

MINUTES OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL PARISH MEETING- October 21, 2012
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church

Father Joseph Toroney opened the meeting with prayer.

Call to Order: The chairman Steve Ghicondes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Elections: Steve nominated Tom Zoidis as Chairman of the day in charge of Elections. There were no other nominations. The Nominating Committee (Kathie Costa, Pete Ghicondey, and Anatol Kondili) presented the following slate: Michele Anderson, Donna Dimitri, Steve Ghicondes, Peter Ghicondey, Linda Kosta, Jani Mara, and John Rubis. As there were no nominations from the floor, the election chairman cast one vote for the slate as presented. The new council will elect specific officers at their first meeting and arrangements will be made for their swearing in after the blessing of Bishop Nikon is received.

Minutes of the Spring 2012 Meeting: were presented by Linda Kosta and approved. The motion to accept was made by Phil Kosta and seconded by Kathie Costa. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Donna Dimitri. Motion to accept made by: Peter Kosta and seconded by Lisa Costa. All were in favor.

Comments and questions:

- ⤴ As of the end of September pledges are running on the low side. Lisa Costa asked if reminders have been sent out. Donna reported that quarterly statements have been sent out.
- ⤴ Katherine Sappas asked if we have considered electronic funds transfer. Donna replied that she and Pete Ghicondey are looking into it.
- ⤴ A guest from St. George's, Mitchell ???, spoke to parishioners about an electric savings plan that could earn extra money for the Church for purchasing and having people and businesses purchase their electric through an outside company. St. George's is currently earning about \$800 a month doing this. As we would need a lot more information on this subject, Steve Ghicondes suggested that Mitchell attend a council meeting.
- ⤴ Paula Bendo commented that AANO is now using PayPal. Donna replied that several electronic possibilities are being considered.
- ⤴ Diane Lescas reminded us all that we need to increase our collection amounts to accommodate inflation.
- ⤴ Tim Pappas asked about the \$1000 shortfall. Donna replied that that amount will be made up by not paying a full time priest for 2.5 months.

Budget: Donna Dimitri presented the budget for 2013. The motion to approve was made by Peter Kosta and seconded by Lisa Costa. All were in favor.

Comments and Questions:

- ⤴ Tim Pappas asked about the cost of a full time priest. Donna explained what the costs would be.
- ⤴ Stephanie Kosta asked what would happen with the budget once we obtained a full or part time priest. Donna replied that would need a meeting to approve the amended budget once that decision has been made.

Pastor's Report: On hold due to not having a permanent priest.

Sunday School:

Steve Corluzzi reported that Sunday School started on September 23, 2012. There are 32 students. He thanked the parishioners who donated drinks and snacks. Sunday School has been expanded to include the preschoolers so all children are invited to participate. Fr. Deacon Andrew Rubis is helping out by doing a question and answer session on Orthodoxy periodically. Today is the first "hot dog" fundraiser. Steve also noted that we are still in need of a teacher for the 4-7 year old class.

Steve Ghicondes thanked Steve Corluzzi for all his help and enthusiasm and for donating a humidifier to the Sunday School.

Maintenance and Repair: Mike Dardaris

- Tim Pappas reported that the spires and re-pointing work is complete.
- Pete Ghicondey has been a great help in doing small repairs as needed.
- A maintenance contract for the heater and A/C will be signed shortly.

Ladies Club:

Diane Lescas reported that the Ladies Club is still here in spirit but no longer has monthly meetings because it is the same core group of ladies who do everything and have been doing everything for many years. There is a sign up list to help with the Christmas decorations. If we do not have enough volunteers including some men, there will be no decorations this year.

The annual Ladies Club dinner will take place as usual on Thursday, December 7, at Charlotte's. All the ladies of the Church are welcome.

Choir:

Diane Lescas reported that it is business as usual but new singers are always needed.

Old Business:

- The Golf Tournament on September 9, 2012 netted \$5951, There were 29 golfers. Donna thanked her committee and all who participated. Steve G. thanked Donna for all her hard work and her continued leadership.
- Linda Kosta reported on the Annual Archdiocesan meeting.
- Homeless Man's belongings were removed from the Sunday School the day after the last parish meeting.
- Donna will revise the Message on the St. John's answering machine and refer the caller to Steve G.
- Steve Ghicondes is working on substitute priests for the immediate future.
- Mary Louise Notskas thanked the current committee for all their hard work, not just this year but for many years.

New Business:

- **Priests:** Father Stephen Siniari will be available for emergencies and he is reviewing the list of available priests with Steve G. In the meantime, Father Gregory Dudash has been attached to St. John's. DN. Greg Vrato and Fr. DN. Andrew Rubis will help out. Our guest, Mitchell??? knows of several Greek and Albanian priests that might be available.
- **Bishop Nikon** expressed during the Archdiocesan Assembly (at a private meeting with the St. John's representatives) that he would like us to wait and take time to heal before getting a full time priest again. He suggested at least six months.
- **Joint Meeting** with Sts. Peter and Paul's Council.

Their council wants to be as helpful as possible without over taxing Fr. Stephen. In the meantime, we are invited to join Sts. Peter and Paul's for all the Holy Days.

- ⤴ **Christmas Eve** – Long discussion. Diane L. thinks we should not have liturgy; Ilirjan said we should as it is a very important Holy Day. David Biando commented that we could have a Deacon serve, if need be. He added that we have young men available to become priests, thus we need to look within our own. George Touros commented that the time of the liturgy makes a difference as to attendance. The Council will make a decision on this matter at their next meeting.
 - ⤴ **Meshe** – Please sign up to make a fresh meshe for Sundays. Kathy Costa will call to remind you of your date.
 - ⤴ **Name Day:** On November 11, 2012, the new officers will be installed. There will be a luncheon.
- ⤴ The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Katherine Sapnas and seconded by Stephanie Kosta. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
By: Linda M. Kosta
Secretary