

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

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

Roll Call: Steve Ghicondes _ All current board members were present.

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

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Notskas, Linda Biando, Betty Subashi, and Janice Leyden. Also, **Sunday School Director:** Steve Coraluzzi

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the past meeting (March 4, 2013) were presented by Linda Kosta. There were a few minor corrections. A Motion to accept the minutes with the minor corrections was made by Michele Anderson, seconded by Pete Ghicondey. All were in favor. The minutes will be amended and sent to Donna to be posted on our website within a few days.

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

- ⤴ 2013 Pledges to date: 80 families -\$37,705 pledged, \$19,975 received
- ⤴ 2013 Icon Auction Totals: \$13,750; received: \$8650.
- ⤴ Women's Day Event: Profit: \$2122. Donna and others donated the food.
- ⤴ The investment account is up to \$186,309

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

Donna suggested that there was too much money in the checking account and that we should move some to the investment account. Upon a motion made by Linda Kosta and seconded by Michele Anderson, \$25,000 will be moved to the investment account from the checking account. All were in favor. Steve G. Suggested that we investigate a money market. Donna will investigate.

Stewardship: Linda Biando

- ⤴ Pledges are up. Our goal is \$50,000. At this early date in the year, we have been promised \$37,705.
- ⤴ Linda B. redesigned the pledge card which is available in print and on-line in English and Albanian.
- ⤴ A reminder to those who have not pledged yet will go out shortly.
- ⤴ It was suggested that we go back to posting the names of those who have pledged on our " Pillars of St. John's "Banner and post it in the back vestibule.

Building Maintenance – John Rubis

- ⤴ The power was off during the week but it is OK now. Everything that needed to be reset was.

- ⤴ Some projects such as painting are in the works for the future.
- ⤴ Drain pipe under the Sunday School floor has a problem. It is a big job. George Kosova had been contacted. The cost will be about \$1000.
- ⤴ Fr./Dn. Andrew has volunteered to fix some problems related to the downspouts.

Sunday School: Steve Coraluzzi.

- ⤴ The Ice Skating event turned out very well. The turnout was terrific. Steve C. donated half the cost of the pizza. Thank you!
- ⤴ April 27 - Lazarus Saturday: Steve C. Handed out and agenda for this event. 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. We have 3 graduates: Zach Dardaris, Tori Contoudis, and Andrew Fizz. They will be presented with Orthodox Study Bibles. The Sunday School will treat the parishioners to a hot dog lunch that day. The cost will be covered by funds already raised by them.
- ⤴ Steve believes that the children do not value the promotion certificates as many are left behind and never claimed. He wants to consider some type of gift instead. This would also be covered by the Sunday School's own funds.
- ⤴ There will still be an end-of-the-year event for the kids. More info to come.

Website: Peter Ghicondey: Linda Biando and Steve C. continue to help Pete with the administration of the site. Fr./Dn. Andrew Rubis will be submitting some postings soon. Steve G. would like to have a U-Tube posing of *Christ is Risen* for the 40 days after Pascha.

Old Business:

***Substitute Priests :** Steve G.. Reported that Fr. Mark will serve April 14 & 21st. Father Ledford will be here from Palm Sunday thru Pascha, and it looks like Father Joe will again help us out after May 5th. Father Mark will also bless the graves at Fernwood on Memorial Day, May 27, 2013.

***Hall Rental Agreement:** Donna reported that the changes have been made.

***Outside Sign:** Linda N. will meet with the gentleman from Spikes on Holy Friday.

⤴ **Pascha:**

- Flowers -Paula Bendo will contact Margarita Sevi about the flowers for Holy Friday.
- Father Brooks Ledford – During his visit, Father will speak with Fr./Dn. Andrew about arrangements and will visit some of our home bound parishioners. Father Brooks has found an inexpensive room located in Woodlyn. Donna will lend him a car. Dorothy obtained a discount room for Saturday night into Sunday, so he does not need to return to Woodlyn after the late service Saturday evening.
- Refreshments after the Pascha Liturgy: Betty – rolls, Fiori and Ilirjan – cheese & olives, Michele Anderson – wine. A flyer inviting everyone upstairs will be passed out at the Midnight Liturgy.
- Red Eggs – notice will go in the weekly asking for ½ dozen eggs from each family. -

Collection – one or two? This resulted in a lively discussion. First it was decided not to collect for the priest since Fr. Brooks does not serve regularly at St. John's and he will be compensated for his time anyway. Then we voted for one or two collections. The vote was a tie. As Chair Donna voted to break the tie. One collection was passed. The timing for collection will be decided by the priest and Steve G.

- Candles: It was suggested to charge \$4 for large candles. Steve G. mentioned he had a smaller size this year. We will charge \$3 for these. Memorial candles will be sold.
- Gospel: Will be read in as many languages as possible at the Agape Vespers
- Purple Drape – After Palm Sunday, the purple drape will be placed across the top of the Iconostas.
- Holy Unction – Donna has purchased the needed supplies.
- ▲ **Palm Sunday**: The Adams family will again sponsor the pancake breakfast in memory of Charlie.
- ▲ Day Care: Valbona Kokalari – no new information.

The Journey to find a new full-time Priest:

- ▲ **Father Brooks** will be our first interview. On Monday, April 29 at 6 P.M. council will meet with Fr. Brooks. A Lenten supper will be served.
- ▲ **Father John Dougherty**. Steve G. says he is not interested.

New Business:

- ▲ The Papas would like to have an Albanian Flag Day in November to benefit the Church. The two possible dates are November 23rd or 30th. We will let them decide.
- ▲ The vestments including the altar boys robes have been cleaned and are in the choir loft.
- ▲ Kathy Toroney will make the purple altar cloths that we need.
- ▲ Pascha Donation letter will go out this week first class. Donna will clean up the DBF first. The letter and Pascha schedule will be in Albanian and English.
- ▲ 40 Days for Nick Naum will be on Mother's Day along with the Memorial for the Andersons. (Steve G. Has ordered the Memorial Plaque for Nick.)
- ▲ Steve G. said he would speak with Ann Gjoka about the flowers for Mother's and Father's Days.
- ▲ Linda N. handed out copies of an article from the April 7, 2013 *Daily News* about local Orthodoxy. There was mention of the good work of Cranford and all with the homeless in Philadelphia and the King's Jubilee.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kosta, Secretary