

MINUTES

National Jewish Committee on Scouting
February 16, 2009
By Teleconference

CHAIRMAN: A.J. Kreimer
ADVISOR: Keith Walton

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:

Cheryl Baraty	Paul Kramer, Esq.
Jacques Behar	C.W. Kreimer
Gloria Blum	Jay Lenrow
Daniel D. Chazin, Esq.	Art Lipman
Bruce Chudacoff, Esq.	Jerrold Lockshin
Jeff Goldsmith	Ellen Marks
Jim Grossman	Mike Nathan
John R. Halpern	Allen Olender
Sam Harte	Kim Queen
Judge David Hittner	Dr. Ivan Rosenberg
Rabbi Peter Hyman	Jay Schnapp
Dr. Norman Kahn	Lee Shedroff
David Karp	Alan Smason
Mark Kaye	Sandy Weinberg

- I. **Opening**. Chairman A.J. Kreimer called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time) and noted that this conference call would be replacing the scheduled meeting at the Florida High Adventure Sea Base, which was cancelled due to the low anticipated attendance. He asked Rabbi Hyman to deliver a *d'var Torah*. Rabbi Hyman noted that last *Shabbat's* Torah reading included the Ten Commandments, which establishes a code that is the basis of our system of morality, and he pointed to the parallels between the Ten Commandments and Scouting, both of which establish a code of conduct.
- II. **Minutes**. The minutes of the National Jewish Committee meeting held via teleconference on October 16, 2008 were approved as submitted.
- III. **National Council Reorganization**. Keith Walton reported that the focus of the National Council remains how best to serve the local councils. He explained

that the National Jewish Committee on Scouting is now part of the Community Alliance Team, with Charles Holmes serving as Team Leader. There are several other professionals serving on this team as well. Keith Walton stated that there are no changes in the role of the Religious Relationships committees. In response to a question by Art Lipman, Keith Walton explained that although the Religious Relationships Committee remains unchanged at present, the Relationships Division no longer exists as a separate division of the BSA. However, he also stated that the Religious Relationships Committee might be changed into a task force. Keith Walton noted that, in addition to serving the National Jewish Committee, he is also responsible for new unit growth. In response to a question by Rabbi Hyman, Keith Walton stated that there is no longer a subcommittee of the Religious Relationships Committee responsible for the Jamboree. Jay Lenrow reviewed the personnel responsible for various aspects of the Jamboree. Keith Walton stated that he would clarify the new responsibilities of [?] , which would be posted on our website.

Jerry Lockshin stated that, in his view, the National Council has done our Committee a great disservice in implementing this reorganization, which has had a negative impact on our Committee. Keith Walton stated that he was prepared to address any specific questions that members of the Committee might have prior to the May meeting. A.J. Kreimer commented that Committee members were also welcome to contact him for information.

- IV. **2010 Jamboree Update.** A.J. Kreimer reported that he is working with Marianne Elden, the professional staff member assigned to the Special Diets (formerly Kosher foods) group. He stated that, to date, four people have been appointed from our Committee to staff the kosher food operation, and he stated that there will also will be a Islamic representative. A.J. Kreimer noted that, to date, the National Office has not entered into a contract with a vendor to provide kosher food for the Jamboree.

A.J. Kreimer reported that it has not yet been determined how many positions the Jewish Committee will have in the relationships tent, and he stated that this will not be decided for another month. He noted that Cheryl Baraty will serve on the staff of our relationships tent exhibit, but that no other appointments have yet been made.

With regard to the *Shomer Shabbat* Jamboree troops, A.J. Kreimer reported that he has been in close touch with Howard Spielman, the contingent leader, and he noted that Howard has been working with Neil Schmerling and Sheldon

Friedenreich, who will serve as the Scoutmasters for the two troops. He stated that the troop numbers will be 531 and 532, and that Monmouth Council of New Jersey has agreed to serve as the host council. A.J. Kreimer also reported that we have been working with the national registrar to move Scouts who wish to participate in the *Shomer Shabbat* contingent from their home council's Jamboree troop into one of the *Shomer Shabbat* troops.

V. **Regional Reports.** The following regional reports were presented:

- A. **Western Region.** Ellen Marks thanked David Karp for doing an excellent job in updating the Western Region web page and promoting the Western Region conference. She reported that she has spoken with Jeff Furer of the Western Los Angeles Area Council and noted that the council is willing to open up their Kinus to all Scouters from the Western Region, although they want to retain the name of the Kinus as the Western Los Angeles Area Council Kinus. She stated that she will work on marketing the Kinus throughout the region.

Ellen Marks stated that she was recently informed of the final realignment of areas in the Western Region. She noted that the Western Los Angeles Area Council will be hosting a Scout Shabbat, and that the Lewis and Clark District in Montana recently hosted a Scout Shabbat and a Ten Commandments Hike. She also reported that the Verdugo Hills Council held a religious emblems workshop.

Ellen Marks commented that the Western Region's Yahoo! Group has been doing a good job of distributing information on events in the Western Region. Finally, she reported that, since the last Committee meeting, the Chabad of Somerland in Las Vegas, Nevada and another Chabad in the Western Region have established new units.

- B. **Southern Region.** Mike Nathan reported that he is trying to find a location in Dallas to hold a leadership training course and is also trying to find suitable locations in Atlanta and Charlotte. He stated that he is looking forward to working with Mike Wopple, the representative of National assigned to the Southern Region.

Gloria Blum announced that a Scout Shabbat was held in the Dallas area this past weekend.

- C. **Central Region.** Cheryl Baraty reported that the next Jewish Committee Chairs Conference for the Central Region will be held in March 2010 in Kansas City, Missouri. She stated that she is working with Alan Smason to find a suitable committee chair in the Cleveland area and is also working on appointing more area representatives.
- D. **Northeast Region.** Jeff Goldsmith reported that there are currently 96 Jewish-sponsored units in the Northeast Region, including two new units in the Greater New York Councils. He noted that the region has a regional webmaster and that he is currently working on the 2009 Northeast Region Jewish Committee conference, which will be held on Sunday, March 22nd at Alpine Scout Reservation in Alpine, N.J.
- VI. **Report of Awards and Emblems Committee.** A.J. Kreimer announced that the winning patch for the Scout Shabbat patch design contest was designed by Joseph Adler, a 10-year old Cub Scout from Medford, New York (Suffolk County Council), who will be awarded a \$100 campership. A.J. Kreimer also noted that all 700 Scout Shabbat patches that were printed this year have already been sold, and that we will be printing another 200 patches.
- A.J. Kreimer reported that during the year 2008, 592 Jewish youth religious emblems were presented, including 180 Maccabee Awards, 239 Aleph Awards, 143 Ner Tamid Awards and 30 Etz Chaim Awards. In addition, he noted, 52 Shofar Awards were presented. Jerry Lockshin pointed out that these figures are about 30% above the corresponding numbers for 2007. A.J. Kreimer stated that the proposed revision of the Ner Tamid Award should be in final form and ready to be approved by the Committee before the May meeting. He also noted that the proposed square knot for the Yad Award is being discussed by the National Religious Relationships Task Force (Daniel: new name for an old committee).
- VII. **Report of National Relationships Committee.** In the absence of Allen Olender, no report was submitted. A.J. Kreimer noted that our Committee will be represented at the conference of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs this coming July in Philadelphia and at the conference of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism in Cherry Hill, New Jersey in December. Alan Smason questioned whether our Committee would be represented at the forthcoming conference of the American Jewish Press Association. The Chair referred the matter to Mr. Olender's committee

VIII. **Report of Membership Committee.** Paul Kramer reported that he would like to have one member from the Membership Committee assigned to each region with the responsibility of working on membership for that region. He noted that we currently have 47 out of the 54 Committee slots filled, leaving room for seven more members. Paul Kramer also suggested that past chairmen of the Committee who wish to remain as active members be included as members of the committee without taking up one of the 54 slots, although he noted that this change would require an amendment to the by-laws. He also suggested that an additional category be established for people who are associated with national Jewish organizations, who could be put on the Committee without incurring a financial commitment or an obligation to attend Committee meetings. Finally, he suggested that the category of Member Emeritus be established for those who have served on the Committee for many years but no longer wish to remain active. Paul Kramer stated that he would like to work on increasing the membership of the Committee, which would result in an increase in the Committee's income. A.J. Kreimer stated that this matter would be discussed in a conference call of the Executive Committee. He also noted that the Tamkins have indicated that they wish to step down from the committee.

IX. **Report of Leadership Training Committee.** Jim Grossman stated that he was pleased to report that all four regions are moving ahead with regional conferences. He encouraged each region to invite to their conferences all Jewish Scouters in the region, rather than just committee chairs.

With regard to the Philmont Training Course, Jim Grossman reported that we are still working on securing faculty for this year's course, which will now be held earlier in the summer, on June 21-27, 2009. He pointed out that Jeff Goldsmith has provided a list of 27 possible recruits from the Northeast Region, but he has not heard from the chairs of the other regions as to who from their region might be interested in attending this course. Keith Walton stated he would check as to how many people have signed up for this year's course.

X. **Report of Strategic Planning Committee.** Dr. Ivan Rosenberg stated that he has no report to present at this time, but that he would have a report for the next meeting.

XI. **Report of Finance Committee.** Sam Harte reported that the Committee has its funds invested in five accounts administered by Fidelity Investments. He noted that, as of December 31, 2008, we had a 9% decline in the value of our portfolio, which is invested in bonds, rather than equities. He also noted that

we received income distributions from Fidelity totaling about \$10,000 during the past year. In response to a question from Jay Schnapp, Sam Harte reported that this figure includes income for scholarships. Finally, Sam Harte reported that our account with the BSA received \$24,000 in three payments in February last year, but that these payments merely represent transfers from one account to another and should not be reflected as part of our income for the year.

In response to a question, A.J. Kreimer stated that a more complete financial report would be presented for the May Committee meeting. Sam Harte stated that he would be working with Keith Walton to remind members to make their contributions for the current year. A.J. Kreimer stated that letters would be sent out to all Committee members before the May meeting reminding them of their financial commitment to the Committee.

- XII. **Report of Scholarship Committee.** Jay Schnapp noted that the scholarship applications for this year were put on the website by the end of October. He stated that, as of last Friday, we had received only one scholarship application, and he noted that although the deadline is still a few weeks away, he had received far more applications as of this point last year. He asked anyone interested in serving on the committee to evaluate the scholarships to contact him.
- XIII. **Report of Technology Committee.** C.W. Kreimer reported that the traffic on our web site has increased over the last quarter, as evidenced by the increased interest in our religious emblems. He also pointed out that each region has a webmaster who is working on updating the regional sections of our web site.
- XIV. **Report of Marketing Committee.** Bruce Chudacoff stated that he would be meeting with A.J. Kreimer to advance the work of this committee.
- XV. **Good and Welfare.** Jay Lenrow reported that the Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Baltimore Area Council has been holding an annual recognition dinner in connection with National Bishops Conference, to which many bishops active in Scouting have been invited. He noted that Rabbi Hyman, A.J. Kreimer and he have attended these recognition dinners, and he pointed out that, this past year, Admiral Cohen, who had earlier served with Admiral Rickover, invited Admiral Rickover's widow to attend.

Rabbi Hyman announced that Father Bob Gugliamone, who has been active in Scouting, has been appointed bishop of Charleston, South Carolina.

Art Lipman announced that the Jewish Community Center of Salt Lake City, Utah will be sponsoring all three types of Scouting units - Cub pack, Scout troop and Venture crew.

Alan Smason asked that anyone who has an item for our Committee's newsletter submit it to him as soon as possible so that the newsletter can be sent out before the end of month.

Jacques Behar reported that the Trapper Trails Council of Utah has established a task force on inclusiveness in religion, and he noted that he has been working with Rabbi Hyman to ensure that our interests are taken into account.

XVI. **Advisor's Minute.** Keith Walton reiterated that anyone who has any specific question regarding the recent restructuring of the National Relationships Division should contact him directly, and he stated that he was looking to welcoming everyone at our next Committee meeting on the morning of May 20th in Orlando. He noted that Religious Relationships meeting would be held at 3:00 p.m. on the same day.

XVI. **Chair's Remarks.** A.J. Kreimer thanked everyone for participating in this phone call. He noted that he has received many e-mails from Jewish Scouters and parents of Jewish Scouts around the country. He also pointed out that he had received a call from a District Executive in Birmingham, Alabama, asking for assistance in starting a Cub pack at an Orthodox synagogue.

XVIX. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel D. Chazin
Secretary