



Homenetmen Ararat Newsletter

Vol. 1 Issue 1 April 2004

2004 Chapter Board Members

The following members were elected to the Board at the Annual Membership meeting held on December 8, 2003.

Armen Abrahamian	Chairman
Khachik Khalatian	Vice-Chairman, Gen. Athletics Liaison
Garnik Abrahamian	Treasurer
Monik Der Grigorian	Secretary, Cultural Comm. Liaison
Arto Kazarians	Scout Div. Liaison, Construction
Ara Akopian	Maintenance, Volunteer Division
Arax Avanesian	Volunteer Division Liaison
Sako Kadehjian	Basketball Division Liaison
Arbi Madirossians	PR, IT, Web, Scout Div. Liaison

Executive Director Update

Upcoming changes for Homenetmen Ararat

\$125,000 Grant Approved for "Ararat" Chapter

The safety and security of our members especially our younger members is an unvarying concern for the Board of Directors. We are constantly looking for ways to improve the center and make it safer to access. Recently, a preliminary security and upgrade plan was drafted, which when implemented, will provide Ararat Chapter with the following amenities:

1. A single entry to the entire Ararat Center from San Fernando Road.
2. A secured fenced pedestrian walkway along the driveway.
3. An upgraded, modern, and more charming cafe and Ararat store.

To secure funds for this project, in January of 2004, the Board applied for a grant in the amount of \$125,000 from the City of Glendale. We are delighted to announce that the proposal has been approved by the City. Construction is expected to begin in September of 2004. However, we still have the difficult task of raising additional funds since the overall project will cost considerably more than the approved amount of the grant.

New Computer Room Ready for Use

The conversion of one of the second floor offices into a computer room has just been completed. There are two computer workstations ready for our division leaders, coaches, teachers and troop leaders to use for their administrative duties such as the preparation of flyers, memos, newsletter and letters for our members. In the near future we are expecting the installation of high speed DSL service for faster access.

2004 Chapter Goals

Increase Membership and Parent/Volunteer Participation

1. Initiate collection of 1,000 member e-mail addresses.
2. Update members via e-mail.
3. Conduct a member/parent feedback survey.
4. Evaluate approaches for parent involvement.
5. Conduct two Center cleanup days.
6. Organize parent suggestion meetings.
7. Increase Ararat Summer Day Camp program participation.

Enhance Center Operation and Utilization

1. Promote morning use of the Center.
2. Set-up a presentation room to improve marketing of banquet hall.
3. Set-up computer room for member use.

Improve Center Security

1. Study and implement a one-point entry system at the Center.

Program/Training/Education

1. Conduct training of Division treasurers and secretaries.
2. Conduct twenty orientation sessions for new members and parents.
3. Implement Athletic Division's reorganization.
4. Organize an offsite for all Division executives, Committee members, and invitees.
5. Conduct leadership training for coaches and scout leaders.

Improve Web site, Database, and Billing Systems

1. Enhance membership database and billing system.
2. Connect with Homenetmen.net.
3. Update and upgrade www.ararat.org.

*Look for updates on our
Chapter's goals in the future
Ararat Newsletters*

Offsite Leadership Seminar

The 2004 Offsite Leadership Seminar was held on January 25th in the City of Ventura with the participation of sixty-five Chapter, Division, and Committee executives. The one-day program began with a stop at Golf-N-Stuff, where participants were divided into small teams for miniature golfing. The afternoon sessions included presentations on 2004 Chapter goals, Center security, restructuring of the Athletic Division, the new database, the Web site, accounting procedures, endowment funds, and corporate matching programs. In the last session of the afternoon, each team presented its recommendations for methods of parent/volunteer recruitment and involvement.

Division News

Volunteers/Parents Division

New Executive Committee Members

Parour Akopian	Chairman
Helik Issagholian	Vice-Chairwoman
Adik Panosian	Secretary
Oshin Khachikian	Treasurer
Zarika Gorgorian	Advisor
Melineh Saginian	Advisor
Aram Yermian	Advisor

The Volunteers/Parents Division has assigned leads for each fund-raising project. The first (warm-up) fund-raising event was Disco Night. Three hundred guests had flashbacks to their wild days in the early 70s with lively disco music and plenty of food. The event was a great success. As always, we need more volunteers and parents to become members of this Division.



**Cruise
2004**



First Ever ARARAT Cruise

Ararat will be having its first ever cruise in November of 2004. In the upcoming months, call or visit our Web site at www.ararat.org for details on this grand adventure.

Scouting Division

On the weekend of February 6-8, 2004, 20 scouts from Ari 5 went on a winter camping trip at Tahquitz campground in San Bernardino County. The troop participated in winter-related activities, such as snowball fights, sledding, and making snowshoes. In addition to the fun-filled activities, the troop leaders took the opportunity to prepare the scouts for the Scout Exams. By the end of the weekend, the scouts had formed a very close bond of friendship and were reluctant to depart from their temporary home in the mountains.

On Sunday, February 7, 2004, the Western Regional Scouting Council awarded Nerces Arshakian, Sharice Baboumian, and Talin Gregorian the rank of Scout Commissioner. Recognizing their years of hard work, determination, and leadership, the Chapter's Scouting Executive Committee invited Nerces, Sharice, and Talin to join the Committee in January 2003. All three scouts have excelled in their scouting careers, and their contributions to their troops, the scouts, and the Chapter has made them invaluable members.

This year, the Scouting Division's annual leaders' trip to Mammoth took place on the weekend of January 16-19. This trip is part of a tradition that began many years ago as a way to thank the leaders for all their hard work in the chapter and leading their troops. There were 31 participants, many of whom were participating for the first time. The scout leaders spent the long weekend skiing, snowboarding, and relaxing.

Guylik 1 went to Camp Josepho in the mountains behind Pacific Palisades on the weekend of December 12-14, 2003. It was Guylik 1's first group camp in nearly three years. There were over 20 cub scouts present, and their ages ranged from 9-11 years. The cub scouts learned valuable skills, such as pioneering and archery, and over the course of the weekend, they came to understand the value of going camping as a group.

New Athletic Divisions

On March 9th, the Chapter Board announced the formation of two new Divisions: the General Athletic Division and the Basketball Athletic Division. The Athletic Transition Committee, which consisted of Armik Abrahamian, Ella Vartanian, Andre Pashai, Barsegh Karamanian, Sako Kadehjian, Siamanto Avakian, Khachik Khalatian, Armond Gorgorian, and Garnik Abrahamian, worked diligently for two months to ensure the smooth formation of the new Divisions.

Many thanks to the Executive Committee members of both Divisions for taking on the leadership positions and for their co-operation, which helped bring about a transition that was smooth and without any major difficulties.

The new Divisions are called **General Athletic Division & Basketball Athletic Division**. Each has 5-7 Executive Committee members, who were appointed by the Chapter Board. Beginning next year, Board members will be elected during each Division's annual meeting. Board Divisions will share the services of the Athletic Director and preserve current management layers and committees, such as Federations, Team Parents, and other like committees.

General Athletic Executive Committee

Barsegh Karamanian	Chairman
Roubik Mardirossian	Vice-Chairman
Medik Baban	Secretary
Androuhi Andriassian	Treasurer
Armineh Saint	Advisor (Gymnastics)
Vahik Shafrazian	Advisor (Tennis)
Rima Nicoghossian	Advisor (Volleyball)

Basketball Athletic Executive Committee

Siamanto Avakian	Chairman
Henry Mardakhanian	Vice-Chairman
Mike Vartanian	Secretary
Yolanda Davtian	Treasurer
Simon Basavand	Advisor

Upcoming Events

Mother's Day Luncheon

Date: May 8, 2004

Location: Ararat

Salsa Night

Date: June 5, 2004

Location: Ararat

Allen Hovakimian

Volleyball Tournament

Date: May 8 -May 22, 2004

Location: Ararat

Caricature Expo

Date: July 16-18, 2004

Location: Ararat

Chess Tournament

Date: May 29, 2004

Location: Ararat

Scouts' Dinner-Dance

Date: July 17, 2004

Location: Ararat

**For ticket info and a complete list of events,
please call (323) 256-2564 or visit our Web site
at www.ararat.org**

Classes at Ararat

- Gymnastics
- Rhythmic Gymnastics
- Chess
- Martial Arts
- Folk Dancing
- Art
- Drama

**For more information or to sign
up please call (323) 256-2564**

Committee News

Cultural Committee

New Executive Committee Members

Medik Khachikian

Chairwoman

Edik Balaian

Vice-Chairman

Parkouhi Khachikian

Secretary

Arsineh Topalian

Treasurer

Vahe Yeghyazarian

Advisor

Razmik Shahgaldian

Advisor

Valentina Hovanessian

Advisor

"M. Saryan & A. Issahakian" — March 14, 2004 — Glendale College. 200 people attended this event, which was in collaboration with Hamazgayin's Saroyan Theater. It was based on books written by Ruzan Saryan and Vigen Issahakian, who were honorary guests from Yerevan, with the lead actress being Marie Rose Abousefian. After the event, the Cultural Committee had a reception at the Center for the participants and their guests, where Marie Rose expressed her appreciation for the Cultural Committee's support.

Cultural Transition Committee

In March, the Cultural Transition Committee was formed with the objective of studying the transformation of the Cultural Committee to a Cultural Division. Carmen Rostamian is leading this Committee, and more information about the transition will be available in the near future.

Information Technologies

Database

Ararat Chapter will join Homenetmen.net in the near future. The new system will allow us to have a web-based database with powerful information extraction capabilities, which the Divisions can use for many of their projects and programs.

Web site

Over the next few months, our web site will be going through a complete face-lift. With the assistance of a few young members who have experience in designing Web sites, we are hoping to provide a more informative and user-friendly web site. If you have any suggestions on how to improve our web site, please e-mail us at araratnewsletter@hotmail.com.

Articles to Contribute

We invite you to submit articles related to sports, coaching, fitness, scouting, leadership, volunteering, fund-raising, arts, community events, and any other topics related to our Chapter and its activities. Please e-mail articles to the editor at araratnewsletter@hotmail.com with ARTICLE CONTRIBUTION written in the Subject line. It is understood that any contributed articles have the author's permission to be published and no additional release will be needed.

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