



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION

WINTER BUSINESS MEETING

January 23, 2016
Scottsdale, AZ

President Elizabeth Levy called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Father Andrew Barakos of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Scottsdale offered the opening prayer and expressed his welcome.

Secretary Kay Harkins reported 7 delegates, 2 parish priests, and 9 board members signed in, representing 12 parishes. Attendance was not sufficient to constitute a quorum, so the meeting proceeded as a “Working Meeting.” **Meg Jakovas** moved that the minutes of the Summer Business Meeting be approved, and *Kiki Kyriakakis* seconded. Secretary *Kay Harkins* recorded the unanimous approval although a vote was not binding.

Treasurer, *Costa Kourtis*, was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent a prepared comparison of the 2015/2016 budget and actual income and expenses along with the current balance sheet. These were reproduced and made available to attendees. (Attached to these minutes.) President Levy moderated the discussion on these handouts. The balance sheet showed that the Federation currently has Total Liabilities and Equity of \$62,893.40. Athena Anastos suggested the board discuss with Costa the possibility of his presenting a budget handout at the June conference that shows the full two years of the currently approved budgets.

Mario DiGiovanni was not present at the meeting but prepared his membership report, which was distributed to the attendees.

- The 2014-2015 fiscal year dues and stewardship campaign ended July 31, 2015. Total receipts for the 2014-2015 FY were \$9370; \$2050 for 25 adult and 5 youth program dues, and \$7320 in stewardship averaging \$30.63 per steward.
- The Listserv mailing for the current year took place the third week of November 2015. By the end of the day on January 16, 2016, one week before the Winter Business Meeting, the Federation had received a total of \$1610 in dues and stewardship or less than 20% of the prior year total. Parish dues were received from 5 parishes for a total dues of \$375. Stewardship was received totaling \$1235 from 38 people averaging \$32.50 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 Listserv system will automatically delete addresses that are determined not to exist. (Sometimes this is caused by the mis-typing of an address from a paper update form.)
 - The best way to update contact information is to mail it to Mario via e-mail at mnkdigi@comcast.net
 - The next best way is to send an e-mail to 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 on the Federation web site.
- Mario has tried to keep the Web Site up to date with changes in the planned CMIs. Unfortunately, there have been many cancellations due to lack of interest. A change in the time of year of CMIs will be necessary when the annual conference is changed to a different time of year.
- Most of the 2015 Summer Conference information has been removed to prepare for 2016, and current conference information will be pasted as soon as it is available

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS: *Chris Vitakes* reported the following awards that were given at the Summer Conference:

George N. George Awards

- Cecilia Kourtis, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach, California
- Angela Lambrou Watkins, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach, California
- John Mestakides, St. John the Baptist, Anaheim, California
- Mary Futris, St. John the Baptist, Anaheim, California *and* Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach, California

Katherine Trapp Youth Musician Awards

- Jonna Hohenthal, Holy Cross, Belmont, California
- Christian Canellos, Holy Cross, Belmont, California

Patriarch Athenagoras Medals

- Costa Kourtis, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach, California
- Presvytera Maria Hondros, Saint John the Baptist, Las Vegas, Nevada

Saints Cosmas and John the Damascene Icon Award

- Kathy Loukatos Meck, Saint Spyridon, San Diego, California

A discussion ensued over ways that the origins of these awards might be more widely published and understood. Most recently, biographies and the descriptions of the George N. George Award and Kathy Trapp Youth Music Award, along with the descriptions of the Patriarch Athenagoras Medal and the Saints Cosmas and John the Damascene Icon Award have been published in the commemorative albums of the summer conferences. It was suggested that this information be included with the materials sent to parishes in the nominating process.

MUSIC: *Tikey Zes* reported that the CMI at St. Haralambos, Peoria, AZ was cancelled, but that two more CMIs are yet to be held, both on February 6, 2016, at Saint Sophia, Los Angeles, and at Saint

Katherine, Elk Grove.

- *Father Earl Cantos* suggested that an archive of CMI material be posted on the Federation Web Site for each annual CMI theme, to include talks from the priests and lists of music presented and ways to access that music. The Regional Administrators could then suggest these resources to the parishes in their regions.
- In light of the change in the conference calendar, participants discussed the idea of having a yearly CMI theme, but allowing the regions to have their CMI at the most convenient time of the year for them, taking into consideration festivals, etc.

XENIA ANTON DESBY MEMORIAL ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP update:

Kiki Kyriakakis brought a template to the meeting to prepare the new wording for the scholarship. Several good suggestions were made, but because there was no quorum present to vote on it, she will continue to work on it and present proposed new wording at the Summer Business Meeting.

OUTREACH:

Kiki Kyriakakis has been serving parishes of both the Southwest and Northwest regions, calling them, sending e-mail updates, and holiday greeting cards.

Meg Jakovas has been serving the Central Region with calls and e-mail updates, and working on the CMI in Elk Grove. She will be visiting Fresno in person before the Summer Conference.

Marilyne Coats of the Southern California region has been busy organizing and promoting the CMI at Saint Sophia, Los Angeles. She intends to make a personal visit to Bakersfield before the Summer Conference.

In the bay area, *Chris Vitakes* has been working hard try to plan and organize the CMI in his region. Many obstacles kept him from bringing one to fruition this year.

OLD BUSINESS

2015 SUMMER CONFERENCE FINAL REPORT: *Liz Levy* read *Vicky Xikis'* fine report on the conference that appeared in the last issue of the **In-Choir-Er**.

CONFERENCE 2016/2017: *Elizabeth Levy* announced that the 2016 Summer Conference will be hosted by Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church of Castro Valley with the assistance of neighboring

parishes, Thursday, June 23, to Sunday, June 26. The Anna Gallos English/Greek Liturgy will be sung. Final details for organist, chant workshops, and youth activities are still in process. A bay cruise is being explored as the Friday night outing. The 2017 Conference has yet to be scheduled.

YOUTH MUSIC SPECIALIST: Elizabeth Levy reported that our three Youth Music Specialists, Kathy Meck, Athena Mertes, and Amanda Dina Fields, will be meeting together soon plan their outreach and resources to serve the parishes of the Metropolis in building and supporting youth music programs. She noted that Denis Karras of the Chicago Metropolis, could be a valuable resource available through the National Forum.

NEW BUSINESS

- A long and productive discussion ensued over ways to *maximize our communication power*. Although electronic methods are easier, speedier, and less expensive, it was affirmed that hardcopy mailings should continue to be part of the communication outreach to the stewards and those interested in the Federation. The work of *Fareeda Christ* has been significant and appreciated in producing and mailing the twice a year *In-Choir-Er*, but this can often be a stressful experience with so much information coming in to be distributed according to a time-sensitive plan. A lively brainstorming session brought forth many good ideas to optimize our funds in order to reach as many as possible in ways that are effective. *Liz Levy* has been exploring a resource that could produce and mail our hardcopy mailings at a reduced cost. The suggestion that we have more frequent, but smaller mailings was well received, and the board will be looking at the possibility of one larger *In-Choir-Er*, one smaller one, and two one -to-two page mailers to keep the Federation and the good things it provides in the minds of the church music community during the year. Of course, offering good and effective options to people to receive only electronic mailings must also be a part of good planning and logistics for this important aspect of our work.
- In consideration of these communication concerns and the logistical changes necessary when the date of the Conference changes, *Athena Anastos*, initiated a discussion of the re-thinking of the Winter Business Meeting. Good suggestions were entertained for ways that the second meeting of the Federation might be productive and also cost effective. Having an Annual Business Meeting

at the Conference and a one-day “Strategic Planning Retreat” or “Ancillary Business Meeting” could solve difficulties in travel, and the necessity of a quorum at the second meeting. The second meeting is still deemed valuable as it invites the ideas and voices necessary to assist the board in keeping an enriched vision of the Federation’s work.

- The conference calendar changes will require amendments to the Federation By-Laws, and **Liz Levy** appointed a By-Laws Revision Committee to include **Athena Anastos, Barbara Hunt, Gary Nicolau, and Mario DiGiovanni.**
- **Gary Nicolau** encouraged the promotion and solicitation of memorial funds to support the Kathy Trapp award and the youth music outreach. This will be added to the agenda of the Conference Business Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Special Presentation

Athena Anastos announced that the conference scholarship committee would be meeting in the next few weeks to prepare for the summer conference, noting that this is for conference attendance scholarships rather than any other awards and scholarships.

Sarah Gyurkovitz, of St. Demetrios, in Camarillo, California, gave an inspiring presentation on how she has cultivated an impressive youth music program in her parish, where she mentors 26 young people, many of them teens, who sing a modified liturgy in 3 or 4 parts each Sunday. This is the only choir in their parish. She holds two rehearsals each week and supports their outside practice with the creative use of electronic resources.

ADJOURNMENT

With many thanks for the parish hospitality at Assumption we were provided a wonderful catered lunch. Special thanks go to Athena’s mom, who baked delicious *paximathia* for the coffee hour. The meeting was dismissed at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kay Harkins,
Secretary**