

MINUTES
OF THE
EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA



SEPTEMBER 4, 5, AND 6, 1954

TROY, N. Y.

MINUTES

EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

of the

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

September 4, 5, and 6, 1954

Troy, N. Y.

PRESIDING: Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, Locum-Tenens of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, President

CHAIRMAN: Matthew Matteosian, Chairman-Central Council

ATTENDANCE:

Chapters

BOSTON

Rev. Papken Maksoudian
Miss Margaret Berberian
Mr. Edward Casabian
Miss Ann Skenian

CHICAGO

Miss Roxie Gurunian
Miss Rose Vartanian

CLEVELAND

Miss Rose Bannaian
Miss Martna Hacherian

DETROIT

Mr. Martin Agegian
Miss Sema Artinian
Miss Mary Derderian
Miss Rosalie Papazian
Mr. Harry Terzian

EVANSTON

Miss Alice Margosian

HARTFORD

Very Rev. Issahag Ghazarian
Miss Veronica Kallajian

HAVERRHILL

Very Rev. Hrant Khatchadoorian
Miss Alice Kasparian

LAWRENCE

Very Rev. Oshagan Minassian
Mr. Martin Kentigian
Mr. Arthur Sirmaian

LOWELL

Rev. Garen Gdanian
Mr. John Morookian

NEWARK

Very Rev. Yeghishe Gizirian
Miss Irene Mazujian

NEW YORK-HOLY CROSS

Mr. Peter Kalemkerian

NEW YORK-ST. GREGORY

Very Rev. Alan Potookian
Miss Zabel Gadarigian
Miss Mary Selvinazian

NORTH PHILADELPHIA

Rev. Arten Ashjian
Mr. George Kapeghian
Mr. John Mirakian

PROVIDENCE

Rev. Shane Altounian
Miss Ruth Kajolian

RACINE

Mr. Sam Boranian
Miss Shockey Gengozian

SOUTH MILWAUKEE

Mr. Harry Torosian

TORONTO

Miss Mary Poladian

TROY

Very Rev. Papken Varjabedian
Mr. Charles Arzoumanian
Miss Nevart Vartanesian

UNION CITY

Very Rev. Himayak Intoyan
Mr. Edward Arzoomanian
Mr. Nubar Dorian
Mr. Zaven N. Hovsepian

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Miss Pauline Garabedian

WATERTOWN

Mr. Zaven Der Hagopian
Mr. Arshag Gechijian
Mr. Harry Sarkissian

WEST PHILADELPHIA

Rev. Leon Arakelian
Mr. Ara Shakarjian

WEST PULLMAN

Miss Dolores Boyajian

WORCESTER

Very Rev. Mesrob Semerjian
Miss Grace Heroian
Mr. Hovhannes Kasparian

The Paterson Chapter had no representative at this Assembly.

Central Council Members

Chairman, Matthew Matteosian
Vice-Chairman, M. Casey Kazanjian
Recording Secretary, Mrs. Mary Zotian
Treasurer, Leo Bakalian
Publicity Director, Gerald Aharonian
Monthly Report Analyst, Zaven A. Hovsepian
Junior Groups Director, Dennis Papazian
Educational Director, Ralph Yagjian
Secretary to the Central Council, Arax Selvinazian

FIRST SESSION

(Saturday, September 4, 1954, 1:45 P.M.)

ASSEMBLY CONVENED

Archbishop Mampre opened the Assembly with Hayr Mer. Father Papken Maksoudian said the ACYOA Prayer and Mr. Ralph Yagjian recited the ACYOA Pledge.

ADDRESSES:

Mr. Paul Moroukian, Chairman of the Troy Chapter, welcomed the delegates and presented a gavel to the Chairman of the Central Council.

The Archbishop then spoke to the delegation and a copy of his talk is attached hereto. (Appendix 1)

TELEGRAMS AND MESSAGES:

Communications received were read at this time.

CHARTER PRESENTATION:

A Charter was presented to the Toronto Chapter and it was accepted by Miss Mary Poladian, Corresponding Secretary of this group.

QUORUM:

The Very Rev. Mesrob Semerjian informed the Assembly by letter that he would be unable to attend the first session of the Assembly and requested that Deacon Hovhannes Kasparian represent him and that Miss Helen Gasparian serve as the second Delegate of the Worcester Chapter at the first session. It was

Voted: That Deacon Hovhannes Kasparian represent Father Mesrob and that Miss Helen Gasparian serve as the second Delegate of the Worcester Chapter at the first session of this Assembly.

Roll Call was taken and a quorum having been established, the Chairman announced that the Eighth Annual General Assembly of the ACYOA was in session.

ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE:

Sections A, C, D, and E of the Rules of Procedure adopted at previous Assemblies were read and accepted by the Assembly. Section B of these Rules, pertaining to the method of election, was given to a special committee to be studied and revised if necessary. This special committee was composed of the following delegates:

Harry Sarkisian, Watertown
Martin Kentigian, Lawrence

The Chairman appointed Mr. Dennis Papazian, Central Council Member, as Advisor to this Committee. The Committee, in consultation with the Nominating Committee, would present its findings to the Assembly prior to the election.

A copy of the Rules of Procedure as adopted by this Assembly is attached. (Appendix 2)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes Reading Committee reported that it had found the minutes of the Seventh Annual General Assembly in order with one exception. The following Resolution was omitted from these minutes and the Committee recommended that an addition be made:

It was proposed that appreciation be expressed to those who had assisted during the business sessions of the Assembly, and it was

Voted: That thanks be extended from the Delegates to His Grace Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, the Very Rev. Torkom Manogian, Mr. Hagop Nersoyan, all the Clergy and Central Council Members for their assistance at this Assembly.

The Assembly accepted the report of the Minutes Reading Committee and approved the minutes of the Seventh Annual General Assembly as corrected.

BUSINESS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

1. Reports

A. The Central Council Report was read to the Assembly and it was

Voted: That the Central Council Report be accepted.

A copy of this Report is attached. (Appendix 3)

B. Mr. M. Casey Kazanjian, National Chairman of the Eighth Anniversary Ball, reported on the results of the Ball and thanked the chapters for the cooperation and assistance which they had given him to make this Ball a great financial success. It was

Voted: That the Report on the Eighth Anniversary Ball be accepted.

Mr. Kazanjian made several suggestions to the Assembly for the improvement of future Anniversary Balls and recommended that these recommendations be followed to insure the greater success of the Ball.

A copy of the Financial Report of the Eighth Anniversary Ball and a copy of Mr. Kazanjian's recommendations is attached. (Appendix 4)

C. The Auditing Committee presented the Financial Statements of the Organization and informed the Assembly that it had found all the records of the Organization to be in good order. It was

Voted: That the Report of the Auditing Committee be accepted.

Copies of the Financial Statements are attached. (Appendix 5)

2. Election of Committees

A. In order to expedite the election of the Nominating & Voting Committee, Minutes Reading Committee, and Taxation Committee, it was

Voted: That the President be requested to appoint the members of the Nominating & Voting, Minutes Reading, and Taxation Committees.

The members of the Nominating & Voting Committee were chosen as follows:

Martin Agegian, Detroit
Rose Bannaian, Cleveland
Mary Selvinazian, New York-St. Gregory
Zaven Hovsepian, Central Council Advisor
to Committee

The following members were chosen to comprise the Minutes Reading Committee:

Charles Arzoumanian, Troy
Harry Kosngarian, Troy
Nevart Vartanesian, Troy

The members of the Taxation Committee were chosen as follows:

Charles Arzoumanian, Troy
Sam Boranian, Racine
Arthur Sirmaian, Lawrence
Peter Kalemkerian, New York-Holy Cross
Sema Artinian, Detroit
Leo Bakalian, Central Council Advisor to
Committee

B. The Central Council requested that the Assembly grant permission to the Council to select the Auditing Committee. This procedure proved to be satisfactory during the past year and it was

Voted: That the Central Council appoint the Auditing Committee.

3. Proposals

A. The Boston Chapter proposed that

Sister chapters do not ask each other for donations.

After reviewing the proposal, the Boston Chapter withdrew its proposal.

✓ B. The Cleveland Chapter proposed that

Each ACYOA Chapter be visited by at least one Central Council member at least once a year.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was defeated by a majority of negative votes.

C. The Cleveland Chapter proposed that

Retiring Central Council members be given a special certificate and medal of merit for service given. Such recognition to be given at the Assembly Banquet.

After being informed that a similar proposal was passed at a previous Assembly and that the Council members valued a personal letter from the Primate more than a certificate or medal, the Cleveland Chapter withdrew its proposal.

D. The New York-St. Gregory Chapter proposed that

The Monthly Reports to the Central Council be reduced to reports of three times per year, to be submitted at the end of the months of October, January, and April, and that the Annual Report be submitted at the end of June as usual.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

E. The New York-St. Gregory Chapter proposed that

A certificate be given to the chapter (or chapters) which receive honorable mention in the presentation of the "A" Award.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

F. The Worcester Chapter proposed that

- ✓ Servicemen's membership be kept active while they are in the Service, and if they are stationed in this country, they be informed of the nearest ACYOA chapter to their base or camp.

The Worcester Chapter withdrew this proposal after being informed that this was a problem that could be dealt with in each chapter's By-Laws.

G. The Worcester Chapter proposed that

Any member of the ACYOA going into the Armed Services be carried as a Member in Good Standing until the following June after his discharge and the local chapter to which he belonged assume the responsibility of paying his Membership Fee.

The Assembly was informed that this, too, could be covered by provisions in chapter By-Laws and that in cases where the Council Office was notified, the Armenian Guardian was sent free of charge to Servicemen. In view of this, the Worcester Chapter withdrew this proposal.

H. The Worcester Chapter proposed that

- ✓ The Central Council take the responsibility of publishing some sort of pocket-sized manual that will be helpful to all ACYOA members, said manual to contain addresses of local churches in the country, names of pastors and their home addresses, ACYOA Chapters and addresses, and prayers.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

I. The Worcester Chapter proposed that

A fund be set up for interested youths of our Church to attend leadership courses given by the National Council of Churches, each chapter to submit names of interested persons to the Central Council and local chapter to bear expense.

Upon being informed that the Central Council had a similar proposal to present, the Worcester Chapter withdrew its suggestion.

J. The Cleveland Chapter proposed that

The Central Council submit a digest of each of its meetings to all ACYOA Chapters as soon as possible after such meetings.

The Central Council informed the Assembly that a summary of each of its meetings during the past year had appeared in the Armenian Guardian and promised that in the future more details will be given. The Assembly agreed to this method of informing members of the activities of the Central Council and the Cleveland Chapter withdrew its proposal.

K. The Cleveland Chapter proposed that

Every ACYOA member 21 years of age or over, shall become a dues paying church member of his parish.

The Cleveland Chapter withdrew this proposal upon consideration of the fact that such mandatory action is not necessary.

L. The Central Council proposed that

The ACYOA sponsor a pilgrimage to Jerusalem during Holy Week in 1956.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed unanimously.

RECESS:

The first session recessed at 6:30 P.M.

SECOND SESSION

(Sunday, September 5, 1954, 3:40 P.M.)

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

The Assembly was resumed and the slides prepared by the Detroit Chapter were shown to the delegation. These slides showed the various parts of the Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church and were accompanied by a commentary prepared and read by Mr. Dennis Papazian.

Following the presentation, Mr. Papazian stated that it was the intention of the Detroit Chapter to retake some of the pictures and to also make the project into a strip film one, instead of slides. He called for suggestions from the delegation and the following ideas were advanced:

1. Organ music and choir chants should be recorded to accompany the film presentation.
2. Record some prayers said by the Priest and the Deacon to be inserted during the presentation.
3. The language of the commentary should be made as simple and as understandable as possible.

Mr. Papazian stated that the suggestions made would be taken into consideration and if found feasible, would be incorporated into the project.

The Assembly was informed that the Central Council had sponsored the cost of the preliminary work done on this visual aid program and that an additional amount would be necessary to prepare a master copy. It was also stated that the sale of these films would cover all costs involved.

The Council will take into consideration the method of distribution of the films and would either have three or four copies made which may be rented to parishes or have one copy for each parish made up which would be sold outright.

The Assembly extended a vote of confidence to the Detroit Chapter toward the culmination of this visual aid project and passed the following proposal unanimously:

Voted: That the Central Council be given the authority to continue the work of the Visual Aid Program with an amount of \$400.00 to be allocated for the project in the Budget.

A suggestion was made that the Central Council consider the preparation of films on Sacraments, such as the Holy Matrimony. The Council stated that it will consider this suggestion after the completion of the project now under way.

BUSINESS SESSIONS RESUMED:

The Assembly then continued the discussion of Proposals.

M. The Central Council proposed that

The ACYOA sponsor a camp for the youth of the Diocese.

Mr. Ralph Yagjian of the Central Council explained that it was the intention of the Council to establish camps in several regions, if this was found feasible. At the present time, however, investigation had been made to use the camp of the Episcopalian Church in Massachusetts. The young

people would participate in craft arts and sports activities with the other group but religious and educational programs would be conducted by Armenian clergymen or other capable persons. It is intended that this activity take place during the Summer of 1955.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

N. The Central Council proposed that

A sum of \$200.00 be allocated in the Budget for the purpose of sending appointed individuals to a conference or conferences to learn teaching methods. Such persons to be responsible to the Central Council for the ultimate dissemination of this information to all Sunday School teachers.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

O. The Central Council proposed that

The Eighth Annual General Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America send greetings to the Diocesan Assembly when it convenes.

Be it further resolved that; we take this opportunity to encourage the Diocesan Assembly in its noble project of establishing an Armenian Seminary in the United States for the purpose of educating young men for Holy Orders. We pray that the Lord will bless their efforts for the enlightening of the Holy Church so that their project may be brought to a speedy and successful conclusion.

Be it further resolved that; in anticipation of the time when this Seminary will be established, and to encourage its foundation, we form a Scholarship Fund of \$200.00 per year to be used for the education of one or more of its students.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

RECESS:

The second session was recessed at 6:30 P.M.

THIRD SESSION

(Monday, September 6, 1954, 10:00 A.M.)

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

The Assembly was resumed and the next item on the Agenda, Old Business, was discussed.

4. Old Business

A. Rev. Shahe Altounian proposed that

An Editorial Staff be elected, composed of five members, two of which are to be clergymen, to be in charge of publishing the Armenian Guardian. This staff will be responsible to the Central Council and to the General Assembly.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

B. Very Rev. Mesrob Semerjian proposed that

The Assembly give the authority to the Central Council to make a study of the qualifications and availability of the clergymen and suitable laymen of our Diocese to serve on the Editorial Staff of the Armenian Guardian and to choose the members of this staff.

5. New Business

A. The Detroit Chapter proposed that

The Central Council appoint a Committee to look into the Rules of Procedure to be presented to the next Assembly for adoption.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

B. The Watertown Chapter proposed that

A record of the outstanding accomplishments of all the chapters of the ACYQA be recorded and entered as part of the minutes of future Assemblies; and further publicized by appearing in all Armenian publications.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

C. The Providence Chapter proposed that

The proposals which the Central Council wishes to present to the Assembly be forwarded to all chapters prior to the Assembly or at the Pre-Assembly Meeting for their consideration and discussion, if possible.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

D. The New York-Holy Cross Chapter proposed that

Sister chapters refrain from asking each other for donations.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was defeated by a majority of negative votes.

E. The New York-Holy Cross Chapter proposed that

The Central Council entertain the idea of having films taken of the business sessions and social functions of future ACYOA Assemblies. The purpose of which will be to raise funds for the Central Council by renting such films to chapters interested in showing them.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

F. The Racine Chapter proposed that

When and if the consecration of the Catholicos of All Armenians takes place and if it is possible, a representative of the ACYOA be sent to Etchmiadzin to attend the ceremonies.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was defeated by a majority of negative votes.

G. The Providence Chapter proposed that

The Central Council try to write a hymn for the ACYOA.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

H. The Providence Chapter proposed that

A brief resume of the persons nominated for Central Council election be given by the nominator.

After being seconded and discussed, this proposal was passed by a majority of affirmative votes.

- I. Mr. Zaven Hovsepian of the Central Council spoke on the necessity of increasing the non-member subscribers to the Armenian Guardian. He suggested that chapters embark on door-to-door solicitation campaigns to obtain new subscriptions.
- J. The National Chairman of the Anniversary Ball, Mr. M. Casey Kazanjian, announced the names of the regional representatives which were chosen. They are as follows:

<u>REGION 1</u> So. Milwaukee, Racine, Chicago, Evanston	-- Harry Torosian -- Sam Boranian
<u>REGION 2</u> Detroit, Cleveland	-- Harry Terzian Rosalie Papazian
<u>REGION 3</u> North Phila., West Phila., Washington, D.C.	-- Ara Shakarjian -- Louis Karagulian
<u>REGION 4</u> New York-Holy Cross, New York-St. Gregory, Newark Paterson, Union City	-- Zabel Gadarigian
<u>REGION 5</u> Troy	-- Charles Arzoumanian
<u>REGION 6</u> Boston, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Providence, Watertown Worcester	-- Edward Casabian -- John Morookian
<u>REGION 7</u> Hartford	-- Veronica Kallajian

It will be the duty of these regional representatives to call the first meeting of the Anniversary Ball Committee.

6. Election of Central Council Members

At this time, the Committee to study and revise the method of voting for Central Council Members gave its report and made its suggestions for the voting procedure. The Assembly voted to adopt this method. (The voting procedure used is outlined in Section B of the Rules of Procedure - Appendix 2)

Following this, the Nominating Committee presented its selection of nominees. An additional nomination was made from the floor and nominations were closed.

After balloting, results were announced, indicating that the following three members were elected:

Rose Bannaian	-	Cleveland
Elizabeth Ekmanian	-	New York-Holy Cross
Nubar Dorian	-	Union City

7. Approval of Budget

The Auditing Committee reported that it had reviewed the proposed Budget for the fiscal year 1954-1955 and found it in order. The Auditing Committee recommended that the Guardian Tax Plan used during the past fiscal year be again adopted.

In view of the fact that one of the newly elected Council members is from the Mid-West area, the amount of \$900.00 allocated for Central Council members' travel to meetings was increased to \$1,200.00

The amount of \$125.00 allocated toward the printing of publications was increased to \$350.00 to carry out the proposal passed at the first session directing the Central Council to publish a manual containing prayers and church addresses.

In addition to these two increases, the following additions were made to the Budget to cover proposals passed at the first and second sessions of this Assembly:

Visual Aid Project	-	\$400.00
Sunday School Teachers Training Program	-	200.00
Scholarship Fund- U.S. Seminary	-	200.00

Following some discussion, it was

Voted: That the Budget be accepted, as adjusted, and that the Guardian Tax Plan, as used during the 1953-1954 fiscal year, be again adopted.

A copy of the Budget as approved is attached. (Appendix 6)

8. Assignment of Taxes

The Taxation Committee reported that it had functioned as directed by the Assembly. The Committee stated that it had operated on the basis of 100 points for the whole organization and had distributed these points proportionately among the twenty-five chapters of the Organization. For the fair evaluation of tax points and in consideration of the smaller chapters, a minimum of two points was agreed upon, and the following number of points was assigned to the following chapters:

Boston.....	9	Paterson.....	2
Chicago.....	3	Providence.....	5
Cleveland.....	4	Racine.....	4
Detroit.....	11	South Milwaukee.....	2
Evanston.....	2	Toronto.....	2
Hartford.....	2	Troy.....	6
Haverhill.....	2	Union City.....	6
Lawrence.....	4	Washington, D.C.....	2
Lowell.....	2	Watertown.....	7
Newark.....	2	West Phila.....	3
New York-Holy Cross.....	3	West Pullman.....	2
New York-St.Gregory.....	3	Worcester.....	7
North Phila.....	5		

9. Selection of Next Host Chapter

Bids were made by the Boston and the Racine Chapters to hold the Ninth Annual General Assembly in their cities. Balloting took place and Racine was chosen as the site of the next Assembly by majority vote.

The ACYOA Banner was presented to the Racine Chapter and Miss Shockey Gengozian received it on behalf of her chapter.

10. Resolutions and Additional Proposals

The Very Rev. Oshagan Minassian suggested that financial aid be given to help the Armenian refugees in Jerusalem. After discussion, it was

Voted: That individuals attending this Assembly be asked to give whatever financial contribution they wish to aid the Armenian refugees in Jerusalem.

The Cleveland Chapter suggested that ACYOA Members become members of their parish. After discussion, it was

Resolved: That all ACYOA Chapters take special steps to see to it that all members become dues paying members of their local churches.

The Central Council suggested that a bereavement message be sent to Etchmiadzin. It was

Voted: That a bereavement message be sent to the Ecclesiastical Council in Etchmiadzin on the passing of His Holiness the late Catholicos of All Armenians, Georg VI.

The Union City Chapter suggested that Archbishop Tiran's message be added to the minutes of this Assembly. It was

Voted: That the letter written by His Grace Archbishop Tiran addressed to the ACYOA members on the occasion of the Eighth Annual General Assembly be added to and made part of the minutes.

A copy of this message is attached. (Appendix 7)

The Union City Chapter suggested that a message be sent to Archbishop Tiran. It was

Voted: That a telegram be sent to Archbishop Tiran thanking him for the message he forwarded to the ACYOA Members.

The Troy Chapter expressed its thanks to the Cleveland Chapter for its cooperation and assistance in helping to make this Assembly a success.

The Very Rev. Oshagan Minassian suggested that future host chapters give space to the Jerusalem Patriarchate in their Souvenir Booklets, and it was

Resolved: That host chapters of future Assemblies do not overlook placing articles about the Jerusalem Patriarchate in their Souvenir Booklets.

It was proposed that the Assembly commend the Troy Chapter, Father Papken, and other church bodies which helped make this Assembly a memorable occasion.

The Very Rev. Issahag Ghazarian suggested that delegates and guests attending future ACYOA Assemblies take Holy Communion, and it was

Resolved: That all ACYOA delegates and guests attending ACYOA Assemblies be reminded that they should partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday morning.

The Assembly voted to extend its appreciation to the newspapers and radio and TV stations which had given this Assembly fine publicity. It was

Resolved: That the Armenian Mirror-Spectator, the Times Union of Albany, Troy Times Herald, and stations WTRY, WROW, and WGY be commended for the publicity given to the ACYOA during the Eighth Annual General Assembly.

The Assembly extended its appreciation to the members of the Central Council and to the Chairman of the Council for conducting the sessions ably to obtain the best results from it.

The Assembly extended its thanks to Archbishop Mampre for his presence and the advice he had given to it.

The Assembly expressed its appreciation to all of the clergymen who were present at the sessions and for their assistance.

BENEDICTION:

All out-going, new, and remaining members of the Central Council were called forth and blessed by the Archbishop.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Eighth Annual General Assembly of the ACYOA was adjourned at 4:00 P.M., on September 6, 1954.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Matteosian
Chairman

Mrs. Mary Zotian
Recording Secretary

ARCHBISHOP MAMPRE CALFAYAN'S ADDRESS

AT FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

My dear children:

I am very happy to be with you today. It is a pleasant feeling to be surrounded by dynamic youth whose vitality is contagious. In your midst I sense a brighter future in this country for our Church, our community, our people, and our traditions. I am happy and proud, as acting head of the Armenian Church in the United States, to greet you and welcome you with all my heart.

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America has been the embodiment of the growth, the development, and the increasing maturity of the Armenian youth in America. The Armenian community in this country is in dire need of rejuvenation. The ACYOA is the source for that new blood and energy.

Your heritage, as the sons and daughters of the Armenian people, has a distinct and unique place in the family of nations. It is not chauvinism to cherish all our qualities of past greatness. It is indeed honesty and a service to know these qualities and to translate them into the lives we live today in this great and free land.

Yours is a Church whose torchbearers, time and again, have shown their devotion to the Great Founder of Christian brotherhood. Yours is a Church which has borne its trials resolutely in times of stress and which has known how to weather violence and survive.

And only in the knowledge and understanding of your selfless duty to your Church can you honestly dedicate yourselves to its perpetuation. You are all young and full of vitality, that is with you but once - and youthful vitality with dedication and vision can, if properly used, perform no less than miracles.

Unity of purpose and unselfish devotion to its ideals are in themselves fundamental to any collective achievement. As members of the ACYOA, you are united to better serve your God, your Church, your people, and finally, yourselves.

Our Church is almost as old as Christianity itself. And God's Church is eternal. Seven years in the life of a Church Organization constitutes only a beginning. Therefore, the glorious work

begun by your Organization should be forward-looking, dedicated to sublime principles, devoted to the glory of God and to the prosperity of His Church and people.

You have not failed us in the faith that we have had in you, and have given us every assurance, too, that we will not be wrong in our expectations of your future.

We live in an age that is fraught with trials and tribulations. The understanding and the willingness to put one's faith above one's self and to honestly devote one's self to the service of the Lord and His people should be the paramount motivation of our lives.

Faith in the Lord and an honest willingness to be guided by selfless good are the main requirements for harmonious and fruitful fellowship and spiritual and moral satisfaction.

Your Assembly, motivated and inspired by these principles, is destined to be of significance.

I have no doubt that your deliberations will be forthright, wholesome, and fruitful - all for the glory of God and the prosperity of our Church and community.

I welcome you all with fatherly love and invoke the blessings of the Holy Spirit upon you and upon your pleasing work for our Lord and His Church.

APPENDIX 2

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Section A - There shall be no absentee voting. Voting shall be on individual basis; however, each chapter shall report its total affirmative and negative votes at one time.

Section B - 1. An unlimited number of nominations shall be made.

2. A primary vote shall be taken, each delegate casting one ballot for each of the three vacancies. The individuals with the top nine highest votes shall be retained and the others dropped.

3. A second vote shall be taken, with each delegate casting three ballots. Each ballot shall contain the names of two persons for each vacancy, according to preference. The three first place candidates receiving majority votes shall be elected.

4. In the event that no majority votes are received, the votes of those candidates receiving the lowest number of ballots shall be redistributed according to second place votes.

Section C - The individual chapter reports shall not be read as such but shall be summarized in the Central Council Report.

Section D - The number of nominees shall not exceed twice the number of committee members required for each committee. Voting shall be by hand.

Section E - The clergy who represent their chapter shall cast their vote with their chapter delegates.

CENTRAL COUNCIL REPORT TO 1954 ASSEMBLY

Central Council Meetings & Elections

The Central Council of the ACYOA met for its first session of the 1953-1954 term in September 1953 at the Diocesan Offices in New York City. The first order of business was the election of officers with the results as follows:

Chairman -- Matthew Matteosian
Vice-Chairman -- M. Casey Kazanjian
Recording Secretary -- Mrs. Mary Zotian ✓
Treasurer -- Leo Bakalian

Following his election, the Chairman made the following appointments:

Publicity Director -- Gerald Aharonian
Educational Director -- Ralph Yagjian
Junior Groups Director -- Dennis Papazian ✓
Secretary to the Central Council -- Arax Solvinazian

During the course of the year, the Council met in four two day sessions in New York and Watertown and also in Albany just prior to the Assembly. The Primate or Locum-Tenens of the Diocese presided at the meetings which took place in New York.

Directives to the Central Council

1. New Membership Cards were prepared and sent to all chapters as per the resolution passed at the last Assembly.
2. The Central Council was directed to propagandize and encourage members to study as church school teachers and prepare for the Holy Orders. Due to the extensive nature of such a project, it is still under investigation and study.
3. In accordance with the decision of the last Assembly, the ACYOA instituted the first of a series of Study Conferences for Church School Teachers. This conference, held in May at the Episcopal Conference Center in Whitinsville, Mass., was attended by 63 Sunday School teachers and ACYOA members. All those in attendance were very pleased and impressed with the curriculum and are looking forward to the next conference which is scheduled for November of this year.
4. As directed, a message was sent to Arthur Davidian, of the Worcester Chapter, who is studying for the priesthood at the Antelias Seminary.

5. All cuts pertinent to the souvenir book were received by the Central office from Cleveland.
6. In connection with the re-election of the former Primate, Archbishop Tiran, letters were sent to all Diocesan delegates and, also, a more detailed letter was addressed to the Diocesan Assembly.
7. Letters of appreciation were sent to the various organizations in Cleveland who helped make the 7th Annual Assembly such a memorable occasion.
8. As directed by the Assembly, the Central Council purchased and sent to the three American students at Antelias, a gift which the students felt they and the Seminary needed. An Armenian Royal typewriter, a Greek letter band, and a supply of stencils were sent and each chapter was assessed its share of this gift.

Bulletins and Directives

The Council office has issued Bulletins and Directives on all phases of administrative work.

Educational Material

In order to supply the chapters with religious educational material, the Council has accepted the opportunity made available to it by the Detroit Chapter to sponsor a visual aid project of slide of the Divine Liturgy. These excellent slides will be shown, accompanied by a commentary, prior to the second session of this Assembly. A more detailed report will be given during the Assembly.

Central Council Visits to Chapters

Most of the chapters or their executives were visited during the year by members of the Council. The Council and the executive bodies of these chapters found the visits to be most beneficial and the practice will be continued as much as possible.

Pre-Assembly Meeting

The Council has found that a close relationship of the chapters with the Council and with other chapters is vital to the growth and understanding of the Organization. To cement this relationship, we have instituted at the forthcoming Assembly, a Pre-Assembly meeting with Chapter Chairmen or heads of Delegations. We feel assured that all chapters will benefit from this practice.

Central Office

Since the resignation of Hagop Norsoyan as Executive Director, all correspondence and clerical work has been handled by Miss Arax

Selvinazian, Secretary to the Central Council. To date, her discretion in handling the numerous problems that have arisen has been more than satisfactory. One of the major causes of incomplete records is the lack of thoroughness on the part of the executives of chapters in forwarding application cards, initiation and membership fees for new members and for not forwarding membership fees for all members considered to be in good standing. Executive Chairmen and Secretaries should also make a point of acknowledging immediately all correspondence concerning specific problems.

Chapter Activities and Statistics

The following statistics have been compiled from the Annual Reports of 24 Senior Chapters and 7 Junior groups:

Total Senior Members.....	835
Total Junior Members.....	160
Total Dues-Paying Members of Parishes.....	308-
Total Membership Business Meetings held...	334
Total Executive Meetings held.....	195
Total Social-Cultural Meetings held..	Over 250

Those chapters which had a marked increase in membership attributed this increase to better planned, more interesting meetings and personal contact with special membership drives.

Twelve chapters have donated considerably to their respective churches. All chapters take an active part in the religious, educational or social aspects of their parish. The overall picture shows more lectures, both religious and educational, discussion groups, religious movies and social activities being conducted throughout the chapters. Thirteen chapters have at least one and in some cases three or four members on the Parish Council. The increase of members on the Parish Council and of dues-paying members of the church, compared with last year is very gratifying and gives us justifiable cause to believe that we are gradually fulfilling our aims to know, love and work for the Armenian Church.

New Chapters

The Washington, D.C. Chapter which received its charter at the last Assembly has done well and has been very cooperative.

A chapter has been organized in Toronto, Canada, and it will receive its charter at the Eighth Annual General Assembly.

We are also in the process of organizing chapters in Richmond, Virginia, and West Allis, Wisconsin.

Financial Report

Our cash balance as of June 30, 1954 was \$6,345.37. To date all taxes have been paid in full.

Anniversary Ball

The Eighth Annual Anniversary Ball, conducted by the chapters in January and February of this year, was a financial and social success. A complete report will be given by Mr. M. Casey Kazanjian, National Chairman of the Eighth Anniversary Ball.

Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution as voted by the Seventh Annual General Assembly have been ratified by a majority of the chapters and approved by the Primate in Diocesan Council. These amendments are now incorporated into the Constitution of the ACYOA.

Armenian Guardian

You all have by this time seen and read the new Armenian Guardian. If your combined opinion coincides with the many comments we have already received, you are thoroughly pleased with the change in format.

We were very sorry to have to accept the resignation of Mr. Hagop Nersoyan as Editor but consider ourselves fortunate in gaining the cooperation and enthusiasm of Miss Mary Selvinazian as Managing Editor.

At present we have a total of 1,272 subscribers, 905 member subscriptions and 367 non-members subscriptions. This is an increase of 150 since last year which is a reflection of the resolution passed at the Assembly whereby all members are to receive the Armenian Guardian. We are confident that the change in format will further increase the number of subscribers. But your help and the help of our readers is vital. Send us your comments, pictures of chapter activities, any questions, letters to the editor or suitable articles of interest to the general public.

"A" Award

The Central Council selected a committee of its members to decide which chapter would receive the "A" Award for 1953-1954. The Committee reviewed all the Annual Reports and after much consideration, made its choice. Honorable mention was given to the Cleveland and New York-St. Gregory Chapters for the fine work done during the past year. For its outstanding record of accomplishment during the past year, the Detroit Chapter was the recipient of the "A" Award. A contributing factor in choosing the Detroit Chapter as the winner is the excellent record of the Junior group of this chapter.

1954 Assembly Plans

The Council has corresponded with the Troy Assembly Committee and has found their plans to be complete. They have been most

cooperative with the Council and are working to make this the best Assembly to date.

Diocesan Assembly

Most of the Council members attended the Diocesan Assembly held in Philadelphia during October 1953. Our official representatives were Messrs. Matthew Matteosian, Ralph Yagjian and Zaven Hovsepian. The activities of the ACYQA were reported by the Diocesan Secretary and favorably received by the Assembly.

General Evaluation

In conclusion, the Central Council wishes to assure this Assembly that it has carried out the decisions of past Assemblies to the best of its ability. The welfare of the chapters individually and of the Organization as a whole, has been uppermost in our minds at all times, not only for today but for the days and years ahead. Our plans for the future have been discussed by us at great length and will be brought up during the sessions of this Assembly for your advice and decision.

Respectfully submitted,

9/4/54

Matthew G. Matteosian
Chairman, Central Council

8TH ANNIVERSARY BALL 1954

FINANCIAL REPORT

NET INCOME FROM CHAPTERS

REGION 1.	Racine, West Pullman, Chicago, Evanston, South Milwaukee.....	\$500.00
REGION 2.	Detroit, Cleveland.....	490.27
REGION 3.	West Philadelphia, North Philadelphia, Washington, D.C.....	609.43
REGION 4.	New York-Holy Cross, New York- St. Gregory, Union City, Newark, Paterson.....	503.00
REGION 5.	Troy.....	52.50
REGION 6.	Boston, Watertown, Lawrence, Worcester, Providence, Lowell, Haverhill.....	850.55
REGION 7.	Hartford.....	<u>44.00</u>
	Total Income.....	\$3,049.75

EXPENSES

ADVERTISING

Mirror-Spectator (Full page, Consecutive,
and Calendar ads).....\$170.00
Guardian Flyers (Printing, Postage)..... 33.00

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS (7)..... 11.19

Total Expenses..... 214.19

NET INCOME.....\$2,835.56

RECOMMENDATIONS TO INSURE UNIFORMITY
OF ANNIVERSARY BALLS

DATES OF BALLS

Each Region should choose the date of its Ball between January 15 and February 15. The Chairman of neighboring Regions should be contacted and alternate dates chosen. The Central Council Office must be notified of the dates selected within one month after the Assembly. After the dates are cleared by the Central Office, a deposit may be made on the Ballroom desired.

ATTIRE AT BALL

Each Region should announce the Ball as Semi-Formal. If possible, the members of each Anniversary Ball Committee should attend their function in formal attire.

SYMBOL OF ANNIVERSARY

A cake or other symbol should be on display at each Ball. It is suggested that a formal presentation be made.

ADDITIONAL INCOME PROJECTS

Ad booklets, raffles, and the sale of refreshments should be utilized as means of adding to the income of each Region's Ball.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX

The ACYOA is a tax exempt organization and the necessary tax exemption may be secured upon application to the Federal authorities in your area.

NEWS REPORTS

Progress news reports should be submitted to local and national newspapers (Armenian and non-Armenian) regularly.

ADVERTISING

Calendar and other major ads will be placed by the National Chairman. Each Region should send its own invitations or circulars.

COMPLIMENTARY INVITATIONS

Complimentary invitations should be sent to the President of the ACYOA (Primate or Locum-Tenens), Chairman of the Central Council, and the National Chairman of the Anniversary Balls.

REPORTS TO OFFICE

All reports must be submitted to the Central Council Office at 630 Second Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. Duplicate copies of the Financial Report will be requested to serve as a guide for the next Anniversary Ball Committee in each region.

CENTRAL COUNCIL ADVISOR

The Central Council Members in your Region will serve in an advisory capacity on the Anniversary Ball Committee. Meeting notices are to be sent to the Council Members in your area.

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

General Fund

SUMMARY OF CASH RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING June 30, 1954

CASH ON HAND AND IN BANK June 30, 1953 \$2,330.53

RECEIPTS

Taxes	\$3,557.28
Initiation Fees	350.00
Emblem Pins	149.75
Banners & Books	251.76
Anniversary Ball	2,546.75
Gift to Students in Antelias Seminary	<u>214.82</u>

Total Receipts 7,070.36

TOTAL CASH TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR \$9,400.89

DISBURSEMENTS

Central Council Travel Expense		
Meetings	\$ 821.01	
1953 Assembly-Cleveland	<u>652.86</u>	\$1,473.87
Exec. Direc. Salary (3 months)		250.00
Office Supplies		299.85
Postage		223.32
Publications		128.00
Refund - to N.Y. Holy Cross Church for money received from chapter dissolved in 1949		199.50
Visual Aid Project		100.00
Placques		146.28
Gift to Students in Antelias Seminary		268.16
Anniversary Ball		214.19
Miscellaneous		97.27
Armenian Guardian Deficit (Schedule A)		<u>1,328.04</u>

Total Disbursements 4,728.48

CASH ON HAND AND IN BANK June 30, 1954 \$4,672.41

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE as of June 30, 1954

Taxes	\$1,291.14
Anniversary Ball	503.00
Students' Gift	53.34
	<u>\$1,847.48</u>

Schedule A

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

SUMMARY OF CASH RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS
FOR OPERATING THE ARMENIAN GUARDIAN
FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING June 30, 1954

RECEIPTS

Membership Fees	\$ 838.00	
Subscriptions (Non-Members)	<u>656.50</u>	
Total Receipts		\$1,494.50

DISBURSEMENTS

Printing	\$2,210.25	
Postage & Stationery	227.29	
Editor's Salary	<u>385.00</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$2,822.54</u>

NET OPERATING LOSS \$1,328.04 *

* Cash from General Fund used to defray expenses.

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Reserve Fund

SUMMARY OF CASH RECEIPTS
FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDING June 30, 1954

CASH IN BANK June 30, 1954		\$1,032.26
RECEIPTS		
Interest	\$ 18.78	
25% of Profit of 1953 Assembly	<u>621.92</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>\$ 640.70</u>
TOTAL CASH TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR AND BALANCE as of June 30, 1954		\$1,672.96

APPENDIX 6

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

APPROVED BUDGET

For Fiscal Year July 1, 1954 to June 30, 1955

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Central Council Travel -		
Meetings	\$1,200.00	
1954 Assembly- Troy	600.00	
Guardian Editor Salary	520.00	
Executive Counsellor Travel	300.00	\$2,620.00

GENERAL EXPENSES

Armenian Guardian Deficit	\$ 900.00	
Office Supplies	300.00	
Postage	250.00	
Publications - Printing	350.00	
Constitution - Printing	300.00	
Visual Aid Project	400.00	
Sunday School Teachers Education	200.00	
American Seminary-Scholarship Fund	200.00	
Miscellaneous	200.00	<u>3,100.00</u>
Total Estimated Expenses		\$5,720.00

CREDIT

Net Profit of 1954 Anniversary Ball	\$2,835.56
25% of 1953-1954 Budget (\$3138.12) deduct	<u>784.53</u>

Total Credit \$2,051.03

NET BUDGET \$3,668.97

ARCHBISHOP TIRAN NERSOYAN'S MESSAGE

READ AT BANQUET

Your Organization has now lived for seven years and is embarking upon the eighth. As the years go by, ACYOA will prove, more and more convincingly, its importance for the Armenian Community in America and its inherent viability.

This viability is, of course, nothing automatic or magical. It is only the expression of the inner virtue of understanding, devotion and energy of each of the faithful members of the Organization, as they apply themselves to the aims of the Organization.

My first advice to you is, therefore, that each of you should keep up your youthful dedication to the ideals of the Organization. Understand these ideals properly and do your share in realizing them in the life of our community. In short, see that the Organization serves God, our Holy Church and our Country to the utmost of its possibilities.

Secondly, it is important that you should keep constantly a cool head and a clear mind. There is wickedness and ignorance all around us, in the world in general, in our country and in our own Armenian Community. You must have boundless charity towards all those who unwittingly raise obstacles on your path. You must be considerate with regard to your elders and must work harmoniously with them. You must observe all proprieties and must deport yourselves nobly in your social relations within the Church community.

Together with the virtue of charity, however, you must also be firm in your informed and enlightened convictions. You must seek and find out truth and then be fearless in defending it. Similarly you must be constant in combating falsehood. These are the prime qualities of a good soldier of Christ the Lord.

Thirdly, you must bear in mind that your Organization exists to make good Armenian Christians out of you, eager, sensible, enlightened and joyful Christians. This of course is not an easy task for you, or, for that matter, for the Church and community leaders. But if you see that each year you have taken a step forward, that should be a source of great and genuine satisfaction to you.

As you go forward being good Armenian church members, you must spread your good influence around you. You will do that naturally and without much effort when you yourself walk on the

right path. Remember the words of our Lord: "A good man produces good from the good things stored up in his heart... For his words will certainly show what is treasured in his heart.... And what is the point of calling me Lord Lord without doing what I tell you to do?" (Luke 6.39ff.).

Finally, learn to read your New Testament. Read good and orthodox Christian literature. Attend the Divine Liturgy regularly. Study the text of the Divine Liturgy. Learn to pray. Most people's prayers are only a caricature of real prayer. Go to confession as often as you need and receive Holy Communion devoutly. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in solving your daily problems and find peace for your soul and receive in your heart the blessings of the Lord, to whom give glory always.

Praying for another year of healthy growth of your Organization and for the well-being of the mind and soul and body of each and every one of you, I remain yours devotedly with paternal affection.