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**Տարեկան Ծխական Ժողով
Փետրուար 2, 1986**

**ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN CHURCH
FAIR LAWN, N.J.**

ANNUAL REPORT

**Annual Parish Assembly
February 2, 1986**

MINUTES OF THE 1985 PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
FAIR LAWN, N. J.

The Parish Assembly of St. Leon Armenian Church, 12-61 Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn, N. J. was called to order at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 24, 1985, by Parish Council Chairman, Arthur Ohnikian. Of 230 church members, there were 137 eligible voters present. Der Hayr opened the meeting with a prayer.

Elected from the floor were the following officers of the day:

Chairman	Sarkis Bedevian
Secretary	Margaret Tfank
Parliamentarian	Joseph Basralian

Mr. Ohnikian turned the meeting over to Sarkis Bedevian who asked for the reading of the 1984 minutes. They were accepted as corrected: A correction was made by Regina Ohanyan that Linda Capizzi was head of Care and Share rather than Regina Ohanyan.

Der Paree presented his annual report both in Armenian and English. In his report he dwelt on various phases of parish life and the challenges that lie ahead; namely, Endowment Fund, forming a fine arts committee and a special project to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Following his report, these suggestions were made:

1. That appreciation be extended to the Altar Guild, Mas Committee and the Management Committee, which have been overlooked.
2. That the Pastor's report be included in the advance mailing for future consideration. A motion was made and carried.
3. Ohannes Dellakian noted that Der Hayr's dedication to the church was omitted from the report.

The Chair accepted the Pastor's report upon recommendation from the Assembly with appreciation.

John Nakashian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, stated that to avoid delay, the elections be held at this time. The following were appointed to count the ballots: Florence Grunstra, Florence Gulkasian, Steven Kachigian and Dovie Tilbian. Olga Chongoushian was nominated to fill the incomplete slate for the 1985 Nominating Committee. It was noted that last year a motion had been made and carried that there be a short biography of each candidate included in the advance mailing. This was not done, and all present felt it was very important that it should be so in the future. There being no further nominations, the slate was closed. The Chair introduced each candidate to the Assembly and voting proceeded.

Minutes of the 1985 Parish Assembly

Parish Council Chairman, Arthur Ohnikian, gave his report. Omitted was the fact that the Sunday School Altar was donated by the Dabbakian and Vartanesian families in memory of their loved ones.

Organization Reports were given and accepted as presented.

Jacques Tossounian, Chairman of the Auditing Committee, reported that the Treasurer's books for 1984 were examined and found to be in proper order.

Treasurer, Steven Kachigian, presented the Financial Report and Proposed Budget for 1985. There was much discussion regarding heating conservation methods and the fact that there was an operating deficit in 1984. A motion was made and passed that the 1985 Budget be accepted. A record proposed budget for 1985 of \$145,000 was voted upon.

The following election results were given:

PARISH COUNCIL

John Nakashian	114	Tony Tungrian	79
Mirjan Kirian	95	John Chagachbanian	78
Arthur Ohnikian	90	Tom Ashbahian	76
		Satenig Loughead, Alternate	- 58

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Jacques Tossounian	110	John Voskian	62
Margaret Tfank	86	Gabrial Kaprelian, Alternate	58

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dorothy Karamian	98	Lucy Chagachbanian	86
Edward Torosian	96	Sebouh Jessourian, Alternate	66

NEW BUSINESS

Leon Hojegian made a motion that all future church improvements include access ramps for the handicapped. The motion was passed. Arthur Ohnikian stated that car parking for the handicapped should not be used by anyone else.

Leon Hojegian proposed that "St. Leon Diocesan Delegates submit a proposal to have a line item included on the Diocesan Budget for the production of the new Sunday School curriculum (estimated cost: \$250,000)". Motion was passed.

Leon Hojegian suggested that the hospitality hour after church should have enough provisions to include the Sunday School children. The Chair considered this as an administrative matter and referred it to the Parish Council for enactment.

Minutes of the 1985 Parish Assembly

A recommendation was made that this Assembly be held earlier in the January-February time allotted period according to the Diocesan By-Laws. The Chair referred this administrative matter to the Parish Council for enactment.

Grace Pinajian proposed "that all organizations, other than St. Leon Parish organizations, using the Community Center be obligated to pay, at the least, the operative expenses of the Center". The motion was passed.

Leon Hojegian made a motion "that the Parish extend Der Hayr's contract for five years". Chairman Sarkis Bedevian stated that the motion was out of order because Der Hayr does not have a contract and always is free to make the choice of staying or leaving the Parish. Mr. Hojegian then withdrew that motion and changed it to "prior to any pastoral or administrative change in St. Leon Parish, that a special Parish Assembly be convened to elect a search committee and discuss all other matters pertaining to the proposed change".

Considerable discussion followed which informed the Parish Assembly members:

1. That there was a possibility that Der Hayr may make a move to another Parish.
2. That the Parish Council had appointed a search committee consisting of Sarkis Bedevian, Arthur Ohnikian, Sarkis Souldanian and Dovie Tilbian, in case the above change should occur.

Der Hayr then spoke to all present, stating that there is always a possibility of a pastor moving, but he had not made such a decision as yet. He stressed that unity of this parish is of paramount importance and that discussions of this type add to the health and well-being of the membership.

Ruth Bedevian moved "that until Der Hayr has made a decision, the above motion be tabled". The motion was passed after consultation with Parliamentarian Joseph Basralian. Mr. Hojegian's motion will be brought up at the next or a special assembly as the understanding prevails.

Sarkis Bedevian thanked Der Hayr for his dedication and service to this church and invited him to make his concluding remarks.

Der Paree in his remarks first extended his appreciation to the Chairman of the Parish Assembly, Sarkis Bedevian, Secretary, Margaret Tfank, and Parliamentarian, Joseph Basralian, for the outstanding work they did under the circumstances. Furthermore, he extended his appreciation to the outgoing Council members for their love and dedication to St. Leon and congratulated the newly elected members

Minutes of the 1985 Parish Assembly

of the Parish Council, Auditing and Nominating Committees. Der Paree expressed his utmost admiration to the members of St. Leon for being able to discuss and express their opinion about the future of the church. Again, he called on everyone to unity, harmony and the ability to work together for the welfare of the church.

Following his benediction, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

February 24, 1985

Margaret D. Tfank
Recording Secretary

Rev. Paree Metjian
Assembly President

Sarkis Bedevian
Assembly Chairman

REPORT OF THE PARISH PRIEST

By the will of God and upon the appointment of His Grace Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, I assumed my pastoral duties at St. Leon's parish on September 3, 1985 and celebrated my first Divine Liturgy on September 8, 1985. It is my honor and privilege to serve you as your parish priest and I look forward to the years ahead with much hope and enthusiasm.

In this, my first report to the Parish Assembly, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all my predecessors who, through their dedicated service and inspiring leadership, have greatly contributed to the development and growth of the parish. My special appreciation goes to my immediate predecessor, The Rev. Fr. Patee Metjian, who served at the helm of this parish for the last ten years.

Here now is a brief report of my activities up to date and my plans and goals for 1986. I wish to point out that this report is based on my activities since my appointment only four months ago.

LITURGICAL AND SACRAMENTAL LIFE: The Liturgy of the Church is indeed the center of our life as a community of believers. And as such it occupies a high priority in my activities. As we continue to come together every Sunday to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, it is my earnest hope and desire to further develop and expand our parish liturgical life. Regular rehearsals with the choir are already in progress which we intend to continue. I also intend to continue the training of deacons and acolytes and their participation in our liturgical services. One major project which I intend to embark on and gradually develop is the publication of some of our liturgies and making them available to the congregation in modern Armenian and English translations. Our ultimate goal must be making the liturgy a true vehicle of the development of our spiritual life and I hope the implementation of these plans will help us reach that goal.

Going through our Parish Registry, the following sacraments have been administered during 1985:

Baptisms:	11 (5 since September)
Weddings:	9 (6 since September)
Funerals:	13 (6 since September)

At this point I would like to thank all our acolytes, deacons and choir members for their faithful and dedicated service. My special thanks to Choir Director George Paroonagian, Organist Sirvart Galstian and to Dn. Berdj Feredjian, Choir Chairman.

PASTORAL ACTIVITIES: Along with the Liturgy the pastoral care of the parish is of utmost importance in my arrangement of priorities. As I have done so far, I will continue to reach out and try to be present to all who need pastoral care and attention. Along with my visitations to the sick, I am available for guidance and counselling in any situation that I am called for - marital, children's, family, illness or death.

Home visitations are an integral part of pastoral care. I do plan to develop a schedule whereas I will be able to visit and bless the homes of as many families as possible through the year. With a parish as scattered as ours it will certainly be difficult to visit the entire parish in one year. However, I do intend to visit everyone in the parish eventually.

Since pastoral care has as its objective the spiritual welfare of the individual, I will certainly include in my efforts the development and implimentation of various programs geared toward the spiritual needs of our parish. In this effort I would like to expand further our existing programs of retreats and similar endeavors.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: Our Church School and Armenian School are important vehicles of imparting to our children the knowledge and values of our Christian and national heritage. I will continue to pay close attention, to assist in and guide their development and growth and to support the good efforts of the administrative and teaching staffs of both schools. I would like to thank Barbara Hovsepian, Church School Superintendent and Rose Najarian, Armenian School Chairperson, and their staffs for their dedicated work.

Along with our regular schools I plan to develop various Adult Education programs. So far, as of the first week of November 1985 I have been teaching the Holy Scripture Study Classes, which are going very well. I plan to start a class of pre-marital instructions for couples who are planning to get married in our church. Gradually I would also like to organize a more expansive educational program to offer courses in Armenian Church History, Liturgies, Patristics and other subjects.

ADMINISTRATIVE: Our church office is the center of our parish administrative functional structure. I have tried to maintain regular office hours and through the office take care of our parish administration. The purchase of new mimeograph equipment will be of great help for our office in publicizing our various functions and increasing the efficiency of communications. I am very pleased that the Parish Council has taken the first step in computerizing our operation. Hopefully, through the assistance and advice of a committee appointed specifically for this purpose, we will be able to purchase an appropriate computer very soon.

A Membership Committee has also been appointed to explore and develop means of increasing our church membership. We all realize that the potential growth of our parish presents a very hopeful picture and the Membership Committee will be one means of pursuing our potential.

As part of my administrative responsibilities I will continue to work closely, guide and lead and support the efforts and activities of all church organizations under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council. I would like to thank John Nakashian, Parish Council Chairman and all the members of the Parish Council for their confidence in me and their support of my efforts. Thanks also to the chairmen and executive committees of all church organizations for their dedicated and unselfish work within the parish. A very special "thank you" to church secretary Vivian Hovsepien, whose efficient work makes the management of the office so much easier.

PUBLICATIONS: The publication of our monthly newsletter "LRADOO" will continue on a regular monthly basis. I am happy to report that Ruth Bedevian has accepted to become the English editor, with Vahram Varjabedian and Mirjan Kirian assisting her as Armenian editor and typesetter respectively. To them I offer my thanks.

Our Sunday bulletins are published weekly. It is my hope and plan to develop a format that will make both the "LRADOO" and the weekly bulletins educational and informative tools.

As I conclude this report, I wish to offer my heartfelt and sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every individual in the parish whose presence, support and contributions makes our collective success possible and efforts worthwhile. I look ahead to the future with much hope and encouragement.

May the blessings and guidance of the Lord be ever present in our lives in everything we do.

Father Arshen Aivazian

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

1985 was an eventful year for St. Leon Parish. We had some hectic periods, but in all, the year was productive and full of achievements.

Our Parish had two major events this year. The first was the departure of Father Patee Metjian after ten years of dedicated service to St. Leon. In June the Parish gave a special tribute dinner to celebrate Father Patee's 15th year of ordination into the priesthood and we wish him continued success in his new Parish.

The second major event was the arrival of our new spiritual leader, Father Arshen Aivazian. We are fortunate and privileged that Father Arshen is with us at St. Leon. On October 24, 1985, at a special reception hosted by St. Leon, Father Arshen was officially introduced to the community. Attending the reception were clergy from our sister churches, a large number of our parishioners and local dignitaries, including the Mayor of Fair Lawn.

I'm pleased with the devotion and commitment of the members of the Parish Council with whom I've had the pleasure of serving our church. They have given unselfishly of their time, talent and treasure.

During 1985 we had a very successful picnic and bazaar. Our picnic was organized and managed by Jacques Tossounian and Robert Boudoughian. The bazaar committee was chaired by Parish Council member Tony Tungrian. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to them and to their respective committees for their effort and dedication. Our special thanks to our Women's Guild members, chaired by Edna Tungrian. Without their devotion and sacrifice none of our functions would have been as successful.

Improvements to our buildings continued in 1985. The pastor's house was substantially renovated and we plan to renovate the porch. Our plans for 1986 include construction of a ramp for easy access to the church by the handicapped.

Our Sunday School, Armenian School, ACYOA and the basketball teams had a very successful year. We acknowledge the dedication of the Sunday and Armenian School staff, ACYOA board and advisors, the sports coaches.

We congratulate our Senior Center members and their executive board for a very active and fruitful year. The Care & Share group also are deserving of special recognition for their work.

Our Choir, which is one of the best, deserves our special thanks for giving us great spiritual satisfaction Sunday after Sunday. Our Choir, under the capable leadership of Choir Director George Paroonagian, helps elevate our spirit every Sunday.

We cannot forget the Community Center Management Committee chaired by Rex Kachigian. The income they derived from the rental of the Center greatly helped to balance our church budget.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Last, but not least, we sincerely thank all our parishioners whose dedication, devotion and financial support to our church made possible another successful year.

With God's help and your continued support St. Leon Parish will have a fruitful 1986.

With Christian love,

John Nakashian, Chairman
Parish Council

ANNUAL REPORT

NAME OF ORGANIZATION SUNDAY SCHOOL

1984-85

SUPERINTENDENT: Berdjouhi Feredjian
ASSISTANT: Eliz Tossounian
TREASURER: Virginia Hachadourian
SECRETARY: Barbara Boghosian

1985-86

SUPERINTENDENT: Barbara Hovsepian
ASSISTANTS: Eliz Tossounian
Donna Siroonian
TREASURER: Virginia Hachadouria
SECRETARY: Barbara Boghosian

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 85

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

Assemblies for lower and upper grades each week to give the Bible lesson and general religious teaching. Scheduled rotation of classes for Communion. Attendance of lower grades in church to learn the Kiss of Peace, when to make the sign of the cross and bow, etc. All grade levels staffed and progressing well. Special classes for graduating students taught by Der Hayr, Yeretzgin, Deacons Berdj and Charles. Plans made for (and completed in '86) the Christmas Program and attendance at the Archbishop's Christmas Program in New York. Attendance at the Department of Religious Education Teacher's Workshop in November.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1986:

Bus trip to the Diocese for the Archbishop's Christmas Program and the Poon Paregentan Program. Graduation and promotion exercises and awards. Balloon launch for Ascension. Covered dish dinner for Church School families. Religious Education courses for teachers taught by Yeretzgin. Student visits to other churches. Summer Church School. Summer program for training new third graders to be acolytes.

1985 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Checking Account Balance		\$ 941.71
Savings Account Balance		597.43
	Total	<u>\$1,539.14</u>
Receipt from fund raisers during 1985		\$4,602.08
Disbursements for 1985		3,622.22
	Net Profit	<u>\$ 979.86</u>
80% turned over to Parish Council		\$ 783.89

ANNUAL REPORT

NAME OF ORGANIZATION ARMENIAN SCHOOL

CHAIRMAN:	Rose Najarian	
VICE-CHAIRMAN:	Evelyn Kalpagian	
TREASURER:	Barbara Boghosian	
SECRETARY:	Marian Bandazian	
CORR. SECRETARY:	MaryAnn Mozian	
PUBLICITY:	Donna Siroonian	
ADVISORS:	Marie Dellakian	
	Heggie Shegerian	Gloria Zoraian
	Varsen Torosian	Zabelle Kaprelian

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 41

The Board members meet every week during class.

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

Armenian School Hantes	
Annual Dance	Martyrs Day
Spring Plant Sale	Mamigonian Paradon Festival

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1986:

Adult Armenian Classes	
Annual Dance	Martyrs Day
Vartanantz Day	Spring Plant Sale
Mamigonian Paradon Festival	Hantes

1985 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Checking Account Balance	\$ 326.90
Savings Account Balance	1,134.78
Receipts from fund raiser during 1985	10,465.66
Disbursements for 1985	10,692.20

ANNUAL REPORT

NAME OF ORGANIZATION CHOIR

CHAIRMAN: Berdj Feredjian
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Emerald Noorigian
TREASURER: Rose Kirian
SECRETARY: Marge Tfank
CORR. SECRETARY: Blanda Yilanjian .

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 25

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

Assist the celebrant in leading the congregation during worship. Strive to master the services of the Armenian Church. Our Choir Director is George Paroonagian, with Sirvart Galstian as our organist.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1986:

We hope to continue in improving our scope of church hymns and knowledge of the various services. We also would like to increase our membership this coming year. Since we are an integral part in creating a desired spiritual atmosphere during services, we aim to have regular rehearsals to improve ourselves as a choir.

Hopefully, this year we will be able to attend the Choir Convention. Financial support from caring parishioners is always appreciated.

Thank you for your year-long encouragement.

1985 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Savings Account Balance	\$767.96
Receipts from fund raiser during 1985	849.72
Disbursements	<u>322.36</u>
Net Profit	<u>\$527.36</u>
80% turned over to the Parish Council	\$421.88

ANNUAL REPORT

NAME OF ORGANIZATION ACYOA JUNIORS

CHAIRMAN: Peggy Bedevian
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Steven Chagachbanian
TREASURER: Nora Tossounian
PUBLICITY: Leslie Boghosian
SECRETARY: Alice Boudoughian

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 35

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

Meetings are held the second Sunday of each month. August: attended NY/NJ Regional Picnic at St. Nersess. September: first membership meeting. October: attended New England Regional Sports Weekend at St. Peter's in Watervliet, N. Y. Viewed Der Arshen's slides of Armenia in observance of cultural month at a joint meeting with St. Thomas ACYOA. November: attended the NY/NJ Regional Halloween Dance at St. Mary's in Livingston. Went on a hayride and then had a party at the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Chagachbanian. Collected food for Fair Lawn Dept. of Health. December: Bake sale after church on Sunday.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1986:

January 17-20: Hye Times Sports Weekend. St. Thomas and St. Leon's are organizing this. February: St. James Valentine's party. March: Palm Sunday ACYOA Day. April: ACYOA Badarak. May: Hye Mrtsoom Sports Weekend in Watertown, Ma. June: Great Adventure, Elections.

1985 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Checking Account Balance	\$1,130.26
Savings Account Balance	1,853.78
Total	<u>\$2,983.04</u>
Receipts from fund raiser during 1985	\$2,562.88
Disbursements	2,348.34
Net Profit	<u>\$ 214.54</u>
80% turned over to Parish Council	\$ 171.63

ANNUAL REPORT

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: WOMEN'S GUILD

CHAIRMAN: Edna Tungrian
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Seta Jessourian
TREASURER: Agnes Kapoian
ASS'T. TREASURER: Eliz Tossounian
RECORDING SECRETARY: Margaret Semonian
CORR. SECRETARY: Katherine Ohnikian
ADVISORS: Dorothy Karamian
Florence Grunstra

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 99

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

St. Leon Name Day, Fish 'n Chips, Mother's Day Luncheon, Annual buffet with entertainment, Women's Guild Sunday, Kitchen and food responsibilities for picnic and bazaar, coffee hospitality, Bergen Mall Charity Festival.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1986:

Retreat, St. Leon Name Day, Fish 'n Chips, Mother's Day Luncheon, Lenten Luncheon, Guild Sunday, Military Bridge Night.

1985 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Checking Account Balance	\$1,208.06
Savings Account Balance	1,404.84
Special Savings Account Balance	<u>1,543.54</u>
Total	<u>\$4,156.44</u>
Receipts from fund raiser during 1985	\$2,268.84
Disbursements	<u>1,491.05</u>
Net Profit	<u>\$ 777.79</u>
80% turned over to Parish Council	\$ 622.23

ANNUAL REPORT

NAME OF ORGANIZATION SENIOR CENTER

CHAIRMAN: Manoog Capan
CORR. & REC. SECRETARY: Helen Mazoujian
TREASURER: Hagop Dellakian
ADVISORS: Rose Chookazian
 Rose Anton
 Nevart Yilanjian

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

Center meets each week to play cards, tavloo, etc.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 1986:

Nothing definite has been planned. However, during the year there may be several small luncheons.

1985 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Savings Account Balance		\$3,155.01
Receipts during 1985		1,457.78
Disbursements		<u>1,056.55</u>
	Net	<u>\$ 401.23</u>
80% turned over to Parish Council		\$ 321.00

1985 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Checking Account Balance		\$ 5,870.13
Receipts for 1985		<u>13,219.00</u>
	Total	<u>\$ 19,089.13</u>
Disbursements for 1985		\$ 14,446.83
Checking Account Balance 1985		<u>\$ 4,642.30</u>