

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – February 4, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council

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

Absent: Linda Kosta

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

Sunday School Director: Steve Coraluzzi

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting

Secretary's Report: Linda Kosta was not present. The Minutes of the past meeting (January 7, 2013) taken by Dorothy Tomassini, pro tem, were read and upon Motion made by Michele Anderson, seconded by John Rubis, all were in favor to accept the Minutes as read.

Treasurer's Report:

Michele Anderson reported on the attached Income and Expense Statement (unaudited as of January 31, 2013, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Investment Account: Increased to \$181,902.36.

Checking Account: Also up to \$44,193.41.

Will of Martha Tzetzto: \$3,000 donation (thank you letter will be sent to her son.)

Icon Auction: Very successful (\$13,750). Sunday school girls enjoyed exhibiting the Icons as they were up for auction.

Plating of the Cross: Thank you to the anonymous donor for the newly plated Cross.

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

Other Reports:

Donna noted that 1099 forms have been sent to the vendors and to our visiting priests.

Donations: OCMC. Motion was made by Michele Anderson to send the 3 families working in Albania: Barksdale, Bendo and Hoppe \$300.00 each and to the families

preparing to go to Albania (Macdonald, Ritsi and Sima) \$150.00 each The Motion was seconded by John Rubis and all were in favor.

IOCC: \$500.00 was donated for the Kosovo relief fund.

St. John's 82nd Anniversary in November 2013: Donna will send an invitation to Bishop Nikon to (hopefully) attend our Nameday celebration on November 10, 2013.

Building Maintenance – Donna Dimitri:

Insurance company suggested a building inspection by and electrical inspector. The inspector reported a number of electrical repairs that needed to be made. Nick Mandia was hired, at a cost of \$1,135.00 to complete the list of repairs (attached). The outside light above the side door was replaced as was the light in the hot dog stand area. Donna will meet with the electrical inspector to make sure Nick did all that was required to receive our certification.

RISO mimeograph machine not working. Donna will have the repair man come in.

A. Pastoral Coverage:

Donna reported that Fr. Brooks Ledford will fly to Philadelphia on April 26, 2013, thus enabling him to celebrate services at our church on Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter (Saturday evening) and Agape Services on Easter Sunday (May 5, 2013). He will leave on Monday, May 6, 2013.

Fr. Brooks would like to meet as many people as possible during his week in Philadelphia. He will do anything we want him to do. Donna suggested that those who like traditional parts of our services so tell him. She asked Fr. Deacon Andrew to be in touch with him and give him any suggestions he thinks apply to our liturgies during Holy Week.

Keep in mind that Fr. Brooks is interested in a full-time pastoral position. Since our parish has not yet voted on having a full-time or part-time priest, we are not yet looking to interview Priests.

Steve Ghicondes reiterated the availability of our visiting Priests;
February, March and April 7 – Fr. Joseph Toroney
April 14 & 21– Fr. Mark Koczak
April 28 – Fr. Brooks Ledford

B. Sunday school - Steve Coraluzzi: The Sunday School is doing well. Student attendance declined in January but on February 3, 19 kids were in attendance.

Activities: To build attendance, Steve and the teachers made the decision to take the students ice-skating on February 24 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m... The University of Pennsylvania rink has the best deal plus a room for fellowship and snacks. Lunch will be provided prior to skating.

- C. **Stewardship:** Linda reported that the flyer for pledge cards will be mailed and also put on line

Old Business:

Website update: Regarding Fr. Matthew's refusal to turn over the domain name www.stjohnsphila.com to our Church: It seems that Fr. Matthew, while acting as an agent for the parish, used his personal credit card to pay the fee for the domain name. Despite attempts by Steve Coraluzzi to get Fr. Matthew to release the domain, his conversation with Fr. Matthew only led to disappointment. Donna has again talked to Bishop Nikon regarding Father Matthew's obstinacy. For the time being, Peter Ghicondey suggested we let the bishops handle the situation.

Peter made changes in the two flyers for pledge cards on the website: one in English and one in Albanian. We'd like to encourage people to use the website to make payments on pledge cards and other donations. Peter is looking for ideas for the website: photos, music, possible memorial registry, recipes of the month, parishioner of the month, etc.

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

\$30.00 – adults

\$10.00 – children under 14

DJ is lined up.

Buffet 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Discussion on Council Position—full or part-time Priest:

Each Council Member was polled. Several Council members feel the money is not there for a full-time priest; others feel if we have an excellent full-time priest, we will have more members and the revenue will increase. Thus, the consensus was that we continue on the path we're on now and see what comes up. The general thinking is that the best viable option for us would be a full-time priest but when?

At the general parish meeting on March 3, Donna will explain to the parishioners that the majority of the members of parish council believe our parish would be best served by a full time priest.

New Business:

Review of Agenda for the semi-annual meeting – March 3, 2013:

1. Linda Kosta has the Minutes from the last parish meeting.
2. Peter Ghicondey will give a report on the Metropolitan's ordination.
3. October meeting Report
4. Building projects: done or hope to be done
5. Report from Steve Coraluzzi on the Sunday School
6. Linda Notskas will report on the Ladies Club and Choir.

7. Delegates to be appointed for the September 27/28 Convention at St. Nicholas Church in New York. 3 delegates can go as Donna is a trustee for the Archdiocese.
8. Discussion for part-time or full-time Priest.

Next Council meeting – Palms for Palm Sunday and flowers for Easter; Hall rental agreement; church sign and schedules; sign to Albanian Museum in the Sunday school area.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michele Anderson, seconded by Steve Ghicondes. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Tomassini
Secretary pro tem