

Jewish Family Services

Minutes of 58th Annual General Meeting

21 March 2013 at the Jewish Drop In Centre, Edmonton

Present: Jeni Adler, Michael Alpern, Helaine Blatt, Mike Campbell, Larry Derkach, Barry Goldberg, Linda Goody, Tina Kafka, Maxine Laneus, Brian Lessem, Harry Nolan, Ruth Nolan, Phyllis Nurgitz, Bernard Offengenden, Svetlana Pavlenko, Netta Phillet, Hannah Pollack, Miriam Rabinovitch, Sherry Schonbeck, Amber Todd, Lewis Wasel, Mel Wyne.

Regrets: Naomi Amato, Carol Aube-Girard, Judi Card, Rhonda Eidelman, Rabbi D. Friedman, Barry Greenspan, Stephanie Hendin, Russ Joseph, Terry Karpman, Tulane Rollingher, Arthur Totman, Alba Valderrama, Ken Wasserman, Robert Wood, Jodi Zabudowski.

Call to Order: President Lewis Wasel called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm and welcomed everyone

Introductions: Lewis introduced Board Members present, Honorary Officers Ruth Nolan, Netta Phillet and Barry Goldberg, and former President Harry Nolan. He acknowledged Svetlana Pavlenko, Executive Director of the Jewish Senior Citizens' Centre, our host and program partner.

D'Var Torah: referring to the upcoming Passover holiday, Lewis Wasel noted that the Last Supper in Egypt took place in the homes of the people. Today's seder takes place at a family table, not in a synagogue. In the formational event and story of the Jewish people the family is a central. The important work we do at Jewish Family Services is also focused on the centrality of family, connectedness, community.

Minutes: →[Motion 1]: M.Alpern/M.Wyne that the minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

President's Report: Lewis began by noting this is the second AGM that he is chairing he is at the end of his two year term as president. He reflected on some of the highlights of the agency and my own personal involvement. He thanked Rabbi Friedman for inviting him to the board in the first place, for his motivation and wise advice. He thanked the Board for its confidence and support. His attendance at AJFCA conferences in Calgary and Houston were great learning experiences. He has appreciated opportunities to interact with other organizations such as the United Way, the Jewish Federation, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council, the Chevra Kadisha and our host, the

Jewish Seniors Centre. Some of those are our major funders. A highlight was attending the board's tri-annual assessment by the United Way. Our staff's presentation was a source of pride, and an eye-opener about how wonderful a staff we have and the esteem with which our agency is held by our funders. Our move to larger office space was a significant progression in our agency's history which has enhanced its functioning and ability to deliver services. It was a joy for board members to participate in affixing mezuzot to the door posts at a Board meeting. In addition to the growth of our premises we have also seen a steady growth of our budget and staff. Fundraising has been an important board activity. Our golf tournament on June 18, 2012 was a huge success both in terms of the funds raised and the profile of JFS in the community. Thanks to everyone who supported the tournament. Special thanks to board member Tulane Rollingher for the major sponsorship. The Stay at Home Dinner on Family Day continues to be a popular fundraising event and the funds raised increase every year. The casino continues to be one of our major fundraisers. Thank you to past board member Daniel Assh for managing this event for us for the last eight years. We also thank Jodi Zabudowski and the National Council of Jewish Women for directing proceeds from their casino to JFS. Our board held a retreat last month focusing on our profile in the community and how we communicate. Good ideas were expressed and implementation of some of those ideas will strengthen the organization. Our Community Relations Committee is actively working on plans to take JFS on the Road to create greater awareness of JFS in the community. Lewis thanked all the Board members for their commitment to the governance and support of the agency. While the board's role may often be in the background, its importance in the functioning of the agency cannot be underestimated. Michael Alpern has been a tower of support as vice-president. The board will be in good hands under his leadership. Our excellent staff under the leadership of our Executive Director Larry Derkach is seen as the face of our agency. They are passionate and compassionate in their delivery of services and they make us proud. They have been most helpful and supportive of the board and we appreciate that. Last but not least, Lewis expressed sincere thanks to all of our volunteers, donors and funders. Their interest is vital to our success. He said it was an honour to serve as President and I thank everyone who has supported and shown an interest in JFS.

Auditor's Report: Lewis introduced the auditor, Dwayne DeGraves, who presented his report. Dwayne noted that it was a "clean audit" with the usual disclaimers concerning the non-verifiability of donations and fees for service, and that all finances were in order.

→**[Motion 2]:** R.Nolan/M.Rabinovitch that the 2013 Auditor's report be received. CARRIED

→**[Motion 3]:** R.Nolan/M.Rabinovitch that we appoint DeGraves Pallard & Associates LLP as Financial Auditors for the fiscal year ending 30 June 2014. CARRIED

Nominating Committee Report: Mel Wyne presented the report on behalf of the chair, Rabbi Friedman. It is anticipated that a new president will be elected following this meeting, and if so, Rabbi Friedman as current Past President will have completed his time on the Board. He has been on the Board since 2004, and we thank him very much for his excellent service. At this time, 6 members are standing for re-election, 3 for a 2nd term and 3 for a 4th term. One member was appointed by the Board during the year and is now standing for election to a regular 1st term. There are also 3 new nominees being presented.

→**[Motion 4]:** M.Wyne/J.Adler that Judi Card, Netta Phillet and Robert Wood be re-elected to the board for a fourth term; that Tulane Rollingher, Ken Wasserman and Mel Wyne be re-elected to the board for a second term; and that Naomi Amato, Linda Goody, Barry Greenspan and Bernard Offengenden be elected to the board for a first term. CARRIED.

Executive Director's report: Larry said people tease him about his messy office. But it is a positive indicator of how our client and hours of service have increased. At the same time, other services in the wider community have shrunk, placing more pressure on JFS. Funders continue to press for better measures of our impact. We are developing our data base capacity and improving our methods of accountability. More clients means more need for support and program development, consultation, fund development, and behind-the-scenes support. Putting client services first inevitably leads to an untidy office. After much talk we have been making new efforts to broaden our image, with new fund raising initiatives and

active board recruitment. It is a pleasure to work with a board that is striving to be more active in ways that staff cannot- raising profile, building relationships in the community. The staff are energizing and inspiring-committed, professional, talented. Larry introduced the staff who were present. He gave special mention to Ernie Schlesinger who retired from active service after 22 years, including his latter years when he chose not to accept his paycheque. Larry thanked our funders who are partners, donors who trust us to act on their behalf, and all who are present for being part of the enterprise.

Special Presentation: From time to time the agency appoints Honorary Board Members from among former board members who have given additional noteworthy service. Danny Assh served on the board 2003-2006 and chaired the casino fund raiser 2005-2012 during which time 5 casinos were held. He was noted for his meticulousness and attentiveness to all aspects of the work.

→**[Motion 5]:** N.Phillet/M.Rabinovitch that we appoint Danny Assh as an Honorary Board Member. CARRIED

Courtesies:

Lewis thanked everyone for coming, and Bozena Szopiak, Freda Braude and Bronia Haylik for the refreshments.

Adjournment:

→**[Motion 6]:** N.Phillet/R.Nolan that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED at 8:25 pm.

Larry Derkach
Recording Secretary

Lewis Wasel
President

Director