

Guidelines for ACYOA Regional Assistants

#1. PURPOSE

To enhance communications between the ACYOA Central Council and the ACYOA Chapters & Parishes of specific regions of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

#2. TITLE

"Regional Assistant".

#3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

- a) Is responsible to the ACYOA Central Council Regional Representative.
- b) Assists the Council Regional Representative with the on-going operations and tasks related to the specific Region, including all Parishes - with or without a Chapter. (For example: assists in organizing regional events and activities, regional mailings, followups, seeks out specific information as directed, maintains contact with the regional chapters as directed, etc.)
- c) Acts and fulfills duties and related tasks on the direction of the Council Regional Representative.

#4. PROCEDURES

- a) Reimbursement for expenses:
All expenses related to ACYOA Regional duties will be reimbursed through the Council Regional Representative. An "expense form" will be provided for this purpose. The form should be filled out on a MONTHLY basis and sent to the Council Regional Representative, who will approve the expenses and forward the form to the Council Treasurer. Reimbursement will be mailed, after approval, directly to the Regional Assistant. (For example: costs for mailings, printing, telephone.)
- b) Letters, wording, emphasis:
Increasing communications between the ACYOA Central Council and chapters/parishes of a particular region will require letters, explanations, reminders, etc. relating to ACYOA activities, programs and events. Proper letters will be necessary, as well as proper wording and emphasis regarding programs and administrative procedures for chapters. The Council Regional Representative will provide formats and guides specific for the duties required of the Assistant. (For example: Promotions of Archbishop's Tournament, ASP, or Chapter Administrative forms, or Bulk-Mailing procedures.)

ACYOA

Armenian
Martyr's Day
Commemoration

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Diocese of the Armenian Church
630 Second Ave., N.Y.C., N.Y. 10016 (212-686-0710)

TO COMMEMORATE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915, EACH ACYOA CHAPTER SHALL PARTICIPATE IN A NATIONAL COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM ON "ACYOA DAY" IN THE DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA - PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 1985.

WITH THE PERMISSION AND COOPERATION OF THE PASTOR AND PARISH COUNCIL, THE LOCAL ACYOA CHAPTER SHALL ORGANIZE THE FOLLOWING:

1. ACYOA members to participate in the Divine Liturgy held on "ACYOA Day" - Palm Sunday, March 30th, 1985. This may be accomplished in the following ways:
 - a) Servers at altar and readers of the lessons of the day
 - b) Singers in choir and solists
 - c) Passing the "kiss of peace"
 - d) Passing the offering plates
 - e) Passing out the "mas"
 - f) Receiving donations for votive candles
 - f) Passing out of Sunday Bulletins

There are enough roles to take on for each member of the Chapter to participate in the Liturgy that day.

2. Tree planting immediately following Divine Liturgy.
 - a) The ACYOA Chapter would purchase/or have donated an appropriate tree for the grounds of the Church. (In parishes with little or no grounds for this, a public park could be used with the permission and cooperation of the city or town.
 - b) An appropriate plaque or marker indicating the 70th Anniversary along with the name of the local ACYOA Chapter.
 - c) A short and appropriate dedication service.
 - d) Photographer present for exposure in local newspapers, focusing on the 70th Anniversary and its observance by Armenian youth.
3. Commemorative Luncheon.
 - a) Many ACYOA Chapters have banquets and dinners on "ACYOA Day". The theme for this year's dinner or luncheon should incorporate the 70th Anniversary with appropriate speakers.
 - b) The young people themselves should also give their remarks and address the audience concerning the Armenian Genocide from the perspective of youth.
4. Donation of books and resource materials on Armenians to local public libraries.
 - a) A minimum of \$100.00, taken from profits from the luncheon of "ACYOA Day" shall be used to purchase books on Armenian history, culture, religion, art, architecture, language, etc.
 - b) The books and materials will be donated to local public or educational institutions.
 - c) A presentation of the materials will be arranged and organized as a public event, with photographers. This is intended for local newspapers and the Armenian press - again as a part of the ACYOA Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. Newspaper articles and photo captions should focus on this and the ways the ACYOA has decided to observe the anniversary this year.

COMMITTEE # 1

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN YOUNG ADULTS AND THEIR PARISH.....

1. OBSERVATION: In recent years, the "idea" of local ACYOA Chapters has not been as popular as in the past, especially with regard to the Senior Division. It seems that there are so many other things to do and experience that are far more attractive, and require little of the individual, that the young adults are found not to relate to their parish and Church on any regular basis.
- QUESTION: What is distracting our young people (legitimate and not), and what is not attractive about a Church Organization of young adults - the ACYOA ?
2. OBSERVATION: In successful young adult groups, it appears that the people are committed to the causes, projects and goals of the organization. This, along with able leaders who are willing to go out of their way to serve the group and meet its needs, provides for success. We know that success breeds success, and most people like a winner; something that they feel good about belonging to and continue to support and participate in.
- QUESTION: What are the necessary ingredients that will produce a successful ACYOA Senior Division Chapter - either in the initial stages of the group's formation, or while the group has been operating for a period of time ?
(NOTE: Consideration may need to be given to clarify the meaning of the word "successful".)
3. OBSERVATION: The primary purpose of the ACYOA is to provide an opportunity for the young people of a given parish to participate in the life of their Church, as well as serve the Church as ability and capacity allow. In this way, the young adults may, in their own way and according to their own interests, relate to the the Church and begin to build the bonds of friendship, loyalty and devotion, as well as ethnic awareness and sensitivity that are necessary to the future of the Armenian Church in America.
- QUESTION: What types of parish involvements, projects, goals, traditions, customs, activities and events might a Chapter initiate to provide the "opportunity", as well as meet their needs and diverse interests ?
4. OBSERVATION: -- O P E N --
- QUESTION: -- O P E N --

THE REGIONAL LEVEL.....a great potential to be realized....

1. OBSERVATION: Imagine, if you will, a region (much like the New York City - New Jersey, or, New England areas) wherein exists 10 operating Armenian Church parishes. They have priests, parish councils, Church Schools, Armenian Schools, social organizations, perhaps ACYOA Junior and Senior Chapters, and maybe even facilities for large functions, programs and athletic events. Within the region are thousands of young people, some of whom are active within the parishes, others relate on occasion to attend a particular function or to play on a team of sorts. All these items add up to a tremendous potential in terms of resources, diversity, numbers, facilities and possibilities.

QUESTIONS: How might all these aforementioned potentials and resources come together with regard to a regional program (s) for the young adults of the Armenian Church ?

What are the real possibilities, and, (more important) what might be the results ?

2. OBSERVATION: A regional format presents many potentials that are hard to come by in one individual parish. We might execute and offer certain programs, trips, events that otherwise could not be accomplished with a limited number of persons within a given parish jurisdiction. In our regions, there exists certain strengths and weaknesses, as well as certain limitations. We should be aware of all these and use them to our utmost advantage in planning our programs. We thereby might reach a higher number of youth, making their participation more interesting, exciting and worthwhile.

QUESTION: In this particular region, where to the strengths exist, where are the weaknesses; what is the competition; how might the strengths overcome the weaknesses; and, what would make up a combination of "winning" ingredients ?

3. OBSERVATION: The primary purpose of ACYOA is to provide an opportunity for young people to participate in the life of the Church. In this way, the young adults may, in their own way and according to their own interests, relate to the Church and begin to build the bonds of friendship, loyalty and devotion, as well as ethnic awareness and sensitivity that are necessary to the future of the Armenian Church in America.

QUESTION: Given a regional perspective, what types of involvements, projects goals, traditions and activities might the region offer to provide this "opportunity" on a larger scale and with more diversity; what are the gains to be realized, and, what are the current needs in this region ?

COMMITTEE # 3

MEMBERS.....keeping current members and attracting new ones.....

1. OBSERVATION: At no other time in the history of the civilized world, has so much opportunity and potential been offered to us - especially as young adults. We are exposed to so many diverse and attractive ideas, thoughts, life-styles, and considerations that we sometimes are anxious about making a decision. This comes in in minor decisions (i.e. what particular product we might buy) as well as major decisions (i.e. what school or career to choose).

QUESTION: What types of needs does the ACYOA meet as a young person moves from adolescence into full adulthood, and, (if we agree that some needs are actually met) how might more needs be met, thereby offering more to our young people ?

2. OBSERVATION: Currently, the ACYOA (both Junior and Senior Divisions) is in some type of touch with about 2500 young Armenians in the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern USA and Canada). Of this number, approximately one half actually participate in any regular manner in the operations of ACYOA Chapters as dues-paying active members. Compare with a potential of well over 15,000 young people who are not even on our mailing lists, and we are overwhelmed with the possibilities and potentials.

QUESTION: In what ways might the ACYOA begin to try to reach some of the 15,000, and, once "reaching them" (names on a mailing list) what is offered to attract them to participate and be exposed to our Church and heritage ?

3. OBSERVATION: Given present day society and all its attractions and distractions (as observed above), it is fair to say that young adults who presently relate and are members of the ACYOA will be lured away by something new and exciting. If we are lucky, they will return sometime.

QUESTIONS: What methodology might we use to keep our present membership (especially our leaders and potential leaders), interested, challenged and motivated in their vehicle through which they relate to their parish, and, what might we do to attract some of those who make up the 15,000 ?

What are they looking for.....

What can we offer to allow them to be creative, to challenge them, and to sensitize them to the needs of the Church and their all important role as parish members, leaders, lay workers and clergy ?

ACYOA Central Council

Susan Boyajian of Palos Heights, Ill., and Shake Ajamian of Bayside, N.Y., were elected to the ACYOA Central Council by the organization's General Assembly, and will assume the offices of corresponding secretary and treasurer, respectively. They replaced Vaughan Totovian and Melanie Barsamian, who completed their two-year terms in office.

Arda Nazerian is chairperson of the Council; Sona Palvetzian, vice chairperson; and George Jevarjian, recording secretary.

In addition to the specific functions of their offices, each Council member is assigned as personal contact and representative for a region of the Diocese: Sona Palvetzian, New England; Susan Boyajian, Midwest-South; George Jevarjian, Midwest-North; and Shake Ajamian, Mid-Atlantic. It is the chairperson's responsibility to oversee the assignments.

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ACYOA

General
Assembly

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Diocese of the Armenian Church

630 Second Ave. N.Y.C. N.Y. 10016 (212-686-0710)

6 September 84

B R I E F

1984 ACYOA General Assembly

The following information is provided for approval of the Primate and Diocesan Council regarding the proceedings of the ACYOA General Assembly convened in Alsip, Illinois, August 29-31st, hosted by the Palos Heights ACYOA of Ss. Joachim and Anna Armenian Church. The meetings took place at the Holiday Inn, Alsip, IL.

1. The Assembly was presided over by His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Also present were James Magarian, Executive Secretary from the Diocese to the ACYOA, as well as 4 of the 5 ACYOA Central Council Members. A total of 40 delegates representing 14 parishes, including 5 clergymen participated in the Assembly.

2. Proposals accepted by the Assembly:

a) In remembrance of the Armenian Martyrs, and in cooperation with the events commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America:

THAT: the ACYOA refrain from sponsoring in any way, social events (i.e. dances and parties) on the local, regional, or national level during the month of April, 1985; and each year thereafter during the week of April 24th.

b) THAT: the ACYOA Central Council and the Chapters pursue and cooperate with the various commemorative events to be sponsored by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America during 1985, marking the 70th Anniversary of the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

c) THAT: the ACYOA General Assembly direct the ACYOA Central Council to make a donation to the Diocesan Commemorative effort for the 70th Anniversary of the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915. The donation would be on the advisement of the Primate. And that it encourages its local chapters to make similar donations to their respective parishes.

d) THAT: the ACYOA Central Council and Executive Secretary promote, provide, and distribute materials to all parishes necessary for a winter retreat to be held some time in January of 1985, using the topic "Loneliness", and Father Yeprem Kelegian as the resource. It is suggested that it be an overnight retreat, if possible using the facilities of an official retreat center.

(Proposals con't)

- e) THAT: the ACYOA Central Council and Executive Secretary promote, provide and distribute materials necessary to all parishes for a Spring retreat to be held some time in May of 1985, using the topic "Hassles", and Father Yeprem Kelegian as the resource. It is suggested that it be an overnight retreat, if possible using the facilities of an official retreat center.
- f) THAT: the ACYOA Central Council and Executive Secretary promote, provide and distribute materials necessary to all parishes to have "Lenten Dialogues", held once a week during Lent, using Arthur T. Sabounjian as the resource.

3. Resolution:

Let it be resolved that the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, hereby adopts the position drafted by the 1982 Diocesan Assembly condemning terrorism in all its forms.

4. Elections:

Nominating Committee - three, one year terms -

Scott Najarian (Worcester)
Dianne Kapikian (Bayside)
Kathy Terzian (Detroit)

Auditing Committee - three, one year terms -

Steve Sarkisian (Watertown)
Robert Shamgochian (Worcester)
Lisa Manoukian (Wynnewood)

Central Council - two positions, two year terms -

Shake Ajamian (Bayside)
Susan Boyajian (Palos Heights)

Charles Cholmakjian (Detroit) Alternate

I. Programs:

(A) General Assembly & Nat. Sports Weekend

Successfully held over the Labor Day Holiday Weekend.
Hosted by the Worcester Chapter.
Above expectations on Assembly and Athletic Competition participation, as well as attendance at banquets and dances.

60 Assembly participants over-all.
525 Weekend attendees & athletes.

NEXT YEAR: Philadelphia, hosted by Wynnewood Chapter.

(B) Armenian Studies Programs (ASP)

"Educational Tour to Armenia" - monthly long.
Again a very successful and well attended program.
All available spaces filled. Dates: June 18 - July 21.
Fr. Arsen Barsamian was Group Leader.
4 week program based in Yerevan, Armenia, as guests of the Catholicos and Government of Armenia.
A most rewarding program for any young adult Armenian.

Next Year: Similar dates - promotion to begin in January.

(C) Archbishop's Basketball Tournament

Successfully held in June - hosted by the Watertown Chapter.
14 mens and womens teams participating.
Parishes may send teams - no restrictions on age or ACYOA membership status. "Open Tournament" to bring young people together.
Weekend includes basketball games, socials, dances, dinners.

NEXT YEAR: Bayside will host.

(D) Leadership Seminar

Hosted by Bayside, in conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly.
Format calls for guest speakers, discussion, presentation on group dynamics, leadership skills and methods as well as time to address issues and concerns. 16 participants last May.

NEXT YEAR: Racine, in conjunction with Diocesan Assembly.

- (E) Regional Conf.: Held in Midwest (Detroit), New England Providence, and Mid-Atlantic (Wynnewood) and in Bayside. Programming for chapters of the Region is discussed and attempts are made to design activities to meet the needs and geography of the region. i.e. retreats, dances, socials, projects, inter-chapter activities, sports.....
- (F) Regional Retreat: Held in New England this past year. Establishing a date and location for other regions to be attempted this coming year.

II. Administrative:

(A) Central Council Members:

Shake Ajamian (Bayside) Chairman
Scott Najarian (Worcester) Vice Chairman
Melina Spinuzza (Evanston) Treasurer
Gary Townsend (Lawrence) Secretary
Sara Martinian (Providence) Secretary

Each Council member is given program and regional assignments to take on as responsibilities, in addition to their duties as officers. Also, together with the Executive Secretary, they assist chapters in planning, organizing.

(B) Chapters:

22 chapters functioning at some degree of efficiency.
535 dues paid members.
2500 names on national mailing list.
1200 participants in local, regional and national programs and activities throughout the course of a year.

(C) Executive Update:

written and fully prepared by the Executive Secretary, primarily for chapter executive committees and pastors, but also sent to all names on mailing list as a newsletter. Bi-monthly with extra editions as necessary, contains program ideas, issues, concerns, program news, chapter news and information and promotion on ACYOA programs and events.

III. OTHER:

(A) 1985 - 70th Anniversary of 1915 Genocide:

ACYOA designed and implimented a special Diocesan-wide Martyr Program commemorating the 70th Anniversary. The program was prepared and distributed to all parishes.

Most chapters conducted the program on Palm Sunday, ACYOA Day. The Program consisted of:

1. Participation in Sunday Divine Liturgy.
2. Planting and dedication of living memorial tree.
3. Sponsorship of community dinner and Martyrs Program.
4. Using the proceeds from the dinner to purchase books and materials on Armenians for donation to local public libraries.

(B) 40th Anniversary of ACYOA 1986:

Part of the planning for this anniversary will take the form of:

1. Poster Contest - winner will be printed commembrating the ACYOA Anniversary Year - copies to be sent to all parishes and chatpers.
2. Local, regional and National events, especially on ACYOA Day - Palm Sunday.
3. Special Program at Assembly and National Sports Weekend, in Philadelphia.
4. Joint Junior and Senior event on the Regional level.

IV. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

1. Great need for Regional Youth Directors, especially to assist small parishes.
2. College age / College Campus programs.
3. New programs and activities for seniors, who have been in ACYOA since they were 14, and have done many of the current activities year after year.
4. Intergration of young adults into mainstream of parish life - beyond assisting with bazaar and serving at dinners - input on direction of parish, decisions that count, policies, etc.
5. Making priesthood and religious vocations a viable and attractive possible career choice for young adults.