

HaNegev Chapter President Packet!!!



A LOVELY WAY TO KICK OFF YOUR YEAR AS CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

As Compiled By:
Frank Spiro
HaNegev Regional President 2011-2012

Congratulations HaNegev's newly elected Chapter Presidents!! You have now received the most important job in all of USY. It is you chapter presidents that build a love for USY on the chapter level that leads to the wonderful success that HaNegev depends on. You have now become the leading most expert on your chapter. When you ran I'm sure you had changes and ideas that you wanted to see happen. It is now in your power, to make those changes happen. You're now the head muchacho. The Swag emperor.

With this power though, comes great responsibility.

While Chapter president is one of the most important jobs in USY, at times it can also be the most difficult. You may become stressed, you may become frustrated, and you may even become confused and not know what to do next. That's ok. This is a new job for you; you are not expected to know exactly how to do everything instantly. Chapter Presidency is just as much of a learning experience as it is a great opportunity to improve your chapter. That is what this packet is for. There are a lot of ways to run your chapter as chapter president, but this packet is just some of the basics to keep in mind as your year progresses. This packet is here hopefully to clarify concerns, questions, or questions you didn't even know you have yet.

The most important thing about being chapter president though, is having fun. If you have fun, other people will have fun. If you stick with this, and do your best throughout your presidency, this can be one of the most rewarding years of your life.

This will be one of the best years of your life. Enjoy every minute of it.

If you ever need anything, whether it be advice or someone just to vent to, feel free to contact me at any time, place, or event.

You got this.

Hakuna Matata,
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HaNegev Regional President 2011-2012
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(Side note, to keep me entertained, I have decided to make the titles of all the sections questions, as if a 90 year old grandparent were asking them)

What is this Subregional Board, Or Whatever You Kids Are Calling It These Days?

These bes yoz main homeskillz. The Sub regional Board is an entire board of 3 people from your sub region, just to help you at as chapter presidents. They will call you once a month just to check in, and are there to help you whenever you need advice or help with anything. Feel free to contact them whenever!

President:

The President is the leader of your sub region. You will bond with your sub regional president this year, and they are there to help you whenever you need anything. The president is the connection between your chapter, and the regional board. Use them wisely, they are here for you. The presidents are:

Ein Gedi: Jonathan Friedman

Mercaz: Ariel Reich

Arvot: Max Winn

Vice President:

The Vice President plans programs all year long, and helps the president leads your sub region to success. They are a great resource to you, and I know for a fact they all want to talk to you. Feel free to contact them at any time, they are here for you. The Vice Presidents are:

Ein Gedi: Jonathan Tuck

Mercaz: Jesse Sokolov

Arvot: Marc Sznajstajler

Secretary:

The Secretary on Sub regional Board is there to take notes, and organize the sub region. They update the facebook pages, take minutes at meetings, and write daily Shabbat emails to all of you. Contact them at ANY time. The Secretaries are:

Ein Gedi: Kerri Fogel

Mercaz: Heather Solomon

Arvot: Josh Winograd

If you haven't noticed, there is a Common Theme about all the Sub regional Boards. They are there for you. Feel free to contact them at ANY time.

Oy, Regional Boards? Is This One of Those Hip Kid Things?

The Regional Board are the 9 leaders of our region from all the different sub regions that are responsible for making HaNegev the tremendousling place it is. THEY ARE HERE FOR YOU. Each person on the Regional Board has a different sub specialty, and they are experts on these specialties. PLEASE contact them for anything having to do with these topics. Or just contact them about anything. It is the REB's job to help their chapter counterparts and run their General Board. Here are the USYers and positions that make up our regional board.

President: Frank Spiro

It is the Presidents job to be the face of HaNegev. They go to every convention in every sub region and are there to help out everyone in HaNegev, from the chapter presidents to other REB members. Chapter Presidents- that's you. The Regional President loves chill Shabbats, and CANNOT wait to meet all of you lovely chapter presidents.

Israel Affairs Vice President: Adina Beiner

The Israel Affairs Vice president is responsible for all things Israel related, which includes Israel updates on the HaNegev Listserve, and creating awesome Israel programs for sub regional and regional programs. She runs the HeChalutzim program, which is a great way to get involved with Israel in the region. As IA VP she is also in charge of promoting all USY summer programs. The IA VP this year is a chill girl, who LOVES Israel (she's seriously there like every other week) and whose hero is Frank Spiro. Just check her Facebook.

Religion Education Vice President: Noah Peskin

The Religion Education Vice President is responsible for all things Judaism in the region. They find people to lead services at conventions, and write super sweet Dvrei Torahs. The Rel Ed VP this year is a serious prayer expert, who has a serious passion for a ration of daily torah and prayer. If you're having trouble finding him, just look out for the mammoth beard.

Social Action/ Tikun Olam Vice President/ Executive Vice President: Emily Rieders

The Social Action/ Tikun Olam Vice President is responsible for everything Social Action and fundraising related in HaNegev. The SA/TO has a general theme that runs throughout the entire year, and collects tzedakah for various charities and USY scholarship organizations. She also runs the 613 club, a club for anyone wanting to get more involved in SA/TO (Sign Up!). As Executive Vice President, she is the president's right hand women, and promoting American USY trips, like USY on Wheels. The SA/TO VP this year is going on the BEST pilgrimage group ever, and loves giving charity to a variety of organizations.

Membership and Kadima Vice President: Emily Swerdloff

The Membership and Kadima Vice President is in charge of everything Membership related. She plans Geshet convention for all the 8th graders and attends all of the Kadima Conventions in HaNegev. She plans various programs throughout the year to increase membership and make HaNegev the Great place it is. The Mem/Kad this year has some serious pink hair, and loves sculpting the wonderful Kadimaniks of the future.

Communications Vice President: Gabe Grossman

The Communications Vice President is responsible for HaIton, the HaNegev newspaper, and he takes minutes at all the meetings. Most importantly though, he keeps Hanegevusy.org up and running, so all the other regions can know that ours is the best. The Comm VP loves communicating with all people in USY, so you should definitely get to know him.

Oy Veys Meer, What does it Mean to Be A Chapter President Though, Honey?

With Being a Chapter President comes a great deal of responsibility. Sometimes though, its hard to understand exactly what those responsibilities are. That is this section, the what it means of being a Chapter President

Reaching Out To the Small Guy

- Stay Even Keeled It will be an up and down year. Throughout the USY year, your chapter will gain members, lose members, have lots of events, and have dry spells for events. The important thing is though, that you stay even keeled. Make sure that you stay passionate about your job, and know that at down periods it will get better.
- Be That Connection between Seniors and Freshman: You are now the glue of your chapter. You are now the person that makes your chapter that cohesive group. The way to do this is by talking to everyone from the cool cats, to the shy turtles (I was struggling coming up with an animal that fit shy). The more you put yourself out there by meeting people outside of your comfort zone, the more people will respect you as chapter president, and the more your chapter will bond together.
- Make Sure you Continue to Instill That Love Of USY In Everyone!: Don't lose your passion!! Getting kids to conventions will make them love USY, but we need that hook at the chapter level! Try and bring the excitement and ballerness of conventions to chapter programs. Stay persistent with this and it will come.

Making USY Enjoyable for Everyone

- Stay Cool: More people freak out in chapter USY then in any other section of USY. As Chapter President it is your job to make sure that you are that calm voice of reason in your chapter. If you stay calm, cool, and collected you will be able to command absolute respect from your chapter. The second you freak out, the rest of the chapter freaks out as well.

Have the BEST Time of Your Life

- Just Do It: This is going to be a phenomenal year. If you have fun, you will be a great chapter president. People love hanging out with people who are having fun. This job should be fun. Just stay chill, have a good time, and lead your chapter to success.

Going to Conventions

- Chapter Presidents Weekend: Now you get to go to Chapter Presidents weekend! This is one of my favorite conventions all year. You will get to participate in programs that will lead you to becoming the best possible chapter president.
- Fall/Spring Sub regional Convention: These conventions are a little different for Chapter Presidents. You are now the leaders of these conventions. It is your job to rally your chapters and make sure they make a big splash on the sub regional level. Come up with cheers! Make Chapter T Shirts! This is a great opportunity to show what your chapter can do on the sub regional level.
- International Convention: If you can go to international convention, it will be one of the best conventions you have ever been too. You will get to meet chapter presidents from around the country and see what works and doesn't work for other chapters across the US and Canada. Also, we have pre convention this year, so you can become really close with the regional chapter presidents as well.
- Regional Convention: While this may seem like a while off, it is just around the corner. At regional convention, they announce chapter of excellence and programs of excellence. Do it!! Whether you're a big, small, or medium sized chapter everyone has the same chance of winning.

Ah, Bubalach How do you be a SUCCESSFUL Chapter President Though??

Well Nana that is a little harder. There are a few “tricks of the trade” that you will learn throughout the entire year on how to be an effective President. This section is here to help you understand your potential as president, and how to handle certain Situations.

Talking To People

- BE EQUAL!: You are now chapter president, and that is because people elected you. This, however, should not inflate your head. You are in USY just like everyone else. Just because you are chapter president doesn't mean you are more entitled than other USYers.
- Stay Chill: Just a reiteration of what was said a little earlier. Stay Chill. When you are talking to members who are at events, new members or old members, be calm. Don't talk bad about your board to other people, and never make a problem at an event a bigger deal than it is. If you are chill and happy to other people, they will be the same to everyone else in the chapter.
- Chapter Pride: Promote yourself! If you're not energetic and enthusiastic about your chapter, no one will be. Make a chapter cheer! When you are talking to members of your chapter or to members of other chapters, always be enthusiastic about the direction your chapter is moving in.
- Being Presidential: Beware of this perception you now carry. You are now the leader of a group of people. This means people will be watching you. Make sure you are always setting a good example for those around you and that you lead your chapter in an appropriate way. This does not mean though, that when you talk to people you should talk down to them. Treat them like equals, because they are.
- Be Persistent: Don't let members get away! Be persistent when talking to people. People may be shy towards you now, you're a big deal! Just keep talking to everyone and keep chasing after those members that are right on the edge.

Programming

- Be Creative: While running the same event every year is good and can be fun, it is very important to come up with new creative programs as well. Be creative! Coming up with fun new programs can be extremely hard but also entirely rewarding. People like creative events; also, it will go a long way towards Chapter Of Excellence!
- Just Fun is Good: Programming for fun is crucial! Often times if you make an event just for Chapter of Excellence, it won't be successful. For Instance, when I was Chapter President I tried making a SA/TO program that I knew wasn't the funnest, but that would look good on chapter of excellence applications. People did not have fun, and it ended up being the worst programs of the year for my chapter. Plan programs around how people will have a good time, after all, that is the idea behind USY.
- Advertising Matters: While it may not seem like a big deal in whether or not people actually come to events, it is important that your events have fun names and great flyers. People are much more likely to go to an event that has a fun name and cool flyers than an event that is hardly advertised for. Advertisement shows

your enthusiasm for your chapter and is a great way to show chapter pride to people who may not have it yet.

- Practicality: We all want to have great, amazing programs. Sometimes though, less is much more. There are times when people just want a chill place to hang out with their friends. People don't usually have the longest attention spans, so plan towards that. Make sure your programs are possible and are on a realistic basis.
- Be Flexible: Programs won't go well. It happens. Sometimes people will be rowdy, not want to do a program that you may have spent a lot of time planning, and that ok. Remember the idea behind programs. The idea behind programs is for USYers to have fun and for them to gain a love for USY. Is sitting around talking with friends is what they need sometimes, then let that happen.

Working With Your Board

- Brainstorm: While at times they may seem like they are a nuisance, your best resource as president is your board. People run for positions because they have visions for their role. It is important to always listen to their ideas. Sometimes you are going to need help, and when that happens, a brainstorming session with your board can be the best medicine.
- Delegate: Being president is a lot of work. That is what your board is there for. Don't be afraid to delegate some work if you need to, if you want to run a SA/TO program go to your SA/TO and ask for help. IT should never just be a board member planning an event though; you are also there to help them. It is a very careful balancing act.
- Be Objective: You don't control your board. There is a serious possibility that there may be someone on your board that you don't like, that you don't trust, or that you just don't work well with. All of those pre conceived notions have to be thrown out of the door. This year isn't about the personal relationship about your board, it is about watching your chapter grow and prosper. When the attention of the chapter becomes the drama of chapter board, then they lose focus on their love for USY.
- Channel Your Inner Sensai: People will freak out. Just like you may feel sometimes (or at least I did), they don't know exactly what to do in all situations. They may get scared that they are doing something wrong, or not doing enough, and eventually fear leads to anger. You always need to be calm. You are the head of this ship, if you start freaking out and getting angry, there is no stopping the chaos that will happen. You need to keep your cool and not freak out in front of your board. You may get overwhelmed, but when that happens go to your youth director or pull yourself aside.
- LISTEN!: This ones easy. LISTEN TO YOUR BOARD!! They have great ideas, and when you put aside something you want to do, and do something they may be passionate about, you often times come out with the best programs of the year.

Endurance

- For Goodness Sake, Ask for Help!!: It's a long year! It is incredibly hard to stay motivated and energetic the entire year. When this happens, ask for help!! Stephanie and I are here the entire way for you guys, and so are your sub regional presidents. Your sub regional board is a great resource to go to when you get tired, and you need a good program idea or some motivation.
- Your Shul is a Pretty Tight Place: Really it is. Sometime you and your shul might disagree, and sometimes you may be angry about something they do. You should

always try and make nice with them though. Chapter President is a much easier job when your synagogue is on your side, promoting your chapter then when it isn't.

- Setting Goals: Set goals for yourself at the beginning of the year! This will let you stay focused, and keep track of where you are throughout the year. There is nothing better than setting a goal for yourself, whether it be having one program of excellence or gaining 5 new members throughout the year, and achieving it.

Working With Your Youth Advisor

- Keep A Good Relationship: Your Youth Advisor/ Director is pivotal in making sure you have a good year as chapter president. They are the people who make your chapter work year in and year out. Don't take that for granted. If you keep a good relationship with your youth director, and you guys can work together to get your chapter up and moving, then nothing will stop you.
- Its Your Chapter to Run: You won Chapter President. There are certain things you are going to want to see your chapter do, and you should do those things. Don't let your Youth Advisor take over the chapter and make decisions that you don't like. This is your chapter to run. If you need to talk to your youth advisor about something like this though, make sure to go to her in a very calm way. You should never get angry and freak out at your Youth Advisor.
- Get Along!!: The success of your chapter depends on your relationship with your Youth Advisor. S/He might have ideas that you don't like, but there are times when you just need to trust them and go with their idea. Your Youth Director is there to help, they know that and you know that. If you guys get in a fight, they are no longer helping and that is a problem. Make sure to get along and get the most from your Youth Advisor.
- They Know What They Are Doing: It may not seem like it sometimes, but trust me, they know what they are doing. Most of the time, things they suggest are things that they have already done before. This means they know how to run it and how to plan it. The relationship with your Youth Advisor depends on trust. If you trust each other, your chapter will see new heights in USY.

Managing Your Life

- Other Stuff Is Important As Well: USY is great. Chapter president is a lot of work though, and prioritizing matters. School comes first. Do not let your responsibilities as Chapter President get you down, stress you out, or depress you. That is not what it is there for. If you have a lot of work to do, Delegate some responsibility, or tell your Youth Advisor and I'm sure you guys could work something out.
- Time Manage!: Organize your time! You will have some pretty busy days as chapter president, but if you can prioritize, maybe write out a schedule for yourself, and know how long it takes you to do things, you will be just fine.
- BE HAPPY!!: Really. This is what USY is all about. Everybody loves a happy chapter president.

Darling! I Hear HaNegev Is Trying Something New This Year... Sub regional Chapter Trifectas??

Yes!! This Year we have decided to pair up each chapter with 2 other chapters from the other 2 sub regions. These “Chapter Trifectas” would be able to communicate and bond over the entire year, which could make chapter USY more enjoyable for everyone involved. There are three main reasons for these groups:

1. Regional Unity

- a. We have a very big region, both geographic and membership wise. This is the strength of our region, and we need to keep it as strength. At things like regional Convention, people from your chapter may not know anyone else from other chapters, or other sub regions. RGBW is great chance for you to get to meet people from other sub regions since it is such a small convention. The same goes for International Convention and Pre Convention, because those are longer then normal conventions and smaller. For the vast majority of members though, Regional Convention is their first convention. It can be difficult to meet people from other sub regions at Regionals, mainly because there are so many people there and everyone already has friends from their own chapter and sub region. These Chapter Trifectas will give people more of an opportunity to know kids from other sub regions, making Regionals much more fun for them and bringing our region closer.

2. Understanding Your Own Chapter

- a. Sometimes things won't look so bright and cheery in your chapter. Programs may not be going well, or you may be having trouble with your board. Sometimes the hardest thing to do in a chapter setting though, is diagnose the problem. Whether that problem is issues with a board member or boring programs. With Chapter Trifectas, we can diagnose the problem by having all 3 chapters run the same IA program. If the program goes well for 2 of the three chapters, we now have a better idea that it wasn't a bad program, but rather it wasn't led in the best way, or that a certain chapters kids have less of an attention span. It can be a great way to better understand the inner workings of chapters and to better diagnose your chapters problems.

3. Someone For You

- a. The chapter presidents of the other two chapters are a GREAT resource for you! Sometimes all you need is a fresh perspective on a problem you are having. The chapter presidents from the other 2 sub regions can provide that! You can build off of the other 2 chapter presidents, and grow as a group. Also, you are now not only a leader of your chapter; you are a leader of HaNegev. People from your chapter will be inclined to talk to people from other chapters if you are! An inter sub regional friendship between Chapter Presidents looks great for that.

Chapter Presidents,

This is your time to shine. You are all going to have phenomenal years, and I cannot wait to see what great heights you take your chapters, and this region to. Your Sub regional President, Stephanie, and I will be here every step along the way during your journey. I will give one last piece of advice: Have fun. The most important thing about being chapter president is to have fun. If you're not having fun, other people won't, and we don't want that. You got this guys! This is your year! Have fun and do us proud!

Hakuna Matata,

Frank Spiro

Hanegev Regional President 2011-2012