

A.C.Y.O.A. CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: January 25 and January 26, 1991

PLACE: Boca Raton, Florida

ATTENDANCE: Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate (01-26 only)  
Sara Andonian, Treasurer  
Suzie Ashjian, Advisor  
Anthony Barsamian, Acting Executive Secretary  
Lynda Chagachbanian, Recording Secretary  
Nicole Mazmanian, College Coordinator (01-25 only)  
Lisa Manookian, Chairman  
Steve Megrdochian, Corresponding Secretary (01-26 only)  
Laurie Onanian, Advisor  
Charlie Shooshan, Vice Chairman  
Leda Nakas (01-25 only)

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30pm, January 25

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. They were accepted with the corrections which were noted.

Sara presented her Treasurer's report, noting cash values at \$12,205.54 and priced investments at \$11,786.00. She received \$3,000 from Manufacturer's Hanover, but she can not reconcile this money because the statements are not in order. She also reported outstanding seed money from the Cleveland, Boca Raton, Hartford, and Tenafly chapters. Sara will write to Mona regarding the collection of seed money from Cleveland; Central Council is granting them an extra three month grace period. Sara distributed a tentative draft of last year's budget for review. Taking into consideration that this report is not final, Sara noted the loss of approximately \$13,000. She noted that starting soon all financial records for the ACYOA are to be kept on computer.

Tony will speak with the Primate regarding money allocated to the Central Council and the Executive Secretary and College Coordinator for the operation of the ACYOA. He suggested we should not be doing fund raising ourselves. Lisa suggested the possibility of making a "Board of Directors" to handle fund raising for this purpose. Charlie felt, furthermore, that national events should not have to be fund raisers for the ACYOA as he feels this hinders the quality of our programs and the growth of our organization.

Leda then addressed the status of Hye Hokin. She read a list of all the articles and photographs to be included in the next issue, the final layout for which will be done next week. Tony asked Suzie and Lynda to gather a group of local people to do the bulk mailing of Hye Hokin the week of February 11th. Tony suggested that Leda do the editing of Hye Hokin for an agreed price in order to save on the cost of hiring an outside editor. Ideas for a political theme for the upcoming issue were discussed. It was

reported that there exists some confusion in the protocol for reviewing Hye Hokin, and it was decided that this should be brought up with the Primate.

Next, Nicole mentioned that she is getting requests for applications for and information on the Armenian Studies Program. Tony explained that an appropriate program must be developed for this year taking into consideration the limited available supplies as well as the needs of the people in Armenia. This discussion was held off until we meet with the Primate.

Nicole then reviewed upcoming college programs.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Lisa distributed copies of her correspondence since the last meeting. Per Lisa, Steve has sent correspondence to his regional chapters. Laurie telephoned two clergymen regarding forming chapters at their parishes. She will send information to them about the ACYOA to see if some individuals would like to become members-at-large. Suzie wrote to all the churches without chapters and got one response from Union City, NJ, about forming a chapter there.

**VISITATIONS:** Laurie visited Orlando, where there was a meeting of 12 prospective members who wished to form a chapter there.

Lynda reported that the Fair Lawn chapter held elections and were barely able to form an executive board. In November Fair Lawn raised enough funds to purchase 70-80 Bibles for Armenia. They are planning fewer, larger-scale activities hoping to attract more people as membership seems to be decreasing. Bayside also held elections. Der Yeghia is leaving Bayside for Elberon in February. Some individuals from the Elberon area currently attend St. Leon meetings. However, Lynda hopes to work with Der Yeghia to get some local and regional events to be sponsored in the Elberon area. Lynda reported that the Tenafly chapter has been reorganized and will begin to plan for the Archbishop's Tournament in May. Lynda reported that many people in New Jersey have been requesting to start up the regional chapter again as they are finding it difficult to remain active on the individual parish level.

Lisa reported that Richmond is getting organized as a chapter. She hopes to visit there. One problem she noted is that their group consisted of mixed ages, and she will make sure they divide into Junior and Senior chapters according the established age restrictions.

Tony reported that he visited Racine with Suzie. The group questioned the necessity of all the rules and regulations which the ACYOA functions under pointing out that they find these rules a hinderance and make it difficult for them to survive as a chapter.

Lisa distributed an updated chapter chairmen list which is to be reviewed by each Council member this weekend for corrections. She also distributed a calendar of events.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Assembly Minutes--The secretary of the Assembly was contacted a couple of months ago to submit a draft of the minutes. As this has not yet been received, Suzie will obtain the minutes from Lisa and type them, and then she will have them reviewed by Central Council and Scott Najarian, Assembly Chairman. Lisa will contact the Primate to explain the delay and what we have done to correct the problem. Charlie will address this issue at the Hartford Sports Weekend meetings in order to assure a reliable secretary is hired for this year's Assembly.

National Anniversary Ball--Lisa noted that ACYOA will not make a lot of money on this event. There are 50+ package plans which have been purchased, 230 reservations for the banquet, and 100 more are expected for the dance. Tickets for the dance may be sold at the door. Lisa distributed copies of the Anniversary Ball booklet. Sara showed the gift of crystal which she purchased for the ACYOA to present to the Mardigians at the banquet.

Cultural Weekend--Laurie distributed the flyer for the weekend. The program is almost complete and the speakers have been obtained. Tony, Laurie and Scott are to meet with Der Aved. Tony noted that, with the approval of the Primate, AYF members may be invited to attend the dance and/or lecture (for a fee) since they are going to be staying in the same hotel for an event of their own.

Cultural Day--Charlie reported that it will possibly be in Houston.

Chapter A Assistance Program--Per Lisa, Steve has set up guidelines for the program which he still must review with the Primate and with the hartford chapter.

Christian Leadership Seminar--This is to be held March 9 in Wynnewood, PA, and Lisa is assisting to organize the event.

Hye Christian Encounter--This is to postponed until next year because of the mix up which occurred in Providence regarding the date for the event.

Martyr's Day--Lynda briefly explained the focus for the programs which she and Suzie designed, which would be educational and would focus on the cities/villages in Armenia which were most involved in the Genocide and would mandate the participation of local ACYOA members. The idea was not accepted as it seemed too impractical and too difficult to execute in the time allotted. However, Tony explained that Nicole is working to obtain Bill Bradley as a speaker for one of her college programs, and possibly the ACYOA

could combine this idea with plans for Martyr's Day by obtaining him as a speaker during the weekend. Laurie advised that the two programs should be combined, or that if it is organized as a college program that it be publicized to ACYOAers in NJ and elsewhere, because Senator Bradley would expect a couple hundred people to attend such an event. Details will be discussed and the Primate will be contacted regarding this idea.

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Invitational Tournament--This discussion was held off until the Council meets with the Primate.

Summer Internship in Jerusalem--This program was cancelled for this year due to the situation in the Middle East. Lisa suggested finalizing this year's plans to be used next year.

1991 General Assembly and Sports Weekend--Charlie reported that there is a problem with the parish understanding the quality and broad scope of this program and that not enough ACYOAers are attending the meetings with the parish to have the young adults' voices heard.

Membership Handbook--Suzie spoke with Richard Mardirosian one and one-half week's ago. He will let her know when it is completed. The binders have not yet been received. Rich did note that it will be done before the end of January.

Chapter Resource Handbook--Suzie and Lisa are working on this and are hoping to have it completed by April or May.

National Fund Raising--Sara suggested stressing fund raising to the ACEF. Tony noted that the Diocese instructed the ACYOA not to do fund raising on a national level because they are establishing a central fund raising force in the Diocese from which Council will be able to obtain money.

Membership List--Suzie is willing to work on it but does not know how to use the computer at the Diocese. Tony suggested an Alumni list be created.

Interdiocesan Communications--Tony reported that Harry (ACYOC) will be checking dates with the three Primates (March 6/7 or April 6/7). A meeting will possibly be set up in Montreal. The three topics to be discussed are: 1) ACYOA Armenia - how we can help them to get the youth going there; 2) Interdiocesan Convention - no sports competition involved; 3) Interdiocesan activities - for example, ASP to be done as one program for the three Dioceses. Sara inquired as to who will fund this meeting. Tony responded that the funds may come out of the Executive Secretary budget. Tony noted that interdiocesan functions may prove helpful in strengthening all the ACYOA/C/WD where they each have problems.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:00pm, January 25.

CALL TO ORDER: 1:50pm, January 26

The meeting was opened with a prayer.

Hye Hokin--The Primate instructed that Fr. Krikor is to review each issue before it is posted on the boards. The Primate need only review it to resolve any questions which may remain after Fr. Krikor has edited it.

Armenian Studies Program--Tony asked the Bishop if/how the program can be designed this year. The need for religious revival was stressed. The Bishop read a letter he received from the Momig Armenian Christian Cultural Organization requesting art supplies for young Armenian artists who have been gathered to paint pictures according to the traditions of the Armenian Church, thus helping the Church and making these young people part of the Church. As part of the ASP perhaps the ACYOA can stay in Yerevan and work with this youth organization at St. Sarkis. The Primate also suggested teaching the people English through religious materials. Some language classes and trips should also be organized for the ACYOA people who attend. Visitations to earthquake victims was also suggested. Charlie will send a letter to all ACYOA chapters requesting donations from their ACYOA Day banquet profits to purchase art supplies for the group in Armenia. The Primate offered the idea for the future to possibly have exhibitions of the paintings made from the supplies we forward in different regions for the ACYOA to witness the product of their contributions.

Cultural Weekend--Laurie briefed the Primate on plans for Cultural Weekend. About 40 people are expected. The Bishop informed the Council that he will unfortunately not be able to be able to attend the weekend. He suggested briefing Fr. Aved on the details presented. Tony received approval from the Bishop for AYF members to participate in the events of the weekend.

Chapter A Assistance Program--Steve spoke with the chairman of the Hartford chapter about plans and the outline of the program for Palos Heights. Five members of the Hartford chapter must still be chosen to attend. This will take place April 12-14. Five other chapters will be using the Chapter A type of program to try to revive themselves.

Interdiocesan Communication--Tony reported the dates and details for the meeting to the Primate. The Primate reported that the three Bishops are enthusiastic about it. Charlie requested that the ACYOC Mobile Clinic being built for Armenia and if/how we can be involved be put on the agenda for that meeting.

1990 General Assembly Minutes--Lisa reviewed the situation and our solution with the Primate and received his approval to have Suzie type the minutes.

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Invitational Tournament--Lynda asked the Primate to express his preference as to when he would like to present the trophies. He decided the trophies should be presented at the brunch following Divine Liturgy. If that does not work out, his second preference would be to have them presented at the banquet Saturday night.

Summer Internship in Jerusalem--Laurie reported to the Primate that she will prepare the program for next year and requested the assistance of the Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

Orlando Visitation--Laurie reported to the Primate that a meeting took place in Orlando that week for which 12 young people were present. They expressed the desire to establish an ACYOA and also expressed their concern with having more frequent Church services. The Bishop will plan to visit there. Lisa suggested that Laurie review the By Laws to see how to form a new chapter. Lisa requested that for the next meeting Steve prepare guidelines for visitations and for establishing new chapters, as well as a survey to be used on visitations. Laurie and Tony will go together to visit Orlando again. Laurie requested that if the Primate is unable to visit this parish at the time which is planned that he assign another member of the clergy to be present.

Martyr's Day Program--Tony briefed the Primate regarding plans to obtain Senator Bradley as a speaker. As the Primate approved this idea, Tony will speak with Nicole to try to coordinate this.

Next Meeting--The date for the next meeting was set for Friday, April 19, 1991, at 7:00pm, and Saturday, April 20th if necessary.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted



Lynda Chagachbanian  
Recording Secretary

ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING WITH CHAPTER CHAIRMEN

DATE: Saturday, June 8, 1991

PLACE: St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA

MODERATORS: Anthony Barsamian, Acting Executive Secretary  
Charles Shooshan III, Vice Chairman, Central Council

ATTENDANCE: (see attached)

CALL TO ORDER: 10:45am

I. Prayer

II. Introduction and Explanation of New Structure (Tony)  
(see attached structure outline)

III. Welcome (Lisa Manookian)

IV. DISCUSSION ON STRUCTURE

TOPIC/QUESTION Where is the money coming from to fund these paid positions?

COMMENTS (Tony) Money will be raised by Endowment Fund for ACYOA and will be divided into regions from where it came. We currently have funds for two paid positions. We may also get a percentage of parish dues. We must show people where money is going.

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TOPIC/QUESTION Emphasized need to get Diocesan Assembly, clergy and parishes in support of the youth.

COMMENTS (Steve) Youth Ministry is a subdepartment of Family Ministry at the Diocesan level

/ There is a major problem with clergy and their concern for the youth. Youth do not have a voice at the Diocesan Assembly and they are making decisions for us./ (Charlie) this structure is new to the parishes as well and that each parish must have a paid Youth Coordinator./  
Leadership at the top is poor and this is a problem.

SUGGESTIONS Must decide what we want and take it to the Primate for him to take action./ We must speak for ourselves./ Must have Primate work to gain their support./ All agreed that Seminarians should have and internship in Youth and that priests should participate in continuing education regarding the youth.

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ministry

TOPIC/QUESTION Should groups be divided by age, and, if so, by what ages?

COMMENTS It was agreed by all that the older age group should not be denied the opportunity to participate in athletic competition at Sports Weekend.

SUGGESTIONS Coordinators should be for programs, not for age groups because you will have overlap with different ages, but the Coordinators could concentrate on developing certain programs./ Should allow individuals to make the choice as to the programs in which they would like to participate as separating youth into different age groups can create limits and obstacles for people.

TOPIC/QUESTION Is the new structure the solution to our problems with the ACYOA?

COMMENTS No. The problem lies with the goals and purpose for the ACYOA. It is too social now. The Assemblies are a waste of time because the issues discussed during the Assembly are not carried out or discussed after the meetings are over./ (Charlie) Conferences and programs will be different from current ones with the new structure./ (Tony) The Primate agrees we must get "back to basics", i.e. worship, education, and fellowship./ The problem is with the whole Church and must be addressed by the Church.

SUGGESTIONS We must identify the needs we are addressing as social, religious, cultural, etc./ The new structure may not be the solution to the problems, and we should fix what we have now./ We must define why we have these problems and how we can correct them. The issues and needs must be broken down further./ Suggestion was made to work structure from bottom to top, not from top to bottom because the ACYOA is falling apart at the parish level, not at the Central Council-Executive Secretary levels./ Must address the apathetic attitude of the people.

*How we can correct them*

TOPIC/QUESTION Youth Coordinator Positions.

COMMENTS (Tony) Paid positions will allow for the 18+ age group to really get involved in the Church because the paid employees will be doing the work. The Coordinator would help implement programs and encourage youth involvement./ A Regional Youth Coordinator could improve communication between ACYOA Jrs. and Srs. and also between parishes. The Coordinator could guide and encourage youth as they get older and pass from one group to the next and could "fight" for issues regarding the youth.

*Regional Coordinator  
↓  
Parish Youth Coordinator*

SUGGESTIONS It is important that the <sup>Parish</sup> Youth Coordinator position be on the same level as the Parish Council.

The Regional Youth Coordinators are the most important positions to fill because the National Coordinators would not be as effective without them. (Emphasis added)



TOPIC/QUESTION Individual overall impressions based on discussion held regarding new structure were offered.

COMMENTS Too many layers on structure./ New structure is too bureaucratic. Likes current system./ This structure has too many people doing the same job./ Paid positions are a good idea and are needed./ ~~3~~ National Coordinators do not seem needed./ The new structure does not seem to be the answer to the problem. Full time employees are not needed. Rather what is needed is more cooperation from the Church./ The current structure is good./ Need committed people and the new structure will work./ We need to know what we are going to do now until this new structure is implemented./ The Youth Ministry Department concept is good./ Concentrate on what we have now that is good and works./ The structure will promote good communication./ Must get common goal and people to work together./ Strongly disagrees with full time positions because the priests should be doing this job./ Improve what we have now./ Emphasized the need for these full time positions, especially the Regional Coordinators, to be easily accessible, and this will promote better communication.

SUGGESTIONS Get rid of 3 National Coordinators and go straight to the Advisory Board./ Structure should be looked at from the bottom up and should concentrate on the parish level./ Parish Coordinator should be the priest. The Regional Coordinator should go straight to Youth Director, not to the middle structure./ Should put more responsibility with the youth./ Should be a regional structure because each region is different. Regional Directors should be compensated on a parish level, possibly part time./ One group may be better than dividing into age categories./

/ Regional Coordinator should work with the Director of Youth Ministry, not with the Diocesan Council, as it currently exists in New England.

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## V. PROGRAMS

A general comment was made that we do not focus on Christ and the Church, and this is the problem with many of our programs.

### A. ARCHBISHOP'S TOURNAMENT

Problems with Archbishop's Tournament include:

- 1) It is redundant with Sports Weekend.
- 2) It sends the wrong message to the Diocesan Assembly, i.e. that we do not want to and do not feel we are old enough to participate in the Diocesan Assembly.
- 3) There is a lack of interest in the event.
- 4) There are problems with communication amongst the chapter, Central Council and the parish with regards to organization of the event, as well as other problems with organizing it.

- 5) There is no family atmosphere created in having it with the Diocesan Assembly.
- 6) Lack of attendance at the dances on the part of the young people.
- 7) Lack of fellowship amongst participants beyond the sports.
- 8) Lack of bids to host the event.
- 9) It becomes an expensive event, even when hosted in conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly, and it makes ACYOAers make a choice as to which ACYOA events they should attend.

Good aspects of the Archbishop's Tournament:

- 1) Viewed by several at the meeting as a successful program.
- 2) Forming and working as teams brings people in the chapters together with a common goal.
- 3) It is the only major program besides Sports Weekend.
- 4) It is generally well attended.
- 5) Was successful when not held in conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly.

General comments/opinions:

- 1) Do not want the Tournament as part of the Diocesan Assembly. *consensus*
- 2) 50/50 to get rid of the Tournament completely.
- 3) Possibly combine the Tournament with the Anniversary Ball.
- 4) About 10 people said we would be doing a disservice to the community if we cancel the event all together. However, the general consensus was to keep the Tournament as an ACYOA event.

B. SPORTS WEEKEND:

Comments:

- 1) It is a very large undertaking and commitment and can/does at times tear a chapter apart. Suggests having an outside convention firm organize it for us.
- 2) Mention was made of the lack of participation of the athletes in other aspects of ACYOA.
- 3) Majority said it is important to have the General Assembly with Sports Weekend.
- 4) Majority felt Sports Weekend should not be eliminated.
- 5) No one felt there are too many or too few sports.
- 6) Most felt athletes should not be dues paid for Sports Weekend.
- 7) There are problems with us following our own rules with regards to dues, sports rules, etc.

## C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Comments: 1A) Clergy dominating at ACYOA Assembly.

- 1) There is a problem with priests discussing amongst themselves what the ACYOA is/will be doing.
- 2) Chapter reports are good, but possibly to save time they can be typed up and distributed.
- 3) Breaking up into committees is good; however, often the effects to these committees are not known. Emphasis was made on implementation of the results of committees.
- 4) The Budget/Audit Report should not be eliminated.
- 5) An open forum would be good if decisions are made.
- 6) A seminar on religious/leadership topic was felt by most to be a good idea.
- 7) Suggestion was made to limit Parliamentary Procedure during the meetings to save time.

## D. NATIONAL ANNIVERSARY BALL:

Comments:

- 1) Not in favor of a weekend in Florida for 1992.

## E. IDEAS FOR FUTURE

- 1) Cultural program for Armenians who have married non-Armenians to keep the Armenian person involved and less distant. Also possibly to involve the non-Armenian person in the Armenian Church life and culture.
- 2) Education on the Liturgy.
- 3) Comparative religion education.
- 4) Language education through adult school.
- 5) Possibly separate dates of AYF Olympics and ACYOA Sports Weekend and possibly participate in each other's events. About 12 people felt it would be good to try to combine the two events.
- 6) Combine events with other Armenian organizations as well as with AYF.
- 7) Possibly do more events with parishioners of all ages to promote the family.
- \*\*\*\*8) All felt the meeting was productive, and the suggestion was made that the chairmen and the Council meet annually before the General Assembly to keep all informed and to improve communication between Central Council and the chapters. (It was also suggested that for this year because of all the changes going on with the ACYOA, a meeting be held following the General Assembly and the Diocesan Council review of the Assembly proceedings.)

A meeting be scheduled after  
Assembly (One month)

MEETING WITH CHAPTER CHAIRMEN...

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MEETING ADJOURNED: 3:05pm

Respectfully submitted:



Lynda Chagachbanian  
Recording Secretary  
ACYOA Central Council

# Organizational Structure – Department of Youth Ministry

Primate

Diocesan Council

Department of Family Ministry  
(Ages 0 – 110, from Nursery School to Senior Citizens)

Department of Youth Ministry (DYM)

DYM Director – *major resource person*

DYM Advisory Board

National Coordinators

Youth Coordinator  
Ages 8 – 17

Young Adult Coordinator  
Ages 18 – 23

Young Professionals and Young Married Couples Coordinator  
Ages 23 – 35

DYM REGIONAL COORDINATORS –

DYM REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARDS

New England Region

North West Region – *WISC, ILL*

Mid-Atlantic Region – *PA, WASH, NY*

Southern Region – *FL, GA*

South Center Region – *TX*

Lakes Region – *DETR., CLEV., MI, IN, OH, PA*

PARISH ADVISORY BOARDS

Parish Coordinator (Paid/Volunteer)

**Department of Youth Ministry  
Director  
Youth Ministry Advisory Board**

**Youth Coordinator**

Youth Festival

Publication

Regional Programs

Parish Programs

National Mailing List

Summer Camp

St. Nersess Summer  
Studies Program

**Young Adult Coordinator**

National Conference

Publication

Regional Programs

Parish Programs

National Mailing List

Summer Internship

ASP in Armenia

Jerusalem Internship

Cultural Weekend

Sports Weekend

**Young Professionals &  
Married Couples  
Coordinator**

National Conference

Publication

Regional Programs

Parish Programs

National Mailing List

ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING WITH CHAPTER CHAIRMEN

Saturday, June 8, 1991  
St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA

ATTENDANCE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Lynda Chagachbanian	Central Council	Rec. Sec.
Lisa Manoukian	Central Council	Chairperson
Charles Shooshan III	Central Council	V. Chairman
Anthony Barsamian	Diocese	Exec. Sec.
Christine Shooshan	Hartford	Chairperson
Melanie Mikaelian	Boca Raton	Chairperson
Laurie Onanian	Central Council	Advisor
Sara Andonian	Central Council	Treasurer
Leslie Kalaydjian	Westchester	Chairperson
Suzanne Papazian	Detroit	Chairperson
Gary Burggraf	Union City	Contact
Zovig Ashjian	Central Council	Advisor
Denise Meshejian	Bayside	Chairperson
Mary Yagoobian Connors	Springfield	Contact
Janet Delikaheye(sp?)	Washington, D.C.	Co-Chairman
Gregory A. Sekercan	Washington, D.C.	Co-Chairman
Brian Ipjian	Evanston	Chairman
Krikor Bayindiryan	Evanston	V. Chairman
Tom Gengozian	Racine	Chairman
Osep Armagan	Greenfield	V. Chairman
Christine Jamgochian	Tenafly	Co-Chairman
Rachel Onanian	Cambridge	Chairperson
Charles Tutunjian	Watervliet	Secretary
Christine Mahserjian	Watervliet	Chairperson
Paula Jurigian	Cambridge	Yth. Director
Greg Arpajian	Cleveland	Chairman
Art Simonian	New Britain	V. Chairman
Gary Alexander	New England Region	Chairman
Randy Dagley	Watertown	Yth. Director
Ray Davidian	Watertown	V. Chairman
Papken Maksoudian	Watertown	Chairman
Karen Saraydarian	Tenafly	Co-Chairman
Nadine Aljian	Fair Lawn	V. Chairman
Arpi Bouroujian	Richmond	Chairman
Aram Topjian	Richmond	V. Chairman
Steve Sarkisian	Watertown	Rep.
Herman Purutyan	Worcester	Rep.
Laura Purutyan	Worcester	Rep.

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 38

*Total Chapter 22*

A.C.Y.O.A. CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING  
ACYOA ASSEMBLY PREPARATION MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, August 8, 1991

PLACE: Diocese, New York City

ATTENDANCE: Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate  
Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Director of Youth Ministry  
Syraun Palvetsian, Director, Diocese  
Anthony Barsamian, Acting Executive Secretary  
Sara Andonian, Treasurer  
Zovig Ashjian, Advisor  
Lynda Chagachbanian, Recording Secretary  
Lisa Manookian, Chairman  
Laurie Onanian, Advisor  
Charlie Shooshan, Vice Chairman

CALL TO ORDER: 8:30pm

The meeting was opened with a prayer.

The Primate reported on the positive growth of the youth organization in Armenia and informed the Council that two of these youth, one male and one female, will be attending our General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

The Primate then introduced Fr. Mardiros Chevian as the newly appointed Director of the Department of Youth Ministry (DYM). Fr. Mardiros will begin his new position on October 1, 1991. The Primate noted that with regards to the development of the Department of Youth Ministry the Diocese still awaits the input of the clergy, Central Council, past Executive Secretaries, and the ACYOA General Assembly. He noted that the following year will be a transitional year and that it is hoped that the program will be established by next year. Charlie requested that the Central Council be kept informed of the details of the development of the department.

Discussion ensued on the plans for the ACYOA and for Youth Ministry. Key points of the discussion follow:

- Emphasis should be put on hiring the positions at the regional and parish levels before hiring at the national level.
- The ACYOA will be one component of Diocesan Youth Ministry, and the ACYOA and ACYOA Juniors will continue under this department.
- National Coordinators should be educated in Youth Ministry. They will be required to have seminar and/or formal education.
- Seminarians and the clergy should be trained in youth ministry and how to relate to youth.



Charlie hi-lited the minutes of the June 8, 1991, meeting with the ACYOA Chapter Chairmen.

ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION OF DYM: Tony mentioned to the Primate that the chapter chairmen were pleased that the issue was discussed with them first at the June 8th meeting and that this must be continued at the Assembly. The Primate suggested an explanation of the plans be sent to the delegates in advance so they can be prepared at the Assembly and that discussion of the DYM be a separate agenda item. Fr. Mardiros suggested Friday morning as a good time for this if all other discussions can be completed by this time.

The Agenda for the Assembly was reviewed and revised.

Sara reported that to date 27 delegates were received from a total of 11 chapters.

Fr. Mardiros questioned how we can get the youth to participate in Badarak. In the past this was done successfully by scheduling Church later, allowing casual clothes to be worn, and also by holding Badarak in the hotel itself.

With regards to the minutes of last year's Assembly, a summary report will be presented due to the lack of professional minutes.

No chapters have submitted bids for next year's Assembly and Sports Weekend. However, bids which are brought to the Assembly will be accepted for presentation as per the procedure for bidding for Sports Weekend. The Primate suggested next year that the Assembly consist of conferences and seminars and that sports be held on a separate occasion. Laurie suggested that Central Council choose a site for next year's Assembly and organize it. Tony proposed that planned sports competition be held another time and that sports without formal competition be held during the Assembly weekend. Charlie noted that this may detract people from attending because they may attend the AYF Olympics which are also held on Labor Day Weekend. It is up to the Assembly to decide if we are to split the two events. It was suggested that if bids are not presented the Primate announce to the Assembly that the Central Council will plan it.

Laurie suggested that we formally invite Dean Shahinian, the newly appointed Diocesan Council Liaison to the ACYOA, to the Assembly and to our first meeting of the year. All agreed.

Tony noted that the need for the new Family Ministry/DYM plan must be demonstrated to the delegates. Tony and Lisa will work on reports which will communicate this to the delegates, and they will distribute these to the delegates prior to the Assembly.

Sara noted that the donation from the Mardigians from last year was received. Sara will also develop the budget for the Assembly.

The Primate suggested that a Conventions Committee, a Constitutional Committee, and possibly other subcommittees be created at this year's Assembly to work in the following year on next year's Assembly, possibly to be held Memorial Day Weekend. Fr. Mardiros added that a member of Central Council should sit on each of these committees.

It was decided that the Central Council should meet on Thursday night of the Assembly, with Fr. Mardiros and the Assembly Chairman present as well.

Charlie reported that the ACYOC Central Council is very interested in meeting with the ACYOA Central Council and that we should continue to make efforts for this to happen.

Lisa reported that the Nominating Committee has distributed its correspondence for the Assembly.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:05pm

Respectfully submitted:

  
Lynda Chagachbanian  
Recording Secretary

A.C.Y.O.A. CENTRAL COUNCIL TRANSITIONAL MEETING

DATE: Friday, August 30, 1991

PLACE: Hartford, CT

ATTENDANCE: Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate  
Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Director of Youth Ministry  
Dean Shahinian, Diocesan Council Liaison  
Anthony Barsamian, Acting Executive Secretary  
Gary Alexander  
Sara Andonian  
Gregory Arpajian  
Zovig Ashjian  
Lynda Chagachbanian  
Lisa Manookian  
Laurie Onanian  
Charlie Shooshan

CALL TO ORDER: 6:50pm

The meeting was opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted as amended.

The treasurer's report was omitted.

TRANSITIONAL PROCEDURES

Lisa had updated the ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES GUIDE. It was reviewed and corrected. Lisa will revise it with the corrections made and forward it to the new Central Council Chairman.

Officers for the 1991-1992 term were appointed as follows:

Chairman - Charlie Shooshan  
Vice Chairman - Laurie Onanian  
Treasurer - Greg Arpajian  
Recording Secretary - Gary Alexander  
Corresponding Secretary - Steve Megrđichian  
Advisors - Zovig Ashjian and Lynda Chagachbanian

Transition of materials and files took place.

Regions were assigned as follows:

Mid Atlantic Region - Lynda  
New England Region - Gary  
South East Region - Zovig  
Great Lakes Region - Greg  
North West Region - Steve  
South Central Region - Laurie  
Capital Region - Charlie

Programs were assigned tentatively as the current programs are to be discussed and revised in detail at the next meeting. Assignments were as follows:

1992 Sports Weekend - Zovig  
 Archbishop's Tournament - Charlie/Steve  
 National Anniversary Ball - Gary/Laurie  
 Cultural Day - Greg  
 Martyr's Day Commemoration - Zovig/Lynda  
 Jerusalem Internship - Laurie/Gary  
 Spiritual Journey/Fellowship - Gary  
 Mailing List - Zovig  
 Membership Handbook - Lynda/Zovig  
 Chapter Resource Handbook - (hold)  
Hye Hokin - Laurie

Publicity - Dean suggested the Council meet with the Chancellor to assess the available resources at the Diocese with regards to publicity, computer use, etc. The Primate then advised that the Chancellor be invited to all Central Council meetings.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you letters were sent both to Tenafly for the Archbishop's Tournament and to Watertown for the June 8th Chapter Chairmen meeting held at their parish.

Greg was given the assignment of composing a telegram to the Catholicos from the Assembly.

CHAPTER CHAIRMEN AND PARISH CONTACT LISTING: This was reviewed and corrected.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

REVIEW OF PROPOSALS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PASSED: The Hye Hokin proposal was reviewed. It was decided that Karen Serabian will be asked to take on the position of Editor, Laurie will be the Central Council Coordinator, and Lisa will be the Coordinator for the newsletter.

1991-92 CHAPTER "A" ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: Dallas was chosen as the mission parish.

INTER-DIOCESAN RELATIONS: An interdiocesan meeting was scheduled for November 9, 1991, in Hartford, CT.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH MINISTRY: Fr. Mardiros Chevian advised that we continue with the ACYOA as we are for now as this department develops. He offered his assistance and expressed his desire to be

totally involved in what the ACYOA and the Central Council do.

OTHER: As suggestion was made that brief workshops be established for Council members to be held in conjunction with Council meetings. Along these lines, religious and educational programs were also suggested.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting was set for Saturday, October 26, 1991, at the Diocese in New York.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted:



Lynda Chagachbanian  
Recording Secretary