



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

**Annunciation Cathedral
Norfolk, VA**

October 2, 2015

The meeting was **called to order** by President Paul Mavromihalis at 4:53 pm.

The **Roll Call of Delegates** was read by Secretary Miriam Kotsonis. 12 Choirs and 12 Board Members were present and eligible to vote. Total voting strength for the meeting was 24.

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

District II (VA) – Newport News, Norfolk, Richmond

District III (NJ) – Asbury Park, Holmdel, Piscataway, Trenton/Hamilton, Westfield

District IV (Gtr PHL) – None present

Board Voting Members –Sondra Awad, Adam Birnbaum, Katherine Birnbaum, Marie Devino, Katina Doulis, Kay Kehayas, Maria Keritsis, Miriam Kotsonis, Nick Kyrus, Paul Mavromihalis, Fifi Nichols, Drucie Papafil

OFFICERS' REPORTS

The **Minutes** of the 2014 Council Meeting were distributed in the Council packets. Athena Savvas moved to approve as written, Marie Devino seconded, and the motion was passed by the Council.

President's Report - Paul read his report for the year, extending his appreciation to all those who have advanced such initiatives as the EFGOCM website, the revived newsletter, and continuing education, as well as those who led and hosted Annual Conferences in 2014 and 2015. He also highlighted EFGOCM representation at the Metropolis Clergy Laity Meeting and the National Forum Meeting in Indianapolis. He shared information for two upcoming 2016 Church Music Institutes (CMIs): February 13 in Richmond and April 9 in Broomall. These events will be publicized several months beforehand.

Treasurer's Report – Adam Birnbaum reported a balance of \$318.78 in the checking account (with an outstanding obligation to reimburse travel expenses that makes the actual balance negative). A proposed balanced Budget for FY 2016 was presented and included in Council participants' packets. Adam requested approval with the understanding that when actual receipts from the conference and all dues are available (in about 60 days), he will once again balance expenses against the actual receipts, and if needed, propose adjustments to the Board. He said the largest expenses are for long-distance travel to the National Forum and Metropolis Clergy Laity

Meetings. Such reimbursements will have to be reduced in 2016 to match the available income. Marie Devino moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and proposed Budget, Maria Keritsis seconded, and the motion was passed.

DISTRICT REPORTS

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scholarship – Maria Keritsis reported that approximately \$3,000 had been donated to the Gallos Scholarship in memory of Anna Gallos, who passed away earlier this year. Details of all balances were included in the packets. Scholarship Committee members are Fifi Nichols, Hope Demitry, Nick Kyros and Maria Keritsis, Chair. This year, the Committee selected Elias Kotsis of Holmdel, NJ, to receive a \$1,000 Gallos Scholarship. Elias has begun his studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Communications – Chair Nick Kyros reported that the First Mode has been revived by Drucie Papafil and is being sent electronically via ListServ. He polled the group and found that almost everyone there is currently receiving notifications from ListServ. Nick also explained the process for member recognition, started in 2001, and awarded the 10-year certificates during the meeting. For recipients attending the Conference, 25-year certificates would be awarded at the Friday dinner, and 50-year certificates at the Saturday banquet. Other recipients would receive their certificates by mail or from a member of the choir present at the Conference.

Administration – Chair Kay Kehayas reported that her committee (Kathryn Athanasoulas and Hope Demitry) has worked with President Paul Mavromihalis to revise the Bylaws into a Charter that is consistent with current banking requirements. To do this, administrative items that need to be readily changeable were moved into a Procedural Guide. During the coming year they may make recommendations for updates to the Guidelines for Conferences and the Policy and Procedures for Selecting Conference Music and Guest Conductors. Members of the Council are invited to offer suggestions to the Committee.

Youth – Chair Sondra Awad reported that there has been substantial progress on the incorporation of hymns into the Religious Education curriculum. This has been completed, with major input from the National Forum, and the first publication (5th grade curriculum) will be forthcoming as soon as the new English translation of the Liturgy is released. The challenge remains to involve youth in liturgical music.

Continuing Education – Chair Miriam Kotsonis reported that this Committee had been established in 2015 to enhance learning opportunities for our members. She also shared key results of a survey distributed at registration (48 responses; 65% attendee response rate):

- Most preferred topic: How to sing together beautifully as a choral group
- Preferred CMI formats:

- At annual conferences: Distributed over the days (54%), though there was moderate support for all afternoon Thursday (31%)
- In home districts: Morning through mid-afternoon with lunch (58%)
- On-line learning: Strong interest in recorded presentations (70%)

ADDITIONAL REPORT: National Forum Chairman Maria Keritsis

Maria gave a brief update on the progress of the National Forum initiatives, resulting in versions of hymns and responses that can be sung congregationally (the “Oli Mazi” work). This effort is essentially complete and awaiting final approval by the Holy Synod. Maria emphasized that choirs remain valued contributors to the Liturgy, and that the purpose of this work is to increase engagement of the congregation by making it easier for them to learn and selectively participate.

OLD BUSINESS

Music/Conductor Selection (Committee: Kathryn Athanasoulas/Nick Kyrus)

Earlier in the day, Nick had distributed candidate music to the attendees, so that they could sing and hear selected pieces prior to the meeting. For this year only, decisions were needed for two years. Prior to the vote, President Paul Mavromihalis relayed the request of our Metropolitan that we select more traditional Liturgies over which he would prefer to preside.

2016 Music/Conductor

The selections for 2016 included Gallos IV; Expanded Workshop Format; Desby; Kypros Liturgy of Hope. Voting results by roll call: **Desby** 14, Kypros (Hope) 6, Gallos IV 4, Expanded Workshop 0.

Candidates for conductor were Fifi Nichols, Paul Mavromihalis, Nick Kyrus, Evie Simon, Renee Root, and Chris Kypros. Result of ballot vote: **Fifi Nichols**.

2017 Music/Conductor

The designated selections for 2017 included Gallos IV, Desby, and the Expanded Workshop Format. After a brief discussion, Hope Demitry moved that we suspend the Bylaws this year only for the purposes of expanding the choices for the 2017 Liturgy. Fifi Nichols seconded, and the Council agreed unanimously. Selections were solicited from the floor. Additional selections included Kypros Liturgy of Hope, Gallos II with the new English translation, and the Kypros Liturgy of Peace. Hope moved to close the nominations, Adam Birnbaum seconded, and the Council agreed. Voting results by roll call: **Gallos IV** 11, Kypros (Hope) 9, Gallos II 3, Kypros (Peace) 1. The remaining selections did not receive any votes.

Candidates for conductor were Fifi Nichols, Paul Mavromihalis, Nick Kyrus, Evie Simon, Renee Root, and Chris Kypros. Result of ballot vote: **Nick Kyrus**.

Future Conference Sites: No bids have been received for 2016 or 2017. Richmond has expressed interest in the 2018 Conference. Paul will work with several candidate churches to ascertain the next Conference locations.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Bylaws/Charter Amendments

The Bylaws were reformatted into a Charter that would meet current banking requirements. Detailed and more changeable information was extracted and placed into a Procedural Guide. The Council reviewed the new Charter, formatted to show all additions, changes, and items moved out to the Procedural Guide. Comments and votes to accept the Charter were taken page by page.

Page	Motion to Accept	Second	Vote (unanimous)
1	Kay Kehayas	Hope Demitry	aye
2	Kay Kehayas	Drucie Papafil	aye
3	Maria Keritsis	Drucie Papafil	aye
4	Loretta Kirk	Pauline Aridas	aye
5	Drucie Papafil	Maria Keritsis	aye
6	Kay Kehayas	Adam Birnbaum	aye

All six pages were accepted unanimously by the Council. It was suggested that a provision be added for special circumstances to permit an override that would expand the selection of music (Art. VII, Section 3 (Music Review Committee), Paragraph (b)). Paul referred this to the Administration Committee for review.

Dues Structure

Paul stated that it had been many years since annual dues were increased. After discussion of our financial needs, the budget limitations of individual parish choirs, and the need for choirs that are not current with their dues to become current, Drucie Papafil made a motion to increase the dues from \$100 to \$125, Fifi Nichols seconded, and the Council approved.

Good of the Federation

There was a comment from the floor noting that many EFGOCM members were planning to attend the November Direct Archdiocesan District Federation Conference in Manhattan. There was also a suggestion that the Federation consider putting on a concert of Chris Kypros' Music.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Meares and seconded by Kay Kehayas. The Council approved and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Kotsonis
Secretary

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