

Parish Council Chairman's Report

Being a Parish Council Chairperson has been, among other things, the most challenging endeavor of my life. Before this experience, whatever I had to tackle with, I had only myself and my family to confront. Here, besides working with a committee, we have a whole parish to please and satisfy. That my friends, I have found to be a "CHALLENGE" with capital letters.

I was elected as a parish chairperson in April of 1992. And together with the finest group of dedicated people we tried to see to the financial and social needs of our church.

Early on, the main task that befell our committee was to go at full force in accomplishing the previously set goal of the "Burning Of The Mortgage." Even though we couldn't accomplish that goal but we came quite close to it. I am proud to say that as of today our mortgage commitment is only \$50,000.00 dollars.

I should say here that all wasn't fun and pleasure. We had weekly difficulties to tackle. If it wasn't the Fire Marshal, with his unending safety codes, it was the furnace or the freezer or the ever famous driveway we all came to dread...

Needless to say, that non of the above mentioned difficulties would be impossible to handle if we had proper funds designated solely for the maintenance of our church. Every incident we faced, we had to rearrange our priorities and switch gears and take care of the most urgent problem at hand.

The Nineties have been financially difficult on the economy as a whole. We all have families and responsibilities. And sometimes it seems like a burden to support our church. But friends, lets look at this in another way, once we realize that our church is a continuation of our home, and our life style, the chores and the financial responsibilities of it become a lot more tolerable.

To alleviate some of this financial burden our previous council had started the "Land Survey" project. (We all Know that we have a large back property which in its present state is just a property,) They had hired an engineer to survey and engineer the lot to make it suitable for a profitable sale.

I can mention here after months of hard work and some cost the survey will be completed in a few months and we will be able to market it properly and hopefully sell it with a good profit, which will eliminate our most urgent long term liability, and may be then we will be able to concentrate on the more essential needs of our parish and experience pleasure in doing so.

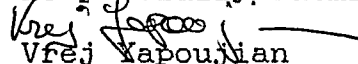
Here I would like to mention a fact, that maybe is not something new to some of you. The most fascinating thing that I noticed being a chairperson was how our DerHayr rose above all the years' difficulties and kept his head clear enough to plan pleasant and enjoyable activities. He has this rare capability to bring the best in most of the people around him. There is always someone to chair this or that affair, or just work hard to accomplish it, starting from our council to the last organization in our church.

I would like to mention some of those activities. Such as the "Antranig" dance group, the Mortgage Burning banquet, Father Karekin's visit to Armenia, Judge Tulalian's dinner and the mini and the major Bazzars and so on...

Our main goal for the next year, God willing, will be to lighten up the financial concern, by following up on our most vital and dependable means of support, our "Pledges." I believe that through the past year our parishioners have come to realize the seriousness of our situation and have come forward with solid promises of support through their pledges. We hope more and more will follow suit and we will be there to remind them. Let us face it, it is our Church and we want to keep it and in order to do so we all have to support it.

On behalf of the parish council, I would like to thank all the organizations of our church for their invaluable effort and dedication. Last but not least, my sincere thanks to Der Hayr for his guidance and to the parish council members who worked so diligently and supported me through this year.

Respectfully submitted


Vrej Kapoujian

Parish Council Chairperson