



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION

## SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING

June 25, 2015  
Las Vegas, Nevada

*President Elizabeth Levy* called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

*Father Matthew Swehla* of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Las Vegas offered the opening prayer and expressed his welcome.

*Secretary Kay Harkins* reported 30 delegates signed in representing 16 parishes. 11 board members were present. *Mary Futris* moved that the minutes of the Winter Business Meeting be approved, and *Vicki Xikis* seconded. *Secretary Kay Harkins* recorded the unanimous approval. (\*Later in the meeting a delegate noted two grammatical/typographical errors, which were noted and will be amended for the archives.)

*Vicki Xikis* welcomed all to the conference and gave helpful instructions and an overview of the weekend. She thanked her committee, the sponsors, and those who helped with FDF outreach, and commented on the difficulties presented to the sponsoring parish in preparing for a conference.

Treasurer, *Costa Kourtis*, presented the Financial Report and the 2015-2017 budget. (Attached to these minutes.) *Vicki Xikis* moved that the budget be approved, and *Josphine Zorzy* seconded. The budget was approved by unanimous vote. His balance sheet shows that the Federation currently has Total Liabilities and Equity of \$62,944.34.

**Elizabeth Levy** offered her **President's Report**, beginning by reviewing the year's Church Music Institutes, and the outreach by Federation members at FDF (Mary Futris, Connie George, Marilyne Coats, Angie Watkins, Josie Zorzy, and Liz Hadjis). She gave an overview of the Conference Scholarships that were initiated, briefly presented the initial response to the call for a Youth Music Specialist, and introduced the change to the Organ Scholarship that would be discussed later in the meeting.

**Mario DiGiovanni** presented the membership report.

- The 2013-2014 fiscal year dues and stewardship campaign ended July 31, 2014. Total receipts for the 2013-2014 FY were \$9245: \$1935 for 23 adult and 6 youth program dues and \$7310 in stewardship averaging \$27.12 per steward from 260 stewards.
- The Listserv mailing and paper mailing for the current year took place the first week of November 2014.
- By the opening of the Summer Business Meeting on June 25, 2015, the Federation had received a total of \$8795 in dues and stewardship or 5% less than the prior year total. Parish adult music program dues were received from 24 parishes for a total of \$1800; Youth music dues were received from 5 parishes for \$175. Stewardship was received from 219 people totaling \$6820, averaging \$31.12 each.
- We are working hard to use our Web Site, Facebook page, and the Listserve to get the word out in an efficient manner, both in economy and speed. He welcomed suggestions from the delegation.

**Presvytera Maria Hondros** then observed that she believes most parish priests are overwhelmed and do not respond well to e-mail and even other forms of communication although they may sometimes best be contacted by telephone. **Vicki Xikis** made a plea for continued efforts in reaching all church musicians, particularly the youth of the Federation.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**AWARDS:** *Chris Vitakes* announced that there were more George N. George awards being given than usual this year, and that one Katherine Trapp Youth Music award would be given.

*Elizabeth Levy* announced that there were no applicants, and therefore no recipients, for the Xenia Anton Desby Memorial Organ Scholarship this year.

**MUSIC:** *Tikey Zes* reported that last year's CMIs were well attended and received much positive feedback. Inclusion of sections on chant, conducting, and sight singing are being considered for future Institutes. Topics under consideration are Artoclasia, the Memorial Service, and the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. Possible hosts for the new year include Saint John Las Vegas; Saint Katherine or Saint Anna in the Sacramento area; and Long Beach. No host yet proposed from the San Diego or Southwest regions; there is a possibility that Assumption Seattle may be willing to host in the Northwest.

**SUMMER CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP:** *Athena Anastos* announced that she and her committee (*Costa Kourtis, Mario DiGiovanni, and Fareeda Christ*) put together the "soft launch" of scholarships for adults and youth to attend this year's summer conference. This year 2 adults and 4 youth were helped with funds of \$700. The committee is pleased with these results, as the recipients submitted excellent references and essays to qualify for the funds. \$1,000 is set aside for these scholarships each year, and the board will review the allocation at the next board meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**CONFERENCE 2016/2017:** *Elizabeth Levy* reported that a location is still needed for the June 2016 Conference. The Church calendar indicates that the conference will occur during a fast free period in 2016, which will make meal planning a preparation much simpler and more affordable. The Conference for 2017 is now being planned for the month of October, pending the schedule for Metropolitan Gerasimos.

**YOUTH MUSIC SPECIALIST:** **Elizabeth Levy** reported that because there were three well-qualified and interested candidates who responded to the Youth Music Specialist position posting, the board believes that having this become a shared committee position, with individuals serving in their various regions and one of the specialists to serve as the coordinator could be of the most benefit to the youth of the Federation. Putting this committee of specialists together will be a major focus of the board's work in the upcoming year.

**Presvytera Maria Hondras** made an impassioned plea to the board and delegation to make youth music a priority for the Federation and in each parish.

**PROPOSED PARISH DUES LETTER:** **Liz Levy** is working with *Father Michael Prevas* and *Metropolitan Gerasimos* in preparing a letter from His Eminence to all parish priests and parish council presidents of the Metropolis urging them to support the Federation through the minimal dues required. This is important and necessary as individual directors and representatives need the important support of the programs of the Federation coming from the highest levels of the Metropolis.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**XENIA ANTON DESBY MEMORIAL ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP:** **Liz Levy** presented the board's initiative to request an amendment in the name of this longstanding annual scholarship to open the range of church musicians applying for the scholarship to include chanters, directors, and pianists. In the past few years, fewer and fewer organists have applied for these funds and the Metropolis and individual parishes could benefit from the education of such musicians. In any scholarship year, organists would be given precedence in the awarding of scholarship funds.

**Kiki Kyriakakis** moved that the name of the scholarship be changed to *The Frank and Xenia Desby Memorial Church Music Scholarship*. **Mary Futris** seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously, allowing the board to create the appropriate wording of the scholarship

requirements and application process to be brought forth at the Winter Business Meeting in January 2016 for approval so that wider scope scholarship may be offered in the new year.

### **ELECTIONS**

Election Committee Chair, **Meg Jakovas**, announced that no new nominations had been received for officers of the board. Therefore, the delegates re-elected current offices to remain in their posts until the next election. The officers for the next two years are:

*President:* **Elizabeth Levy**

*Vice President:* **Athena Anastos**

*Treasurer:* **Costa Kourtis**

*Secretary:* **Mary Kay Harkins**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Athena Anastos** announced that the Winter Business Meeting would be held in Scottsdale, Arizona, on January 23, 2016. This meeting will be scheduled so that delegates may drive or fly in for one day.

**Vicki Xikis** announced transportation schedules for the conference and reminded us that no meals would begin without a prayer by a priest.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Vicki Xikis** moved that the meeting be adjourned **Mary Futris** seconded the motion. All were in accord, and the meeting was dismissed at 9:25.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kay Harkins, Secretary**