

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – June 3, 2013**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council**

**Opening Prayer:** “Krishti u Ngjall”; Lord’s Prayer.

**Presentation on Investment Account: Steve Muzekari** Wells Fargo adviser for our Investment account handed out 3 pages concerning St. John’s investments, which are attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. Our portfolio consists of 30% bonds and 70% stocks, which is considered “conservative.” Investments were made in 1995 with a present ending balance of \$216,117.00. We have a return of 8.7% to date. Fees paid out on our portfolio to Wells-Fargo are 1.25% or \$2500. per year. The idea is to sell high and buy low. Steve pointed out that since we take money out from time to time, our portfolio cannot have all stocks. It seems that our portfolio is making good returns.

**Nick Naum Scholarship Fund:** Donna explained to Steve that Nick Naum’s Will left his residuary estate to St. John’s for a scholarship fund. The estate must be probated but at this time the estimated value is \$100,000. The committee to be assigned will set up the criteria for the scholarship fund. Steve recommends the objective established would be in interest-bearing investment. Steve Ghicondes asked about Blue Chip stocks and/or “Preferred stocks.” Finally, Steve said he would consult with some of his colleagues familiar with scholarship funds and let Donna know which way to go.

**Council Members Present:** Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Michele Anderson, and Steve Ghicondes.

**Absent:** Linda Kosta (recuperating from knee surgery); Jani Mara and John Rubis

**Auxiliary Members Present:** Linda Notskas, Dorothy Tomassini (secretary pro tem), Janice Leyden and Betty Subashi.

**Absent:** Kathie Costa and Linda Biando

**Sunday School Director:** Steve Coraluzzi

**Secretary’s Report:** Linda Kosta was not present. The Minutes of the past meeting, May 6, 2013, were not available and will be presented at the July meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Michele Anderson reported on the attached Income and Expense Statement (unaudited as of May 31, 2013, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**Investment Account:** Increased to \$216,116.69.

**Checking Account:** Also up to \$31,171.74, this is after \$25,000.00 was withdrawn and deposited into our Investment Account.

**Easter Donations:** \$3,200.00

Upon Motion made by Peter Ghicondey and seconded by Steve Ghicondes, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted as presented.

**Other Reports:**

**A. Sunday School - Steve Coraluzzi:** Sunday, June 9, is graduation. Instead of the usual certificates handed to the students, Steve picked up ceramic "Love" crosses. Linda Biando had suggested movie tickets be purchased for the children who had more correct answers for her question of the week that was posted on our website; thus 4 will go to the winner and the other students will each get 2.

**For Zach (graduate):** a beautiful St. George medal with a naval insignia on the back on a beautiful chain.

**Sunday School Teachers:** WAWA gift certificates.

**Activities:** There will be projects for the kids during the summer break. Next year, Steve plans outdoor activities in October; mid-year: bowling event; March: Ice-skating event.

**Expenses:** Money is budgeted; plus donations by various individuals. Thus cost of activities and/or coffee-hour hot dogs, etc. do not cost the church anything. On June 9, hot dogs and other items will be served to the parishioners gratis. In the future, Steve would like to see "dollar-event luncheons" to make coffee hour more interesting.

**Steve complimented the Sunday School Teachers:** "They know what to do." The Sunday School may need more teachers for next year.

**B. Building Maintenance** – John Rubis could not attend the meeting but reported the following improvements:

Plumbing repaired

Doors fixed in the altar.

Air conditioner fixed

Bills paid

Projects needed to be undertaken in the future.

Steve asked about the "mustiness" in the basement that must be taken care of.

Michele Anderson suggested removing some of the tables in the Church Hall to make more room.

**C. Stewardship:** Donna reported (in the absence of Linda Biando) that Pledge letters went out to those parishioners who have not yet pledged. To date we have 97 pledges for \$55,335.00 and we have received \$27,885.00.

**Covers for altar tables:** Kathy Toroney made several covers which are gorgeous. The church paid for the fabric and also paid Kathy for her beautiful work.

**Old Business:**

**A. Pastoral Coverage:**

**Steve Ghicondes** reported the availability of our visiting Priests;

**Fr. Joseph Toroney:** June 9; July 21 and July 28, 2013.

**Fr. Mark Koczak:** June 16 and 23, 2013 and August 25, 2013 availability.

The cemetery grave blessings covered by Fr. Mark were much appreciated. Those present were pleased.

**Fr. DuDash:** June 30, 2013; July 7 and 14, 2013.

**B. Website update:** Peter Ghicondey asked everyone to look at the website: new presentations, such as Stephanie Kosta honored Philadelphia Business Journal.

**C Church Sign:** Steve is still waiting for a new design. Janice Leyden suggested she have H.C. Wood get in touch with Steve in rebuilding the edifice beside our church building. Thus a new committee was suggested: Janice Leyden, Betty Subashi, Steve Ghicondes, Peter Ghicondey and Linda Notskas.

Linda Notskas and Betty Subashi volunteered to take the censers home and clean them.

**D. Proposal for Fr. Brooks:**

Donna handed out Fr. Brooks "A Brief Overview of the role of the Parish Priest," as well as Council's compensation package. She will send Archbishop the compensation package for his approval and blessing and then to Fr. Brooks for his approval. It was decided there need be no formal interview with Fr. Brooks (unless he has decided to come back soon to find a place to live until his family joins him); we can conference call him at the next meeting. Donna will let us know what he plans to do.

There were questions about Father Brooks and his plans for office hours. We can discuss this with him on the conference call.

Betty Subashi reported that Marjana Kokolari (Prospect Park) offered her home to Fr. Brooks until he finds a permanent place to live. Her phone number is 610-522-1859. Donna will tell Fr. Brooks of this offer.

**New Business:**

**Committee formed for the Nick Naum Scholarship Fund:** Michele Anderson, Steve Coraluzzi, Peter Ghicondey, Donna Dimitri and Dorothy Tomassini

**Next Council meeting** July 8, 2013.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Peter Ghicondey, seconded by Steve Ghicondes. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Tomassini  
Secretary pro tem