

**EASTERN FEDERATION OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS**  
**Federation Council Meeting Minutes**

**Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church**  
**Holmdel, NJ**

**October 3, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by President Drucie Papafil at 4:50 pm.

The **Roll Call of Delegates** was read by Secretary Virginia Botsis. 16 Choirs and 12 Board Members were present and eligible to vote. Total voting strength for the meeting was 28.

District I (MD) – Annapolis, Baltimore Annunciation, Bethesda, Falls Church

District II (VA) – Norfolk, Richmond

District III (NJ) – Asbury Park, Holmdel, Perth Amboy, Piscataway,  
Trenton/Hamilton, Westfield, Staten Island

District IV (Gtr PHL) – Broomall, Media, Upper Darby

Board Members – Kathryn Athanasoulas, Sondra Awad, Katherine Birnbaum, Virginia Botsis, Marie Devino, Katina Doulis, Kay Kehayas, Nick Kyrus, Paul Mavromihalis, Fifi Nichols, Drucie Papafil, Pamela Sande

The **minutes** of the 2013 Council Meeting were distributed in the Council packets and approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report** – Paul Mavromihalis reported a balance of \$4,976.22 in the checking account. He explained that we are moving from a 2-year to a 1-year budget. The proposed Budget for FY 2015 was presented. A motion was made by Marie Devino and seconded by Miriam Kotsonis to approve the Treasurer's Report and proposed Budget. Motion passed.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Scholarship** – Drucie reported for Chair Maria Keritsis. Balance in the Anna Gallos Scholarship Account 6/30/14 was \$38,200.41, of which \$1,560.36 is cash. Balance in the Mitchum Scholarship Account 6/30/14 was \$5,865.97, of which \$620.17 is cash. Scholarship Committee members are Fifi Nichols, Hope Demitry, Nick Kyrus and Maria Keritsis, Chair. The Committee selected Nikitas Conrad of Richmond, VA, to receive a \$1,000 Gallos Scholarship. Nikitas attends Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Administration** – Chair Kay Kehayas reported that her committee (Kathryn Athanasoulas and Hope Demitry) has no recommendations at this time. During the coming year they will look at the Bylaws, Guidelines for Conferences, and Policy and

Procedure for selecting Conference music and guest conductors and make recommendations.

**Communications** – Chair Nick Kyrus reported that the First Mode will be revived and sent electronically. He explained how ListServ works and encouraged all choir directors to have their choir members register or to register them on their behalf. Currently there are 95 subscribers out of a database of 1,000. Nick also explained the process for member recognition, started in 2001. Since then 300 church musicians have sent in forms. The form is on the web site and is included in the Conference materials sent every year.

**Youth** – Chair Sondra Awad reported that they are working on the Hymnology with the Religious Education Department of the Archdiocese. It will be integrated into the religious education curriculum and not an addition.

**Database** – Chair Susan Karcanes reported that she has received 9 choir rosters to date and requested that others send them to her so that the database can be updated. Next year the Rosters will be sent to each choir director via email in August, separate from the dues notice, and will include a Years of Service form.

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

Drucie introduced each District Supervisor: Katina Doulis, District I (MD), Katherine Birnbaum, District II (VA), Marie Devino, District III (NJ), and Pamela Sande, District IV (Greater PHL). The District Reports are in the packets and were not read aloud.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Drucie read her report for the year, highlighting the youth initiative, the Metropolis Clergy Laity Meeting, the National Forum Meeting in Philadelphia, the EFGOCM Website, and the Annual Conference.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Church Music Institute**

Hope Demitry announced the Church Music Institute (CMI) the New Jersey District is planning for March 21, 2015, at St. George Church, Trenton, NJ. The clinicians will be Marina Alexander and Valerie Karras.

### **Joint Conference with DAD**

Drucie introduced Anna Dounelis, President of the Direct Archdiocesan District, and Rev. Fr. Chrysostomos Gilbert, Spiritual Advisor to DAD. (DAD includes Long Island, half of NY State, Connecticut, District of Columbia, and the Bahamas.) Father Chysostomos spoke enthusiastically about the positive aspects of a joint Conference with EFGOCM, DAD's closest neighbor. Other Federations have grown stronger with the bonds established by doing this. (e.g., Denver and San Francisco, Denver and

Chicago) It inspires not just parishioners, but also the choir participants, and it brings “fire” back into the communities.

Discussion followed and Drucie asked for interest to pursue this for 2016. A steering committee with members from both groups will explore this further. Considerations will include: selection of music/conductor, host community, permission by hierarchs, format of Conference. Council members voiced concerns and raised questions but were overall interested in the concept.

A motion was made by Kay Kehayas that a Steering Committee be appointed to explore a joint conference with DAD for 2016. Second by Adam Birnbaum. Discussion. Motion passed.

EFGOCM Bylaws require votes by the Council on certain items, and this can be done electronically at the appropriate time.

### **Music Selection/Conductor for 2016**

The Council votes for music and conductor two years ahead at each Conference. Kathryn Athanasoulas, Chair, was prepared to present the nominations. Because of the previous discussion for 2016, a motion was made by Hope Demitry and seconded by Fifi Nichols that the 2016 selection of music and conductor be tabled until 2015. Discussion. Motion passed by 2/3 vote.

### **Conference Site for 2015**

Drucie read a letter from Annunciation Cathedral Norfolk requesting to host the Conference in 2015. There were no other bids. Bid from Norfolk was accepted.

### **Elections**

Elections Chair Hope Demitry presented the slate of officers for 2014-2016:

President – Paul Mavromihalis

Vice President – Fotini Nichols

Secretary – Miriam Kotsonis

Treasurer – Adam Birnbaum

There were no nominations from the floor. Hope cast a unanimous ballot for the slate presented. Council approved.

District Supervisors were elected by their respective Districts. The results were:

District I (MD) – Katina Doulis

District II (VA) – Katherine Birnbaum

District III (NJ) – Marie Devino

District IV (Gtr PHL) – Pamela Sande

### **Good of the Federation**

Helen Beldecos requested that in addition to the Budget the Treasurer present a report of receipts and expenses at the Council Meeting.

Outgoing officers Drucie Papafil, President, and Virginia Botsis, Secretary, were thanked for their two terms of service to the Federation. Drucie thanked Marie Devino, Chair, the members of her Committee, and the Kimisis Tis Theotokou Community for hosting this year's Conference.

Motion to adjourn by Marie Devino. Second by Miriam Kotsonis. Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Botsis  
Secretary

Note: Copies of all Reports are attached to original minutes.