

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting - January 13, 2015
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Fr. Brooks Ledford led the meeting in prayer. Donna thanked everyone for coming.

Roll Call - Linda Biando: **Council Members Present:** Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Linda Biando, Michele Lorimer and Elvira Gusho. **Auxiliary Members Present:** Dorothy Tomassini, Linda Notskas, Linda Kosta(former secretary). **Clergy:** Father Brooks.
Absent: Nilda Salavachi, Michele Anderson, Steve Coraluzzi.

Secretary's Report: The December 2014 minutes were presented by Michele Lorimer. Two typos were corrected from the minutes on page 2. Corrected on that page was the name Trish to Tish, and also Znick to Nick. Linda Biando made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Peter Ghicondey. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Michele Anderson was not present, but sent the Treasurer's Report for December 2014 and was presented by Donna. 1) Still waiting on some outstanding pledges. There were 116 pledges made that equaled out to \$65,120.00. We are sitting at \$67,715.00. We will be a bit over what we were promised. The investment account is at \$272,943.58.

2) Expenses such as the sound system and it's equipment (\$4,000.00) as well as the AED expense were put under "Miscellaneous Expenses." 3) There was \$750.00 paid out to fantasy football winners. The church made a profit of \$300.00. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Peter; seconded by Linda Biando. All were in favor.

Pastor Report: Father Brooks

- * Fr. Brooks received all positive feedback from his coverages while he was away. He thanked Fr. Mark and Fr. Stephen for their services.
- * Father is working on the Newsletter and had requested that each month a Parish Council member submit a letter.
- * January 30th there will be a YAL (young adults) meeting. Father is hoping to involve some of the young adults in more things such as the Newsletter.
- * Church School is going very well. Fr. is planning on a pizza/movie night for Sometime in February. The H.S. students were asked to read their own choice of book during Great Lent and then after Pascha to write one page of why they felt the book was good/bad. He would like to plan an evening to take them out to a nice restaurant where they can enjoy a nice dinner together as well as converse about their books. Fr. will look into finding a nice restaurant.
- * Working on coming up with a plan for what to do on Sunday September 27, 2015 When the Pope comes to town.
- * The sign-up sheet for the Home Blessing/Visitations is posted in the side vestibule.
- * March 24th Annunciation Vespers Liturgy will be celebrated at 6:30 P.M. Pot Luck to follow.
- * Working with Committees: Charity and Benevolence; Stewardship, etc.

Chairman's Report: Donna Dimitri

- * Icon Auction was a great success. We raised \$15,685.00. Thank you letters will be sent out. A few new icons will be added for next year's auction and a few will be taken away. It was suggested to have an English and an Albanian translator for next year.
- * Background check reports came back and everything was fine. The information will be forwarded to the Archdiocese.
- * NYE party went well. Thanks to Nilda and Spartak! About 40 people attended. The church made about \$736.00 from this event. Next year we may change the time to an earlier start to the evening.
- * Women's Day dance will be March 7th. This year it will be open to women only. Ticket price will be in the messenger.
- * Sexual Misconduct Policy was handed out and signed during the meeting.

Vice Chairman's Report: Peter Ghicondey

- * Working on getting the AED device mounted and possibly holding a short session on how to use it.
- * Cable wires were ran and there is now internet service in the church hall. Thank you Peter and Donna for their hard work and success on the project.
- * Congratulations to fantasy football first place winner Nancy Ghicondey and to second place winner Rich Detskas! Peter did an excellent job with the league.
- * The rights to the website (stjohnsphila.com) now belong to St. John's for the next ten years.

Sunday School: Steve Coraluzzi (not present)

- * Albanian Thanksgiving and Christmas plays were both a success. Thank you to Sandy and Kevin Fiss.
- * \$300.00 was collected from the Gertrude Hawke candy sale.
- * Our annual ice skating outing will take place in February.

Stewardship Report: Linda Biando

- * Preparing for Pascha which will be April 12th. Pascha letter should go out March 11.
Need to order mailing envelopes, palms, egg dye, and candles.

New Business:

- * Fr. Brooks suggests donating the profits from our Soup-er-Bowl event to the Covenant House this year in honor of Fr. Stephen Siniari.
- * Next Council Meeting is Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 7PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Linda, seconded by Elvira. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Lorimer
Secretary