

*Sent to Copy*

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

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Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

September 16, 1988

Attached is the preliminary edition of the ACYOA Membership Handbook, which was given to all delegates at the recent ACYOA General Assembly in Providence, RI. The Handbook is part of the 1989 ACYOA Membership Drive currently underway and coordinated by the ACYOA Central Council. Along with this Handbook are guidelines for a membership drive and a draft of a letter to be sent in a National mailing. These were also distributed to the delegates.

As the ACYOA leader in your area, we hope this Handbook and the supplemental materials will provide enough information and resources to be of assistance to you in helping us to promote the Drive.

If you have any questions or if I can be of service to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number listed in the Handbook. You may also contact ACYOA Executive Secretary, Douglas Tashjian, at 212-686-0710.

Sincerely,

*Lisa D. Manookian*

Lisa D. Manookian  
Vice Chairman  
ACYOA Central Council

/1  
Attachments



Central Council

DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA, 630 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016-4885 212 686-0710

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Compiled by Lisa Manookian  
Published by the ACYOA Central Council

## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

### WHAT IS THE ACYOA?

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) is the national youth program of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. The ACYOA has two divisions - Seniors and Juniors. The Seniors division is comprised of young adults, 18 and older, organized through parish-based chapters throughout the Diocese.

### WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES?

1. To encourage its members to learn, practice, uphold and propagate the principles and teachings of Christian faith according to the doctrine, sacraments and canons of the Armenian Apostolic Church.
2. To support and work for the strengthening of the Armenian Church and to promote the study and appreciation of the Armenian culture and heritage.
3. To strengthen spiritual and social bonds and to contribute towards the development of a healthy community life among Armenians.
4. To enhance and strengthen among its members the spirit of human freedom, universal justice and brotherhood of men, and devotion to duty as good citizens, dedicated to the service of God and Country.

### WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE AND ROLE IN THE DIOCESE?

Our purpose and role in the ACYOA, in the context of the Diocese of the Armenian Church, is of vital importance, as we are charged with preparing and equipping ourselves to participate in leadership capacities.

However, in order to do this, we must educate ourselves concerning the teachings of our Church and the history of her people. We must motivate and stimulate creative thinkings and illustrations of faith among our members by providing vehicles through which we may express ourselves and demonstrate our abilities, skills, interests, concerns, willingness to try and faith. These vehicles must enable us to build friendships and lasting relationships.

We must develop programs through which we participate, receive information, experience meaningful relationships, feel a sense of belonging, and be exposed to our Church and cultural heritage. These programs must be diverse and they must lead us in the direction of future participation and leadership within our parishes and Church at large.

## THE EMBLEM

The Emblem of the ACYOA, adopted at its inception, is interpreted as follows:

The Cross marks the true character of the ACYOA. The radiations behind the Cross symbolize the truths of Christianity that shine forth through the centuries.

Under the horizontal bar of the Cross are:

(On the Right) the double peaks of Mount Ararat, representing the Armenian people and their destiny. Mount Ararat has been the silent witness of the victories and defeats of the Armenians through their existence as a people and a nation. Its representation here means that the members of the ACYOA make the pledge of standing for the ideals for which the Armenian nation has always stood.

(On The Left) The United States Eagle, with its wings widespread and a star above each wing, looks proudly into the distance and holds a batch of arrows. The Eagle represents the United States of America. Its presence on the Emblem symbolizes the loyalty of the members of the organization to the Constitution of the United States and its principles of democracy and freedom.

The Chain that encircles the Cross represents the solidarity among the members of the ACYOA in their service to God and to people. These symbols are designed on a shield which stands for the determination with which the objectives of the ACYOA are to be carried out. The shield also stands for defense against dangerous encroachments. It will be noted that the dominant feature on the Emblem is the Cross. This indicates the fact that Christ is our Lord, and that to Him we owe obedience above all.



## THE STRUCTURE

The structure and procedures of the ACYOA follow a similar outline as that of the Diocese itself. The following is an outline of the administrative and operational aspects of the organization:

### Primate

A celibate priest, usually a bishop or archbishop, the Primate is the hierarchical leader of Armenians within the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. He is the President of the ACYOA on the National level and presides at the annual ACYOA General Assembly.

### Executive Secretary

Appointed by the Primate, the Executive Secretary is responsible for the administrative and developmental aspects of the National Organization on the Diocesan level. The Executive Secretary assists the ACYOA Central Council in executing the decisions of the ACYOA General Assembly.

### General Assembly

The General Assembly is presided over by the Primate and convened by the ACYOA Central Council. The Assembly is made up of representatives (delegates) from each chapter. It is the annual business meeting of the organization. The Assembly elects its own officers, the ACYOA Central Council, the Nominating and Auditing Committees, and other committees and officers as it deems necessary. All the decisions of the ACYOA General Assembly must be approved by the Primate and the Diocesan Council.

### Central Council

The ACYOA Central Council is a 5-member body responsible for executing the decisions of the ACYOA General Assembly and maintaining the operations and programs of the National Organization. The Council is elected by the delegates of the General Assembly and must act in the best interests of the ACYOA and fulfill requirements and meet standards through coordinating, directing, supervising, and initiating ACYOA programs and activities. The Council elects its own officers and each member is assigned to represent a region of the Diocese as well as take on specific assignments in the operations of the ACYOA on the national level.

### Chapters

The core of the ACYOA is the local chapter. Each chapter is comprised of young adults, ages 18 and older, and is organized under the guidelines and structure of the ACYOA and follows its Constitution. Five members are necessary to form a Chapter. Every Chapter is affiliated with a local parish, follows national standards and procedures, has meetings once or twice a month and should organize a variety of activities to interest the membership. Assisting in parish-sponsored events is also a part of the Chapter's schedule of activities and events. As a group, the Chapter attends and participates in regional and national events which are designed as weekend excursions.

## NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

### **PRESIDENT**

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-4885

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### **1987-88 ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL**

#### **CHAIRMAN**

Scott Najarian  
8A Robertson Road  
Worcester, MA 01602  
(617) 754-0806

#### **VICE CHAIRMAN**

Sara Andonian  
2671 Roxie  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013  
(313) 338-6579

#### **TREASURER**

Melina Spinuzza  
3467 Whirlaway Drive  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
(312) 564-4431

#### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

Lisa Manookian  
2007 County Line Road  
Ardmore, PA 19003  
(215) 649-8426

#### **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Greg Saraydarian  
9 Cliffway  
Port Washington, NY 11050  
(516) 883-0778

### **REGIONAL PARISH ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **OVERSEER**

Oversees all assignments and ensures that visitations and contact are maintained with all parishes.

#### **MID-WEST REGION**

Belleville	Greenfield
Chicago	Palos Heights
Cleveland	Racine
Detroit	S. Milwaukee
Evanston	Waukegan

#### **SOUTHERN REGION**

Atlanta	Ocala
Dallas	Orlando
Houston	San Antonio
Memphis	South Florida
Miami	St. Petersburg

#### **MID-ATLANTIC REGION**

Bayside	Tenafly
Binghamton	Union City
Cheltenham	Washington
Elberon	Woodside
Fair Lawn	Richmond
Livingston	Westchester
Manhattan	

#### **NEW ENGLAND REGION**

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Chelmsford	Springfield
Hartford	Trumbull
Haverhill	Watertown
Lawrence	Watervliet
New Britain	Worcester
*Wynnewood (special assignment)	

### **ADMINISTRATIVE/PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS**

National Sports Weekend  
National Anniversary Ball  
Yearbook Guidelines for  
National Events

General Armenian Youth  
Listing  
Public Relations Committee  
Alumni Foundation

Finances  
College Connection Committee  
Membership Directory  
Membership Drive

Minutes  
Finance Committee  
Publications Committee  
Christian Education  
Committee  
Membership Handbook  
Sports Weekend Awards  
Records

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Invitational Tournament  
National Anniversary Ball  
Guidelines Committee

---

### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Douglas Tashjian  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-4885  
(212) 686-0710

Cultural Committee  
Diocesan Youth Forum

1988-89 ACYOA PUBLICATION EDITORIAL BOARD

(To Be Produced Quarterly)

COORDINATOR:

- \*Overall supervisor.
- \*Coordination of updates from Central Council Chairman; messages from Primate (Christmas and Easter); and articles from alumni.
- \*Calendar of National Events.
- \*Final edits and approval of final layout.

Lisa Manookian (Central Council)  
2007 County Line Road  
Ardmore, PA 19003  
(215) 854-6300 [work]  
(215) 649-8426 [home]

DESIGN & LAYOUT EDITOR:

- \*Artistic aspect.
- \*Typesetting, paste-up and printing.

Lucine Baronian (Bayside)  
193-05 53rd Avenue  
Flushing, NY 11365  
(718) 347-9733

RELIGIOUS EDITOR:

- \*Highlighting of religious aspects of ACYOA with an emphasis on the organization's role and mission in the Armenian Church.
- \*Coordination of calendar of religious feast days and celebrations, with descriptions of their significance.
- \*Coordination of articles from Clergy.

Phillip Karayan (Cleveland)  
5489 State Road  
Parma, OH 44134  
(216) 351-9394

CULTURAL EDITOR:

- \*Highlighting on our history, heritage and language.
- \*Literary (poetry, essays, short stories) section.

Gary Assadourian (No. New Jersey)  
21 76th Street  
North Bergen, NJ 07047  
(201) 869-3298

NATIONAL EVENTS EDITOR:

- \*Coordination of writing and editing articles and updates for all National events.

Jill Arslanian (Cleveland)  
33 Carver Road  
Watertown, MA 02172  
(617) 924-6288

**CHAPTER NEWS EDITOR:**

\*Reporting of chapter activities and accomplishments of individual ACYOA members.

Sara Andonian (Detroit)  
2671 Roxie  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013  
(313) 338-6579

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:**

\*Assisting all editors as necessary.

Sekita Ekrek (Washington, D.C.)  
11420 Georgetown Drive  
Potomac, MD 20854  
(301) 299-5612

Hovig Heghinian (Watervliet)  
11 Wren Lane  
Latham, NY 12110  
(518) 785-0746

Doug Trapasso (Trumbull)  
74 Randall Drive  
Trumbull, CT 06611  
(203) 268-7039

Tom Topalian (South Florida)  
3626 Lawson Blvd.  
Delray Beach, FL 33445  
(407) 498-3518



## CHAPTER CHAIRMEN & CONTACTS

<b>ATLANTA, GA - CONTACT</b> Harold Kevorkian, 1804 Hidden Glen Drive, Marietta, GA 30067	404-428-1480
<b>BAYSIDE, NY - CHAIRMAN</b> Denise Meshejian, 67 Nassau Drive, Albertson, NY 11507	516-621-6595
<b>BELLEVILLE, IL - CONTACT</b> Nicole Vartanian, 228 Julia Place, Belleville, IL 62223	618-398-4302
<b>BOSTON, MA - CHAIRMAN</b> Edward Marootian, 15 Jeffrey Road, Arlington, MA 02174	617-641-2297
<b>CHELtenham, PA - CONTACT THE PASTOR</b> V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian 101 Ashmead Road, Cheltenham, PA 19012	215-663-1600
<b>CHICAGO, IL - CONTACT THE PASTOR</b> Rev. Fr. Vahram Hazarian 6700 W. Diversey Avenue, Chicago, IL 60635	312-864-6263
<b>CLEVELAND, OH - CHAIRMAN</b> Leslie Bagdasarian, 6730 Lake-in-the-Woods Trail Chagrin Falls, OH 44022	216-543-1404
<b>DALLAS, TX - CONTACT</b> Henrik Nazarian, 3312 Highlawn Terrace, Fort Worth, TX 76133	817-346-2137
<b>DETROIT, MI - CHAIRMAN</b> Tamara Kabodian, 47 Shagbark Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48063	313-651-1168
<b>EVANSTON, IL - CHAIRMAN</b> Sevan Krikorian, 3038 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201	312-328-2020
<b>GREENFIELD, WI - CHAIRMAN</b> Maritza Armagan, 6249 Parkview Road, Greendale, WI 53129	414-421-2628
<b>HARTFORD, CT - CHAIRMAN</b> Charlie Shooshan, 558 Cypress Road, Newington, CT 06111	203-667-4552
<b>HOUSTON, TX - CONTACT</b> David Onanian, 1502 Rockin Drive, Houston, TX 77077	713-627-1821
<b>LAWRENCE, MA - CHAIRMAN</b> Kevin Nazarian, 88 Valley Road, Boxford, MA 01921	617-352-8598
<b>LOWELL, MA - CHAIRMAN</b> John Apkarian, 4 Dow Street, Methuen, MA 01844	617-682-7260

**MIAMI, FL - CONTACT**

Jim Torossian, 40 Southwest 39th Avenue, Miami, FL 33134

Unknown

**NEW BRITAIN, CT - CONTACT THE PASTOR**

Rev. Fr. Michael Buttero

1910 Stanley Street, P.O. Box 1080, New Britain, CT 06050

203-223-7875

**NORTHERN NEW JERSEY - CO-CHAIRMEN**

Aram Minnetian, 226 Fourth Avenue, Westwood, NJ 07675

201-664-1674

Anne Toufayan, 160 Madison Avenue, River Edge, NJ 07661

201-261-6045

**Chapter Liaison - Fair Lawn**

Susan Chagachabanian, 88 Logan Lane, Wyckoff, NJ 07481

201-891-3026

**Chapter Liaisons - Livingston**

Kim Kasparian, 29 Copeland Road, Denville, NJ 07834

201-361-9241

Lisa Nersesian, 47 Lee Road, Livingston, NJ 07039

201-992-2879

**Chapter Liaisons - Tenaflly**

Doug Martaian, 59 Pine Terrace, Demarest, NJ 07627

201-767-8557

Steve Mekenian, 156 Elm Street, Tenaflly, NJ 07670

201-871-4377

**Chapter Liaisons - Union City**

Gary Assadourian, 21 76th Street, North Bergen, NJ 07047

201-869-3298

Alice Bozoyian, 1812 West Street, Union City, NJ 07087

201-865-2790

**ORLANDO, FL - CONTACT**

Michael Eskandarian, 7526-167 Suntree Circle,  
Orlando, FL 32807

Unknown

**PALOS HEIGHTS, IL - CONTACT**

Anna Giragosian, 8101 W. 131st Street, Palos Park, IL 60464

312-448-1818

**PROVIDENCE, RI - CHAIRMAN**

Stephanie Masoian, 108 Whitewood Drive, Cranston, RI 02910

401-943-6045

**RACINE, WI - CHAIRMAN**

Thomas Gengozian, 1850 Taylor Avenue, Racine, WI 53403

414-637-3653

**RICHMOND, VA - CONTACT THE PASTOR**

Rev. Fr. Arsen Barsamian

834 Pepper Avenue, Richmond, VA 23226

804-282-3818

**SAN ANTONIO, TX - CONTACT**

Jack Shahbazian, 7003 Forest Crest North,  
San Antonio, TX 78240

512-340-7902

**SOUTH FLORIDA - CHAIRMAN**

Melanie Mikaelian, 6195 Rock Island Road,  
Apt. #207, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33319

305-979-4772

**SPRINGFIELD, MA - CHAIRMAN**

Christine Boyajian, 9 Deepwood Drive, Wilbraham, MA 01095 413-596-3927

**TRUMBULL, CT - CHAIRMAN**

Maral Kehkedjian, 844 Lakeside Drive, Bridgeport, CT 06606 203-374-4409

**WASHINGTON, DC - CO-CHAIRMEN**

Arto Satian, 8801 Brickyard Road, Potomac, MD 20854 301-983-9405

Varoujan Varoujanian, 133 Environs Road, Sterling, VA 22170 703-450-5019

**WATERTOWN, MA - CHAIRMAN**

Susan Bergoudian, 248 Washington Street, Belmont, MA 02178 617-484-3080

**WATERVLIET, NY - CHAIRMAN**

Harry Tutunjian, 630 Hoosick Road, Troy, NY 12180 518-272-6977

**WESTCHESTER, NY - CO-CHAIRMEN**

Susie Ashjian, 50 Coolidge Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701 914-963-0889

Avedis Tutak, 79 Pleasant Ridge Road, Harrison, NY 10528 914-967-8493

**WESTERN QUEENS, NY - CHAIRMAN**

Robert Haroutunian, 187-02 48th Avenue,  
Fresh Meadows, NY 11365 718-357-8185

**WORCESTER, MA - CHAIRMAN**

David Tateosian, 65 Richmond Avenue, Worcester, MA 01602 617-757-8990

**WYNNEWOOD, PA - CHAIRMAN**

Sarkis Berberian, 113 Quaker Lane, Haverford, PA 19041 215-649-3804

**1988 PARISH & CLERGY LIST**

**DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA**

His Eminence,  
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate  
V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Najarian, Vicar General

**ST. VARTAN CATHEDRAL**

Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian, Canon Sacrist  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-4885

212-686-0710

**DIOCESAN LEGATE**

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Papken Varjabedian  
3101 Park Center Drive  
Suite #1400  
Alexandria, VA 22302

703-671-6196

**NEW ENGLAND REGION**

Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian, Presiding Officer  
Zarvin Kasparian, Coordinator  
91 Salisbury Street  
Worcester, MA 01609

617-757-9616

**ST. NERSESS SEMINARY**

Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Rector  
150 Stratton Road  
New Rochelle, NY 10804

914-636-2003

914-636-2527

**C O N N E C T I C U T**

**HARTFORD - ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian, Pastor  
22 White Street  
Hartford, CT 06114

203-524-5647

**NEW BRITAIN - ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE  
HOLY RESURRECTION**

Rev. Fr. Michael Buttero, Pastor  
1910 Stanley Street, P.O. Box 1080  
New Britain, CT 06050

203-223-7875

**TRUMBULL - HOLY ASCENSION ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian, Pastor  
1460 Huntington Turnpike  
Trumbull, CT 06611

203-372-5770

## F L O R I D A

### **MIAMI - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ARMENIAN CHURCH**

V. Rev. Fr. Vasken Tatoyan, Pastor

120 North East 16th Street

Miami, FL 33132

305-371-4484

### **BOCA RATON - ST. DAVID ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Zaven Arzoumanian, Pastor

2300 Yamato Road

Boca Raton, FL 33431

407-994-2335

### **ST. PETERSBURG - ST. HAGOP ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Zaven Arzoumanian, Visiting Pastor

c/o 2300 Yamato Road

Boca Raton, FL 33431

407-994-2335

### **ORLANDO - ST. GARABED ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Zaven Arzoumanian, Visiting Pastor

c/o 2300 Yamato Road

Boca Raton, FL 33431

407-994-2335

### **OCALA - ST. SARKIS ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Zaven Arzoumanian, Visiting Pastor

c/o 2300 Yamato Road

Boca Raton, FL 33431

407-994-2335

## G E O R G I A

### **ARMENIAN CHURCH OF ATLANTA**

Rev. Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian, Visiting Pastor

c/o 4125 Fessenden Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20016

404-

## I L L I N O I S

### **BELLEVILLE - HOLY SHOGHAGAT ARMENIAN CHURCH**

V. Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian, Pastor

400 Huntwood Road

Belleville, IL 62221

618-277-6400

### **CHICAGO - ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Vahram Hazarian, Acting Pastor

6700 W. Diversey Avenue

Chicago, IL 60635

312-637-1711

### **EVANSTON - ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH**

V. Rev. Fr. Varoujan Kabaradjian, Pastor

816 Clark Street

Evanston, IL 60201

312-864-6263

**PALOS HEIGHTS - STS. JOACHIM AND ANNE  
ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Krikor Hairabedian, Pastor  
12600 South Ridgeland  
Palos Heights, IL 60463

312-388-4940

**WAUKEGAN - ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Merron Paparigian, Parish Council Chairman  
1015 McAree Road  
Waukegan, IL 60085

312-244-0424

**LOUISIANA**

**BATON ROUGE - ST. GARABED ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian, Visiting Pastor  
4065 Government Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

504-383-6811

**MASSACHUSETTS**

**CAMBRIDGE - HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Mampre Kouzouian, Pastor  
145 Brattle Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138

617-354-0632

**CAPE COD - ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
OF CAPE COD**

Richard Kratljan, Parish Council Chairman  
P.O. Box 2249  
Centerville, MA 02632

617-

**CHELMSFORD - STS. VARTANANTZ ARMENIAN CHURCH**

V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian, Pastor  
180 Old Westford Road  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

617-256-7234

**HAVERHILL - ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR  
ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Edgar Movsesian, Parish Council Chairman  
110 Main Street  
Haverhill, MA 01830

617-372-9227

**LAWRENCE - HOLY CROSS ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Zenob Nalbandian, Pastor  
54 East Haverhill Street  
Lawrence, MA 01841

508-683-9942

**SPRINGFIELD - ST. MARK ARMENIAN CHURCH**

V. Rev. Fr. Nourhan Manougian, Pastor  
2427 Wilbraham Road  
Springfield, MA 01129

413-783-5793

**WATERTOWN - ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Fr. Dajad Davidian, Pastor  
465 Mt. Auburn Street  
Watertown, MA 02172

617-923-8860

**WORCESTER - ARMENIAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR**  
Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian, Pastor  
87 Salisbury Street  
Worcester, MA 01609

617-756-2931

## **M I C H I G A N**

**DETROIT - ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
V. Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor  
Rev. Fr. Haik Donikian, Assistant Pastor  
22001 Northwestern Highway  
Southfield, MI 48075

313-569-3405

## **N E W J E R S E Y**

**ELBERON - ST. STEPANOS ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Najarian, Pastor  
1184 Ocean Avenue  
Elberon, NJ 07740

201-229-3661

**FAIR LAWN - ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Fr. Arshen Aivazian, Pastor  
12-61 Saddle River Road  
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

201-791-2862

**LIVINGSTON - ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
V. Rev. Fr. Houssig Bagdasian, Pastor  
200 W. Mt. Pleasant Avenue  
Livingston, NJ 07039

201-533-9794

**TENAFLY - ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Fr. Arnak Kasparian, Pastor  
Highway 9W and E. Clinton Avenue  
P.O. Box 53  
Tenafly, NJ 07670

201-567-5446

**UNION CITY - HOLY CROSS ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian, Pastor  
318 27th Street  
Union City, NJ 07087

201-864-2480

## NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE - ARMENIAN CULTURAL  
ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO  
Armen Chakerian, Parish Council Chairman  
111 Pennsylvania S.E.  
Albuquerque, NM 87108

505-268-4958

## NEW YORK

BAYSIDE - QUEENS  
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY MARTYRS  
Rev. Fr. Krikor Hairabedian, Pastor  
Rev. Fr. Yeghia Hairabedian, Assistant Pastor  
209-15 Horace Harding Expressway  
Bayside, NY 11364

718-225-0235

BINGHAMTON - ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR  
ARMENIAN CHURCH  
Diran Kradjian, Parish Council Chairman  
12 Corbett Avenue  
Binghamton, NY 13903

607-722-8801

NEW YORK CITY - ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR  
ARMENIAN CHURCH  
Kegham Tcholakian, Parish Council Chairman  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-4885

212-679-1728

NEW YORK CITY - HOLY CROSS CHURCH OF ARMENIA  
Dr. Antranig Hazarian, Parish Council Chairman  
580 W. 187th Street  
New York, NY 10033

212-927-4020

NIAGARA FALLS - ST. SARKIS ARMENIAN CHURCH  
V. Rev. Fr. Kegham Zakarian, Pastor  
300 Ninth Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

716-282-2587

ROCHESTER - ARMENIAN COMMUNITY OF ROCHESTER  
V. Rev. Fr. Kegham Zakarian, Pastor  
c/o 300 Ninth Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

716-

SYRACUSE - ST. PAUL ARMENIAN CHURCH  
V. Rev. Fr. Kegham Zakarian, Pastor  
310 N. Geddes Street  
Syracuse, NY 13204

315-422-9047

WATERVLIET - ST. PETER ARMENIAN CHURCH  
Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian, Pastor  
100 Troy-Schnectady Road  
Watervliet, NY 12189

518-274-3673



**WESTCHESTER - ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, Pastor  
55 Lincoln Avenue  
Purchase, NY 10577

914-253-9077

**WOODSIDE - ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTERN QUEENS**

Rev. Fr. Mamigon Vosganian, Pastor  
43-12 46th Street  
Sunnyside, NY 11104

718-939-2275

**O H I O**

**CLEVELAND - ST. GREGORY OF NAREK  
ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Florence Karoghlanian, Parish Council Chairman  
666 Richmond Road  
Richmond Heights, OH 44143

216-381-6590

**P E N N S Y L V A N I A**

**CHELTHENHAM - HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH**

V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian, Pastor  
101 Ashmead Road  
Cheltenham, PA 19012

215-663-1600

**WYNNEWOOD - ST. SAHAG & ST. MESROB  
ARMENIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Fr. Paree Metjian, Pastor  
630 Clothier Road  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

215-642-4212

**R H O D E I S L A N D**

**PROVIDENCE - ST. SAHAG & ST. MESROB  
ARMENIAN CHURCH**

V. Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian, Pastor  
70 Jefferson Street  
Providence, RI 02908

401-272-7712

**T E N N E S S E E**

**MEMPHIS - ARMENIAN CHURCH COUNCIL OF MEMPHIS**

V. Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian, Visiting Pastor  
c/o 400 Huntwood Road  
Belleville, IL 62221

901-

## TEXAS

**AUSTIN - ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AUSTIN**  
Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian, Visiting Pastor  
c/o 2311 Synott Road  
Houston, TX 77082 512-

**DALLAS - ARMENIAN CHURCH OF  
DALLAS/FORT WORTH**  
Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian, Visiting Pastor  
P.O. Box 791453  
Dallas, TX 75379 214-

**HOUSTON - ST. KEVORK ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian, Pastor  
3211 Synott Road  
Houston, TX 77082 713-558-2722

**SAN ANTONIO - ARMENIAN CHURCH  
OF SAN ANTONIO**  
Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian, Visiting Pastor  
7003 Forest Crest No.  
San Antonio, TX 78240 512-340-7902

## VIRGINIA

**RICHMOND - ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Fr. Arsen Barsamian, Pastor  
834 Pepper Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23226 804-282-3818

## WASHINGTON

**WASHINGTON, D.C. - ST. MARY ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor  
4125 Fessenden Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20016 202-363-1923

## WISCONSIN

**GREENFIELD - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian, Pastor  
7825 W. Layton Avenue  
Greenfield, WI 53220 414-282-1670

**RACINE - ST. MESROB ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Pastor  
4605 Erie Street  
Racine, WI 53402 414-639-0531

SOUTH MILWAUKEE - HOLY RESURRECTION  
ARMENIAN CHURCH  
Grace Hadjinian, Parish Council Chairman  
909 Michigan Avenue  
So. Milwaukee, WI 53172

414-762-7460

OTHER CLERGY IN THE DIOCESE

The Most Rev. Abp. Tiran Nersoyan  
580 W. 187th Street  
New York, NY 10016

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Zgon Der Hagopian  
29-75 Independence Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10463

V. Rev. Fr. Khajag Barsamian  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-4885

V. Rev. Fr. Papken Anoushian  
409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Minassian  
124 Hillside Road  
Watertown, MA 02172

V. Rev. Fr. Mesrob Semerjian  
25 Preston Street  
Hartford, CT 06114

Rev. Fr. Carnig Hallajian  
22 Scott Place, Apt. C-I  
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660

Rev. Fr. Krikor Maksoudian  
58 Winter Street  
Arlington, MA 02174

Rev. Fr. Papken Maksoudian  
56 Winter Street  
Arlington, MA 02174

## PROGRAMS

The programs of the ACYOA are the most direct and meaningful vehicles we can use to provide for, educate, and attract new and current members to participate in the organization. They are the very components that give the ACYOA her true form and direction. Their promotion, and participation therein, will lead to greater success and a continual sense of purpose. We must strive to continue to develop and upgrade new and current programs, thus providing a strong equilibrium for all Armenian youth.

### PARISH MISSION PROGRAM

This program is primarily aimed at those parishes in need of programs, activities, and spiritual rejuvenation in the form of organized and entertaining teaching/learning experiences. A team of 5-6 members (including 1 or 2 ACYOA members), headed by an Armenian clergyman, visit a parish for one week, present programs and meet with the youth, elderly and sick. Selection of the Parish is determined by the Primate.

### CULTURAL WEEKEND

The Cultural Weekend comprises all facets of the objectives of the ACYOA Constitution. Held annually over Presidents' Weekend, the program may include a comprehensive explanation and discussion of the Badarak (Divine Liturgy); a crash course on the Armenian language; segments on Armenian Church and cultural history; instruction in Armenian dance; and fellowship. The program is subsidized, in part, by the ACYOA Central Council and is open only to dues-paid members.

### CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

This program provides an opportunity for all Armenian young adults to learn the basics of leadership from those who lead and learn how to take the opportunities and face the obstacles and challenges that lie ahead of us as we serve our local communities in the capacities that we do. The program is hosted by a local chapter and subsidized, in part, by the ACYOA Central Council and is open only to dues-paid members.

### ACYOA DAY

A local event, many chapters celebrate ACYOA Day on Palm Sunday with a banquet and program with guest speakers. The theme used can be to commemorate a specific event, to emphasize an aspect of the organization, or

to celebrate an anniversary. Awards are sometimes presented to outstanding members of the chapter, parish and community at large. ACYOA Day is meant to bring together the local chapter and parish community and to emphasize the importance of the local chapter within the context of the parish. It is a day to celebrate the very existence of the organization through its very heart--the local chapter.

#### MARTYRS' DAY COMMEMORATION

Held on a local basis, this annual commemoration of the Armenian martyrs of 1915 varies from chapter to chapter. The focus is on the Genocide of the Armenians from a religious perspective with an accent on the future. A special program is also held annually at the Diocese.

#### ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Initiated by His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, this Tournament is hosted each year by selected chapters throughout the Diocese. It began in 1971 as a basketball tournament and has grown since then to include co-ed volleyball. The Tournament is usually held in mid-May and is highlighted with the awarding of trophies to the champions and other outstanding participants at an elaborate banquet/dance. (See also Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Invitational Tournament Rules and Regulations).

#### ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM (ASP)

Taking place in June and July, the Armenian Studies Program (ASP) is an educational tour to Armenia and has attracted hundreds of people. Participants are guests of the Catholicos and the Soviet Armenian government and are given an extensive tour throughout the historic homeland. It is unquestionably a most fulfilling experience for any Armenian-American. Information and brochures are distributed in February or March. Open only to dues-paid members.

#### NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY BALL

The National Anniversary Ball is an annual affair marking the anniversary of the organization. Held in June or July, it is usually highlighted with special presentations to alumni of the organization. Chapters wishing to host the Ball must present a bid to the ACYOA Central Council. (See National Anniversary Ball Guidelines).

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY & NATIONAL SPORTS WEEKEND

The General Assembly is where national programs are discussed and instituted, policy is set, changes are made to the Constitution, and a

general direction is given to the ACYOA Central Council to carry out the decisions made. It is made up of representatives (delegates) from each chapter, and is convened prior to the National Sports Weekend. (See Organizational Overview and the ACYOA Constitution for further details).

Following the General Assembly, the National Sports Weekend is held over Labor Day Weekend. The Weekend features competition in over 30 athletic events in swimming, golf, track and field, tennis, badminton, basketball, volleyball, tavloo and chess. It is also highlighted with banquets, dances and seminars. The awards are presented at the Awards Banquet on Sunday night. The Weekend concludes with a picnic on Monday (Labor Day).

The General Assembly/National Sports Weekend is hosted by a chapter, selected after presenting a bid to the delegates of the prior year's Assembly.

### REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Usually conducted by ACYOA Central Council members, chapters in each region come together to discuss regional programming as well as national events. They may decide to organize on a more structured basis. The main purpose is to stimulate interaction between ACYOA chapters in a region and provide an opportunity for the chapters to meet and discuss concerns and ideas.

### AWARDS

The Chapter 'A' Award is given annually to the chapter that best fulfills the standards and requirements set forth by the ACYOA Central Council. Chapters are expected to meet deadlines, file proper reports and meet the needs of ACYOA members in their parishes with a well-rounded schedule of activities throughout the year. The Award is based on a point system, whereby the chapter accumulating the most points wins. Chapters accumulating a pre-determined number of points receive an achievement award. The criteria required and explanations thereto are as follows:

**Delegation at General Assembly:** 20 Points

Each chapter must be represented by the chapter chairman or a delegate as outlined in the ACYOA Constitution.

**Representation at Regional Conference:** 10 Points

At least one representative from each chapter must attend any regional conference held in their respective region.

**Representation at Archbishop Torkom** 5 Points

**Manoogian Invitational Tournament:**

At least one member from each chapter must attend the Tournament. It is not necessary

to participate in the Tournament. A list of those who purchase package plans will be forwarded to the ACYOA Central Council. Those who do not purchase package plans must provide the Council with a means of verification.

**Team Representation at Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Invitational Tournament:** 10 Points

A minimum of one team from each chapter must participate in basketball and/or volleyball. Participation is subject to the rules and regulations that govern the Tournament.

**Representation at National Sports Weekend:** 5 Points

A minimum of one member from each chapter must attend the National Sports Weekend. It is not necessary to participate in athletic events. The verification procedure for the Archbishop's Tournament applies here also.

**Athletic Representation at National Sports Weekend:** 10 Points

A minimum of two members from the chapter must participate in a minimum of one athletic event each. Participation is subject to the National Sports Weekend Rules and Regulations.

**Press Release Sent to Armenian Youth Forum:** 10 Points/Per Issue

A minimum of one article/press release must be sent to the Editor of the Armenian Youth Forum for each issue published. Deadlines are available from the Editor and/or the ACYOA Executive Secretary.

**Service to Parish/Armenian Community:** 0-50 Points

Points will be awarded to each chapter based on the degree of service it bestows upon its respective Parish/Armenian community. Chapters will be judged at the end of the fiscal year. The number and quality of the programs as well as the manner in which the chapter communicates with the ACYOA Central Council will determine the number of points.

**Service to Local Community:** 0-20 Points

The same criteria that applies to the Parish/Armenian Community, applies here. Examples include "Toys for Tots," donating Armenian-

related books to a local library, a general donation to a selected charity, participating in a blood drive or walk for hunger, etc.

**ACYOA Day Recognized in Parish:** 20 Points

Each chapter in conjunction with its local parish must designate one day a year as ACYOA Day (usually held on Palm Sunday).

**Educational/Cultural Program:** 10 Points

Each chapter must sponsor a minimum of one program that is educational and/or cultural. The program may be open to the chapter, the Armenian community, and/or the general public.

**Spiritual Program:** 20 Points

Each chapter must sponsor a minimum of one program that is spiritual. Examples include religious retreats, Bible studies, etc.

**Submission of Monthly Fact Sheets\*** 2 Points/Per Month

The fact sheets inform the ACYOA Central Council of local happenings. They must be postmarked 15 days following the reported month and should be sent regardless of whether activity takes place.

**Submission of General Armenian Youth Listing\*** 20 Points

Listing of all Armenians living within the parish jurisdiction according to year of birth followed by names and addresses in zip code order. Initially, a master list is established, names for which can be obtained from the parish's baptismal records, as well as from ACYOA membership lists. The list is forwarded to the ACYOA Central Council, which then integrates it with the National Mailing List. The initial list and subsequent revisions must be submitted by November 1st of each fiscal year.

**Submission of Chapter Membership Listing\*** 20 Points

Listing of names, addresses, and phone numbers of all members of chapter. The list must be submitted to the ACYOA Central Council by January 1st and updated periodically.



**Executive Committee Listing w/Delegates\***  
Consisting of the names, addresses, phone numbers and positions of each member, this list must be forwarded to the ACYOA Central Council within thirty (30) days following elections.

20 Points

**Membership Dues/Membership Renewal Forms\***  
Memberships must be renewed and the designated form forwarded to the ACYOA Central Council by January 1st of each fiscal year. Dues are \$10.00 per person, half of which is forwarded to the Council. Chapters which have not renewed by January 1st will be assessed a penalty fee. New members must fill out an application form. All membership applications, dues, and renewal forms must be submitted by June 30th (end of fiscal year).

20 Points

**Sam Nersesian Award Nomination\***  
The Priest and/or Executive Body should nominate at least one individual from their chapter. Nominations are due by June 30th.

20 Points

**Annual Chapter Report\***  
A self-explanatory form requiring general information, the report must be filed with the ACYOA Central Council by June 30th (end of fiscal year).

20 Points

Notes:

1. Those criteria marked with a (\*) are the responsibility of the Executive Body.
2. A "member" is defined as a dues-paid member for the current fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th).
3. Each program is eligible for only one category. For example, a cultural program held on ACYOA Day will only be credited towards ACYOA Day.

As an incentive to this program, the Executive Body (maximum of 5 members) of the winning chapter will receive funding to visit a new, inactive, or reorganized chapter. The ACYOA Central Council will subsidize the transportation, lodging and most meals for the group. The winning chapter is announced at the National Sports Weekend Awards Banquet.

Initiated as a result of the 1979 General Assembly, the Sam Nersesian Award is named after Sam Nersesian of the St. Louis ACYOA Chapter following his tragic death in May of 1979. The award is annually given to the ACYOA member who best exemplifies the character of a true Christian, demonstrating the virtues of love, humility, patience, and understanding. Nomination forms are sent out in April by the ACYOA Central Council. Nominations are made by the Priest and Executive Body of each chapter. The recipient is selected by the ACYOA Central Council and is presented the award at the National Sports Weekend Awards Banquet.

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Currently, the Sam Nersesian Scholarship is the only scholarship offered by the National organization. This Scholarship is awarded to applicants for the St. Nerses Summer Study program. Applications are sent to all chapters and parishes, as well as individuals who request them. Recipients are selected by the ACYOA Central Council. The amount of the Scholarship equals the amount of the tuition for the program.

A long-term goal of the National organization is to provide scholarships for college students.

### MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

In an effort to promote dues-paying membership in the ACYOA, the following incentives are offered:

1. ACYOA dues-paid members for the current fiscal year shall be entitled to membership incentives. It is the chapter's responsibility to forward membership dues to the ACYOA Central Council for deposit in the ACYOA National Treasury. Membership cards will be processed as dues are received from the chapters. Persons eligible for membership must be high school graduates or 18 years of age. Minimum dues paid to the chapter is \$10.00 - half of which is sent to the ACYOA Central Council. New members pay an additional \$1.00 initiation fee. After initial membership, a person renews their membership within the first six months of the fiscal year - July 1st through December 31st. If dues are not received by the ACYOA Central Council by December 31st, the chapter is assessed a penalty fee.
2. On the ACYOA National level, these incentives shall take the form of reduced rates at official ACYOA-sponsored programs and activities. Specifically, these incentives, in addition to privileges noted in the ACYOA Constitution, shall be as follows:

**Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Invitational Tournament:**  
\$10.00 Rebate off Regular Package Plan.

**National Sports Weekend:**  
\$10.00 Rebate off Regular Package Plan.

**National Anniversary Ball:**  
\$10.00 Rebate off Regular Package Plan.

**Regional Events:**  
\$3.00 Reduction to Cost of Event.

Note: The above reduction figures are minimums. The ACYOA Central Council and host committees for these programs can increase these figures if additional incentives are deemed necessary.

Chapters are highly encouraged to participate in the program by offering similar reductions to ACYOA members at locally sponsored programs, activities, etc. as uniformity will enhance the meaning of the program.

3. Additionally, only dues-paid members are eligible to participate in the Armenian Studies Program (ASP); the Cultural Weekend; and the Leadership Training Weekend.

### PUBLICATIONS

Through the years, the ACYOA has been involved with various publications. Its most noteworthy one, Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church, contains devotional prayers and information on the Sacraments of the Church. This book is very helpful to those who wish to take part in as well as understand the Badarak (Divine Liturgy).

The newsletters of the ACYOA are also important publication tools in that they communicate information between the chapters and the ACYOA Central Council. The current newsletter is the Armenian Youth Forum, which is distributed on a monthly basis. (See most recent issue in this packet).

### AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAMS

These programs include slides and tapes, videos, films and other presentation formats to be utilized by individual chapters, parishes, Armenian and non-Armenian organizations and community groups. As the various programs take place, they are videotaped. A long-term goal is to realize a library where these programs can be stored and then disseminated as a service to everyone.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 28-30, 1988	Leadership Weekend - Fall Greenfield, WI
November 26, 1988	Midwest Regional Conference Detroit, MI
December 9-11, 1988	Weekend Retreat - Fall Watertown, MA
February 17-20, 1989	2nd Annual Cultural Weekend New York City, NY
March 10-12, 1989	Leadership Weekend - Spring (not yet known)
March 19, 1989	Palm Sunday/ACYOA Day
April 14-16, 1989	Weekend Retreat - Spring Cleveland, OH
April 22, 1989	Martyrs' Day Celebration Kavookjian Hall, Diocese
May 12-14, 1989	Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Invitational Tournament Elberon, NJ
June/July 1989	Diocesan Summer Internship New York City, NY
June/July 1989	Armenian Studies Program (ASP) Educational Tour to Armenia
June 10-12, 1989	Weekend Retreat - Summer Washington, D.C.
July 16-22, 1989	ACYOA National Camp California  National Anniversary Ball
August 30 - September 1, 1989	General Assembly
September 1, 1989	Central Council Transitional Meeting
September 1-4, 1989	National Sports Weekend

C O N S T I T U T I O N  
O F   T H E  
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA (ACYOA)  
DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

Revised  
January 1987

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, hereinafter referred to as the ACYOA.

ARTICLE 2 - OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the ACYOA shall be:

**Section 1** - To encourage its members to learn, practice, uphold, and propagate the principles and teachings of the Christian faith according to the doctrine, sacraments, rites, canons, discipline, and customs of the Armenian Church.

**Section 2** - To support and work for the strengthening of the Armenian Church to promote among its members and others the study and appreciation of Armenian culture and heritage.

**Section 3** - To strengthen the social and spiritual bond among its members, and to contribute toward the development of a health community life among Armenians.

**Section 4** - To enhance and strengthen among its members the knowledge of, and loyalty to, the principles of the Constitution of the United States (or Canada); to uphold the spirit of human freedom, universal justice, brotherhood of men, and devotion to duty as good citizens, dedicated to the service of God and country.

ARTICLE 3 - POLICIES

The policies of the ACYOA shall be:

**Section 1** - To function subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the Primate or the Locum Tenens of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

and the Diocesan Council in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Diocese. The Primate shall be the President of the ACYOA.

**Section 2** - To work in harmony and cooperate with the Pastor in charge of each local Parish of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, his assistants, and the Parish Council through the respective Chapters of the ACYOA to take interest and an active part in the affairs and management of the local Church, and to support her both morally and financially.

**Section 3** - To create and maintain friendly and cooperative relations with Armenian institutions and organizations whose aims, policies, and activities are consonant with the objectives and policies of the ACYOA, and to give special consideration to organizations connected with the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and its Parishes.

**Section 4** - To create and maintain friendly and fraternal relations with other religious youth organizations whose aims, policies, and activities are consonant with the spirit of the ACYOA; to take interest and an active part in the spiritual and moral life of the community.

**Section 5** - To encourage education among Armenian Youth.

#### **ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1** - All persons at least 18 years of age, or high school graduates, who are communicant members of the Armenian Church are eligible for membership.

**Section 2** - A candidate for membership shall apply in writing to the Chapter Executive Committee.

**Section 3** - Within a period of one month after receipt of the written application, the Chapter Executive Committee shall act upon the application.

**Section 4** - Upon being duly admitted, a new member shall pay an initiation fee together with annual dues and shall be initiated formally in an initiation service in the presence of the President and the members of the Chapter. After the initiation, the new member shall receive a membership card from the Chapter Executive Committee.

**Section 5** - A new member has the right to vote in elections and on fiscal issues three months after paying membership dues.

**Section 6** - Those persons at least 18 years of age or high school graduates who are not communicant members of the Armenian Church, but who are interested in ACYOA, and are willing to subscribe to the objectives and policies of the Constitution may become Associate Members. Application for Associate Membership shall be made to the Chapter Executive Committee, and approved by the ACYOA Central Council. Associate Members may participate in the local activities of the Chapter, but may not vote or hold elective

office. Annual contributions equal to membership dues by Associate Members in lieu of dues shall be considered contributions to the Chapter.

Section 7 - Members-at-Large shall be those who live in an area where there is no organized Chapter. A candidate for Member-at-Large shall apply in writing to the ACYOA Central Council, which shall act upon eligibility for membership at the next ACYOA Central Council meeting. A Member-at-Large applicant shall pay dues to the ACYOA Central Council. Members-at-Large are entitled to all privileges of membership in the ACYOA. A Member-at-Large may at any time affiliate with a Chapter, whereupon the Member-at-Large status shall cease.

#### ARTICLE 5 - FEES AND DUES

Section 1 - The initiation fee shall be designated by the General Assembly to be paid upon first joining the ACYOA, and sent by the Chapter to the ACYOA Central Council. The minimum initiation fee shall be one dollar (\$1.00).

Section 2 - Annual dues for ACYOA members shall be designated by the General Assembly. One-half of the amount shall be sent to the ACYOA Central Council Treasurer. The minimum annual dues shall be ten dollars (\$10.00). Dues become delinquent with the start of the third quarter of the fiscal year (January 1st).

Section 3 - Each chapter which is not in compliance with Article 5, Section 2, shall be subjected to a potential fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

#### ARTICLE 6 - FORMATION OF CHAPTERS

Section 1 - Five or more persons qualified to become members of the ACYOA may organize a Chapter with the approval of the Pastor and Parish Council of the local Parish.

Section 2 - A written application for Chapter formation in the ACYOA shall be made by the Pastor and Parish Council and submitted to the Primate and the ACYOA Central Council for approval.

Section 3 - If there is no local Parish or Parish Council, then written application shall be submitted by the potential Chapter to the Primate and the ACYOA Central Council for approval.

Section 4 - The name of the affiliated Parish shall precede the Name "ACYOA" of each Chapter.

## **ARTICLE 7 - CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**Section 1** - The members of a Chapter shall hold a Chapter Annual Membership Meeting called by the Chapter Executive Committee in the final quarter of the fiscal year. A written notice shall be sent by the Chapter Executive Committee to all members at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting, stating the agenda of the meeting.

**Section 2** - The majority of the members in good standing of the Chapter shall constitute a quorum at a Chapter Annual Membership Meeting. If such a quorum is not obtained, a second meeting shall be called in the same manner. At this subsequent meeting, the number of members present shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 3** - The functions of the Chapter Annual Membership Meeting shall be:

- a. To elect the Chapter Executive Committee, to elect delegates and alternates to the General Assembly, and to elect Nominating and Auditing Committees.
- b. To examine, approve, or otherwise pass upon the Chapter Annual Report, the report of the Auditing Committee, and the financial transactions of the Chapter, including the portion of the annual net proceeds to be contributed to the local Parish.
- c. To decide on the amount and the manner of any Chapter financial contributions other than to the local Parish, provided that the consent of the Pastor and Parish Council is obtained for such appropriation.
- d. To decide on all matters submitted by the Chapter Executive Committee or the membership.

**Section 4** - The Chapter Executive Committee shall establish the agenda of the Chapter Annual Membership Meeting.

**Section 5** - Special Membership Meetings may be held to pass upon urgent resolutions. Special Membership Meetings shall be called by the Chapter Executive Committee with at least one week's written notice upon a majority vote of the Chapter Executive Committee, or upon the written request of at least one-third of the members in good standing, presented to the Chapter Executive Committee.

**Section 6** - The Parish Council shall be invited to all Chapter Membership Meetings.

**Section 7** - Chapter Membership Meetings shall be presided over by the President and conducted by the Chairman.



## **ARTICLE 8 - CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 1** - Each Chapter at its Annual Membership Meeting shall elect by secret ballot five to eleven members who along with the President shall constitute the Chapter Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers as necessary.

**Section 2** - The elections of the members of the Chapter Executive Committee shall be subject to approval by the Pastor and the Parish Council. In the event that there is neither a Pastor nor a Parish Council, the election of the Chapter Executive Committee shall be subject to approval by the Primate and the ACYOA Central Council.

**Section 3** - The term of office of the members of the Chapter Executive Committee shall be one year.

**Section 4** - No member shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive years.

**Section 5** - In case of vacancy in the Chapter Executive Committee, an election shall be held at the next regular Chapter Membership Meeting. The member who had the highest number of votes short of election at the last Chapter Annual Membership Meeting shall be a nominee. The newly-elected Executive Committee Member shall be subject to Article 8, Section 2.

**Section 6** - A member of the Chapter Executive Committee shall be disqualified to serve on the Committee during the current term if absent from a total of four Chapter Executive Committee or Monthly Membership Meetings without reasonable cause.

**Section 7** - The Pastor and Parish Council, or in the absence of a Parish Priest, the Parish Council, shall have the power to review and act upon any officer who proves to be incapable of carrying out the responsibilities of the office.

**Section 8** - The President of the Chapter shall be the Pastor in charge of the local Parish. The President of the Chapter shall have the responsibility of insuring all action taken by the Chapter or any of its committees is consistent with the objectives and policies of this Constitution. The President shall preside over the Chapter Annual Membership and Monthly Membership Meetings. In case of a tie in any voting, the President shall cast the deciding vote. In the event there is no local Pastor or Parish Council, the Chapter Chairman and ACYOA Central Council shall have these responsibilities.

**Section 9** - The Chairman shall conduct all meetings of the Chapter. The Chairman or a representative of the Chapter Executive Committee shall be a member of all appointed committees.

**Section 10** - The Vice Chairman shall perform all the duties of the Chairman in the absence of the latter.

**Section 11** - The duties of the Recording Secretary shall be: to receive and to present to the Chapter Executive Committee all applications for membership, to keep accurate files listing the membership of the Chapter and showing the name, address, and age of each member and any other information concerning the same; to keep a careful and authentic record of all minutes of meetings; to preserve all documents of the Chapter except those specifically assigned to others; to authenticate by signature all records, documents, etc.; to bring to each meeting a copy of the Constitution, By-Laws, and a list of the members of all standing and regular committees; and to prepare any information required by the ACYOA Central Council.

**Section 12** - The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Chapter, mail all required notices, and send any information required by the ACYOA Central Council. In the absence of the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary shall perform the duties of the former.

**Section 13** - The Treasurer shall notify members of their financial obligations, shall collect all monies, and shall be the custodian of the funds of the Chapter. These funds shall be deposited in a bank designated by the Chapter Executive Committee and kept in the name of the Chapter.

**Section 14** - All payments, bank withdrawals, and checks made on behalf of the ACYOA shall be made upon the signatures of the Treasurer and the Chairman, or one other member of the Chapter Executive Committee designated by the Committee.

**Section 15** - All officers, upon retiring from office, shall deliver to the Chairman in office all monies, accounts, records, books, paper, and all other property belonging to the Chapter. The Chairman in office shall distribute said items to the respective officers to whom they pertain. The President of the Chapter shall oversee the transfer.

**Section 16** - The Chapter Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month and shall have the power to transact the general business of the Chapter and to implement the resolutions of the General Assembly, Annual Membership, Special Membership and Monthly Meetings of the Chapter.

**Section 17** - The Chapter Executive Committee shall submit a written Annual Report to the Parish Council and the ACYOA Central Council after the Chapter Annual Membership Meeting, describing the activities and financial status of the Chapter during the completed fiscal year.

#### **ARTICLE 9 - CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETINGS**

**Section 1** - The Chapter Executive Committee shall call a Chapter Meeting at least once a month.

**Section 2** - Chapter Monthly Meetings shall be presided over by the President and conducted by the Chairman.

**Section 3** - The presence of twenty-five percent or twenty-five members in good standing (whichever is less) shall constitute a quorum at any Chapter Monthly Meeting, and decisions shall be taken by the majority vote of those present.

**Section 4** - Chapter Monthly Meetings shall be called in order to discuss and to act upon plans and programs for the enhancement of the ACYOA. These meetings may be augmented by cultural, educational, religious, social, and recreational activities.

#### **ARTICLE 10 - GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Section 1** - Delegates from all Chapters shall convene at least once a year for a General Assembly.

**Section 2** - The number of elected delegates a Chapter may send to the General Assembly, based on the total number of dues-paid members from the past fiscal year, shall be:

5 - 10 members	=	1 delegate
11 - 25 members	=	2 delegates
26 - 50 members	=	3 delegates
51 - 100 members	=	4 delegates

And one more delegate for any fraction of each additional 50 members. No chapter shall have more than seven delegates.

**Section 3** - The Chapter Chairman shall be an ex-officio delegate to the General Assembly, with the powers of an elected delegate.

**Section 4** - The President of each Chapter shall be an ex-officio delegate to the General Assembly with the powers of an elected delegate.

**Section 5** - Each delegate shall present credentials signed by the President, Chairman, and Recording Secretary of the Chapter to the ACYOA Central Council.

**Section 6** - If an elected delegate is unable to attend the General Assembly, an alternate delegate elected at the Chapter Annual Membership Meeting shall assume the responsibilities of the delegate.

**Section 7** - A majority of the elected delegates of the existing Chapters shall constitute a quorum in the General Assembly.

**Section 8** - All sessions of the General Assembly shall be presided over by the Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, or a Plenipotentiary Clergy Representative designated by the Primate.

**Section 9** - The Chairman of the General Assembly shall be elected from among the delegates by plurality vote. The one receiving the next highest number of votes shall be designated as the Vice Chairman. The ACYOA Central Council shall secure a competent secretary and assistant secretary to record the Minutes of the General Assembly.

**Section 10** - The Chairman of the General Assembly may appoint a person who is well versed in parliamentary procedure to act as the Parliamentarian of the General Assembly.

**Section 11** - Any Chapter that has not met its financial obligations to the ACYOA thirty days prior to the General Assembly shall not be entitled to have voting representation at the General Assembly.

**Section 12** - The duties of the General Assembly shall be:

- a. To receive the report of the ACYOA Central Council on the activities and financial status of all the Chapters and on the progress of the ACYOA as a whole.
- b. To receive the report of the activities and the financial transactions of the ACYOA Central Council and the ACYOA for the past fiscal year.
- c. To determine the budget for the ensuing fiscal year and the manner in which the funds of the ACYOA shall be administered by the ACYOA Central Council.
- d. To determine the manner and the amount of contribution which each Chapter shall make to the ACYOA.
- e. To discuss and act upon all matters relating to the activity of the ACYOA submitted to it or placed on its agenda. Matters not submitted to the General Assembly or placed on its agenda, in compliance with Article 11, Section 9, shall be considered upon a three-fourths vote of the Assembly.
- f. To elect the members of the ACYOA Central Council, the Nominating Committee, the Auditing Committee, and other standing committees which it may create.
- g. To decide the time and place of the next General Assembly.

**Section 13** - The decisions of the General Assembly shall be binding upon the Chapters of the ACYOA upon approval by the Primate and the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

## **ARTICLE 11 - CENTRAL COUNCIL**

**Section 1** - From among the members of the ACYOA, the General Assembly shall elect five members to constitute the ACYOA Central Council. Only one person from any Chapter may be elected to the ACYOA Central Council in any given year. The ACYOA Central Council term of office shall commence following the confirmation of the election by the Primate and Diocesan Council.

**Section 2** - The first General Assembly shall elect for the first ACYOA Central Council three members serving a two-year term, and two members serving a one-year term. Thereafter, as terms of office expire, the vacancies shall be filled by members elected for two year terms. No member shall hold office in excess of two consecutive terms.

**Section 3** - While in office, an ACYOA Central Council member may not serve as Chairman of a Chapter Executive Committee.

**Section 4** - In case of a vacancy in the ACYOA Central Council created by resignation or otherwise, the ACYOA Central Council shall invite the individual who received the next highest number of votes short of election at the last General Assembly to fill the vacancy. This member shall serve until the following General Assembly.

**Section 5** - The Primate and the ACYOA Central Council shall determine the place and frequency of meetings. The Primate, or his Plenipotentiary Clergy Representative, shall preside over ACYOA Central Council meetings.

**Section 6** - The ACYOA Central Council shall define the responsibilities of its officers and committees.

**Section 7** - The ACYOA Central Council shall keep a permanent record of its proceedings and those of the General Assembly. Within ninety days following each General Assembly, a copy of the record of the proceedings and minutes of the General Assembly shall be filed at the Office of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, and a copy shall also be sent to each Chapter for its files.

**Section 8** - The ACYOA Central Council, with the approval of the Primate, shall prepare the agenda of the General Assembly and issue invitations to the delegates of the Chapters.

**Section 9** - All amendments and proposals intended to be presented at the General Assembly shall be submitted in writing to the ACYOA Central Council not less than sixty days prior to the Assembly.

**Section 10** - An agenda along with all amendments and proposals intended to be considered shall be sent by the ACYOA Central Council to the Chapters thirty days prior to the General Assembly.

**Section 11** - All ACYOA Central Council members shall have a non-transferable right of voice and vote at the General Assembly.

**Section 12** - It shall be the responsibility of the ACYOA Central Council: to convene each year the General Assembly; to advise the local Chapters; to send to members copies of all leaflets and periodicals which it published; to receive from each Chapter reports of Chapter and inter-Chapter functions and projects; and to direct, supervise and coordinate ACYOA activities.

**Section 13** - The ACYOA Central Council shall be entitled to require at any time an accurate accounting of funds and activities from any Chapter.

**Section 14** - On the basis of a report from a Chapter Executive Committee and/or President, the ACYOA Central Council may take steps deemed necessary and proper for the best interests of the ACYOA.

**Section 15** - Any member of the ACYOA Central Council failing to attend two consecutive meetings without justification may be excluded from the ACYOA Central Council if so decided by a unanimous vote of the other members of the Council and approval of the Primate.

**Section 16** - The Primate and the Diocesan Council, in consultation with the ACYOA Central Council, may appoint an Executive Secretary when and if deemed necessary to work with the ACYOA Central Council under the direction of the Primate for the advancement and efficient functioning of the ACYOA.

#### **ARTICLE 12 - NATIONAL FUNCTIONS**

**Section 1** - All National functions shall be held under the name of the ACYOA.

**Section 2** - All National functions must be submitted to the General Assembly for its approval.

**Section 3** - Upon the approval of the General Assembly, a Guidelines Committee shall be formed to develop guidelines for each National function. Said guidelines shall state all policies, rules, regulations, and requirements for the hosting of and attendance at that National function and, upon the approval of the General Assembly, shall be subordinate to this Constitution.

**Section 4** - Any Chapter wishing to host a National function shall present a detailed outline of location and activities, including prices, which should be submitted to the ACYOA Central Council sixty days prior to the General Assembly.

#### **ARTICLE 13 - FUNDS**

**Section 1** - The fiscal year shall be from July first to June thirtieth.

**Section 2** - All assets of the ACYOA shall be under the sole jurisdiction of the General Assembly to be used by the ACYOA Central Council for the general

welfare of the ACYOA and for carrying out the responsibilities assigned to it by this Constitution.

**Section 3** - The ACYOA Central Council shall have the power to make special appeals to members for funds for specific purposes if and when the need for such funds arises. If the appeal is to be made to the Armenian community at large, the consent of the Primate and the Diocesan Council must be obtained.

**Section 4** - The Chapters shall spend the funds at their disposal for the welfare of the Chapter and for carrying out the responsibilities assigned to them by this Constitution.

**Section 5** - Forty percent of the annual net proceeds of each Chapter shall be contributed to the local Parish.

**Section 6** - Half of the net proceeds from national functions and one-quarter of the net proceeds from regional functions shall be sent to the ACYOA Central Council by the sponsoring Chapters.

**Section 7** - Any deficit of the national budget shall be apportioned to the Chapters by dividing equally among all potential delegates of the General Assembly.

#### ARTICLE 14 - ELECTIONS

**Section 1** - All elections shall be by secret ballot, and unless otherwise provided, shall be decided by majority vote of members assembled in a meeting.

**Section 2** - Only Members who have paid their annual dues in full are eligible to vote at elections or become candidates for elective office.

**Section 3** - Candidates for elective office must have been members of the ACYOA for not less than one year.

**Section 4** - In case of a vacancy in any National Committee of the ACYOA created by resignation or otherwise, the ACYOA Central Council shall invite the individual who received the next highest number of votes short of election at the last General Assembly to fill the vacancy. This member shall serve until the following General Assembly. In the event the first alternate is unable to fill the vacancy, the second alternate shall be invited to fill the position. Should no alternates be available, the ACYOA Central Council shall select an ACYOA member in good standing to fill the vacancy with the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as the elected National Committee members.

## ARTICLE 15 - BY-LAWS

**Section 1** - By-Laws and standing rules for a local Chapter may be prepared and amended at a Chapter Membership Meeting, provided they do not contradict this Constitution and are approved by the ACYOA Central Council.

**Section 2** - The Diocesan By-Laws shall supersede and supplement this Constitution. Final adjudication of questions, policies, and procedures not resolved through the normal channels shall rest with the Primate and the Diocesan Council.

## ARTICLE 16 - AMENDMENTS

**Section 1** - This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.

**Section 2** - All amendments to the Constitution to be proposed at the General Assembly must reach the ACYOA Central Council sixty days prior to the date of the General Assembly.

**Section 3** - Amendments to be submitted to the General Assembly shall be sent by the Central Council to the Chapters thirty days prior to the date of the General Assembly at which the amendments are to be considered.

**Section 4** - The amendments ratified by the General Assembly shall be submitted to the Primate and the Diocesan Council for approval. The ACYOA Central Council shall inform the Chapters of the status of the amendments.

## ARTICLE 17 - DISSOLUTION

**Section 1** - In the event that the number of members of a Chapter falls below five at the end of the fiscal year and for a continuous period of three months thereafter, that Chapter shall be considered dissolved.

**Section 2** - Upon the dissolution of any Chapter, the assets, records and all property thereof shall be turned over and shall belong to the Parish Council of the local Parish. If there is no such Parish in the community of the dissolved Chapter, such assets, records, and properties shall be turned over and shall belong to the ACYOA Central Council.

**Section 3** - The dissolution of the ACYOA may only occur at the General Assembly with a three-fourths vote in favor of dissolution of all potential delegates to the General Assembly. In case of dissolution, all assets, records, and properties are to be turned over to the Primate and the Diocesan Council.



## ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

### RULES & REGULATIONS

1987

In 1971, His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, initiated for the youth of the Diocese the "ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN BASKETBALL AWARD."

Since then, this award has grown to include both men's and women's basketball divisions, co-ed volleyball, and an annual tournament. The Central Council of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) has incorporated this coveted Award into its Awards Program, and coordinates the Tournament and challenges.

The following Rules and Regulations govern the administration of the Award. It should be kept in mind that the primary purpose of the Award and related games is for the perpetuation of Armenian good will, fellowship and sportsmanship among the youth of the parishes of the Diocese of the Armenian Church.

#### PART 1 - ELIGIBILITY

**Section 1** - All parishes of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) are eligible to participate in the tournaments and challenge the trophy holder to games.

**Section 2** - Parishes of a North American Diocese not including the Eastern Diocese may participate provided that the team applies for--and receives--the approval of both their Central Council and the ACYOA Central Council.

**Section 3** - Teams that represent the parishes must be made up of members of the particular parish, unless special permission is granted by the ACYOA Central Council.

#### PART 2 - BASKETBALL

**Section 1** - All preliminary and championship games shall consist of two halves, stop time, with the length of time determined upon final scheduling. The number of teams and time allowance will be taken into consideration.

**Section 2** - Two individual technical fouls shall constitute that individual's disqualification from that game, and suspension from the following game.

### PART 3 - VOLLEYBALL

**Section 1** - Each team shall have at least two men and two women as players on the court during the entire game.

**Section 2** - Two out of three 15 point games shall determine the winner of a match except in the event that a time limit is imposed. In the event of a time limit, the team with the most points takes the game (must be won by 2 points). Said time limit will be no less than 30 minutes per set.

### PART 4 - TOURNAMENTS

**Section 1** - At least one tournament per year shall be held under the direction of the ACYOA Central Council. Chapters may bid for the privilege of hosting the tournament. Sites and dates will be approved by the Primate and ACYOA Central Council.

**Section 2** - All tournaments shall include both men's and women's basketball divisions as well as co-ed volleyball.

**Section 3** - ACYOA Chapters and parishes which host tournaments will be under the direction of the ACYOA Central Council. All net proceeds from the tournament and related activities (dances, dinners, ad-booklets, etc....) shall be divided with the host and the National Treasury of the ACYOA. (See ACYOA Constitution, Article 13, Section 6).

**Section 4** - All fees and costs for tournaments will be determined by the host, and approved by the ACYOA Central Council.

**Section 5** - Announcements and invitations shall be sent to all parishes of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) and to representative of each North American Diocese at least 8 weeks prior to the opening of the tournament. Information on costs, fees, and accommodations and itinerary must be sent to each parish and organized ACYOA Chapter.

**Section 6** - Team rosters shall be submitted prior to tournament play, and carry the approval and signature of the pastor of the parish (or the parish council chairman where there is no pastor assigned). There is no age restriction. Rosters must be limited to 12 active players.

**Section 7** - A minimum of one court for basketball and one court for volleyball shall be obtained by the host. Preliminary games of basketball and volleyball will be played simultaneously.

**Section 8** - The host will insure that no basketball team and volleyball team representing the same parish is scheduled to play at the same time.

**Section 9** - The championship games shall be played in the following order: Co-ed volleyball, women's basketball, men's basketball.

**Section 10** - An All-Star team made up of an outstanding player from each team in each division shall be selected and awarded with appropriate trophies.

**Section 11** - A Most Valuable Player from each of the three divisions shall be selected and awarded with appropriate trophies.

**Section 12** - The Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Trophies in both the men's and women's divisions and the Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Volleyball Trophy shall be presented to the championship teams.

**Section 13** - It is the responsibility of the championship trophy holders to keep the trophies in good shape, and bring them to the annual Tournament.

**Section 14** - A list of participating parishes, Champions, All-Stars, and Most Valuable Players shall be kept as part of a permanent record of the Tournaments.

#### **PART 5 - CHALLENGES**

**Section 1** - Any parish of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (or a North American Diocese with approval under Part 1, Section 2) that wishes to challenge the current trophy holder may do so by notifying the ACYOA Central Council and trophy holder in writing.

**Section 2** - Challenges will be administered on a first come, first serve basis.

**Section 3** - Trophy holders must accept challenges as soon as arrangements can be made.

#### **PART 6 - GENERAL**

**Section 1** - Ineligible players constitute forfeiture.

**Section 2** - All games, Tournaments, and Challenges shall be governed by College Rules.

**Section 3** - All officials, judges and others involved with the actual games shall be professionals or people with equal experience and qualifications.

NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY BALL GUIDELINES

## ACYOA NATIONAL SPORTS WEEKEND RULES & REGULATIONS

### ARTICLE 1 - AIMS AND GOALS

**Section 1** - Realizing that through athletic competition and conditioning the valuable attributes of physical coordination and moral intellectual maturity can be developed, the objective of the SPORTS WEEKEND of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) shall be to encourage athletic participation among ACYOA members on national level.

**Section 2** - To make available various cultural, religious, and historical events during the weekend so that ACYOA members and citizens of the hosting community may become better aware of the Armenian heritage.

### ARTICLE 2 - POLICIES

**Section 1** - Chapters are allowed to combine for Sports Weekend competition upon the approval of the Primate and ACYOA Central Council, provided no one chapter has a membership of 50 or more. The total number of this combination of Chapters shall not exceed 60 members. Requests must be made in writing no later than 90 days prior to the opening of the Sports Weekend.

**Section 2** - Chapters wishing to combine for sporting events must combine for all events.

**Section 3** - Members-at-Large who wish to participate will be combined by ACYOA Central Council. Members-at-Large must submit their intent to participate in writing to ACYOA Central Council 90 days prior to the Sports Weekend.

**Section 4** - Provisions for Sunday Soorp Badarak (Divine Liturgy) must always be made. No other events may be scheduled during Sunday Soorp Badarak.

**Section 5** - \$1,000.00 is allocated as a loan, each fiscal year in the annual budget of the ACYOA Central Council, to be used as initial seed money by the Sports Weekend committee of the respective host chapter. This \$1,000.00 loan is to be repaid to the ACYOA Central Council at such time when a final accounting of the Sports Weekend is complete and such repayment will be made with no interest accruing thereon.

### ARTICLE 3 - REGULATIONS

**Section 1** - All athletic participants must be dues-paid members or Members-at-Large of the ACYOA, and must be recognized by the ACYOA Central Council through written membership application 45 days prior to the Sports Weekend. Associate members are not eligible to participate in sporting events.

**Section 2** - All athletic participants must be registered with the Official National Sports Weekend Registration Committee, and thereby be registered on the Sports Weekend Package Plan. The Sports Weekend Host Chapter shall offer an "Eligibility Package Plan" consisting only of Friday and Saturday evening dances and Sunday Awards Banquet and Dance. At the discretion of the Host Chapter, a second package plan may also be made available with additional meals and events included. A ten dollar (\$10.00) discount shall be given to those who prepay in full, thirty (30) days in advance of the start of the ACYOA National Sports Weekend.

**Section 3** - Each chapter shall submit its intent to participate in athletic events to the National Sports Weekend Athletic Committee no later than 30 days prior to the Sports Weekend. Accompanying this registration will be an entry fee per team event and per individual event, dependent upon each chapters cost with the approval of the ACYOA Central Council.

**Section 4** - All team and individual rosters must be submitted to the National Sports Weekend Athletic Committee 30 days prior to Sports Weekend.

**Section 5** - The host chapter shall send to all chapters a schedule of sporting events' times and dates no later than 15 days prior to Sports Weekend.

**Section 6** - At least four registered chapters are necessary for an event to be included in the National Sports Weekend Athletic Events.

**Section 7** - Each athletic event shall have its own Coordinator. The Coordinator's workers shall be responsible for the efficient coordination and operation of the athletic event. The Coordinator shall set up schedules and given reports to the National Sports Weekend Athletic Directors.

**Section 8** - Officials, judges, and marshals for all events shall be professionals and people of equal experience. (Officials should be licensed, confirmed, etc.)

**Section 9** - Illegal players constitute forfeiture.

**Section 10** - All team and individual eliminations in athletic events shall be single elimination. Consolation games (and brackets) may be set up if time allows. No points will be awarded for consolation games. If there are an off number of teams entered in a particular event, one team will receive a "by" via a random drawing.

**Section 11** - It is the team and individual's responsibility to report to their schedule game or event ON TIME. A ten minute grace period shall be used in all games concerning a waiting time, after which the delinquent team or individual shall forfeit. This shall be enforced and upon confirmation by the Athletic Directors, all forfeitures become final.

**Section 12** - Individuals are responsible for reporting time conflicts to the respective event coordinator, for possible consideration and rescheduling.

Consideration of time conflicts and rescheduling shall be left to the scrutiny of the Athletic Director.

**Section 13** - Each chapter shall provide and make known to the Athletic Directors the name of an individual who will work on a Sports Weekend Athletic Council chaired by the National Sports Weekend Athletic Directors during the Sports Weekend. Said individuals will act as a representative from their respective chapters at regularly scheduled meetings whose work will be to facilitate athletic events and to further vital communications during the Sports Weekend.

**Section 13(b)** - A lottery system shall determine pairings in team sports. The National Sports Weekend Athletic Director shall draw lots in the presence of a majority of National Sports Weekend Athletic Council members and a member of the ACYOA Central Council.

**Section 14** - A list of winners, winning times, and record times shall be recorded and kept as a permanent part of the National Sports Weekend records.

**Section 15** - Members of a North American Diocese Armenian Church Youth Organization, not including the Eastern Diocese may participate in the ACYOA National Sports Weekend with the following eligibility requirements:

All other eligibility requirements as stated in the ACYOA National Sports Weekend Rules and Regulations with the exception of Article 2 §1 and Article 3 §1 must be abided by.

All participants must be members in good standing according to the Constitution of their Diocese or their Central Council. Both their own Central Council and the ACYOA Central Council must approve their participation.

Teams may be entered from a single chapter or may combine within their Diocese, with both Central Councils' approval.

Individual participants may either represent their home chapter in individual events only or request to represent an Eastern Diocese Chapter with Central Councils' approval.

**Section 16** - All teams and individuals shall receive any and all awards for their winning performances during the sports competition.

#### **ARTICLE 4 - ATHLETIC EVENTS**

**Section 1** - The following is a list of Athletic Events which will be offered at the ACYOA National Sports Weekend. This list may be expanded or limited in accordance with Article 3, Section 6.

## ATHLETIC EVENTS

## CHAPTER REPRESENTATION IN EACH EVENT

1. Aquatics		
	a. 2 team events -----	4 [per team]
	b. 3 individual events -----	3
2. Badminton -----		2
3. Basketball		
	a. Men's Division -----	12
	b. Women's Division -----	12
4. Table Tennis		
	a. Singles	
	1. Men -----	2
	2. Women -----	2
	b. Doubles -----	1 [set]
5. Tennis		
	a. Singles	
	1. Men -----	2
	2. Women -----	2
	b. Doubles -----	1 [set]
6. Golf -----		2
7. Track & Field		
	a. One team event -----	4
	b. 3 individual events -----	3
8. Chess -----		2
9. Tavloo -----		2
10. Volleyball -----		12 [co-ed]

**Section 2** - A second division in any sport or event may be scheduled, provided there is ample time and interest. Four or more chapters can field a team.

**Section 3** - There will be an overall award for the chapter accumulating the most points during the sports competitions.

**Section 4** - There will be an award given to the chapter exhibiting the best sportsmanlike attitude and conduct.

**Section 5** - There shall be an award for the chapter with the highest average points per person participating, with the requirement that there be a minimum of five (5) participants per chapter to qualify.



## ARTICLE 5 - BREAKDOWN OF ATHLETIC EVENTS

Section 1 - The number of events shall be chosen according to Chapter response.

### Section 2 - Aquatics:

1. Men's and Women's Freestyle
2. Men's and Women's Backstroke
3. Men's and Women's Breaststroke
4. Men's Freestyle Relay (4 persons)
5. Women's Freestyle Relay (4 persons)

### Section 3 - Track:

1. 50 yard dash
2. 100 yard dash
3. 220 yard dash
4. 440 yard dash
5. 880 yard relay (4 persons)
6. Mile relay (4 persons)
7. Mile run (individual)

### Section 4 - Badminton:

1. Standard Rules.

### Section 5 - Basketball: [men's and women's]

1. All teams shall consist of at least 5 players and not more than 12.
2. All games shall be governed by college rules.
3. All preliminary and championship games shall consist of two halves, stop time, with the length of time determined upon final scheduling.
4. Two individual technical fouls upon the same player shall disqualify the player from the remainder of that game, and suspension from the following game.

### Section 6 - Tennis and Table Tennis:

1. Standard rules.

### Section 7 - Golf:

1. U.S.G.A. rules.

## Section 8 - Volleyball: [co-ed]

1. Co-ed Volleyball shall be determined by each team having at least two men as participating players on the court during the entire game.
2. All teams shall consist of at least 6 players and no more than 12.
3. Standard rules.

## Section 9 - Chess:\*

1. Standard rules.
2. Upon final scheduling, if a time limit must be imposed, the winner shall be determined according to the standard point system.

## Section 10 - Tavloo:\*

1. Standard rules.

\*Note: If time limitations are involved, Chess and Tavloo competitions may begin on Friday evening.

## ARTICLE 6 - POINT SYSTEM

<u>EVENTS</u>		<u>POINT VALUE PER CHAPTER ENTERED</u>
1. Aquatics	a. Team events -----	2
	b. Individual events -----	1
2. Badminton -----		1
3. Basketball	a. Men's Division -----	4
	b. Women's Division -----	4
4. Table Tennis	a. Singles	
	1. Men -----	1
	2. Women -----	1
	b. Doubles -----	2
5. Tennis	a. Singles	
	1. Men -----	1
	2. Women -----	1
	b. Doubles -----	2
6. Golf -----		1

7. Track & Field	a. Team events -----	2
	b. Individual events -----	1
8. Chess -----		1
9. Tavloo -----		1
10. Volleyball -----		4

#### NOTE REGARDING THE POINT SYSTEM

The value of each event is determined by the number of participating chapters in the event. For example:

Men's Basketball = 4 points per chapter entered/competing.

5 chapters entered = 20 points ( $4 \times 5 = 20$ ) awarded to the championship team (first place), 10 points awarded to second place, and 5 points awarded to third place.

First Place = 100% of the total points for the event

Second Place = 50% of the total points for the event

Third Place = 25% of the total points for the event

This shall apply to all athletic events. Chapters fielding a designated "second" team receive no points.

#### ARTICLE 7 - FAREWELL EVENTS

**Section 1** - Informal sports competitions shall be held at the Sports Weekend FAREWELL PICNIC. These events shall be purely for fun and fellowship on the final day of Sports Weekend.

**Section 2** - Some suggested events:

1. Tug of War
2. Horse Shoe Pitch
3. Arm Wrestling
4. Three-Legged Race
5. Frisbee Throw
6. Etc.

## PRAYER

O LORD OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE, GIVE US, THE YOUTH OF THE CHURCH OF ARMENIA, WE BESEECH YOU, THE WISDOM TO KNOW, TO LOVE, AND SERVE YOU IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES SEVERALLY, AND IN THE CORPORATE LIFE OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

YOU THAT LEAD MEN IN THE WAY, LEAD US, YOUR 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 O LORD, AND OPEN OUR EYES TO YOUR 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 YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, THAT WE MAY BE THE OBEDIENT AND UNSELFISH SERVANTS OF THE WILL OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, TO WHOM, TOGETHER WITH YOU 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 MEMBER OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH; SHALL BE A DEVOTED UPHOLDER OF THE ARMENIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE; SHALL BE A LOYAL CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; 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.