

**MINUTES OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL PARISH MEETING- October 12, 2014**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**Approved at the Parish Meeting, March 22, 2015**

Father Brooks Ledford opened the meeting with prayer at Noon.

**Call to Order:** The chairman Donna Dimitri welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Elections:** Donna nominated Steve Ghicondes as Chairman of the day in charge of Elections. The following slate was presented for the 2015 Council: Michele Anderson, Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Linda Biando, Michele Lorimer, Nilda Salavachi, and Elvira Gusho. 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.

Donna thanked The 2014 Council for all their hard work and devotion. A special note of thanks was offered to long serving members: Diane Lescas, Linda Kosta and Jani Mara who are stepping down. Donna also thanked Janice Leyden for her hard work in recruiting new council members. Donna also thanked the auxiliary council who has become an invaluable asset to the Church.

**Minutes of the Spring 2014 Meeting:** were presented by Linda Kosta and approved. The motion to accept was made by Steve Ghicondes and seconded by Jani Mara. All were in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Michele Anderson. Motion to accept made by: Diane Lescas and seconded by Paula Bendo. All were in favor. Michele Anderson noted that there is a new line in the report for Profit/Loss.

**Proposed Budget:** Michele A. then presented the budget for 2015. The motion to approve was made by Kathie Costa and seconded by Bill Bortner. All were in favor.

**Comments and Questions:**

- \* The increase in the budget is due to sustaining a full time priest as was committed to at the fall 2012 Parish Meeting. Within the budget is a 2% cost of living raise and a 2% increase in salary. The parish is doing much better since Fr. Brooks arrived.
- \* The budget also includes increases in pledge and Icon income.
- \* Linda Kosta commented that sadly extra large Memorial donations have helped sustain us over the last two years.
- \* Diane Lescas said that everything goes up milk, bread, etc. so donations to the Church, our spiritual home should also increase.

**Pastor's Report:** Father Brooks gave his report at the end of the Liturgy in the sanctuary. He also took questions. Other comments: Father said there were nine high school kids in the Sunday School class today. Mark Klus stated that we are very lucky to have Father Brooks.

**Vice-Chair's Report:** Pete Ghicondey

- \* Pete thanked Traci Cosmo for all her help with the sound system.
- \* Web site: The site is receiving about 20 hits per day. Inquiries are forwarded to Fr. Brooks. Father thanked Pete, and Tish Klus for their work on this important tool.
- \* AED: The emergency defibrillator will be installed on the wall between the Ladies and Men's Rooms. Albano Qendro asked if anyone knew how to use it. Peter said it is self guided. Stephanie Kosta explained and reassured the parish about legal liability. Donna commented that we are blessed to have several nurses and medical staff as part of our parish.
- \* Fantasy Football: There are 16 participants. It is for fun and a little profit for the Church. There are four divisions each named for an apostle.

**Chair's Report:** Donna Dimitri

- \* Donna thanked Father Brooks for a good year. The Sunday school is also doing well.
- \* Church started a little late today. We are working on improving that, however, it also requires our members to be here at 10 AM.
- \* Donna said that we now have a chance at a legacy for the Church, our future is bright.

**Sunday school:** Steve Coraluzzi

- \* The Sunday school staff, Father and Steve met on September 13, 2014 for a leadership and training session. All teachers have a course to follow this year.
- \* The number of children is growing. 39 are registered and there were 21 in attendance today.
- \* Earlier today, Steve asked the children and teachers for their comments about Sunday school. The kids said that they learned about the Bible, had great snacks, how God loves us, fun activities and nice teachers. The teachers love watching the children grow and learn about God's love.
- \* A trip to the nearby Franklin Institute is planned for November. Everyone at Church is invited.
- \* Father Brooks thanked Steve for doing a great job. The parish agrees!

**Stewardship:** Linda Biando

- \* Linda reported that pledges are a little low. She is hoping for an end of the year surge. The reading today was about the "cheerful giver." Please help keep our "village" going.
- \* Helen Theokary commented that we must support the Church with our support, time, cash and talent.

**Choir:** Diane Lescas

- \* Diane reported that we need new singers. If you see that the choir is light, please join us. You know the music. No training is needed. Be a participant!
- \* Diane also encouraged everyone to attend Father's classes. They are terrific, fun, informative and definitely worth your time.

### **Old Business:**

- The Archdiocesan Assembly - Linda Biando reported on the September meeting.
  - The Archdiocesan dues are scheduled to go up 2%.
  - The Student Fund is available to help with educational expenses for anyone who desires to study to be a priest or deacon.
  - St. John the Baptist AO Church located in Boston had a fire that destroyed the church. The church received the insurance money and decided not to rebuild. (Linda B. grew up in that church, so this been very difficult for her.) Each Church in the Archdiocese received \$25,000 from the insurance settlement and St. George's Cathedral received \$1,000,000.00. The property may go for five million as it was located in a very desirable part of South Boston. The members will join St. George AO Cathedral which is nearby.
  - Two of the trustees on the Executive Committee are from Philadelphia - our own, Donna Dimitri and Jim Schaffer from Sts. Peter and Paul. They were elected to the positions by those attending the assembly.
- Church Flooring: A marble floor will be placed in the Solea and Altar to eliminate the burn possibility. We have an expert coming in to advise us on the flooring and if the wood floor underneath the current rugs is useable. More to come.
- Sound System: The entire Church has been rewired and all new equipment had been installed. All this was done for under \$5000 due to the free labor from volunteers. It is ready for Albanian Flag Day Dance on November 29, 2014.

### **New Business:**

- \* Church Nameday Luncheon, November 9th - Please bring your specialty. It will be pot luck, no charge luncheon again. Father Stephen from Sts. Peter and Paul will be here along with Fr./Dn. Gregory Vrato and members of their congregation. There will be a gift and presentation for Fr. Stephen after the Liturgy. Father has been so helpful to St. John's, we will really miss him.
- \* Big Window Project: We **must** rehab this window soon. More info to follow.
- \* Halloween Party will not take place this year.
- \* Kathie Costa reminded everyone that Liturgy starts at 10 AM.

### **Important Dates:**

November 23rd - Albanian Thanksgiving  
November 29th - Albanian Flag Day Dance  
December 21st - Sunday School Christmas Play

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Chuck Burdumy and seconded by Janice Leyden. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
By: Linda M. Kosta  
Secretary, 2014 Council