

ST. SAHAG AND ST. MESROB ARMENIAN CHURCH  
PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 12, 1995

The Annual Parish Assembly was opened at 1:00 pm with a prayer by Reverend Dr. Paree Metjian, Pastor and President of the Assembly.

Verification of Eligible Voters: Fifty-four eligible members registered, at which time they received an official ballot.

Election of Assembly Officers: George Devletian welcomed those in attendance and then asked for nominations for Assembly Chairman and Secretary. Elected were George Devletian as Chairman, and Malena Sarrafian as Secretary.

Election of Parish Council, Auditing and Nominating Committees: The Nominating Committee representative, Rose Arpajian, asked if there were additional nominations from the floor for any of these positions. There being no additional names submitted, nominations were closed. Each candidate was introduced to the assembly, and voting was the next order of business. Ballots were cast as each eligible member's name was read from the registration book. Mrs. Arpajian requested that Alice Arakelian and Harry Amirian assist in counting the ballots, along with Shant Kehyayan representing the Auditing Committee. It was moved the balloting be closed. Motion carried.

Minutes of 1994 Assembly: Minutes of the 1994 Assembly were approved with the following corrections:

1. Under the Section entitled, "Reports of Parish Council and Church Organizations," Paragraphs 2-4 shall be stricken.

2. And the following shall be inserted: "Harry Arakelian asked why two (2) members of the Parish Council resigned in November of 1993.

Lisa Manookian was asked to respond. She told the Assembly that the main reason for her resignation was that funds raised for Operation Winter Rescue, in early 1993, were misdirected to the HAVAD Mission Project by the Pastor.

Lisa summarized and informed the Assembly of how everything transpired. She also stated that upon informing the Parish Council, a letter was sent to the Diocese, signed by the Pastor and Lisa as Chairperson, requesting that the monies be re-directed, which they were.

Lisa concluded by stating that she felt she had an obligation to bring the incident to the Assembly's attention because she feared that withholding knowledge of the incident would have been a betrayal on her part and that public awareness of soliciting funds for one purpose and utilizing them for another could weaken future efforts to solicit funds for Armenia"

Pastor's and Organization Reports: It was moved that these reports not be read aloud. Motion approved by show of hands. The Pastor's and Parish Council Reports were accepted as written. There was some discussion regarding the ACYOA Seniors organization and its activities as a group. The Men's Club financial statement was questioned, which brought about the discussion of dates reserved for Memorial Hall to accommodate their Annual Dinner Dance. There was some discussion regarding the Food Certificate program sponsored by the Women's Guild, and Millie Barsamian explained the process and benefits. Mr. Garo Avesian, Vice-Chairman of the Armenian Outreach Committee spoke on their behalf, expressing their gratitude for the support and encouragement they have received, and that they hope to grow with the community. All of the organization reports were accepted as written.

Adoption of the 1995 Budget: Treasurer, David Nalbantian, presented the proposed budget for 1995. A motion was made and seconded to leave the clergy stipend at the 1994 actual amount of \$44,869. The motion was defeated. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the proposed budget for 1995 in the amount of \$253,771. Motion passed.

Permanent Endowment Fund: Kevin Leszcynski, Chairman of PEF, presented its financial report and was available to answer questions. The report was accepted with appreciation.

New Business: There had been a proposal to ask the assembly to move on a request that an ad-hock committee be formed to review the structure of the PEF. However, the Parish Council Chairman reported he had been informed by Steve Barsamian that a motion would not be necessary, and that the Parish Council would be within its rights to create any committee to review any church organization.

There was some discussion regarding our church dues and membership compared to other churches in the Diocese. The breakdown of our assessment of dues to the Diocese was explained by Papken Hegerian. He also stated the Parish Council would welcome any suggestions or comments regarding dues.

The status of the Armen Ounjian Fund was questioned. George Devletian explained the purpose of the fund and that he has been the representative from our church for the fund since George Mangigian moved away. The fund has \$45,000 and it has had requests as recently as 6 months ago.

A request was made that a report be given to the next assembly of the attendance record of Parish Council members to their meetings.

George Devletian informed the assembly that our church would host the 1996 Diocesan Assembly, and that the committee would be asking for assistance in various capacities - please be available to help.

Upcoming is the 25th Anniversary celebration of Der Patee's ordination into the priesthood. This committee too, would be asking for assistance.

Election Results:

Parish Council (6 elected)

Gerald Williams	(47)	Hrant Torunyan	(39)
Ayshe Chakmaklian	(40)	Dearon Mazmanian	(38)
Andrew Keleshian	(39)	Alicia Craig	(34)

Alternates

Edward Boyajian	(31)	Pat Tajirian	(15)
Esahag Gurenlian	(15)	Leslie Alyanakian	(9)

Auditing Committee (3 elected)

John Eskandarian (47)  
Daniel Takoushian (33)  
Jane Keytanjian (30)

Alternates

Shant Kehyayan (28)      Marcus Mamourian (19)

Nominating Committee (3 elected)

Alma Paone (30)      Aram Fayda (29)      Helen Parseghian (29)


Alternates

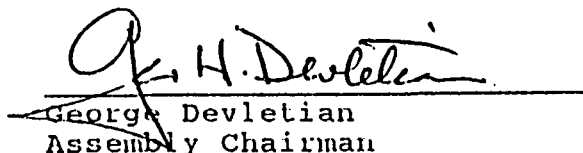
Elda Chamberlain (24)      Joseph Hoplamazian (23)      Karin Luhman (22)

George Devletian also reported that our delegates went to a Special Assembly in New York to elect delegates to represent the Eastern Diocese in the selection of a new Catholicos in Holy Etchmiadzin.

In closing remarks, Der Paree Metjian thanked the Assembly Chairman and Secretary, and congratulated the newly elected members of the Parish Council, Auditing and Nominating Committees. He also thanked the out-going members for their services. Der Paree also took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank Yeretzgin Angel for her support. Der Paree also commented that this is one of the best Parishes in our Diocese. He stated that with all of our shortcomings and our challenges, there still is a spirit that must be harnessed in this Parish. He further stated we have to work together and make this Parish an exemplary and God pleasing Parish.

The meeting was closed with a prayer and adjourned at 3:45 pm.

  
Rev. Dr. Paree Metjian  
Pastor

  
George Devletian  
Assembly Chairman

  
Malena Sarrafian, Assembly Secretary

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Dear Mr. [Name],  
I have received your letter of the 15th and am glad to hear from you.  
I am sorry that I cannot give you a more definite answer at this time.  
I will be in touch with you again as soon as I can.

Very truly yours,  
[Signature]

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