

## **Minutes of the 2004 Business Meeting of the Orthodox Theological Society in America**

1. The 2004 Business Meeting of the Orthodox Theological Society in America was held at the conclusion of the Society's 2004 Annual Meeting held on the campus of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Brookline, MA, on June 5, 2004. The theme of the Annual Meeting was *The Laity*. The Annual Georges Florovsky Lecture was delivered by Robert Haddad with the title of "The Legacy of Athens in Medieval Greek Christian, Islamic, and Latin Theology." The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm.
2. The minutes of the 2003 Business Meeting were approved as distributed.
3. Dr. S. Harvey, President of OTSA, opened the meeting by offering thanks to the Board of OTSA for their hard work in putting together the Annual Meeting and to Holy Cross for hosting this year's meeting. President Harvey noted the absence of members from St. Vladimir's and St. Tikhon's at the Annual Meeting due to a scheduling conflict which required members of both schools' faculties to be absent.
4. Dr. A. Vrame distributed and discussed the Treasurer's report (attached). The report was approved as presented.
  - The legal incorporation of the Society was discussed. Fr. P. Viscuso offered to spearhead the initiative of seeking incorporation. It was suggested that OTSA be incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since its mailing address is 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA (Holy Cross). Issues of liability insurance and indemnification of OTSA officers was discussed.
  - S. Harvey noted that some monies from the OTSA treasury have been used in the past to assist in bringing some speakers to the annual meeting. Fr. N. Apostola noted that one of the reasons why the Society has been collecting money over the years was to hold an International Conference sponsored by OTSA. Perhaps, Fr. Apostola suggested, the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of OTSA would provide the proper occasion for such a conference.
5. Dr. A. Vrame distributed and discussed a report (attached) on membership noting 142 active members. Ten individuals were removed from the active membership list on account of non-payment of membership dues for the previous three years. Dr. Vrame also noted that this was the first year that he utilized email as the main means of communication between the Society and its members.
6. Dr. A. Vrame reported on a survey the Society conducted of its membership. 140 surveys were mailed with 40 completed surveys received. The survey asked two main questions: (1) do the members of the Society want to hold the Annual Meeting at a location other than Holy Cross or St. Vladimir's? (2) How much are members willing to spend to travel to the Annual Meeting of OTSA? The vast majority of respondents wanted to keep the Annual Meeting at St. Vladimir's and Holy Cross, and were satisfied with the current time slot (end of May, beginning of June). The third most recommended location was St. Tikhon and fourth was Chicago.

7. Dr. J. Skedros presented the following candidates for membership in the Society:

Kevin Berger	Ann Mitsakos Bezzerides
Fr. George Bithos	Fr. John Jillions
Virginia Kimball	Fr. Maxym Lysak
Alexander Lingas	Philip Mamalakis
Maria McDowell	Fr. Stylianos Muksuris
Elizabeth Prodromou	Gabriel (Jay) Rochelle
Helen Creticos Theodoropoulos	Gayle Woloschak

All fourteen applicants were approved for membership.

8. Dr. R. Haddad, chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the following slate of officers for election:

President:	Dr. S. Ashbrook Harvey
Vice-President:	Fr. J. Behr
Treasurer:	Dr. A. Vrame
Secretary:	Dr. J. Skedros

There being no further nominations, the slate was elected by acclamation.

9. It was decided to hold the next Annual Meeting of the Society at St. Vladimir's Seminary, June 9-11, 2005.

- It was suggested that one of the sessions at next year's meeting be devoted to a discussion of Fr. J. Behr's book, *The Nicene Faith*.
- Many members felt that this year's session on current events was successful and it was suggested to hold a similar session next year.
- Two themes were suggested for the next annual meeting: (1) Ligonier on its tenth anniversary; (2) the local Church.
- Two suggestions were made for next year's Florovsky Lecture: (1) connect it to Ligonier; (2) invite Vigen Guroian.

10. New Business

- Fr. G. Wingenbach noted that in the early years of OTSA there was a board of consultants from among the Society's members which worked together with the officers of the Society. This board provided better overall representation of the members of the Society. Dr. R. Haddad noted that he had no recollection of such a board.
- R. Haddad noted the high level of this year's meeting and personally thanked S. Harvey for her work in making the program such a success.
- S. Harvey announced that Peter Bouteneff has agreed to assume the responsibility of maintaining the Society's web site.
- It was recommended that speakers and respondents at the annual meeting provide an abstract of their papers for posting on the Society's web site.

11. The meeting was brought to a close at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Skedros  
Secretary