

Uppurath

MINUTES OF THE 1992 CHAPTER CHAIRMAN'S MEETING
NEW YORK, NEW YORK - JULY 11, 1992

PARTICIPANTS

Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate
 Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Chancellor
 Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Director - Department of Youth Ministry
 Deacon Richard Bohajian, Department of Youth Ministry
 Charles Shooshan, Chairman - Central Council
 Steve Megrdechian, Advisor - Central Council
 Lynda Chagachbanian, Advisor - Central Council
 Deacon Gary Alexander, Recording Secretary - Central Council
 Rena Jebejian, Corresponding Secretary - Central Council
 Greg Khatchadourian, Chairman - Boca Raton, Fl
 Nevart Hamamjian, Chairman - Cambridge, Ma
 Murad Demirjian, Corresponding Secretary - Cleveland, Oh
 Peter Bedrossian, Chairman - Hartford, Ct
 Kim Reitmeyer, Chairman - Livingston, NJ
 Elizabeth Akian, Chairman - Tenefly, NJ
 Janet Delikahya, Chairman - Washington, DC
 Elise Vartabedian, Treasurer - Washington, DC
 Dawn Avakian, Chairman - Watervliet, NY
 Roxanne Keyishian, Chairman - Westchester, NY
 Jay Kapur, Chairman - Worcester, Ma
 Lisa Manookian - Wynnewood, Pa
 Carl Bardakian - Bayside, NY
 Rebecca Mulian - Worcester, Ma

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 OPENING REMARKS

Bishop Khajag Barsamian welcomed the chairmen regarding this as the second opportunity for meeting with the chair people of our A.C.Y.O.A. chapters. He discussed importance of bringing others into life in the church, speak about the issues that face us, concerns about life in our Church and relationships with families. It is important to discuss the ways and avenues to bring the "non-active" others together. Being a church, we are a family, and communication is the best way to achieve this goal

Charlie Shooshan asked for everyone to introduce themselves and tell where they are

from, and their position. Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian was officially introduced by the Primate as the new Chancellor of our Diocese, and also recognized was Reverend Father Mardiros Chevian, the Director of the Department of Youth Ministry.

Charlie Shooshan reported on his representation for the A.C.Y.O.A. at the World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth in Moscow, in May. There were representatives from fifty countries, and it took place on a cruise ship. He had the opportunity to meet with other youth. The focus was on the aim of the youth in the Orthodox churches. The Russian Patriarchate was the sponsor of the trip. Also in attendance was Reverend Father Mardiros Chevian. There are plans to have regional activities possibly in the future in North America.

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP

Charlie opened the discussion with stating that dues paid membership has decreased, and the national mailing list is incorrect and needed updating. He stressed that at the age of eighteen, one should be considered not only a member of the A.C.Y.O.A., but also a member of the parish. He reported on the Palm Sunday Collection, as directed by the Primate. This extended the opportunity to increase membership, and there will be a final report given at the General Assembly. From the amount of post cards that were sent out to the existing mailing list, there have been around eight hundred, plus or minus, returned. These updated addresses are slowly being updated into the computer. Charlie asked the group, if this was a good direction for the A.C.Y.O.A. to take, and should there be another collection this year.

Peter Bedrossian (Hartford) stated that the collection worked well for Hartford. He said that the cards, after being recorded should be given back to the chapter, so it could be used on a local level. Charlie said that a printout will be given back to the chapters per zip codes. There will eventually be three separate lists, depending on which box was checked off on the response card.

Lisa Manookian (Wynnewood) asked if names will be crossed off if the postcard was not sent back. Will there be a master list as well, so as not to lose anyone off the mailing list, who we might want to send information to.

Murad Demirjian (Cleveland) said that it would be easier for each chapter to compile the mailing lists instead of Central Council taking care of this issue.

Der Mardiros asked the group what were the thoughts of this concept, and is this the way to go. Should this membership dues concept continue or be dropped.

Lisa Manookian (Wynnewood) stated that it is a great idea, however, it must be followed through to the end. There might be difficulties from some parishes, they can

be monitored to participate in the membership collection.

Jay Kapur (Worcester) commented that we are trying to reach all people, and we should reach all individuals in the parishes. It should not stop on just one level. We need to help get information out on all that is going on. Don't limit the listings to just our members, there should be announcements in Church for all those who are interested, not only on a local, but on a Diocesan level.

Der Mardiros asked for a show of hands of all those who wish to see this membership response card continue and the Palm Sunday collection versus the past methods of collecting membership dues. All raised their hands in favor of the new membership dues policy.

Carl Bardakian (Bayside) stated by cutting down from the master mailing list, we will lose the already "lost sheep" people on the list.

Greg Khatchadourian (Boca Raton) suggested a cost cutting measure. The cards should just be given to the chapters in bulk instead of all being sent out individually, this way they can be monitored closely, be more accurate and correct.

FUND RAISING

Stephen Megrđichian (Central Council) spoke regarding the fund raising efforts by the Central Council. The Council has been concerned with the operational deficits , therefore, for the last three or four months, Central Council has started a committee to help make fund raising one of the top priorities for the future. So far, there have been two meetings of the committee, that is made up of four Council members with guidance from clergy. A letter was drafted to put fund raising into action by sending out to established individuals of the Armenian Community who would be willing to contribute to our cause. This is something that has been talked about for years, but nothing was being done. The specific focus and intention is to be able to work on the cultural, religious, and educational programs of the A.C.Y.O.A.. Some programs have had to be dropped because for lack of funds.

Lisa Manookian (Wynnewood) pointed out the Constitution states that deficits in the national budget should be apportioned to the number of delegates, but this is not enforced. She suggested that endowments be created for these programs.

Peter Bedrossian (Hartford) suggested it be take locally and have the chapters do some annual national fund raising ; possibly focus this money to a specific program.

Charlie (Central Council) emphasized the need for a specific plan of goals for use of money, to be obtained by the greatest donations and use them most efficiently.

Bishop Khajag asked the group, what is the role of the A.C.Y.O.A. in today's Diocese. From there, establish goals of programs and goals of raising money. This worked for the Jerusalem program. Donations were solicited specifically for this program and that is how it has come to function. He also suggested that we should look for young professionals who are involved with fund raising to aid us.

Lisa Manookian (Wynnewood) suggested also finding a greater number of donors to give perhaps smaller donations.

Greg Khatchadourian (Boca Raton) suggested to assign somebody the specific responsibility of fund raising for the A.C.Y.O.A. to organize things and go from parish to parish to promote it.

Janet Delikahya (Washington DC) stressed forming a specific proposal and marketing it professionally with the assistance of A.C.Y.O.A. members who have a background in this field.

Charlie (Central Council) said that the Greeks and Russians do fund raising and maybe we can get instruction or direction from them.

Der Garabed stated that this would be a good idea and one way the A.C.Y.O.A. can expand to be part of a larger group, and we should consider other ways of expanding the A.C.Y.O.A. this way instead of always looking inward at ourselves to achieve our goals.

Elizabeth Akian (Tenefly) suggested placing an ad in the Armenian newspapers identifying programs of the A.C.Y.O.A. and request donations to reach a wider market base.

Bishop Khajag explained that there is going to be general fund raising done on the Diocesan level to start soon and this includes funds for the youth. He suggested that the A.C.Y.O.A. meet with Mr. Olsen and Fr. Garabed regarding this. He again suggested taking specific programs and asking for sponsors for them.

Kim Reitmeyer (Livingston) suggested that informal meetings be held at parishes with Central Council members and A.C.Y.O.A. members to explain programs and to make a plea for donations.

Janet Delikahya (Washington, DC) emphasized that we must show what we have been doing as an organization so that the A.C.Y.O.A. seems to be a worthwhile cause to donate to.

ARCHBISHOP'S TOURNAMENT

Charlie (Central Council) explained the historical background of the Tournament, that it took the place of Sports Weekends in its absence for a few years. It was separated from the Diocesan Assembly because sometimes the location of the Assembly is not convenient for A.C.Y.O.A. members to attend. Sometimes the host parish does not have an A.C.Y.O.A. to host the Tournament. It is not good for youth to be at the Assembly for the purpose of basketball only, because this gives the impression to the older parishioners as to the desires and capabilities of the youth or young adults.

Comments among the participants were both for and against continuing the Archbishop's Tournament. An important factor that was stressed is that we should be more involved with the church activities, such as the Diocesan Assembly, rather than playing sports. One stated that it is another good interaction between the Clergy and the youth. One liked the Tournament away from the Diocesan Assembly because there really is not much interaction between the youth and the Assembly delegates. One doesn't feel equal towards the delegates. Fellowship can be a positive mechanism, as seen in this past year's Assembly, where the youth was an integral part of the Assembly. The situation should not be separated, participation by the A.C.Y.O.A. should continue at the Assembly.

The possibility of having the Chapter Chairman's meeting at the Diocesan Assembly was discussed. If the youth is present, delegates can see that the generation gap can be abandoned and the youth can be encouraged to become a voice at the Diocesan level, and an integral part of parish life. There was also discussion of having the Tournament in February because it's generally a "dead" month.

NATIONAL SPORTS WEEKEND

Charlie passed out a proposed Assembly agenda for this year's Sports Weekend, and explained in detail the contents. There was discussion about changing the weekend from Labor Day Weekend to Memorial Day Weekend. College age students have trouble attending Sports Weekends on Labor Day Weekend. We are finding that post college age members are attending more weekends.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS/PROPOSALS

Charlie passed out the proposals that were received by Central Council by the cut off date. There was discussion and comments made for each proposal. They will all be presented at this year's General Assembly.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Director of the Department of Youth Ministry spoke that the A.C.Y.O.A. itself is a very important part of the Youth Ministry. During the past nine months, the Department has established programs in conjunction with the A.C.Y.O.A. Long range programming, shortcomings, and the needs of the youth have been the topic of discussion with the Youth Advisory Committee. What the Youth Ministry needs now is the input from the Youth of our church. Fr. Mardiros then passed around the five major areas of church life that youth should be involved with. These issues were each discussed and addressed by the participants. (Copy is attached.)

Nevart Hamamjian (Cambridge) stated that we are not given the opportunities by our church to witness our faith, and that service to our church is lacking.

Greg Khatchadourian (Boca Raton) said that we attend to our fellowship more than to our community, this is lacking and we must give attention to these issues. After we graduate from Sunday School or Armenian School, there is no further education.

Kim Reitmeyer (Livingston) stated that there is a lack of faith discussion among the youth. Everyone looks to the Chairman for guidance and sometimes even a seminar would be helpful.

Charlie (Central Council) stated that the lack of peer ministry could be the reason why our membership is down. We need to make the effort to spend the time with those that are missing from the activities that the A.C.Y.O.A. offers.

Fr. Mardiros stated that the church can be healing. We know that if someone has a problem, sometimes we stay away instead of reaching out to that person.

Jay Kapur (Worcester) said that education is lacking, helping people get educated is important. Our parishioners are not marrying Armenians, this use to not be favorable. At this point in time, are we welcoming intermarriage, or are we shunning those who intermarry.

Elizabeth Akian (Tenefly) stated that we are in tune with our culture, however, we are losing our religious identity now that Armenia is an independent country.

Greg Khatchadourian (Boca Raton) stated that our experience, locally, was that there is an interest in our A.C.Y.O.A. to serve on the altar, and that our priest is willing to educate those who are interested.

Kim Reitmeyer (Livingston) said that the problem is also with the parents who drop off their kids to church, and who do not really participate with the workshops, and get intimidated by what's going on. There is a lack of the family worship experience. The choir cannot be seen by the worshippers. People seem to fill the back of the church, instead of worshiping close to the altar.

Janet Delikahya (Washington, DC) noted that every third Sunday is youth Sunday at St. Mary's in Washington. It can be done without hosting the coffee hour. There is a worship experience with families.

Lisa Manookian (Wynnewood) said that young people have a difficulty understanding the worship services. Youth try to gain from the sermon. People want to experience spirituality, the priest has a conflict of addressing all ages during the sermon.

Fr. Mardiros asked the group to discuss the problems with our worship.

Elizabeth Akian (Tenefly) stated that people do not want to listen to a two and a half hour service in a different dialect.

Peter Bedrossian (Hartford) noted that Youth Sunday in Hartford worked well in the beginning. They are now working on the younger youth to join.

Greg Khatchadourian (Boca Raton) said that we are not being encouraged enough by our clergy. We should be given a vote of confidence and support. The priest needs to show more personal interest.

Ways to improve worship and prayer include: training of deacons and priests, the sermon should be given in today's language with using today's topics, there should be Bible studies on a regular basis, or instructional lessons.

Fr. Garabed stressed that the focus of Divine Liturgy is communion. Bishop Khajag then noted that communion is very personal and important, if one is not ready, they can't take communion, it's a serious thing. Education is very important for feeling the presence of God.

The ways to educate our youth are the following: the issue of intermarriage, the practical points of theology, Armenian language courses, combine Bible studies with the discussion of social and moral issues of our time, Bible instruction, and teaching of the Orthodox faith.

What we need to do for the service of others are: the "walk for hunger" or equivalent service, the need for this service to become a regular part of our lives, and that the once in a while donation of giving is not enough.

ACYOA Chapter Chairmen's Meeting
Saturday, July 11, 1992
Diocesan Headquarters
New York City

Discussion Questions

1. There are five major areas of church life that youth (and for that matter all age groups) should be involved in to truly experience the fullness of the Church. They are:

- a. Worship and Prayer (Divine Liturgy, Sacraments, Personal and Group Prayer, Other Services, etc.)
- b. Fellowship (Social activities, Sports and Recreation, Dances, Trips, etc.)
- c. Education (Bible-study, Lectures, Retreats, Seminars, etc.)
- d. Service to Others (The Homeless, Shut-ins, Aged, Charitable and Social Causes, etc.)
- e. Witness to our Faith (Faith discussions, Ecumenical activities, Peer ministry, etc.)

In some of the above areas, our Church (Diocese) is quite active and has well-developed and successful programs, in other areas that is not the case. In which of the above-mentioned areas of church life is our Church weak or needs further development? Be specific with the types of projects or programs that the Church could develop in those areas.

- a. Worship and Prayer:
- b. Fellowship:
- c. Education:

d. Service to Others:

e. Witness to Our Faith:

2. Youth participation in certain areas of church life is lacking, for example, worship and education. Why is that so? What can the Church do to encourage greater participation?

3. What would you like to participate in but have not done so thus far? Why haven't you? What will it take to get you to participate?

4 Other ideas or comments?

MINUTES OF THE 1993 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA (ACYOA)
DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

September 1 to 7, 1993
Sheraton Boston Hotel and Towers

HOSTS:
Watertown ACYOA Seniors
St. James Armenian Church
Watertown, Massachusetts

First Session
Wednesday, September 1, 1993

I. Invocation:

The first session of the 1993 ACYOA General Assembly convened at 8:05 p.m. His Grace, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church and President of the ACYOA, led the delegates in an opening blessing and prayer service. Rev. Fr. Dajad Davidian of the St. James Armenian Church in Watertown and Dn. Gary Alexander (Central Council) assisted in the service.

Following the prayer service the 1992 Assembly Chairman, Sara Andonian (Detroit), called the Assembly to order.

II. Introduction of Assembly Secretary:

The Chair introduced Nancy Kassabian of St. James Armenian Church (Watertown) as the Assembly Secretary.

At this time a roll-call attendance was taken by the Secretary establishing that out of twenty-two (22) elected delegates preregistered with the Central Council, fifteen (15) were present, which constituted a quorum. In addition, there were seven (7) Central Council members and four (4) Ex-Officio Delegates (which included three (3) Chapter Chairmen and one (1) Chapter President) in attendance.

III. Election of Assembly Chairman

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for Assembly Chairman.

John Megerdichian (Providence) nominated Scott Najarian (Worcester). It was seconded. Scott accepted.

Laura Nighosian (Detroit) nominated Sara Andonian (Detroit). It was seconded. Sara postponed acceptance pending further nominations.

At this point there were no other nominations from the floor. Sara Andonian accepted the nomination for Assembly Chairman. John Megerdichian (Providence) moved to close nominations. The motion was seconded, voted upon and carried.

A roll-call secret ballot vote was taken.

John Diradourian of the Nominating Committee announced that Scott Najarian (Providence) was elected Chairman of the Assembly with Sara Andonian (Detroit) serving as Vice-Chairman.
Vote Count: Scott Najarian (15 votes); Sara Andonian (10) votes.

IV. Appointment of Parliamentarian and Sergeant at Arms:

The Chair stated that he would postpone nominations of these individuals to the start of the Second Session.

V. Appointment of Resolutions and Courtesies Committee:

The Chair stated that he would appoint individuals to this committee at the start of the Second Session. In addition, the Chair requested that interested individuals approach him about serving on this committee.

VI. Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made by Rev. Fr. Dajad Davidian (Watertown) to accept the agenda as presented. It was seconded by Lucine Baronian (Central Council).

Charles Shushan (Central Council) moved to amend the agenda as follows:

- **Change Item XIV (Auditing Committee Report) to Item XXIX B.
- **Change Item XXII (Remarks, Armenian Youth Representative) to Item XXIX A.

The motion to amend the agenda was seconded by Lucine Baronian (Central Council). It was voted upon and carried.

Rev. Fr. Dajad Davidian commented that the word "short" be deleted from Item XVIII.

A vote was taken on the motion to accepted the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

VI. Welcoming Remarks, ACYOA Central Council Chairman

Charles Shooshan, ACYOA Central Council Chairman, welcomed Assembly participants on behalf of the Central Council. He stressed that the 1993 Assembly would be the pivotal point of the future of the

ACYOA and the need for a strong organization to bring the ACYOA into the next century.

VII. Welcoming Remarks, Host Chapter Committee Chairman

Rita Masrof (Watertown), Chairman of the pre-weekend activities, thanked all those in attendance on behalf of the Watertown ACYOA, hosts of the Assembly. All delegates were invited to a reception following the conclusion of the first session.

Lucine Baronian (Central Council) introduced the Assembly attendees from Erevan, Armenia: Lusine Der Hovanissian and Lillit Haroutunian.

Charles Shushan requested that chapters interested in hosting diocesan events contact Central Council as soon as possible. He also requested that any proposal and/or constitutional amendment to be considered by the Assembly be submitted to him as soon as possible. Any proposal/amendment submitted after the start of the Assembly would require a 3/4 vote of approval for consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m. at which time the Primate led the delegates in a closing prayer.

Second Session
Thursday, September 2, 1993

IX. Morning Worship Service

The Second Session of the 1993 ACYOA Assembly convened at 9:20 a.m. The Primate led the Assembly in a Morning Worship Service with Deacon Gary Alexander assisting.

Appointment of Parliamentarian and Sergeant-at-Arms:

Assembly Chairman Scott Najarian appointed Sara Andonian (Detroit) as Parliamentarian and Lucine Baronian (Central Council) as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Attendance:

A roll-call attendance was taken by the Assembly Secretary, Nancy Kassabian, establishing that out of twenty-seven (27) elected delegates preregistered with Central Council, seventeen (17) were present thus constituting a quorum. In addition, there were seven (7) Central Council members, eleven (11) Chapter Chairmen and one (1) Chapter President in attendance.

X. Acceptance of the 1992 General Assembly Minutes

Assembly Chairman, Scott Najarian asked if there were any corrections or omissions of the previous year's minutes.

Lucine Baronian (Central Council) made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Meline Kasparian seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

XI. ACYOA Project Growth Presentation

Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian introduced the Project Growth presentation. In his opening remarks he asked the Assembly to reflect on the purposes, goals and mission of the ACYOA and its future.

Rev. Fr. Chevian stated that although the ACYOA organization has made strides in its programs, citing the Armenian Studies Program, the Annual Assembly and Sports Weekends, Youth Forums and the involvement of ACYOA members in all phases of Parish Church activities, the strength at the local parish level has diminished over the years.

Comparing the ACYOA organization as a whole to "an army" Rev. Fr. Chevian cited the need for the "battalions", i.e: the local forces at the parish levels. Encouraging the members to live out the vision of Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan for the ACYOA, he urged the Assembly attendees to think of strengthening the ACYOA through the local parishes and their own individual chapters.

Laura Ganonian, Youth Coordinator from the Department of Youth Ministry, presented the background of Project Growth, which is a step by step plan for strengthening the parish-based organizations. She stated that its mission was to empower Central Council, Chapter Chairmen, Parish Priests and the local Parish Councils to work together to revitalize their ACYOA chapters.

Each Central Council member would be assigned a region with which to visit and work to better communicate the needs to the Diocese.

Laura emphasized that the responsibilities for the success of this Project Growth depend on the cooperation of all.

As the printed report of Project Growth was not available at this time, it was suggested that questions concerning its content be postponed until members had a chance to review the report.

XII. ACYOA Central Council 1992-1993 Report

Charles Shooshan, Central Council Chairman, gave an overview of the Central Council report which was available in written form to Assembly participants.

Charles stated that the report on Central Council Visitations and Program Participation, pages eight (8) and nine (9), were incomplete as not all visitations were recorded.

He stressed that the election of Central Council members was an extremely important task of this Assembly as they are empowered with the duties of looking at the organization as a whole, the growth of ACYOA and all day to day activities, such as finances.

Charles acknowledged the help of Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Laura Ganonian of the Youth Ministry Department and His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, for their support of all ACYOA activities.

Referring to the Chapter Assistance Program, Charles advised that the "Chapter A" Mission Program become a permanent tool with which parishes could strengthen their own chapters.

Inter-Diocesan meetings established good relationships and communication with Canada and the Western Diocese. Charles encouraged the members to participate in their activities as it is very rewarding.

Charles noted that the Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Tournament did not generate a lot of money or teams but did generate good spirit among those who attended. He especially thanked the Wynnewood Chapter and Lisa Manookian who made great efforts to make the tournament a success.

Charles highlighted the positive, rewarding impact of the Armenian Studies Program on its participants and encouraged the members to think about this opportunity.

He stated that the extremely successful Anniversary Ball Weekend was an example of a new activity that would encourage new members to join ACYOA.

The ACYOA publication, Hye Hokin, was not published this year. Charles stated that the reason was the lack of volunteers. There was financial support but a lack of manpower.

At this point, Lisa Manookian (Wynnewood) stated that material had been sent for a memorial issue dedicated to the late Greg Arpajian two years ago and nothing had been done with the articles. She also commented that all excuses were invalid for the lack of publication of that issue.

Charles acknowledged the failure of Central Council to publish that issue but stated that there were other problems in addition to type-setting.

Russell Kashian (Cleveland) questioned the award of the Gregory Arpajian Scholarship to one candidate as it states that two awards would be given annually. Charles responded that the interest at that point only warranted one scholarship for 1993 and that subsequent years the two scholarships would be given.

Questions arose as to the validity of awarding one scholarship to one candidate without issuing applications to all candidates. Charles responded that via the St. Vartan application need can be determined and all those in need received financial assistance. Charles recommended that in the future the applications should go to all Parish Priests and Chapter Chairmen via a general national mailing or publication.

Laura Nighosian (Detroit) questioned the small number of visitations Central Council to the parishes. Charles explained that the geographic distribution of members hindered more visits.

Kimberly Bardakian (Bayside) commented that Central Council should make visitations a priority and major responsibility.

Marcia Sedhom (Watertown) commented that the proposal submitted by the Watertown Chapter and passed at the 1992 Assembly mandated the Central Council to issue quarterly reports on their activities. Rena Jebejian (Central Council) responded that after the first issuance of the quarterly report for 1992-1993, she did not receive enough information from Central Council members for subsequent reports.

Marcia Sedhom (Watertown) also questioned the issuance of the minutes of the 1992 Assembly only weeks before the 1993 Assembly. By-laws state that the minutes be submitted within ninety days of

the Assembly. Lisa Manookian (1992 Assembly Secretary) took responsibility for the late submission of the minutes.

Meline Kasparian (Westchester) stated that the Central Council visitations and reports should be a priority and that all nominees for Central Council should be aware of the importance of these issues.

Assembly Chairman, Scott Najarian, asked for the Treasurer's Report and stated that the report should be in the delegates' hands before discussion could take place. It was decided that the report would be handed out at the conclusion of the Second Session and be discussed in the Third Session.

A motion was made to accept the Central Council Report by Russell Kashian (Cleveland). It was seconded by Papken Maksoudian (Watertown). It was voted upon and carried.

The Primate noted that it should be noted that this report as accepted excluded the Treasurer's Report to be included at a later date.

Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian introduced the guests from Armenia to the Second Session; Lillit Haroutunian and Lusine Der Hovannisian.

XIII. ACYOA National Fund Raising Committee Report

The report was issued to the delegates.

Marcia Sedhom, a member of the Committee, wanted it noted that she was notified of the meeting by telephone and not by letter. The call was placed only a few days before the meeting date which did not give her enough time to make preparations to attend.

A motion was made by Aram Topjian (Richmond) to accept the report. It was seconded by Nevart Hamamjian (Cambridge), voted upon and carried.

XIV: Auditing Committee Report

This was postponed to a later session.

XV. ACYOA Armenian Studies Program Short Presentation

Lucine Baronian, a Summer Studies participant, gave a slide presentation of her recent trip to Armenia. She emphasized that we should all be responsible for what we sponsor in Armenia. Lucine emphasized the outstanding camaraderie and impact on her personally from this program.

XVI. Primate's Address

The Primate addressed the delegates and emphasized that the ACYOA leaders of today need to understand their roles as disciples and apostles of their commitment to God and our Church.

He explained that Jesus relied on the youth for the execution of his mission; our mission today is essentially the same. We need to work at home in our own churches bringing the Gospel to those who live among us. Growth in the number of the faithful will occur with ourselves and within our communities.

The Primate stressed the need for the youth to become a force in the center of parish life. By strengthening at that level, not only the ACYOA organization will be strengthened but also the Church as a whole.

He has been impressed with the depth of concern and involvement of the youth at the Youth Forums.

The Primate urged that Project Growth be a vital part of the mission of ACYOA. Through this growth the ACYOA members will share the power and joy of life dedicated to God with all.

Recess:

Assembly Chairman Scott Najarian recessed the Assembly for lunch at 12:35 p.m.

Third Session
Thursday, September 2, 1993

The Third Session convened at 2:05 p.m.

XVI. ACYOA Chapter Reports and Remarks

Assembly Chairman Scott Najarian asked the individual chapters to present a summary of their various activities during the past year.

Boca Raton Presented by Tom Topalian, Elected Delegate

- * 19 dues paying members - 30 active members
- * on going activities of members include alter service, Bible readings, participation in choir, Sunday School and Armenian School Teachers, Parish Council Members, Sunday luncheons
- * Palm Sunday Dinner
- * Language Lab Crash Course with Miami Chapter
- * Bake Sales and Luncheons
- * ACYOA Sports Weekend- participated with volleyball team
- * Attendance at the 25th Anniversary Ball
- * Meetings with the Primate
- * Social and sports activities including picnics and tournaments (volleyball), beach parties
- * Working on a Talent Show Fundraiser

Providence Presented by John Megrdochian, Chapter Chairman

- * 19 dues paid members
- * Annual "Dance with Onnik" at Christmas
- * Food Drive
- * Participation in Christmas Eve Service
- * Palm Sunday Dinner
- * Flowers to mothers on Mother's Day
- * Archbishop's Tournament in Wynnewood
- * Weekly Basketball practices
- * Need to encourage college-aged students to join

Worcester Presented by Jay Kapur, Chapter Chairman

- * 22 dues paid members, 6 active
- * Family night at the Celtics game
- * Three on three Basketball Tournament
- * Palm Sunday Banquet - John Baronian of Tufts as speaker
- * Participants in Archbishop's Tournament
- * Anniversary Ball
- * Operation Winter Rescue
- * Sees growth of ACYOA from active 15-16 year old youth group

Detroit Presented by Nicole Matoian, Chapter Chairman

- * Annual November Dance
- * Social Events - Laser Tag, Comedy Club

- * Archbishop Tournament
- * Canoe trip
- * Amusement Park
- * Road Rally
- * Palm Sunday
- * Aid Parish Council with duties in Church
- * Working with University of Michigan's Armenian Students Cultural Association
- * Earthquake Walkathon participation

Hartford Presented by Lisa Tashjian, Chapter Chairman

- * 22 dues paid members, 10-15 active
- * 4 out of 7 Parish Council members are ACYOA members
- * 6 members sing in Choir
- * Spaghetti dinners
- * Cleaned Church rugs
- * Advisors to Juniors
- * Worked on Project Etchmiadzin/Antelias with sister churches in Hartford and New Britain
- * Palm Sunday Dinner
- * Reading and participation at Christmas Services
- * Spring Dance - family style event whose profit went to Armenian Relief

Westchester Presented by Meline Kasparian, Elected Delegate

- * 6 dues paid members
- * Various social events throughout the year
- * Participation in Christmas Eve Services
- * Decorations for Christmas
- * Little interest except for social events
- * Need to coordinate more with Juniors
- * Plans Kickoff Meeting to brainstorm ideas

Cleveland Presented by Russell Kashian, Chapter Chairman

- * Successful year
- * Working with Deacon Norman Odabashian in Mini-Retreats
Topics include "Traditions of Marriage"
" Christian Outreach in our Church to the Community"
"Spiritual Preparedness for Lent"
- * Mailing list includes 60
- * 20 dues paid members, 30 active
- * Active support of Church activities, dues paid members

Bayside Presented by Kimberly Bardakian, Elected Delegate

- * Annual Picnic
- * Super Bowl party
- * Lenten dinners
- * Palm Sunday, ACYOA Dinner
- * Open Discussion with the Primate

- * Operation Winter Rescue
- * Visits to Armenian Old Aged Home
- * Advisors to Juniors, serve as chaperons
- * Archbishop's Tournament
- * Dance
- * Amusement Park
- * Knicks Basketball Game
- * Anniversary Ball

Watertown Presented by Papken Maksoudian, Elected Delegate

- * Planning and Coordinating as hosts of 1993 Sports Weekend
- * Palm Sunday Banquet
- * Aided Juniors in Hye Mrtsoom Sports Weekend
- * Carolling with Juniors at Christmas
- * Softball games with cookouts
- * Halloween party for parish children
- * Christmas night dance
- * Three on three Basketball Tournament
- * Archbishop's Tournament
- * Two Volleyball Tournaments
- * Dinner with the Primate
- * Help with Church Bazaar, Picnic
- * Operation Winter Rescue
- * Open gym during week
- * Altar Servers, Sunday School Teachers
- * Indicate good support from Parish Council and other Church organizations

Wynnewood Presented by Gregory Devletian, Elected Delegate

- * 20 dues paid members
- * Benefit Dance for Orphans
- * ACYOA Day Banquet
- * Basketball Tournaments
- * Clean up of Church grounds
- * Ushers for Church
- * Golf and Basketball outings
- * Participants in the Armenian Basketball League of Greater Philadelphia
- * Helped Juniors with ACYOA Weekend

Watervliet Presented by Charles Tutunjian, Chapter Chairman

- * Fundraiser - candy
- * 10 members carved turkeys at a shelter
- * Provided meals at an aids shelter
- * Two year commitment to the Children of Armenian Sponsorship Program
- * Christmas carolling and party
- * Poon Paregentan Festival
- * Lenten Retreat with Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian and Dn. Gary Alexander - "Image and Likeness of God"
- * March against the blockade of Armenia in New York City

- * Palm Sunday Banquet with Dn. Gary Alexander as speaker
- * Participants in downtown Troy Festival
- * Church picnic- ran games
- * Day at Saratoga
- * Coffee hours
- * 2 member of Parish Council, 4 members serve on altar
- * Appreciation to Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian for effort and support

Richmond Presented by Donna Walker, Chapter Chairman

- * 9 dues paid members, 5 active
- * Serve Church on Parish Council
- * Sunday School Teachers
- * Armenian School Teachers
- * Bake Sales
- * Picnics
- * Operation Winter Rescue
- * Visit from Rena Jebejian for aid in better organization and support
- * Plans for a retreat in October
- * There are not enough members for separate Junior and Senior Groups

Tenafly Presented by Levon Altiparmakian, Elected Delegate

- * Donated \$1,000 to Medical Outreach to Children of Armenia
- * Donated \$750 to Church
- * Underwrote cost of 4 medical kits for Armenia
- * Serve at Palm Sunday Dinner with Juniors
- * Movie Night - Armenian and Cultural Films

XVIII 1993 ACYOA Anniversary Ball and Report

Kimberly Bardakian (Bayside) reported on the 25th Anniversary Ball, "Miracle on 34th Street", which was held from July 30 to August 1st.

The event was extremely successful and included an art show featuring Armenian sculptors and painters.

The Friday night event was held in the Cathedral plaza and was attended by approximately 200 people. More plaza events will be held next summer.

Saturday morning included a Chapter Chairmen's Meeting; the Anniversary Ball on Saturday evening was attended by 350 people.

Many youths participated in the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning.

XIX Remarks, Diocesan Council Liaison

Diocesan Council member, Dean Shahinian from Washington, D.C., brought greetings to the Assembly from the Diocesan Council.

In his address to the delegates Dean talked of their investment of time and money to the weekend. In addition he solicited responses from the delegates as to what they perceived to gain from this conference and what issues were the most important.

He explained that all reasons and issues offered by the delegates were important to consider yet the love of each other and the love of Christ should prevail over all worldly matters.

Dean advised the participants to meet with each other to discuss their concerns and to follow through the suggestions and ideas that may evolve.

Russell Kashian (Cleveland) questioned the Diocesan Council's decision to allot only \$1500 for the youth camps. Dean responded that indeed it was not enough and at this point the camps have requested larger allotments from Diocesan Council for next year.

XX. Elections-- Report of Nominating Committee

Nevart Hamamjian (Cambridge), Lisa Manookian (Wynnewood) and Meline Kasparian (Westchester), members of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates for Central Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee.

A. Central Council

Lisa presented the following candidates for the ACYOA Central Council, three of whom to be elected. As each candidate was introduced, Nevart read biographical sketches and position statements of those nominated. The candidates were as follows:

Kevork Hagopian	(Waukegan)
Russell Kashian	(Cleveland)
Meline Kasparian	(Westchester)
John Megrdochian	(Providence)
Greg Saraydarian	(Bayside)
Aram Topjian	(Richmond)

Lisa then opened up the floor for additional nominations for the Central Council.

Russell Kashian (Cleveland) nominated Marcia Sedhom (Watertown). Marcia declined.

John Megrdochian (Providence) moved to close nominations for the ACYOA Central Council. John Diradourian seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. Nominating Committee

Lisa Manookian (Wynnewood) presented the following candidates for the Nominating Committee. It was noted that three (3) candidates would be elected to serve on that committee. As the candidates were presented Meline Kasparian (Westchester) gave biographical data about the individuals. The candidates were as follows:

Alain Artinian	(Bayside)
Shooshan Saraydarian	(Bayside)
Tom Topalian	(Boca Raton)

Lisa then opened the floor for additional nominations for the Nominating Committee.

Rena Jebejian (Central Council) nominated Scott Najarian (Providence). Scott declined.

Kimberly Bardakian (Bayside) nominated Sara Andonian (Detroit). Sara declined.

Rina Jebejian (Central Council) nominated Claudia Lusararian (Boca Raton). It was seconded. Claudia accepted the nomination.

Dn. Gary Alexander (Central Council) nominated Levon Altiparmakian (Tenafly). He declined.

David Abdalian (Watervliet) nominated Dn. Norman Odabashian (Cleveland)., He declined.

John Megrdochian made a motion to close the nominations for Nominating Committee. It was seconded by John Diradourian, voted upon and carried.

B. Auditing Committee

Lisa Manookian presented the candidate for Auditing Committee.

Jay Kapur	(Worcester)
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Nominations from the floor were accepted at this time.

Russell Kashian (Cleveland) nominated Charles Shooshan (Central Council) . Charles declined.

Dn. Gary Alexander (Central Council) nominated Nevart Hamamjian (Cambridge). She declined.

Arpie Bouroujian (Central Council) nominated Lisa Manookian (Wynnewood). Lisa declined.

David Abdalian (Watervliet) nominated Dn. Gary Alexander (Central Council). Gary declined.

Dn. Gary Alexander (Central Council) nominated Sara Andonian (Detroit). Sara declined.

Meline Kasparian (Westchester) nominated Levon Altiparmakian (Tenafly). Levon declined.

Jay Kapur (Worcester) nominated John Megrdochian. It was seconded by Rene Jebejian (Central Council). He accepted the nomination.

Charles Shooshan (Central Council) nominated Laurie Onanian (Cambridge). She declined.

Charles Shooshan (Central Council) nominated Charles Tutunjian (Watervliet). He declined.

Nevart Hamamjian (Cambridge) nominated Laura Negosian (Detroit). She declined.

John Megrdochian nominated Papken Maksoudian (Watertown). He declined.

At his point Marcia Sedhom asked of the feasibility of hiring or asking the Diocesan Auditor to do the work. It was stated that the Diocesan Auditor goes over the books anyway.

John Megrdochian (Providence) nominated Sara Andonian (Detroit). It was seconded by Lucine Baronian (Central Council). She accepted.

John Diradourian made a motion to close nominations for Auditing Committee. It was seconded by John Megrdochian, voted upon and carried.

At this point a ballot roll call vote was taken for Central Council and Nominating Committees.

XXI. Remarks , ACYO-WD Representative

Armen Devejian of the Western Diocese introduced the other representatives, Tina Margosian, Stephanie Surabian and Matthew Jendian. He brought greetings to the Assembly from His Eminence, Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian.

In his message to the delegates Armen stressed that all members should strive to achieve pride in giving of themselves in service to God, our country and our communities. He asked the members to remind themselves from time to time of their obligations to Armenian and their responsibilities to help them in their struggles.

Armen urged all to play an active role in enriching the legacy we will leave behind -- a free Armenia and successful Diaspora.

Chairman Scott Najarian noted that items XXII, XXIII, and XXIV will be postponed to the next session (Session IV)

At this time the Treasurer's report of the Central Council was presented by Jay Kapur. (See written report)

He entertained questions from the delegates on the budgets and balance sheets.

Sara Andonian (Detroit) questioned the receipt of money from the Anniversary Ball in Boca Raton. Charles Shooshan (Central Council) responded that the issue of outstanding funds is still as yet unresolved and Central Council has requested Diocesan intervention for this matter.

Sara Andonian (Detroit) requested an explanation of "Interdiocesan Meetings". Jay responded that these included visitations to Canada and other Dioceses.

Russell Kashian (Cleveland) asked if the Boca Raton debt could be "written off". Charles Shooshan (Central Council) stated that is was still considered "accounts receivable".

Marcia Sedhom (Watertown) wanted clarification of the 1992 Income Statement expenses for Central Council Meetings. Jay noted that these expenses included travel and lodging. She also asked for further clarification of Central Council Administrative Expenses. Jay explained that these expenses included mailing and telephone costs.

Meline Kasparian asked if the weekend package plans for the Central Council Members were paid for through the Central Council Budget. Jay responded affirmatively.

Papken Maksoudian (Watertown) questioned the amount of money spent on travel by Central Council.

At this point, Assembly Chairman Scott Najarian advised the Assembly that if the delegates wish to discontinue a practice or budget item for 1993-1994 it could be done in the budget process at the next session.

There was concern as to the "overexpenditures" of Central Council Budget items. Donna Walker (Richmond) asked whether these expenses could be better controlled. Lucine Baronian (Central Council) responded that it was not in Central Council's plan to deliberately overspend and agreed that the issue of spending too much money on visitations should be addressed.

Marcia Sedhom (Watertown) referred to the proposal passed at the 1992 Assembly in which the Central Council was mandated to send quarterly expense reports to the Chapters and commented that Central Council has an obligation and responsibility to this end.

Charles Shooshan (Central Council) indicated that Central Council has tried to address the issue of high expenses in various ways such as moving the meeting away from New York City.

The Primate stated that he has noted the concern of the members of the Assembly of the Central Council expenses and cautions Central Council to be more careful in the coming year.

Sara Andonian (Detroit) made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Russell Kashian (Cleveland) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Further elections of Nominating Committee

Lisa Manookian of the Nominating Committee announced that a run-off election for Central Council was necessary. The candidate with the least amount of votes was dropped and the delegates were asked to vote for one (1), only, of the following three candidates.

Russell Kashian	(Cleveland)
John Megrdochian	(Providence)
Greg Saraydarian	(Bayside)

A roll call ballot was taken at this point.

Chairman Scott Najarian asked that all proposals and/or constitutional amendments be submitted in writing before the next sessions.

The Third Session was recessed at 4:55 p.m.

Second Session
Thursday, September 2, 1993

IX. Morning Worship Service

The Second Session of the 1993 ACYOA Assembly convened at 9:20 a.m. The Primate led the Assembly in a Morning Worship Service with Deacon Gary Alexander assisting.

Appointment of Parliamentarian and Sergeant-at-Arms:

Assembly Chairman Scott Najarian appointed Sara Andonian (Detroit) as Parliamentarian and Lucine Baronian (Central Council) as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Attendance:

A roll-call attendance was taken by the Assembly Secretary, Nancy Kassabian, establishing that out of twenty-seven (27) elected delegates preregistered with Central Council, seventeen (17) were present thus constituting a quorum. In addition, there were seven (7) Central Council members, eleven (11) Chapter Chairmen and one (1) Chapter President in attendance.

X. Acceptance of the 1992 General Assembly Minutes

Assembly Chairman, Scott Najarian asked if there were any corrections or omissions of the previous year's minutes.

Lucine Baronian (Central Council) made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Meline Kasparian seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

XI. ACYOA Project Growth Presentation

Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian introduced the Project Growth presentation. In his opening remarks he asked the Assembly to reflect on the purposes, goals and mission of the ACYOA and its future.

Rev. Fr. Chevian stated that although the ACYOA organization has made strides in its programs, citing the Armenian Studies Program, the Annual Assembly and Sports Weekends, Youth Forums and the involvement of ACYOA members in all phases of Parish Church activities, the strength at the local parish level has diminished over the years.

Comparing the ACYOA organization as a whole to "an army" Rev. Fr. Chevian cited the need for the "battalions", i.e. the local forces at the parish levels. Encouraging the members to live out the vision of Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan for the ACYOA, he urged the Assembly attendees to think of strengthening the ACYOA through the local parishes and their own individual chapters.

Laura Ganonian, Youth Coordinator from the Department of Youth Ministry, presented the background of Project Growth, which is a step by step plan for strengthening the parish-based organizations. She stated that its mission was to empower Central Council, Chapter Chairmen, Parish Priests and the local Parish Councils to work together to revitalize their ACYOA chapters.

Each Central Council member would be assigned a region with which to visit and work to better communicate the needs to the Diocese.

Laura emphasized that the responsibilities for the success of this Project Growth depend on the cooperation of all.

As the printed report of Project Growth was not available at this time, it was suggested that questions concerning its content be postponed until members had a chance to review the report.

XII. ACYOA Central Council 1992-1993 Report

Charles Shooshan, Central Council Chairman, gave an overview of the Central Council report which was available in written form to Assembly participants.

Charles stated that the report on Central Council Visitations and Program Participation, pages eight (8) and nine (9), were incomplete as not all visitations were recorded.

He stressed that the election of Central Council members was an extremely important task of this Assembly as they are empowered with the duties of looking at the organization as a whole, the growth of ACYOA and all day to day activities, such as finances.

Charles acknowledged the help of Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Laura Ganonian of the Youth Ministry Department and His Eminence, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, for their support of all ACYOA activities.

Referring to the Chapter Assistance Program, Charles advised that the "Chapter A" Mission Program become a permanent tool with which parishes could strengthen their own chapters.

Inter-Diocesan meetings established good relationships and communication with Canada and the Western Diocese. Charles encouraged the members to participate in their activities as it is very rewarding.

Charles noted that the Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Tournament did not generate a lot of money or teams but did generate good spirit among those who attended. He especially thanked the Wynnewood Chapter and Lisa Manookian who made great efforts to make the tournament a success.

Charles highlighted the positive, rewarding impact of the Armenian Studies Program on its participants and encouraged the members to think about this opportunity.

He stated that the extremely successful Anniversary Ball Weekend was an example of a new activity that would encourage new members to join ACYOA.

The ACYOA publication, Hye Hokin, was not published this year. Charles stated that the reason was the lack of volunteers. There was financial support but a lack of manpower.

At this point, Lisa Manookian (Wynnewood) stated that material had been sent for a memorial issue dedicated to the late Greg Arpajian two years ago and nothing had been done with the articles. She also commented that all excuses were invalid for the lack of publication of that issue.

Charles acknowledged the failure of Central Council to publish that issue but stated that there were other problems in addition to type-setting.

Russell Kashian (Cleveland) questioned the award of the Gregory Arpajian Scholarship to one candidate as it states that two awards would be given annually. Charles responded that the interest at that point only warranted one scholarship for 1993 and that subsequent years the two scholarships would be given.

Questions arose as to the validity of awarding one scholarship to one candidate without issuing applications to all candidates. Charles responded that via the St. Vartan application need can be determined and all those in need received financial assistance. Charles recommended that in the future the applications should go to all Parish Priests and Chapter Chairmen via a general national mailing or publication.

Laura Nighosian (Detroit) questioned the small number of visitations Central Council to the parishes. Charles explained that the geographic distribution of members hindered more visits.

Kimberly Bardakian (Bayside) commented that Central Council should make visitations a priority and major responsibility.

Marcia Sedhom (Watertown) commented that the proposal submitted by the Watertown Chapter and passed at the 1992 Assembly mandated the Central Council to issue quarterly reports on their activities. Rena Jebejian (Central Council) responded that after the first issuance of the quarterly report for 1992-1993, she did not receive enough information from Central Council members for subsequent reports.

Marcia Sedhom (Watertown) also questioned the issuance of the minutes of the 1992 Assembly only weeks before the 1993 Assembly. By-laws state that the minutes be submitted within ninety days of

the Assembly. Lisa Manookian (1992 Assembly Secretary) took responsibility for the late submission of the minutes.

Meline Kasparian (Westchester) stated that the Central Council visitations and reports should be a priority and that all nominees for Central Council should be aware of the importance of these issues.

Assembly Chairman, Scott Najarian, asked for the Treasurer's Report and stated that the report should be in the delegates' hands before discussion could take place. It was decided that the report would be handed out at the conclusion of the Second Session and be discussed in the Third Session.

A motion was made to accept the Central Council Report by Russell Kashian (Cleveland). It was seconded by Papken Maksoudian (Watertown). It was voted upon and carried.

The Primate noted that it should be noted that this report as accepted excluded the Treasurer's Report to be included at a later date.

Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian introduced the guests from Armenia to the Second Session; Lillit Haroutunian and Lusine Der Hovannisian.

XIII. ACYOA National Fund Raising Committee Report

The report was issued to the delegates.

Marcia Sedhom, a member of the Committee, wanted it noted that she was notified of the meeting by telephone and not by letter. The call was placed only a few days before the meeting date which did not give her enough time to make preparations to attend.

A motion was made by Aram Topjian (Richmond) to accept the report. It was seconded by Nevart Hamamjian (Cambridge), voted upon and carried.

XIV: Auditing Committee Report

This was postponed to a later session.

XV. ACYOA Armenian Studies Program Short Presentation

Lucine Baronian, a Summer Studies participant, gave a slide presentation of her recent trip to Armenia. She emphasized that we should all be responsible for what we sponsor in Armenia. Lucine emphasized the outstanding camaraderie and impact on her personally from this program.

XVI. Primate's Address

The Primate addressed the delegates and emphasized that the ACYOA leaders of today need to understand their roles as disciples and apostles of their commitment to God and our Church.

He explained that Jesus relied on the youth for the execution of his mission; our mission today is essentially the same. We need to work at home in our own churches bringing the Gospel to those who live among us. Growth in the number of the faithful will occur with ourselves and within our communities.

The Primate stressed the need for the youth to become a force in the center of parish life. By strengthening at that level, not only the ACYOA organization will be strengthened but also the Church as a whole.

He has been impressed with the depth of concern and involvement of the youth at the Youth Forums.

The Primate urged that Project Growth be a vital part of the mission of ACYOA. Through this growth the ACYOA members will share the power and joy of life dedicated to God with all.

Recess:

Assembly Chairman Scott Najarian recessed the Assembly for lunch at 12:35 p.m.

Third Session
Thursday, September 2, 1993

The Third Session convened at 2:05 p.m.

XVI. ACYOA Chapter Reports and Remarks

Assembly Chairman Scott Najarian asked the individual chapters to present a summary of their various activities during the past year.

Boca Raton Presented by Tom Topalian, Elected Delegate

- * 19 dues paying members - 30 active members
- * on going activities of members include alter service, Bible readings, participation in choir, Sunday School and Armenian School Teachers, Parish Council Members, Sunday luncheons
- * Palm Sunday Dinner
- * Language Lab Crash Course with Miami Chapter
- * Bake Sales and Luncheons
- * ACYOA Sports Weekend- participated with volleyball team
- * Attendance at the 25th Anniversary Ball
- * Meetings with the Primate
- * Social and sports activities including picnics and tournaments (volleyball), beach parties
- * Working on a Talent Show Fundraiser

Providence Presented by John Megrdochian, Chapter Chairman

- * 19 dues paid members
- * Annual "Dance with Onnik" at Christmas
- * Food Drive
- * Participation in Christmas Eve Service
- * Palm Sunday Dinner
- * Flowers to mothers on Mother's Day
- * Archbishop's Tournament in Wynnewood
- * Weekly Basketball practices
- * Need to encourage college-aged students to join

Worcester Presented by Jay Kapur, Chapter Chairman

- * 22 dues paid members, 6 active
- * Family night at the Celtics game
- * Three on three Basketball Tournament
- * Palm Sunday Banquet - John Baronian of Tufts as speaker
- * Participants in Archbishop's Tournament
- * Anniversary Ball
- * Operation Winter Rescue
- * Sees growth of ACYOA from active 15-16 year old youth group

Detroit Presented by Nicole Matoian, Chapter Chairman

- * Annual November Dance
- * Social Events - Laser Tag, Comedy Club

- * Archbishop Tournament
- * Canoe trip
- * Amusement Park
- * Road Rally
- * Palm Sunday
- * Aid Parish Council with duties in Church
- * Working with University of Michigan's Armenian Students Cultural Association
- * Earthquake Walkathon participation

Hartford Presented by Lisa Tashjian, Chapter Chairman

- * 22 dues paid members, 10-15 active
- * 4 out of 7 Parish Council members are ACYOA members
- * 6 members sing in Choir
- * Spaghetti dinners
- * Cleaned Church rugs
- * Advisors to Juniors
- * Worked on Project Etchmiadzin/Antelias with sister churches in Hartford and New Britain
- * Palm Sunday Dinner
- * Reading and participation at Christmas Services
- * Spring Dance - family style event whose profit went to Armenian Relief

Westchester Presented by Meline Kasparian, Elected Delegate

- * 6 dues paid members
- * Various social events throughout the year
- * Participation in Christmas Eve Services
- * Decorations for Christmas
- * Little interest except for social events
- * Need to coordinate more with Juniors
- * Plans Kickoff Meeting to brainstorm ideas

Cleveland Presented by Russell Kashian, Chapter Chairman

- * Successful year
- * Working with Deacon Norman Odabashian in Mini-Retreats
Topics include "Traditions of Marriage"
" Christian Outreach in our Church to the Community"
"Spiritual Preparedness for Lent"
- * Mailing list includes 60
- * 20 dues paid members, 30 active
- * Active support of Church activities, dues paid members

Bayside Presented by Kimberly Bardakian, Elected Delegate

- * Annual Picnic
- * Super Bowl party
- * Lenten dinners
- * Palm Sunday, ACYOA Dinner
- * Open Discussion with the Primate

- * Operation Winter Rescue
- * Visits to Armenian Old Aged Home
- * Advisors to Juniors, serve as chaperons
- * Archbishop's Tournament
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Watertown Presented by Papken Maksoudian, Elected Delegate

- * Planning and Coordinating as hosts of 1993 Sports Weekend
- * Palm Sunday Banquet
- * Aided Juniors in Hye Mrtsoom Sports Weekend
- * Carolling with Juniors at Christmas
- * Softball games with cookouts
- * Halloween party for parish children
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- * Help with Church Bazaar, Picnic
- * Operation Winter Rescue
- * Open gym during week
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- * Indicate good support from Parish Council and other Church organizations

Wynnewood Presented by Gregory Devletian, Elected Delegate

- * 20 dues paid members
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- * ACYOA Day Banquet
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- * Clean up of Church grounds
- * Ushers for Church
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- * Fundraiser - candy
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- * 2 member of Parish Council, 4 members serve on altar
- * Appreciation to Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian for effort and support

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- * 9 dues paid members, 5 active
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- * Armenian School Teachers
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- * Operation Winter Rescue
- * Visit from Rena Jebejian for aid in better organization and support
- * Plans for a retreat in October
- * There are not enough members for separate Junior and Senior Groups

Tenafly Presented by Levon Altiparmakian, Elected Delegate

- * Donated \$1,000 to Medical Outreach to Children of Armenia
- * Donated \$750 to Church
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- * Serve at Palm Sunday Dinner with Juniors
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Dn. Gary Alexander (Central Council) nominated Levon Altiparmakian (Tenafly). He declined.

David Abdalian (Watervliet) nominated Dn. Norman Odabashian (Cleveland)., He declined.

John Megrdochian made a motion to close the nominations for Nominating Committee. It was seconded by John Diradourian, voted upon and carried.

B. Auditing Committee

Lisa Manookian presented the candidate for Auditing Committee.

Jay Kapur	(Worcester)
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Nominations from the floor were accepted at this time.

Russell Kashian (Cleveland) nominated Charles Shooshan (Central Council) . Charles declined.

Dn. Gary Alexander (Central Council) nominated Nevart Hamamjian (Cambridge). She declined.

Arpie Bouroujian (Central Council) nominated Lisa Manookian (Wynnewood). Lisa declined.

David Abdalian (Watervliet) nominated Dn. Gary Alexander (Central Council). Gary declined.

Dn. Gary Alexander (Central Council) nominated Sara Andonian (Detroit). Sara declined.

Meline Kasparian (Westchester) nominated Levon Altiparmakian (Tenafly). Levon declined.

Jay Kapur (Worcester) nominated John Megrdochian. It was seconded by Rene Jebejian (Central Council). He accepted the nomination.

Charles Shooshan(Central Council) nominated Laurie Onanian (Cambridge). She declined.

Charles Shooshan (Central Council) nominated Charles Tutunjian (Watervliet). He declined.

Nevart Hamanjian(Cambridge) nominated Laura Negosian (Detroit). She declined.

John Megrdochian nominated Papken Maksoudian (Watertown). He declined.

At his point Marcia Sedhom asked of the feasibility of hiring or asking the Diocesan Auditor to do the work. It was stated that the Diocesan Auditor goes over the books anyway.

John Megrdochian (Providence) nominated Sara Andonian (Detroit). It was seconded by Lucine Baronian (Central Council). She accepted.

John Diradourian made a motion to close nominations for Auditing Committee. It was seconded by John Megrdochian, voted upon and carried.

At this point a ballot roll call vote was taken for Central Council and Nominating Committees.

XXI. Remarks , ACYO-WD Representative

Armen Devejian of the Western Diocese introduced the other representatives, Tina Margosian, Stephanie Surabian and Matthew Jendian. He brought greetings to the Assembly from His Eminence, Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian.

In his message to the delegates Armen stressed that all members should strive to achieve pride in giving of themselves in service to God, our country and our communities. He asked the members to remind themselves from time to time of their obligations to Armenian and their responsibilities to help them in their struggles.

Armen urged all to play an active role in enriching the legacy we will leave behind -- a free Armenia and successful Diaspora.

Chairman Scott Najarian noted that items XXII, XXIII, and XXIV will be postponed to the next session (Session IV)

At this time the Treasurer's report of the Central Council was presented by Jay Kapur. (See written report)

He entertained questions from the delegates on the budgets and balance sheets.

Sara Andonian (Detroit) questioned the receipt of money from the Anniversary Ball in Boca Raton. Charles Shooshan (Central Council) responded that the issue of outstanding funds is still as yet unresolved and Central Council has requested Diocesan intervention for this matter.

Sara Andonian (Detroit) requested an explanation of "Interdiocesan Meetings". Jay responded that these included visitations to Canada and other Dioceses.

Russell Kashian (Cleveland) asked if the Boca Raton debt could be "written off". Charles Shooshan (Central Council) stated that it was still considered "accounts receivable".

Marcia Sedhom (Watertown) wanted clarification of the 1992 Income Statement expenses for Central Council Meetings. Jay noted that these expenses included travel and lodging. She also asked for further clarification of Central Council Administrative Expenses. Jay explained that these expenses included mailing and telephone costs.

Meline Kasparian asked if the weekend package plans for the Central Council Members were paid for through the Central Council Budget. Jay responded affirmatively.

Papken Maksoudian (Watertown) questioned the amount of money spent on travel by Central Council.

At this point, Assembly Chairman Scott Najarian advised the Assembly that if the delegates wish to discontinue a practice or budget item for 1993-1994 it could be done in the budget process at the next session.

There was concern as to the "overexpenditures" of Central Council Budget items. Donna Walker (Richmond) asked whether these expenses could be better controlled. Lucine Baronian (Central Council) responded that it was not in Central Council's plan to deliberately overspend and agreed that the issue of spending too much money on visitations should be addressed.

Marcia Sedhom (Watertown) referred to the proposal passed at the 1992 Assembly in which the Central Council was mandated to send quarterly expense reports to the Chapters and commented that Central Council has an obligation and responsibility to this end.

Charles Shooshan (Central Council) indicated that Central Council has tried to address the issue of high expenses in various ways such as moving the meeting away from New York City.

The Primate stated that he has noted the concern of the members of the Assembly of the Central Council expenses and cautions Central Council to be more careful in the coming year.

Sara Andonian (Detroit) made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Russell Kashian (Cleveland) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Further elections of Nominating Committee

Lisa Manookian of the Nominating Committee announced that a run-off election for Central Council was necessary. The candidate with the least amount of votes was dropped and the delegates were asked to vote for one (1), only, of the following three candidates.

Russell Kashian	(Cleveland)
John Megrdochian	(Providence)
Greg Saraydarian	(Bayside)

A roll call ballot was taken at this point.

Chairman Scott Najarian asked that all proposals and/or constitutional amendments be submitted in writing before the next sessions.

The Third Session was recessed at 4:55 p.m.