

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING- December 5, 2012
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council

2013 Committee Members Present: Steve Ghicondes, John Rubis, Pete Ghicondey, Donna Dimitri, Linda Kosta

Absent: Jani Mara and Michele Anderson

Auxiliary board and guests: Kathie Costa and Linda Notskas

At 7:20 PM, Steve G. began the meeting with all of us reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from November 5, 2012 were presented. Motion to approve was made by Donna and seconded by Pete.

Treasurer's Report: Donna presented the report: The pledge total as of the end of November is \$51,900- 121 families/singles. Statements have gone out recently either by email or US mail. The Name Day profit was \$1640. Most of the food was donated by Donna and her family. Thank you. A motion made by Pete to accept the Treasurer's report. It was 2nd by Linda. All in favor.

Donna noted that she has put new American and Albanian flags at the front of the Church. It was also necessary to also purchase new bases, poles and finials.

Pastor's Report: As we do not have a regular pastor, Pastor's Reports are suspended.

Sunday school: Albanian Thanksgiving celebration went well. This year the children did have flags which added to the celebratory atmosphere of the day. Practice for the annual Christmas play started last week and will be presented on December 23 right after Liturgy. Steve C. donated all the pizza for the recent Sunday school pizza fundraiser. Thank you, Steve.

Ladies Club: The annual Christmas dinner will be at Charlotte's tomorrow evening. There will be no cookie sale this year; however they are still collecting new socks, underwear and hats for the local homeless as their Christmas giving project. Gently used or new blankets would also be useful. Decorating the Church for the Nativity will take place this Saturday, December 8th. It is an all Church function as there are just not enough ladies any more.

Maintenance and Repair – John/Donna

- ⤴ Jim Strich checked the heater systems and made some repairs to the red boiler (which heats the Sunday school) as per the inspector. It will need to be re-inspected. Jim will return in the spring to check out the air conditioning. He has finally been paid the balance from the original boiler installation.
 - ⤴ Red side door: Tommy Highland came in to fix it once again and the locksmith returned to install a commercial grade pneumatic opener. It is now working well.
 - ⤴ Shingles and north side wind damage. An estimate of \$2000 has been obtained from Retro Roofing.
 - ⤴ The electrical inspector has not come yet.
 - ⤴ Chair lift has been repaired again. There was no charge this time
 - ⤴ The back double doors are leaking. Tim Pappas will look into it.

Old Business:

- **Pastoral Coverage.** Fr. Stephen Siniari is getting better and will be serving Liturgy with Fr. /Dn. Andrew on Christmas morning at 10 AM. We could not get anyone to cover a liturgy on Christmas Eve. Fr. Gregory Rubis will serve the Epiphany Liturgy on January 6, 2013 along with his brother Fr. /Dn. Andrew. Steve G. is working on coverage for the rest of January and February.
- **Epiphany.** As we expect a large crowd, we will need to prefill the water bottles after the water is blessed. We have plenty of bottles on hand. However, since we should always have Holy water on hand, Donna will order some more. The first part of the Icon Auction will begin that day also. (Linda N. and Steve G. will review the list and condition of the icons.) The auction must finish by 2 PM as the hall is rented for the Baptism celebration for the Rubis' little girl.
- **Church Website. St.Johnsphila.org:** Pete G. reported that the site is now functional. The address has been added to the calendars. The cost was \$150 plus \$300 per year for hosting. Thank you so much, Pete.
 - There is an email address: info@stjohnsphila.org. Those emails will be forwarded to our home email addresses.
 - There is a PAYPAL account which will be directed to the treasurer.
 - There is a radio which plays ancient faith music.
 - Pete would like to receive feedback for the six months or so. A pledge card may be added. The messenger will be put on the site weekly.
 - Suggestions from the committee: Add a link to the OCA; add contact info for A/B NIKON and the Chancellor, Fr. Arthur.
 - In memorandum page: This could be a project for the senior class. They could collect and enter all those who have passed away from St. John's. Also, a list of past priests. Pete will talk with Steve C. about this project.
 - A flyer will be distributed on December 23, 2012 promoting the web site and Donna will add the address to the emails she sends.
 - **Meshe Making** is going OK.
 - **Name Day:** The day was wonderful. A big thank you to Donna and her helpers for a lovely meal. It was well attended. Steve G. read notes from Linda Notskas and George Touros thanking everyone for their St. Constantine and St. Helen's medals. Both were very honored and humbled. And it must be said, they are most worthy.

New Business:

- ⤴ **Nativity Events:** Sunday school Play – December 23, 2012. The Christmas donation letter will be translated into Albanian and sent out ASAP. Christmas card project – Linda K. will make the changes to the addresses as necessary. The flyer will be distributed on Sunday.
- ⤴ **Hall Rental Contract:** needs to be reviewed after the New Year.
- ⤴ **Church Sign:** Linda N. and Steve G. will look into it after January 1.
- ⤴ **Sign for the Albanian Museum** on our lower floor will also be pursued after the first.
- ⤴ **Albanian Cultural Center:** Kathie Costa asked if anyone knew about an Albanian Cultural Center in Philadelphia. John Rubis may have some info.
- ⤴ **Parish Records:** Donna has them and the Metrical Book and is trying to get them in order.

- ⤴ **Coffee Hour:** Sponsors are good thru December. A Sunday school hot dog sale was suggested for January 6th. Jim Bendo will again make the coffee hour signup sheet.
- ⤴ **Aprons:** Linda K. reported that she has Albanian aprons for sale at \$15. She will check to see if the Church or the Ladies Club who are sponsoring this sale.
- ⤴ **Elections:** Steve Ghicondes reminded us that he was not running for Chair again. He thanked the committee for all their help. It was a rough year for him both personally, losing his father during his term as chair and with church business because of all the discord. However, he feels his is leaving the chair's position with the Church more united then it has been for a while. He is still on the committee and will continue to maintain the candle desk and his work with obtaining substitute priests. He said it was an honor to be chair.
 - **Chair:** Pete G. nominated Donna Dimitri as chair and was seconded by John R. As there were no other nominations, the Chairman, Steve G. cast one vote for the 2013 Chair.
 - **Vice Chair:** Linda K. nominated Pete G. and was seconded by Steve G. There were no other nominations. The chairman again cast one vote for vice-chair.
 - **Treasurer:** John Rubis nominated Michele Anderson who has said before that she would be willing. (Michele was not at the meeting due to a preplanned trip.) This nomination was seconded by Donna D. As there were no other nominations, the chair again cast one vote.
 - **Secretary:** Steve G. nominated Linda K. Seconded by Donna. There were no other nominations, so the chair again cast one vote.
 - **Board of Governors:** The chairman cast one vote for the remaining elected officers to be the Board of Governors: John Rubis, Jani Mara (who will need to be sworn in when he returns from Albania.) and Steve Ghicondey.
 - **Statement from the new chair:** Donna Dimitri said that there is a lot of love in this parish and she is looking forward to moving ahead. The biggest question that faces us right now is the decision about a full or part-time priest. But we all will work together to make St. John's a better place.

Dates of Importance:

December 23, 2012: Sunday school Christmas Pageant

- ⤴ **Annual Icon Sale: January 6 and 13, 2013.**
- ⤴ **Next Council Meeting: January 7, 2013.**

Motion to adjourn made by John Rubis, 2nd by Peter Ghicondey, All in favor

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Kosta, Secretary