

**ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL REPORT
1986-1987**



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL
TO THE DELEGATES OF THE 1987 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 1, 1986 - JUNE 30, 1987**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Central Council of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) presents the following report of the functions and programs of the ACYOA during the past fiscal year 1986-1987.

Members of the ACYOA Central Council this year were:

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate and ACYOA National President

Mr. Scott Najarian	Chairman
Mr. Gary Townsend	Vice-Chairman
Miss Melina Spinuzza	Treasurer
Mr. Gregory Saraydarian	Recording Secretary
Miss Sara Andonian	Corresponding Secretary

Very Rev. Frs. Khajag Barsamian and Haigazoun Najarian assisted the Central Council in their capacities as Vicar General and Acting Vicar General respectively.

As appointed by the Primate Mr. James Magarian served as Executive Secretary, completing six years of service on August 15, 1986. The Primate appointed Mr. Anthony Barsamian as Acting Executive Secretary following Mr. Magarian's resignation.

During the Transitional Central Council meeting in Philadelphia, it was decided that the Central Council would assume many of the administrative responsibilities that the Executive Secretary has traditionally undertaken.

Mr. Scott Najarian, Miss Melina Spinuzza and Mr. Gary Townsend completed their two year terms in office.

2. MEETINGS

The Central Council held six meetings during the past year:

August 29, 1986	Adam's Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, PA.
October 4th and 5th, 1986	Diocesan Center, New York City
January 10th and 11th, 1987	Diocesan Center, New York City
March 21st and 22nd, 1987	Diocesan Center, New York City
May 9th, 1987	Marriott Hotel, Springfield, MA.
July 18th and 19th, 1987	Armenian Church of Our Saviour Worcester, MA.

The meeting discussions included reports on items such as Council Administration, Dues Paid Membership Status, Treasury, CC Finance Committee, ACYOA National Publication, Anniversary Celebrations, Sports Weekend, Archbishop's Tournament, Regional Conferences, New Chapters, Armenian Church Endowment Fund, Armenian Studies Program, Diocesan Mission Program, Executive Secretary Search, Visitations, Report of Acting Executive Secretary as well as many other topics.

Meetings occurred on Saturdays and were eight to ten hours in length, members attended church services on Sunday morning and met again if necessary on Sunday afternoon.

The Council utilized the facilities of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary and the Diocesan complex for meetings held in the New York City area.

Meeting guests included: Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian (Westchester), Nancy Basmajian (ACYOA Juniors), Siran Palvetzian (Diocesan Director), Michael Findikyan (Seminarian), Douglas Tashjian (Executive Secretary Candidate), Lisa Kalustian (Western Diocese ACYO Representative), David Tateosian (Worcester Chapter Chairman).

3. REGIONAL AND PARISH ASSIGNMENTS

SCOTT NAJARIAN	OVERSEER
GARY TOWNSEND	NEW ENGLAND REGION
MELINA SPINUZZA	MIDWEST REGION
GREGORY SARAYDARIAN	MID-ATLANTIC REGION
SARA ANDONIAN	SOUTHERN REGION

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

SCOTT NAJARIAN	1987 GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1987 SPORTS WEEKEND COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION
MELINA SPINUZZA	NATIONAL CALENDAR MEMBERSHIP
GREGORY SARAYDARIAN	1987 ARCHBISHOP'S TOURNAMENT STANDARDIZED REGIONAL CONFERENCE GUIDELINES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SARA ANDONIAN	NATIONAL MAILING LIST

4. VISITATIONS AND PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

Members visited or attended functions in the following locations:

Bayside, Cheltenham, Cleveland, Detroit, Evanston, Northern New Jersey, Palos Heights, Providence, Washington, D.C., Worcester, Wynnewood.

5. REGIONAL CONFERENCES

The following Regional Conferences were held this year:

New England	March 28, 1987	Cambridge, MA.
Mid-Atlantic	March 7, 1987	Tenafly, N.J.
Midwest	November 28, 1986	Detroit, MI.

6. PROGRAMS

1986 ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

August 27-29, 1986

The Annual General Assembly convened at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. on August 26, 1986. Approximately fifty delegates were in attendance from chapters throughout the Diocese.

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian presided over the Assembly.

Assembly officers were: Chairman: Stephen Sarkisian (Watertown), Vice-Chairman: Michael Yapchaian (Watertown), Sergeant-at-Arms: John Apkarian (Lowell), Parliamentarian: Lori Kalemkerian (Northern New Jersey). Sara Martinian (Central Council) was appointed by the Host Committee as Assembly Secretary.

The Detroit Chapter of St. John's Armenian Church presented a successful bid for the 1987 ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

6

1987 ACYOA NATIONAL SPORTS WEEKEND

August 29-September 1, 1986

The Annual ACYOA National Sports Weekend was held in Philadelphia, PA. immediately following the General Assembly.

The Host Committee from Wynnewood, PA. organized a weekend which attracted hundreds of ACYOA members from throughout the nation, as well as many local supporters.

Dean Shahinian once again organized the excellent "Insights" program, which included speakers on several religious and Armenian related topics.

1987 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament **May 1-3, 1987**

This year's tournament was hosted by the Washington, D.C. chapter of St. Mary's Armenian Church. The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza served as the primary location for accommodations and banquet facilities. Many participants took advantage of the hotel's easy access to the superb Washington Metro system, which aided sightseeing and shopping excursions. The Washington Chapter organized themselves rapidly and efficiently and hosted a truly remarkable weekend. The basketball competition featured six men's teams from the following chapters: Tenafly, Union City, Washington, D.C., Watertown, Wisconsin, and Wynnewood. The Wynnewood team won first place. Athletic facilities were arranged with Montgomery County Community College. The Host Committee provided transportation to and from the facility. An Awards Banquet and Dance was held on Saturday night.

Armenian Studies Program

The Annual Armenian Studies Program: Educational Tour to Armenia was held from June 14-July 14, 1987. Twenty-three ACYOA and staff members participated this year. The itinerary included 21 days in Armenia, 3 days in Moscow, 3 days in Leningrad and 1 night in Vienna. The group visited over 100 sights, including 48 monasteries and churches. Participants had an audience with His Holiness Catholicos Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch of All Armenians. Staff members were: Rev. Fr. Krikor Maksoudian (Tour Director), Mrs. Martha Gureyan (Women's Counselor), and Anthony Barsamian (Tour Coordinator). The cost to participants for this year's program was \$1,800.00, all inclusive. A gift will be presented to the Catholicos this Fall from proceeds of this tour.

1986 Fortieth Anniversary Celebrations

Three celebrations commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the ACYOA were held this past year. Special efforts were made to recognize Alumni who have contributed to success of ACYOA in the past. Proceeds from these celebrations were used to produce a portrait of Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, the founding father of the ACYOA. This portrait was presented to Archbishop Tiran at the Anniversary Celebration in New York City. All three Celebrations consisted of a banquet and program, followed by an Anniversary Ball. The considerable efforts made by the three organizing committees produced outstanding results in terms of attendance, nostalgia, and enthusiasm generated. The Celebrations were held at the following locations:

Evanston, Illinois	October 18, 1986
Providence, Rhode Island	October 25, 1986
New York, New York	November 29, 1986

1987 Diocesan Assembly ACYOA Forum

An unprecedented number of ACYOA members attended this year's Diocesan Assembly in Springfield, Ma. In order to provide an opportunity for these members to participate in discussions regarding ACYOA, the Central Council postponed its scheduled meeting in favor of an organized forum in which ACYOA members, Clergy, and Alumni were able to voice their opinions and ideas concerning ACYOA today and its future. This year's Assembly was greatly concerned with the ACYOA and the future of Armenian youth in America as a whole. Delegates were readily available to ACYOA members to discuss many topics concerning our organization.

Topics of discussion at the ACYOA Forum included: The history of ACYOA, Alumni involvement, public attitudes toward ACYOA, Youth attitudes toward ACYOA, Fund Raising efforts, Publicity, The Role of the Parish Priest in the ACYOA, Publications, Renewal of the Diocesan Mission Program, ACYOA members and their Roles in Parish Life (parish dues paid membership, parish council, etc.), and Review on New and Established Programs.

Those attending the ACYOA Forum included several members of the Clergy, three Central Council members, the Acting Executive Secretary, several Alumni, and ten ACYOA members.

The Central Council will continue this program at the 1988 Diocesan Assembly in Cambridge.

Diocesan / ACYOA Mission Program

This program was introduced to the Central Council at its March 1987 meeting. Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian made an excellent presentation to the Council which included a brief history of past programs and an outline for future programs. The Central Council endorsed the proposal and pledged to assist with participants, organization and funds. An outline of this program appears in the section "Supplemental Information."

7. SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The ACYOA offered four awards and one scholarship in 1987. These were:

The ACYOA Chapter "A" Award and Honorable Mention Certificate

This award is given to the ACYOA Chapter that best fulfills the requirements and standards set forth by the ACYOA. Chapters are expected to meet deadlines, file proper reports and other administrative procedures. The chapter receiving the award has met the needs of the youth within their respective parish, as well as the parish and community as a whole.

The Sam Nersesian Award

This award is given annually to an ACYOA member who best exemplifies the character of a true Christian and servant of the church. Recipients are nominated by their ACYOA Chapter. Selection is made by the Central Council.

Certificates of Appreciation

These certificates are given to individuals who have served the National ACYOA with distinction. Recipients often include National Event Chairmen, Assembly Officers, etc. Certificates are awarded by the Central Council.

Sam Nersesian Scholarship

This Scholarship is given annually to applicants to attend the St. Nersess Summer Studies Programs. Applications are sent to all chapters and parishes. Recipients are selected by the Central Council.

1987 award recipients will be named at the ACYOA National Sports Weekend Awards Banquet in Detroit. 1986 recipients were:

ACYOA Chapter "A" Award	Worcester
Honorable Mention Certificate	Providence
Sam Nersesian Award	Beth Bilbilian (Worcester)
Sam Nersesian Scholarship	No applicants

8. ACYOA Central Council Sub-Committees

Finance Committee

The ACYOA Central Council appointed a committee of ACYOA members to serve on a newly created sub-committee. The committee was given the responsibility of creating and implementing a major fundraising program. The committee adopted a \$100.00 / ticket raffle. The drawing will be held during the National Sports Weekend in Detroit. The Finance Committee members will complete their service on October 1, 1987. Lisa Manookian served as Committee Chair man.

Meetings were held:

January 9, 1987	New York City
May 1, 1987	Washington, D.C.
June 14, 1987	New York City
July 25, 1987	Cleveland

As of August 1, 1987, the fund raiser has been a considerable financial success. It appears to be the largest fund raising activity in the ACYOA's forty year history.

Publications Committee

It is the intention of the Central Council to organize a committee to undertake various publications of the ACYOA. This idea is very much in its infancy, primarily due to the great distances that interested members must travel to work together. This year Laura Bilazarian (Worcester) volunteered her exceptional talent and time to creating a new ACYOA National Publication. Two issues were produced this year. A Fall issue with the name **Executive Update** and a Winter issue with the name **Armenian Youth Forum** were published. A summer issue is expected. Laura contributed to every aspect of producing this publication, including writing, editing, layout and printing coordination. It is fair to state that without her contributions, the ACYOA would not have had a publication this year. During the 1987-1988 fiscal year the publication has been assigned to the Diocese under the direction of the Executive Secretary. It is our hope that contributing writers from the ACYOA membership, Clergy and Alumni can participate in the production of a high quality, informative and exciting publication.

9. Executive Secretary

The Diocese, in conjunction with the ACYOA made a considerable effort to locate qualified applicants for the position of ACYOA Executive Secretary. Advertisements appeared in major Armenian newspapers, in addition to Diocesan and Parish publications. Several interviews were conducted and a candidate was chosen by the Diocese, Diocesan Council and ACYOA Central Council. Mr. Douglas Tashjian, of Queens, New York has been appointed to this post. Mr. Tashjian is a former resident of Oradell, New Jersey (Tenafly Parish). He is a graduate of Lehigh University, with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Business. His employment officially begins September 1, 1987. The Central Council wishes him the best of luck in this challenging position.

Mr. Anthony Barsamian, who has served the ACYOA as Acting Executive Secretary this past year, will attend Suffolk University Law School in Boston, MA. The Central Council extends its sincere appreciation for the many months of dedicated service in this position. Anthony leaves after a year of renewed enthusiasm in ACYOA, for which he contributed greatly. The Council wishes him success as law student.

10. NEW ACYOA CHAPTERS

South
Two new chapters were formed during the past year. Watervliet, New York and Florida requested membership in the ACYOA. The Central Council acted upon these petitions and have given their members all the rights and privileges of ACYOA membership. Our congratulations to both chapters.

11. ARMENIAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND (ACEF)

At the 1986 ACYOA General Assembly, the Assembly directed the Central Council to contribute \$15,000.00 of the ACYOA's assets into the ACEF. After requesting financial advice from several sources, the Council adopted a plan which allowed us to complete this transaction during June of 1987. This course of action allowed us to gain considerable profits from our holdings prior to depositing funds into the ACEF account. Interest generated by this account will be used for religious and educational purposes.

The ACYOA was also named as the beneficiary of \$11,000.00 contributed to the ACEF by Mr. Edward Mardigian of Detroit. The Central Council is grateful to Mr. Mardigian for his generosity and various contributions to our organization this year. Interest generated by this account will be placed in the general treasury.

12. DIOCESAN BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian and the Diocesan Council appointed a Blue Ribbon Committee to evaluate the entire youth program of the Diocese.

10 members

The committee includes Clergy, Diocesan Council members, past and present Central Council Chairmen, Executive Secretaries and Youth Leaders. The committee is chaired by Diocesan Council members, Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian and Dr. Edward Onanian.

Two meetings were held in New York City (May 16, 1987 and August 1, 1987) and a third is scheduled for October of 1987. The committee has reviewed the present youth programming of the Diocese, plans for the future and programs of other religious denominations. Currently, the committee is planning on a target date during the Spring of 1988, to make recommendations to the Diocesan Council.

13. YOUTH RECEPTION FOR HIS HOLINESS CATHOLICOS VASKEN I, SUPREME PATRIARCH OF ALL ARMENIANS

The ACYOA Central Council in conjunction with the Diocese are presently in the planning stages for a Youth Reception during the visitation of the Catholicos this fall in New York City. As of this writing, plans are still in their infancy stages and additional information will be available at the General Assembly.

14. GENERAL

The past year has been a unique challenge for ACYOA on a National level. During the past several years we have been challenged with proposals that would drastically alter the structure of ACYOA, change the name of the organization, eliminate the ACYOA altogether or at least come to the consensus that the ACYOA was a declining organization.

Through the observations of many of those who have been working at the National level this year, there has been a noted increase in the enthusiasm for ACYOA. New opportunities for many more ACYOA members to become active nationally have been created with programs such as the new Finance Committee and plans for a Mission Program. The Central Council and the Executive Secretary have received hundreds of phone calls and written correspondence from Clergy, Chapter Chairmen, Alumni and ACYOA members this past year. The majority of this correspondence was in terms

of positive aspects of ACYOA. Chapter Chairmen consistently asked questions regarding improvements to their chapter. A trend toward professionalism was noted this year. Many more chapters submitted timely monthly fact sheets, award nominations, etc. Smaller or formerly inactive chapters have markedly increased their participation in ACYOA.

Scores of new names have been added to the organization's mailing list. Currently, our list nears the three thousand mark. While only a fraction of this total are dues paid members, it is estimated that approximately 80% of these young Armenians attend at least one ACYOA event yearly. The potential to reach hundreds more increases yearly.

As a Central Council, we end this year brimming with optimism for our future. The coming years will be increasingly challenging and the ACYOA must have the resources to meet this needs. Financially the organization is sounder than it has been in many years. For quite some time the Central Council has had a treasury with a negative cash flow. This year that trend has been reversed and the following Council will inherit a treasury with a positive balance. This is a source of pride for those of us that have struggled to meet significant debts while providing for the increasing needs of the ACYOA.

The Central Council extends its gratitude to ~~us~~ to all of you that contributed in terms of volunteerism, supportive gestures and active membership. Of particular note we would like to express our special thanks to the following: Rev. Fr. Madiros Chevian and the St. Nersess Seminarians, Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Najarian, Miss Siran Palvetzian, Mr. Anthony Barsamian, Miss Laura Bilazarian, and the ACYOA Finance Committee and Miss Nancy Basmajian for their various contributions during the year.

Also, our sincere appreciation to Archbishop Torkom Manoogian for his guidance and leadership during the past year. As always the Primate is a source of inspiration continuously to the members of the Central Council.

The ACYOA can accomplish a great deal during 1988. With the sincere and enthusiastic participation of our membership and leadership we can lay the foundation for a bright future, not only for our generation, but for those to come. With this support the ACYOA will continue to strive toward becoming active members in both church and community in a manner that will lead to the to the betterment of the Armenian Community and the American Nation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Najarian".

SCOTT NAJARIAN
CHAIRMAN
ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

