

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FEBRUARY 8, 1981

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

The General Membership Meeting of the St. James Armenian Church of Richmond, Virginia was called to order by the Parish Assembly chairman, Barkev Baronian at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Der Arsen Barsamian and the minutes of the 1980 membership meeting was read. A correction to the minutes of 1980 was made by Virginia Bandazian as to the omission of the fact that an oral report of the 1979 Bazaar was given at the 1980 meeting and a written report was sent to the church at a later date. After corrections, the minutes were accepted.

Nominations were open for chairman and secretary of the day and Nebe Boyajian and Virginia Greene were elected respectively.

Barkev Baronian announced that we had a total membership of 88 members. A roll call was made with 41 members present.

The chairman, Nebe Boyajian, then called upon Der Hayr and various other church organizations for their annual reports.

Der Arsen read his Pastoral report in which he mentioned his many duties and activities for the past year including arrangements for Feast days etc. (Report enclosed.)

ACYOA Chuck Ashjian, chairman of the ACYOA reported on their activities and plans for the future. He reported a balance of \$915.00 in their treasury. Special acknowledgment was made to Rose Soghoian and Margaret Boyajian, who, under their guidance, have helped strengthen the ACYOA. Churck also announced, that through the request of the ACYOA Christmas Eve services were initiated.

PARISH COUNCIL Gerry Sharigian, chairman reported on the accomplishments of the past year. He thanked all chairmans of organizations and activities and also the many volunteers who had made this a successful year. (Report enclosed.)

WOMENS GUILD Virginia Bandazian, chairwoman, mentioned in her report of the many activities of the organization, listing among them, guest speakers at the meetings, visitations from other churches and also about how much the women were involved in the various dinners and activities of the church. She then turned over a check for \$7,000.00 to the Parish Council as the yearly donation. In the absence of John and Sam Baronian, chairmen of the Annual Food Festival, Virginia Greene gave a report on the financial standing of the Bazaar. A gross income of \$12,508.96 was realized from the bazaar with the net profit being \$8,568.61.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Roxie Kricorian gave her report as the Sunday School Superintendent. She announced an enrollment of 25 students, 3 teachers and 1 nursery teacher. She commented that in our thoughts we should put the young people first. Virginia Bandazian suggested giving Roxie a round of applause for the fine work that she has been doing for many years with the Sunday School.

ARMENIAN SCHOOL Bedros Bandazian, treasurer for the Armenian School reported on behalf of the Armenian School. He stated that the school had 23 students learning Armenian and 5 students learning English. He also commented on the fact that they were represented at the Diocesan Assembly this past year and had benefited from it.

BOYS CLUB Rose Soghoian reported on the Boys Club International Festival stating that a profit of \$3,3037.00 was realized from the weekend. She mentioned that our church was the third highest profit making group during the weekend and also commented that this years amount was the highest we had ever made.

ENDOWMENT FUND Peter Greene, chairman of the Endowment Fund, did not have a formal report but he mentioned that the funds had been transferred to a 6 month money market certificate as had been requested in the 1979 annual parish assembly. The maturity date, he said, was in February. Within the next few days, a report was made by him that the total amount in the certificate was \$36,600.00 with the rate of interest at the time of purchase being 10%. The savings account balance was \$1366.36.

SOFTBALL TEAM Harry Tatian, liaison officer from the Parish Council stated that the team was doing very well under the management of Dr. Murad Kerneklian. The team had a lot of enthusiasm and that new uniforms had been acquired. He requested that the team would appreciate support from the members.

DANCE GROUP Rose Soghoian reported that rehearsals were in progress with Susan Minasian as the instructor. The Womens Guild had made costumes and Khoren Bandazian had made the headpieces and any new monies derived from new activities would be used to update the costumes. They had performed at various civic organizations and churches.

CHOIR There being no Choir report and no Choir organization, Der Hayr mentioned that they did have a dormant account at a bank. He stressed the importance of members singing in the choir.

The next order of business was the election of Parish Council members. The following slate was presented by Roxie Kricorian. Bedros Bandazian, Sam Baronian, Haike Giragosian, Peter Greene, Henry Magarian, Robert Thomas, Dr. Michael Vranian and Dr. Phil Guzelian. After tabulations, the following were elected to the Parish Council: Dr. Michael Vranian, Peter Greene, Haike Giragosian and Robert Thomas.

The following nominees were presented for the nominating committee: Alice Darhanian, Stella Bandazian, Harry Tatian, Linda Sharigian, Barkev Baronian and Nwrses Berberian. The following were elected to office: Stella Bandazian, Barkev Baronian and Nerses Berberian.

Auditing Committee candidates were Sam Baronian, John Ashjian, Nebe Boyajian, Gerry Sharigian, Joyce Soghoian and Isabelle Vranian. Those elected were John Ashjian, Nebe Boyajian and Gerry Sharigian.

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Nominations from the floor were asked for Diocesan Delegates. The nominees were Tigran Amirkhanian, Virginia Greene and Shnorig Soghoian. Those elected were Tigran Amirkhanian, delegate and Virginia Greene, alternate.

A financial report was given by Barkev Baronian. He first gave an analysis of the general savings account going through all details of the report including the 1981 budget. All those present had their own copy of the entire financial report and it was not a problem for members to follow as Barkev gave details.

It was brought up by Der Hayr asking for a 10% raise. Barkev Baronian, treasurer, explained the stipend salary rate and the actual amount that Der Hayr was getting. Gerry Sharigian, chairman of the Parish Council, explained that the Parish Council did not see fit to give Der Hayr a 10% raise because of the fact that they seemed to think that the church organizations were being neglected, they being, the choir and the youth organization. The Parish Council, did, however, approve a 7% raise. Roxie Kricorian, a member of the Parish Council emphasized the fact that the Parish Council does all it can. Der Hayr explained that according to the By-laws of the Diocese those duties which the Parish Council wanted to be strengthened were the responsibilities of the Parish Council under the Presidency of the priest. Therefore, if there was any negligence in this area it was by the members of the Parish Council. Der Hayr further explained that with the 10% increase it would raise this stipend salary only \$300.00 over the minimum given to a priest newly ordained. Barkev Baronian, treasurer, explained out that, if the membership granted the additional 3% raise, it would be a matter of \$300.00. Der Hayr brought it to the attention of the Parish Assembly that he had served over 20 years and that a negative vote would be totally unjustified. Rose Soghoian, advisor to the Youth Organization, disputed Parish Council Chairman, Gerry Sharigian's statement that Der Hayr was neglecting the Youth Organization stating that he attends all of the meetings and provides invaluable guidance and leadership. Mrs. Shnorig Soghoian observed that no one is in church when church services commence and that it was not Der Hayr's duty to gather choir members and to see to it that members do come on time.

Garabed Akseraylian explained that, how, he as a newcomer sees the need for a committee to bring in church members. Much discussion was made on this matter which all related to the question of giving Der Hayr a 10% raise.

Rose Soghoian made a motion to increase Der Hayr's salary from 7% to 10%. Jack Tootelian seconded it. A vote was taken, the results being 16 for and 15 against. The motion was carried.

A moment of silence was observed for those members we had lost during the year and also for Der Hayr's mother who had just passed away two days ago.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. With consenting vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Rev. Arsen Barsamian  
President

Nebe Boyajian  
Chairman

Virginia Greene  
Secretary

*Rev. Arsen Barsamian* *Nebe Boyajian* *Virginia Greene*

The vote count was as follows:

PARISH COUNCIL

Dr. Michael Vranian	26
Peter Greene	24
Haike Giragosian	22
Robert Thomas	22
Bedros Bandazian	21
Sam Baronian	20
Henry Magarian	19
Dr. Phil Guzelian	3

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Stella Bandazian	25
Barkev Baronian	23
Nerses Berberian	22
Harry Tatian	18
Alice Darhanian	17
Linda Sharigian	14

AUDITING COMMITTEE

John Ashjian	36
Nebe Boyajian	32
Gerry Sharigian	15
Joyce Soghoian	14
Sam Baronian	14
Isabelle Vranian	11

DIOCESAN DELEGATE

Tigran Amirkhanian	18
Virginia Greene	15
Shnorig Soghoian	4