

Ss. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church
AOCWNA Meeting Minutes
February 4th, 2018

Time: 11:45am **Location:** Sunday School Classroom **Members Present:** 16

1. Opening Prayer, Troparia of Patron Saints

2. A Word from Fr. Nathan - Father talked about how our goal is not to be without sin, but to be united to Christ.

3. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes- no corrections or additions submitted were submitted, but we forgot to take an official vote on approving the minutes. A suggestion was made to put up a copy of the minutes on the bulletin board in addition to the minutes being sent via email.

4. Treasurer's Report - current balance of approximately \$638.64

5. AOCWNA News and Updates

- **Spring Lenten Retreat at Camp St. Nicholas** will be happening March 16-18th
 - It was noted that more should be done to encourage women to attend this retreat. Advertise early and don't plan other events back to back. Now we know that it typically takes place in the middle of Lent.
- This year's Act of Mercy, "**FOCUS ON LOVE, Feeding Hungry Children,**" which provides food for undernourished children in the US.
 - We can raise money for this specifically or can use some of our current funds to support this ministry. We should plan to vote on this at the next business meeting.

6. Announcements:

- *March Monastery Retreat, March 10th, Calistoga*
 - We discussed possible topics of Mother Melania's talk. Some ideas were spiritual gifts, deepening relationships, etc. A flyer was passed around for a retreat Mother Melania is giving on marriage & sexuality on March 3 at the Monastery.
- *Book Study- join and/or read - Becoming a Healing Presence* by Dr. Albert Rossi
 - The study now meets on Thursdays at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. They are currently reading Chapter 4. Contact Kr. Mandy with questions.
- *Meet-up for Lent:*
 - February 20th and March 20th, Akathist and Coffee at church, 9:30am instead of the bakery tour. We will start right after morning prayers at 9am in the church.
- *Retreat report- Restoring the Image: Women, Beauty, and the Church*
 - Krista Newberry attended a one-day retreat hosted by St. Barnabus in Costa Mesa and enjoyed the topic and conversation about women's image in the church, art and self. She and others expressed interest in doing a retreat here for women on wellness. This interested in helping to plan this should call Krista.

- Valerie Pflueger shared about the retreat she attended at St. Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap with Fr. Demitrios about abortion. He will be giving another talk in the spring on a different topic. She will let us know more details when they are available.

7. Fundraisers:

- Escript Updates
- Amazon Smile
 - No updates, other than to keep asking people to sign-up.

Ideas

- Lenten Soup Suppers (Wednesdays during Lent)
 - We discussed whether this was an option to organize this. Kris S. stated that was not an active Youth Group so it appeared that there was not a ministry that was organizing it yet for this year. Pending Fr. Nathan's approval, we discussed organizing the sign ups and requesting donations that could be used for a variety of ministries, including the our efforts to raise \$ for the AOCWNA Act of Mercy and other fundraising efforts spelled out by the Archdiocese. Sarah and Kr. Ellen offered to work on an on-line sign-up tool to get things going.
- Karla N. said she would like to plan a dinner fundraiser.
- Keidi mentioned a tea party as a fundraiser in the Spring.
- Kr. Ellen said she went to a parish in VA that does a Greek version of Mardis Gras before Lent. This could be a fun thing to do as a parish next year.

8. Looking Ahead: March is Antiochian Women's Month

- February 20th and March 20th, Akathist and Coffee at church, 9:30am
- Tuesday Evening Fellowship at Kr. Maria's is cancelled during Lent
- Big Basin to the Sea Hike- Eloise is planning this. Possible dates are April 21 or 28

9. Next Meeting Date: Late April after Pascha