

St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church  
4605 Erie Street, Racine, Wisconsin 53402  
Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly  
Held in the Church Hall  
Sunday Afternoon, January 25, 1976

---

---

Meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by parish council chairman, Paul Chobanian. Attendance was 80. Following the opening prayer by the pastor, the Rev. Arten Ashjian; a carried motion that those in attendance constitute a quorum; reading of the minutes of the January 26, 1975, parish assembly, by parish council secretary, Paul Tewagian, which were to be filed as corrected; and the election of George Stevoff as chairman and Mrs. Benjamin Kamakian as secretary of the day, the meeting commenced.

Rev. Ashjian gave his state of the church address and also outlined the tasks he has undertaken since he assumed pastoral responsibilities at St. Mesrob in August, 1975.

The membership was permitted five minutes to read the report of the Parish Council in the Handbook. Parish Council members were on hand to clarify all queries from the floor and to explain new Diocesan policies. It was agreed that the city firemen and policemen who have been using the church gym one day per week be permitted to continue.

Our mortgage balance is now \$55,000. The chairman suggested that the Parish Council indicate on all future financial statements mortgage as of the beginning of the year and balance at the end.

In discussing the proposed 1976 budget, Harry Cherkinian announced that a proposal is being considered whereby our annual dues of \$4,400 to the Diocese may be nearly doubled.

<sup>Sam</sup>  
Sarkis/Akgulian of the Reserve Fund reported that the value of the fund was \$14,050. The chairman stated that additional stocks held by the broker will hereafter be acknowledged on the Reserve Fund report. The Reserve Fund was further asked to make an effort to locate papers on our present (4605 Erie Street) property and to deposit same in the safety deposit box. Mr. Stevoff also asked that the Parish Council report at the next Parish Assembly the status of the members of the Reserve Fund indicating expiration date of terms.

Representatives were available from all organizations for clarification of reports as appearing in the Handbook; question-answer period was allowed for each organization report.

The Ladies' Aid Society, St. Mesrob's oldest and largest women's group, founded in 1925, had a final closing of books and joined the Women's Guild. A rider financial statement, dated January 12, 1976, indicated that \$2,600 on January 14, 1975; and \$1,614.51 again on December 30, 1975, was turned over to the Parish Council; thereby, leaving a zero balance.

continued on page 2

Speaking for the Pledge Committee was Harry Cherkinian, stating that the committee meets each Wednesday and will continue to do so until their work is completed. He said their concern was the steady drop of pledges each year. We were averaging \$20,000 per year at the beginning of the pledge system; it has now dropped to \$15,000. Each pledge will be reviewed, and anyone not giving his fair share will be contacted. Mr. Cherkinian guaranteed a rise to \$20,000.

Reporting on the memorial pledges made at the 1972 Memorial Dinner, Harry Cherkinian announced that 242 people pledged \$73,916, and of this amount only \$9,090 (owed by 14 people) remains outstanding. We have collected in excess of 88% of the money pledges. Of this 14 figure, 6 have paid nothing and owe \$300. Parish Council will contact these individuals.

80 Voting by secret ballot (distributed with handbooks at entrance) was held. ~~57~~ ballots were passed out. There were no floor nominations. Gene Chardukian's motion that nominations be closed was seconded and carried.

Names appearing on ballots were: Parish Council Candidates, three were to be voted for a two-year term: Gene Chardukian, Myron Chordegian, Harry Derderian, Johy Esayian, Murad Gengozian, Sam S. Kaprelian. Nominating Committee Candidates, four were to be voted for a one-year term: Sahag Akgulian, Sam Akgulian, Vartine Cherkinian, Mikael Garoukian, Charles Hardy, Claire Kadamian, Mary Kamakian, Mesag Vidian. Auditing Committee Candidates, three were to be voted for a one-year term: Harry Cherkinian, Mary Cherkinian, Charles Dadian, Catherine Mikaelian, Myron Mikaelian, Joseph Yahnian.

- Motions Passed:
1. Goldie Roy's motion that the Parish Council appoint a committee to study the feasibility of more use of the church hall was seconded and carried.
  2. Vartine Cherkinian's motion that the 1976 budget as proposed by the Parish Council be accepted was seconded and carried.
  3. Harry Cherkinian's motion that the \$8,000 in certificates of deposit currently held by the Reserve Fund be applied to the mortgage when they mature in April, 1976, was seconded and carried.
  4. Bob Akgulian's motion that the Parish Council be allowed to expend \$120 annually to the church-sponsored softball team was seconded and carried.

Ardis Cherkinian of the Auditing Committee reported that all books were found to be in good order.

Proposals for submission to the Diocesan Assembly, to be held the first week of May, 1976, in Philadelphia:

Der Hayr - The Diocesan Council or office should mail to each parish clear-cut guidelines as to how to exactly calculate their current membership.

Harry Cherkinian - A report be mailed to all churches of the Diocese showing each church's income and disbursements; membership figures, and assessments.

Concluding the meeting was the chairman's reading of the results of balloting:

Parish Council:

1. John Esayian, 70 votes
2. Myron Chordegian, 62 votes
3. Murad Gengozian, 45 votes  
Sam S. Kaprelian, 27 votes  
Gene Chardukian, 26 votes  
Harry Derderian, 8 votes

Nominating Committee:

1. Mikael Garoukian, 70 votes
2. Sam Akgulian, 54 votes
3. Charles Hardy, 42 votes
4. Mesag Vidian, 36 votes  
Claire Kadamian, 35 votes  
Vartine Cherkinian, 28 votes  
Mary Kamakian, 23 votes  
Sahag Akgulian, 20 votes

Auditing Committee:

1. Mary Cherkinian, 48 votes
2. Charles Dadian, 45 votes
3. Catherine Mikaelian, 43 votes  
Harry Cherkinian, 33 votes  
Myron Mikaelian, 32 votes  
Joseph Yahnian, 28 votes

The membership went on record to thank the Picnic Committee and the Parish Council for their splendid work.

Meeting stood adjourned at 5:30 p.m. with Rev. Ashjian offering a closing prayer. Lunch and old-time movies followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary M. Kamakian*

Mrs. Benjamin Kamakian, Secretary