

A REPORT OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 9th
AT OUR LADY OF LEBANON CHURCH HALL , NIAGARA FALLS , N. Y.

COPY

REPORT OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 9th AT OUR LADY OF LEBANON
CHURCH HALL, NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

Chairman Edward J. Mooradian presided at the meeting with the following members of the Hokehpartsuetoon in attendance ; Mr. Toorigian, Mr. Doudourian, Mr. Ghougasian, Mr. Koshian, Mr. Mooradian, Mr. Kerkorian, Mr. Sarkissian. ABSENT-- Mr. Kazarian, Mr. Dardarian.

THE MEETING OPENED WITH A PRAYER BY THE RT. REV. ZGON VARDAPET.

Miss Lucy Stepanian sang the National Anthem as did members of the audience.

Upon the stage were seated invited guests from the Veterans Club and girls from the youth groups.

The March 27th letter of His Grace, Bishop Tiran Nersoyan, appointing the present Hokehpartsuetoon was read.

At this point Mr. Mooradian turned the chair over to Mr. Mamigon Kerkorian, the vice-chairman. Mr. Kerkorian stated that it was always an ambition with him to realize an Armenian Church for Niagara Falls and from his early youth on this yearning ever gripped him. He remarked that we here in Niagara have spent almost a lifetime without national satisfaction.

ZGON VARDAPET presented a 30 minute talk on urging the Armenians of Niagara to stand by their faith and national desires. He cited the history of other nations and of our glorious past. He praised our heritage for having kept the faith without which we would have not survived as a nation today. He remarked that it was duty and obligation of every Armenian to see that our youth was not separated from our national church and converted to others : for if we of this generation today fail in our obligations, we will have failed the heroes and other greats of our heritage that gave our fathers this nation. The Hai Sourp culminated his talk with urgings that our present project is a national one and a spiritual one and if we are of Haigagan Aruoun, this project must be assured.

Mr. Kerkorian asked that Zgon Vardapet to sing Hai Merr and that the audience join in the singing.

Several questions were raised from the floor and the answers in most part were given by Zgon Vardapet.

Present at the meeting were two representatives of our neighbor city of Buffalo...Mr. Markarian and Mr. Nahabedian.

At this point a telegram from His Grace, Bishop Nersoyan, arrived and it was read to the assemblage by Zgon Vardapet. The message of His Grace was as follows, " Heartiest Blessings on your noble endeavor for Church and Community Center. Go to it with enthusiasm. Your sons and daughters will be grateful. Am with you. "

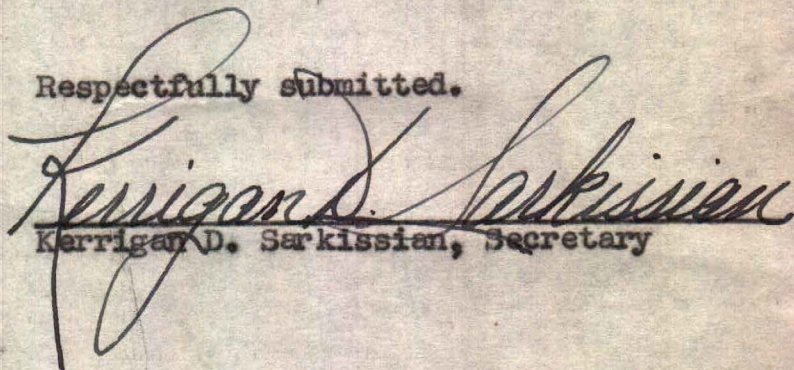
The meeting was now opened for the receiving of gifts and contribution. The amounts previously suscribed were announced and the total amount of moneys received and pledged at this meeting were in the amount of 15,400 dollars. Mr. Toorigian and Mr. Ghougasian solicited the meeting for the above gifts. The Veterans and members of the Young ladies group assisted in keeping a record of the gifts and contributions received.

Mr. Aris. Shakarjian, a member of the audience, upon giving his contribution was invited to the stage to express a desire. He told a heart gripping story of how the Turks tried to convert him into their religion and of what tortures he had to undergo but that he still kept the faith and God of his fathers and survived. "If we proceed as our fathers have done, nothing is too great for us to accomplish. "

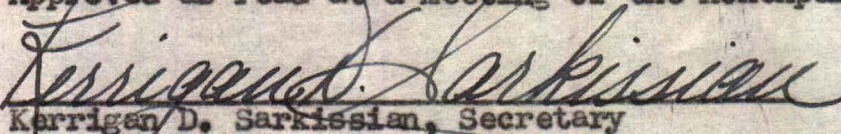
Zgon Vardapet closed the meeting with a prayer and was joined in said prayer by the audience

After the meeting the Hokehpartsuetoon got together to discuss further business and it was resolved that the rest of the community would be canvassed for contributions and the campaign committee would be entrusted with the work. It was decided that further meetings of the Hokehpartsuetoon would be called on the notice of the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted.


Kerrigan D. Sarkissian, Secretary

Approved as read at a Meeting of the Hokehpartsuetoon on Oct. 10, 1946


Kerrigan D. Sarkissian, Secretary