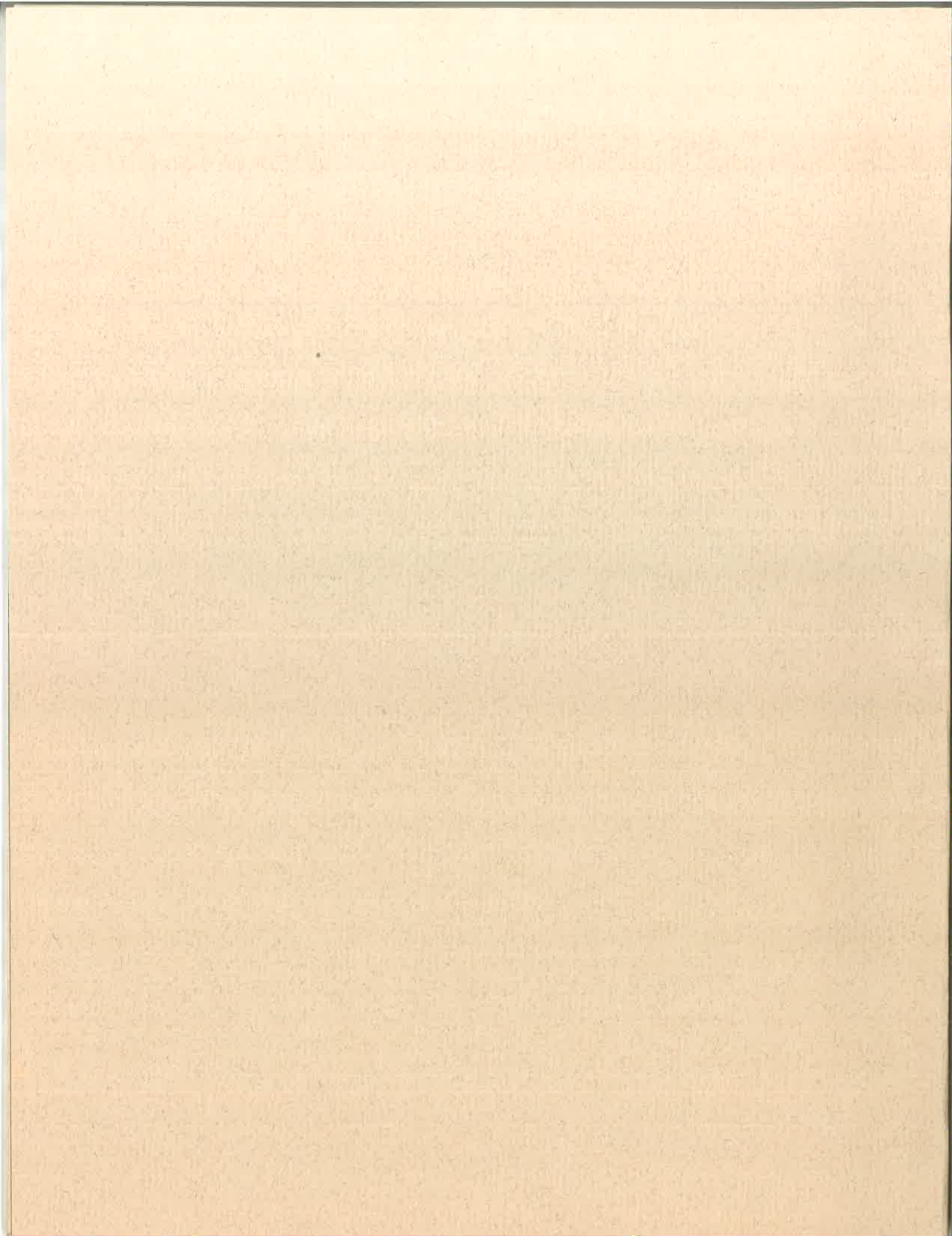


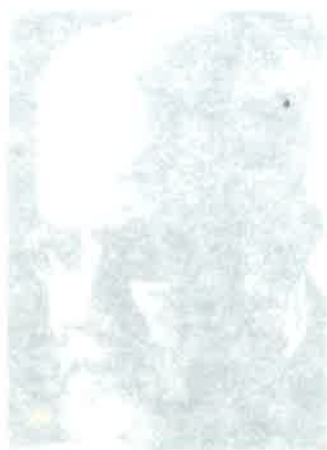


1990 ACYOA General Assembly &
20th National Sports Weekend

August 29 – September 3, 1990

Cleveland, Ohio





He was born in 1897 in the village of Tashir, near Yerevan, Armenia. He was educated in the Armenian schools of his native village and in the Armenian schools of Constantinople. He was ordained a priest in 1921 and served in various parishes in the Armenian Diocese of Constantinople. He was elected Bishop of the Armenian Diocese of Constantinople in 1932, serving in that post until 1938. He was then elected Bishop of the Armenian Diocese of Jerusalem in 1938, serving in that post until 1944. He was then elected Primate of the American Diocese in 1944 and served in that post until 1958. He was then elected Patriarch of the Armenian Diocese of Constantinople in 1958 and served in that post until 1964. He was then elected Primate of the American Diocese in 1964 and served in that post until 1989.

Back in London, he had charge of the Armenian Church which, in addition to the regular one in Hampstead, the blitz, counseling and entertaining hundreds of Armenian-American G.I.'s, celebrating Divine Liturgy with bombs dropping on London.

Archp. Tiran was elected Primate of the American Diocese, arrived in 1944 and was succeeded by the late Archp. Garegin Hovsepiantz, then Primate. The new Primate served for seven years; during his tenure, ten new churches were built in the United States, the Diocesan constitution and administration were modernized, and the difficult ground work prepared for the erection of a Cathedral. (Not to mention many other accomplishments, such as the establishment of the ACYOA, bringing young theologically-minded candidates to study in the United States as future parish priests, and translating the "Hadarak".)

In 1946, Archp. Tiran was sent to Jerusalem where the St. James brotherhood chose him as *tochin, terem*. Elected Patriarch in 1951, he served until August 1958, but the King would not give him the necessary "termian" and deported him. (Des to Echinmazers were respect in that familiar period of McCarthyism and anti-communism.)

New York has been Archp. Tiran's home base in recent years, a long series of invitations to serve and celebrate of Divine Liturgy in our churches around the country, to give lectures on a great variety of subjects, religious and otherwise, with which he is conversant, and to write articles, has been a way of life for him. He is in constant touch with his brother, Fr. Hagop Nersoyan of Calcutta, his sister, Mrs. Mariam Nersoyan, and several nephews and their families. And with a great host of friends and acquaintances, many of whom are here to pay the honor to Archp. Tiran Nersoyan, an outstanding Armenian-American clergyman.

ARCHBISHOP TIRAN NERSOYAN
1904 - 1989

IN MEMORIAM...

A native of Aintab (1904) Abp. Tiran Nersoyan was born Nersess Tavoukjian, the son of a priest and a former schoolteacher. At the age of 11, he and his family became refugees, traveling by mule to Aleppo. The boy endured many hardships, especially hunger, even after his father returned from the exile which he and other priests and leaders had to undergo.



The Tavoukjian family eventually went back to Aintab, and in 1921, Abp. Yeghishe Tourian, then Patriarch of Jerusalem, gladly accepted his former pupil's son, now 17, in the seminary. Nersess graduated, taught at the lay school for the children of refugees, and was ordained a deacon, studying at night with Abp. Tourian, who taught his young students church history, liturgy and philology.

On the day of the Feast of the Transfiguration in 1928, Nersess walked to the altar, escorted by his father, and was ordained by Patriarch Tourian. He was sent to London for academic training, chiefly at King's College, and went back to Jerusalem to teach in the seminary, of which he became principal in 1932, serving in that post for five years. Back in London, he had charge of the Armenian Church which, in 1938 and thereafter, meant enduring the blitz, counseling and entertaining hundreds of Armenian-American G.I.'s, celebrating Divine Liturgy with bombs dropping all around.

Abp. Tiran was elected Primate of the American Diocese, arrived in 1944 and was installed by the late Abp. Garegin Hovsepian, then Primate. The new Primate served for ten years; during his tenure, ten new churches were built in the United States, the Diocesan constitution and administration were modernized, and the difficult groundwork prepared for the erection of a Cathedral. (Not to mention many other accomplishments, such as the establishment of the ACYOA, bringing young theological candidates to study in the United States as future parish priests, and translating the "badarak.")

In 1956, Abp. Tiran went to Jerusalem where the St. James brotherhood chose him as *locum tenens*. Elected Patriarch in 1957, he served until August 1958, but the King would not give him the necessary "ferman," and deported him. (Ties to Etchmiadzin were suspect in that familiar period of McCarthyism and anti-communism.)

New York has been Abp. Tiran's home base in recent years; a long series of invitations to serve as celebrant of Divine Liturgy in our churches around the country, to give lectures on a great variety of subjects, religious and otherwise, with which he is conversant, and to write articles, has been a way of life for him. He is in constant touch with his brother, Dr. Hagop Nersoyan in Ohio, a sister, Mrs. Mariam Jebejian, and several nephews and their families. And with a great host of friends and admirers, many of whom are here tonight to honor Abp. Tiran Nersoyan, an illustrious Armenian-American clergyman.

ARCHBISHOP TIRAN NERSOYAN
1904 - 1989



Vasken I,
Catholicos of All Armenians

**VASKEN SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST,
BY THE MERCY OF GOD
AND THE WILL OF THE ARMENIAN NATION,
CHIEF BISHOP AND CATHOLICOS OF ALL ARMENIANS,
SUPREME PATRIARCH OF THE PREEMINENT SEE
OF THE ARARATIAN APOSTOLIC SEE OF THE
CATHEDRAL OF HOLY ETCHMIADZIN**

To the Diocesan Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the ACYOA and all those participating in the "Athletic Weekend," fatherly greeting and patriarchal blessing.

The Armenian "athletic associations" are performing a providential role for the Armenians living outside of the fatherland by fostering a healthy mind in a healthy body, and supporting the sacred effort of national self-preservation. They work fervently and side by side with our churches and community organizations, introducing our ethnic culture to the new generation, creating and generating love toward our ancient and newly-created values. Through that kind of love they bind the young people together in an Armenian atmosphere.

Your Youth Organization as well as your "Athletic Weekend" affair, which occupies an honorable place in the life of your Diocese, whose 20th anniversary of fruitful achievements is to be celebrated in September of this year is highly praiseworthy.

On this delightful occasion, in answer to His Eminence's request, I happily send you our patriarchal blessing and warm wishes, so that the Lord may always grant you good health and abundant vigor to work, and optimism, so that you may, with the same inspiration and zeal, crown your cultural, educational, and athletic activities with new accomplishments.

Stay well through the strength of the Holy Spirit, and be ever blessed by the Lord and us: amen.

Vasken I
Catholicos of All Armenians

This encyclical was issued on January 27, 1990 (1439, Armenian calendar) from Holy Etchmiadzin.



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 (



PRIMATE'S MESSAGE

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the ACYOA Sports Weekend, I extend my warm greetings and congratulations to ACYOA members everywhere.

You are the generation in whom we all have special confidence and hope. In the many dilemmas facing the Armenian Church of America, you have been both assertive and passionate; to the recent tragedies that have assaulted our homeland and people, you have responded with unprecedented action and concern - fundraising, publicizing, building with your own muscle and will. We can safely leave behind the platitude that you are "the future of the Church" and proudly consider you its dynamic and persistent present.

But with that pride comes a keen awareness that the Armenian Church, shepherd of an often displaced people for centuries, must tend to the needs of today, particularly today's ACYOA. As I myself begin a new chapter in my ministry, I look to you for your advice, your love, your commitment. For if all ACYOA members pledge themselves, body and spirit, to the growth and well-being of the Armenian Church and to seek their own spiritual growth within, then it will be done.

And that you should come from all parts of the Diocese and gather in the parish of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church of Cleveland is a vivid symbol of both the vastness of the Armenian Church and its serene oneness. We are many and widespread, but Armenian faithful come together in unity whether to work, pray, worship, or, in this case, to learn and play.

God bless you all and may He keep you ever faithful and ever courageous in service to Him and to each other.

With prayers,

Fr. Khajag Barsamian

Fr. Khajag Barsamian
Primate

New York City
July 1990

Right Reverend Father Khajag Barsamian, Primate



I feel gratified that our energetic youth at St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church spearheaded by Mona Karoghlanian, have taken the initiative of playing host to the ACYOA General Assembly and 20th National Sports Weekend to be held in Cleveland.

It is considered a project of great significance which involves determination, hard work and sacrifice. The thing that amazes me deeply is that our youth look on this project as a challenge to mobilize their potential resources and direct them to a worthy or noble cause benefiting our church. In addition to being a challenge, the project also offers opportunities for fun, skills development, introduction to the competitive environment and development of social and interpersonal skills.

A reason most frequently cited by youth for participating in Sports Weekend is the joy of running fast, enduring a long run, flying through the air on a long jump, catching a softball all are sensations young athletes experience on Sports Weekend. When asked why they like to take part in Sports Weekend, youth often respond by saying that they want to develop new skills. They are eager to learn new ways in jumping, bumps, hitting a baseball, shooting a basketball with accuracy and doing floor exercises or gymnastics or diving.

We live in a competitive society. Competition is almost innate with youth. Athletes, when asked why they participate in Sports Weekend, say very simply, "I want to compete." They are anxious to be able to measure their abilities by comparing them to others. How does competition affect their personality development? According to psychologists, athletes develop desirable character traits that help them in the real world. They found out that athletes showed more self discipline, self-confidence and ability to work cooperatively with others.

Young athletes frequently say that they like to participate in Sports Weekend because they can meet other people, form relationships and spend time with their friends. We all have a strong social need to feel included in a group. Through team sports, youth learn to work with others and to subordinate personal goals for the benefit of the group. This attitude can serve as a model and base that will develop throughout life. Learning to be a part of a team will help in adult life.

Our youth had undertaken this big project years ago. They made a good showing of themselves. Based on the valuable experience gained by their predecessors, they pledge to do much better this time by rising to the occasion and relying on God's help.

Very Rev. Fr. Sooren Chinchinian
Pastor

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH
678 Richmond Road
Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143
(216) 381-6590



ACYOA Sports Weekend
Cleveland, Ohio

1990 ACYOA National Sports Weekend

St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church, Cleveland ACYOA Seniors

Dear Friends:

The St. Gregory of Narek A.C.Y.O.A. of Cleveland deems it a honor and pleasure to have hosted the 1990 A.C.Y.O.A. General Assembly and Sports Weekend. On behalf of the O-HYE-O '90 Committee, I would like to welcome all who have travelled from many parts of North America to ... "THE BEST LOCATION IN THE NATION."

Very Rev. Fr.
Sooren Chinchinian
Pastor

Mona Karoghlianian
Chairman

Cheryl Arslanian
Vice-Chairman

Anita Arpajian
Corresponding Sec'y

Kim Zadnik
Recording Sec'y

Melanie Gumushdjan
Treasurer

This is the first time since 1953 that the A.C.Y.O.A. General Assembly returns to the shores of Lake Erie . . . and the first time the Cleveland Chapter is hosting Sports Weekend. We are proud to host this celebration on the auspicious occasion of the 20th anniversary of the inception of the Sports Weekend.

Plans, preparations and dreams have been built during the past year. Tonight is the culmination of the efforts of a dedicated and committed group of individuals. The parish of St. Gregory of Narek and the Cleveland community-at large is a small -- but vibrant gathering of individuals. They take pride in their church, community, city, A.C.Y.O.A. and above all their faith in God. It has been my distinct privilege to serve as the Chairman and work with this committee.

On behalf of all of us, we'd like to thank all of you for your participation, support and love in our church and the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America.

At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the army of volunteers who helped in every facet in making O-HYE-O '90 what it has turned out to be. The vastness in such an undertaking has many dimensions; therefore, accolades must go to our committee members, and also; to all who have supported this endeavor financially and morally. On behalf of all the committees and sub-committees, we would like to also acknowledge those who listened to our many dreams and frustrations -- always encouraging our enthusiasm to the end. And last but not least, we are indebted to the Parish Council who has been a source of unwavering support since the inception of O-HYE-O '90.

Cleveland truly is . . . "THE BEST LOCATION IN THE NATION," and we sincerely hope you have enjoyed this celebration of youth!

Sincerely yours,

Mona Karoghlianian
Chairman



Our Presidents, 1946–1990



Archbishop
Tiran Nersoyan



Archbishop
Mampre Calfayan



Archbishop
Sion Manoogian



Archbishop
Torkom Manoogian



Right Rev. Fr.
Khajag Barsamian

The Prayer of A.C.Y.O.A.

O Lord our Savior Jesus Christ, Who art the Way, the Truth, and the Life, give us, the youth of the Church of Armenia, we beseech Thee, the wisdom to know, to love, and to serve Thee in our personal lives severally, and in the corporate life of our Organization.

Thou that ledest men in the way, lead us, thy children, that we may be able to serve the Church through our people, with courage and vision, and in the faith of our illustrious forefathers. Inspire us, O Lord, and open our eyes to thy light, that we may cherish and profit by the heritage which our forefathers have left to us, and that we may be aware of our responsibilities as citizens of our beloved country, the United States of America.

Fill us, O Christ our God, with thy Holy Spirit, that we may be the obedient and unselfish servants of the Will of our Heavenly Father, to whom, together with Thee and the Holy Spirit, is befitting Glory, Dominion and Honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.



Pledge

I solemnly promise and declare upon my honor, that as a member of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, I shall, to the best of my ability, be a faithful son of the Armenian Church; shall be a devoted upholder of the Armenian cultural heritage; shall be a loyal citizen of the United States; and I shall diligently abide by the objects, policies, and decisions of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America. I shall not strive for personal recognition and pleasure, but will serve our Church, our Community, and our Country, for the greater glory of God.



Dear Members and Friends:

On behalf of the St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church, we would like to express a most warm and sincere welcome. It is a sheer joy to see this gathering of our youth and hope they have enjoyed our "HYE" hospitality.

The Parish Council is indeed proud of its A.C.Y.O.A. Chapter. The O-HYE-O '90 Committee has worked in communion with one another; they have come together under the banner of the **ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA** and shared their talents with commitment and dedication.

We are cognizant of the fact that you, our beloved youth, are the jewels of the Armenian Church of today. From the inception of the O-HYE-O '90 project, our A.C.Y.O.A. Chapter has enjoyed the full confidence and support of the Parish Council. We tonight, take our hats off to you and say:
"GOD BLESS YOU, and remember . . . WE LOVE YOU!!!"

Sincerely,

Florence Karoghlanian

Florence Karoghlanian
Chairman
Parish Council

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH
678 Richmond Road
Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143
(216) 381-6590



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 12, 1990

I am pleased to send my warmest greetings to all of you participating in the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America's O-HYE-O '90.

Sports have provided a common ground upon which young people can not only test their athletic skills, but also develop mutual understanding and respect. This event brings together talented athletes and clearly demonstrates how goodwill can be sown on the field of athletic competition.

Competing in sports can teach us many lessons -- the importance of perseverance, teamwork, fair play, sportsmanship, self-control, and self-confidence. These lessons will serve you well throughout your life.

I salute all of you for your dedication to developing the athletic skills necessary to excel, and I commend all the coaches, parents, and volunteers who have made this event possible.

Mrs. Bush joins me in wishing you the best of luck, and may you enjoy a rewarding competition.

Geo Bush



RICHARD F. CELESTE
GOVERNOR

STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COLUMBUS 43266-0601



August 29, 1990

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
ARMENIAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to all of you, who have gathered here today, in Richmond Heights, Ohio as the St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church hosts the 1990 ACYOA National Sports Weekend.

The "O-HYE-O 90" games provide an excellent opportunity for all of you to share past experiences and information which will improve your knowledge and understanding of this most important sporting event. I would like to commend each of you for reflecting on your many achievements and accomplishments as a source for future inspiration.

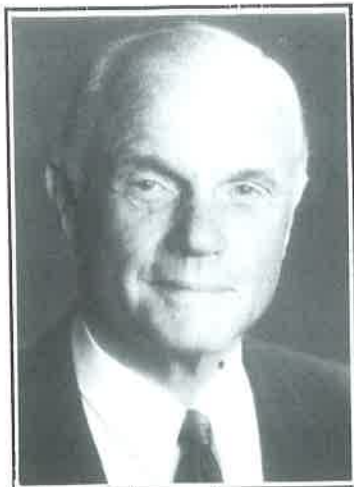
The Armenian Youth Organization of America's National Sports Weekend symbolizes pride shared by each of you for promoting fellowship, good physical fitness, and fun.

Warmest wishes in this most important endeavor.

Best regards,

Richard F. Celeste

Richard F. Celeste
Governor



JOHN GLENN, OHIO, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM V. ROTH, JR., DELAWARE
TED STEVENS, ALASKA
WILLIAM S. COHEN, MAINE
WARREN B. RUDMAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JOHN HEINZ, PENNSYLVANIA
PETE WILSON, CALIFORNIA

EDWARD WEISS, STAFF DIRECTOR
BARNHART, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

August 29, 1990

O-HYE-O '90
1990 ACYOA National Sports Weekend
Armenian Church Youth Organization of America
678 Richmond Road
Richmond Heights, OH 44143

Dear Friends:

It is my privilege to welcome you to the ACYOA National General Assembly and Sports Weekend in our beautiful North Coast city of Cleveland.

Friendly competition in sports and games develops both physical and mental discipline and helps young people prepare for the future. I am proud of all of you who are participating in this event, and I am especially pleased to commend those whose hard work made it possible.

Annie joins me in welcoming you and wishing O-HYE-O a successful and rewarding event in Ohio.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

John Glenn
United States Senator

JG/ca

LOUIS STOKES
21ST DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
LABOR/HHS/EDUCATION
HUD/INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 1990

2365 RAYBURN HOUSE
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(202) 225-1234

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1240 EAST 9
CLEVELAND, OH
(216) 522-1234

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS
2140 LEXINGTON
SUITE 100
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH
(216) 522-1234



Ms. Mona Karoghlanian
Chairman
1990 ACYOA National Sports Weekend
678 Richmond Road
Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143

Dear Ms. Karoghlanian:

I am pleased to learn of your participation in "O-HYE-O 90", sponsored by A.C.Y.O.A.

This annual gathering will serve as a vehicle, not only to engage in friendly competition but also to unite young Armenian ACYOA athletes from the U.S. and Canada. I urge all who take part to strive to do their best in these events. I hope the Sports Weekend will allow both the participants and spectators alike to share in the building of strong bodies and minds while promoting fellowship through athletics.

I wish you all the best in your participation in this Sports Weekend and hope you continue to form and maintain positive and friendly ties with each other.

Good luck and remember to always aim high!

Sincerely,

LOUIS STOKES
Member of Congress

LS/msd

Enclosure



E. ECKART
TRICT, OHIO

MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON
E. COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON
DEREGULATION &
TIZATION

ITY WHIP



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1111 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-3575
(202) 225-6331

DISTRICT OFFICE
5970 HEISLEY RD #220
MENTOR, OHIO 44060-1872
(216) 522-2056

TOLL FREE:
1-800-457-7375

August 29, 1990

St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church
678 Richmond Road
Richmond Heights, Ohio 44134

Dear Friends:

Please extend my best wishes to all of the young Armenian ACYOA athletes from all around the United States and Canada, who will be participating in the "O-HYE-O 90" program hosted by the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church in its National General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

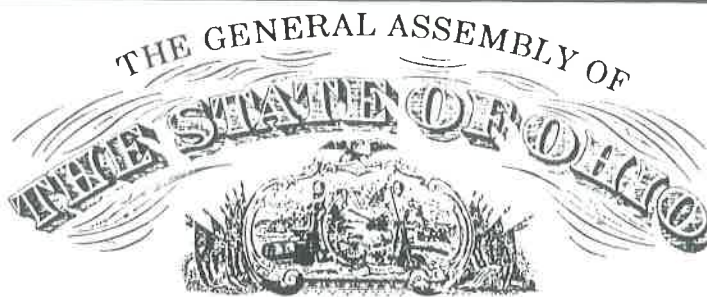
I wish you all the best of luck in the games and wish that I could be there to cheer them on.

On behalf of the 11th District of Ohio, I want to welcome all these visitors to Cuyahoga Community College Campus West, and hope they enjoy their visit.

Sincerely,

DENNIS F. ECKART
Member of Congress

DEE/ndf



OHIO SENATE

Honoring

THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
OF ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH

Under the Sponsorship of
State Senator
Lee I. Fisher



On behalf of the members of the Senate of the 118th General Assembly of Ohio, we are pleased to extend special recognition to the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church on the occasion of its hosting the 1990 National General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

Established in a spirit of friendship and cooperation, the A.C.Y.O.A. General Assembly and Sports Weekend provides Armenian young people from throughout the United States and Canada with an exciting opportunity not only to test their athletic abilities, but also to become acquainted with fellow athletes in an environment of Christian fellowship and camaraderie. In hosting this noteworthy program, the members of the A.C.Y.O.A. of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church have helped to strengthen international goodwill and understanding, and they are, indeed, deserving of the highest praise.

In a society which seeks to teach the future leaders of our state and nation the fundamentals of self-reliance and the rewards of individual effort, athletic competition has become a valuable educational tool. Through participation in this event, A.C.Y.O.A. members will learn lessons of self-discipline, perseverance, hard work, and fair and honest competition which will undoubtedly be of great benefit to them throughout their lifetimes.

Thus, with sincere pleasure, we commend the A.C.Y.O.A. of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church and salute its members as some of Ohio's finest young people.



Senator Stanley J. Aronoff
President of the Ohio Senate

Senator Lee I. Fisher
25th Senatorial District



City of Cleveland
MICHAEL R. WHITE, MAYOR



TO THE ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS
IN THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION
OF AMERICA'S O-HYE-O '90

GREETINGS:

I am honored to extend this sincere expression of greetings and best wishes to the officers, members and guests who will participate in the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America O-HYE-O '90 National General Assembly and Sports Weekend, sponsored by St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church, August 29 through September 3, 1990.

This annual gathering, which builds both strong bodies and minds, while promoting fellowship through athletics, will enjoy participation by some 300 young Armenian athletes from all around the United States and Canada. All sporting events will take place at Cuyahoga County Community College, Western Campus. Awards and trophies will be presented to the winners at a Grand Banquet at Stouffer's Tower City Plaza Hotel.

I encourage and challenge the young athletes who will participate to approach each competition with a firm desire to give each event their best effort.

Best wishes for an enjoyable, memorable and highly successful O-HYE-O '90 National General Assembly and Sports Weekend!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. R. White".

Michael R. White
Mayor

MRW:dds

CITY HALL • 601 LAKESIDE AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114 • (216) 664-2220

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The City of Richmond Heights

The City With The Forward Look

457 RICHMOND ROAD
RICHMOND HEIGHTS, OHIO 44143

PHONE: 486-2474



March 26, 1990

1990 A.C.Y.O.A. National Sports Weekend
St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church
678 Richmond Road
Richmond Hts., OH 44143

Attn: Mona Karoghlanian, Chairman

Dear A.C.Y.O.A. Participants,

Good luck during the athletic competition at "O-HYE-O-90"
this August and September.

Your involvement in these events is an indication of your belief in the importance of strong bodies and minds, and your commitment to fellowship nurtured by athletic competition. Our country is always well served by individuals who take these beliefs and commitments and apply them to our society as whole, as I am certain you are already doing.

On behalf of the citizens of Richmond Heights, I hope that you find the weekend events both challenging and rewarding.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Ursu".

Daniel J. Ursu
Mayor of Richmond Heights

THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America was created on January 12, 1946 in Providence, Rhode Island.

The new Diocesan-wide National Organization, created for the youth of the Armenian Church, emerged from the foundation of the then many local Junior Leagues and clubs that were formed for the young people of the Armenian Church Parishes.

World War II interrupted the activities of these local groups, many of which were simply inactive during those difficult years. With the termination of the war, a renewed necessity took place of re-organizing the local Parish youth groups. Bishop Tiran Nersoyan, the newly elected Diocesan Primate, wholeheartedly took on the challenge of a problem which was causing the elders of the communities to question the future of the Church in America. This challenge was carried by Bishop Tiran to the American-Armenian youth. To all communities he passed on the informing spark, so important to the creating and continuation of activities for this new Organization. This culmination of all his activity and work took place at the "Constitutive Assembly" of Church Youth, held in Providence Rhode Island, January 12, 1946.

The Assembly gathered young Armenians from as far West as Wisconsin, and as far South as Virginia. The delegates at this Assembly elected the first ACYOA Central Council from among their members to carry out the administrative functions of the ACYOA on the national level. These first Council members included: Zaven Hovsepian, John Soursourian, Arthur Yagjian, Matthew Matteosian, Grayce Yeramian, Jack Kazanjian, and Mary Shalakian.

In what seemed a short time, the ACYOA had a strong parish-base through the chapters, as well as a strong administration embodied in the Central Council. Throughout the Diocese, ACYOA events and activities took place with growing success. In parishes across the Diocese, an excitement filled the air as young people of all ages were coming to the Churches, participating in programs and sponsoring events season after season.

Throughout the years, the ACYOA has taken on various projects within the parishes as well as on the Diocesan level. Anniversary Balls, June Festivals and ACYOA Day observances were established and helped

to raise funds for worthy projects. Some of these local activities have included consistent help with annual events in the parish, sponsoring Fund-raisers, planning programs and participating in building projects.

On the national level, some projects have included raising sizable funds for the restoration of the Mother Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin, as well as contributions to the former Youth Camp Fund and the Seminary Fund of the Diocese.

Better known of ACYOA accomplishments is the sponsorship of publications in the Diocese, such as **Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church**, a **Pictorial Guide to Armenian Divine Liturgy**, **Catechism of Christian Instruction**, **Home Blessings at Christmas and Easter**, **The Armenian Church and Her Teachings**, **Handbook to Armenia**, as well as **The ACYOA Chapter Handbook**. Some of the earliest publications of the present Department of Religious Education found their roots in the ACYOA.

Preparation of audio-visual programs is yet another aspect of ACYOA since the early years. The ACYOA has produced and/or assisted in the preparation and production of programs, such as: **The Divine Liturgy**, **Symbolism in the Armenian Church**, and **Vestments and Practices of the Armenian Church**.

An **Armenian Theological School** was one of the more cherished dreams of the ACYOA and today it has become a reality. Sunday School Teacher conferences were organized and held by ACYOA, and out of these conferences was born the **Department of Religious Education (DRE)** which now directs the Church Sunday Schools.

During the 1960's the ACYOA sponsored Missions Programs visited various cities with teams of members and a clergyman to conduct activities for spiritual renewal of the community.

The A.C.Y.O.A. has also initiated and developed an **Armenian Studies Program** of overseas trips to Armenia and the Holy Land. The early 1970's found to be the most worthy of A.C.Y.O.A. programs developing into an annual pilgrimage to Armenia.

Newsletter and periodicals have also been an important mainstay of the A.C.Y.O.A. For many years ACYOA news and information was delivered to members via the monthly issues of **The Armenian**.

Guardian, Keghard, Executive Update, and ACYOA Junior Newsletter. They have included articles on contemporary issues in American society, as well as concerns and perspectives of the Armenian Church and community in the Diocese.

The **National Sports Weekend**, concerning athletic competition and social activities took over in the 1970's and 1980's where the great General Assemblies of the 1950's and 1960's left off. Attracting an estimated 600-800 members annually in its 17 year history, this is the one event that every member plans for each year. Taking place over the Labor Day holiday weekend, the program has been hosted by various chapters from throughout the Diocese. Offering both sporting events and social events, Sports Weekend is one of the most successful A.C.Y.O.A. programs.

The General Assembly and National Sports Weekend were designated inseparable and assigned to Labor Day Weekend each year.

Junior-age (junior high and high school) youth were also active and gaining momentum. All through the 1970's these groups were very popular and active in most Parishes across the Diocese. This has continued to the present with Regional Weekends held in the Fall and Spring of each year in most regions of the Diocese. The Junior version of Sports Weekend, on the regional scale, has been most popular with youth from different regions crossing over and attending each other's weekends.

The A.C.Y.O.A. initiated plans in the late 1970's for a Diocesan Youth Camp. A.C.Y.O.A. organized and started what is now a flourishing program under the direction and sponsorship of the Diocese, entitled "St. Vartan Camp".

For many years, the A.C.Y.O.A. has promoted the observance of commemorative Martyrs Day events for the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

The Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament, initiated by His Eminence in 1970, has also become the responsibility of the A.C.Y.O.A.

The ACYOA Chapter "A" Award continues to be presented each year to an outstanding chapter. Initiated in 1952, this Award has been given to numerous chapters, large and small, and has proven to be an attainable goal for every group.

In recent years, other awards and scholarships have been offered. A scholarship to attend the summer studies conferences at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary is given each year. The Sam Nersesian Award named for a young man after his sudden tragic death, is given

to the young person who best exemplifies the character of a sincere Christian.

Through the years, A.C.Y.O.A. has grown into a strong and vigorous organization. Many dedicated young men and women have passed from its ranks into positions of responsibility and leadership in their communities. Most of our present American-born clergy, many parish council members, diocesan delegates, deacons and Sunday school teachers have been members of the A.C.Y.O.A. It is also interesting to note that many members of ACYOA met their spouses through interaction at ACYOA meetings and related events and programs.

The mission of A.C.Y.O.A. is to create among the younger generation a greater spiritual culture and tradition, and to instill into its members a true spirit of civic mindedness.

Before embarking on to the future, a word of appreciation must be said for all the past participants of ACYOA. These include the Primates of the Diocese, who have continually supported the young people in their efforts to serve their Church. The Pastors, who have dealt with the concerns, problems and successes of their groups on a day-to-day basis. The members of Central Council who have volunteered their time and energies in an effort to maintain the operations of the Organization and its programs. The Chapter Executive Committees, especially the Chairpersons, who must continually think creatively to keep their chapters moving ahead with excitement and activities.

The future for the A.C.Y.O.A. can be a glorious one. With continued support, A.C.Y.O.A. can achieve unprecedented heights. This must be our constant aim. The community should realize just as the seed of today is the harvest of tomorrow, so it will be that the future of our beloved Church will rest upon the shoulders of the members of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America.

Past and present members may feel a bond and a great sense of pride in the words...

The A.C.Y.O.A. — 44 years of Church Service and Armenian Fellowship in America.

THE EMBLEM OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA AND ITS SYMBOLIC MEANING



The emblem of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America adopted at its inception, is to be interpreted as follows:

The radiations from the center of the cross symbolize the truths of the Christian religion that shine forth through centuries.

The symbols under the horizontal bar of the cross are:

- a. (right hand side) The double peaks of the Mount Ararat, representing the Armenian people and its destiny. Mount Ararat has been the silent witness of the victories as well as defeats of the Armenians through their existence as a people and a nation. Its representation on the A.C.Y.O.A. emblem means that the members of the Organization make the pledge of standing for the ideals for which the Armenian nation has stood always.
- b. (left hand side) The United States eagle with its wings widespread and star above each wing. The eagle looks proudly into far distances and holds, as usual, a batch of arrows. The eagle represents the United States. Its presence on the A.C.Y.O.A. emblem symbolizes the loyalty of the members of the A.C.Y.O.A. to the Constitution of the United States and to its principles of democracy and freedom.

The chain that encircles the cross on the emblem represents solidarity among the members of the A.C.Y.O.A. in their service to God and to people.

These symbols are designed on a shield which stands for the determination with which the objects of the A.C.Y.O.A. are to be carried out. The shield also stands for defense against dangerous encroachments.

It will be noted that the dominating feature of the emblem is the cross. This indicates the fact Christ is our Lord and that to Him we owe obedience above all.

MEMBERS OF THE ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

In 1975-76, the ACYOA was re-organized after several years of inactivity and disorganization. The following list of ACYOA Central Council members reflect those young men and women who have given their time and energy in an effort to maintain the national character of the official Youth Program of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America - the ACYOA.

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|--|---|
| <p>1976 - Edward Kaiserian - Philadelphia
David Onanian - Lowell
Richard Takvorian - Watertown
Lisa Mooradian - St. Louis
Anna Garabedian - Springfield</p> | <p>1984 - Arda Nazerian - Bayside
Vaughan Totovian - Watertown
George Jevardjian - Detroit
Melanie Barsamian - Detroit
Sona Palvetzian - Toronto</p> |
| <p>1977 - Edward Kaiserian - Philadelphia
Brian Bogosian - Lawrence
Kerry Keysserian - Detroit
Lisa Mooradian - St. Louis
Janet Takvorian - Bayside</p> | <p>1985 - Arda Nazerian - Bayside
George Jevardjian - Detroit
Sona Palvetzian - Toronto
Shake Ajamian - Bayside
Susan Boyajian - Palos Heights</p> |
| <p>1978 - Paul Pogharian - Watertown
Brian Bogosian - Lawrence*
Michael Zeytoonian - Westchester
Ronald Godoshian - Detroit
Susan Minassian - Richmond
Linda Minassian - Providence*</p> | <p>1986 - Shake Ajamian - Bayside
Gary Tounsend - Lawrence
Scott Najarian - Worcester
Melina Spinuzza - Evanston
Sara Martinian - Providence</p> |
| <p>1979 - Paul Pogharian - Watertown
Michael Zeytoonian - Westchester
Karnig Durgarian - Springfield
Robert Dogramajian - Bayside
Sona Yazijian - Chicago</p> | <p>1987 - Scott Najarian - Worcester
Melina Spinuzza - Evanston
Sara Andonian - Detroit
Greg Saraydarian - Bayside
Gary Townsend - Lawrence</p> |
| <p>1980 - Paul Pogharian - Watertown
Karnig Durgarian - Springfield
Michael Yapchaian - Watertown
Sona Yazijian - Chicago
Nancy Malkasian - Detroit</p> | <p>1988 - Scott Najarian - Worcester
Sara Andonian - Detroit
Melina Spinuzza - Evanston
Lisa Manookian - Wynnewood
Greg Saraydarian - Bayside</p> |
| <p>1981 - Michael Yapchaian - Watertown
Mark Kazanjian - Lawrence
Robert Borzakian - Boston
Sona Yazijian - Chicago
Nancy Banks - Detroit</p> | <p>1989 - Scott Najarian - Worcester
Lisa Manookian - Wynnewood
Melina Spinuzza - Evanston
Suzie Ashjian - Westchester
Laurie Onanian - Watertown</p> |
| <p>1982 - Mark Kazanjian - Lawrence
Robert Borzakian - Boston
Gary Hovhanessian - New Britain
Ralph DerAsadourian - Evanston
Susan Mousigian - Detroit</p> | <p>1990 - Lisa Manookian - Wynnewood
Suzie Ashjian - Westchester
Greg Arpajian - Cleveland*
Greg Saraydarian - Bayside*
Laurie Onanian - Watertown
Sonya Gasparian - Providence*
Charles Shooshan - Hartford*</p> |
| <p>1983 - Susan Mousigian - Detroit
Gary Hovhannessian - Detroit
Vaughan Totovian - Watertown
Ralph DerAsadourian - Evanston
Melanie Barsamian - Worcester</p> | <p>* Half Year
First Name Indicates Chairman</p> |

ACYOA EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES/DIRECTORS

1949-50	Mary Shalakian	1971	Louise Yeghissian (Kalemkerian)
1951-53	Hagop Nersoyan	1972-76	Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian
1960-61	Rev. Fr. Dajad Davidian	1977-78	George Tashjian
1961-62	Joseph Kalemkerian	1979-present	Nancy Basmajian – Juniors
1962-66	Deacon Megerditch Mouradian	1980-86	James Magarian – Seniors
1967-69	Deacon Hovhanness (Fr. Karekin) Kasparian	1986	Anthony Barsamian – Seniors
1970	Howard T.W. Stowe (Rev.)	1987-90	Douglas Tashjian – Seniors

SITES OF THE ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLIES AND SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES

1946	Providence, Rhode Island	1963	Montreal, Canada	1978*	Providence, RI
	Constitutive Assembly	1964	Chicago, IL	1979*	Milwaukee, WI
1947	Philadelphia, PA	1965	New York, NY	1980*	Watertown, MA
1948	Detroit, MI		(Long Island Hosts)	1981*	Chicago/Evanston
1949	New Britain, CT	1966	Providence, RI	1982*	New Britain, CT
1950	Evanston, IL	1967	Pawling, NY	1983*	Toronto, Canada
1951	Watertown, MA	1968	Williams Bay, WI	1984*	Palos Heights, IL
1952	Worcester, MA	1969	Detroit, MI	1985*	Worcester, MA
1953	Cleveland, OH		Constitutive Assembly	1986*	Wynnewood, PA
1954	Troy, NY	1969	Fort Monroe, VA	1987*	Detroit, MI
1955	Racine, WI	1970	New York, NY	1988*	Providence, RI
1956	Washington, D.C.	1971	North Philadelphia, PA	1989*	Houston, TX
1957	Boston, MA	1972	East St. Louis, IL	1990*	Cleveland, OH
1958	Niagara Falls, NY	(During the 1973-74 Reorganization Period The General Assembly was not held)			
1959	East St. Louis, IL				
1960	New York, NY	1975*	Miami, FL	(*: Since 1975, the Assemblies have been held at the same site as the National Sports Weekend.)	
	(Metropolitan New York and New Jersey)	1976*	Lowell, MA		
		1977*	Detroit, MI		
1961	Richmond, VA				
1962	Detroit, MI				

1989-90 ACYOA Central Council



Seated L-R: Lisa Manookian, Laurie Onanian
Standing L-R: Nicole Mazmanian (College Coordinator),
Charles Shooshan, Suzie Ashjian