

Minutes for Tues., March 13, 2018 meeting of the RCA Executive Committee

Attendees: Gershon Albert, Daniel Alter, Shalom Axelrod, Hanan Balk, Shalom Baum, Binny Blau, Nesanel Braun, Michael Davies, Mark Dratch, Zvi Engel, David Fine, Josh Flug, Yechezkel Freundlich, Daniel Friedman, Aaron Glatt, Zev Goldberg, Avi Goldstein, Seth Grauer, Yisrael Isaacs, Barry Kornblau, Daniel Korobkin, Benny Krohn, Chaim Marder, Leonard Matanky, Jonathan Muskat, Elazar Muskin, Dale Polakoff, Adir Posy, Ariel Rakovsky, Mitchell Rocklin, Yerachmiel Sepowitz, Yechiel Shaffer, Gil Student, Eliyahu Teitz, Reuven Tradburks, Michael Whitman, Ari Zahtz, Howard Zack

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Rabbinical Council of America, held by conference call, on **Tues., March 13, 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 Jan. 10, 2018 passed unanimously.

Elazar Muskin, President, reported on the establishment of a new committee to select the next editor of Tradition, on his attendance with Mark Dratch at the Annual Presidents Conference in Israel, urged all Executive Committee members to attend the upcoming Convention which promises a wonderful program, highlighted efforts to serve our members with best practices, encouraged viewing the shiurim from Eretz Yisrael that we are making available, and reported that at the Convention we will feature a new Rabbinic Leadership Award to be presented to Howard Zack who will be honored at a dinner on Tuesday evening of the Convention.

Convention. The Convention is available for a few more weeks at an early bird special. Program features an emphasis on inspiration including Menachem Penner, YY Jacobson, Yosef Zvi Rimon, Rav Hershel Schachter, Ari Berman, Yonah Reiss, Adina Shmidman, Yosef Klein Halevi and programs on campus issues, the rabbinic toolbox, social media, the opioid crisis, and the code of conduct.

Michael Whitman, Semicha Standards committee recommended a motion to approve Kollel Tiferet Menachem, Rabbi David Schmuckler masmich. Passed.

Doniel Kramer reported on Health Care Chaplaincy annual award to be given to Yehuda Blank at the Convention.

Motion to approve new members Raphael Eis, Shmuel Friedman, Mark Glass, Gidon Moskowitz, Eliot Shestack and Greg Wall passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Nominations Committee members Leonard Matanky, Asher Bush, Avraham Gordimer, Akiva Males, Zev Goldberg passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Elections Committee members Daniel Alter, Wes Kalmar, Brett Oxman, Moshe Bomzer passed unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolutions Committee members Gershon Albert, Ari Ellis, Idan Scher, Tzvi Sinensky, Etan Tokayer passed unanimously.

Motion for Date of Annual Meeting, June 21, 2018 passed unanimously.

Leonard Matanky reported on a Vaad Hakavod proceeding. Recommendation by the Vaad Hakavod to suspend a member pending the results of an appeal of a disciplinary sanction was approved.

Motion to adopt the RCA Code of Conduct passed.

Motion to establish the RCA Ethics Committee as outline below passed:

The RCA Ethics Committee is to be composed of five members of the RCA, appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Committee.

The RCA Ethics Committee will ultimately:

- Serve as a resource to members and others who require clarification of ethics policy.
- Receive complaints about members' violations of the Code of Conduct and
 - Recommend corrective action, or
 - Recommend disciplinary action, or
 - Refer member for counseling and/or mentoring, or
 - Make referral to the Executive Committee for adjudication by a *Vaad Hakavod*

From time to time the RCA provide educational opportunities regarding matters that relate to the Code of Conduct at conventions, through webinars, in emails, and in other venues.

Make recommendations from time to time to amend the Code.

This does not exclude recommendations of amendments by the members of the RCA or the RCA Executive Committee. Notwithstanding, the committee may tweak language in the Code that is ambiguous or requires minor emendation.

For two years, or until the passage of a constitutional amendment, the RCA Ethics Committee will function in an ad hoc capacity. Gross violations of the Code may be referred by them to the Executive Committee for consideration by the Vaad Hakavod. After evaluation of the Code and the function of the Committee by the Executive Committee, the RCA Executive Committee will consider a constitutional amendment to be brought, at its discretion, at the 2020 Annual Membership Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.