

UJC BACKS NEW OVERSEAS SPENDING PLAN, CONCLUDES GA WITH A PROMISE

Nov. 18, 2005

UJC/the Federations of North America concluded what many called an extraordinary 2005 GA in Toronto this week with a vote to change how overseas funding gets budgeted, and a promise to stage an equally memorable 2006 GA in Los Angeles.

The UJC Board of Trustees/Delegates Assembly on Tuesday voted overwhelmingly to revamp the Overseas Needs Assessment and Distribution (ONAD) process, which determines how to apportion funds from federations for overseas needs. Until now UJC split the overseas allocations largely between the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which aids distressed Jews around the world, and the Jewish Agency for Israel, which supports Israeli immigration, absorption and Zionist education worldwide.

Now, JDC and JAFI for the next two fiscal years will negotiate between themselves their share of the federation system's overseas allocation, with their decision going to the UJC Board for final approval. Morton Plant of Baltimore, Chair of the UJC Executive Committee, who chaired the ONAD review process, said the new plan aims to increase support for overseas needs because overseas allocations are falling.

"This is part of an ongoing experiment, as we continue to build this national system of ours," Plant said.

Though the federation system's central fundraising effort, the Annual Campaign, has grown 4 percent since 2000, overseas allocations have fallen 4.5 percent since 2001 -- albeit at a slower rate than before the ONAD Committee began its annual budget review.

"As long as the pie is getting smaller, it's very, very difficult to re-slice the pieces," he said.

UJC/the Federations of North America have already worked to meet expanding overseas needs through targeted, supplemental efforts beyond the unrestricted Annual Campaign, such as the \$360 million Israel Emergency Campaign during the intifada and the \$160 million Operation Promise to help Jews of the FSU and Ethiopia.

On Tuesday, the UJC Board of Trustees/Delegates Assembly also overwhelmingly approved an ONAD Review Process report that urges federations not only to continue meeting their previous year's overseas commitment, but to increase it -- especially if the allocation falls below the median of overseas funding. Between the large- and large-intermediate federations alone, overseas funding ranges from 17 percent to 43 percent of all allocations. Federations are now being asked to devise strategies to grow overseas support, including launching targeted giving plans.

In other business, the Delegates Assembly ratified new slates of Corporate Officers, members of the UJC Executive Committee and Standing Committees.

Re-elected as Corporate Officers were Robert Goldberg of Cleveland, Chair of the Board; Morton Plant of Baltimore, Chair of the Executive Committee and Vice-Chair of the Board. Named as Vice-Chairs of the Board were Jake Farber, Los Angeles; Iris Feinberg, Atlanta; Joe Kanfer, Akron; Ann-Louise Kleper, Chicago; Adrienne Offman, Toronto; Lester Rosenberg, Chicago; Elaine Schreiber, Phoenix; Steve Selig; Atlanta; Toni Young, Delaware.

Re-elected as National Campaign Chair was Mark Wilf, of Central N.J. Kathy Manning, of Greensboro, N.C., was re-elected Treasurer; Stephen Silverman, Jacksonville, Fla., was named Assistant Treasurer; Susan Stern, of New York, was elected Secretary.

For the first time, chairs of UJC Pillars were also named as Vice-Chairs of the Board. Kanfer was named Chair, the Jewish Renaissance & Renewal Pillar; Kleper was named Chair, the Human Services & Social Policy Pillar; Selig was renamed Chair, the Campaign/Financial Resource Development Pillar; Young was named Chair, the Israeli & Overseas Pillar; Michael Gelman, of Washington, D.C., was named Chair, UJC Consulting; and Robert Cutler, of Kansas City, was named Chair, Marketing & Communications.

To see the entire slate of Executive Committee members, please click here <<http://lyris.ujcfedweb.org/t/27448/1582825/2570/0/>> . And to see the entire list of Standing Committee members, please click here <<http://lyris.ujcfedweb.org/t/27448/1582825/2571/0/>> .

The UJC Board of Trustees/Delegates Assembly also heard C/FRD reports on the Annual Campaigns from 2004-2006 and Operation Promise.

In other action, the Delegates Assembly adopted Public Policy resolutions:

- * commemorating the 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate -- the Vatican's groundbreaking statement against anti-Semitism -- and urging federations to reach out to local Catholic counterparts to advance Catholic-Jewish relations;
- * declaring the Hebrew month of Cheshvan as global "Jewish Social Action Month," to promote Jewish unity, peoplehood and social justice programs in Jewish communities worldwide;
- * supporting and intensifying Israel advocacy via the UJC/JCPA Israel Advocacy Initiative and expanding the IAI's scope;
- * strengthening homeland security for communities by seeking permanent Department of Homeland Security at-risk grants and backing efforts to extend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act;
- * opposing proposed Congressional amendments to federal laws governing 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organizations;
- * supporting aliyah by choice, encouraging teen Israel travel, peer-travel programs such as birthright israel, MASA and others;
- * urging further development of the Galilee and Negev regions in Israel;
- * backing efforts to help legal immigrants and support a comprehensive approach to undocumented migration.

To read full texts of the resolutions, please click here
<http://lyris.ujcfedweb.org/t/27448/1582825/1588/0/> .

As the GA concluded, GA North American Chair Joe Kanfer noted that many participants said the GA provided them important practical tools, offered thoughtful dialogue and challenged them with innovative programs. He particularly cited the efforts and support of the Toronto Jewish community, "which made this GA the success that it was."

"People came away from this GA reminded of the power of our federation system, and underscored the reality that when we come together, we can accomplish so much more," he said.

"This Toronto GA has inspired us to aim for even greater heights in 2006."