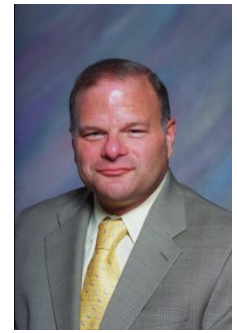


**Message from the President of NATA**  
**Edward M. Alpert, FTA**



*"At Sinai Moses Received The Torah And Handed It Over To Joshua  
Who Handed It Over To The Elders Who Handed It Over To The Prophets  
Who In Turn Handed It Over To The Men Of The Great Assembly."  
Pirkei Avot 1:1*

Since the time of Moses, it has been our duty and obligation as the Jewish people to pass our traditions from generation to generation. This tradition also carries forward with the leadership of the National Association of Temple Administrators during our relatively short (66) plus year history. NATA has so many successes, for which it can be proud, the most important being its commitment to assuring that the traditions and standards set by previous generations of leaders are passed along to future generations.

As President of NATA it is an honor to welcome you to our website and to reach out to you to become involved in the organization. Opportunities abound for those wishing to provide organizational support and it is my strong belief the well being of any organization is always dependent on the wisdom of veteran members as well as the enthusiasm and perspective of newer members. Just as I had an opportunity to learn from those that came before me and to become President of this dynamic organization, I encourage each and every one of you to contact me and let me know how you would like to become involved.

I hope you can see from our home page, that NATA offers a wide range of services to support its members. Please take a look at the new NATA Mission Statement posted on this website as you will see service to our members is priority one. Whether you need basic information such as where your fellow colleagues are located and how to contact them, to researching the archives on previous FTA theses, you will find our website easy to navigate and a valuable resource. Please know that the website belongs to all members of NATA and if there are things you wish to see on the site, feel free to let me know.

Along with an incredible core of Officers and the Board of Directors, we are all privileged to build on the accomplishments of prior leadership and chart a bright future for NATA. Priorities in the coming years will include:

- A continuing emphasis on educational expectations and standards. In very straight forward language it is my goal and dream to have all members of NATA become Senior Members and then achieve their FTA. Obtaining an FTA is the highest level of recognition by NATA and will not only benefit you in your day-to-day work as a Temple Executive Director, but will also contribute to the raising of the recognition level for our profession. I urge everyone to take advantage of educational opportunities at conventions or NATA Institutes as you will find them extremely rewarding and fulfilling.
- New leadership development initiatives that will help to identify and train the future leaders of NATA.
- To continue our strong relationship with the URJ and in particular the Department of Synagogue Management.
- To continue our partnering work with organizations such as NACBA and NAASE as all of us in the field of administration have a lot to share and learn from each other. We look forward to our combined convention with NAASE in 2008.
- To take NATA's new Mission Statement and develop a vision and improved strategic plan for the future.
- To always remember that we are a Reform Jewish organization and to be guided by our historic texts.

Thank you for your interest and involvement with NATA as well as for the important efforts you make as a synagogue Executive Director or Administrator. All of us are doing sacred work and as a group we can strengthen each other and our profession. As stated in Deuteronomy Rabbah 1:10, *"A Community Is Too Heavy For Anyone To Carry Alone."* Let's work together to make NATA the best organization that it can be.