



15 Dec 2010

Dear Fellow Member of OTSA:

2010 OTSA Officers:

President

A. Gregg Roeber

Vice-President

Radu Bordeianu

Secretary

Maria McDowell

Treasurer

Will Cohen

Website

<http://otsamerica.org>

Email

otsamerica@gmail.com

The Orthodox Theological Society in America was organized under the auspices of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) for the promotion of Orthodox theology, the cultivation of fellowship and cooperation among Orthodox Christians, and to coordinate the work of Orthodox theologians in the Americas.

At the last annual meeting in June at St. Vladimir's, the officers and those in attendance discussed at some length the challenge the Society has faced in recent years in finding both a time and a place that would allow the maximum attendance and participation of our members. The consensus that emerged seems to point toward the need for another time of the year rather than a new venue per se. The officers have therefore decided that the 2011 meeting of the Society will be on the campus of Holy Cross Seminary (at the Meliotis Center). We will not have access to the dormitories at HC, but instead have contracted with the Walker Center in Auburndale for lodgings, and will have the use of the vans from the seminary to take us back and forth from the Center to the Holy Cross campus (a journey of about 16 minutes.)

Our tentative plan now is to ask everyone to arrive on Thursday September 15 2011 by late afternoon or early evening. We will schedule a full day of sessions on Friday 16 September, and another for the morning of Saturday 17 September. We would plan to finish both the sessions and the annual business meeting by 1:00 PM on Saturday.

We're very pleased to be able to inform the members that the Reverend Dr. John A. McGuckin, Nielsen Professor of Late Antique & Byzantine Christian History at Union Theological Seminary has accepted our invitation to serve as the Florovsky Lecturer on Friday evening for the 2011 meeting. He has chosen as a tentative title: "Frs. Georges Florovsky and Sergey Bulgakov: A Conflict of Typologies Concerning the Dialogue of Orthodoxy and Contemporary Society?"

The officers have also been in touch with several sub-groups of Orthodox scholars to encourage them to use the OTSA meeting as an umbrella organization and to submit panels that are of particular interest (e.g., science and religion, church history, biomedical ethics, and so on). We also need to inform the members that the website of the Society is scheduled to undergo a major transformation. When the new site is completed, we hope to be able to include the recent survey of members and their areas of specialization and interest to encourage more interaction among the members during the year, and perhaps most importantly, we are planning to launch an electronic journal for the

Society. We are currently discussing this important step in providing a refereed, scholarly outlet for the work of Society members. Our own member Father John Jillions has stepped forward to express his interest and willingness to serve as the editor of the journal.

Since the annual meeting will take place in the early Fall, the request for submissions will be postponed accordingly. We will be sending out a notice of the deadline for proposals early in the New Year, but in any event, we will need to have the program set before the end of the academic year in May. Our Treasurer, Will Cohen, will be in touch with you about renewing your membership, and we will provide all the information on lodging at the September meeting. If we are fortunate enough to have a capacity attendance for the Walker Center rooms, we will identify a hotel in the vicinity and arrange for a block of rooms at a (hopefully) competitive price.

Praying the blessings of the Advent Season, and on behalf of the officers of the Society,

(The Rev. Deacon) Gregory, President,
Orthodox Theological Society in America