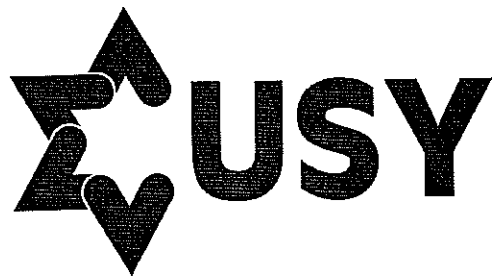


**UNITED
SYNAGOGUE
YOUTH**



CHUSY REGION

**ELECTION
HANDBOOK**

2014 - 2015



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

TO: Eligible Candidates for the 2014-2015 CHUSY Regional Executive Board
FROM: Arin Kerstein, 2013-2014 CHUSY Regional President
RE: 2014-2015 CHUSY Regional Elections

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president@chusy.org

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DIRECTOR OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES
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 • Alissa 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 • Elan Sykes

If you are reading this letter, you undoubtedly have already largely committed yourself to CHUSY Region. Your mere interest in running for a position on the Regional Executive Board shows your dedication to the region and its success. You may have dreamed of serving on REB since you discovered its existence, or you may be thinking about it for the first time, as you explore options for the year to come. No matter what brought you to considering running, I applaud you for taking this first step forward and demonstrating your serious interest.

Serving on the REB is an open door, having the potential to lead to boundless opportunities. During my two years on the REB as Communications Vice President and as Regional President, I have met people and have had experiences that have strengthened my leadership skills and tightened my grasp of my own identity, in terms of Judaism and beyond.

Members of the REB take on the duty to update and strengthen this connection in high school students throughout the Chicagoland-area. Leaders of CHUSY must affirm dedication to their communities within the chapter, the region, and the Jewish community. Above dedication, you must also possess a passion and desire to promote the success of the region to propel you forward.

As you consider to run for a position on the REB, you must determine both the role you want to play in CHUSY, and the role you want CHUSY to play in your life. Think about what you can contribute to the region through your passion. Why exactly are you running, and how can you use those reasons to make a difference throughout the year to come? How can you bring your ideas into life? Think about what you want for your future role in conventions and as a leader in the community. When you think about your year to come, evaluate whether or not you can truly see yourself prioritizing CHUSY in your schedule. Beyond having your parents glance through this information and sign the forms, discuss your plans with your family, as their support and understanding is essential for a successful term on REB.

Finally, remember that Kinnus is a special time of culmination for the region and for chapters – it is not a “ticking clock” which you should grow to fear. Do not let the campaign and election process dominate your thoughts and actions in USY through the point of elections. Utilize this process as a time to learn about yourself and grow. Whether you currently serve on Chapter Executive Board, Regional General Board, or Regional Executive Board, show your dedication by fulfilling your current responsibilities and soaring above in that context. By standing in from of the crowd at Kinnus and presenting what you have to contribute to the region, you are already a leader. No matter the results at Kinnus, you can make a difference in CHUSY Region.

If you have any questions, or just want to talk through the election process, do not hesitate to contact me.

Behatzlacha,
Arin Kerstein
2013-2014 CHUSY Regional President



CHUSY REGION

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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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CAMPAIGN PROCEDURES

1. All Enforcement Sheets and Qualification Sheets are due no later than
Monday, February 24, 2014.

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 5, 2014 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 Wednesday evening, March 5, 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.

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.

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 CREATING A 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. This statement may not exceed 150 words.

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.

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. Prior to Kinnus, each candidate must state his or her intention to drop down to the current Regional President.

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'ers 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:
