

**MINUTES OF THE SEMI-ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - October 18, 2015**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church**  
**Minutes approved March 20, 2106**

Father Brooks Ledford opened the meeting with prayer at Noon.

**Call to Order:** The chairman Donna Dimitri welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Elections:** The following slate was presented for the 2015-2016 Council: Michele Anderson, Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Michele Lorimer, Nilda Salavachi, William Bortner, and Jani Mara. As there were no nominations from the floor, Betty Subashi made a motion to accept the council as presented and Linda Kosta seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Donna thanked the council for serving. A special note of thanks was offered Elvira Gusho and Linda Biando who are stepping down. William Bortner, who has served on the Auxiliary Council will become a voting council member. Donna also thanked the auxiliary council who have become an invaluable asset to the church.

**Minutes of the Spring 2015 Meeting:** There were no minutes present to be accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Presented by Michele Anderson. The motion to accept was made by Erion Gusho and seconded by Bill Bortner. All were in favor.

**Proposed Budget:** Michele Anderson presented the budget for 2016. Stephanie Kosta made a motion to table the discussion on the proposed 2016 budget and the motion was seconded by Steve Coraluzzi. 16 people were in favor of this, 7 people were opposed. The 2016 budget will be revisited November 1, 2015 by the parish at which time it will be voted on.

**Comments and Questions:**

- Big change in the budget due to Fr. Brooks and Jamie's health insurance coverage. Their premium, which is \$1,170.00 a month, will be covered by the church. If Jamie is get employed then the line item for the insurance in the budget will decrease.
- Total income of the proposed 2016 budget is \$126,050.00. The income budget was lowered from last year due to a decrease in pledges.
- Stephanie Kosta asked about the donation expense. It was lowered because of some money being put towards Charity and Benevolence. Council stated that it is important to support charities as well as missionaries in Albania.

**Pastor's Report:** Father Brooks did not have a report to present. However, he spoke freely to the parish. Fr. said that during the past two years his love for this parish has grown. He said that it is tremendous to disagree, but very important to still all come together as brothers and sisters. He thanked the parish council for their work this past year.

- Linda Notskas spoke of how she attends the parish council meetings and how nicely the meetings are run. Fr. thanked her.
- Father Brooks gave an overview of the committees, newsletters, and council reports

and is happy with how well they are all going. He stated that we are moving forward physically and spiritually from his perspective.

- Donna Dimitri stated that in the past few years things are moving in a more positive direction. She also thanked Fr. Brooks for his involvement with the children and the committees, and thanked Jamie as well.

**Vice-Chair's Report:** Peter Ghicondey

- Peter presented our website from the projector screen so that everyone could view the chart of hits that our site receives. We get about 38 individual visitors a day.
- He discussed refreshing the website. Currently we pay \$300.00 per year to our provider. It may cost a one time fee of \$600.00 to refresh the website. Tish Klus offered to do some research for a lower rate.
- Tim Pappas suggested to make the donations title more visible.
- Donna thanked Peter and Tish for their work on the website. She also thanked Stephanie Kosta and Nilda Salavachi for their work on Facebook.

**Chairperson's Report:** Donna Dimitri reported about the OCA. She was appointed to the OCA by Bishop Nikon and attended the meetings. The OCA has made a dramatic turnabout. Having Metropolitan Thikon as the leader of the OCA has had a huge impact and many new programs are underway.

**Reports:**

**Sunday School:** Steve Coraluzzi

- Sunday School started up on September 14, 2015. Registrations are low with only 29 children as of now.
- Halloween party is Sunday, October 25.
- Working on Thanksgiving and Christmas plays.
- Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Fundraiser will begin soon.
- Working on some new ideas for the springtime to keep the kids involved.

**Sportspersons:** Peter Ghicondey

- Fantasy Football is in its third year. There are sixteen teams. This league is a mini fundraiser for the church.
- The football fees that have not yet been received will show as income in 2015. A "Projected Amount" column for this fundraiser will be looked into.

**Golf Outing:**

- 70 people attended. Net revenue to date is \$4,580.00. \$5,000.00 is projected when money that is outstanding for ads and the silent auction are collected.

**Old Business:**

**The Archdiocesan Assembly:** Elvira Gusho and Linda Notskas

- It was a very nice event. Reports were given by the Bishop regarding the building up of our parishes.
- The event was hosted by St. Mary's Church in Worcester, MA.
- Donna thanked those who attended the assembly.

**Building Maintenance:** Donna Dimitri

- The stairwell on the 17th Street side of the church was repaired and painted
- Iron rail around the church was repaired.
- Office window replaced.
- Still discussing the church floor project, decision will be made the first of the year.
- The marble floor on the Solea and altar is complete.
- Church Windows will need to be repaired next year.

**Old Business from the floor**

- Ann Gjoka presented a check for \$5,000.00 on behalf of the Ladies Society to the church. We are saddened that the Ladies Society has come to an end.

**New Business**

**Gift from St. John the Baptist Church** - Boston

- St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church received a gift of \$25,000.00 from St. John the Baptist Church. The church suffered a fire and the property recently sold. The parishioners from St. John the Baptist gave our parish a second check for \$25,000.00. (The first check for \$25,000.00 was received at the 2014 Assembly)

**New Business from the floor** - none

**Important Date:**

November 1st - Parish meeting to revisit the proposed 2016 budget

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 P.M. made by Chris Manosis and seconded by Kathie Costa. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Lorimer  
Secretary

DRAFT