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P A R I S H C O U N C I L R E P O R T

Submitted by
George M. Nahabedian
Chairman

Dear Parishioners:

It was a great pleasure for me to serve as Chairman of the Parish Council of our church. Our parish, while it has not grown in membership as I would have liked to have seen it; it is continuing to grow in programs and service. The challenge of running a church is great and requires the dedication of Der Hayr and you the laity to support our church.

Election of Executive Body

A joint meeting with the outgoing and incoming members of the Parish Council was held on _____ under the presidency of Der Sarkis Kashikjian, to conduct the formal transfer of duties and the blessing of the newly constituted Parish Council. The following were elected to serve as officers for 1968:

Chairman	George Nahabedian
Vice Chairman	Peter Klujian
Recording Secretary	Jake Matiosian
Corresponding Secretary	James Boyajian*
Treasurer	Nish Babikian
Advisors	Robert Kalenian
	Bill Tootooian
	Vartan Kachigian
	Misak Paloyan

*Note John Dadian filled the vacancy created by James Boyajian when he was transferred to California.

Committees

The following members of the Parish Council were appointed to serve as liason officers and committees:

Peter Klujian	-	All church auxiliaries
Nish Babikian	-	Membership
Bob Kalenian	-	Memorial items - supplies
Misak Paloyan	-	Plates and candles
Jake Matiosian	-	In lieu of flowers

Regular and Special Meetings

A total of 21 regular meetings were held during the year 1968. A number of special meetings were held with Diocesan Delegates, along with various organizations to discuss matters of interest during the year.

At this time I would like to recommend quarterly meetings with the executive bodies of the church auxiliaries to discuss and solve problems that may arise during the year.

Church Membership and Pledge System

Since its introduction a couple of years ago, the pledge system has not been fully accepted by the Parish. This system of voluntary giving should be the main source of income for our church and it deserves universal (everyone) support. The Parish Council recommended that a more concrete program be developed. A program that will establish a minimum pledge per family to cover both membership and contribution. I suggest two dollars a family per week.

The Parish Council hopes that a system will be developed to enable the church to meet all of its obligations from this direct and certainly most equitable form of support.

Building Committee

Though a report will be given, we are all aware of the most successful and gratifying weekend in October when we all participated in the mortgage burning ceremonies. A reminder to all though - that all outstanding pledges are still due will remain due until your obligations are completed.

As Chairman, I again would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Haig Pedian and you who have participated up to now.

Church Picnic

The Annual Church Picnic took place on Sunday, August 11 at Che Che Pin Qua woods under the Chairmanship of Mr. Peter Klujian. The Picnic Chairman and Parish Council are grateful to all who volunteered their time and talents to make this affair the most gratifying success it was. The Parish Council especially commends Mr. Klujian for the fine organization of the picnic and efficient manner in which it was conducted to make it the most successful church picnic in the church history. (\$805.10).

Church Bazaar

On November 3 and 4, the most successful church bazaar ever was held with again Mr. Peter Klujian as General Chairman. The joint effort was most exciting and again financially successful. The bazaar netted the sum of \$1,585.77.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Women's Auxiliary, The Young Women's Guild, the A.C.Y.O.A. Jrs. and Srs. and the Ajemian family for making the 1968 Bazaar an outstanding occasion.

Vehapars Visit

The Parish Council participated in the joint effort of the Midwest Regional Council in celebrating the second historic pastoral visit of His Holiness, Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch Catholicos of all Armenians on May 22 and 23. The Parish Council handled the security and publicity of this historic visit. The Parish Council extends a devoted thanks to Miss May Nahabedian for her excellent job in covering the publicity for this event.

Midwest Regional Council

The representatives of the Parish Council, Mr. Jake Matiosian, and Mr. Robert Kalenian did excellent jobs in their respective positions. I was selected to the position of Secretary. We not only participated in the Vehapar's visit but also in the Kohar Kasparian Concert, Hi-Kamp, Christian Commitment to Christ and the Leadership Training Program.

Scholarship

The Parish Council was helpful in assisting students to attend the summer study program of St. Nersess School in Evanston, Illinois - Seta Kashikjian, Georgette Somnese, and Christine Nahabedian were recipients this year.

Cultural Educational Events

Though the cultural and educational events in our church are limited, some of the affairs such as the Vartanants and Martyrs Day were celebrated. Here again is an area in the church that should be expanded and we should take advantage of the talent we have in our area.

Cultural Hall

The hall under the direction of Mr. Kaz Kazarian, was again a financial success. Fortunately, if it wasn't for the Cultural Hall the church would still be paying a mortgage.

The contract with Ardmore Catering and Parties, Inc., was terminated on December 31, 1968 and it is my recommendation that we form a committee to contract another caterer to help alleviate the cost of running a church.

The hall was rented 60 times and it ^{Grossed} ~~netted~~ the church the ^{Approx} sum of \$9,000⁰⁰.

Other Accomplishments in 1968

The Parish Council is quite pleased over the following results.

- A. Diocesan dues and other debts to the Diocese have been paid for the first time in a number of years.
- B. A bank account of approximately \$4,000.00.
- C. A checking account of approximately \$2,000.00.
- D. Church Publicity Director - newsworthy items regarding affairs, services and religious canons have appeared throughout the year.
- E. Our active participation in the Midwest Regional Council of Armenian Churches.
- F. Condolence calls by the Parish Council to the relatives of our deceased members.
- G. Initiated a program to honor past, present and future Chairman.
- H. Church attendance has increased.
- I. Program for in lieu of follower donations in working stages.

Other Recommendations

The Parish Council Chairman recommends:

1. Organize and develop a list of objectives and make sure everyone follows them.
2. Develop a good educational system - we lack knowledge- re-educate everyone.
3. Develop a stewardship program - envelope system.
4. Armenian and Sunday School Programs should be developed further.
5. There is a lack of communication between the organizations - confusion leads to disorganization.

Appreciation

Der Hayr and the Parish Council extends its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Diocesan Delegates, Church Auditors, all Church Organizations, volunteer workers who assist Der Sarkis and to the countless faithful parishioners for their unselfish service and tireless efforts of time and energy.

It is only appropriate that I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Der Sarkis and the members of the Parish Council and all others who have contributed to the health of our Parish over the past year.

Please allow me to wish each and everyone of you a New Year of Happiness and personal fulfillment.

Very Sincerely Yours

George M. Nahabedian
Chairman, Parish Council