

ACYOAGeneral
AssemblyArmenian Church Youth Organization of America
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave. N.Y.C. N.Y. 10016 (212-686-0710)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL
TO THE DELEGATES OF THE 1985 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 1 1984 - JUNE 30, 1985

I. INTRODUCTION

The Central Council of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) presents the following report of the functions and programs of the ACYOA during the immediate past fiscal year -- 1984-1985.

Members of the ACYOA Central Council this year were:

His Eminence
ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN
Primate and National President

ARDA NAZERIAN	Chairman
SONA PALVETZIAN	Vice-Chairman
SHAKE AJAMIAN	Treasurer
GEORGE JEVARJIAN	Recording Secretary
SUSAN BOYAJIAN	Corresponding Secretary

As appointed by the Primate, James Magarian, Executive Secretary, assisted the ACYOA Central Council in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities.

Completing their terms in office (two years) are Arda Nazerian, Sona Palvetzian and George Jevarjian. The other two Council members have one year remaining to serve.

Meetings

Four meetings were held during the past year:

August 31, 1984	Holiday Inn Hotel, Alsip, IL (trans.)
October 27-28, 1984	Diocesan Center, New York City
March 15-16, 1985	Sts. Vartanantz Church, Chelmsford, MA
July 12-13, 1985	Diocesan Center, New York City

Over all, the meetings were productive and without needless deliberation. The Council members worked well together and attempted to carry out the many duties involved in running the national organization.

The format for the meetings included Friday night arrival and brief meetings, and Saturday all day meeting. The Executive Secretary informed the Council members of new developments and provided needed information regarding the day to day operations of the ACYOA.

A review of chapters -- their status and obligations, reports on parish visitations and programs, as well as the general operations of the ACYOA on the national level were a part of all Council meetings.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Administrative Tools

With the assistance of the Executive Secretary, the ACYOA Central Council developed and revised several administrative "tools" and forms to simplify and standardize ACYOA administrative procedures.

1. ACYOA Central Council Parish Visitation Report Form
2. ACYOA Central Council Operations and Procedures Outline
3. ACYOA Central Council Reminder Calender
4. ACYOA Central Council Expense/Reimbursement Format
5. ACYOA Program Breakdown
6. ACYOA Chapter Monthly Fact Sheet
7. ACYOA Annual Chapter Report Form
8. ACYOA Chapter Obligations & "A" Award Consideration Sheet
9. ACYOA Chapter Reminder Sheet
10. ACYOA Chapter Reminder Calender
11. Format for General Armenian Youth Listing
12. ACYOA Chapter Handbook

The above forms were prepared and sent to all Chapters and Parishes of our Diocese, thereby assisting in planning and scheduling for the year. These materials also assisted those parishes where the local chapter was weak, unorganized or just newly starting.

As with any national organization, administrative tools are a critical way of ensuring that the ACYOA Central Council and Executive Secretary are able to follow all that is going on with the local chapters. As with last year, many of the above materials were not utilized properly by the Chapters, nor were they sent to the Council on any type of regular basis.

The idea behind the forms and reference sheets is to assist, explain, simplify and standardize our procedures, which have otherwise been performed without any regularity, similarity or propriety.

Moreover, the design of the forms, as well as the Chapter Handbook and other "formats," is simplified in order to make the process easier for the local Chapters to participate. In this way, we get the greatest information outlet in trying to project new ideas, organizational goals and orientation in the direction of our Armenian Christian and cultural heritage.

Guidelines and Reprintings

Guidlelines which were revised as a result of amendments passed by delgates at the 1984 General Assembly in Palos Heights, IL included:

1. ACYOA Constitution
2. National Sports Weekend Rules and Regulations
3. ACYOA Chapter Handbook

Computerized National Armenian Youth Listing

The ACYOA Armenian Youth Listing developed three years ago has been updated to reflect the many duplications and changes in addresses discovered since that time. Currently the list contains over 2500 names. The potential size for the list far exceeds that number. This list is computerized and allows the user to sort the list alphabetically by name, chapter, zip code order, or any given combination of the three.

To date, the response to the effort to develop a National Armenian Youth Listing has been generally inadequate. Our intention this past year was to have the list distributed regionally -- to Chapter chairmen, Parish priests -- and have each individual correct, revise and update his/her respective region. This should prove to be the most effective procedure.

Membership Cards

Official ACYOA Membership Cards were prepared again this year and mailed to all dues paid ACYOA members for the 1984-85 fiscal year. As many Chapters ignored membership dues deadlines, the Central Council was unable to mail out all membership cards before the General Assembly and National Sports Weekend.

Accordingly, many participants of ACYOA programs -- local, regional and national -- will not be able to take advantage of the newly-created mandatory incentive programs because of their (or their Chapter's) delinquency in paying dues.

Monthly Fact Sheets & Annual Reports

All Chapters have been asked to send in their Monthly Fact Sheets to the Executive Secretary, who will then forward a copy to the Central Council Chairman and the respective Regional Rep. The sheets are used to maintain contact with the Chapters on a monthly basis, as well as serve as a means of publicity for the Chapter. Sheets are to be filled out as completely as possible and sent in a timely manner each month, even if "nothing" happened during the given month. Otherwise the sheets become obsolete.

The Chapter Annual Report is due at the end of the fiscal year which is June 30th. The information on the annual report is used in determining the status of a Chapter, and winners of the Chapter "A" Award. If elections are held in June, the outgoing Executive Committee should prepare the Report and review it with the newly elected Committee before sending it in.

Regional and Parish Assignments

Regional and Parish Assignments for the ACYOA Central Council Members consisted of the following:

Arda Nazerian Oversees all assignments
Chairman

Sona Palvetzian Vice Chairman
New England
Cambridge, MA Hartford, CT
Chelmsford, MA New Britain, CT
Haverhill, MA Trumbull, CT
Lawrence, MA Watervliet, NY
Springfield, MA Bayside, NY
Watertown, MA Providence, RI

Shake Ajamian Treasurer
Mid-Atlantic
N. Westchester, NY Wynnewood, PA
Westchester, NY Cheltenham, PA
Woodside, NY Washington, DC
Manhattan, NY Richmond, VA
Union City, NJ Atlanta, GA
Fair Lawn, NJ Miami, FL
Tenafly, NJ South Florida
Livingston, NJ Elberon, NJ

George Jevargian Recording Secretary
Midwest North
Binghamton, NY St. Catherines, ONT
Niagra Falls, NY Hamilton, ONT
Rochester, NY Toronto, ONT
Syracuse, NY Montreal, QUE
Palos Heights, IL Vancouver, BC
Ottawa, ONT

Susan Boyajian Corresponding Secretary
Midwest South
Chicago, IL Greenfield, WI
Evanston, IL S. Milwaukee, WI
Belleville, IL Cleveland, OH
Waukegan, IL Dallas, TX
Racine, WI Houston, TX
Detroit, MI

All Council Members were responsible for visiting and/or maintaining contact with their respective parishes. Those with organized chapters, or with the potential to support a chapter, were to be visited and/or periodically contacted through various means.

Program Coordinators

The Programs of the ACYOA, as well as certain administrative procedures, were assigned to the Council in the following manner:

Arda Nazerian	Educational Programming Leadership Seminar Membership Cards Martyrs Day Commemoration
Sona Palvetzian	Archbishop's Tournament Sports Weekend
Shake Ajamian	Martyrs Day Commemoration
Susan Boyajian	Religious Programming
George Jevarjian	Membership Drive National Youth Listing

III. CHAPTERS

The Central Council members, along with the Executive Secretary made a concerted effort to remain in very close contact with all the chapters, whether by phone, mail or, ideally, visitations. This was all in an effort to keep in touch as to activities, problems, etc.

Chapter Status

The following list of Chapters represents those which are organized and operating to some degree:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bayside | - | Holy Martyrs |
| 2. Chicago | - | St. Gregory the Illuminator |
| 3. Cleveland | - | St. Gregory of Narek |
| 4. Detroit | - | St. John (Southfield) |
| 5. Evanston | - | St. James |
| 6. Lawrence | - | Holy Cross |
| 7. Lowell | - | Ss. Vartanantz (Chelmsford |
| 8. Montreal | - | St. Gregory the Illuminator |
| 9. No. New Jersey | - | Holy Cross (Union City) |
| | | St. Leon (Fair Lawn) |
| | | St. Thomas (Tenafly) |
| | | St. Mary (Livingston) |
| 10. Palos Heights | - | Ss. Joachim and Anna |
| 11. Providence | - | Ss. Sahag and Mesrob |
| 12. St. Catherines | - | St. Gregory the Illuminator |
| 13. Toronto | - | Holy Trinity |
| 14. Washington, DC | - | St. Mary |
| 15. Watertown | - | St. James |
| 16. Westchester | - | St. James (Purchase) |
| 17. Wisconsin | - | St. John (Greenfield) |
| | | St. Mesrob (Racine) |
| | | Holy Resurrection(S. Mil.) |
| 18. Worcester | - | Our Saviour |
| 19. Wynnewood | - | Ss. Sahag and Mesrob |

IV. PROGRAMS

1984 ACYOA General Assembly - August 29 - 31

The Annual General Assembly of the ACYOA convened at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Alsip, Illinois on Wednesday, August 29, 1984. Chapters were represented by 27 delegates at the opening of the Assembly. The Assembly was presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

Assembly officers elected were: Melina Spinuzza (Evanston), Chairman, and Scott Najarian (Worcester) Vice Chairman. The Chairman appointed Robert Shamgochian (Worcester) Sergeant-at-Arms, and Stephen Sarkisian and Michael Yapchaian (Watertown) Parliamentarians. Secretaries of the Assembly were provided by the Host Chapter.

1984 ACYOA National Sports Weekend - August 31 - September 3

The 15th Annual ACYOA National Sports Weekend, hosted by the Palos Heights ACYOA Chapter, was successfully held at the Holiday Inn Hotel immediately following the General Assembly. The weekend activities attracted a large number of young people from throughout the Diocese as well as many local supporters and participants. The Palos Heights Chapter filed a complete and thorough report, accompanied by their weekend financial statement.

In accordance with the 1983 Assembly, the 1984 Sports Weekend included some extra "religious programming," in addition to the usual social and athletic activities. The programs were coordinated by Dean Shahinian (Washington, D.C.).

During this year, the ACYOA Central Council and Executive Secretary met with the Host Committee of the 1985 Sports Weekend and reviewed progress as well as made suggestions based on previous performances.

1985 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Annual Basketball Tournament

This year's Tournament was hosted by the Watertown ACYOA Chapter of St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, Watertown, MA., June 7-9. Because of Martyrs Day observances throughout April, as well as Lent, the Annual Tournament was held much later than its usual date. Consequently, a complete report had not yet been filed upon the writing of this report. Information known thus far follows.

The Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge in Newtown and Watertown High School were the primary facilities of the weekend. Participating were nine men's and two women's teams from throughout the Diocese. Both the Watertown Men's and Women's teams were Champions. Chairing this year's Tournament Committee was Mark Kashgegian.

Announcement of the site for the 1986 Tournament will be made at the 1985 National Sports Weekend.

1985 ACYOA Leadership Seminar

The Seminar took place on Saturday, May 4, 1985 in conjunction with the 1985 Diocesan Assembly at the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs in Bayside, N.Y. The Seminar was open to all interested young people. Participants included Bayside, Detroit, Toronto, and Westchester. ACYOA Central Council members attending were Shake Ajamian, Arda Nazerian, George Jevarjian and Sona Palvetzian.

Leading the Seminar was Brother John Burke from the Archdiocese of Rockville Center. His presentation included lecture, discussion, group tasks, and distribution of materials.

Immediately following Brother John's presentation, a group discussion was held where all the participants of the Seminar were able to exchange ideas on the organization, possible reorganization/restructuring, etc. in a "brainstorming" type of format. Members of the Council who were present took note of the ideas and comments and pursued the entire concept, the result of which is a proposal to the 1985 Assembly.

Armenian Studies Programs 1985-"Educational Tour to Armenia"

The 15th Annual Armenian Studies Programs took place this year with 19 young Armenians from the Diocese of the Armenian Church traveling under the Group Leadership of Rev. Fr. Arsen Barsamian from Richmond, VA.

The group met at St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City for Orientation with the Executive Secretary. After a tour of the Cathedral and Diocesan Complex, the group was received by the Primate, who gave additional advice based on His Eminence's many trips to Armenia.

Publications

The Executive Update continues to be published 6 times a year for all names on the National ACYOA Mailing list. The newsletter is prepared by the Executive Secretary and distributed directly, using first-class postage to all Chapters and Parishes, whereafter it is sent bulk-rate postage by the ACYOA Central Council members to all names on the mailing list. The newsletter contains information on ACYOA events and activities, as well as items of general interest.

An initial revision and editing of the previously sponsored book "Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church" has been accomplished by the Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian and the Executive Secretary. The booklet contains information on the Sacraments of the Armenian Church, as well as various prayers, all in English.

Some editing and re-writing is needed. However, the primary need is a donor/sponsor who will underwrite the cost of printing the book. It has been recommended that the ACYOA itself underwrite the cost, dedicating it to the 70th Commemorative Anniversary of the Armenian Martyrs. The recommendation is presently being considered.

Educational Programming

This year's Council set out to open up a new type of programming for its general membership -- educational programs. These programs could be organized around any subject of general interest to the membership and the ACYOA. Such topics could include the Armenian Language, Armenian History, etc.

The Council established initial contact with potential seminar leaders and coordinators. Because of a lack of time on the Councils' part, no plans were finalized. It is recommended that the 1986 Council pursue this project, since its basic intention was to increase the opportunities offered to the membership.

Religious Programming

As per the 1984 General Assembly, the Council coordinated an effort to send out to all parishes and Chapters a format for organizing and conducting Chapter retreats for the recommended months of January and May. Rev. Fr. Yepram Kelegian (Hartford) and Arthur Saboonjian (Watertown) assisted in preparing and disseminating the informational packets. We thank them for their time and effort.

National Calender

This Council project involves a Nationalized Calender which would further enhance communication among Chapters. It is presently in development. All the Chapters' cooperation would be essential for such a project.

Topical Booklet

This booklet would make available to parishes and Chapters throughout our Diocese a listing of community members with specialized experience or expertise in certain areas of interest. These people, whose names would be included only with their consent, may be used as lecturers for meetings, group discussion leaders for other ACYOA programs, or any other capacities which are mutually rewarding.

Martyrs Day Program

The members of the Council came up with this idea as a means for the ACYOA membership throughout our Diocese to participate in commemorating the Armenian Genocide of 1915. We are pleased to report that the response to the program was excellent.

The program was designed and sent to every parish and Chapter with step by step instructions on how to proceed. The following are the four parts of the program:

1. Young Adult Participation in the Divine Liturgy
2. A Tree Planting Dedication Ceremony
3. A Commemorative Lunch or Banquet following Services
4. Donation of Books on the Genocide/Armenians to Local Public Libraries.

We thank all the individual parishes and Chapters who helped promote it and make it so successful.

Regional Assistant

The idea for Regional Assistants resulted from discussions as to how the Council could better communicate with local Chapters and parishes. Several ideas came up, but because of time restraints, the Council wasn't able to realize the full potential of such a program.

Scholarships & Awards

Presently the ACYOA offers four types of awards/scholarships:

1. Sam Nersesian Scholarship
2. Sam Nersesian Award
3. Chapter "A" Award
4. Chapter "A" Award Honorable Mention Certificate

The Same Nersesian Scholarship is a scholarship given annually to an ACYOA member who attends the St. Nerses Summer Studies Conference in New York.

The Sam Nersesian Award is given annually to the ACYOA member who best demonstrates Christian virtues of love, humility, patience, and understanding and is active in service to the church and the ACYOA. Nominations are made by the parish priest and/or ACYOA Executive Committee from the parish of the nominee. The 1984 recipient was Susan Boyajian of Palos Heights. The recipient of the Award is announced at the Annual Awards Banquet during Sports Weekend.

The Chapter "A" Award is given to the ACYOA Chapter that best fulfills the requirements and standards set forth by the organization. The "A" Award Honorable Mention Certificate is given to the ACYOA Chapter which strives to achieve the aims of the ACYOA. Chapters winning these awards will also be announced at the Awards Banquet. Last years winners were Palos Heights and Watertown, respectively.

Chapters are encouraged to make note of the various awards and scholarships available and publicize them to their general membership. Guidelines regarding all the items listed above are mailed to each parish during the year and also appear to the ACYOA Chapter Handbook which should be on file at each parish.

V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Nominating and Auditing Committees

Members of these two Committees have been contacted and letters sent regarding their duties and responsibilities.

The Auditing Committee is responsible for auditing the financial records for the National Sports Weekend, Archbishop's Basketball Tournament, Armenian Studies Programs, Regional Events, and the ACYOA Central Council. Committee members are to meet with the groups and persons involved with the events and submit their report to the Assembly.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for securing willing and qualified candidates for the open positions on Central Council, Nominating Committee, and Auditing Committee. Committee members are also responsible for collecting and counting ballots at the Assembly.

The alternates for both Committees have also been contacted in the event a regular member is unable to fulfill the responsibility.

VI. GENERAL

One of the major contributing factors to the activities of the ACYOA Central Council has been the changing face of the organization, itself. Over the past year we, as well as many of our members, have noticed some trends arising. It is in response to these "trends" that we have spent much time formulating a proposed plan of action for the upcoming year as to insure the strengthening of the organization.

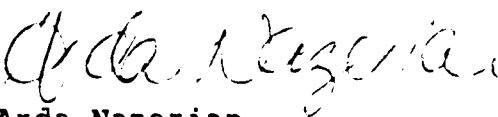
This plan involves a proposal being presented to the General Assembly this year; a plan which would further strengthen the ACYOA by utilizing the help of active and energetic regionalized youth workers.


We strongly believe that this is our only alternative because of both the changing face of our organization and the changing face of the society around us -- the constant forces in the outside community which are pulling away the interest of our youth.

The Central Council realizes the fact that had we been able to put in the utmost time ourselves, we may very well have been able to act, even partially, as these youth workers. But, we, too, are subject to external responsibilities (work, school, etc.). We offer our sincere thanks to the ACYOA Executive Secretary who assisted us with most of our administrative duties.

The Council hopes that with enough time and effort, an amicable solution will be realized. This, however, can only take place, as we are sure it will, with the cooperation of the Central Council, the individual Chapters and the Diocese.

Respectfully submitted,


Arda Nazerian
Chairman
ACYOA Central Council


James Magarian
Executive Secretary to the ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

SUPPLEMENTAL

Finances

<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>'84-85</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>'84-85</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>'85-86</u>
Central Council Mtgs.	\$ 4000.00	\$ 3155.91	\$ 4000.00
Central Council Adms.	2500.00	4240.33	2800.00
Chapter Visitations	1500.00	494.37	800.00
Gen. Assbly/Spts. Wknd.	2000.00	1375.46	2000.00
Leadership Seminar	250.00	391.55	300.00
Publications	1200.00	188.64	1200.00
Archbishop's Tournament	500.00	470.79	500.00
Standing Committees	100.00	---	100.00
Scholarships & Awards	100.00	380.00	300.00
Audio-Visual Program	400.00	***	150.00
Donations	100.00	18.00	100.00
Service Charge	75.00	112.44	100.00
Educational Program	1000.00	****	100.00
<hr/>			
TOTALS	\$ 13725.00	\$ 10827.49	\$ 12450.00

---- denotes activity took place after end of fiscal year

**** denotes action and expense taken for these programs was absorbed by other lines such as administrative

SUPPLEMENTAL

Finances

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>'84-85</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>'84-85</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u> <u>'85-86</u>
Membership Dues	\$ 2400.00	\$ 1415.27	\$ 2000.00
Nat. Sports Wknd.	4500.00	3487.24	4000.00
Dividends & Interest	2000.00	1874.33	2000.00
Arm. Studies Programs	3000.00	1800.00	2700.00
Reg. Anniversary Balls	225.00	0.00	150.00
Archbishop's Tournament	1500.00	*1700.00	1600.00
Donations	100.00	0.00	----
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TOTALS	\$ 13725.00	\$ 10276.84	\$ 12450.00

* estimate



Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

PRIMATE
COPY

MONTHLY REPORT - May 1983

Executive Secretary to the ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

I. Meetings and Visitations

Attended the Annual Diocesan Assembly and met informally with various clergy and delegates. Coordinated the Annual ACYOA Leadership Seminar for senior age young adults. (See Section IV for additional information.)

While there, an informal meeting of interested persons regarding youth Ministry was held. Attending were Frank Stoneson, Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Rev. Dcn. Michael Chevian, Elise Antreassian, Nancy Basmajian and Sarkis Bedevian. Discussion centered on the present youth situation in the Diocese, and the major concern for the all around programming for young people - design, execution, emphasis, etc. A date was set for a more formal meeting. (See Section III of this report for additional information.)

Met with Rev. Father Dajad Davidian, Pastor of St. James - Watertown, to discuss general status of the Watertown ACYOA Chapter, as well as exchange ideas on a new youth programming/youth Ministry approach for the young adults, and youth in general, of our Church (Diocese).

Visited St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in St. Catherines, Ontario, meeting with V. Rev. Fr. Kegham Zakarian, as well as the interested youth there. Primary purpose was to introduce the ACYOA to the young people, most of which knew little or nothing about the organization, and were not on the general ACYOA National mailing list.

A Chapter was formed in St. Catherines, with Sonya Hacetoglu (a former and experienced member of the Toronto Chapter now residing in St. Catherines) elected as Chairman. The young people were enthusiastic and felt the need to do things together and participate with the other young people throughout the Diocese. They will make an effort to participate in the ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend which will take place in Toronto this year. Father Kegham will now write a



Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710



letter to the Primate and ACYOA Central Council informing of the formation of the Chapter, and requesting recognition and admittance into the National Organization.

While in Canada, a meeting was arranged with the National Sports Weekend Committee. Two meetings were held, one with the Chapter Chairman and Sports Weekend Committee Chairman and selected individuals to review some of the problems and good points of progress thus far made. A general meeting was then held with many of the over-all committee present and presenting reports according to their areas of responsibility.

At present, the Toronto Chapter seems prepared for a very successful Weekend. Almost all arrangements have been secured and only minor detail remain, most of which can only be done as the dates approach. Judging from responses received, a fair number of young people are planning to travel to Toronto for the Assembly and Sports Weekend this coming Labor Day weekend.

II. Armenian Studies Programs

Program Two - Journey to Armenia - did not receive enough registered participants for us to form our own tour group, thus the individuals who did register were connected to another commercial group so that they could take advantage of group rates and special offers to groups. This particular program could be very popular with the right marketing approach. There are many young adults who would like to travel to Armenia with other young adults, but are not interested in the regular structured program #1, nor do they have the time for it. Thus, with some effort, this program could be quite successful.

Program Three - Jerusalem the Holy City - Due to strains in the Armenian community's view of Jerusalem, coupled with the volatile political situation in the Middle East, the program was not "pushed" and is not to take place this year. Unless there is major problems, a big PR campaign will take place for next summer. The Patriarch is willing to assist us in making the program a success, as facilities will be available.

Program One - Educational Tour to Armenia - is presently ready to go with 25 people participating, including the two group leaders. 25 is the maximum number. Meetings have been held with the Group Leaders, Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian and Arline Dadekian, discussing past experiences, reviewing details and preparing to make the trip as pleasant and enjoyable as possible.

One problem has developed in the specific dates secured with Holy Etchmiadzin. It appears that our group will over-lap with another and a question of space has arisen. This will have to be handled by the Group Leaders in Armenia, since we cannot change our dates at this time. Average age of the participants is 21, most with a keen interest in their heritage.

III. Youth Ministry Review

A meeting was held at the Diocese on May 24th as planned from a previous meeting held at the Diocesan Assembly. Attending the meeting was the Primate, Frank Stoneson, Nancy Basmajian, Elise Antreassian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian, Rev. Dcn. Michael Chevian, with James Magarian moderating.

Lively discussion and exchange of sincere concern for the young people of the Church highlighted the 3 hour session. A complete report with recommendations and progressive steps will be issued to the Diocesan Council members for their reference and review.

The main purpose of this endeavor is to discuss and propose new avenues for Youth Ministry in the Diocese. Now is the time to seriously consider the problems involving young people and their relationship to the Church. Definitive proposals and necessary steps will be recommended for immediate attention.

IV. ACYOA Leadership Seminar

Held in conjunction with the Annual Diocesan Assembly, nine chapters were represented and participated in the Seminar which centered on meetings and motivation.

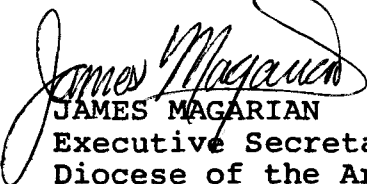
Guest speaker Howard Hayward, Director of Counseling and Placement at Lewis Univ. in Joliet, IL. He was very dynamic and well received by the young adults who learned a great deal during the session. The second session was moderated by the Central Council Chairman who explained ACYOA programs and invited chapters to discuss their problems.

V. Mailings

The Executive Update was written and prepared for mailing. Direct mail for all parishes and chapters, and bulk mail for the general ACYOA mailing list (approx. 1400 names).

A general mailing of information regarding the Sam Nersesian Award, Sam Nersesian Scholarship, Essay Contest, administrative forms, etc., etc. were sent to all parishes and ACYOA chapters with information on deadlines as the end of the fiscal year approaches (June 30th).

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARIAN

Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

31 May 83

FRANK STONESON
Executive Director
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
N.Y.C., N.Y. 10016

Dear Mr. Stoneson,

In reviewing the Annual Report of the Diocese of the Armenian Church, noting the financial section, the figures reflecting the budgetary outlay for ACYOA Seniors seems to be different than what I've kept for records.

The 1982 budget for ACYOA Seniors was \$8,000.
The 1982 Actual outlay for same was \$8,014, (as is noted in the report).

My records show a total outlay (or rather was actually reimbursed) of \$6,115.11. Three years ago it was requested of all departments of the Diocese to come in under budget because of financial considerations on the entire Diocesan level. Thus I've made every attempt to do so until advised otherwise.

I can understand other expenses that might occur dealing with ACYOA Seniors that is not reimbursed to me, and thus I have no record of it. However, almost \$2,000 is a little more than reasonable. Perhaps there is a particular reason for the figures to be shown as such.

Could you advise on this, and clear up the difference in figures?

Sincerely yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA

enclosure.

30 May 83

TORY TOPJIAN
Advisor - ACYO Central Council
Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
1113 East ~~Aliso Avenue~~
Fresno, CA 93710

Dear Tory,

Regarding your request to include the participants in the ACYO-Western Diocese Armenia trip, with the ACYOA Armenian Studies Program Educational Tour to Armenia this summer, we cannot accept any ~~additional~~ participants without confirmation from Holy Etchmiadzin that there would be space for them upon arrival.

As ~~you~~ ~~know~~ ~~ed~~ on the telephone, all available places have been filled on our trip this year. Any additional participants might cause an inconvenience to our hosts in Armenia (accommodations, bus transportation, etc.), and thus would have to be invited by them, not us.

This, your participants are welcome, however, confirmation that they would have space for lodging would have to be received before we could accept them into our group.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

c.c. Primate - Eastern Diocese
Executive Director - Eastern Diocese

30 May 83

TO: Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Rev. Father Karekin Kasparian
Rev. Father Garabed Kochakian
Rev. Father Yeprem Kelegian
Rev. Beacon Michael Chevian
Frank Stoneson
Nancy Basmajian
Elise Antreassian
Michael Zeytoonian
Sarkis Bedevian

SUBJECT: "Notes" on the Initial Meeting of the Committee for
Youth Ministry for the Diocese**

Enclosed is a copy of the "notes" from the May 24th meeting of the Committee for Youth Ministry for the Diocese of the Armenian Church.

Kindly review these notes prior to our next meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, June 22nd, at 1 p.m. at the Diocesan Center in New York City. (Any major discrepancies with these notes may be dealt with at the beginning of our meeting.)

These notes are prepared in statement fashion, and reflect the sincere concern of all those attending to focus on the youth of our Church as a significant entity. Certainly one in need of our immediate attention.

We look forward to continuing our conversation at our next meeting.

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

(**used for lack of a better identifier.)

c.c. ACYOA Central Council Chairman

enclosure.

26 May 83

Deacon Michael Chevian
Director - St. Nersess Summer Studies Conferences
St. Nersess Armenian Seminary
150 Stratton Road
New Rochelle, N.Y. 10802

Deacon Michael;

Enclosed you will find application forms for the ACYOA
"Sam Nersesian Scholarship", annually awarded to worthy
applicants to attend the St. Nersess Summer Studies
Conferences at the Seminary.

Please distribute these to anyone interested, and who is
planning to attend the Conferences. There is no age re-
striction - anyone may apply - no limit from one parish.

Presently there is only one scholarship, covering the full
tuition for the week-long Conference. However, we may afford
two this year, especially if a significant number of appli-
cants are reviewed.

Best of luck and God's guidance as you enter into another
summer with this worthwhile program for the young people
of our Diocese.

Stay well.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

26 May 83

REV. FR. GARABED KOCHAKIAN
Pastor - St. Mesrob Armenian Church
4605 Erie St.
Racine, WI 53402

Rev. Fr. Garabed:

Attached is an "OUTSTANDING PLAYER CERTIFICATE" for Myran Mikaelian of the Wisconsin ACYOA Chapter. Since we do not know which particular parish he belongs to, we are forwarding the certificate to you. If he belongs to St. Mesrob, kindly present the certificate at an appropriate time and place.

If he is not, please forward to the correct parish. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. His name is as it appeared in the rooster's book, which did not note parish affiliation.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

26 May 83

REV. FR. DAJAD DAVIDIAN
Pastor - St. James Armenian Church
465 Mt. Auburn Street
Watertown, MA 02172

Rev. Fr. Dajad:

Attached are the certificates of the 1983 Archbishop Torkom Manogian Basketball Tournament, awarded to players from your parish.

Please note that the certificates consist of:

- + Team - Champion
- + Most Valuable Player - shared by two players
- + Outstanding player of the team
- + Championship team players

At an appropriate time and place, kindly present these certificates to the players of your Parish Men's Basketball Team. We congratulate you and your parish as St. James won the Championship in the men's division for the second year in a row. The names appear as they did in the scorer's book.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES MAGNAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

26 May 83

DR. HRATCH HITIKIAN
Chairman - Parish Council
St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church
6750 N. Nokomis,
Lincolnwood, IL 60646

Dear Dr. Hitikian,

Enclosed is the certificate awarded to Seven Ashiekian for Outstanding Sportsmanship during the 1983 Archbishop Tokhom Manoogian Basketball Tournament held in Detroit.

We were very happy to see St. Gregory Parish represented by a men's team this year at the annual Tournament. Needless to say we hope to see them at future activities and events.

At an appropriate time and place, kindly present the certificate and commend the St. Gregory Team for their over-all sportsmanship-like character.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

(The name appears as it did in the scorer's book.)

26 May 83

V. REV. FR. ZAVEN ARZOUMANIAN
Pastor - Ss. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church
630 Clothier Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Vr. Rev. Father Zaven;

Attached ~~are~~ the certificates awarded to Alex Dedian of your parish for outstanding sportsmanship during the 1983 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament held in Detroit.

We were very happy to see Ss. Sahag & Mesrob represented at the Tournament again this year. Needless to say we hope to see them at our other programs and events as well.

At an appropriate time and place, kindly present the certificate to Alex, and commend the entire team on their sportsmanship-like play.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

26 May 83

V. REV. FR. PAREN AVEDIKIAN
Pastor - St. Hohn Armenian Church
22001 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, MI 48075

V. Rev. Fr. Paren:

Attached are the certificates awarded to players from your parish in the recent Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament. Please note the certificates consist of:

- + Championship Team
- + Most Valuable Player
- + Outstanding Team Players
- + Championship Team Players

At an appropriate time and place, kindly present these certificates to the designated individuals. The names appear as they did in the scorer's book, and as they were given to us.

Certainly congratulations are in order regarding the fine hosting of the 1983 Tournament by the members of your Parish, especially Janet Malkasian and Robert Simonian.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

26 May 83

REV. FR. MICHAEL BUTTERO
Pastor - Holy Martyr's Armenian Church
209-15 Horace Harding Expy.
Bayside, N.Y. 11364

Rev. Father Michael;

Attached are the certificates awarded ~~to~~ Graig Kallem and Laura Dilimetin for their outstanding play in the 1983 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament held in Detroit. Names appear as they did in the scorer's book

We were very happy to see your parish represented this year, especially with both a men's and women's team. We look forward to seeing them at other activities and events coming up.

At an appropriate time and place, kindly present the certificates and commend both teams on their sportsmanship-like character.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES MAGARRAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

P.S. A visitation is scheduled with your ACYOA Seniors on Wednesday evening, June 15th. Hope you can make it.

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

24 May 83

TO: All Parishes and ACYOA Senior Chapters

SUBJECT: Administrative Forms and Related Items in Preparation
for the ACYOA General Assembly in Toronto, Canada

June 30th marks the end of the ACYOA fiscal year, and with this brings the need for end-of-year reports, membership renewal for fiscal 1983-84, and general preparation for the convening of the ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, hosted this year by the Toronto ACYOA Chapter of Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

Kindly note the following enclosures:

1. ARCHBISHOP'S ESSAY CONTEST::::::Deadline extension to June 30th.
Guideline enclosed. Please encourage your members to participate.
2. SAM NERSESIAN SCHOLARSHIP::::::Deadline extension to June 30th.
Application enclosed. Please feel free to reproduce the application as necessary. The Scholarship is for any worthy applicant (no age restriction) to attend the St. Nersess Summer Studies Conferences. Scholarship covers the full cost of tuition for the entire Conference. [Do not confuse this with the Sam Nersesian Award, described below.]
3. SAM NERSESIAN AWARD::::::Deadline extension to June 30th.
Nomination Form enclosed. Pastors and or Chapter Executive Committees may nominate worthy candidates from their particular parish.
4. ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORT FORM::::::NO EXTENSION - DUE JUNE 30th.
Simplified report form to share with the ACYOA Central Council the various activities of the Chapter over the past year. Facts are compiled for reference purposes. Information is used in selection of Chapter "A" Award recipient.
5. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM::::::May be forwarded with renewal dues as of June 30th for those current members who wish to renew their membership for the 1983-84 ACYOA fiscal year. [Note change of fee for membership dues.] Any member who has not paid for the past year is now considered "new" and must pay the new member membership fee (\$4.50). Renewals are not accepted after January 1st of the current year. A renewing member has already paid for 1982-83.
6. MEMBERSHIP FORM::::::May be used at any time for any new member.
Please feel free to make copies as you need them.



m o r e

Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

7. MONTHLY FACT SHEETS:.....Due the end of each month.

Simplified monthly form to remain in touch with the Executive Secretary and aid in communications.....support.....sharing activities and news.... and used in selection of Chapter "A" Award recipient. Information provided on the sheets is also used in the "Here's and There's" section of the Executive Update. If there is little or no news from your Chapter, it is because the Fact Sheets are not sent in.

A few words and considerations:

- z. For further clarification on the abovementioned items, consult your ACYOA Chapter Handbook. The last three pages of the Handbook cover the ACYOA Chapter "A" Award Guide for Selection, Sam Nersesian Award and Sam Nersesian Scholarship Guide for Selections. Also in your Handbook you will find other interesting pieces of information. The ACYOA Constitution and ACYOA National Sports Weekend Rules and Regulations are also found there.

If you do not have a copy, there should be one on file at your Parish Office. Copies are available from the Executive Secretary, all of which have been updated and contain the latest information on the ACYOA.
- y. Feel free at any time to call or write your ACYOA Central Council Chairman, Susan Mousigian, or any Council Member if you have any questions. The Executive Secretary is also available if you are unable to contact the Council Members.
- x. Feel free to reproduce parts or all of the Chapter Handbook, or any of the enclosures. This saves time and money and is usually the quickest solution.
- w. A mailing listing of your official delegates for the upcoming ACYOA General Assembly should be forwarded to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible. This will ensure their receiving the necessary materials and information for the various meetings. If a listing is not received at the time of the mailing, all materials will be sent to the Chapter Chairman and Pastor. Consult the Constitution [Article 10] regarding the General Assembly, and how to determine your delegate count, which correlates with your number of members. The ACYOA Central Council reserves the right to approve delegate counts, according to dues payments, and, other outstanding obligations. The General Assembly will open on August 31st and run through September 2nd, immediately followed by the National Sports Weekend all taking place at the Ramada Renaissance in Toronto.
- v. Be aware that all participants in the National Sports Weekend Athletic competitions must be current dues paid members of the ACYOA, on record with the ACYOA Central Council Treasurer. Please see to it that your Chapter is legitimate.

Looking forward to hearing from you, and seeing you at the Assembly/Sports Weekend.

Sincerely yours,


JAMES MAGARIAN

Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

16 May 83

YVONNE MINASSIAN
RD #2 Box 92B
New Hope, PA 18938

Dear Yvonne,

This is to inform you that the ACYOA Armenian Studies Program, "Journey to Armenia" will not go off as planned this year. This is due to the fact that we did not receive enough participants to form our own group and assign our own group leader.

However, you may still travel to Armenia and take advantage of reduced group rates. We have an arrangement with our travel agent to include our participants in commercially organized tours to Armenia in the event we do not receive the minimum number for groups, such as this year. Dates are similar.

Therefore, if you are interested in traveling to Armenia and taking in the many famous historical and cultural sights, and thereby learning first-hand about our heritage, you may want to contact:

COLOYAN TRAVEL SERVICE
Attn. Ed Coloyan
379 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178 617-489-1860

If you decide to go, we will send you a specially prepared "Handbook to Armenia" that we give to the participants in all ACYOA sponsored tours. Along with this is an historic map of Armenia as well.

We hope that you will still travel to Armenia and really experience a living heritage that will undoubtedly stay with you the rest of your life. Best of luck in your endeavors to learn more about your heritage. We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary of ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

p.s. In the event that you decide to travel to Armenia, we shall forward your deposit and passport direct to the Agent. If decide not to go, we shall forward them to you. Please be in touch with any questions.

16 May 83

RICHARD METJIAN
STEVEN METJIAN
135 Terrace Avenue
Jersey, New Jersey 07303

Dear Richard and Steven,

This is to inform you that the ACYOA Armenian Studies Program, "Journey to Armenia" will not go off as planned this year. This is due to the fact ~~that~~ we did not receive enough participants to form our own group and assign our own group leader.

However, you may still travel to Armenia and take advantage of reduced group rates. We have an arrangement with our travel agent to include our participants in commercially organized tours to Armenia in the event we do not receive the minimum number for groups, such as this year. The dates are similar.

Therefore, if you are interested in traveling to Armenia and experiencing first-hand the many historic sites and cultural points of interest, you may want to contact:

COLOYAN TRAVEL SERVICE
Attn. Ed Coloyan
379 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02178 617-489-1860

If you decide to go, we will send you a specially prepared "Handbook to Armenia" that we give to the participants of all ACYOA sponsored tours. Along with this is an historic map of Armenia as well.

WE hope that you both will still travel to Armenia and really experience a living heritage that will undoubtedly stay with you the rest of your life. Best of luck in your endeavors to learn more about your heritage. We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

P

p.s. In the event that you decide to travel to Armenia, we shall forward your deposit and passports direct to the Agent. If you decide not to go, we shall forward them to you. Be in touch with any questions.

16 May 83

His Eminence
ARCHBISHOP TORKEM MANOGGIAN
Primate - Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
NOY.C., N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence:

The ACYOA Armenian Studies Program "Educational Tour to Armenia" is scheduled to depart on June 16th from New York City, and arrive in Yerevan following an over-night stay in Moscow on June 18.

As is the custom, the group will assemble at the Cathedral and Diocesan Center on June 16th (Thursday) at 12noon for orientation, lunch, tour of the Cathedral Complex, and a reception with the Primate. We trust Your Eminence will be available for half an hour at 3 p.m. on that day. (Group Photo to be taken at this time.)

A meeting has been held between the Executive Secretary and Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian, Group Leader, in Greenfield, as well as another meeting during the Diocesan Assembly with Mrs. Arline Dadekian (Asst. Group Leader) to discuss plans and details for the tour. Fr. Untzag suggested that a letter from the Primate to His Holiness recommending the group reside in Etchmiadzin instead of Haigashen be sent (thus avoiding the 2 hour daily trip to and from Puragan)) This is something Your Eminence may wish to consider.

Our Group is completely filled, 23 participants and 2 leaders = 25, the maximum for one-bus transportation and easy accommodations.

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES MAGARRAN

Enclosure (sent to all participants).

16 May 83

His Eminence
ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN
Primate - Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Avenue
N.Y.C. N.Y. 10016

Your Eminence:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to selected "youth oriented" persons of our Diocese inviting them to a meeting regarding Youth Ministry in the Diocese.

The date selected resulted from informal discussions held during the Diocesan Assembly with six of the ten persons present. We hope that this date is open and that Your Eminence will preside.

The enclosed outline is the reference made in the invitation.

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES MAGARIAN



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016 212 686-0710

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

16 May 83

TO: Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Rev. Father Karekin Kasparian
Rev. Father Garabed Kochakian
Rev. Father Yeprem Kelegian
Rev. Deacon Michael Chevian
Frank Stoneson
Nancy Basmajian
Elise Antreassian
Sarkis Bedevian

SUBJECT: Invitation to discuss the Youth Ministry of the Diocese

As per our discussions at the Diocesan Assembly, and as communicated to those not attending via telephone, a special meeting has been arranged to discuss the general youth situation in the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, and Church Youth Ministry in general.

You are most welcome to attend and share your experience and new ideas on Tuesday, May 24th, 1983, 1 p.m., at the Diocesan Center in New York City.

To be used as a reference for discussion purposes is the previously distributed outline regarding a new format for Youth Ministry in the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Kindly review this prior to the meeting.

Your attention to this important matter, as well as your participation in these early discussions, are most appreciated.

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

10 May 83

GREETINGS:

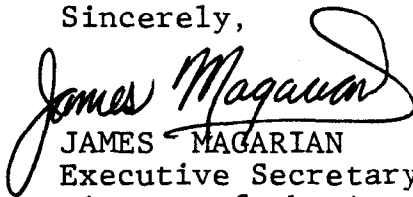
You are most welcome to attend a special meeting of the young adults of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church on Friday, May 20th, 1983, 7:30 p.m. at the Church.

The purpose of this gathering is to introduce the Armenian Church Youth Organization, and discuss the possibility of establishing the "St. Catherines ACYOA Chapter of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church." We would like to start the ball rolling that very night!

Enclosed is a brochure describing the ACYOA and its many programs. Take a minute to look at it and perhaps think of any questions you might have regarding the Organization and what it has to offer.

Father Kegham Zakarian and I look forward to seeing you May 20th, and hope you will encourage other young Armenians you know to join us that evening. Refreshments will follow our short meeting.

Sincerely,



JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

c.c. Pastor
Enclosures.

SENT TO youth
in ST. CATHERINE'S
PARISH - LISTING
PROVIDED BY
FR. KEGHAM



Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

10 May 83

HAIR-ARAM TOSSOURIAN
Chairman
ACYOA National Spotts Weekend Committee - 1983
785 Huntingwood Drive
Agincourt, ONT MIT 2L5

Dear Haig-Aram,

This is to confirm our tentatively scheduled meeting for ~~May~~ Saturday
May 21st, 11 a.m. at the Church. In speaking with Mona Selyan
during the Diocesan Assembly, this seems to be the best day.

As mentioned before, it is very important that everyone who has
any responsibility during the Weekend be present, prepared to
give a progress report and ask any necessary questions. At this
point in time, all necessary items should be confirmed and final
preparations for the summer promotion and execution of the Weekend
readied.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

c.c. Parish Council Chairman
Chapter Chairman

11 May 83

COLOYAN TRAVEL SERVICE
379 Trapelo Road
Belmont, MA 02178

Attn. Ed Coloyan

Dear Ed,

This letter is to confirm a few details regarding this year's trips overseas

1. The dates for departure and return are:
Program One - Educational Tour to Armenian - July 16-July 14
Program Two - Journey To Armenia - June 30-July 14
Program Three - Jerusalem the Holy City - ?
2. Please forward detailed itinerary for each trip. (See enclosure outlined in red.) Please include costs for each.
3. Accommodations for Program One are for one night going and two nights return in Moscow, including meals and tours.
PLEASE NOTE: Last year's group was told that the tours in Moscow were "cancelled", and thus they had to pay to take tours. Please secure the tours as such.
4. Single accommodations have been secured for Fr. Untzag Nalbandian and Mrs. Arline Dadekian, the Group Leaders. All others will have double accommodations, and triple where necessary, separating males and females.
5. Block seating will be secured on all flights for the group.
6. Please try to have all visa forms and other paper work ready early to avoid any last minute complications.
PNOTE: On all lists and other places, use Fr. Untzag's passport name.

If there are any problems or questions, please do be in touch.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

4 May 83

JOHN D. HAYTAIAN
Chairman - Parish Council
Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs
209-15 Horace Harding Expressway
Bayside, N.Y. 11364

Dear Mr. Haytaian,

Thank you for your letter expressing your thoughts on the celebration of "ACYOA Day" in our parishes of the Diocese. It's good to hear from people who are thinking of ways to improve our parishes.

Palm Sunday has been chosen as the customary day for each parish to celebrate the meaning of "ACYOA", but more importantly, the meaning of the important role the youth and young adults of the parish have in the life of the Church. This observance has been held for well over 10 years. It is much more than merely the annual observance of an "organization", but rather a time to seriously commend the youth for their participation, interest, seriousness of purpose, service and dedication to their Church.

In many parishes, the combined efforts of Junior and Senior Chapters of the ACYOA result in well planned and popular annual parish events. The most widely used format is a banquet and program organized and executed by the young people themselves. The entire parish is invited to attend and support their young people. Guest speakers are invited, and many times awards and recognition are given to outstanding members. Remarks are made noting the accomplishments of the Chapter(s) over the past year as well. In many cases, the young people will receive Holy Communion as a group, and the sermon of the day includes the role of our youth in the parish community.

As you know, Palm Sunday commemorates Christ's triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem, with the anticipation of His Holy Resurrection a week later. The "coming of age" of our young people who make up the ACYOA Chapter might be appropriately observed on this day, as they enter into a more formal relationship with the Church. We may also anticipate the near future when our young people will assume the leadership roles of the parish and the Church at large. Indeed, the foundation we set today while they are young will indicate what tomorrow will hold.

Although there is no rule as to when "ACYOA Day" should be observed, we encourage all parishes to remain with the customary Palm Sunday observance where possible.

Regarding the formate and customs of the day, each parish and ACYOA Chapter is free to consider their available resources and establish their own customs and means of observing the day. Some parishes with the means will consider elaborate banquets and events, while others will choose more modest endeavors.

If we can be of any further assistance, please correspond to the address below.

We should like to take this opportunity to say that the rejuvenated spirit of the young adults of your parish is a welcome sight. The young people of Holy Martyrs are very enthusiastic and most willing to participate and support the various programs of the ACYOA and the Church in general. We hope that the Parish Council will foster this spirit and assist where necessary in passing on the enthusiasm to the next group of young people who soon will come of age.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

c.c. Pastor
ACYOA Chapter Chairman