



# Aleph Jacob Avraham Edelson

Endeavoring to be YOUR 93<sup>rd</sup> Grand Aleph Godol



## Optimizing the Visit

### **Before:**

1. Send out survey form 2 weeks prior to visit
  - a. RAG/CAG→ 3 goals, 2 problems, 1 highlight
  - b. R/C-Board→ Write about the status of the region with their respective position in mind (including their work with their counterparts)
  - c. Chapter Godols→ 1 problem, 1 highlight, and a list of active general members who are not on board
2. Go through responses with Grand Board
3. Do research about the local Jewish community and organizations
4. Set meetings with staff, regional/council board, chapter boards, and the collective group of active general members

### **During:**

5. Attend meetings with R/C-Board to talk through priorities, issues, and highlights, as well as set goals for moving forward
6. Talk to the group of active general members to ensure that the voices of AZA base are heard and see how we can better support them
7. Get to know and hang out with as many Alephs as possible
8. Meet with local Jewish organizations to help build partnerships and look for areas of potential for regional/council expansion

### **After:**

9. Discuss with the Grand Board how to better support the individual region/council and chapters based off of takeaways
10. Follow up 2-4 weeks later to see how the region/council and chapters are progressing on their goals
11. Set new goals and give further advice and support

## Utilizing the Executives Body

### **Communication & Resources: (common, but nonetheless effective)**

- ⌘ Weekly Emails
- ⌘ GroupMe
- ⌘ Google Drive Resource Folder
- ⌘ Zoom calls every other month (every 3 months with chapter Godolim)
  - ☆ Keep everyone on the same page
  - ☆ Talk through issues and how we can solve them

### **Focus Groups:**

#### **(applying an ILN-type structure)**

- ⌘ These focus groups would more effectively channel the strength of our Order into our 5 priorities (Grow AZA & BBG, Program Excellence, BBYO Stand UP, BBYO Goes Global, and BBYO Speak Up)
- ⌘ Every Regional/Council Godol will submit a form listing the top three priorities that they're most passionate about
- ⌘ Each focus group would be overseen by a member of the group who applies for that position to the International Board
- ⌘ The ties formed in these focus groups would encourage interregional bonding between regional/council presidents that might also translate into more interregional programming and communication

## Globalization

### **A Worldwide Organization:**

- ⌘ Anti-Semitism and assimilation weakens the body of world Jewry and so it is more important than ever that we look out for our brothers outside of North America
- ⌘ To build stronger bonds we must first better understand what their communities are like
  - ☆ I will work with the GNC to select Alephs from around the world and ask them to write about what their lives are like in their local communities
  - ☆ Each month, we will send their stories out to the Order to highlight what world Jewry in more distant areas is like

### **ISF:**

- ⌘ ISF push week
  - ☆ Educate
  - ☆ Raise Money (International and local raffles, donation campaign, chapter fundraisers with prizes)
- ⌘ Implement text-to-give system similar to that used by the International Red Cross

## A Grassroots Focus

(We serve YOU, not the other way around)

### **Communication:**

- ⌘ Especially important are those voices of the AZA base not commonly heard because they do not hold board positions
  - ☆ Talk to groups of active general members who are not on board during regional/council visits
- ⌘ Create a portal that would allow any member to submit questions, comments, or concerns about their chapters, regions, or AZA in general

### **Individualized Plans:**

- ⌘ Work with Grand Board to create individualized recruitment and programming plans with every region/council

### **Follow-Up:**

- ⌘ Be sure to follow up with every region/council about their individualized plans
- ⌘ Follow up with portal comments

## Qualifications:

### Evan Shapiro AZA #313

- ⌘ Dedicated Aleph- 2014-Life
- ⌘ Chapter Convention (Bittker) Coordinator (x2/year)- 2015,16
- ⌘ Chapter Regional Convention Coordinator- 2015,16
- ⌘ Aleph Godol (full year term)- 2015-16
  - ☆ Revitalized an vastly underperforming chapter by holding not just myself and the board accountable, but the general members too
  - ☆ Implemented an “Event of the Week” system
- ⌘ Aleph Kohen Godol (full year term)- 2016-17
  - ☆ Served as a mentor and aided the Aleph Godol

### Michigan Region #1701

- ⌘ Young Leadership Convention, Albert Einstein #76 Mock Aleph Moreh- 2014-15
- ⌘ IC 2016 Spirit Committee Member
- ⌘ Michigan Adult Commission Board, Teen Representative- 2015,16,17
- ⌘ Michigan Region AZA Outstanding Achievement in Leadership- 2016
- ⌘ Michigan Executives Conference Coordinator- 2016
- ⌘ Young Leadership Convention Committee Head- 2016
- ⌘ Voice Your Vote Committee Chairman- 2016
- ⌘ Michigan Mid-Year Executives Conference Coordinator- 2017
- ⌘ 92<sup>nd</sup> Regional Aleph Godol (full year term)- 2016-17
  - ☆ Raised over \$5,000 in reaching out to and meeting with donors
  - ☆ Worked to better unite the region by implementing monthly trainings and socials between my counterparts and by doing regular chapter visits

### The Grand Order of the Aleph Zadik Aleph

- ⌘ Bronze Shield of David\*
- ⌘ Silver Shield of David\*

### Other Admirable Accomplishments:

- ⌘ Attended NSLC (National Student Leadership Conference, Seattle, Washington)- 2016
- ⌘ Hebrew School Teen Advisory Council Member- 2015,16,17
- ⌘ Student Recognition Award (teachers select students who have portrayed outstanding scholarship and leadership)- 2014,15,16
- ⌘ NHS (National Honors Society) member- 2015,16, 17
- ⌘ High School Teen Representative- 2013,14,15,16,17

## Events Attended:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ⌘ Almost every “normal” chapter/regional event- 2014,15,16,17 | ⌘ Michigan Executives Conference- 2015,16▲      |
| ⌘ Chapter Convention (x2/year)- 2015▲,16▲                     | ⌘ Michigan Mid-Year Executives Conference-2017▲ |
| ⌘ Regional Convention-2014,15▲,16▲ (chapter coordinator)      | ⌘ Fall Kickoff- 2014,15,16                      |
| ⌘ Fall Convention- 2014,15                                    | ⌘ Winter Kickoff- 2014,15                       |
| ⌘ Young Leadership Convention- 2015,16▲                       | ⌘ IC- 2016✓,17⌘                                 |
| ⌘ Spring Convention- 2015,16,17*                              | ⌘ August Executives Conference- 2016            |
| ⌘ Voice Your Vote- 2016▲                                      | ⌘ February Executives Conference- 2017          |
|   | ⌘ ILTC- 2016                                    |

### My Brother Alephs,

In every generation there are issues that we brothers have had to face. Some periods were more obviously turbulent, some far quieter. Some allowed us to focus on fraternity, charity, and purity, while others required us to lend greater attention to banding together with courage against hateful forces.

It is unclear sometimes how dangerous our destiny is today. What is clear, anti-Semitism is on the rise and world public opinion is often against us and the State of Israel. Assimilation and apathy threaten us from within. But each of you here today is testimony to our strength to push back at attacks and to serve as an example of a people who are committed to making a positive change in the world.

So, today is an important day. It is a day that each of you have the opportunity to decide in which direction this incredible organization will go. I commit to a path that will expand our brotherhood, connect Alephs across the globe, and secure our future, even in difficult times, by helping shape you, our future Jewish leaders of tomorrow. I am humbled to stand before you caucusing for the high and honorable position of the 93rd Grand Aleph Godol.

Fraternally submitted with undying love for Evan Shapiro AZA #313, Michigan Region #1701, the Grand Order of the Aleph Zadik Aleph, and a bright future to come, I remain,

Aleph Jacob Avraham Edelson  
Proud candidate for YOUR 93<sup>rd</sup> Grand Aleph Godol