

Congregation Kol Ami

Annual Member Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2024

10:08 pm – Meeting was called to order by President Stephen Ducar

Rabbi Geoff Dennis gave an opening prayer

Stephen Ducar read the announcements:

Storm cleanup for downed tree limbs will take place on June 23 at 8:30 am

Shavuot begins June 11, 2024

Go to the CKA website for upcoming office closure dates

We will be using the same Oneg Process that began last year. We need people to sign up.

Members using Givebutter or PayPal to pay their dues with cards have the option to include credit card fees. This saves the Congregation money and time.

Stephen Ducar verified that quorum has been met. There are currently 145 member families and we met the 10% requirement. Motion to accept the quorum passed.

The next annual meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2025. The annual meeting date was ratified.

Steve Ducar presented the officers and nominees for the 2024-2025 slate:

President – Stephen Ducar

Executive Vice President – Stephen Dubner

Treasurer – Open

Secretary – Linda Tavano

VP – Tikkun Olam – Brandi Hunter

VP – Education – Casey Flancbaum

VP – Ritual – Helena Shapp-Dossey and open (added: Amy Johnson)

VP – Building & Facilities – Don Dossey

VP – Member Support – Greg Eftimie

VP – Membership – open (added: Karen Rhodes)

VP – Communication – open (added: Melissa Hart)

VP – Fundraising – open position

VP – Cemetery – Kenny Webman

Past President – Paul Dietz

Stephen Ducar opened the floor for additional nominees. New volunteers were added: Ritual Co-Chair, Amy Johnson; Membership, Karen Rhodes and Communication, Melissa Hart. No other proposals were made. The slate of the Executive Board and Directors was approved as indicated.

Stephen Ducar asked if there were any member proposals that needed reviewed and considered. There is one proposal to increase B'nai Mitzvah dues from \$850 to \$900. This proposal was approved as indicated.

Rabbi Dennis gave his Annual Rabbi's Report:

- The Oct 7 Terror Attack on Israel has brought on some increased divisiveness. We can address how we all grapple with these events and will listen and offer opportunities to learn so we have a better understanding. The American Scripture Project program provided this year provided such an opportunity.
- We're still feeling some effects from Covid 19. Trying to catch up from what we missed plus financial setbacks.
- We have added new musical leaders for Shabbat services.
- Increased attendance provides a minyan for Saturday morning services.
- There is a vibrant Young Adult Chavurah of about 12 members meeting regularly.
- The services are live streamed now. (Thanks to Bob Lennard)
- Rabbi is going on to his 25th year here at CKA and is very thankful for the support of our Congregation and his family!

Stephen Ducar gave the president's report:

- Still recovering from COVID
- We have increased security measures with police presence for services and religious school.
- We applied for a grant for added security measures. Awaiting response.
- We increased fundraising activities thanks to the Music Cornucopia sponsored by Toby Rotman. And the Quiz night organized by Jeff Cagle. Working to add another Quiz night.
- The Board is all volunteer. We still have openings.
- He stressed the need for fundraising in the coming year. All resources are greatly appreciated.
- If something doesn't look right, step in and fix it or let someone know about it.

Rebecca Lennard gave the Treasurer's report (attached to annual meeting letter.) She also stressed the need for fundraising and answered members' questions. Note that she is stepping down from the Board and would like someone else to take over the position.

- The report shows a budget deficit. Can't budget the general fund and doesn't like to give a false sense of security. She did budget for improvement in the general fund based on past results. Provided a more realistic Religious School budget since most teachers are now volunteers. In summary, there is very little fluff and reflects a loss of \$65,000.
- Becky also pointed out that the congregation is moving into a majority of over 75 yr olds. If all those people take the reduced dues option, we will be short funded.

- For end of this Fiscal year, it's looking like we will end up at breakeven to a possible overage of \$6,000! This is due to a concerted effort to collect from members with past due accounts. So, it's a one-off improvement of about \$12,000. Received anonymous donations of \$15,000. The credit card costs savings also helped by about \$1,000. Fundraisers brought in \$5,000.
- CKA doesn't keep a balance sheet. We have no assets other than the building. Currently the mortgage is paid off.
- General funds is where all donations above dues go. There are a few directed funds such as the Rabbi's Discretionary fund. There is a special playground fund set aside for playground maintenance.
- We have about \$20,000-25,000 per month in operating expenses.
- It was suggested that people investigate their company matching their CKA donations. It doesn't cost the member anything and can double their donation. We can also sign up for Kroger and Tom Thumb to make donations to CKA when you spend money in their stores.
- It was asked if we should join North Texas Giving Day again. It was suggested that we run our own events to keep the fees that were incurred from the event.
- Some high-cost items that are possible in the future are a new roof and new AC units.
- The other important expenditure is keeping the Religious School running. It's paramount to the survival of our Congregation.

Kenny Webman moved to approve the budget, Josh Gelman seconded, and the budget was approved.

Elissa Ducar moved to Ratify the Boards Motion's and Josh Gelman seconded. Board's motions carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 am.