



Macedonian Community of Adelaide and S.A. Inc.

MACEDONIAN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

02 January 2022 (No.7)

Welcome to the latest edition of our Community Newsletter!

Successful AGM – New Executive Committee Elected

MCASA members came together in the Macedonian Community Hall on 12 December and 22 December 2021, for the holding of the AGM. Due to COVID restrictions, the 2020 AGM was postponed, so that the business of the 2021 meeting covered a period of two (2) years – 2020 and 2021.

AGM Chairperson Michael Radin (President) delivered an introductory address, highlighting the achievements of the Community during that period, and also providing a vision for the future, notwithstanding the difficult social circumstances endured by all of the global community as a result of the ongoing pandemic. Important policy and project initiatives were outlined in his address, at the conclusion of which questions were posed, answered and discussed in traditional fashion.

Members were pleased to hear in particular about the financial turn-around brought about by the long-term leasing of the Community Hall, as well as the progress achieved in respect of various capital projects, including the partially grant-funded renovations to the front of the Hall, extensive Church building maintenance, a major courtyard-pergola project, and plans for extension of the Macedonian Cultural Centre, which was the subject of a formal resolution by members, requiring the formulation of detailed costed plans by the new EC to be presented at a general meeting in 2022.



Also highlighted were the outstanding outcomes achieved by two sections of the Community– the performing ensembles AMFE “*Sloboda*” and AMVG “*Sedenka*”, the successful “Cultured” Festival held in the Hall in March 2021, and the continued growth of the Community Media Program, featuring weekly radio broadcasts, the new MCASA Website and Social Media platforms, including a YouTube Channel. Plans for resuscitation of an on-line language school (“*Sts Kiril & Metodi*”), as well as active seniors’ and womens’ sections, were also enthusiastically raised.

Treasurer Jennie Trampeva-Radin then presented audited financials to members covering the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years, and dealt with questions and queries raised by members.

Both the President/Secretary and Treasurer reports were approved by the members by acclamation.

At the conclusion of the AGM, the **Independent Electoral Panel**, chaired by Life member Goce Mitev, with members Chris Milanko and George Divitkos in support, conducted elections for a new Executive Committee (‘EC’), albeit for rotational terms of office, as per the MCASA constitution, necessitated by the absence of elections during the COVID-affected 2020 year.

The President Michael Radin, following five (5) years in office, informed the members that he would withdraw his nomination for another term, bearing in mind that the constitution limits all



office-bearers to six (6) consecutive years in office in any event, but also because of his support for his nominated opponent, Life member Stella Ouzounis, becoming the first female MCASA President in its 75 year history. “*It is well and truly about time*” he stated to members’ applause as he congratulated Stella on her automatic accession to the Presidency,

while he indicated that he would take the vacant Secretary’s position for the next two (2) years.

Accordingly, no voting was necessary, as a full complement of eleven (11) nominees was elected, unopposed and by acclamation, to the new EC, as follows :

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|----------------------------|---|---|
| President | - | <i>Stella Ouzounis (one year)</i> |
| Secretary | - | <i>Michael Radin (two years)</i> |
| Treasurer | - | <i>Jennie Trampeva-Radin (one year)</i> |
| Vice-President | - | <i>Fay Petre (two years)</i> |
| Assistant Secretary | - | <i>John Milanko (one year)</i> |
| Assistant Treasurer | - | <i>George Nicholas (two years)</i> |
| Committee Members | - | <i>Peter Unerkov (two years)</i> |
| | - | <i>Velika Popovska (two years)</i> |
| | - | <i>Jim Petre (two years)</i> |
| | - | <i>Deni Georgievski (one year)</i> |
| | - | <i>George Papadimitrou (one year)</i> |

Annual Holiday Message by new MCASA President, Stella Ouzounis

(Delivered in the Macedonian language on our Community Radio Program, 5EBI 103.1fm, on 31/12/21 and 02/01/22)

“Dear Members of the Macedonian Community of Adelaide & SA Inc (MCASA), and dear Macedonians resident in our wonderful city and state of Adelaide, South Australia, it is with pride and great pleasure that, as the newly elected President of MCASA, I address you on the occasion of our important annual holidays and celebrations.



We are certainly living in difficult times, and indeed, I am uncertain whether these times will improve significantly in short course, despite the joy and happiness normally associated with the advent of a new year, and that gorgeous first sunrise of expectation that this event brings in!

However, dear friends and compatriots, in my view there is still good reason for optimism. A new year always ushers in new perspectives and opportunities. Macedonians have a long-history of endurance, against a great array of confronting challenges and difficulties, and I know that we will once again endure, together with our fellow human beings, in relation to this current crisis.

Our Community, during 2022, will celebrate its 75th anniversary, which is a fantastic achievement! During this year, our new EC will endeavour to organize some special celebratory events worthy of such an occasion, general circumstances permitting! I call upon you all to support your Community at this difficult time, and demonstrate your patriotic care and enthusiasm! The EC hopes to successfully realize its varied and exciting program, and I know that I will be able to rely upon my colleagues on the newly elected EC, amongst whom are quite a number of persons with very significant experience at this level. May I personally say, that after many, many years of involvement with MCASA, including as a Life member, that I am particularly honoured to have been elected as the first female President of our wonderful Community organization!

May I therefore take this opportunity to wish all Macedonians, and their loved ones and friends, a healthy, prosperous, safe and exciting 2022 year, and a wonderful Orthodox Xmas celebration!”

Stella Ouzounis

President, MCASA Inc.

Congratulations from Premier Steven Marshall and Minister for Multicultural Affairs Jing Lee MLC for the MCASA participation in the successful SA Multicultural Festival 2021, by the AMFE “Sloboda”, and AMVG “Sedenka”.

Please refer to the Premier’s letter posted elsewhere in this Blog.



THE HON STEVEN MARSHALL MP
PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Religious Services in January 2022

The Macedonian Orthodox Church "St. Naum of Ohrid" will be open for the religious and spiritual observance of Orthodox Christmas on **Friday 07 January 2022**, from 10.30 am. However, due to the strict COVID rules currently being enforced in Adelaide, no formal service will be held conducted by a Macedonian orthodox priest. Those parishioners choosing to attend for prayer must abide by COVID entry rules, and MCASA COVID Marshals will be on hand to assist in this regard.

Parishioners are reminded however that Macedonian religious services in Australia, including for the Christmas event, are available to stream from the MCASA website link, or the Facebook platform of the **Macedonian Orthodox Church "St. George and St Mary, the Holy Mother"**, in Melbourne, Victoria.

In relation to the "**Vodici**"/"**Blessing of the Waters**" religious festival, on 19 January 2022, a formal religious service will take place with a visiting priest, including the traditional icon auction and throwing of the cross. Further information will be provided on our Blog shortly in this regard, and broadcast on our Macedonian Community radio program.



Best Wishes to all !

A. Michael Radin

Secretary, MCASA Inc.

President, Macedonian Community Media Committee

Together We Are Stronger!

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Macedonian Orthodox Church "St. Naum of Ohrid"

- Macedonian Council of SA
- Association of Refugee Children from the Aegean region of Macedonia (SA)
- Board of Life Members
- Macedonian Social Club "Ilinden" Inc.
- "Macedonia United" Soccer Club
- Cultural Society "Iskra" * Macedonian School "Sts. Kiril & Metodi"
- Macedonian Senior Citizens
- Womens' Section * Youth Group
- Society of Macedonian Professionals "Vox"
- Macedonian Heritage Movement "Spas"
- Folkloric Ensemble "Sloboda"
- Macedonian Community Media : *Radio & TV Programs*
- Human Rights Committee (SA) * Welfare Committee
- Village Committees - "Kotori" "Peshoshnitsa" "Visheni"



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