

72nd National Convention Annual Meeting Minutes
Saturday, June 18, 2016
Greenville, SC

Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Laura Nixon and a quorum was verified.

Father Tom Pistolis was not available for the opening prayer.

A moment of silence was observed for our Velouchi's deceased members.

Welcoming remarks were given by Mr. Jimmy Chulkas, Chair of the local convention organizing committee.

Greetings and opening of the General Assembly were given by National President, Mrs. Laura Nixon.

The following officers were elected for the General Assembly:

- Dr. Paul Dallas was elected Chairman of the Assembly
- Mr. Stavros Trestelis was elected Co-Chairman
- Dr. Mary Ann Contogiannis was elected Secretary
- Mr. George Dias was elected Parliamentarian
- A Timekeeper was not elected

The minutes from the 2015 General Assembly were approved with minor editorial/grammatical corrections.

President Nixon gave welcoming remarks with following highlights:

- Website update given
- The Chicago chapter has been reactivated and she was able to visit for their inaugural event
- She is visiting chapters and wants to continue to do so throughout the coming year
- We are working on a directory and need input from all chapters for accurate information
- Our youth group is being reactivated – Katy and Chrysoula Chulkas were recognized for their efforts in this project
- The Humanitarian Aid to Evrytania is a new initiative from the last Board meeting that is being progressed
- There will continue to be an effort to grow chapter membership

Mr. Peter Spero gave the Financial Report for the year 6/01/2015 – 5/31/2016:

- the report was approved.

Mr. Peter Spero then presented the proposed budget for 2016 – 2017:

- the typo on the actual budget dates was to be corrected and the budget was approved.

Mr. Nick Apostolopoulos gave the Evrytanian Foundation report:

- Discussed the DVD account withdrawal and closure
- Mr. Peroulas accounted for \$14,000.00, \$5000.00 went to the Foundation, rest went to general funds
- Report was approved

Mr. Tommy Pappas was scheduled to give the Auditing committee report, however it was tabled to the next BOT meeting because the treasurer was not available.

Mr. James Cavalaris was scheduled to give the Property report however it was tabled to the 1st BOT Property committee meeting as he was unavailable.

President Laura Nixon gave the Mutual Interest and Altruism report:

- there was a candidate that needs help but this discussion was postponed to the next (1st) BOT meeting
- there is a request from a Church in Greece that is "falling apart" and will be discussed in New Business

Mr. Jim N. Kontos, chairman of the Scholarship Committee was not available to give the report so it was given by Mr. Peroulas:

- there were a total of 15 applicants but 2 applicants did not complete their applications; 11 applicants were approved
- a total of \$27,500.00 was awarded through Velouchi association and named scholarships
- Mr. Peroulas briefly reviewed how scholarships are given and the amounts given
- Dr. Mary Ann Contogiannis once again discussed that the Daughters would like to have their own Scholarship instead of being combined with part of a Velouchi scholarship along with the need to Have daughters' representation on the Scholarship Committee for this

Mr. Tom Nixon gave the Children With Special Needs report:

- he will check with the governmental agencies in Evrytania to see if there are more opportunities To identify more applicants

President Laura Nixon discussed plans for 2017 Annual Convention:

- no chapter has yet been identified to accept hosting the 2017 Convention
- the Washington, DC chapter has accepted hosting the 2018 Convention
- report was tabled for now until a host chapter is identified

Mr. Tom Nixon reported on the Raffle:

- 502 tickets have been sold but need to sell more
- Mr. Nixon's motion to hold the actual raffle at the luncheon on Sunday was accepted and approved
- Mr. Chris Kappas raised the question as to whether we should consider using Raffle ticket proceeds Only for the scholarships or if we should also use the funds in our general expenses

The named scholarship report had already been given by Mr. Peroulas in the earlier Scholarship report:

- President Laura Nixon inquired about which funds are to be given to Greece as per previous general Assembly voting

Mr. Jimmy Chulkas gave the Membership report:

- 525 out of 1182 members have paid dues
- There has been a slow decline since 2009
- Those who are not up to date on their dues are still getting publications
- Do we want to drop the names of those members that have not paid dues for 3 years as was Previous voted on? This prompted a discussion focusing on what efforts are there currently to collect Dues, what is the reinstatement process if a member gets dropped, look at the possibility of restructuring our dues, what is the cost of the publications members are receiving, what are the membership categories and benefits, etc.
- This will be further discussed at the 1st BOT meeting of the year.
- There was also a question as to how scholarship eligibility would be affected if a chapter is Reinstated or is a new chapter

Chapter reports were given by Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 16 and 17.

Dr. James Kotsianas submitted a written Investments report.

Old Business:

- Mr. Tom Nixon, Charlotte chapter, reported that their chapter has already paid off the loan for their renovations and so they do not need the 2nd \$5000.00 grant from the Velouchi that had been approved.
- Mr. Chris Kappas, Roanoke chapter, had served on the Blue Ribbon committee and wanted to know how the report had been implemented. President Laura Nixon said this would be looked into and reported back.
- Mr. Gus Barlas, Asheville chapter, asked which items of Old Business from last year's general assembly had been resolved/acted on and a report will be given.
- Mr. Peroulas once again asked chapter to help complete information for an update directory of members.
- An update for the search of a new Executive director was asked for.
- Mr. Nick Apostolopoulos commented that the magazine committee should solicit more ads to help offset the cost of publication.

New Business:

- We will need to have an election of New Evrytanian Foundation Members as there are 3 expiring terms that are to be elected by the General Assembly
- 2 current members are not performing well and after the election of new board members this will be addressed
- The following nominations were made for the 3 Evrytanian Foundation Board members and 2 Alternates, then the nominations were closed and all candidates were voted into office by Acclamation:

- 2) Mr. Gus Kazakos
 - 3) Mr. Jimmy Chulkas
 - 4) Mr. Stavros Trestelis- Alternate
 - 5) Mr. Harry Cavalaris- Alternate
- the Chicago chapter wanted to have the Velouchi consider promoting Greece to members for tourism and vacation.
 - Discussion of future Annual Conventions continued:
 - 1) Motion passed to empower the BOT to work on securing a site for the 2017 Convention
 - 2) Motion passed for BOT to form an exploratory Committee to look at the feasibility of an Annual Convention being held in Greece
 - Discussion then ensued regarding the request from the Church in Greece that was deteriorating and giving funds in general to those who are needy in Greece:

10 Final motion was made and approved for \$15,000.00 to go to the Pantapoulia in Greece with input of our representatives in Greece along with our Association representatives (this reflects an increase from the \$9000.00 that had been previously approved at the BOT meeting in Asheville).

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Contogiannis, M.D.