



* * * ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL UPDATE * * *

FROM

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ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

VOLUME II

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The ACYOA Central Council has held its January meeting in Florida and its April meeting in New York. Below is an update:

ACYOA NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY BALL WEEKEND

Our 45th Anniversary was celebrated in grand style during January 25-27th in beautiful, Boca Raton, Florida, with members and alumni from throughout the Northeast and the Midwest joining in the festivities.

The weekend began on Friday evening with a cocktail party at the hotel. During Saturday morning and afternoon, participants enjoyed a cookout organized by members of the local chapter and played volleyball.

Saturday evening began with a Hrashapar service at St. David Armenian Church, followed by a cocktail hour for banquet attendees. More than 275 attended the banquet, while an additional 100 came for the dance. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Mr. Crosby Kazarian, an ACYOA alumnus, and guests of honor were long-time supporters and benefactors of the Armenian Church, Edward and Helen Mardigian, whose generosity throughout the past five years has enabled us to implement and upgrade many of our current programs. The Council presented the Mardigians with a crystal emerald-cut paperweight bearing the inscription, "Mr. & Mrs. Edward Mardigian - The Jewels of the ACYOA."

The program included various speakers as well as musical selections performed by the Karatsayn Singers and Shami Arslanian and Steve Weisbart.

Following the banquet, everyone was treated to the ever-fabulous sounds of Roger Krikorian & Company who, along with Shami & Steve, had the crowd "halehing" and hopping to everyone's favorite tunes.

On Sunday, the Primate, Bishop Khajag Barsamian, celebrated the Badarak and ordained three seminarians -- Dikran Bohajian, Robert Boyajian and Krikor Doudoukjian -- to the rank of sub-Deacon. The church was filled to capacity. Following the services, a Farewell Brunch was served.

Much thanks to Rena Jebejian and Melanie Mikaelian, who along with the members of the Boca Raton ACYOA and parishioners of St. David Armenian Church, provided a well-planned and truly memorable weekend for all.

ANNUAL MARTYRS' DAY COMMEMORATION

The ACYOA sponsored an art exhibit by Armenian artist, Valery Boyakchian, entitled "Reflections of Armenia: Paintings, Pastels and Collages." Mr. Boyakchian is a member of the National Association of Artists of the USSR and has had similar exhibitions in Moscow, Tiflis, Yerevan, Vienna, Brussels and Detroit. During the exhibit, Mr. Valentin Oskatsky, Co-Chairman of the Committee of Russian Intellectuals for Nagorno-Karabagh, gave a presentation entitled "Land, Culture, Freedom: The Ongoing Struggle in Karabagh." Following the presentation, the ACYOA hosted a reception for those attending. The evening was organized by Tony Barsamian and Council members, Suzie Ashjian and Lynda Chagachbanian.

ACYOA WORK/STUDY PROGRAM IN JERUSALEM

The ACYOA had planned on instituting a new work/study program in Jerusalem this year; however, due to the situation in the Middle East we will be unable to. The Central Council is currently in the process of developing the program for implementation in 1992.

ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM: ACYOA MISSION ARMENIA

The ACYOA will once again be coordinating a trip to Armenia, however, due to the current situation in our homeland, this year's program will be "mission-oriented," with a concentration on assisting our brethren through religious education. The four-week tour will include three weeks in Armenia and one week visiting Leningrad, Moscow and Copenhagen, Denmark.

The mission will be unlike that of any previous group. Participants will not only visit Armenia and tour the ancient sights, churches, and monasteries, but they will also have significant interaction with the people of Armenia.

The mission will be two-fold: (1) to actively interact with the people of Armenia through discussions and fellowship on issues and concerns affecting Armenians not only in Armenia but also in the diaspora; and (2) to distribute religious materials to Armenians in need of spiritual literature, especially in the villages and outlying areas.

The center of all activities will be Yerevan, where the mission team can work with other young adults in fellowship to gain a better understanding of life in Armenia.

Participants will also travel to Leninagan (to view the earthquake region), various historical sights and visit Etchmiadzin frequently. Visiting museums, opera houses and other cultural institutions will still be a part of the program, but will be supplemented by the mission that the group will perform.

Four participants will pay for their airfare to Armenia and connecting cities. Once the group reaches Armenia, Etchmiadzin will provide accommodations, travel and meals.

While only a handful of individuals can participate in the program, there is still much that everyone can do. Bishop Karekin Nersissian, the Vicar of the Araratian Patriarchal Diocese, has informed us that the churches of Armenia are in great need of prayer cards with short bible passages and proverbs with religious pictures. The Central Council will be printing these along with other religious materials which will be brought to Armenia by this year's ASP group.

Additionally, the Central Council has received a letter from the Rev. Fr. Apraham Megerditchian of St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Yerevan requesting art supplies such as paints, brushes and canvasses to assist young Armenian artists in utilizing their talents through the painting of religious-oriented subjects. You should have received a letter from Central Council member, Charlie Shooshan, in early March requesting that each chapter make a donation from the proceeds received from Palm Sunday activities to assist in purchasing these supplies so they can be sent to Armenia in the name of the ACYOA. If you have not already done so, please forward your donations to:

Charles H. Shooshan III, Esquire
558 Cypress Road
Newington, CT 06111

To date, only three chapters have responded with donations. They are:

Hartford	\$165.00
Richmond	\$250.00
Springfield	\$100.00

The Council has received phone calls from various individuals regarding collecting individual donations from the various parishes for these projects. While the Council is not formally requesting that chapters solicit donations from individuals, it encourages those individuals who have the time and are willing to do so.

INTER-DIOCESAN MEETING

The Council is planning on meeting with the Central Councils of the ACYO-WD (Western Diocese) and the ACYOC (Canada) sometime this fall to discuss Inter-Diocesan relations and the possibility of coordinating activities.

MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOKS

ACYOA Membership Handbooks have been sent out. All dues-paid members for the 1990 fiscal year should have received a copy. If you have paid your 1990 dues and did not receive a copy, please contact Central Council member Suzie Ashjian at (914) 963-0889.

1990 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

No this has not evaded our minds. Unfortunately, the Council has yet to receive the minutes from the secretary, despite repeated efforts by several individuals to obtain them. When received, they will be reviewed by the Council, put into final form, printed and distributed to all clergy, chapter chairmen and delegates to the Assembly.

CHAPTER "A" AWARD & ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Chapter "A" Award, annually given to the chapter that best fulfills the standards and requirements set forth by the ACYOA Central Council, is based on a point system, whereby the chapter accumulating the most total points wins. Chapters accumulating a pre-determined number of points receive an Achievement Award. The awarding of points is based on: (1) the fulfillment of certain obligations to the National Organization; (2) a balanced schedule of local chapter activities; and (3) service within the parish and local communities. The winning chapter is then sent to a new, inactive, or reorganized chapter to assist in the organizing of programs and the implementation of strategies to help increase the chapter's membership. A copy of the Chapter "A" Award Guidelines with explanations thereto is attached.

The "mission team" from last year's winning chapter, Hartford, consisted of Andrea Bagdigian, Peter Bedrossian, Anoush Khachoyan, Charlie Shooshan and Christine Shooshan. The team was very well received by and very successful in their presentation to the parish of Sts. Joachim & Anne Armenian Church in Palos Heights, IL. The presentation primarily focused on strengthening the bonds of the young teens of the parish to create a strong ACYOA Jrs. group. Presentations were also made concerning the importance of the family structure, the importance of prayer in the life of the church, how each individual fits within the community, and the history of the ACYOA.

Approximately twenty parishioners were in attendance throughout the entire day and were highly impressed with the presentation. The Council congratulates the Hartford "mission team" on completing yet another successful mission!

DUES

1991 dues were due on January 1, 1991. Monies and Membership Renewal Forms (a copy is attached) should be sent to:

Ms. Sara Andonian
Treasurer
ACYOA Central Council
2671 Roxie
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013

The Council has received dues from only five chapters: Cambridge, Fair Lawn, Richmond, Tenaflly and Watervliet.

ANNUAL REPORT PACKAGE

The General Assembly is but a few months away and the time to prepare is now. Attached are the following:

- (1) Sam Nersessian Award Guidelines
- (2) Sam Nersessian Award Nomination Form
- (3) Sam Nersessian Scholarship Guidelines
- (4) Sam Nersessian Scholarship Nomination Form
- (5) Annual Chapter Report Form
- (6) It's Due" (listing of deadlines and important dates)
- (7) Guidelines for the Submission of Proposals and Amendments to the Constitution for Consideration by the General Assembly

The Central Council is requesting all delegates and clergy to assist the chapter chairmen and executive committees in completing these forms. Many of the points for the Chapter "A" Award, the Honorable Mention, and the Achievement Awards, are given upon the timely and successful completion of these forms. All award recipients will be chosen at the next Central Council meeting in July. I am, therefore, requesting that all nominations and annual reports be submitted to me by no later than July 1st. Any material received after this date will be ineligible for consideration.