

St. John's Greek Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting Agenda

April 24, 2023

6:30 PM

Meeting Location: SJGOC

- A. Prayer, Call to Order and Roll Call of members present.
- B. Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting
- C. Priest's Report/Book Discussion
- D. Officer's Reports
 - 1. President's Report
 - 2. Treasurer's Report
- E. Committee Reports
 - 1. Building & Grounds
 - A. Church Expansion
 - B. Community Center Canopy
 - 2. Stewardship Report
- F. Old Business
 - 1. Aris Spirtos (Pastoral Assistant Candidate)
 - 2. Action Items
- G. Regular Business
 - 1. Insurance
- H. New Business
 - 1. AED Training
 - 2. Festival
 - 3. Clergy Laity June 21-25, 2023
 - 4. Father Stavros 25th Anniversary May 15, 2023
- I. Confirm Date of next PC Meetings:
- J. Adjournment: Closing Prayer

**St. John's Greek Orthodox Church
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2023**

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis
Marilyn Sandborn — Secretary
Amin Hanhan
Suzanne Pileggi
Mike Xenick

John Zelatis — President
Gary Ward — Treasurer
Nick Kazaras
Marcelle Triantafylou

Absent: Rip Panos, Jim Armstrong, Alexis Scarfogliero, Vasili Panagopoulos

A. Prayer, Call to Order and Roll Call of Members present

Fr. Stavros offered the Opening Prayer. The Meeting was called to order by President, John Zelatis at 6:46 pm. The Secretary, Marilyn Sandborn recorded the members present.

B. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

Amin H. made a Motion to Approve the PC Minutes from 2/21/23. Nick K. seconded. Motion carried (unanimous)

C. Priest's Report / Book Discussion — See attached

Fr. Stavros reported that he had participated in the "Be Attentive" conference at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA. He noted that the number of men entering the seminary is diminishing. The Wednesday evening Lenten lectures have been well attended with different ministries provided the dinner following the Pre-Sanctified liturgy. Father said he has been pleased the the young adult group has reorganized and there seems to be good participation. The Women's retreat is scheduled for March 25.

A brief discussion of chapters 12 & 13 of Excellence Wins followed. We will discuss the remaining chapters of the book at the next meeting.

D. Officer Reports

1. President's Report — None
2. Treasurer's Report — See Attached

Treasurer Gary W. reported that one half of the money in the endowment funds had been transferred into money market funds to take advantage the higher interest rates.

E. Committee Reports

1. Building and Grounds
 - A. Church Expansion — no report

G. Regular Business

1. Greek Independence Day Program / Luncheon — March 26

The Parish Council will provide and serve the luncheon (shrimp pasta). Plan for 200 people.

2. Saturday of Lazarus - Breakfast — April 8

A pancake breakfast will be served.

3. Anastasi Service

President John Z. volunteered to prepare another delicious feast following the Anastasi. Parish Council members will help serve. Plan for 150 people

4. Lenten Epistle Readings

Father Stavros asked for volunteers to read during some of the Holy Week services. Several members volunteered for specific days.

5. Insurance Renewal

President John Z. advised that he did not have any of the specifics for the upcoming insurance renewal but that he was told by our agent to expect a premium increase of about 10%. He asked the members to be on the lookout for upcoming information because it could be last minute and will require quick action.

H. New Business

1. Etiquette guidelines

There was discussion that children crying in Church during liturgy can be distracting to others worshipping. We want people to bring their children and babies to Church but there should be a reminder to be considerate and that it is okay to step outside with crying children.

2. Greek School

There was discussion that the other Greek School programs in the area end after the fifth grade. The program offered at St. John's should be similar in that regard.

Marcelle T. made a Motion that the Greek School program should end with the 5th grade. Nick K. seconded. Motion carried (unanimous).

3. Kim Rojas - 90 day review

When Kim Rojas, administrative assistant was hired, it was agreed that she would be eligible for an increase in pay after 90 days if her performance met expectations. A 90 day review will be conducted with Kim, together with Fr. Stavros, John Z., Marilyn S., and Marcelle T.

**Parish Council
Priest Report
April 2023**

Liturgical—In the month of April, there are 32 divine services scheduled. We had our full cycle of Holy Week—20 services in 8 days. Attendance was significantly up for Palm Sunday morning and Anastasi. It was down for Good Friday night. And it was stable for the rest of the days of the week. Special thanks to everyone who helped with Holy Week, especially John for the fabulous feast at the end. For the period of Great Lent, we had 6 adult Chrismations and 1 adult baptism. That is phenomenal. For the month of April, there was one baptism, plus one emergency baptism, two funerals and one wedding. For the month of May, there are two baptisms scheduled along with eleven other divine services. I spent a LOT of time on Holy Week logistics, especially with the choir, also with the altar boys, ushers, maidens, myrrh-bearers, light bearers, and everyone else involved.

Catechism

1. We had a successful women's retreat on Saturday, March 25. 62 women in attendance. I prepared the program for them and was the presenter.
2. Finished the Lenten series on Wednesday nights—we had over 50 people each week stay for this.
3. I continue to lead the women's Bible study each week.
4. The men's group meets once a month on Sundays and engages in discussion—we had 20 men at our last meeting.
5. Young adults—I meet once a month (twice in April) with our young adults for dinner/discussion. At our last meeting we had 26 in attendance and stayed very late at night in a very intense discussion.

Youth

1. Did a GOYA seminar with mothers and daughters on April 2 which was well received.
2. Did a short seminar with GOYAnS on Good Friday
3. Participated in the GOYA retreat in Sarasota on April 21-22
4. JOY Tweens—will be meeting with them this Sunday, April 30, for a lesson.
5. Will start working with Dwight on the Junior Olympics.

Pastoral

1. Heard a lot of confessions this Lent
2. Pastoral care with a child in the hospital, several others who are sick
3. Emergency baptism and then death of a baby, lots of care involved with that.

Looking forward

1. Clergy Laity is in Tarpon Springs in June—we need representation at that.

Away from St. John

1. Beginning to work on summer camp

Good evening, Father Stavros and Parish Council Members of St. John Greek Orthodox Church,

Here is the current Stewardship report thru April 1, 2023.

The numbers are improving slowly. Total Pledged and Unpledged Collected has reached \$405,421.

An analysis of the 147 LYBNT list shows many active families that should be coming in soon. Here is some interesting math.

Total Family's Giving 243

Current LYBNT 147

Total Potential 390

Last year we had 363 TFG. So, we currently have 27 families that are either totally new, or they had been here prior to 2022.

We will run reports again on April 30th. That updated information will match up well with last year's Board report. After seeing how many people were in church on Palm Sunday, we remain optimistic.

Please contact George if you have any questions on the information presented. (813) 748-1220.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Kyrus

George Mitseas