

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – August 5, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council
(Approved as amended September 8, 2013)

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Insurance: Joe Pekala from J. Pekala & Associates, Inc. came to review our current insurance coverage with us. Joe is an insurance broker who guides us in our insurance choices. We are currently using Guide One who is the number one church insurance company in the US today. Last year our insurance was \$12,532. This year it is \$13,111. Joe explained what we were covered for and what we are not. Donna asked him about having a day care. (Earlier in the year a parishioner had asked it might be possible to have a day care at St. Johns.) Joe replied that this type of coverage is very complicated and he would get back to her.

At 8:20 PM Donna reopened the meeting with us all saying the Lord's Prayer.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Linda Kosta, John Rubis, and Michele Anderson. **Absent:** Jani Mara and Steve Ghicondes.

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Notskas, Linda Biando, Dorothy Tomassini, and Betty Subashi and **Sunday School Director:** Steve Coraluzzi

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the past meeting on July 8, 2013 were presented by Linda Kosta. A Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Michele Anderson, seconded by John Rubis. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Michele Anderson presented the treasure's report from June 2013. The motion to accept was made by Linda K. and seconded by Pete G. All were in favor. The July report was approved by a motion from John Rubis and seconded by Pete G. All were in favor. Comments by the treasure: 81% of the Icons are now paid for and Pledges are very slow in the summer.

Chairman: Donna Dimitri.

^ Donna reported that **Father Brooks Ledford** arrived in Philadelphia this afternoon. Thanks to Dorothy Tomassini, he has sublet a carriage house near 16th & Pine. The price is much better than his previous accommodation and he will be closer to Church. He will need to redo his housing allowance once again to reflect the different expenses. Father may be reached at Fr.Brooks@stjohnsphila.org. He will be available for emergencies. Father will contact David Biando about a program for the altar boys and Steve Coraluzzi about Sunday school.

^ **Candle Stands:** All six candle stands are being re-plated by Frankford Plating. This project was approved in the amount of \$2400 via email. Other items were estimated for future consideration: Font: \$600; Votive lights: \$75 each (10); 3 large lamps: \$350 and the oil lamps in front of the Iconostas: \$125 each.

Sunday school: Steve Coraluzzi.

- ⤴ Registration will be On Sunday, September 1st and 8th. Classes will start on September 15, 2013 which is also The Elevation of the Cross. This information will also be posted on our website.
- ⤴ Teachers: Senior Class: Vlad Melnik and Marinela Prifti; Middle School Class: Linda Biando; K-4: Carolyn Dardaris and Christine Dardaris; Pre-K: Fiori Papa and Tina Lakuriqi. The Cosmo girls will be a back up.
- ⤴ Fr. Brooks and Steve will meet with the teachers before opening day.
- ⤴ Michelle Coraluzzi is working on entering the names for a Memorial Wall to be placed on our website.

Building Maintenance – John Rubis

- ⤴ John and Pete G. will meet to discuss solutions for the Sunday school floor.
- ⤴ Altar Lighting: Nick Mandia conferred with John & Pete. He suggested reflective type lights to highlight the Icons at the top of the screen. They will LED lights in the ceiling. The cost is \$200-300 each. John will get back to us with a better estimate.
- ⤴ To speed this project along Donna turned the meeting over to Vice- Chairman, Pete Ghicondey. She then made a motion to go ahead with the Altar Lighting Project with the cost up to \$2000. Michele seconded this motion. All were in favor.
- ⤴ After some discussion, it was recommended that John & Pete also investigate individual lights for each Saint to see which idea works better.

Stewardship: Linda Biando. We have received 4 new pledges after the last letter and statements went out. At this point we will wait for Fr. Brooks to start his Ministry and hopefully that will inspire a few more pledges. In the meantime, we are in better shape than we were this time last year.

Old Business:

- ***Thank You Luncheon: August 25, 2013.** Kathy Costa and Janice Leyden have collected many names for food donations. We should have more than enough. We will set up that morning. Most of the priests and deacons who have helped us this year will be present.
- *Website: Pete G. said he sees an uptake in visitors to the site right after the Bulletin goes out on email. Our Facebook site now has 33 likes.
- * Outside sign: Steve G and Janice are still working on it.
- * The Archdiocesan Assembly is at St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church in New York on September 26, 27 & 28th.

New Business:

- ⤴ **Annual Golf Classic:** Michele is currently selling tickets for the 50-50. Letters to the possible ad sponsors is going out very soon. The Burdumy Volvo is again sponsoring the “Hole in One Prize” - a three year lease on a new Volvo. Donna will get a monetary value on this. The gift baskets will be assembled a day or two before the Classic.

^ **Fantasy Football Event:** Pete G. is chairing this fun event which will run during the football regular season. He has 10 people signed up so far. The online-draft event kick-off will be on August 25th after the Thank You Luncheon.

Important Dates:

- ^ **Fr. Brooks to begin his ministry at St. John's – September 1, 2013**
- ^ **Next Council Meeting: Monday, September 9th, 2013 – 7 PM**
- ^ **Thank you Luncheon – August 25th, 2013**
- ^ **September 15, Elevation of the Cross - Memorial Prayers for our benefactors, the Ciko family and the first day of Sunday School.**
- ^ **Fall Clean-Up Day – October 5th. 2013.**
- ^ **Name Day and Bishop Nikon's Visit: November 9th and 10th.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michele Anderson, seconded by John Rubis. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kosta, Secretary