

Minutes for Wed, Nov. 29, 2017 meeting of the RCA Executive Committee

Attendees: Daniel Alter, Shalom Axelrod, Hanan Balk, Shalom Baum, Gedalyah Berger, Binyamin Blau, Nesanel Braun, Asher Bush, Mark Dratch, EPHRAIM Epstein, David Fine, Yechezkel Freundlich, Daniel Friedman, Aaron Glatt, Seth Grauer, Shlomo Hochberg, Yisrael Isaacs, Moshe Kletenik, Daniel Korobkin, Doniel Kramer, Ira Kronenberg, Binyamin Lehrfield, Uriel Lubetsky, Binyamin Marwick, Jonathan Muskat, Elazar Muskin, Yehudah Oppenheimer, Adir Posy, Mitchell Rocklin, Fabian Schonfeld, Yoel Schonfeld, Yechiel Shaffer, Gil Student, Eliyahu Teitz, Reuven Tradburks, Shlomo Weissmann, Michael Whitman, 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., Nov. 29, 2017**, President Elazar Muskin in the chair, and Reuven Tradburks acting on behalf of the secretary, the following items were decided:

Minutes of meeting of September 12 passed unanimously.

President Elazar Muskin wished Mazel Tov to our Executive Vice President Mark Dratch on his engagement and upcoming wedding. An Officers retreat took place in Chicago for a day and a half. Sharing of "Best Practices" in our membership emails has been instituted. The relationship with the OU is being enhanced through a weekly phone conversation with our President and Alan Fagin, Ex. VP of the OU. A program for training rebbitzens is being launched as a joint program of the RCA and OU to be offered by Nishmat.

Executive Vice President Mark Dratch reported on ongoing relationships in interfaith discussions through IJCIC. He also has participated in various meetings with Members of the Knesset, including Avi Gabbay, the leader of the Labor party.

The Convention dates are set for April 30, May 1 and 2 in Stamford. Motion to nominate Zev Spitz as co-chairman for the Convention passed unanimously.

Mrs. Abby Lerner reported on GPS including her activities including conversations with over 50 conversion candidates, interactions with

Dayanim of Batei Din and follow up with candidates, site visits, and her presentation at Rebbetsins conference. Rabbi Zylberman reported on a positive shiur by Chief Rabbi David Lau with 20 dayanim of the GPS and a positive collaboration with him. In addition, the website of the dayanim of the GPS is being updated and enhanced.

Doniel Kramer reported on Health Care Chaplains including planning of convention sessions, concern that our rabbis do not have sufficient CPE training should they wish to pursue chaplaincy and a desire to encourage CPE training.

Ira Kronenberg reported on Military Chaplaincy, a shortage of chaplains both for active duty and for reserve, and encouraged more to consider chaplaincy for all of its benefits.

Seth Grauer reported on an initiative to attract new young members by offering that their first year's membership dues would be contributed into their personal RCA retirement plan. In addition, efforts to advance some technology to make membership application easier.

Concerns were expressed that the orthodox voice, for example in the attacks on Tzipi Hotovely is not being heard enough. Suggestions made to try to enhance our communication with Knesset Members.

The meeting was adjourned.