



**International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies
2015 Annual Meeting**

**Queen of Sheba Room, Ramada Hotel
Jerusalem, Israel**

July 8, 2015 – 2.00 p.m. IDT

Minutes – DRAFT 1.0

1. Call to order

1.1 The meeting was called to order.

2. Welcome and Introductions

2.1 The President welcomed the representatives of the IAJGS member organizations and other attendees to the 2015 Annual Meeting.

3. Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum

3.1 It was declared that there were 47 member organizations represented at the meeting and that the meeting was quorate.

4. Old Business

a. Approval of the Minutes from 2014 IAJGS Annual Meeting

4.1 Emily Garber (Phoenix JGS) moved and Max Heffler (Greater Houston JGS) seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting. The motion was voted on by a show of hands and approved with 34 votes in favor of the motion.

5. New Business

a. Stern Grant and Stedman Grant Awards Approval

5.1 Sandy Malek, Chair of the Stern Grant Committee presented the recommendations of the Committee. The Foundation for Documentation of Jewish Cemeteries in Poland– to document Jewish cemeteries in Poland were recommended to receive \$3,000 from the Stern Grant Fund and the partnership of Jewish Galicia & Bukovina Association, Geshet Galicia, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Herzl Institute of the University of Haifa, to index Stanislawow records

to receive \$3,000 grant from the Stedman element of the Stern Grant Fund. Barbara Hershey (JGS of Oregon) moved and Garri Regev (Israel Genealogy Research Association) seconded the motion "To approve the recommendations of the Stern Grant Committee for 2015 recipients." Concern was raised by one member organization that the same groups often received the grants. The IAJGS Board agreed to take the concerns into account. It was noted that the standard of applications was variable and it was suggested that there should be better guidelines and that the committee should review applications with the submitter. It was also felt that previous unsuccessful applications could be kept for future consideration or resubmission. It was reported that a previous award to the JGS of Montreal had resulted in the scanning of 450,000 entries for Canadian naturalizations.

5.2 The roll call numbers were updated and it was declared that there were 50 organizations represented at the meeting.

5.3 The vote on the motion was taken by show of hands and was passed by an overall majority.

b. Bylaws Committee Recommendations and Decisions

5.4 Ken Bravo, Chair of Committee to Review the Bylaws, explained the review process and the methods used to consult with the membership on the proposals. He also gave the background as to why the changes were being proposed. Ken thanked Hal Bookbinder and Amy Wachs, the other Committee members for their efforts. Ken Bravo (IAJGS Vice President) moved and Debbie Wang (JGS of Long Island) seconded the motion "To approve the proposed changes contained in the Report of the Committee to Review the IAJGS Bylaws, Updated June 5, 2015".

5.5 The meeting then discussed the proposals, making the following points: the definition of spouse and immediate family in the conflict of interest section needed clarification; the number of proxies that one individual can hold at an Annual Meeting should be considered; there was no section on the discharge on an Officer; and should there be term limits for all Board members? The responses were: comments on the conflict of interest procedures were being taken; New Jersey State law covered removal of Board Officers and Members; and limiting the terms of all Board members might lead to vacancies not being filled if not enough new people come forward. A vote was taken on the motion and the tellers counted 44 in favour of the motion, the motion was carried.

c. Bylaws amendments – Jan Meisels Allen, President JGSCV

5.6 A statement was read out explaining the purpose of the first motion to amend the bylaws, which was:

Motion 1:

Any person serving on an IAJGS standing committee, defined as: IAJGS Awards Committee, IAJGS Membership Development Committee, IAJGS Nominations Committee, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee, and the IAJGS Stern Grant Committee, and any Committee

developed by the Board of Directors that has on-going presence shall be comprised of members in good standing of at least one IAJGS member organization at the time of their appointment and must continuously maintain such membership during their time serving on the committee.

The motion had the written support of necessary number of IAJGS Members.

5.7 It was reported that the Board had discussed the proposed amendments at the July 3, 2015 Board meeting. The Board felt that the proposals belonged in the Policies and Procedures Manual. It was also felt that a Committee member being an ordinary member of a JGS did not necessarily help them in the delivery of Committee activity. It was suggested that if someone didn't want to pay \$10.00 to be a JGS member they might not be committed to the cause. In response it was stated that being a JGS member involved receiving communications and understanding issues facing the JGS. The vote on the motion was called and the tellers reported 17 for the motion, 25 against and 6 abstentions. The motion was lost.

Motion 2:

Any person serving as a voluntary Co-Chair or voluntary committee chairperson of any IAJGS-sponsored conference shall be a member in good standing of at least one IAJGS member organization at the time of their appointment and must continuously maintain such membership during their term as voluntary Co-Chair or as voluntary committee chairperson.

The motion had the written support of necessary number of IAJGS Members.

5.8 A further statement was read out in support of the motion. It was suggested that the proposal should be part of the Policies and Procedures Manual. It was also suggested that all decision-makers should be a member of a JGS, especially for fiscal decisions. The vote on the motion was called and the tellers reported 17 for the motion, 25 against and 7 abstentions. The motion was lost.

d. IAJGS Policy Procedures Manual

5.9 Jan Meisels Allen, JGSCV proposed the following motion: "The IAJGS has a Policy and Procedures Manual which governs how the IAJGS Board may act in certain circumstances. The Policy and Procedure manual is an additional source, along with the IAJGS bylaws, in determining how the IAJGS Board may govern. The Policy and Procedure Manual shall be updated as soon as additional policy and procedures are adopted by the IAJGS Board of Directors. The IAJGS Policy and Procedure Manual shall be posted to the IAJGS website and updated with new additions immediately upon the IAJGS Board adoption of new policy and procedures. It is the responsibility of IAJGS Board of Directors to assure that this is completed". In response it was pointed out that there was an issue with the definition of the word immediate and the ability of people to get changes incorporated so quickly. Hal Bookbinder moved and Elliott Greene seconded a motion "to change the word immediate to "within 30 days and as soon as practicable"." Jan Meisels Allen accepted the proposed amendment to her motion. There was further discussion about being able to meet the specified timescales where changes involved other

parties. The vote on the motion was called and the tellers reported 14 for the motion, 20 against and 12 abstentions. The motion was lost.

e. Presentation of Nominating Committee Recommendations and Officers to the IAJGS Board

5.10 The President read out the rules for the elections, nominations, tellers and auditors. Michael Goldstein, IAJGS Past President, suggested that there should be a secret ballot. There was no support for the suggestion. Chana Berlowitz, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented the Committees report. The nominees were President, Marlis Humphrey; Vice President, Ken Bravo; Secretary, Mark Nicholls; and Treasurer, Douglas M Cohen. The Committee were thanked for their work. There were no nominations from the floor and the nominations were closed. All nominees waived their right to speak to the meeting.

5.11 A vote was called for the post of President, with 41 voting for Marlis Humphrey and 2 against.

5.12 Michael Goldstein moved and Stanley Diamond JGS of Montreal seconded the motion to vote for the remaining Officer posts by acclamation. The motion was approved unanimously. Vice President, Ken Bravo; Secretary, Mark Nicholls; and Treasurer, Douglas M Cohen were all elected by acclamation. The Officers were declared elected to serve immediately.

f. Seattle 2016

5.13 Janette Silverman, Lead Co-Chair for the IAJGS 2016 conference joined the meeting on-line and gave a detailed progress report. The website was live, as was a blog. There would be a visit in August to finalize pricing and conference layout. Kosher catering was being taken care of. The program would include an Educators section on the Sunday. The overall theme would be "The Wandering Jew" looking at migration and also having more Sephardic content. Registration should open in early January 2016. External events would include ship cruises before and after the conference.

g. Closing Remarks

The President thanked all of the volunteers who had helped make the Jerusalem 2015 conference a success. In particular she thanked Michael Goldstein, Conference Chair, Garri Regev, Daniel Horowitz, and Lea Gedalia.

6. **Adjournment**

The motion to adjourn was moved by Barbara Hershey, JGS of Oregon and seconded by Jeanette Rosenberg, Hamburger Gesellschaft für Jüdische Genealogie. The motion was passed unanimously.