

ACTIONS TAKEN

Samuel S. Schneierson was elected temporary chairman.

The name selected for the new agency is NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR NEW AMERICANS.

The Certificate of Incorporation was approved with minor amendments and referred to the Board Organization Committee for legal action. The Chairman, assisted by Messrs. Rosenberg and Goldwasser, are to designate the signers of the Certificate.

It was agreed that the following committees should be appointed by the Chairman: Board Organization (comprising a Nominations and a By-Laws sub-committee); Personnel (comprising one sub-committee to recommend an executive, and one on relations with staff); and Finance.

It was agreed that a Technical Advisory Committee should be set up, consisting of professional people to consult with and advise the board on technical matters.

It was agreed that 21 additional board members should be added to the present 29, making a total of 50. Suggestions for additional candidates should be directed to the office of the Assistant to the Board, Morris Zelditch, Room 2134, 15 Park Row.

It was agreed that the CJFWF be asked to assign Morris Zelditch to assist this board until an administrator for the agency takes over responsibility.

Board Members present:

Arnold Askin	Mrs. Walter A. Hirsch
Gustave M. Berne	Edwin Rosenberg
Mrs. Richard J. Bernhard	Mrs. Edward Pepper
Mrs. Louis Broido	Samuel S. Schneierson
Mrs. Irving M. Engel	Mrs. David Sher
Mrs. Myron S. Falk, Jr.	Samuel Telsey
Mrs. Norman S. Goetz	Mrs. Jerome Udell
Dr. I. Edwin Goldwasser	

Board Members absent:

Herman W. Block	Adolph Held
Samuel C. Dretzin	Charles L. Israels
Mrs. Abraham Geller	Mrs. David M. Levy
Sylvan Gotshal	Rabbi Joseph Lookstein
Hon. Emanuel Greenberg	Max Ogust
Morris W. Haft	Chester Rohrflich
Samuel Hausman	Herman L. Weisman

Others present: Joseph E. Beck
Samuel Harris
Dr. Maurice B. Hexter
Moses A. Leavitt
Harry A. Lurie
Morris Zelditch

The meeting was opened at 4:00 P. M. by Edwin Rosenberg. He gave a statement on behalf of the Operating Organizational Committee. (Copy of statement attached). With this statement, that Committee goes out of existence, its work being taken over by the new agency.

Mrs. Sher moved that Samuel S. Schneierson act as temporary chairman of the new agency until a permanent president be secured. This was seconded by Mrs. Hirsch and agreed to unanimously. Mr. Rosenberg emphasized that no officer of the new agency who is an officer of any organization dealing with the new agency should become an officer of the new organization.

Dr. Hexter brought up the question of financial sources for the new agency and Mr. Rosenberg explained that the national UJA would finance it with the approval, already given, of JDC and UPA. Dr. Hexter then stated that Federation wanted it understood that it would not make any financial commitments to the new agency; this had been understood by the Operating Organizational Committee, and he wanted to reemphasize the point at this meeting.

Now followed discussion on what committees are immediately needed by the board. Mr. Rosenberg pointed out that several committees would be necessary. He listed three committees covering major functions which the board must immediately undertake:

Board Organization Committee: to make nominations for additional board members; nominations of officers of the board; to take action on Certificate of Incorporation and preparation of the By-Laws needed for the agency.

Personnel Committee: to make recommendations for an agency administrator; preparation of statement to USNA staff; relations with union and staff.

Finance Committee: to deal with source of agency support; fiscal relations with USNA; fiscal relations with New York Federation agencies; subventions.

Dr. Goldwasser felt that the functions of the Personnel Committee were too diversified and should be separated. The selection of an agency administrator and the relations with union and staff should be relegated to two different committees or sub-committees. Mrs. Engel thought that this principle applied as well to the Board Organization Committee. The action on the by-laws and the nominations of new candidates and officers for the board should be separated. Mr. Rosenberg suggested this be left

to the Committees themselves. Mr. Askin agreed with Mrs. Engel that nominations and work on the Certificate should be separated and suggested that a legal sub-committee handle the Certificate. It was agreed that in choosing people for the committees, those who were absent from this meeting would also be considered, and that in some cases members might have to work on more than one committee. In the discussion it was also made clear that committees are empowered to make recommendations to the board, not final decisions.

Mr. Rosenberg proposed that in addition to these board committees, there be set up a Technical Advisory Committee, consisting of professional people to consult with and advise the board on technical matters. It was agreed that such a committee should be set up.

Mr. Harris pointed out that most of the work on the Certificate of Incorporation has already been done and suggested that in order to avoid delay in establishing the legal basis for the organization, action on the Certificate should take place at this meeting.

Since it was necessary that a name be chosen there was discussion of a number of suggestions for an agency name. Mrs. Hirsch objected to use of the word "immigrants." On the question of whether the use of the term Jewish in the name would imply confinement by the agency to assist Jewish persons exclusively, it was agreed that even though the word Jewish might appear in the name of the agency, the Certificate was sufficiently broad to permit the agency to help anyone it chose to. Several members liked the term "new Americans" as a description for the group to be served, and this was approved. Finally, the name NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR NEW AMERICANS, proposed by Dr. Goldwasser, was unanimously adopted.

There was considerable discussion on details of the proposed Certificate of Incorporation. This was centered on the words used in the Certificate describing the group to be served, on the one hand, and the purposes of the agency on the other.

Mr. Askin took exception to the words in Paragraph (e) -- "persons who have immigrated to the United States," feeling that this provided no time limit on eligibility of persons to be served. Thus, if a person came to the U.S. from abroad 25 years ago, he might theoretically still be eligible for help by the NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR NEW AMERICANS. Mr. Rosenberg and Mr. Harris explained that the Certificate of Incorporation was intentionally very broad in scope in order to avoid the necessity of having to amend it through court action at any future time. Specific limitations on the service to be rendered by the organization, such as the setting up of a time limit following arrival in the U.S. are better made in the by-laws, since these can be more readily changed as needed.

Mr. Telsey raised the question that in item (e) of the Certificate inclusion of the authority of the organization to make loans might run afoul of the banking laws of the State of New York. Mr. Harris stated that the power to make loans by such agencies had never been challenged to his knowledge, but that his office would check on this point. Mr. Telsey suggested that the words "but not to engage in any banking business" be appended as a way to avoid possible conflict. Another

objection, made by Mr. Aakrin, was to the inclusion of the phrase "upon appropriate terms and provisions" in item (e). It was agreed that this phrase should be deleted.

Mr. Berne raised objection to the use of the word "aliens" on pages 1 and 2 of the Certificate. Mrs. Broide and Mrs. Engel took issue with this and thought it should be made clear that this agency was set up to help only aliens. After further discussion, it was agreed that the word "alien" be retained.

A motion was then introduced and passed unanimously, approving the Certificate of Incorporation as amended above. It was also suggested that the Chairman, with the help of Messrs. Rosenberg and Goldwasser, select 5 persons as signers of the Certificate. Mr. Harris and the committee on by-laws were asked to proceed with the presentation of the Certificate for court approval.

The Chairman was asked to see that action on the preparation of the by-laws would be taken up quickly. One of the questions in this connection was how many members of the board there should be. After discussion as to the size of the board, Mrs. Goetz moved to instruct the Board Organisation Committee that the number of members of the board be limited to 50. This was agreed to. Dr. Goldwasser suggested that of the 21 additional board members yet to be selected, there should be included some young, even though less experienced, people. It was agreed that all members of the board should send in suggestions for candidates for these 21 vacancies to the board, to be considered by the Board Organisation Committee. All such names are to be sent to the Assistant to the Board, Morris Zelditch, Room 2134, 15 Park Row.

Mr. Lurie asked whether this board would make a public announcement of its existence, but several members felt that the by-laws should be formulated and an executive committee be set up before a public announcement is made. Mr. Harris stated that he and his office, with the help of Mr. Israel, would go to work on a draft for a set of by-laws immediately.

Mr. Rosenberg pointed out that it would be necessary for the board to have temporary staff service until an agency administrator is selected and assumes responsibility for the agency's work. It was therefore agreed that the CJFPP should be asked to assign Morris Zelditch, who has been serving as staff consultant to the Operating Organizational Committee until now, to provide this assistance to the board until the administrator takes over.

It was decided that the next meeting of the board is to take place on Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 P.M. on March 5th, preferably at the Harmony Club.

STATEMENT BY EDWIN ROSENBERG, CHAIRMAN OPERATING ORGANIZATIONAL
COMMITTEE TO THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATION FOR NEW AMERICANS 2/17/49

The history of refugee movements, dating from 1934 in the United States, has created a unique chapter in American welfare programs. Starting with the expectation that refuge for a limited number of Jews was a matter of temporary urgency, national and local agencies were originally created to deal with emergency problems as they arose. As a result, on a national level, there was created the first "Committee for the Care of Emigres Coming from Germany," then the "Coordinating Committee for Refugees" to coordinate the activities of a number of national agencies, and then the "National Refugee Service." Finally, in 1946 a merger of the Service for Foreign Born of the National Council of Jewish Women and the National Refugee Service formed the United Service for New Americans. During this period of approximately 15 years, a somewhat similar process was going on in local communities. There was the establishment of local refugee committees, which later were merged into the services of existing local agencies, usually family agencies and employment services. Although for a short period of time local relief services in New York were cared for by the Brooklyn and New York family agencies under special divisions, during most of the period both the local and the national services were carried on in one consolidated organization (NRS, later USNA).

At various times questions have been raised in the local welfare organizations of the country and in New York City itself concerning the set-up in New York, of both the national and the New York local services. This was examined in a study made by Harry Greenstein in 1939; in conference between NRS and the New York Federation in 1943; more recently in an over-all study of total USNA operations conducted by CJFWF in 1947. The recommendations in that study influenced the thinking, not only in New York, but in communities throughout the country, with general acceptance of the major conclusion that the national and local services be separated.

At this meeting today, we begin to bring to fruition that recommendation. This meeting of the charter board members of the New York corporation is the result of several months of discussion and planning by an organizational committee, appointed to carry out this recommendation. This committee, as you know, includes representatives of JDC, UPA, USNA, CJFWF and the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. In the kit which was prepared for you, and which you have before you today, there are the names of people on the committee and the minutes of all its meetings, giving the actions taken by the committee and its recommendations to you for such use as you choose to make of them.

As chairman of the committee, I want to outline to you briefly:

1. What it is that this New York corporation is being asked to undertake.
2. Some of the immediate problems which you face as an organization.

The services which have been defined as local, which the local corporation has been asked to take over at an early date, are the following:

1. Family service (case work and financial assistance, which is now carried on by USNA).
2. Vocational services (training, counselling and placement of our new arrivals).
3. Service to religious functionaries (case work and financial assistance to a large group of rabbis, Yeshiva students, cantors and other orthodox religious functionaries).
4. Physicians and dentists service (for a group of professional people from this field in New York City).
5. Business and loan service (providing loans to establish physicians in practice, persons in small businesses, etc).
6. Subventions for a group of agencies in the New York area which are conducting various activities for refugees in the New York area. This includes such agencies as Migration Services of the New York and Brooklyn Sections of the Council of Jewish Women; Relief and Migration Services of the Westchester Committee for Refugees; English instruction and education by the Committee for Refugee Education; nursing, camps, and other services of the Self-Help for Refugees, and the like.

These services involve a very substantial part of the present expenditures of the USNA. Of about $10\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars expended in 1948, between $7\frac{1}{2}$ and 8 million was for services to the clients in New York, while between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 million was for services usually designated as of national character. The largest part of the local expenditures went for direct relief and relief service activities in family service, child care and work with religious functionaries. For these alone the agency spent almost 6 million dollars, of which direct relief cost almost 5 million dollars.

These services deal with thousands of clients in New York City. They involve services by a staff of nearly 500 clerical and professional people, required to carry on services to these refugees. The three relief divisions alone served an average of almost five thousand cases a month. The other services, such as employment, are also of substantial size.

The transfer of the direct services to clients from USNA to the New York corporation should be comparatively simple. However, there are facilitative services which serve both the national and the local activities of USNA, such as accounting, files, statistics, mail and messenger, telephone, etc. These require more careful consideration

for division and will involve considerable attention to administrative detail.

The actual job of separating will require the presence of a responsible administrator and staff. One of the early jobs of the new agency will be the appointment of an administrator and provision for taking over the appropriate parts of the USNA staff. Another and even earlier pressing job for this board is the completion of its organization, including the selection of officers, addition of other members to the full size of the board, appointment of committees and incorporation under the laws of the State of New York. These two major jobs should be undertaken immediately. To assure that the work of this board can proceed without delay, it is suggested that it selects its own temporary chairman immediately and proceeds to business. With this action, the Operating Organizational Committee is dissolved and turns over its work to the charter membership of the new organization.