

United Synagogue Youth



**2021-2022
Election Handbook**

To the prospective 2021-2022 CHUSY Regional Executive Board candidates,

I'm really proud of you. This has been a difficult and strange year but your continued leadership inspires me everyday. Picking up this packet and even considering running for Regional Executive Board demonstrates your commitment to CHUSY. 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, and 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. There are three parts of being a regional board member: actual work, USY passion, and having fun.

The Actual Work - being on REB comes with a lot of responsibility. You are responsible for four (ish) 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 Shabbat, 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.

USY Passion - what we do for the region has to come from your passion. We are motivated by our care for the people in the region and what USY stands for. This is your opportunity to take something you are passionate about and share it with the teens of

Chicago. If you are enthusiastic about programming, Israel, Judaism, welcoming people into USY, social action, or communication, this is your chance to grow in that area.

Having Fun - it really is. That's all. REB is a party. Conventions are fun. Ask any of us and we'll tell you the fun stuff.

All in all, REB is one of the most amazing opportunities available to all of you, so I want to commend and thank you for taking the first step by reading this letter. We don't know what next year is going to be like, but I know that it will be a fantastic year because each of you are going to be leading the region through it. I can't wait to see what all of you accomplish whether on REB or anywhere else in CHUSY!

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 2021-2022

Best of Luck,

Geoffrey Scott Gitles

2020-2021 CHUSY Regional President

PROCEDURES

1. All Enforcement Sheets and Qualification Sheets are due no later than **Tuesday, March 16th, 2021**. These forms must be emailed to Marc Sender, Daniel Warshawsky, and Geoffrey Gitles at msender@uscj.org, dwarshawsky@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 must attend a Candidate & Parent Information Meeting on **Sunday, March 21st, 2021 at 2pm on Zoom**.
5. All potential candidates must meet with the Selection Committee immediately following the Information Meeting on **Sunday, March 21st, 2021** immediately following the information meeting at **2:00pm**. 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 must be a current member of My USYfi Spring's Regional Pass.
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. Have attended a minimum of 2 religious services a month, 1 of which must be Shabbat.
2. Have participated in at least 1.5 hours of supervised Judaic studies a week.
 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
3. Have a reading knowledge of Hebrew, or that the candidate be in the process of acquiring such knowledge
4. 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;
5. 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
6. Be in at least their second year of attendance of high school
7. In the event that a prospective candidate does not meet the eligibility requirements stated in Article VI, Section 2 of the CHUSY Constitution, they have the right to submit a letter to the Selection Committee asking to waive the requirements so that they may run for office.
 1. The letter shall explain why the USYer desires to run for office and why they believe they are qualified without meeting the official qualifications.
 2. The statement shall be submitted no less than one week before the prospective candidates' meeting and interviews.
 3. The statement shall be submitted along with the prospective candidate's Qualification Sheet and Enforcement Sheet.
 4. The selection committee must then determine whether the prospective candidate is eligible for an interview at the candidates' meeting.
 5. If given an interview, the selection committee must approve or deny the candidacy within the same timeframe stated in Article IX, Section 6, Subsection 6 of the CHUSY Constitution.

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% 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 responsum 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 per week
5. Attend 50% of own chapter functions
6. It is expected that officers will make healthy Jewish dating choices.
7. Attending 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 4

1. 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.
2. Therefore:
3. 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 examinations and public functions thereon. (The Jewish Holidays include Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Pesach, Shavuot, Sukkot and Simchat Torah.)
4. The Officers shall observe the dietary laws where possible in private and at all times in public.
5. 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.
6. The Officers will foster a safe and inclusive community. USY leaders should serve as the embodiment of USY's Zero Tolerance policy towards bullying, and create a welcoming environment.
7. 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).
8. 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 B'tzelem Elohim (in the image of God).

9. It is expected that the leaders of the organization refrain from the illegal use of drugs and the illegal use of alcohol.
10. The Officers shall participate actively in the affairs of their respective Chapters, and in all of the activities of their respective Regions.
11. 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.
12. 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.

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 Vice President

1. Shall oversee all regional programs excluding the Tikun Olam Event
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

C. Israel Affairs Vice-President

1. Shall be responsible for overseeing all aspects of Israel programming, including the Chalutzim group, the Israel Affairs Regional Board position, NOAM Olami general board, and any other positions the Regional Executive Board sees fit
2. Shall be responsible for overseeing certain chapters as decided by the Regional President
3. Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties
4. Shall plan Israel programs for regional conventions and events.
5. Shall oversee all chapter IA's and aid in chapter Israel programming

D. Membership/Kadima Vice President

1. Shall oversee these Regional Board positions: Membership, Kadima, Senior Programming, Athletics and Recruitment, and any other positions the Regional Executive Board sees fit
2. Shall assist the President and other officers in carrying out their duties
3. Shall serve as President upon the absence of the above mentioned officers
4. Shall be responsible for overseeing certain chapters as decided by the Regional President

E. Religion/Education Vice President

1. Shall oversee these Regional Board position: Religion, Education, Ruach, Slow Ruach, and A.J. Heschel Honor Society, and any other positions the Regional Executive Board sees fit
2. Shall be responsible for organizing davening leadership roles, with the help of the Rel/Ed RGB.
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 Regional President

F. Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice President

1. Shall oversee these Regional Board positions: Social Action, Tikun Olam
2. Shall oversee planning for various Tikun Olam or social action events for the region throughout the year, including at least one annual Tikun Olam Event
3. Shall serve on all fundraising and Tikun Olam committees
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 Regional President

G. 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
6. Shall be responsible for overseeing certain chapters as decided by the Regional 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 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 Kinnus 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 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 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: _____