

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
OF THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA REGION OF THE
UNITED SYNAGOGUES OF AMERICA ON 6/11/80.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Al Weinstein at 8:05 P.M. In attendance were Casey Neuman, Harriet Kruman, Seril Slavkin, Al Smolover, Bernard Shepman, Herb Chesler and David Dinkin.

Al Weinstein commented on information gleaned from the regional president's meeting in Houston and the meeting of the presidents in New York. It was stated that the United Synagogue is financially more solvent with a debt of \$300,000 to be paid in yearly aliquots of \$100,000 each. Cash flow is somewhat improved with a thirty to ninety day delay noted. The conferences further recommended improvement in Region to National input. The Rabbinical assembly has asked the Law committee of the Jewish Theological Seminary to re-assess their view of women in the Rabbinate.

With regard to our region, the four Vice-Presidents will be assigned specific fields of interest matched when possible to their own interest and expertise. They are:

- (1) Herb Chesler - Vice-President in charge of youth activities. This will encompass United Synagogue functions as a Pittsburgh group, a college alert program for conservative children, both Hillel and Non-Hillel, a community-wide youth advisory council for both Synagogue, non-Synagogue organizations (B'nai Brith, Haschachar, etc.) and non-affiliated youth. Inter-group functions will be encouraged.
- (2) Casey Neuman - Vice-President of Regional activities. Inter-regional conferences will be instituted in the off year between biennial conferences, perhaps as part of a Shabbas experience. Workshops with smaller congregations to educate these congregations vis a vis the needs of our region, mechanisms of the United Synagogue and get the feel of opinion re resolutions for the next convention. Casey would also coordinate local programming and seminars both inter and intra-regional.
- (3) Bernie Shepman - Vice-President of Congregational activities. This represents an inreach activity to develop activities with member congregations as President's brunch and visits to member congregations.
- (4) Al Smolover - Vice-President of special affairs. This includes such wide-reaching items as a Solomon Schechter school, a Jewish residential life-care community and community school board.

Progress re the Solomon Schechter school was reported with a meeting June 2nd between Rabbi Morton Siegel and the community day school board. Rabbi Siegel had previously reviewed the CDS curriculum and pointed out deficiencies as far as incorporation with the Solomon Schechter program. We are currently awaiting word from the CDS board whether or not they would follow up on further Solomon Schechter merger. It is felt that the major stumbling blocks to this merger are basically a loss autonomy as a "Secular" school. Not only the religious overtones of a Solomon Schechter school but the decidedly conservative orientation of Solomon Schechter program teachers and principal and the board requirement of 51% conservative and United Synagogue members.

Al Smolover reported that the United Jewish Federation has suggested that all institutions providing afternoon Hebrew education and federation supported schools i.e. Hebrew Institute and SAJS should send representatives to form a Board of Education. This Board would deal with problems of Jewish education in our community, provide resource centers, teacher training and accreditation.

Due to pressing responsibilities at Tree of Life, David Dinkin has asked to resign. Dave was asked to reconsider and stay on, as some of the travel commitments would be relieved.

The National Budget was discussed. It totals three and a half million dollars of which 46% or one and a half million are regional expenses. The rest is youth, education, books, etc. Nationally the regions were asked to either decrease spending by forty thousand dollars or increase fund raising by that amount.

Our region receives \$6,900 from national while dues collection is \$24,000. This \$6,900 are for salaries for David Dinkin, Claryne Karsh and Maxine Cohen. Not only has our region met our dues quota for this year, but we are only one of five regions to do so. Therefore, since our commitments more than exceed our requirements, it is felt that we not only should not decrease our programs but should seek more monies from New York so that we also will receive 46% of our dues collection in our region.

The next executive meeting is June 25, 1980 at 6:00 P.M. at Tree of Life Synagogue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Seril I. Slavkin

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