

NAC Fellowship of St. John the Divine
Mid Winter Meeting
February 2 - 4, 2007

NAC Fellowship
Members Present

Joan Farha – President
Jane Tadros – Vice President
Julie Abboud – Special Projects

Father John Nosal – Spiritual Advisor
Robert Bayouk – Treasurer
Elaina Matook - NASB Chair

Diocese of Worcester and New England

Jamil Samara –President
Fr. Michael Abdelahad – Spiritual Advisor

Diocese of Miami and the South East

Dan Kevorkian – President

Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America

Fr. Paul Hodge – Spiritual Advisor
Ralph Nava – delegate
Mark Morrow – delegate

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

Kyra Pelachik – President

Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate NY

Nicholas El-laham – President
Fr. Paul Solberg – Spiritual Advisor

The Diocese of New York and Washington DC

The Diocese of Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic

Michael Kabbash – President
Fr. Joseph Butts – Spiritual Advisor
Maha Kabbash – Delegate
Randa Munayyer – Delegate

Diocese of Toldeo and the Midwest

Joe Zogaib – President
Fr. Joe Abud – Spiritual Advisor

The meeting began at 7:45 pm with introductions by President Joan Farha. We were led in prayer by Father John Nosal.

The first few minutes of the meeting were spent by introducing all participants of the meeting.

The minutes from the 2006 NAC Summer Meeting held at the Antiochian Village were presented and reviewed. Father Paul Hodge made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Randa Munayyer. Motion carried.

President's report: Joan Farha

Joan welcomed everyone again and expressed her joy at seeing everyone at these meetings.

- An invitation was sent to 18 local parishes in hopes that they would join us Saturday morning for breakfast and our workshop presented by Father John Nosal. We are planning on a couple of visitors.
- There have been conference calls shared between the executive board members, and also at other times with the diocese presidents. These calls have been very beneficial to all participants and help all to stay connected. They will continue as the year progresses.
- Father John Nosal will present a workshop Saturday morning at 9:00 entitled "Standing By the Door".
- The goals that were set in the summer are being followed and hopefully all goals will be fulfilled by the summer. Refer to the spreadsheet provided by Joan if you are unsure of your goals and action.
- Gigi Shadid and Father John Nosal are acting as our nominating committee. If anyone is interested in running for a NAC office they should contact either one of them.

Treasurer's report: Robert Bayouk

The treasurer's report was distributed and reviewed. The only discussion on the report was that there would be additional explanation of the diocesan assessments later in the meeting. Mark Morrow made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Michael Kabbash. Motion carried.

The Bishop's Blessing

At this time we were blessed with the visit of his Grace Bishop Thomas. He welcomed all participants. A discussion followed about the possibility of changing the location of our Winter Meetings. More discussion will follow.

North American Student Board (NASB) – Elaina Matook and Father Anthony Yazge

- The NASB distributed a gift around Christmas to all college students. The gift is from both NASB and the NAC Fellowship. This year they ran into some unforeseen difficulty with shipping and the cost was considerably higher than normal.
- Goals for NASB diocese leaders are to provide communication between NASB and diocesan fellowships. They should be at all delegates meetings and conferences.
- There is an application process to becoming a representative that needs to be clarified to all dioceses.
- Each diocese is asked to contribute money to the NASB towards sending out the gifts. It is being recommended by the NASB that each diocese be assessed a certain amount based on their size – Dioceses of Toledo, Wichita and Los Angeles will be asked to contribute \$500.00, the others will be asked to give \$300.00 for a total of \$2700.00.
- Their biggest challenge is keeping the college student's names current.

After the report was given discussion followed about difficulties with the NASB. There is a significant communication issue between the NASB and the local diocese. Some of the dioceses did not contribute towards the gift this year which left a deficit in the NASB. Therefore, they are unable to meet this year as planned.

Father Paul Hodge made a motion that NAC approves the total amount of \$2,700 in total, which is to be broken down evenly among each diocese, be collected annually and given to the NASB for the funding of student gifts. This motion was seconded by Mark Morrow. Motion defeated.

It was suggested instead that the NASB should come up with a budget amount for gifts which will be presented to the NAC at the summer meeting. The distribution of each diocese contribution will be discussed at that time.

Father Joe Abud made a motion for NAC Fellowship to give the NASB a one time gift of \$2,500 so that they can have a meeting this year. Father Michael Abdallahad seconded the motion, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Reports were reviewed.

Bible Bowl:

- Presidents please have coordinators from each diocese please contact Ester and give her contact information
- Passport rules are important as stated in her report, however, diocese should not require proof of passport for participation in the festival

It was recommended that no “roving” trophy be purchased for the winners. The plaque can stay in the archives at the Antiochian Village Center where winning names can be added each year. An icon can be given to the winning team.

Each diocese should consider funding to help your bible bowl team and oratorical winners attend the convention in Montreal. Keep in mind that NAC offers a \$500.00 Humanitarian grant which could be used for this purpose. All grant requests should be sent to Jane Tadros for review.

Food for Hungry People:

- Report accepted as presented.

Oratorical Festival:

- Report accepted with the stipulation that you can not enforce passport rules.

Special Projects: Julie Abboud

- Inserts – the department of camping insert has been distributed. The next one is the Department of Christian Education which will be sent out soon. Thank you to Michael Kabbash for his help with this project.
- NAC will be taking out a ½ page ad in every diocese for the PLC ad journal and a full page ad for the Archdiocese convention.

OCMC:– Kenny Kidd

Kenny gave a presentation on the Orthodox Christian Mission Center which exists to compliment work for missions and outreach in parishes and in our diocese.

Some of the great work the OCMC does is “Support a Mission Priest Program” which sends monetary assistance to any priests doing missionary work in other countries. These priests do amazing work spreading orthodoxy.

Saturday February 3, 2007

In the morning we were led in discussion and reflection by Father John Nosal. This was a wonderful time for the membership to share thoughts and experiences. We appreciated the opportunity for spiritual and personal growth. Thank you Father John.

The Fellowship then participated in a joint session with all groups present. All organizations shared their growth, goals, and plans for the remainder of the year.

Meeting was reconvened at 2:30 pm

The remainder of the diocese gave their report and discussed their individual successes and struggles.

Joan presented an issue of a bill that was given to her by Father Joseph Purpura to help cover the mailing costs for the Oratorical and Bible Bowl Festivals. This expense was researched and used to be a line item on the budget, but was no longer on the budget and has not been given to us for the last couple of years. Randa made a motion seconded by Fr. Paul Hodge to pay a bill that was given to the NAC fellowship by Fr. Joseph Purpura to help pay for the costs of mailings for Oratorical and bible bowl festivals. Motion passed to pay the bill (\$503.00) but will not be put into the budget until discussed with Fr. Joseph in more detail as to what the money is used for.

Father Michael gave a brief description of his mission trip to Alaska which he attended with Joan Farha and Robin Haas. He made a plea for everyone to make a missionary trip a priority – it will change your life. His heartfelt and eloquent thoughts and uplifting messages were beautifully received. In the report packet is a list of additional missionary trips that are available that everyone should take time to look through and choose a mission trip.

Joan added that she wanted to give her thanks as well for the money that the NAC body contributed for travel and for the t-shirts that they bought for the campers. All the campers truly enjoyed them and many wore them every day.

Father Michael also made the suggestion that the body of NAC Fellowship take the time to choose a mission trip for next year.

Archdiocese Convention :

- Meeting will be Wednesday July 25 11:00 – 5
- There will be no break for lunch

- Please send names of delegates early.

Goals :

Our goals, which were created at last summer's meeting, were restated and discussed.

Unity

- Joan received the lists of various pan orthodox organizations and their officers so that Joan can contact our counterparts in different jurisdictions.
- Kyra shared about the young adult conference that was hosted by the Diocese of the West but was pan-orthodox . All their retreats are pan orthodox.

Joan asked that if you have not read the Ligonier documents (sent by Fr. Joe Abud) take some time to do so. Most of those in the room read them.

- Nicholas researched the possibility of hosting a get together at the convention by inviting other pan orthodox groups to join us at the convention. This will be looked at further.
- Diocese level – at PLC invite other Orthodox to a dinner or event.

Michael shared some thoughts on having these types of events: Make sure it is not a fundraiser but is hosted by the parish – take some time - start small but keep trying.

Missions:

- A trip was presented entitled: Orthodox Basic Training at Project Mexico with Father Michael Nasser.
- He is looking for 186 Teens and 10 adults to come at one time to do a building “blitz”.
- Father Michael Abdelahad made a motion, seconded by Jamil to make the trip , July 15 – 21 2007. This will have Project Mexico be the NAC Fellowship 2007 mission project – Motion carried. More information to follow.
- The president elected at the Montreal convention will appoint a mission coordinator to help facilitate a larger mission trip for the 2008 summer.

Spiritual renewal:

- Father John Nosal and Father Paul Hodge will approach Father Joe Purpura and Father Peter Shportun regarding having paraklesis services in place of compline services at the convention.
- Joe will continue to look into a come up with a proposal for creating a blog for NAC. He will also continue to help Robin Nicholas finding out the possibility of donating money for Food For Hungry People on line.
- Randa made a suggestion regarding renewed spirituality. At her parish (St. George Little Falls) they hosted a book club during lent. They used the book “A purpose Driven Life” and Father George Kevorkian led the very worthwhile discussion group.
- Randa will copy the program and distribute to anyone interested.
- Nicholas shared that he found a service/prayer book of “The Hours” that he would like to share and possibly publish this as a fundraiser. Nicholas will research this to make sure that this is a proper book and if we can copy it. Father Joe Abbud will check with the Department of Liturgics and Translations and see the possibility.
- National Young Adult Retreat –
- East Coast, hosted by Greeks, will check for dates.
- West will be Sept. 21 – 23.

Jane made a motion to give \$1000.00 for Sister Ignatia to travel to the states to share her ministry. Randa seconded the motion. Amended motion to say dollar amount will be reviewed at the convention.

Relationship with NASB- in Toledo the diocese representative of NASB sits on their diocese executive board. Joan suggested that each diocese could do this and communication is the key. It will be strongly suggested that they meet with us when we meet at the mid winter meetings.

Archdiocese Website:

It was brought up that our Archdiocese Website is a major issue. In the past we paid \$40,000.00 to support this website and it is still a major problem.

Discussion followed – major points discussed are

- The website is difficult to access and change
- Diocese are having difficulty adding information to their websites

- Some diocese have their own websites with a link from the Archdiocese site – other dioceses were told to not have alternative sites. NAC will look at the possibility of each diocese to operate in this way.

Joan will speak to Sean the webmaster about the issues that we are having with the website and come up with possible solutions and to see if we are allowed to have our own website links.

Announcement

NAC grant applications are available and completed applications should be sent to Jane. Two \$500.00 Grants are available; one is a speaker grant, and the other is a humanitarian grant.

Dan Kevorkian made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Father Michael Abdelahad.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm with a prayer.