

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly
St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church
Cleveland, Ohio

March 4, 1990

The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Very Reverend Father Souren Chinchinian with an opening prayer. David Andonian read the roll call and there were 41 dues paid members present which constituted a quorum.

The minutes of the 1988 Assembly were read and approved with one correction. On page 3, the nominee for Secretary was Alice, not Martha, Hacherian. Harold Zahigian made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

The meeting was then turned over to Martha Hacherian and Lucille Andonian from the Nominating Committee. Alice Hacherian assisted. Elections for officers of the day were done and the results were: Russell Arslanian, Chairman of the Day; Leslie Bagdasarian, Secretary of the Day.

Next, the Nominating Committee presented the nominees for Parish Council. Florence Karoghlianian, David Andonian, Ara Bagdasarian and Harold Zahigian all had terms which expired. (8) Eight nominees were needed for a legal slate, 4 of which were nominated from the floor. The results were as follows:

Ara Bagdasarian	* (40)	George Sakian	(6)
Serop Demirjian	* (41)	Paul Arslanian	(6)
Florence Karoghlianian	* (28)	Jack Hacherian	(5)
Harold Zahigian	* (31)	David Andonian	(8)

*Elected for a 2 year term

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sewer Systems - David Andonian

Parish Council is looking into the possibility of connecting the church's sewer system in the sewer on Hillary Lane since our system has so many maintenance problems. The approximate cost would be about \$100,000.

Harold Zahigian noted that grease from the kitchen is a problem. A skimmer was added but is not enough to eliminate problem. David then added that the system was not intended for the type of use it's getting and that we've increased usage since it was installed. Jack Hacherian inquired what problems the system had. Harold said that it had been down 5 times and had been pumped out 3 times this year at a cost of \$500-600 each time. Parish Council will investigate further.

2. Cultural Hall Roof - Harold Zahigian

The shingles on the roof of the cultural hall were curled and damaged by a past kitchen fire. New 240 lb. shingles are needed. The approximate cost to replace the shingles would be \$9-10,000. This includes a 25 year warranty on the shingles and 1 year warranty on the labor. This project is not in the church's budget but may become necessary if problems persist. A motion was made to add this to the budget but the motion was withdrawn until we reached the budget on the agenda.

3. Cultural Hall Carpeting - Harold Zahigian

Ted Arslanian was consulted on the idea of installing carpeting in the cultural hall. He said it would have to be replaced every 3-4 years and the smell and wear with use caused him not to recommend it.

The Nominating Committee started the elections for Auditing and Nominating Committees. (6) Six nominees were needed for each office and (3) three were to be elected from each group of candidates. The results were:

Auditing Committee

Russell Arslanian *(31)
Richard Arslanian *(35)
Ralph Chakerian *(38)
Nazar Mirakian (9)
Maryanne Yessayan (1)
Grace Arslanian (1)

Nominating Committee

David Andonian *(25)
Sandra Arslanian *(30)
Lucine Mirakian *(19)
Sue Mirakian (18)
Krikor Ghazarian (15)
Margaret Zahigian (10)

Return to Old Business....

4. Picnic Pavilion and Barbecue Grill - Harold Zahigian

He had contacted an Amish group that would build a picnic pavilion for \$1500-1600 and the back part of the church property would have to be partially cleared. He stated however that the sewer path must be decided first.

Anne Karayan suggested building a patio adjacent to the cultural hall. Florence Karoghlanian said that if we wished to add to the hall, a patio there would not be feasible. Sam Mirakian asked about water lines to the pavilion and food preparation arrangements. Florence Goekjian suggested the issue be tabled until the sewer issue was decided.

Sam Mirakian asked why we were investigating replacing the barbecue grill. Harold Zahigian said our grill is corroded and a replacement could be bought for about \$1000 and would last 10-15 years. Leslie Bagdasarian suggested storing or covering the new grill to prevent corrosion. Naz Yessayan said the grill looked good and stressed the issue of maintaining things on the church property. Paul Arslanian raised a concern about the number of expenditures on the agenda.

Grace Arslanian made a motion to purchase a new movable barbecue grill with a cover. The motion carried.

Kevoork Arslanian said we should ask Shields Engineering who built the last grill to make another one. Jack Hacherian said Shields was no longer in that business. Sam Mirakian said Parish Council should have the permission to decide.

5. Stewardship/Pledge Committee - James Nazarian

Jim read a letter on Stewardship which will be mailed to all Armenians in Ohio. Harold mentioned the fact that we send 60% of church dues to the Diocese on a monthly basis and that 25% of Christmas, Easter, etc. collections also go to the Diocese. David Andonian mentioned that the Diocese assesses us every month whether or not any dues are collected. Father Chinchinian stated that there is a pledge system like this in almost every parish and that it is a majority of the church budget. Jim asked everyone to review annual report and note that 13% of the annual budget was from dues/donations and that 60% goes to the Diocese.

6. Padded Pews/Buy a Seat - Harold Zahigian

Harold said he had investigated a company called "Pad a Pew" who would install material covered, foam cushioned seats on our church pews. The cost would be about \$2,100 (seats only) or \$3,286 (seats & backs) and could be removed. Sam Mirakian stated he couldn't see the need for such a project. Russell Arslanian said it was not necessary for further discussion. Harold also mentioned the idea of carpeting the church but noted the same restrictions as for the cultural hall.

7. Spring Festival - Harold Zahigian

Harold presented the parish with a carefully planned drawing of a possible layout for a Spring Festival on our church property for June 8-10 of this year. There would be a midway with games, food, etc. and parking would be in the mall parking lot across the street. The festival would require 23 hours of staffing 55 volunteers over the 3 day period. Each church organization would have a booth, would pay for the booth's costs, and would keep the funds raised for the group's treasury. There would also be gambling such as Instant Bingo. To educate the public, there would be an exhibit about the earthquake and the Armenian church in a classroom in the cultural hall.

Harold also discussed the food at the festival. He said most of it would be purchased (gyros, sausage, meatballs, french fries, lemonade, elephant ears, popcorn, hotdogs, etc.) and that some Armenian foods could also be purchased (lakmajun).

Harold estimated the approximate revenue from the festival would be \$50,000 with Instant Bingo bringing in \$6,000-8,000 alone. He also thought about 6,000-8,000 people would attend.

Kevork Arslanian said he would volunteer to work. Jack Hacherian said to remember other successful festivals and that this could be the church's major fund raiser. Harold then showed a sample brochure from an Armenian church festival in California. Maryanne Yessayan asked about the electrical power for all the booths and Harold said there would be a power pole set up. Sam Mirakian asked how the booths would be assigned. Harold said that would have to be decided and that all participating organizations would have to fund their booth up front. He said there would be about a \$10,000 outlay for expenses other than food.

Kevork Arslanian made a motion to proceed with the Spring Festival. Jack Hacherian seconded. Motion carried.

Russell Arslanian passed out a sign up sheet for those interested in working at the festival.

8. Bingo License - Jim Nazarian

Our license is up for renewal. He talked to a Catholic church similar in size and situation to ours who had been running a bingo operation for about 20 years. Manpower needed would be about 9 people, 1 night/week for 4.5 - 5 hours. The average turnout at the Catholic church was about 100-125 people and the games ran from 7-10 p.m. That church's projected a profit of \$70,000 annually.

Thelma Bagdasarian questioned the competition of other churches doing bingo in the area. Jim said this other church was in a similar neighborhood to ours and that it wasn't a problem.

Approval of 1990 Budget

Harold Zahigian made a motion to add \$10,000 to the budget if necessary to replace the cultural hall roof shingles. Motion carried.

Ara Bagdasarian said that Greg Arpajian had asked him to recommend that the church make a contribution to the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. Florence Karoghlanian mentioned that \$500 was given last year. Sam Mirakian asked if an event could be held to benefit the seminary. Ara Bagdasarian asked Sam to help him raise the funds. Sam suggested asking the auxiliary organizations of the church each to donate \$50 each.

Pastor's Report - Very Reverend Father Souren Chinchinian

Fr. Chinchinian mentioned that a lecture series had been started. One lecture was about the Armenian earthquake and the other was about Armenian history. The preference was to get local speakers.

Fr. Chinchinian said 2 retreats would also be held, 1 for adults and 1 for the youth (off the church grounds). He also mentioned that the Diocese offers 2 programs: a crash course in Armenian language and a program on Armenian history, art, architecture, etc. He suggested that other parish group leaders in the public community be contacted for the youth programs.

Diocesan Delegate Report - Jack Hacherian

Russell Arslanian read the report since it didn't make it into the annual report. Lucille Andonian made a motion to accept the report. Alice Hacherian seconded. Motion carried. Russ also mentioned that we had reviewed the reports of the auxiliary organizations earlier.

Jack Hacherian mentioned that the property adjacent to the church was for sale and that we should investigate purchasing it. He made a motion for Parish Council to do so. Kevork Arslanian seconded. Motion carried.

Martha Hacherian asked about allowance for replacing the kitchen floor. Harold Zahigian mentioned that the floor only needed to be cleaned to be non-slip again.

Paul Arslanian commended Harold Zahigian for the work he had done. He also questioned the \$82 item in last year's budget for the priest's car registration. Harold clarified that it just worked out that 2 plate purchases had to be made.

Thelma Bagdasarian commended Parish Council for the work they had done.

Kevork Arslanian asked if the new hall rental fees were too much and were they fair? Florence Karoghlanian stated that a set price needed to be set for the rental of the hall by non-church organizations. The rates are: \$400 for Friday & Saturday nights, \$125 for Monday-Thursday, \$150 Sunday. A 35% discount would also be given for a church member's personal use or an organization's use.

Jack Hacherian commented that it was a poor decision by Parish Council to institute such fees and that it would prohibit groups from using the facilities. Jim Nazarian stated that bills are incurred each time the hall is opened and that janitorial and utility costs are increasing; the fee is just a contribution towards the maintenance.

Paul Arslanian also said the new fees were prohibitive. David Andonian added that our current membership can't support the budget. Kevork Arslanian said the policy would hurt the groups concerned. Russ Arslanian suggested that Parish Council reevaluate the fees established for non-church organizations.

Jack Hacherian asked for a clarification of the groups involved. Jim Nazarian said the following groups were church affiliated and did not get assessed: Womens Guild, ACYOA, Mr. & Mrs. Club, Parish Council, Church School, Choir.

Thelma Bagdasarian added that church organizations turn in 60% of their treasury to the church at year's end so they do pay their share. David Andonian concurred.

Jim Nazarian asked for a motion. Russ Arslanian commented that the amount of the fees seemed to be the issue. Ara Bagdasarian asked Jack Hacherian, as Diocesan Delegate, to make a suggestion. Jack said we have hard workers in our parish and don't want to alienate anyone with such fees.

Harold Zahigian noted that this proposal was made when funds were scarce so this had to be handled as a business venture until the fund raisers brought in funds. Jack Hacherian commented that the Parish Council was sometimes too business-like. Russ Arslanian repeated that the Parish Council take it under advisement to review this new fee structure.

Mona Karoghlanian made a motion to adjourn. Jeanne Arslanian seconded. Motion carried.

A benediction was given by Father Chinchinian and the meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Russell Arslanian
Assembly Chairman



Leslie Bagdasarian
Assembly Secretary