

### **WRJ Mission Statement**

*Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) strengthens the voice of women worldwide and empowers them to create caring communities, nurture congregations, cultivate personal and spiritual growth, and advocate for and promote progressive Jewish values.*

### **Advocacy/Jewish Concerns Chair**

**Department:** Development and Special Projects

**Supervisory Contact:** District Vice President Development and Special Projects

#### **WRJ Resources:**

- WRJ VP, Department of Programming and Advocacy
- WRJ Professional, Department of Programming and Advocacy
- WRJ Executive Director

#### **Objectives:**

- Encouragement of local Sisterhoods to advance the causes/agenda, including social action, of the Women of Reform Judaism through education and advocacy
- Promote causes of Israel supported by Women of Reform Judaism
- Participation in a network of the Women of Reform Judaism supporting advocacy and social action efforts
- Furthering of the concept of caring community, sacred aging, and youth activities as *mitzvot* appropriate to the Sisterhood mission
- Encouragement of local Sisterhoods to adopt aspects of or the entire caring community, sacred aging, and youth activities concept in service to their congregation and community
- Encouragement of local Sisterhoods to develop or support the congregational college age committee and to maintain congregational contact with college age youth; to share information about the URJ college age programs with local Sisterhoods
- Assistance to Sisterhoods regarding the incorporation of caring community programs, programming for older adults and youth
- Promotion of recognition in local Sisterhoods that older adults are a resource for volunteers; programs and projects to help local Sisterhoods develop ways to utilize that resource

#### **Expectations:**

- Attend all district events
- Reports to District Vice President prior to all District Executive Committee and Board meetings
- Communicate with District VP on a regular basis
- Be active in your local sisterhood

#### **Responsibilities:**

- Become familiar with the WRJ Central District Bylaws and Policies noting the responsibilities that specifically relate to your position
- Contact local Sisterhoods at least once a year by letter, phone, or email advising them of your availability as a resource person in the areas of advocacy and connections to the various group within their congregations (specifically sharing information about effective youth programs, inform local Sisterhoods about creating and/or expanding caring community and sacred aging concepts including *bikkur cholim*,

Job Description-Jewish Family Concerns/Advocacy Chair  
6/2016

- bereavement support, sandwich generation, caregiving programs, the graying of our community, healthy aging and wellness; and baby boomers' spirituality)
- Maintain a copy of all Women of Reform Judaism and Union for Reform Judaism critical issues publications for copying and distributing to local Sisterhoods on request; arrange to receive the Religious Action Center's *Chai Impact*
  - Maintain a file of all Women of Reform Judaism resources regarding Israel for copying and distributing to local Sisterhoods on request
  - Should be on ARZA mail and e-mail lists
  - Share information about WRJ trips to Israel; promote summer Israel programs for congregational youth; encourage local Sisterhoods to develop funding an/or scholarships for youth to visit Israel
  - Disseminate critical issues, social action projects, and material and information about Israel directly to local Sisterhoods and through bulletin articles
  - Encourage local Sisterhoods to develop programs on Israel and advocacy and social action projects
  - Maintain a copy of all Women of Reform Judaism and Union for Reform Judaism caring community, sacred aging and youth publications for copying and distributing to local Sisterhoods on request
  - Research the current URJ college age program and share information with local Sisterhoods about how to maintain contact with college age youth
  - Submit articles regularly to the District bulletin about critical issues, social action, and Israel, and Jewish Family Concerns with ideas for problem solving, resources, and books in these areas
  - Encourage local Sisterhoods to participate in applicable District Biennial Awards
  - Organize an advocacy network of representatives from District communities who are prepared to initiate lobbying efforts when needed
  - Assist in developing District Area Days and conferences as requested
  - Organize and/or participate in District workshops as requested
  - Respond to local Sisterhood requests regarding Advocacy issues including social action and Israel
  - Respond to local Sisterhood requests regarding caring community, sacred aging and youth activities
  - Maintain contact with URJ Department of Jewish Family Concerns; subscribe to URJ newsletter in this area
  - Serve as a link between local Sisterhood and URJ Department of Jewish Family Concerns to promote caring community, sacred aging and youth activities programs
  - Submit bills, including telephone, duplicating and/or mailing expenses incurred for District business to the District President
  - Submit a written report to the Vice President twice a year – for Fall and Spring Executive Committee meetings – and at the end of term. A copy of each report is placed in the Advocacy Chair notebook.
  - Maintain contact with District Vice President
  - Pass on all records as directed at the end of term

**Qualifications:**

- Knowledgeable about Sisterhood and Women of Reform Judaism
- Awareness of Women of Reform Judaism resolutions and national/international advocacy efforts
- Knowledgeable about social action in communities
- Knowledgeable about current status of Reform/liberal Judaism in Israel and ARZA policies/programs; awareness of WRJ funded programs in Israel
- Knowledge of legislative process helpful
- Knowledgeable about Sisterhood and Women of Reform Judaism
- Knowledgeable about URJ Department of Jewish Family Concerns programming
- Knowledgeable about the Reform youth movement, Reform camping, and URJ college age programs
- Sensitivity to the needs of a diverse congregational population
- Creativity and programmatic strengths
- Communication and organizational skills essential; ability to build networks and coalitions
- Self-starter