

St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church
Parish Assembly Minutes
February 27, 1983

The Parish Assembly of the St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church was called to order by Parish Council Chairman, Aram Fayda, at 1:30 pm. The opening prayer was offered by The Very Reverend Zaven Arzoumanian, Pastor and President of this Assembly. Attending were 115 voting members out of a total of 478 dues paying members for 1982.

Verification of eligible voters was the first order of business. The Chairman asked if all had signed the registration book and received their ballots.

Election of Assembly Officers: Nominated were George Mangigian, Leon Alyanakian and George Devletian. Elected Chairman of the Assembly was George Devletian. Nominated and elected Secretary of the Assembly was Malena Sarrafian.

Minutes of 1982 Parish Assembly: Since the previous minutes were published in the Annual Report booklet, there was a motion that the reading of the 1982 minutes be dispensed with. This motion was seconded and passed.

Election of Parish Council: There being no additional nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed.

Election of Auditing Committee: Additional nominations from the floor for Auditing Committee was Migirdich Azadian. Nominations closed.

Election of Nominating Committee: There being no additional nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed.

All of the nominees were introduced to the Assembly, after which the ballots were cast. Ballots were counted by the 1982 Nominating Committee, headed by Richard Boyajian.

Pastor's Report: The Very Reverend Zaven Arzoumanian read his annual report for 1982. In concluding his report, Hyre Zaven Arzoumanian informed the Assembly that he received a \$25,000. donation for the church from Nellie Hayatian with two stipulations. 1) That the moneys be used exclusively for the renovation of the small hall, and 2) the hall be named Dicran, Rose, Nellie Hayatian Hall. The Parish Council had approved the stipulations and accepted the donation. Hyre Zaven Arzoumanian declared that the small hall, whether renovated or not, be known as the Dicran, Rose, Nellie Hayatian Hall. At the conclusion of his report, The Very Reverend Zaven Arzoumanian was thanked for his dedicated services.

Parish Council Report: Aram Fayda, Parish Council Chairman, thanked Hyre Zaven for his efforts in obtaining the \$25,000., Steve Barsamian for his assistance in this effort, and Nellie Hayatian for the sizeable donation. The Parish Council annual report was read by Aram Fayda and was accepted with appreciation.

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The Assembly Chairman announced that all of the church organization reports were printed in the booklet and would be read if requested.

A contribution to the church treasury was gratefully received from the Ladies Aid Society in the amount of \$5000.

The Choir contributed \$500. to the church treasury towards their pledge for this year. Charles Ounjian, Choir Chairman, reported on the choir's activities and their position of being self supporting. They are not a money making organization and may not always have excess funds to give. There was a question from the floor regarding excess funds, since it was believed that all funds were to be turned over to the church treasury and then expenses requested when needed.

All of the church organizations were thanked for their contributions during the year.

The following recommendations were made by the assembly regarding the Annual Report Booklet: 1) The number of votes a candidate receives not be included in the printing of the booklet, even though this information is required in the minutes for the Diocese. 2) The name of the person submitting the organization financial report be indicated.

1983 Parish Budget: Questions submitted from the floor on line items in the budget were answered by the Treasurer, Vahe Soghomonian, and the Finance Committee members.

A motion was made to accept the 1983 budget in the amount of \$164,350. The motion was seconded and passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made that the parishioners of St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church request that the Diocese of North America reduce the annual budget by 10 percent and reduce the Diocesan dues of our Parish by 10 percent for the year 1984. The motion was seconded and discussed.

It was stated that we should take the responsibility of what is happening here and in New York. Previous requests were made to reduce assessments with no results. This issue should be taken to the Diocesan Assembly through our delegates.

The motion was passed.

This issue is to be addressed to the Diocesan Council, and is to be presented properly.

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Plans for the renovation of the small hall were presented by Simon Koumjian with drawings and slides. The estimated cost of the hall would be \$100,000., the outside driveway cost \$6,000. and the handicap ramp \$6,000., totalling \$112,000. Richard Shakarjian informed the assembly that \$50,000. has been committed to the renovation of the hall, plus \$6,000. for the ramp. Additional revenue could be realized with fund raising, memorials in the hall, and soliciting. The balance then be borrowed.

There was a desire from the assembly to include the kitchen renovation costs with the hall costs, and that the kitchen work also be done. Eliminating the ramp and using the driveway for handicap access was suggested. This issue would have to be proposed to the donor of the ramp. It was submitted that the small hall renovation presentation should have been made with complete plans to include both kitchens.

There was an objection to the renovation because there is an urgent need for repairs to the stained glass windows and cornices of the tower. Assurance was given by the Parish Council Chairman, Aram Fayda, that this work is considered in the budget for 1983.

The interior of the church needing painting was another issue. The Chairman of the Assembly, George Devletian, announced there is a donor to bear this expense as soon as bids are received.

A motion was made that the small hall renovations be accepted as presented, with the driveway and handicap ramp, and to include the renovation of the two kitchens at a total cost not to exceed \$160,000. The motion was seconded and passed.

Submitted from the floor was the statement that not enough emphasis was put on the youth of the church. There is a need for a structured youth program. The Parish Council Chairman, Aram Fayda, responded that the Parish Council would support any committee for the youth. A program should be submitted, and it would be supported. It was suggested a youth committee be created from the assembly. Roupen Berberian volunteered as Chairman. Other committee members are Pat Pogharian, Marie Hoplamazian, Nina Pakhtigian and Claudette Sarian. It was pointed out that the youth currently have one night a month assured, and that when their proposal is made, funds would be available.

A motion was made that annual church dues be doubled, and senior citizens are to use their own discretion in increasing their contribution. The motion was seconded and passed.

Election results are as follows:

Six elected to Parish Council

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| 1. | Karl Boyajian | 88 |
| 2. | Elizabeth Boyajian | 80 |
| 3. | George Stapan | 80 |
| 4. | George Devletian | 70 |
| 5. | George Hagopian | 65 |
| 6. | Louis Karagulian | 54 |

Alternate: George Yacoubian, Danny Tankoushian

Three elected to Auditing Committee

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| 1. | John Eskandarian | 82 |
| 2. | Edward Ounjian | 76 |
| 3. | John Parseghian | 69 |

Alternate: Joe Hoplamazian, Jr.

Three elected to Nominating Committee

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| 1. | Noubar Karagulian | 91 |
| 2. | Leon Alyanakian | 75 |
| 3. | Dearon Mazmanian | 57 |

Alternate: Eleanor Hachadorian

There being no further new business on the agenda, a motion was made and passed the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Hyre Soorp at 4:30 pm.

Malena Sarrafian
Malena Sarrafian
Secretary

Rev. H. Devletian
George Devletian
Chairman

Rev. Zaven Arzoumanian
The Very Rev. Zaven Arzoumanian
Pastor and President