

# Homenetmen San Francisco

## Executive Committee

### Annual Report 2016-2017

Homenetmen San Francisco Chapter's 2016-2017 fiscal year's general membership meeting was held at the chapter's agoup located at 699 Serramonte Blvd., Unit 125, Daly City, CA 94015 on November 20, 2016. Present were 28 members. Meeting began at 5:00pm and concluded with the election of an Executive body of 7 members.

The newly elected Chapter Executive held its first meeting the same evening with the presence of Regional Executive liaison Y. Armand Kilijian, as well as the officers of the general meeting, Y. Vahan Derounian and K. Arsho Avetian. The chapter executive selected its positions and responsibilities as follows:

K. Tamar Kilijian, Chair

K. Arsho Avetian, Secretary

K. Nelly Shirikian, Treasurer

Y. Arlen Vartanian, Athletic Director

K. Nairie Krikorian, Scouting Representative

Y. Alex Petrossian, Scholarship Committee Representative

Y. Vartan Demirjian, Advisor

#### A. Organizational Life

The chapter Executive Committee (hereafter referred to as EC) held its meetings primarily on Mondays or Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30pm on a bi-monthly or as needed basis.

- The EC held 14 Meetings and sent all copies of the meeting minutes to the Regional Executive Committee
- EC received 57 Circulars from Regional Executive Committee
- EC sent 4 Letters to Regional Executive along with various e-mail correspondence, and 2 direct e-mail correspondence to chapter members.
- Chapter Membership (HNet) 321

## B. Communications

The EC used a number of communication channels to reach the chapter membership and beyond. Please note that updating e-mails across communication platforms is an ongoing project and needs to be done almost as soon as the new EC term begins.

- Newsletter - Under the very capable direction of K. Janet Leist the newsletter continued to be the weekly source of information to the general public. We have currently 498 subscribers, both members and non-members, with a 33% open rate – which across the board is very high. Each time a member is added to our chapter, their e-mail is entered into the subscription list. One improvement to note for the newsletter is the addition of a few guest writers this year. Our scouts were asked on a few occasions to submit the follow up articles to their events. We were happy to see not only their abilities but their input into this valuable medium of communication.
- Facebook – @Homenetmen San Francisco. Currently at 878 Page Likes we have gained 300 new followers this year, much of those as a result of our online presence at Pan Homenetmen Games. Our general page is Homenetmen San Francisco, and it covers all our divisions, but additionally we have SF Homenetmen BSA which is a closed group with 278 members and covers all our Scouting events. This year we also implemented paid boosting to reach a wider audience for our posts and activities.
- Instagram – Homenetmen\_SF. Currently 264 Followers. Posts are usually more geared toward a younger demographic than Facebook. IG initially was labeled as Homenetmen SF Athletics, however was changed to the General Homenetmen account.
- Twitter - @HomenetmenSF. Currently one follower. Just opened account November 2017
- Direct E-mail – All our Athletic and Scouting Rosters as well Parents and General Member e-mails have been uploaded to our EC Google account (currently resides with K. Tamar Kilijian's Homenetmen E-mail account) and have been sorted into groups to allow for more direct communication as needed. Additionally the Scouting division has its own E-mail [homenetmenscouts@gmail.com](mailto:homenetmenscouts@gmail.com) to communicate scouting matters. Treasurer has e-mail access to membership for the purpose of billing via our Quickbooks program.
- Website – [www.sfhomenetmen.org](http://www.sfhomenetmen.org) Website is for static information and updates are done periodically as needed. Facebook feed is on website so there is current communication access to those not on social media, and additionally our Newsletter Archives are accessible on our website.

## Advisory / Other Meetings

Some members of the EC held the following other meetings in addition to their regularly scheduled Meetings:

- **Athletic Committee** | April 9, 2017 – EC met with AC to discuss shared concerns.
- **AGCC** | Re: Homenetmen participation at Genocide Commemoration events.
- **Regional Meetings**
  - Regional Meeting with SF and Sacramento Miavor Chapter Members | February 26, 2017
  - Chairperson’s Meeting | March 1, 2017
  - Chairperson’s Meeting | May 10, 2017 @ Regional Office
  - Chapter Tivan’s Meeting | August 29, 2017 via Google Hangouts
- **Social Committee Meetings** | Dates unavailable
- **Scouts** | March 25, 2017 - Re: Shared concerns
- **Facilities Manager** - Y. Vahan Derounian | January 23, 2017 Re: Homenetmen gym rentals, facility maintenance, Burlingame Property Update.
- **Regional Executive Committee Rep.** - Y. Armand Kilijian | March 27, 2017 Re: Matters pertaining to Regional Executive Committee: Background Checks, Tournaments, Coordination and cooperation within N. California chapters.
- **Community Center Committee Rep.** - Y. Harout Momjian | September 11, 2017 Re: Homenetmen’s role in proposed new community center. Y. Harout presented our EC with the Homenetmen requirements that so far have been discussed by previous committee as well as the overall plans for the Community Center.
- **Abaga** | September 26, 2017 Re: Expansion of Abaga program.
- **ARF** | October 18, 2017 Re: Proposed Community Center general information and feedback. Homenetmen joined in to the general discussion and exchange of ideas regarding the proposed community center construction.

## C. Community Representation

- **Teach for Armenia Forum** | December 11, 2016 USF. Organized by Y. Narek Ghazaryan, Homenetmen Panelist: Y. Shant Kilijian.
- **Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee** | April 24<sup>th</sup> Mt. Davidson Cross – Scouts did the opening ceremony and K. Claudia Leist spoke on behalf of Homenetmen.
- **St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Consecration** | October 9, 2016 – Scouts represented in church.
- **Homenetmen 10<sup>th</sup> World Games Church Reception** | August 27, 2017 @ St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church – Homenetmen SF Athletes were invited to church. Homenetmen hosted after-church reception and Very Rev. Father Barouyr Shernezian gave a special presentation and gifts to our athletes, Homenetmen EC reciprocated by gifting Hayr Soorp some mementos from the games.

## D. General Activities

- **Agoump Clean Up Day #1** | March 5, 2017 - Mostly scouts participated in cleanup of agoump, getting rid of old furniture, clutter and clean up of storage areas.
- **Agoump Clean Up Day #2** | August 22 2017 – Mostly athletes participated in cleanup of agoump, moved scouts room to back area next to storage, created athletics room and assigned office furniture donated by Y. Jano Avanesian. Special acknowledgement to Y. Hovig Aristakessian and K. Nelly Shirikian for the huge task of transporting furniture from Y. Jano’s office to our agoump.
- **Agoump Clean up** – ongoing clean up projects include moving all storage items to their proper rooms, carpet shampooing, upgrades to the new scout office in the back (Thank you Y. Hovig Aristakessian for his construction skills), removal of old and unnecessary equipment and purchase of new copier machine for office. More upgrades to the agoump is required: Updating photos, replacing carpet, repainting, etc..
- **Warriors Finals Viewing Party** | June 4 2017 – EC organized this event, however proceeds were allocated toward the participation of our athletes at Homenetmen World Games. Our World Games Athletes were very helpful in running that event. At game half-time, we introduced our athletes to the general public and Hayr Soorp prayed for their safe journey. These athletes decided that rather than use money raised towards their expenses, they decided to have the proceeds donated to a charity in Armenia.
- **SF Games Opening Ceremony and Dedication** | September 1, 2017 – Our 37<sup>th</sup> Annual SF Games were dedicated to the memory of Y. Arakel Derounian. As difficult as these dedications are, they also a solemn reminder that we are one family, our departed are not forgotten, and we respect the efforts of those who came before us. The event was very well received and we thank all those who made that possible.
- **SF Games Appreciation Nite** – September 4, 2017 Open to all our members and teams from outside chapters participating in SF Games, this appreciation dinner was very well received by all those who attended. The guests enjoyed the hospitality as well as the opportunity to meet our committee and socialize. Feedback was extremely positive and this remains one of our highlights of the year.
- **Drug Awareness and Education** | May 7, 2017 by Tigran Antonian SFPD
  - To address the pervasiveness of illegal substance use in our community, Sergeant Tigran Antonian of the SFPD was contacted to discuss this issue with our youth. The forum was geared not as a lecture, but as a round table discussion where each participant was encouraged to feel safe in communicating his or her experiences, peer pressures and concerns regarding drugs. Neither parents nor EC members were allowed to attend or supervise. The feedback from the youth was that it was a worthwhile experience. Sergeant Tigran would like to continue this as an annual event.
- Homenetmen Hokehankist 2016 – Date Unknown

## E. Social Committee Activities

EC Rep. K. Arsho Avetian

EC Rep. K. Tamar Kilijian

Chairperson: K. Aline Aghababian.

Members:, K. Lori Jabagchourian, K. Stephanie Kassighian,

The committee was set up specifically for the purpose of organizing our chapter's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary gala, planned for February 2017 however due to the number of similarly planned community events, which we felt would adversely impact our Gala's success, we re-focused our efforts into making this year's social event a more casual, youthful occasion and putting off the larger event to March 2018. The only date available to us to reschedule for 2017 was October 7<sup>th</sup>.

- **Homenetmen Social Mixer** | October 7, 2017 – The social mixer was well organized and executed. The event itself went very well and the feedback from the attendees was extremely positive, however attendance from our own membership was disappointing. We expected a turnout of 200 people, however 109 tickets were sold. Financial loss was substantial.

The Social Committee met October 24<sup>th</sup> to wrap up this event and evaluate our options moving forward. It was decided that although this result was disheartening, social events are a necessary part of the Homenetmen experience and we will continue with our efforts.

That said, we decided to forgo the traditional "Barahantes/Gala" model of event for the time being, and repurpose our next social towards the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Homenetmen. Our plan is to join with Regional at their planned outdoor festival Memorial Day Weekend of 2018. We will be organizing a weekend road trip for all our members, with bus transportation, hotel, and festival package, where we all travel to Los Angeles and join our sister chapters to celebrate our Homenetmen Anniversary together.

## F. Scholarship Program

Executive Committee Rep: Y. Alex Petrossian

- Proposed and implemented last term, Y. Alex has been instrumental in developing and administering the scholarship program. He and his committee is in charge of reviewing the

applications and selecting the final recipients. Committee is comprised of Y. Alex Petrossian, Y. Jacques Oskanian and Y. Avo Stepanian.

This year we are happy to announce that the Scholarship recipients were K. Julie Avetisyan and K. Arpi Deirmendjian. Both are long time Homenetmenagans, and have participated not only as athletes and scouts, but have also contributed to their chapter as leaders and mentors of our younger members. Each has received a \$1000 Scholarship towards their education, and have been presented with a certificate of achievement.

The following is an overview of the program that is presented on our Social Media:

[Homenetmen San Francisco](#) Chapter is happy to announce a scholarship program for its college students, based on service to the chapter and other sister organizations. In order to encourage and acknowledge dedicated community service by our youth, the chapter will begin this program by awarding the two most qualified applicants \$1,000 each towards expenses of attending an accredited four year university, pursuing an undergraduate degree.

Applicants will be judged based on dedicated and sustained membership and service to [Homenetmen](#), other community service within our sister organizations, and overall exhibiting [Homenetmen](#) values in society, in everyday life. This program will be administered by a scholarship committee that can be reached at: [scholarship.sf@Homenetmen.org](mailto:scholarship.sf@Homenetmen.org)

## G. 10th Pan Homenetmen World Games | July 21-28, 2017

Regional Athletic Committee Rep. K. Tamar Kilijian

Our chapter was fortunate to be able to have a number of our athletes participate in the Homenetmen World Games in Yerevan. All our members aged 16 and up were notified of basketball and soccer tryouts and/or were given the opportunity to participate via individual athletics. One of our chapter's veterans, Y. Vachik Sarkissian was a coach for the Western Region Men's Junior Soccer team, and it was thanks to his effort as well as the enthusiasm of the parents involved which resulted in a high number of representation from our chapter.

The boys who participated in Soccer were part of the team that won the Men's Junior Soccer Championship. The girls who participated in Basketball won the Women's Junior Basketball 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The following are the names of the athletes from San Francisco who joined the delegation from USA Western Region:

Dro Avetian – Soccer

Arman Archouniani – Soccer

Nayiri Ayanian – Swimming, 4 x 50 Freestyle Relay Silver Medalist

Armen Demirjian (SF) – Soccer, 800m Track Silver Medalist, 400 x 4 Relay Bronze Medalist

Galia DerAprahamian (SF) – Basketball

Shant Kilijian (SF) – Ping Pong

Talar Kilijian (SF) – Basketball  
Razmig Makasdjian (SF) - Soccer  
Sevag Momjian (SF) – Soccer, Tennis  
Daniel Stepanian (SF) – Tennis

All our athletes conducted themselves in a manner that made us proud, and each came back with experiences they will remember for the rest of their lives. We look forward to continuing to incorporate our Northern California athletes in future Pan Homenetmen Games.

## H. Athletic Program

Athletic Director: Y. Arlen Vartanian

The EC made it a priority to meet with the Athletic Committee (AC) to discuss some shared concerns, collaborate on ideas and find areas of cooperation. This meeting took place on April 9, 2017 with most members of both committees were present.

Athletic report will be read separately and attached herewith as an addendum.

Some areas we have identified and taken initial steps to improve:

- Re-introduce a volleyball program in order to retain the high school age girls who seem to be transitioning away from basketball and to capture new adult members who would be interested in a coed volleyball program. Currently, we have K. Sose Deirmendjian who is coaching the adults on Wednesday nights, and K. Arpi Deirmendjian who has begun coaching the high school age girls on Sunday evenings.
- Women's basketball – We have taken initiative with Women's basketball to prevent losing our girls once they enter high school. We've had a difficult time sustaining interest in basketball for this age group. Fortunately we were given a lead for a highly qualified women's basketball coach who has just recently met and begun practices with our girls on Sundays. (Thank you K. Aline Aghababian for the referral)

Some remaining areas of concern:

- Lack of enough players in girls 11 & 12 year old basketball divisions.
- Youth Soccer – No program for U16

Looking forward to implementing:

Kaham Games Track and Field weekend – we had discussed the possibility of organizing the participation of KZV students to what looks like would be a great team-building event. A weekend road trip of KZV students who are both Homenetmen member and non-members. This would promote Homenetmen in the school and help strengthen the relationship between the two entities. Principal Grace Andonian was approached early in the year and she was open to the idea pending follow up from Homenetmen. We have asked Regional to give us ample notice next year so we have the opportunity to properly prepare.

## I. Scouting Program

Executive Committee Rep: K. Nairie Krikorian

Chapter ScoutMaster: Y. Hovig Aristakessian

Scouts report will be read separately and attached herewith as an addendum.

Fortunately, our scouting group has been relatively stable this past year. We do have concerns that our Kayleeg/Arzvig program has not really been able to get off the ground and we don't have the next generation of scouts in the pipeline. For the upcoming year Y. Hovig and the scout leadership will focus their efforts on preparing a sustainable K/A program and recruiting the youth. Our 16 and over age group is very strong and thanks to the many years they have been together enjoy scouting, have built relationships with scouts from other chapters and are now looking forward to participating in the upcoming Homenetmen World Jamboree in Summer of 2018.

## J. Wellness Program

Executive Committee Rep. K. Tamar Kilijian

The Wellness Program was an effort this year with a couple of objectives:

- To broaden the scope of Homenetmen activities to capture and serve members who do not have a place in our traditional areas offered via Athletics or Scouting.
- To provide health education and address our mission statement which includes the objective of "healthy minds and healthy bodies"

To this end, we were fortunate to be able to partner with Coach Cleveland Hughes who although not a Homenetmen Member himself, adheres to our motto of elevating yourself and others. His weekly training would conclude with a five or ten minute discussion about healthy eating and positive lifestyle choices. His boxing and women's exercise classes took place Tuesdays and Thursdays for one hour in the agoump. Boxing camp was supervised by EC Rep. Y. Alex Petrossian, women's boot camp by Rep. K. Tamar Kilijian.

- Boxing Camp #1 | May 23, 2017 to June 15, 2017
  - Run by Coach Cleveland Hughes, boxing camp was a program for youth 10yrs and up. Classes were 4 or 5 week sessions, \$150/per session payable directly to the coach.



Homenetmen provided the class and venue. Open to members and non-members. Each session had about 5 people ages 10-16.

- Boxing Camp #2 | September 12, 2017 to October 13, 2017
- Boxing Camp #3 | November 2, 2017 to December 7, 2017
- Women's Boot Camp #1 | November 10 to December 15, 2017
  - Run by Trainer Cleveland Hughes, boot camp was a bi weekly exercise program for women. Classes were 4 or 5 week sessions, \$150/per session payable directly to the coach. We did not charge a fee on behalf of Homenetmen, however advertised to our members and allowed the use of our agoump for the camp. We would have about 8-10 women per session, both Armenian and Non-Armenian.
- Women's Boot Camp #2 | January 17, 2017 to February 16, 2017
- Women's Boot Camp #3 | March 21, 2017 to April 20, 2017

With EC approval we would like to continue with this wellness program and expand into offering nutrition classes, self-defense, and martial arts classes for our members and those at large in the community.

## K. Financial Report

Executive Committee Treasurer: K. Nelly Shirikian

Financial Report will be presented separately and included in this report as an addendum.

A couple of improvements to mention:

- Quickbooks cloud upgrade – Moved our accounting program to a cloud based system in order to prevent having the program reside on a single computer and allow levels of access to others as needed.
- Membership Dues Payment Options Upgrade – Now accepting via Venmo App "HomenetmenSF". Allows for quicker and easier access to payment of any Homenetmen dues or fees.

(Existing payment options include, payment via link on Quickbooks electronic bill, Paypal Link on website, Paypal link on Newsletter, cash, check.)

## L. Burlingame Property and Facilities Management

Manager: Y. Vahan Derounian

Y. Vahan continues his responsibilities as our facility and property manager. He handles all gym rentals to outside groups, acts as liaison to the gym custodian, oversees repairs and maintenance on our Burlingame Property. The property early in our term completed construction in progress from prior term. Note that the building now has had windows replaced, tree removed, parking lot leveled and resurfaced and new retaining wall/fence installed. All necessary maintenance has been completed.

## M. Grant Applications

Executive Committee Rep: K. Tamar Kilijian

EC approved a motion to explore the possibility of earning grants toward our existing programs and/or toward our new health and wellness initiatives. We retained the services of a team from Ararat chapter who had worked researching and applying for these types of grants for their chapter. They were not able to successfully secure a grant, however the team was able to get a donation to our chapter of \$7000.

Our arrangement with this team ends with our term and we leave it up to the next EC to decide whether to continue pursuing this avenue of income.

## N. ABAGA Program

Coordinator: K. Aline Aghababian

ABAGA – is a program piloted 10 years ago by K. Armineh Jamgotchian from Walnut Creek Chapter. Sensing a need for a pre-Homenetmen program to appeal to those younger than 7 years old and thus yet unable to be in traditional Athletics or Scouts, K. Armine created ABAGA to introduce parents and their young kids to Homenetmen via our scouting songs, outdoor play, sense of community and shared responsibility. These kids would then be guided towards joining scouts as a natural graduation from ABAGA to Homenetmen. Fortunately we had a former Scout leader from Southern California who is now a mother and was looking for such a program.

On September 26, K. Armine Jamgotchian, K. Aline Azadkhanian, Anna Iskikian, K. Aline Aghababian, K. Nairie Krikorian and K. Tamar Kilijian had a meeting to discuss expansion of ABAGA to SF and South Bay. Our hope is to begin rounding up these young mothers and their kids and create a feeder system for Homenetmen. After discussing our goals and means, K. Armine gave a presentation of all her ABAGA materials to K. Alin and Anna – essentially giving them all the necessary tools to initiate their new

venture. We are looking forward to this exciting new program which has their first meeting on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

## O. Regional Events

Regional Executive Rep. and Liaison: Y. Armand Kilijian

Y. Armand Kilijian from our chapter remains our Regional Executive Liaison for this year. He was elected in October 2016 before the beginning of our term and will work with the next EC at least through October 2018.

The following were events joint events with Regional Executive committee:

- **Homenetmen Leadership Seminar** | February 26, 2017 at our Agoump
  - Seminar conducted by Y. Manuel Marselian, Homenetmen Regional Executive Committee Chairman and Y. Aram Bekarian, REC Educational Director. The seminar was offered to all Northern California chapters, but was hosted by San Francisco chapter at our agoump. Purpose was to give us an overall update of Homenetmen Worldwide, guidelines for local chapters to evaluate our needs and measure progress, and identify qualities for successful chapter leadership. Seminar concluded with an inter chapter meeting between Regional, San Francisco, and Sacramento “Miavor” Chapter Executives.
- **Homenetmen Day** | November 18, 2017 in Los Angeles
  - As requested by the REC, our Executive Committee submitted their appointee for this year’s Chapter Service Award, however due to personal reasons our nominee respectfully declined. Our EC did have representation at the event to celebrate those from our sister chapters who were honored to receive recognition for their dedicated service to our organization.

## P. COMMUNITY CENTER

Homenetmen Reps. – Y. Harout Momjian, Y. Armand Kilijian

Under the direction of the ARF and with the collaboration of various community organizations of which Homenetmen is a part, there is a current initiative to upgrade our existing San Francisco Armenian Community Center with additional classrooms to KZV School, meeting rooms, gym and agoump. Homenetmen is strongly represented on the planning committee, both with Y. Armand as chair, and Y.

Harout as Secretary and additionally as our organization's rep. Our needs and requirements were outlined over a year ago, and have been incorporated into the plans. Homenetmen has contributed \$5,000 (our share) towards the initial architectural plans which were presented to the Executive Committees of the vested organizations on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Each organization rep was invited to ask questions and articulate their concerns. Currently the more detailed architectural plans will begin and a second round of funding will be requested. At that point, Homenetmen will call for another general meeting to discuss our further involvement in this project.

## Motions and Suggestions from 2016 General Meeting:

Suggestion to have a priority plan to collect membership before Navasartian and expedite communication as soon as possible, addition suggestion includes to bill dues before January 31, 2017 – Online notices via newsletter began January 27<sup>th</sup>, direct billing done before January 31<sup>st</sup>. Website has always had online payment button. Despite our efforts, not all dues have been collected, however members have no reason not to pay dues as multiple payment platforms are available to them.

Motion to make sure all fundraising for Jamboree 2018 is allocated to that account and have quarterly reports to Scout Committee regarding status as such. Funds are allocated and although reports per se haven't been submitted to Scout Committee, the treasurer is also part of informal scouts khorourt and is aware of the status of funds.

Suggestion to increase membership through social events. – Events like Homenetmen Mixer, Warriors nite, SF Games Appreciation Nite, Boxing, exercise camp all raise Homenetmen's profile and can contribute to new memberships, but ongoing effort is necessary.

Suggestion to have teams/athletes to plan more fundraising events to subsidize their membership dues. – Not done.

## Conclusion

The Executive Committee was happy to serve this past term and thank our members who gave us the opportunity to serve to the best of our capabilities. Additionally we would like to acknowledge and thank our Regional Executive Committee Rep, our supporting committees, coaches and members who without their input a lot of what we would like to achieve would not be possible.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate wherever necessary, to mentor our younger members who wish to deepen their involvement in Homenetmen leadership and to see our chapter earn higher achievements.

Prepared by: K. Tamar Kilijian