



74th Annual Convention General Assembly June 15-17, 2018 – Washington DC

MINUTES

- 1. Verification of Quorum**
- 2. Prayer by His Eminence Metropolitan of Karpenisi Georgios**
- 3. Moment of silence for the Velouchi's deceased members**
- 4. Welcoming remarks from Convention Chair & Chapter President, Mr. Sotirios Nasios**
- 5. Greeting and Opening from President Laura Nixon with welcomes to our visitors from Greece and highlighting achievements of 2017-2018 year, including 6 truck loads of food to Evrytania helping over 100 families.**
- 6. Election of General Assembly Officers (Chair, Co-Chair, Sc. Asst Sec. Parliamentarian)**
 - a. Chair: Dr. Paul Dallas
 - b. Co-Chair: Mr. Nick Apostolopoulos
 - c. Parliamentarian: Mr. John Peslis
 - d. Secretary: Ms. Sophia Kazakos; Asst. Secretary: Bobby Tsiabassis
- 7. Recognition of invited guests. Words from His Eminence Metropolitan Georgios**
- 8. Motion by Mr. John Peslis to approve the G.A. 2017 Minutes without reading them passed.**
- 9. Reading of correspondence and greetings by Secretary Mr. Bobby Tsiabassis**
- 10. Constitutional Amendment**
 - a. Motion by National Board to adjust quorum requirement from 40 to 30 persons mirroring the reduction of overall membership.
 - b. 12 against. 9 For. 1 abstain. **Motion failed.**
- 11. Financial Report for the year 2017-2018 by Mr. Kastriches. Financial Report Accepted**
- 12. Auditing Committee Report by Mr. Tommy Pappas. (To Be Added at a later date)**
- 13. Approval of the proposed budget for the year 6/1/18 -5/31/19**
 - a. Mr. Kostas Kazakos – Item #5 under other to be removed for the next year. **Motion does not carry.**
 - b. **Motion by Mr. Apostolopoulos to raise the salary of the Office Secretary to \$40,000/year passed.**
- 14. Evrytania Foundation Report by Mr. Kostas Kazakos.**

Committee Reports

1. Convention 2020 – Mr. Tom Nixon. Hotel is booked, more details to come.
2. Scholarships in USA – Jim Kontos: 13 excellent applicants.
3. Scholarships in Greece – Mr. Larry Peroulas - *Report accepted*
4. Named Scholarships – Mr. Peroulas. *Report accepted*
5. Memberships – Mr. James Chulkas - *Report accepted*

6. Property & Assets – Mr. James Kastriches. New parking lines, new landscaping, new kitchen, painting, and fence around trash. Sophia Kazakos to speak with board and building committee to bring a new sign to the building. *Report accepted*
7. Financial Advisory – Dr. James Kotsianas - *Report accepted*
8. Children with Special Needs – Mr. Tom Nixon. Supporting 10. Have told our partners in Greece, we would love to help more - *Report accepted*
9. Gerokomeio - Mr. Athanasios Nikopoulos. 40 new mattresses and working on an additional 50. Suggests painting outside of building and new windows/doors for insulation as there are AC issues. Wishing for a professional accountant to bring on staff - *Report Accepted*
10. 2018 Raffle – Mr. Tom Nixon 400+ sold. Asks that others bring forth their remaining tickets.
11. Youth Committee – Raised over \$1400 for Hellenic Rescue Team in Greenville. Greek Night June 26th upcoming. Ask for 1-2 names from each chapter under the age of 35 to have events in each Chapter.

New Business.

- Thank you from Greek Scholarship Recipient and Sister City member Chrysoula Ntoufekias
- Nick Apostolopoulos – Motion for \$2,000 to help Mr. Antoniou, an athlete in Alpine skiing.
- Mr. Pelsis asks for friendly motion of 3,000. Counter accepted for friendly amendment of \$3,000 for 1 year's time. **Motion Passed.**
- Nick Apostolopoulos – Motion to give \$2,000 for “Botsareia” event in Karpenisi.
 - Mr. Kazakos asks to add to the motion to also give support in name as an organization of this cause. Priest asks for our love and prayers. **Motion passed.**
- Nick Apostolopoulos asks the Karpenisi Mayor to have the 76th Velouchi Convention in Evrytania. 76th and 77th have been spoken for. Discussion to continue after lunch.

Chapter Reports

#2 “Markos Botsaris” – Fayetteville, NC

- 4 yearly projects. 2 thus far. Feeding hungry, Feeding blind, Booth at International Folk Festival and Palm Sunday event. Thus far roughly 2800 given to various charities.

#3 “O Platanos” – Winston-Salem, NC

- Greek Night Thanksgiving Eve planned. Donations to various charities.

#4 “O Elatos” – Charlotte, NC

- Preparing for Panagia Prosiotisa panigiri. Hoping/planning for more. Most dues paid. Lacking participation.

#5 “To Kleithi” – Burlington, Greensboro, Chapel Hill

- Dissolution of Chapter reported. However, undenounced to some participants in the area. Further discussion for reorganization to follow.

#6 “Athanasios Karpenisiotis” Asheville, NC.

#9 “Kefalovriso” Greenville, SC

- Velouchi Grill at Festival and several events following. Recent mosaic added to church. 109 members and consistent gain over the years!

#10 “Itia” Washington, D.C.

- Success carrying out convention. New events to come. Yearly meeting will be after convention. Once convention is over we will regroup and raise money for the icon screen that will host Panagia Proustissa Icon donated by Bisbikis family.

#13 “Evrytania” Chicago, IL

- Over \$7,000 to schools, Greek school, and hospital in Karpensisi. Want to buy 22 recliners.

#16 “O Katsantonis” New Castle, PA

- Working hard to build members back up and work things through.

#18 “O AgiosTaxiarhis” Camp Hill, PA.

- Have added named scholarships to reward exceptional students in the Chapter.

Old Business

- Director of Executive Search. Appropriate evaluation was done for this position and no one was found largely due to finding a Greek speaking person with the executive leadership. Mr. Peslis: **Motion** to close and not discuss this for now as due diligence was made. Mrs. Nixon seconded. **Motion passed .**
- There was confusion regarding membership of Senior Citizens over 70 years of age. Clarification was made that was for Lifetime membership specific.
 - Mr. Apostolopoulos - **Motion (a)** that everyone continues to pay including those over 70 years old. Friendly amendment follows: **(b)** In addition, widows of those who have passed with membership will remain with member perks and rights for the remainder of life without needing to continue payment. **Motion Passes.**
- **Motion** that those who act as representatives of Velouchi in Greece be allowed to simultaneously be in a political office or committee if they so wish and this will not deter them or remove them from our offices unless. This will eliminate previous motion that our representatives cannot be in political practice. **Motion Passed.**
- Mr. Apostolopoulos: **Motion** that the 2020 Convention be held at Platanos in Karpenisi Greece.
 - Point of clarification. Some from Asheville have accepted 2020 formally. President Mrs, Nixon has confirmed the same with some.
 - Mr. John Peslis asks to remove the motion until this can be clarified.
 - Ask for friendly amendment to put this motion on the agenda for next year 2019 convention. Friendly amendment not accepted by Mr. Apostolopoulos.
 - Second motion amendment that if Asheville does not reconfirm their 2020 spot, we can confirm that 2020 Convention will be in Karpenisi and arrangements will begin for the same. **Motion passed for 2020 Convention in Karpenisi if Asheville declines.**
- Motion by Mr. Tsiabassis: our guests from Greece should become honorary members of Velouchi in America. Motion Passed. These new honorary members are: Metropolitan of Karpenisi Georgios, Vicar General Fr. Ilarionas Liaskos, Fr. Georgios Chrysafogiorgos, Antiperifereiarhis of Evrytania Mr. Aristidis Tasios, Mayor of Karpenisi Mr. Nikolaos Souliotis, Mayor of Agrafa Mr. Theodoros Babalis, and Leonidas Papadopoulos.
- Motion from the National Board of Trustees: Would like to reduce the quota requirement for the Board of Trustees meetings (quarterly meetings) from 11 to 9.
- Motion from Mr. Kostas Kazakos: Call to Vote two new members for Foundation Board after 1 resignation and 1 end of term.
 - **Mr. Kostas Hodges Nominated by Mr. Nixon / seconded/passed**
 - **Mr. Alfred Barefoot Nominated by Mr. Apostolopoulos/seconded / passed**
- Refer to Board to discuss the issue of increasing Scholarships by using moneys from Organization, in addition to the raffle. Request by Chris Canavos
 - Mr. Apostolopoulos sees decline in raffle selling and would like board to address and change the process and ideas such as mailing a ticket to be bought so we can raise selling of raffles.
 - Mr. Kazakos would like to consider also that in contrast the national give the scholarship moneys and then whatever is raised can supplement that.
 - More ideas to be uncovered in ad-hoc committee and national board discussions – in discussion with existing scholarship committee.
- For the good of the order:
 - Chicago. Thanks the Board and committee.
 - Mr. Peroulas thanks guests and Washington DC President Sotirios Nasios.
- Motion to adjourn of meeting at 2:17PM. Meeting closed.

*Respectfully submitted by the
General Assembly Secretary
Elizabeth Kazakos*