

2027 YASD EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT

MELISSA
SOMOZA



Melissa started her career in libraries as a youth services page at South Huntington Public Library in 2015 and worked her way up to library clerk before leaving to join the teen department at Half Hollow Hills Community Library as a librarian trainee in 2022.

Melissa has been in the teen department at Half Hollow ever since, having grown and learned so much there, and at other libraries in Suffolk. At Half Hollow Hills, Melissa hosts tween & teen programming, participates in outreach, coaches Battle of the Books teams, presents at conferences, runs makerspace programs, and more.

In her free time, Melissa enjoys playing with her puppy, Franklin, long walks to the library, and adventuring to new places. She is Secretary of YASD this term and is excited to take on a larger role in YASD.

2027 YASD EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS

SECRETARY

RHIANNON
FIUST



Rhiannon Fiust is a full-time teen librarian at the Hampton Bays Public Library.

Her library career began in 2014 when she was hired as a page at the Brentwood Public Library while a senior in high school. It resumed in 2021 when she began working as a trainee at the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Public Library.

She has a bachelor's in English Literature from the University of New Haven, where she served as the Science-Fiction and Fantasy Club (Sci-Fi/Fantasy) Secretary for four years. While at the University of New Haven, she also served as the Undergraduate Student Government Association representative for both Sci-Fi/Fantasy and the Quidditch team.

Rhiannon received her Master's in Library & Information Science from Long Island University's Post campus in May 2022. If elected, this would be her first year serving on a professional executive board, and she is prepared for the responsibility.

Rhiannon believes that reading is crucial to the healthy development of children, families, and communities and, as such, has made it her mission to enable and encourage more people to utilize their local libraries as part of their everyday lives.

2027 YASD EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS

SECRETARY

ELIZABETH
LOPEZ



Lizzie began her library career at Sayville Library in 2023, working as both a Tech Services Technician and Circulation Clerk. She quickly realized that this was where and how she wanted to spend her career.

After graduating Summa Cum Laude from St. Joseph's University with a Bachelor's Degree in English, Lizzie enrolled at Queens College in pursuit of her Master's Degree in Library Science, with a focus on Children's and Teen Services.

Lizzie became a Librarian-Trainee in the Teen Department and has been having a terrific experience hosting programs, learning all about collection development, and interacting with Sayville's teens. Her detailed and organized nature ensures she will be an excellent fit for the role of secretary. Working with YASD would give Lizzie the opportunity to give back to the profession that has given her so much already.

2027 YASD EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS

MICHELE
NEVOLA

TREASURER



Michele Nevola is the Head of Teen Services at Brentwood Public Library, where she has spent nearly eight years creating an engaging environment for teens.

She began her library career at 16 as a page and has advanced through various roles, including clerk and librarian, gaining valuable experience along the way! In her current role, she oversees all teen-related initiatives at the library, serving an average of approximately 12,000 teens annually. Some of her most successful initiatives include our Annual Community Service Day and the Average Brentwood Teens Podcast.

2027 YASD EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINATIONS

MEMBER-AT-LARGE, FRAN ROMER

MICHELLE LAPINTA



Michelle La Pinta is a Teen Librarian at Commack Public Library.

When she's not at work, you can find Michelle outside in her garden, reading murder mysteries, cooking, and spending time with her cats, Crosby & Tegan.

She appreciates any and all votes and is excited for the opportunity to serve as a member of the YASD Board!