

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH, CLEVELAND, OHIO

FEBRUARY 27, 1994

The Annual Parish Assembly was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Acting Parish Council Chairman, Ara Bagdasarian. Deacon-in-Charge Norman Odabashian opened the meeting with a prayer and a short welcoming speech. He thanked everyone for their assistance in preparing the Annual Report, especially Leslie Bagdasarian. He also gratefully acknowledged Ara Bagdasarian and the other Parish Council members for their hard work and dedication. Diratzoo stressed the importance of communication amongst church organizations and that we should deal with problems and not hold resentment. He also encouraged parents to bring their children to Sunday School so that they may learn the teachings of the church.

Diratzoo also made a correction to the Annual Report of the Church School on page 14 of last year's annual report. Mrs. Anna Karayan was Superintendent of Church School until the end of the 1992-93 school year.

Ara Bagdasarian addressed the assembly on behalf of Florence Karoghlianian. He pointed out Florence's 15 years of serving on Parish Council and her unconditional love and service to the church. He also announced that as part of the 30th Anniversary of the church, Florence would be specially recognized. Ara thanked all Parish Council members and the Diocesan Delegate, Jack Hacherian. Ara noted that Deacon Norman has progressed as a leader in our community but that he needs our support. Attendance in church, volunteering our time, and financial donations are all areas that need improvement. He commended George Sakian for handling the caterer and hall responsibilities and the Women's Guild for handling the organization and ordering of supplies in the hall. Ara stated that the church is our family and that support from everyone is needed to keep it moving forward!

David Andonian took roll call and 45 dues paid members were in attendance which is over 1/3 of the membership. This constituted a quorum.

Next, the Nominating Committee (Lucille Andonian, Anita Arpajian, and Russ Arslanian) conducted the election for Chairman and Secretary of the Day. Results are below:

Chairman of the Day

Russ Arslanian

Naz Yessayan

Secretary of the Day

Leslie Bagdasarian

Alice Bagdasarian

Ara Bagdasarian noted that the 1993 Assembly Minutes needed to be approved. Alex Bagdasarian made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Naz Yessayan. Motion passed unanimously.

Diratzoo reviewed some upcoming events during the Nominating Committee's vote counting. He also announced that he was part of a pastoral program at St. Luke's Hospital and that his day off would be Mondays rather than Wednesdays for the next two months.

At this point, the Nominating Committee announced that Russell Arslanian was elected Chairman of the Day and Leslie Bagdasarian, Secretary of the Day. Russ then took nominations from the floor to complete the slate for (4) Parish Council members to be elected:

Richard Aurslanian

Robert Dombrowski

Haig Arpajian

George Sakian

Robert Bagdasarian

Dr. Sebough Setrakian

Serop Demirjian

Naz Yessayan

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Operation Heat: David Andonian reported on the success of our parish's efforts to collect monies for heating Armenia. A total of \$8,300 has been sent to buy heating oil for Armenia.

2. Culvert & Sewer: George Sakian reported that a decision was made over 20 years ago to keep the culvert on our property open which created a property maintenance issue. The City of Richmond Heights was contacted in 1993 and they have started the clean-up job of painting the fence and clearing brush, debris, etc. A work schedule for 1994 was requested by us from Richmond Hts. and we are waiting for it. Also, there is a possibility of a sanitary sewer tie-in with the Whitlatch development to the rear of our property. We are investigating this and attending town meetings on the issue.

3. Hall Rental: George Sakian (who has volunteered to work with Pasquale Caterers and the hall situation) reported on this issue. He commended Florence Karoghlanian on her work with the caterer. He stated that Pasquale's credit is poor and we are working with them to get a payment schedule. Since one-third of our parish's income comes from the hall rental, it is an important issue.

The Nominating Committee returned and announced that the following individuals would be serving two-year terms on Parish Council:

Richard Aurslanian

Robert Dombrowski

Serop Demirjian

Dr. Sebough Setrakian

Next, the Nominating Committee took nominees for Nominating Committee from the floor:

Lucille Andonian

Thelma Bagdasarian

Anita Arpajian

Louise Demirjian

Russell Arslanian

Alice Hacherian

4. Church's 30th Anniversary: Mona Karoghlanian summarized the activities planned for the 30th Anniversary weekend: The April 9th Dedication of the New Organ in the Church; the Recital by Berj Zamkochian, World-Renowned Organist; Champagne Reception following the recital; Sunday, April 10th Gala Banquet and the special visit by our Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. She informed everyone of the ticket prices: Saturday Recital & Reception (free) and Sunday Banquet (\$30 per person, \$10 children under 12) and said further publicity would be appearing soon.

5. Church Organ Fund: Serop Demirjian reported on the progress made so far and that the fund was \$5,000 short of its goal. He recognized Diratzoo and Louise Demirjian for obtaining grant monies from outside sources for the purchase of our organ. Remaining money needed would be raised during the 30th Anniversary weekend.

6. Church School/ACYOA Juniors: Diratzoo reported on these items.

Church School: Since no individual came forward to be superintendent, the duties would be broken down into 3 parts for next fall: Administrator/Program Coordinator, Supply Coordinator, Communications. There is a consistency problem with children's attendance. We need talented people to step forward and take responsibility. He thanked Leslie Bagdasarian for organizing the successful Nursery Program.

ACYOA Juniors: There are 12 members in the newly organized group. He commended them for a successful Poon Paregtan fellowship. He said they have monthly meetings and have already had a religious retreat. Naz Yessayan expressed his gratitude for Diratzoo's reorganization of the Juniors group but also asked ACYOA Seniors to take a more Big Brother/Big Sister role with the juniors' members. Murad Demirjian was also thanked for his help with the group.

The Nominating Committee returned to announce the elected Nominating Committee members for next year: Lucille Andonian, Anita Arpajian, Russell Arslanian.

Auditing Committee nominees from the floor were taken next:

Archie Andonian

Robert Bagdasarian

Cheryl Arslanian

Jack Hacherian

Jay Bagdasarian

Cindy (Aurslanian) Russell

#### NEW BUSINESS:

The \$10,000 budget item for improving the cultural hall restrooms prompted a lengthy discussion about the problem of cultural hall and general property maintenance and lack of a Property Manager. It was left up to the new Parish Council to prioritize projects that need attention and to come up with a better maintenance schedule for the property and to consider improvements to the cultural hall since it is such a large part of our income.

7. Parish Council Activities and Financial Report: George Sakian asked that the electric and gas expenditure line items be broken down by building next year as in previous years' reports. Alice Hacherian asked about Paros donations and David Andonian clarified that donations were just asked for recently and are currently being collected. Sam Mirakian asked about how the interest on our CD's etc. are notated. Jack Hacherian asked what the "Misc. Expenditures" were. Sandy Aurslanian asked about what amount of profit was made from the Food Sale at the Rug Sale. Cheryl Arslanian asked if there was a balanced budget amendment in our by-laws. David Andonian expressed concern about raising funds to cover our budget deficit for this year. Anahid Aghajanian asked about the dues increase and the large number of inaccuracies in our Telephone Directory. Louise Demirjian brought up the point for Melanie Gumushdjian that maybe we could collect monies directly from renters of the hall. Louise also recommended the church have a long-range plan for future projects. Thelma Bagdasarian stressed the need for a community-wide fund-raising project.

A motion from the floor was made by Sam Mirakian to approve the Financial Statement & Budget as read, Alex Bagdasarian seconded. Motion passed.

Jack Hacherian commented on his Diocesan Delegate report. He specifically referred to the important Unity issue and said that it is a long process but it is moving forward. Further progress will be reported at this year's Diocesan Assembly.

Russ asked for comments on the remaining Parish Auxiliary reports, there were none. A motion was made by Jack Hacherian to accept them and Thelma Bagdasarian seconded, motion passed.

Results from the Auditing Committee elections were announced. Next year's committee will be the same: Archie Andonian, Cheryl Arslanian and Jay Bagdasarian.

Russ closed the meeting with a few remarks. He noted how our community feels the loss of Florence Karoghlanian and all of the wonderful things she did for our parish. Russ stressed that our community needs to pull together now more than ever. He recognized George Sakian, Naz Yessayan and Dick Aurslanian for volunteering for special projects but especially commended the community for rallying around Diratzoo. He thanked Diratzoo for bringing our groups together and working with the young people who are the church's future. He urged everyone who is not on Parish Council to assist with special projects. David Andonian added that our Parish needs an assistant to Diratzoo and a Property Manager (whether paid or volunteer) to insure the future of our church in the community.

Thelma Bagdasarian thanked Russ and Leslie for serving as officers of the day and also Haig Arpajian and Ara Bagdasarian for serving on Parish Council. Louise Demirjian suggested a team approach to the Property Manager problem and perhaps using some of the Baku families for help.

Mona Karoghlanian mentioned that the Diocese has approached us to sponsor the Diocesan Assembly in 1997. The parish will be informed on future developments.

Diratzoo thanked the officers of the day and for everyone's participation. He also congratulated the new Parish Council members and gave a few remarks about each person elected. Diratzoo closed the meeting with a prayer at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Arslanian

Chairman of the Day

Leslie Bagdasarian

Secretary of the Day