

NAC Fellowship of St. John the Divine  
General Assembly  
Archdiocese Convention July 22, 2003  
Miami Beach, FL

President, Gigi Shadid  
Vice-President: Michael Deschenes (not present)  
Treasurer: Michael Srour  
Secretary: Claudia Zain

**Call to Order:** 10:30am with a prayer by Father John Nosal

The meeting began with a workshop on various topics concerning the Fellowship. After the workshop, Fr. John Nosal, the Spiritual Advisor, made his comments and spoke about the vision of the Fellowship in relation to worship. Fellowship could take on the task of facilitating a better understanding among the congregation of the importance of daily worship so church services can be better attended.

Gigi spoke of St. John the Divine and how he is one of the few saints who is depicted as both a child and as an adult (she used the icon as an example) and how this fits perfectly with what the Fellowship is and who it is trying to minister to.

Gigi presented the Fellowship of St. John the Divine pins, visors and the new banner to be used at Fellowship meetings and functions. She then spoke about the need to be unified by a common logo and perhaps creating a banner for each region. John Moses of Wilkes-Barre, PA from the Eastern Region volunteered his services to help with the banner project since he has a business that makes banners and other similar materials.

**Minutes from the Mid-Winter Meeting at the Antiochian Village:** were presented by Claudia Zain and a motion to approve the minutes was made by Julie Abboud and seconded by Father John Nosal. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Michael Srour presented the treasurer's report as of July 15, 2003. Discussion took place about the need for NAC to sponsor projects; Gigi suggested NAC sponsor a banner for each region. Hanney Kalyoussef from the Eastern Region motioned to accept the report, Motion passed.

At 12:45 the meeting adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 2:00pm.

**Food for Hungry People Report:** Gigi reminded people to turn in their boxes in a timely manner.

**Oratorical Report:** Julie Abboud presented the report including rules for tiebreakers, emergency judges and topic suggestions (report on file).

His Grace, Bishop BASIL entered the meeting.

A lengthy discussion then took place regarding the number of participants allowed from each church and if there should be restrictions. Eastern region had over twenty orations this year. In the end, Gigi suggested that the oratorical coordinator should propose that if the number of contestants exceeds a certain number, parishes should have a runoff. In addition, the orations must therefore be received well in advance of the Conference.

Kathy Snyder made a suggestion that the rules be put on the website under Fellowship as well as youth department.

**Library Project Report:** Gigi said we need to get as many books in as many libraries as possible by 2004.

**Special Projects Coordinator:** Sonia Daly presented her report stating that all parishes will be sent a resource manual courtesy of the NAC Fellowship. Michael Srour motioned that we send \$250.00 to the OCA as a thank you for allowing us to reproduce the manual. Adam Roberts seconded the motion. Motion passed. She also reported that the Young Adult Conferences will now alternate being hosted by us and the Greek Archdiocese. This year it will be Columbus Day weekend and it will be hosted by the Greek Archdiocese.

**Conference Planning:** George Dirani spoke on needing more input as far as why people are not attending. The results of the Task Force were presented to him and Julie Abboud suggested that invitation only events not be printed on the schedule.

**Website:** Fr. Nabil Hanna presented his report on the frustration that has been felt with regard to the forthcoming database and website. Father Nabil will present his report to the department and see where to go from here. We may need to resort to legal options with the company that we contracted to do the work.

Father Michael Abdelahad said there is no reason to put any further funds into the project until we know what the will of the Metropolitan and the Archdiocese is.

Discussion turned to the future of regional camps. Gigi asked the question, "Should NAC Fellowship have a regional camp coordinator to work with the Archdiocese on regional camps?"

There was also discussion about a monthly NAC entry in *The Word* magazine. Everyone thought this was a positive idea. The secretary will be in charge of coordinating entries.

**Mid-winter Meeting:** NAC received the blessing of Metropolitan PHILIP to hold the NAC Mid-winter Meeting in even numbered years at a location other than the Antiochian Village. The Wyndham Dallas North hotel in Dallas, TX was chosen as the location for February 2004. The rate is \$65.00/night.

**Fellowship Brochure:** Father Christopher Holwey suggested that the word “volunteer” be removed from the brochure because the Church is not a volunteer organization, but rather our home.

**Christian Education:** Carol Buleza discussed the new textbook, *The Way, The Truth and The Life* for high school or 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes. It is highly suggested that our children go through and complete this program and that when all the exams are passed; they are presented with an award of some kind. Alan Abraham suggested the awards be presented at Parish Life Conferences. Carol would like to make the book part of the library package.

**SOYO Report:** The teens spoke about their *Saint John Chrysostom Youth Worker Scholarship* to help people studying youth ministry. The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch has agreed to match whatever SOYO raises for this scholarship.

**2003-2004 Budget:** Michael Srour presented the budget for the fiscal year ending July 31, 2004. Budget changes are on file. Peter Samore of Western Region moved to accept the budget as amended and Father Michael Abdelahad seconded the motion. Motion passed.

It was also suggested that there be a one time fund from NAC to each region to help pay for spiritual activities or workshop speakers.

Kathy Snyder of the Midwest Region made a motion that \$1000.00 be allotted to each region and it was seconded by Father Joseph Abud. Discussion followed. Kathy then amended her motion to be for \$500.00 rather than \$1000. A line item of \$3500.00 was added to the new budget.

A vote was then taken on the new budget as amended and it passed.

**Elections:** A motion was made by Peter Samore of Western Region and seconded by Father Michael Abdelahad to re-elect the current Executive Board for two more years. Father Michael Abdelahad then moved to close the nominations. Father Joseph Abud seconded the motion and both motions passed.

Gigi asked for suggestions for a new Special Projects Coordinator.

Father John spoke about how the Fellowship can change and be effective so that we can reflect our Orthodoxy and inspire people to “come watch the fire.”

Father Joseph Abud moved to adjourn and seconded by the entire body at 5:00pm.

Father John Nosal gave a closing prayer.