

ST. SAHAG AND ST. MESROB ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES

February 24, 1991

The Annual Parish Assembly was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by George Mangigian, Parish Council Chairman, and opened with prayer from The Reverend Paree Metjian, Pastor and President of the Assembly.

There were 94 eligible voters when the meeting began. The number was increased to 98 when voting took place.

The chairman welcomed those in attendance and then asked for nominations for Assembly Chairman. Candidates were Marcus Mamourian, Richard Shakarjian and George Devletian. By a show of hands, Richard Sharkajian was elected Assembly Chairman. Betty Boyajian was elected as Assembly Secretary. The meeting was then turned over to the Assembly Chairman.

The Minutes of the 1990 Assembly had been circulated in advance. There were no changes or additions and the Minutes were approved.

Report of the Nominating Committee. Laraine Ballard represented the Committee. The candidates for Parish Council, who were present, were introduced to the Assembly. Since there were no additional nominations from the floor for Parish Council, Auditing Committee or Nominating Committee, the voting procedure began.

Roll call was taken, at which time the ballots were distributed. Question: If votes were not cast for the maximum number of candidates in each category, would the ballot be valid? After a brief discussion period, it was agreed that in order for a ballot to be valid, the maximum number of candidates, only, must be indicated in each category.

At this point, it was decided that a Parliamentarian should be elected to resolve procedural questions. Steve Barsamian was unanimously elected.

In the absence of two members of the Nominating Committee, the Chair appointed John Semerjian and Grace Odabashian to assist Laraine Ballard with the counting of the ballots.

As names were called, members came forward and dropped their ballots in the box provided.

Reports of Pastor, Parish Council Chairman and Church Organizations.

Members of the Assembly were invited to ask questions or make comments as the reports were reviewed.

To the Pastor's Annual Report, Appendix A (attached) was added.

The Parish Council Chairman read his report.

Men's Club. James Barikian, chairman, again invited all male members of the church to actively participate in the Men's Club. He reported that for the first time, there would be a Men's Club Prayer Breakfast in conjunction with the Men's Club of The Armenian Martyrs Congregational Church, to take place in Hayatian Hall on Saturday, March 2, 1991. All men were encouraged to attend.

Choir. Rose Arpajian spoke on behalf of the members of the Church Choir, and said that the Choir is looking for new members. Please contact Noubar Karagulian, Choir Director.

Youth Committee. John Eskandarian, co-chairman, reported that the church is interviewing for a new Youth Director. At the present time, there are two candidates. Specific guidelines for the position of Youth Director are being drafted by representatives of the Youth Committee and Der Paree. An evaluation of the job done by our present Youth Director, Shake Ajamian, is being prepared for presentation to the Parish Council. John also announced that the Youth Committee is seeking new members.

A question was raised regarding the Certificates listed in the Youth Committee Financial Statement for 1990 (p.35 of the Annual Report). The Certificates represent the Kesdekian Scholarship Fund, the interest of which is used annually for scholarship purposes for St.Vartan Camp or St. Nersess Seminars.

Question: What specifically is the function of the Youth Committee? It was established to oversee the activities of all youth groups - Sunday School, ACYOA Jrs. and Srs. The Youth Committee pays expenses for all youth activities and sponsors affairs throughout the year to raise funds to supplement the monies allocated for youth from investments held by the Permanent Endowment Fund.

In response to another question, John stated that the Youth Director is directly responsible to the Pastor and the members of the Youth Director Advisory Committee. The Committee is made up of the Pastor, two members of Parish Council and two members of the Youth Committee. One of the duties of the Youth Director is to serve as advisor to all youth organizations.

Women's Guild. Although there is no longer an active women's organization as of 12/31/90, the coupon redemption program will be continued. The program involves Pathmark and ACME Markets, where church members may purchase coupons and use them for face value in either store. Through this program, the church receives 5% of the coupons sold.

Corrections in the Financial Statement for 1990: Disbursements totaling \$55,500.19 were omitted and the Seed Money repaid to the Parish Council was \$4,000.00 not \$40,000.00; leaving a balance of \$2,968.36 (p.39). On page 40, the Certificates realized \$2,800.00, not \$28,000.00 (5% of coupons sold).

The inactivity status of the Women's Guild was placed on the Agenda to be discussed under New Business.

Young Couples Fellowship. Paul Mihranyan, former chairman, spoke for the group. The YCF has been mainly a social organization to encourage membership, but now has several "service to the church" activities scheduled for the future.

A special thank you was extended to Paul and Tina Mihranyan, from the chairman, for the donation and installation of the three lights which now hang over the entrance to the sanctuary.

Permanent Endowment Fund. The report appears as Appendix B (attached). Steve Barsamian explained the report and answered questions regarding the disbursements outlined on page 4 of the report. The PEF used Camp Ground interest for youth activities to pay 3/4ths of the Youth Director's salary. (The balance of \$6,250.00 for 1990 was paid by the Youth Committee.) The PEF advanced \$1,500.00 to the Parish Council for the cost of video-taping the church services at the Choir Convention in November 1989. Fifty (50) tapes were ordered; 35 copies were sold at \$35.00 each. Der Paree still has 15 tapes. The income from the sale of the tapes went into the General Fund.

Auditing Committee. The report of the Auditing Committee was not completed at the time of the meeting. It will be presented directly to the Parish Council, along with recommendations.

Copies of the Facilities Rentals Income and Expenses were distributed and appear as Appendix C (attached). Most of the expense figures are estimates, based on total bills paid in 1990.

It was recommended that we use the word "Donation" at all times when referring to church income.

The proceedings were interrupted by Parish Council Chairman, George Mangigian, who took the opportunity to introduce to the Assembly the new church secretary, Mrs. Ani Bedian, who assisted with the registration of eligible voters.

Adoption of the 1991 Budget. Motion was made to adopt the budget which had been reviewed and accepted at the pre-Parish Assembly. Discussion followed. The Capital Improvements figure which appeared in the original proposed budget for 1991 was separated out and will be addressed in a proposal to be presented under New Business.

The figure of \$15,000.00 for a Hall Rental Director will remain in the budget until a final decision is made regarding Facilities Rentals - whether volunteers or otherwise. Motion was seconded and passed.

New Business. Proposals #1 and #2 appear in Appendix D (attached).

Proposal #1 was circulated in advance of the meeting. Although there was a great difference of opinion regarding the wording of the Proposal and the order of priorities of on-going care and maintenance of the needs of the Church Complex, Proposal #1, authorizing the Parish Council to form a Fund-Raising Committee, prepare a fund-raising plan, and call a Special Parish Assembly within six months, was passed.

Proposal #2. (presented for the first time at the meeting)

After hearing pro and con arguments regarding what would require a change in the PEF By-Laws to allow Camp Ground interest to be used for "human resource needs", the chairman of the PEF stated that the PEF Committee was unanimously opposed to Proposal #2. There was additional discussion. A hand vote was taken. The Proposal was defeated.

Proceedings were interrupted to announce the election results:

PARISH COUNCIL

(6 elected)

Vaughn Hoplamazian	(79)	Margaret Ashekian	(60)
Anahid Megerian	(66)	Charles Keytanjian	(60)
Michael Ayjian	(61)	Paul Mihranyan	(53)

Alternates: Zovig Devletian (50); Grant Mazmanian (49)
Adrienne Riser (40); Helen Barikian (31); Alicia Craig (20)

AUDITING COMMITTEE

(3 elected)

John Eskandarian	(87)	Papken Megerian	(67)
		Daniel Takoushian, Jr.	(49)
<u>ALTERNATES:</u> Jeff Alyanakian	(35);	Paul Babikian	(34)
		Nubar Igidbashian	(33)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(3 elected)

Laraine Ballard	(77)	Richard Shakarjian	(70)
		Robert Zakian	(53)
<u>ALTERNATES:</u> Pete Seropian	(50)	Richard Peckjian	(35)

New Business (cont'd)

There was an objection to the statement: "Ballots must be cast in person . . . at a specified time . . .", which appeared on page 1 of the Annual Report. This is a valid statement, since it is a Diocesan ruling and not a local one. The Parish Council will, however, take under consideration an extended period of time for voting.

It was requested that for future Parish Assemblies a concerted effort should be made to mail the Annual Report to members in advance of the meeting date so that the contents can be digested and more constructive discussion can take place at the Assembly. This was taken under advisement.

Women's Guild. In order to re-vitalize the organization, a motion was made to make it a charge of this Assembly to appoint a committee to form a new Women's Guild. The motion was seconded and passed. However, with so few people still in attendance, it was impossible to appoint a committee.

The alternative recommendation was to have the Parish Council canvas former Guild members and invite them to a meeting to appoint a committee to follow through.

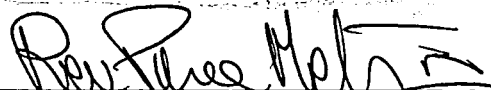
Report on Memorial Hall. George Mangigian informed the Assembly that as of 2/23/91, a total of \$172,508.00 had been pledged, and \$160,000.00 is in the bank. A dedication date has been set for March 10, 1991, at which time the funds will be turned over to the Permanent Endowment Fund as outlined in Appendix E (attached), which was presented in the form of a motion. After a brief discussion, where Mr. Mangigian explained in detail the reasons for the Memorial Hall Youth Fund, the motion was seconded and carried.


Hall Director. Negotiations have been going on with Finley Caterers to be the exclusive caterer and handle all reservations for the hall. However, church members who rent the hall will have the privilege of obtaining their own caterer, although reservations would be made through Finley Caterers, if the agreement is finalized. As of this date, nothing has been signed.


This procedure would still require that we provide custodial care, and would still need volunteers to attend functions as official representatives of the church. It does not include the use of Hayatian Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


The Reverend Paro Metjian
Pastor and Assembly President


Richard Shakarjian
Assembly Chairman


Elizabeth A. Boyajian
Assembly Secretary