

**Preamble:** We, the synagogue youth, an affiliate of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, cognizant of the historical and cultural background of our people, recognizing the fact that youth must perpetuate Judaism, do hereby establish this United Synagogue Youth.

## **Article I - Names and Nickname**

### **Section 1 - Name**

The name of this organization shall be:  
The Connecticut Region of the United Synagogue Youth,  
Or Connecticut Region U.S.Y.

### **Section 2 - Nickname**

The nickname of this organization shall be:  
Hanefesh  
For the purpose of Regional songs, regalia, etc.

## **Article II - Aims and Objectives**

### **Section 1 - Aim**

The aim of the United Synagogue Youth of the Connecticut Region is to offer opportunities to its Jewish youth to stimulate, strengthen, and perpetuate their identification with the Synagogue and Judaism, and keep us in constant awareness of the need for Judaism and Democracy.

### **Section 2 - Objectives**

- A. Study  
A knowledge of the Jewish heritage and ideals is essential for creative Jewish living. Therefore, the Connecticut Region U.S.Y. dedicates itself to the ideals of Jewish learning and requires its chapters to establish programs for group study and discussion.
- B. Sabbath and Holidays  
The observance of Sabbath and the Holidays is of basic importance. Therefore, the Connecticut Region U.S.Y. dedicates itself to strengthening the Sabbath and the Holidays by encouraging its members to attend Sabbath and Holiday services, and encourages its chapters to sponsor programs in the spirit of the Sabbath and the Holidays.
- C. Prayer  
Since prayer is one of the pillars of Judaism, Connecticut Region U.S.Y. believes that the Jewish teenager should experience the feelings of togetherness, power, and nearness of G-d arising out of worship. Therefore, the Connecticut Region U.S.Y. urges its chapters to conduct Sabbath and Holiday services whenever possible.
- D. Kashrut  
The observance of dietary laws has instilled Jewish values and has facilitated Jewish survival. Therefore, the Connecticut Region U.S.Y. requires its chapters to observe the dietary laws at all of their functions, and urges its members to observe Kashrut in their private homes.
- E. The Jewish Community  
No Jewish youth organization is sufficient unto itself. It must share

concern for all Israel. To this end, Connecticut Region U.S.Y. shall:

1. Cooperate with other Jewish organizations for common purposes.
2. Foster inter-chapter activities.

F. Organizational Relationships

1. The Connecticut Region U.S.Y. shall act to strengthen the bonds between its chapters and the International United Synagogue Youth Movement
2. The Connecticut Region U.S.Y. dedicates itself to strengthening the ties between American, Israeli, and World Jewry.

G. Activities

Connecticut Region U.S.Y. believes that annual Regional activities are an essential part of its program, and shall sponsor Regional activities, among which shall be:

1. A Regional summer camp program.
2. Two Regional Kinnusim, open to all members of Connecticut Region U.S.Y. who meet the minimum standards established.
3. At least one Regionally sponsored workshop per year.
4. At least one additional Regionally sponsored social event per year.

## **Article III - Membership**

### **Section 1 - Chapter Requirements**

Jewish youth groups of any synagogue within the boundaries of the Connecticut Valley Region United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism are eligible for membership in U.S.Y. of Connecticut Region, provided that the youth is part of a congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

### **Section 2 - Age Limit**

The age limits of membership of Connecticut Region U.S.Y. shall be from the entrance of 9th grade through the graduation of the 12th grade inclusively. Members in grades 6, 7 and 8 shall be considered members of Kadima. Each chapter is urged to set its individual standards.

### **Section 3- Representation**

There shall be no more than one Kadima and one U.S.Y. chapter per synagogue without permission of Connecticut Region U.S.Y.

### **Section 4 - Number of Members**

A. Minimum

There shall be no minimum number of chapter members required to constitute a chapter.

B. Maximum

The maximum number of members from each chapter shall be unlimited.

## **Article IV - Affiliation, Suspension and Re-instatement**

### **Section 1 - Affiliation**

Any group eligible for membership under Article III will automatically,

upon request, become affiliated with Connecticut Region U.S.Y.

### **Section 2 - Suspension**

An affiliated group may be suspended or censored by a 3/4 vote of the Regional Executive Council for a violation of this constitution, or regulations of this organization. No suspension shall be for a time of more than one calendar year. A suspended group shall be denied, for the period of suspension, all privileges accorded to member groups.

### **Section 3 - Re-instatement**

Any group which has been suspended may be re-instated before the expiration date of the suspension by a 3/4 vote of the Regional Executive Council upon written petition of the suspended chapter. A group shall automatically be re-instated to full membership privileges at the conclusion of the suspension period.

## **Article V - Dues**

### **Section 1 - Amount**

All groups shall pay Regional dues at a per capita rate determined by the Regional Youth Commission.

### **Section 2 - Arrears**

All groups that have not paid their dues on or before the date stipulated by the Department of Youth Activities of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism shall be regarded as not in good standing, and shall be denied all privileges granted to chapters in good standing until such arrears for the year have been paid in full.

### **Section 3 - Benefits**

Upon payment of full Regional dues, all members and chapters shall be entitled to fair representation and all privileges, benefits, and responsibilities as stated in this constitution.

### **Section 4 - Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of United Synagogue Youth begins on July 1.

## **Article VI - Regional Organization**

The Connecticut Region U.S.Y. may be divided into districts based on the demands of regional membership and the number of chapters in good standing by an amendment to the constitution. District organization shall be determined by the Regional President in consultation with the Regional Youth Commission, subject to veto by the Regional Executive Board or the Regional Executive Council.

## **Article VII - Regional Administration**

The Connecticut Region U.S.Y. shall be administered by a Regional Executive Council, Regional Executive Board, Regional General Board, and President's Council.

### **Section 1 - Regional Executive Council**

#### **A. Composition**

1. The Regional Executive Council shall consist of:

- a) All Regional Executive Board members (including Regional Director and a representative of the Regional Youth Commission);
    - b) Four delegates from each U.S.Y. chapter in good standing;
    - c) The immediate past Regional President, who shall serve for one year immediately following his/her term of office.
  - 2. Voting Delegates of the Regional Executive Council shall be:
    - a) Members of the Connecticut Region United Synagogue Youth;
    - b) Four delegates from each U.S.Y. chapter in good standing;
    - c) Members of the Regional Executive Board.
  - 3. Chapter Delegates
    - a) The President and three delegates (appointed by the chapter president) shall be the chapter's voting delegates to the Regional Executive Council. In case of the chapter president's absence, another delegate may attend in his/her place.
    - b) All delegates must be members of the chapter which they are representing.
    - c) All delegates must be present to vote.
    - d) No individual may have more than one vote.
- B. Functions
  - 1. The Regional Executive Council shall elect all Regional Executive Board Members annually.
  - 2. The Regional Executive Council shall have the power to make all rules necessary for the proper functioning of the Region, and shall have the power to veto all rules made by the Regional Executive Board and Regional President.
  - 3. A simple majority of votes cast shall be necessary to any action, except where otherwise stated.
  - 4. The Regional Executive Council shall have the power to establish committees.
- C. Meeting
  - 1. The Regional Executive Council shall meet at least two times annually, and as many additional times as necessary for the fulfillment of its duties.
  - 2. Meetings for the Regional Executive Council shall be called by the Regional President upon his/her initiative or upon petition of a majority of its members to the President.
  - 3. All meetings of the Regional Executive Council shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order newly revised.
- D. Quorum
 

A quorum of 50% of the Regional Executive Council shall be necessary to transact business.

## **Section 2 - Regional Executive Board**

- A. Membership
  - 1. The membership of the Regional Executive Board shall include:
    - a) All Regional Executive Board Members;
    - b) Special appointments made by the Regional President;

- c) Connecticut Region U.S.Y. Director;
    - d) A representative of the Regional Youth Commission.
  - 2. Voting Members include:
    - a) All Regional Executive Board Members shall have a vote in all matters.
    - b) No person shall have more than one vote.
- B. Functions
  - 1. The Regional Executive Board shall have the power to setup committees;
  - 2. The Regional Executive Board, or a committee of the Regional Executive Board, will be responsible for the programming of Regional events;
  - 3. It shall have the power to make all rules necessary for the proper functioning of the Region until action by the Regional Executive Council.
- C. Meetings
  - 1. Meetings of the Regional Executive Board shall be called by the President upon his/her initiative or upon petition of 2/3 of the members;
  - 2. No fewer than five Regional Executive Board meetings shall be held each fiscal year;
  - 3. No vote of the Regional Executive Board shall be taken at anything less than a formal meeting of that group.
- D. Quorum
 

A quorum consisting of ½ the members of the Regional Executive Board shall be necessary to conduct business. This quorum must include at least ½ of the Regional Executive Board members.

### **Section 3 – Regional General Board**

- A. Composition
  - 1. The Regional General Board shall consist of:
    - a) Members of all sub-committees under the direction of the officers of the Regional Executive Board;
    - b) All convention co-chairpersons for that year.
- B. Functions
  - 1. The Regional General Board shall assist with all programs corresponding to their position under the direction of their overseeing Regional Executive Officer.
- C. Meeting
  - 1. The Regional General Board shall meet by committee at the discretion of the committee's overseeing Regional Executive Officer.
  - 2. Meetings of the Regional General Board shall be called by the overseeing Regional Executive Officer upon his/her initiative.
- D. Attendance
  - 1. All members of the Regional General Board shall be present at no fewer than two regional conventions annually. This agreement shall be made with every member of the Regional General Board in writing prior to that member taking office at the start of each term.

#### **Section 4 - President's Council**

- A. Composition
1. The President's Council shall consist of:
    - a) All Connecticut Region Chapter Presidents, or a representative thereof;
    - b) All Regional Executive Board members.
  2. Voting Members
    - a) All Connecticut Region Chapter Presidents, or a representative thereof;
    - b) The President of Connecticut Region U.S.Y.
- B. Functions
- The President's Council shall have the power to make all rules necessary for the proper functioning of the Region, subject to veto by the Regional Executive Council or the Regional Executive Board.
- C. Elections
1. The Council shall elect a chairperson who shall preside at meetings, and a secretary;
  2. They shall be elected from among the Chapter Presidents of Connecticut Region U.S.Y.;
  3. They shall be elected annually before the end of the Regional Encampment.
- D. Meetings
1. The President's Council shall meet at least once annually, and as many additional times as is necessary for the fulfillment of its duties;
  2. Meetings of the President's Council shall be called by the Regional President or Council Chairperson upon their initiative, or upon petition of a majority of its members.
- E. Quorum
- A quorum of 50% of the members of the President's Council shall be necessary to take any action.

#### **Article VIII - Regional Executive Board Members**

##### **Section 1 - Qualifications**

- A. All candidates for a Regional Executive office must be presently living up to the following standards:
1. Attendance at 75% of all chapter functions and 50% of all Regional functions;
  2. Attendance at a minimum of three Shabbat services monthly;
  3. Study Judaica at least five hours monthly.
- B. Any U.S.Y.er who is a member in good standing in local, Regional and International USY and is presently holding either an elective chapter office, or is serving as a member of either the Regional or International General Board, or who is currently serving as a Regional Executive or International Executive Board Member and who fulfills the standards for such an office. Candidates for District President must be a member of the District he/she will represent.

- C. No person shall be allowed to hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms.
- D. The candidate must intend to and be able to serve for his/her entire term of one year.
- E. Any USYer expelled from a Regional event (defined as three or more chapters) is not eligible to become a Regional Executive Board member for eleven months after his/her expulsion. Any person who is a Regional Executive Board member will be removed from office. He/She may, however, appeal to the Youth Commission within two weeks.

## **Section 2 - Nominations**

- A. Any qualified member wishing to run for Regional office must submit a Regional Executive Board Member's Qualification Sheet and the written consent of his/her parent, advisor, and Rabbi to the Regional President at least three weeks prior to elections.
- B. The President of Connecticut Region U.S.Y. will publish the Qualification Sheets and distribute them to all Connecticut Region U.S.Y. Chapter Presidents and Regional Executive Board Members at least one week prior to Regional Elections.
- C. Preceding the election for each office, the floor will be open to nominations.
- D. Each candidate must be nominated from the floor by any voting member of the Regional Executive Council, other candidates and Regional Executive Board Members excluded.
- E. In the event that an office has no candidate, a member who has submitted a consent form can be nominated for the office by an eligible voting member of the Executive Council.
- F. All nominations must be seconded by an eligible voting member of the Regional Executive Council.

## **Section 3 - Elections**

- A. All officers shall be elected annually.
- B. Elections shall take place no later than July 1.
- C. The order of officers elected shall be: President, Israel Affairs Vice President, Religion/Education Vice President, Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice President, Membership/Kadima Vice President, Communications Vice President, and District Presidents.
- D. The President, Israel Affairs Vice President, Religion/Education Vice President, Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice President, Membership/Kadima Vice President and Communications Vice President shall be elected by the Regional Executive Council; District Presidents shall be elected by the chapter delegates and Regional Board Members from their respective Districts.
- E. To be elected, a candidate must poll a majority of the delegates voting.
- F. After three ballots with three or more candidates running, the candidate with the least amount of votes shall automatically be eliminated. The process may be repeated as often as necessary.
- G. Officers shall assume the responsibilities of their respective offices 24 hours after their election.

## **Section 4 - Duties and Powers**

### **A. President**

1. He/She shall have the right to call meetings of the Regional Executive Council, the President's Council, and the Regional Executive Board.
2. He/She shall preside over all Regional Executive Council and Regional Executive Board Meetings.
3. He/She shall have the right to appoint and rename all committee chairpersons subject to veto by the Regional Executive Board.
4. He/She shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees.
5. He/She shall report to the Regional Organization as to the state of the Region and shall make recommendations for its improvement.
6. He/She shall serve as the Regional representative to the International Board.
7. He/She shall make all decisions necessary for the proper functioning of the Region, subject to veto by the Regional Executive Council, or the Regional Executive Board.
8. He/She shall make all special appointments to the Regional Executive Board subject to veto by the Regional Executive Council, or Regional Executive Board.
9. He/She shall have the power to assign to each executive office jurisdiction over specific chairmanships if the need arises, subject to veto by the Regional Executive Board.
10. He/She shall compile and submit a formal, annual report to the succeeding President.

### **B. Israel Affairs Vice President**

1. He/She shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties.
2. He/She shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees.
3. He/She shall replace the President in his/her absence or incapacity.
4. He/She shall coordinate and supervise all regional projects pertaining to Israel.
5. He/She shall oversee those committees concerned with Israel. These committees presently include the following: Israeli Affairs, and International Affairs.
6. He/She shall compile and submit a formal, annual report to the succeeding Executive Vice President.

### **C. Religion/Education Vice President**

1. He/She shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties.
2. He/She shall coordinate and supervise all regional projects pertaining to all aspects of religion and education.
3. He/She shall oversee those committees concerned with religion and education. These committees presently include the following: Shabbat Enhancement, Religious, and Ruach.
4. He/She shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees.
5. He/She shall compile and submit a formal, annual report to the succeeding Religion/Education Vice President.

### **D. Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice President**

1. He/She shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties.
  2. He/She shall coordinate/supervise all regional projects pertaining to all aspects of Social Action and Tikun Olam.
  3. He/She shall oversee those committees concerned with Social Action and Tikun Olam. These committees presently include the following: Tikun Olam and Social Action.
  4. He/She shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees.
  5. He/She shall compile and submit a formal, annual report to succeeding Social Action/Tikun Olam Vice President.
- E. Membership/Kadima Vice President
1. He/She shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties.
  2. He/She shall work with and coordinate all Kadima activities within Connecticut Region.
  3. He/she shall coordinate and supervise the implementation of all aspects of membership expansion for U.S.Y. and Kadima.
  4. He/She shall oversee those committees concerned with Kadima programming and membership expansion of U.S.Y. and Kadima. These committees presently include the following: Membership and Programming, Kadima Ledger, Senior Affairs, and Sports.
  5. He/She shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees.
  6. He/She shall compile and submit a formal, annual report to the succeeding Kadima/Membership Vice President.
- F. Communications Vice President
1. He/She shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties.
  2. He/She shall keep a record of all meetings of the Regional Executive Board, Regional Executive Council, and other sessions as the President directs.
  3. He/She shall distribute the minutes of all official meetings he/she has recorded to the Regional Executive Board no later than three weeks following such meetings.
  4. He/She shall oversee those committees concerned with communication. These committees presently include the following: Kolenu, Office Help, Yearbook, Creative Arts, Tel-A-U.S.Y.er, and Publicity.
  5. He/She shall oversee the design and sale of regalia coordinated by the Regalia Committee.
  6. He/She shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees.
  7. He/She shall update and revise the constitution as it becomes amended, and therefore, outdated.
  8. He/She shall compile and submit a formal, annual report to the succeeding Communications Vice President.
- G. District Presidents
1. There shall be one President for and elected by each District.
  2. He/She shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties.
  3. He/She shall schedule and coordinate all inter-chapter activities within his/her respective District.
  4. He/She shall submit to the President a report concerning the state of his

or her respective District every two months.

5. He/She shall compile and submit a formal, annual report to his/her succeeding officer.

### **Section 5 - Standards**

- A. All Regional Executive Board Members of Connecticut Region U.S.Y. shall observe Sabbath and holidays with regard to the Responsum of the Rabbinical Assembly pertaining to travel and by refraining from all school examinations and public functions thereon;
- B. All Regional Executive Board Members shall observe the Jewish Dietary laws where possible in private and at all times in public;
- C. All Regional Executive Board Members shall participate in some mode of Judaic study for not less than three hours weekly, they shall not attend less than four Sabbath services monthly and have a reading knowledge of Hebrew;
- D. As leaders of USY, the Regional Executive Board members 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, it is expected that the leaders of the organization will refrain from relationships which can be construed as inter-dating.
- E. All Regional Executive Board Members shall participate in at least 60% of their chapter's activities and 100% of the regional activities.

### **Section 6 - Vacancies**

- A. In the event that there is a vacancy in the office of President, the Israel Affairs Vice President shall automatically become President and shall serve the remainder of the President's current term.
- B. In the event that the Israel Affairs Vice President does not accept the Presidency, the Regional Executive Board shall elect a President, subject to veto by the Regional Executive Council, and shall serve the remainder of the term.
- C. In the event there is a vacancy in the positions of the Vice Presidents or District Presidents, the President shall appoint an eligible person, subject to veto by the Regional Executive Council, and shall serve the remainder of the term.

### **Section 7 - Impeachment**

Impeachment proceedings against any Regional Executive Board member may be initiated upon written charges from ½ of the members of the chapter presidents, or ½ of the members of the Regional Executive Council.

- A. These charges shall be presented to the Communications Vice President, unless he/she is the subject of the charge. In such a case, the petition shall be presented to the Regional President.
- B. Copies of the charges will then be forwarded to the individual facing impeachment as well as to all Regional Executive Board Members and to all Chapter Presidents, where upon the defendant may submit his/her answer to the charges within twenty days after receipt thereof.

- C. The Regional Executive Council shall hear the charges and the defendant shall have an opportunity to answer any accusations.
- D. A vote of 3/4 of the members of the Regional Executive Council shall be necessary to remove an individual from his/her office. The vote of the individual shall not be taken into account when the Regional Executive Council is voting.

## **Article IX - Regional Conventions (Kinnusim)**

### **Section 1 - Number**

There shall be at least two U.S.Y. Regional Conventions annually.

### **Section 2 - Co-Chairpersons**

The Regional President shall have the power to appoint the Kinnus Co-Chairpersons, subject to veto by the Regional Executive Board. These Co-Chairpersons may not be Regional Executive Board members.

### **Section 3 - Kinnus Programming**

All programming for Kinnusim shall be done by and through the Regional Executive Board.

## **Article X - Chapter Responsibilities**

### **Section 1 - Annual Report**

Each constituent chapter is required to submit to the President for his/her respective District, monthly reports to be compiled into an annual report.

### **Section 2 - Chapter Elections**

Each chapter in Connecticut Region U.S.Y. shall elect chapter officers annually. The President of which shall serve on the Presidents Council and Regional Executive Council. The chapters' elections shall not be earlier than the election of the Regional Executive Board members, and not later than July 30.

## **Article XI - Amendments**

### **Section 1 - Persons eligible to amend the Constitution:**

Any member in good standing of a constituent chapter of Connecticut Region U.S.Y. may propose an amendment in writing to the Regional President at least two weeks prior to a Regional Executive Council meeting.

### **Section 2 - Copies of Amendment**

Each delegate shall have a copy of the proposed amendment(s).

**Section 3** - Proposed amendments shall be incorporated into the Constitution and shall take effect immediately, unless otherwise stated, upon receiving 2/3 vote of the delegates of the Regional Executive Council.