



JEWISH FEDERATION—COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN MAINE

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ABRAHAM S. LEVEY
Founder (1881-1976)

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The single most significant and pervasive fact about the Jewish Federation is that it is a voluntary body, created, maintained and perpetuated by volunteers who determine its philosophy, objectives, and programs. This fact is fundamental to an understanding of Federation and how it works.

Any Jewish resident can join the Jewish Federation Community Council of Southern Maine by becoming a contributor. He/she can also decide at any time to sever his/her relationship. The only obligatory tie is a sense of moral obligation and responsibility.

In a very real sense, Federation is a trusteeship which acts on behalf of a group of contributors. These contributors generally represent a very broad spectrum of Jewish interests, and Federation, therefore, tends to support a wide range of programs.

Because of the misconception of Federation as an "official" rather than a voluntary association, other misconceptions have developed; particularly, whom Federation should represent: individuals and groups such as synagogues and organizations, consumers, age groups, geographic areas, etc.

It is, therefore, necessary to stress that Federation is a voluntary organization. It does not "represent" any sector of Jewish life - organizational, ideological, religious, geographic, economic, etc. It does not attempt to be an all-inclusive body in its objectives, structure and supported programs. It deals with all types of problems, needs and issues affecting Jews as individuals and in groups. It

represents and speaks for its constituents when authorized to do so. It is not and cannot be the "official voice" of American Jewry on many issues.

What then does this Federation do? This Federation, through its Board of Directors, is involved in:

- A. Fund Raising
 - 1. Regular Campaigns
 - 2. Capital Fund Campaigns
 - 3. Endowment Fund Campaigns
 - 4. Collection of funds
 - 5. Project Renewal Campaign for Israel

- B. Budgeting
 - 1. Local Services
 - 2. National Services
 - 3. Overseas Services
 - 4. Pre-Campaign arrangements

- C. Planning
 - 1. Family and Child Social Service
 - 2. Jewish Education
 - 3. Aged through Jewish Family Services and Jewish Home for the Aged
 - 4. Community Relations
 - 5. Youth and leisure time activities through various organizations
 - 6. Long range community needs

- D. Public Relations

- E. Leadership Development programs

- F. Central Services
 - 1. Computer billing
 - 2. Pensions, insurance for Jewish communal employees
 - 3. Fire and liability insurance for organizations
 - 4. Printing of HA YOM
 - 5. Purchasing
 - 6. Mailings

Board Members Responsibilities

- 1. Attend meetings
- 2. Serve on and/or chair standing committees, ad hoc committees, and/or sub-committees
- 3. Help identify potential new members
- 4. Read all available materials from Federation

The responsibility of the Federation to raise and handle the community's monies rests with the Board of Directors. Therefore, it becomes paramount that each board member attend the board meetings and read the necessary literature; and that the

committees of the Federation (which are created by action of either the board itself or the president of the board) be chaired by a board member. Each committee has community dollars at its disposal; therefore, there must be credibility in the way these funds are used.

As representatives of the community it is incumbent upon the board members to be open to receiving and/or introducing potential new members to the Board's Nominating Committee.