

**National Representative Assembly  
Eastern Prelacy of the  
Armenian Apostolic Church of America  
May 13-15, 2010  
New York, New York**

**Session I (Thursday, May 13, 2010)**

The opening session of the National Representative Assembly of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America was called to order on Thursday, May 13, 2010, at 11:30 am, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in New York, under the presidency of the Prelate, His Eminence Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, and hosted by St. Illuminator's Cathedral (Manhattan, New York) and St. Sarkis Church (Douglaston, New York). The Assembly began its proceedings with a prayer by the Prelate.

Fifty clergy and lay delegates were present at the first session.

With the consent of the delegates present, Archbishop Oshagan invited Mr. Jack Mardoian and Archpriest Fr. Zareh Sahagian to serve as temporary chairman and secretary, respectively.

Mr. Hagop Khatchadourian, chairman of the Executive Council (EC), presented the Council's report on its review of credentials, which stated that Sts. Vartanantz Church (Ridgefield, New Jersey) and St. Sarkis Church (Dearborn, Michigan) are delinquent in their quota obligations to the Prelacy. On behalf of the EC, Mr. Khatchadourian presented the following recommendation: "The EC recommends that voice and voting privileges be denied to the delegates representing Sts. Vartanantz and St. Sarkis churches." The chairman invited the delegates to discuss the recommendation. After the exchange of ideas, it was suggested that the EC amend its recommendation. The EC agreed to the following amended recommendation: "The EC recommends that the Assembly grant voice privileges to the delegates of Sts. Vartanantz and St. Sarkis parishes, and deny them the privilege of voting."

The amended recommendation was voted upon for each parish individually with the following results:

St. Sarkis Church, Dearborn, Michigan: 26 ayes, 18 nays, 6 abstentions.

Sts. Vartanantz Church, Ridgefield, New Jersey: 47 ayes, 2 nays, 1 abstention.

**Election of Nominating Committee**

The following ten names were nominated for the Nominating Committee: Archpriest Fr. Antranig Baljian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian, Hagop Soulakian, Ara Nalbandian, John

Jerikian, Varoujan Jindoian, Dr. Andre Markarian, Ara Chalian, John Buchaklian, and Dr. Arthur Kubikian.

Election was by secret ballot.

While the votes were being tallied, welcoming remarks were offered by the priests of the two host parishes, Rev. Fr. Nareg Terterian, St. Sarkis Church, (Douglaston); and Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian, St. Illuminator's Cathedral (New York). Words of welcome were also offered by Dr. Aram Cazazian, chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Sarkis Church. Lunch break was announced.

The session continued after lunch. The results of the election for the Nominating Committee were as follows:

Archpriest Fr. Antranig Baljian	44 votes	(elected)
Rev. Fr. Mesrob Lakissian	37	(elected)
Hagop Soulakian	29	(elected)
Ara Nalbandian	18	
John Jerikian	23	
Varoujan Jindoian	31	(elected)
Dr. Andre Markarian	26	
Ara Chalian	27	(elected)
John Buchaklian	16	
Dr. Arthur Kubikian	8	

The co-chairman, Jack Mardoian, introduced honored guest, Dr. Raffy Hovanessian, representing the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), and invited him to address the Assembly. Dr. Hovanessian expressed warm greetings and success to the Prelate and the delegates on behalf of the Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. He expressed his personal good wishes for the success of the deliberations of the Assembly.

The chairman introduced the newest clergyman serving the Eastern Prelacy, Rev. Fr. Karekin Bedourian. Der Karekin expressed his joy at attending his first National Representative Assembly and wished the delegates success.

Hagop Khatchadourian, chairman of the EC, provided information about the panel meetings for religious and Armenian education (ANEC/AREC); Audit and Budget; By-Laws; Technology; and Board of Trustees Chairs Workshop.

### **Election of Permanent Tivan**

Nominations for permanent tivan were: Co-chair, Stephen Hagopian, John Jerikian, Jack Mardoian, and Rouben Surenian. For secretary (English): Janet Haroian and Dr. Andre Markarian. For secretary (Armenian): Archpriest Fr. Zareh Sahagian and Rev. Fr. Gomidas Baghsarian. Election was by secret ballot.

Hagop Khatchadourian, chairman of the EC, spoke about the Prelacy's St. Nerses the Great Charitable and Social Organization in Armenia. He also spoke about the "Nor Giligia" project in Artsakh undertaken by the Catholicosate of Cilicia, with the participation of all of the dioceses under the jurisdiction of the Holy See of Cilicia.

Hagop Soulakian, member of the nominating committee, presented the results of the election for permanent tivan:

**Co-chairmen:**

Stephen Hagopian	45 votes	(elected)
John Jerikian	10	
Jack Mardoian	39	(elected)
Rouben Surenian	8	

**Secretary (English):**

Janet Haroian	38 votes	(elected)
Dr. Andre Markarian	13	

**Secretary (Armenian):**

Archpriest Fr. Zareh Sahagian	33 votes	(elected)
Rev. Fr. Gomidas Baghsarian	17	

**Session II (Thursday, May 13, 2010)**

The message to the NRA from His Holiness Catholicos Aram I was conveyed to the delegates by a recorded video presentation. Chairman Jack Mardoian introduced Oshagan Srpazan to the delegates to present his keynote address. The English translation was distributed to the delegates. His message pointed out the importance of our work for the welfare of our church and people. Our faith in the church has sustained our people through history and our mission in the church is service. The key words are Faith and Service, both giving inner strength for productive deeds for the church and community.

Der Nareg Terterian, Secretary of the Religious Council, presented the Religious Council's report via a power-point presentation highlighting key components of the written report. At the conclusion he extended gratitude to His Holiness Catholicos Aram I and to Ohsagan Srpazan for their guidance. Delegates with questions should submit them in writing to the Religious Council.

Hagop Khatchadourian, Chairman of the Executive Council, presented the Executive Council's report via power-point slides supporting the written report sent to the delegates in advance of the NRA. Questions for the Executive Council should be submitted in writing to the chair of the Council. Hagop Khatchadourian invited the Prelacy staff into

the meeting and introduced those present to the delegates. He also thanked them for their service to the Prelacy.

Panel assignments were read for the following discussion topics: AREC/ANEC, By-Laws, Technology, Audit & Budget, and Board of Trustee Chair workshop. The meeting locations will be announced on Friday morning, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The following announcements were made by Chairman Mardoian:

1. The Executive Council will meet this evening to review questions posed by delegates.
2. Banquet tickets are still available in the lobby.
3. Noubar Megerian and Zohrab Tazian encouraged delegates to sell their Prelacy raffle tickets.
4. The group photo will be taken at St. Sarkis church prior to services this evening.
5. Chairman Mardoian appointed three delegates to prepare letters to dignitaries noting that Oshagan Srpazan has sample letters from last year for ease of preparation.
6. The busses to St. Sarkis Church will leave the hotel at 5:30 pm.

Oshagan Srpazan closed the meeting with evening prayers. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

### **Session III (Friday, May 14, 2010)**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen Hagopian at 8:52 am and opened with morning prayers. Der Zareh took the roll noting 56 present.

Mona Andrikian, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Investments with UBS services, made a presentation on Charitable Giving. She reviewed six methods of donations ranging from simple to more complex: cash, tangible assets, securities (donating stock rather than cash), charitable remainder trust, charitable lead trusts and charitable gift annuities. Ms. Andrikian provided handout materials on charitable giving and had extra copies for those interested in taking some back to their respective communities. She noted that she would be around if anyone had questions.

Der Zareh presented the minutes from Session I in Armenian. Janet Haroian followed with Session II in English.

Hagop Khatchadourian responded to questions for the Executive Council:

1. Question regarding page 68 of the report from Leo Vartanian – Vehapar's recognition of The Year of the Armenian Woman was noted in the report. He

- commends the work of women in the communities, however, he expressed disappointment about the lack of information about women in religious service. The EC report was a synopsis of the full pontifical message which does refer to the role of women in the history of the Armenian Church.
2. George Rustigian asked when and how the NRA delegates were notified that Jack Mardoian had resigned from the EC leaving 6 members to conduct business. The EC responded that there were no violations of the by-laws but communication could have been different. George did thank the EC for the clergy group coverage and disability policy.
  3. Jack Mardoian presented a series of questions: In the conclusion of the EC report it refers to holding ourselves and students to a higher standard, train and recruit leaders and set a good example through faith, leadership and understanding. Define what is meant by the “higher standard” and what programs are proposed to meet this standard. The EC feels these programs are already in place with the Linked-In program, etc..., focusing on the youth, encouraging them to reach beyond “standard”, and the same with the Board of Trustees and EC activities.
  4. On page 55 a section notes meetings with Vehapar; however there was no mention about the action plan from Vehapar and how the EC will fulfill the plan. More details will be forthcoming from Vehapar through the Prelates.
  5. Page 59 notes that the BOT Guidelines are in final editing; are these mandatory or advisory? The guidelines were generated by input from the regional conference last year. Der Antranig was instrumental in their development and they are similar to the clergy guidelines. These are to benefit the boards, they are not mandatory.
  6. AREC was a two-part inquiry: What happened to the grade level expectations previously reported in the 2008/2009 EC report? The information was forwarded. What is the status of the publication of the explanation of the Nicene Creed? This will soon be published.
  7. Are there any new publications in the eight part ethics series? The second volume is in preparation.
  8. Explain the 30% drop in Datev participation and the fact that the largest participation came from only two communities: Anoushavan Srpazan responded to this question. He noted that there were two main reasons for the reduction – this is a four year program and several participants did not continue in the program due to other school activities and work commitments and several moved out of the country. They hope to see improved participation next year since it will be the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Datev. The expectation is to see 70-80 participants and 10 of those are expected from Chicago. Also hoped for in the future is an expanded program and length of the Datev session.
  9. What happened to the Prelacy forum series? The EC decided not to hold the forum since the person conducting the forums was contracted and it was not budgeted. They anticipate in the upcoming year to have a presentation on women saints and saints in the Badarak.

George Rustigian was not satisfied with the answer to his question since 26-B in the by-laws refers to the lay council of 7-9 members. He felt the NRA delegates should have

been informed that one of the representatives elected to serve had resigned and it was inadequate communication. Again, Chairman Hagopian pointed out that there are no stipulations in the by-laws for communication of a resignation. Seven were elected at last year's NRA. The by-laws do not state a requirement to inform the delegates of a resignation.

Chairman Hagopian thanked those who prepared questions and the EC for their presentation of answers.

Evaluation of the Religious Council Report: A correction of the year in the first paragraph, it should be 2009 rather than 2000 and notations were made as follows: Diran Der Khosroffian is from Whitinsville and Hagop Khatchadourian noted that the report should reflect Archpriest Aram Stepanian is also from Whitinsville. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as amended, all ayes, motion carried.

Evaluation of the Executive Council Report: One of the delegates noted that the EC report has commentary on the various churches and questioned why no reports from the churches? The parishes submit membership meeting minutes and BOT reports to the EC for review. If delegates review the reports prior to attending the meeting, they can network with the representatives of those parishes that peak their interest.

The Indian Orchard report should be revised to state that the publication sent to the parishioners is not done electronically, but sent to the printer electronically. They hope to send it to the community electronically in the future.

Nartoohi Selverian requested that a copy of the letter received from the American Red Cross for Haiti Relief donations be sent to the parishes so they can share it with all the organizations that helped to raise the funds. The delegate from Washington stated that he did not receive his packet in a timely manner to prepare for the NRA meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the EC report and voted upon with a majority of ayes, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions. The motion passed.

Oshagan Srpazan noted that the evaluations of the reports should include references to the work of each council. The floor was re-opened for action and a motion was made and seconded commending the Religious Council for a wonderful job in their work this past year as evidenced by the report, all ayes, motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded congratulating the EC on a commendable job; majority of ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstentions. Dr. Ara Chalian suggested in the future, the goals of the two councils should be more specific, making it easier to analyze their work.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of Session I and Session II, all ayes, motion passed.

John Daghlian presented the Prelacy Building Project for the Executive Council. A power-point presentation of photos illustrated the code compliant difficulties of the

current conditions and the deterioration of the structural integrity of the building. Ed Mgerdichian, a local structural engineer, donated his services to the Prelacy by evaluating the property. The EC offered three options: 1) sell the building; 2) renovate the existing structure at an estimated cost of \$3.7 million, saving the current façade or 3) demolish the building and rebuild on that site creating a code compliant and expanded structure for an estimated \$4.6 million. Temporary relocation of the offices would be necessary for 12+ months for either option 2 or 3.

The EC proposed the following motion for the NRA: “Authorize the Prelacy Executive Council to spend up to \$5 million towards a new Prelacy headquarters, exploring all options, including those presented before the delegates during the 2010 NRA and not moving forward with any action until at least one-half the required funding is raised.”

It was proposed that \$2 million could be raised via fundraisers, a loan could be secured for \$2 million, and the remainder could come from a loan from the endowment funds.

Significant discussion ensued regarding possible re-location to another area- outside of Manhattan; proposed structural load design to accommodate growth in building height; the need for further due diligence regarding funding methods, and how the funds would be generated to pay monthly loan principal and interest; the number of potential property sites were reviewed – noting the majority of nearby properties are of similar age and condition; concerns about seeking donations from parishes that have just completed building expansion projects and are financially “tapped out”; sell the building and look for a growth site that could accommodate a retreat and offices, creating a welcoming and friendly space; major concerns for the safety of staff and visitors to the building in light of deteriorating structural conditions; length of time EC has discussed this issue regarding the property; creation of a building committee to address the property rather than the EC; should option #2 even be a consideration or should the motion be amended to reflect only option #3; has the Audit & Budget Committee/Panel considered funds to move this initiative forward; could nearby parishes make temporary space available to help save temporary relocation costs and finally a revised motion was presented: Be it resolved that the Executive Council is hereby directed to pursue the option presented of demolition and reconstruction of the present Prelacy Building in Manhattan if an appropriate replacement property cannot be located and bring their final recommendation to the NRA by no later than the 2011 NRA. The motion was seconded and a roll call vote was taken: 47 ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstentions, motion passed. John Daghlian announced a donation of \$5000 from his family and his sister honoring and recognizing his parents’ 43 years of service to the Prelacy.

The panel meeting locations were announced and the panels were directed to return with goals that are realistic and achievable.

Chairman Hagopian introduced Joyce Yeremian as the ARS-Eastern USA Regional Board representative to the NRA. Mrs. Gemma Vartanian is present from the Prelacy Ladies Guild, Mrs. Lalg Vartanian, BOT Chairman from St. Illuminators is present and

Der Moushegh was also in attendance. The delegates recessed for lunch at 12: 05 pm and will report to their respective panels at 1:30 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 4:30 pm with presentations from the panels. Dr. Andre Markarian presented the AREC portion and upon discussion, that topic was tabled so the panel could re-group and present anew on Saturday. Hagop Soulakian presented the ANEC portion of the panel report. There are six new ANEC members that have met once. An inquiry was sent to all the Armenian schools with only five responses received thus far. The panel had the following suggestions for the EC: 1) The budget for ANEC was proposed at \$40,000 requesting an additional \$10,000 from the ARS at their upcoming convention in July, for a total of \$50,000. Questions were posed regarding the use of the funds – is this to cover the salary of a director? That is up to the EC. What is the likelihood that the funds will be forthcoming from the ARS? 2) A representative of ANEC should visit every Armenian school. Question posed as to who pays for this visit? The panel agreed that the suggestion should allow for ANEC to prepare its programs before initiating any visits. The panel pointed out that not all schools had a board of education therefore they moved and seconded that every school must have a board of education to comply with ANEC guidelines. The vote was taken with a majority of ayes, 3 nays, 3 abstentions, motion passed.

John Buchaklian presented the report from the By-Laws panel noting that two proposals were reviewed; one from Providence and the second one from the Executive Council. In the panel session, the Providence delegation clarified their intent to only seek authorization to conduct a pilot project, not to seek a by-laws change at this time. This differed from the correspondence sent to the EC for evaluation and distribution to the NRA delegates. The panel's recommendation was to not accept the proposed by-laws change distributed to the delegates. The delegates voted on the proposed by-laws change; 0 ayes, 38 nays, 7 abstentions, the by-laws change failed.

The panel did note that a means of allowing active member “shut-ins” the ability to vote in elections has some merit, therefore the panel recommends the EC start a pilot program consistent with the Providence proposal on a non-binding basis, with the parish selected for the pilot project to report back to the EC and at the NRA body next year regarding the success or failure of the pilot project. Providence is willing to do the pilot project and will communicate to its parish members that votes will be taken but **not** counted. In light of the non-binding status, there is no amendment to the by-laws at this time.

The by-laws proposal from the EC addressed language “housekeeping” for the majority of the articles reconciling the Armenian and English texts. The panel addressed the proposal in two parts: Article 24 – regarding the seat of the Prelacy and the rest of the document. The panel agreed that the language addition “in the borough of Manhattan” was not necessary and recommends leaving the reference to New York City as is. This was acceptable to Srpazan. He explained the history of the by-laws and the value of clarification of the English and Armenian texts. Der Antranig requested more time to review the proposed by-laws changes.

Jack Mardoian noted two articles he felt were substantive changes in the English text: Article 15 and 29 (L). In light of the late hour, Chairman Hagopian directed that this topic will be addressed again on Saturday for final resolution. He then introduced Richard Sarajian, former Executive Council Chairman. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm and closed with the evening prayer.

#### **Session IV (Saturday, May 15, 2010)**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen Hagopian at 9:35 am and opened with morning prayers. Der Zareh called the roll with 52 present. The agenda for the session was modified as follows: By-laws, AREC panel report, Audit & Budget, Elections, minutes and letters to dignitaries.

John Buchaklian briefly reviewed what had been discussed in Session III and a vote was taken on the by-laws language change in Article 24. The motion was explained that a “yes” vote would change the language to “borough of Manhattan” and a “no” vote would be “New York City.” A voice vote was taken and the motion failed.

Additional discussion was held regarding the change in language for Article 15 from registered member to dues paying member, and Article 29 (L) which was an attempt to make the language more coherent regarding administrative personnel. The delegates voted on Article 15 to accept the language change to dues paying member. Other articles in the by-laws refer to a membership register, however this change would not affect the number of delegates allowed per parish. The delegates then voted regarding Article 29 (L) with 49 ayes, motion passed. The final motion was to approve the remaining “housekeeping” changes, seconded and approved with 47 ayes.

Dr. Andre Markarian presented the re-drafted AREC panel report as follows: The Religious Council is asked to present to the 2011 NRA the following:

An updated and comprehensive religious education program with particular emphasis on

1. Establishing a department of religious education and youth ministry within each parish.
2. Developing religious education publications and teaching materials.
3. Providing to Sunday schools minimum educational goals specific to each grade level.
4. Revitalization of a lay ministry by developing a formalized leadership/discipleship program to include:
  - a. Identification and training of spiritually inclined individuals in each parish both male and female, who will work under and with the parish priests to assist with Christian ministry and teaching.

- b. This same group of trained individuals collectively could be shared among our parishes and Prelacy to support each other's educational and ministerial efforts and for mentoring the youth.
5. Including specific Christian education programs tailored for joint parent/child participation and involvement with the goal to support and revitalize their family spiritual lives.
  6. Providing personnel needed to staff these programs at the Prelacy level.
  7. Providing the level of financial and technical resources to accomplish the above stated goals. Respectfully submitted, AREC Panel 2010.

The motion was made and seconded to accept the AREC report as presented, all ayes, motion passed.

Dr. Raffi Manjikian presented the Technology Panel Report: The panel recommends to the NRA the creation of a Technology Advisory Task Force to assess the skills, tools and content available within each parish, allocating a budget of \$9000 to cover costs associated with web design, software and hardware needs. Three specific goals noted:

1. Gather 5000 emails from the parishes by the 2011 NRA as the database.
2. Create a website for each parish that at present doesn't have a web presence.
3. Create an assessment tool/survey of each parish that would assess, diagnose, and monitor human resources and physical capabilities of use of technology at each parish.

The long term goal is to integrate technology and streamline communications from the Prelacy to the Parish to the Parishioner. "With each other – For each other."

Discussion on the report covered the possibility of website uniformity in the look for all churches, such as a template. Also discussed were problems and issues for some parishes to get access to internet and wireless service into their churches. Motion was made and seconded to accept the report, all ayes, motion passed.

Raffi Ourlian, Treasurer of the Executive Council, initiated the Audit & Budget Panel report by thanking the panel members for their hard work reviewing the financials. He noted that a CPA conducted an external audit and an internal audit was completed as well. He then turned over the presentation of the remaining panel report to Peter Jemian. A complete copy of the report shall be attached to these minutes. A summary of the report is as follows: A correction should be made to the amount on page 8, the figure should read \$404,325. The Audit & Budget committee did seek input from the other panels regarding financial needs. Several resolutions were proposed:

1. \$110,000 in cash has been earmarked for the building project, the EC shall use the funds as needed to fund the NRA motion, relocation costs if required, hire consultants or other costs associated with the building plan, moved, seconded, all ayes, motion passed. These funds were received just for this project.
2. The EC shall begin raising funds ASAP for the building project, moved, seconded, majority ayes, 0 nays, 2 abstentions.
3. EC to appoint a board to oversee the endowment funds prior to the next NRA, motion made, seconded, all ayes, motion passed.

4. Panel moved for approval of the financial statements as amended, seconded, all ayes, motion passed.
5. Panel moved for approval of the budget as amended by the panel, seconded, discussion: questions were raised about the amount budgeted for the Askain Dourk expenses in order to raise the funds; expenses cover printing and postage to mail the funding appeal, the revenue appears on line 5. Efforts are ongoing to increase the number of Pillars of the Prelacy. The \$70,000 expense for Nor Giligia is the second year commitment. Payroll expenses increased to cover the increased health insurance costs. Line 38, interest due on endowment fund is noted as the expense for borrowing against the fund, and now paying it back. Outreach publication line is a “place-holder.” Line 30 covers costs for clergy training since we have several working toward future ordination. Line 33 covers the printing and publication expenses for the NRA materials. Line 36 reflects the expenses for Linked-In, which in 2009 the expenses were included in the Antelias program. Funds for Datev are included in the AREC budget line. It was noted that there are significant publication and printing expenses that could be reduced if more was sent electronically. The clergy transfer funds cover the Canadian Prelacy’s costs for sending a Der Hayr to Niagara Falls for outreach services. The vote was taken on the motion with all ayes, motion passed. It was noted that there are additional suggestions to the EC on the formal report from the panel.

The minutes of Session III were read and approved as amended.

The Nominating Committee presented the ballot for Auditing Committee. Per the by-laws, the body has to elect a total of three members; two from New York and one committee member should be either a CPA or a professional bookkeeper. The following were on the ballot: Avedis Movsesian, Stepan Stepanian, James Bell, Arthur Kubikian, Richard Selverian, and Bedros Yessaian. The nominating committee reviewed the financial qualifications of the nominees and the location of their residences. Elected by the delegates were: Avedis Movsesian - 49 votes, Stepan Stepanian – 47 votes, and Richard Selverian – 32 votes. The remaining two highest vote getters were elected as alternates: James Bell and Bedros Yessaian.

Unforeseen Questions: George Rustigian asked if the EC could include the quota amount assessed per parish on the summary page of the parish data at the back of the EC report. A request was made to have the delegates’ email addresses included in a list to be shared with all delegates. The question was raised if the by-laws are available on the website or electronically from the Prelacy. One delegate opposed making the by-laws available on the website. Since the EC has the prerogative to interpret the by-laws, can they make an administrative ruling regarding BOT members serving on the nominating committee or tivan? Yes, they can do so. If a BOT member fails to attend meetings, can they be replaced? The response is no. A question was raised about the initial resolutions presented by the AREC panel that were voted upon prior to having the report tabled and then a new report presented today; Dr. Andre Markarian noted that the items discussed and approved the day prior were incorporated into the report and actions presented today.

The first of several letters to dignitaries was presented. Der Aram read the letter to Vehapar from Oshagan Srpazan in Armenian. It was accepted as presented.

The Nominating Committee presented the ballot for Executive Council and Religious Council. Five are to be elected to the Executive Council and one to the Religious Council. It was noted by the committee members that the incumbents' names are the first three on the EC ballot and the first name on the RC ballot. There was also clarification of a parliamentary matter that on the EC, four elected will serve a 2-year term and one will serve a 1-year term. The EC will make that determination once they meet. The list of EC nominees are as follows: Karen Jehanian, Raffi Ourlian, Zohrab Tazian, Hagop Antranigian, Hovig Apkarian, Stephen Hagopian, John Jerikian, Varouj Jendoian, Ara Nalbandian, and Zareh Soghomonian. The nominees for RC are: Reverend Father Nareg Terterian and Reverend Father Hovnan Bozoian.

Karen Jehanian asked the delegates not to vote for her since she will be unable to make the commitment at this time, however, she will still be closely involved with the Prelacy. Nominee Hovik Apkarian also asked the delegates not to vote for him.

Elected to the Executive Council: Raffi Ourlian – 53 votes, Zohrab Tazian – 36 votes, Hagop Antranigian – 37 votes, Stephen Hagopian – 51 votes and Zareh Soghomonian – 43 votes. Elected to the Religious Council was Reverend Father Nareg Terterian – 43 votes. The nominating committee reported one invalid ballot since 6 candidates were marked for the EC and delegates were instructed to vote for up to 5 candidates.

The three delegates selected to compose the letters were unable to meet therefore the Honorable Haiganoush Bedrosian prepared drafts of additional dignitary letters prior to her departure from the NRA. The first one was addressed to New York Governor David Patterson. Moved and seconded to accept the letter as drafted, all ayes, motion passed. The second letter was to NY Mayor Michael Bloomberg. It was suggested to modify the letter to reflect that the NRA was hosted by the two NYC parishes. Moved to accept the letter as amended, seconded, all ayes, motion passed. The final letter to President Barak Obama was not completed so the letter will be prepared by the Executive Council and mailed within a week.

Chairman Mardoian recognized a “special guest” present for the NRA, Der Moushegh Der Kaloustian, reflecting upon a bit of personal background with Der Hayr.

The Chair also recognized those delegates who were completing their first and second 4-year terms. Completing their first 4- year term: Charles Keumurian, Avedis Baronian, Virginia Antonian, Dr. Aram Cazazian, and David Bournazian. Completing their second 4-year term: John Daghlian, Rouben Surenian, Avedis Movsesian, Bedros Yervant Sarkissian, and Ara Mahserejian.

The Nominating Committee presented the ballot for election of Prelate. Nominees included: Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Bishop Norair Ashegian, and Very Reverend Yeghishe Manjikian. While votes were being tallied, Chairman Mardoian invited Hagop

Khatchadourian, the outgoing chairman of the EC for his comments after serving 6 years on the Executive Council. He expressed special thanks to Oshagan Srpazan, the Executive Council members, and the Religious Council members. He is very hopeful for the future of our church and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

The delegation from Philadelphia presented a resolution extending an invitation for the NRA to meet in Philadelphia in 2011 at their new facility. Seconded, all ayes, motion passed. The Chair thanked them for the invitation and requested that some secretarial assistance be offered next year.

Chairman Mardoian took the opportunity to recognize Iris Papazian for all her work and dedication to the Prelacy. Der Stephan Baljian informed the assembly that the senior-most active clergy member celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday; referring to his father, Der Antranig. Der Nareg commended the Tivan for their work at the assembly.

Chairman Mardoian requested that Oshagan Srpazan leave the room at this time. Michael Hagopian moved for a vote of acclimation for Oshagan Srpazan as Prelate for the Eastern Prelacy, seconded, all ayes, motion passed.

Oshagan Srpazan was introduced as the newly elected Prelate for the next four years. He presented his closing remarks noting that he has worked to pursue and train young clergy since he started as Prelate. He encouraged the delegates to take back all information and work of the Prelacy to their respective parishes.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm and all delegates moved upstairs to attend church services in the newly renovated Cathedral.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Haroian, English Secretary