

**LFHS Cancel Culture Cancels Nationally Recognized YAF Club for Failure
to “Hold Monthly Meetings” During COVID**

May 23, 2021. Lake Forest, Illinois.

Despite gaining national recognition from the Young Americans for Freedom’s National Board in 2020 and being the most popular club at LFHS, LFHS administrators have cancelled LFHS YAF, effective immediately.

We obtained the email from YAF’s faculty sponsor, sent May 21, 2021, setting forth the reasons for cancelling LFHS YAF:

*Hi [*****] -*

The Stipend Committee reviewed and discussed the YAF application to transition to a full-time club. The Committee determined that the pilot did not meet the established criteria for pilot clubs, including holding monthly meetings.

If there is a future interest in applying to have YAF as a pilot club, students are eligible to apply again in the fall of 2022.

Thank you,

Ashleigh

Ashleigh Malec

Student Activities Director / Theater Instructional Director

Lake Forest High School

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Ashleigh Malec, described as a “General Administrator” on internal LFHS finance documents [makes over \\$113,000/year in salary and benefits](#). She is also known as the “Club Czar” as she was hired by disgraced outgoing Superintendent Mike Simeck solely to keep tabs on dodgy youth activity at LFHS, like the subversive “Art Club” the obviously suspect “Bass Fishing Club” and the perennially shady “Chess Club.”

Her “standards” for determining the “established criteria” for “pilot clubs” must have been only recently developed as [earlier published reports](#) on those pilot program “standards” are only that they should “run for about a year to see how it goes, basically, to see if it takes off”, according to Ms. Malec. “Sometimes they fizzle out.” LFHS YAF, having won National YAF’s “High School Chapter of the Year” in 2020 apparently “fizzled out”, even though, pre-COVID, the YAF students packed the school auditorium for presentations by Steve Forbes, Rachel Campos-Duffy and former U.S. Congressman Sean Duffy.

In the era of COVID it is heartening to know the Stipend Committee is holding fast to pre-COVID criteria for student life, even while the rest of the LFHS community, and the entire planet, have adapted new “criteria” defining acceptable progress. Many wonder why Ms. Malec is still employed, having failed to live up to the “established criteria” that she show up for work every morning in 2020.



Also sitting on the “Stipend Committee” to decide which clubs are cancelled and which are not are outgoing principal Chala “[No Love for YAF Chapter](#)” Holland, and the incoming and outgoing head of the LFHS teachers’ union, ostensibly to merely “set the stipend” for the sponsor of a given LFHS club.

According to the current LFHS YAF sponsor, the YAF club did not meet in April due to the illness of some students and the start of Spring sports season outside after 12 months’ inactivity. Unnamed sources opined that after 12 months indoor in front of computer screens, many students shockingly opted to go outside and engage in sports rather than attend the April YAF meeting.

Currently under investigation is whether other “pilot clubs”, like the dubious “Life Focus Club”, lethal “Yo-Yo Club” and ruthless “Investment Club” will escape Ms. Malec’s eagle-eyed surveillance and live up to pre-COVID, “established criteria” for their continued existence.



Many suspect the “Stipend Committee” is illegally and unconstitutionally exercising viewpoint discrimination against YAF club members based on the LFHS Administration’s opposition to the YAF Chapter in the first place.

Lawsuits against LFHS for unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination will cost District taxpayers thousands of dollars in legal fees and ultimate awards. It is unfortunate Ms. Malec and the Stipend Committee did not attend “Constitution Club” in their youth.

YAF History at LFHS Shows Institutional and Unconstitutional Opposition

For several months, students battled teachers, administrators and anti-speech community members at Lake Forest High School and finally, in 2019, a Young Americans for Freedom chapter finally succeeded in gaining permission to meet as an official “club” at LFHS. Conversely, the high school Democrat Club at LFHS was approved within weeks.

Packing the school auditorium with students anxious to hear talks from Rachel Campos-Duffy, former U.S. Congressman Sean Duffy and Steve Forbes, the LFHS YAF chapter hit the ground running in 2019 and became the most popular club at LFHS. It was on track for even better programming before COVID hit.

But there was plenty of institutional opposition from the start. YAF filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the school to uncover it, as did the author of this piece.

“I question whether this group is appropriate for our school and students,” one teacher at Lake Forest High School said in an internal email obtained by Young America’s Foundation.

In another internal email, a teacher inquired about the “premise” of the group, stating “to be forthcoming and transparent, a group was formed earlier this year with extreme politics and ideals, mostly dealing with hate, racism, and homophobia, and certainly I am not comfortable with a group like that again.”

Those “extreme politics and ideals” included planting American flags on the LFHS front lawn to commemorate the victims of the 9/11 strikes in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania and later, when not allowed at LFHS in 2019, planting those flags at Lake Forest’s Market Square in 2020.

In 2019, Alisa Giannelli, the co-founder of the YAF chapter at LFHS, said that two years earlier, a student tried to start a YAF chapter but was told that the group was “too controversial.” She said that communication and endurance were key to ensuring the successful formation of the chapter this year, despite attempts to block it. [She stated that](#), “through consistent endurance and simple communication, we were able to prevail in communicating the true values of YAF.”

According to [National YAF](#): “LFHS YAF embodies what high school conservative groups should aspire to emulate. Led by Chairman Alisa Giannelli, LFHS YAF worked exceptionally hard to become an institution in the town of Lake Forest, a suburb of Chicago. Beginning last year, the chapter fought for several months to achieve school recognition, with nearly 100 students showing up to gatherings and demanding that conservatives be allowed to organize on campus. After succeeding, much thanks to public pressure provided by students, parent, and the local community, the YAF chapter went on to carry out numerous projects including National YAF’s flagship projects and community-oriented activism to address prevalent issues like abortion and socialism.”



Let LFHS know what you think about cancelling free speech at LFHS:

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