

## MINUTES OF THE FIRST 1996-97 WOMEN'S GUILD CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING

The first meeting of the 1996-97 Central Council was held at the Diocese on July 20, 1996. Present were Yeretgin Patricia Buttero, Chairman; Yeretgin Violet Kasparian, Vice-Chairman; Yeretgin Aurora Jebejian, Recording Secretary; Araxy Gokberk, Corresponding Secretary; Ann Ajemian, Treasurer; Yeretgin Anahid Kalayjian, Assistant Treasurer; Nevart Marashlian, Claire Bardakian, and Lilly Bouroujian Thomas, Advisors. Also present was Julie Ashekian, Coordinator of CASP. Yeretgin Anahid Kalayjian opened the meeting with a prayer. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Chancellor of the Diocese read from the Gospel of St. John and offered prayers for the people who were killed in the TWA flight. Memorial prayers were said for Mr. Alex Manoogian, benefactor of the Diocese, who had recently passed away.

Nevart Marashlian read the Pre-Assembly meeting minutes of Thursday, May 2 at King of Prussia, PA. The following corrections and additions were made:

- 1) p. 2 line 38 The blank spot should read STS. SAHAG & MESROB, WYNNEWOOD, PA.
- 2) p. 4 line 22 Julie Ashekian noted that she did not donate the crosses given to past WGCC Chairmen.
- 3) p. 3 line 7 WGCC members are not delegates to the Assembly unless they are representing their parish guild and have paid the registration fee.
- 4) p. 1 line 50 seem should read seems
- 5) p. 1 line 20 By-laws should read bylaws
- 6) p. 2 line 40 Holy Shoghagat, Belleville, IL should read Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat, Belleville, IL
- 7) p. 3 line 26-36 Fr. Garabed questioned whether an honorarium is given when guest speakers are from the Diocesan Staff. He suggested we send a thank you.
- 8) p. 4 line 3 responce should read response

The Post Assembly meeting minutes were read and the following corrections were made:

- 1) p. 5 line 19 Lily should read Lilly Bouroujian Thomas
- 2) p. 5 line 37 Lucy Murad is Chairman of the 1997 Nominating Committee because Julie Ashekian declined the position.
- 3) p. 5 line 37 Lucy Murad, St. Mary Washington, DC
- 4) p. 5 line 38 Grace Arslanian, St. Gregory of Narek, Cleveland, OH
- 5) p. 5 line 39 Carol Ashbahian, St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ

A motion was made by Araxy Gokberk to accept the Pre-Assembly and Post-Assembly minutes as corrected. Claire Bardakian seconded the motion. It passed.

A discussion followed regarding the signing of the minutes. The official copy on record should be signed by the Recording Secretary. Minutes will be sent to the Primate, Chancellor, and the WGCC including Julie Ashekian, CASP; and Marilyn Larkin, Editor of the Newsletter.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Ann Ajemian submitted the Treasurer's report ( See Appendix A). We have a new bank account which will require new signature cards. The new bank is PNC, we will be using the present bank until September. The 1995 Treasurer's report has been approved and will be sent out with the Assembly Minutes.

A motion was made by Yeretgin Aurora Jebejian that the Treasurer's report follow the procedures of previous treasurers. The motion was seconded by Yeretgin Violet Kasparian and passed. Claire Bardakian made a motion to file the Treasurer's Report, it was seconded by Yeretgin Anahid

Kalayjian. The motion passed. It was suggested to show each individual fund separately. Araxy Gokberk asked what the total amount of Saints Day Fund is. There seems to be a discrepancy between the figure Ann Ajemian recorded and Araxy Gokberk recorded. The difference is \$132.61. Ann will correct the Annual 1995 report that will be sent with the Assembly Minutes. Yerezgin Violet Kasparian offered her daughter's help if needed to go over accounting procedures. Presently travel reimbursement is twenty eight cents per mile.

#### **ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT**

Yerezgin Anahid Kalayjian presented her report on each guild and amount paid for membership dues. By mid October reminder letters will be sent to delinquent guilds. Liaisons are asked to remind their individual guilds.

#### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Araxy Gokberk reported a letter was received from the Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian stating that the Diocesan Council unanimously accepted our elections and ratified our new Tivan. Araxy read the letter from our Chairman, Yerezgin Patricia Buttero congratulating Holy Cross Armenian Church of Lawrence, MA on the 80th Anniversary of their Women's Guild. A letter was read addressed to the family of Mr. Alex Manoogian on his untimely death, this letter was written by Yerezgin Violet Kasparian. A letter was sent on behalf of the St. Vartan Camp for the \$500 donation given by the WGCC. It was reported that letters were sent to the Assembly Committees: Nominating, Proposals and Auditing. Araxy read the letter to be sent to the Priests, Chairmen, and Delegates with the Assembly Minutes. It is hoped that the packet will be sent out by Labor Day. Araxy will send Nancy Basmajian a letter of thanks for the Assembly program she presented.

#### **GUILD ASSIGNMENTS**

Yerezgin Patricia presented the Liaison Guild Assignments. Each Council member has her copy of the assignments. Yerezgin Aurora passed out copies of each guild which completed the 1995 Annual Report to each member of the Council. Each council member received an updated Chairman's list. Yerezgin Patricia reminded the Council that Liaison letters should be sent out in September.

#### **ASSEMBLY MINUTES**

Yerezgin Patricia reviewed the 10th Annual Assembly Minutes. Father Garabed reminded the Council that the Assembly Minutes belong to the delegates of the Assembly. Yerezgin Violet made a motion to postpone the reading of the Minutes. Yerezgin Aurora seconded the motion, it passed. Each Central Council member will make corrections and send them to Yerezgin Patricia.

#### **GUILDS IN MOTION**

Claire Bardakian summarized "Guilds in Motion", the workshop presented at the Annual Assembly. Nancy Basmajian divided the delegates into groups, the purpose of which was to discuss what is working in our Guilds. Claire presented the following lists: "Women's Guild Priorities", "Positives of the Women's Guilds", and "Areas Needing Improvement Within the Women's Guilds". It was decided to send each Guild a copy of the seven paper summary. Yerezgin Violet made a motion to send copies of "Guilds in Motion" to each guild as a separate mailing with a cover letter. Claire seconded the motion. It passed. It was suggested that in the cover letter an explanation of how to implement the information be explained. It was also suggested that Claire write an article for the Newsletter. It may be explained how to present this program to local guilds, Claire could contact Nancy Basmajian for suggestions. Claire suggested that a follow up program be presented at our next Assembly. Claire will follow through as the coordinator of this project.

## **SCHOOL BAGS - PHASE TWO**

Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian, Coordinator of the School Bag Project reported that to date we have \$14,600. The school bags have been purchased and the logo has been imprinted. Yeretzgin is now ordering the supplies to be placed in the school bags. All Armenian newspapers are cooperative with printing of articles submitted by Yeretzgin Violet. The school bags will be assembled at St. Leon's in Fair Lawn, NJ. A Video shows how the bags were assembled; it was suggested that the guilds know that the video is available to show. Father Garabed suggested that we make posters on the CASP and School Bag project to make available to all guilds to be displayed in the churches. Yeretzgin Violet and Ann Ajemian will check on who might be contacted for a poster layout.

## **SAINTS DAY PROGRAM**

Araxy Gokberk reported that the Saints Day Fund is \$2680.61, this amount differs from the Treasurer's report. It will be looked into. Araxy reported that twenty-two churches were sent formats, only ten guilds returned questionnaires and seven churches returned donations. The list of the 1997 Saints Day host churches was given to delegates at the Assembly. Araxy will mail Father Garabed a copy of the schedule. Saints Day will be March 1, 1997, it was in the Diocesan Calendar. Thank you notes were sent to those churches who responded by sending donations and reports. Saints Day, March 1, 1997 should be noted in Liaison letters sent out in September. Araxy reviewed all matters from the Saints Day manual. Father Garabed asked if we could suggest the Saint or theme or program. The theme for 1997 will be Outreach or Mission theme throughout the Diocese. A discussion followed regarding the seven churches in the Mid-west area; it was decided to request Racine to host Saints Day in 1997. Yeretzgin Violet suggested that committees in a few regions meet and discuss the possibility of revising the program for Saints Day. Nevert Marashlian volunteered to help the committees. Araxy will contact the churches in her area.

## **MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT YEAR**

The meeting dates that will be requested are October 5 or November 2 for the fall meeting; January 25 for the winter; March 14-15 for the spring; and May 1-3, 1997 for the Assembly.

## **PUBLICITY**

Nevart Marashlian with the help of Yeretzgin Patricia and Julie developed an article for the Reporter, Mirror-Spectator, and the Armenian Church. Articles will be written on CASP, pilgrimage, and the Boarding School in Armenia. Each article should be sent separately and at different times, otherwise editors combine the articles.

## **GUILD PINS**

Nevart asked that all the liaisons mention the Guild Pins when writing letters to the guilds. Please note the pins are \$8. and for ten or more \$6.

## **CASP**

Julie Ashekian, CASP Coordinator submitted Appendix B for her report. In addition to this report she reported that some sponsors are visiting their children and responses are good. In June Julie distributed 90 handmade wool scarves. Five hundred pictures and two hundred letters were brought back from Armenia to distribute to sponsors. Some donations are being given in lieu of flowers. One Women's Guild member has pledged \$2000 a year for at least the next four years. Four different orphanages will receive \$2000 a year. A California gentleman left \$77,000 in his will for the CASP program. Julie flew to Chicago to obtain background information for a press release on this generous donation. The WGCC again thanked Julie and Clement for their work and devotion.

## **PILGRIMAGE**

The pilgrimage to Armenia was successful with thirteen participants. Each pilgrim submitted an application, waiver of liability, medical history and insurance information. Air fare, two meals a day and hotel was \$1550. Because of a last minute change an additional \$155 was collected for each person. We have a balance of \$676 in the bank account. Julie has a list of people who would like to participate in 1997.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Yeretzgin Patricia discussed the Awards for each guild. The Council again decided not to give guilds awards. It is to emphasize and encourage Retreats and Conferences when liaison letters are sent to the guilds. The only Conference this year was New England. Some guilds have the experience to plan their own Retreats and Conferences. Yeretzgin Violet suggested that the Council must take the upper hand and plan the topics and set the dates. Father Garabed suggested that the Council take advantage of the resources at the Diocese, for example the DYM and DRE. Yeretzgin Aurora suggested that the Chairman in a certain region meet for the purpose of exchanging ideas and planning calendars. Father Garabed suggested topics such as Intermarriage, Role Models in Marriage, and Same Sex Marriages. Yeretzgin Aurora suggested that the DYM and DRE be invited to the next meeting.

Yeretzgin Patricia reminded the Council that the deadline for the newsletter is October 15, 1996.

Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian recalled at the Assembly, under the proposed budget entitled "Retreats and Conferences", there was \$800 allocated. She felt the Council did not answer the question posed by the delegates. After some discussion it was concluded that the two items should be combined.

Yeretzgin Aurora Jebejian reminded that the Corresponding Secretary should write a letter asking for the allocated funds from the Diocesan Assembly and in September the Council needs to write to the Diocesan Council requesting \$5000 for 1997.

## **BYLAWS**

Yeretzgin Aurora reported that the Bylaws will be sent out with "August Draft" written on the cover page. The Council was given permission by the Primate to have Rev. Fr. Souren Chinchinian translate the Bylaws in Armenian. A cover letter from Yeretzgin Patricia will be mailed to Chairmen, Priests, and Delegates. The format will be English and Armenian separately but in the same binder.

## **SAINTS DAY - ALTAR PAINTINGS**

Yeretzgin Patricia reported that the Primate had asked the Council to consider covering the cost of two side altar paintings at a cost of \$5,000 each. Since the Council only has about \$3,800 in the account, it was decided to wait until there was a substantial amount. It was noted that the Assembly makes the final decision. The Saints Day account has been earmarked for projects in and around the Diocese. Yeretzgin Aurora suggested that mission parishes be visited by some of the WGCC, especially since next year's theme throughout the Diocese is "Outreach". Fr. Garabed suggested a line item in next year's budget for mission parishes and outreach.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Julie Ashekian brought to the attention of the Council that Araxy Gokberk, WGCC member was honored as the Parishioner of the Year at St. Stepanos in Elberon. We are proud to have her with us. Father Garabed felt that at this time the Council should adopt a mission statement for the Council. He has prepared such a statement. Yeretzgin Aurora mentioned that in 1991 she had wanted to do this as

a member of WGCC. At that time she asked Yeretzgin Rosalie Papazian and Dr. Hagop Nersoyan to help in preparing a handout entitled "Why Womens Guild". She will mail a copy of this to Father Garabed and to Yeretzgin Patricia before the next meeting.

Yeretzgin Patricia, Chairman of WGCC appointed Lilly Thomas as Historian for the Council.

#### **EVALUATION OF 1996 ASSEMBLY**

The 1996 Assembly went well. There was a good program with wonderful speakers, registration went well, but it was felt that the Courtesies Committee was unnecessary. The number of packets assembled was discussed.

#### **11th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY IN CLEVELAND**

Father Garabed suggested that the Council send the Cleveland parish a Guild mailing list soon. The hotel room will be about \$129.00 a night. Yeretzgin Patricia asked the Council to think about possible programs for the assembly meetings.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Yeretzgin Aurora Jebejian,  
Recording Secretary

August 21, 1996





# WOMEN'S GUILD CENTRAL COUNCIL

OF THE

WOMEN'S GUILDS OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

630 Second Avenue, New York, New York 10016-4885 • 212-686-0710

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance - January 1, 1996 \$10,926.40

**INCOME;**

Dues	3,282.00
Assembly Registration	516.00
Women Guild Pins	174.00
School Bags Phase 11	4,215.00
Saint's Day	2,812.61
Guild Book Marks	10.00
Guild Anniversary Donation <i>Lucy Dalragi</i>	100.00
Interest	
CD School Bags - 137.94	
No. Hudson account - 117.54	
MidLantic Chcking - 65.81	
-----	321.29
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Total..... 11,430.90

Gross Income..... 22,357.30

**EXPENSES;**

Travel	1,974.83
Postage	350.18
Printing/Mailing	237.34
Office Supplies	338.10
Telephone	211.44
School Bags	4,082.45
Assembly	514.96
Misc. Newsletter's 200.00	
Guild Pins 945.50	
Guest Speaker 200.00	
DRE Camp Vartan 500.00	
Eastgate Tower 353.41	
Certificates 53.75	
ACYOA Booklet 100.00	
-----	2,352.66
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Total. .... 10,061.96

Ending Balance - June 28, 1996..... \$12,295.46

Submitted by

*Ann Ajemian*  
Ann Ajemian, Treasurer  
Women's Guild Central Council

Memo;

Savings-7,876.50
CD 5,237.67 - school bags
Total..13,114.17





**CHILDREN OF ARMENIA SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM (CASP)****WOMEN'S GUILD CENTRAL COUNCIL REPORT**

July 20, 1996

To date, there are approximately over 1500 children receiving assistance in Armenia. 875 are in the Araratian Diocese, 200 in the Shirag Diocese, 150 in the conflict region (Karabagh, Sisian, Goris), and the remaining are located in 4 orphanages. This is made possible through the sponsorship of more than 825 generous sponsors, accounting for \$707,000 (sponsorship revenue only) thus far in the project.

In addition, 425 children have received assistance and are no longer in the program. This is due to children reaching 18 years of age, relocation, or change in family status. In all cases, sponsors were notified of the situation, and new children were assigned.

There are 660 generous donors, including many In Lieu of Flowers, bank interest, and fund-raisers. This accounts for \$116,000.

To date, \$527,000 has been transferred to Armenia for distribution and expenses.

CASP continues to operate at approximately 6% expense of all income. Postage & telephone are the largest ongoing expenses. Much of this is due to constant follow up of sponsors when their renewals are due. This is due to forgetfulness, or their changing financial situation. Nonetheless, they manage to come through with renewing the sponsorship of their children. Some of our sponsors have passed away, and in each case, discussions prevail with the families of the deceased to continue the sponsorship of the children in the deceased's name. This has worked out very well.

CASP continues to capture an extremely high degree of credibility in Armenia, as well as in the US. The timely and systematic distribution of assistance is maintaining the operation of orphan facilities. The distribution to the children has and continues to help with their daily lives. Many well-wishers have contacted me complementing the program's success. Others have implemented programs in Armenia using CASP's formula and policies as guidelines.

Earlier in July, CASP was the recipient of \$77,000 and \$1,000 respectively to be used to provide one time assistance to children waiting their turn to receive distribution. Approximately 425 children will benefit from this one time distribution equal to one year of assistance. This was the request of the donors. Details are currently being worked out with the Araratian Diocese in Armenia. They will provide a list of qualified names, and the distribution should take place in September.

In lieu of Flowers donations are steadily increasing, with the families of the deceased requesting that all donations be made to CASP. These donations are used to help children in the orphanages, and any other special circumstances that are deemed qualified and necessary.

Many sponsors have traveled to Armenia and have visited their sponsored child, and have contacted me upon their return. Their responses have been most positive, and emotional.

I visited Armenia during June 1996, and each time, was involved in the actual distribution of assistance to the orphans. Letters between Armenia and the US were delivered and received no less than six times during 1995. I have been fortunate to find people traveling to Armenia who have agreed to take and bring back letters. Money earmarked for distribution are hand carried during my trips. Upon my return in June, I carried approximately 500 photos of children for the sponsors, as well as 200 letters. All were immediately mailed to the sponsors.

I would like to again thank our Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, for his encouragement, and faith in me. I also wish to thank Anita Hedison, CASP's treasurer, who has maintained the financial status in excellent condition. Anita has always been timely and on top of all requests presented to her. Thank you Anita!!

My deepest gratitude goes to my husband, Clement, for without his help, and support, my involvement in the program would not be possible. We work together as a team.

Submitted by,



Julie Ashekian  
CASP Coordinator