

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – October 7, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting at 7:15 P.M. Father Brooks Ledford asked the blessing on the meeting.

Council Members Present: Donna Dimitri, Linda Kosta, John Rubis, Michele Anderson, Stephen Ghicondes and Father Brooks. **Sunday School Director:** Steve Coraluzzi.

Absent: Jani Mara and Peter Ghicondey.

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Biando and Dorothy Tomassini.

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the meeting on September 9, 2013 were presented by Linda Kosta. A few minor corrections were suggested. A Motion to accept the amended minutes was made by Michele Anderson, seconded by John Rubis. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Michele Anderson presented the treasure's report from September 2013. The motion to accept was made by Linda K. and seconded by Steve G. All were in favor. Comments by the treasure: 84% of the Icons are now paid for and 76% of the Pledges. The number of families (by pledge cards) is 107. The checking account balance is about \$45,000.

As a comment to the treasure's report, Donna said we achieved a profit of \$5503 from the recent Golf Tournament. We had 28 golfers. Reservations have been made for 2014 for September 21.

Chairman: Donna Dimitri.

* Steve C. has updated our phone and computer system to Verizon. Comcast does not currently service our area. The new system will be 4 X faster. Steve said he would check into a "Caller ID" function that we currently do not have.

* Donna commented that we are receiving very generous donations in memory of Katherine Zoidis.

* Nick Naum Scholarship Fund – We have not communicated with Nick's family since the initial meeting. The fund is still being worked on.

* Sound System: Donna is waiting for some information from Paxon Hollow Country Club. They had an excellent system and we would like to talk to their provider.

* Fr. Brooks has been here about six weeks. Father spends a lot of time at Church and making visits to our shut-ins. Communications are much improved.

Vice Chair Report: From Peter Ghicondey presented by Donna

⑩ Fantasy Football Project is going well. The homepage for this can be accessed at CBS Sports.

⑩ Website Updating – Pictures of our "Fall Clean-up" Day and the Altar Servers Workshop have been posted to our website: www.stjohnsphila.org

⑩ Pete and Steve C. are still monitoring www.stjohnsphila.com to see if we can purchase it.

Sunday School: Steve Coraluzzi.

* There will be monthly calendar inserted into the Messenger for the Sunday School.

* The kids will be having a Gertrude Hawks candy sale during November as a fund raiser.

- * There will also be a trip subsidized by the Sunday School to the Camden Aquarium in November.
- * Christmas Decorations – Bill Bortner will be donating and helping the kids create ceramic tree remove tree decorations for the tree in the fellowship hall. (He will make and glaze. The kids will paint.)
- * 31 children have registered so far.
- * Steve commented that the kid’s parents and other have been very generous with their donations of drinks and snacks.
- * When the Sunday School was cleaned up for the new year, a lot of broken toys and dirty stuffed animals were thrown out. Some new toys were purchased, especially for the younger ones. He is also looking for a “Connect Four” Bible style for the older students.

Building Maintenance – John Rubis

- * Altar Lighting: Nick Mandia will have the new fixtures hi-lighting the Icon Screen done by the name day.
- * Men's Room light is broken. If Fr. Brooks cannot fix it, Nick will also look at that.
- * Some possible future projects and comments: Removing the safe – may be too costly; painting of the meeting room, repair and paint the large window in the hall; Choir loft plaster and paint – Tom Highland may be able to recommend a plaster.
- * Projects completed during the recent “Clean -Up Day:” Cleaning of the sanctuary – all but pews were completed including the Icon Screen; Little kitchen (storage closet) , main kitchen, cleaned choir loft, back stairs, Sill for the large window, the back door was repaired once again and a better system for keeping it open installed.

Stewardship: Linda Biando

- ⑩ Linda handed out a comparison sheet for the Pledges for the last 5 years. The number of pledges is down due to some inflated numbers from the past and from the loss of several long time members. However, the amount pledged is up which shows a more consistent commitment. As of today we have 107 pledges for a total of \$60,085 (which is our goal) with \$42,950 collected to date.
- ⑩ The new drive needs to start soon. Father said he would recruit new members for this committee who are not currently on the Council. He also asked exactly what a Pledge meant here at St. Johns which was answered by member of the Council.

Priest's Report: Father Brooks Ledford

- ⑩ Parish Ministry Teams
 - Charity and Benevolence Team – The idea here is that this ministry could raise its own funds to do projects both within St. John's and on the outside. He will update this idea as he gets to know the people better.
 - Evangelism and Outreach Team
- ⑩ Trip to San Antonio for a Thanksgiving visit with his family. Father did not want to miss a Sunday, but the Council insisted that he stay with his family. It's not a problem to get a sub for one Sunday. Father was very appreciative.
- ⑩ Housing Allowance: A motion was made to accept the Housing Allowance presented to Council a few months ago for \$18,000 by Michele and seconded by Linda K. All were in favor.

Old Business:

- ⑩ **Church Sign** – Father Brooks has met with Mr. Woods (stone portion of the sign) who is supposed to send him some drawings. The electronic sign person has not returned the calls. Fr. Brooks would like the option to include “Church Open, Come in and Pray.” to be placed on the sign.
- ⑩ **Name Day:** Vespers – Saturday at 6 PM. Followed by a “Philly Dinner.” Donna will get the cheese steaks, Michele, the Tasty Kakes and Steve G., soft pretzels and sodas. We will set up for Sunday on Saturday night. Sunday – The lunch will be provided by the parishioners, Linda K. will provide the flowers for the tables and for the presentation Bouquet for Arch Bishop Nikon. Bill Bortner will make and donate an anniversary cake. There will be head table for the clergy and the two Council Chairs. (Sts. Peter and Paul parishioners will be joining us.)
- ⑩ **Parish Meeting:** November 3rd. The agenda, minutes, treasurer's report and the budget will be emailed before the meeting. The biggest issue is the election. To update last month, the slate the 2013 Council is presenting is as follows for 2014: Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Linda Kosta, Michele Anderson, Linda Biando, Diane Lescas and Jani Mara.

New Business:

- ⑩ **Intercom System:** Linda B. has been looking into an intercom system with a camera so we can see who is at the door. She would like John to discuss this with Nick Mandia. There are others that are more or less than the cost she quoted. She needs a price for installation. Father commented that the Charity and Benevolence Team could be trained to handle the homeless who come to the door. Michele made a motion to have a system with a camera installed at a cost of no more than a \$1000. The motion was seconded by John Rubis. All were in favor.
- ⑩ **Home Blessings:** Father will put together a committee to help him with the schedule for home blessings as he is unfamiliar with the area and many of the parishioners. He will on start on this next month.
- ⑩ **Picture Taking:** Linda B. reported that David Biando will take pictures for inclusion in the 2014-15 Directory in 2014.
- ⑩ **Church Library:** David Biando would like to relocate the library to a more visible location. He will let us know his suggestions.

Important Dates:

- ^ **Next Joint Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 12th, 2013 – 7 PM (NEW NIGHT)**
- ^ **October 16th, 2013 – first of Fr. Brooks' education classes – 6:30 PM**
- ^ **October 23rd and 30th and November 6th – Education classes – 6:30 PM**
- ^ **October 26th, 2013 – 3 – 6 PM – Halloween Party.**
- ^ **November 3, 2013 – Parish Meeting**
- ^ **November 9, 2013 – Vespers and lite dinner with Archbishop Nikon**
- ^ **November 10, 2013 – Name Day Celebration with A/B Nikon and the members and clergy from Sts. Peter and Paul's. Installation of new officers. Parish provided luncheon immediately following**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kosta, Secretary