



ARJE AG20 Plenum

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel Denver, Colorado

January 28, 2020 2 Shvat 5780

I. State of the ARJE – Rabbi Stan Schickler, RJE, Executive Director

Passages and transitions:

- We lost a NATE giant, our past president Dr. Zena Sulkes, RJE, z”l.
- Dr. Sam Joseph, RJE has recently retired from HUC after 40 years in Jewish education. Sam will continue to be involved with the HUC EMA program.

ARJE turns 65 this year. We are thinking ahead to adapt to the changing landscape of Jewish education and our organization. Adaptive changes include the way we communicate with our members. We have also engaged a consultant to guide us with upcoming transitions and changes to our structure.

Task Forces:

Code of Ethics Task Force – Last revised in 2009. Having a statement is no longer enough. We must have a plan in place.

Clergy-Educator Task Force - Collaboration with the ACC and CCAR to establish clergy educator guidelines and recommendations

Placement and Career Services Task Force – This has been a foundational piece of what the ARJE has offered its members. This task force is discussing what this looks like moving forward.

We are looking ahead with excitement, from both the balcony and the dance floor.

Dr. Kathy Schwartz, President, acknowledged all of the ARJE leaders

II. Financial Report – Vice President, Rabbi Joe Eiduson, RJE and Miles Roger, RJE

Fundraising Campaigns are strong. Thank you to our AG sponsors. Thank you to our Finance Team and to Rachel Perten, our ARJE Development Director.

- 2019 Audit – Overall, very good. ARJE completed process of becoming a 501C3 tax-exempt organization
- New bookkeeping company retained
- Audit confirmed that we are abiding by best practices

Joe presented a series of Financial Report pie charts.

61% of income is from dues. 61% of expenses are for professional development.

Rachel Perten, ARJE Development Director – In two years, she and her Development team have exceeded every fundraising goal they have been given.

- Winter Campaign – Up from last year.
- Ad Journal – Higher than expected. Steady increase.
- AG20 Sponsorships – 15 sponsors. Thank you!

Joe asked for questions. There were none.

III. ARJE Vision for Excellence – Missy Bell, RJE, President and Beth Young, RJE

Missy and Beth presented the history of the Vision, from task force to launch at the URJ Biennial. The vision will be a framework for our organization to aspire to the highest levels of quality.

Accreditation – Marlene Myerson, RJE – several schools currently engaged in the process of becoming accredited and others engaged in re-certification after 7 years.

IV. Distinguished Educator Honors

Dr. Lesley Litman, RJE – presented by Dr. Miriam Heller Stern. There was a video congratulations from Dr. Andrew Rehfeld, president of HUC-JIR.

Jo-Ellen Unger, RJE – presented by Laura Naide, RJE, Barb Shimansky, RJE, Ben Sandler, RJE, Cathy Rolland, RJE, and Rabbi Jessica Locketz, RJE. Jo-Ellen is the first URJ Camp Director to be named as an ARJE Distinguished Educator. Video from members of Cohort 4 of the EMA program, who were unable to be at the gathering in person.

V. Reform Pension Board – Michael Kimmel, RPB Chief Executive Officer

2019 in review: –

- Launched a new website
- Congregations can invest in the Jewish Values funds (socially responsible funds).
- Loan program – gives investors the ability to take a loan from their funds
- Online enrollment forms – paperless
- New investment consultant to the RPB

Survey Results – Overall satisfaction from 83% - 95%

Satisfaction of retirees 87% - 95%

Investor satisfaction and confidence are up

2020 Strategic Priorities:

- Fidelity as the new record keeper (starting in April)
- New participant portal
- Campaigns to deepen connections with congregations
- Campaigns to further connect with professional organizations
- Retirement Planning Seminar – November 8 – 10 in Florida

Raffle winner of free AG21: Emily Rothstein

VI. World Zionist Congress Election

Rabbi Josh Weinberg – Urged us to vote Reform in the World Zionist Congress elections

Rabbi Stacy Rigler, RJE and Rachel Opatowsky, RJE presented the theme of AG21 - Teaching Tikkun Olam Today: Understanding Privilege, Race and Power in our World

Mark your calendars now for AG21 January 11 – 13, 2021 in Houston, Texas!

Submitted by Stacy Rosenthal, RJE