

**MINUTES OF THE 1995 PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 1996**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM by Joseph Basralian following an opening prayer by Hayr Soorp. There were 103 members out of 284 in attendance. A motion was made to waive the reading of the 1995 Parish Assembly minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

Parish Council Chairman Rex Kachigian presented the candidates for Parish Council--

Gregory Ashbahian	Ara Hourdajian
Lynda Chagachbanian	Gabriel Kaprelian
Richard Dabagian	Kevork Ohannessian
Harry Harutunian	Nancy Scicchitano

Council Chairman Rex Kachigian presented the candidates for the Auditing Committee--

Vahe Kiljian	Amy Vartoukian
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Council Chairman Rex Kachigian presented the candidates for the Nominating Committee--

Andrea Halejian	Barbara Hovsepian
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Parish Council Chairman Rex Kachigian presented the candidates for Diocesan Delegates--

Thomas Ashbahian	Rose Najarian
Leon Hovsepian	Katherine Ohnikian
Sarkis Gabrellian	Sarkis Soultanian

Election of officers for the Assembly followed with Council Chairman Kachigian presenting the candidates, Thomas Ashbahian and Glenn Ajamian, for the position of Chairman of the Assembly. Mr. Ajamian withdrew prior to the vote and Mr. Ashbahian was voted in as the Chairman of the Assembly.

Council Chairman Kachigian presented Linda Harutunian and Nancy Scicchitano as candidates for Secretary of the Assembly. Mrs. Scicchitano withdrew prior to the vote and Mrs. Harutunian was voted in as the Secretary.

Instructions were then given regarding voting. If more than five votes were cast for Parish Council the ballot would be declared invalid. The same rule would also apply to the Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee and Diocesan Delegates, as far as voting for more than the number requested. There were no additional nominations for the Parish Council Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee and Diocesan Delegates. The nominations were closed.

The voting commenced at 12:30 PM.

Hayr Soorp brought up the fact again that according to the by-laws there should be twice as many people nominated for each position. If we cannot get that amount, the Parish Council should be reduced from 11 to 9 members. The problem is that most people are not interested. Many of the members are re-circulated names from year to year. He asked if any one wished to comment. The following responses were given --

Dawn Hourdajian - Even if we have 8 members, as long as they are hard working they will do a good job without compromising quality.

Hayr Soorp - We should pursue new people, especially young people.

Sarkis Soutanian - In order to change the size of the Parish Council we need to vote on a new resolution. We cannot do anything about the number of members for this year at this point.

Rex Kachigian - The Assembly could do this today so that it will be effective next year.

Sarkis Soutanian - This would be under New Business.

Hayr Soorp - Just because we have 284 members, does not mean that we have 284 volunteers. The Parish Council does not have to increase with increased membership.

Regarding the Pastor's Report, pages 8 to 11 of the Annual Report, Father Vahan felt that it was another successful year. Parish membership increased from 245 to 284. There were improved programs with a successful turnout. He felt that the parish should continue paying special attention to educational programs and youth activities. These two aspects should be the priority of our mission as a parish. Father Vahan added that this year's programs included Bible Study, Discussion Groups, Deacon Training, Conversational Armenian, Youth Discussions and a new Computer Program. Our ten Altar Servers attended Deacon Training sessions every Friday and served on the altar every Sunday. They served the Vehapar with amazing success during his recent visit. All organizations are doing very well. Father Vahan was happy to have Deacon George this past year. Deacon George was a great help and he enjoyed this year with him. Thank you. The Parish Council had active members who supported him. They rarely missed a meeting. This is the Year of the Youth and it is our responsibility to get them involved. Father Vahan thanked the Assembly for making him a part of the Church family. Most importantly for him Fr. Vahan thanked God for the inspiring year he enjoyed with the Parish. Thank you everyone. Thomas Ashbahian, Assembly Chairman, thanked Hayr Soorp for his leadership.

Deacon George commented on his report, pages 12 to 14 of the Annual Report. He spoke of the successful teamwork with Hayr Soorp and the personal training he received. He remarked on how he got to know everyone through Bible Study, Coffee Hour, etc. He would like to enhance his ministry to families and help build Christian character in our youth. Thank you.

Rex Kachigian gave the Parish Council Report. He thanked the various organizations and conveyed good wishes to the Parish Council members who are leaving. Regarding the explosion, he asked if there were any questions. There were none. He explained that there was extensive damage to Jessourian Hall and the kitchen. The repairs are being handled by the Expansion Committee. It was felt that the repairs and the expansion was best handled by a single group. He then mentioned that a form was being passed around to all members for volunteering for Sunday duties such as greeting, the Kiss of Peace, scripture reading, etc.

Assembly Chairman Thomas Ashbahian asked all Parish organizations for their reports:

ACYOA Juniors. Questions were asked about the large amount of money which seemed to pass through the checking account. The answer was that a lot of money is paid into the account and then goes directly out for a special affair. It was mentioned that this was a larger amount than in previous years and that perhaps the Auditing Committee should review the figures. The Auditing Committee stated that they had gone over the books and everything was in order.

ACYOA Seniors. Lynda Chagachbanian stated that it was a good year. Also, figures for the Sports Weekend were not reflected in their books, since that was a separate account.

ARMENIAN SCHOOL. There was nothing additional to report.

CHOIR. There was nothing additional to report.

SUNDAY SCHOOL. Araxie Moundjian reported that no money was lost for the Christmas Day Dinner in spite of the snow.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP. There was nothing additional to report.

SENIOR CITIZENS. They are doing well. Regina Ohanyan spoke of the death Manuk Capan and asked for a special prayer for him.

WOMEN'S GUILD. Barbara Royland spoke of the increase in membership. Bertha Vaniskhian said that the Outreach Program should be mentioned as a function of the Women's Guild. A discussion followed that this is not one of their programs. Linda Harutunian stated that a mistake was made, that the two orphans that are supported are not supported by the Women's Guild, but by individual members.

AUDITING COMMITTEE. Jacques Tossounian stated that all organizations put in their reports in a timely manner and that all books were reviewed and accepted. A question arose about the 80% given by the Senior Citizens. They gave 80% of their income, not 80% of their total funds. The Parish Council felt that this was acceptable. Leo Manuelian spoke about the insurance settlement for the explosion. The settlement was for \$355,000. There was \$25,000 for immediate expenses, \$25,000 until proof of repairs, and \$15,000 for the consultant. \$275,000 was put in a Dreyfus Fund and will be withdrawn as required. This figure is not in the operating account.

A question was asked about the drop in revenues for affairs. This was accounted for by the fact that no Car Raffle was held in 1995. It is planned for 1996. The increase in Employee Salaries, etc., reflects the additional work required of the custodian and the secretaries relating to the explosion and transferring everything from the office to the second floor of the Community Center. The health insurance for the custodian also went up a lot.

Nancy Burdman spoke about how well the Deacon's training is going. She suggested a \$2,500 line disbursement for their expenses. There were no specific expenses for them this year. Hayr Soorp mentioned there are two parishioners who started a fund for the Deacons, which is controlled by him. There are quite a few expenses - trips, books, cassettes, etc. Leon Hovsepien suggested a fund raiser for the program in addition to the private donations. Another suggestion was made to take the funds from the donations we make to St. Nersess. Hayr Soorp said it is important to support the Seminary. After additional consideration a motion was made to increase the budget by \$2,500 which would be offset by receipt money of \$2,500 for the purpose of the Deacon's Training Program at St. Leon. Hayr Soorp spoke about how important it is to acknowledge their service. To begin with, \$2,500 is enough, however other activities may require larger amounts. The motion was made again and seconded. It passed with no dissenting vote. The corrected proposed budget, reflecting this motion, should be changed to read -

Page 31 - \$60,000 - change to \$62,500 (Weekly envelopes, etc.)
Total Proposed Receipts - \$249,700
Page 33 - Add Deacon's Training Program - \$2,500
Total Proposed Disbursements - \$249,700

Lucy Chagachbanian questioned the increased Community Center expenses. Because of the increased rentals, there was additional dry cleaning, garbage disposal, etc. There is a Reserve Fund which is 10% of the gross each year for Capital Improvement. New china was also purchased in 1995, (a one-time expense).

A motion was made to accept the budget. It was seconded and passed with no objections.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Committee. Sarkis Soultanian wants to thank his Co-Chairman, Sarkis Gabrellian, and their committee. He showed a rendering of the proposed expansion and stated it would be completed by Palm Sunday. The proposed budget is now \$538,000, but may increase to \$600,000 or possibly \$700,000. The Fund Raising Committee has received pledges in the amount of \$465,000, and \$156,000 has been paid to date. There will be a light supper to discuss plans on March 3, 1996 and all will be invited. A question was asked if the elevator will meet requirements for the handicapped. It was felt that a ramp would also be welcome for those who do not need the elevator, but feel more comfortable with the ramp rather than the stairs. A loan from the Endowment Fund has been approved. It will be paid back with a 6-1/4% to 6-1/2% rate of interest, the same amount it would earn if it stayed where it is. A portion of the insurance money will cover some of the expenses, however they are hoping not to have to touch those moneys.

NEW BUSINESS

Lynn Beylerian at this time brought up the change in the number of Parish Council members. Hayr Soorp brought up the fact that many services in the Church do not have to be done by Parish Council members, such as The Kiss of Peace. The Parish Council is administrative and we do not need more members because of larger membership in the Church. Active members are more important. After much discussion a motion was made to reduce the Parish Council from 11 to 9 members for 1997. Thirty-one (31) votes were cast FOR the change, twenty-nine (29) were cast AGAINST the change. The motion was approved as proposed.

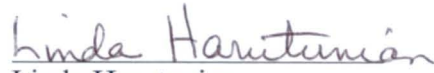
Jan Royland asked if absentee ballots should be allowed. Assembly Chairman Thomas Ashbahian said this was not something that could be addressed at this time for the 1996 General Assembly.


Discussion followed about retaining the services of Deacon George. Rex Kachigian stated that Deacon George was here on an Intern Program and that the Diocese would no longer fund him. If he worked as a Pastoral Assistant we would have to pick up his entire salary and insurance which the church could not afford at this time. Rex Kachigian again thanked Deacon George for the services he gave us this past year, but reiterated that we are not large enough to carry two pastors at this time.

Mary Ann Mozian gave us the results of the election. New Parish Council members are Gregory Ashbahian, Lynda Chagachbanian, Richard Dabagian, Ara Hourdajian and Gabriel Kaprelian, with Kevork Ohannessian as Alternate. The new Auditing Committee member is Vahe Kiljian. The new Nominating Committee member is Andrea Halejian. The new Diocesan Delegates are Thomas Ashbahian, Rose Najarian, Sarkis Soultanian.


The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Hayr Soorp at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda Harutunian
Recording Secretary
1995 Parish Assembly


Thomas Ashbahian
Chairman
1995 Parish Assembly


Sarkis "Rex" Kachigian
Parish Council Chairman


V. Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhanessian
President, St. Leon Armenian Church