

NCJW MINUTES February 1, 2017

Meeting was called to order by Joanne Sininsky at 9:35.

Those in attendance: Karen Asofsky, Merle Bassin, Sophie Berkner, Lynne Eisman, Janet Fabricant, Sarajane Feinsilver, Linda Finkelstein, Christine Campbell-Gabor, Marlene Gropman, Fredi Grove, Sharon Hotchkiss, Linda Kaber, Joyce Kantrowitz, Nadine Kaplan, Marilyn Klompus, Carol Lubin, Debbie Mendelson, Ann Mitchell, Sarah Rothschild, Linda Geller-Schwartz, Susan Schwartz, Joanne Sininsky, Rona Sterling, Judy Traub, Phyllis Weinstein, Diane Wortman, Ruth Zalaznick.

PRESIDENTS REPORT-JOANNE SININSKY

Joanne had a few items of Housekeeping she wanted to clean up and review. One was to give us all extra kudos for doing exceptional in our committees. She wanted us to know that while she can come off as “all business” and not warm and fuzzy, this really is not her personality as she cares very much about us, but has so much to accomplish that sometimes business takes over.

She reported that she went to the Women’s March in Miami and NCJW had an information table managed by Janet Sollit and other volunteers.

Joanne, Rona Sterling, Linda Geller-Schwartz will attend the national Conference in March. The due date to submit awards for programs is 2/16. If anyone is interested in a showcase entry they must submit it first to Joanne. You can submit one individually or as a group.

There will also be a special recognition opportunity for sponsorship of the convention. We’ve done this in the past, \$500 level and \$300 level. We can also honor our member and past National president Phyllis Snyder. Joanne then reminded everyone that Phyllis’s husband is also donating and private donations are accepted as well.

MOTION by Judy Traub to: donate \$500 to honor Phyllis Snyder. Motion passed with all in favor.

The next order of business was to support sponsorship of the convention. Following discussion, the Board recommended that Joanne decide which workshop to sponsor, either Leadership training or Showcase.

MOTION: by Judy Traub \$500 to underwrite Showcase or Leadership Training. Joanne has the discretion to pick alternative. Motion passed.

Joanne brought up again how important it is to have a paper trail of everything we do, and while we don’t have a formal Flow Chart; everything must go to her first. When it has to be approved at Board level it has to be in the minutes so it becomes part of the record. This becomes the chain of information. Joanne is hearing that many of us are doing things without approval. Linda Finkelstein feels this still needs to be clear especially when it comes to grants and sponsorships. We also should not be allowed to “nit pick” at it. Carol Lubin is also frustrated when things have to be approved at Board level. After the committees do all the work and then the board makes changes she doesn’t feel this is right. Susan Schwartz and Merle believe that we should start to

trust our committee members and their hard work. Joanne said she understood this, but it is the Boards fiscal responsibility to review all grants, plus the discussion and approval again must be reflected in the minutes so we have a history of it. Susan Schwartz brought up the fact that it's not the fiscal responsibility until we get the grant and that the process is being bogged down. Joanne's point is not pertaining to the grant. It's all about having a paper trail and a record about discussing the grant and it must be in the minutes.

Joanne would like you to please get your committee's monthly reports in on a more timely fashion. Do not keep calling and changing your report. If you need to change it, do it at the meeting. Rona sends out a date that she wishes them to be in by, please try to get them to her.

TREASURER'S REPORT- SOPHIE BERKNER

See attached.

Joyce Kantrowitz made a motion to accept it. Lynne Eisman seconded the motion.

ADMINISTRATION – MARLENE GROPMAN

She wanted to thank her Installation Committee Installation will be at BallenIsles. 45 volunteers will each get a certificate. The date is April 5, at 10:30am. The cost is \$22.00/person, plus gratuity. Valet is included. Members will be charged \$10. If we get 64 people we will cover our expenses. Check goes to NCJW.

ADVOCACY – LINDA GELLER SCHWARTZ

January was the Prevention of Human Trafficking Month and there were a number of events. Trafficked Teens (silhouettes) were at a Soroptimist event at the Palm Springs Library on Jan. 11 and at the Women's Day of Action on Jan. 21. Linda Geller-Schwartz moderated a panel discussion on Human Trafficking Presentations in the schools at the 1HTC SE Florida Regional Summit on Jan. 25.

A number of members attended the NCJW Palm Beach Sections Advocacy Briefing. We agreed to work with League of Women Voters and others on their efforts to get a civic education program in the schools.

Upcoming Events

Feb 3: Linda G-S will participate in the Legislative Briefing at the JCRC and speak about homelessness; Karen Asofsky, Linda G-S and others will meet with Senator Abruzzo on homelessness

Feb 5: NOW "Susan B. Anthony Luncheon" Linda Geller-Schwartz receiving major award

Feb 16: Training Session on the Trafficking Teens for interested NCJW members to be held.

Feb 21: "Why Courts Matter: You be the Judge" at Compass Community Center 1:30pm-4:00pm sponsored jointly by NCJW & LWV – no charge; everyone welcome (flyer available). This is an interactive, dynamic workshop on the federal court system.

Mar 28-29: Tallahassee Advocacy Visit – same as League of Women’s Voters

Apr 23: Justice Pariente Luncheon (flyer available)

COMMUNICATIONS – RONA STERLING

We made the front page of the Jewish Journal for our Signature Event. She is going to have meetings with VPs to question whether community service and community outreach are separate. Everyone should be checking our website and letting Rona know any changes or updates needed. Connie has been very timely in getting out the flyers and newsletters.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH – CAROL LUBIN

Karen Asofsky and Debbie Mendelson have begun to use the \$5,000 donation they received. On 2/14, 5pm-7pm they will be at the Lewis Center to serve dinner to 70 homeless guests (cost of \$350). The Palm Beach Opera Company will also sing for these guests. On 1/18, they had their first meeting with the committee and went to the center to sort clothing and donations. They had a great day. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact the Chairs.

Mitzvah Project – Christine Campbell-Gabor started a project where Jewish students interview and videotape seniors. This was to be a Mitzvah Project as part of their Bar/Bat preparation. Unfortunately, parents took over the project and there became many issues. Christine wanted to know what she should do.

Option 1 was to leave as is. Option 2 was to drop the whole project. Option 3 was to get people from the council to participate. Perhaps there are others who would wish to help. Christine says she has a Rabbi who wants to work with her to iron out the issues. She will stick with the project.

FUND-RAISING – LINDA FINKELSTEIN

We did not get the BallenIsles or Kimberly Clark this year. We are still waiting to hear from Ibis Charities and the Honda Classic Golf Tournament.

SPECIAL EVENTS – LAURIE ALEXANDER

Secret Cinema – Linda Finkelstein reported. Only 64 people to date have signed up. We need 100 people. It starts at 9:30 am on 2/24. Cost is \$55/person. Ambassadors should publicize the event at their respective communities. There was discussion about who the Ambassadors were and Joanne said she would send out a list.

Liz Murray Event – Reported by Nadine Kaplan for Laurie Alexander. We had 439 attendees. Liz Murray was paid \$10,000 plus \$300 transportation expense. We raised \$18K in donations which will go to the Homeless Coalition. We received an extra \$1200 from Steve Logadice, Manager of the Club at Ibis as a reimbursement for their lack of attention to our luncheon. After all expenses, our approximate bottom line profit was \$7,780.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – RUTH ZALAZNICK

SLATE TO BE ACCEPTED FOR 2017-2018.

Joyce Kantrowitz seconded the motion.

President: Joanne Sininsky (continuing)

Co-VP's Administration: Marlene Gropman (continuing) & Susan Glabman (2 Yrs)

VP Advocacy: Linda Geller-Schwartz (2 yrs)

VP Communications: Rona Sterling (continuing)

VP Community Outreach: Carol Lubin (continuing)

Corresponding Secretary: Merle Bassin (2 yrs)

Recording Secretary: Nadine Kaplan (2 yrs)

Co-VP's KCC: Judy Traub (continuing) & Sarah Rothschild (2 yrs)

Co-VP's LIFT: Phyllis Millman & Linda Kaber (both continuing)

Co-VP's Membership: Lynne Eisman (continuing) & Sharon Hotchkiss (2 yrs)

VP Special Events: Linda Finkelstein (2 yrs)

Co-Treasurers: Sophie Berkner & Gail Siegel (both continuing)

Directors:

1 Year: Janet Fabricant (Welcome Ambassador), Diane Wortman (Membership Development and Retention), Ruth Zalaznick (Boutique)

2 Years: Laurie Alexander (Special Projects), Joyce Kantrowitz (Tutoring and Co-Leader of Villaggio pod), Rona Goldstein (Stay at Home)

KCC – JUDY TRAUB

First order on the \$10K grant from The Allegheny Franciscan Ministries was used. Feminine hygiene products are being ordered from Amazon Smile which we have found to be the best way. We will use the PNC credit card which gives us a small cash rebate.

LIFT – PHYLISS MILLMAN & LINDA KABER

The Harmony House is in need of 4 women. Donation of household furniture is done. Foster kids age out at 21 years. Contact with the agency needs follow up.

MEMBERSHIP – LYNNE EISMAN

Lynne wants to increase membership and engagement new members. She feels that increasing the Ambassador role would be very important. One idea is to match ambassadors up even with non-gated members might increase interest. Since Villaggio is the only community that has a meeting, we'd like to invite new members to attend. Could we have a phone-a-thon, since a lot of members have not paid dues and call them to re-up? Judy T. is in the process of updating the brochure for a new mailing. Janet Fabricant volunteered to proof-read the brochure.

Joanne brought up the issue of guest membership. Page 3 of past motions says there is no such thing as gifting a guest membership. This brought up a long discussion where many members felt we should gift guest memberships and others thought not. Some thought it cost us nothing and we get a lot in return. Joanne said that National is looking at changing the entire model. Nothing in the bylaws is to prevent us from giving a Gift Membership. We shouldn't turn anyone away.

Susan Schwarz suggested giving them a letter and tribute card. Janet Fabricant said we used to give them a Gift Membership, but it failed to increase our membership. Linda Geller-Schwartz said we have 90K members and supporters. Freddie Grove said I have a lot of friends that want to help, but do not necessarily want to be a member. And, Ruth Zalaznick said that they had gifted 4 memberships to people who helped them and that 2 out of the 4 were planning to become members. The decision was to table the motion for now and that the first piece of business to be discussed in March would be on this topic. Everyone agreed.

VILLAGGIO – SUSAN SCHWARTZ & JOYCE KANTROWITZ

Cabaret Night is sold out. Chinese Luncheon is sold out. We have 84 people for the Canasta Event; 124 are already reserved for the Seder. We are not allowed to advertise in Villaggio, but we put everything in an E-Blast.

OLD BUSINESS – JOANNE SININSKY

Bylaw meeting –

Evaluation Committee: Rona Goldtein, Gail Siegel, Diane Wortman and Susan Schwartz.

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 1.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am. Minutes presented by Nadine Kaplan