

NCJW RESOURCES

Human Resources

Section leaders, commissioners, state public affairs chairs, board members, honorary board members, staff — it's easy to think of each of these categories of NCJW leadership as separate entities. Together, however, they comprise a strong interwoven network of NCJW resources — resources that you can call upon to ask questions, to brainstorm ideas, to explain organizational policies, to dialogue with about leadership issues, and much more. Contact information for all of NCJW's human resources — both volunteers and staff — can be found in the NCJW directory, which is updated and distributed to the organization's leadership on an annual basis.

Section Presidents/Primary Section Leaders

Section presidents/primary section leaders are those individuals who are the primary leaders and contacts for their respective sections. Section presidents/primary section leaders can easily network with one another through Section Talk — a listserv designed for this purpose. For more information, email Reva Holmes at rhomes@ncjw.org or call her at 800 829 NCJW x 132.

Commissioners

Commissioners are past section presidents who primarily serve as liaisons between headquarters and sections, providing information and general assistance. Some commissioners serve as trainers and travel to the NCJW field as section visitors. The NCJW president appoints commissioners at the start of each triennium. Section presidents/primary sections leaders are notified in late summer of their commissioner for the year.

State Public Affairs Chairwomen (SPAs)

Most states with NCJW sections have SPAs, who are appointed by the NCJW president. SPAs monitor issues at the state level, represent NCJW on state coalitions, act as contacts on federal issues, communicate with local sections to update them on state and federal issues, and serve as advocacy resources to sections.

Board of Directors

The NCJW board consists of seven officers and 19 – 22 directors, elected by the delegate body at convention, who serve for three years. Also on the board is the immediate past president. In addition, in the course of a triennium, the NCJW Board of Directors, through its Standing Committee on Nominations, may elect up to three additional members to serve on the board of directors. For details, refer to the NCJW Bylaws, Article the board is responsible for setting the policy and direction of the organization. Its fiduciary responsibilities include overseeing the NCJW budget and reviewing investments. In addition, board directors serve on committees and work with staff members to accomplish the organizational goals. They also provide training and technical assistance (at events and through the section visitor program) and act as consultants on various issues.

Programmatic Resources

NCJW's programs reflect the spirit of the organization itself — a powerful union of forward — thinking ideals and Jewish values. A faith in the future. A belief in action. These programs are available as a resource to all NCJW sections. Many sections incorporate activities related to NCJW programs into their local community work, while others choose to use information on programs as educational tools for members about NCJW's work across the country and in Israel -- both are valid examples of how NCJW programs can work for you. These are your programs -- and you are encouraged to implement them, fundraise around them, link them to your advocacy and community service/action work, and use them as marketing and membership tools. For assistance in strategizing about how to make these programs work for you, contact the Action Line via email action@ncjw.org or phone 800 829 NCJW. And to ensure you have the latest programmatic updates, resources, and action opportunities, sign up to receive NCJW Action Center emails at www.ncjw.org.

Plan A: NCJW's Campaign for Contraceptive Access

Plan A aims to secure and protect access to contraceptive information and options. A community-based, proactive national campaign, Plan A is firmly rooted in the belief that such access is essential for women's well-being and equality. Additionally, restrictions that seek to impose one religious viewpoint on everyone jeopardize the constitutional guarantee of religious liberty. Plan A empowers individuals and groups to take action for contraceptive access.

BenchMark: NCJW's Campaign to Save Roe

BenchMark: NCJW's Campaign to Save Roe educates and mobilizes NCJW members, the Jewish community, and friends and allies everywhere to promote a federal bench with judges who support fundamental freedoms, including a woman's right to reproductive choice. The success of the BenchMark campaign rests largely in the participation of grassroots activists.

StoP: Strategies to Prevent Domestic Violence

NCJW's StoP grassroots network facilitates education and outreach to the Jewish community and the general public, as well as advocacy for policy and program changes at all levels of government and community action. On the grassroots level, NCJW sections around the country are involved in a variety of domestic violence prevention programs, including teen dating violence education, and Court Watch, Silent Witness, Clothesline projects.

The Israel Granting Program

The granting program encompasses the following NCJW funding initiatives in Israel: .

- ▶ ***Yad B' Yad: NCJW's Initiative to Nurture Knowledge***

Launched in 1998, the Yad B' Yad program grant program supports grassroots organizations serving at-risk children and families in Israel. Through Yad B'Yad, NCJW has funded hundreds of grants to foster positive and innovative learning environments for individuals of all backgrounds, and has supported programs that have empowered women, children, and their families in Israel.

► **Women to Women: NCJW's Empowerment Initiative**

In 2005, NCJW partnered with US/Israel Women to Women, an organization dedicated to supporting grassroots programs and advocacy efforts for women in Israel. Shortly following, NCJW initiated Women to Women: NCJW's Empowerment Initiative. This program supports

The NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University

The NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University is the first bachelor's degree-granting program of its kind in the Middle East. Using an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research through over a hundred courses from the faculties of law, humanities, art, and the social sciences, the program stresses critical analysis of the role of women and other minorities in institutions of all kinds, public and private. The first degrees in this program were granted in the summer of 2004.

The NCJW Women Studies Forum at Tel Aviv University

The NCJW Women Studies Forum at Tel Aviv University is a vital association of faculty and students that advances research and analysis in feminist studies. With the support of NCJW, the forum sponsors major conferences and lecture series, and critical community service initiatives, and it delivers essential services to women on the Tel Aviv campus. Each year, the forum organizes an annual conference on critical issues of concern to Israeli citizens. The forum also founded and supports the Tel Aviv University sexual harassment hotline, the first such campus hotline in Israel.

The NCJW Research Institute for Innovation in Education (RIFIE) at Hebrew University

For nearly 40 years, the NCJW Research Institute for Innovation in Education at Hebrew University has supported applied research projects that promote education of at-risk and disadvantaged children and families.

Technological Resources

Knowledge is power. The most effective community service providers, advocates, and leaders are those who are well informed. NCJW uses a variety of technological communication vehicles to distribute information and facilitate connections between individuals and the organization, as well as among NCJW's leadership groups. Through phone lines or the click of a mouse, important updates and ideas for how to get more involved are provided on a regular basis. To make sure that you are updated on the latest issues and ideas, please ensure that the most up to date contact information is submitted to NCJW headquarters.

The NCJW Action Center

The NCJW Action Center is the organization's primary hub of online communications and advocacy, and the best way to receive the latest information updates and action opportunities on NCJW's key issues. Designed for both internal and external groups — including NCJW leaders, section members, and like-minded individuals who aren't members (yet!), the Action Center enables you to select among a variety of subscription lists (so you only receive information about the issues important to you) and provides outreach tools like Tell-A-Friend

so you can multiply the power of your voice. Sign up at www.ncjw.org — and encourage others to do the same!

The NCJW Website

In late October 2008, NCJW launched an improved and redesigned website with more resources for all members and supports of NCJW. Designed to meet the needs of a broad range of audiences – from leaders and members to individuals in search of a local section – www.ncjw.org site provides instant access to compelling information, resources, and advocacy opportunities.

Other Resources and Services

Email and Print Communication with Section Leaders

On a regular basis, important organizational information is sent via email to sections, including policy updates, customized resources, and press release announcements. On an as needed basis, information and materials that are better shared on paper are delivered to section presidents/primary section leaders through regular mail.

Section Visitor Program

Nurturing and supporting leaders at the local level is essential to maintaining a healthy section. NCJW's section visitor program is one of several services created to help sections achieve this goal. Our professional volunteers — women whose expertise has been honed through years of dedication to the organization — serve as speakers, trainers and facilitators. Their goal is to strengthen your members' ability to carry out NCJW's mission, expand their knowledge base on critical issues, and help them develop a broad range of skills relevant to their NCJW experiences and beyond. For information and guidelines on the section visitor program, contact the action line.