

NEWSLETTER

14th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
MAY 10-12, 1968
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH

175 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

14th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY. This year the Annual National Assembly of Members will be on the weekend of May 10-12 in Cambridge, Mass. It is open to all members and friends. The weekend's activities will commence on Friday evening, May 10, at Harvard University with a forum on Armenian political parties under the sponsorship of the Greater Boston Chapter. Saturday, May 11, during the day, the assembly business sessions will be held at the Hotel Continental, Cambridge, where reports will be given, activities and policies reviewed, and members of the Board of Directors elected. All members in good standing may participate and vote. There will be a special luncheon program between sessions. The weekend's highlight will be the annual banquet Saturday evening in the Crystal Ballroom of the Hotel Continental. Sunday, May 12, in the afternoon, there will be an open house and reception at the NAASR Headquarters.

BANQUET AND LUNCHEON PROGRAMS. An outstanding array of speakers and entertainment has been put together. Principal banquet speakers will be Dr. James Hekimian, newly appointed Dean of Business Administration at Northeastern University and Prof. Emmanuel P. Varandyan, well-known author, poet, and dynamic speaker from Ohio State University. For entertainment Andreas Poulimenos, operatic baritone, who has been a Metropolitan Opera auditions regional winner, will offer an all-Armenian program. The luncheon program speakers will be Prof. Richard N. Frye of Harvard and Prof. Ara Dostourian of the Dept. of History of Rhode Island College. Please make your reservations early.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES. The chairmen of the various committees which will be functioning during the assembly are: Nominations, Dickran H. Boyajian; Constitution and Rules, George H. Boole, Jr.; New Business and Resolutions, Dr. Lionel S. Galstaun; Auditing, Gertrude Nahigian. Members and chapters may submit suggestions and proposals to these committees by addressing them to the respective chairmen in care of the National Office. Each committee consists of three members appointed by the Board of Directors and will be augmented by four additional members at the first assembly session. The committee reports will be presented at the afternoon assembly session.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS. Recent important decisions by the NAASR Board of Directors will give added impetus to research and publications in Armenian Studies in the United States. Shortly more detailed announcements will be made about research grants which will be available to qualified scholars and students beginning in October, 1968, and the establishment of an Armenian Heritage Press for both scholarly and popular works on Armenian history and culture. These two new significant developments will add new dimensions to NAASR's program and will aid in our overall goal of advancing Armenian Studies and perpetuating the Armenian heritage.

These activities will be under the supervision of NAASR's Academic Committee composed of Prof. Richard N. Frye, Harvard, chairman; Prof. Robert W. Thomson, Harvard, secretary; Prof. Frank M. Cross, Harvard; Prof. Nina Garsoian, Columbia; and Dr. A. O. Sarkissian, Library of Congress. Advisory members are Dr. Sirarpie Der Nersessian, now in Paris, France; and Prof. Avedis K. Sanjian, U. C. L. A.

PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS. April marks one year that we have been in our own permanent quarters, an eleven-room house on Cambridge's historic Mt. Auburn Street overlooking the Charles River, next to famed Longfellow Park, and near the John F. Kennedy Library and Center to be constructed by Harvard University. The new quarters give us spacious and convenient office and meeting facilities with ample parking. In time it will house a significant Armenian research library, be used for seminars and conferences, and serve as an information center. It will take care of our physical needs for years to come and will become a veritable beehive of activities for the furtherance of NAASR's purposes.

The Board of Directors was able to negotiate the purchase of this choice property by obtaining a mortgage and loan. Hopefully in a short period of time the interest and mortgage payments will not exceed what we were paying for rent before. Your contribution, large or small, will help reduce the mortgage principal and enable us to undertake necessary renovations. Please keep this in mind when you consider adding an administrative contribution to your dues.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. According to our Constitution all amendments, after they have been approved by a two-thirds vote of an Annual Assembly of Members, must be submitted to the entire membership for final ratification by two-thirds of those members voting within 30 days of written notification by the Board of Directors. At last year's 13th Annual Assembly the following amendment was accepted by the members present and is being herewith submitted for your consideration:

To amend Article IV, Section 2, on Life Membership by striking it out and substituting the following: "Any member of ten years may be elected to life membership by the Board of Directors upon the payment of a sum equal to twenty-five times the amount of the regular annual dues."

The Article which is now in the Constitution permits anyone who has been a member for five years to become a life member by paying twenty times the annual dues. You may cast your vote on the blank on the next page and return it with your dues payment (if due now) in the business reply envelope which is provided. Copies of the constitution, by-laws, and rules of the Association, a 13-page newly prepared booklet, are available to any member for 25¢ a copy to cover the cost of preparation, handling, and mailing.

SPECIAL ISSUE ON ARMENIA. The March, 1968, issue of *Soviet Life*, published in English as part of the reciprocal agreement between the governments of the U. S. A. and the U. S. S. R., is devoted almost in its entirety to Armenia. All but ten pages of this 68-page monthly magazine are devoted to "Armenia, Modern and Ancient." There are many beautiful black and white and color photographs with much interesting information on the country's progress, history, and people. There is even a 2-page article on the Armenian Church with a sermon of His Holiness, Catholicos Vasken I, translated into English.

A limited number of copies are available through the NAASR Book Department at 60¢ a copy for members in good standing and \$1.00 a copy for non-members and members not in good standing (postage and handling included).

FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND NEWS. Future newsletters, other mailings, and newspaper publicity will contain information on forthcoming Armenian Heritage Tours to Turkey, the Middle East, and Soviet Armenia; our Conference on Armenian Studies in the United States scheduled for next fall; new and interesting books available through our Book Department; the progress of the NAASR-initiated Armenian programs at Harvard, Columbia, and UCLA; and NAASR's 15th Anniversary Celebration in 1969.

NAASR AND "THE COST OF LIVING." Like everyone else NAASR has been hit by the spiraling cost of operations. However, in the thirteen years since NAASR's inception in 1955, we have sought to operate without any increase in dues, the principal source of income for the administrative expenses of the Association. For a number of years, even though costs were constantly going up, we did not have to consider any dues increase because of the expanding membership. Then, in later years, when we reached a plateau and our income leveled off, some services and programs suffered. Now, in order to strengthen and expand our programs and activities to the extent which is expected of NAASR and to be able to keep up with the rising costs, we need to increase our income.

We have reached a point in our growth where we must expand our staff, continually prepare printed publicity and informational materials such as brochures, booklets, newsletters, reports, and journals, and expand our essential activities in support of research, scholarship, and publication in Armenian Studies. NAASR is the only nationwide - yes, even worldwide - organization dedicated to this purpose and has a unique and vital role to play in the preservation of the Armenian heritage and cultural values.

In order to operate more efficiently and productively, we need to have a minimum annual income of \$15,000. A study of our five-year comparative record of receipts and expenditures shows we have been running a nationwide organization on essentially an annual average income of \$6000 - \$7000. How have we done all that we have on such a small income? The answer lies in the dedication and devotion of NAASR's numerous volunteer workers and the extreme frugality with which we have been operating the National Office. However, in the face of the skyrocketing costs (e.g. - postage stamps: up 100% in 13 years; rent and maintenance: up 400%; printing and stationery costs: up more than 100%) and the need for more sophisticated methods and equipment as well as additional personnel so that we can do our job much better, we cannot hold the line any more and must call on your assistance.

The members of NAASR can insure its continuing growth and success by renewing their dues as regular members at \$10 a year or by becoming patron, supporting, sustaining, or sponsor members and by making, in addition, a voluntary administrative contribution. May we, therefore, count on your understanding and support of this first increase in dues in 13 years.

RECOMMENDED READING. Prof. James Gidney's authoritative work, *A Mandate for Armenia*, is a "must" for all who want to follow the exciting post-World War I events which affected the destiny of the Armenian people. Published by Kent State University Press, the price is \$7.50 (\$6.25 for paid-up members).

WHO'S WHO ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The members of the NAASR Board of Directors for the 1967-68 year are the following: Chairman, Manoog S. Young, Bursar and Business Manager, Franklin Institute of Boston; First Vice-Chairman, Sahag R. Dakesian, Principal Engineer, Honeywell, Inc.; Second Vice-Chairman, Richard Malkasian, consultant and structural engineer; Secretary, Harry Surabian, Jr., guidance counsellor, Saugus, Mass., public schools; Treasurer, Peter Sarmanian, Vice President and Treasurer, Printed Circuit Corp.; Executive Committee Members-at-large, Dr. Joseph Mazmanian, surgeon, and Charles Talanian, real estate broker and developer. These members constitute the Board's Executive Committee.

The other members of the Board are: Rev. A. A. Bedikian, pastor-emeritus of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York; George H. Boole, Jr., Director of Personnel Services, Star Market Co.; Dr. Alan Der Kazarian, periodontist; Dr. Lionel S. Galstaun, Manager of Process Engineering, Bechtel Corporation in New York City; G. John Gregory, head of Bureau of Vocational Counsel, Inc.; Stephen P. Mugar, Honorary Chairman of the Board, Star Market Co.; Prof. V. L. Parsegian, Rensselaer Professor, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; and Prof. Helen R. Vaznaian, Assistant Dean, School of Home Economics, University of Massachusetts.

Regional Directors who serve in an advisory capacity on the Board are Dr. Paul Bedoukian of New York for the Middle Atlantic States; Prof. Dennis Papazian of the University of Michigan, Dearborn Campus, for the Middle West; and Michael Kilijian of San Francisco for the West Coast.

The Chairman of the Board and the Directors of NAASR receive no compensation for their services and no reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses which they incur on behalf of NAASR.

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BALLOT

Board of Directors
National Association for Armenian
Studies and Research, Inc.
175 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Please record my vote on the proposed amendment on Life Membership to the Constitution as follows:

- () In favor
- () Against

Signed: _____
Date: _____
Address: _____

14th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF MEMBERS
May 10 - 12, 1968 - Cambridge, Massachusetts

Schedule of Activities

- Fri., May 10 8:00 p. m. FORUM - Harvard University
"What is the Role of the Armenian Political Parties Today?"
- Sat., May 11 9:00 a. m. ANNUAL ASSEMBLY - Hotel Continental
Registration (\$1.00 per person)
- 10:00 a. m. First Session: Board Reports and Discussion
- 12:30 p. m. Luncheon and Speakers
(\$3.00 per person)
- 2:00 p. m. Second Session: Committee Reports and Board Election
- Sat., May 11 6:30 p. m. ANNUAL BANQUET - Crystal Ballroom, Hotel Continental
(\$7.50 per person)
- Sun., May 12 2:00 p. m. OPEN HOUSE AND RECEPTION - NAASR Headquarters

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY.

The Annual Assembly of Members is the "supreme governing authority of the Association" (Article V, Section 1, of the Constitution). It sets the policies, reviews the programs, and elects the Board of Directors of NAASR. The Board of Directors is responsible for directing the activities of the Association, administering the decisions and policies of the Annual Assembly, and managing the funds and internal affairs of NAASR. (Article VI, Section 2, of the Constitution). Every member in good standing can have a voice in the affairs of the organization by participating in the Annual Assembly. Chapters are represented only by the individual participation of its members. One-sixteenth of the membership shall constitute a quorum at the assembly. Your presence is, therefore, important!

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ASSEMBLY RESERVATION FORM

Assembly and Banquet Committee
National Association for Armenian
Studies and Research, Inc.
175 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138

- () I plan to attend the 14th Annual Assembly.
- () Please reserve ___ luncheon tickets at \$3.00 for which I enclose \$ _____.
- () Please reserve ___ banquet tickets at \$7.50 for which I enclose \$ _____.

Name: _____
Address: _____