



CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION

SUMMER BUSINESS MEETING

June 23, 2016

Castro Valley, CA

Minutes

President **Liz Levy** called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Fr. Niko Bekris of our host parish, Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church of Castro Valley, sent his warm greetings, but was not able to be with us at the opening of the meeting, so we sang *Evlogitos Hriste* to honor Our Lord before we began our business.

Secretary **Kay Harkins** announced the delegate status for the meeting. 12 delegates and 10 board members represented 13 parishes of the Metropolis.

Secretary **Kay Harkins** offered the minutes for review. While they do not require approval, **Meg Jakovas** moved their acknowledgement, and **Barbara Hunt** seconded.

Treasurer **Costa Kourtis** presented his report on Budget and Finance (attached to these minutes), reflecting the two-year budget as required by the Federation by-laws. He noted that revenues have been somewhat down, and expenses have been slightly elevated. His report showed Federation assets at \$63,944.55. He is still looking for ways to enhance the earnings of Federation savings, but interest rates are not favorable for non-profits. Meg Jakovas will be reaching out to other non-profits to see what resources they use.

Membership Chairman, **Mario DiGiovanni**, presented the Stewardship Report.

- The 2014-2015 fiscal year dues and stewardship campaign ended July 31, 2015. Total receipts for the 2014-2015 FY were \$9,370, with \$2,050 for 25 adult and 5 youth programs dues, and \$7,320 in stewardship, averaging \$30.63 per steward.
- The Listserve mailing took place the third week of November for the 2015-2016 dues and stewardship campaign. By the end of the day on June 22, 2016, the Federation had received a total of \$7,060 in dues and stewardship or a little more than 75% of the prior year total. Parish dues were received from 21 parishes for total dues of \$7,750. Stewardship was received totaling \$5,310 from 191 people, averaging 27.80 each.
- The Federation maintains both paper and e-mail addresses in order to contact its stewards. We prefer to use e-mail due to its speed and low cost; however, the Archdiocesan Listserve system will automatically delete addresses that are determined not to exist. (Sometimes this is caused by the mis-typing of an address from paper update form.)
- The best way to update contact information is to mail it to Mario via e-mail at mnkdigig@comcast.net. The next best way is to e-mail the President's address: sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org and the message will be passed along. This address is also accessible via the Contact Us tab or the Federation web site. Finally the paper stewardship and update form may be mailed to Mario at the address indicated.

Committee Reports

- Awards: **Chris Vitakes** announced that there would be three recipients of the Kathy Trapp Youth Music scholarship, but that there would be no George N. George awards given this year because no applications were submitted. This may have been because many possible recipients would not be attending the Federation conference due to a conflict with the AHEPA conference this year.

- *Music:* **Tikey Zes** will be working with the music committee to discuss topic for next year's CMI, and is considering the topic of the Byzantine modes. This past year's CMI's were well attended and well received. The following parishes have been initially identified for next year's CMIs:
 - *Southwest:* Assumption Scottsdale, or St. Haralambos Peoria
 - *Bay Area:* Holy Cross, Belmont
 - *Central:* Saint George, Fresno or Saint Anthony, Reno
 - *Los Angeles/San Diego:* Saint Anthony, Pasadena
- *Xenia Anton Desby Memorial Organ Scholarship:* There were no applications for the scholarship this year. Scholarship chair, **Chris Yokas**, was unable to attend the conference.
- *Outreach:* Three Regional Administrators reported from their work this year.
 - **Chris Vitakes** reported that significant difficulties prevented a CMI from being presented in the Bay Area this year. He and other members of his choir have been assisting Saints Constantine and Helen parish in Vallejo as they have been developing their congregational singing in English. He suggested that we announce that this parish would welcome any singers who would like to join them on the 3rd Sunday of each month.
 - **Marilyne Coats** reported an outstanding CMI at in March. She facilitated a regional rehearsal for the conference at Saint Anthony in Pasadena. She has made a personal visit to Prophet Elias in San Bernardino where they are also doing congregational singing.
 - **Meg Jakovas** coordinated a February CMI at Saint Katherine in Elk Grove, also well received and well attended. Congregational singing seems to be catching on in the Metropolis, as she discovered during her visit to St. Anna in Roseville.
- *By-Laws Revision:* **Athena Anastos** and her committee are still working on changes to the by-laws that will accommodate the changing of the titles and timing of the annual conference and business meeting.

2016 Summer Conference Report

- **Liz Levy** again welcomed the attendees to the conference and commended her committee for their work in bringing the conference together in only four months. She noted that there would be no youth choir at this year's conference, but that our Youth Music Specialist, **Amanda Dina Fields**, would be singing with us for the weekend. She informed the group of the schedule for the conference and announced transportation plans.

Old Business

- *Youth Music Specialist Update:* President Levy related that she is beginning the coordinating work with our three Youth Music Specialists, **Athena Mertes**, **Kathy Meck**, and **Amanda Dina Fields**, in developing programs and resources to bring enrichment to parishes who now have youth music programs and assisting those parishes that want to begin programs.
- *"Quarter Note"* **Athena Anastos** announced the new plan to send out hardcopy mailings more frequently during the year. Although many people prefer on-line communications, we still have a fair number of people who do prefer, do not have, or do not effectively use electronic messaging. Because the Federation understands that good communication is the most important key to the health of our organization, we feel the expenditure to reach each and every member frequently is worth the somewhat elevated expense. The "Quarter Note" is a bright, one page update that will come out twice a year along with one smaller and one larger In-Choir-Er. We'll be seeking feedback on these mailings.
- *Rewording of the Xenia Anton Desby Memorial Organ Scholarship:* **Liz Levy** directed our attention to a working draft of the scholarship requirements and parameters. Several suggestions were made for its refinement, and **Anna Counselis** suggested that we research the Perry Phillips scholarship that existed in the past for choral conducting, possibly including his name in the changes proposed to widen the scope

of the current organ scholarship. The proposal was sent back to the committee for revision and presentation at future meetings.

New Business

- Following up on **Gary Nicolau**'s recommendation from the Winter Business Meeting, **Liz** encouraged all attendees to consider giving memorial and other donations to the Federation to be marked for support of youth music—either by contributing to the Kathy Trapp Award or to Youth Music Outreach. The recruitment and development of our youth musicians is always a much-discussed topic at our meetings and conferences. Keeping the scholarships and resources for youth a priority in our giving should remain an emphasis for all stewards.
- **Athena Anastos** and **Pres. Levy** discussed shifting the focus of the *Winter Business Meeting* to more strategic planning and goals discussion.
- **Liz Levy** reported that the location of the 2016-2107 annual Conference must still be determined. We are hoping to have the conference in the southern part of the Metropolis, and are working on two possibilities. The board will be looking at creative ways for the expense and work of the conference to be shared. The board has extensively explored moving the time of the conference, but many factors complicate its moving, including the schedule of the Metropolitan, fiscal year budgetary concerns, and the timing of various festivals, including FDF.
- **Elsa Libowitz** of Saint John the Baptist in Anaheim requested input from Federation members on the purchase of a new organ for her parish.

Special Thanks

- President **Liz Levy** again offered profuse thanks to her entire committee, especially her sister, **Carol Cach**, who was the chair, for helping to pull together the conference on such short notice, and special thanks to **Saint Sophia parish** for covering the cost of the printing and shipping of the conference music as part of their outreach and music ministry.

Adjournment

Vicki Xikis moved adjournment; **Chris Hondros** seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Harkins, Secretary