

1993/1994 ACYOA Central Council Report

SEPTEMBER 1993

Transitional meeting at Sports Weekend with the Primate and new (John Megrđichian, Kavork Hagopian, Meline Kasparian) and out-going Council members. Officers were elected (Lucine - Chair, Kavork - Vice Chair, Pam - Treasurer, Meline - Corresponding Secretary, Arpi - Recording Secretary, John Megrđichian - Advisor, John Diradourian - Advisor).

Council had a breakfast meeting after the installation ceremony at Badarak on Sunday in Watertown.

Council distributed a news release to the Armenian newspapers to introduce ourselves, written by Arpi and Pam

Council appointed a Sports Weekend Committee, chaired by Scott Najarian.

Lucine contacted Boca Raton regarding the receivable from 1991 Anniversary Ball, which was received in December

Activities:

- Lucine - letter to Parish Priests, Chapter Chair, Chapter Contacts; contacted various chapters regarding the hosting of 1994 General Assembly
- Pam/John - introductory letter to chapters in New England
- Meline/John D. - introductory letter to Mid-Atlantic chapters; begin plans for Mid-Atlantic retreat at Trinity Retreat House
- Kavork - introductory letter to MidWest and Great Lakes chapters
- Arpi - introductory letter to South/Capital area chapters

OCTOBER 1993

Central Council Meeting/Retreat at St. Nersess Seminary

The weekend consisted of retreat and work sessions. Plans for the upcoming year were discussed.

Lucine designated an editor and typesetter of Hye Hokin; contacted Orlando, Watervliet, Washington, Racine, Livingston, Tenafly & Cleveland regarding General Assembly

Kavork initiated meeting of the Palos Heights and Chicago/Evanston ACYOA; planned Christmas Day Dance with the AGBU Young Adults for the MidWest; make arrangements for the Mid-West retreat

Meline attended meetings of the Bayside and Tenafly chapters, and initiated meetings at Westchester chapter; contacted Mid-Atlantic chapters by phone

Pam attended a meeting of the Watervliet chapter; reviewed the 1993/94 budget; compiled the mailing list and labels; edited article on Central Council for publication; contacted New England region chapters.

Arpi attended a meeting of the Richmond chapter; contacted Dallas regarding revival of youth group; assisted Richmond in planning November Retreat

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NOVEMBER 1993

Council distributed a questionnaire to all Chapter Chairs, Contacts to determine areas for improvement and get ideas for events -- one response was received.

Council distributed the first quarterly report summarizing activities to date, with a contact list of all ACYOA Chapter Chairs and Council members

Pam - distributed membership forms and monthly chapter fact sheets to chapters

Kavork/Lucine - attended the Western Diocese ACYOA General Assembly

Arpi - assisted the Richmond ACYOA in putting on a retreat for the entire parish; Kavork attended and assisted with worship services.

Lucine/Pam - attended Choir Convention in Worcester; Lucine addressed the gathering

Lucine - attended New England Region meeting

Kavork - created a prayer service which Council distributed to all chapters to be used on the first day of Advent.

DECEMBER 1993

Pam/Lucine/Kavork - visited the Midwest chapters/parishes of Palos Heights, and Racine. They also attended the AGBU/DYM Aids program led by Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian. Lucine presented a slide show of Armenia to the Racine parish

Council members attended the first Sports Weekend Committee meeting in NY

JANUARY 1994

Council had its second meeting at Holy Martyrs; V. Rev. Haigazoun Najarian attended in the Primate's absence with Laura Gononian from the DYM.

Council members John M, Pam, Lucine, and Meline attended the second Sports Weekend Committee meeting and helped prepare the first mailing

Pam - contacted and worked with Dn Randy Dagley to develop a program for the NE Region Retreat

FEBRUARY 1994

Council members attended the third Sports Weekend Committee meeting in NJ

Pam/Meline - distributed flyers for the New England and Mid-Atlantic Retreats

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MARCH 1994

Council had a working session with Dn. Randy Dagley in Worcester, MA to develop a Chapter Chair Meeting agenda.

Kavork coordinated the ACYOA/DYM MidWest Retreat led by Dn. Hratch Tchilingirian. Clergy in attendance included the Primate, Der Yeprem Kelegian, Der Tavit Boyajian; Pam and Lucine attended. Sonya Harlan, Russ Kashian represented DYM.

Council had a meeting with the Primate and the Chancellor at the Diocese

Council distributed information regarding Palm Sunday - ACYOA Day; and attended ACYOA Day celebrations at various chapters.

Lucine attended Fair Lawn's ACYOA Day celebration, and presented a slide show on Armenia

Arpi went to Orlando to assess the possibility of holding General Assembly in conjunction with the Orlando Armenian community

The scheduled retreats in the New England and Mid-Atlantic Region were cancelled due to lack of response

APRIL 1994

Council had its third meeting at the Diocese.

Lucine - presented a slide show of Armenia in Bayside to the ACYOA Juniors and Sunday School groups

Lucine, Pam, Arpi and John M attended the Diocesan Assembly in Houston; Lucine addressed the Assembly

Kevork - Chicago

MAY 1994

All Council members attended the Archbishop's Tournament, and had a meeting Friday night with the Primate. A Chapter Chair meeting had been scheduled for Saturday afternoon, and Council members met with one chapter representative. Council distributed questionnaires to assist in planning the next meeting

Council distributed applications for the ACYOA Gregory Arpajian Scholarship, which was subsequently awarded in July to two ACYOA Juniors to attend a St. Nersess Summer Study Program

JUNE 1994

Council members had a working session in Providence, RI to develop proposals for 1994 General Assembly

Lucine, John M and Meline attended the Sports Weekend Committee meeting in Cape Cod to view the site for 1994 Sports Weekend

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JUNE 1994 (cont'd)

Pam - distributed a letter to the 1994 Nominating Committee in preparation for 1994 General Assembly; wrote to Wynnewood and Watertown regarding the financial statements from the 1993 Archbishop's Tournament and 1993 Sports Weekend

JULY 1994

Weather prohibited Council members from attending the Canadian Sports Weekend, as had been previously planned

After a Central Council meeting with the Primate, Council hosted a well-attended Cultural Day in New York City which included a tour of the Diocese led by Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, a visit to the Armenian exhibit at the Pierpont Morgan Library, a visit to the Empire State building, and a home-cooked meal at the Diocese

Council members attended a Sports Weekend Committee meeting in New Rochelle, NY

Council planned a Chapter Chair meeting for July 30, but postponed it until Sports Weekend. Instead, Council had a working session to plan for 1994 General Assembly

August 1994

Working meeting to discuss cancelled Sports Weekend.

September 1994

Kavork Hagopian was ordained as a Deacon. Council worked on General Assembly. Attended Der Arsen Barsamian's presentation on his current publication, Haig & Armen.

**1995 ANNUAL REPORT
ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL**

MEETINGS

Central Council held a total of five meetings over the course of the year, at which the Primate of the Eastern Diocese, His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, or Diocesan Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian presided. Laura Gononian and Dn. Greg Doudoukjian, both of the Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry were also present at most meetings.

ACTIVITIES

Fall - All Council members sent introductory letters to chapter contacts and contacted the ACYOA Chapter Chairmen or Youth Directors in their respective parish assignments. Council Chairman addressed a gathering of the ACYOA Juniors of the Bayside parish of Holy Martyrs on the occasion of their Thanksgiving celebration. Central Council held its first meeting at the Diocesan complex in New York

Winter - Central Council had plans to sponsor retreats in two regions this year. Because of lack of attendance, the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Retreat was canceled. The retreat held in the Midwest, which consisted of a one day rather than weekend format, was very successful. Council's second meeting was held in conjunction with a visit to St. David, Boca Raton, by the Primate and Diocesan staff. Council members were pleased to meet Mrs. Helen Mardigian, wife of the late Edward Mardigian, both of whom have been great benefactors of the ACYOA. Council members attended a banquet in honor of the parish priest, Rev. Fr. Zaven Arzoomanian. Council members attended a weekend sponsored by the ASCA of the University of Michigan with the Primate, St. Nersess Seminary and Diocesan Staff. Various presentations were given to inform the students of details regarding the ACYOA Armenian Service Program. Council's third meeting took place in Southfield, MI in conjunction with a visit to St. John's accompanied by Diocesan Staff. Council members participated in a program hosted by the DYM for the ACYOA Junior-age group, and met with the ACYOA Senior Executive Board to discuss plans and prospects for future events.

Spring - Two Council members organized assisted with a meeting of a prospective young ACYOA group in the Lansing, Michigan area. Two Council members attended a meeting of a prospective ACYOA Junior group in Livingston, NJ with Department of Youth Ministry staff. Council members attended various celebrations of "ACYOA Day" on Palm Sunday as well as the 80th Anniversary Martyrs Day commemorations throughout our Diocese. Two Council members attended Diocesan Assembly, participated in the panel with Diocesan delegates and Diocesan staff entitled "Total Youth Ministry" and Council Chairman addressed the Assembly. Central Council members attended the Archbishop's Invitational Tournament which was hosted by the ACYOA chapter of the Church of our Savior (Worcester), and held their fourth meeting of the year. Central Council approved the sponsorship of publication of a Lectionary and the book of "Prayers & Sacraments," both of which will be made available to the Diocesan community at large. Council participated in a working meeting directed primarily at the revision of the Chapter Resource Handbook and preparation for the General Assembly.

Summer - Central Council continued with plans to host a Cultural Workshop in Southfield, MI at St. John's in conjunction with the annual "November Dance" held over Thanksgiving Day weekend. Greg Arpajian Memorial Scholarships were given to two young ACYOA members to attend the St. Nersess Summer Conferences, and the Sam Nersesian Memorial Scholarship was given to another young ACYOA member to attend St. Vartan Camp. The ASP program was held from mid-July to August with the participation of 15 ACYOA members from our Diocese. Council will continue to work with the DYM on plans for two trips to Armenia next summer; the ASP and a young professionals trip to Armenia. 1994 ACYOA National Sports Weekend, which carried the appropriate theme "Run the Good Race", was organized by the St. Leon ACYOA chapter of Fair Lawn, NJ, and was held over Labor Day weekend. Representatives from Central Council attended several Sports Weekend planning meetings, and assisted the committee in preparation for the event.

CHAPTER INFORMATION

Central Council members were in contact with parish priests, chapter chairs, youth directors, or other chapter representatives throughout the year through telephone contact, personal communication, and frequent mailings. Council conducted surveys of the above listed through a questionnaire in an effort to determine areas for concentration. Central Council is happy to report that several formerly active chapters have been revived, and several other chapters are considering hosting National Events in the coming years. Council members have attended chapter meetings, addressed ACYOA functions, and offered the resources of Central Council to chapters.

SUMMARY

This has been a transition year for our organization. The traditional chapter structure consisting of an Executive Board and regular chapter meetings has disintegrated. While most groups maintain some degree of activity as an ACYOA and within their parishes, most have met less frequently than in previous years. We are encouraged by the existence of very strong Junior groups within our Diocese, but we are concerned that the lack of an active Senior group in many parishes may leave those of age to become involved on the Senior level at a loss for where to go. We realize that we must redirect our energies on the Junior groups to assist and guide them towards staying within our church, especially as they prepare for the challenges of college. We also recognize that we must change our structure to reflect the current status of our group, by eliminating the current dues structure which has become obsolete. Our aim is to be as flexible as possible while maintaining the existence of less-formal ACYOA groups throughout the Diocese, which are active both as ACYOA groups and within their own parishes and communities.

Unfortunately, attendance at both National Events this year was low in comparison to recent years. As this is the second year in which Sports Weekend and General Assembly have been held separately, and chapters have had difficulty in meeting the financial requirements of sending representatives to the Assembly, we have submitted a proposal to reunite the two events. We are pleased to report that in 1996, the 50th Anniversary of our organization, a planning committee headed by Scott Najarian will coordinate the 50th Anniversary Celebration/Sports Weekend to be held over Memorial Day. We hope that this date will be more convenient to college-aged students, and we hope to make this a multi-generational celebration at which current ACYOA members and ACYOA alumni will come together to celebrate the founding of our organization. We all look forward to making the changes which we feel will result in a stronger, healthier ACYOA. Central Council needs the assistance of local youth, parish priests, youth directors, and any other concerned church member to accomplish this task.

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• ACYOA Central Council
June 3, 1995 - Worcester

Livingston - meeting - Melina
Disc. Assembly - Panel on Youth
Concern

trained youth leaders - Youth leaders training program

Youth workers Seminar - ACYOA + DYM
Fall 1995 - mid-west Sept. 23 - Racine
once a month

Youth worker training

Fairlawn - ACYOA awareness weekend

Next Year Assembly 1996 - Youth - ACYOA 50th Ann.

Resource Manual / Membership Handbook

b. Publications

Prayers & Sacraments - pocket size

Lectionary

calendar 1996 -

(2)

1996 - Armenia Trip
Young professionals

Summer

Scholarship for campers
St. Vartan
Hye camp

Cultural Days

Detroit (Thanksgiving weekend)

Chicago

Aug. 18 - party on the plaza - Year of the Bible

Sept 8 - party on the plaza

Sports Weekend - Fairlawn - Sept. 1 - 4

Remembrance Award

General Assembly - Oct. 13-15

1996 Sports Weekend + Anniversary Ball
Sept. Labor Day Week-end

Lanning - Youth program