

ST. LEON ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
1977 MINUTES

(The following is a brief outline of the Parish Assembly minutes.)

The annual Parish Assembly of St. Leon's Armenian Church was called to order at 12:00 p.m. in the Church nave by the Parish Council Chairman.

After the opening prayer by Der Paree, nominations were accepted for Assembly Chairman. Sarkis Bedevian was nominated and seconded. Jon Najarian read the minutes of the last Parish Assembly meeting. It was asked if there were any corrections or additions, it was accepted as read.

There was a motion entertained to accept Miss Debra Noorigian as Secretary, there was a motion to accept Miss Debra Noorigian as Secretary. The motion was seconded and carried.

Jon Najarian then turned the assembly over to the Permanent Chairman, Sarkis Bedevian. Accepting that he have his thanks for being there. The Chairman invited Der Paree to read about the Management Seminar he attended made possible by the Parish Council. Everyone had a copy to follow along.

The Assembly heard the Pastor's report with great interest and without any questions.

Reports of the subordinate bodies of the Church had been mailed to all members of the Church and it was asked if there were any questions or comments on the following:

The Parish Council's Report: No comments.

Diocesan Report: No comments.

Financial aspects of the organization: No comments.

The Sunday School: Rose Najarian stated that their needs were great. They have 95 children ranging from four to sixteen years of age. The Sunday School is in need of better facilities and resources as well as a superintendant. Without these the children are not going to benefit.

The Armenian School: It was stated that they are experiencing the same difficulties as the Sunday School.

Woman's Guild, Senior Center, Friendship Society, Saint Leon's Choir Activities, Saint Leon's ACYOA: No comments, which concluded the regular reports of the subordinate bodies.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee was asked to give a report and introduce the candidates. It was mentioned that Charles Pinajian composed the Nominating Committee with the help of Der Paree. It was stated with 225 member, there can be a third delegate to ~~serve~~ a four year term. There was a discussion on the subject and questions were answered.

At this time, the ballots were passed out. There were seven members to be elected for Parish Council to serve a term of one year. There was a motion that the seventh member also serve only one year. The motion was seconded and carried.

There was a ballot or tabulating committee appointed to count up the ballots.

It was asked if there were any other nominations from the floor for the Auditing Committee where three were to be elected or the Nominating Committee where also three were to be elected; there were no other nominations. It was then asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the Diocesan Delegates and both Sarkis Gabrellian and Jon Najarian were nominated as well as seconded. At this time John Nakasian wished all of the members nominated the best of luck.

The next order of business was the adoption of the 1977 budget. It was stated that the utility bill was very high. It was asked that the committee using the hall for whatever reason to please be kind enough to lower the heat and close the lights before leaving to lower this bill. A long discussion followed and questions were answered. The following points were brought up; a pay telephone in the hall but it was not approved mainly because it would probably end up costing more in the long run. There were four picnic benches purchased and there are going to be four more. There is, along with the benches, a desk and chair for Der Hir to do his work on. At this time it was suggested that they employ a superintendant for the Sunday School. Paying twenty or twenty-five dollars a week for someone seemed well worth it for the 95 children enrolled in the school. It was moved that the budget be adopted, it was seconded and all approved on the 1977 budget as it was amended.

Next on the agenda were proposals. The first proposal was to elect members at the Annual Parish Assembly, but it was then referred back to the Parish Council.

The next proposal was from the Nominating Committee to have the seventh member elected to serve a term of one year. It was seconded and passed.

The third proposal was from the Parish Council to increase Annual Membership Dues from \$25.00 a year to \$50.00 a year re-toactive to January, 1977; excluding Senior Citizens of 62 years of age and over. Their dues shall remain the same at \$25.00 a year. It was then added that it excluded Senior Citizens

and persons permanently disabled to work. After a very long discussion, it was accepted.

The fourth proposal was to invest in a van for the Senior Citizens so they can attend social gatherings and church services, for the ACYOA for their activities which sometimes involve two or three cars with six or eight persons in each car; for the Armenian and Sunday School classes for field trips during the week; and for Der Paree's use as he is without a car and it could serve his purpose as well. Purchasing this van could help the church expand its role in the community. There was a discussion expressing both pros and cons about the van but the outcome was that all were in favor and it was passed.

It was proposed that the assembly make an amendment to have an annual expenditure which include the gasoline and whatever expense required for the operation of the said van. This must be included in the budget. The proposal stood; any organizations using the van must contribute to the maintenance of it. It was set at \$1500.00 for the budget. All were in favor and it was passed.

It was proposed that the church have a Life Committee, which would evaluate what has been done in the past and plan for the future and give an annual report. Der Paree was pleased with this proposal.

The last subject was the adjoining property which was to be purchased. The land was donated on which would be built a two story building. The AGBU was expected to come up with \$375 while we contributed \$125,000.00. By we, Saint Leon's by way of renting out the hall, ect., the Armenian Community and generally the people in the Northern Jersey area as they would benefit from this building. There was a meeting of like an orientation on what was going to be done which lead to a second meeting. The proposal was put into writing which then lead to a third meeting which was mainly questions from the AGBU. For instance; is the land worth the \$250,000.00 and the answer was, yes. The next step was to talk to the president of the AGBU and answer his questions and he seemed quite impressed. If everything goes well and the idea is approved, there will be a detailed memorandum set up and if it does not get approved, the parishoners will be aware of it. No money will be spent until there is a Parish Assembly and it is approved.

Other things have been done also like questionnaires to the ACYOA asking for opinions on this said building because this is to be a community wide effort.

If all are with us and all approve on the purchase of this, it will be continued on that basis and on that basis alone.

At this time, the Ballot Committee had its report, which was as follows:

Parish Council: George Dabagian, Ara Hourdajian, Charles Pinajian, Sarkis Soultanian, Agnes Voskian, Harry Zoroian and James Soojian as first alternate.

Auditing Committee: Barbara Azarian, Edward Torosian, and Alfred Ferraro as first alternate.

Nominating Committee: There was a tie for third place, it was accepted that there be four on the committee instead of three.  
Andy Dabbakian, John Nakashian, Noubar Jessourian and Berjoochi Varjabedian.

John Nakasian then let Der Paree close the meeting with his message and prayer.

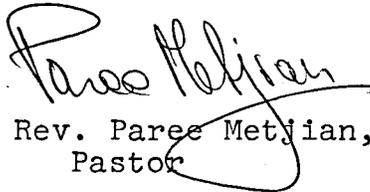
With the saying of the "Hayr Mer" and benediction, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DEBRA NOORIGIAN, Recording Secretary



Sarkis Bedevian  
1977 Chairman



Rev. Paree Metjian,  
Pastor