

United Synagogue Youth



**2024-2025
Election Handbook**

To the prospective 2024-2025 CHUSY Regional Executive Board candidates,

I'm really proud of you. This has been an incredible year and you are to thank. By simply having this letter in your hand, you have shown great dedication and leadership in the CHUSY region. You have already made an impact on this region whether you co-chaired a convention, led your chapter board, or participated in a social media campaign. The larger impression you have made is through your smiles, laughter, friends you brought to their first lounge night, shy kids you have welcomed in, and friends who have found their home in USY through you. This is the reason we all love USY. We are here to share our love for Judaism, Israel, Tikkun Olam, friends, and fun. The REB is here to make all of that possible.

Being on REB is one of the most rewarding, time consuming, tiring, and amazing experiences available to high schoolers. The three hours you spend on facetime are hours spent with your closest friends. The meetings are excuses to hang out with each other and be productive for a little bit of it. The effort you put in, is the impact you will see.

But with that being said being on REB comes with a lot of responsibility. You are responsible for conventions, as well as day programs, personal initiatives, and promoting events. On a monthly basis this means almost weekly meetings, checking in with other board members and staff often, attending chapter and regional events, and being accountable to plan and write programs. Becoming an executive board member means that you are accepting many of your weeknights and weekends, including Shabbatot, may not be spent at home. You are becoming a *dugma*, role model, and a representative of CHUSY. The number one rule is that family and school ALWAYS come first, but USY needs to be your next priority.

In addition to that, the next year in USY is unknown. While yes there will be USY, it might look different. Convention schedules, regions, outreach, and more might look different. There is nothing wrong with that though. In fact, positions for next year are different from the ones you have seen in the past. We have a new role, the Ruach Vice President. All the positions

and their descriptions are listed below in the packet. So don't worry. Back on the topic of next year being unknown the positions that you are all candidates for might be a lot different and your responsibilities in those positions might look different depending on what the national USY announces in a few months. But what we do know is that no matter what USY looks like next year you will all have leadership roles. Something that is so valuable for USY as our new motto is, "for teens by teens."

I know that the unknown is scary but don't let these changes discourage you. Being on REB is about having fun - it really is. That's all. REB is a party. Meetings and programs are fun. Ask any of us and we'll tell you the fun stuff.

If you have any questions, comments, thoughts, please please reach out to me. I would love to chat and talk to you more about being on REB. Best of luck to all of you who decide to run for CHUSY Regional Executive Board 2024-2025.

B'Shalom,

Lorelai Josie Lindon

2023-2024 CHUSY Regional President

PROCEDURES

1. All Enforcement Sheets and Qualification Sheets are due no later than **Sunday, April 7th, 2024**. These forms must be emailed to Parker Weber and Lorelai Lindon at pweber@uscj.org, and president@chusy.org.
2. The personal 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 their parents/guardians must attend one of the Candidate & Parent/Guardian Information Meetings either **Wednesday April 10th 2024 at 5pm** or **Thursday April 11th at 8pm**
5. 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).
6. There is a \$15 campaign expense account limit. Any candidate exceeding this limit will forfeit his/her eligibility.
7. SPEECHES: All speeches will be given at elections on **Sunday April 14th at 5:00pm**. 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. Have participated in at least 1.5 hours of supervised Judaic studies a month.
 1. The region shall help provide opportunities for this study
 2. Members are heavily encouraged to utilize the USY International Torah Bytes program to work towards achieving their hour and a half requirement
2. Have a reading knowledge of Hebrew, or that the candidate be in the process of acquiring such knowledge
3. Have attended at least 75% of all regional programs the year preceding the election
 1. Excluding events that the travel time from your place of residence is longer than the event itself;
4. Have at least two of the following for at least one term each:
 1. Chapter board member
 2. Chapter officer
 3. Regional general board chairman
5. Be in at least their second year of attendance of high school

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ELECTED OFFICER

Once elected, an officer must have the above-mentioned qualifications throughout their term.

In addition, they must:

1. Attend 100% regional functions unless otherwise excused by the Regional President or Regional Director
 - a. Excluding events that the travel time from your place of residence is longer than the event itself;
2. Observe Kashrut at all times in public, and as much as possible in private.
3. Observe the Shabbat and Jewish Holidays with regard to the response of the Rabbinical Assembly pertaining to travel, and by refraining from all school exams and public functions. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Regional Teen Engagement Director.
4. Participate in a supervised Judaic study program other than USY chapter study for a minimum of 3 hours monthly
5. Attend 50% of own chapter functions
6. It is expected that officers will make healthy Jewish dating choices.
7. Attending a minimum of 2 religious services bi monthly
8. Refrain from illegal use of drugs and alcohol.

OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

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

A. 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 outside organizations
3. Shall report to the Region as to the State of the Region
4. Shall serve as a member of all committees
5. Shall have the power to make decisions for the Region in time of emergency. These decisions must be approved by the Executive Board as a whole within a week.

B. Executive Programming Vice President

1. Shall be responsible for all logistics of running the region
2. Shall oversee all convention programs, including the planning process of them
3. Shall oversee all regional programs
4. Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties
5. Shall serve as president, taking all appropriate rights and responsibilities, upon absence or incapability of the President

C. Ruach Vice President

1. Shall be responsible for overseeing all program planning for day programs and lounge nights
2. Shall be the liaison between the general members of CHUSY to the REB
3. Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties

D. Outreach Vice President

1. Shall oversee the outreach of the region
2. Shall serve as the official member in welcoming new members
3. Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties

E. 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 have access to and utilize CHUSY social media accounts
4. Shall oversee these Regional Board positions: Harakevet, Yearbook, and Regalia, and any other positions the Regional Executive Board sees fit
5. Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties

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 at the meeting with the Selection Committee.

For all offices except the Presidency, the President shall ask for any candidates who have been defeated for President or Executive Vice President 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 Elections must state their intention to drop down to the current 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 child 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 recognize 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 USYers 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: _____