must make prior contact with the advisor or president about the anticipated absence. Continual absences from K'neset meetings may be constituted as grounds for removal from office.

Section 10: In the event of a vacancy on the K'neset, the President will take actions to fill the positions according to provisions in Article X.

## **Article VI – Duties of K'neset Members**

- 1. All K'neset members:
  - a. **Qualifications:** K'neset members of B&STY must be members of B&STY in good standing. Should a K'neset member's membership in either B&STY or NFTY – OV be revoked or suspended, that will serve as grounds for impeachment as per Article V.

- b. **Responsibilities:** K'neset members will be expected to be present at all K'neset meetings. K'neset members are also expected to attend all social, educational, social action and other events sponsored by B&STY. Each K'neset member will be responsible for writing one article for publication in The Window each year. Participation in NFTY – OV regional events will be encouraged, although not required except as stipulated in particular job descriptions below.

2. **President:**

- a. **Qualifications:** The president must have held a previous position on the B&STY K'neset, and must have been active in NFTY programming on the regional level for at least one year prior to assuming office.
- b. **Responsibilities:** The person in this position will serve as the link between the region, the advisor, and the rest of the K'neset in order to ensure that B&STY meets expectations set by Temple Beth Shalom and NFTY's Ohio Valley Region. The President will have regular meetings (or telephone conversations) with every officer in the K'neset according to a time interval decided upon by the president in conjunction with the advisor at the outset of the year. The president will report back to the advisor with any pertinent information. The president will assume and or delegate responsibilities of any office that in the event that an officer is absent from a meeting or event. The President will compile an agenda for B&STY K'neset meetings, to be determined by working with the advisor and the rest of the K'neset. The president will also preside over all B&STY K'neset meetings, ensuring that order is maintained and that the agenda is followed. The president will be responsible for over-seeing B&STY correspondence including thank you as the need arises. The President will make every effort to attend every regional event. The President will communicate frequently with the members of the regional K'neset and as needed with the regional counterpart.

3. **Programming Vice President (PVP):**

- a. **Qualifications:** The PVP must have been an active member in good standing of a Jewish high-school youth group for at least one year prior to assuming office. S/he must express the intent of being active in NFTY on the regional level during the year that office is held.
- b. **Responsibilities:** The PVP, acting as the second highest ranking member in the B&STY K'neset, will assume the President's duties if the President is either absent or unable to fulfill her/his duties. The PVP is the person chiefly responsible for all programs sponsored by B&STY. The PVP will be responsible for ensuring that B&STY have the appropriate number of programs each year as specified in the Bylaws. The PVP will be responsible for the planning of programs including scheduling, activities, transportation, food, and safety guidelines. The PVP will also serve as the B&STY designate to work on any citywide youth group programming, unless another designate is appointed. The PVP will make every effort to attend every regional event. The PVP must have a regular meeting with the President to inform the President of his/her status. The PVP will communicate with the regional counterpart as needed.

4. **Religious and Cultural Vice President (RCVP):**
  - a. **Qualifications:** The RCVP must possess a cultural literacy of Judaism sufficient to appropriately and insightfully integrate Judaic content with BəSTY programming. In addition, the RCVP must be able to navigate his or her way through Shabbat ma'ariv liturgy standard in a Reform Siddur. A familiarity with the liturgy for the shacharit service is desirable but not required.
  - b. **Responsibilities:** The RCVP, acting as the third-highest ranking member in the BəSTY K'neset, will assume the President's duties if the President and PVP are either absent or unable to fulfill their duties. The RCVP will be responsible for ensuring that every BəSTY program contains some facet of Judaism. The RCVP will be responsible, in conjunction with the advisor or other appropriate Temple Beth Shalom employee, for Youth High Holy Day Services. In the event that Temple Beth Shalom requests youth leadership at a service, the RCVP will oversee youth participation in that service. The RCVP will also serve as the BəSTY designate to work on any citywide youth religious and cultural programming or services, unless another designate is appointed. The RCVP must have a regular meeting with the President to inform the President of her/his status. The RCVP will communicate with the regional counterpart as needed.
  
5. **Social Action Vice President (SAVP):**
  - a. **Qualifications:** The SAVP must have a history of participation in social action or community involvement activities.
  - b. **Responsibilities:** The SAVP, acting as the fourth-highest ranking member in the BəSTY K'neset, will assume the President's duties if the President, PVP, and RCVP are either absent or unable to fulfill their duties. The SAVP will be responsible for the appropriate number of social action programs each year as stipulated by the Bylaws. The SAVP must have a regular meeting with the President to inform the president of her/his status. The SAVP will communicate with the regional counterpart as needed
  
6. **Membership Vice President (MVP):**
  - a. **Qualifications:** The MVP must have been an active member in good standing of BəSTY for at least the year prior to assuming office.
  - b. **Responsibilities:** The Membership Vice President, acting as the fifth-highest ranking member in the BəSTY K'neset, will assume the President's duties if the President, PVP, RCVP, and SAVP are either absent or unable to fulfill their duties. The MVP is responsible for ensuring that every member of BəSTY is contacted about each event. S/he will also be responsible for primary recruitment of prospective members. The MVP will maintain close communication with the Ninth Grade MVP, serving as a coach to the Ninth Grade MVP when appropriate. The MVP will be specifically encouraged to attend NFTY regional events. The MVP must have a regular meeting with the President to inform the president of her/his status. The MVP will communicate with the regional counterpart as needed.

**7. Journalist:**

- a. **Qualifications:** The journalist must be comfortable with the conventions of written English and able to write regular articles for publication using these conventions with minimal supervision.
- b. **Responsibilities:** The Journalist, acting as the sixth-highest ranking member in the BəSTY K'neset, will assume the President's duties if the President, PVP, RCVP, SAVP, and MVP are absent or unable to fulfill their duties. The Journalist will be responsible for creating a flyer at least two weeks before every program, and a bi-monthly bulletin. The Journalist will be responsible for the keeping of minutes at each K'neset meeting and submitting these to the advisor within two days following the meeting. The Journalist will be responsible for taking pictures at each BəSTY event and archiving these photographs in an appropriate manner. The journalist may be responsible for submitting BəSTY materials to the region, for example for the compilation of the regional yearbook. The Journalist must have a regular meeting with the President to inform him/her of her/his status. The Journalist will communicate with the regional counterpart as needed.

**8. Treasurer:**

- a. **Qualifications:** Same as for a BəSTY K'neset member.
- b. **Responsibilities:** The Treasurer, acting as the seventh-highest ranking member in the BəSTY K'neset, will assume the President's duties if the President, PVP, RCVP, SAVP, MVP, and journalist are absent or unable to fulfill their duties. The Treasurer will be responsible for a number of fundraisers during the school year to be stipulated in the Bylaws, as well as monitoring BəSTY account activity. The Treasurer will be responsible for settling all accounts with the Ohio Valley Region of NFTY. The Treasurer must have a regular meeting with the President to inform the president of her/his status. The Treasurer will communicate with the regional counterpart as needed.

**9. Ninth Grade Membership Vice President**

- a. **Qualifications:** Must be a ninth grader during the year in office who was a member of Temple Beth Shalom during the eighth grade year.
- b. **Responsibilities:** The Ninth Grade Membership Vice President, acting as the eighth-highest ranking member in the BəSTY K'neset, will assume the President's duties if the President, PVP, RCVP, SAVP, MVP, journalist, and treasurer are either absent or unable to fulfill their duties. The Ninth Grade MVP is responsible for ensuring that every ninth grade member of BəSTY is contacted about each event. S/he will also be responsible for primary recruitment of prospective ninth grade members. The Ninth Grade MVP must have a regular meeting with the President to inform the president of her/his status. The Ninth Grade MVP will maintain frequent communication with the MVP and will work with the MVP toward maximizing BəSTY membership.

## **Article VII – Appointed Positions**

### **Section 1: Creation of appointed positions**

- A. An appointed position can be created by a K'neset vote according to the provisions in article IX.
- B. A Bylaw will be added for every appointed position, which will describe the term, privileges specific responsibilities of that position.
- C. An appointed position may be absolved by a K'neset vote according to the provisions in article IX, but such a vote may not remove an appointed officer from office prior to the end of his or her term.

### **Section 2: Eligibility**

- A. Any member who is a member in good standing is eligible for an appointed position.

### **Section 3: Appointment Procedure**

- A. After the establishment of a new appointed office – or when a pre-existing appointed office needs to be filled – all members in good standing of BəSTY will be made aware of the position and invited to apply. The board will select from among these candidates according to the provisions in Article IX.
- B. A K'neset member, to be decided by the K'neset officers, will be responsible for the appointee once appointed.
- C. Once appointed, the appointed officer will be expected to carry out job responsibilities as specified and may be impeached according to the provisions in Article V.

## **Article VIII – Role of Advisor**

**Section 1:** The BəSTY advisor will be the Temple Beth Shalom Youth Programming Director or other Temple Beth Shalom appointed designate. To the extent possible, members of the BəSTY K'neset will be involved in any search for a new advisor. Opinions of BəSTY members will be seriously considered by the individuals directly involved in the search for a new BəSTY advisor.

**Section 2:** The youth group advisor must be at least 20 years of age at the time of assuming the position and must have experience in Jewish youth programming or a related field (Judaic education, summer camp, etc.).

**Section 3:** Along with the BəSTY President, the advisor is responsible for over-seeing the BəSTY K'neset. The advisor will communicate weekly with the president in order to stay abreast of TYG and NFTY regional affairs. The advisor will also maintain regular communication with all members of the BəSTY K'neset. The advisor is responsible for being present at all meetings of the BəSTY K'neset.

- Section 4: The B&STY advisor is responsible for overseeing and chaperoning all B&STY events. The advisor is also responsible for accompanying B&STY members to NFTY OV regional events or for finding an appropriate designate.
- Section 5: The advisor is the person ultimately responsible for safety and discipline of all participants at all B&STY events.
- Section 6: The advisor, acting on his or her professional judgment, holds veto power over all matters of B&STY business including all votes that take place during B&STY K'neset meetings.
- Section 7: If it is believed by members of the B&STY K'neset that advisor veto power is being abused or that the advisor is in some other way jeopardizing the success of B&STY programming, the B&STY President may take the matter before the Rabbi, Temple Executive Director, or other appropriate Temple Beth Shalom representative. The advisor is expected to cooperate fully in any ensuing proceedings as deemed appropriate by the staff and or Board of Temple Beth Shalom. In all cases, a genuine and sincere effort must be made by all parties to repair past damages and promote a successful future working relationship between the B&STY advisor and B&STY K'neset. If and only if such reparation proves not to be possible –at the discretion of the B&STY K'neset and the Temple Beth Shalom Board – then Temple Beth Shalom will begin to search for a new B&STY advisor.

## **Article IX – Voting Procedures**

- Section 1: A quorum will consist of at least 2/3 of the voting members of B&STY. (In the event that the number of K'neset members cannot be evenly split in three, 2/3 of the number of K'neset members should be rounded to the nearest whole number.)
- Section 2: A quorum must be present to hold any vote.
- Section 3: Prior to the vote, the president will specify the voting choices.
- Section 4: Voting choices are as follows:
1. On motions, one may vote: yea, nay, abstention, or no vote.
  2. In other decisions, one may vote among the available choices as outlined by the president, abstention, or no vote.
- Section 5: On all motions and decisions reached by vote, each voting K'neset member may cast one vote.
- Section 6: A simple majority will determine the vote. In the event of a tie, there will be a re-vote following a caucus. In the event that the vote is still tied, the president's vote will sway the decision.

# **Article X – Election Procedures and Filling Offices**

- Section 1: B3STY K'neset officers will be elected annually. All candidates must make the commitment to become members in good standing during the year in office in the event that they are elected.
- Section 2: Candidates must submit a statement of intent by a time mandated by the K'neset within a window of time to be stipulated by the Bylaws. Notice will be given in writing to all B3STY members and 8<sup>th</sup> grade JYG members regarding the date that statements of intent are due to the advisor.
- Section 3: Those interested in running for an office for which they do not hold the required qualifications must meet with the advisor and out-going president in addition to submitting a statement of intent. The prospective candidate, advisor, and out-going president will decide whether it is appropriate for the individual in question to run for the desired office and what plan of course will be taken to help the prospective candidate in her/his new position if elected.
- Section 4: All out-going seniors who were members in good standing during the senior year will receive a vote. All incoming 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders must fill out a membership application form for the up-coming year indicating their intent to become a member in good standing for the upcoming year. After so doing, these individuals will each receive one vote.
- Section 5: Candidates will give election speeches. Following the speeches for each office will be a period of time for a question and answer session. The time period for the question and answer session will be determined by the K'neset and published to all members and candidates of B3STY prior to the election date.
- Section 6: The order of elections will be President, Programming Vice President, Religious and Cultural Vice President, Social Action Vice President, Membership Vice President, Journalist, Treasurer, and Ninth Grade Membership Vice President.
- Section 7: Each candidate will be allowed two “drop-downs”. Candidates must announce whether they wish to drop down and to which office immediately upon learning the results of the election for their originally intended office. Candidates who drop down will not be permitted to make a speech for the newly intended office. They will, however, be permitted to participate in the accepted time for the question and answer session for the new intended office.
- Section 8: Voting will take place by private ballot; in each election, voters may vote for a particular candidate, may abstain, or may vote no candidate
- Section 9: The current advisor and the out-going B3STY President will count election votes. In the event that the president is running for re-election, the next ranking out-going officer not running for the office in question will count votes in place of the out-going president.

Section 10: A candidate receiving a simple majority of the vote will be declared the winner.

Section 11: In the event that one candidate does not receive a simple majority of the votes:

- A. A democratic run-off will take place between the two candidates who received the most votes. (In the event that there is a tie for second place, all participants in that tie will be included in the run-off.)
- B. The run-off election results will then be tallied and repeated if necessary. If a candidate receives a simple majority in a run-off, s/he will be declared the winner.
- C. Following the run-off, in the event of a tie for first place, the out-going president (or highest-ranked out-going officer not running for the office in question) will cast the deciding vote.

Section 12: If no one runs for an office or if a “no” vote receives the majority, elections for that office will be moved to the end of the election period so that candidates who were not elected into other offices are able to “drop up” to the un-filled office. A candidate who was an original or a drop-down candidate in the election (in the event that a “no” vote received the majority) will not be considered when the office comes up for election the second time.

Section 13: In the event that, at the end of elections, an office remains un-filled, a second election will be held early the next fall according to the policies above with the following exception: all clauses referring above to the out-going president will be applied to the current president.

Section 14: Should an office remain unfilled during the school year:

- A. There are three ways that an office may be un-filled during the September-May school year.
  - 1. The office may not be filled during either the spring or fall election
  - 2. An officer may step down during the school year.
  - 3. An officer may be impeached during the school year.
- B. In the event that an office is not filled for one of the three aforementioned reasons, the president may fill the duties of this office or may delegate them among other board members. An appointed chair position may be created to help fill the job responsibilities of the vacant office according to the provisions in Article VII.

Section 15: One person maximum may hold any K’neset office at any given time.

## **Article XI – Ratification of the Constitution**

Section 1: The BəSTY Constitution must be adopted by a unanimous vote of the K’neset – votes in absentia will be recognized – and must be ratified by a all members. In addition, the constitution must be approved by the of BəSTY advisor and by the senior rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom.

## **Article XII – Amendments, Bylaws and Resolutions**

- Section 1: An amendment alters the constitution, while a resolution suggests an action or states a belief on behalf of BəSTY. Bylaws specify BəSTY's operating procedures.
- Section 2: Amendments and resolutions can be proposed by any member of BəSTY in good standing.
- Section 3: Amendments may be voted upon at any meeting of the K'neset; however, an amendment must be ratified by 2/3 of all K'neset members where the advisor is counted for voting purposes as a member of the K'neset. Amendments are subject to the approval of the BəSTY advisor and the senior rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom.
- Section 4: Resolutions may be voted upon at any meeting of the K'neset as per article IX.
- Section 5: Bylaws may be proposed by any BəSTY member or by the advisor or by a Temple Beth Shalom employee where the suggested by-law falls under the jurisdiction of that employee's job description.
- Section 6: Bylaws may be voted upon at any meeting of the K'neset as per article IX. Bylaws are subject to the approval of the senior rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom.

## **Article XIII – Abolition of the Constitution**

- Section 1: The Constitution may be abolished following a unanimous K'neset vote. The advisor will have the option to exercise veto power over such a vote. The proposal to abolish the Constitution must be made in writing. The results of the vote to abolish the Constitution will take place immediately.

## **Article XIV – Code of Conduct**

- Section 1: All participants in programs are to abide by the strictest guidelines of Temple Beth Shalom and the NFTY Code of Conduct. Specific guidelines may be found in the NFTY code of conduct and in the BəSTY Bylaws.
- Section 2: All members of BəSTY will be expected to exercise their own best judgment at all BəSTY and other NFTY youth group affiliated functions, behaving with integrity and with respect for all participants, facilities, and programs.

# Article XV – Approval of Constitution

The signatures below of each BASTY K'neset member verify that it has been read in its entirety and renders this BASTY Constitution valid as of the most recent date.

## 2003-2004 Elected Officers:

<i>Daniel Meisterman</i>	5/12/04
PRESIDENT	DATE
<i>Alana Krivo-Kaufman</i>	5/16/04
PROGRAMMING VICE PRESIDENT	DATE
<i>Alan Mandelbaum</i>	5/19/04
SOCIAL ACTION VICE PRESIDENT	DATE
<i>Josh Kass</i>	5/16/04
RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL VICE PRESIDENT	DATE
<i>Jess Tyroler</i>	5/19/04
MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT	DATE
<i>Rachel Robbins</i>	5/19/04
JOURNALIST	DATE
<i>Jeff Cowen</i>	5/30/04
TREASURER	DATE
<i>Jamie Serelson</i>	5/19/04
NINTH GRADE MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT	DATE

## 2003-2004 Appointed Chairs:

<i>David Hirsch</i>	5/15/04
YOUTH LOUNGE CHAIR	DATE

## 2003-2004 Advisor:

<i>Sharon Ross</i>	5/19/ '04
ADVISOR	DATE