

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America



ANNUAL REPORTS OF
BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

96th Annual Convention

July 28 - July 31, 2023

**WILLIAMSBURG WOODLANDS RESORT
WILLIAMSBURG, VA**

SPONSORED BY THE SOUTH RIVER R CLUB

O HEAVENLY KING

Tone 6

Adapted by: Andrew Cvercko

O HEAV-EN - LY KING, THE COM-FOR-TER, THE SPIR-IT OF TRUTH,

O HEAV-EN - LY KING, THE COM-FOR-TER, THE SPIR-IT OF TRUTH,

WHO ART EVE - RY - WHERE AND FILL-EST ALL THINGS. TREA-SU-RY OF BLESS-INGS,

WHO ART EVE - RY - WHERE AND FILL-EST ALL THINGS. TREA-SU-RY OF BLESS-INGS,

AND GIV - ER OF LIFE; COME AND A - BIDE IN US, AND CLEANSE US FROM

AND GIV - ER OF LIFE; COME AND A - BIDE IN US, AND CLEANSE US FROM

RIT. EVE-RY IM - PUR - I - TY, AND SAVE OUR SOULS, O GOOD ONE.

RIT. EVE-RY IM - PUR - I - TY, AND SAVE OUR SOULS, O GOOD ONE.



ANNUAL REPORT

F.O.C.A ANTHEM

Words and Music by
Anastasia Karioto

Faith of our Fa - thers Ho - ly Or - tho-dox,
Pray, Stu - dy, To - il, Al - ways be tem - per - ate.

we will per - pe - tu - ate in this land that's free.
This, our - mot - to and proud are - wel

Keep the tra - di - tions that bind us to - ge - ther,
For it will guide us in all our en - deav - ors,

true to our he - ri - tage, and the F. O. C. A.
In all our aims and hopes for the F. O. C. A.

The Opening Procession Order

1. Member with Icon of All Saints of N. America
2. Member with Icon of St. Andrew
3. Member with U.S. Flag
4. National Spiritual Advisor
5. National President
6. National Vice President
7. National Recording Secretary
8. National Treasurer
9. Immediate Past National President
10. Past National Presidents
11. District Governors
12. Present Hierarchs

PEOPLE: O, Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance / grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries / and by virtue of Thy Cross / preserve Thy habitation.

Opening Service of Prayer at a National Convention

Deacon: Bless, Master.

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen. O Heav-enly King, the Comforter, the Spir-it of Truth; who art everywhere and fil-lest all things. Treasury of Bles-sings, and Giv-er of Life: come and a-bide in us, and cleanse us from every im-pur-ity, and save our souls, O Good One.

The Great Litany

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. (sung after each petition)

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan_____, and for His (Eminence, Grace) our (Archbishop, Bishop)_____, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For travelers by land, by sea, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: That the Lord will hear the voice of petition of the members of this Convention Gathering and fulfill all their good desires and intentions, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: That He will send down the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, opening our minds and lips and enlightening our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: That He will grant us the Wisdom which stands by His Throne, making it abide in their hearts and teaching them what is for the good of His Holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: That they may wisely remain constant in the Orthodox Faith and in all good works, a joy and comfort to all people and a strengthening of the Holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: That He will look down with His Merciful Eye on His Church and upon this Convention Gathering, bestowing the grace of wisdom upon its endeavors in the successful building up of the life of the Church of our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: For the members of this Convention Gathering, who have travelled from throughout this country, awaiting the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and needful of God's help and protection, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: That He will instill in the members of this Convention Gathering oneness of mind, harmony of spirit, good intentions and wise action for the benefit of his Holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

People: To Thee, O, Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

God is the Lord

Deacon: In the 8th Tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

People: *God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!*

Deacon: All nations surrounded me; in the Name of the Lord I withstood them!

People: *God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!*

Deacon: I shall not die, but shall live, and recount the works of the Lord!

People: *God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!*

Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; and it is marvelous in our eyes!

People: *God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!*

Troparions

People: (TONE 8) Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God,/who hast revealed the fisherman as most wise,/ by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit,/ through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net,/ O Lover of man, Glory to Thee!

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

People: (TONE 4) Andrew, the First-called of the Apostles/ brother of Peter, the foremost disciple,/ entreat the Master of all,/ to grant peace to the world,/and to our souls great mercy.

People: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

People: (TONE 4) Steadfast protectress of Christians,/ constant advocate before the Creator:/ do not despise the cry of us sinners,/ but in your goodness come speedily to help us who call on you in faith./ Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,/ for you always protect those who honor you.

Prokeimenon / Epistle / Gospel

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper the work of our hands.

People: *Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper the work of our hands.*

Reader: Yea, give success to the work of our hands.

People: *Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper the work of our hands.*

Reader: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.

People: *And prosper the work of our hands.*

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians.

Deacon: Let us Attend!

Reader: Brethren, I do not cease to give thanks to you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power in us who believe, according to the working of His great might which He has accomplished in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and made Him sit at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come; and He put all things under His feet and has made Him the head over all things for the Church, which is His Body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all.

Priest: Peace be unto you, reader.

Reader: And to your spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Gospel Reading

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be unto all!

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

People: Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

Deacon: Let us Attend!

Priest: At that time, the Lord said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Or what man is there among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for His Beatitude, our Metropolitan _____, and for His (Eminence, Grace), our (Archbishop, Bishop) _____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray to the Lord our God, that He will look with mercy upon the members of this Convention Gathering, and will send down into their hearts, their minds, and their lips the spirit of wisdom, of understanding, of godliness and of His fear; enlightening their minds with the light of His gracious understanding, that they may be adorned with all good works for the glory of His most holy name; for the benefit of His Holy Church; let us say: O Lord, hearken and mercifully have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those who are far off upon the sea; and how mercy, show mercy, O Master, upon us sinners, and be merciful unto us. For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: O God, our God! Thou hast adorned us with Thine image and given us a free will. When Thou didst enter into the Temple in the middle of the feast, O most compassionate Master, Thou didst teach the people who were amazed at Thy doctrine, for David says: Come to me, children, and I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Thou didst teach wisdom to Solomon. Look down even now, O Maker and Creator, upon the members of this Convention Gathering, and grant the wisdom and understanding that they may learn Thy holy will; warm their hearts in love for Thee and for their neighbors; guide them on the way of truth and righteousness, keeping their hearts from all evil; unite them in one mind and in one heart, and let mutual love abide in their midst; bless them for the doing of good and useful things. We pray Thee, O most merciful Lord our God, the God of every compassion and consolation: Do not turn away Thy face from them, nor deny them their longing, for they have set their hope on Thee. Grant them peace and serenity, a unity of spirit, concord and fruitful action, and all things needful for their temporal and eternal life. Thou knowest our needs, and dost grant and fulfill our requests even before we make them.

For Thou art the God powerful in mercy and gracious in strength, and to Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

People: More honorable than the Cherubim/ and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim/ without defilement you gave birth to God the Word/ True Theotokos we magnify You!

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our sure hope, glory to Thee!

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Most Blessed Master, Bless! (sung in the presence of the Metropolitan)

Master, Bless! (sung in the presence of the Bishop)

Father, Bless! (sung when not in the presence of a Hierarch)

Priest: May He Who sent the most Holy Spirit from heaven upon His holy disciples and apostles, in the form of fiery tongues, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother; of St. Andrew, the First-called of the Apostles, the Patron Saint of the Fellowship, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loveth mankind.

People: Amen.

Eis Polla eti Despota! (sung in the presence of a Hierarch)

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF
OFFICERS, BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN
FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA**

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****POLICY AT CONVENTION SESSIONS****

It will be the primary objective of the Chairman to help expedite the business which must be covered at this Convention. In doing so, if the Chair at times appears to be arbitrary, he begs the indulgence of the Delegates.

Business of this Convention will be conducted according to the Constitution and By-Laws of the F.O.C.A., supplemented by Robert's Rules of Order as revised.

However, it must be remembered that, " ... the great purpose of rules and regulations is to serve the will of an Assembly rather than restrain it; to facilitate and not to obstruct the expression of delegates ... " Rules are designed to protect the minority and need not be enforced when there is minority to protect.

Accordingly, the Chair wishes it to be known that it stands ready at anytime to assist delegates in the explanation of motions, advise them on points of information and, if necessary, to help in the phrasing of motions. Any Delegate should feel free to express him/herself on any subject and to offer motions on same regardless of his or her lack of knowledge of parliamentary procedure. Parliamentary procedure, as such, will not be used to obstruct any business of this Convention.

A standing rule permits Alternates to be seated with Delegates on the Convention floor and permits them expression of opinion subject to recognition by the Chair, although only the Delegate (or Alternate acting as a Delegate) is permitted to vote.

We will adhere to the Agenda as outlined, and if it becomes necessary, in the opinion of the Chair, to limit debate and number of speakers, it will do so.

The Chair, in exercising its authority, will attempt to;

1. Assist in expediting business.
2. Restrain members when engaged in debate.
3. Enforce observance of decorum and order.
4. Inform Delegates on points of order.
5. Confine debates to questions and not personalities.
6. Prevent object of meeting to be defeated by persons using parliamentary form which results in the obstruction of business.

Every Delegate present is entitled to be heard and to make motions. The Chair will help whenever called upon to do so. While this is absolutely true, Delegates must refrain from monopolizing the floor and from speaking more than twice on the same subject.

Do not be overly concerned with "Parliamentary Procedure". All rules and regulations will be applied to help rather than hinder the conduct of business.

The Chair will try to be as informal as possible and make sure that everyone has a chance to be heard and have their feeling made known.



NOTE:

Displayed heron, and on first page of this book are four different sizes of the F.O.C.A. Seal which are authorized for reprint.

AGENDA AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

96th Annual Convention July 28 - July 31, 2023 Williamsburg Woodlands Resort Williamsburg, VA

- A. Baba's Auction. Oak Room
- B. Chapel. Cascades
- C. Plenary Sessions Oak Room
- D. Registration Oak Room Foyer

Friday, July 28, 2023

- 4:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting TBA
- 5:00 p.m. Registration/Tickets. Oak Room Foyer
- 8:00 p.m. Welcome – Music Trivia Oak Room

Saturday, July 29, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. Panikhida Service Oak Room
 - 9:00 a.m. Registration/Tickets. Oak Room Foyer
 - 9:00 a.m. Sales Department Oak Room
 - 9:30 a.m. **PLENARY SESSIONS I** Oak Room
1. Opening Service/Panikhida V. Rev. Nicholas Wyslutsky
 2. Calling Convention to Order by the President Allison Steffaro
 3. National Anthem/FOCA Anthem. Allison Steffaro
 4. Roll Call of Members: National Board of TrusteesDanielle Ilchuk
Delegates and Life Members
 5. Welcoming RemarksConvention Chair
 6. Appointment of Parliamentarian Allison Steffaro
 7. Appointment of Credentials Committee Chair. Allison Steffaro
 8. Introduction of Guests. Allison Steffaro

Agenda and Schedule of Events (Continued)

- 9. Updates and Questions/Comments from the Floor on Reports of:
Executive Board
District Governors
Administrative Secretary
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN JOURNAL/Admin. Services
Department Directors/Committees
Auditor

- 10. Appointment of Temp. Chair for Nominations
Report of Nominating Committee Chair
Nominations for National Offices

- 11. Discussion Topics
 - Scholarship Program
 - District Boundaries
 - Family/Youth and Women’s activities
 - Remarks by His Grace Gerasim, Auxiliary Bishop of the South

- 12. Lunch Break (if needed)

- 13. Convention Announcements Michael Steffaro

- 2:00 p.m. Guided Tour Meet in Woodlands Lobby

- 4:00 p.m. Choir Practice Chapel

- 5:00 p.m. Vespers Chapel

- 6:30 p.m. Colonial Tavern Dinner. Shield’s Tavern

Sunday, July 30, 2023

- 9:30 a.m. DIVINE LITURGY Chapel

- 1:00 p.m. Convention Banquet. Oak Room
Baba’s Auction Drawing (Immediately following Banquet). Oak Room

- 6:30 p.m. Tales of the Past Walking Tour Meet in Woodlands Lobby

Agenda and Schedule of Events (Continued)

Monday, July 31, 2023

9:00 a.m. **PLENARY SESSION II** Oak Room

1. Annual Convention Bid
 - A. 98th (2025) OPEN – (*Phoenix, AZ - location of the 21st All-American Council*)
 - B. 99th (2026) OPEN –
 - C. 100th (2027) OPEN –

2. Sports Bids
 - A. Golf 2026 OPEN –
 - B. Golf 2027 OPEN –

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

5. Re-opening of Nominations for all Offices

6. Election of National Officers
 - A. President
 - B. Vice President
 - C. Recording Secretary
 - D. Treasurer

7. Installation of Officers – Past Presidents V. Rev. Nicholas Wyslutsky

8. Adjournment of Convention

9. Closing Service V. Rev. Nicholas Wyslutsky

Closing Service of Prayer at a National Convention

Deacon: Bless, Master.

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen. O Heav-enly King, the Comforter, the Spir-it of Truth; who art everywhere and fil-lest all things. Treasury of Bles-sings, and Giv-er of Life: come and a-bide in us, and cleanse us from every im-pur-ity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us ! (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! O Lord, cleanse us from our sins! O Master, pardon our transgressions! O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

God is the Lord

Deacon: In the 4th Tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

People: *God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!*

Deacon: All nations surrounded me; in the Name of the Lord I withstood them!

People: *God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!*

Deacon: I shall not die, but shall live, and recount the works of the Lord!

People: *God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!*

Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; and it is marvelous in our eyes!

Troparions

People: (TONE 4) We Thine unworthy servants, O Lord,/ grateful for the blessings Thou hast given to us,/ always praise, bless, and thankfully glorify Thy loving kindness,/ crying to Thee with love and humble submissiveness:/ O Savior and Benefactor, glory to Thee.

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

People: (TONE 3) O Mother of God help of Christians,/ you have favored us with your protection!/ We your servants gratefully cry out to you: Hail, Most Pure Virgin Theotokos!/ By your prayers deliver us from every calamity,/ for you are a speedy helper in time of trouble.

Litany of Fervent Supplications

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Furthermore, we pray for His Beatitude our Metropolitan _____, and for His (Eminence, Grace) our (Archbishop, Bishop) _____, for the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, for priests, deacons, and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: May our thanksgiving be as sweet-smelling incense before Thy majesty, most merciful Master. In Thy love for mankind, always send down Thy rich blessings upon Thy servants. Deliver us from the assaults of our visible and invisible enemies; preserve Thy Holy Church; and grant all Thy people health, virtue, and length of days, we beg Thee, most bountiful King; incline Thine ear to our prayer, and speedily show mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: O Lord, who didst accompany Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus, and didst make them to return to Jerusalem with their hearts burning with the joy of Thy Resurrection; send Thy grace and divine blessing to accompany Thy servants, all the members of this Convention Gathering, as they return to their homes and guide them in every good work, to the glory of Thy Holy Name. Preserve them in health and bring them safely to their destinations, we beg Thee, our merciful protector, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Priest: Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those who are far off upon the sea; and how mercy, show mercy, O Master, upon us sinners, and be merciful unto us. For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

People: And to your Spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, the God of all mercies and bounties, Whose mercy cannot be measured and Whose love for man is an unfathomable deep; with fear and trembling, we bow down in adoration before Thy majesty, unprofitable servants that we are. We humbly thank Thee for the blessings Thou hast given Thy servants who have participated in this National Convention. We glorify Thee, we praise Thee, we sing to Thee, our Lord and Master and defender; we bow down before Thee and beg for Thy boundless mercy. As Thou has graciously received Thy servants' prayers and granted them, so also deliver Thy Church and preserve us from every hostile assault. Grant us peace and tranquility, that Thy faithful people may grow in virtue and love for Thee, and may partake of Thy benefits, and so we will always offer thanksgiving to Thee, together with Thine Unoriginate Father, and Thy Most Holy, and Good and Life-Creating Spirit, God glorified in Three Persons, and will joyfully sing to Thee; Glory to Thee, O God our Savior, unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Installation of National Officers

Priest: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Having been elected a member of the Executive Board of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America at this (year) National Convention, do you humbly accept this office?

Elected Officers: *I humbly accept this office.*

Priest: Do you promise to Almighty God that you will zealously, honestly, and voluntarily with diligence and fear of God, fulfill the duties of our office, according to the Canons of the Holy Orthodox Church and the By-Laws of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America?

Elected Officers: *I do promise.*

Priest: Do you promise to faithfully administer the duties of your office upholding not your personal interests but the Glory of God, the welfare of the Holy Church and the salvation of your soul?

Elected Officers: *I do promise.*

Priest: Do you promise that you will uphold the pursuance of peace, tranquility and brotherly Christian love among our membership to the best of your ability for the ensuing year.

Elected Officers: *I do promise. In witness to my oath and solemn promise, I kiss the Life-creating Cross of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ.*

The Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Priest: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

People: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, True Theotokos we magnify You!

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our sure hope, glory to Thee!

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Most Blessed Master, Bless. (sung in the presence of the Metropolitan)

Master, Bless. (sung in the presence of an Archbishop or Bishop)

Father, Bless. (sung when the spiritual advisor conducts the installation not in the presence of a Hierarchy)

Priest: May he who send the most Holy Spirit from Heaven upon His Holy Disciples and Apostles, in the form of fiery tongues, Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of St. Andrew, the First-called of the Apostles, the Patron Saint of the Fellowship, of the Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen!

Eis Polla Eti Despota! (Sung in the presence of a Hierarchy)

Deacon: Intones a Many Years for the newly elected and installed National Officers.

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Dearly beloved in the Lord sometimes it seems the harder you work the larger the mountain before you becomes. At our last convention and the AAC in Baltimore MD our organization reached a hard worked for milestone. We were named and accepted by the Orthodox Church in America as an official organization of the Orthodox Church in America, for youth. We decided that every young person in the OCA would receive the benefit of membership in the FOCA without the burden of dues or chapters, together with the youth in other jurisdictions that have FOCA chapters. In the excitement of the moment, we left feeling momentum and energy to set about making our acknowledgement a reality. As we prepare to meet together in prayer, deliberation, and fellowship at our 96th Convention in Williamsburg VA, the summit of the mountain before us seems daunting. The members of the executive board have spent much time and effort trying to build a framework for us to not only continue the successes of our past but build even greater accomplishments for our future. In my report last year, I said it would take a village for us to be successful, meaning that it must be all of us and not a few of us to accomplish our goals. We can still do great things. But there are mountains to climb...together. We must answer the question of how to be relevant as an organization in a time when fraternal and social organizations with meeting and membership fees are waning. What should the structure of our organization look like to be relevant? How can we cooperate with other organizations to provide the best programs for our members young and old? Some would say our time has passed, let's just give up and fold up. But if we do that what happens to all the good things we've done and do? Who will provide the thousands of dollars we raise each year in support of our future clergy, our seminarians and their families? Who will raise the funds distributed to charitable causes each year through our gifts of love? Together, we can build an endowment to fund significant scholarships for our young adults! As you can see there is still a need for us and our organization. It's our time and turn to honor the good and hard work of those who have come before us.

Some National Spiritual Advisor activity highlights from this past year:

- Coordinated with E-Board members as needed or required.
- Participated in E Board Conference Calls & E Board and Trustees Meetings.
- Organized and Hosted our 3rd Annual Virtual St. Andrew's Day celebrations, gathering faithful and clergy from across the U.S.
- Coordinated our Second Annual FOCA Virtual Christmas concert gathering choirs from across the U.S. and viewers from around the world.

OUR FOCA’s Future: In spite of the current trend in membership the future of our FOCA is still hopeful and bright. No good thing comes without planning and hard work. I invite all of you to join us in that effort. There are many around us who still don’t really know who and what we are. It is up to us to continue to spread the word that we are here to provide whatever we can for the Church and its faithful of all ages. We know what we are and what we can do, it is up to us to define how that works and what it looks like now and for years to come. The old “O” Club may be dying but the new “O” Club is just beginning to bloom and grow. Please join us in that effort by adding your time, treasure, and talents to the fray.

Juniors: Youth is our future, and now thanks to our decisions at our last convention every young person in our Church is a member of the FOCA. Together with them we need to build an organization that supports them and keeps them in the Church.

Our Greatest Need: In order to set the course for these proposed ideas there is one thing we need more than anything else. It is not money, or the endorsement of the FOCA or the OCA. Our greatest need to make this dream a reality is YOU! Two or three individuals cannot accomplish this. The FOCA has long prided itself on being the best at Fellowship, Philanthropy, Faith and Education. If we hope to see our organization thrive in the future it will take all of us. Individuals willing to offer a portion of their time to a greater goal, working together with others to be the best we can be. We invite you to join us on that journey.

Memory Eternal: We call to remembrance our members, our FOCA friends, who have fallen asleep in the Lord this past year. We pray that God grant them eternal rest in His Heavenly Kingdom where there is life everlasting. MEMORY ETERNAL!

MANY YEARS! We pray that God will grant His continued blessings upon all the members of the FOCA. May He grant us his continued choice blessings! **MANY YEARS!**

In Conclusion: As your National Spiritual Advisor, I’m saying to you that our organization has received and continues to receive many blessings from God. This past year has been one of excitement, hard work and fervent prayer. There is still much for us to do. May God bless the workings of our 96th Annual Convention to help us further our efforts to be an arm of the Church for Youth, Education, Philanthropy and Fellowship for years to come.

It has been a pleasure, privilege to serve as the National Spiritual Advisor. As I complete my fourth year as the National FOCA Spiritual Advisor, I express my sincere gratitude to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, our national spiritual leader who appointed me to this position based on the recommendation of the Executive Board and Board of Trustees.

My thanks to our Hierarchs, and the chancery staff and administrations of the OCA. And Thanks to those whom I served with this year - with the leadership of our president, Allison Steffaro, and to the members of the Executive Board and Board of Trustees.

Many thanks to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, our hierarchs, and chancery staff for their continued support in the strengthening of our synergistic and symbiotic relationship as we continue to work together on common goals and their implementation in order to build up of our Church and for the Glory of God.

National Spiritual Advisor Recommendations:

1. A regular **formal** meeting with Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate of the OCA and our National Spiritual Leader, Fr Alexander Rentel, Chancellor to provide updates and to continue our work on common goals.
2. Letter to the Hierarchs of our church requesting that a FOCA information packet with the letter of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, Video and additional informational material of the organization be distributed to their respective diocesan parishes.
3. Discussion regarding future National Convention formats and locations.
4. Development of Steering committees to continue and develop the work we have begun.
5. Coordinate and make a visitation to seminaries to do a presentation on the F.O.C.A.
6. Consider a Junior FOCA member address at our convention plenary session.

Who are we and what do we want to be? That is a very difficult question to answer or is it? We can't deny that society has changed in the last few years. People have gotten into patterns of being alone, not needing to do "what they used to do " and adjusted their lives to be void of participation. We see this within the educational system, the business world and yes even in our parishes. Just because this is happening doesn't make it right. Yes those of us still holding the reins are tired but it is at this point we need to look inside ourselves and say we are working for a great good.

Sometimes we need to stop looking to reinvent ourselves and just do the things we are good at doing. Do we need to be a large organization to do good work? Are we measured by the number of people who pay to be members or by the amazing acts of charity that we do each and every year?

Our organization is very good at coming together and assisting Orthodox Christians in need. From children in Alaska, Seminarian families at Christmas, Orthodox charitable organizations in need, chaplains, Orthodox school children in Africa... the list goes on and on. Why do we do this? Because as Orthodox Christians we are called to serve others. We need to stop complaining that our numbers are low or "not what they used to be". You can ask any secular organization and they will say the same thing but they continue to carry on. Why? Because they know they serve a greater purpose than counting members.

We need to focus on what we do best and move forward. What are we good at? Helping others in need, religious education, bringing Orthodox Christians together in worship and fellowship. Do we need to be anything else? In my humble opinion no. We have existed for 96 years for a reason and that reason is listed above. If the fact that the organization has reduced in size truly bothers you then that is a good thing. That means that you care, we just have to find the tenacity to move past the negative feelings and conversations because all that does is create even more discontent. We need to plan activities that promote our mission statement. " "

In the last few months I have attended events in several different parishes and venues that bring Orthodox Christians together. Whether it be a funeral, a youth retreat, a parish fellowship night or a fundraiser for an Orthodox charity; one theme is constant. Many of the people attending did not really want to go; they were either brought there by a family member, purchased a ticket out of guilt or just didn't feel like getting out of their comforts of home and going somewhere. Once at the event, we see friends from the past, feel the comforts of familiar faces and surroundings; we start to remember why we "used to do" these things and at the end of the night, feel really good to have gone. What does it take? It takes a few brave people to get out and ask someone to go, join them and make them feel comfortable.

I implore those of you reading this to be that brave person to go out and invite someone to that event, make them feel comfortable, feel like they belong. This is how we move forward into the next chapter of our organization.

Ok great so we have a few events but what about our districts, chapters and members? Well do we really need to be so defined? Or do we just need a communication system in place that lets members know what is happening in their local areas, dioceses or around the country? What if you have an existing active chapter? Keep doing what you do best; use our national communication vehicle to let others in the area know what’s happening and invite them to attend. Not in an area where there is a chapter? You can stay involved with charitable activities- get your local parish involved to raise awareness for the needs of other Orthodox Christians.

Does our organization need to make a change? Absolutely! Do we need to fold up and go home? No. Do we still provide support and fellowship for Orthodox Christians in the United States and around the world? Of course. We need to just do what we do best and keep moving forward. Archbishop Michael tells us to keep telling our story and doing good works. People will see the good and want to be a part of your group.

Finally I will leave you with this “ The past is your lesson, the present is your gift. The future is your motivation” Anonymous.

I encourage you to openly discuss the future activities of our organization, to continue the good works of our Fellowship and actively contribute to our 100th anniversary celebration!

Let’s find our motivation through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Recommendations:

1. A committee be formed to create a new scholarship rubric to increase the focus on service to the Church and community. The rubric created will be ready to use for the 2024 scholarship judging criteria.
2. Our current district boundaries need to be revised. Active chapters should be placed within 2 large geographic areas. These chapters can communicate through various types of media. One major gathering a year should be planned for members to come together.
3. A women’s retreat will be held in the fall (East Coast) and Spring (Midwest). The planning committee will decide on the date and location.

4. A family weekend will be held in Philadelphia, January 12-14 in conjunction with the Novogodny Ball.
5. The FOCA to partner with The Surasl organization in the following ways:
 - a. Organize a group of young adults to attend a world-wide gathering of Orthodox Youth in Suprasl, Poland in the Summer of 2024.
 - b. Host a training session for young adults who wish to become future leaders in their Orthodox Church

VICE PRESIDENT

BASIL KOCHAN

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

As we move forward through 2023, there are many things going on, but little to report. As the organization seemed to have direction from the FOCA Convention of 2022 along with the promising movement on the part of the OCA, we are not in the position we hoped to be in a year later. Rest assured, there have been discussions, executive board meetings, and communications to those outside of the FOCA with a general lack of communication from the external powers in return. There are those in the OCA who vigorously support our efforts and those who have apparently not been as interested in utilizing our skills. This frustration is difficult to deal with because we cannot be perceived as overstepping and lose all support.

That being said, discussions have continued to be fruitful within the executive board and beyond to plan events and work on restructuring that which we can to retool our efforts. Scholarship is going to be an important issue to solidify as we plan to open it to all OCA members and non-OCA FOCA Chapter members. The National Summer Sports Tournament has great opportunities for those who would like to honor the memory of Mike Snyder (Akron 20/32) to really make a positive impact on scholarship funding through playing, individually sponsoring, or providing corporate sponsorship. The Michael E Snyder Memorial Golf Tournament will be a great financial success if we all do just a little to promote this event.

As you peruse the agenda, you will see that discussion is scheduled to address the possibility of restructuring the FOCA. The number of members-at-large is not and dwindling membership is of great concern. Perhaps it is time for a fresh look at the way our organization is configured and develop a new idea of how to better represent everyone in a more regional approach across the country. This could spur new growth. That is for all to decide.

Finally, please know that all ideas are worth discussing if it is in the best interest of the Church and the FOCA. We cannot let roadblocks stop us completely. Many of you have seen this for decades and gone ahead and done great works anyways. We have to continue to be patient, ask the right questions, keep developing our plans and be ready to serve at any time. That is the FOCA!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Church through the FOCA.

RECORDING SECRETARY

DANIELLE ILCHUK

(No Report)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

MARGE KOVACH

As Immediate Past President, I have responded to emails and phone calls as needed as well as participated in Executive Board Conference Calls and Zoom meetings.

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America						
Income Statement and Budget Comparisons Report						
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023						PROPOSED For Year Ending JUNE 30, 2024
		BUDGET		FINAL		
INCOME						
Membership Dues						
Senior Dues		\$ 18,000		\$ 15,415		\$ 15,000
Junior Dues		750		60		
Total Membership Dues			18,750		15,475	15,000
National Convention						
Profit Share		2,000		1,852		1,800
Total National Convention			2,000		1,852	1,800
Fellowship Sports Activities						
Summer Sports Tournament						
Profit		400		1,171		1,000
Reimbursable Expenses				(1,405)		
Sports Fund Reimbursement				1,405		
			400		1,171	1,000
Junior Summer Sports Tournament						
Reimbursable Expenses				(1,217)		
Sports Fund Reimbursement				1,217		
			0		0	0
Total Sports Tournaments			400		1,171	1,000
St. Andrew's Appeal						
Commission Income of 5%			100		212	200
Other Fund Drive Commission Fees of 2%			50		90	100
Other Income (applied towards AAC Activities)			0		3,600	0
TOTAL INCOME			\$ 21,300		\$ 22,400	\$ 18,100

TREASURER (2 of 5)

MICHAEL R. BOWAN

EXPENSE	YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023		PROPOSED For Year Ending JUNE 30, 2024	
	BUDGET	FINAL		
Travel	0	0		0
Administrative Secretary				
Contracted Secretarial Services	6,000	6,000	6,000	
Medical Benefits	5,252	5,252	5,252	
Total Administrative Secretary	11,252	11,252		11,252
Administrative				
Insurance - All Liability	3,517	2,001	2,500	
Website Administrator Stipend	2,400	2,400	2,400	
Website Monthly Fee	0	312	312	
Office Supplies and other	450		100	
PayPal Processing Fees	200		50	
Postage	500		75	
Telephone and Internet	700		700	
Secretarial Service Office Rental	1,800	1,800	1,800	
Off-Site File Storage Rental	1,300	1,300	1,300	
Offset - Admin Building Reserves	(3,100)	(3,100)	(3,100)	
Total Administrative	7,767	4,713		6,137
Orthodox Christian Journal				
Advertising & Subscription Revenue	(50)	(96)	0	
Layout Editor Stipend	800	800	800	
Postage	500	880	0	
Printing	1,875	3,385	0	
Total Journal Costs	3,125	4,970		800
Junior Department				
Convention Activities	5,730	0		
St Andrew's Appeal Collection	(5,588)	0	0	
Youth Ministries Budget	0	0	5,000	
Youth Ministries Fund Reimbursable	0	0	(5,000)	
Celebration of Faith	500	0		
Total Junior Department	642	0		0
Sports Endowment Activity				
Tournament Prizes	500	500	1,500	
Junior Summer Olympics Prizes	0	1,217	1,200	
Committee Travel	0	905	400	
Interest Income from Sports Endowment	(750)	(880)	(880)	
Transfer from Endowment Fund Principal	250	(1,742)	(2,220)	
Total Sports Department	0	0		0
Mission Ministries Department				
All American Council Junior Activities	400	5,089		
St Andrew Appeal Offset	(644)	(644)		
Total Mission Ministries Department	(244)	4,445		0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 22,542	\$ 25,380		\$ 18,189
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (1,242)	\$ (2,980)		\$ (89)

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America										
ST ANDREW'S APPEAL										
DISBURSEMENTS OF ALLOCATED AND UNEARMARKED FUNDS										
2022 - 2023 CAMPAIGN YEAR										
CHARITY	DONOR DESIGNATED AMOUNTS	LESS: 5% COMMISSION	AMOUNT AFTER COMMISSION	CONVENTION APPROVED % ALLOCATIONS	ALLOCATION OF UNEARMARKED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED				
Unearmarked	\$ 2,735.00	\$ 136.75	\$ 2,598.25	0%	\$ (2,598.25)	\$ -				
St. Tikhon's Seminary	480.00	24.00	456.00	0%		456.00				
St. Vladimir's Seminary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%		0.00				
St. Herman's Seminary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%		0.00				
Christ the Saviour Seminary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%		0.00				
William Fekula Scholarships	0.00	0.00	0.00	50%	1,299.13	1,299.13				
Junior Department/Youth Ministries	0.00	0.00	0.00	50%	1,299.12	1,299.12				
St. Vladimir's Ohio Camp & Retreat Center	1,030.00	51.50	978.50	0%		978.50				
TOTAL	\$ 4,245.00	\$ 212.25	\$ 4,032.75	100%	\$ -	\$ 4,032.75				

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America			
2022 - 2023 Specific Donations			
St Andrew's Appeal			
	Cleveland #4/6	\$	750
	Alpha #212		225
	St Stephens #82		300
	Harrisburg #199		450
	Campbell #27		960
	Jersey City #129		135
	Mogadore		450
	Holy Trinity Chicago #146		165
	Akron #20/32		605
	Trenton #78		95
	M/M Sheean		100
	Ann Hershey		10
	Total	\$	4,245
Gifts of Love			
	Campbell #27	\$	250
	Cleveland #4/6		500
	Harrisburg #199		500
	Alpha #212		1,000
	Canonsburg #109		500
	Jersey City #129		425
	Madison #171		245
	Sts Peter & Paul #66		110
	St Marks #229		10
	South River #167		220
	St Stephens #82		100
	Trenton #78		250
	M/M Kovach		30
	M/M Sheean		100
	Diana Haverlack		200
	John Kriniske		50
	Total	\$	4,490

TREASURER - (5 of 5)

MICHAEL R. BOWAN

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2023

(This report will be distributed on convention floor)

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY**SANDRA KAPELAN**

This report includes membership for 2022 and 2023 as of June 30.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>SENIORS</u>		<u>JUNIORS</u>	
	<u>2022</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>
CENTRAL PA	56	52	26	--
COLONIAL	97	59	7	--
NEW JERSEY	92	90	--	--
OHIO	188	176	53	--
PITTSBURGH	75	57	32	--
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	508	434	118	--
INDEPENDENT CHAPTERS	130	101	42	--
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	638	535	160	--
# OF ACTIVE CHAPTERS	41	37	12	--

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY - (Cont'd)**SANDRA KAPELAN**

	<u>SENIORS</u>		<u>JUNIORS</u>	
<u>CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>
199 Harrisburg	35	32	26	--
212 Alpha, NJ	15	15	--	--
234 Chapter-at-Large	6	5	--	--
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	56	52	26	--
<u>COLONIAL DISTRICT</u>				
78 Trenton	26	19	--	--
79 Washington	14	--	--	--
82 Philadelphia	20	21	--	--
131 Baltimore	15	15	--	--
229 Bethesda	20	--	--	--
235 Chapter-at-Large	2	4	--	--
256J Columbia	--	--	7	--
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	97	59	7	--
<u>NEW JERSEY DISTRICT</u>				
44 Singac	12	10	--	--
66 Passaic	16	15	--	--
97 Bayonne	14	18	--	--
129 Jersey City	13	9	--	--
167 South River	22	23	--	--
209 Garden State	12	12	--	--
240 Chapter-at-Large	3	3	--	--
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	92	90	--	--

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY - (Cont'd)**SANDRA KAPELAN**

	<u>SENIORS</u>		<u>JUNIORS</u>	
	<u>2022</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>
<u>OHIO DISTRICT</u>				
4/6 Cleveland	50	49	13	--
7 Cleveland (Cathedral)	13	11	--	--
13/84 Lakewood	2	2	--	--
17 Warren	--	--	6	--
20/32 Akron	30	30	9	--
27 Campbell	64	55	6	--
220 Maple Heights	13	12	--	--
241 Chapter-at-Large	--	--	--	--
254 Columbus	16	17	19	--
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	188	176	53	--
<u>PITTSBURGH DISTRICT</u>				
1 N.S. Pittsburgh	8	8	19	--
5 Ambridge	13	0	--	--
35 Donora	12	12	--	--
58 Weirton, WV	17	11	3	--
109 Canonsburg	25	26	10	--
243 Chapter-at-Large	--	--	--	--
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	75	57	32	--

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY - (Cont'd)

SANDRA KAPELAN

INDEPENDENT CHAPTERS

		<u>SENIORS</u>		<u>JUNIORS</u>	
		<u>2022</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>
43	Endicott, NY	12	13	57J Cohoes, NY	2 --
50	Edwardsville, PA	5	5	94J Minneapolis, MN	40 --
96	Burr Ridge, IL	10	9		
121	St Tikhon's	27	0		
146	Chicago, IL	11	9		
171	Madison, IL	19	18		
219	Phoenix, AZ	23	20		
232	CAL-Anthracite	1	1		
233	CAL-Atlantic	7	8		
236	CAL-South	3	4		
238	CAL-Michigan	1	1		
239	CAL-Midwest	8	10		
244	CAL-Upper NY State	3	3		
		<u>130</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>--</u>

INACTIVE CHAPTERS

- 79 Washington, DC
- 229 Bethesda, MD

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY - (Cont'd)

SANDRA KAPELAN

10 YEAR DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP COMPARISON
DECEMBER 31, 2012 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
ANTHRACITE	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ATLANTIC	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CENTRAL PA	102	102	97	90	77	73	70	67	63	60	56
COLONIAL	157	148	136	116	123	129	135	133	108	97	97
MICHIGAN	8	9	9	8	6	5	4	3	-	-	-
MIDWEST	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW JERSEY	209	184	179	175	159	153	130	131	120	112	92
OHIO	307	306	284	279	275	262	249	245	228	211	188
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PITTSBURGH	120	111	110	109	102	101	99	99	73	47	75
SOUTH	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UPPER NY STATE	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INDEP. CHAPTERS		260	227	193	218	215	202	193	152	143	130
SENIOR DIVISION	<u>1200</u>	<u>1120</u>	<u>1042</u>	<u>970</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>938</u>	<u>889</u>	<u>871</u>	<u>744</u>	<u>670</u>	<u>638</u>
JUNIOR DIVISION	429	404	384	343	279	269	265	263	208	167	160
	<u>1629</u>	<u>1524</u>	<u>1426</u>	<u>1313</u>	<u>1239</u>	<u>1207</u>	<u>1154</u>	<u>1134</u>	<u>952</u>	<u>837</u>	<u>798</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT

GARY D. LELO, GOVERNOR

DISTRICT OFFICERS:

Spiritual Advisor:	Very Rev. John Onofrey
Governor:	Gary D. Lelo
Lt. Governor:	Gregory Ressetar
Secretary:	Nicholas Ressetar
Treasurer:	William Dupkanick
Immed. Past Gov:	Nicholas Ressetar

The Central PA District is still holding on strong with only two chapters (Chapter #199, the Harrisburg “O” Club and Chapter #212 St. John’s Senior “O” Club).

As a district we gave \$1000 scholarship to a seminarian at St. Tikhon’s Seminary as we have done in the past.

We held our annual Central PA District FOCA Orthodox Family Picnic at Knoebels Amusement Park on July 16, 2023.

Fraternally,

Gary D. Lelo

District Governor

COLONIAL DISTRICT

LARRY M. SKVIR, GOVERNOR

Spiritual Advisor	V. Rev. Theodore Boback	#131
Governor	Larry M. Skvir	#79
Lieutenant Governor	Paul Fedoronko	#82
Treasurer	Francine Meyer	#78
Corresponding Secretary	Darice Keyes	#78
Recording Secretary	Fr. Dcn. James Magruder	#131
Two-Year Nominating Committee	Herman Meyer	#78
One-Year Nominating Committee	Fr. Dcn. James Magruder	#131

CHAPTERS

- # 78 St. Vladimir's "R" Club - Trenton, New Jersey
- # 82 St. Stephen's Orthodox Catholic Fellowship - Philadelphia, PA
- #131 Vladicon "O" Club – Baltimore, MD

For those FOCA members who have been attending National Conventions over the past twenty or thirty years, you would agree that the annual convention book reports submitted by Walter Alesevich for the Colonial District were among the most thorough reports appearing in the report book. Most of you know that Walter retired from his career with the US Postal Service at the end of 2022 and has relocated to Connecticut. On behalf of the members of the Colonial District, thank you, Walter, for your years of service and dedication to the Fellowship and to the Colonial District. This is my first National Convention report and I will try to live up to Walter's high standards and use the same format he used.

RELIGIOUS/EDUCATIONAL

The Colonial District has not held a Religious Education Day in several years, in spite of chapters being on a rotation schedule which specifies when chapters are responsible for hosting events. The chapters do, however, support the annual Gifts of Love appeal. The annual Seminarian Wish List Project – one of the best FOCA programs that Allison Steffaro coordinates every November – is supported by the district chapters. 2022 was the 17th consecutive year Chapter #82 sponsored a seminarian at St. Tikhon's Seminary and a seminarian at St. Vladimir's Seminary, and also sent Wal-Mart gift cards to St Herman's Seminary.

COLONIAL DISTRICT – (Cont’d)

LARRY M. SKVIR, GOVERNOR

As a District project, each year a seminarian from either St. Tikhon’s or St. Vladimir’s receives a monthly check for \$100 for the 9-month school year. The recipient is recommended in coordination with the seminary dean and the District Spiritual Advisor. At the District Convention in October 2022, that check was increased to \$150 per month. The project is funded by contributions from each of the District chapters.

ATHLETIC

The last Colonial District Bowling Tournament was sponsored by Chapter #78 in February 2020 before COVID-19 turned the world on its ear. The tournament chairman was Paul Kavchok. Memory Eternal!

JUNIORS

At the 2022 National Convention in Baltimore, held in conjunction with the OCA All-American Council, the Colonial District reported a small Junior OCF chapter at the parish in Columbia, MD, a parish which doesn’t have a Senior Chapter. The current status of the chapter is unknown. In the Colonial District annual budget, there is a provision for a small (\$350) District scholarship award, but there haven’t been any Junior applicants for the past two years.

SOCIAL

For more than 80 years (the Alpha “R” Club for the first 50 years and St. Stephen’s OCF for the last 35 years), these chapters have been welcoming our FROC/FOCA friends to the Philadelphia area to ring in the New Year at the Novogodny Ball. This has evolved into a quasi-national FOCA event that attracts members from six states and often includes members of the FOCA Executive Board. The ballroom was dark in January 2021 and 2022 due to COVID, but January 2023 saw nearly 200 patrons enjoying this outstanding event. St. Stephen’s is looking forward to hosting our FOCA friends again in January 2024 on the Sunday evening prior to the Martin Luther King holiday.

FINANCES

The district has managed to stay solvent and able to function primarily due to proceeds from the annual Stock Awards drawing each June. The District Convention generates very little revenue for the district and there hasn’t been a District Bowling Tournament since 2020.

MEMBERSHIP

In 1976, the 50th anniversary of the FROC, the Colonial District contained ten active senior chapters with an aggregate membership of 246 members. St. Michael’s in Philadelphia reported 59 members. That chapter no longer exists. In 1993, Nation’s Capital “R” Club reported 62 members. That chapter is inactive. In 2017, St. Mark chapter in Bethesda reported 56 members. That chapter is inactive. My best guess is that the entire Colonial District membership will be less than 50 members as of the date of this convention. The numbers are sobering, but they don’t lie. (And will someone please explain “Independent Chapters” to me!). And exactly what do I get in return for my annual membership dues?

DISTRICT CONVENTION

In accordance with the rotation schedule, the next Colonial District Convention will be held in Baltimore on the first Saturday in October. This is dependent, however, on any action this Convention body takes with respect to the future of the District.

THE COLONIAL DISTRICT - WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

When I was growing up in Central Pennsylvania back in the 1960’s, I had heard about this wonderful organization called the FROC. When I graduated from college in 1970 and relocated to Philadelphia, I started a chapter at St. Nicholas parish in Northern Liberties and attended my first National Convention in Washington, DC in 1972. 51 years later, the FOCA is a shadow of its former self. The hotly debated name change in the late 1970’s didn’t have the hoped for boost to membership. The frequently discussed recognition by the OCA always seemed to be out of reach. Refer to the Report of the

Exploratory FROC/OCA MEETING – JUNE 18, 1993. The motion approved at the Summer Executive Board Meeting held on June 19, 1993 read as follows, “That as a result of the June 18 meeting with the officers of the Orthodox Church in America, that the Executive Board move forward in pursuing affiliation with the Orthodox Church in America.” Thirty years later, it seems we’re still chasing this recognition and attempting to work together. The OCA has its own pressing issues. The decline in FOCA members in the Northeast mirrors the decline in OCA membership in the same areas. Working with the FOCA – especially a much-shrunken FOCA since 1993 – is not a value proposition, in my opinion.

With St. Mark, Chapter #229 and Nation’s Capital, Chapter #79 both going inactive within the last twelve months, the Colonial District has been reduced to three active chapters: Trenton, St. Stephen’s and Baltimore. While including Trenton in the Colonial District might have made sense in the past, the chapter members there wonder why their chapter isn’t part of the New Jersey District (because the that’s how the National By-Laws are written?). It should be up to this Convention body to make this decision. If, in fact, Trenton would become part of the New Jersey District, the members of St. Stephen’s, Chapter #82, would also petition to join the New Jersey District. A District with two chapters barely constitutes a district.

The National Executive Board, to its credit, is trying to reactivate the St. Mark chapter. This may be wishful thinking. Exactly what does the FOCA have to offer to compel young adults to join? The Colonial District should not be held in limbo, waiting for St. Mark to decide whether it wants to have a chapter.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Trenton and St. Stephen’s chapters be absorbed by the New Jersey District and that the Colonial District become inactive.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry M. Skvir

Governor, Colonial District

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT

REBECCA KOZAK, GOVERNOR

Spiritual Leader:	Archbishop Michael	
Spiritual Advisor:	Archpriest David Garretson	
Governor:	Rebecca Kozak	Chapter 167
Lt. Governor:	Vacant	
Secretary:	Danielle Kovach	Chapter 97
Treasurer:	Michael Kupec	Chapter 209
Sports Director:	Michael Steffaro	Chapter 167
Imm. Past Governor:	Daria Miskiv	Chapter 209

Chapters:

- 44 – Signac R Club; Signac
- 66 – St. John O Club; Passaic
- 97 – Bayonne Alpha R Club; Bayonne
- 129 – Jersey City R Club; Jersey City
- 167 – South River R Club; South River
- 209 – Garden State R Club; Various

District Activities

June 8, 2023 – NJ District 1st Cornhole Tournament & Picnic

The NJ District extended an invitation to all NJ Diocesan OCA & Patriarchal Parishioners to come and spend the day on SS Peter & Paul’s 7-Acres Property in South River. We had beautiful weather with 100 attendees, ages ranging from 3 weeks old to 96 years, from six different parishes. In the evening, Archpriest David Garretson led us in prayer for an abbreviated Vespers Service.

Prizes were awarded to the highly competitive Cornhole Teams in both Junior and Senior Categories.

Everyone enjoyed the fellowship, fine weather, and food. We look forward to hosting this again next year, making it an “annual” event.

June 19, 2023 – NJ District Board Mtg.

Fall Beef Steak Dinner – Date & location not yet determined.

2022 Ohio District Convention

St. Nicholas in Mogadore graciously hosted the 2022 Ohio District Convention with the help of Cleveland 4/6. St. Nicholas has the only set-up for the National Caucus, so they have become the de facto host of the District Convention and we are grateful! We had representatives from 5 of our 7 Chapters, and 11 of the allotted 40 delegates. We elected a new Lt. Governor – Simeon Wyslutzky and thanked out-going Lt. Governor Barb Yerian for her service to the Ohio District.

St. Vladimir's Camp

Camp is underway as I write this report! Our first week of Ohio District Camp is ages 8-12 and we have 50 campers! Of those 50, about 35 are first timers! It's wonderful to have so many campers (but I'm sure that the kitchen staff is getting a work-out!). Junior Olympics is next week (7/10-7/16) and we have about 39 campers registered. We will finish with our 2nd week of Ohio District Camp for ages 13-17 and have about 35 campers. I know that I always thank our Camp volunteers, but that never seems like enough! Dcn. Dan, Mat. Catrina and the Kovalak children work miracles getting things Camp ready. This year's Carnival theme had amazing decor, so make sure that you follow Camp on Instagram. You will be amazed!!! Also, the tireless work of Nick Memorich who is our resident plumber and one of our 'tinkerers' doesn't go unnoticed. Leon Sheean, the other 'tinkerer' will work on just about anything that needs attention. Greg Turk, from Archangel Michael Church (and fiancé of Danielle Kovach) was never a camper, but after a couple of trips to Camp to help take down some trees, has become a great asset to Camp. He uses his 'Volunteer Day' from work to help out. Nick Vansuch, who is our Camp Treasurer and official 'gofer' (just call Nick and he'll 'go fer it') is indispensable as he gets all of our permits and bills paid, along with arranging for the paper product deliveries (and numerous other items, like toilet paper and soap). One of the teams who often go publicly un-thanked is the kitchen staff. I'm not sure we'd be able to have Camp without the Cooks! From those who cooked in the past, to the staff who are cooking this year, **THANK YOU!!!!**

Thanks to everyone who supports Camp in whatever way you do. Don't forget about our Amazon Camp wishlist (bit.ly/stvladscampoh).

The Camp dates for 2024 are:

- ❖ June 30 – July 6 – Ohio District Camp ages 8-12
- ❖ July 7 – July 13 – FOCA Junior Olympics
- ❖ July 13 – July 20 – Ohio District Camp ages 13-17

Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2022 National FOCA Scholarship winners from the Ohio District:

- Daria Reimund – Akron 20/32 - \$1,000 Fekula Scholarship
- Eric Rohweder – Akron 20/32 - \$1,000 Torsky Scholarship

Congratulations to the recipient of a 2022 Ohio District Scholarship:

- Andrew Rohweder - Akron 20/32

Events

The FOCA National Summer Sports Tournament will be held by Akron 20/32 August 18-19. This golf tournament is being held in memory of Michael E. Snyder with proceeds going to the FOCA Scholarship Fund. Mike was at any event, at every Church, supporting all causes. We hope to honor Mike with a smashing turnout! Please join us – forms are available on the FOCA’s website.

We will be having a District/Deanery event sponsored by the District EBoard. Mark your calendars for August 26 for a Drive-In picnic/movie night at St. Nicholas in Mogadore. Vespers will kick off the evening, followed by a cookout, games (get your cornhole-throwing arms in shape!) and will end with a family-friendly movie. All are welcome!

In Christ,

Melissa Tesar

Melissa Tesar
Governor

Pittsburgh District Report 2023

Executive Board

Spiritual Leader:	His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK
Spiritual Advisor:	Very Revered William Evansky
Governor:	Dr. John Schultz
Lt. Governor:	Matushka Danielle Ilchuk
Treasurer:	Ms. Sonia Schultz
Recording/Admin. Secretary:	Matushka Debra Evansky
Nominating:	Protodeacon Peter Ilchuk Mr. Bill Nelko

District Activities

- Unfortunately the District has yet to become active following the COVID Pandemic.
- We plan on holding our District Meeting in October.

District Programs

1. Co-sponsor and co-underwriter of Youth and Young Adult Ministries in the Archdiocese.
2. Provide \$300.00 stipend each semester to Seminarians from the Archdiocese.

COMMUNICATIONS

MARGE KOVACH, DIRECTOR

As Communications Director, I work closely with Phil Tesar to communicate with the membership via email newsletters as well as provide timely updates to our website and Facebook page.

Website: From July 1, 2022 ,through June 30, 2023, the FOCA website had 3.9K unique visitors and 10K page views. During this time, our site saw a high of 671 page visits during the month of July 2022 (*National Convention timeframe*).

Facebook: The FOCA Facebook page currently has 3,922 followers. We have an additional 969 followers since this time last year.

Mailchimp: The FOCA email distribution list contains 349 subscribers. 18 newsletters and updates have been sent between January 2022 through July 2023 with an open rate of between 45.0% - 55.8%

Remember to forward details and pictures of parish, chapter, and district events for sharing.

Respectfully Submitted

Marge Kovach

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN JOURNAL

MARGE KOVACH, INTERIM EDITOR

Since I assumed the position of Interim Editor in 2019, I worked closely with Michael Schultz to produce two issues annually. However, as stated in my 2022 convention report, the Summer/Fall 2022 issue was my last issue.

RECOMMENDATION: In consideration of (1) social media redefining the way we connect with others and share information; (2) the cost of \$2,466 for printing and distributing 425 copies of the OCJ; (3) members, chapters, and districts no longer submitting content; and (4) no one expressing interest in serving as editor, I recommend that the FOCA discontinue the publication of the Orthodox Christian Journal and redirect efforts and assets to improving electronic communication and social media presence.

Respectfully Submitted

Marge Kovach

(TO BE SUBMITTED SEPARATELY)

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Summer Sports – Anthony Schultz

2022 Summer Sports Tournament

Host: St. John's Sr. "O" Club, Alpha, NJ

Aug 19-20, 2022

Golf Friday and Saturday was held at the Green Pond Country Club. Golfers from 5 states enjoyed the challenging layout and great greens. After golf Friday, everyone enjoyed a few drinks, conversation on the patio, and dinner at a nearby restaurant. The awards banquet was held at the course following golf Saturday, which the golfers and many local guests attended.

Thanks again for your sponsorship and for hosting the event.

2023 Summer Sports Tournament, Aug 18-19, 2023

Akron "O" Club 20/32, Akron, OH

2024 Summer Sports Tournament, TBD

Canonsburg "O" Club, Canonsburg PA

2025 Summer Sports Tournament, TBD

Weirton "O" Club, Weirton, OH

SCHOLARSHIPS

DANIELLE ILCHUK, ADMINISTRATOR

In 2022, four - \$1,000 scholarships were awarded.

No applications were accepted in 2023. The scholarship committee is reevaluating the selection criteria considering the changes in junior membership requirements.

CONVENTION AUDIT

AUDIT COMMITTEE

(TO BE SUBMITTED SEPARATELY)

TREASURER'S AUDIT

ANTOINETTE DOROSH, AUDITOR

(TO BE SUBMITTED SEPARATELY)

St. Vladimir's Ohio District Camp Director's Report

Ohio District Camp was in session for three weeks. The first session was ages 7-12 from July 2 – July 8, 2023, the second session, Junior Olympics was ages 10-17 from July 9-July 15. The third week was ages 13-17 from July 16 – July 22, 2023. This year we had a total of 114 campers and 18 staff members and kitchen staff of 12, plus some extra helping hands over the three sessions:

- 2 staff and 11 campers from St. Johns in Campbell
- 1 staff member and 3 campers from St. Johns in Warren
- 1 staff member & 1 camper from St. Nicholas in Akron
- 10 staff members and 30 campers from Archangel Michael in Broadview Hts.
- 1 staff member & 7 campers from St. Nicholas in Mentor
- 7 campers from Columbus
- 2 staff members and 9 campers from Michigan
- 2 campers from NJ
- 8 campers from PA
- 5 campers from Canton
- 1 staff member & 5 campers from other Orthodox churches in Ohio
- 8 Non-Orthodox Campers
- 11 campers from St. Theodosius
- 4 campers from Illinois
- 1 camper from St. Innocent
- 4 campers from Holy Trinity in Parma

Ohio Camp:

This year's theme was "St. Vlad's Carnival", which was carried across all three weeks in which we talked and learned about emotions and the church along with learning the about some of the "circus performers" aka Daniel and the Lion Tamer, the three youths in the fiery furnace, the fire eaters, Elijah the flying trapeze, along with trying carnival favorite foods dating back to the bible including cotton candy, candy apples, taffy, and snow cones. Crafts for Session one this year included: "Fire" Juggling sticks, snow cone catcher, snow cone ornament, taffy slime, lion pillow, candy apple, cotton candy ornament, Session three crafts included keychains for St. Herman's House, stain glass icons, tissue paper inspiration plaques for St. Herman's House, Macrame Bracelets, and Wind Chimes.

Our priests:

Our Priests this year were Session One: Father Jan Cizmar; Session Two: Father John Baker and Session Three: Father Christopher Moore. Each week we celebrated Divine Liturgy and Sessions of Fun with Father.

FOCA Junior Olympics:

We had 33 Campers from 3 different states for Junior Olympics this year. There were 19 individual sporting events, 5 team events and 7 different tournament games The change to the pins and lanyards was well received last year so we repeated the pins this year with the year on the lanyards. From medals to a lanyard with pins for place awards.

The overall all-star awards:

Female ages 10-13: Inez K. (Chicago)

Male ages 10-13: Race M. (Warren)

Female ages 14-17: Angel M. (Cleveland)

Male ages 14-17: Zach L. (Campbell)

Sportsmanship Awards (Voted on by the Campers)

Female: Camille N. (Campbell)

Male: Sammy G. (Cathedral)

The Winning Team was the Red Team:

Team Capts: Nadia D. (Cleveland) & George K. (Campbell)

Team Members:

Bekka K. (Cleveland)

Andy K. (Cleveland)

Nick G. (Cleveland)

Race M. (Warren)

Mason L. (Campbell)

Shae P. (non-orthodox)

Joseph D. (Cleveland)

Elle K. (Campbell)

We once again had families asking us for a camp wish list or registry so they can make a donation to camp. We have come up with an amazon list and will post it soon!

We would like to take this chance to thank the staff that cooked for us, and the counselors who all worked hard, without them none of this would be possible. A huge THANK YOU to all the work that may seem to go unnoticed, but please know that along with us and many others we do notice. Also, major kudos to our camp who had the place looking great, and were there to help when we ran into issues.

Many Blessings and respectfully submitted,

Fr. Dn. Dan and Matushka Katrina Kovalak

Camp Directors, Cleveland 4/

Motions of the 95th Annual FOCA Convention

Monday, July 18, 2022

MOTION #1

Michael Bowan, Treasurer, moves to award the 2023 96th Annual Convention to South River at a location/dates to be determined. Stephanie Homyak, Chapter 219 Phoenix, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION #2

Larry Skvir, Chapter 82 Philadelphia, moves to award the 2024 97th Annual Convention to the Akron O Club at a location/dates to be determined. Michael Steffaro, Past President, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION #3

John Schultz, Pittsburgh District Governor, moves to increase the prize money for the National Summer Sports Tournament from \$500.00 to \$1,500.00. Melissa Tesar, Ohio District Governor, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION #4

Rebecca Kozak, New Jersey District Governor, moves to accept the budget as it appears in the Treasurer's report. Walter Alesevich, Colonial District Governor, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION #5

Michael Herzak, Past President, moves that we adopt the proposal set forth. Fr. John Bacon, seconded. Discussion on the motion. MOTION DEFEATED.

Original Proposal can be found in Appendix I.

Note: Motions #6 - 8 were proposed amendments to Motion #5 and were defeated.

MOTION #6

Walter Alesevich, Colonial District Governor, moves to amend the first line of the Proposal portion of the document to "The Synod of Bishops concurs and approves the FOCA to be the youth program of the OCA." David Homyak, Chapter 219 Phoenix, seconded. Discussion on the motion. AMENDMENT DEFEATED.

MOTION #7

Michael Herzak, Past President, moves to amend the proposal to drop the last four bullet points under number 2, focusing on the first 3 bullet points. Stephanie Homyak seconded. Discussion on the amendment. AMENDMENT DEFEATED.

MOTION #8

Walter Alesevich, Colonial District Governor, moves to amend the proposal to say under paragraph 2 to say "Among the additional and immediate ideas are 1) Age-specific committees and 2) other committees." David Homyak, Phoenix 219, seconded. Discussion on the amendment. AMENDMENT DEFEATED.

Rebecca Tesar appointed temporary secretary.

MOTION #9

Walter Alesevich, Colonial District Governor, moves to open nominations for the Executive Board. Liz Dutko, Chapter 50, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION #10

Michael Steffaro, Past President, moves to close nomination and cast a unanimous ballot for Allison Steffaro for the office of President. John Kruchok, Past President, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION #11

Walter Alesevich, Colonial District Governor, moves to close nomination and cast a unanimous ballot for Basil Kochan for the office of Vice President. Alice Woog, Past President, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION #12

Dn. Peter Ilchuk, CP&O, moves to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Danielle Ilchuk for the office of Recording Secretary. V. Rev William Evansky, past Spiritual Advisor, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION #13

Carol Deerson, Past President, moves to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Michael Bowan for the office of Treasurer. Lissa Molchan, Chapter 220, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION #14

Michael Herzak, Past President, moves to submit the following written proposal to the Holy Synod of Bishops. Michael Steffaro, Past President, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

PROPOSAL: The founder of the FROC/FOCA, Fr. Vladimir Prislowsky, had one basic intention, to keep our children in the Church. That mission has not changed.

We heard the cry at the 19th AAC in St. Louis to do more for our youth. The FOCA now offers to coordinate and facilitate activities, programs, and retreats, that would be made available to all youth of the OCA. The FOCA will create individual committees to address the needs of the toddlers through college age.

MOTION #15

Dmitry Ressetar, moves to amend “remove the individual committee” portion of the proposal. Lisa Mikhalevsky, Chapter 79, seconded. MOTION DEFEATED.

This motion was an amendment to previous motion and was defeated.

MOTION #16

Michael Herzak, Past President, moves that \$50,000 be removed from the building maintenance fund and put towards youth ministries. Michael Steffaro, Past President, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION #17

John Schultz, Pittsburgh District Governor, moves that the Executive Board be empowered to choose the Gifts of Love recipient. Michael Steffaro, Past President, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION #18

Gary Lelo, Central PA District Governor, moves to close the 95th National FOCA convention and to reconvene at the 96th National FOCA convention the dates and location of which will be determined and announced at a later time. Michael Steffaro, Past President, seconded. MOTION CARRIED.

FOCA Proposal

We are the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America, an official organization of the Orthodox Church in America, and our mission is to proclaim, share and reveal our Orthodox Christian Faith through service, fellowship and example. We strive to accomplish this by:

- studying the tenets of our Faith
- support and encourage Orthodox Youth ministries
- support and encourage missionary growth of our church
- encourage and promote unity among all Orthodox jurisdictions
- establish practical means for Orthodox Christians to endure lasting friendships on local and national levels through networking
- provide educational, cultural, social and athletic activities for the people of our Orthodox Faith

The FOCA has, from its founding, served as an arm of the Orthodox Church here in North America. Throughout its history, the former FROC and now FOCA has responded to the most urgent of needs in our church. Looking at the last few years, it has become increasingly apparent that one of the most urgent needs in the OCA is that of serving our youth.

At the most recent FOCA convention, a report was given regarding the status of youth needs in the OCA. It was observed that there was a need to have organization to move forward for the youth in the United States of America. Rev. Fr. Daniel Ressetar, of blessed memory, stood at the microphone and stated, “we already have that. It is the FOCA.”

Since that statement, under the leadership of our spiritual advisor, Fr. Nicholas Wyslutsky, the FOCA has sponsored virtual tours of numerous places and multiple youth retreats. Most recently, the FOCA has held virtual retreats serving youth from multiple jurisdictions far beyond the members of the organization. This is true to the intent of the FOCA in providing “for the people of our Orthodox Faith.”

Among the immediate ideas that we propose are:

Planning committee for youth ages toddler to teen

Planning for high school ages

Planning for college ages

Planning for post-college to 35/40

Planning for middle-agers

Planning for 50 and above

Planning for focus on family

Each diocese provide a clergy and lay person to work with the FOCA in each of these areas. We will find people in the FOCA that have ideas that are relevant for each of these age groups and work with them to move forward.

We are not looking to increase membership in the FOCA. We are looking to be the fine print sponsor at the bottom of the page.