

**WORLD ORGANISATION
OF JEWISH DEAF**



**General Assembly
16 July 1992**

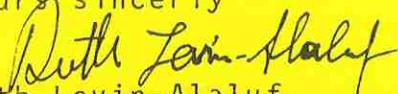
This arrangement would leave you to deal with WOJD matters in France only, while every national branch would have its own Treasurer. This would serve as an interim solution until a final decision is taken at the Fifth World Congress in England in 1995.

We hope you will understand the very delicate situation in which we find ourselves.

Should you fail to approve our decision would to our great regret lead total paralysis of WOJD and its liquidation.

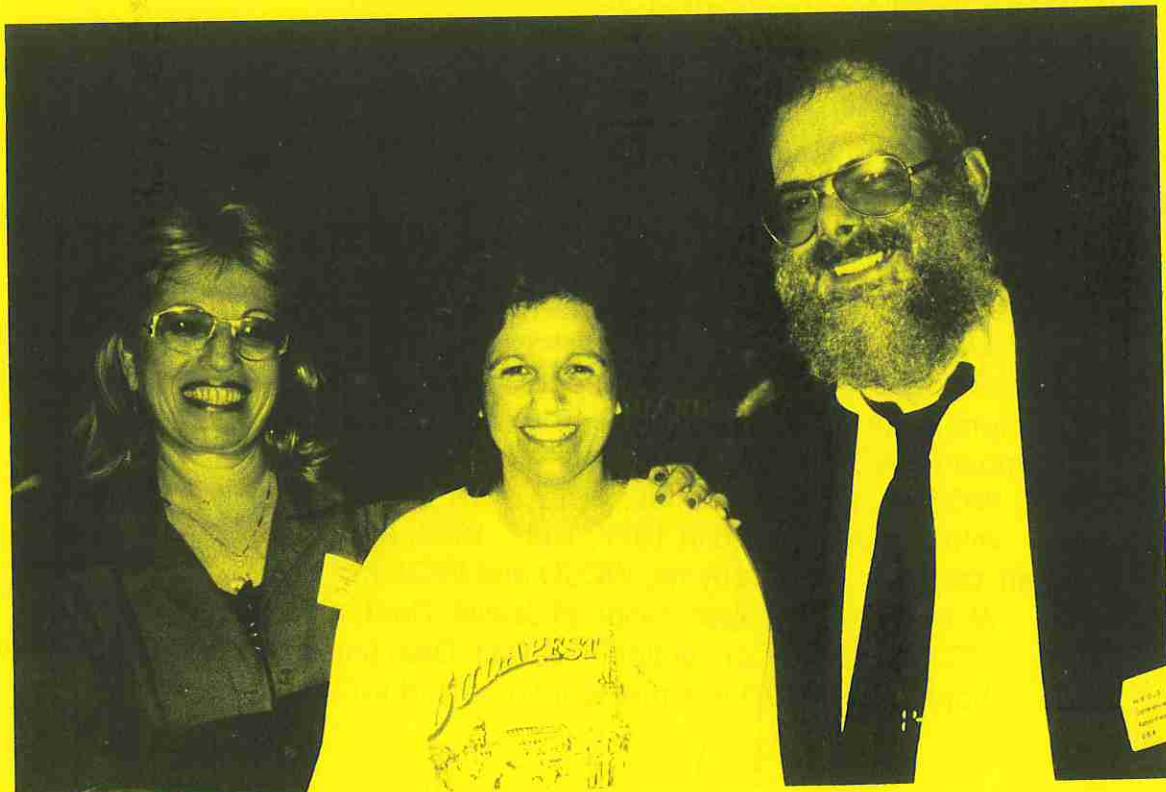
On the occasion of the New Year, we wish you all SHANA TOVA,

Yours sincerely



Ruth Levin-Alaluf
President

Copies: Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz Vice President
Mr. Chaim Apter, General Secretary
 All members of the Bureau



Ruth Aluv-Levin (the new WOJD President), Malka Bogard and Rabbi Friedman smiling in Paris for the recent WOJD Convention. Rabbi Friedman is one of the deaf rabbis in the States.

WORLD ORGANIZATION OF JEWISH DEAF

General Assembly 16 July 1992

The agenda for the Meeting of the General Assembly was adopted by the Board. A request was made after the adoption to add Necrology.

President Alan Hurwitz explained in opening statements that the Meeting of the General Assembly is open. He reviewed the agenda, explaining each point, and defined the meeting procedures.

Patrick Leven requested that the addition of treasure position be added to the election item on the agenda. This was done.

Patrick Leven named the individuals who have passed away since the last convention in 1988. Included were: Stryker, Spokojny, M. Leven, C. Warshawsky. A moment of silence was observed; may their memories be for a blessing.

President Hurwitz presented his report. Items included were:

1. Events of the 1988 meeting and the elections;
2. Committee assignments;
3. Board meetings (1989: Israel; 1990: New Jersey);
4. Appointments of Aahron Eini as Treasurer and Ruth Aluf Levin as Vice President;
5. No meeting held in 1991 due to lack of funds;
6. Issues and problems identified in the past four years, including decreased motivation and lack of funds;
7. England's S Maxwell resigned due to health reasons; replacing him is Steve Bloomfield [Jewish Deaf Club of London];
8. Discussions with Israeli leaders on the future of WOJD, including the recommendation that WOJD assume only one project at a time and encourage the growth and expansion of WOJD affiliates, which will in turn invite WOJD members to their convention and/or meetings;
9. Number of WOJD Conventions —
WOJD has met five times: 1977, 1981, 1984, 1988, & 1992, with officers elected in 1977, 1981, 1988, and 1992.
10. Clarification of the acronyms, WOJD and WCJD:
WOJD = World Organization of Jewish Deaf, an organization and
WCJD = World Convention of Jewish Deaf [including meetings and workshops]; the WOJD has met four times and WCJD five times.

Report of the Secretary General:

1. Has maintained correspondence in the past four years with significant people.
2. Has noticed decreased motivation among members.
3. Is concerned about money matters: Affiliates now pay \$50 per year; this sum is insufficient for operating expenses. Israel gave \$5000 in the past year, the USA, England, France, and an Israel association each gave \$50 for a total sum raised from affiliates of \$5200. This compares with a former sum of \$45,000 donated by Israel. As a result of the significant decrease in funds, there is also a reduction in services. Unless other countries increase their giving, WOJD is in danger of losing the funds from Israel.
4. Expenses were entailed for mailing, brochures, correspondence, travel and translation.
5. Russian deaf immigrants total 500 to date, 500,000 hearing. More than one million are expected, increasing the number of deaf and hard of hearing to 1000 immigrants. Israeli Association of the Deaf must focus attention on these issues, of which the provision of health, social, and employment services are needed.
6. The immigrants are trained in a Ulpan, where they learn language and other skills. The two year training program employs deaf and hard of hearing teachers, and provides fund for housing and basic necessities.
7. A decline in youth involvement is noted.
8. The Secretary General expressed his concern regarding American involvement in WOJD activities.
9. The involvement of individuals is also problematic; commitments are not fulfilled.
10. Congratulations to the French Committee were extended for a successful Paris Convention.
11. Americans attending the convention are paying their own expenses; WOJD is not being billed.
12. Israeli Association formerly had a line item in its budget for WOJD. That has now been deleted.

The Treasurer's Financial Report was presented by Chaim Apter on behalf of Aahron Eini.

A deficit of 789 NIS/322 US Dollars (at NIS exchange rate of 2.28) was reported. Patrick Leven requested a four year report. Apter has all records and can prepare such a report. It was requested that complete financial reports from 1988 to 1992 be mailed to all affiliates. Details are needed if we are to determine future directions.

President Hurwitz then ordered Secretary General Apter to return to Israel and develop a complete report for distribution to member affiliates.

Report by Patrick and Annette Leven on the 1992 WOJD Convention:

1. France is very proud to host the Convention.
2. WOJD brochures are seriously outdated.
3. Planning of the convention involved four years of hard work due to cultural issues, language differences, and translation needs.
4. French culture is traditionally slower; WOJD administration was frustrated with the convention planners but bore with them and the convention is the result.
5. WOJD official support was minimal, as was financial support. This was frustrating for the Planning Committee.
6. At present, Israel has five representatives, the United States three, France one and England one. It is recommended that each country have two.
7. French culture and the Planning Committee use Gestuno; the Committee asks the support of the Bureau in working with the French group.
8. Victor Abbou made note of competition from another Jewish group of deaf and hard of hearing people competing with the Planning Committee.

President Hurwitz congratulated the French Planning Committee for their hard work. He noted that is not the position of WOJD to intervene in French internal problems and attempt to resolve conflicts. The position of WOJD is that the French groups are capable of resolving their own differences.

(Various compliments were given to the Planning Committee.)

The meeting recessed for lunch at 1210 (12:10 PM).

LUNCH RECESS

The meeting of the General Assembly reconvened at 1325 (1:25 PM).

Committee Report:

Ruth Aluf Levin (Israel) reported on the Holocaust Memorial Project. Donations have come in slowly in the form of memorials and other contributions.

President Hurwitz explained that other countries can establish their own memorials. WOJD has supported Israel's work and applauds them for their efforts. In America, Simon Carmel is active in Holocaust documentation.

President Hurwitz opened for discussion WOJD Future Directions.

The question was put to the membership: Where should WOJD go in the future? Forty five minutes was allocated for this discussion.

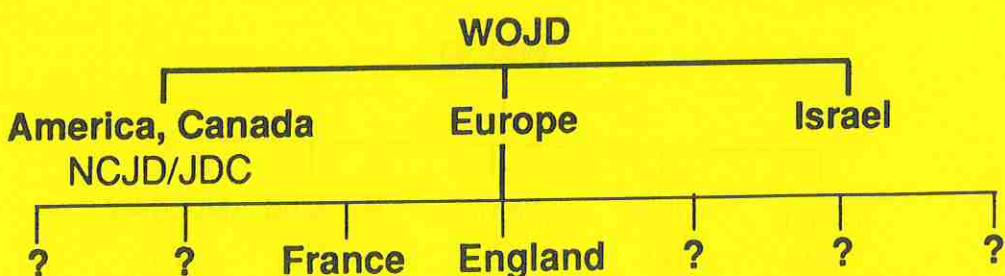
M. Abbou (France) would like to see an educational component of WOJD, including more workshops. He also would like to have more youth involvement.

Zenou (France) proposed that WOJD be put to rest until more money is available for projects.

Parfoucke (France) does not want to see WOJD phased out. Deaf and hard of hearing Jewish people need an advocate.

P. Leven (France) recommended that WOJD officers not go to Congress meetings until more money becomes available.

Bloomfield (England) proposed a change in WOJD structure:



Jackson (England) recommended that WOJD seek funds from affiliates and continue operations.

Portnoy (France) reaffirmed that we must have information on WOJD to disseminate before we can get funds.

Schlisselman (England) believes publications and information sharing must be a priority. WOJD must have clear goals; the Bureau must have a mission and know where it is going.

Hirschman (England) encouraged the development of new ideas which appeal to youth.

Zenou (France) suggested that the Congress meet annually to increase awareness and raise funds. Ask the embassies to donate money.

A. Leven (France) had several suggestions. First, information sharing requires the selection of appropriate members who work together and determine ways to share information. Second, individual affiliates must take care of themselves before they can take care of WOJD. Third, the Congress needs a program for youth so they will feel there is something for them.

Boyd (USA) emphasized the need for WOJD to have goals and determine means of networking with funding organizations. What can WOJD give to these organizations in return for their support? We cannot expect something for nothing; we must be prepared to give something back to funding organizations. What will that be?

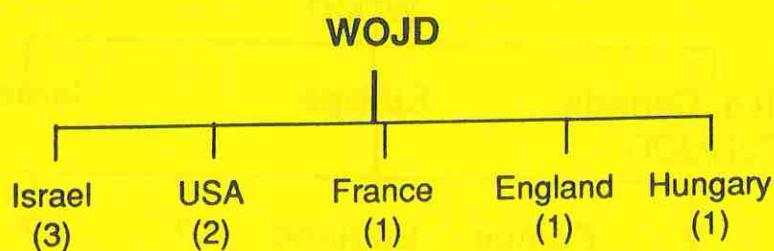
President Hurwitz offered a summary of the discussion, covering the following points:

- (1) The membership does not want WOJD to die out.
- (2) We must determine how we will reciprocate funding sources.
- (3) Structure changes may get us more members.
- (4) Fundraising ideas are needed.
- (5) Informational brochure needs to be eye-catching and attractive.
- (6) WOJD must be open to all Jewish deaf and hard of hearing people, Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionists.

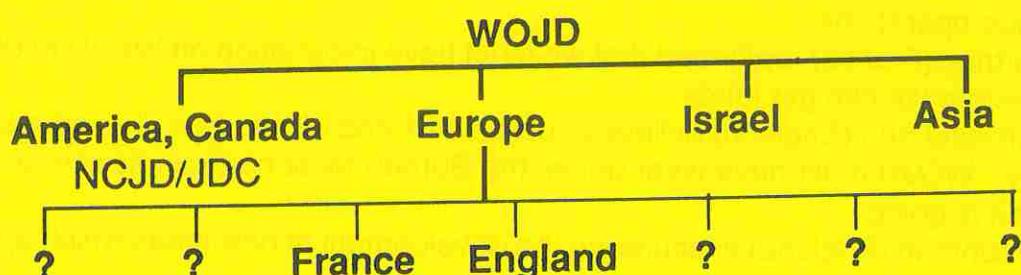
DECISIONS on the Points:

- (1) WOJD will continue! The General Assembly was unanimous in agreement.
- (2) Structural Changes in the WOJD:

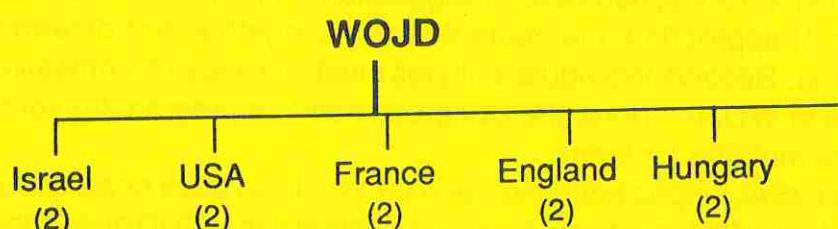
The present structure of WOJD is as follows:



Proposed by Bloomfield (England) is the following structure, Proposal 1:



Proposed by Leven (France) is the following structure, Proposal 2:



President Hurwitz called for a vote. The results were:

Proposal 1: 6 votes

Proposal 2: 24 votes.

All affiliates will have two representatives.

The next agenda items regarded **Proposed Projects & Membership Fees**.

The question: Should dues remain the same or be increased? Should we raise individual membership dues? (Now \$5 per person.) Should organizational membership be increased? (Now \$50 per affiliated.)

Question 1: Should we raise dues?

Yes, increase the dues: 21 votes

No, allow the dues to remain the same: 6 votes

Question 2: Should individual groups within countries be charged membership dues or does each country have one flat rate?

One flat rate: 23 votes

Each affiliate pays dues to WOJD for individual members: 4 votes.

Question 3: Should each affiliate of WOJD be charged a flat membership fee or should fees be determined on the basis of a sliding scale.

One flat rate: 21 votes

Sliding scale based on membership: 14 votes

Question 4: How much should dues be increased per year?

Five figures were solicited; the three lowest were discarded and the final vote was taken on the two figures receiving the highest votes in the first round.

Round 1:

\$ 55: 1 vote

\$ 60: 4 votes

\$ 75: 3 votes

\$100: 11 votes

\$150: 3 votes

Round 2:

\$60: 9 votes

\$100: 19 votes

Question 5: Should individual dues remain at \$5? Consensus was unanimous; individuals who wish to donate more than \$5 may do so.

The 1995 WOJD Convention

It was decided at the Paris Convention that the United Kingdom would have the honour of hosting the next WOJD Convention some time in 1995. An open meeting was arranged for October 1st 1992 when we welcomed the WOJD President, Ms Ruth Aluf-Levin. From the meeting it was agreed that the convention would be held some time during the summer so as to allow the younger members to participate without affecting their education. Also it was more or less agreed that we find a hotel with its own conference rooms and within easy reach of a underground station.

Therefore it is time to form a team to organise this important event. We need as many volunteers as possible to do specific tasks and make it a convention to remember.

What we have in mind is a structure that will contain a management committee and general committee with several sub-committees as follows :-



The Management Committee will comprise of six people – WOJD Liaison Officer, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and chairpersons of the JDA and JDC.

The Organisational Committee will consist of the WOJD Liaison Officer, Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer from the Management Committee plus the following twelve posts :-

Accommodation Officer
Drama Officer
Funding Officer
Leisure Officer
Printing Officer
Programme Officer
Publicity Officer
Refreshments Officer
Sports Officer
Transport Officer
Workshop Officer
and
Youth Officer

Each of these officers will be responsible for setting up sub-committees and report back to the Organisational Committee. It is expected that these committees will meet every three months. The Organisational Committee will meet every two months and the same applies for the Management Committee.

Further details about each position within the Sub-Committees

1. **Accommodation Officer** – to seek appropriate place for the convention as well as accommodation for participants
2. **Drama Officer** – to organise a Drama Festival and other shows during the Convention week
3. **Funding Officer** – to seek funds from trusts, charitable organisations, etc. and to seek sponsors for the convention
4. **Leisure Officer** – to book appropriate places for participants to enjoy during the Convention – maybe book a boat to cruise along the Thames, arrange a party to visit the important places in London, book a coach to Stratford upon Avon. Also to arrange evening entertainment such as discos, get-togethers, etc. (will need to book bands, lightings, etc.)
5. **Printing Officer** – to deal with all printing work ranging from brochures to posters and including producing bulletins during the convention week
6. **Programme Officer** – to collaborate with all the other officers and ensure a full programme to cater for all ages and tastes and also to work out a theme for the Convention and to invite potential speakers. and also to work out a theme for the Convention and to invite potential speakers. Also to arrange interpreters throughout the Convention
7. **Publicity Officer** – to publicise the Convention as much as possible and to deal with banners, etc during the Convention
8. **Refreshments Officer** – to book caterers and ensure everything is strictly kosher and that food will be provided to meet participant needs e.g. ensure there are vegetarian meals
9. **Sports Officer** – to arrange a series of various sporting events ranging from golf to ten-pin bowling, etc. during the Convention
10. **Transport Officer** – to ensure participants will be well-informed about travelling in and around London as well as other places and also to ensure participants are informed as to how to get to hotels from airport
11. **Workshop Officer** – to arrange a series of workshops involving a good range of topics to be discussed/debated
12. **Youth Officer** – to arrange a programme for young participants and also to arrange creche facilities if necessary

Therefore we would like to welcome people to put forward their names for nominations to the above posts. The more people we have the better as it is anticipated that everybody who offer to help will have a part to play in this exciting opportunity.

We would like to start the work in earnest from February/March 1993 so as to allow us at least two years of preparations. The first thing we need to do is to produce a preliminary announcement leaflet to inform all the WOJD member states and their members of our plans with a list of people involved in the organising work. The next important thing is to try and raise funds and enlist potential sponsors.

Therefore can you please fill in the form on the next sheet and return it to David Jackson, 37 Gairn Close, Tilehurst, READING, RG3 4DX by January 31st 1993.

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VOLUNTEERS FORM

Please delete either YES or NO against each post below – you can say YES to more than one post but in the end you will be nominated, if successful, for one post.

I, _____, would like to be nominated as –

Management Chairperson	YES/NO
Management Secretary	YES/NO
Management Treasurer	YES/NO
Accommodation Officer	YES/NO
Convention Officer	YES/NO
Drama Officer	YES/NO
Funding Officer	YES/NO
Leisure Officer	YES/NO
Printing Officer	YES/NO
Publicity Officer	YES/NO
Refreshments Officer	YES/NO
Sports Officer	YES/NO
Transport Officer	YES/NO
Workshop Officer	YES/NO
Youth Officer	YES/NO

If I do not get nominated, I would like to be involved in the sub-committee for :-

Accommodation	YES/NO
Drama	YES/NO
Funding	YES/NO
Leisure	YES/NO
Printing	YES/NO
Programme	YES/NO
Publicity	YES/NO
Refreshments	YES/NO
Sports	YES/NO
Transport	YES/NO
Workshop	YES/NO
Youth	YES/NO

