

MINUTES  
ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING  
March 21 & 22, 1987 - DIOCESAN COMPLEX

1. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting was delayed because Greg was late and opened at 10:23 AM with a prayer. Present at the meeting were Syraun Palvetzian, Diocesan Director; Scott Najarian, Gary Townsend, Melina Spinuzza, Sara Andonian and Greg Saraydarian.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Reading of the minutes was disposed and the minutes were accepted as presented.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Melina reported that there was \$2,383.76 in the checking account and the total evaluation on the Merrill Lynch account was \$35,933.57.

Melina asked Ralph Der Asadourian to have the \$15,000.00 for the ACEF by June 1, 1987.

She asked for an idea of how much is needed to finish out the year.

Scott said we should have another meeting before the July meeting.

Melina explained that our meetings are costing approximately \$500.00 to \$600.00 because we have cut most of the expenses and have only travel expenses.

Scott said we should have everything ready for the July meeting and make changes and corrections to them at the meeting. We should also select the award recipients and prepare ourselves for the Assembly. Preparing a head of time will allow us to know who will respond to what questions.

The budget should be prepared before the July meeting.

Last years budget process should not be repeated.

Tony suggested a meeting at Diocesan Assembly.

Syraun asked if Central Council be at the Diocesan Assembly.

Scott commented that it would be easier to meet at the Diocesan Assembly rather than at the Archbishop's Tournament.

Tony announced that there would be a Finance Committee meeting at the Tournament.

Scott commented that the meeting at Diocesan Assembly will be to set us in motion for the July Meeting.

Tony suggested meeting at the church on Saturday instead of the hotel.

Syraun asked if the seniors had planned any event for the Diocesan Assembly.

Scott explained that these events have not been successful in the past.

Tony described the new stationary. It is being printed and the cost will be covered by the Executive Secretary's budget.

Syraun commented that people have been displeased because they feel there isn't enough Armenian in the ACYOA.

Scott commented that very few people from over seas join our churches.

Greg said one reason is the foreigners feel more comfortable with Prelacy churches because of the greater use of Armenian.

Scott asked if any amount was budgeted for education. Nothing was budgeted.

Sara said additional expenses would probably come from the publication, administration and the mailing list.

Greg asked if the Mid-Atlantic Regional Ball's check had been received.

Tony said the seed money had been returned and the proceeds would follow soon.

Sara asked if 1/2 of the from ACYOA Day come to Central Council.

The programs are individual chapter events (only the day is designated by Council) and therefore no funds come to council.

#### 4 SPECIAL ITEMS

Der Karekin was not yet present and his report was tabled.

Der Mardiros was not able to be present.

Tony commented on a new development. Diocesan Council has created a Blue Ribbon Committee to evaluate the entire youth program of the Diocese. The committee will include Diocesan Council members, clergy, 2 chapter chairmen, Central Council Chairman, Acting Executive Sec., and past Executive Secretaries. Der Karekin is in charge of the committee.

Tony said he was pleased that the Diocesan Council is finally taking more interest in the ACYOA. However, he expressed concern that the Diocesan Council may forget the self-directing nature of the ACYOA.

Syraun said they are trying to understand where the weaknesses are.

Scott said the committee should evaluate and make suggestions as to what the ACYOA and Diocesan Council should do.

Greg commented that the Blue Ribbon Committee has nothing to do with the Advisory Committee.

Sara commented that the problems faced by the ACYOA are also faced by the church and other organizations, Armenian and non Armenian.

In the mean time all ACYOA programs will continue in there development and implementation.

## 5 OLD BUSINESS

### Central Council ADMINISTRATION

Greg has not made any visitations.

He said Watervliet will be having an ACYOA Day program. The new chapter is motivated and willing to do things. They attended the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference and will attend the New England Conference.

Bayside is not doing well. Greg will group a few individuals together to try and get the chapter going again.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference was a success. Greg distributed the minutes of the meeting to the Central Council.

If the chapters stick to the commitments they made the region will be in good shape.

Melina said Northern NJ still owes its late fee from last year.

Greg turned in Bayside's dues.

Tony went over the agenda he prepared for the March 7 regional meeting.

Tony gave programs to the various chapters: Cultural to Bayside and Northern NJ; College Connection to Washington and Wynnewood; and Christian Education to Westchester.

Scott said he envisioned the Cultural committee bringing programs to the chapters.

Tony said he got some criticism for the lack of an Armenian Language Committee.

Sara said that language falls under culture and therefore should fall under the Cultural Committee.

Syraun suggested that there should be a program to attract the Armenian Speaking population.

Some suggestions were made for cultural programs: Soorp Sarkis Halva; Armenian language crash course and others. The National budget would subsidize these types of programs.

Scott said we have to get the committees working on these programs.

The Cultural Committee should also make arrangements for guest speakers.

Tony will send the names for each committee to the respective Central Council liaison.

Greg commented that one of the problems is the unwillingness to give out responsibility.

The DRE and St. Nersess should be tapped for the Christian Ed. Committee.

Greg suggested subsidizing retreats in order to get "non-goers" involved in retreats.

The Publication has a new name, the ARMENIAN YOUTH FORUM. There was some concern about the implications of the acronym created by the ARMENIAN YOUTH FORUM.

After much discussion it was decided that the word Armenian should be dropped.

Scott said that we must encourage others to write articles, poems, etc. for the YOUTH FORUM.

Syraun asked what was being done to respond to any critical letters to the editor, especially on touchy subjects such as women in the church and church unity.

Syraun said the Mardigian Fund is in the Diocesan account.

Melina suggested a "Dear Abby" type column.

Syraun suggested "Dear Ani" with certain individuals answering the letters. "Dear Vartan" was another suggestion. Topics such as drugs, divorce, etc. should be the focus of the column.

It was suggested that an advisory board write the responses to the letters.

The Public Relations Committee should work at increasing membership and participation as well as working with the other committees.

Scott noticed a lack of publicity during the last few weeks.

Syraun said the Diocesan P/R director will edit and send out any news she receives.

Scott pointed out the deadlines for proposals, A award nominations, Sam Nercessian award and scholarship nominations.

Scott said that we should remind our chairmen of the deadlines.

Melina said the membership cards cost about \$0.10 each. The cards are being sent to the chapter chairmen to reduce mailing costs.

Der Karekin arrived and gave his report on the mission program.

The program is designed to fill the need for spiritual rebirth and ethnic regeneration in our communities.

The program will be a supplement to the work of the parish priest in parishes that have a priest and to provide a good and solid educational and spiritual program that will serve as a shot in the arm for parishes with out a priest.

The mission program was carried out by the ACYOA in the 1960's.

The program will be:

- A) a service that the ACYOA will participate in.
- B) a shot in the arm for parishes that do not have clergy.

Copies of the out line are included with these minutes.

Der Karekin said that even just the sight of the sacrifice and dedication of the team is a good impression.

Parishes with out clergy should be considered first (Rochester, Niagara Falls, Memphis, Cape Cod, Chicago, Syracuse, Bayside, Binghamton, New Mexico, Atlanta, and Florida).

Possible dates December 26-31.

More than one program can be run at the same time.

Three options to cover expenses:

- 1) 50/50 between the Diocese and ACYOA
- 2) Diocese, Mission parish, and ACYOA
- 3) Diocese, Mission parish, ACYOA and special sponsors.

Syraun suggested that the mission parishes not be asked to make a financial contribution because they will be contributing in other ways.

Tony suggested that the ACYOA pay for the entire program.

Greg commented that it is a perfect program for the Christian Ed. Committee.

It was estimated that the program will require approximately \$10,000.00.

A group of 5 is a good number for each team.

Der Karekin asked that Tony and another Central Council member work with him on the planing.

Tony suggested that Melina be the Central Council member because she is liaison to the Christian Ed. Committee.

Scott gave a liberal estimate of \$10,000.00. for the program and said a \$5,000.00 commitment is acceptable provided the fund raiser is successful.

Der Karekin suggested keeping the team members from the same region to cut costs and make training meetings easier to attend.

Two dates should be set with two programs for each for a total of 4 programs.

Scott entertained a motion to accept the program.

Greg moved seconded by Melina - passed.

Gary moved that provided the fund raiser is a success, Central Council budget \$5,000.00 for the program. Seconded by Greg - passed.

Syraun noted that people still talk about the past programs.

### Regional Balls

Providence expects to send Central Council a check for \$560.00 in the near future. They had a net profit of \$2,200.00.

Their books should be audited.

Scott will contact all organizations to be audited and the auditing committee.

The committee should audit the books before the General Assembly.

The nominating committee should also be working to get nominations before the Assembly.

The check from the Mid-Atlantic Ball should be sent in a few weeks.

Central Council will be paying for the Portrait as soon as it is done.

### 1987 SPORTS WEEKEND

Detroit has requested the seed money for Sports weekend.

The check should go out immediately.

The seed money must be turned over during the Assembly.

Sara reported that the Michigan Inn will be the hotel at \$62.00/night. Saturday games will be at the West Blumfield H.S. Sunday finals will be at the church.

Seating capacity of the churches gym is a concern of the committee.

The committee wants to know what has to be done.

Scott has prepared a list of what has to be done.

The Assembly expenses are deducted before forwarding the proceeds. It is usually less than \$500.00.

A competent Assembly Secretary should be found before the Assembly even if the secretary desires compensation.

The copier should be in the weekend office. The suite must have limited access at all times. No Parties!

The Primate usually invites the delegates to lunch on Thursday, as his guests. Tony will coordinate.

The committee does not want a program on Saturday night.

Scott said there must be a program on Saturday night. There is no way that Council will permit the Sunday program to be drawn out.

The committee wants to have a buffet on Saturday night from 7-8:15. the tables will be set up on the dance floor. The food will be moved to the Kitchen from 8:15-10:00.

Scott said Sunday night speakers must be the Primate, guest speaker, awards, and the Central Council Chairman. It will take a least an hour.

There must be a head table both Sat. and Sun. nights.

Scott will send a list of the people who must be seated at the head table.

Even if there is a buffet the head table must be served.

Tony will be going out to meet with Glen and the committee.

Scott will go in June.

The raffle will be done on Sunday night.

The hotel will open their banquet hall each night at 2:30am. The committee is looking for a D.J.

A suggestion was made to donate a tree to the church. This would help to get ACYOA members into church on Sunday.

People should be given invitations for the Sunday reception.

Lisa Manookian has the Sports Weekend results and can have them and sent to Detroit.

The committee is going to ask each chapter to donate \$100.00 with a picture and a brief blurb on the chapter.

Myles wanted to know how to get the Primates message.

Any one who wishes can turn in appropriate articles for the booklet.

The committee should contact Dean Shahinian for the Insights program.

The first mailing went out. Packages will be going to the Chapter Chairmen.

Syraun asked if the Canadian and Western Diocese ACYOA's know about Sports Weekend.

Tony said that letters have gone from Primate to Primate and Executive Secretary to Primate. Tony will also be visiting each Diocese.

Detroit will send someone to ACYO-WD Sports Weekend for publicity.

#### 1987 ARCHBISHOP'S TOURNAMENT

Package plans have been sent out. Calender of events notices are out also.

The membership incentive provision has been left out.

Greg Kumkumian suggested giving out tee-shirts if a problem arises.

Syraun suggested contacting the legates office to arrange some thing for non-players to do on Sat.

Greg said that Central Council members should let their chapters know that they can bring a team even if the players are not chapter members.

Syraun asked if Canadian and Western Diocese teams could play.

Greg responded that this was discussed at the last Central Council meeting and it was determined that they could attend and play if they represented a parish in the Easter Diocese.

The Detroit teams will not be participating because their coach is getting married that weekend.

Tony said he will send out a release.

#### CALENDER

Melina has not received any new updates from the chapters.

Greg said that all the chapters in the Mid-Atlantic Region claim they don't have the actual calender.

Should the Calender continue?

Syraun suggested using the Youth Forum instead.

Tony said the Calender is not all that effective.

Greg said we should use the Calender as a P/R tool to show the parishes what is happening throughout the Diocese.

Scott urged Central Council members to send articles to Laura also.

#### DUES PAID MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Melina brought up the question: "Why should you be a member of the ACYOA?"

Syraun suggested a membership drive.



We have to create a desire for people to become a dues paid member.

Greg said we should be more concerned with reaching people rather than just increasing membership.

Sara asked about the initiation service.

Scott said it will be similar to the ACYO-WD service and Scott will have it at our next meeting.

Greg said that we do have a service to install officers.

#### RAFFLE

Melina asked about how she should handle bills accrued for the Finance Committee.

Any expenses for the Fund Raising Committee should be bill to that committee.

Scott said we should create a standard control for all the committees.

Scott said the accounting procedure should show how much Central Council put into the Fund Raising Committee.

Tony said Central Council should get actively involved in the effort. There is only one month to the go no go date.

Tony suggested making the point go a full page ad in the Mirror Spectator and the Armenian Reporter.

Tony is working on an open letter to the community.

Syraun said the ad could not be paid for through the Executive Secretary budget unless it is a P/R ad.

Tony said he will be sending out an ad around Palm Sunday.

Tony suggested sending a letter to each parish Council Chairman to read during the Sunday Banquet.

Greg said such a letter would create a negative image.

A good P/R letter that mentions the fund raiser with the other programs would be more acceptable.

The P/R letter should emphasize that the fund raiser is the largest in the history of the ACYOA.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Greg presented an outline for the function of the Advisory Committee.

Sara said the Advisory Committee members would be better utilized out side the Advisory Committee structure.

After much debate Central Council concluded that the present use of Central Council sub-committees for national programs eliminates the need for the Advisory committee. The ACYOA and

Central Council would receive more benefits with the Advisory Committee members working on the Central Council sub-committees.

Sara suggested that Central Council propose that the Advisory Committee be disbanded.

No proposal is necessary. The Councils decision and rationale should be placed in the Central Council report in an appropriate manner.

Greg said he will notify the Advisory Committee members of the developments and decision.

The committees are ACYOA Central Council Sub-Committees and are answerable to Central Council and Central Council only.

The Mardigian Funds will be transferred to the ACEF in June with the \$15,000.00 from the ACYOA.

Greg cautioned about assigning funds donated with out a specific purpose. Unassigned funds should fall under the ACYOA general fund.

#### NEW TROPHY

Syraun suggested using the name of a historical Armenian athlete.

#### DUES PAID MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Complementary to dues paid members.

Scott suggested that the Diocese include more information in its Parish Directory (ie. Choir, Women's Guild, and ACYOA Central Councils).

The directory should be done by Chapter, alphabetically.

Greg suggested including birthdays.

#### 1987 WESTERN DIOCESE ASSEMBLY

Very little information has been received.

### 6 REMARKS OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Tony presented his budget to Central Council. There was much discussion concerning both the Executive Secretary and Central Council budgets.

The Executive Secretary can not run on a budget of \$10,500. The budget Tony presented for the next year is still very conservative but an improvement which will allow the Executive Secretary to the job he is paid for.

Tony asked that Central Council consider a stipend for the ACYOA Publication.

The consensus was that no stipend should be given because it will open up the other committee positions also.

Syraun commented that there should be people in Laura's area that can help her with the publication.

Syraun said that the Primate must be consulted when meeting dates are set.

Greg commented that the Executive Secretary is more like an administrator because the Executive Secretary's job is to carry out the directions of Central Council.

Greg Commented that if the Council runs a deficit it should be reported to the Assembly.

The Central Council backs Tony's budget and Syraun will try to support it before the budget committee.

Tony said the Women's Guild Central Council gave the ok to send letters to all Women's Guilds asking them to donate to the fund raiser.

Greg complained that some Clergy specifically from Richmond are not cooperating.

Tony reported that Providence was upset about the handling of the Regional Ball.

Tony said we have to set a date and place for Archbishop's Tournament.

There is still no clergy for the ASP program.

The internship program is a diocesan program. Tony will be coordinating it. The interns must be ACYOA members.

Syraun asked for input on the process of recruiting an Executive Secretary.

The question of whether or not to seek someone with a college degree was brought up.

Greg commented that we should be looking for an administrator. It is important to find someone that can do that job which does not mean he needs a college degree.

The candidate should be able to write and speak well as well as live in the New York area.

## 7 NEW BUSINESS

### FORMULATION OF PROPOSALS FOR 1987 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Proposal to hold the ACYOA National Sports Weekend held annually on Labor Day weekend and to convene the ACYOA General Assembly annually on (date)

#### Rational

- 1) it allows the Assembly to be held at sight where there is a small or non-existent ACYOA chapter.
- 2) creates an additional ACYOA event.
- 3) creates an additional source of income.

- 4) allows greater accessibility for delegates to attend the assembly because it is held on the weekend and will not conflict with school and work.
- 5) creates a greater interest in the non delegate to participate in the Assembly weekend.

Presidents weekend was suggested as the Ideal weekend.

Sara asked if there would be enough time in a weekend.

Scott said a three day weekend would provide ample time.

Greg commented that it may take less time because the delegates would be the ones who wanted to attend and not just whoever can get Wednesday to Friday off.

It will also encourage clergy participation.

Scott entertained a motion to accept the proposal. Greg moved, seconded by Gary. Discussion - accepted.

Discussion continued on the weekend to be chosen.

Greg commented that Presidents weekend would mean only taking one day (Monday) off instead of two days.

Melina said a February meeting would allow the fiscal year to be changed to the calendar year. This would eliminate a lot of confusion.

Scott said that bids could be accepted including bids from Central Council.

The consensus was that Central Council should run it on their own.

Tony suggested that the Council could give the weekend to a chapter.

Sara suggested that it be Central Council's responsibility and that we should strike number 1 from the rational.

Tony suggested changing the rule that the Archbishop's Tournament return to New York every other year.

Greg will look into any necessary changes to the ACYOA Constitution which will be needed to make the transition.

Greg introduced a proposal to propose a change to the membership eligibility requirements which would allow any Armenian to become a member of the ACYOA.

Following much discussion on the issue Greg withdrew the proposal.

Greg pointed out that the Constitution allows non-Armenians to become associate members.

Scott said he will contact the Nominating and Auditing Committees.

Scott said that invitations should be sent to Ed Onanian.

Tony will ask Cambridge about Archbishop's Tournament.

#### 1987 ANNIVERSARY BALLS

Tony said Cleveland asked if there could be a regional meeting during that weekend. The Ball will be on the weekend of July 25.

The consensus was that a meeting would be unnecessary and infeasible.

The Mid-Atlantic region will not have an 87 ball. Wynnewood has will do it for the spring of 1988.

#### CHAPTER A AWARD

Scott suggested nominating chapters and having them tell us why they should get the award.

Scott suggested creating an awards program which will allow chapters to recognize parish members which has contributed to the ACYOA.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, May 9, 1987 in Springfield, MA at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Saraydarian

MINUTES  
OPEN ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 9, 1987 - SPRINGFIELD, MA

The following are the important points and concerns discussed at the open meeting.

**Changing the Assembly Date**

Der Vertanes Kalayjian gave a little history of the ACYOA in regard to the setting of the Assembly and sports weekend.

Scott commented that the purpose of changing the date of the Assembly, is in part to change the setting of the Assembly.

He added that the present setting and the fact that the Assembly takes place mid-week deprives some of the more qualified ACYOA members to attend the Assembly because they must take time off from work.

Tony added that many clergy use the fact that the Sports weekend follows the Assembly as an excuse for not attending the Assembly because they do not wish to attend a "party" weekend.

He added that the separation will also allow chapters that are too small to handle Sports weekend to host the Assembly.

Scott pointed out that as the proposal stands now CC will either run the weekend or CC will appoint a committee to run the weekend.

Steve Sarkisian agreed with the idea and also the possibility of giving the Assembly to a chapter to run.

Sara raised the question of who would get the proceeds from a chapter run Assembly.

Greg stated that it would fall under a national program and thus be covered by the ACYOA Constitution which grants the host chapter 1/2 of the net proceeds of a national event.

Der Vertanes suggested giving the Assembly to a group of alumni to run.

Steve suggested getting them interested and involved first.

Der Vertanes commented that it should be on a project basis and not a continuous involvement.

**Publicity and Public Attitudes**

Der Vertanes pointed out the attitude of the community that ACYOA programs are just for the "kids."

He also commented that he is pleased with the fund raiser and is and will continue to push the fund raiser.

Der Vertanes also asked about a publication. Does the ACYOA have one?

Scott responded that we have a publication intended to be bimonthly.

Der Vertanes suggested coordinating the information with the editor of the Armenian Church. His suggestion is to have a page or so for ACYOA information. This would include chapter as well as national news. The intent is to show the Armenian community that the ACYOA exists and is doing things.

Scott commented that things have been sent but have not had a place in the paper.

Der Vertanes said keep trying. The paper has a readership of 30,000.

He also suggested declaring the third Sunday of the month "youth Sunday." The intent is to get the youth to come out on at least one Sunday a month because they know other youth will be present.

Scott said it was a good idea.

Der Vertanes said he will be doing it in Washington.

Scott commented that a lot of these ideas stop in the hands of the parish priest.

Der Vertanes said that we should tell the youth to be their through the various publications.

Der Vertanes complimented Tony's performance before the Diocesan Assembly. He also expressed hope that the Blue Ribbon Committee will provide good recommendations for the future.

#### Strategy for the Future

Der Mardiros Chevian commented that this year is not the year to ask for money. This year's purpose was to get them concerned. During the year concrete programs must be developed. These programs can then be presented before the Diocesan Assembly with the request for funds. He also noted that the ACYOA should not ask for small amounts. They ACYOA should be asking for a minimum of \$100,000. a year.

Der Vertanes suggested sending a mid-year report to all the Delegates to remind them about the ACYOA.

Der Mardiros suggested sending a quarterly report, the final report giving the plan for the future. He also said that a concrete and very professional proposal at the Diocesan Assembly.

Scott shifted the discussion to program ideas and asked for ideas from those present.

#### Mission Program

Der Vertanes brought up the mission program and said it must be revitalized.

Scott announced that CC has already made a commitment to the program.

The major problem will be finding the qualified people.

Steve asked if the program is receiving Diocesan support.

Tony commented that the Diocese is providing half the funds for the program.

#### Problems and solutions

He went on to say that the ACYOA has many good programs. The problem is the method of distribution. The problem is continuity.

We don't know what will happen next year. He said the Greeks have a plan for the next ten years. The ACYOA does not have this type of professionalism.

Der Vertanes said the problem, for once, is a lack of bureaucracy. We do not have the structure to continue the programs.

Der Mardiros asked what is bothering those present about the ACYOA.

Scott responded we have limited access to the church facilities. He qualified that this is not the problem in all parishes but in most.

He went on to say that the youth must be allowed to use the facilities. He also said that the parish must trust the youth; they must be allowed to use the church facilities on their own.

Not opening the church forces the youth onto the street.

Der Mardiros asked if an effort has been made for change. He pointed out with Scott that we don't make enough of an effort.

Scott gave an example that the parish was not willing to allow the ACYOA members to help the parish with the new computer. It is ironic that those who grew up with computers are thought by the parish to know nothing of such complicated matters.

Der Mardiros said that the youth must be visible in two areas. In the administration of the church through the Parish Assembly and Parish Council.

Sara said we can not get elected.

Der Mardiros said that the youth must become members of their parishes and exert their votes. Forming voting blocks will give the youth not only a voice but the power to back up their voice through the election process.

The second area is during the Worship. The youth should attend in large groups and take communion together.

Scott pointed out that many youth are in the position to be elected to Parish Council.

Der Mardiros asked how many ACYOA members are dues paid members of their parish. In order to show the parish the strength of the youth they must become dues paying members and exercise their right to be heard and especially to vote.



Sara said that at their priest denied the youth the use of the assembly floor.

Der Mardiros pointed out that the youth can not represent themselves at the Parish Assembly as the youth but as individuals who are a part of the church. The adults will resist anything that looks like and organized group different from themselves. We must speak as members of the church.

Steve pointed out that nothing is accomplished at the Assemblies. There must be action before the Assembly. It is much more effective to speak with the older members of the church before hand, explain the desired action and have them bring up the subject at the Assembly. After it is brought up they will look to the youth for more information.

Der Mardiros said make your appeal to the people; get there support.

He pointed out that the Parish Assembly is the highest authority in the church and the Diocesan Assembly is the highest authority in the Diocese.

He said we must be better than our parents and our children better than us.

Der Mardiros said we must be concerned about our own spirituality. If we are not we will be a people with out faith, a church with out Christ and destined to fail.

Aren said that we all have individual problems in our parishes but we must also be concerned with the overview; we must look at the whole picture.

He noted that in the past ten years the ACYOA has gone from one of the most prominent organizations in the church to a sinking ship. Where is the spirit that was present in the past; can it be rekindled.

Der Mardiros said he does not think we can nor should go back. The present situation will bring people to rally around the youth. With this support we can move on to a better organization.

Scott said we have a great opportunity to start fresh.

Steve said we have to encourage everybody to speak and voice their opinions especially at the up coming General Assembly.

Aren suggested creating a program which will bring people together and encourage them to voice and discuss their ideas, problems, and suggestions.

Der Mardiros said we should stop saying we have problems and start discussing solutions to those problems.

We need a positive attitude!

Der Mardiros said we (the youth) have to give out responsibilities. Small at first and then allow the responsibilities to grow as their experience grows.

Der Mardiros reiterated that we have to increase the spirituality of the organization.

Der Mardiros said that we have to learn how to get along with our priests. Some will work well others will not. We can not change their personalities.

He went on to say that many of our priests especially the foreign born clergy are intimidated by the youth because they do not understand them. We have to understand that.

He suggested going to the priest as individuals (one to one) and to stroke and talk heart to heart. The intent would be to make him feel more comfortable with us so he will be able to aid the group in the future. Work together, not against each other.

Tony said that the ACYOA and the Seminary must cooperate. The mission program will help that communication and cooperation.

He also said that it is important to bring the Seminarians and the youth together.

Der Mardiros said he is cautious about how thin a Seminarian is spread.

He said it would be good to have them at the Assembly if they had a purpose there. For example to lead a Bible study, discussion or, to be available for people to talk to as a big brother.

Tony highlighted some of the items of the Greek Orthodox weekend. He noted that there were many workshops, worship services, discussions, and fun activities too.

Der Mardiros suggested sending a representative or two to their weekend as observers.

Tony recommended adopting the Greek program.

We must encourage the youth to become dues paid members of their respective parishes. They must know that they are members of the church; that they became members through the Holy Spirit when they were Baptized.

#### Recommendations for Programs

Der Mardiros made the following recommendations for programs:

1. we need to put out publications such as Saints and Sacraments.
2. Personnel - we must get more personnel.
3. The Mission program.
4. Scholarships must be offered for: St. Nersess summer study programs, leadership seminars, etc.

5. Publications about what the church's views on contemporary issues are; where to go for help; how to cope; and others.
6. The ASP program should be subsidized.

Der Mardiros pointed out that the ACYOA should be asking for funds from the Diocese. The ACYOA should not be engaged in fund raising.

Scott pointed out that the ACYOA's cash flow situation is a burden to the Council members who have to go for months without being reimbursed.

7. Workshops on marriage, divorce, sexual diseases and other issues, the priesthood and other related issues and concerns.

Aren suggested a "workshop weekend" where ACYOA members can come together to learn and to discuss their problems.

This can be a good lenten program.

Der Mardiros volunteered his services in locating, recommending, and contacting guest speakers for the workshop program.

8. A mission to the colleges. We must be visible on the college level.
9. A spiritual weekend/retreat is also needed.
10. There should be a program to pay for the training of people interested but not qualified for youth ministry.

#### Fund Raiser

Steve suggested sending thankyou letters to the donors.

New sellers are needed in NJ (no tickets have been sold)

Women's Guilds and other church organizations including Parish Councils should be asked to support the Fund Raiser.

Der Nersess suggested that our efforts would be more effective if the ads for the Fund Raiser name more specific programs.

Lisa said the chapters should be doing more to publicize the fund raiser.

#### New Trophy

Scott asked if anyone has a name for the award.

#### Executive Secretary

Tony announced that there are 3 candidates for the position, Doug Tashjian, Robert Krikorian, and Linda Minassian.

All three have been involved with the ACYOA.

**ASP**

There are 20 participants. The director is Der Krikor Maksoudian, women's councilor is Martha Gurahian. Tony is the tour coordinator. The director and women's councilor are going complementary, all others are paying.

**ACYOA Committees**

Tony said Mrs. Nercessian is working on a program for college students on their campuses.

Scott said we should find out if it will fall into an ACYOA program so we can put it into the budget.

**The Youth Forum**

Laura said the publication can not be a one person job. At least two or three people are needed.

We need to motivate contributors.

**The Intern Program**

Der Yeprem asked what are the criteria for picking the interns.

There are no criteria.

Greg said if the program is going to fall under our name there must be a set of guidelines for choosing the participants.

Scott said that even though the program falls under our name we have no say in it.

Tony said he will be coordinating the program this year.

Greg said that will cause a problem because it will lead people to believe that it is an ACYOA program. If there are any problems or complaints the ACYOA will get the blame.

Der Yeprem said that if we have concrete programs the Diocesan Council will back us up with funds.

**Blue Ribbon Committee**

Der Yeprem asked for the ACYOA goals. What are they? Is it the committees goal to find out?

Scott said we want to get every Armenian youth we can involved in the Church.

Aren said to serve the church.

Scott said the committees purpose is to find out what the youth want and need and how to get it to them.

Steve said that if the goal is a complete restructuring it will not be done in one day.

Tony said our ultimate goal must be to bring the Armenian youth closer to God.

Tony said that we should model our program after the Greek program.

Greg said that getting professionals to run programs is not the answer. We need to come up with programs first and then give them to the professionals to implement them.

He also said that we have people with some training in youth ministry. A youth minister may come up with good programs, however, this does not mean that he will possess the skills to implement the programs.

Greg said it must be a careful and thought out process based on information about Armenian youth and youth in general.

Der Yeprem said it is natural for people to leave temporarily as they go to college, then they return. It seems we missed them on the way back.

Aren said we have a history and a future. We have to step out and take an objective look. This is where we've been, this is where we are, this is where we are going.

We have to remember that we are not the only ones.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Saraydarian

MINUTES  
ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 10-11, 1987 - DIOCESAN COMPLEX

1. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting opened at 10:29 AM with a prayer. Present at the meeting were Very Rev. Father Haigazoun Najarian, Acting Vicar General; Nancy Basmajian, ACYOA JRS. Director; Anthony Barsamian, Acting Executive Secretary; Scott Najarian, Gary Townsend, Melina Spinuzza, Sara Andonian and Greg Saraydarian.

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian joined the meeting later in the afternoon for the discussions under New Business.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Reading of the minutes was disposed and the minutes were accepted as presented.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Melina reported that the balance in the checking account will be approximately \$5,100.00 after sports weekend check is deposited.

The total evaluation on the Merrill Lynch account is \$29,000.00. As the certificates and other securities can be liquidated to our best advantage Ralph Der Asadourian and our Broker will sell them to raise the \$15,000.00 for the ACEF.

The outstanding bills amount to \$1723.00. The checks were written during the weekend.

? Scott asked about the sale of the Bell stocks. They were sold and Melina said it should be reflected in the next statement.

Scott entertained a motion to accept Greg moved - seconded by Sara. Report accepted.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A CC Administration

Chapter Visitations

Greg commented that he has made his presence known with informal visits to Westchester, Northern NJ, and Bayside. He has also kept in touch with the other chapters in the region.

Greg reported that Westchester visited the Armenian Home for the Ages. He also expressed disappointment in the New Years Eve dance given by Northern NJ.

Tony agreed with Greg and said that he had been most disappointed with the lack of anything to make it unique to Armenians.

Tony commented that part of the problem is a lack of leadership.

Greg commented that he told Lisa O. he wanted to have Northern NJ host a regional event.

The "joint chapter" status needs to be worked on with the goal of eventually breaking the group up - back into individual chapters.

Sara suggested getting the four Clergy together with the youth because all four are very youth oriented.

Tony said it may be a communication problem which needs to be solved.

Greg said he will meet with the Clergy and the rest of the chapter sometime in the near future. Tony will work with him on that.

Sara suggested that the executive committee have members representing each parish.

Scott commented that the ACYOA is a parish oriented group and should be more involved on a parish level.

Tony commented that his goal for the national committees is to reach the people that the local chapters can't reach and to provide the missing programs.

Tony also said that the parish and parish priest should work to keep their group "parish oriented". We should be concerned more with ACYOA on a national level.

Scott said we should assert ourselves more in the parish level.

?- Nancy suggested trying to get on the agenda at the Clergy Conference.

? Sara suggested trying the Diocesan Assembly also.

Greg suggested that we should make our presence known in the weak or non-existent chapters to motivate the individuals most likely to get the chapter started.

Tony said he intends to use the National Committees to restart the ACYOA from the top down.

Sara said that we should work from the bottom up - Grass Roots.

Greg commented that the committees can cater to the individuals who are looking for something that the parish does not or can not offer.

Sara said the committees will also pull good people out of the chapter.

Scott closed the debate on which way to go by saying that we are a grass roots organization and should work to keep it that way. Whether working from the top or bottom. We have

to have chapter/parish involvement. We have to make our presence known by making more visitations.

Greg said that he has kept in touch with the chapters in his region but has not been able to visit each one. He said he will be visiting Watervliet on January 18, 1987.

Greg announced that he had 7 membership applications and a petition for a charter from watervliet. He turned over the petition to Scott and a check for \$42.00 to Melina.

Greg said that he had to keep on top of his contact and give him a push every now and then.

Tony and Greg will be visiting to set them up as a chapter.

Tony commented that it's good that the CC rep and Exec. Sec. help get the chapter started. He commented that now that the door is open he can go in and push national.

Sara commented that if Tony pushes national and CC reps push local the bottom/top approach will work.

? Sara also commented that she doesn't really have chapters. She also said that she heard that Florida has a chapter but has not been officially told. She said that Der Zaven has encouraged them not to participate on the national level.

#### Regional Conferences

##### Mid Atlantic

Greg announced that the Mid Atlantic regional conference will be on January 24, 1987 in Wynnewood.

Der Arsen Barsamian wrote to say that the agenda was too long and he would not be present. Greg also commented that an AYF chapter was recently formed in Richmond.

The status of Watervliet's regional placement was discussed. Greg said when he meets with Watervliet he will give them the choice between New England and Mid Atlantic regions.

Greg said that for now he is working the Northern New York State and Mid Atlantic Regions as one.

Greg summarized the letter he received from Der Arsen the Council concluded that much of Der Arsen's Complaints were out of our hands. He also said that we and the Archbishop should try to reemphasize that the clergy are just as, if not more, responsible for their own chapters.

Greg said that we should in the future put together a group to do an instructional liturgy in the chapters.

##### Mid West

Melina announced that the Mid West Regional Conference was held on November 29, 1986 in Detroit. They discussed "what are we doing? Where are we going?". Cleveland will hold the next regional ball. Melina said she had two new contacts: Ed Pajian, Chicago and Sevan Krikorian, Evanston Chairman.



? They asked that the Primate send a letter to all parish priests reminding them that Palm Sunday is ACYDA Day.

Melina said that we should have an installation service for the members.

Scott said he will check to see if we have a service and if not we will make one.

Melina said Evanston received a bill for the story books, as did Detroit and the Mid Atlantic Regional Ball.

Nancy said that the story books were to be paid for by the Diocese. The bills should be sent to Tony for payment.

Nancy suggested that the extra books should stay at the Diocese so that Nancy and Tony can give them out.

Melina suggested that we put some out at St. Nersess also.

#### New England

Gary announced that the New England Regional Conference will be held Saturday, Jan. 31, 1987, in Cambridge. Invitations have been sent out and the agenda will be ready next week.

Gary said he will visit the chapters who are not present at the conference and send them copies of the minutes in an effort to get them more involved.

Tony added that it is also important for the general membership to have contact with the CC rep.

Greg commented that even though parish priests are supposed to keep on top of what is happening they are not always able to. He suggested that the clergy get a copy of correspondence sent to each chapter.

? The issue of who should pay the tab for the lunches at regional conferences was discussed at length. The conclusion was that the host chapter should be approached first. Only if they are unwilling will CC pick up the tab.

#### Correspondence

Tony read the letter he sent to the Primate in response to his request for a statement on the status of the ACYDA. He stated that the present state of the ACYDA is in a critical state. The first order of business should be to find an Executive Director. He also called for the Primate's and Diocesan Council's support of the National Fund Raiser.

#### Christmas Cards

? Sara said the Christmas cards went out.

#### Assembly Minutes

? Sara pointed out some errors in the Assembly Minutes. She will be sending out a letter to the delegates noting the corrections.

### College Dinners

Scott said that we should try to encourage the chapters to hold a dinner for the Armenian college students form out of town similar to the program which the Worcester parish has implemented.

Melina suggested writing it up for the publication.

Tony mentioned tying the college dinners in with the College Connection Committee.

Sara suggested asking the organizers of the college dinners in Cambridge and Worcester to write a report or guide line on the implementation of the college dinners.

### B ACYOA 40th Anniversary Balls

#### Mid West

Melina commented on the Mid West Regional Ball. There was a loss of about \$300.00. It went well, there were allot of good comments. There was not enough support from Evanston.

#### New England

Gary said the New England Ball went well. He also said he has not been told of the financial outcome and will talk to Stephanie.

Scott said the books of the regional balls should be audited by the auditing committee.

#### Mid Atlantic

Greg announced that the Mid Atlantic ball was a success. The bottom line is about \$9,000.00. The proceeds will be turned over to Central Council. Central Council will pay for the portrait and any left over funds will remain with the council.

Melina moved that the proceeds from the New England Ball and the Mid Atlantic Ball be used to pay for the portrait. Any funds remaining from the Mid Atlantic Ball will be divided equally between ACYOA Central Council and the ACYOA Jrs. Seconded by Greg - Passed.

### C 1987 Sports Weekend

Sara announced that the hotel rooms are down to \$60/night.

They have a sports facility lined up but are looking for a larger facility.

Publicity will be going out at the end of the month. They will be doing 5 mailings. They will also be sending posters to the chapters as an information center. She also said they wanted to have an 800 number. The consensus was do it only if it will not cost anything.

They are considering including in the sports competition, coed soft ball and 9 hole golf. Other ideas include a pick up game of volleyball on Monday and activities for the non players on Saturday.

The committee will contact Dean Shahinian about setting up the Insights program. One possible guest would be Dennis Papazian.

The logo is in the process of being changed.

The schedule is Friday at the church, Saturday at the hotel, Sunday at the church. The hotel will be providing for hook-ups on both Sat. and Sun.

They are trying to get access to the AGBU School busses which will allow for more versatile transportation because of the lower costs.

The band has not been finalized but will most likely be the all star band for approx. \$5,000.00.

Sara said that an ad book would bring in approximately \$10,000.00 more with the ad book rather than a sponsor book.

Scott said if it is presented correctly it should not present a problem. That is it must have the necessary information for the year book portion.

Hayr Haigazoun asked about the security. Sara said the hotel will be upping the security. The weekend committee and CC will also be contacted in the event of a security problem. A list of clergy will also be given to the hotel. The hotel will use their security as the last resort.

#### D 1987 Archbishop's Tournament

Greg said he contacted the chairman Greg Kumkumian. They have a hotel just outside of Washington. He is concerned about the date and will be checking with the chairmen of the chapters as to how much of a conflict the date presents.

Tony said he has met with Greg K. and the committee. Their slogan is "Simon Wants You". The hotel is \$60.00 per night and is located on the Metro.

Greg commented that he will be going back over the books from '86 Archbishop's and Council may be entitled to a little more funds from the weekend.

#### E ACYOA National Events Calender

Melina said that she has gotten good responses on the ideas but little information. She asked that we get the information from our chapters as soon as possible.

#### F ACYOA Executive Update

Tony said we still need a new name. The deadline for the next issue is January 15, 1987. However, if there is not enough to print the deadline will be changed.

Scott will try to keep "Here's and There's" going. He has little to work with. Only Detroit, Northern NJ, Watertown, and Worcester have sent in Monthly Fact Sheets.

Scott urged the Council to keep on top of the chapters to get in their Monthly Fact Sheets.

#### G Dues Paid Membership Status

Melina announced that the 1985-86 membership was 376. The difference at reported at Sports weekend included some of the 86-87 members. As of January 1, 1987 we had 222 members, our goal is 422. She said that the figure is good compared to this time last year.

Melina said she will notify the delinquent chapters of the \$25.00 penalty.

Scott asked about the membership cards. There exact whereabouts are not known. Melina said she will try to locate them and send them out.

Tony suggested that we look into a system similar to the AGBU's.

Greg suggested providing lifetime membership.

Sara said that the Detroit chapter give an incentive to married couples by collecting \$15 instead of \$20. She said it has helped to keep the married couples in.

Tony will look into the possibility of doing membership on the national instead of the chapter level.

#### H ACYOA Raffle

Tony talked to Mr. Onanian. He is our Diocesan Council Liaison.

The Council expressed concern that they were not informed that Mr. Onanian was the Diocesan Liaison.

Greg said that he would send Mr. Onanian copies of the minutes as soon as he gets his address.

Tony commented that the raffle will officially start on February 15, 1987.

Greg said he will send out the minutes of the ANFC meeting with the CC meeting minutes.

#### I Advisory Committee

Greg apologized for a slow start on the committee. Der Mardiros said he would like to discuss some issues before proceeding.

Greg said he will meet with Der Mardiros and put together a guideline similar to that of the National fund raiser.

Greg said the basic concept is that the committee will keep on top of and advise the other CC Sub-Committees.

Scott said that we should make a proposal to the Assembly to provide for elections in the future.

Sara suggested contacting Myles Couyoumjian because he is very interested in making the committee work and has some good ideas.

#### J ACEF

Melina reported that she spoke to Colonel Arzoomanian and explained our position.

She also reported that the securities will be liquidated in our best interest until we have accumulated the \$15,000.00.

Tony pointed out that the ACEF does not have the \$11,000.00 from Mr. Mardigian.

#### L National Mailing List

Melina sent 319 additions or changes.

Sara said she will be asking chapter chairmen for their mailing lists and she will check them against the National List.

Greg stressed the importance of birthdays or at least years in keeping the list current.

Sara is requesting both chapter mailing lists and youth listings.

Scott said that we will need several sets of labels in the near future.

Greg suggested the possibility of transferring our mailing list to the Diocesan computer. He asked that all council members consider what information should be included on the files so they can be set up properly.

#### 5 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Tony reported that his position of Acting Executive Secretary has been extended through September. He will be working full time and will be replaced immediately when the position is filled.

The Council was concerned as to the amount of effort being extended to find a new Executive Secretary.

Tony sent out a news release for ASP.

The trip is for members only and will be the Educational tour only.

Tony will be sending individual invitations to ACYOA members. Other publicity will be limited to news releases to the Armenian papers and the ACYOA publication.

There is room for 25 participants.

The cost will be about \$1,800.00 - \$2,000.00.

Scott asked about the additional \$2,000.00 requested by Etchmiadzin after the trip. Tony will look into whether it was a one time charge or will be incurred again in the future.

The trip dates are tentatively set for June 16 to July 16, 1987.

Tony reported on the national committees. He said that most of the committees need money to run so this year we will set the stage to implement them next year.

Tony suggested giving the regional balls to the Alumni Committee.

Tony met with the St. Nersess seminarians about the Christian Education Committee. Their idea is to run a retreat in each of the three regions during their break.

Tony said that Laura is doing a good job with the New ACYOA Publication but we need more response from the chapters to make it work.

Tony has been signing up people for the committees.

Sara commented that many of the people who signed up are not committed.

Tony said that with the committees he is looking to slowly grow into Jim Magarian's youth ministry program in the future.

Greg commented that if taken in the context of a 5 to 10 year program it can work.

Tony said we should set up a calender for the next year which will include CC meetings, Regional meetings, Archbishop's, and Sports Weekend.

Tony visited Detroit, Washington, Bayside, Westchester Cleveland and Watertown. He has now visited 11 out of the 18 chapters.

He said we have to establish priorities as far as the committees are concerned.

## 6 NEW BUSINESS

### A Status of the Mardigian Fund

The Primate reported that the \$11,000.00 endowment from Mr. Mardigian has been received but he was not sure whether the funds have been invested with the ACEF or the Diocesan fund.

Tony asked when the ACYOA fund is established in the ACEF will the Mardigian fund be placed in the ACEF fund under his name.

The Primate said it makes no difference where the funds are, However, eventually we should put the money in the ACEF fund.

Tony questioned how donations made to the Diocese in the name of the ACYOA are allocated.

The Primate explained that Donations received are considered as income against the budgeted expenses of the ACYOA.

#### B Armenian Studies Program

The Primate reemphasized that the ASP is for ACYOA members only.

Scott asked the Primate about the additional cost incurred on the last ASP trip.

The Primate said it was most likely a one time expense and should not occur again. However, in case it is incurred again we should incorporate the possibility of the added expense to the cost of the trip.

#### C 1987 Western Diocese Sports Weekend

Greg said that members of the ACYO-WD were interested in participating in the Archbishop's Tournament.

Upon review of the Tournament Rules and Regulations Council determined that members of the Western Diocese could play with a team representing a parish of the Eastern Diocese.

Scott suggested we publicize the ACYO-WD Sports Weekend to our members so they will know that they are free to participate in the ACYO-WD Sports Weekend.

? Tony asked about the possibility of opening Archbishop's Tournament to the ASA and AGBU.

The Primate thought it would be a good idea and the General Assembly is free to make the change to allow their participation as well as the opening it to the Western and Canadian Diocese.

#### D New ACYOA Sports Weekend Trophy

Scott suggested naming the trophy after James Magarian.

The Council's feeling was that we should not name it after a living person.

The Primate suggested appointing a committee of one or two people to chose a few names for the Council to select from.

Scott appointed Gary and Sara to that committee.

Melina suggested giving out something for trophy winners to keep after returning the trophy.

Scott looked in to giving out plaques along with the awards and trophies. They will cost about \$30.00 ea.

The Council decided to give out plaques for the various trophies and awards that circulate from year to year.

E Dues Paid Membership Directory

Melina said she will take care of the directory.

Greg suggested announcing the directory in the ACYOA publication.

F Review of Calender for the Year

Scott suggested working on the calender outside of the meeting because of the time requirements.

G Certificates of Appreciation

The Council decided to send certificates to the Anniversary Ball Chairmen, Rose Mekenian, Stephanie Masoian, and Melina Spinuzza; Scott Najarian for the 1985 Sports Weekend; Lori Kalemkerian, Michael Yapchaian, and John Apkarian for being Assembly officers.

Melina asked how much stationary is left.

Tony said we were running low and would have some printed.

Tony said that he will have Nishan Akgulian draw some alternative designs for a new letterhead.

H Next Meeting and Future Meeting Dates

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

March 20-22, 1987

May 1-3, 1987 Archbishop's Tournament

May 8-10, 1987 Diocesan Assembly

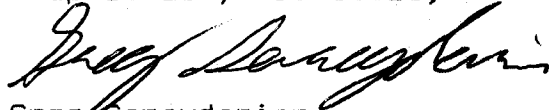
July 17-19, 1987

Tony asked the Primate about Detroit's wish to put out an ad booklet.

The Primate said if the year book portion is done well and tastefully it will be alright.

The Primate closed the meeting with a prayer at 17:46.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg Saraydarian  
Recording Secretary  
ACYOA Central Council