

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S
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Archbishop Torkom Mancogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - January 1983

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

I. 1983 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend

The site for the 1983 ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend will be Toronto, ONT, hosted by the Toronto ACYOA Chapter of Holy Trinity Armenian Church. During this past month, a meeting took place between the Executive Secretary and members of the 1983 Nat. Sports Weekend Committee to discuss plans and review the facilities.

Present for the meeting were most of the Committee members, including the Committee Chairman, Haig-Aram Tossourian, and the Chapter Chairman, Mona Selyan. The Parish Council Liason, as well as general advisors were also present.

Although they are eager and enthusiastic about the Sports Weekend and hosting the entire Diocese for the events, they are not as well organized as we should like at this time. They asked many questions and several areas were addressed with reasonable results. We have planned another meeting for May.

The facilities for the Weekend meetings, athletics, social events and accommodations are more than adequate. The rates and fees involved reflect the usual expenses involved with this type of program. One of the best aspects regarding the facilities is the close proximity of the hotel and athletic complex - just 5 minutes away - which includes all athletic facilities for all events. This is an important factor that has been overlooked in recent years.

We intend to assist in as many ways as possible to ensure that all areas of the largest ACYOA event of the year are covered, and that the details are taken care of.



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II. Visitations

While in the Toronto area meeting with the Sports Weekend Committee, meetings were also arranged with the Chairman of the Toronto Chapter, and the Pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church in St. Catherines.

Just having been elected as Chapter Chairman, Mona Selyan is somewhat apprehensive about her position and the situation in the Toronto area regarding Armenian youth. The Toronto Chapter has experienced a considerable amount of dysfunction during the past year and this has resulted in the loss of many young people to secular Armenian and non-Armenian groups. Although the core of interested young Armenians are with Chapter as before, new members and those not with the "regulars" are difficult to find and keep as active members.

It is because of the activity and non-activity of the Toronto Chapter during the past year or two that we had reservations about awarding the 1983 Sports Weekend bid to them. However, the ACYOA Central Council felt otherwise.

Mona Selyan is interested in doing the best job she can as Chapter Chairman, and she will receive as much assistance as we can provide. However she tells of changes in the parish and the youth in terms of apathy and disregard for the Church in general. Although this is not new, it may be seen as more prevalent than in the past.

We intend to monitor the Chapter during this next year and assist where necessary.

The meeting with the Pastor of St. Gregory's Church in St. Catherines, ONT, was to better understand the youth situation there and discuss a means to organize a Senior Division ACYOA. At present, there is a Junior Chapter with consistant members who participate in activities and serve the parish - however the senior age group has presented a difficulty in gathering and organizing. As far as we could tell, there had been no major effort in trying to organize an ACYOA Senior Chapter for the St. Catherines area.

The Pastor, V. Rev. Father Kegham Zakarian, was eager to discuss the situation and showed his interest in doing the necessary "homework" to organize the young adults of his parish. He intends to prepare a complete listing of the young adults of the area, and invite them to a preliminary gathering. In May, the Executive Secretary will visit the parish and meet with the group for the purposes of formally organizing them and introducing them to the format and programs of the ACYOA.

III. Inter-Departmental Meeting at Diocese

A special meeting between the various Departments of the Diocese and the newly appointed Diocesan Council Liasons took place at the Diocese. This meeting provided a chance for dialogue and communication between the Departments and members of the Diocesan Council. Although this new means of sharing views, increasing communications and in general working to

improve the Departments and Programs of the Diocese is in its initial stage, it does show promise and will surely help with out work.

IV. ACYOA Central Council

A scheduled meeting of the ACYOA Central Council at the Diocese in New York City was postponed due to a Winter Storm. The meeting will take place in March.

Gary Hovhanessian, citing personal commitments and family situations, has resigned from the ACYOA Central Council. Gary was a harding working member who was in his final year on the Council. His resignation is a sign of his honesty and understanding of the time necessary to fulfill the many duties of a Council member.

The first and second alternates were contacted to finish off the term, however, both stated that they do not have the time to give the ACYOA on a national level.

(NOTE: This type of honesty with regard to time commitments is very important, and something that has been lacking in the past.)

As far as contacting someone to fill the vacancy, it may be difficult, given that most of the year has passed.

Regarding the work done by Council members, it is difficult to measure. Council members are responsible for regions, as well as specific programs. They are suppose to be in contact with the parishes/chapters of their regions, arranging visitations and assisting where possible. Following a visitation, a short report form is to be filed with our office - however, to date, no forms have been received - we are aware that a few visitations have been made.

We must keep in mind that the amount of time needed to fulfill their duties as Council members is great, and to try and do more is sometimes asking too much. The Council members are at a stage in their lives when time is valuable and they are very concerned with finishing school, deciding on careers and locating a job, as well as considering marriage and settling down. These are major life decisions that require time and serious consideration. ACYOA is perhaps important, but certainly not at the forefront. Therefore, we must understand when Council members do not fulfill our expectations.

V. St. Vartan Camp

A meeting of the Committee for St. Vartan Camp was scheduled for the same weekend as the ACYOA Central Council meeting, and it too was canceled. The Executive Secretary is an ex-officio committee member.

One of the areas of responsibility is the drafting of a set of by-laws. In speaking with Charles Avedisian, Committee Chairman, the by-laws will be developed and approved at a Camp Committee meeting. A meeting between the Chairman and the Executive Secretary to the ACYOA will take

place to review a "rough" draft of the by-laws.

VI. ACYOA Armenian Studies Programs (see attachments)

Again this year we shall offer three separate travel programs - two to Armenia and one to the Holy Land. This is the third year under the new format. As in other programs, our policy is to initiate a program or format, allow it to run for three years under normal circumstances, and then review it, change or modify it, or, cancel it.

As of January, the Group Leaders for the Programs have not yet been secured. The Primate shall make the final selection of Group Leaders, (as is the case with any clergy appointment) and their assistants.

For more information, please see the attachments.

VII. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

Hosted this year by the Detroit ACYOA of St. John Armenian Church. The dates have been changed to April 8,9,10, 1983. The weekend-style event has motivated some chapters to organize themselves and develop men's and women's basketball teams. Although we do not expect the record number of teams as last year (16), we do anticipate a good showing. This particular Tournament is open to all parishes, with or without an organized ACYOA Chapter. In addition, there is no age restriction. This format should open the opportunity for parishes to be represented and participate in the weekend's festivities.

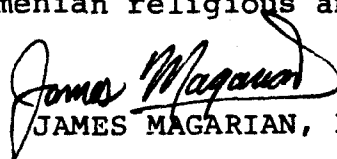
VIII. MagMoney Project

We are very disappointed in the slow start of this fund raising project. Do to some technical difficulties, as well as the ACYOA Central Council in setting up the separate financial account to handle this money, orders for magazines were back-logged and processing did not begin until January. This certainly hurt the word-of-mouth promotions. We do hope that the momentum for this simplistic and no-investment project will pick up again and provide some funds for the ACYOA.

IX. Youth Ministry Proposal

As a result of almost two years of direct responsibility as Executive Secretary, in addition to many years of exposure to the Armenian youth situation in America, and the youth programs of other religious denominations, a "youth ministry proposal" is currently being formulated. This proposed improvement in the approach and methodology of youth ministry in the Armenian Church in America will include past records and projected results, as well as a format from which the youth and young adults of the Armenian Church in America may become involved and have the opportunity to participate in Armenian religious and cultural programs.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARIAN, Executive Secretary - ACYOA

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Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

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Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - February 1983

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

I. Meetings and Visitations

Met with Deacon Onnig Terzian, Asst. Pastor in Worcester to discuss youth there, and plan lenten program. Will meet with youth in March.

Met with Melanie Barsamian, Central Council Secretary, to review her duties and assist in some planning.

Postponed visitation to Wynnewood and Cheltenham parishes due to poor weather conditions; will reschedule for next month.

Met with Charles Avedisian regarding the St. Vartan Camp Program and Committee. Reviewed prepared By-Laws and updated for presentation to entire Camp Committee. Will prepare final draft.

Met with Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian regarding his participation in the 1983 Armenian Studies Program #1, as well as discuss his progress on the revision of the book Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church. He expressed his reservations in participating in this year's ASP due to time conflicts. His progress on the book is good, but had some unusual delays.

Met with Frank Stoneson regarding various administrative matters. In addition began discussion on a new and revitalized Youth Ministry program for the Diocese. Preparations on such a program have begun. More discussion on this will take place as outlines are drawn.

Met with Fr. Karekin Kasparian to also discuss a new Youth Ministry program, and will continue such discussions with others of equal skills and experience.

Met with Nancy Basmajian and shared information on various youth situations in the parishes, in addition to general planning and programming.



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Met with Gary Hovhanessian of New Britain. Gary has recently resigned from the ACYOA Central Council due to time and personal commitments. Discussed the over-due 1982 National Sports Weekend Report, as well as his materials regarding the Council.

Met with Fr. Yeprem Kelegian and members of the Hartford ACYOA. This Chapter has just recently re-organized and have several ideas and plans under consideration. They are a small group, made up of a middle-twenties age group. They are socially inclined, but do have ties to the Church and intend to participate in the life of the parish. They also intend to participate in ACYOA in the New England region, as well as on the National level.

II. Armenian Studies Programs

Over 40 requests for information and application forms have been received and sent out during the month. Two applications have been received for Program #1.

Articles have appeared in the weekly Armenian newspapers, as well as the newsletters of the parishes, and the Executive Update sent to all Chapters and members.

Dates and prices remain tentative. We are waiting for a confirmation on the dates from Holy Etchmiadzin regarding Program #1. The other Programs have time yet for confirmation with airlines and hotels. The prices are tentative due to a possibility of airfares coming down in April.

Group leaders and assistants have not yet been determined. Last year's leaders have been given first consideration.

III. Publications and Audio-Visuals

Due to increased demands, an outline for the installation of officers has been drafted and shall be reviewed and made available to the parishes and ACYOA Chapters.

The Executive Update was sent out this month containing an assortment of information and ideas, as well as "chapter happenings" (which appears to be the most popular section). The Update was originally intended for pastors and chapter Chairmen, however now the Council decided to reproduce the Update for all young people on the mailing list - approx. 1200 names at present. This increased communication should assist in the promotion of programs and activities.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary - ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

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Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - MARCH 1983

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

I. Meetings and Visitations

Met with V. Rev. Fr. Yeznig Balian, Pastor of Our Saviour Church in Worcester to discuss the youth situation in his parish. Seems to be on an up swing right now with several "older" members returning to the Chapter and participating in the activities.

Met with Jan Arslanian, Chairman of the Worcester ACYOA Chapter to discuss the good points and shortcomings of the Worcester Group, as well as the activities and events planned in the near future. She has been trying hard but lately some interest has been falling off. Apparently the "novelty" of the group is wearing thin and there is need for some new life and ideas. She intends to stay with it and try her best.

Participated in the Lenten Program of the Worcester parish as the guest speaker. The ACYOA sponsored the dinner and refreshments involved with the program.

The ACYOA Central Council held its second meeting at the Diocese March 4-6th. All members were present, except for Gary Hovhannessian who resigned in January. He stated personal affairs and family business interests as reasons, as they did not allow him the time to devote to the ACYOA.

The meeting went well in covering the various agenda items and discussing the programs in progress, as well as those upcoming.

Some discussion took place regarding a self-evaluation by Council members of the performance of the Council and the Organization as a whole. However, time did not allow this discussion to fully take its course. Some Council members are seriously questioning the



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effectiveness of the Council, as well as the amount of money spent in trying to cover the many areas of responsibility and the administrative duties in general.

A meeting was held at the Diocese during the same weekend for the newly formed St. Vartan Camp Committee. The Executive Secretary presented a proposed set of by-laws for the Committee and took on the responsibility of revising the by-laws for further review. The Committee will meet again to discuss this and many other aspects of the Program. The Executive Secretary is an ex-officio member of the Committee.

The Executive Secretary met with Frank Stoneson, Executive Director of the Diocese, to discuss a proposed "Youth Programming" outline for the Diocese. The two also met with the Primate to discuss same. Future discussions and meetings are planned, as well as a general meeting with clergy and lay workers involved with youth programs on the parish, regional and national levels.

The Executive Secretary attended the Regional Parish Meeting for the New England parishes in Cambridge. Questions were handled regarding the ACYOA and youth programs and participation in general. There is a serious concern on the part of the parishes regarding youth, and suggestions were made on future considerations and possible direction.

Met with Nancy Basmajian, Director of ACYOA Juniors, to discuss mutual concerns and upcoming projects. Also the proposed Youth Programming for the Diocese.

Met with the Wynnewood, PA ACYOA and discussed their situation, activities, programs, and ways of attracting new members. They have an excellent group with "service in the parish" as their focal point. They plan few social activities for themselves, and are now considering to do so as a means of attracting the "fringe" members. They are a combined Junior/Senior Group. They are planning to send a team to the Archbp's Tournament in Detroit next month and are also planning a membership drive for the summer. Lisa Kazanjian is Chapter Chairman.

Met with the Cheltenham, PA ACYOA, during which elections were held and new activities discussed. They were planning their annual Palm Sunday - ACYOA Day Banquet at which time they were honoring their Pastor. The Seniors here have had their ups and downs, and are again trying to regroup. When we visited them 18 months ago, we re-organized the group and held elections. Elections were not held since, however the Chairman, Selma Alexanian, has worked hard in trying to keep the group together. Several excursions were held, and their service in the parish is quite good. One of their more successful events is hosting the parish "family night" twice a year. Selma was re-elected as Chapter Chairman.

Met with the Vr. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian, Pastor of the Haverhill Mass. Armenian Church, to discuss his revision of the book, "Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church." Due to several problems, he has been unable to complete the revision as soon as was planned. However, we expect more work on it shortly. Will meet again next month.

The youth situation in the Haverhill area is not too good. Last year there was a combined Junior/Senior Chapter in some form of operation, however it has severely dropped off.

II. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

Planned for April 8-10th in Detroit. The number of parishes sending teams will not approach last years 16, when the Tournament was held in New York City. Costs for transportation and other related costs have prevented many individuals, as well as actual teams, from making the trip and participating in the weekend-style tournament.

However, the usual number of teams when the Tourney is outside the New York area will participate, about 8. Social activities are also planned for Friday and Saturday evening, with a farewell brunch following Divine Liturgy on Sunday.

Another Central Council meeting will take place during this same weekend in Detroit. All members are expected to attend.

III. Armenian Studies Programs

"Educational Tour To Armenia" - Scheduled to depart N.Y.C. June 16 following the usual orientation held at the Diocese. The group will return July 14th. Group Leaders appointed by the Primate are the Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian and Mrs. Arline Dadekian. As of the end of March, 16 applications with deposits have been received. The maximum is 20. Deadline of April 1st extended to 10th.

"Journey to Armenia" - Scheduled for July 4-22. Some interest by many young people. No applications yet, deadline May 1st. Offered for those with less vacation time, and little interest in a structured trip.

"Jerusalem the Holy City" - Scheduled for 15 days in August. V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian has been appointed to lead the Group, no assistant has been named yet. A promotional campaign for this worthwhile trip is in the making.

IV. General Assembly and National Sports Weekend

Plans continue to be made for the largest Program of the ACYOA to be held in Toronto this year. A general update meeting is planned with the Executive Secretary in May.

V. Leadership Seminar

Annually held in conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly, this year in Palos Heights, Ill. The Seminar will feature a guest speaker with a general emphasis on organizational techniques and group management skills. Since this year's Assembly will take place in the Midwest region, it offers a good opportunity for the youth of that area to participate in this worthwhile Seminar. The Chairman of the Central Council is responsible for the arrangements.

VI. Youth Celebration with the Primate

The celebration of the Primate's 20 year anniversary as Primate in the New England Region will also include an evening with the young people. Scheduled for June 17th at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown, the evening program will include a discussion on the Armenian Church - Past-Present-Future - with the participation of young people in a panel discussion format. Organizing the program is the Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian and the Executive Secretary. All young people, 14 years of age and up, will be invited to participate in the festivities.

VII. Audio-Visual Programs

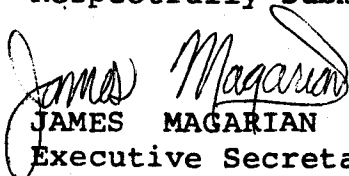
The Program "Symbolism in the Armenian Church" has been shown several times this year, and is a sign that resources such as these are a necessity.

The Program on Jerusalem is scheduled for completion this year, and work continues on it now. The Programs on Marriage and the Divine Liturgy continue to be researched and will enter production thereafter.

VIII. Mailing Listing

The revised ACYOA mailing list, consisting of over 1200 names (which will and must be increased), is presently on computer, with the printout on address labels the format for mass mailings. Presently the Executive Update is sent to all clergy and Chapter Chairman by first class mail, followed by bulk-rate mailing to all persons on the list. We are presently concentrating on increasing the number of persons on the list to include all young Armenians.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARIAN

Executive Secretary - ACYOA

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - April 1983

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

I. ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Hosted by the Detroit ACYOA Chapter, St. John Armenian Church, April 8,9,10. Participants included: Bayside men's and women's teams, Detroit men's and women's teams, and men's teams from Wynnewood, Chicago, Wisconsin, and Watertown:

Champions were Detroit women's team and Watertown men's team.

The Tournament was successful as a fair number of youth participated in the games and in the related social activities. However, transportation costs prohibited more teams and parishes from attending. (Compare last year in N.Y.C., where 16 men's and women's teams participated.)

Trophies were presented to championship team players, outstanding players from each team, most valuable players from men's and women's divisions, and rotating trophies to championship teams. Certificates were also given to outstanding players and teams.

Next year's Tournament will again take place in the New York City area, as it does every-other year, unless approved by the Primate.

II. ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM - Educational Tour to Armenia

All 23 possible places were filled this year within 3 days of the prescribed deadline, with 6 persons applying after the deadline (April 1st). This is the greatest response to the Armenia trip yet. Adding the two group leaders, Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian and Mrs. Arline Dadekian, makes the group number 25 in all - the maximum for bus transportation excursions and accommodations by Etchmiadzin. The dates for this program are June 16th through July 15th.



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The Group will meet at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral on June 16th for orientation, lunch, Primate's reception and group photos.

III. ACYOA Leadership Seminar

Will again take place this year at the site of the Diocesan Assembly and be coordinated by the ACYOA Central Council Chairman. Speaking on meetings and motivation will be Howard Hayward, Director of Counseling at Lewis University in Joliet, IL. All Armenian youth are invited to participate.

Following the speaker, the Council Chairman moderates discussion on ACYOA Programs and general problems of the Chapters.

IV. Primate's Jubilee - Youth Celebration - New England

In conjunction with the New England Jubilee celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Primacy of Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, a Youth Celebration is planned for Friday, June 17th at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown. Invited are all Armenian youth 14 years old and older.

The program consists of (I) Armenia past = slide and talk on present day Armenia (II) Armenia present and future = panel discussion on various topics of the day (III) Message of the Primate to Youth. Other activities celebrating with the Primate will also take place for the Primate this same weekend.

V. ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

A meeting was held of the Council and the Executive Secretary during the Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament in Detroit, April 9th. The agenda mainly dealt with the ongoing administrative work of the Council and updates on the various programs. Information was also given on the 1983 National Sports Weekend, as a representative of the host Chapter, Toronto, was present.

VI. MagMoney Project

It has been suggested by the Executive Secretary to discontinue this project due to a lack of commitment on the part of the ACYOA, as well as the Magazine distributor.

Thus far, over 700 dollars has been received for magazine orders. However, the processing has been unreasonably slow and many subscribers have been waiting too long to receive their magazines. Also, the amount of promotion by the ACYOA (individuals, chapters, etc.) has caused some disappointment on anticipated success from this easy and lucrative fund raising project. What appeared to be a good means of adding to our budget fell short due to an overall lack of involvement of ACYOA members. No loss of money, since no investment was made.

VII. Visitations & Meetings

Wisconsin ACYOA - parishes of Greenfield, South Milwaukee and Racine - April 22 - 24. Met with the Executive Committee of the Chapter and discussed programs, activities, problems and solutions. While there, attending the 5th annual Martyr's Day Run, sponsored by the ACYOA Chapter commemorating Armenian Martyr's Day. The community-wide event attracted over 500 participants and served to inform the public about the Armenian Genocide.

While there, met with Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian, who will lead the ACYOA Armenian Studies Program - Educational Tour to Armenia this summer. Details were discussed, as well as the many procedural items that go into the plans and execution of the program.

Attended and spoke at the Racine Parish Martyr's Day Commemoration Madagh, which was very well attended and included Congressman Les Aspen.

The situation with the Wisconsin ACYOA Senior Chapter is both good and bad. It is a very successful group who have sponsored many worthwhile projects, support the three parishes, sent representatives to the General Assembly and other ACYOA National and Regional events, and in general have created a good atmosphere for the young adults in the area. However, the relationship between the Chapter and the parishes is a little unclear. Other parishes (except Northern New Jersey, which also may be seen in this picture) have a one-to-one relationship with the Chapter. In fact, the chapter has a direct affiliation with the parish of the geographic jurisdiction. But in this case, the one chapter has a three-parish affiliation (New Jersey has four) and could be the cause of problems in the future. One of the pastors in Wisconsin has expressed some concern about this situation and would like to see a different setup.

Detroit ACYOA - St. John Armenian Church, Southfield, MI - April 8-9. While in Detroit for the Archbp's Basketball Tourney, a meeting was held with several members of the Detroit ACYOA Executive Committee. Presently a new "group" is becoming involved with the chapter that may serve to boost involvement and interest. The Chapter has been experiencing some difficulties in drawing members to meetings and some of its basic activities. The new recreation center is widely used by the parish for regular activities, however the ACYOA itself is having a difficult time in planning events there that will draw its members. It could just be that the Chapter is experiencing a usual "down" in its cycle. This occurs in all parishes from time to time and seem quite normal for ACYOA. The new Chairman, Garo Papazian, is somewhat energetic and willing to try new things that will perk-up the group. No doubt they will regroup in preparation for the National Sports Weekend in Toronto.

VIII. Youth Programming Review

After numerous discussion with the Executive Director of the Diocese, as well as meeting with the Primate, Diocesan Council ACYOA Senior Liaison, other youth oriented clergy and lay workers, the conclusion drawn in evaluating our present mode of "youth ministry" in our Diocese is that it is in desperate need of massive revision and re-institution.

To this end, a concerted effort has been made to initiate the very beginnings of revision and work on a viable means of learning the needs of our youth and young adults, and begin to meet these needs. Several persons have been contacted and asked to give input into this increasingly difficult area. An outline describing needs and possible alternatives has been drawn up. This will serve as a reference for future discussions.

An informal meeting has been arranged at the Diocesan Assembly where at preliminary discussion will take place and a date for a more formal meeting can be planned.

More on this as information and progress is made.

IX. News Releases

Since the beginning of the year, 16 news releases and photo news articles have been prepared and sent to the Armenian-English language newspapers. We have been fortunate to have almost 95% of our news releases appear in the news papers. With the regular printing of the BEMA, we can anticipate more coverage and better response to our news. Primary news and photos will be made available to the BEMA only. Regular news and announcements will continue to be sent to the news papers.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

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



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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 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

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S
COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - June 1983

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

I. Youth Ministry

The second official meeting of the Committee for Youth Ministry in the Diocese (3rd overall) was held at the Diocesan Center on June 22nd. Attending were Frank Stoneson, Elise Antreassian, Michael Zeytoonian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian and James Magarian, Moderator.

This meeting mainly dealt with preparing a statement of creation and purpose to be submitted to the Diocesan Council. Other business concerned various areas to be addressed by the group, researched, evaluated and considered for inclusion in the Youth Ministry Program. The next meeting will take place at the Diocese on July 21st. A professional from another denomination who deals with youth work and programs will be invited to address the committee. Various committee members have been given assignments and will report at the next meeting.

Notes on the committee meetings are available upon request.

II. Meetings and Visitations

Meeting held with the V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian concerning the review and rewrite of the booklet "Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church", produced by the ACYOA many years ago. The review is in its final stage. Next in line is consideration of layout, other material needed, costs for production, consideration of a benefactor(s) and approval by the Primate for official publication.

Visited with the Watertown ACYOA Chapter and attended the June Meeting. They are experiencing some of the usual problems of all chapters. There were a higher number of foreign born Armenians than ever before, which is a sign that the "old guard" of the Chapter is changing its previously



Central Council

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conservative and "exclusivistic" stance as regards membership. There were some members present who wish to see the Chapter revitalized and again be a vibrant and large group. This past year was a low ebb for the group. The enthusiasm of a few could mean a change for the better during this next year.

Attended the Worcester Basketball Tournament and Dance. Noted the poor organization of the Tournament, and some unnecessary incidents that occurred because of it. Will meet with the group and point these things out and offer suggestions and ideas for a better touney next year.

Met with Mark Kazanjian, former ACYOA Central Council Chairman, on his becoming more involved in the New England region. He indicated that he is interested in doing things as his time allows. Also spoke with Paul Pogharian, another former Council Chairman, about same. He indicated his willingness as well. Will meet with both and begin discussions on programs appropriate for the region.

Moderated discussion at the "Youth Celebration with the Primate" held on Friday, June 17th in Watertown, in conjunction with the New England observance of the Primate's 20th anniversary as the Diocesan Bishop. The panel discussion was made up of 5 young people, one junior age, 4 senior age ACYOA members. They spoke on varying subjects dealing with the Church and its focus on faith and heritage. The event was attended by about 100 young people, mainly junior age. Actually not a very good showing for the area.

Met with Rev. Father Mampre Kouzouian, Chairman of the Diocesan Council, regarding the cooperation needed with the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church in the ACYOA Armenian Studies Programs.

Met with Richard Abdallian, youth director at Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge, MA. He has organized a Senior Group in Cambridge which marks the first time a chapter has been organized there in a number of years. Ideas were exchanged and a future meeting and visitation will be set up.

III. Armenian Studies Programs

Only Program #1, Educational Tour to Armenia, was able to be executed this year.

Due to a number of complications, the participation of the Western Diocese was a question up to the last minute. This caused many unnecessary problems and loose ends that could have been avoided. The scenario about this situation is thus:

Last November they (Western Diocese) requested "as many places on the tour as they could fill", however our policy has always been to leave 5 open spots. In the past this has been more than enough for them.

They also mentioned the need for their input into the program, while in the past they have insisted that we make all the arrangements.

They then went ahead and tried to form their own tour group with their own young people. However, they failed to inform us of their intentions, and thus we left open 5 spots as usual.

In the mean time, we had an over abundance of applications. Since we received no applications from them, we filled all possible spots, as is the norm. In fact, we had to turn away 4 of our own young people because we filled our limit (23).

6 weeks after the deadline, they informed us that they have "5 or 6 young people who must go". We informed that all spaces have been filled, and that the addition of 5 more would be too much of a burden on our Group Leaders. However, they insisted and placed us in a very uncomfortable position. They informed us that the Vehapar granted their request to come to Etchmiadzin saying that there was additional space available for them. They were not willing to provide an additional group leader to help out. (Keep in mind that we had to turn away 4 of our own.)

Thus, we had to work extra to secure visas, same airline arrangements, hotels, etc., etc. Somehow they received their visas at the last possible moment before departure. The group totaled 27, plus our two Group Leaders. 27 is realistically unfair for two adults to supervise on an overseas tour. But somehow things seemed to come together during Orientation.

Orientation was held on Thursday, June 16th, from 12 noon to 4pm, conducted by the Executive Secretary. Luncheon was served at the Diocese, as well as a tour of the Cathedral Complex and an audience with the Primate.

Another problem involved the Group Leader, the Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian, who's request for a Soviet Visa was turned down. This meant securing another clergyman on a moments notice. We were fortunate that Deacon Onnig Terzian was available to assist the Group, and thus he became the co-leader with Mrs. Arline Dadekian.

We intend to secure group leaders who have United States Passports in the future. Visa problems will always occur depending on the political climate. However, foreign passports (Fr. Untzag's was Lebanese) always cause unnecessary complications, no matter when the requests are filed. This year we sent in all applications 4 weeks ahead of time, yet the only rejections were the foreign passports, including one girl from Watertown with a Syrian passport. We shall also inform anyone without a US Passport that they may not receive a visa.

A complete report will be available upon request upon its completion.

IV. ACYOA Central Council

The next meeting of the Council will take place the weekend of July 8,9,10 in Chelmsford. The Council will take on some of the routine business, but maily focus on preparing for the ACYOA General Assembly on August 31 thru September 2nd in Toronto.

V. MagMoney Project

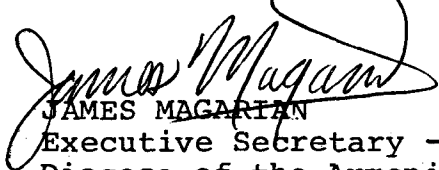
As per the request of the Executive Secretary, the Council is presently conducting research into the problems of this project, mainly the unprocessed magazine subscriptions. The intention is to find out who has not received their desired magazine, and either get a subscription for it, or return their money immediately. The Executive Secretary has also requested that the ACYOA abandon this project until such time as they are truly willing to work seriously on it.

VI. General Assembly and National Sports Weekend

Plans continue to take shape. Materials are now being prepared for the Assembly, and the details of the Sports Weekend are working out well. Again the expense of transportation costs prohibit many young people from attending. This, and some other reasons as well, leads one to thing that regionalization might be the next best thing. A future consideration.

The Toronto Chapter is working hard and hopes that all runs smoothly. They are very enthusiastic and realize the number of details involved.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

— PRIMATE'S
COPY —

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - July 1983

Executive Secretary to the ACYOA

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

I. Youth Ministry Committee

Meeting of Youth Ministry Committee at Diocese July 21st. Attending were Frank Stoneson, Nancy Basmajian, Elise Antreassian, Michael Zeytoonian, Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian, James Magarian. Guest speaker, Fr. James DiGiacomo, Jesuit Priest from Fordham Univ., addressed the group on current trends in youth ministry.

As per previous assignments to committee members, each presented information and materials as such. James Magarian provided background information on current programs of ACYOA and their status. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian presented information on Youth Ministry Training, and various courses and seminars available. Nancy Basmajian provided bibliography on youth ministry. Michael Zeytoonian and Frank Stoneson shared information gathered in meeting with youth and officials of the Antiochene Orthodox Church, discussing youth problems and possible formats for programs.

Next course of action for the committee is to plan a conference for all Diocesan clergy (pastors primarily) for the purposes of orientation to youth ministry approaches and new means of programming for youth. This will be discussed further at the Sept. meeting. Also, possible youth field workers will be contacted for their input and availability for training and taking on responsibility. James Magarian and Nancy Basmajian will meet with Frank Stoneson regarding Departmental structure and budgetary considerations. More information will be provided on training for youth workers. At the ACYOA General Assembly, Fr. Yeprem Kelegian will share with the young adults the progress and direction of the Committee.



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II. ACYOA Central Council

Meeting held over the weekend of July 8 through July 9 in Chelmsford. Agenda mainly dealt with preparation for the General Assembly and National Sports Weekend. Selection of Chapter "A" Award and Sam Nersessian Award, as well as discussion on proposed budget highlighted the meeting.

Some discussion took place on the overall organization and its points of function and dysfunction. Some Council members seemed to note that the administrative duties are becoming the goal, and the purpose of the group is losing ground.

Two of the four Council members will be ending their term in office, with a third contemplating resignation. At least three new members will be elected at the Assembly to be held in Toronto just prior to the Sports Weekend.

III. Other Meetings

Met with Frank Stoneson at the Diocese to discuss work and progress, as well as future considerations and new approaches to youth programming.

Met with the Primate to discuss details on upcoming Assembly and Weekend. Was informed that the Canadian Diocesan Assembly would take place during same Weekend in Toronto. Will make necessary arrangements and adjustments.

Met with Nancy Basmajian and arranged a meeting when she visits the Merrimack Valley Churches in August.

Met with Michael Zeytoonian and discussed articles and themes for upcoming issues of BEMA, as well as general news releases on youth.

Met with Fr. Yeprem Kelegian and the Vr. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian regarding new approaches and formats for youth programming, and ministry in the Church as a whole. Some new ideas were generated and will be considered in the future.

Met with photographer to discuss deal on reproducing slides for Audio-Visual materials and programs at a reduced rate.

Met with Haig-Aram Tossounian, Chairman of the Host Committee of this Year's Assembly and National Sports Weekend. Many aspects of the weekend were thoroughly discussed and details straightened out. Publicity has been seriously lacking due to some major and minor problems with arrangements in Toronto. At this time it appears that the Weekend should go off as scheduled and with the usual participation of about 400-600 young people. However, at this time in the evolution of this program, more young people should be coming to the weekend. The first ten years averaged about 300 young people. The last four years has attracted on

the average about 500. However, we haven't improved on our communications, publicity, direct mailings, mailing lists, etc., all of which would ensure at least 200 more participants for part of all of the activities of the weekend. Improvements will be made in the near future.

A major point of the meeting with Haig-Aram Tossounian was the Yearbook of the Weekend. The booklet moved from an ordinary "ad book" last year to a yearbook format with records and results from previous years sporting events, as well as information on the Church and Armenian Culture. Printing costs have caused some problems this year, as there was some interest in moving back toward the "ad" book format.

IV. Chapters

As the fiscal year of the ACYOA ends (June 30th) the usual letters and phone calls need to be made regarding year end reports, dues, etc., etc. Much time and effort being spent on administrative endeavors, with questionable results and reason.

Most chapters scramble to "get their act together" during these summer months simply to attend the Assembly and participate in sports at the Weekend.

At present, of the 17 active and operating chapters, we can expect participation at the Assembly from about 12-15. Of the semi-active chapters, of which there are 4, probably 2. It is estimated that there are about 30 parishes that could support an ACYOA Senior Chapter. Of these, 17 are active, 4 semi-active, 2 are newly organized, and 7 are unorganized and not functioning at present. We look forward to the 2 newly organized chapters, St. Catherines and Boston (Cambridge) participating this year. Thus, we can possibly expect between 15 and 20 chapters present for the Assembly. About the average, providing the costs don't prohibit their traveling to Toronto.

V. General Assembly

Much time and effort is given in preparation for the upcoming Assembly during July and August. Committee discussion guides, rules of procedure, agenda, mailing lists of delegates and Chapter Chairmen, as well as contacting young people and encouraging them to attend, or run for office.

A special educational program on Jerusalem from an Armenian perspective will be presented to the delegates, as well as a special committee session on religious vocations awareness.

VI. Armenian Studies Programs

The participants returned on July 15th from their trip to Armenia. Staff members Deacon Onnig Terzian and Mrs. Arline Dadekian both commented that the size of the group was much too much to handle, even with additional staff members. We usually limit the size to about 20 young people, however this year we experienced many difficulties with the participation of the Western Diocese, and thus had to accommodate them at the last minute, ballooning out group to 27. In the near future a letter will be sent to the Western Diocese explaining the format and method of their participation in this program. In addition, we are beginning now to secure group leaders for the 1984 programs and publicity thereof.

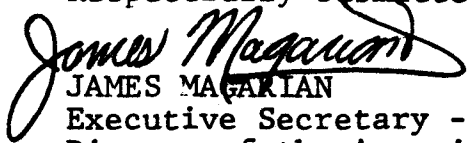
A experimental "reunion" of the past few years' participants is informally planned during the National Sports Weekend. If successful, and the participants show an interest, this may be expanded upon. An attempt was made a few years ago to begin an "alumni" group from the ASPs, however interest didn't carry it through.

VII. General

There are many, many areas of youth ministry and programming that are passed over or not considered due to budget, manpower, expertise, etc. However, one of the largest obstacles seems to be the administrative/bureaucracy that has been created via the ACYOA's years of evolution. Rules upon rules governing most everything, but little of which is considered or followed - except when it's important to the chapter, such as not participating in sports at the Sports Weekend.

At our present junction, it would appear that we should eliminate the many rules and procedures imposed upon the youth, and, give them every opportunity to participate and become involved without any restrictions, requirements, prerequisites, etc., etc. We're losing too many of our young people because they become "turned off" at the process they must follow, simply to participate in the young adult activities of their Church. Perhaps an approach of mainly programs and opportunity should be followed, instead of organizational procedures and prohibitions.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - August 1983

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

I. General Assembly/Sports Weekend

Final preparations and details were reviewed for both the Assembly and the Sports Weekend. The Assembly is to convene on Wednesday, August 31st, through Friday noon, September 2nd. Immediately following the close of the Assembly begins the Sports Weekend until Monday, September 5th. Hotel facilities have been secured at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel in Scarborough, ONT (just outside of Toronto proper), while the athletics will take place at the Leacock Collegiate Institute 10 minutes from the Hotel.

At this time it seems that more publicity and personal contact between the Host Committee and the various chapters is necessary, both for general and athletic registration.

The ACYOA Central Council has prepared a delegate packet containing the agenda, itinerary, Council Report, and other necessary items for the Assembly. This was mailed August 5th to all clergy, chapters and registered delegates. Also included is the "delegate credential card" which is to be filled out and signed by the pastor and chapter chairman of the delegate. Those without the properly completed cards will be ineligible to participate directly in the Assembly.

The Nominating and Auditing Committees have been reminded several times of their duties, neither of which are prepared completely to report to the Assembly. Some extra effort during the Assembly will be necessary to assist them in their responsibilities.

The Host Committee has assured us that all the details have been covered. However, a meeting will take place just prior to the Weekend to review the major areas and see to it that everyone comes through.

Several conversations have been made with prospective ACYOA Central Council members. Three new members will be elected during the Assembly.



Central Council

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II. Audio-Visual Programs

As part of the Educational side of the General Assembly, the first draft of the in progress slide-tape program entitled, "Jerusalem: An Armenian Perspective", will be shown. Much time and effort has been given in slide selection and editing, as well as research on script and background information. The program will most probably be divided into two or three parts when final production is made. We have been fortunate to use a local sound studio of the University of Lowell Radio Station for the taping of music and narration. The final version of the program(s) will be prepared by January 1984.

The slides of the Divine Liturgy will soon be prepared in program form as script and research begins soon.

III. Meetings

Met with V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian to review his final edited version of Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church. We shall proceed as time and money allow in the reprinting of this valuable booklet.

Met with Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian to review his presentation for the General Assembly. Fr. Yeprem will brief the Assembly on the progress and direction of the Committee for Youth Ministry in the Diocese.

Met with Robert Borzakian and Michael Yapchaian, both former ACYOA Central Council members, regarding their progress on the ACYOA Research and Development Committee. They are two of 6 members who are reviewing the programs of the ACYOA and making recommendations to the Assembly.

Met with Nancy Basmajian regarding the budget and departmental structure for the 1984 Diocesan year.

Met again with Nancy Basmajian and Frank Stoneson to review needs and realistic goals for the youth department in terms of budget and positions.

Attended the post-high school session of the St. Nersess Summer Studies Conferences at the Armenian Seminary in New Rochelle. Spoke with Dcn. Michael and Dean Aivazian regarding programs and youth. Addressed the participants and gained some significant insights into their needs and expectations of the Church. This information will be useful regarding Youth Ministry and the Diocesan programs for youth in general.

Met with Frank Stoneson regarding on going activities and programs.

Met with Primate regarding upcoming Assembly and Weekend, as well as other details. The Primate was briefed concerning proposals and other agenda items.

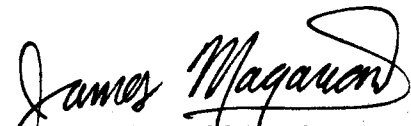
IV. Armenian Studies Programs Reunion

Several past and immediate past participants in the Armenian Studies Programs have indicated that they would like to attend a reunion of sorts. This idea has been discussed at ACYOA Central Council meetings, however no clear cut format was ever determined.

This year, an informal reunion will take place at the Sports Weekend. Although this is more a matter of convenience, a more formal and deliberate plan for reunions and post trip program is intended.

A survey shall be sent to all past participants (those with known addresses) asking them to indicate their desire to participate in such a reunion program. Since they are a valuable resource, they may have some positive input and provide some local leadership for the chapters. Older past participants may provide other resources and even a financial avenue for future programs.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARIAN

Executive Secretary - ACYOA

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - September 1983

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

I. General Assembly - 1983

Convened in Toronto at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel on Wednesday, August 31st through Friday September 2nd. The Primate presided over the proceedings. The Executive Secretary advised the delegates on procedures and proper order, as well as kept the purpose of ACYOA in focus. Arda Nazerian (Bayside) chaired the meetings.

Election results: Central Council - Arda Nazerian (Bayside) - Chairman; Melanie Barsamian (Worcester) - Vice Chairman; Vaughan Totovian (Watertown) - Treasurer; George Jevarjian (Detroit) - Recording Secretary, and Sona Palvetzian (Toronto) - Corresponding Secretary.

Proposals and Constitutional Amendments approved:

(1) Article 11, Section 4 - filling a vacancy on ACYOA Central Council, Nominating and Auditing Committees: In case of a vacancy on the ACYOA Central Council, the first alternate shall be invited to fill the position; if the first alternate is unavailable, the second alternate shall be invited. Should no alternates be available, the Council shall select an ACYOA member in good standing to fill the vacancy with the same rights and privileges. The member shall serve until the next General Assembly.

(2) Proposals: That religious programs be included in Sports Weekend itinerary as planned activities for those interested.

(3) That the pledge of the ACYOA change the wording "faithful son" to "faithful member".

(4) That the Mission Program be reinstated with the assistance of the St. Nersess Seminary.

(5) That additional activities for non-athletes be included in the



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Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament, emphasizing the Organization and stimulating social interaction.

(6) That former participants in the ACYOA Armenian Studies Programs be invited to participate in organized reunions, and that a presentation on the trips be made at the Assembly each year.

(7) That the ACYOA investigate the possibility of establishing an academic scholarship fund.

(8) That the ACYOA plan a membership campaign, coordinated by the ACYOA Central Council.

(9) That the Sports Weekend Rules be changed from mandatory "complete" package plans, to a modified, less expensive plan, thereby encouraging more youth to participate.

(10) That the ACYOA Research and Development Committee assist the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee where and when possible, with the approval of the Primate.

(11) That the Palos Heights ACYOA Chapter of Ss. Joachim and Anna Armenian Church host the 1984 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend.

NOTE: For exact wording of amendments and proposals, see the complete text of the Minutes of the 1983 General Assembly. Additional details on the Assembly itself may also be found there.

The Assembly was conducted in an orderly fashion. Although some of the details were not attended to by the hosts (i.e. typewriters for committee sessions reports) the over all operation was fairly good.

Attending the sessions were 7 clergymen, 50 delegates representing 17 ACYOA Chapters - which is about the average for the last 4 years.

II. National Sports Weekend

Approximately 350 participants attended the various social and athletic activities over the Labor Day Holiday weekend of the Annual Sports Weekend of the ACYOA hosted this year by the Toronto ACYOA Chapter. The Host Committee, chaired by Haig-Aram Tossounian, worked hard to cover the many aspects of the weekend, all of which ran fairly smooth. Additional security was instituted this year in the hopes of avoiding any extra problems with young people and their "good times".

The Ramada Renaissance Hotel was the center of activities for dances and banquets, while the Leacock Collegiate Instituted housed the athletic competitions. Over 30 different competitions were held for the 20 ACYOA chapters participating.

Over all winners were again the athletes from the Detroit ACYOA Chapter (4th year in a row) with second place taken by a strong group

from Montreal. Montreal was participating in only their second Sports Weekend since being reorganized, and they also won the Chapter and Individual Sportsmanship Awards.

The basic Weekend itinerary consisted of Friday welcoming dance, Saturday competitions, Saturday evening dinner-dance, Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, Sunday afternoon final competitions, Sunday evening Awards dinner-dance, and Monday farewell picnic. Bus transportation handled the bulk of the youth, which consisted of transportation to all activities and events.

Naturally there were some weak areas of the operation, but these were not major, and can be rectified for next year. Each year progress is being made in the over all preparation and execution of the Weekend. Although one weak link of note this year was the publicity. Much more detailed information was needed. Problems with the Postal Service in Canada, and limited understanding on the part of Host Committee members contributed. However, since past Sports Weekends have enjoyed much success and good publicity, many young people look forward to the Weekend, even without the advanced publicity. It only proves that we could attract even more youth.

Plans to make improvements for 1984 in Palos Heights are already in the making. A meeting with the 1984 Host Committee and the Executive Secretary is planned for Early December.

III. Youth Ministry Committee

Committee members met at the Diocese on September 15th to share research and information received according to assignments. Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian had given a short progress update to the ACYOA General Assembly delegates and was well received. It seems that the youth themselves are looking for a new avenue for youth programming.

The Committee decided to prepare an orientation session for Clergy and Lay community leaders in the very near future. The orientation would consist of an explanation of youth ministry and how the Diocese intends to carry out the programs, as well as asking the attendees to offer their ideas and input into the developing program. The Clergy and Lay sessions would be held separately, however, and a second session would be held at a later date briefing the group (clergy and lay combined) on the master plan and how the local leaders can help make it work.

The Committee members were each given assignments regarding an over all outline for the orientation sessions, and will report at the next meeting.

Considerable discussion was given to training of potential youth workers, as well as committee members. A number of resources were mentioned as possible training seminars and conferences on Church youth work. Among them was the "Northeast Center for Youth Ministry" located in Paterson, N.J. This non-demoninational group will be

visited by members of the Committee, namely Nancy Basmajian, James Magarian and Frank Stoneson, to see what services they may provide.

Immediate work for the Committee consists of establishing a philosophy and direction, developing the orientation content, and establishing a list of potential trainees to attend the seminars and conferences on youth ministry.

The next meeting shall take place at the Diocese on October 20th.

IV. Meetings

Met with new ACYOA Central Council Chairman, Arda Nazerian, to discuss October meeting, and the Council operations and procedures in general. She is very enthusiastic and energetic, and might possibly produce more than any of her predecessors.

Met with Nancy Basmajian for general exchange on youth work, as well as discussion on Youth Ministry Committee.

Met with Frank Stoneson regarding general procedures and needs.

Met with Primate regarding results of ACYOA General Assembly, as well as dates for ACYOA Central Council meetings, and the 1984 Archbishop T.M. Basketball Tournament.

Established visitation to Richmond and Washington for next Month.

V. General

Prepared packets for ACYOA Central Council members consisting of Diocesan Parish Directory, parish contacts and Chapter Chairmen, Calendar for ACYOA year, Chapter reminder sheets, as well as an address and telephone listing of the Council members themselves with respective regional assignments (see attached).

An outline of ACYOA Central Council Operations and Procedures, prepared 2 years ago, is presently being revised to enable the Council members to use their time to the best benefit of the ACYOA. The new outline will be prepared for the Council meeting in October.

On-going....."Executive Update" preparation and distribution, Audio-Visual Educational Programs, "Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church" - revise and reprint, expanding computerized master listing of youth of the Diocese, writing articles and news releases for BEMA and Armenian general newspapers.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARIAN

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - October 1983

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

I. ACYOA Central Council

The first meeting of the 1983-84 ACYOA Central Council was held over the weekend of October 14, 15 & 16 at Ss. Vartanantz Armenian Church in Chelmsford, Mass. All Council members were present for the meeting.

It was intended to have an earlier than usual meeting of the Council this year to orientate the new members (3) as well as motivate the remaining members as to the duties and responsibilities of the Council. The major emphasis this year is "contact" with parishes - with and without active chapters - as well as with youth in general. Discussion focused on preparations for parish visitations, maintaining contact via telephone and letters, as well as distribution of ACYOA materials and the "Executive Update" newsletter.

The Council members seem to be somewhat energetic, responsive to the needs of the youth, as well as willing to give the necessary time to fulfill their responsibilities. This last component has been missing on the part of the majority of Council members in the past, and thus the effectiveness of the Council at the national level has been hurt. However, it is early in the year, and some of the enthusiasm left over from the General Assembly and National Sports Weekend is still present.

The logo for the 1984 National Sports Weekend, which will be held in Palos Heights, IL, was approved. Also decided at the meeting was the formal institution of membership card discounts program at national and regional ACYOA events.

The next meeting of the Council will take place in December.

II. Visitations

The Washington, DC parish of St. Mary Armenian Church was visited this



Central Council

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

month. Although various attempts have been made to organize the young adults in Washington, most formats have failed for many reasons. It was a pleasant surprise to meet with 15 young people following Church services on a Sunday. A general discussion on needs and desires revealed a genuine sincere attitude on the part of the young adults to remain part of the Church and participate, in some way, in the life of the parish. They decided to begin a group with a blend of activities ranging from socials to religious education. The first event, scheduled for a week later, was a "pot luck" dinner at one of the member's home. Close contact will be kept with the group with the intention of assisting where and when possible. Rev. Fr. Vertanes Kaladjian, Pastor, was present for part of the meeting, and stated he would support and assist the group in their efforts. In speaking with some of the parish council members there, they too pledged their support and are willing to assist.

III. Youth Ministry Committee

Visited the Northeast Center for Youth Ministry in Patterson, N.J. with Nancy Basmajian and Frank Stoneson. Met with Director there in a two hour session discussing the services of the Center and how they might assist the Diocese in establishing a serious youth ministry program. The meeting was good and we were impressed with the offerings of the Center, both in terms of consultative and training services.

The Youth Ministry Committee itself met during October, and invited the Director of the Northeast Center to meet with the Committee and answer questions on the latests strategies and approaches being used in other denominations.

The Committee meeting focused on the content outline for the regional orientation sessions to be held in the regions of the Diocese with clergy and non-clergy to acquaint them with youth ministry and the programs and operations of the Department of Youth Ministry which is to begin its work sometime in 1984.

The Committee meetings have thus far been a good vehicle through which we have drawn on experience and actual circumstance to initiate a new means of bringing the young people of the Church into the life of the parish and teach them about their Church and culture.

IV. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

The annual A.T.M. Basketball Tournament will be held in the New York City area (as it is every other year) and hosted by the Bayside ACYOA Chapter of the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs. A meeting was held at the Church with Committee members and the Parish Council Liason to discuss the various details and needs of the Tournament.

The Committee has done a great deal of "homework" in securing hotel and transportation services, as well as looking into gymnasium facilities which always seems to cause problems. The last time the Tournament was held in New York City, 16 men's and women's teams participated and it is expected to equal that number again, if not attract a few more.

The Tournament Weekend will be held March 2-4 and include: Friday evening welcoming mixer at the Church, Saturday games all day, Saturday evening awards banquet and dance at the hotel (Marriott-LaGuardia) and Sunday Divine Liturgy at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, after which a tour of the Cathedral complex, a reception with the Primate and a luncheon will be held. Promotion and publicity on this event will begin soon as final details are taken care of, and the costs and fees are determined.

V. National Sports Weekend

According to unofficial reports, the Weekend hosted by the Toronto Chapter was financially successful but only to a small extent - a profit of about \$4,000 was realized. A full administrative and financial report is expected by early November. There has been no reported problems, as this year's Weekend went rather smoothly.

VI. General Assembly

The records of the Assembly, as well as the reports of committees and the Minutes have yet to be filed with the Executive Secretary. Due to some problems, the Minutes themselves will be handled by the Executive Secretary to ensure they are prepared within a reasonable amount of time. (The minutes are due to be sent to all parishes and chapters within 90 days of the Assembly.) Inability on the part of would-be responsible members of the ACYOA causes many problems in areas of administration and follow-through. It appears that the young people are willing to take on positions and assignments, but are soon distracted and not willing to finish it off. But the work will be done.

VII. Meetings this Month

Central Council regular meeting.

Nancy Basmajian - to discuss youth ministry concerns and perspectives, as well as arrangements for meetings and visit to Northeast Center in N.J.

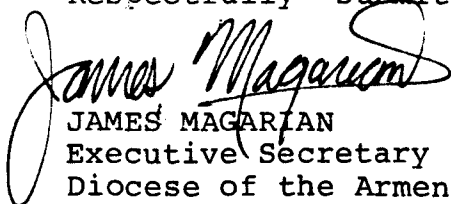
Youth Ministry Committee regular meeting.

Host Committee for the Archbishop's Tournament.

Chairman of ACYOA Central Council - Arda Nazerian. To discuss areas of responsibility and proper procedures, as well as the focus for the next few months.

V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Minassian - to discuss the possibility of sponsoring a music oriented weekend centering on Armenian religious and folk music.

Respectfully submitted,



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

ACYOA

Central
Council

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America
Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave., N.Y.C., N.Y. 10016 [212-686-0710]

1983 - 1984 ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

OFFICERS

Chairman

ARDA NAZERIAN
186-39 Midland Parkway
Jamaica Estates, NY 11432
212-454-8370

Vice Chairman

MELANIE BARSAMIAN
106 West Adams Street
Somerville, MA 02144
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Treasurer

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GEORGE JEVARJIAN
36602 Grove
Livonia, MI 48154
313-464-8444

Corresponding Secretary

SONA PALVETZIAN
45 Dunfield #1402
Toronto, ONT M1S 2H4
416-486-7165

REGIONAL PARISH ASSIGNMENTS

Worcester, MA

[Ensures that visitations and contact are maintained with all parishes and makes visits periodically.]

Mid-Atlantic

N. Westchester, NY
Westchester, NY
Bayside, NY
Woodside, NY
Manhattan, NY
Union City, NJ
Fair Lawn, NJ
Tenafly, NJ
Livingston, NJ

Wynnewood, PA
Cheltenham, PA
Washington, DC
Richmond, VA
Atlanta, GA
Miami, FL
South Florida
Watertown, MA
Elberon, NJ

New England

Cambridge, MA
Chelmsford, MA
Haverhill, MA
Lawrence, MA
Springfield, MA

Hartford, CT
New Britain, CT
Trumbull, CT
Watervliet, NY
Providence, RI

Midwest-south

Chicago, IL
Palos Heights, IL
Evanston, IL
Belleville, IL
Waukegan, IL
Toronto, ONT (Trinity)

Racine, WI
Greenfield, WI
S. Milwaukee, WI
Cleveland, OH
Houston, TX
Dallas, TX

Midwest-north

Binghamton, NY
Niagra Falls, NY
Rochester, NY
Syracuse, NY
Detroit, MI

Hamilton, ONT
St. Catherines, ONT
Ottawa, ONT
Toronto, ONT (Varaka)
Montreal, QUE
Vancouver, BC

JAMES MAGARIAN
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Tyngsborough, MA 01879

617-256-7234 - days
617-649-6875 - evenings
before 8pm

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S
COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - November 1983

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

I. Youth Ministry Committee

The sixth meeting of the Youth Ministry Committee met November 17th at the Diocese. Also attending was Mr. John Roberto of the Northeast Center for Youth Ministry who participated in our discussions. He and his resources will be used to expand the Youth Ministry concept and assist in developing in over all program for the youth of the Armenian Church. A meeting between Mr. Roberto, Nancy Basmajian, Frank Stoneson and James Magarian will take place in December to decide a strategy for the next step of our work.

The meeting focused on different developmental approaches to Youth Ministry and the various levels of training youth workers on local and regional levels. A special weekend seminar for youth worker candidates will take place next March or April. In addition, a presentation on Youth Ministry will be developed for the regions of the Diocese, as well as for the May Diocesan Assembly.

The Committee decided that it would suspend regular meetings, since the purpose of the Committee had been fulfilled. Committee members stated that the Department of Youth Ministry, to be initiated in January, should develop the ideas and direction suggested by the Committee. A periodic advisory meeting may be scheduled for next year.

II. ACYOA General Assembly

The records and minutes of the 1983 ACYOA Assembly have been worked on and prepared. It should be noted that the minutes and records of the Assembly were very poorly kept, and much time was spent in preparing the minutes in a timely manner (i lieu of anyone else). They will be distributed to the parishes and chapters in early December.



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A questionnaire shall be sent to all recent and past participants of ACYOA Assemblies requesting their input and comments to improve the operations and procedures of the national Armenian youth gathering. Many young people have stated that the program should be changed and improved, with reference to the amount of time and money spent in meetings. The information will be used to make such improvements and design new programs.

III. Armenian Studies Programs

Preliminary plans have been made for the 1984 Armenian Studies Programs. A letter was sent to the Western Diocese regarding applications and deadlines. It is hoped that open communications and full explanations will avoid the problems encountered last year with last minute applications.

IV. National Sports Weekend

Toronto Chapter has yet to file their report on the 1983 Weekend, nor forward 50% of the profit to the ACYOA Central Council. They have stated some problems in committee members giving their individual reports, but have also stated that it should be ready by early December.

Plans are already underway for the 1984 Weekend, to be hosted by Palos Heights, IL. A meeting between the Host Committee and the Executive Secretary will take place in December, reviewing the basic itinerary for the Assembly and Sports Weekend, as well as the needs of the Weekend and of the Host Committee itself. The second part of the two-part meeting will involve the athletic competition and means of improving this annual problem. We need to make some serious improvements, as athletes are many times "turned off" due to poor organization and officiating.

The members of the Palos Heights Chapter are very enthusiastic and dedicated young men and women. We can expect a well organized and executed Weekend, with improvements over last year.

V. General

Prepared for review by the Primate an official "Installation Service" for officers of ACYOA Chapters.

Reviewed initial re-draft of "Prayers and Sacraments of the Armenian Church" to be reprinted in the near future.

Initiated a committee to organize inter-chapter athletics in New England.

Met with Frank Stoneson and Primate to review dates and program agenda.

Sent mailing to all parishes and chapters with address listings of ACYOA Central Council, Chapter Chairmen and Parish Contacts. Also sent out November issue of the "Executive Update" to all Chapters.

The "Update" is sent first class to all parishes and chapters, and bulk rate by the ACYOA Central Council to all names on the national youth listing.

A letter was sent to all parishes indicating the availability of the Executive Secretary in planning youth programs on the local level.

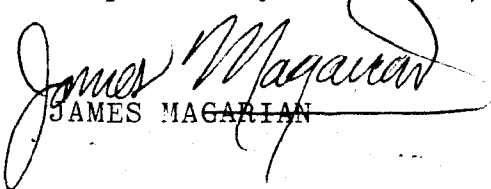
The New England Region will have a regional retreat in January. Headed by Fr. Yeprem Kelegian, the retreat is limited to 20 young people and will be the first in over a year for the Senior age ACYOA.

Plans continue to develop for the 1984 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament, hosted this year by the Bayside ACYOA Chapter. The date for the Tournament is March 2-4.

Because of the uncertainty of Winter weather, visitations for the season are being planned for the New England region only. In this way, cancellation of travel and meetings is simply accomplished and rescheduled due to the close proximity of the parishes. This type of scheduling for the Winter months has worked out quite well in the past.

Work continues on the Master Youth Listing, which is now on computer courtesy of Mike and Susan Mousigian of Dearborn, MI. We are now trying to establish the listing according to birth dates, adding young people who are of age and deleting after 30 years of age. In addition, all parishes and chapters are being urged to update their lists and add to them whenever possible.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARIAN

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S
COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - December 1983

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

I. 1984 National Sports Weekend - Palos Heights, IL

Preparations for the 1984 National Sports Weekend have already begun. The event will be hosted by the Palos Heights ACYOA Chapter of Ss. Joachim and Anna Armenian Church on August 31st through September 5th.

A meeting and visitation to the parish took place December 2-3. Chairing the host committee is Kevin Giragosian. The two part meeting included a general overview of the weekend itinerary, as well as specifics on each area to be covered. A separate session on the athletic competitions was held as well.

The committee is well organized and aware of their responsibility.

II. 1983 National Sports Weekend - Toronto, Ontario

Efforts have been made to secure the final report of the host committee, but as of the end of December, no report has been filed.

Sona Palvetzian, recently elected to the ACYOA Central Council, from Toronto, has been directed to investigate the delay. She explained that there has been some procrastination, and that all the information on the weekend is in need of organization to be placed in report form.

III. Archbishop's Tournament - Bayside, N.Y.

The Archbishop's Basketball Tournament will be hosted by the Bayside ACYOA Chapter of the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyr's. A full weekend itinerary is scheduled: Friday evening welcoming reception at the Church; Basketball games all day on Saturday; Awards banquet and dance at the Marriott-LaGuardia hotel, which will also serve as



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the center for accommodations; Sunday Divine Liturgy at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, with a luncheon and reception with the Primate.

The host committee is making a very good effort in preparing for the Tournament. They shall also be soliciting ads for a booklet, as part of the fund raising for the tournament. In this way, we are able to keep the costs of the weekend to a minimum for the participants. At the present time, the weekend package, excluding accommodations, is 40 dollars, and includes all transportation, meals, dances, and preparation. There will be an additional fee for the teams to cover gymnasium and referee expenses.

IV. ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

The Council met on December 16-17 and reviewed their progress thus far. This particular group is making a real effort to reach all the parishes of the Diocese with ACYOA news and programs, as well as support existing chapters and create new ones. Although their time is limited (and this group is willing to admit it) they are making a real effort.

The Executive Secretary met with Arda Nazerian, Council Chairman, a week before the meeting to review the agenda and discuss progress. In addition, the administrative work was discussed and some of the weak points stressed. She is a very energetic young lady and willing to put in the necessary time and effort to follow through.

The Council meeting took place in Watertown, MA, where the Primate was making a Pastoral Visit. The Primate met with the Council and discussed some of the programs, as well as the areas that need to be stressed.

Some of the general discussion included:

- Regional ACYOA Conference in Detroit (November).
- Mailing of the Executive Update to all youth on National list.
- Preparing a yearly calendar to be distributed to all chapters.
- January retreat for the New England area.
- Regional sports days and tournaments.
- Parish situations regarding ACYOA chapters and requirements.

(For detailed information on Council meetings, consult the minutes.)

The Council will meet again in February.

V. Youth Ministry

A meeting was held in December at the Diocese between Frank Stoneson, Nancy Basmajian and James Magarian to discuss the next steps for the Youth Ministry Department. In addition, a meeting would be taking place later in the day with John Roberto, Director of the Northeast Center for Youth Ministry.

The meeting with Mr. Roberto outlined several strategies we may use in the months and years ahead. One specific that was finalized was the youth workers workshop, scheduled for late March. Invited to participate will be all pastors, ACYOA senior chairmen, ACYOA Central Council members, Church School Superintendents, selected individuals who have demonstrated their interest and abilities in youth ministry as well as anyone sincerely interested. The weekend will take place at a selected Retreat center in the Mass.-Conn. area, since the majority of interested persons thus far are from the New England and N.Y.-N.J. areas. (St. Nersess Seminary was not available.)

In addition, an "Interim" Program was discussed, wherein interested youth workers would participate in a two year program beginning with an eight week training session in the summer, work in a parish or cluster parishes from Sept.-June, with a stipend, and receive supervision and on-going training. The two year program is designed for those who wish a serious approach to youth ministry and are willing to give their time in preparing for such vocations.

Also discussed was the content of presentations to the scheduled regional parish meetings in New York-New Jersey and New England.

Letters will be sent out to all parishes and interested individuals in January regarding the Workshops and the Interim Program.

VI. Armenian Studies Programs

Preparations have begun for the Programs next summer. Consideration is being made concerning a trip to the Holy Land, as to cancel the program for this year.

The tentative dates for the "Educational Tour to Armenia" is June 15 through July 17th. "Journey to Armenia" is scheduled for July 1-22. A trip to the Holy Land would be in August.

Promotional materials and news releases are prepared and will be sent out during the early part of January.

Group Leaders for the trips have been discussed with the Primate, and selections will be made soon. It is important that the leaders consist of a priest and mature woman to maintain a proper balance for the group.

VII. General

Preparations for records and permanent files for 1983 have begun. All unnecessary materials are discarded.

The January Executive Update was prepared and sent out in December. All parishes and chapters receive the newsletter first-class, with the general mailing list (about 1500 names) receiving it bulk rate.

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - January 1984

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

I. 1983 National Sports Weekend - Toronto, Ontario

The Final Report of the Host Chapter of the 1983 National Sports Weekend was received according to the specified outline. Also, the 50% profit sharing check was sent to the Treasurer of the ACYOA Central Council for deposit in the ACYOA National Treasury.

The Report covered the many aspects of the Weekend, including suggestions for next year's event. A copy was forwarded to the Host Chapter of the 1984 Weekend, Palos Heights, IL.

II. 1984 National Sports Weekend - Palos Heights, IL

Two mailings have been sent to the youth of the Diocese regarding the 1984 National Sports Weekend to be hosted by the Palos Heights ACYOA Chapter. The first mailing consisted of a flyer announcing the Weekend, and the second elaborated with details and information on the Annual Yearbook of the Weekend. Another mailer is scheduled for February.

Last year, there were not enough mailings to the young people promoting the Weekend and covering the many attracting aspects. We are trying to make up a standard procedure for all Hosting Chapters to follow in the future.

In speaking with the Host Committee Chairman, Kevin Giragosian, it appears that everything is going well and that all the particulars are covered thus far. At this point, the hotel and athletics facilities have been secured.



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III. Archbishop's Tournament - Bayside, N.Y.

Scheduled for March 2-4, lodging has been secured at the Marriott-LaGuardia Hotel, with the gymnasium facilities of a nearby High School to be used for the Basketball Games. Chairman of the Host Committee from the Bayside ACYOA Chapter is Diane Kapikian.

Thus far, 8 men's teams and 2 women's teams have registered. The Weekend will begin on Friday evening with a welcoming party at the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs. Saturday will feature the games throughout the day. In the evening, an Awards Banquet and Dance will take place at the Hotel, with the Dance open to the public. Sunday morning, buses will transport the weekend participants to St. Vartan Cathedral for Divine Liturgy, followed by a luncheon in conjunction with the DRE Poon Paregentan Festival.

The Host Committee has worked hard in planning for the Weekend Tournament, combining athletics, socials and worship into the package plan, which is set at \$49.00 per person, all inclusive.

IV. ACYOA Central Council

Visitations made by Council members this month included Montreal, QUE Wynnewood, PA, Cheltenham, PA, and Washington, DC. These meetings co-incided with chapter meetings and promoted the ongoing Regional and National ACYOA Programs.

The Council has also been working on a "calendar" poster for the Chapters highlighting the activities of the ACYOA throughout the year, as well as indicating Feast Days of the Church. The first draft to be used this year is less than satisfactory, however, improvements will be made for the future.

A Council meeting is scheduled for February 9-11 at the Diocesan Center in New York City.

V. Youth Ministry

Arrangements were finalized for the Workshop and Seminar on Church Youth Ministry scheduled for March 23-25th at Grotonwoods Camp and Conference Center, Groton, Mass. After an exhaustive search for a suitable site at a reasonable price, this location was chosen due to the large number of prospective participants from the New England area.

A meeting was held this month with Nancy Basmajian, and with Mr. Mesrob Kermian to discuss some of the particulars in terms of promotion, publicity and finances. Letters, flyers, and briefs will be sent in February to all Parishes, Church School Superintendents, ACYOA Advisors, ACYOA Senior Chapter Chairmen, ACYOA Central Council Members, as well as Parish Council Liaisons and Parish Youth Directors.

Mr. John Róberto of the Northeast Center for Youth Ministry will lead the Seminar and make presentations during the four scheduled sessions. The sessions are designed to conclude Saturday evening, allowing clergymen to return to the home parishes for Sunday morning Services.

Another aspect of the Youth Ministry Project is the philosophy and goals of the "department". One suggestion has been to utilize the resources of the Northeast Center for Youth Ministry in working on a philosophy and goals statement, something that they are experts in since they work with many dioceses on similar projects. This will be taken up in the Spring.

The "Interim" Program is also taking shape. This two-year commitment for interested people is a comprehensive and complete training course wherein training and practical experience are combined in the parish setting. After the March Seminar, more time will be devoted for this.

VI. Armenian Studies Programs

More information and promotional materials were sent out this month concerning the Armenian Studies Programs for the summer of 1984. To date, over 25 requests for information and application forms have been received, far ahead of last year at this time. News releases have also been sent to the Armenian newspapers.

A letter from the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church was received. It states their need for additional information, as well as their desire to cooperate this year. Last year, due to many reasons, the participation of the Western Diocese caused many unnecessary problems, both during the planning and preparation period, as well as during the trip itself for the Group Leaders.

As usual, a letter was sent to the Western Diocese in December indicating that we would again reserve 5 places for them of our total maximum number of 20. However, nowhere in their letter did they confirm that they understood this. Moreover, they implied that they would try to promote the programs to allow many participants. (Copies of the letter were sent to the proper authorities.)

Whether or not we have problems, the trips will go as scheduled and the experience of "Armenia" will be had by the young adults of the Diocese. Orientation for Program #1, "Educational Tour to Armenia" will take place at the Diocese on June 15th. Departure will be that evening.

VII. General

Retreat for young adults was held in the New England region on January 13-14, and was led by Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian. About 20 people attended.

Two visitations were made to the Holy Cross Armenian Church in Lawrence, Mass. An initial visit to discuss a deteriorating situation

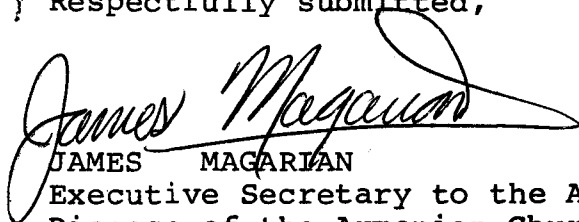
as regards an active Chapter just a year ago. The second visit a week later was with a larger group and centered on a course of action for the next couple of months. Elections were postponed until the end of the fiscal year (June), even though the Chairman resigned.

Meeting with Mesrob Kermian, at Diocese about Youth Ministry, et al.
Meeting with Nancy Basmajian, at Diocese about programming and Youth Ministry.

Special meeting with former ACYOA Central Council members Mark Kazanjian, Gary Hovhanessian, and Paul Pogharian regarding the formation of a recreation program for the New England area Armenian young adults. The initial meeting was held in Worcester and another is planned in February. The idea behind this program is to bring together the young adults of the parishes for organized recreation. Another program for cultural/religious/educational endeavors is planned on the regional level. Other regions will be developed as opportunities arise.

Preparations have begun for the Leadership Seminar, to be held in conjunction with the Annual Diocesan Assembly in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. A guest speaker will address Chapter Chairmen and other interested young adults on organizing strategies, techniques and methodologies.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - February 1984

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

I. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

Final details and arrangements have been made for the Annual Basketball Tournament for the parishes of the Diocese. The Tournament will be hosted by the Bayside ACYOA Chapter of the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, March 2-4, 1984.

The basic Weekend itinerary consists of:

- | | | |
|----------|---|--|
| Friday | - | Registration - hotel (Marriott-LaGuardia)
Welcoming "Music & Mezzeh - Church Hall |
| Saturday | - | Tournament games - St. John's Prep School
Awards Dinner-Dance - hotel |
| Sunday | - | Divine Liturgy, Luncheon, Poon Paregentan
all at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral |

A package plan has been made and includes:

Friday evening Music & Mezzeh - all food and beverages included for the evening, as well as free passes to N.Y.C. Nightclubs.
Saturday breakfast (light), Dinner-Dance.
Sunday Luncheon.
Bus transportation.
Individual athletic fee.

All for \$49.00.

Team fees are set at \$150.00 per team, with a discount of \$50.00 if



Central Council

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paid in full by January 20th. These fees cover rental of Gym, referees for all games, trophies and other tournament related costs.

10 men's teams and 2 women's teams have registered.

Flyers and announcements have been sent to all parishes, as well as the names on the National Youth Listing. Articles have appeared in the Armenian press. In addition, a booklet is also being prepared to help raise money. The fees charged the teams and youth cover the expenses of the weekend, with the dance and booklet designed to make some extra money.

II. Armenian Studies Programs

Requests for information and application forms continue to be received and are processed as soon as possible. Some forms have already been sent in, and the usual application consists of: (1) prescribed application form, (2) doctor's certificate of "good health", (3) deposit of \$500.00.

The appointment of the Group Leaders has not yet taken place. There are several names under consideration, and the Primate will make the decision very soon. The departure date for the "Educational Tour to Armenia," (Program #1) is scheduled for June 15th.

III. Youth Ministry

Several registration forms have been received for the scheduled Workshop and Seminar on Church Youth Ministry, March 23-25, to take place at Grotonwoods Camp and Conference Center, Groton, Mass. Many persons from various parishes have indicated their interest and intend to participate. We anticipate between 25 and 35 participants for all or part of the Seminar.

More information has been received, with more forthcoming, regarding the "Interim" Program. Basically, this program is a two year commitment on the part of a parish and an individual. The individual participates in Youth Ministry Training, classes, and instruction, and receives support, supervision, stipend, room and board. A letter shall be sent to all parishes of the Diocese to seek out interested parishes and individuals. More details on this as it is received.

IV. 1984 National Sports Weekend

To be hosted by the Palos Heights ACYOA Chapter, the Host Committee has reported that thus far everything is on schedule. A flyer and info-mailer has been sent this month containing details on the package plan for the weekend. An attractive price of \$75.00 already has brought in one package plan, paid in full.

V. Regions

Mid-Atlantic: A visitation to the parishes of the Philadelphia and Washington, DC ACYOA Chapters has resulted in the planning of a Regional gathering during the last weekend of March. A Friday evening reception and mixer is planned, while Saturday will be devoted to meeting, discussions, planning future regional programs, etc. It is intended to complete the itinerary by mid-to-late afternoon, Saturday, since many youth have voiced a need to have some of their weekend left unscheduled.

New England: Another meeting of a "Recreation Commission" took place with Paul Pogharian, Mark Kazanjian, Gary Hovhannessian and the Executive Secretary. The intention of this Commission is to plan and implement recreational activities for participation by the youth of the New England parishes. The first activity is a softball tournament in May or June. More meetings will take place next month.

VI. Mission Program

The ACYOA Parish Mission Program is again in the planning stages. A meeting between Melanie Barsamian, ACYOA Central Council Member and Mission Program Coordinator, and the Executive Secretary took place to discuss some of the details of the Program. A meeting is planned in New York City in conjunction with the Archbishop's Tournament to discuss various considerations with V. Rev. Fr. Arshen Aivazian and Arthur Sabounjian. A committee will be formed to continue to develop the Program with a targetted date of late 1984 or early 1985.

VII. College Ministry

A meeting was held with Kenneth Maranian of the Watertown-Cambridge area. He has indicated his interest in assisting with a publication to and for Armenian college students. This is intended to keep the students in touch with the Armenian Church and community, especially those living away from home. This publication is not intended to take the place of real ministry on the campuses themselves, but rather to initiate a communications network through which real ministry can begin.

VIII. General

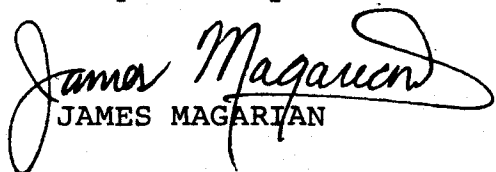
A meeting was held with Arthur Sabounjian this month. Arthur is the newly appointed Youth Director for the St. James Armenian Church of Watertown, Mass.

A visitation was made to the Watertown ACYOA Chapter during one of their regular chapter meetings. The Watertown Chapter has done an "about-face" since last year. They are now much more active, and have more members involved with the various activities being offered. This

change is due to the new Executive Committee which began planning and implementing programs and activities since last September. Prior to this, the Chapter was in a "low cycle" (something that seems to happen to all chapters, in large and small parishes) and is now coming again to a more active level.

The next Executive Update is scheduled for March. This newsletter is prepared and sent first class to all chapters and parishes, and sent bulk rate to all names on the National Youth Listing. It is usually sent 6 times a year.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARIAN

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S
COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - March 1984

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

I. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

The 14th Annual Archbishop's Basketball Tournament took place March 2-4. Hosting the weekend events was the Bayside ACYOA Chapter of Holy Martyr's Armenian Church. The details on this Program were reported last month and did not change to any major degree.

Participating parishes included: Men's and Women's teams from Northern New Jersey and Bayside, NY, and men's teams from Lawrence, MA, Watertown, MA, Worcester, MA, Wynnewood, PA, St. Gregory's, NY, Detroit, MI, Providence, RI, Washington, DC.

The Host Committee, chaired by Diane Kapikian, did a very good job in handling the many details and arrangements necessary. Most of the work was done by Diane and only a few other committee members.

The Marriott-LaGuardia Hotel was used for the lodging of guests and events of the Weekend - Awards Banquet and Dance Saturday Night. The Dance was very successful and realized some profit.

The Host Committee successfully produced a booklet for the Weekend, something that is considered mandatory on the part of ACYOA Central Council. The booklet realized the bulk of the \$850.00 profit for the Weekend, which is divided between the host Chapter and the ACYOA Central Council.

The only disappointment came from the fact that only two women's teams participated this year. In 1982, when the Tournament was hosted by the Central Council in New York City, five women's teams participated which is about the norm. This decline in the interest of women's teams, (which has also been noted at the National Sports Weekend and



Central Council

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by other Armenian organizations) could signal the end of a cycle which began in the middle 1970's when women's teams first began to seriously compete in the athletic programs. Consideration of this must be given in planning future athletic programs.

II. New England Recreation Program

Another meeting for New England recreation programs took place with Gary Hovahanessian, Mark Kazanjian and Paul Pogharian (all former ACYOA Central Council Members) to plan the first N.E. Armenian Softball Tournament. This and other recreational events will be planned for the parishes of the New England region. (Similar programs are planned for the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions.)

The Weekend of May 26-28th (Memorial Day Weekend) was selected for the Softball Tournament. Arrangements have been made with facilities in Plainville CT., where Gary Hovhanessian has contacts and will be able to take care of details easily. (See attachment.)

Details include: \$155.00 per team (10.00 less for second team from a parish); eligible players include anyone from the parish, male and female, any age; deadline for registration is May 19th; the Holiday Inn in Plainville has been contacted and will be available for accommodations at discounted rates; emphasis on allowing the teams to play many games, win or lose.

Flyers and publicity on this has already begun with more to follow.

III. Youth Ministry Workshop and Seminar

The first Diocesan sponsored Workshop and Seminar on Church Youth Ministry took place over the weekend of March 23-25th at Grotonwoods Camp and Conference Center in Groton, Mass. Organized by Diocesan Youth Directors Nancy Basmajian and James Magarian, the event attracted 30 participants from across the Diocese.

Mr. John Roberto, Director of the Northeast Center for Youth Ministry was invited to lead the Seminar and make presentations. The major topic was "Foundations of Youth Ministry" which covered a wide range of youth ministry involvements from theory to practice.

A complete report on this event has been filed with the Primate and Administrative Director of the Diocese - details are located there.

Overall, the participants, the Seminar Leader and the Diocesan Youth Directors all felt that the Seminar was a big success, very informative and meaningful for everyone involved. Addressing this need, future workshops and seminars are in the planning stages.

IV. Youth Ministry

Information on the "INTERIM" program has been sent to the parishes of the Diocese by both letter and flyer explaining the program and the requirements. "INTERIM" provides an opportunity for persons interested in Youth Ministry to be trained and gain practical experience while working in a parish for a monthly stipend. The parish receives the services of the "intern" for a two-year period giving the youth program full time attention and development. The cost to the parish is approximately \$10,000. (see attachment)

The "INTERIM" program begins in June. At this point, we expect few actual participants for the 1984 summer session. However, several parishes are interested in the program and from this we may project an initiation of the program in June of 1985.

Plans continue to be made concerning the development and organization of a Department of Youth Ministry for the Diocese. Nancy Basmajian and James Magarian have been working on the basic outlines and goals, referring to the work of the Committee for Youth Ministry which began its work a year ago and met 8 times until December 1983. The Committee will meet again for input on some of the plans for the Department.

It is felt that the youth programs of the Diocese should be under one department with one orientation toward the goals and purpose of Church Youth Ministry. This includes ACYOA (junior and senior), youth and adult training, programming, camp, college or campus programs, young couples programs, etc.

January of 1985 is the projected time of implementation.

V. Armenian Studies Programs

Applications continue to be received for Program 1 - Educational Tour to Armenia. Many requests for information and applications have been received and processed for all the programs.

Rev. Fr. Vertanes Kaladjian, Pastor of St. Mary Armenian Church in Washington, DC, has been appointed by the Primate to be the Group Leader for Program 1. Yerezgin Kaladjian has been appointed as Assistant Group Leader. Meetings will take place to orientate the Group Leaders to their respective responsibilities, as well as inform them of what they can expect during the trip.

Program 1 is scheduled for June 15 through July 17th. The participants will arrive at the Diocese on June 15th for orientation, luncheon and reception with the Primate, prior to departure.

Participants in Program 2 are guaranteed group rates, even if the required number (15) is not reached. Those who have applied will be connected to a commercial tour utilizing the same dates, which are July 1 through 21st.

VI. Regional Conference

The Mid-Atlantic ACYOA Regional Conference took place March 30-31st in Wynnewood, PA. Central Council Members Arda Nazerian and Melanie Basamian worked with the Executive Secretary in organizing this conference. Participants included members from Wynnewood, Cheltenham, Northern N.J., Washington, and Bayside.

The scheduled called for an evening social Friday night with dinner and a get-together for the people of the region to get to know each other. Saturday morning the conference took place until 4:30 p.m. Discussion included a sharing of problems and accomplishments of each chapter, as well as developing ideas for region-wide programs. An hour was set aside for educational purposes. This was made up of a short presentation on the Divine Liturgy, with discussion.

The group decided to hold another meeting May 4th at the Diocesan Assembly in Fair Lawn, N.J. Washington will host a "weekend" in June made up of cultural, religious, and social events.

VII. Parish Mission Program

A meeting took place on March 3 in New York regarding this program. Attending were Melanie Barsamian (program coordinator from Central Council) James Magarian, V. Rev. Fr. Arshen Aivazian and Arthur Sabounjian. Fr. Arshen and Arthur had indicated their interest in the program during previous discussion.

After considerable discussion, and after realizing the Fr. Arshen is not really available to plan and lead the Mission team in the foreseeable future, it was decided to continue developing plans for a Mission Program beginning with one-day programs in selected parishes. However, a weekend or week-long program is the primary focus with the first week of January as the targeted date. In January, the students that are away at college are usually home, and the period of Christmas can be utilized.

VIII. General

Executive Update prepared and sent.
Flyer for N.E. Softball Tournament prepared and sent.
Flyer for INTERIM youth ministry program prepared.
Flyer for ACYOA Leadership Seminar prepared and sent.
Letter about INTERIM for parishes prepared and sent.
Certificates for Archbishop's Tournament prepared.

IX. Leadership Seminar

The Annual ACYOA Leadership Seminar will take place on May 5th in conjunction with the Annual Diocesan Assembly in Fair Lawn. Arrangements have been made with the Host Parish for accommodations and facilities for the Seminar.

The theme for the Seminar is "Survival Skills for Youth Leaders." Leading the Seminar is Lucille Kreidler Smith of the Northeast Center for Youth Ministry, located in nearby Paterson, N.J. Topics of the day include: Leadership styles, Planning and Organizing, and Keeping youth and adults involved. (See attachment.)

Coordinating this program is Arda Nazerian, Chairman of the ACYOA Central Council, together with the Executive Secretary. Letters of invitation and flyers are sent to all parishes, chapters and individuals who have shown a interest in youth leadership.

X. ACYOA Central Council

A meeting was held with the Chairman of the Council, Arda Nazerian, and the Vice Chairman, Melanie Barsamian, to discuss programs, arrangements and Council work. This special meeting (as compared to ongoing telephone discussions and "mini meetings") mainly concerned the difficulty of Council members to execute their responsibilities. While some are able to meet the demands of their role, others are simply not coming through and this many times effects the Council as a whole, but more often directly effects the region and respective parishes thereof.

The next general Council meeting is scheduled for April 6-8. Even for the regular Council meetings, not all members are able to attend, even though they know of the dates months in advance. Given this situation, those Council members who have worked hard and sacrificed time and money to execute their responsibilities should be commended. It is they who keep the Organization afloat, despite the lack of desire by some others.

Arda and Melanie, in particular, have demonstrated their dedication and have done more than their share. While the others have legitimate reasons for not doing their work, the responsibilities remain and the cooperation needed for smooth running administrative work and programs nonetheless is missing. The Executive Secretary has decided to speak to each member individually and find out what can be done. The next six months are the busiest for the Council and Executive Secretary as preparations are made for end of year work and the General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARIAN

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S
COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - April 1984

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

I. Armenian Studies Programs

"Educational Tour to Armenia" - June 15th - July 17th.
Letters of confirmation have been sent to 20 accepted participants in this year's trip (all of our Diocese). The 20 fills our quota and will be joined by Rev. Fr. Vertanes and Yeretzgin Kalayjian of St. Mary's Armenian Church in Washington, D.C.

Others who have expressed interest in traveling to Armenia, but were late in applying, have little or no ACYOA affiliation, or who do not have the time or interest in a structured tour are encouraged to participate in Program #2 - "Journey to Armenia" - July 1st - 21st.

"Jerusalem - The Holy City" Program is again placed on "hold" until such time as proper arrangements can be made, and, most importantly, the atmosphere in Jerusalem and the Middle-East becomes better to promote such a trip for young adults.

II. Leadership Seminar

Will be held May 5th in conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly at the Ramada Inn, New Jersey. Lucille Smith of the Northeast Center for Youth Ministry will lead the Seminar with the theme "Survival Skills for Youth Leaders". Flyers and letters have been prepared and sent to all parishes, ACYOA Chapters, youth leaders, advisors and directors, as well as to participants in the recent Youth Ministry Seminar.

III. Mid-Atlantic Conference

Will be held at the Ramada Inn in New Jersey in conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly on Friday, May 4th. All Chapters in the Region have



Central Council

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been invited. This Conference is a followup to the one held in Wynnewood, PA, March 31st. Highlighting the agenda are regional activities, in particular a June Weekend in Washington, and a Fall Weekend in another parish community. This marks yet another comeback for this Region, this time with a little more enthusiasm and some actual planned events.

IV. ACYOA Central Council

Met over the weekend of April 6-8 at the Diocese. All present except for George Jevarjian of Detroit. Topics of discussion included: high expenses for travel with little money in treasury; repair of Kulhanjian Memorial Trophy; chapter dues not coming in; Council members not in touch with their respective Chapters enough; special letters to be sent to all Chapters requesting dues; Archbishop's Tournament profit of \$813.00, divided with Host Chapter; Letters to be sent entertaining bids for 1985 Archbishop's Tournament and National Sports Weekend; Outline for Membership Campaign; Chapter Calendars to be revised and sent out properly; Mission Program on "hold" after disappointing meeting with prospective Mission Team Leader; Reprinting of pamphlet on Vartanantz on the occasion of the 1500th anniversary of the Treaty of Nvarsag, will look into getting donations; Educational Program dealing with a cross-section of Armenian cultural perspectives which would include printing pamphlets and dissemination, and, promoting the Holocaust curriculum in public schools.

V. Youth Ministry

Meetings were held with Nancy Basmajian and Mesrob Kermian to discuss proposal of a Department of Youth Ministry in the Diocese, as well as work on the next training seminar. A budget will be drafted and sent to Mesrob outlining the basic needs of the Department. Many of the items will be a carry-over from the Departments of ACYOA Seniors and Juniors, thereby absorbing them into the New Department.

The INTERIM program was also discussed. Flyers were made and sent to all parishes, parish councils, ACYOA senior chapters, and interested persons. This program allows for a parish to sponsor an "intern" for two years of full-time youth work in the parish. During that time the intern is trained and benefits the parish with full time attention to the parish youth. The program begins in June, however it is doubtful if more than one person begins this year.

An outline concerning the Department of Youth Ministry will be worked on and reviewed in May.

VI. New England Recreation Program

Details have been finalized for the first N.E. Armenian Softball Tournament, to be held in Plainville, CT, May 26-29th. Flyers have been prepared and sent to all parishes, ACYOA Senior Chapters and Contacts in the N.E. Region. Assisting in the effort are Gary Hovhannessian, Paul Pogharian and Mark Kazanjian.

VII. General

Participated in Diocesan Staff Meeting, which will be held on a monthly basis from now on.

Made arrangements to meet with Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian to review ASP details at Diocesan Assembly.

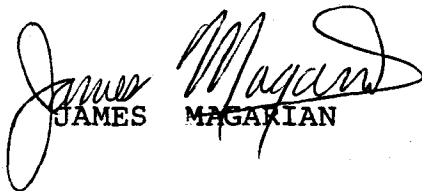
Sent news releases on: ASP, Leadership Seminar, Mid-Atlantic Conference, and Youth Ministry.

Reviewed outline for report on Archbishop's Tournament, to be used by the Bayside Chapter when they file their report on the 1984 Tournament.

Reviewed new method of accounting for the National Sports Weekend which will enable the host chapter to keep track of the various budgeted items, as well as make it easier when filing their complete report.

Prepared materials for mailing early next month concerning the Sam Nersesian Award, Sam Nersesian Scholarship and the various items for the Chapters to report on their past year.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARIAN

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE 657

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - May 1984

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

I. ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAMS

Program #1 - Rev. Fr. Vertanes and Yeretzgin Kalayjian Group Leaders. June 15th departure from N.Y.C.; return July 17th. 23 young adults, 2 teen agers and the three children of Fr. and Yeretzgin Kalayjian make up the group.
Program #2 - 4 applications. They will be connected to a commercial tour to Armenia departing July 1st and returning July 22nd.
Program #3 - cancelled for this year.

II. LEADERSHIP SEMINAR - May 5th

Held at site of Diocesan Assembly, Ramada Inn in New Jersey. 16 participants from all over the Diocese attended. Seminar sessions led by Mrs. Lucille Smith of the Northeast Center for Youth Ministry. Should have had more participants. Those present said they thought the experience was well worth it.

III. MID-ATLANTIC ACYOA CONFERENCE - May 4th

Held at site of Diocesan Assembly, led by Central Council Chairman Arda Nazerian, and Regional Rep. Melanie Basamian. Agenda mainly concerning itself with regional weekend to be held in Washington, DC June 1-3. Other discussion included an outing at a beach site, as well as a fall Weekend for the region.

IV. YOUTH MINISTRY

Continued to prepare materials and formalize proposal for the establishment of a Department of Youth Ministry in the Diocese. Will most probably present materials for consideration by late June.



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V. NEW ENGLAND SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT - RECREATION PROGRAM

Postponed from Memorial Day Weekend to a late weekend in July. Intending to have 6-8 parishes represented in the two-day tournament, since many have indicated their interest in the past for such events.

VI. ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

Have met and spoke with Council members on their progress and various responsibilities, as well as reminded same of upcoming needs and activities.

VII. General

1. Mailed out organizational materials, as usual for this time of year, consisting of various administrative forms and due-dates for annual report, scholarship and award application and nomination forms, etc.
2. Prepared Executive Update newsletter and mailed out to all Chapters, Parishes and Parish Council Chairmen. Central Council reproduces newsletter and mails at bulk postage rate to the entire national youth mailing list of the Diocese.
3. Met with Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian to review his responsibilities with the ASP.
4. Prepared and mailed to the ASP participants informational sheets and the Handbook to Armenia, along with a complimentary map of Armenia.
5. Reviewed a first draft typeset copy of a standardized "Installation of Officers" Service for ACYOA. Will make corrections and prepare for final copy.
6. Prepared to meet with Host Committee of the National Sports Weekend, Palos Heights, in June for final preparations for the Assembly and Weekend, August 29th through September 3rd.
Will try to meet with Evanston, IL to assist with re-organizing the Chapter there.
7. Made initial arrangements to meet with Wynnwood ACYOA and with the Parish's Youth Committee regarding the Interim Program, and youth organization in general. Tentative for mid-June.
8. Have investigated a new means of maintaining the National Youth list, as the present set-up is unacceptable. Too many young people are not receiving materials.
9. Attended Diocesan Staff Meeting at Diocese May 14.

VIII. Continuing Projects

1. Audio-Visual Educational Programs - Marriage, Holy Land.
2. Reprinting of Sacraments and Prayers book - review, edit / securing donor, printer.
3. Materials and records for Assembly, and Sports Weekend booklet.


JAMES MAGARIAN

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S
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Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - June 1984

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

I. Armenian Studies Programs

Program #1 - Orientation held at Diocese on Friday, June 15th at 12 noon. Luncheon, Cathedral Complex Tour, Reception with Primate and information on trip. 24 young adult participants, 2 group leaders (Rev. Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian and Yeretzgin) and 4 "special" participants. Group left in the evening and will return July 17th. Materials for report and financial statement being prepared and will be completed by 25 of July.

II. Youth Ministry

Met and spoke with Nancy Basmajian several times to discuss materials and content of Youth Ministry Proposal, specifically a Departmental Purpose and Outline. These materials were compared with other denominations and their Youth Ministry focus and prepared for consideration by the Primate. They were found unsatisfactory at this time.

Have spoken with Director of Northeast Center for Youth Ministry, John Roberto, and will meet with him in JULY. Primary focus of Youth Ministry at this time will be the search and recruitment of prospective trainees for Youth Ministry. A meeting of the Committee for Youth Ministry in the Diocese is tentatively scheduled for August.

III. General Assembly and Sports Weekend

Prepared general newsrelease and will follow with short items of same.

Met with Host Committee, Palos Heights ACYOA, June 28. Very organized and able to follow directions well. All parts and details of the entire event covered. Publicity has been good and creative. Although the cost of transportation is expensive for youth on the East Coast, a low hotel and package plan rate has been established to help off-set it and encourage participation from all over the Diocese.



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Dates for the Assembly are August 29-31st, and for the Sports Weekend September 1st through 3rd. Accommodating guests and the Assembly meetings is the Holiday Inn in Alsip, IL. Sports Facilities are secured at Alan Sheppard High School 5 minutes away. The Church, Ss. Joachim and Anna, is also 5 minutes away.

IV. ACYOA Central Council

Will meet and prepare for Assembly during Summer meeting, July 13-15. Have spoken and met with Council Chairman to review progress and problems concerning Council members.

V. N.E. Softball Tournament

Tentatively scheduled for August 4,5,6. Difficulties in reserving fields on convenient dates for all parishes interested in participating.

VI. Evanston Meeting

Met with new "chairman" of Evanston ACYOA, Melina Spinnoza and other members of the Executive Committee. Officers are temporary until elections can be held. Evanston inactive in recent years. Melina and several others are new to the group and offer needed enthusiasm and creativity to reactivate the youth of the parish. Discussed various formats for meetings, activities and projects, as well as decided to visit the parish in the fall to meet with the entire group.

VII. Wynnewood Meeting

Met with Youth Committee of Wynnewood, PA Ss. Sahag and Mesrob Church, along with Nancy Basmajian. Their concern for the need for a Parish Youth Director included both emotional and practical argument. They are aware of the Interim Training Program but have not really exhausted all possibilities within the parish to secure any candidates. They are also looking for a person who could begin "yesterday" and not take the time that training requires. Will remain in touch with them and assist when and where possible.

VIII. General

1. Attended St. Vartan Camp Committee meeting June 2nd at Diocese.
2. Met with V.REV. FR. Haigazoun Melkonian(Cheltenham) to discuss youth situation there. He is considering the idea of establishing a youth committee for the parish. Will attempt to bring the young adults together very soon.
3. Attended Staff meeting at Diocese June 15th.
4. Prepared and mailed Handbook to Armenia for the 2 young people signed up for ASP #2. They were connected to the commercial tour for the three week trip.
5. Attended the Spring Invitational Basketball Tournament in Watertown June 20-23.


JAMES MAGARIAN

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S COPY

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Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - August 1984

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

I. General Assembly and National Sports Weekend

Reviewed materials for Weekend Yearbook and forwarded to Palos Heights Chapter for printing.

Reviewed entire weekend with Host Committee Chairman Kevin Giragosian, as well as athletic competitions with the sports coordinator, Van Giragosian - using extended phone calls.

Prepared Opening Prayer Service form to be used each day of the General Assembly.

Contacted and reviewed responsibilities of the Central Council and Nominating Committee, as well as the work needed to be done by the Auditing Committee. Letters sent with outlines as well.

Spoke with both Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian and Dean Shahinian regarding the educational programs and seminars during the Assembly and Sports Weekend.

Wrote and sent last news releases to Armenian Press.

Spoke with several chapters, who are having problems completing the necessary requirements for participation in the Assembly and Weekend - i.e. dues payment, proper lists, administrative forms etc.

Contacted representatives from the Palos Heights area to arrange proper security for both the weekend participants and hotel, as well as for the Primate for the duration of His Eminence's stay in the area.



Central Council

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II. Youth Ministry

Met with the Primate, Nancy Basmajian and Mesrob Kermian to review the status of the Committee for Youth Ministry and the direction of this project.

The major focus of this project will initially be the promotion and recruitment of parish youth directors, specifically to be trained for the parish and parish groupings.

Prospective parishes will be visited in the months ahead, with possible candidates approached to participate in the "INTERIM" training program of the Northeast Center for Youth Ministry.

A considerable amount of more time will be devoted to this project over the course of the next 7-9 months with the intention of having youth director candidates ready for next summer's training course.

III. 1984 General Assembly - August 29-31st

Held at the Holiday Inn, Alsip, IL. Hosted by the Palos Heights ACYOA of Ss. Joachim & Anna Armenian Church.

The Assembly opened Wednesday evening with 40 delegates in attendance, and the Primate presiding over the proceedings.

A brief on the results of the Assembly will be prepared and sent to the Diocesan Council for approval (elections, proposals, etc.)

For additional information, consult this brief, or the Minutes of the Assembly, which will be prepared in the weeks to come.

IV. General and Future

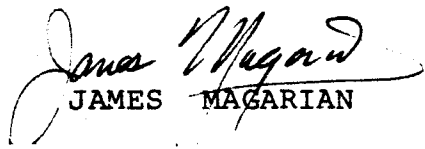
Prepared sheets on the Yerevan Festival 1985 for distribution at the Sports Weekend.

Printed final copy of "Service for Installation of Officers" for ACYOA Chapters (Jrs. and Srs.). The Service will be sent to all parishes next month.

Revised and reprinted ACYOA "Today" pamphlet.

Will contact key people in selected parishes regarding Youth Ministry Interim Program - and coordinate parish visitations with meetings with these key individuals, as well as with the general youth. Meetings will also take place with clergy and parish council members.

Attended Diocesan Staff meeting August 16th.


JAMES MAGARIAN

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - September 1984

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

I. NATIONAL SPORTS WEEKEND

Successfully held August 31st through September 3rd, Hosted by Palos Heights ACYOA. Approximately 300 package plans sold; 450 at dances; 35 competitive events offered; over 100 trophies and medals awarded; very well organized and executed. Full report to be filed by Host Committee.

II. ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

To be hosted in by the Watertown ACYOA Chapter. Tentative dates - June 8-10. Meeting held Sept. 27 to discuss preliminary plans and promotional schedule. Event Chairman - Mark Kashgegian. Many good ideas in the planning level - it will be a weekend event. Participants will be charged a minimum to cover costs. Profits to be realized by dance and ad booklet.

III. ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

Elections were held at the General Assembly for the two openings on the Central Council, as the terms of Vaughan Totovian and Melanie Barsamian (2 years) ended. Elected were: Susan Boyajian (Palos Heights) and Shake Ajamian (Bayside). They will join: Arda Nazerian (Bayside) Sona Palvetzian (Toronto) and George Jévarjian (Detroit) who have one year remaining. A transitional meeting was held on August 31st in Palos Heights. The first regular meeting of the Council will take place at the Diocese, Oct. 26-28.

Letters explaining duties and responsibilities have been sent, along with materials necessary for their respective offices.

IV. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The records of the 1984 General Assembly are being compiled for the permanent file.



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The Minutes of the Assembly are presently being prepared for final distribution. The 5th Session of the Assembly Minutes (final session) will be approved by the Central Council. The 5th Session Minutes have been prepared and sent to the Council.

Letters of appreciation have been sent to the various committee members and those associated with the Assembly preparation and execution.

Letter of approval from the Primate and Diocesan Council, regarding elections and accepted proposals of the ACYOA General Assembly, is expected soon to allow the Council to begin, in full, their responsibilities.

V. GENERAL & FUTURE

Attended Diocesan Staff meeting, September 19th.

Discussed plans and immediate needs with Council Chairman while in N.Y.C., and will prepare materials necessary for Oct. 26-28 meeting.

Major mailing to all parishes and chapters under preparation: Installation of Officers Service; listing of 1984-85 Central Council and Regional Assignments; listing of Chapter Chairmen and Contacts; Chapter reminder sheets; Chapter Chairman reminder calendar; and Executive Update Newsletter.

Executive Update Newsletter to be prepared and printed in expanded form.

Regional ACYOA conferences to be held, tentatively, on Saturday, November 24th, in the Midwest, New England, and Mid-Atlantic regions. It is planned to have all regions use this day, which is part of the Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend, since most college students are home or available to attend.

Letter of direction and a "revision schedule" has been prepared and sent regarding the master National Youth Listing. A concerted effort is being made to update this listing to make it as accurate as possible, as well as available for immediate use.

To assist the Central Council Regional Representatives, contacts in each region are being made for official appointment. These people will assist in communications and promotional activities within the regions. Increased inter-chapter contact and communications is vital for increased interest and program participation.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARIAN

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S OFFICE

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - October 1984

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

I. National Sports Weekend

1984 - Pursuing the General and Financial Report of the Weekend. Chairman of the Weekend will file Report by mid-November. Approximate net profit is \$9,000, which will be divided between the Host Chapter and the National Organization.

1985 - Met with the Worcester Chapter to assist them with preparing to host the Weekend in 1985. No bids were officially received for consideration at the General Assembly, however Worcester indicated their interest and willingness. 10 members present at the meeting - assignments were given regarding facilities and other major concerns at this time. A committee will be appointed and continue with covering each detail of the Assembly and Sports Weekend. Another meeting is scheduled for early December.

II. General Assembly

The Minutes of the 5th Session of the 1984 General Assembly were prepared and sent to the ACYOA Central Council for approval. The Minutes are now approved and will be prepared for distribution to all chapters, parishes and others. The proposals and elections have not yet been approved by the Diocesan Council, however, the Council is going ahead with their duties in an attempt to avoid falling behind in their work.

III. ACYOA Central Council

Meeting held at Diocese Oct. 27-28. All members present - Arda Nazerian, Sona Palvetzian, George Jevarjian, Shakeh Ajamian, and Susan Boyajian. Major concerns and work discussed included: Updating national mailing list, appointment of regional assistants, problem situation with "Northern N.J. Chapter", upcoming ACYOA Regional Conferences, 5th Assembly Session Minutes, Executive Update circulation, Educational Seminar on Armenian Language/Literature, printing of a



Central Council

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

topical/thematic reference booklet of people and topics, promotion of religious programs and coordination, Diocesan and parish level Martyr's Commemoration for 70th Anniversary.

Many good ideas were discussed and will be followed up by Council members. Materials for Nov. & Dec. ACYOA Regional Conferences will be prepared and sent to the Council members of each particular Region. The Council member convene the Conferences, whose agenda consists of ACYOA related issues and programs, as well as a speaker or educational program of sorts.

IV. Youth Ministry

A letter was encouraged to the members of the dissolved from the Primate informing them of the dissolution of the Committee for Youth Ministry, as well as thanking them for their service.

Information as been sought for a promotional pamphlet on the INTERIM program. Such a pamphlet will be printed to attract interested persons for this two year training program in Youth Ministry. Letters and visitations will be the next to perspective parishes and parish groupings.

V. General

Attended Diocesan Staff meeting on Oct. 22nd.

Met and spoke with V.Rev.Fr. Baret Yeretzian of Lawrence regarding the re-organizing of the ACYOA there.

Sent information regarding the Ararat Boy Scout Award to several inquiries. This particular "program" of the Diocese should be reviewed.

Prepared, printed and mailed Executive Update to 150 addresses - parishes, ACYOA Executives, etc. Next issue is scheduled for January.

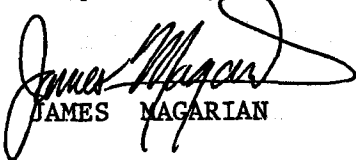
Visitations are being planned for the parishes of Providence, Westchester, Evanston, Lawrence and Washington/Richmond.

Various outlines for programs are underway and will be sent to the Central Council for their use, as well as distributed to the Chapters. These include Martyrs Commemoration for 1985 for the Chapters, Responsibilities for Council Regional Assistants, Mailing List Update, Regional Conferences, Topical/Thematic reference guide.

Another on-going project is the preparation of a guide for bidding and hosting the National Sports Weekend. Past Host Committee Chairman will provide input for this guide. A similar guide will be prepared for the hosts of the annual Archbishop's Tournament.

News releases continue to be written and sent on a regular basis regarding ACYOA activities and upcoming programs.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARIAN

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - November 1984

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

I. YOUTH MINISTRY

A letter was prepared and sent to selected parishes of the Diocese reminding and encouraging their participation in the Youth Ministry Training Program - INTERIM. An informational flyer was included. The parishes were selected based on size and groupings - whereby these could support the Program.

Followup telephone calls will be made to the clergy and parish council Chairmen to confirm receipt of the letter and personally speak to them about it.

II. ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

Spoke with the Council Members individually to understand their responsibilities relative to the past (OCT.) meeting and its results. Prepared materials for ACYOA Regional Conferences which included agenda, sample discussion topics and outlines, as well as suggested procedures.

III. GENERAL

Formal letter received from the Worcester ACYOA Chapter that they are willing and able to host the 1985 ACYOA Assembly and National Sports Weekend. An organizational meeting will take place December 5th with progress reports and discussion on direction and promotion. Host Committee Executives have been appointed.

The Minutes of the 1984 General Assembly were prepared and sent to all Parishes and Chapters, along with letters announcing the hosts of the Annual Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament (Watertown), the hosts of the Annual General Assembly and Sports Weekend (Worcester), Sites and Locations for upcoming ACYOA Regional Conferences, Updating the National Armenian Youth Listing, Accepted Proposals of the ACYOA 1984 Assembly, and a short calendar of upcoming ACYOA related dates and events.



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Letters of appreciation were sent to all members of the 1984 Host Committee for the ACYOA Assembly and Sports Weekend - Palos Heights, IL.

Received an urgent letter from the Diocesan Office regarding expenditures and the lack of funds to cover such. An effort is now being made to avoid any expenditure, unless necessary, until this situation is back to normal.

Spoke with Fr. Arsen Barsamian and his interest in leading the ACYOA Armenian Studies Program - "Educational Tour to Armenia". Sent a letter to the Primate regarding Fr. Arsen's interest, along with names of other competent clergy to lead the group.

Spoke with Fr. Yeprem Kelegian regarding (1) preparation of materials for ACYOA parish retreats (Jan. & May), and (2) a New England Regional Retreat for early January, 1985. Information has been sent regarding this Regional Retreat for young adults.

Spoke at length with V.Rev.Fr. Baret Yeretzian regarding the young people of his parish and various methods of re-organizing the group into the productive chapter it was not long ago. A visitation is planned for the near future.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARTAN

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE
- C.C.P. -

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - December 1984

Executive Secretary to the ACYOA
Diocese of the Armenian Church

I. ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAMS

Began annual preparations for the summer trips to Armenia. The trip to the Holy Land is not being offered this year. Sent names of suggested Group Leaders to the Primate for consideration. Will follow up upon advisement. Began to prepare news releases, which will be sent out the first of the year.

Prepared a poster and other materials for Parishes and ACYOA Chapters promoting the programs. Applications were also distributed. A telegram was sent to Holy Etchmiadzin requesting the dates of June 18th through July 18th. Confirmation is expected soon. Since many colleges and universities now utilize a tri-semester calendar, many students are not free until after the middle of June, thus the dates chosen.

II. 1985 NATIONAL SPORTS WEEKEND

Met with the members of the Host Committee for the '85 ACYOA Sports Weekend, to be held over the Labor Day Weekend holiday in Worcester, Mass. Scott Najarian was elected Host Committee Chairman. The group is fairly well organized and is on schedule with their plans and preparations. Other meetings will be planned periodically to advise and direct the work involved.

III. GENERAL

Prepared, printed and distributed January Issue of the ACYOA Executive Update.



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Mailing sent to Parishes and Chapters reminding and explaining ACYOA membership application and renewal procedures.

Prepared and sent Annual Report for ACYOA Senior Division and Youth Ministry Departments, according to outline provided.

Discussed special plans for ACYOA observance of 70th Anniversary of Armenian Genocide with ACYOA Central Council, and appointed to members, Arda Nazerian and Shake Ajamian to be liasons with Diocesan planned events.

Answered several requests for information regarding the "Ararat Boy Scout Award". Suggested that this "program" be fully reviewed.

Discussed with ACYOA Juniors Director the need and plans for an ACYOA Leadership Conference for ACYOA leaders and advisors. It is tentatively scheduled for March '85.

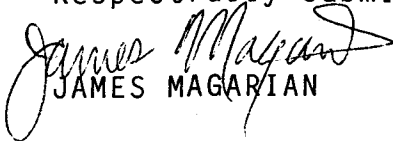
Attended the New England ACYOA Regional Conference in Providence and met with ACYOA Central Council Regional Representative, as well as Chairmen.

Reviewed materials for ACYOA weekly Lenten Dialogue, to be held in each Parish during Great Lent.

Because of time limitations, the proposed Parish ACYOA Retreat scheduled for January will be cancelled, and efforts concentrated on the May program of same.

Began review of files and records, will keep only needed items. Central Council permanent files are kept at the Diocese, however the immediate past two years are with the Executive Secretary for convenient reference.

Respectfully submitted,


JAMES MAGARIAN