

What is your vision for the Michigan region for the 20-21 programming year?

My vision is togetherness and human connection as a focus for next year. As this year took quite a sharp turn, BBYO has proven to be a constant to depend on in trying times such as these. The way our community has stepped up and taken initiative to stay connected through a quarantine is admirable, and it shows how much love is within the region, for the region, and as a testament to the organization itself. That said, life will return to normal eventually.

My vision is to have programs not only catering to new members, but also fostering friendships, and encouraging new ones within the existing community. My vision includes strengthened sisterhood. This year's addition of BBG online brought to light the incredible group of BBGs in the region. I see big/little sister programming reach a regional level, and a few separate BBG and AZA events. But the community does include the amazing ALEPs, large scale regional events that gratify everyone's wants and instigate excitement all around the region.

I see chapters reaching and exceeding their individually tailored membership goals when working with the regional Aym Ha-Chaverot, and using creative prospect event ideas and making personal reachout a priority. I see each member feel valued, included, and finding their own place within the region.

The single constant bond between every member in BBYO, is Judaism. Community service, social action, and Jewish heritage are three pivotal folds, not to go undervalued. The regional Shlichah will stimulate excitement around Jewish programming by thinking outside the box with innovative ideas for chapters and the region to utilize. I see the region coming together for the best Shabbaton yet, also an opportunity to include more younger members involved in a planning process.

I also see convention and summer program attendance to rise, due to the fundraisers to put toward scholarships and subsidize the costs. The mindset while executing a fundraiser will be to allow more people to gain more from BBYO. Fundraise to raise the available amounts for game changer grants for S'ganim with big ideas, without enough resources. Or members who want to get involved, without the means for the full experience, excluded from bittkers and conventions. Along with fundraising for ISF and the chosen standup cause are efficient uses of BBYO's funds. The regional Gizborit will assist and support their chapter counterparts and make sure every chapter's bank account is steady, or on an incline.

The key to a successful year is to remember why anyone is here in the first place. Jewish teens coming together to celebrate our culture, and our unique and resilient community. Members should look back on their BBYO experience with thoughts of meeting their best friends, and making memories. My role will be to set a positive example as a leader and role model for the chapter N'siot to follow, and the rest of the region to look up to. I am confident my visions for Michigan region's 20-21 programming year can come to life!