

Aleph Michael Stein
Candidate for 29th Virginia Council Aleph Godol

I want to replace myself.

This is the legacy I plan to leave after the upcoming year. A Jewish teen leader has many roles, but most importantly, their role is to create future leaders. To create leaders who are more passionate, creative, and persistent.

But during my year long term as 29th Virginia Council Godol, I will strive to strengthen our council and our region. **I plan to strengthen three pieces of our council, specifically: The Chapter, Our Leadership Roles, and Our Intra-Regional, National, and International Connections.**

Our chapters are settling. Settling for barely hitting membership goals, for non-elevated programming. We're not striving for excellence. Our council has many years behind it, so let's use them. By using **Alumni connections** we can take into consideration the past and use it towards our future. By **pairing each chapter with a chapter from a different council**, we can compare programming and take the best out of each program and make it work for any chapter. And by **working closely with the new Nitzachon BBYO chapter**, we can ensure that their leadership will be plentiful for years to come.

Our Leadership has been good, but not great. What I plan to do to make sure that everything at minimum gets done right is to set up an **accountability partner program**. Every council and chapter board member will get paired up with someone that is in a different chapter or council board. This way, peers will be required to check up on peers consistently and work with their friends to hit deadlines. I will also be hosting **Non-Position Specific Office Hours** once a month: sessions where anyone and everyone can learn leadership skills regardless of their title. And I will continue to hold counterpart calls, but I will also introduce regional network calls and have them often. Once a month, AZA and BBG Godolim and N'siot counterparts from the region will come together and have a space to communicate, discuss Eastern's agenda, Eastern's successes, Eastern's hardships, and anything else that comes to mind.

Our connections have given us opportunities to do so much and we have not taken advantage of them the way that we should have. First, we are a region unlike so many others- we have an incredible connection with the Ukraine. Specifically, Zaphyrosia. We were the first region to host an exchange trip, and I plan to make another trip happen, and to **host calls to discuss and compare programming and membership strategies with both communities**. And our conventions! Our convention programming excellence has gone up, so why has our attendance rate gone down? To get everyone to come to the best weekends of the year, I will **promote conventions using posts that get teens involved, just like Eastern TV and Spring Cultural Push Week**. This way, it is a personal connection that pushes the viewer to understand that they are wanted.

By pursuing excellence and completing these goals, I will strengthen our council, and I will hopefully have left my mark.

Fraternally Submitted, Aleph Michael Liam Stein