

Guilds In Motion

At the 10th Annual Women's Guild Assembly on May 3, 1996 at the Sheraton Valley Forge Hotel in King of Prussia, PA, the latter portion of the first session consisted of a workshop entitled "Guilds in Motion." The facilitators, Nancy Basmajian and Carol Hoplamazian divided the members into several small discussion groups. The purpose of these groups was to brainstorm ideas, to discuss what is working within our Women's Guilds, areas needing improvement, and the establishment of positive long and short term goals for the future.

At the conclusion of these individual discussion groups, the members returned to the main group and drew up a set of priorities, based on the ideas exchanged earlier. Although the members felt there were many positive and beneficial aspects of our Women's Guilds, there were many areas needing improvement.

In an effort to best implement and incorporate these ideas into motion, it is suggested that each Guild form cluster groups within their particular Guild. The purpose of these individual groups is to encourage self-help and self-improvement.

Furthermore, it is recommended that each Guild get together with their sister Guilds to share their ideas and put into effect their recommendations for the future.

In order to keep up with our changing times and the new roles of women in our society, it is imperative that we begin now to implement and incorporate these new ideas within the framework of our individual Women's Guilds and the Armenian churches within our Diocese.

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Women's Guild Central Council

WOMEN'S GUILD PRIORITIES

1. Attract younger members
2. Spiritual growth
3. Understanding each other
4. Reaching outside the Armenian community
5. More enthusiasm
6. Motivation
7. Young professionals to share their talents
8. Encourage cohesiveness, unity, and tolerance of others
9. Education
10. Attracting non-Armenian spouses to Guild
11. Sensitivity to newcomers
12. Earlier meetings to encourage younger members
13. Women's Guild purpose
14. Public awareness
15. Church historian
16. Ecumenical outreach
17. Aid women in Armenia
18. Armenian cooking classes

POSITIVES OF THE WOMEN'S GUILDS

1. Earthquake Fund
2. Saints Day
3. CASP
4. School Bag Project
5. Ascension Day Program
6. Communication/Outreach
7. Retreats
8. Fundraising - Lunches, Dinners, Picnics, Bazaars, Bake Sales, Rummage Sales, Auctions, Card Parties
9. Conferences
10. Christian fellowship
11. Newsletter
12. Friendships - love - comraderie
13. Leadership
14. Growth
15. Dependency
16. Celebrating achievements
17. Raising children
18. Liaison networking
19. Increased membership
20. Feeding the hungry
21. Local outreach to community
22. Visiting the Armenian Home
23. Visiting shut-ins
24. Planting an herb garden

POSITIVES OF THE WOMEN'S GUILDS

25. Making mas
26. Altar Committee
27. Hokejash and Memorial Coffee Hour
28. Maintaining gift shop
29. Introducing non-Armenians to our church
30. Spiritual fulfillment - devotionals
31. Bible study
32. House and visit handicap and sick from Armenia
33. Family dinners
34. Party for volunteers
35. Way of life for seniors
36. Caring for seniors at home and in nursing homes
37. Annual Mother's Day lunch
38. Support for ACYOA - Cooking for Palm Sunday Dinner
39. Annual CASP Dance
40. Support group for abused women
41. Baskets for needy
42. Show and tell
43. Fun programs
44. Educational and cultural programs
45. Morning Coffee at members' homes
46. Sunshine and Visitation Committee
47. Social services for the homeless and poor in community
48. Trips and Tours
49. Blizzard Dinner

POSITIVES OF THE WOMEN'S GUILDS

50. Christmas Dinner and gifts to Sunday School
51. Celebration for mamas and papas/seniors
52. Membership Teas
53. Armenian dance classes
54. International Festival
55. Sisterhood

AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT WITHIN THE WOMEN'S GUILDS

1. Evaluation
2. Non-critical and less complaining
3. Setting examples
4. Understanding each other
5. More regional retreats
6. Friendships
7. More Christian fellowship
8. Bible study programs for women
9. Consideration of other people's feelings
10. Listening to each other
11. Open minded to change
12. More forgiving
13. Spiritual nourishment - get out the spiritual message
14. Accepting change
15. Education
16. Ecumenical
17. Resourcefulness
18. Language
19. Attract younger women
20. Armenian Schools - especially language
21. Join choir
22. Increase membership
23. Reaching outside own community
24. Represent the voice of Armenian women via letters to government officials - own opinions and desires

AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT WITHIN THE WOMEN'S GUILDS

25. Attract non-Armenian spouses to Guild
26. Increase bible studies and retreats
27. More committed members - motivation
28. More regional activities - with other area churches
29. Input into CASP
30. Educate community in relation to culture and heritage
31. October Cultural Month
32. Martyr's Day - April 24
33. Public awareness
34. Aid women in Armenia with women's health issues - educational articles and supplies
35. Women's voice on social issues - aids, etc.
36. More orderly meetings
37. Get more focused and become better acquainted with Women's Guild purpose
38. Promptness
39. Kindness toward each other
40. Encourage cohesiveness in the church
41. More membership participation
42. Sense of community
43. Attend church on Sunday
44. More enthusiasm
45. Tolerance of differing opinions
46. Empathy to needs of others - fill the needs
47. Less fundraising
48. Showing others outside church more appreciation of women in church - interfaith activities

AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT WITHIN THE WOMEN'S GUILDS

49. More cultural and educational programs
50. More outreach programs
51. Sensitivity to newcomers
52. Sensitivity to non-Armenian potential members
53. Armenian cooking classes
54. Kinsman Program
55. Relating to Armenian history
56. Historian
57. Maintain parish history
58. Posterity tablecloths
59. Early meetings to encourage younger mothers and others
60. Monthly programs
61. Reaching out to talented single and married women to speak at meetings
62. Send minutes of meeting to members and eliminate reading them at next meeting, except for questions