

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – March 4, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council
(approved April 8, 2013)

Council Members Present: Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Michele Anderson, Linda Kosta Dorothy Tomassini and Steve Ghicondes.

Absent: Jani Mara and John Rubis

Auxiliary Members Present: Kathie Costa, Linda Notskas, Linda Biando, Betty Subashi and Dorothy Tomassini.

Also, **Sunday School Director:** Steve Coraluzzi

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting at 7:10 P.M. with the Lord's Prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the past meeting (February 4, 2013) taken by Dorothy Tomassini, pro tem, were read and upon Motion made by Michele Anderson, seconded by Steve Ghicondes, all were in favor to accept the Minutes as read.

Treasurer's Report:

Michele Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report. Some highlights:

- ⤴ 2013 Pledges to date: \$17,145 ; received: \$7215
- ⤴ 2013 Icon Auction Totals: \$13,750; received: \$7215 – a nice early response
- ⤴ 2012 Pledge review: 124 members/families: 5 received no payment; 11 were a little short and 12 paid more than they pledged.
- ⤴ No cost for snow removal so far this winter. Amen!

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

Building Maintenance – Donna Dimitri: Status Quo

Sunday School: Steve Coraluzzi.

- ⤴ March 17 – Ice Skating. The kids will have pizza for lunch. The cost of this event has been funded by the fund raising efforts of the Sunday School.
- ⤴ April 27 - Lazarus Saturday: 10:00 A.M. Liturgy will be celebrated by Father Brooks Ledford. He will also discuss what is happening during the service to the children. Lunch, craft and Meshe making will follow.
- ⤴ June 9 – Last day for Sunday School. Zach Dardaris is our sole graduate. He will be presented with an Orthodox Study Bible. The Sunday School will host Coffee Hour that day.

- ⤴ Steve would like to have an end of the year event for the children, perhaps at Dave and Buster's. More on this soon.

Website: Peter Ghicondey: Things are going well, but we could use more traffic. Linda Biando and Steve C. are helping Pete with the administration of the site, but he could use another person to share the responsibilities.

Old Business:

* **Parish Meeting** went well. After a long discussion, the parishioners voted to look for a full time priest. Donna has reported this to +Bishop Nikon. The terms will be discussed with the individual applicants.

***Substitute Priests** situation is in good shape. Father Dougherty who is attached to St. Herman's may be available. Fr/Dn. Andrew Rubis has been doing some hospital visits and a funeral. The question was asked if he can give the final blessing when someone falls asleep in the Lord. People who want to get married or Baptized are referred to Father Stephen.

* **The Riso** machine has been fixed again.

***Hall Rental Agreement:** Michele Anderson made a motion to change the wording in the agreement to a \$250 flat fee prepaid. The motion was seconded by Steve Ghicondes. All were in favor.

***New Liturgy Books** have been received. They should make it easier to follow along.

***Women's Day Dance:** Tickets: Ilirjan and Fiori Papa.

\$30.00 – adults

\$10.00 – children under 14

We are looking for 75-100 people to make it profitable.

⤴ **Heritage Museum** Signs have been posted.

⤴ **Outside Sign:** Linda N. and Steve G. are still investigating

⤴ **Messenger-** Linda Notskas requested that the need for warm clothes for the homeless still be included. Everyone commented on what a good job Donna is doing with the messenger.

New Business:

⤴ **Pascha:** Steve G. has ordered the palms, candles and wind protectors. Donna will order the egg dye to be sold and contact the appropriate people about parking at the Cathedral and opening the gate between the parking facility and our Church for the processions on Good Friday and Pascha. Holy Week Books are in the bookcase in the

- Conference Room. Flowers for Holy Friday – Paula Bendo will be contacted as soon as she returns from vacation. We will have Coffee Hour after the Resurrection Liturgy. Donna will get someone to get the cheese and olives. Anything left over will be served after the Vespers Service (1 P.M.) on Sunday. The clean up people will be contacted. The purple altar clovers are in the old treasurer's office in the basement.
- ⤴ **Forgiveness Sunday:** After some discussion it was decided to just have the prayers and let people approach each other individually.
 - ⤴ **Sunday of the Cross** is on April 7. Linda K. will purchase and arrange the flowers.
 - ⤴ **Palm Sunday:** The Adams family will again sponsor the pancake breakfast in memory of Charlie. John Cokos will be in to help in the kitchen.
 - ⤴ Linda Biando is looking for recipes for the website, but she wants a story with them.
 - ⤴ Day Care: Valbona Kokalari may be interested in using our Sunday School for a day care center. Our big concern is the liability. We need more information before we even consider this.
 - ⤴ A \$200 donation was sent to St. Mary's in Worcester in memory of Jim Robo's mother. Jim has been a long time member and supporter of St. John's even after moving to Florida.

The Journey to find a new full-time Priest:

- ⤴ Now that we know the parishioners want a full-time priest, a weekly review should be done by the council. We discussed salary and decided that total compensation would have to be capped at \$75,000 – 80,000. The total compensation would need to include health care costs of approximately \$1600/ month, which is the Archdiocese current policy. On the other hand, if he could be covered by his wife's policy, but that would be less expensive. That is assuming she has one. Will he be a 1099 or W2 employee? The messenger should be done by the council but the Bi-Monthly Newsletter should be done by the priest.
- ⤴ **Father Brooks** will be our first interview. He is currently investigating places to stay during his Paschal visit. He will be here over a week. There are some concerns about Fr. Brooks, but most have been addressed by +Bishop Nikon. On Monday, April 29 at 6 P.M. council will meet with Fr. Brooks. A Lenten supper will be served. Linda K. will coordinate the meal. On Wednesday, May 1, after the service of Holy Unction, a Question and Answer session will be set up for all parishioners.
- ⤴ **Father John Dougherty.** Steve G. will ask him to come for an interview.

Next Council Meeting: April 8, 2013 – 7 P.M.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Peter Ghicondes, seconded by Steve Ghicondes. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned around 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kosta
Secretary