

Meeting of the National Executive
Wednesday, April 12, 1947

Present: H. Schiller, G. Sandler, June Gordon, I. Goldman, I. Goldberg, Ch. Kelner, Sonia Schechter, D. Greene, S. Pevzner, R. Youkelson, A. Grossfield, I. Mann, E. Reimer, and Dave Vines, district secretary of New Jersey.

Chairman: H. Schiller.

Agenda: 1. Report of New Jersey
2. Office Report
3. Delegation to Albany
4. Youth Questions

1. Brother A. Grossfield gives the report of New Jersey: Some of the lodges practically do not function. For instance, Lodge 84 in Plainfield, 89 in Perth Amboy, 205 in Hightstown. A number of lodges function very poorly. Some of them blame it on the national office. The lodges in the following cities function fairly well: Newark, Paterson, and the lodges in the farm belt; Toms River, Farmingdale, and Lakewood.

Achievements in building English-speaking lodges: Organized a lodge in Toms River. One in Newark. There are possibilities of organizing lodges in Trenton, Passaic, and Farmingdale. Lodge 507 in Newark has already recruited 80 members. A revival is taking place in Elizabeth. A city-wide coordinating committee has been established in Newark whose purpose it is to organize and stimulate the JPFO activities.

Brother Grossfield expresses the conviction that there is no possibility of maintaining a paid functionary for New Jersey. He believes it is important to establish sub-committees in various sections of the district.

Dave Vines: The difficulties are increased by the geographical dispersion of the towns, so that it is difficult to establish an apparatus in a central point in New Jersey to control and lead the work. The solution is to establish territorial committees as sub-committees in the state.

New Jersey has about 2,000 members in the JPFO scattered in 21 cities and towns.

Discussion: G. Sandler, I. Goldberg, June Gordon, and Ernie Reimer participate in the discussion.

The report is approved.

2. Office Report: Brother G. Sandler calls upon the members of the National Executive to honor the memory of the recently deceased Brother Harry Lotker, a member of the first National Executive, for many years a member of the New York City Committee, and recently secretary of Lodge 167.

Everybody rises to honor the memory of Brother Lotker. It is decided to publish a commemoration notice in the press and send condolences to his family.

Membership campaign: By March 8, the National Office registered 4,769 members recruited into the JPFO. Bronx recruited 1,386 new members of this number; Manhattan, 758; Chicago, 418; Brooklyn, 1,133; California, 316; Detroit, 60; Pittsburgh, 15; Boston, 139; Cleveland, 23; New Jersey, 161; Philadelphia, 127. In the remaining ten weeks we must recruit about 5,000 new members, an average of about 500 a week.

It is necessary to do special concentration work in connection with the 17th anniversary of the Order and dramatize the campaign in the "Tribune" and "Morning Freiheit."

Brother Sandler proposes the following dates for election conferences for the national convention: Cleveland, Detroit, April 13; Chicago, New Jersey, San Francisco, Petaluma, Oakland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, up state New York, Norfolk-Portsmouth, and Pittsburgh, April 20; Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia, April 27.

Convention problems: It is proposed that beginning with the first week in April the convention sub committees report to the National Executive Committee meetings.

On Relief: It is recommended that on a request by the Ambidjan Committee we buy a steam shovel for Biro-Bidjan. Also that we elect two or three delegates to the Ambidjan convention March 23. Also purchase and ship seventeen men's suits for the Jewish Anti-fascist Committee in Moscow.

We have a communication from the Polish Federation that a celebration to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising is being arranged for April 20 and requesting that we popularize this affair among JPFO members.

Visit to Los Angeles: Brother Sandler also reports briefly on his visit to Los Angeles. He visited a large number of meetings of the lodges, clubs, and schools, and also held meetings with the city leadership. He points out the necessity of transferring from the English-speaking lodges a number of Yiddish-speaking members into the Yiddish-speaking lodges and establish the work of the English-speaking lodges on a better basis.

Discussion: I. Mann, June Gordon, E. Reimer, and H. Schiller participate in the discussion.

The report is approved.

3. Delegation to Albany: June Gordon makes the following recommendations: 1. To join the New York State Committee as co-sponsors. 2. To protest to Governor Dewey for not receiving the delegation.

4. The discussion on youth work is postponed.

The meeting is adjourned 8.25 P.M.

R. Youkelson,
Recording Secretary