

**UNITED SYNAGOGUE
YOUTH**



**ELECTION
HANDBOOK**

2018-2019



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As you read this letter, take a moment to reflect on all that you have accomplished. Merely flipping through this packet is already a great testament to your dedication to our great region. Above all else, I greatly appreciate your commitment to the idea that we can do better and be better, and your desire to give back to CHUSY as well as United Synagogue Youth as an organization.

Throughout my time in USY, I have found that taking a leadership role can be one of the most rewarding and fulfilling opportunities in your high school career. Serving as chapter president and on REB have helped me learn how to work as a collective, and these experiences have truly showed me what it takes to be a respected and effective leader. As your Regional President throughout this past year, participation in USY has become my greatest passion in high school, and it has given me the opportunity to not only meet so many incredible people internationally, but also to create closer connections with the members of our amazing region.

Being a board officer is no small feat, and it requires a great deal of dedication, commitment, and flexibility. Being an REB member requires not only that you see through your own initiatives, but that you work to raise up the rest of your board and be an example for the rest of the region at all times. Sometimes, you may need to sacrifice something in order to be an effective board member, however, if you are able to do so you will have the great privilege of representing the future of Conservative Jewish youth.

As you consider running for REB, I ask that you take some time to evaluate why you want to be on REB? What do you hope to achieve, and how will you embolden all people regardless of title? Next year, can you see yourself giving 110% to this region, and making CHUSY your number one priority after family and school? I encourage you to discuss with your parents your plans for next year, as their support is crucial to a successful term.

Lastly, please be kind to others and yourself during the candidacy and election process. This process can be incredibly stressful and taxing at times, so I truly hope that you are not only respectful of other USYers running for office but also that you not become too overwhelmed yourself. Kinnus is going to be a very exciting convention and regardless of election results you should enjoy it! Everyone who runs for REB has the intention of moving our region forward and all candidates should take pride in this value as well as unite in it.

If you have any questions, thoughts, concerns, or just want someone to talk to, please do not hesitate at all to contact me! I would be happy to discuss the upcoming year with any of you and would even love to meet with some of you one on one. I wish the best of luck to any of you who decide to run for the 2018-2019 CHUSY REB!

Sincerely,

Michael Rubin

CHUSY Regional President 2017-2018

president@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 an 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. The 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Marder
USY/Kadima Continental Engagement Supervisor
USCJ
marder@uscj.org

CAMPAIGN PROCEDURES

1. All Enforcement Sheets and Qualification Sheets are due no later than **Monday, February 23, 2018.**

These forms must be emailed to both Julie Marder and Michael Rubin at marder@uscj.org and president@chusy.org.

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 Information Meeting on **Wednesday, February 26, 2018 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, February 26, 2018** at the Regional Office. The Selection Committee, consisting of representative(s) of the Regional Youth Commission, the 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. 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 at 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:
 - a. Chapter Officer
 - b. Regional General Board Member
 - c. 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 the Regional Teen Engagement Director (RTED).
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 illegal use of drugs and alcohol.

A Guide to USY Standards

USY Constitution

Section 5

Introduction: 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*. Therefore:

1. The Officers of United Synagogue Youth shall observe the Sabbath 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 thereon. (The Jewish Holidays include Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Pesach, Shavuot, Sukkot and Simhat Torah.)
2. The Officers shall observe the dietary laws where possible in private and at all times in public.
3. 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 Sabbath.
4. The Officers will foster a safe and inclusive community. USY leaders should serve as the embodiment of USY's Zero Tolerance policy toward bullying, and create a welcoming environment.
5. The Officers are expected to hold themselves and each other to the highest ethical standards. This includes refraining from *Lashon Hara* (gossip) and treating others with *Kavod* (respect).
6. The Officers will strive to model healthy Jewish dating choices. These include recognizing the importance of dating within the Jewish community and treating each person with the recognition that they were created *Betzelem Elohim* (in the image of God).
7. It is expected that the leaders of the organization refrain from the illegal use of drugs and the illegal use of alcohol.
8. The Officers shall participate actively in the affairs of their respective Chapters, and in all of the activities of their respective Regions.
9. The provisions contained herein shall also apply to the remainder of the membership of the International General Board of USY as well as all members of Regional USY Executive Boards.
10. The International Youth Commission, USY President, Director, all Regional Youth Commissions, Presidents, and Directors, shall make every effort to assure that these basic standards are adhered to by our USY leaders.

OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

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

PRESIDENT

- Shall call and preside over all meetings of the Region.
- Shall serve as official representative of CHUSY to International USY and to all other organizations unless otherwise stated in the constitution.
- Shall report to the Region as to the State of the Region.
- Shall serve as an ex-officio of all committees.
- 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.

EXECUTIVE PROGRAMMING VICE PRESIDENT

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

ISRAEL AFFAIRS VICE PRESIDENT

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

MEMBERSHIP/KADIMA VICE PRESIDENT

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

RELIGION/EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT

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

SOCIAL ACTION/TIKUN OLAM VICE PRESIDENT

- Shall oversee these Regional Board positions: Social Action, Tikun Olam, Social Action/Tikun Olam Dance.
- Shall serve on all Tikun Olam committees.
- Shall assist the president and other officers in carrying out their duties.

COMMUNICATIONS VICE PRESIDENT

- Shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Region.
- Shall issue all correspondence as directed by the President.
- Shall oversee these Regional Board positions: *Harakevet*, Yearbook, Online Services, Regalia, International Convention liaison.
- Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties.
- 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 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 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.

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:
