

Jewish Family Services

Minutes of 59th Annual General Meeting

27 March 2014 at the Jewish Drop In Centre, Edmonton

Present: Jeni Adler, Michael Alpern, Carol Aubee-Girard, Martin Bankey, Mike Campbell, Larry Derkach, Dwayne DeGraves, Alyson Eidelman, Rhonda Eidelman, Harvey Emas, Minnie Emas, Maya Feldman, Alberto Genis, Barry Goldberg, Linda Goody, Barry Greenspan, Nina Hardin, Doug Hughes, Terry Karpman, Trudy Katz, Vera Leanovich, Harry Nolan, Ruth Nolan, Phyllis Nurgitz, Bernard Offengenden, Svetlana Pavlenko, Netta Phillet, Miriam Rabinovitch, Tulane Rollingher, David Rolston, Moira Sacks, Hal Simons, Arthur Totman, Lewis Wasel, Robert Wood, Mel Wyne, Jodi Zabłudowski.

Regrets: Carol Aubee-Girard, Jeff Bryson, Stephanie Hendin, Maxine Laneus, Rabbi Klief Rose, Craig Stumpf-Allen, Debby Shoctor, Lauren Tankel, Joseph Tappenden.

Call to Order: President Michael Alpern called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm, welcomed everyone, and declared that a quorum was present.

D'Var Torah: Netta Phillet spoke to the this week's parsha Shimini which describes the laws of kashrut. She noted that contrary to some views these laws are not rooted in sanitation practices, but ritual cleanliness: dedication to sacred living. Such living is at the root of the Jewish values of seeking justice and caring for the needy.

Introductions: Michael introduced Board members present, Honorary Officers Ruth Nolan and Netta Phillet, Honorary Board Director Barry Goldberg, and former long-serving President Harry Nolan. He acknowledged Svetlana Pavlenko, Executive Director of the Jewish Senior Citizens' Centre, our host and program partner. He also acknowledged Moira Sacks, President of Beth Shalom synagogue.

Agenda: →[**Motion 1**]:

R.Eidelman/M.Rabinovitch that the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED

Minutes: →[**Motion 2**]:

T.Rollingher/N.Phillet that the minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting be adopted as circulated, with spelling errors corrected, and to ratify all decisions contained therein and made subsequently. CARRIED

President's Report: Michael expressed his pleasure at being in this role because the agency is selfless. He regretted we are not better known, as we do exemplary work. He noted we often get challenging clients referred by other agencies.

During the past year the board welcomed 3 new members and a new president, and held 7 meetings which were well attended and with good participation. Committee work included:

- Community Relations – took JFS “On the Road” twice and spoke at least once (perhaps more) to a synagogue congregation.
- Finance Committee – delved into the area of identifying and managing risk.
- Executive Director Evaluation – undertook a thorough evaluation process.
- Fund Development – worked with our staff to plan some major activities. The fund raiser with, and cancelled by, Dr. Ruth was a disappointment; we feel intrepidation and optimism with Legends of Broadway- it's a bold move for a small agency – he encouraged people to buy tickets and come. We have lots of competition, so we need to find ways to stand out, take a risk.

Michael commented on his involvement with AJFCA presidents' meetings and the international conference in Phoenix. He

represented agency in the wider community at Federation meetings, Police Hate Crimes Liaison Committee, and Edmonton Seniors Co-ordinating Council.

He offered great thanks to our very supportive funders, donors, supporters, and volunteers, and to board members and staff.

Auditor's Report: Auditor Dwayne DeGraves presented his report, noting 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 3]:** M.Rabinovitch/L.Goody that the 2013 Auditor's report be received.
CARRIED

→**[Motion 4]:** B.Greenspan/R.Nolan 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, Lewis Wasel. At this time, 3 members are standing for re-election, 1 for a 4th term and 2 for a 3rd term.

→**[Motion 5]:** M.Wyne/B. Greenspan that Lewis Wasel be re-elected to the board for a fourth term; that Michael Alpern and Terry Karpman be re-elected to the board for a third term. CARRIED.

Executive Director's report: Larry noted that this is his "bar mitzvah" year, having marked his 13th anniversary as Executive Director in January – and not being Jewish it will likely be his only bar mitzvah.

He comment on progress on our strategic plans, both with continuing services and programs, and with new projects such as the Elder Abuse Awareness project in collaboration with 4 other agencies. More info will be in the annual reports soon to be published.

One of our goals was to increase capacity, which we have done with the new Program & Operations Manager. There is increased cost now, but we are poised for future growth.

Another goal was to increase profile, which we have done in many ways, with the SMART program's 10th anniversary celebration, and presence at and participation in numerous community events.

Having raised \$14,000 for a financial literacy project, we are still seeking the rest of the money to complete it. \$25,000 has been received for the Program & Operations Manager position and more is anticipated. While the Dr. Ruth event did not proceed, we have great hopes for the Legends of Broadway concert series.

We are part of a community-wide "team" with many organizational collaborators, networks of professionals, and key funders such as United Way and FCSS.

Larry thanked the hard working staff and introduced those who were present. He thanked President Michael and the board for providing challenge, encouragement and support.

Courtesies:

Michael thanked everyone for coming, and Bozena Szopiak, Freda Braude and Bronia Heilik for the refreshments.

Adjournment:

→**[Declared]:** at 8:20 pm.

Larry Derkach
Recording Secretary

Michael Alpern
President

Director