



St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

10660 River Road, Potomac, MD 20854

Tel: 301.299.2704 Fax: 301.576.5664

www.serbianchurch.org

*** FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PARISH ***

Trusteeship Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2019

The meeting began with a prayer at 7:18 pm. The motion to accept/approve the minutes from our August 2019 trusteeship meeting was passed unanimously.

Major Discussion Items

Lecture. Father Vasilije began by reporting that the lecture on September 1st was well attended and received. Father especially thanked Dejan Bujak for his great generosity in inviting two of the speakers to stay at his home during their visit.

Memorial Service. Father reminded everyone that this Sunday, he will serve a solemn memorial service for all the victims of Jasenovac, the largest Ustaša WWII death camp. Nikola Lojanica has created a special commemorative ribbon that includes a red flower that symbolizes the suffering of the Serbian people as well as the traditional Serbian tri-colors (red, blue, white).

Diocesan Executive Decision. The trusteeship will respond in the next few days to Diocesan Administrative Board Executive Decision DAB No. 187 dated August 13, 2019, which requires each congregation, mission parish, and monastery to establish an official e-mail address for receiving communications from the Diocese.

800th Anniversary of Autocephaly. Plans have changed for the Eastern Diocese's celebration of the 800th anniversary of the autocephaly of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the 130th anniversary of the birth of St. Mardarije. Though it will still be held November 1-2, 2019, the venue will be St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Boston, MA rather than in New York City. More details from the Diocese will be forthcoming soon and made available on the official website for this event:

<https://stsavaboston.org/800yearsautocephaly>.

Another Statement from our Bishops. Our three Bishops in the United States have issued another statement (available on-line at: https://www.serborth.org/news_190908_1) addressing and correcting the misinformation that continues to circulate on the Internet. Father and the trusteeship encourage everyone, if they have not already done so, to read the latest statement, understand the facts, and help to stop the spread of false information.



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Upcoming Events on the Parish Calendar. Preparations for our Fall *SerbFest DC* event scheduled for the first weekend in October are set, including booking of entertainment. The marketing campaign and release of *SignupGenius* page for volunteers will occur soon. Details can be found on the official website for this event: <https://www.serbfestdc.com/>. Due to other activities happening the weekend of September 21-22, the Kolo will be changing the date of the celebration of their Slava and holding it a week later. An announcement will be released soon. Both International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and the Serb National Federation (SNF) will hold events here in our hall on Sunday October 20th. The SNF, along with the Serbian Embassy, will hold a Serbian Movie Festival that day following Divine Liturgy. The festival will include film screenings for both children and adults. Admission will be free, with food and drinks available for purchase. The IOCC will then hold a Wine and Craft Beer Tasting Event from 6-8 p.m., with ticket proceeds to benefit IOCC (though they have agreed to make a donation to cover our cleaning costs that day).

Volunteer Recruitment. Given that we want to provide more convenient and focused opportunities for more people to participate in parish activities, Aleksandar Terzic kindly agreed to establish and chair a new "Recruiting Committee" with the aim of identifying and publicizing assistance needed and recruiting volunteer workers to meet those needs. As the first priority, Father Vasilije and Mark Rasevic requested that Alex try to find one or more volunteers (covering both the English and Serbian languages) to help on the Communications Committee.

Financial Report. John Buffalini presented the Treasurer's Report. As we always experience, August has been a very tight month. In addition, over the summer months, we've had some well above average electric bills. Our operating account at John Marshall Bank contains \$13,818.84, but that is all earmarked for our September mortgage payment. The Treasurer will arrange a follow-on meeting with the President and Vice President to discuss priorities in bill paying. A successful Fall *SerbFest* event will help ease some of the pressure of our current tight cash flow issues.

Recurring Payments. The Financial Secretary is working with our EFT (electronic funds transfer) vendor to determine the cause of why certain cards are being declined. There are various "reason codes" that are provided and, in order to fix the problems, she will likely need to reach out to each person individually. If you are contacted regarding this type of problem, we ask for your prompt assistance in resolving it. Thank you!



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Parish Census. Plans are being developed for conducting a parish-wide census to update information on the number and geographic locations of our parishioners. More information will be provided soon.

Bookstore. We are still booked as a vendor at Tamburitza Extravaganza 2019 scheduled for September 19-22 at the Hyatt Regency Dulles Hotel in Herndon, VA. As previously mentioned, that is a particularly busy weekend so we will need to solicit volunteers from our parish to help. John Buffalini will set up a *SignupGenius* page and e-mail the entire parish to request volunteers to sign up to help at our table.

Sunday Coffee Hours/Lunches. Parishioners may still volunteer to host a coffee hour after Divine Liturgy by using the easy on-line signup sheet at:


<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4fafa72ca75-coffee>.

Reminders

Easy Way to Financially Help Our Church. From now on, as you shop online at *Amazon.com* and make your purchases throughout the year, the Amazon Smile Foundation will automatically donate 0.5% of all your eligible purchases to our church. Please update your bookmarks to use the following *Amazon* link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/82-3650722>

Then just sign in as usual, submit your orders as usual, receive your deliveries as usual, and our church's account will automatically be updated. No other special effort needed!

 Good news! If you are an Android device user, simply download and use the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App and you can now support our church on your Android device!

Social Media. Our parish has a growing presence on social media. You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and other outlets by clicking on the appropriate links under the "Follow Us" banner at the bottom of our parish home page at:

<https://serbianchurch.org/>

We closed the meeting with a prayer at 11:00 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday October 14, 2019.