

Davasia Thomas
Booker T. Washington Delegation
Blue House Chair

Leadership Positions in Your Club? I am delegation leader, and was president of my program last year.

Statewide Leadership? I was president of the program i was in before this one, Youth Leadership Institute of Erie.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I am the most qualified because I am a very determined person, and when i want something i will get it eventually, i am also very passionate about what i speak for. On top of that i am a very approachable and caring person, i would help a person even if it means stopping what i'm doing to help them. I also have been to CONA, i'm delegation leader, was president of my program for 2 years, and i helped start up a new delegation from nothing, the delegation I am coming to Harrisburg with

Anything else? I am a very kind hearted and open person, and if anyone has a problem or something they would like to tell me i'm more than open to listen to anyone. I am also a anime watcher so therefore, that makes me 10x better. I am a outgoing and "bubbly" person and I help people come out of their shell so they get to have a more fun experience

Natalie Anderson
Knoch High School
Blue House Chair

Leadership Positions in Your Club? Yes, I am currently the vice president of the Knoch delegation.

Statewide Leadership? None, but I did run for gold committee chair my second year (2019-2020). I came close to winning but did not get the position.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? This is my 5th year in the program, and I have experienced both a pre-COVID and post-COVID Model Convention. I also hold other leadership positions outside of the club, and in some of the activities where I don't hold a leadership position I am still as active and helpful as I can be.

Anything else? I am currently involved in Knoch's marching band, musical, both fall and spring play programs, German club, science club, and history club. I used to be involved in Knoch's debate team, but it has since ended a few years ago due to a lack of coach and club involvement.

Aavin Mangalmurti
Obama
Blue House Chair

Leadership Positions in Your Club? This year I am proud to serve as the Obama Delegation's Legislative President. In this role I teach parliamentary procedure, help delegates brainstorm and write bills, and facilitate mock debates. In a larger capacity my prerogative is to help every Obama Legislative come to Model as prepared as possible. In previous club years I have also drawn on my Committee Chair experience to administrate mock debates. To be successful in these club positions, I have had to draw on strong leadership, communication, and cooperation skills.

Statewide Leadership? For the past two years I have been a Committee Chair: my freshman year I was elected Gold Senate Chair, and last year I was elected Blue House Chair. In these roles, I facilitated lively debate, effectively communicated with my delegates, consistently maintained decorum, got every delegate to speak at least once, and still allowed every one of my committee members to have a great time. My goal is to continue that great work this year as a re-elected Blue House Chair.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I think my resume speaks for itself. I am a two time Committee Chair, Legislative President, and CONA Alternate. All of these bonafides show that I am not only dedicated to the program, but that I am also knowledgeable and tuned in to its workings.

Anything else? I love dogs, taking long walks, drinking tea, and listening to podcasts—not at the same time but I wish. I'm running for Blue House Chair to help people have the best time possible at Model. If you want to reach out (or maybe recommend some podcasts), my number is 412-584-2805, my Insta is aavin4bluechair, and my email is avmangalmurti11@gmail.com. Looking forward to a great year!

Julia Lipscomb
Rose E. Schneider
Blue House Chair

Leadership Positions in Your Club? I am serving as both treasurer and secretary for my club this year.

Statewide Leadership? Last year, I had the pleasure to serve as a gold house chair. I gained valuable experience and knowledge from this amazing opportunity.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I believe I would make a great blue house chair because I am experienced, I am for the people, and I am passionate. This will be my third Model, and last year I served as gold house chair. This year, I am my clubs secretary and treasurer. I was also selected as a CONA alternate last year, and was so fortunate to have had the opportunity to go this summer. At CONA, I gained a deeper understanding of servant leadership and how to help those around me. By "for the people", I mean that I will fight for you, your ideas, and your bills. I want to make YOUR experience at model fantastic. I am extremely passionate and dedicated to YAG. I love this club and I want to take every chance I have to become more involved. This club has truly changed my perspective and made me a better person. My goal is to help others the same way.

Anything else? I love conversation. Talking to and learning all about new people is my favorite thing.

Ben Sutton
Rose E. Schneider YMCA
Blue House Chair

Leadership Positions in Your Club? While I have not held an official title within my club, I have certainly been working to improve the club for the future. I consistently offer my time at fundraising events as well as arriving earlier and staying late at meetings to help with leadership activities. I also acted as a recruitment ambassador at my high school, speaking to classes encouraging kids to join Youth and Government.

Statewide Leadership? Last year I had the honor to serve as a House Committee Chair. I had a wonderful Model experience and had the opportunity to lead both Blue and Gold delegates. This is particularly important to me, as I have both worked with blue delegates to understand that level of debate, while also working with the gold delegates that will be in Blue committee this year.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? While I think my qualifications are certainly important, what truly matters is how I am going to impact Youth and Government. My dedication this year lies in getting more bills from my committee onto House floors. The biggest complaint I heard from Model 2022 was that not enough valuable bills were reaching the floor. My aspiration is to work with the Blue Speaker of the House to establish an efficient system for getting the right bills from committee to the House floor. My experience as House committee chair has prepared me for this position, but what really qualifies me is my plan to improve Model 2023.

Anything else? I am a textbook overachiever. I have tried my hardest to pack my schedule to the brim with sports, extracurriculars, and a job. However, Youth and Government has hands-down been my safe space. No matter what has been changing or going awry in my life, I have always been able to turn to the interactions of YAG to bring everything back. I am running for this position not because it looks good on a piece of paper, but because I know I can bring that same experience to other delegates best from a position of leadership.

Brooke Schramm
Butler Family YMCA
Blue Senate Chair

Leadership Positions in Your Club? This is my second year in YAG. My first year I was secretary for the whole year and this current year I am Butler's Delegation Leader

Statewide Leadership? Though I have not been in a Statewide Position for Youth and Government, I have had Statewide positions in other activities, sports, and clubs. Such as Rifle Team, NHS, and Choir.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? Though I haven't been in this program for long I believe I am qualified for this position. In my first year in the program, my bill was the first one to pass through my committee. It was also the first bill to pass through the Senate and it passed through the House unanimously, to be the first bill signed by the Youth Governor. I am confident in my Parliamentary Procedure, and in fact, I love enforcing it and teaching the younger delegates how to properly use it. My delegation is currently 75% new delegates. This means that this year I have the opportunity to teach Parli Pro to around 30 new members, I was also able to attend CONA (Conference On National Affairs) in North Carolina, with 25 other delegates this summer which was such an amazing experience.

Anything else? My name is Brooke Schramm, and I am a Sophomore at Butler Senior High School. I do many activities for school like Rifle Team, National Honors Society, Varsity Choir, and many more. Each of these has taught me different things. Rifle taught me that even if your outcome comes out bad, there is always another day. Choir taught me balance and harmony between people. When I am home I enjoy riding horses, reading, going mudding with friends and family, and hanging out with friends. I went around to many of my friends from my delegation and even some around school, and ask them to use three words to describe me. The 3 most common words that were used were: independent, caring, and devoted.

Miriam Spak
Obama Academy
Blue Senate Chair

Leadership Positions in Your Club? Last year, I served as delegation secretary. I helped to keep debate efficient and the club organized.

Statewide Leadership? I was elected as a 2021-22 Gold Senate Committee Chair. I was the co-chair of Senate Education and Consumer Protection, which had a mix of Gold and Blue delegates. Along with my co-chair, I facilitated lively, engaging debate and created a welcoming committee environment. I created resources such as a Google Drive and feedback form, posted a committee schedule that was consistently updated, and communicated effectively with the Presiding Officers and Governor's Administration. At the end of Model, I received the Outstanding Senate Chair award.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? My experience has prepared me for the role of Blue Senate Chair. During my time in YAG thus far, I have earned a top Gold Chair spot, been selected as an Outstanding Senate Chair from a pool of 8 Blue and Gold chairs, and attended CONA as a first-year freshman. I am also the president and founder of The Children of Steel Obama, a community service club, which has been an invaluable leadership and civic engagement opportunity. I drew on these experiences while creating my platform, which consists of: creating an equitable committee environment, staying transparent and accountable, and overall improvement for all committee members (as well as myself!) I have the knowledge and drive necessary to effectively implement these goals, and I am more than ready to be a servant leader at the 2023 Model Convention.

Anything else? Outside of YAG, I'm involved with student council, Obama's garden and debate clubs, and GirlGov, a civic engagement organization. I also love drinking tea, playing the trumpet, and watching live music. My favorite musicians right now are Japanese Breakfast, Vampire Weekend, Doechii, and Haley Heynderickx. If you have music recommendations (or just want to chat! I love making YAG friends), make sure to reach out to me on Instagram @spak4bluechair!

Peter Ko
Rose E. Schneider
Blue Senate Chair

Leadership Positions in Your Club? Within the Rose E. Schneider delegation, I am one of the older members who is lucky enough to have the necessary experience to help others in my delegation. I have been the Senate Committee Chair, and I am the current vice-president of the delegation. As a Senate Committee Chair, I was responsible for teaching Senate procedure and helping delegates prepare for Senate. As a vice-president, I help run the delegation and help make the environment as friendly as possible so that people feel comfortable to talk!

Statewide Leadership? Statewide, I have been elected as a Gold Senate Committee Chair and a Blue House Committee Chair. I was in charge of the Senate Law and Justice Committee along with co-chair Simran Jain, and in charge of Public Health and Welfare 2 with co-chair Sam Koda.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I think that I am a well qualified candidate for this position because I have had many leadership opportunities within the program, and I am very passionate about helping the younger members become more outspoken in the program. Within my leadership roles as Gold Senate chair and a delegation senate committee chair, I am well-versed in the Senate procedure. In addition, through being a Blue chair and a vice president, I have learned how to lighten up the environment and encourage participation. I will do my best to help younger members speak in my committee, and I will do my best to be inclusive to all. Also, though I am now an older, more experienced member, I am always willing to listen and gain feedback on how to better be a Blue chair, and I will do my utmost to be the best Blue chair that I can be. Thus, I think that I am well-qualified to be a Blue Senate Committee Chair.

Anything else? In addition to YAG, I also am in student council, play tennis, and play the alto saxophone. In my free time, I like to either read or play video games with friends. I am very excited to work with everyone this Model!

**Robert Grega
Somerset
Blue Senate Chair**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? During my second year in Yag I served as assistant delegation leader. During which I gained valuable experience in learning how to connect with other delegates and in representing my delegation. During this year of Yag, I'm serving as my delegation's president in which my duties include managing meetings and making agendas for said meetings and working with fellow delegation officers to make sure everything works smoothly. I'm hoping to use my experience as president of my delegation if I become a blue senate chair.

Statewide Leadership? The only position I've held statewide is as gold senate party whip but this position I held is what ignited my passion for the senate.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I believe that I'm qualified for this position because I have a considerable amount of experience with the senate. But, to go into further detail I've served as gold senate party whip for the Penn party and gained extensive experience with chamber proceedings and debate. This experience as whip made me want to pursue further involved leadership within senate. Additionally, due to my diligent performance in senate chamber debate I was nominated last year to represent Pennsylvania at the conference on national affairs (CONA). This nomination admittedly came as a surprise to me initially because it was my first year in senate as a gold senator. But it spoke to my abilities as a debater that I was nominated for such a high honor. The experience I gained at CONA was invaluable and is the second main reason why I want to pursue a blue senate chair because I want to give back to the program the valuable leadership experience, I gained at CONA. Lastly, I believe that the blue senate can benefit from my extensive experience with the senate. With this all being said do you believe I'm qualified?

Anything else? I pride myself on being a very charismatic and helpful person, so I'll always take the opportunity to help someone and to get to know them.

**Viola Aderholt
Obama
Gold House Chair**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? I am the club parliamentarian. This position requires me to know all the parliamentary procedures and educate our delegation. It requires me to communicate effectively with club members and to inform them of procedures.

Statewide Leadership? I have never held any statewide leadership positions. I am running for Gold House Chair to have qualifications in the future and to gain experience.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I think that I am most qualified for this position because I have the leadership skills, teamwork experiences, and determination to make me a qualified candidate. I play on two sport teams and through that have lots of experience working with different kinds of people and hearing everyone's side of a story. I will use these abilities as a Gold chair. I also have many more experienced people in my delegation that I am learning from and am determined to do my best from. All these skills combined will make me the most qualified candidate for Gold house chair.

Anything else? I am running for Gold house chair because I am determined to learn from others and experience different opinions. I think arguing peoples bills will help me accomplish these goals and strive to make everyone's voice heard. I know that I will deliver on all of these fronts and am happy to answer any questions if you want to reach out-
Feel free to call 412-969-2253 or violaaderholt@gmail.com

**Friyana Sepai
Rose E. Schneider
Gold House Chair**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? I haven't held any leadership positions yet. I haven't felt ready for that until now, but I'm excited to lead now.

Statewide Leadership? I also haven't held statewide positions, and I hope that can change.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I believe that a lot of us are qualified for this. I can't speak for everyone, all I can advocate for is myself and a promise to put in effort to make everyone's experience smooth, fun, and impactful.

Anything else? I want delegates to know that I'm here to work side by side and guide you, not to confuse you or put you under a lot of pressure! I want us to work all together.

**Sophie Geil
Rose E. Schneider
Gold House Chair**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? No

Statewide Leadership? No

Why are you the most qualified candidate? Last year I had the opportunity to present my bill third on the house floor. Having been my first year in the program, it was an experience that offered so much growth, both in YAG and personally. I believe that I can take the experience I had at Model and apply the things I learned in Committee. I feel very strongly that every delegate deserves to have the same good time as I did. I will work to get to know my delegates in Committee and also on a personal level. I know it's easy to get lost in Model, so I will absolutely create a judgement free and welcoming environment for delegates, as well as help them with the more technical aspects of their bill, and advocate for them and their bill. I feel that I can help delegates make the types of connections that I've made, and I'd be willing to introduce them to others they want to talk to do so.

Anything else? My own hobbies and interests include running, reading/writing, music, and spending time with my friends. I've always had an interest in teaching and current events as well.

**Gizelle Salsa
Rose E. Schneider
Gold House Chair**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? Within my delegation, I haven't held a leadership position yet. However, I am extremely honored to be one of the candidates in Rose E. eligible to submit a candidacy to EC!

Statewide Leadership? With my Gold Chair candidacy I'm hoping to achieve a statewide leadership position and be in charge of my own committee at Model. I haven't gotten the opportunity to hold a leadership position in YAG until now so I'm heavily dedicated to make this a successful leadership!

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I would be the most qualified candidate for this position due to my passion for YAG and the people involved. This is now my second year in the program and I have met so many amazing people and have created wonderful memories at Model. I have attended Model, witnessed how a committee is run, written a unanimously passed bill, and more in my YAG experience. I know myself to be a hard worker and I will always think of my fellow delegates in ways to benefit them. I want to reach out individually to those in my delegation and in my committee to keep everyone organized and up to date. With my past YAG experience I know what is important and what decisions I can make to ensure this year is better than the last!

Anything else? I'm a Junior in high school and a member of my school's Student Council! I am passionate about government and politics, it's also the career path I want to take in my future! My aspiration is to be an immigration lawyer. Apart from my academic life, I love to read, spend time with friends and family, and hang out with my adorable cats. I also love to listen to music in all of my free time, I enjoy a wide variety of artists. Some of my personal favorites are Childish Gambino, Frank Ocean, The Neighbourhood, Playboi Carti, and Tyler the Creator.

**Katie Romesburg
Somerset delegation
Gold House Chair**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? Within my delegation I have held the positions of media coordination, who's main role is to run all of the delegation's social medias and take pictures and I am the active vice president. As vice president, along side the president, I organize meeting, hold mock debates, help with bill writing, and generally oversee my delegation.

Statewide Leadership? I have not held any state wide positions as of yet.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I believe I am the most qualified for this position because I have many ideas for how to make the way bill calendars are made more fair to smaller delegations. I have experienced first-hand having a bill pass in the first committee and not get on the calendar. I also have experience overseeing debate. As the vice president of my delegation, I often hold mock debates to help our delegates become more comfortable with speaking. Since many gold delegates are newer to the club, I would focus on helping them feel more comfortable with debate, just as I do in my own delegation.

Anything else? Hi! My name is Katie Romesburg. This is my second year in the youth and government program, however I have been involved in politics ever since I can remember (I was 9 months old when I went to my first political rally). I am also involved in my schools forensic speech team, student Congress, and many other clubs, however yag is definitely my favorite. I believe youth and government is a fantastic program that assisted me, and many others I know, in coming out of their shells and finding their voice in politics.

**Kimora Hogan
Obama
Gold House Chair**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? No, I am a first timer.

Statewide Leadership? I was vice president of my school's art club

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I am very cooperative. I like working with others and I find it very interesting to hear the opinions and thought process of others. I fight for what I believe in, and I'll do whatever it takes to get my message across.

Anything else? My hobbies include art, reading, and fashion!

**Robert Staresinic
Rose E Schneider
Gold Lt. Governor**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? I have been with my delegation for five years. This makes me the most experienced member in our club in terms of years participating and exposure to all that is Youth and Government. I was present before, during, and after Covid. I was honored to be voted vice-legislative president when I was in ninth grade after several years of participation and mentoring by long time YAG senate veterans. Several of them went on to be youth governors or held other high-level positions in the club. The following year I was elected legislative president when I was a sophomore. In this capacity I worked with legislative delegates and shared my years of training and YAG exposure to teach them parliamentary procedure, bill writing, debating, caucus procedure, and to prepare them for Model Convention. On the occasions when our club president was absent, I was asked to run those delegation meetings. All the while I tried to encourage the same excitement and love I felt for Youth and Government along with the love I found for teaching fellow members and watching them grow and achieve success! This year, I am privileged to have been voted our club president and I am extremely motivated to have a vibrant delegation that truly cares and supports one another on their Youth and Government journey. So far this year we have recruited new members, built a dedicated leadership team, have developed a great working relationship with adult supervisors, and currently we are embracing fundraising, public relations, and community service opportunities like never before.

Statewide Leadership? Last year I served as Gold Penn Party Leader and was responsible for maintaining a professional and passionate party while managing time for party members to speak and debate on various bills. Due to this role and my activity in debate, I was honored to be voted Outstanding Senator at Model Convention last year by the student delegates. In previous years I was a two-time Gold Committee Chair and received practical experience leading my committees which helped me develop a better understanding of how to settle parliamentary issues and moderate debate while earning the respect of my peers. Last year I was selected to be one of two student delegates from Pennsylvania to act as state Youth Advocates for the YMCA of the USA.

**Robert Staresinic
Rose E Schneider
Gold Lt. Governor**

Combined with the Youth Governor’s Conference, we led fellow youth participants during Youth Advocacy Days at the U.S. Capitol and met with members of Congress to communicate support for the Civics Secures Democracy Act, Building Civic Bridges Act, Afterschool Programs, and the Youth Workforce Readiness Act. I have been privileged to be a two-time CONA delegate, and as part of our state CONA delegation I was appointed a leadership position as Conference Life Committee Chair this past summer. My responsibility was to meet regularly and handle all requests from Conference members and to make decisions that would ensure the best operation of the conference in all its aspects. These experiences have helped me develop my abilities in Legislation, Bill Writing, Community Outreach, Government and Youth Advocacy, Team Building, and Communication.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I am the most qualified for the Gold Lt. Governor position because of the combination of my advanced experience, passion, and knowledge of the program. After five years in PA State Youth and Government, being one of, if not the most tenured delegate, I have seen and experienced countless successes, failures, and all the unexpected twists and turns in between. Experience is something that may be desired but cannot be taught or obtained by simply observing; it is something that can only be acquired by participation and perseverance through the countless ups and downs in this dynamic program. I am confident the experiences that I have can be translated into the responsibilities and duties that are required for your Gold Lt. Governor. My passion for YAG has grown exponentially, and for the last five years it has been a driving force in my life. I continue to be inspired by all of your ideas and I want to work on meeting your needs and making changes. There is no place for discrimination of any kind or barriers to your achievement. I cherish my time spent in the club and I am especially proud of the diversity of our delegates which is paramount to making any organization successful. For me, YAG has been an outlet to share my thoughts about the world we live in, and a way for me to find growth, maturity, and humility, and it is my hope I can be a part of a similar positive impact for all of you. Steadily, I have acquired much knowledge, be it in debate, bill writing, procedure, or critical thinking.

**Robert Staresinic
Rose E Schneider
Gold Lt. Governor**

This information is vital to successfully arbitrating and leading fellow delegates in Senate, especially those newer to the organization. Finally, the YMCA ultimately is about service to others, and as government representatives in any capacity, we are servants. At this time, I want to give back and serve. It is my privilege to have the opportunity to run for the position of your Gold LT Governor, and as a humble steward of Youth and Government I want to share my experience, passion, and knowledge with all of you! I believe that I am the most qualified to serve, support, and collaborate with you all as Gold Lt. Governor, and in turn my hope is new delegates will feel inspired to do the same. This organization has rich history, and this is because of its noble purpose and sense of integrity which I feel compelled to maintain. Why? It’s because I have come to love this program so much. It is our government, and it is an opportunity for growth and success in all of us.

Anything else? When I am not working on my Youth and Government responsibilities, I try hard to do well in my classes. I have participated in student council, forensics, and I am president of our DECA Business Club and a member of National Honor Society. This fall I have a part in our school play and I have been asked to lead advocacy efforts for a state-wide Robotics Conference to be hosted by my high school. My favorite thing outside of YAG, though, has been helping a special needs student for the past three years and acting as their part-time aide assistant. This year in Youth Government I would like to focus on others and to foster growth, confidence, and education, regardless of my position. The experience, knowledge, and skills I have obtained through my time here is something I wish to pass on to new delegates, since those are the things that have made me the student and person I am today. Youth and Government is a transformative club that is unlike any other in high school club and is something I want everyone to be able to cherish and experience growth like I have. WE are the future of this program. WE are the future of our state government. WE are the future.

**Shivani Umesh
Rose E. Schneider YMCA
Gold Lt. Governor**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? Within in my club, I am currently serving as the Legislative President. Not only do I lead debates in the legislative branch at my delegation, but I also educate delegates on parliamentary procedure, governmental matters, and pressing issues in the state of Pennsylvania. Especially since my delegation acquired many new delegates in the legislative branch, to make them feel the most comfortable debating on the floor, I’ve introduced them not only to the basics of parliamentary procedure, but also to complicated procedures that only few know, such as amendment procedures. This way, younger delegates have the same access to resources as senior delegates, creating an equal opportunity for all. Many new delegates also now feel comfortable to speak their opinion and share their voice on issues without worrying about parliamentary procedure. Additionally, I always strive to help any delegate that has the passion to come forward and wants to learn more about the legislative branch. Even outside of the YMCA, I have given much advice to newer delegates inquisitive about Youth and Government. I hope to model these same principles, of equal opportunities, education, and dedication, if elected as Gold Lieutenant Governor.

Statewide Leadership? I have previously held the position of Gold Senate Committee Chair during Model Convention in Harrisburg. During this time, I prioritized certain aspects of debate and bill-writing that often feels daunting for gold delegates. For example, I set out to explain every single bill, a short 10-15 second overview of what the bill was trying to change and its contents during committee sessions. After talking to gold delegates, I heard feedback that this discussion was very beneficial, as some bills with much technical jargon were hard for gold delegates to understand without some explanation. Along with discussing bills with my committee members, I also advocated for their bills to be on the senate floor. I admired their passion for writing their bills, trying to find creative solutions to long-standing problems. Therefore, I felt it only right to advocate my committee’s bills to be on the floor, even if they passed or not, as it would give the opportunity for my committee’s voices to shine through. Through experiences like these, I slowly learned to adapt and cater to young delegates’ needs.

**Shivani Umesh
Rose E. Schneider YMCA
Gold Lt. Governor**

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I believe, especially for the position of Gold Lieutenant Governor, that while multiple leadership roles make a candidate qualified, experiences and learned wisdom are the utmost important qualifications for a candidate. I have only ever been in the senate throughout my whole Youth and Government career, leaving me with a variety of experiences and learned wisdom accumulated through the years. I not only understand the roles of Gold Committee Chair, as I myself was formerly one, but also how to utilize those positions to make the Model experience more accommodating towards gold delegates. Having been in both the majority and minority parties, I recognize the different dynamics each provide when allotting time for speakers to speak on a bill. Understanding these differences allows me to better address them so that all delegates have an equal opportunity at speaking if elected as Gold Lieutenant Governor. I also have had the personal experience of having my bill passed and signed by the governor through the senate floor. This process has led me to helping delegates in the past, and hopefully the future, on how to pass their bills through the senate. Additionally, I have experienced caucus time in both parties for multiple years, allowing me to recognize the disparity of not having speaking time that gold delegates experience. I want to change that – give a fair opportunity for both younger and older delegates to speak. All these experiences and learned wisdom that I have accumulated over the years by being in senate makes me believe that I am the most qualified, as I truly understand the issues of change and stability the senate needs.

Anything else? I am passionate about the Senate. I’ve always had the opportunity of switching over to the house, but I never did. To me, this position of Lieutenant Governor is not a steppingstone to a higher position, such as Governor. In fact, I never ran for any other state-wide position, because frankly, I would not compromise being in the senate for a leadership position. I felt that it was my duty this year to give back to the senate that gave me so many memorable experiences these past years. I am committed to the senate and always will be.

**Drew Hearn
Somerset
Gold Lt. Governor**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? I have been treasurer and continue to maintain the position of DL(delegation leader)

Statewide Leadership? Gold Senate Party Whip, gold committee chair.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I'm most qualified because I have 4 years in this program. I have also served in both house and senate, blue and gold- which has given me first hand experience into how this program works. I've also served as a committee chair in the gold house, giving me adequate charing/leadership experience.

Anything else? I do a lot of activism through political groups outside of yag even running some. I enjoy to Golf as well as stay active in my community. I look forward to meeting everyone and representing all delegations big and small as well as all opinions. I want to try to put as many bills on my calendar as I can because I believe it is important that delegates don't feel like they are being pushed aside.

**Moriah Turner
Obama
Gold Senate Chair**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? I have not held any yag leadership's.

Statewide Leadership? I have not held any statewide leadership positions.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I have never held any state wide leadership positions, That is the reason why I am running for gold senate chair. Through this position I am hoping to grow my leadership and communication skills and to learn from this to attain more significant roles in the future

Anything else?

**Caroline Adams
Rose E. Schneider YMCA
Gold Senate Chair**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? No, I am a first-year delegate, but have experience with leadership positions elsewhere.

Statewide Leadership? No.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I believe I am the most qualified candidate for this position because of the different characteristics and types of experience I have. I am a hard-working person who will put my all into learning and improving myself, meaning that even though I am not as experienced in Youth and Government as some of the other candidates, it will not be a setback for me but instead an opportunity to learn and be the best Gold Senate Chair I can be. And even though I have not been a part of this club before, I have public speaking and debate experience elsewhere! My freshman year I participated in Mock Trial, and my sophomore year I participated in Forensics/Speech and Debate in the Congressional Debate section. Also, I do not like to be unprepared, so with my ambition to improve along with the help of my friends who are experienced delegates I will help not just my delegation, but everyone to be more prepared to make sure we all get the most out of this year, especially at Model! Additionally, I am a junior class representative for the student council at my school, where I am one of 20 students who represent the voice of 644 students from grades 9 through 12. This has given me lots of practice advocating for others and their ideas, making sure everyone is seen and heard. These experiences and characteristics have set me up to be a confident and attentive Gold Chair who will be as prepared as possible for this year, and in the process help others feel the same.

Anything else? I am so beyond excited to be a candidate this year! I have always found Youth and Government interesting but decided to try Mock Trial and then Speech and Debate before finally settling on YAG this year. I had always heard about Youth and Government through my siblings and some friends participating, but never knew the full extent of opportunity and experience it had to offer. After only a few meetings I knew it was the best place for me, which made me want to be even more committed to the club by running for Gold Senate Chair. I hope everyone knows I would love to meet them and talk to them more at Elections Convention, partly about why I am a great candidate for this position but mostly because I would love to meet everyone I can and begin making more connections throughout the year!

**Olivia Hay
Somerset
Gold Senate Chair**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? Yes, I am Somerset Delegation's legislative chair. I help newer delegates find bill ideas, help them write and improve their bills. This position has taught me so much about his to help people in YAG. I have also been one out of three of my delegation's senate seats for the past two years and this will be my third year in that position.

Statewide Leadership? No, I have never had any statewide positions. However, I have held many other leadership positions in other clubs, so I am well prepared to start my YAG leadership journey.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I believe that I am most qualified for this position for many reasons. First off, I've been in a mixed gold and blue senate for two years. This has taught me how to deal with delegates who are older and more experienced than I am. I have also experienced a virtual and in-person model setting. Therefore, if something were to happen, (fingers crossed nothing does!!) I know how to handle any version of the model convention. Also, I passed a co-sponsored bill last year with graduate Caleb Antram, so I know all of the processes that involve passing legislation. I have also had both of my personal bills pass committee and have been in two different committees over the years, the nature protection committee and the education committee.

Anything else? I compete in many other things other than YAG. Here are just a few: Pittsburg Area Regional Science Bee Winner 2022, JV Somerset Quiz Team Captain, and a player on the Somerset Tennis team, the Somerset Track team, and Berlin AYSO soccer. I also participate in Interact Club, Spanish Club, and participate in chorus and musical. I've been in so many clubs throughout the years and YAG is by far my favorite. I love it whole heartedly and I cannot wait to give back to such an amazing club.

**Kenza Bey
Obama
Justice**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? Within the Obama delegation, I currently hold the position of Co-Advisor of the Judicial branch. This position has given me the valuable opportunity of being able to lead new Judicial delegates and get them comfortable with the program. This position has made me learn to become a teacher and mentor for the Judicial delegates in my branch and I couldn't be more grateful to hold it.

Statewide Leadership? As of right now, I have not yet had the opportunity to hold any statewide positions, as last year was my first year in YAG. Although I am a second year delegate, I do not think that this will hinder my ability to be a Justice this year, I would even go as far as to say that it will make me into an even better Justice as I can remember being a nervous first year attorney like it was yesterday, and I know what helped and what did not.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I think that I am a qualified candidate for this position because I was nominated as an alternate for the National Judicial Competition at Model in my first year. I also hold a major leadership position not only within the Youth and Government club at Obama, but also in other extracurriculars and clubs. While I am qualified for this position, I do not think that qualifications are the only things needed to make a good leader or Justice. I think that a good Justice needs to be dedicated and compassionate. I am incredibly dedicated to YAG and this dedication only grows as time goes on.

Anything else?

**Talynn Allen
Obama Academy
Justice**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? In my delegation, I served as one of our secretaries. In our club, secretaries assist in keeping the club on track and helping with meetings with the delegation leader.

Statewide Leadership? I have not held any statewide leadership positions as of right now, but I hope that this opportunity to run for justice will give me that leadership I want to have with this program.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I'm one of my most qualified candidates for this position because I have a balanced mindset, which can help with keeping trails fair for both sides. I have experience with helping guide people in the right direction when they need it, which I believe a good justice needs to know to help delegates through their trails. Also if I earn this position, I will be able to have dedication to it and make sure that I will take this position with honor and show that honor through being fair and responsible justice.

Anything else? I'm very excited to be running for this position. I had an amazing experience at the 21-22 model convention and I want to be able to help delegates have that same kind of experience at this year too. As a justice I will give as much assistance as I can with delegates and I will make sure they leave with a new sets of skills and values.

**Colleen Fitzpatrick
Rose E. Schneider
Justice**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? Yes, I co-lead the Judicial branch.

Statewide Leadership? No.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I believe in constantly helping others improve. This can be seen through my community volunteer work, or my participation in 3 varsity sports at my school. As an upperclassman, and a high schooler, I know what it is like to seek help from an older role model. As a justice, I want to be the role model younger kids participating in Judicial can look up to, to better their speaking and writing.

Anything else?

**Heather Schwartz
Rose E. Schneider
Justice**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? I am currently the President of the Judicial Branch in Rose E. Schneider delegation. In this position, I am responsible for all the members of my branch. During our time at meetings, we practice public speaking, review old briefs and analyze different cases in order to improve for the upcoming case!

Statewide Leadership? No, I have not held any statewide leadership positions within Youth and Government.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I believe I am qualified for this position because I have success, passion, and experience in this program! In my first year in the judicial branch, I placed second in the Gold League and was honored with the position of an alternate to the National Judicial Competition. As for passion, it is my mission to make sure that the atmosphere of the courtroom is more comfortable for both judges and attorneys. I want everyone to understand that the judges are there to help you improve, never to hinder you. I also will be accessible to all members for questions, no matter what! And lastly, my experience and understanding of the branch will help me be able to be the best judge I can. In my delegation, I am teaching new delegates how to analyze cases and write briefs to the best of their ability. As a finalist, I was able to see how the justices asked and formed questions properly. I also worked closely the last year with three justices, learning how they studied the given case and formed questions of their own.

Anything else? I am running to be a justice this year because I want to have a good impact on the people around me. Last year, I learned so much from my fellow justices and attorneys in my delegation. They taught me how to read and annotate a case, write a good brief, and answer questions correctly. I want to pass on all of my knowledge to as many people as I can, improve their skills, and help them be the best attorneys they can be. The best way I can do this is to become a justice. Also, as a judicial president I was able to attend a leadership conference in September. At this meeting, I was able to speak with other leaders and the supreme justice, expanding my knowledge in order to serve you as a justice this year!

**Ava Tirk
Butler Y Delegation
Press Manager**

Leadership Positions in Your Club? I am currently Press Manager for my delegation.

Statewide Leadership? No I haven't.

Why are you the most qualified candidate? I am the most qualified candidate for Press Manager because of my previous and current experience working with delegates to further their journalism skills and hone their craft. I plan to use my leadership qualities to guide and aid all Press members so they succeed in every aspect of their time in Youth and Government.

Anything else? A few interesting things about me are that I'm an editor for my school's newspaper, The Tornado Connection, I love reading romance and action books especially ones by John Green or anything by Sarah J. Maas. Besides fun things, my delegation is currently 2/3 made up of 1st years and at least 20% of them want to do Press which I'm so excited for! Also I'm very immersed diversity and allowing every delegate to fully be able to express themselves in their work, something that I fully intend to encourage as we come closer to Model Convention!