

PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING - FEBRUARY 17, 1991

ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH - CHICAGO

M I N U T E S

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Mr. Jack Cholakian, Chairman of the 1989 Annual Assembly. Archpriest Rev. Fr. Haik Donikian led the assembly in prayer. Mr. Garo Evran, Parish Council Treasurer, conducted the Verification of Voters. There were 34 paid members present of the total membership of 80 people. Mr. Evran declared there to be a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

Mr. Cholakian opened the floor for nominations for Assembly Chairman. Mrs. Linda Zakarian nominated Mr. George Nahabedian. Mr. Garo Dadian seconded the motion. Mr. Arnold Koresian moved to close the nominations. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Mr. George Nahabedian was elected Assembly Chairman. Mr. Nahabedian opened the floor for nominations for Assembly Secretary. Mrs. Linda Zakarian nominated Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza. Mrs. Pauline Nahabedian seconded the motion. Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza nominated Mrs. Linda Zakarian who declined the nomination. As there were no other nominations, Mrs. Mrofcza accepted the position of Assembly Secretary.

Mr. Nahabedian called upon Archpriest Rev. Fr. Haik Donikian to offer prayers for the souls of Mary Eghoian, Dikranouhi Doumanian, Sam Matigian, William Tootooian, and Dr. Hampar Yazijian, who had all passed away this year. Following the prayers, Mr. Nahabedian welcomed Rev. Fr. Haik and Yn. Maireni Donikian to St. Gregory.

Mr. Nahabedian called for the reading of the minutes from the 1989 Assembly. Mrs. Mrofcza read the minutes from the February 4, 1990 Parish Assembly. The following corrections were noted: (1) The minutes should read "1988 Parish Assembly Meeting", not 1988 on Page 1, Line 2; (2) Under Sunday School Report, Page 2, it should read "Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza read the Sunday School Report prepared by Mrs. Mary Sommese, Superintendent. (Copy attached); and (3) Page Five, under New Business, Paragraph 5--The last sentence, "The motion carried and more discussion followed." should be deleted. The last paragraph should read as follows--"Mr. Armen Zakarian moved to table Mrs. Mrofcza's motion until the March 25, 1990 meeting." Mr. John Paklaian moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Mr. Garo Dadian seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mrs. Mrofcza then read the minutes from the March 25, 1990 Parish Assembly. Mr. Nishan Babikian moved to accept the minutes as read. Mrs. Alice George seconded the motion and the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr. Armen Zakarian, Parish Council Chairman read his report. (Copy attached). In addition, Mr. Zakarian wanted to take a moment to publicly thank Mrs. Dolores Tootootian, Mrs. Mary Dadian, and

Ms. Violet Koresian, and Denise Tootooian Black, the staff of the LOOSAVORICH for the wonderful job they have been doing of the production of the church newsletter. Mr. Zakarian also took the opportunity to thank Mr. John Paklaian for overseeing the rental of the hall and to acknowledge his term as Parish Council Chairman by presenting him a plaque on behalf of the Parish of St. Gregory. Mr. Nahabedian thanked Mr. Zakarian for all the hard work of the Parish Council this past year.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Mr. Jack Cholakian moved to forego the reading of each organization's annual report and instead have them printed in the Loosavorich in their entirety. Mrs. Rose Laurint seconded the motion. **Discussion:** The Ladies Auxiliary had wanted their report read, but then agreed to have it published in the Loosavorich. John Paklaian called the motion to a vote. The motion passed unanimously. The following organizations turned money over to the Parish Council:

Women's Guild	\$1,684.00
Ladies Auxiliary	\$3,500.00
Nairi Choir	\$ 500.00

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Arnold Koresian reported that the books of the Parish Council were audited and found to be in order and commended Treasurer Garo Evran for a job well done. It was the opinion of the Auditing Committee to start using the one-write regular board system of check writing which would provide a duplicate copy of the check and in doing so make auditing an easier job. Dolores Tootooian so moved. Mr. Jack Cholakian seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Questions Regrading Financial and Auditing Reports

A question was raised regarding the \$7,000 disbursement to Money Market. Mr. Evran explained that earlier in 1990, \$7,000 had been borrowed from the fund to cover operating expenses and that disbursement was the reimbursement to the money market fund. Someone asked that is the St. Gregory Memorial Fund. It was explained that often times individuals indicate they wish to make a donation in memory of someone for a special purchase of an item for church or for a special usage. Some memorial funds have been set-up in the memory of deceased members. Since the Parish Council has noted that this policy needs clarification, they will be publishing a policy statement on the memorial funds in the Loosavorich. A question was raised as to why there is a need for a Hall Rental Fund. It was explained that it is easier to keep the transactions of the hall rental, especially because of the security deposits required.

The hall rental charges for 1990 were as follows: Large Hall - \$550, with a security deposit of \$400; and Small Hall - \$150. The fees for 1991 will be less for paid members of the church. A list will be published in the Loosavorich.

Reserve Fund Report

Mr. George Nahabedian read the Report of the Reserve Fund Committee as submitted by Mr. Haig Pedian, Chairman of the Committee. The 1990 beginning balance was \$138,035.43 and to total balance as of December 31, 1990 was \$149,071.26. This \$11,035.83 increase represented an 8% return on our money. It was suggested and so noted that these monies should be transferred into a 10% interest bearing account.

Mrs. Alice George moved to accept the Auditing Committee Report. Mr. Garo Dadian seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Assembly Chairman Nahabedian then called for Mrs. Linda Zakarian to preside over the Elections.

Mrs. Linda Zakarian presented the following slate for the office of Parish Council.

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|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Nishan Babikian | 4. Stephanie Hagopian |
| 2. Garo Dadian | 5. Naomi Nahabedian |
| 3. Mary Dadian | 6. George Nahabedian |

Mrs. Zakarian opened the floor for nominations and explained that there were 4 vacancies that needed to be filled. Mrs. Pauline Nahabedian nominated Mr. Arnold Koresian. Mr. Armen Zakarian seconded the nomination. As there were no other nominations, Mrs. Dolores Tootoocian moved to close the nominations. John Paklaian seconded the motion. Votes were collected by Roll Call. While the votes were being tabulated, Mrs. Zakarian presented the slate for Auditing Committee explaining that there were 3 vacancies.

1. Matt Klujian, Jr.
2. Steve Tootoocian

Mrs. Zakarian opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Garo Dadian nominated Mr. Scott Paklaian. Mr. John Paklaian seconded the nomination. Mr. George Nahabedian nominated Mr. Garo Evran. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the nomination. Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza nominated Ms. Helen Paloian. Mrs. Rose Laurint seconded the nomination. Mrs. Alice George moved to close the nominations. Mrs. Rose Laurint seconded the motion and the motion carried. Again, the votes were collected by Roll Call.

While the votes were being tabulated for the Auditing Committee, Mrs. Zakarian presented the following slate for the Nominating Committee.

1. Michelle Babikian

Mrs. Zakarian then opened the floor for nominations explaining that there were 3 positions to be filled. Mr. Garo Dadian nominated Mrs. Dolores Tootoocian. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the nomination. Mr. Jack Cholakian nominated Mrs. Pauline Nahabedian. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the nomination. Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza nominated Mrs. Shooshan Paklaian. Mr. Scott Paklaian seconded the nomination. Mrs. Margie Sarkesian nominated Ms. Cynthia Paklaian. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded

the nomination. Mrs. Pauline Nahabedian nominated Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza. Mr. Jack Cholakian seconded the nomination. Mrs. Rose Laurint moved to close the nominations. Mrs. Pauline Nahabedian seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The votes were collected by Roll Call and while this was being done, Mrs. Zakarian reported the results of the Parish Council Elections.

1. Nishan Babikian	20 Votes	Tied*	
2. Garo Dadian	22 Votes	Elected	
3. Mary Dadian	11 Votes		
4. Stephanie Hagopian	20 Votes	Tied*	Elected
5. Naomi (May) Nahabedian	8 Votes		
6. George Nahabedian	29 Votes	Elected	
7. Arnold Koresian	32 Votes	Elected	

Ballots were then distributed and collected by Roll Call for the run-off tie-breaker for the 3rd Parish Council position.

Mrs. Sadie Marcantonio suggested that next year the ballots include the number of positions to be filled. It was so noted.

The results of the Auditing Committee were then announced.

1. Matt Klujian, Jr.	30 Votes	Elected
2. Steve Tootooian	36 Votes	Elected
3. Scott Paklaian	15 Votes	Tied* (Withdrew)
4. Garo Evran	15 Votes	Tied* (Elected)
5. Helen Paloian	13 Votes	

As the voting for the Auditing Committee resulted in a tie for the 3rd position, a run-off tie-breaker was announced. However, Mr. Scott Paklaian withdrew his name and Mr. Garo Evran became the 3rd person elected to the Auditing Committee.

While the rest of the vote tabulation was taking place, the meeting progressed.

ADOPTION OF THE 1991 BUDGET

Mr. George Nahabedian reported that in his Auditing Committee Report, Mr. Arnold Koresian had stated that given the current position of the Parish (that is, no full-time parish priest), the budget was based on last year's expenses, minus full-time clergy expenses, plus 10%. The budget was presented at \$55,000. Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza moved to accept the 1991 proposed budget. Mrs. Alice George seconded the motion. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Matt Klujian, Sr. asked what happened to Rev. Fr. Vahram Hazarian's car. It was explained that his original car was a gift from parishoners and that he purchased his present car.

Mr. George Nahabedian noted that in listening to the reading of the minutes, he and others had notice that committees and activities were mentioned that did not perform and/or take place. It was suggested that as soon as the minutes are prepared that the Parish Council make note of these special committees and/or activities and monitor them more closely.

NEW BUSINESS

Diocesan Assembly

As Diocesan Delegate, George Nahabedian reported that this year's Diocesan Assembly will be held in Tenafly, New Jersey and that in 1992 it would be hosted in Boca Ratan, Florida. He wanted the Assembly to be aware that St. Gregory was listed as the host for the 1993 Diocesan Assembly and he wanted the input of this assembly as to whether or not they were in favor of this huge undertaking, so that, in the event we felt it would be too great, we would convey this at this year's assembly so that another parish would have adequate time to plan the 1993 Assembly.

Mr. Nahabedian then opened the floor for discussion. Questions were raised as to just what is involved in such a project. Fr. Haik gave some insight as to what is required. He reported that it often takes up to 150 individuals to run a successful assembly. There is a week-long clergy conference. There are Women's Guild meetings and workshops, and likewise for the Ladies Auxiliary, A.C.Y.O.A. and the Choirs. There are dinners, reservations, transportation, sight-seeing trips, tickets, publicity, secretarial services all to be arranged just to name a few. In short, this would be a tremendous task and not one to be taken lightly.

Mr. Matt Klujian, Sr. suggested that we could run a successful assembly if we joined forces with St. James Armenian Church to co-host and so moved. Mrs. Rose Laurint seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion was defeated. Mr. John Paklaian moved to have the Parish Council call a meeting prior to this year's Diocesan Assembly, inviting paid members to attend to discuss whether or not St. Gregory should host the 43rd Assembly and/or to discuss at that meeting the possibility of co-hosting the Assembly with St. James in the event we were not comfortable in undertaking the project alone. Dolores Tootooian seconded the motion. Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza called the motion to a vote. The motion carried by majority vote.

Mr. Matt Klujian, Sr. commended Mr. John Paklain for an outstanding job of overseeing the hall rentals. He suggested that St. Gregory could be realizing more revenue if we seriously considered the implementation of a coat-check. John said he would take this project under advisement with th Parish Council.

At this point the Nominating Committee announced the results of the election for Nominating Committee.

1. Michelle Babikian	25 Votes	Elected
2. Dolores Tootooian	10 Votes	
3. Pauline Nahabedian	25 Votes	Elected
4. Shooshan Paklaian	17 Votes	
5. Cynthia Paklaian	14 Votes	
6. Georgette Mrofcza	19 Votes	Elected

75th Anniversary of the Genocide VCRTapes

Mr. George Nahabedian reported that to defray the cost of the \$5,000 expenses incurred for the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Genocide, the committee had commissioned a video of the highlights. This tape if available at a cost of \$30.00. Flyers had been sent through the mail but if anyone was interested they could let George know.

Mr. Nahabedian thanked the Nairi Choir for preparing the Assembly luncheon and then introduced Archpriest Rev. Fr. Haik Donikian and invited him to share his thoughts.

Fr. Haik said that looking at our financial statement, he was somewhat disappointed at the low amounts under dues, pledges, plate collections and candles. He said he noted that membership was down slightly and he could only guess as to the possible reasons for this.

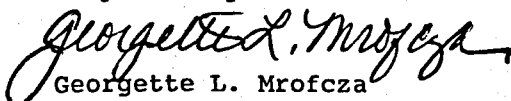
He reminded the assembly that he was here by invitation as a visiting clergy, but that we should feel free to call upon his services whenever we needed him. He offered some suggestions:

- The Nominating Committee should begin their work right after Labor Day, instead of a month or so before the meeting. All the voting should take place on one sheet of paper. Voting should take not more than 15 minutes, unlike the 50 minutes it took today to complete the process.
- As a parish we should love and respect the visiting clergy and know that the clergy is there to help.
- Must rejuvenate the A.C.Y.O.A. Without the youth, there is no church. We should invite all those individuals between the ages of 18-35 to a dinner. Start a basketball team and other such activities that would draw these people back to church.
- Although we should not blame ourselves for our ignorance, we should make every attempt to educate ourselves in church rules. Der Hayr will make himself available to offer his guidance, but he wanted to impress upon us that he would expect our cooperation in these efforts.
- Der Hayr would like to see the following affairs on our calendar in the coming year:

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| - BAZAAR | - ENGLISH-AMERICAN CHRISTMAS SERVICES |
| - CULTURAL PROGRAM | - ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE (in English with Armenian sharagans) |
| - VARTANATZ CELEBRATION | |

Fr. Haik closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Georgette L. Mrofcza
Parish Assembly Secretary
March 20, 1991