

**UNITED
SYNAGOGUE
YOUTH**



CHUSY REGION

**ELECTION
HANDBOOK**

2013 - 2014



CHUSY REGION
צעירי בתי כנסת המאוחדים
UNITED SYNAGOGUE YOUTH

601 Skokie Boulevard, Suite 402, Northbrook, IL 60062
 847.714.9130 Fax: 847.714.9133
 chusy@uscj.org
 www.chusy.org

Dear Prospective Candidate,

By accepting this packet, you have already made the first part of a major decision – whether or not to run for a position on CHUSY’s Regional Executive Board. This is not any easy task and you must sort through numerous ideas before making this important decision.

As an officer you will have many expectations and will be making a tremendous commitment to USY and to Judaism. With all the responsibilities and challenges you will face also come great rewards. Serving as an officer will give you a unique opportunity to grow as a leader, as a Jew, and as a person. This experience will help you develop skills that you will carry with you through your life.

You cannot make the decision to run for office alone. This decision not only impacts you, but also your family. I encourage you to have a serious discussion with your family about the commitment you will be making as a member of CHUSY’s Regional Executive Board. Your family’s support and understanding are necessary for a successful term.

There are many responsibilities of an officer. Each officer must be committed to USY in every aspect. Officers must attend frequent meetings for CHUSY and for the chapters, in addition to the obligation one still has to his/her own chapter. The Regional Office will become your second home as you will often be there to assist with programming and office work. By accepting the position of an officer you are also accepting that many of your weeknights, weekends, and Shabbatot may not be spent at home.

Every Regional Officer must understand that our goal is to bring USYers closer to Conservative Judaism and to strengthen our Movement. Officers are expected to demonstrate this to their peers and lead by example at all times – at USY programs and outside of USY programs. Being a *dugma* is one of the most important aspects of being an officer.

An officer's academic schoolwork and family obligations ALWAYS come first, however, USY is your very next priority. This means it comes before sports, band, or any other extracurricular activities.

Thank you for your commitment to USY. I wish you the best of luck and success!

B'Shalom

Julie Marder
 Director of Youth Activities

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 president@chusy.org

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 Julie Marder

CHUSY YOUTH COMMISSION CHAIR
 Larry Sklar

FIELDWORKER
 Rachel Siegal

PAST PRESIDENTS
 Shoshana Schachter Kushner • Rabbi Edmund Winter • Lynda Comitor Fisher • Michael Hoffman • Dr. Ira Shoulson • Richard Hoffman • Steven Helfgot • Rabbi Murray Rosman • Roni Singer • Atissa Levin • Larry Sternberg • Orin Rotman • Kenneth Berg • Joel Teibloom • Richard Moline • Rabbi David Kay • Marcia Tatz Wollner • Paula Okunieff • Jeffery Schoenberg • Lisa Shalowitz/™ • Stan Braude • Michael Cohen • Michael Silverman • Geoff Wexler • Bennett Kaplan • Rabbi David Israel • Audra Kaplan Spellberg • Jacob Handelman • Ann Hartman Luban • Robert Festenstein • Billy Padnos • Rabbi Aaron Brusso • Phillip Lavine • Dave Lindner • Josh Ruebner • Brad Finkel • Brooke Weinstein • Zach Shankman • Julie Friedland Marder • Robert Hanson • Benjamin Caplan • Henry Bernstein • Shira Steinberg Abraham • Jessica Weintraub Robinson • Rebecca Russo • Josh Altman • Shoshana Sprague • Jillian Zarem • Jeremy Siegel • Jacob Stoehr • Seth Lerman • Hannah Miller • Daniel Warshawsky • Aaron Freeman



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Memorandum

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TO: Eligible Candidates for the CHUSY Regional Executive Board
FROM: Elan Neshar Sykes, 2012-2013 CHUSY Regional President
RE: 2013-2014 CHUSY Regional Elections

REB: The Regional Executive Board. The name evokes fun, excitement, responsibility, and leadership. Every year, CHUSY gathers at Kinnus to choose the next generation of leaders to serve on the REB. "REB" is an exciting ambition for many, but the motivations of a leader must go deeper than the prospect of posing in public. Leaders of CHUSY must affirm dedication to and love of their communities: the chapter, the region, and to Judaism. CHUSY Region was founded in 1951, but our connection to each other as part of the Jewish people traces back thousands of years. Members of the Regional Executive Board take on the duty to update and strengthen this connection in high school students in Deerfield, in Madison, in Chicago, in Evanston, in Highland Park and beyond.

Future leaders of CHUSY, you must be ready to make a difference. You must be ready to pour everything you have into improving and developing the fantastic kehillah of the Chicago Region. Those who have picked up this packet, the mere fact of your interest shows that you have the potential to lead the region successfully. Ask yourself the big questions: Why am I running for CHUSY's REB? What can I do to make a difference? Do I have the desire and time to put in the work? Do I care? *Why* do I care? A year of service on the Regional Executive Board will give you the opportunity to contribute to CHUSY, but it is also an experience which challenges and encourages you to grow. JFK stated in his inaugural address, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what *you* can do for your country". This doesn't exactly fit the mandate for CHUSY Board. My two years on REB as Executive/Israel Affairs VP and Regional President have been filled with amazing personal growth, development of my leadership skills, and new bonds with my fellow board members. Think carefully about the costs and benefits you will undertake during the coming year: the time, effort, friendships, work, memories created, new expectations, and new rules to follow. Discuss your plans with your parents: they will also play a crucial role in your year on REB.

Last, do not be intimidated by the campaign and election process; the courage you show by standing before a crowd and submitting to its scrutiny will be recognized by the voters in itself. The process is a learning and growing opportunity for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me, I am here for any of your needs.

Behatzlacha and Good Luck,
Elan Neshar Sykes, 2012-2013 CHUSY Regional President

CAMPAIGN PROCEDURES

1. All Enforcement Sheets and Qualification Sheets are due no later than **Friday, March 1, 2013.**

These forms must be mailed to the CHUSY Regional Office:

CHUSY REGION, 601 Skokie Blvd. Suite 402, Northbrook, IL 60062

2. The statement in the Qualification Sheet may not exceed 150 words.
3. Any false information will automatically eliminate the applicant from eligibility to run for a Regional Office.
4. All potential candidates and at least one of his/her parents **must attend** a Candidate & Parent's Information meeting on **Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Regional Office.
5. All potential candidates must meet with the Selection Committee either immediately preceding or immediately following the Information Meeting on Tuesday evening, March 6, 2012 at the Regional Office. The Selection Committee, consisting of a representative(s) of the Regional Youth Commission, Regional Youth Director and Regional USY President, will determine who is an eligible candidate for Regional Office.
6. All potential candidates should be a current member, or working towards becoming a member, of the Abraham Joshua Heschel Honor Society, *HeChalutzim* member and a 613 Mitzvot Club member.
7. Absolutely no campaigning will be permitted until after applicants are notified of their candidacy. There will be no "vicious" campaigning and no campaigning on Shabbat (and holidays).
8. There is a \$15 campaign expense account limit. Any candidate exceeding this limit will forfeit his/her eligibility.
9. **SPEECHES:** All speeches will be given at the annual CHUSY Region Kinnus (Spring Convention). Candidates for President will give a speech of no more than 5 minutes; all other candidates' speeches will not exceed 3 minutes. No audience participation will be allowed in speeches or nominations.

OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Carefully consider the responsibilities of each office upon declaring your desired position.

PRESIDENT

1. Shall call and preside over all meetings of the Region.
2. Shall serve as official representative of CHUSY to International USY and to all other organizations unless otherwise stated in the constitution.
3. Shall report to the Region as to the State of the Region.
4. Shall serve as an ex-officio of all committees.
5. Shall have the power to make decisions for the Region in times of emergency. The Executive Board and the Regional Director must approve these decisions.
6. Shall oversee these Regional Board positions: Keshet

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:

1. Shall oversee all regional programs excluding the Tikun Olam Marathon
2. Shall oversee all activities between chapters and have the power to clear all programs involving more than three chapters
3. Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties
4. Shall serve as President, taking all appropriate rights and responsibilities, upon absence or incapability of the President

ISRAEL AFFAIRS VICE PRESIDENT

1. Shall be responsible for overseeing all aspects of Israel programming including Israel Shabbaton.
2. Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties.
3. Shall be responsible for overseeing certain chapters as decided by the President.

MEMBERSHIP/KADIMA VICE PRESIDENT

1. Shall oversee these Regional Board positions: Kadima, Kadima Kallah, Senior Programming, Athletics, 8th Grade Shabbaton, Schechter Shabbatonim, and SSDS and CJHS Outreach.
2. Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties.
3. Shall serve as the President upon the absence of above mentioned officers.
4. Shall be responsible for overseeing certain chapters as decided by the President.

RELIGION/EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT

1. Shall oversee these Regional Board positions: Religion, Education, Ruach, Shabbat Enhancement, A.J. Heschel Honor Society.
2. Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties.
3. Shall be responsible for overseeing certain chapters as decided by the President.

SOCIAL ACTION/TIKUN OLAM VICE PRESIDENT

1. Shall oversee these Regional Board positions: Social Action, Tikun Olam, Social Action/Tikun Olam Marathon.
2. Shall serve on all Tikun Olam committees.
3. Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties.
4. Shall be responsible for overseeing certain chapters as decided by the President.

COMMUNICATIONS VICE PRESIDENT

1. Shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Region.
2. Shall issue all correspondence as directed by the President.
3. Shall oversee these Regional Board positions: Harakevet, Yearbook, Online Services, Regalia, International Convention Liaison.
4. Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties.
5. Shall be responsible for overseeing certain chapters as decided by the President.

OUTLINE/GUIDE FOR QUALIFICATION SHEET

Here are guidelines for creating a Qualification Sheet. The bold headings divide the information into sections; please provide specific information under each category.

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Position Desired

Name

Email

Grade & Age

Chapter

USY ACTIVITIES - This includes positions held and attendance record.

Chapter Involvement/Experience

Regional Involvement/Experience

International Programs/Affiliations

JEWISH EDUCATION

Present Studies

Previous Studies - Sunday/Hebrew School, Hebrew High School, Camps/Trips

Religious Skills - ability to lead services/blessings, synagogue participation

SECULAR EDUCATION

School and extracurricular activities

Special Honors and distinctions

A BRIEF STATEMENT

The purpose of this essay is twofold: First to illustrate your commitment to Judaism and USY for delegate evaluation, and second for you to begin to seriously consider your position on those matters which are significant to any position of committed Jewish leadership. Also, keep in mind that by applying for this position you are agreeing to commit yourself to the ideals of USY and obligating yourself to the standards of United Synagogue Youth. As the late Abraham Joshua Heschel said, "We are all granted the right to challenge Halacha and Torah, but when all else is taken away from us, our ideals and traditions are all we have left."

IN CLOSING

Each Qualification Sheet requires your personal signature.

INTENTION TO DROP DOWN

Do not state this intention on your Qualification Sheet. However, be prepared to declare it.

For all offices except the Presidency, the President shall ask for any candidates who have been defeated for a higher office if they wish to drop down and run for an office at that announced election time. No one will be allowed to drop down more than once. Each candidate prior to Kinnus must state their intention to drop down to the Regional President.

STANDARDS FOR CANDIDACY

Since the USY Regional Officer is a representative of Conservative Judaism, it is expected that the ideals and principles of our Movement will permeate every facet of his/her life. To be considered for candidacy, a USYer must meet the following minimum standards:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Region, the year preceding, including:
 - A. Membership in good standing of your USY chapter.
 - B. Attendance of at least 75% of all chapter functions.
 - C. Attendance of a minimum of 4 religious services monthly, two of which must be Shabbat
 - D. Supervised Judaic study of at least 4 hours per month.
 - E. A reading knowledge of Hebrew, or that the candidate is in the process of acquiring such knowledge.
2. Participate in the planning of chapter activities.
3. Have attended at least 75% of all Regional programs the year preceding elections.
4. Have been at least one of the following, for at least two terms total experience:
 - Chapter Officer
 - Regional General Board Member
 - Regional Officer
5. Be in at least their second year of attendance in High School
6. Code of Conduct - The candidate will have had a proper Code of Conduct at all USY functions. This includes no use of drugs or alcohol or any other infringement of any other USY rules and regulations.

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ELECTED OFFICER

Once elected, an officer must have the above-mentioned qualifications throughout his/her term. In addition, he/she must:

1. Attend 100% of all Regional functions unless otherwise excused by the Regional President and Regional Youth Director.
2. Observe the laws of Kashrut.
3. Observe Shabbat and Jewish Holidays with regard to the responsum of the Rabbinical Assembly pertaining to travel, and by refraining from all school exams and public functions.
4. Participate in a supervised Judaic studies program other than USY chapter studies for a minimum of 2 hours per week.
5. Attend 75% of own chapter functions.
6. It is expected that officers will refrain from relationships that can be construed as inter-dating.
7. Attend a minimum of 4 religious services monthly, 3 of which must be Shabbat.
8. Refrain from the illegal use of drugs and alcohol.

A GUIDE TO USY STANDARDS

1. Why do we have standards?

“As leaders of USY, the Officers serve as accessible Jewish role models (dugmaot) to the USY constituency. In that capacity, they are expected to aspire to become ideal conservative Jews, reflecting a strong commitment to Jewish survival and the performance of mitzvot.”

Almost since the inception of USY, the USY leadership felt that those elected as USY leaders have a unique obligation to serve as role models for their peers. In fact, that's an important part of being a leader in any framework.

Your commitment will serve as an inspiration to other USYers, and will lead many of them to strengthen their commitment to Jewish observance and values that are the foundation of the Conservative Movement.

Because we are a Jewish Youth Organization affiliated with the Conservative Movement, a number of our standards focus upon Jewish observance. These standards are based on the foundation of religious observance, our *halacha*, which is followed by Conservative Jews. (Your Rabbi can provide books and readings for more information on this subject).

Each of us begins our term with different levels of commitment. For many of us, regular observance of Shabbat and Kashrut will be a new experience. Don't let that scare you away. Many of the Rabbis, educators, and committed lay people in our Movement began to strengthen their Jewish commitment as USYers. It had a lasting impact on their lives. Our goal, in USY, is to teach the importance of Jewish values and observance. Thus, our leaders must represent a lifestyle that we proudly encourage.

2. Shabbat and Haggim (holidays)

"The officers of United Synagogue Youth shall observe the Sabbath and Holidays with regard to the Responsum of the Rabbinical Assembly pertaining to travel, and by refraining from all school examinations and public functions thereon".

a) The holidays referred to above are as follows: Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, the first two days of Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, the first two days and the seventh and eighth days of Pesach and Shavuot. Those holidays often occur on regular school days. When that happens **you need to be excused from school**. (Your rabbi can be of assistance).

b) In a booklet like this it isn't possible for us to go into detail about the specifics of Shabbat observance. There are a number of restrictions however, which should be mentioned. In order to make your Shabbat more meaningful you should refrain from writing or spending money. While the Conservative Movement permits travel to and from one's own synagogue on Shabbat, it is not permissible to travel to any place else in a motor vehicle (with the exception of a medical emergency). There are different

opinions about the use of electricity. For this and other questions you should turn to your rabbi for guidance. If you use the phone on Shabbat, it should never be used to conduct any USY business.

c) There are always unique situations where you might be able to "get around" the law without actually breaking it. For example, if your friends wanted to go to the movies on Shabbat and purchased a ticket on your behalf, and if you could walk to the movie theater, you wouldn't actually be breaking the rules, but this would still be a violation of standards. This also means that attending or participating in any school or outside activities is **prohibited**.

d) In general, the rules for the holidays mentioned above are the same as those which apply to Shabbat. (Note: this applies for **both** days when a holiday has two days).

e) Obviously, you will have to refrain from school activities which take place on Shabbat and holidays. As you know, most standardized tests (SAT I/II, ACT, etc.) are given on Shabbat. There is always an alternate test date which is usually on a Sunday. A list of these dates is available from your Regional Director and/or the International USY office. If you live somewhere that does not offer alternative testing dates on Sundays, contact your Regional USY Director or the International USY office **immediately**. **Do not** take the test on Saturday just because you do not think it is possible.

f) USY board members are expected to refrain from using E-Mail and the Internet on Shabbat and holidays.

3. Kashrut

"The officers shall observe the dietary laws where possible in private and at all times in public".

a) You may wonder how we define "in private". Many USYers do not come from homes where the Jewish Dietary laws are observed. It may be difficult for you and your parents to change your observance at home. If your parents and other members of your family do not observe Kashrut at home, it may be difficult for you to observe Kashrut in those situations. However, in the spirit of Kashrut, you should refrain from eating certain non-kosher products (Pork, shellfish, etc.) All other situations are considered to be public, even if there are no other USYers around. (Note: this includes situations where USYers are at YOUR home for either a program or another social function).

b) If you eat out with your family or friends, our first preference would be that you eat at a kosher establishment. We realize, however, that such facilities do not exist in most communities. Most communities do have vegetarian restaurants. It is easiest to observe Kashrut if you limit yourself to these options. If that isn't possible you should limit your options to dairy foods (preferably cold). You may not eat any meat or shell fish out. During all eight days of Passover you won't be able to eat out, unless there is a kosher establishment in your community which is open on Pesach. Here, too, you can seek additional guidance from your Rabbi.

4. Judaic Study and Religious Services

"The officers shall participate in some mode of Judaic study for not less than three hours weekly. They shall attend not less than four religious services monthly, three of which must be on the Shabbat".

a) Ideally every Jew, no matter what age, should be involved in Judaic study. There is always something we can learn.

b) If you are currently enrolled in a Jewish Day School, this requirement is met automatically. Otherwise, you have a number of options. Most communities have a Hebrew High School. In some cases it is sponsored by your synagogue, while in other instances it may be sponsored by the community. Some synagogues offer "confirmation" programs which fall into the same category. Where there is no organized program you may wish to set up a regular program of study with your Rabbi. If there are no options available locally, you can enroll in the USY Home Study Program by contacting the International office.

c) The rule about synagogue attendance is fairly straightforward. While the minimum is three Shabbat services and one other, we encourage you to make a commitment to your synagogue's daily minyan on a regular basis.

5. Interdating

“It is expected that leaders of the organization will refrain from relationships which can be construed as interdating”.

Interdating is a difficult term to define. There is no way that we can actually define a "date". Basically, if you are going out with a group of friends (as a group and not with one specific individual in that group), one would assume that this is not a date. That which is considered dating should be clear-cut, and therefore is prohibited. If you aren't sure, the best solution is to ask your Regional Director for guidance.

6. Illegal Drugs and alcohol

“It is expected that the leaders of the organization refrain from the illegal use of drugs and the illegal use of alcohol.”

This section, added in 2001 reflects the importance we place upon USY Leaders serving as role models, not only in term so Jewish ritual practice. By refraining from the illegal use of drugs and alcohol USY officers and IGB members make a very clear statement and serve as an example to others. Alcohol use is illegal under both USY and Canadian law for all people of USY - age, and drug use is illegal under US and Canadian law for all people. In addition , Jewish law emphasizes the importance of the sanctity of our bodies, meaning we should refrain from engaging in activities that harm our bodies (i. e. both drugs and alcohol).

7. Regional (and chapter) activities

"The officers participate actively in the affairs of their respective Regions".

When the standards were originally written, and included in the International USY constitution, they were designed for the International USY officers. In later years they were expanded to include all Regional USY officers (see #7, below). Most Regional constitutions specify the number of Regional and Chapter events you must attend in your region.

Don't neglect your chapter. The chapter is the heart of USY. If you ignore your chapter once elected to Regional office, you will weaken the very heart of our activities.

8. Who is obligated to follow these standards?

"The provisions contained herein shall also apply to the remainder of the members of the General International Board of USY as well as all members of Regional Executive Boards".

You can make a difference! By following these standards we hope that you will continue to grow Jewishly. In doing so you will encourage other USYers to grow, as well.

9 What are the consequences?

"The International Youth Commission, USY President, all Regional Youth Commissioners, Presidents and Directors shall make every effort to assure that these basic standards are adhered to by our USY leaders."

Both Regional and International USY may each take a different view on how to handle standards violations. However, some of the possible consequences include (but are not limited to) probation and/or suspension from office, loss of kinnus subsidies, loss of vote for your particular voting body, and impeachment/removal/resignation from office. Abiding by these standards reflects greatly on any group of leaders who are designated to follow them, and therefore any violation of these standards shall be taken with the utmost seriousness.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your Regional Director, the International USY officers, or a member of the International USY staff.

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CHUSY REGION UNITED SYNAGOGUE YOUTH
601 SKOKIE BOULEVARD, SUITE 402
NORTHBROOK, IL 60062

ENFORCEMENT SHEET

Candidate's Name: _____

Office Desired: _____

If elected, I agree to uphold the standards expected of a Regional Officer as stated in the CHUSY Constitution and realize that misconduct at any USY function will be grounds for my impeachment and/or dismissal.

Candidate's Signature _____

I understand that it will be necessary for my son/daughter to participate and meet the demands relating to holding a Regional USY Office. I support my child's commitment to USY and Conservative Judaism.

Parent's Signature _____

I realize that _____ is seeking a Regional USY Office in CHUSY. I have read over the "**Standards for Candidacy**" and, to the best of my knowledge, this USYer meets **ALL** of the **Standards for Candidacy**. My signature approves this USY'er's eligibility to run for Regional USY Office.

Chapter Youth Director/Advisor's Signature:

Rabbi's/Cantor's Signature:

Jewish Educator's Signature:

Chapter President's Signature:
