

**A.C.Y.O.A. CENTRAL COUNCIL
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES**

DATE: November 9 and 10, 1990

PLACE: Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
New York, New York

ATTENDANCE: Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate (November 9th only)
Sara Andonian (November 10th only)
Suzie Ashjian
Anthony Barsamian, Acting Executive Secretary
Lynda Chagachbanian
Lisa Manookian
Nicole Mazmanian, College Coordinator
Steve Megrdochian
Laurie Onanian
Syraun Palvetzian, Executive Director of the Diocese
Charles Shooshan

CALL TO ORDER: 8:30pm, November 9th

1. Opening Prayer

2. Minutes of the August 31, 1990, meeting were corrected and accepted with the noted corrections.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:

A. Lisa briefed the Council on her correspondence since the last meeting.

B. Suzie, Steve, and Lynda all reported that they sent letters to the parish priests and chapter chairmen of their respective regions.

C. Syraun Palvetzian suggested a letter of thanks be sent to the Cleveland, Ohio, chapter for hosting the 1990 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend.

D. Bishop Khajag inquired as to the status of the minutes from the General Assembly in Cleveland. Lisa reported that they are only partially typed due to the fact that the Assembly secretary is presently unemployed and has not been able to complete them. The Primate commented that the Diocesan Council is waiting to review them, and he requested the minutes be received by the Diocesan Council before its December 9th meeting.

E. Syraun inquired as to whether or not there is follow-up done on the Cleveland chapter to assure that appropriate thank you notes have been sent to guest speakers and other guests from the weekend. Lisa noted that the Cleveland chapter will send us a report which will include this information.

4. VISITATIONS

A. Steve reported the following:

1. Hartford - hardworking; has discussed the Chapter A award at their meeting and is willing to assist sister chapters in Connecticut which may not be as strong.
2. Trumbull - having problems due to fact its chairman was recently married.
3. Springfield - has problems.
4. Cambridge - has been involved in a College dinner and their Church bazaar; possibly will submit bid to host Sports Weekend in 1992.
5. Providence - Jeff Masoian (previously Vice Chairman) has been appointed Chairman in Steve's place since Steve was elected to Central Council; plan to hold dance and Thanksgiving brunch; problems with lack of older members showing up to meetings; involved in Church beautification project.
6. Chelmsford and Lawrence - lack of interest and poor leadership; suggested possibly combining these two chapters.
7. New England Regional Meeting - Richard Mardirosian will step down as Chairman on 12-01-90, and nominations for elections will take place on this date; Gary Alexander will prepare regional calendar of events and Steve suggests this be done in each region; each chapter supports other chapters' events and this gives strength to the region.

B. Tony reported the following:

1. Hartford - held first Sports Weekend meeting with parish; chapter is strong and "excited".
2. Detroit - not doing well and talked about problems at their meeting; is looking to provide activities which are more fulfilling.

3. Canadian Diocese (Toronto) - Tony visited in an attempt to open interdiocesan communication.

- C. Charlie reported he is planning to visit Texas to plan Cultural Day, possibly in early January.
- D. Lisa reported that Richmond, Virginia, has formed a chapter. She and Laurie will be visiting Florida in January.
- E. Lynda reported Tenafly is essentially defunct. Fair Lawn is getting active again with a candy sale and a bowl-a-thon to raise money for Bibles for Armenia, and the chapter is gaining some new members.
- F. It was decided that coordination of parish visitations with the Executive Secretary is important, especially for "problem chapters".
- G. Bishop Khajag emphasized the importance of constant communication with the chapters and the parish priests and advised the Council to try to create enthusiasm amongst the clergy.
- H. Discussion ensued on how to assist "problem chapters".

Suggestions included:

- obtain the assistance of the pastor
- focus on individuals in a chapter with strong leadership qualities and work with them
- talk with the chapter about their goals and objectives and how they can make the ACYOA and the Armenian Church better.
- report to the Primate the results of each visitation so that he is aware of the status/goings on of the ACYOA at a particular parish when he visits that parish and may be able to talk with the parish priest regarding the ACYOA.

- I. The Primate suggested creating guidelines for visitations and that he and the Executive Secretary should be forwarded copies. Steve and Tony were charged with this task. This is to include guidelines for new chapters and possibly a survey for members of established chapters.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. 1990 Sports Weekend - Lisa reported that a list of award winners was received and that finances will be done by the end of the year.

Lisa then brought to the attention of the Council a letter received from Fr. Garabed Kochakian regarding his disapproval of the fact that there are individuals who are not involved in the life of their ACYOA chapter throughout the year and yet can participate in the tournaments at Sports Weekend simply by paying their dues. He suggested stronger guidelines. Charlie noted that Cleveland was not careful in checking ID's and that people were dues-paid. He noted that the rules which currently exist are not enforced and suggested a late fee be established. Lisa asked Charlie to draft such guidelines for the next meeting. She also suggested the possibility of the Racine, Wisconsin chapter (of which Fr. Garabed is the pastor) composing and submitting a proposal for next year's General Assembly which may resolve this issue. Tony and Suzie will be visiting Racine as requested by Fr. Garabed and will discuss this matter with him at that time.

- B. Cultural Weekend - Laurie distributed a packet of information regarding Cultural Weekend, scheduled for February 15-18 in Worcester, MA, which included a draft of a tentative schedule, suggested speakers, hotel information, and a budget for the Weekend. The Weekend will be opened up to college students at a special rate for Saturday only and to local people for a higher rate. Bishop Khajag suggested a program to encourage people to enter the priesthood. Lisa suggested a seminarian of two could talk about this. The cost per person for the Weekend will be approximately \$90 for food, hotel, and lectures/programs. Charlie recommended getting people from inactive New England chapters involved by offering a reduced rate for their chairmen and possibly two or three others. Tony noted that there is a New England area meeting set up next week, following which the Cultural Weekend will be discussed.

- C. Publicity - Laurie reviewed the publicity pertaining to Central Council elections which has been put into the Armenian papers. Tony informed the Council that the "Mirror Spectator" editor would like to donate half a page every two months to us. Tony stressed that publicity must be made a priority.

- D. ACYOA Internship in Jerusalem - Laurie presented a draft proposal. Bishop Khajag will research the services needed at the Patriarchate. Syraun advised Laurie to send a copy of the draft proposal to Archbishop Torkom Manoogian to obtain his opinion/suggestions. Lisa recommended creating it as a 6-8 week program in order to allow time for adjustment in the beginning and for preparation to come home towards the end of the stay.

The program will be open to first and second year college students. The maturity of these students was questioned. In order to assure seriousness on the part of the participants Tony advised assigning a paper on their experiences to be submitted following their trip.

With regard to funds, Laurie explained that according to her proposal the participants will be responsible to pay for their own airfare, which Tony noted is estimated at \$800. There was talk of the ACYOA possibly providing all expenses for the trip. The Primate noted that funds may be made available through Friends of Jerusalem.

Lisa commented that the ACYOA has been thinking of naming a program after the Mardigians and that the Jerusalem program might be a good choice for this. Charlie suggested holding off on this proposal until the program has been successfully tried.

Tony commended Laurie on her work and on her communication with him and requested the same from all the Council members on their respective projects.

Tony offered the idea of possibly publicizing the Jerusalem Internship, Diocesan Internship, and Armenian Studies Program together. Nicole then proposed that the Jerusalem Internship be titled either Fellowship or Work Study so as not to confuse it with the Diocesan Internship program. The title of Work Study was favored by all.

- E. Diocesan Internship Program - Tony raised the question as to how this program falls under the ACYOA as opposed to the Diocese. Syraun explained that the program is budgeted by the Diocese but is part of ACYOA programming because of the age of the participants.

Nicole then presented a proposal for our information which would provide participants with a specific purpose by assigning them each to work with one individual and requiring them to submit a paper at the end of their internship. In addition, it was proposed that the program be 6 weeks long as opposed to 4 weeks long as it has in the past to provide the college students who are

involved in this program the opportunity to work for the majority of the summer months.

Nicole expressed that her experience showed the participants are now doing mostly clerical work and may be missing out on some of their chances to learn about Diocesan operations. Syraun explained that this is partially due to the young age of previous participants. Charlie then suggested potential participants be interviewed. Laurie recommended doing this by phone to avoid the cost of applicants travelling to the Diocese.

Nicole has publicized this program in a college newsletter and has already had three responses. Lisa suggested the ACYOA have as a long-term goal making the Diocesan Internship Program an ACYOA program, and she further encouraged support of this program as much as possible.

→ F. Hye Hokin - The Primate appointed Fr. Krikor Maksoudian editor and supervisor of Hye Hokin. It has been proposed that the fall and winter issues of the publication be combined since there was not a fall issue this year. The articles are now ready for the upcoming issue.

G. Anniversary Ball - Lisa reported that she and Laurie visited Boca Raton to discuss/plan details of the weekend. One flyer has already gone out. Two flyers will be done and mailed out by December 1st, one to the ACYOA national mailing list and the second to the local Florida community. Laurie is preparing articles regarding the Ball. Information and sample flyers for the weekend were distributed.

The master of ceremonies for Saturday night will be Gregg Kazarian. The cost of the Reception/Dinner/Dance is \$50. There are a limited number of tickets for the affair, so all reservations must be made in advance. There will be no tickets available at the door. Lisa informed the Council that the Karatsayn singers of the Hartford chapter who will be performing during the weekend are requesting the ACYOA pay for their airfare and dinners and that it make a \$150 donation toward the Hartford chapter. This was opened up for discussion and it was decided that since we should encourage the group as it is the only ACYOA cultural group of its kind and will inspire others to form their own groups, and since they are ACYOA members and are performing for the benefit of the organization that the ACYOA will provide funds for their airfare and package plans only.

Charlie pointed out that the Karatsayn singers are not publicized on the flyers which have been prepared. Lisa notes this a an error on the part of the committee. Laurie

suggested they be listed on a letter which may accompany the flyer. Charlie also noted that there has been some confusion on the part of the Karatsayn singers as to whether or not they are definitely scheduled to perform. Lisa suggests that miscommunication may have caused the confusion, but confirmed that they are scheduled to perform.

Laurie brought up the topic of purchasing a gift for the Mardigians as was discussed at the August meeting since we are not at this time naming a program after them. Tony pointed out that it may not be possible to name something after them without the approval of the General Assembly. Suggestions for gifts included a portrait or photograph of them and a piece of Stuben glass, which Mrs. Mardigian collects, with the date and their names on it. As no decision was made quickly on this matter, discussion was held off until the next day's meeting.

H. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Invitational Tournament - Lynda asked for the Council's opinion on providing a buffet dinner for the ACYOA separate from the Diocesan Assembly banquet which would allow members more time to relax after the completion of the sports tournament and would avoid members showing up late for the banquet in case the sports run over the scheduled time, as they usually do. The point was brought up that this may cause a problem with the presentation of the trophies as the Primate will be involved with the Diocesan Assembly banquet. It was decided that the organizers of the Tournament weekend should look into the possibility of a buffet for the ACYOA and that trophies could be presented at a designated time during the banquet by instructing the winners to be present at the banquet at that time. Bishop Khajag suggested noting who will be present at the banquet to accept their trophy and making only those presentations publicly.

I. Next Meeting Date - It was suggested that the Council next meet during the weekend of the National Anniversary Ball in Boca Raton (January 25-27, 1991). Laurie also recommended that the meeting be split into two sessions, thus meeting with the Primate only one time and reserving this session for issues which require his attendance for discussion. This will be scheduled pending Bishop Khajag's availability and the availability of all the Council members as well.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:00pm

Respectfully submitted:



Lynda Chagachbanian
Recording Secretary

**MINUTES OF
ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY, JULY 19, 1991
SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1991
BOSTON, MA**

1. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting on Friday, July 19th was opened with a prayer at 9:20 p.m. In attendance were: Sara Andonian, Zovig Ashjian, Lisa Manookian, Steve Megrdochian, Laurie Onanian, Charles Shooshan and Anthony Barsamian. In attendance on Saturday, July 20th were: Sara Andonian, Zovig Ashjian, Lisa Manookian, Laurie Onanian, Charles Shooshan and Anthony Barsamian.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting (April meeting) as well as the Minutes of the June 8th meeting (meeting with the chapter chairmen) were approved with minimal changes.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in the checking account is \$7,030.45. Priced investments as of 6/30/91 were \$12,396.00. Sara will send copies of all financial statements to Lisa. She will also have a 1991 financial report through July 31st prepared to present at the General Assembly.

We still do not have financial report from the 1990 National Sports Weekend Committee. Sara stated that the Council owes Cleveland \$400.00 for office equipment for the Assembly.

With regard to membership dues, we have only received dues from ten chapters: Bayside, Cambridge, Fair Lawn, Hartford, New Britain, Richmond, Tenaflly, Watervliet, Westchester and Providence.

Sara informed the Council that dues were received from Providence for 1990. Our records had stated that Providence did not pay 1990 dues. This has been corrected.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

A. Visitations

Charlie and Tony reported on their recent visit to Vancouver and their participation in the ACYOC General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

B. Review of Chapter Chairmen and Parish Contacts

The list was reviewed and corrections were made.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. 1990 General Assembly/National Sports Weekend

As the minutes have yet to be received, the Council decided to prepare a summary of the 1990 General Assembly for submission to the 1991 delegates. Lisa will take care of this.

B. 1991 General Assembly/National Sports Weekend

Yeretzgin Mary Ashjian will be the Assembly Secretary this year.

Two young adults from Armenia have been invited to participate in this year's Assembly as guests of the Diocese.

The number of sports has been cut down this year due to lack of facilities to accommodate them.

Charlie also informed us that the hotel is very serious about prosecuting anything illegal.

A full-page ad has appeared in the Armenian-Mirror Spectator and another ad will appear in the Armenian Reporter.

C. Armenian Studies Program

The trip was cancelled as our counterparts in Armenia were unable to accommodate us this year.

D. Hye Hokin

All Diocesan publications have been suspended due to a budgetary freeze.

E. National Mailing List

It is being updated periodically.

F. Membership Handbook and Directory

Binders have been sent out to 1991 members. Those who have paid their 1991 dues and already have ~~binders~~ will receive their inserts soon.

G. College Student Program

Nicole Mazmanian resigned in May.

H. Inter-Diocesan Communication

Inter-Diocesan relations between the Eastern and Canadian Dioceses is very strong. Several suggestions were made for the Fall: (1) On December 1st, Srpazan Khajag will be celebrating the Badarak in Toronto. It was suggested that a group of ACYOA members go up with Srpazan and stay in people's homes in Toronto. Expenses would be on each individual. (2) The following week, members of the ACYOC would visit Cambridge with Srpazan Hovnan and attend a Christmas concert. (3) The joint meeting of the Central Councils be early in the Fall and in either Boston or Montreal.

The following were also mentioned: (1) That Srpazan Vatche and Srpazan Hovnan would be in Worcester two weeks after Sports Weekend for the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Worcester parish and that, as such, they will be unable to be present at the 1991 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend. (2) Next year's ACYOC General Assembly and Sports Weekend will be held in Montreal. (3) The ACYOC will host a Winter Sports Weekend in Missasawga, Ontario.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of 1990-91 ACYOA Central Council Report

The report was reviewed and corrections were made.

B. Calculation of Points for Awards

We reviewed each chapter's file and awarded points accordingly. The awards to be given are as follows: Chapter "A" Award - Hartford; Honorable Mention - Providence; Chapter Achievement Awards - Fair Lawn, Richmond and Watertown.

C. Certificates of Special Recognition

The following will receive certificates this year, in addition to the 1991 General Assembly officers: Gary Alexander, Rena Jebejian, Melanie Mikaelian, Christine Jangochian, Karen Saryadarian, Christine Shooshan and Richard Mardirosian.

D. Archbishop's Essay Contest

No essays were submitted this year.

E. Delegate Package/1991 General Assembly

The agenda for the Assembly was reviewed and changes were made. There will be no chapter reports this year. Lisa will be sending the delegate package to the Diocese for copying. Tony will make up the packages and mail them out.

F. Sam Nersessian Award and Scholarship

No applicants for the scholarship were received.

Ara Bagdasarian (Cleveland) was selected as the recipient for the 1991 Sam Nersessian Award. Peter Bedrossian (Hartford) and Jill Arslanian (Watertown) will receive Outstanding Young Christian Awards.

G. Bids for 1992 ACYOA General Assembly/National Sports Weekend

No bids were received by the Central Council.

7. ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting concluded at 2:23 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, 1991 with a closing prayer. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 6, 1991 with the Primate in New York City at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Manookian
Chairman
ACYOA Central Council