

## **Minutes for Wed, Jan. 10, 2018 meeting of the RCA Executive Committee**

Attendees: Gershon Albert, Daniel Alter, Shalom Axelrod, Gedalya Berger, Binyamin Blau, Nesanayl Braun, Asher Bush, Michael Davies, Mark Dratch, Tzvi Engel, Josh Flug, Yechizkel Freundlich, Daniel Friedman, Efrem Goldberg, Zev Goldberg, Stuart Grant, Seth Grauer, Yisrael Isaacs, Barry Kornblau, Daniel Korobkin, Doniel Kramer, Binyamin Krohn, Ira Kronenberg, Binyamin Lehrfield, Eli Mischel, Elazar Muskin, Jonathan Muskat, Mitchell Rocklin, Yechiel Shaffer, Eliyahu Teitz, Reuven Tradburks, Daniel Yolcut, Howard Zack, Ari Zahtz, Michael Zylberman

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Rabbinical Council of America, held by conference call, on **Wed., Jan. 10, 2018**, President Elazar Muskin in the chair, and Reuven Tradburks acting on behalf of the secretary, the following items were decided:

Minutes of meeting of November 29, 2017 and December 20, 2018 passed unanimously.

Rabbi Mark Dratch, Executive Vice President, reported on his trip to Israel to attend the World Zionist Organization conference and in particular the public comment by Chief Rabbi Dovid Lau on the strong relationship with the RCA despite what others may say. He also reported on the importance of being connected to the newly established organization for security of public institutions. Care should be exercised in not making public statements concerning Iran so as not to endanger the Iranian Jews. We are in contact with the Chief Rabbi's office concerning personal status protocols. An announcement, with the OU, should be made shortly encouraging our shuls to include a special Aneni tefilla for rain in Israel.

Motion to approve new members Avraham Billet, Daniel Fox, Shlomo Shachter and Oran Zweiter passed unanimously.

New Members. Seth Grauer reported that legalities have been addressed and shortly will be ready to launch the initiative to attract new young members including offering that their first year's membership dues would be contributed into their personal RCA retirement plan. Other initiatives are under way to attract new members.

RCA Siddur. President Elazar Muskin reported on the intended

publication date for the RCA Siddur as March 1, 2018. Pre publication bulk discounts and individual dedication pages are available as well as help in disposing of used siddurim.

Convention. The Convention dates are set for April 30, May 1 and 2 in Stamford, CT with similar price as last year. Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon will be presenting. Topics promise to be engaging.

Doniel Kramer reported that Healthcare Chaplains have met and asked for suggestions from our members for a topic that would have broad appeal for a session for the entire convention.

Carlebach Minyanim. Elazar Muskin reported that the Officers have been addressing the issues in the media concerning the appropriateness of using the name Carlebach minyanim due to concerns of his behavior. An extensive discussion ensued including using his tunes, using his name, sensitivity to victim's pain in hearing his tunes, the profound influence of his music and various views of how the RCA ought to respond to this.

The meeting was adjourned.