

**Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 5, 2019
Saint John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**

The meeting was opened with the group saying the Lord's Prayer at 7 p.m.

Roll Call: Council Members Present:

Donna Dimitri, Sergio Georgi, Fiore Papa, Elena Shomos (via conference call), Wes Hanson, Linda Biando,

Absent: Nilda Salavachi,

Auxiliary Members Present: Dorothy Tomassini, Grigor Lakuriqi

Auxiliary Members Absent: Linda Notskas, Janice Leyden, Steve Coraluzzi, Michele Lorimer, Bill Bortner

Guest: Stephen Muzekari, VP, Investment Officer, Wells Fargo Advisors

Investment Fund Presentation: Steve Muzekari presented the client financial review for the investments of St John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church (see attached). The presentation was for our one year to date review. The risk level is about equal for stocks and bonds and has done well. Steve suggests keeping the present course. We will update Steve with the name of the St. John's Council Treasurer following tonight's meeting after the election of officers takes place.

Swearing in of Council Member: Fiore Papa is sworn in as a council member. She was not able to attend church on the day of the general swearing-in of members.

Election of Officers for 2020: Fiore Papa nominated Donna Dimitri to be Council Chair, Linda Biando seconded. Donna accepted and the vote was unanimously approved. Donna Dimitri nominated Fiore Papa as counsel vice chair, seconded by Linda Biando, was unanimously approved and accepted by Fiore. Donna Dimitri nominated Nilda Salavachi as Treasurer, seconded by Elena Shomos, the vote was unanimously approved and Nilda agreed verbally earlier to accept if she was nominated. Donna Dimitri nominated Elena Shomos to be recording and corresponding secretary. This was seconded by Linda Biando. The vote was unanimously approved and Elena agreed to serve. Donna Dimitri nominated Sergio Georgi, Linda Biando, and Wes Hanson to be trustees. All accepted.

Secretary's Report: Linda Biando presented the minutes from the October 2019 council meeting. There were no questions or amendments. Dorothy Tomassini and Fiore Papa praised Michele Lorimer for the superb job she did as recording and corresponding secretary for the past several years on Council. All agreed that Michelle has done an outstanding job. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Sergio and seconded by Linda. The Secretary's report was unanimously accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: Fiore Papa gave the Treasurer's Report.

1. As of October 2019
 - Investment account \$139,698.46
 - 39 people bid on icons, and \$9665.00 received
 - total number of pledges is 77 and we have received \$37,681.00 of the \$45,788.00 pledged

2. \$ 842.00 year to date Received from "Network for Good on Facebook. Linda made a motion to accept the October report, Elena Shomos seconded the motion and all were in favor.
3. We will use square (the credit / debit service) for payments at the annual icon auction to help obtain prompt payments from the bidder. Square was used for the 50/50 sales with great results.

Chairpersons Report- Donna

Dimitri:

Thank you for your service to the outgoing members of Parish Council Michele Lorimer, Janice Leyden and Bill Bortner. Congratulations to the incoming Parish Council Linda Biando, Wes Hanson and Elena Shomos.

1. Window update: Windows are at the delivery company and will be delivered Nov. 6th. Installation will begin that day.
2. Sunday School: Floor and subfloor were removed. Walls painted, Dri-Core subfloor will (hopefully) be installed by the end of November. The Sunday school team is in the process of picking a color for the finished floor.
3. Boiler: I was told by Jim of Phoenix Home Services (formerly JSA Mechanical) the company who installed our steam boiler in February 2010 that the steam boiler has cracked and the water leaks from the bottom chambers. He recommended replacing the boiler and submitted an estimate of \$15,789.00 for the replacement Weil McLain boiler. Go Green Mechanical (Frank) the people who installed the new baseboard heat in the Sunday school will submit an estimate. He agreed the boiler has failed and should be replaced. Today I called Founding Father Mechanical (recommended by our insurance agent, Joe Pekala) and requested they come and check the boiler and submit an estimate. We rented portable heaters on Saturday (many thanks Sergio & Colleen for coming to the church to meet the delivery people and the electrician). The cost of the heaters was \$2472.50 for 4 weeks. We are waiting for the bill from Rapushi Electric – they hooked up the heaters. We are in the process of submitting an insurance claim for the boiler and re-imburement for the heaters.
4. Father Dennis Rhodes Baptized Arlind Zibeb, son of Sonja Ponoci and Neil Zibeb. He also served the funeral services for Inspector Kane and will service tomorrow for Ann Gjoka.
5. Father Emmanuel has been directed by his bishop to serve at some Greek Churches. Father Emmanuel said he is not able to serve at St. John Chrysostom for the remainder of 2019. Father Gregory Dudash will serve on Nov 17th, Dec 1st, Dec 24th @ 4:00 pm and Dec 29th.
6. Father Dennis will serve all other dates for the remainder of 2019. Father Dennis has also agreed to serve 3 Sundays a month in 2020. We will have either Father Gregory or Father Emmanuel serve the other Sunday. Father Gregory was invited to serve at our Nameday Celebration.
7. The Charity & Benevolence Committee clothing and food give-a way to the area homeless Saturday, November 9, 2019. They are meeting at 10:00 and the event is from 12 – 2 pm.
8. The Outreach Committee has not had any formal meeting but visitors have been greeted each Sunday and invited to coffee hour where they are engaged by our parishioners.
9. Metropolitan Tikhon is available to visit our parish and Ss. Peter & Paul any Sunday, January 19 through the end of February. Ss. Peter and Paul has their Icon Auction the 2nd Sunday in February so they requested not that date. All other good. January 26 was decided. We will check with Ss. Peter & Paul to make sure that date is good for them.

10. Church Sign We have contracted with K & S Signs to install the sign. It will be burgundy with gold letters. Mike Leyden located Domenic, the person who was originally contracted to install the sign. Mike's conversation led Domenic to send me a number of texts on Sunday Oct 20. I called him on Tuesday, Oct 22, 2019 and he actually answered. He told me his tale of woe for over 30 minutes. At the end he stated he would refund our \$1,500.00 deposit.
11. The \$1,800.00 check from the Antiochian couple for the use of the church on August 3, 2019 for their wedding was returned by the bank marked not honored appeared altered. I have called them and text many times. Tuesday, Oct 8, 2019 I went to Bank of America and the manager called Jumana (the wife). The funds were in the account but she said she had to speak with her husband. I sent more texts and called. Can't leave a voicemail - the box is full. No response to the text. I am checking with the Philadelphia D.A.'s office about signing criminal complaints.
12. Bill Bortner would like to rent the church hall on Saturday, January 18th 2020, for his family Slava. He has invited all parish council members to attend. It begins at 2:00 pm.
13. Father Brooks has personal items in the church (vestments, books, communion kit), he also has keys for the church. He has been parking his truck at the church. We will send him and Jamie an email requesting he remove his personal property from the church and return the keys.

Committee / Other Reports

1. Sunday School Report- Sunday School classes continue to be held upstairs in the Church Hall. They will remain there until the basement repairs are completed. The Albanian Thanksgiving play will take place on November 24th. Sandi Bendo organizes this wonderful event as she has done in past years. We are thankful for her continued organization and presentation. The annual Sunday School Christmas pageant will take place on December 22nd following the Divine Liturgy.
2. The technology report was given by Sergio Georgi. The website is current. The homepage has been updated. Possibly next year we will move the web to "Webcheap" because it is less expensive. Sergio will archive the website for the year as he is done in previous years. It has been noted that email accounts need to be cleaned up as they have been periodically to keep current.

Old Business-

1. The annual Halloween party was held in October and was coordinated by Paula Bendo, Sandi Bendo and Michele Lorimer. There were thirty-two children in attendance. The children had a great time. There were games, prizes, food, and a lot of fun. Thanks to Sandi, Paula and Michele for their hard work and dedication to the children.
2. The Name Day celebration is coming up on Sunday, November 10th. There will be a 50/50 raffle and gift basket raffle. Homemade authentic Albanian and other dishes will be brought in by parishioners. We will pick up some mums to decorate the church with. Nilda Salavachi and Linda Biando will purchase the sheet cake from Sophisticakes.
3. Christmas Outing- Donna will check with Nilda about the Christmas outing.

New Business

1. There was discussion about qualities that our parish would like to see in a future priest. We would like to open this up to the parish for ideas. Members agreed that a time on a Sunday after church during coffee hour might work. It was decided that this discussion with the parish will occur on November 24th at 11:45 a.m. for those that cannot attend the meeting, we will encourage suggestions be emailed to counsel and can be read at the time of the meeting. This will help us to refine our request to the OCA for a future priest. Before that date Sergio can make a web forum. Such considerations

as a full-time or part-time priest, visitations and home blessings, experienced priest or newly ordained, the priest's focus on sacraments. Wes, Sergio and Elena will spearhead this. Sergio will make the announcement in Albanian. The meeting will be an informal gathering. Information will go into the messenger about thoughtful considerations for qualities for a future priest.

2. The time for the Liturgy for Christmas Eve will be changed to 4:30 or 5 on Christmas Eve. Donna will talk to the Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul's requesting parking be available for our Parrish for Christmas Eve Liturgy.
3. Icon Auction- Announcements will be made next week regarding returning icons. Also, a strong suggestion that icons be paid for at the time of receipt. Since we now have Square, parishioners can use their credit card to pay for their icon at the time they receive it.
4. Sponsorship for Windows- We are hoping that families will want to sponsor a church hall window as a Christmas gift/ donation to the church. Several people may want to join together to sponsor a window as well. The window can have a plaque on it in the name donator. This would be a great help in fundraising to pay for the cost of windows.
5. The Stewardship Committee is printing a poster sized board. Elena will email the design to Donna and she will print it.
6. The next parish council meeting will be held on December 4th at 7pm.

Linda Biando made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fiore Papa seconded the motion. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Biando