

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – October 7, 2014

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.; Father Brooks Ledford asked the blessing on the meeting.

Roll Call -Linda Biando: Council Members Present: Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Diane Lescas, Linda Biando, Linda Kosta and Michele Anderson. Absent Jani Mara
Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Notskas, Dorothy Tomassini, and Janice Leyden, Guests: Elvira Gusho and Michele Lorimer. **Sunday School Director:** Steve Coraluzzi and **Clergy:** Father Brooks and reader David Biando.

Secretary's Report: The September 2014 minutes were presented by Linda Kosta. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Linda B. and seconded by Michele Anderson. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: The September 2014 Treasurer's Report was presented by Michele Anderson. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Diane L. and seconded by Linda B. All were in favor. Comments: 1) The investment account is down a little. 2) Pledge and Icon money is coming in. 3) A new line item has been added to the report: Gain/Loss. 4) There was a large jump in our checking account due to \$25,000 which was given to each Church in the Archdiocese by St. John's in Boston. Since St. John's Church is being closed after their recent fire, they shared their insurance money with every Church. Additionally, the Archdiocese received \$1,000,000,000. The land will be sold and their parishioners will attend St. George Cathedral which is only blocks away.

Vice Chair's Report: Peter Ghicondey: 1) Our site, www.stjohnsphila.org is successful. 2) AED presentation: Pete presented a graphic representation of the AED so we could all understand just what we were purchasing. Pete suggested that we mount it on the wall between the two restrooms. We all agreed.

Chairman's Report: Donna Dimitri.

* **Golf Outing:** The 2014 Golf Scramble was a success. There were 70 dinners, and a profit of \$5645.11. Next year we will consider selling the chance tickets ahead of time during coffee hour.

* **Father Stephen:** will be retiring from Sts. Peter and Paul at the beginning of 2015. Father Stephen has been very helpful to St. John's in so many ways. He also has been an invaluable guide and friend to Father Brooks. He will be missed at St. John's also. Michele A. made a motion that we present him with a gift of \$500 from St. John's. The presentation to be done at our Name Day on November 9th as he and some of his parishioners will be joining us for this special day. The Motion was seconded by Linda Kosta. All were in favor.

* Donna commented that Church empties out very quickly since Father has been teaching Sunday school.

Father's Report: Father Brooks

- Father's teaching of the high school class is working out fine.
- YAL -The young adult's meeting went pretty well, but Father is hoping for a better response next time. Father feels he has a potential of 20 or so people.
- The outreach committee meeting will meet on October 24th. .
- The Stewardship Committee will meet soon.
- The Charity and Benevolence Committee will also meet soon. Linda N. and Paula Bendo will be involved.
- The petty cash fund still has \$120 of \$200.
- On October 24th, the John Jay Institute will be coming to St. John's for a tour. The group focuses on issues of Church and State/ politics and religion.
- The Eastern Institute is setting up an Orthodox Institute as part of their program. Father Brooks will be helping.
- The education classes for the fall will start on October 15th at 7 with dinner beforehand.
- Father will not be going home for Thanksgiving. Instead he will go home for two weeks at Christmas. He will leave on December 15th and returning on December 30th. He will be out 2 Sundays and on Christmas Eve. The Sundays will be covered by Fr. Deacon Gregory (a Deacon liturgy with Pre-sanctified Communion) and the second Sunday liturgy will be covered by our old friend Fr. DuDash. Father Mark will celebrate the Nativity Liturgy with us on Christmas Eve.
- The "Home Visitations" list will be emailed with the Sunday Messenger.
- Newsletter: It was suggested that we have a very large "Have you pledged yet?" in the next newsletter.

Sunday school: Steve Coraluzzi.

- The in-service day for the teachers went very well. All but one teacher was able to attend.
- 35 students are registered; 18 attended this past Sunday. The goal is to have a steady number of 20 each week.
- The Sunday school will sell Gertrude Hawke candy starting in late October. The sale will last about for weeks and the candy will be here in time for Christmas. .
- There was a Sunday school 'Mac & Cheese' luncheon which earned \$153.
- There will be a Franklin Institute outing before the holidays.
- Father will speak with the kids about Church manners.
- The Albanian Thanksgiving presentation will be on November 23rd.

Building and Maintenance: Donna (Position still open!)

- Tim Pappas will come to look at the sanctuary floor to advise us as to what can be done.
- Front staircases and the choir loft: The plaster will be repaired and the stair way walls and loft will be painted.
- Copy machine has recently been repaired at a cost of about \$400.
- Sound System is installed upstairs. The sanctuary will be done very soon.

Old Business:

- **Nominating Committee:** was handled by Janice Leyden. Elviria Gusho, Nilda Salavachi and Michele Lorimer will be on the slate. Diane Lescas and Linda Kosta will go on the auxiliary committee.
- **Parish Meeting:** October 12. The first order of business will be to elect a Chairman of Elections. If there are no nominations from the floor, one vote will be cast for the slate offered. Donna D. Pete G. Michele A., Linda B., Michele L., Elviria and Nilda.
- **New Officers** will be installed on October 25th after Liturgy. During the Council meeting in November, specific offices will be elected. This meeting will include both the 2014 committee and the 2015 committee.
- **Tee Shirt** –Youth to adult price will be \$9.50. Hats will be \$12. The color will be black printing on gray.
- **Blood Drive:** Linda Biando. We need at least 15 people to participate for the Red Cross to come. If you are giving blood, you will not need to fast before Communion that day. The drive will be scheduled after Liturgy sometime in December. This event will be put in the messenger, on our website and on our Facebook site.
- **Flag Day Celebration** will be on November on Saturday, November 29, 2014. The cost is \$40.00 per person; kids under 5 will be free and between 5 and 16, \$10.00. The event will be put on our website.
- **Elevator:** David Biando has spoken to two different companies. One has come in with a price of \$100,000. While many people thought this was way too much money; we all agree we need one. He has also spoken with Christian Jordan who is an architect and a Church member. Steve C. asked if we could get an updated stair lift. This issue will be brought up at the Spring Parish meeting at which time David will have much more information.
- **Kiln:** The Kiln has arrived. Thank you, Bill Bortner!

New Business:

- **Name Day Celebration:** will be on November 9th in the Church Hall. It will be a Pot Luck dinner as last year. Kathy Costa will collect the names and dishes to be brought. There will be a cake to honor Fr. Stephen on his retirement and one for the anniversary. Since it is so close to Veteran's Day, we will pray for our lost and living veterans. The clocks turn back Saturday night the 8th.
- **Charity and Benevolence:**

- Michele A. made a motion to give Janice Leyden \$200 to purchase slightly used coats and blankets for us to give to the homeless. The motion was seconded by Linda K. All were in favor.
- Linda N. continues to donate \$50 a month (from the Church) to Kings Jubilee to help Cranford with his feeding of the homeless every Thursday.
- Christmas Charity will be Covenant House again. Please bring only new socks, underwear and disposable diapers.
- **Increase for Priests:** At the recent Archdioceses Assembly, a 2% cost of living was voted in for each parish priest. (The amount was compiled by national data and data from New England.) Michele A. made a motion to increase Father Brook's salary by an additional 2% for a total of 4%. The motion was seconded by Linda K. and all were in favor.
- **The Ladies Club Memorial** was postponed until October 26th
- **Next Council Meeting is Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 7PM.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Linda B., seconded by Michele. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Linda M. Kosta, Secretary