

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AND MINUTES  
OF  
FIRST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**



**MAY 30, 31 AND JUNE 1, 1947  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.**

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS AND  
MINUTES OF FIRST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION  
OF AMERICA

May 30, 31, and June 1, 1947  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.  
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At 2:45 p.m. on Friday, May 30, 1947, the day appointed by the Central Council of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, the First Annual Assembly convened for its first business session in the St. Vartanantz Hall of the Holy Trinity Church of North Philadelphia, Pa., under the Presidency of our Archnord Bishop Tiran and under the chairmanship of Mr. Zaven Hovsepian.

Archnord Syropazan Hayr opened the Assembly with a prayer. Mr. Hovsepian welcomed the delegates and expressed his hope that this first assembly be a fruitful one for the ACYO of America and that the key words for this Assembly be consolidation and construction.

Roll call was read by Miss Mary V. Shalakian, Secretary of the Central Council. Eighteen chapters were represented as follows:- Boston, Cleveland, Hartford, Lawrence, New Britain, New York, North Philadelphia, West Philadelphia, Providence, Syracuse, S. Milwaukee, Troy, Union City, Watertown, Waukegan, Detroit, Chicago, Worcester, with a total of 45 registered delegates.

Evidence of a quorum being present, the Chairman thereupon called upon Torkom Hayrsoorp, Pastor of the Holy Trinity Church to address the delegates. Wishing the Assembly success in its work for the strengthening of our Church, Torkom Hayrsoorp went on to state that we should clearly know our purposes and to primarily keep ourselves Armenian, realize our ambitions and do what we as Armenians and as an organization would have to do.

Bishop Tiran was next called upon by the Chairman to address the Assembly. Bishop Tiran commented on the program of the ACYOA and on the place of the organization in the life of the Community, and reminded the delegates of our high aims and policies. He further gave a detailed explanation of the emblem of the ACYOA and the meaning of the symbols incorporated therein.

(Bishop Tiran's complete address to the delegates of the First Annual Assembly is hereto attached to the minutes.)

"I am glad that this year the ACYO gathers for the first annual assembly in a much better organized form. In Providence, R.I. last year we were just trying to create this organization out of the Armenian Church Junior League which was not sufficiently widely spread and was not sufficiently established in the whole of our Diocese and in the whole of our purposes.

As I have stated in the little booklet in which I wrote a letter to the Chairman, Mr. Hovsepian, ACYO is not just another Armenian Youth Organization. It has an extremely serious purpose. Especially in these critical times in the life of the Armenian community in the United States. We are a Christian people and our loyalty to our Lord Jesus Christ is so deep in the bones of the Armenian nation that we have been able to withstand all sorts of handicaps, hardships, and misfortunes and have been able to keep up the faith in a special form. The church is the expression of a spiritual life of the people and that expression is formed by God through the Christian faith by Christ through his teachings.

Now in America we have another kind of difficulty in keeping that tradition, that faith. And the young people whom we organized and whom you represent, however weak and however faltering in its steps, should realize that that faith in the Armenian Church has existed for such a long time since our Church was established in the beginning of the fourth century.

In the emblem which appears on the book you will see the whole aim of the organization.

First...the Christian element shown by a glorious cross and radiating from its center is a small circle showing perfection. Then you will see underneath two departments, one represents Ararat which is our national tradition and symbolizes all that which our forefathers have performed in Armenia. On the left there is an eagle. The eagle is our country now of which we are proud citizens and which we want to combine under the international tradition all under the light of our Christian faith represented by a Cross. Our Christian character is our dominating feature. And the whole is enclosed in a chain, which means solidarity. The chain will join these three together and also the individual belonging to this organization and also the various chapters belonging to this organization. All this is on a shield. The shield is a symbol of defense. ACYO is here to defend the symbols on the shield.

The Armenian Community expects great things from you. Never mind the few members whom we have here this

afternoon. It is not the numbers that count but it is the quality which is important. I bless this meeting and hope we shall be able to carry on the work that comes to us through the centuries and give our forefathers the happiness of seeing us carry on the torch."

Upon completion of the address, Mr. Hovsepien informed the Assembly that two Armenian Youth Organizations were simultaneously holding conventions during the same weekend, AGBU in Detroit and the AGAU in Long Island. A motion was made and carried for congratulatory messages to be sent to the respective organizations at their convention sites.

The Secretary then read the minutes of the Constitutive Assembly held in Providence on January 12 and 13, 1946. A motion was made that the minutes of last year's assembly be accepted as read. The motion was seconded and carried.

The oath of the Armenian Church Youth Organization was taken "en masse" repeated after our President, Arachnord Syrpazan Hayr.

The secretarial report of the Central Council was read by the Secretary, outlining the Council's plans and decisions of the past year and stating that the Organization had grown from 18 chapters to 24 since the constitutive assembly, through the untiring efforts of our Arachnord who formed and shaped these prospective chapters into the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America.

The Council Treasurer, Mr. Arthur Yagjian, read the financial report showing a balance of \$611.67 in the treasury, of which \$550.00 is owing to the Diocese of the Armenian Church in payment of a loan granted to the organization.

A motion was made that the secretarial and financial reports of the Central Council be entered into the minutes of this assembly. The motion was seconded and carried.

(The secretarial and financial reports of the Central Council is hereto attached and made part of the minutes.)

Following the decision of the Constitutive Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America held in Providence on January 12 and 13, 1946, a draft copy of the constitution was sent to all chapters for ratification on March 14, 1946.

On April 16, 1946 a committee of three was appoint-

ed to study the constitution together with suggestions and recommendations received from local chapters. This committee modified the constitution for final confirmation for final confirmation.

The constitution was submitted to the Diocesan authorities and finally ratified in its present form on July 2, 1946.

Due to this delay in the ratification of the constitution the Central Council did not hold any meetings until August 1946. No definite plans could be taken by the Council. However organizational plans within the Council were discussed and election of officers took place as follows:

Zaven Hovsepian - Chairman  
John Soursourian - Vice Chairman  
Mary V. Shalakian - Secretary  
Arthur Yagjian - Treasurer

In December 1946 the Central Council met in a two-day session to discuss and carry out plans for a series of informative letters and directives to the chapters.

The necessary stationery and forms which would bear the organization emblem were planned and it was determined that uniformity be the keynote.

It was deemed best to adopt an emblem which would symbolize the four objects of the organization. Then the four symbols were decided upon which would represent the objects respectively; namely, the Cross for Religion; the Mount of Ararat for that which is Armenian; an eagle for that which is American; a chain in circle or semi-circle form to denote the bond of fellowship. All this to somenow be incorporated in a shield. The ideas for these requirements were to be submitted to several artists for layout preparations.

At a third meeting of the Central Council, held February of this year, the forthcoming General Assembly to be held May 30, 31 and June 1 at Philadelphia was the topic of discussion.

A system was set up at this meeting to organize, digest and condense the wealth of material to be presented to the Assembly.

The fourth meeting of the Council took place on May 10, 1947 at which time a review was made of accumulated chapter correspondence with reference to the

assembly and other requested organizational data.

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America grew from 18 chapters to 24 since the constitutive assembly. For months our archnord, Bishop Tiran worked untiringly, travelling from one community to another, shaping and forming the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America. To old and new groups he passed on the informing spark, so important to the creating and carrying on the activities of the organization.

Today we have 33 chapters of the Armenian Church Youth Organization; 13 of whom have already made formal application for a charter.

And as evidenced by correspondence there seems to be greater interest, greater enrollment of members, greater activity and there is a strong demand upon the Center Council to coordinate activities.

The Central Council pursuant to its authority and its obligations has formulated plans and methods in order to crystallize the requests of these chapters.

Respectfully submitted  
Provisional Central Council  
ACYO OF AMERICA  
Mary V Shalakian, Secretary

RECEIPTS:

March 15, 1947  
Received Loan from Diocesan Office \$550.00

May 2, 1947  
Initiation Fees  
Lawrence .....\$25.00  
Hartford..... 24.00  
New Britain..... 15.00 64.00

May 19, 1947  
Initiation Fees  
Waukegan ..... 25.00  
Watertown ..... 44.00  
S. Milwaukee ..... 33.00  
Chicago ..... 13.00  
Troy..... 35.00 150.00

May 28, 1947  
Initiation Fees  
Boston ..... 55.00  
West Philadelphia ..... 38.00  
North Philadelphia ..... 38.00

|   |         |                     |
|---|---------|---------------------|
| Union City.....                             | 20.00   |                     |
| Providence.....                             | 31.00   | <u>182.00</u>       |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                       |         | <b>\$946.00</b>     |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>                       |         |                     |
| May 12, 1947                                |         |                     |
| Travel Fares.....                           | \$10.82 |                     |
| Travel Fares.....                           | 52.00   |                     |
| Travel Fares.....                           | 37.00   |                     |
| Travel Fares.....                           | 25.00   |                     |
| Travel Fares.....                           | 51.66   |                     |
| Bookkeeping books.....                      | 7.85    |                     |
| Artwork.....                                | 60.00   |                     |
| Office file cabinet...                      | 40.00   |                     |
| Petty Cash.....                             | 50.00   | <u>\$334.33</u>     |
| <b>BALANCE MAY 30, 1947</b>                 |         | <b>\$611.67</b>     |
| Loss loan payable to the Diocesan<br>Office |         | <u>550.00</u>       |
| <b>NET BALANCE</b>                          |         | <b><u>61.67</u></b> |

Respectfully submitted  
 Provisional Central Council  
 ACOO OF AMERICA  
 Arthur Yagjian, Treasurer

Then followed condensed secretarial and financial reports of respective chapters of the organization. A motion was made that these reports be admitted into the minutes as read. The motion was seconded and carried.

(The secretarial and financial reports of the respective chapters are hereto attached and made part of the minutes.)

BOSTON CHAPTER - The first meeting of the Boston Chapter took place March 5, 1946 with 68 paid members at the close of the evening. The organization has now increased to 115 paid members as of the close of the fiscal year March 25, 1947.

To have members better acquainted an alphabetic roster is made up and each month the first 10 members are nominated to plan the evenings entertainment at the coming meeting. A membership meeting and an executive meeting is held once a month.

**EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:**  
 A talk by Bishop Tiran

A talk on the history of the Armenian Church by Mr. Kebabjian  
 A talk on the psalms sung in the church by Mr. Kebabjian  
 Arrangements being made for the showing of motion pictures "The Land of Joy" or the Installation of Cathologist".  
 Unsuccessful attempts were made to organize a choral group and a dramatic club.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

Bowling parties held twice a month, being a popular activity of the group.  
 Dances, Outings, ACYO night at the Annual Boston Church Bazaar, Bridge party, Christmas Party, Valentine Party.  
 A social is being planned and invitations are to be sent to neighboring chapters to attend in order to become better acquainted with surrounding local chapters.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Receipts:

Including previous balance, membership dues, program book, donations, card party and dance incomes \$3663.18

Disbursements:

Secretarial expense, refreshments, donations, flowers, dance expenses 3012.03  
 Cash in Bank 651.15

A donation of \$220.00 was made to the AGBU Repatriation Fund and \$1,600.00 made to the Boston Armenian Church.

\* \* \*

BRIDGEPORT CHAPTER - All efforts to organize have failed, due to objections to various parts of the constitution. The Bridgeport group decided to drop the organization.

\* \* \*

CHICAGO CHAPTER - A duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for a charter May 15, 1947. (Although the following report of the Chicago Chapter did not reach us in time to present to the Assembly, it is herein incorporated)

Immediately after the last assembly, the Chicago Chapter promoted a May Dance, and decided to make this dance an annual affair to elect a May Queen and her



Court each year. This was for publicity reasons to arouse the interest of both young and old of the Armenian populace of Chicago. The first dance was not for profit making reasons but simply to acquaint the Armenians with the fact that there was an ACYO Chapter in existence in Chicago. The results were far beyond expectation.

The Chicago chapter was re-organized upon receipt of the first draft of the new constitution. Many activities were planned which all came to an abrupt end when the church was destroyed by fire in April 1947.

Present membership consists of twenty five active members. Financial standing at present time is \$175.00

\* \* \*

CLEVELAND CHAPTER: Has not as yet applied for a charter and therefore is not a duly registered members of the ACYO of America. Membership of 25 seniors and 2 juniors. Record of 26 meetings.

ACTIVITIES: Easter church services with dinner following service with Bishop Hancockian presiding. ACYO donated \$200.00 to the church fund. Raffle and luncheon combined. Proceeds put into church fund. Wiener Roast, club picnic, corn roast, dance.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Receipts      | \$907.67      |
| Disbursements | 714.85        |
| Cash on hand. | <u>192.82</u> |

\* \* \*

DETROIT CHAPTER: Has not as yet applied for a charter and therefore is not a registered member of the ACYOA. Membership of 128 members. Meetings are held once a month. As soon as Cultural Hall is completed, meetings will be held twice a month.

ACTIVITIES: Dances, basketball team, bowling team, baseball team who won the championship in 1947 among the 8 teams of the Armenian Athletic Assn. of Detroit, outings, moonlight sail and an all day picnic which is being planned for the summer.

Made a donation of \$100.00 to the church.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Cash on hand | \$168.00 |
|--------------|----------|

HARTFORD CHAPTER - A duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for a charter April 21, 1947. Membership of 28. Meetings are held once a month.

Since the Hartford Chapter has been in existence but a short time, they do not have any past activities to report. Plans for the future however include a play and dinner to be given in June, a picnic to be held this summer, a semi-formal dance to be held with the New Britain Chapter in the fall, and a dinner dance planned tentatively for early spring of 1948.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Receipts     | \$151.90 |
| Expenses     | 75.50    |
| Cash on hand | \$ 56.50 |

\* \* \*

HAVERTHILL CHAPTER - Reports that reorganization looks very hopeful in the fall. An assembly of young people being planned at which time Bishop Tirau will be invited to preside. All past efforts to keep the group active by the few remaining faithful and staunch members have failed. The group has applied to the Central Council for any assistance it may be able to give the Haverhill Chapter.

\* \* \*

LAWRENCE CHAPTER - Has an active membership of 49 with a record of 27 meetings. Duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for charter on April 23, 1947.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:

Interesting talks about the Armenian Church given by Rev. H. Kavookjian.

Committee of five elected to plan a series of lectures on varied subjects to be given by professional men and women. These lectures are open to the public. Program is well under way with the first talk on the subject, "The Mind and its Illnesses" by Dr. Hagopian, Asst. Superintendent of the Danvers State Hospital.

Five active members elected each year to attend all trustee meetings and assist them in their work whenever possible. Already two of the five delegated last year are now regular members of the church trustees.

The Lawrence group has a small but ambitious group of Juniors who are trying to strengthen and expand and equal the mother organization in their own manner. Two active members are in charge of the Junior Group.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: For purely financial reasons three dances and one picnic were given which were very profitable and socially successful. Money derived from these affairs will help pay for a rug, which has already been contracted for, to cover most of the floor of the Church.

Bowling league meets once a week. League welcomes other non-member Armenians to bowl realizing the advantages of universal good will and the possibility of new members.

Other activities - include summer outing, Christmas party, theatre party, movies and socials.

With a successful year behind it the Lawrence chapter of the ACYO forges ahead into its second year, determined to become the truly ideal youth organization to capture the interest of all Armenian young people in Lawrence.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Total income from activities | \$1597.63     |
| Total expenses               | 676.50        |
| Net sum in account           | <u>921.13</u> |

\* \* \*

LOWELL CHAPTER - At the request of Arachnord Syrpazan Hayr, Mr. Steve Johnson of Providence was sent to Lowell as a representative of the ACYO of America to investigate and if possible to unify the as yet unorganized chapter of Lowell. Unfortunately, the conditions prevailing in Lowell at the time of Mr. Johnson's visit were not favorable for a genuinely solid unification of the local chapter. Accordingly he and Mr. Nelson Barbadian (temporary chairman of the local chapter) after having critically examined the local situation decided not to attempt organizing the chapter but to send Mr. Gerald Aharonian as a representative to this Assembly and have him report to the locally temporary officers and to decide on that basis just what procedures will be necessary to remedy their disorganized status.

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NEW BRITAIN CHAPTER - Duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for charter April 25, 1947. Membership of 18 Seniors and 6 Juniors. Meetings are held once a month.

Due to the lack of a steady priest the desire and aim of the New Britain chapter is to bring members of the community closer to the church. Have endeavoured to help the local church in all ways possible with financial and other assistance. A monthly newsletter is published entitled the Illuminator enjoying a circulation of 250 copies distributed throughout the state.

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:** Dances, with proceeds of which a mimeograph machine has been donated to the Church.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Cash on hand \$115.00

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NEW YORK CHAPTER - Duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for charter on May 8, 1947. No report has been submitted.

\* \* \*

NORTH PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER - Duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for charter on May 9, 1947. Membership of 38. Meetings are held twice a month.

**ACTIVITIES:** Socials, dances, trips to various educational places.

Unable to give a financial report due to Assembly expenses, at present.

\* \* \*

PROVIDENCE CHAPTER - Duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for charter May 20, 1947. Membership of 52. Record of 16 meetings plus special meetings. Meetings are held also during the summer months to keep the group active.

**EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:** Dr. Richard Arlen, guest speaker. Talks on Armenian Church by Pastor, Isahag Vardapet Ghazarian.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: Providence Chapter played host to 57 delegates plus other guests of the ACYO at a two-day constitutive assembly on January 12 and 13, 1946. Dinners and dance held for the delegates. Other activities include Valentine get-together, informal dance, beach party, hot dog roast, semi formal dance, minstrel show.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

|                 |  |               |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| Income          |  | \$2507.08     |
| Disbursements   |  | 1677.76       |
| Balance on hand |  | <u>829.32</u> |

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RACINE CHAPTER.. All efforts to establish contact with the Racine chapter of the ACYO have failed due to the fact that enthusiasm is very low. There is hope of reorganizing in the Fall by a few determined members.

\* \* \*

RICHMOND CHAPTER - According to information received March 26, 1947 all efforts to organize the Richmond Chapter have been unsuccessful. The Chapter has dissolved.

\* \* \*

SOUTH MILWAUKEE CHAPTER - Duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for charter on May 14, 1947. Membership 30 Seniors and 3 Juniors. Meetings are held twice a month.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: Plans have been made and dates have been set for inter-club get-togethers, lectures and field trips to various industrial plants in our locality. The South Milwaukee chapter has joined the council of wardens to raise for the purpose of building an auditorium for the local church.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: Plans on schedule for a get acquainted social with all ACYOA chapters in the mid-west to take part in. Snowball Dance held - purpose of which was to raise funds, publicity and membership drive. Outcome very successful.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

|               |      |              |
|---------------|------|--------------|
| Gross profits |      | \$96.00      |
| Expenses      | None |              |
| Net profits   |      | <u>96.00</u> |

SYRACUSE CHAPTER - (Although application for charter and report did not reach us in time to present to the Assembly, the report is herein incorporated.) Syracuse Chapter is a duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for charter on May 26, 1947. The Syracuse chapter has had many executive committee meetings, but as yet have not progressed with much of a settled program of activities.

ACTIVITIES: Lecture given and historical slides shown by Papken Vardapet Varjabedian. Other activities include social get-togethers.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Cash Balance \$10.81

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TROY CHAPTER - A duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for charter May 7, 1947. Membership of 86 Seniors and 3 Juniors. Meetings are held once a month.

ACTIVITIES: Semi-formal dance. Armenian play. Drive to have church pipe organ repaired.

\$500.00 donation made to the church.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Income:        | \$799.28      |
| Disbursements: | 621.68        |
| Balance        | <u>177.60</u> |

\* \* \*

UNION CITY CHAPTER - Since constitutive Assembly last year, the Union City Chapter was unsuccessful in obtaining a quorum at its meetings and business could not be conducted officially, thus making it impossible to maintain a strong and active chapter.

On March 28, 1947 a reorganization rally was held and Arachnord Syrpazan Hayr stressed the importance of the ACYOA and urged all to take active part in revitalizing the Chapter.

The Chapter now has 20 active members and has held a successful Executive committee and Membership Meeting since.

Initiation fees have been received but the application for the charter has not yet come through pend-

ing the approval of the local council of wardens.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Balance carried forward | \$92.46      |
| Disbursements:          | 17.73        |
| Balance on hand         | <u>74.73</u> |

\* \* \*

WATERTOWN CHAPTER - Duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for charter on May 2, 1947. Membership of 56 members. Membership meetings and Executive Committee meetings are held once a month.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: Guest speaker at social, Boston chapter invited to attend. Lectures.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: Socials, record hop, card party, pops concert and social, moonlight sail, dance, outing, ACYO night at church bazaar, Christmas party.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Income:        | \$3018.55     |
| Disbursements: | 2417.02       |
| Balance        | <u>601.53</u> |

\* \* \*

WAUKEGAN CHAPTER - Duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for charter on May 6, 1947. Membership of 26 and 10 prospective members. Meetings are held every three weeks.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: A choir has been organized holding rehearsals at least once a week although Waukegan does not have a church of its own. An Episcopalian church is used for the services. Greatest problem is the fact that the Waukegan group does not have a place of their own to hold church services, choir rehearsals or meetings.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: Planned by calendar chairman through September 1947 and scheduled as follows:  
 JUNE: business meeting and ACYOA Assembly report by delegates. Badarak, dinner and dance sponsored by ACYO.

JULY: business meeting and round table discussion on the origin of the Armenian Religion. First annual picnic of the ACYOA. Day trip to Chicago.

AUGUST: Business meeting and movies of first annual picnic of ACYOA beach party. ACYO membership picnic.

SEPTEMBER: Armenian program (business and program conducted in Armenian) Fall frolic.

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| FINANCIAL REPORT: |              |
| Income            | \$83.36      |
| Disbursements:    | 30.00        |
| Balance           | <u>53.36</u> |

\* \* \*

WEST ALLIS CHAPTER - All efforts to establish contact with the West Allis Chapter of the ACYO have failed. Therefore no report.

\* \* \*

WEST PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER - Duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for charter on May 20, 1947. Membership of 46. Record of 20 membership meetings held during 1946-1947.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: Four educational evenings were planned by pastor Mesrob Vardapet Semerjian.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: Socials, dance, bowling, picnic, card party.

Coke machine was bought and donated to the church. Christmas packages sent to members in service. Helped Ladies Aid extensively in selling chances on a Ford Sedan. Donation of \$400.00 made towards the church building fund.

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| FINANCIAL REPORT: |               |
| Income            | \$941.98      |
| Disbursements:    | 555.72        |
| Balance           | <u>386.26</u> |

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WORCESTER CHAPTER - Duly registered member of the ACYO of America. Applied for charter on March 30, 1947. Membership of 100. Meetings are held twice a month.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: Moving pictures. Guest speaker from Chamber of Commerce. Debate. Armenian night.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: dances, roller skating party, picnic, Halloween dance, Christmas party, athletic activities, bazaar, socials.



Donations made to the church \$2000.00  
Donation to the Repatriation Fund 50.00

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Receipts \$2296.15  
Disbursement 2000.00  
Balance 296.15

\* \* \*

In noting the extensive social activities of the chapters according to the reports received, Arachnord Syrpazan Hayr stated that social affairs should only serve the realization of the important aims of the organization. The social affairs should not be so outstanding in the minds of the members as to overshadow the real purposes of the ACYO, which should stress the distinctive characters of the ACYO as compared with other youth groups and thus assure the success and the perpetuation of the ACYO.

Before taking up the first item on the agenda, Mr. Hovsepien stated that a time limit should be set on the discussions which would follow. He suggested that the closure method be adopted. A motion was made that the Chairman determine the time on which discussion on a subject should cease and be placed to a vote for approval of the entire body. The motion was seconded and carried.

The preliminary part of the agenda dispensed with the Assembly took up the next item on the agenda -- Voting Procedure. The Council proposed two points of voting procedure.

1. On the basis of the pro rata voting.
  - A. If on Pro Rata basis then whether the votes belong to the delegations or the delegates.
2. On the basis of one vote per delegation.

The voting procedure -- used to determine the procedure for the remainder of the Assembly -- was decided to be one vote per delegation. Discussion followed regarding the merits of the two proposed systems.

A motion was made and seconded that the voting procedure at this Assembly be one vote per delegation. The motion was carried 16 to 2 in the affirmative.

The next topic on the agenda was the appointment of the nominating committee to prepare a list of candidates to be elected to the Central Council. Prior to the discussion Syrpazan Hayr explained that from the seven members elected to the Council last year only six remained. Further explaining that six members were not enough he advocated

that nine members be elected to the Central Council for the coming year. This would also facilitate the operation of an amendment to be proposed later, which would expire the term of one-third of the Central Council members each year, leaving a remaining body of two-thirds of the group. Syrpazan Hayr stressed that nine members would be better and practical for the following year and explained that the Central Council had done good work and in order to carry on and complete the work, only three more members should be elected to the six already in office and thus establish the system of changing one-third of the members of the Central Council each year. To this nominating or list-making committee Syrpazan Hayr appointed: Miss Peggy Bejian, Mr. Sarkis Samarian, Miss Grace Meshejian. It was decided that two more members be added to this committee -- Mr. Herach Manoogian and Miss Gertrude Mahigian. In order to give the Nominating Committee the proper directives, following their appointments Syrpazan Hayr suggested suggested that we determine whether or not the Central Council members should be increased to nine members and further questioned the Assembly on its sentiments in regard to retaining the six Provisional Central Council members, thereby electing only three new members to the Central Council at this assembly.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that the six members of the Central Council be retained and three more be elected to the body. To the query made as to how one-third of the members of the Central Council would be dropped from office each year Syrpazan Hayr explained that the old members would be dropped, thus dovetailing each three after the other.

Decision on this point was postponed until such time as the amendment of the constitution with respect to this proposal be brought to the floor.

A motion was made and seconded that nine candidates be nominated by the nominating committee and six more be proposed from the floor. The motion was carried unanimously.

The next business on the agenda was the proposals of amendments to the constitution submitted to the Assembly by the Chapters, Central Council and the Central Executive Committee of the Diocese.

Following are the proposals in order of presentation, comments thereupon, and decisions made.

---ARTICLE I SECTION 1  
NAME AND SCOPE

PROPOSED BY THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

THAT THIS ARTICLE SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

The name of this organization shall be the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America. This Organization shall be a national organization embodying the youth of all Armenian churches in the North American Diocese.

COMMENTS:

Motion was made, seconded and carried 17 to 1 that this proposal be adopted as an amendment.

---ARTICLE I SECTION 1  
NAME

PROPOSED BY THE PROVIDENCE CHAPTER

That the name of the organization be changed from ACYOA to the Armenian Church Junior League.

COMMENTS:

Providence Chapter was reminded that the resolution of the Church Convention in 1945 and the Providence Constitutive Youth Assembly in 1946 decided the name of the organization to be the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America.

A motion was made, not seconded. The proposal was outruled.

---ARTICLE III SECTION 1  
POLICIES

PROPOSED BY UNION CITY

THAT SECTION 1 OF ARTICLE III BE AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

To function subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the Archdiocese of the Diocese of the Armenian Orthodox Church in North America (except Calif) or the Locum-Tenons and the Central Executive Council of the ACYOA in accordance with the Constitution and by-laws of the Armenian Orthodox Church in North America.

COMMENTS:

An explanation was made by Syrpazan Hayr that these policies in the constitution are with regard to bodies external to the ACYO and not to bodies within the organization.

A motion was made and seconded that this proposal be put aside until the authority of the Central Council is defined later. Union City thereupon withdrew the proposal.

---ARTICLE III SECTION 1      PROPOSED BY BOSTON  
POLICIES

SUGGESTED CHANGE

...in accordance with the Constitution and by-laws of the Armenian Orthodox Church in North America, through the local vestrymen and clergy.

COMMENTS:

The Boston delegation explained that in order to work more in harmony with the vestrymen and clergy -- where- in problems could be submitted to better advantage to the Diocesan authorities and the archnord through the priest and local council of wardens, it was necessary to include this last phrase.

In answer to this the Chairman read Article III Sec 2., wherein the relationship between trustees and the chapters were defined.

A motion was made and seconded that the proposal be adopted as an amendment. The vote count was 14 to 4. The motion was defeated.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn this session for dinner. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next business session to convene at 10:00 a.m. Saturday May 31.

The second business session was opened at 11:00 a.m. and presided over by Bishop Tiran and with Mr. Hovsepian in the chair.

The remainder of the proposals were taken up as follows:

---ARTICLE IV SECTION 1      PROPOSED BY WATERTOWN  
MEMBERSHIP

THAT THE SECTION SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

All males and females who have attained the age of fourteen years, who have been baptized and confirmed in and belong to the Armenian Church or those attend- ing the Armenian Church and subscribe to the provisions of this constitution are qualified to membership in this organization.

COMMENTS:

Syrpazan Hayr gave an explanation on the rite of con- firmation. He discussed fully that such a proposal would conflict with the principles of our faith. A motion for the adoption of the proposal as an amend- ment was not made. The proposal was outruled.

---ARTICLE IV SECTION 8  
MEMBERSHIP

PROPOSED BY SYRACUSE

That the age limit be set at 40.

COMMENTS:

Discussion took place for and against the proposal. The proposal was not seconded. The proposal was outruled.

---ARTICLE IV SECTION 9  
MEMBERSHIP

PROPOSED BY THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

That candidates for active membership shall make application in duplicate

COMMENTS:

A motion was made and seconded and carried that the words "in duplicate" be added to this section.

---ARTICLE IV SECTION 10  
MEMBERSHIP

PROPOSED BY PROVIDENCE

That the acceptance of new members be made by a majority of the membership and that the restriction and limitations for them be lifted.

COMMENTS:

Providence explained that this organization being a church organization no member should depend upon a few members to become members of the organization, claiming that once a member applies for membership no voting by a group is necessary.

A motion was made and seconded that the discussion be closed and the proposal be put to a vote. Vote count: 13 to 4 - one abstaining. The section to remain as it stands.

---ARTICLE IV SECTION 15  
MEMBERSHIP

PROPOSED BY NEW BRITAIN

Proposals were made with respect to the rights of Junior Members.

COMMENTS:

An explanation of procedure and rights of Junior Members was made to the New Britain Chapter. Discussion was not necessary.

---ARTICLE VI SECTION 1  
FORMATION OF CHAPTERS      PROPOSED BY BOSTON

THAT THE LAST SENTENCE SHOULD BE CHANGED TO READ:  
...One such chapter only may be authorized in each  
Community.

AN ADDITION TO THIS WAS PROPOSED BY THE CENTRAL COUNCIL  
In places where there are no Armenian churches or  
organized communities of the Armenian Church, chapters  
may be established, all references in this constitu-  
tion to the priest and Council of Wardens not applying  
to such chapters, until such Council of Wardens is  
formed in that Community.

COMMENTS:

A motion was made and seconded that the proposal plus  
the addition of the Central Council proposal be adopted.  
Vote Count: Unanimous for the adoption of the proposal  
as an amendment.

---ARTICLE VII SECTION 7 PARAGRAPH C      PROPOSED BY THE  
CHAPTER ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS      CENTRAL EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE OF THE  
DIOCESE OF N. AMERICA

THAT THE PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE CHANGED TO READ:  
...to decide on the amount and the manner of financial  
help, which the Chapter may desire to give to the local  
Church or to any other religious or charitable or cul-  
tural organization, in accordance with the aims and  
policies of this organization with the consent of the  
Council of Wardens of the Church.

COMMENTS:

After considerable discussion against the incorporation  
of this proposal in our constitution and in order to  
put an end to this discussion, Syrpazan Hayr stated  
that we could not overrule this proposal in view of  
the fact that the Central Executive Committee has the  
last word in being the highest authority in the Church.

However it was suggested that we ask the Central Execu-  
tive Committee to reconsider its decision in the light  
of the arguments that were put forth. Motion was  
made and seconded that the proposal of the Central  
Executive Committee be returned for reconsideration  
in view of the discussions had on the floor. The  
motion was unanimously carried.

---ARTICLE IX SECTION 1  
CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSED BY CENTRAL COUNCIL

That the Executive Committee of the Chapter shall be elected as a body, and will elect by secret ballot its officers as follows....

COMMENTS:

A motion was made and seconded that we adopt the amendment as stated. Vote count: 14 to 4. Motion not carried.

---ARTICLE IX SECTION 1.  
CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSED BY BOSTON

Instead of limiting the Board to two councillors, this section should provide for a minimum of two councillors.

COMMENTS:

Discussion from the floor indicated that this proposal would not be practical as 9 members seemed to be enough. However it was suggested that an Advisory Board be created to distribute the work of the Chapter Executive Committee. A motion was made but not seconded. The proposal was outruled.

---ARTICLE IX SECTION 5  
CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSED BY S. MILWAUKEE

That a Chapter Executive Committee member shall be disqualified to serve on the committee during his current term if absent a total of four times from Executive Committee meetings without justifiable cause. The Central Council shall have the power to remove from office during a current term any officer of the Chapter Executive Committee who proves to be incompetent and incapable of carrying out his assigned duties on the report and the recommendation of the Chapter Executive Committee.

COMMENTS:

Discussion took place. A motion was made and seconded and carried 14 to 4.

---ARTICLE IX SECTION 7  
CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSED BY CENTRAL COUNCIL

That amongst the duties of the recording secretary the clause "forward all duplicate applications to the Central Council within 30 days after approval" should be inserted.

COMMENTS:

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the amendment and was carried unanimously.

---ARTICLE IX SECTION 10  
CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSED BY NEW BRITAIN

That all payments and bank withdrawals and cheques made on behalf of the Organization must be made upon the signatures of the Treasurer and one other member of the Chapter Executive Committee designated by the Executive Committee.

A motion was made to adopt this proposal as an amendment. It was seconded and unanimously carried.

---ARTICLE X SECTION 5  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROPOSED BY CENTRAL COUNCIL

With reference to voting procedure for future assemblies Syrpazan Hayr stated that although it was decided at this assembly that each chapter should have one vote in the proceedings, this decision has many inconveniences for future assemblies. He further stated that it is already in the constitution that the number of delegates should be proportionate to the number of members (Article X Section 5.). He also stated that the basic unity in our organization is the individual and if the chapter has 200 members and sends one delegate each chapter will have 1/200 of a vote. If a chapter is small they should have a smaller voice. If large they should have a larger voice. Syrpazan Hayr explains that in our church organization we have one delegate for each 100 members. Secondly we shall have assemblies and if we have 22 chapters we shall have 22 members here. We should decide this year how many members a chapter has the right to send. Syrpazan Hayr thereupon submitted a plan of representation as follows:

|                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| to 25 members   | 1 delegate |
| between 25-50   | 2 "        |
| between 50-100  | 3 "        |
| between 100-200 | 4 "        |
| over 200        | 5 "        |

COMMENTS:

A motion was made and seconded that Syrpazan Hayr's devised plan be accepted for the forthcoming assembly. Motion was unanimously carried.

A motion was made and seconded that the votes be cast as delegations. The motion was carried 17-to-1.



---ARTICLE XI SECTION 14            PROPOSED BY CENTRAL COUNCIL  
CENTRAL COUNCIL

Any member of the Central Council failing to attend four consecutive meetings without justifiable cause is excluded from the Council on the vote of the Council.

COMMENTS:

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously.

---ARTICLE XI SECTION 1            PROPOSED BY CENTRAL COUNCIL  
CENTRAL COUNCIL

THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADDED TO THE SECTION:

The term of office of Central Council members shall be three years. Each year the offices of one-third of the number of members shall be terminated and new members shall be elected to fill the vacancies. No member can be reelected before the lapse of one year, after his last term of office.

COMMENTS:

A motion was made and seconded that this amendment be adopted as read. The motion was unanimously carried.

---ARTICLE XI SECTION 1            PROPOSED BY CENTRAL COUNCIL  
CENTRAL COUNCIL

That from among the active members of the organization the General Assembly shall elect not less than 6 and not more than 12 members who will form the Central Council.

COMMENTS:

A motion was made, seconded and carried for the adoption of this proposal as an amendment.

---ARTICLE XI SECTION 2            PROPOSED BY CENTRAL COUNCIL  
CENTRAL COUNCIL

That vacancies in office during the term of the person vacating may be filled by cooption in the Central Council - which will fill the vacancy until the succeeding General Assembly.

COMMENTS:

A motion was made and seconded that the proposal of the Central Council be adopted. The proposal was carried unanimously.

---ARTICLE XVII SECTION 2 & 3  
DISSOLUTION

PROPOSED BY CENTRAL EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE OF N. AMERICAN  
DIOCESE AND NEW BRITAIN  
CHAPTER.

That upon the dissolution of any chapter the assets, records and all property thereof shall belong and be turned over to the Council of Wardens of the local church. If there is no church in the community, such assets, records and properties shall be turned over and belong to the Central Council.

COMMENTS:

A motion was made and seconded that we accept this proposal. The motion was carried unanimously.

PROPOSED BY WATERTOWN

---Watertown chapter wanted a discussion as to how to make our Organization more attractive to the Armenian youth, to the manner and ways of obtaining new members, to overcome the competition from other clubs. Bringing forth the difficulties experienced by other clubs and possibly help solve their problems and ours at the same time. Watertown chapter felt that there should be more information forthcoming on our Church, the symbolism behind our services, why certain forms and procedures are adhered to, also explanations of various church holidays. As it can be seen we are in the dark and are seeking more light in regards to our Armenian church. Perhaps bulletins will help or a newspaper that will feature at least one article a month on the subject, possibly lecturers. It is felt that a discussion and action on the above proposals will help in the building and strengthening of our organization.

COMMENTS:

Watertown chapter was asked to formulate resolutions arising from these good remarks, upon which Mr. Gechijian explained that there was a split of effort and energy of groups within the church striving towards the same goal. As an example he mentioned the choir groups which should merge with the ACYOA and a choir committee be formed within the ACYO -- each member of the choir thus becoming a member of the ACYO.

Explanation to these points however brought forth the difficulties which would arise since choirs are under the direct authority of the priest and the Council of Wardens. But it was suggested that by-laws could be drawn stipulating that the choir groups be under the direct supervision of the priest.

This item brought a close to the proposed amendments. However further discussions followed on ways to equip the ACYO member to serve his church better by supplying means for him to understand better the liturgy, services, canons, rules, culture, art, literature, etc. Several methods were proposed by various chapters such as the publication of a handbook, explaining the Armenian Church, Armenian culture and Armenian History. Suggestions were made that sermons be preached in English at periodic intervals and that there be a compilation and distribution of a complete listing of reference material; that younger Reverends be sought after to serve in our Churches. To fulfill these requests it was asked that funds be created to realize the desires of the chapters.

These discussions were followed by a reading of the plans of the Central Council for the coming year. The plans incorporated: (1) publishing of a four-page monthly newsletter to include chapter activities; significances of church holidays (rituals, history of the Armenian church, etc) information on categorically similar organizations; international Armenian Church news; Armenian culture (theatre, literature, music, etc.) and guidance material for the chapters. (2) Lecturers to be sent to the Chapters. (3) Arrangements made for inter chapter speakers. (4) Regional conclaves organized in the New England area, Middle West and New York.

Various samples of youth group publications were presented and ideas were discussed with reference to the proposed paper.

A motion was made and seconded that the publication be distributed on a subscription basis. The motion was carried by a majority vote of 17. One abstaining.

The treasurer submitted to the Assembly the budget for the coming year of 1947-1948 as follows:

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Indebtness           | \$550.00      |
| Office Expenses      | 200.00        |
| Publication Expenses | 600.00        |
| Stationery           | 240.00        |
| Traveling Expenses   | 500.00        |
| Incidentals          | <u>110.00</u> |
|                      | \$2200.00     |

A motion was made and seconded that the budget be accepted as read. Unanimously carried.

In order to satisfy the budget of the Central Council three methods of arriving at the percentage was presented.

1. Each chapter be taxed a definite amount on a membership quota basis.
2. A certain percentage of the gross income be determined by the Assembly.
3. A fixed amount for each delegate that a Chapter may send.

After much discussion a motion was made and seconded that the net system be used in determining the percentage of such net to be given to the Central Council. The term net to mean income less operating expenses of the chapter without the deductions of contributions.

The motion was carried by a majority vote of 17. One abstaining.

A motion was made and seconded that the Central Council determine the percentage of the net income of the chapter to be received by the C.C. The motion was carried by a majority vote of 16. 2 abstaining.

A list of candidates for election to the Central Council were submitted by the nominating committee as follows:

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Haig Serabian .....       | New York         |
| Aghavni Paroonagian.....  | Ph. Philadelphia |
| Yefkin Der Bedrosian..... | Troy             |
| Theresa Agopian.....      | Worcester        |
| Steven Der Margosian..... | New Britain      |
| Peggy Bejian.....         | Providence       |
| Gertrude Nahigian.....    | Boston           |
| Grace Moshejian.....      | W. Philadelphia  |
| Harold Manoogian.....     | New Britain      |
| Paul Najarian.....        | Providence.      |

Of these Gertrude Nahigian was elected to the Council with a record of 12 votes; Haig Serabian, 10 votes; Harold Manoogian, 8 votes.

Syrpazan Hayr called the newly elected members of the Central Council together with the six reinstated members to kneel before him while he gave his blessings.

Boston and Detroit both extended their invitations for the Assembly to convene in their respective cities in 1948. Detroit won the vote. The Assembly adjourned 5:00 p.m. Saturday May 31, 1947.

Respectfully submitted

Zaven Hovsepian - Chairman

Mary V Shalakian - Secretary

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