

NATION'S CAPITAL "R" CLUB, CHAPTER #79
FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN AMERICA
WALTER C. ALESEVICH, PRESIDENT
ANNUAL MEETING—ST. NICHOLAS CATHEDRAL--2017

Another year had passed and there are many things that have transpired during that year and many blessings for which thanks should be given.

Although the national F.O.C.A. organization and our local chapter is in a malaise of stagnant growth and limited resources, hopefully this will change and the organization will be revitalized by the F.O.C.A.'s fulfillment of its pledge of \$300,000 supporting the Married Student Housing project at St. Tikhon's Seminary. All of the legal hurdles for purchasing the building (a former Administrative Building for the County School System) have been surpassed and the agreement to purchase has been finalized. The cost is \$600 thousand and the planned rehabilitation and conversion is estimated to be another \$600 thousand. The building will house 7 units and a common area—5, two-bedroom units and 2, three-bedroom units. The F.O.C.A. agreed to be a "cultivator", the highest level of donor. The satisfaction of the pledge will redound to the benefit of the F.O.C.A. as it is good marketing for the Fellowship and demonstrates that the Church is inextricably with the F.O.C.A.

Our Chapter, suffering from a downturn, has been somewhat active throughout the year. We contributed to each of the National Events by either placing an advertisement or purchasing one of the items sold in lieu of ads. Our St. Andrew's Fund (United Fund) goal was surpassed and we anticipate contributing substantially to the "Gifts of Love" drive for religious material in the Yupik (Native Alaskan) language. In addition, we contributed to the District Project to support a seminarian family at St. Tikhon's.

During this year, our activities are too numerous to catalog, but some of highlights included:

- Social Activities in Support of the Orthodox Church in America;
- A Christmas party open to the entire cathedral community;
- Participation in the Colonial District Bowling Tournament.

Our members play a very important role in our Church community, and its activities and governance. Indeed, they are on the Church Council, in the Cathedral Choir, in the Dormition Guild, in the Visitation Group (brightening the spirits of shut-in and ill members of the Church community), in the Veterans' Guild, and various functions of the annual St. Nicholas Fall Festival (formerly the Bazaar).

The F.O.C.A. provides an excellent opportunity for fellow Orthodox Christians to join each other for fellowship. We generally meet six (or so) times a year; please see announce and the bulletin for meeting dates and times.

Our members also are very active of the District and National level, as officers and chairpersons of various endeavors.