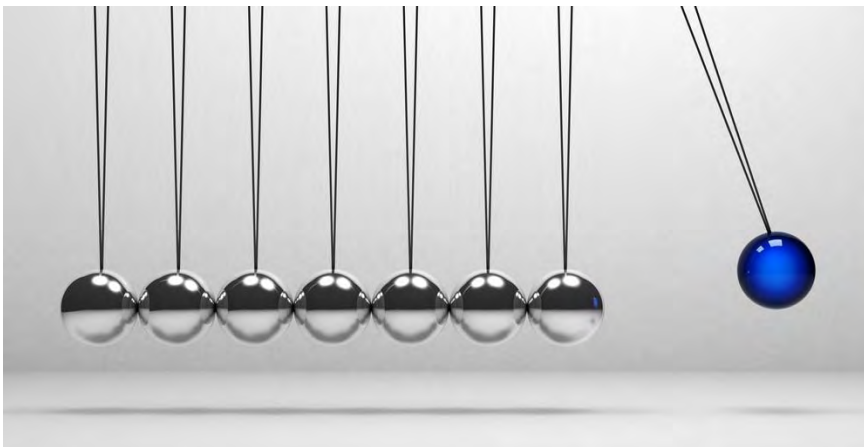




**NEW JERSEY HAS...**



**IMPACT**



**2017  
NJASC Review**

**Issue 3  
January 2018**



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Happy New Year, New Jersey! NJASC welcomes you back and are so excited for all the fantastic programs planned for the student leaders of New Jersey this year. In 2018, we plan to continue carrying the impactful legacy NJASC carries. The legacy is to train the student leaders of today as the adult leaders of tomorrow. We can't wait to see all of you and to inspire you to take action in your schools and communities, and making an impact on as many people as possible. Let's make 2018 another successful year for NJASC.

As our term sadly comes to an end, the 2017 State Officers would like to give a big hug and thank you to all the student leaders of New Jersey who participated in or attended NJASC programs this year. The memories that were made on this unforgettable journey that we have shared with you are fantastic. Together through the memories we have made helped us grow as leaders and individuals. Thank you, New Jersey, for all your support – and we wish the 2018 officers the best of luck.

# OUR YEAR WITH NJASC



# 2018 Presidential Candidates



Hello, New Jersey! My name is **Ajane Russell-Hopkins** and I am currently a junior at **Rancocas Valley Regional High School** (Go Red Devil Nation!). My experience as a leader traces back before high school, leadership has been a lifelong passion of mine. It started in the fourth grade when I became the very first president my school's mock society. It was such a big deal to a little girl with larger than life dreams. Ever since, I have aspired to become a better leader for my school, my community, myself and hopefully for NJASC soon. Within Rancocas Valley's Student Council, I have held the positions of Freshman Class President and Junior Class President. These roles have taught me both the hardships and the praiseworthy aspects of leadership. Sophomore year I lost the election, but that did not discourage that little girl inside of me with big dreams. In any and all ways I find methods to be a leader whether it is within big or small roles because the outcome is the greater goal. As a member of the Student Council I have helped organize events that have benefitted my school such as homecoming. I have also helped plan activities that benefit my community like toy drives and food drives.

Amidst all of these activities I also find time to put my organizational skills to use in other areas as well. I am involved with the big brothers/big sisters program where I mentor a fourth-grade student (who in many ways reminds me of that same little girl with big dreams) and amazingly teaches me as much as I teach him! In addition to being a mentor, I am also a member of NHS, which pushes me to become an active member of the community, and the school's Crochet for Comfort Club where they are attempting to teach me how to crochet (it is all a work in progress). Taking on new challenges never fails to keep me busy! Being an avid sports fan, I also volunteer as the Girls' Basketball Team Manager as well as the Boys' Baseball Team manager, two seasons where I find myself thriving with personal growth because of the family atmosphere and teamwork; win lose or draw the experience is one unlike many others.

NJASC has become a big part of my heart in the past few years. Freshman and sophomore year, I attended the conferences at TCNJ where my love for NJASC began to grow. This past summer I attended LTC. There I grew as both an individual and a leader. There aren't many things better than making long lasting friends who push you to grow and building connections with officers who do their very best to pull out the greatest pieces inside of you so that at the end of four days the leader I began the conference as had blossomed into a teammate, a red team sister, and a better individual in all areas.

Becoming a member of the NJASC state board will allow me to build connections and bonds with both the other officers as well as statewide student councils. On top of this I will also be able to learn more about both myself and others while observing and enacting a variety of leadership styles that are both effective and inspiring. The desire to serve as part of the state board comes from deep within my heart; together we will accomplish great things for NJ.

# 2018 Presidential Candidates



Hello, New Jersey! I am **Dominic Decker**, a junior from **Holy Cross Academy** in Delran. I am beyond grateful and honored to be running for the position of President of the NJASC. The NJASC has been a huge part of my school for almost 40 years. As a member of my school's Student Council, I also wanted to be apart of that tradition. This summer I attended LTC to enhance my leadership skills. LTC helped me improve my public speaking skills, confidence, and much more.

At Holy Cross, I was elected freshman class president and was elected again as sophomore class president. During those years I organized Homecoming floats and activities, two class trips and school dances. Holy Cross' Student Council also organizes events that raise money for the NJASC State Charity since becoming part of the organization. I then wanted to become apart of my school's executive board, so I ran for one of the Vice Presidents and won. At Holy Cross, the highest position a junior can hold on the executive board is Vice President. Being a member of my school's executive board allowed me to apply my leadership skills, learned at LTC, to a higher level.

I am not only a member of student council, but also a member of multiple sports teams and clubs. I have been part of the football, basketball, and soccer teams. I have also been a member of my school's Key Cub, a service club, and have been accepted into the National Honors Society. LTC also helped me learn how to manage my time and stay organized while being apart of many activities. Outside of school I am a member of Caritas, a group that does activities with special needs teens. This group has inspired me to help change the lives of others and understand how much the little things in life matter.

It is a great honor and privilege to be running for the NJASC Executive Board President. The NJASC has made a huge impact on my life. Throughout my high school career, I have attended every fall, winter, and spring conference, have raised money for the state charity every year, and attended LTC. Through the years, I have learned that State Officers act as role models and use their leadership skills to help the community. I am ready to continue this tradition and continue to make the students of New Jersey better leaders. With the help of Holy Cross and being elected by you, I hope to make this year's selection of state officers the best it can be!

# 2018 State Office Candidates

## **PRESIDENT**

- Ajanee Hopkins - Rancocas Valley Regional HS
- Dominic Decker - Holy Cross Academy

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

- Leia Gibson - Burlington Township HS
- Sonit Puri - Mercer County Technical Schools Health Sciences Academy

## **SECRETARY**

- Hevti Patwa - Kingsway Regional HS
- Maura Scott - Palmyra HS

## **TREASURER**

- Christopher Palazzo - Williamstown HS
- Chris Forlini - Shore Regional HS

## **EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

- Madison Miller - Seneca HS
- Samantha Justis - Collingswood HS
- Radhika Shah - Hightstown HS
- Angie Martinez - Neptune HS
- Nina Gohel - Lenape HS
- Maria Elena Fiordelisi - Fusion Academy of Princeton

## **STATE BOE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

- Nora Faverzani - Ocean City HS

## **MIDDLE LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE**

- Geovanni Flores Peralta - Lakewood MS

## 2017-2018 State Charity



America's Grow-a-Row's mission is to positively impact as many lives as possible through a volunteer effort of planting, picking, rescuing, and delivering free fresh produce. This program started in 2002 with a small plot and a single volunteer (Chip Paillex). After seeing a plea from the Flemington Food Pantry requesting that any gardeners donate excess

produce, Chip and his daughter Kyra, who was four years old at the time, cultivated their own garden and donated about \$3,000 worth, or 120 pounds, of produce that year. From these humble beginnings, we've grown into an organization that has donated over 6 million pounds of produce through the active participation of more than 7,000 volunteers!

To help support our 2017-2018 state charity, you can organize your own volunteer field trip at Grow-a-Row or fundraise in your schools and communities. We hope all you student leaders are ready to get involved and support their great cause!

**For more information:**

Visit: <http://www.americasgrowarow.org/>

Contact: [908-328-9945](tel:908-328-9945)

# 2017 Presidential Farewell

To those ready to make an impact,

Ladies and Gentlemen, that is another year in the books! Let me tell you it was a year of progress, inspiration, success, and most importantly fun! A year ago, I was given a chance to make an impact along with my board and take the NJASC to another level, and we made the most of every moment.

I am extremely grateful for the chance to meet and work with eight unique, enthusiastic, loving, and caring people who I can proudly call my family: Claire, Makayla, Khalid, Emily, Sofia, Kaelyn, Karan, and Emma. All together we accomplished our goal of having an impact on the student leaders of New Jersey. Our bond only strengthened as we travelled to Halifax, PA for the Region 2 conference and up the coast to New England for the National Conference. We had an impact on kids not just in New Jersey but all around the country and even internationally!

It was an honor and a privilege to work alongside with America's Grow a Row to help bring fresh produce to those who need it most. I had the pleasure to spend a day out in the fields with my fellow LTC staff members as we prepared the fields for next years crops. During our time working, there is no place I would rather be, but making an impact with the people I love, doing the things I love.

I would like to thank all the NJASC Administrative Assistants: Becky, Connor, Matt, Ruth, Kelsie, and Austin. These six keep the gears well-oiled and running smoothly and I have a great respect for everything they do for the organization!

There are two people who are the glue of the organization, they are two of the most caring people you will meet, and because of them NJASC is where it is today. I am extremely grateful for Lou Miller and Wendy Booth-Sitzler, the Advisors of the NJASC. I have had the distinct pleasure to work with Lou and Wendy dating back to my role as Middle Level Representative in 2013. It is clear to me that this whole program is successful because of their passion for leadership and willingness to instill it in others.

I have to send out a big thank you to Phillipsburg High School. Everyone from the administration to the students have given me a great deal of support through my journey in student council. A special thanks to my advisors Mr. Kiley and Mr. English. Both of you took me in as a freshman and grew me into the leader I am today, and I cannot thank you enough.

Finally, thank you to all of you! The passion each and every one of you has for leadership is what allows an organization such as NJASC to thrive! With your outstanding energy at our conferences, to breaking the attendance record at LTC, all of you never fail to exceed expectations. Now go out, live in the moment, and make an impact!

Peace, Peace, Peace,  
Cole Mitchell





# 2017 Farewell



After making a major impact on 2017 for NJASC, the State Officers have many people to thank for their help and support. First off, we'd like to thank our Administrative Assistants. All the behind the scenes work you all do is greatly appreciated and it is because of you guys, the events for NJASC run so smoothly.

Secondly, we would like to thank our amazing Executive Directors. Lou and Wendy, there are no words to explain how grateful we are that we get to work in the best organization, NJASC. The reason why it is so great is because you two give the board all the support and guidance that we need. We also send a huge thank you to our LTC family for supporting us and giving us an incredible LTC experience. This past summer was unforgettable, thanks to you.

Lastly, a huge thank you goes out to all the student leaders of New Jersey for getting so involved and being so passionate. Thank you for going on this journey with us and many new friendships. Never forget to make an impact. Never forget to invoke Inspirational, Motivation Promoting Ambitious Creative Thinking! We hope the 2018 State Officers have an experience as amazing as ours, as they lead New Jersey through another great year of student leadership!

# Upcoming Events

- **Winter Convention**  
Wednesday January 10, 2018
- **Executive Meetings**  
March 2018 (date T.B.D.)  
April 27, 2018
- **Advisors' Workshop**  
Monday March 12, 2018 at TCNJ
- **Region 2 Northeast Leaders Conference**  
April 27-29, 2018 at Ocean City High School
- **Spring Awards Program**  
Wednesday May 30, 2018 at Six Flags Great Adventure
- **National Student Council Conference Trip**  
June 22-28, 2018 at Wayzata High School, Plymouth MN

