

ELECTIONS APPLICATION & HANDBOOK

For ECRUSY Regional Executive Board 2021-2022

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, May 2, 2021	Online Candidate Application Due
Friday, May 7, 2020	Supplementary Documents emailed to Sylvie Moscovitz
Tuesday, May 11, 2020	Candidate & Parents conference call meeting
Friday, May 28, 2020	Elections
TBD	Fall Board Weekend
TBD	Allocations Meeting (President & SA/TO VP Only)

Eastern Canadian Region, USY

Branch 3, USY

Dear Prospective Candidate and Parent,

Congratulations on your decision to run for ECRUSY Regional Executive Board! While the decision to run for ECRUSY Regional Executive Board is not one to take lightly and not one you can make alone, it is filled with incredible opportunities to impact USY as an organization and provide existing and potential USYers with meaningful, positive Jewish experiences.

There are quite a few responsibilities that you'll need to take on as a regional board member. You must attend regular (weekly) meetings, along with regional and chapter programs. You will be required to spend time connecting with USYers in ECRUSY, chapter officers and your counterparts in other regions, especially in Branch 3. Finally, you are expected to create and run programming at each regional convention in addition to implementing yearlong initiatives.

Every Regional Officer must understand that our ultimate purpose is to bring Jewish teens closer to their Judaism and to strengthen our movement. Officers at all times need to demonstrate this, both at USY programs and outside of those times. Being a *Dugma*, an example, is perhaps one of the most important aspects of being a regional officer. This means always demonstrating a positive attitude, being on time for meetings and programs, and actively participating in T'fillot, discussion groups programs. Whether you are aware of it or not, you set the tone and those around you will pick up on it. In addition, promoting inclusivity is of utmost importance, and you will be expected to reach out to those who are on the sidelines.

While an Officer's academic schoolwork and family obligations always come first, USY has to be your next priority. While the work schedule will have its peaks and valleys, you should expect to spend between 10-15 hours a week working on USY matters during the busy times in the calendar. Now is the perfect time to prepare for how you can make that happen with your already busy schedule.

Parents, we need your help now as your child considers making this commitment to the Region. This responsibility must be a top priority. I urge you to discuss the contents of this Elections Handbook with your child and explore how you and your child (along with your family) will make this commitment work next year. If you have any questions, please contact me by email at smoscovitz@uscj.org.

Serving as an officer on the Regional Executive Board is one of the most rewarding experiences a USYer can have. Many prominent people attribute their success to the skills they acquired in USY. Kol HaKavod to you for pursuing this intense leadership opportunity.

B'Hatzlacha,

Sylvie Moscovitz
Teen Engagement Associate



Eastern Canadian Region, USY

Branch 3, USY

Dear valued members of ECRUSY,

So, you're thinking of running for Regional Executive Board! Amazing! Considering running is a crucial first step in being a future leader of USY! So congratulations, you've already accomplished your first task! Pat yourself on the back. In all seriousness, simply thinking about being a leader is the most important part about the elections process. This is for one simple reason: being a leader is not synonymous with being on REB. In fact, they're not even close. I've met many leaders in ECRUSY that have never held a formal leadership position. That being said, I've also met many REB members that have lacked a sense of leadership. Leadership is a mindset and an attitude. You are a leader based on how you act. You are a leader by being a *dugmah* (example) and by reaching out to others. How you make others feel while they are around you is a direct judgement of your leadership ability. A great leader has a positive impact on those around them. On the contrary, a negative leader has a negative impact. Someone who isn't a leader has little effect whatsoever. This is why many USY leaders are not found on REB. This also displays why many members of REB aren't always good leaders. REB is simply a platform. It is by no means a measure of your leadership abilities.

All this being said, REB can be an amazing platform to do amazing things to those with a proper mindset. It is a means of expression for many people, and a way to make your ideas shine. Before I was regional president, I was the regional SA/TO VP. I've always had a passion for social action, but I never quite knew how to express it. Being on REB allowed me to fully explore this passion. I learned not only how to be an activist for causes I was passionate about, but to teach others to do the same. Seeing this in action was incredible. I saw others find their social action callings because of the work that I had done. It is satisfying to help yourself grow, but is even more satisfying to see the same in others. I explored this property through being SA/TO VP, but each position in USY holds the same potential for growth. It is important to realize that REB puts you in an environment where you can enact change. It is up to you to decide what that change may be.

Being on REB is still a commitment. I find that those that enjoy their time the least on REB are those that have no interest in REB at the beginning. You should want to fulfill your position, and you should commit to it. Once you lose interest in your position and initiatives you begin to see REB as a chore. REB does require work that you may not always want to do, but the main part of REB is seeing your ideas to fruition. You need a vision, and now is the time to begin developing what that might mean to you. Once you lose track of your vision, you lose track of why you decide to do REB in the first place.

It is also important to use REB as a learning experience. You are not expected to run for REB knowing all that REB entails. There are many pieces that you learn along the way such as time management, how to run (or write) a program, and how to be an active participant. These lessons will be useful throughout your life, not just as a member of USY.

REB is an experience that you cannot compare to anything in the secular world. It allows you to explore your leadership style in a safe environment surrounded by friends. It is both hard work and incredibly fun if you engage. REB has helped shape me into the person that I am today, and I hope that you thoroughly consider what it could do for you.

Good Luck!

Nava Wolfish
ECRUSY President, 2019-2021

ECRUSY ELECTION PROCEDURES:

**To elect the 2021-2022 Regional Executive Board
[The following has been compiled based on ECRUSY's Constitution]**

CANDIDATE APPLICATIONS

Each person who desires to be a candidate for a position on the ECRUSY Executive Board must:

- Submit a completed "Why Run?" Questionnaire with essay (Please see *Why Run for Regional Board?*)
- Submit Standards Form Signed. (Please see *Standards Form.*)
- Submit the signatures of approval of a parent/guardian, chapter advisor/youth director, and Rabbi. (Please see *Standards Form.*)
- Submit a signed candidate's statement and declaration of candidacy.
- Submit no more than two-pages of qualifications for the candidate's desired office. (Please see *Qualifications Sheet.*)

**ANY FALSE INFORMATION WILL AUTOMATICALLY ELIMINATE THE APPLICANT FROM
ELIGIBILITY TO RUN FOR A REGIONAL OFFICE.**

QUALIFICATIONS TO RUN

President:

- o A member of ECRUSY in good standing for a minimum of one year prior to election.
- o An officer of the Regional Executive Board, officer of the Regional General Board, or Chapter President.

Vice Presidents (Executive/Israel Affairs Vice-President, Religion/Education Vice-President, Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice-President, Membership/Kadima Vice-President, Communications Vice-President):

- o A paid member of ECRUSY.

CAMPAIGN PROCEDURES

1. Candidate applications (listed above) are to be emailed to smoscovitz@uscj.org AND president@ecrusy.org **Friday, May 7 by 11:59:59pm**. Late or incomplete forms will not be accepted, and the candidate will not be permitted to run for office. Candidates and at least one of their parents must participate in a **Candidate's Conference Call on Tuesday, May 11 at 8:00 PM, link will be emailed before the day of the call.**
2. The election is scheduled to take place at ECRUSY's Virtual Spring Regional Convention on Zoom on **Friday, May 28**. All candidates must submit their speech video to Sylvie no later than Thursday, May 27 by 11:59:59pm. Candidates for President will give a speech of no more than five minutes; all other candidates' speeches will not exceed three minutes.
3. A candidate may only apply to run for one office. Should the USYer be unsuccessful in the election of their desired office, they can drop down to one other position, so long as they notify the President and

Engagement Associate **prior** to the first vote. If you are considering dropping down, please submit two speech videos to Sylvie, and indicate which is your desired position.

OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

President

- Shall preside over all meetings of the Regional Executive Board, Regional General Board and all plenary sessions of Regional conventions.
- Shall have the power to call meetings of the Regional Executive Board and Regional General Board.
- Shall have the power to appoint Regional chairpersons with the approval of the Regional Executive Board and discuss with them the standards they are required to keep prior to their appointment as RGB chairpersons.
- Shall have the power to establish committees with the approval of the Regional Executive Board.
- Shall have the power to disband committees with the approval of the Regional Executive Board.
- Shall serve as an ex-official member of all committees.
- Shall be vested with the executive power of ECRUSY and shall be its accredited representative.
- Shall report on the state of the organization and recommend improvements at the end of their term.
- Shall co-ordinate and direct the activities of the executive-appointed Regional chairpersons and be responsible for the communication of RGB functions, activities, and ideas to the membership at large.
- Shall work closely with the Teen Engagement Associate to ensure that all programs and policies are successful.

Executive/Israeli Affairs Vice-President

- Shall assume the duties and rights of the President in the event of the President's incapacity absence.
- Shall chair the regional awards committee.
- Shall oversee any committee whose activities are deemed by the Regional Executive Board to be concerned with the area of Israel Affairs.
- Shall oversee and co-ordinate all regional activities of HaChalutzim.

Religion/Education Vice-President

- Shall be responsible for the implementation of all aspects of religion and religious education.
- Shall oversee any committees whose activities are deemed by the Regional Executive Board to be concerned with Religion and Education.
- Shall monitor all Shabbat and Festival projects undertaken by the Region.
- Shall see that articles and information on Shabbat and Festival appear in Regional publications.
- Shall oversee and co-ordinate all regional activities of the Abraham Joshua Heschel Honour Society.
- Shall co-ordinate all religious services at Regional conventions.

Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice-President

- Shall be responsible for all aspects of Social Action programming in the region, and shall serve as the overseeing officer of the Tikun Olam programme.
- Shall oversee all committees whose activities are deemed by the Regional Executive Board to be concerned with Social Action or Tikun Olam.
- Shall co-ordinate all Regional Tikun Olam fundraisers, including a minimum of one fundraising programme at each Regional event. Will collect all chapter and regional Tikun Olam monies.

Membership/Kadima Vice-President

- Shall oversee the membership initiatives of all chapters.

- Shall oversee all committees whose activities are deemed by the Regional Executive Board to be concerned with Membership and Kadima development.
- Shall be responsible for the development of creative outreach strategies for retaining current membership, as well as reaching new potential membership.

Communications Vice-President

- Shall be responsible for a record of the minutes of all Regional Executive, General Board meetings, and any delegate assembly of ECRUSY.
- Upon approval of a constitutional amendment, the Communications Vice-President shall attach it to this constitution and distribute revised copies.
- Shall be responsible for overseeing the publication of the Regional Yearbook.
- Shall be responsible for the publication of the Regional Tabloid.
- Shall oversee all committees whose activities are deemed by the Regional Executive to be concerned with the area of communications.

If you would like further explanation regarding any of the positions or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sylvie Moscovitz at smoscovitz@uscj.org Nava Wolfish via e-mail at president@ecrusy.org. Please save a copy of all completed election forms that are submitted for your personal reference.

What Does Each Regional Executive Member *Really* Do?

Here is a brief “job description” of each Executive office. It is not possible to fully describe the obligations of every executive member on a piece of paper. If you are interested in running, it is **strongly** recommended that you speak to the executive member who currently serves in the position you seek.

President:

Nava Wolfish, president@ecrusy.org

The President plays many roles. Most importantly, the President serves as a resource and helping hand to the Regional Executive, RGB and Chapter Executives. They are responsible to assist with all regional programming, and oversee the Executive with their individual projects and goals. The President assists the Chapter Presidents with membership incentives, programs, and any conflicts that may arise within their Executives. Additionally, the President works closely with the Teen Engagement Associate in conjunction with the Executive. The President serves on the International General USY Board. The President must be the ultimate dugma (example) for the entire region.

Executive/Israel Affairs Vice-President:

Shira Rudin, iavp@ecrusy.org

The Israel Affairs Executive Vice President has many different roles. Firstly, the I/A VP is responsible for planning Israel themed programs at conventions. However, one of the most important roles of the I/A VP is spreading knowledge about Israel. Another large component of the position is working to increase numbers for summer programs and Nativ. They must communicate with their chapter counterparts and assist with Israel advocacy programming within the chapters. Additionally, the I/A VP fills in as Regional President if the current Regional President is unable to do so.

Religion/Education Vice-President:

Aviya Krauss, reledvp@ecrusy.org

The Religion/Education Vice President has two jobs- dealing with both the religious and educational aspects of USY. As the Rel in Rel/Ed, you plan, organize, and coordinate all the religious services at each convention. Also, on the International USY level, it is your job to promote and recruit members to the Abraham Joshua Heschel Society, as well as leading Heschel sessions at conventions. As the Ed in Rel/Ed, it is your job to create fun and exciting ways to teach about Conservative Judaism. One final aspect- helping those who want to learn how to lead a service or read Torah, to create a pool of qualified people to daven or read at conventions.

Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice-President:

Rory Sucharov-Gluck, satovp@ecrusy.org

The Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice President is responsible for the SA/TO programming on the regional level. They must work with their RGB, chapter board counterparts, other region SA/TO VP's, and the international SA/TO VP. It is important for the SA/TO VP to be well-informed about current social issues and understand the breakdown of Tikun Olam money distribution. Balancing both Social Action and Tikun Olam programming is essential in the overall success of the SA/TO VP.

Membership/Kadima Vice-President:

Liat Wolfish, memkadvp@ecrusy.org

The Membership Kadima Vice-President is in charge of membership recruitment in both USY and Kadima, as well as introducing Kadima to the USY age group. Kadima, kids in grades 6-8, is the future of ECRUSY, and the Mem/Kad is responsible for bridging the gap between the Kadima and USY youth groups. The Mem/Kad works with their RGB, with the planning of ice breakers, and membership incentives. They work with the Mem/Kad counterparts to plan social programs and membership projects in their chapters.

Communications Vice-President:

Sari Weinroth, communicationsvp@ecrusy.org

The Communications Vice President is in charge of advertising regional and international programs. This means maintaining the ECRUSY Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, flyers, as well as creating regalia. The Comm. VP is responsible for ECRUSY's publications, such as Newsletter, Yearbook, and Slideshow. They also serve as a role model to their RGB and Chapter counterparts.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION & DECISION WORKSHEET

First Name:		Last Name:	
Street Address:			City:
Province:	Postal Code:		Cell Phone:
E-mail:			Home Phone:
Parent/Guardian Name:		Parent/Guardian Email:	
Parent/Guardian Name:		Parent/Guardian Email:	
Rabbi's Name:		USY Chapter:	
High School:		Grade:	
Date of Birth:	Age:	Years in USY & Kadima:	

Why Run For Regional Board?

Don't run just for the sake of running, because if you win and can't handle your position, then the only thing to suffer from that decision will be the region. You are not just affecting yourself, but hundreds of USYers.

And, if you are running because:

1. you want power in USY! (not worth it)
2. you want to be popular or gain friends! (you can make friends without being on board)
3. you only want it for your university application! (not good enough)

...THEN DON'T RUN! It's as simple as that. USY is a youth-led organization and We depend on the Regional Executive Board members.

But, if you are running because:

1. You want to help USY for the good of USY!
2. you have great programs and ideas to implement!
3. you love SATO or Rel/Ed or Israel or Mem/Kad or Communications or Presidenting! (yes, that's now officially a word)

...THEN RUN! (Run? Run where?) Run for board!

Have you thought about...?

On the following page are some short answer questions (2-3 sentences) dealing with your ideas, concerns, attitudes, and commitments. This section is not meant as an evaluation of your candidacy for board – **you are allowed to run no matter how you answer.** This section is meant to make you think about what it means to be on Regional Board, and to consider the commitments that come with the job. Please take these questions seriously, as they will all be read. Please answer these questions on a separate piece of paper.

1. Why do you want to be on Regional Executive Board? (*Limit 3 points.*)

2. How do you feel about working with different sized groups of USYers? Our programs and conventions range in both age and size from 10 people to 35 people. What, if any, concerns do you have?
3. How do you feel about greater interaction with adults (the Branch Director, the Regional Youth Commission, Youth staff/advisors, parents, etc.)?
4. List commitments besides USY that you will want to maintain during your year on board (sports, school activities, etc.): *Just approximate: Commitment, Hours per week, weekends*
5. What commitments on your schedule exist that might conflict with the Shabbat and Hagim aspects of standards? How will you deal with this conflict? *(limit five points)*
6. How do your parents feel about your being on board? Will they support you? Do they have any questions or concerns (...hint hint, ask them!)
7. Please list three (3) initiatives that you plan on pursuing during your term in office.

Why Run? - The Short Essay

That's right! You aren't even on board and you've already got to do some serious work. On a separate page that should be attached to the back of your application, please answer the following short-essay question. Please make your answer in Times New Roman font, size 12 print, double-spaced, and not exceeding one and a half pages in length.

Question:

No matter which position you are running for, your programming has an impact on how successful the region is in attracting Jewish teens to future programs and conventions.

How do your hopes and goals for the coming year on Regional Board address the need to make USY appeal to a wider range of youth, and get more Conservative Movement teens involved in our organization?

STANDARDS FORM

(These standards were created and adopted by the USY International Board.)

Upon a successful election to ECRUSY's Executive Board, the elected member is expected to adhere to the following standards:

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 examinations and public functions thereon. (The Jewish Holidays include Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, Pesach, Shavuot, Sukkot and Simchat 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 towards 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.

I agree to follow the aforementioned standards. Should I be found in violation of any of these standards, I understand that I will be asked to resign my position, or face impeachment. I agree to contribute in a positive and respective manner as an Officer of the ECRUSY Executive Board.

Candidate's Name

Candidate's Signature

I support my child in their pursuit for the office of Regional Board. I fully understand and agree to all of the aforementioned duties and responsibilities and will assist my child in meeting the expectations stated above. I acknowledge the required time commitment expected of my child throughout the year and will support and encourage my child in meeting their goals and demands.

Parent's/Guardian's Name

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

I support my child in their pursuit for the office of Regional Board, and I feel that they are a qualified candidate. I am confident that they will fully uphold the standards of the ECRUSY Executive, as an example for Conservative Jewish youth.

Chapter Advisor's/Youth Director's Signature

Rabbi's Signature Signature

Expectations of a Regional Board Member:

1. **Mandatory** attendance at **all** regional conventions and as many other regional programs as possible. Regional Executive Board members are also highly encouraged to participate in International programs as well.
2. Must be a member in good standing of your USY chapter (*good standing* defined as having paid chapter, regional and international dues and attending 75% of chapter events).
3. Required attendance at all Regional Executive Board meetings, Regional General Board meetings, unless previously arranged with USY president or Teen Engagement Associate.
4. Observe ALL Regional Executive Officer standards.
5. Be in contact, by phone or face-to-face visits, with both the regional USY president and the Teen Engagement Associate (to be scheduled after elections). The president will have called with the Teen Engagement Associate once a week (more as needed), all other positions will speak with the Teen Engagement Associate once a month to go over initiatives, programs and progress.
6. Be in contact with Regional General Board committee chairs at least once a month.
7. Stay in contact with assigned chapters and chapter counterparts throughout the year.
8. Plan ALL programs related to your position for regional conventions/events.
9. Initiate new projects, as well as facilitate the day-to-day responsibilities of your position.

These expectations are some, but not all, of the expectations that a board member is expected to adhere to. Please take note of them, as you will be expected to meet these expectations if elected to office!

I have read the Election Handbook and I fully understand Regional Executive Board, Elections, and the Regional Officers' standards as set by International USY and the ECRUSY Constitution. I have also read and understand the accompanying "letter to candidates" from the Teen Engagement Associate & Regional President. I understand the commitments I am making, and agree to abide by all of the above. I understand that all of these items will be discussed with my parent/guardian on the candidate and parent call.

I understand that I will miss school and any school-related activities on Shabbat and Jewish holidays and will make sure my parents understand this and agree to it. I have discussed with my parents the commitments I will be making for the coming year, in terms of leadership, time, and commitment to Jewish observance.

I certify that all statements on my candidate application are true, to the best of my knowledge.

I also certify below that I will take this job seriously and fulfill the position to the best of my abilities.

I, _____ **officially declare my candidacy for the position of**
Candidate's Name
_____ **of ECRUSY for the 2020-2021 programming year.**
Desired Position

QUALIFICATIONS SHEET

This form may be used as a guideline for your own Candidate Qualification Form. Feel free to use a different format than provided below, but be sure to include *all* of the requested information. The use of decorative borders, pictures and illustrations is not permitted. Please use a 12-point font in either Times New Roman or Arial font styles. Forms are limited to two (2) sides of one sheet of white letter-sized paper, including personal statement.

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

English Name		Hebrew Name	
Office Desired		Email	
Home Phone		Mobile Phone	
Chapter		Current Grade	
Full Mailing Address			
Years in USY & Kadima			

II. USY ACTIVITIES AND OFFICES HELD

A.	International	
B.	Regional	
C.	Chapter	

III. JEWISH EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES

A.	Present studies	
B.	Previous studies	
C.	Number of hrs/week	

D.	Provisions for next year	
E.	Religious skills	

IV. SECULAR EDUCATION AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

School		Grade Average:
Activities		

V. SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS, HONOURS, AWARDS, ETC.

VI. PLEASE WRITE A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (CAN BE DONE ON A SEPARATE SHEET) (300 words maximum)

The statement and the information on this form will be distributed at elections.

All statements made herein are true, to the best of my knowledge

Candidate's Signature	Date:
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