

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – September 9, 2013
St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council
(Approved October 7, 2013)

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting at 7:08 P.M. Father Brooks Ledford asked the blessing on the meeting. Donna welcomed Father to the meeting and noted that we are all looking toward a brighter future for St. John's.

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

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Notskas, Linda Biando, Janice Leyden, and Diane Lescas and **Sunday School Director:** Steve Coraluzzi

Secretary's Report: The Minutes of the meeting on August 8, 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 August 2013. The motion to accept was made by Linda K. and seconded by Steve G. All were in favor. Comments by the treasure: 86% of the Icons are now paid for and 72% of the Pledges. The investment account is down a little. Michele reminded us that the checking account balance is after all bill have been paid.

Chairman: Donna Dimitri.

* Steve C. is looking into a different phone and internet carrier for the Church. He mentioned a \$100 per month nationwide calling now being offered by Comcast. We currently have Verizon. This project needs more research. Michele Anderson made a motion to pursue the Comcast alternative at \$100 per month. Seconded by Pete G. All were in favor.

* Re-plating: Diane Lescas commented on how great the candle stands look. Donna added that the Cross (the one that is carried in the processions) and the fans are being done now. The hanging lamps will be re-plated after these other items.

* Donna purchased a new ladder and had some Plexiglas we need donated.

* September 15th is the celebration of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. It is also the day we remember Pauline and Theodore Ciko, our benefactors. Donna, Kathy Costa and some others will bring basil and Linda K. will bring the flowers.

* Steve Coraluzzi has filled out the "Background Information" form from our insurance company. Father Brooks will also do this.

* St. Nicholas in NY is raffling off a 3 year lease for a BMW at \$50 per ticket.

Vice Chair Report: Peter Ghicondey

Fantasy Football Project: The homepage for this can be accessed at CBS Sports. About \$1200 will be collected. CBS gets \$200 for hosting. Each division winner gets \$75 which will be \$ 300. That leaves the playoff pool prize money at \$700. The Church will receive \$250 of that.

Website Updating – Fr. Brooks needs to be added and Bishop Herman changed to our new Bishop. Steve and Pete will handle. Michele handles updating our Facebook page.

Sunday School: Steve Coraluzzi.

* Steve has emailed all the children about the start of Sunday School on September 15. Christine Dardaris is returning to school and will not be able to teach this year. There will be a “Backpack Blessing” on September 15, the first day of Sunday School.

* The Sunday School floor has been fixed and the rooms have been cleaned.

Building Maintenance – John Rubis

* Altar Lighting: Nick Manida has some different ideas since some people were not happy with the last idea. John will buy a couple to see if they get the result we want. They will be LED lights. This project was allotted \$2000 at the August meeting.

* Other projects that need attention: Painting of the railings inside and out; Down spouts.

Stewardship: Linda Biando: We are up to 105 pledges which is up from 99 last year. Also, more money was pledged to the Icon Sale this year.

Priest's Report: Father Brooks Ledford

Father thanks all of us for the kindness and hospitality during his move and transition to St. John's. He encourages us to come to him when we are confronted with problems in the Church, not to let them fester into bigger problems.

Father's Tentative Schedule

Monday – off unless there is an emergency

Tuesday – Office hours at Church

Wednesday – Morning – visitations, evening starting October 16th Classes at Church. (The first six will focus on controversies in the Orthodox Church.)

Thursday – Office hours, work on the Monthly Newsletter, counseling and other matters needing attention.

Friday – Office hours – work on sermon, etc.

Saturday – Parish activities

Sunday – Liturgy and coffee hour. He would prefer not to do business on Sunday, but to use the time to socialize and get to know the parishioners.

He will need our help with knowing who needs to be visited. He will be recruiting members who have lapsed back into the fold as well as looking for new members. He will need the help of someone who speaks Albanian when recruiting the new Americans. He will also reach out to college students.

Home Blessings – Fr. Will undertake this vast task but will need help in organizing it.

Old Business:

***Thank You Luncheon:** The event on August 25, 2013 went very well. Most of the priests and Deacons who have served during our time of need were there. They were presented with a cash gift, a framed picture of St. John's and an American/Albanian flag pin. Lunch provided by the parishioners was wonderful.

* **Assembly:** Michele Anderson is unable to come to The Archdiocesan Assembly is at St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church in New York. Donna, Linda Biando, Linda Kosta and Fr. Brooks will attend.

Golf Outing: We have five foursomes so far. Thirty – six 50-50 tickets are left. The Ad Booklet is doing well. We will meet on Thursday evening, September 19th to do the prize baskets. Trophies have been purchased for the golfers.

Church Sign – Steve G. presented a picture of what the sign could look like. It was very similar to our current sign. Janice would like her stone guy, Mr. Wood, to come to speak with us. Father Brooks said he would meet Mr. Wood at church if possible. He needs a size to work with him. Linda K. suggested that an electric sign for inside the stone would be easier to change. Michele said she would look into it.

New Business:

The Ladies Club will not be having their annual memorial for deceased members as there are two other memorials on that day.

Semi-annual Parish Meeting: will be on Sunday, November 3rd. The most significant issue besides the regular reports is the elections. Neither John Rubis nor Steve Ghicondes wishes to be on the 2014 Council. The new Council slate will be Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey, Linda Kosta, Michele Anderson, Linda Biando and Diane Lescas. Jani Mara will be contacted to see if he can continue. We may change our meeting day to Tuesdays to help make it easier for Jani to attend. None of the nominees has an objection to the day change.

82nd Name Day Celebration and the Arch Bishop's Visit: There will be Vespers on Saturday night followed by a “Philly Dinner” of cheese steaks and Tastykakes. Sunday there will be a pot luck luncheon. Janice and Kathie C. will again collect names and items for donations. William Bortner will make the cake.

Linda B. suggested that we need an intercom with a camera so we can see who is at the door. Steve G. wants help updating the Name Day list for parishioners. He asked if it might be possible to ask that on the Pledge Cards. No decision. Fr. Brooks will announce the collection of Name Day celebrants during his home blessings.

Linda B. asked if we wanted David to take pictures for inclusion in the 2014-15 Directory and for possible purchase by the families in the fall. This item was tabled until next month.

Important Dates:

- ⤴ **Next Council Meeting: Monday, October 7th, 2013 – 7 PM**
- ⤴ **September 15, Elevation of the Cross - Memorial Prayers for our benefactors, the Ciko family and the first day of Sunday School.**
- ⤴ **Fall Clean-Up Day – October 5th. 2013.**
- ⤴ **October 16th, 2013 – first of Fr. Brooks' education classes.**
- ⤴ **October 26th, 2013 – 3 – 6 PM – Halloween Party.**
- ⤴ **November 3, 2013 – Parish Meeting**
- ⤴ **Name Day and Bishop Nikon's Visit: November 9th and 10th.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michele Anderson, seconded by Steve G. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kosta, Secretary