

Ep Committee



The Southern Interstate Regional
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

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38 Newcomb Boulevard
New Orleans 18, La.

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1222 Augusta Street
Montgomery, Ala.

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Mrs. M. T. Fliegelman
78 West Wind Road
Louisville 7, Ky.

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Mrs. Max Schwartz
4273 Burgundy Road
Memphis, Tenn.

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5840 Brookgreen Road, NE
Atlanta, Ga.

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34 Audubon Boulevard
New Orleans, La.

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Charleston, S. C.

August 10, 1963

Mrs. Arnold Levy
424 Iona St.
Metairie, La.

Dear Mrs. Levy:

On Tuesday, July 9th, President Kennedy held a unique meeting in the East Room of the White House. Present were over 250 women representing leadership in some 100 National women's organizations. The National Council of Jewish Women was proud to have one of the largest delegations present - - 39 (out of 47 invited) members of its National Board.

I was honored to be one of the group who heard President Kennedy, followed by Vice- President Lyndon Johnson and Attorney General Robert Kennedy, address us on the subject of the administration's program on Civil Rights. The President outlined a five-point program which he asked us to support in full or in part, depending upon organizational policy - but strongly advocated that WE ACT ONLY IN CONCERT WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. Each speaker voiced the need to work together in the fields of:

1. School drop-outs.
2. Leadership training for women in inter-group activity.
3. Strengthening by organizational membership the human relations group in one's community (or try to jointly create one if not in existence)
4. Support of the Civil Rights legislative package (or certainly those portions that we believe in)
5. Open our memberships to all women.

Since this historic day in my life, I have been in correspondence with our President, Mrs. Joseph Willen, because I as SIR President, know that many of our Sections are more sensitive to the question of action or service in the Civil Rights field than are our sister Sections elsewhere. Mrs. Willen agrees with my opinion that there may be need for a meeting of the SIR Presidents in order to clarify and bring guidance to them on this issue.

On a recent Sunday, I spoke with three of the four SIR officers (Mrs. Max Schwartz could not be reached) in a conference call, to ask their opinion as to the need for an SIR President's meeting.

They felt that such a meeting would be of great value, providing qualified persons from both the National Office and the Region were in charge. They further were unanimous in stating that since the SIR treasury shows a balance of more than \$1500. in its Legislative Funds, that no better use could be made of a part of it than to pay transportation (and perhaps a per diem) for those in the Region attending a meeting in a central locale.

This letter, therefore, is not only to inform you, but to ask you to vote on the following two questions (either mark the enclosed card or write as quickly as possible, PLEASE):

1. Do you approve of calling a meeting of SIR Presidents to bring them information and guidance regarding President Kennedy's five-point program on Civil Rights. (Naturally, this would include a clear picture of NCJW's role in terms of our resolutions as well as already formulated plans at the National and Section levels of our organization?
2. Do you approve of SIR authorizing the expenditure of a portion of its legislative funds (over \$1500.00) to defray transportation (and a per diem) of those SIR members in attendance?

Your approval of both #1 and #2 should NOT be based on whether or not you can attend. Should the meeting be held, we will schedule it early in September, the most central locale to be selected. Please indicate, therefore, whether you can attend.

Please assist me in making a final decision in this matter by giving it your prompt attention. If need be, call your Executive Committee into emergency session for the answer.

I trust that all of you are enjoying a restful yet fruitful summer.

With warmest regards,

Margery K. Stich
Margery K. Stich
President

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Enclosure