



COUNCIL OF ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUES OF VICTORIA LTD

ABN 60 434 050 593

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17 January 2020

Dear Presidents,

From the incoming President of COSV.

My name is Mark Cohen (CV attached), and, subsequent to Robert Wyner's resignation late last week, I have been elected as COSV President.

I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing President Robbie Wyner for his hard work as President over the past 5 years. I would also like to thank Mark Sarachik, for all his endeavours, who has stepped down from the position of Treasurer. At the same time, I welcome Michael Granek, elected by the Board as Treasurer.

My presidency comes with the aim of strengthening and building a dynamic and focused board to represent the Orthodox Synagogues of Victoria. To clarify the role of the COSV, it is vital that each shul understands that they are the COSV. You elect and empower us to oversee the MDB and the Melbourne Eruv. A greater feeling of ownership of your COSV will come about by regular communications, and more frequent meetings. Your ratification and appointment of Dayanim is only one example of your say in the way the MBD is conducted.

To ensure fluid communication and strengthen the bonds between our board and the Shules we represent, over the next 12 months, I would like to build solid ties. It would be a pleasure to daven with you individually on Erev Shabbat and or on Shabbat and have some Seuda time in your homes or shules to learn more about your shul and the people that govern it. To those shules not in walking distance, I am happy to look at other times to do the same.

Your COSV board needs to strengthen its manpower and we have vacancies. We feel representation from the under 40year-old age group is needed. In ensuring equity, we feel the Board needs additional appointments from women in the community. We need a communications officer, who is IT literate, a good communicator and has a few hours a month to be of service. A representative to look after young married members and their generation would provide the opportunity to ensure continuity and an intergenerational team. Do not wait for another Shul to put a name forward, look at a candidate from your own ranks and let us know.

Finances are of course they key to running any organization. Without rehashing years of history, shules have committed \$25.00 per seat per year to the COSV, in order to carry out our responsibilities to the ERUV and MBD and COSV activities.

I am happy to meet all shules that have not paid to arrange a payment plan to bring them up to date with their funding. I am planning to see all Shules that have never been members to offer them a chance to join COSV and expand as far as possible our funding and service base.

With effective communication, and representation, proper funding and a full participatory board, we will be able to service our community and your shules more efficiently and effectively, as expected.

My best wishes to you all individually, your Shules and the COSV Board for 2020.

Yours faithfully

Mark L Cohen
President COSV

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CV Mark L Cohen

2006 Board member Massada College Adelaide 2010
2009 Treasurer of Council Orthodox Synagogues Australia – present
2011 President Adelaide Hebrew Congregation – 2014
2015 Board Member COSV
2016 Representative to MBD 1 year
2017 President Council Orthodox Synagogues Australia and New Zealand
2018 Representative to Melbourne Eruv current
2020 President COSV