

*Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York*

**SOYO Fall Delegates Meeting - Minutes**

Hosted by St. Elias, Syracuse NY

Friday October 27, 2006 – Saturday October 28, 2006

- I. Meeting called to order** **8:23**  
**II. Opening Prayer: Father Terence Baz**  
**III. Introductions of Officers**

President: Caroline El-Chaâr  
Vice President: Caleb Smith  
Secretary: Hala Sawalha  
Youth Director: Ramia Ibrahim  
Youth Advisor: Fr Terence Baz  
Treasurer: Maria Saikali (Absent)

**IV. Icebreaker: Hala Sawalha**

**V. Roll Call: see attached**

**VI. Parish Binders**

Caroline El-Chaâr handed out and explained binders

**VII. Reading of the minutes 2006 PLC: Hala Sawalha**

Motioned by: Alex Habib  
Seconded by: Erin Kensinger

**VIII. Old Business** **8:48**

**A. Treasurers Report: Caleb Smith for Maria Saikali**

Dues paid by:  
St. Nicholas, Montreal  
St. Antonio, Halifax  
St. George, Niagara Falls  
St. Elias, Ottawa

Unpaid for 06/07 by:  
St. George, Montreal  
Virgin Mary, Montreal  
St. Michael, Geneva  
St George, Niagara Falls  
St. Elias, Syracuse  
St. Antonio, Halifax  
St. Mary, Mississauga  
St. Ignatius, Windsor  
SS. Peter and Paul, Charlottetown

Unpaid for 05/06:  
St. Michael, Geneva  
St. Mary, Mississauga  
St. Ignatius, Windsor

**B.** Chapter Reports

St. Elias, Ottawa – Andrea Ibrahim  
St. George, Montreal – Alex Habib  
St. Mary, Mississauga – Rean Sayegh  
St. George, Niagara Falls – Erin Kensinger  
St. Elias, Syracuse – Andrew Jabaji  
St. Michael, Geneva – Brianna Michalko

*His Grace Bishop Alexander joined us*

**9:05**

**C.** Youth Month/ Special Olympics

Everyone received packages  
Caroline explained S.O. and Tag Day  
No checks have been received yet  
Father Terence explained the transition to HSBC, so there is  
international banking and checks can be deposited faster.

Using the icons to fundraise:  
Father David told his idea about mounting the icons on molding and  
then cutting them up so that they can stand on their own to be  
displayed

**IX. Break** **9:15**

Return from break **9:26**

**X. Spiritual Reflections: Ramia Ibrahim**

The importance of Living the Orthodox Faith in Christ through Worship, Witness, Service and Fellowship

“The harder you work, the harder you pray, the more you want to be drawn to God, the more people will see that you want to be close to Christ, people are seeing the Light of Christ in you.”

Ramia read an excerpt from The Ascetic of Love a book about Mother Gavrilia

**9:44**

*His Grace Bishop Alexander spoke about the importance of living a holy life and training ourselves not to succumb to distractions.*

**XI. New Business** **9:53**

**A.** Leadership Training and Summer Meetings 2006

*Our Diocese board went to the village this summer and participated in meetings with the executives from all the other dioceses.*

- Caroline spoke about the duties of Presidents.
- Caleb spoke about the duties of Vice Presidents.
- Caleb spoke about the duties of Treasurers (Maria absent).
- Hala spoke about the duties of Secretaries.

**B.**

If you want to be an officer on the Diocesan level then you *must* be present at the Leadership Training Meetings in Montreal in July

Parish Life Conference 2007 – St. Elias, Syracuse

Thursday, June 28 – Sunday, July 1. 2006

Archdiocese Convention 2007- Montreal

July 23-29

C. Departement of Camping Ministry

10:08

Khalil Samara, from the Antiochian Village, talked about the camping programs and encouraged everyone to come to camp in order to benefit from the programs at the Diocesan and/or Archdiocesan level.

Even if you can't volunteer the whole summer, you're always welcome to volunteer for a single session.

There is also the possibility of volunteering at the Special Olympics Camp.

D. Communication

Caroline talked about how she wants to make sure all the parishes can talk with one another.

1. Contact Information sheets

Important to fill out the Executive Board Form and send it to a delegate.

2. Websites

**DOCUNY SOYO:**

*<http://www.antiochian.org/soyo/ottawa>*

join the Yahoo! Groups Mailing List (docuny\_soyo)

**DOCUNY :**

*<http://www.antiochian.org/canam>*

**NAC SOYO :**

*<http://www.antiochian.org/soyo>*

**ARCHDIOCESE:**

*[www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org)*

3. Newsletter: Hala Sawalha

Ideas → prayers and such relating to current events

→ upcoming events

→ ask Abouna

→ Prayer List

Newsletter Committee Formed: Hala Sawalha, Chair

4. Monthly check ups

Keep in touch with Caroline so we can all know what is going on in each parish and make sure things are running smoothly. Talk to her at least *once a month*.

5. PLC Chapter Report (detailed for Awards)

Must hand in complete reports *by June 14<sup>th</sup> 2006*

**E.** Retreat(s)

St. Elias Ottawa is hosting an overnight retreat 12/22 – 12/23  
“In the World not of the World” with guest speaker David Jacobs.  
RSVP by 12/1

**F.** Fundraising for the Diocese – Caleb Smith

Ideas:

Auction

Fashion Show

Each parish donates a basket and brings it to the conference to raffle

Everyone is interested in the above raffle

Sweatshirts Committee

Alex Habib – prices and company

Jesse Smith – design

Brianna Michalko – prices and company

**G.** Orthodoxy in the Community

1. Pan-Orthodox Events: Hala Sawalha

Getting in contact with neighboring Orthodox churches and speak to parish Priests to communicate and share events and activities on the Pan-Orthodox level.

2. Diocesan OYO Event: Ramia Ibrahim

Living our Faith in Christ; each and every teen from through the diocese are to come to a city to do a service event there. Possibly Montreal in May 2007; weekend long experience.

*SOYO Awareness Committee- to help inform the younger kids in the church to show them what SOYO is about and encourages them to want to join.*

**H. Education Month/ Youth Worker Fund: Caroline El-Chaar**

She reminded us that Education Month is in January and that we will be raising money for the Youth Worker Fund. Informative packages will be sent out in advance.

**XII. Question Period**

No questions

**XIII. Closing Remarks:**

- A.** Youth Director: Ramia Ibrahim
- B.** Spiritual Advisor: Father Terence Baz
- C.** President: Caroline El-Chaar

**XIV. Closing Prayer: Father Terence Baz**

*Meeting officially closed*

**11:12**

*Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York*

**SOYO Fall Delegates Meeting – Roll Call**

Hosted by St. Elias, Syracuse NY

Friday October 27, 2006 – Saturday October 28, 2006

St. Elias Cathedral, Ottawa, ON	___3___
St. George Church, Montreal, QC	___3___
St. Nicholas Church, Montreal, QC	___0___
St. Mary Church, Montreal, QC	___0___
St. Antonios Church, Halifax, NS	___0___
Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Charlottetown, PEI	___0___
St. George Church, Richmond Hill, ON	___0___
St. Mary Church, Mississauga, ON	___1___
St. Ignatius of Antioch church, Windsor, ON	___0___
St. George Church, South Glens Falls, NY	___0___
St. George Church, Niagara Falls, NY	___1___
St. Elias Church, Syracuse, NY	___3___
St. Michael Church, Geneva, NY	___2___