

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AND MINUTES
OF
FOURTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**



**SEPTEMBER 2, 3, 4, 1950
EVANSTON, ILL.**

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES
FOURTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION
OF AMERICA

September 1,2,3, 1950
Evanston, Illinois

At 1:45 P.M. on Saturday, September 1, 1950, the day appointed by the Central Council of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, the Fourth Annual Assembly convened for its first session at the Sheraton Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, under the Presidency of our Arachnord, The Rt. Rev. Bishop Tiran and under the chairmanship of Mr. Manoog Heditsian, Council Chairman. Miss Mary V. Shalakian, Executive Secretary of the organization undertook the secretaryship of the Assembly due to the absence of the council secretary.

Arachnord Syrpazan Hayr opened the meeting with an invocation and the A.C.Y.O.A. prayer.

On behalf of the Evanston Host Chapter, Miss Norma Kafesjian welcomed the delegates to the Assembly site and presented the Assembly chairman with a gavel.

Roll call was then read by Miss Shalakian. At this first call 19 chapters were represented as follows:- Boston: George Garoian, John Jangochian, 3 votes; Chicago: Jack Marderosian, 1 vote; Cleveland: Sam Mirakian, Jon Benneian, 1 vote; Detroit: Martin Agegian, Paul Hovsepian, Helen Partogian, Richard Demirjian, Jack Boladian, 5 votes; Evanston: Norma Kafesjian, Armen Babagian, 2 votes; Hartford: Elizabeth Kaffaian, 1 vote; Lawrence: Mary Azarian, Minas Kazanjian, 2 votes; Lowell: Rosalie Marzbanian, 1 vote; Newark: Irene Mazujian, 1 vote; New Britain: Gregory Abrahamian, 1 vote; North Philadelphia: Charles Kumkumian, Acebe Boornazian, Martin Attarian, 3 votes; Paterson: Leo Bakalian, 1 vote; Providence: Charles Garabedian, Arky Najarian, 2 votes; Racine: Shockey Gengozian, John Hacherian, 2 votes; S. Milwaukee: Anne Kamakian, Rose Torosian, 2 votes; Troy: (not present at the first session); Watertown: Matthew Matteosian, Dorothy Bedrosian, James Bejoian, 3 votes; West Philadelphia: Alice Kodikian, Avedis Kevorkian, 2 votes; Waukegan: Michael Marsoobian, Nicholas Hagopian, 2 votes; Worcester: Esther Agabian, Arthur Yagjian, 2 votes; having a total 37 votes.

Evidence of a quorum being present Mr. Heditsian announced that the Fourth Annual Assembly of the A.C.Y.O.A. was in session.

Father Vahram Vardapet Nazaretian of Chicago was called upon to address the delegates: He welcomed the delegates and expressed his sentiments with respect to the expectations of our Church and Nation had towards its youth. (We incorporate Father Vahram's address):

"The A.C.Y.O.A. convenes for its meeting in Chicago and as Pastor of the Chicago Parish I welcome you and wish you success. The Armenian Church and nation expects a great deal from our youth. The old members of the generation are leaving us one by one and in their place we must have new youths. If our youth studies the history of our Armenian Church they should be happy and proud to be members of a nation which has given so many heroes, churchmen and laymen who have been sacrificed for our church. I am sure and hope that our youth of America who wishes to work in the folds of our Church will follow in the footsteps of their ancestors. May God bless you and I wish you success."

Following Father Vahram's address, Father Torkom Manoogian of North Philadelphia was called upon to speak. Here Syrpazan Hayr explained that Father Torkom was going to speak as a representative of the Diocesan Council and was also going to take the place of his (Syrpazan's) vicar, Father Shnork, who under normal circumstances would have been present and would have presided in Syrpazan's stead, since Syrpazan was being called away to a funeral the greater part of the present session.

Father Torkom in his address stressed the importance of the actions and behavior of the delegates, during and after the Assembly with respect to the good and welfare of the organization. (We incorporate Father Torkom's address):

"I willingly take that burden (acting vicar), although it is not actually a burden. I have been with you these past years and every year I have felt more and more stronger because you, as delegates of different chapters, have given me that strength through your work and conventions. And we are here to think of various ways and means to strengthen not only the individual chapters but the entire organization in general. But in order that one may strengthen himself he should know his weaknesses too and I dare to remind you delegates today about one point at least. I wish each delegate feel himself responsible not only during the Assembly, but especially when you leave after the Assembly. Even when writing anything regarding the Assembly, I would like to remind you that each word should be thought out beforehand, whether it concerns social, banquet or business, and should be expressed with the feeling that you have accomplished something constructive. I would like to make this very clear because I have thought about this point for a few months, even a whole year because right after the last assembly I read a few articles about the assembly which were not very complimentary to the organization. It is good to recognize the good and bad in what we are doing and I wish that each of us would express good feelings towards our organization and the work we are doing in general. That way we always pray that the blessings of God be with us and each action and every thought we express may be in accordance with His will for the benefit of our organization for the strengthening of our Armenian Church and for the glory of God and this would be my personal expression of my feelings and in the meantime, I believe the center of our Diocese in America is looking at you and at us all so that we may always do something good and the good is the wish of God and the wish of the Diocese is to see you always at work, to see you always going forward and to see you always in strength and all these we can have only through the blessings of God. May God bless us all."

After Father Torkom's address, Arachnord Syrpazan Hayr then began to address the Assembly. But since he had to leave in a while, he stated he would have more to say to the delegates at a later session. Syrpazan Hayr expressed his happiness in watching the A.C.Y.O. grow and progress steadily during the past year, but that as a whole our work still left much to be desired and that he would speak on specific points later on by indulging in self-criticism. (We incorporate the first portion of Syrpazan Hayr's address):

"I am overflowing with happiness in seeing you here again this year at this assembly to promote the work of the A.C.Y.O.A. I have also been happy throughout the year to see that our organization is progressing although not very rapidly but still steadily and slowly. Perhaps it is better that it should be so because steady steps are always firmer and they are apt to lead us towards our goal more assuredly. I have been happy also to note that many of the members of the organization in the various chapters are taking the work, which the A.C.Y.O. is called upon to carry on, with seriousness and with zeal. I must say that our work as a whole still leaves much to be desired. But we all have every reason to be satisfied and thankful to God that after these four years during which we have been endeavoring to build up the A.C.Y.O., our efforts, I mean the efforts of all those who have been working in the organization have not been in vain and they are gradually and steadily bearing fruit. I shall have occasion later on to speak on specific points. I shall indulge in some self-criticism when the time comes but at present I shall only make one or two remarks.

"We all know that we are still groping towards our future as an organization. As I said we have had some zealous members, some wise and good members, but I think we need some more zeal in our work, some missionary zeal as I've had the occasion to mention in the booklet which was to have been printed by the Evanston Chapter. The missionary spirit must grip and seize every loyal understanding member of our organization. That zeal is lacking as far as I can see. From this year on we must see that our members take more at heart the goal, the aim of the A.C.Y.O. Our dedication to our Lord and Saviour must be deepened and strengthened in the course of our work because we shall never succeed in our work in the organization unless we get hold of the basic principle on which the tree of the A.C.Y.O. stands. Then all other things that follow from this basic principle will take care of themselves. Our communal activities must have some sense and some goal. Every individual has two capacities. One works and lives in two different capacities. First as a private individual and then as a member of a group. Now as private individuals we commit our sins and we then confess and then God forgives us. But, also, there is a public kind of communal, let us say, confession, which is very often termed as self-criticism. We must as a group criticize ourselves which means we must confess our corporate sins insofar as it touches our work as an organization and see that in the coming year we correct them. I will myself do some of this self-criticism later on when I speak; but unless we are critical about ourselves as a whole, not just one member criticizing someone else but the whole organization criticizing itself, and then seeing our aim, the aim of our organization and the central spirit which must prevail the whole organization and every member of it -- unless we hold that, the missionary zeal to which

I have referred will not be forthcoming. How can this be done? By God's grace, by prayer. This is a religious organization. We must never lose sight of that one central fact. Then we shall go forward towards more and more accomplishments and achievements in the coming year to which myself, our church organization, our senior church organizations and all of you, I am sure, are looking forward. Now I shall content myself with these words as I said, reserving certain other points to be discussed at a later time. So I again express my happiness and my joy at presiding at this Fourth Assembly of the A.C.Y.O. and seeing you all here diligently and seriously attending to the business of the organization, having taken all the trouble of coming here to be together this afternoon."

Following his address, Syrpazan Hayr asked the delegates of our two newly organized chapters to come forward for the presentation of their charters: Miss Irene Majujian, representing Newark Chapter and Mr. Leo Bakalian, representing the Paterson Chapter duly came forward and took their places before Syrpazan Hayr. Before presenting the charters, Syrpazan Hayr lauded the two chapters and the work of Father Shnork in creating them. (We incorporate Syrpazan Hayr's sentiments):

"Our two new chapters, Newark and Paterson, I know are vigorous and very lively chapters. I have met the memberships of these chapters and I must say here in his absence that Father Shnork, who has worked very hard has some credit in the creation of these two chapters. I'm really and sincerely glad and proud of these two chapters because I was present at their first gathering and the fine young men and women who seriously and with understanding took up their work and responsibility really left me with great enthusiasm. So I wish them God's blessing and success in their future work."

After wishing them success, Syrpazan presented them respectively with their charters which they accepted amidst a round of applause.

At this point the chairman unveiled the official assembly banner of the A.C.Y.O.A. bearing the emblem of the organization with sufficient space below to add the name of the host chapter each year. The presentation of the banner to the Assembly also drew a round of admiration and applause.

The chairman then presented the members of the council: Paul Najarian, Treasurer; Gertrude Nahigian, Councillor; Emma Hovsepian, Councillor; Arshag Gechijian, Vice Chairman, all of whom were seated at the speakers table. Here the Bishop took leave and the presidency was taken over by Father Torkom.

Upon a report by the executive secretary it was learned that voting privileges of some chapters and voting power of other chapters had to be established due to the fact that some chapters had submitted incomplete reports and others had either completely ignored the council's requests for tax payments or had partially paid and were still in arrears. This announcement brought forth a very long and drawn out series of motions, discussions and arguments.

1. The chapters involved were the following:

- HARTFORD. No annual report filed, membership not established.
- WORCESTER Incomplete report filed, membership not established, past taxes due.
- LOWELL. Past and current taxes owing, contradictory reports submitted by chapter in question and delegate who had already made the trip.
- NEW BRITAIN Taxes owing, all requests for reports and statistics, etc., ignored by chapter.
- CHICAGO Heretofore known as a dissolved chapter, its status must be established.

2. Following are the motions as applied to the above conditions and actions taken thereupon:

That LOWELL be allowed to vote even though they have not paid their taxes. Seconded. Motion postponed until other chapters are heard from.

That we accept CHICAGO on the same basis as Newark and Paterson (new chapters) and allow them to vote. This motion was withdrawn to decide on the voting powers of various chapters.

Motion made that the first motion be withheld until other delinquent chapters be discussed.

Chair ruled that all this discussion is out of order and drop all further discussion.

That figures given for membership by HARTFORD, WORCESTER AND NEW BRITAIN be accepted at present. Voice vote. Passed.

That CHICAGO be accepted as a chapter and be allowed to vote. Voice vote. Passed. Vote reopened to take tally.

That NEW BRITAIN tax money be accepted from the delegate from the floor to allow New Britain its vote. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

3. After the numerous and lengthy discussions which ensued on the above the decisions were narrowed down to the following:

CHICAGO was accepted as a new chapter. Voting privileges granted. Council to meet with the Chicago group after Assembly to ask for all funds and records in treasury at the time of their dissolution.

LOWELL was denied voting power at this assembly. We must here record the sympathy of the Assembly Body towards the Lowell chapter and especially towards the Lowell delegate who had travelled a great distance to participate in the Assembly. However, the ruling was therefore made by the Assembly Body as a disciplinary measure towards any and all delinquent chapters.

NEW BRITAIN was permitted to vote upon payment of delinquent taxes.

WORCESTER and HARTFORD were permitted and granted proportionate voting power upon the establishment of their membership.

Following the clarification of the foregoing points, the chairman read the number of telegrams and felicitations which were received:

Telegrams and Messages received during the 1950 Assembly from Rev. K. Mamigonian, Haigas Najarian, Ralph Yagjian, Detroit Chapter A.C.Y.O.A., Armenian GROONG, Rev. S. Kalfayan, Trustees & Ladies Aid of the St. Mesrob Armenian Church of Racine, Harold Manoogian, Vian Avedisian, Zaven Hovsepian and Dr. Armen Shekerjian.

The chairman then exhorted the delegates to deliberate seriously on the problems placed before them and that it was their duty to take something back to their chapters. He informed the Assembly body that a very full agenda lay before them and that the Assembly would not be adjourned until all the items had been exhausted even to the sacrifice of social functions.

The next item on the agenda was the election of committees. The chairman suggested that the committees be appointed in order to save time. Detroit protested that the chair was out of order.

However, motion was made that the chair be given the power to appoint the various committees necessary for the Assembly. Motion was unanimously passed upon. Father Torkom, through the powers delegated to him as President, made the following appointments:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Paul Hovsepian, Elizabeth Kaffeian, Esther Agabian and Arshag Gechijian in an advisory capacity.

AUDITING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE: Mary Azarian, Matthew Matteosian, Arthur Yagjian and Paul Najarian in an advisory capacity.

Motion was then made to appoint another committee to read and pass upon the minutes of the New Britain Assembly. Voice vote taken. Unanimously passed.

Shockey Gengozian, Helen Partogian, and Avedis Kevorkian were appointed to the Minutes Reading Committee.

Miss Mary V. Shelakian was then called upon to read the secretarial report of the Central Council in which a detailed account of all phases of A.C.Y.O. business of both Council and Chapters was reported. (We incorporate the full report):

"In as brief a form as possible the Central Council of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America herewith respectfully presents its report for the attention of the delegates in session at this Fourth Annual Assembly of the organization:

"Immediately following the close of the Third Annual Assembly the Council Body met to elect its officers for the year ahead.

Election of officers took place as follows: Mr. Manoog Heditsian, Chairman; Dr. Armen Shekerjian, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Grayce Hadrian, Secretary; Mr. Paul Najarian, Treasurer; Mr. Arshag Gechijian, Eastern Publicity Director; Miss Gertrude Nahigian, Mr. Harold Manoogian and Mr. Lee Bedigian as Councillors.

In accordance with the constitution, the Central Council unanimously appointed Miss Mary V. Shelakian to the office of Executive Secretary of the organization.

The Central Council met in session together with its Executive Secretary six times to plan carefully its progress, see to their execution and attend to the needs of the organization. Each session lasting a period of two days, the Council was thus able to carry out its many programs. His Grace Bishop Tiran presided at three of the meetings.

1. **DIOCESAN CONVENTION:** The Council delegated Mrs. Grayce Hadrian, Miss Mary Shelakian and Mr. Manoog Heditsian to attend the Diocesan Convention in Philadelphia as representatives of the A.C.Y.O. The representatives together with Mr. Zaven Hovsepian attended all the sessions, taking notes throughout. Due to the illness of Mr. Heditsian, Mrs. Grayce Hadrian delivered an excellent talk to the Diocesan delegates at the banquet, bringing out the main purposes for which the A.C.Y.O. was organized and making an earnest appeal for cooperation and interest from our seniors.

2. **YOUTH CAMP:** As yet a pending project of the organization, Mr. Zaven Hovsepian, chairman of this undertaking submitted facts from time to time to the Council on offers he had received for land sites, etc. However, since none offered the opportunities sought after, the matter was tabled until such time as the project chairman obtained more suitable offers.

3. **AMENDMENTS:** All amendments to the constitution as voted upon at the Second and Third Annual Assemblies were submitted to the Diocesan Executive Committee for ratification. Upon receiving a signed approval of same, the amendments were printed to fit into the constitution and submitted to the chapters for use.

4. **CONSTITUTIONS:** Many requests from chapters this past year for additional supplies of the constitution were refused because the Central office stock of these handsomely bound books is very low and additional quantities must be reprinted this forthcoming year to satisfy the needs.

5. **GUIDANCE MATERIAL:** The Council is happy to announce that the preparation of the administrative phase of this most valuable hand book is now complete. It now awaits editing and printing. In a short time the book will be forwarded to chapters for use. Here we mention again that a great deal of time and effort has been spent by the Council and by the Committee headed by Miss Nahigian, especially designated to give the book its final form.

6. **INITIATION AND INSTALLATION RITUALS:** All necessary data obtained from research was submitted to Father Shnork who formulated two impressive ceremonies for the A.C.Y.O. One for the formal acceptance of all initiates into the organization and another for the formal installation of officers of a chapter each year. The ceremonies will soon be available for chapter use.

7. **NEW CHAPTERS:** The efforts of Father Shnork on behalf of our organization were rewarded by the formation of two new A.C.Y.O.A. chapters, namely Newark and Paterson of the State of New Jersey, who made formal applications for charters in January 1950. Having approved of the applications the Central Council arranged for a joint meeting of these chapters, preceded by church services and the initiation of the members into the organization by Bishop Tiran and Father Shnork as sponsor, in accordance with the newly formulated ceremony. We here salute the newcomers who made every possible effort to join us today in our Fourth Annual Assembly and for their record of their high membership in comparison with the length of time they have been established.

8. **A.C.Y.O.A. EMBLEM PINS:** For the past four years the Council has only been able to look into this matter due to lack of funds. However, we are now happy to report that Mr. Heditsian was able to obtain a satisfactory price upon which negotiations were made to place an order of 750 pins with the manufacturer. The pins are now ready for sale. Wear them in good health and with pride that you belong to such a fine organization as ours.

9. **BULLETINS AND DIRECTIVES:** In addition to these instructive papers the Council has strived to guide, instruct and help its chapters attain a serious character -- a character to remain indelible through the years. Bulletins have continually been forwarded to exhort chapters to prepare Christmas food baskets and clothing for the needy, toys for children, form visitation committees for the sick and the aged, proper observance of Lent, Lenten pageants, religious movies, lectures with particular emphasis on A.C.Y.O. Group Church Attendance and last, but not least, refraining from social activities during Lent, in spite of the wrong our elders may commit by conducting social events. The Council has further put emphasis on church membership, group communion and such.

10. **RELIGIOUS FEATURES:** It was quite evident during the Third Annual Assembly that A.C.Y.O. chapters were losing sight of their aims and purposes for which they were organized, and upon a sincere desire to convert to more serious activity, stress on religious and educational, the Council set about in submitting personally to each and every respective member of the organization timely papers on topics such as the Meaning and Observance of Lent, Confession and Communion, Baptism and Confirmation. These papers were especially prepared by Mr. Hagop Nersoyan, theology student at Columbia University to whom the Council is indeed indebted and wishes to endorse here its vote of thanks and appreciation for his gracious efforts in our behalf. Mr. Nersoyan is now preparing a Fourth Series on Matrimony which will be forwarded soon only to those chapters whose membership lists we have received.

11. **THE ASSEMBLY BANNER:** The Central Council designed, and purchased the Assembly Banner you see here today -- same to be carried from one Assembly Site to another with the addition thereon of each host chapter for posterity. The Banner has been purchased for the sum of \$85.00 but will be of service to the organization for 25 years, as enough additional space has been left at the bottom for future insertion.

12. **FIRST BIRTHDAY BALL:** On January 27 and January 28, 1950, the first Annual Birthday Ball of the A.C.Y.O.A. took place in the following cities: Boston: Chairman, Archie Kolligian; Detroit: Chairman, Dr. Armen Shakerjian; New York: Chairman, Lee Bedigian; Philadelphia: Chairman, Avedis Kevorkian; Chicago: Chairman, Norma Kafesjian; Troy: Chairman,

Attached hereto is a complete report from each region as to its social and financial outcome. Briefly, all regions, with the exception of Detroit considered the "Birthday Ball" a huge social success. The net financial outcome of the respective areas are tabulated as follows:

Troy Chapter	\$ 342.85	
Philadelphia area	125.00	
Boston area	1035.00	
Chicago area	154.74	
New York area	16.75	
	<u>\$1674.34</u>	
Less Detroit loss		\$ 47.07
Less Council exp.		<u>72.90</u>
		\$119.97
		<u>119.97</u>
<u>NET PROFIT</u>	\$1554.37	

Of this net figure the sum of \$1094.00 was deducted from the taxes imposed upon the chapters -- leaving a reserve amount of about \$460.00 to be deducted from the current budget. Without a doubt, our First Annual Birthday Ball was a social and financial success.

Special commendation should be given to the Troy Chapter who, unassisted, produced such excellent results.

We take this opportunity to thank all the chapters of the areas and their respective chairman for their excellent cooperation; to thank the sub-committee in Boston, particularly Misses Queenie Boyajian, Lucy Paboojian, Arpine Kezanjian, Arax Bakarian for their untiring efforts on behalf of the Birthday Ball and last but not least to Miss Gertrude Nahigian, National Chairman who headed the sub-committee for coordinating the relentless work of this vast undertaking.

We are sure that with the combined cooperation of all the chapters, and the able leadership of the 1951 Birthday Ball Chairman, Mr. Arshag Gechjian, the second Birthday Ball will far surpass the first.

13. **JUNIOR GROUPS:** Dr. Armen Shakerjian was delegated by the Central Council to guide, advise, correspond with Junior Groups and help the Seniors draw up the by-laws for these Junior Groups. However, no answers were received from the chapters to the bulletins issued asking if Junior Groups exist in the respective chapters. Dr. Shakerjian could not therefore proceed further. In view of the queries received from time to time with respect to the status of Junior Groups, the Central Council has proposed a few minor changes, and additions to the constitution for clarification.

14. **TAXES AND FINANCES:** The Central Council regrets to record that chapters are quite delinquent in remitting taxes, and it cannot stress enough that a central body cannot function efficiently and effectively without the necessary funds. It has, however, strived to limit its expenditures within the appropriations set forth in the budget. We point out here that taxes on the 1947-1948 period which were due in 1948-1949, that is, prior to the Third Annual Assembly are still due and owing from Cleveland-\$75.00, Lowell-\$25.00, New York-209.67, Union City-\$55.00, Worcester-\$150.00 and taxes for the 1948-1949 period which were due in 1949-1950, that is, prior to this Assembly, are still due and owing from Haverhill-\$81.01, Lowell-\$81.01, New Britain-\$71.51, New York-\$162.03, Union City-\$81.01. The Council has not overpressed these chapters for payment in order to give them the opportunity to replenish their respective treasuries. But it must, during this fiscal year insist on the liquidation of all taxes to date.

15. **FILMS:** The Central Council has been fortunate in establishing friendly contact with a sound and silent motion picture rental house through which the Central Council can place orders for chapters on religious, educational, and cultural films. Permission has been granted for the Council and a Hayrsoorp - namely Father Shnork - to preview the religious films and then recommend and authorize their use. It is felt that many an interesting activity may thus be prepared by chapters by sponsoring a series of film programs.

16. **MONTHLY MEETING REPORTS:** The Council has put great importance on these Monthly Meeting Reports they have prepared and forwarded to chapters with repeated requests that they be filled out after each meeting and filed with the Central Council. These reports have formed part of all the Council agendas. A record chart is kept by the council which tabs and records the activities of a chapter, the rise and decline in membership, its problems, its programs, type of activities engaged in and its progress. Through these reports the Council obtains an inside view of a chapter meeting in session. Thus far no reports have been received from Chicago, Lawrence, Lowell, New Britain, New York, Union City and Worcester. Of the chapters who do submit reports, North Philadelphia is the only chapter who diligently and faithfully has forwarded reports for our attention. Meeting reports from chapters are quite interesting and many a time the Council has picked up a tip or two to help another chapter by passing it on.

17. **RESOLUTIONS:** Formal resolutions of past Assemblies have been issued to chapters for execution.

18. **1950 ASSEMBLY:** The Council took great pains immediately following the Third Annual Assembly to work with the Evanston Chapter and to maintain active correspondence throughout the year in preparation for this Fourth Annual Assembly. Complete plans were exchanged between Evanston and the Central Council to check list the requirements and plans at all times. We record here our admiration for the Evanston Chapter who, with its handful of members, operated in complete harmony in cooperation with the Central Council. It was indeed a pleasure to work with the Evanston Chapter.

19. PUBLICITY: During the year publicity in an organized form, that is, through the Central Council, has appeared in such papers as the GROONG and the MIRROR-SPECTATOR. On the other hand, these two periodicals of their own volition have extended to us extensive publicity. We record here our thanks and appreciation to the Groong Publishing Company of Philadelphia for the lengthy article which appeared after the Third Annual Assembly with reference to the Armenian GUARDIAN, followed by an editorial in Armenian urging the elders to subscribe to our paper for the benefit of the younger generation and stressing the values of the publication and our organization. Second, we wish to thank the Armenian MIRROR-SPECTATOR for extending an invitation to the organization to use its space for an issue prior to the Assembly. It is now off the press which you have no doubt seen by now.

20. ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETINS: It is indeed unfortunate that the many bulletins issued requesting data and statistics of chapters, and explanations in detail and minute form to aid chapters to function efficiently are either met with indifference or are not noticed at all.

Somehow we have not been able to make chapters realize that they must help us to help them. The bulletins issued contain a wealth of guidance information -- if digested properly. They are not filed away properly for future reference. Proper files and records are not kept in chapters. Simple administrative procedures must be repeated over and over again by the council. Second, third and fourth requests are constantly issued and yet to no avail.

Back in December 1949 -- a simple request was made of chapters for their membership lists to enable us to send the Religious Features we spoke of before to respective chapters. Not many responded. Those who did benefitted of course. Third requests were issued before chapters like New Britain, Racine, Troy, Boston, Waukegan submitted their lists. As a result, the membership did not benefit from these timely topics. We are still waiting for the lists of New York, West Phila., Chicago.

Then again, ever so many requests were made during the past 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years for the duplicate application form of each member which must be filed in the Central office by each chapter. We are still waiting for S. Milwaukee, N. Britain, Waukegan, Boston, Chicago, Hartford, Havorhill, New York and Racine to submit these applications. As a result we do not have the proper statistics of the organization and we do not even know if the proper people belong to our organization. Thus far, just at a glance, we have found cases of unbaptized, unconfirmed, Catholic, Protestant members of the organization.

Urgent and explicit instructions were issued to all chapters that all Assembly data must be postmarked for the Central Council not later than July 20.

The chapters who promptly responded and their responsible chairman were Boston, George Garoian; Cleveland, Sam Mirakian; North Philadelphia, Herb Jamgochian; S. Milwaukee, Sam Kaishien; Watertown, Matthew Matteosian; Newark, Robert Kachadoorian; Detroit, Edward Papelian; Providence, Charles Garabedian; Union City, Andrew Tashjian; Waukegan, Michael Marsoobian; Peterson, Leo Bakalian -- 11 chapters.

The following chapters with their responsible chairmen submitted the reports too late for our records and, therefore, are not included in our statistical tabulation below and cannot be considered: Evanston, Armen Babegian; Lawrence, Gloria Chakurmanian; Lowell, Elizabeth Barbadian; Racine, Jack Taktakian; Troy, John Avakian; West Philadelphia, James Kesdikian; Worcester, Ralph Yagjian.

The chapters whose reports we are still waiting for and their responsible chairmen are: Chicago, Vartan Mikaelian; Haverhill, Michael Der Boghosian; New York, Lee Bedigian; Hartford, Charles Bagdigian; New Britain, Harry Badrigian.

Informing us that the summer months caused the delay, due to vacations, no meetings, etc., are poor excuses indeed. The Assembly date was changed to Labor Day weekend with the extracted promise that chapters must and would work during the summer to prepare for the Assembly. The summer months are just as difficult to work in for the Central Council and its work is multiplied by 23 times as much as yours and then some.

Not receiving these reports on time and not receiving them at all has caused a great deal of confusion in the Central Council Office. The names and addresses of the newly elected executive committees were not in our possession -- obliging us to send important bulk Assembly correspondence to past chairmen who may or may not have referred important matters to persons concerned.

We still do not have the officers names of the Chicago, Hartford, Haverhill, New Britain, New York Chapters.

Delegates names and addresses were submitted late by the same delinquent chapters forcing us to send minutes, instructions, agenda, etc., just as late.

New Britain, Haverhill, New York have not responded at all in submitting names of delegates and Hartford, Chicago and Troy responded only a few hours before the secretary packed records to leave for Chicago.

These points may be somewhat lengthy - but we wish to bring out that we are now in operation 4 years. Most of this administrative work should be routine by now. Reminders and correspondence should not be necessary. The Council has spent hours in planning the administration of this organization and has tried to make it as easy as possible for chapters through explanations. The Council feels the time has now come for them to divert their attention to other phases; such as program planning, creative work, publicity, membership drives, etc.

But chapters like those mentioned above only tend to jeopardize our organization by their carelessness, indifference and disinterest. They are being unfair to the organization at large and to themselves. Making noise at Assemblies does not type a chapter as being successful. The helpful, cooperative, model chapter is the one whose pulse is alive and constantly beating throughout the year and looks towards its central body, whom it placed there itself to aid it, with more respect and cooperation.

21. CHAPTER STATISTICS: We present here an overall picture of chapter statistics by a minute breakdown of facts, figures and activities. We repeat, the picture is not complete. It includes only Boston, Cleveland, Detroit, Newark, North Philadelphia, Paterson, Providence, S. Milwaukee, Union City, Waukegan, Watertown; 11 chapters from our list of 23:

- Total paid up membership - 656
- Number of business meetings held throughout - 202
- Social, religious, educational cultural meetings - 149
- ACYO members who are active members of the local church - 76
- Chapters having Junior Groups - 2
- Chapters having sponsored religious talks and topics - 8
- Chapters having observed religious holidays - 2
- Chapters organizing a church choir - 1
- Chapters engaged in quizzes and discussions - 2
- Chapters in question and answer period - 2

All the chapters have extended financial and moral aid to their local church, except one which does not have a church.

- 7 chapters have sponsored educational and cultural lectures
- 4 chapters have had educational movies
- 6 chapters have sponsored religious movies
- 3 chapters have taken part in Group Communion
- 1 chapter has organized a library
- 4 chapters have succeeded in encouraging group church attendance
- 2 chapters have formed visitation committees for the sick and aged
- 2 chapters have organized bible study groups
- 3 chapters have sponsored debates
- 4 chapters have encouraged appreciation and interest in Armenian Folk Dance and Song
- 3 chapters have had formal initiation ceremonies
- 2 chapters have sponsored membership drives
- 8 chapters have helped circulate GUARDIAN
- 6 chapters have contributed to the GUARDIAN editorially

Reaction of all the chapters to the religious series we have instituted has been very favorable and a strong desire is seen for more of such papers.

- 2 chapters have donated food baskets to the poor
- 3 chapters have produced plays
- Sunday school teachers of one chapter are all ACYO members
- 1 chapter has sponsored a parent night affair
- 1 chapter pageant
- All the chapters have sponsored dances and socials
- 5 chapters, picnics and outings
- 3 chapters have produced minstrels
- 4 chapters have engaged in bowling
- 1 chapter ping pong
- 3 chapters baseball
- 1 chapter basketball
- 1 chapter knitting and sewing

As we mentioned the Central Council through various sources keeps its alert eyes on all chapter activities and we record here special mention of the Worcester chapter who, from a mere membership of 13 at the Third Assembly and an empty treasury, has redoubled its footsteps to take its rightful place among our most active chapters today.

We also wish to record here that North Philadelphia chapter should indeed be lauded for its fine and careful choice of activities in religion, education and culture - in keeping with our aims and purposes.

We mention further that the Detroit chapter, with its vast membership, which at times is a problem even to them, has succeeded in keeping them active and interested through the use of its varied facilities and activities.

We laud the Cleveland chapter for its efforts in organizing a church choir to take its place among the other church groups when they acquire a church.

22. **THE ARMENIAN GUARDIAN:** The renewed enthusiasm created at the last assembly somehow was short lived. The overall responses in subscriptions were not better than the year before. The discussions which took place at the last assembly, the ways and means suggested, the letters and appeals which followed, only resulted in a total of 292 new subscriptions, 104 renewals from the chapters and 104 through the Central Office making a total of 396 as compared to 473 of the year before. The graph chart submitted to each chapter shows a breakdown of these figures. It is only too obvious that indifference and laziness on behalf of the chapters have brought about this condition. In short, it is obvious that the paper has not been publicized in communities - and it is more so obvious that potential sources have not even been tapped. It is obvious that the membership does not subscribe. It is obvious that the official publication of the organization has not been given serious thought as a vital part of the organization program. The only chapter who systematically and diligently went all out for subscriptions was the North Philadelphia chapter, headed by Acabe Boornazian and John Tatoian, whose slogan was "An Armenian Guardian in Every Armenian Home." Honorable mention here is endorsed for the North Philadelphia chapter who took first place with 44 subscriptions and 17 renewals, and to Detroit who came second with 44 subscriptions but no renewals.

Therefore, as a last resort to sell the Guardian, the Council is striving to make it as interesting as possible -- by printing the Guardian on better quality paper -- by changing the format to a neat and compact design with possibilities for binding in volumes -- produced the July and August issues in the new form and design which you have seen by now.

Headed by Mr. Sarian the Editor, an editorial staff consisting of Father Shnork, Father Arden, Hagop Nersoyan and Syrpouhie Essefian was organized through Bishop Tiran who called them to a meeting and assigned the various departments contained in the Guardian.

However, due to increased cost in printing in this format, the Council was obliged to increase the subscription rate to \$2.00 per annum and through its chapters will hit its goal of 2000 subscriptions. Only through subscriptions and subscriptions only (and we have made the Guardian as attractive as possible to now get after those subscriptions) can we cover the expenses and thus relieve the treasury of its heaviest burden -- the publication.

The rest is up to you.

(At this point the secretary informed the delegates that upon reaching Chicago a much lower bid had been obtained for printing the Guardian and that the Council, in consideration of such a bid and as a result of a conference the previous evening, was reducing the subscription rate to \$1.50.)

From the foregoing report on the activities it is evident that much time and effort has been tendered by the Council in coordinating the affairs of the several chapters of the organization and otherwise working to strengthen the spiritual and social bond amongst its chapters.

The Central Council will continue to maintain as efficient a central body of this organization as is warranted by the character and enthusiasm of the chapters of the Armenian Church Youth Organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Manoog Heditian, Chairman

Mary V. Shalakian, Executive Secretary

Central Council
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICA

Upon completing the reading of the report, Detroit asked that all chapters who had not submitted data necessary to the council (facts and figures) be officially censored, and that chapters in consideration to other members should take back to their chapters the importance of fulfilling their obligations to the chapters.

At this point, Father Torkom lauded the Central Council and the members of the Central Council for the exemplary report on the work done the year past. This brought forth from the floor a vote of appreciation for a tremendous job well done.

Following the Council report, the chapter reports which were received by the Council, were distributed this year and read by the respective delegates. It was here cited by the Assembly that they liked the reading of their own reports better.

With the return of the Syrpazan Hayr, the Presidency was once more turned over to him. He then addressed the Assembly once again. (We incorporate the second portion of his address):

"As I noticed during the past year certain things which have come to my notice, I am going to make a few comments and suggest that you ponder on them carefully. The things I am going to say do not apply to all chapters, they apply to some chapters, but I am sure the others also will heed them in their future activity. I need not repeat that on the whole I feel very happy with the progress of the organization, which is not rapid, but I'm sure is steady. Now in some chapters there has been a tendency to overlook the basic requirement in any organization that the constitution should be strictly and loyally adhered to. Some of the chapters have passed resolutions in their membership meetings overriding the provisions of the constitution. Now I want to say that this is an extremely dangerous thing. It undermines the whole organization. However, sometimes some of the provisions of the constitution may not be easily applicable to the situation in which the chapters find themselves. All the same it is much more salutary, it is much better to suffer a little by being strict in the application of the constitution than by disregarding it. I would like to point out that no membership meeting, no membership assembly or executive body has the right, the authority, or the prerogative to take any steps which go against the constitution. The constitution, therefore, should be adhered to strictly and should be respected.

"The second point I would like to make is judging from the reports and from the proposals coming from the chapters, I am inclined to think that there is a tendency of fussing about with the constitution. This also is a very sickly attitude because it is a sign of debility. We are only 4 years old and we should show no signs of old age. Because as just in cases of persons when persons get sick in mind, they attribute their sickness to the body and they go from doctor to doctor saying that this place is aching and the other place is aching, I'm not feeling good in this place or that place, whereas really they are wrong in their minds; so, also, in organizations your failures must never be attributed to the body of the provisions of the constitution which is there to guide and to impose upon you certain rules. I would like specially to stress this psychological truth. When you see that your members or the chapter as a whole are not able to carry out certain things, you must not try to blame your failure on the constitution. Sometimes they say, "We have members who are very nice, who would be helpful to the chapter although they have not been enrolled in time to be elected, but nevertheless let's elect them, they'll be useful to the chapter!" In other instances they've made other dispositions and I need not here mention those steps which were contrary to the constitution. It is true as we go along and as experience teaches us, we shall need certain changes in the constitution as you will yourselves see in the proposals to amend the constitution there are certain points which are clarifications. After all those who drew up the constitution could not foresee everyting and experience teaches us that certain things, as we go along, should be added and elaborated to the constitution, but I would only ask you to be extremely careful and to go about changing the constitution with utmost wisdom and reluctance. Therefore, just don't come here every year with new ideas about changing the constitution because that's the basis of the building of our organization, and just as in a building, fundamental changes always weaken the structure of the building; so, also, any attempt to tamper with our constitution will be extremely detrimental to the life and health of our organization. That's one point I want to stress about. And when the proposals come up, which

is an important item on the agenda to amend the constitution, be very careful and just not be carried away by a desire of introducing new things every time. There are some points which are very important and which were not foreseen when the constitution was drawn up and they should certainly be introduced, but some and perhaps I could say, the majority of the proposals should be considered very carefully by you and unless they are absolutely necessary they should not be passed upon.

"Another point which has come up in some chapters and which needs some advice by me to you. Now that is the relationship of your priests to your chapters. You know that in the constitution a priest is the president of each chapter. Now this word "president" is not put in the constitution as an ornament or a declaration. Neither is a priest in a chapter just an ornament to sit on a chair. He is an active president. He is the top person in the chapter both in point of authority, also in point of religious leadership. Therefore, you should consider the position of the priest in this light. You know the difference between the President and the Chairman. A President is the head of an organization. The Chairman is the head of a body of a sub-group in that organization. For example, the Chairman is a chairman of the executive committee in a chapter. He, of course, does collaborate with the priest and he has a great deal of responsibility and he has important duties. The President represents the chapter as a whole. But the Chairman of the Executive Committee conducts the affairs of the Executive Committee and as much of the affairs of the chapter as a whole as devolves upon him.

"It is also not to be overlooked that it is the work of the person which gives him authority. If you work you will have authority. If you do not work and stand aside and criticize you should not feel free to have authority. There are two clergymen here of chapters. I do not see fit here to tell them what to do. After their routine and sacramental work in the Parish, he should put the A.C.Y.C. No. 1 on his list to which he should give as much time and as much attention as he possibly can. I have spoken on every occasion on the vital importance of this organization. I have said on several occasions that the number of our priests at present, both the priests and members of the organization as a whole, are not great. Let no one despair about that. Let no one be disheartened by that fact. Quality is very important. Choose your members well and if you see a member in your parish who is a good member go after him and draft him into your chapter. Otherwise, do not run after members. Let them be attracted. Furthermore, expulsion from chapters must never be shunned. If you find a member in your chapter who is not bringing prestige to your chapter, do not be afraid to put him out. Of course, be careful in considering it. All the leaves and branches of the chapters in the organization must be alive and green and healthy.

"The fourth point I have made very often during the last 4 years. The activities of the organization should have substance. I am extremely glad from the report I had heard already some chapters are giving substance to their activities. Mental and spiritual nourishment is important. Therefore, this gradually substantializing is a condition of survival. In connection with this point I would also like to mention in each chapter there should be a determined group. A core -- a nucleus. Members revolt so to speak. Our organization is pretty

democratic. It must not be 100% democratic as I've said at other times, because it is a church institution, and the church as such is theocratic. We are, therefore, organized not to do the will of the people, but to do the will of God. This is an exceedingly important point not only in our own organization, but also in our approach to our church matters. We are here to fulfill not man's desires, but God's desires as revealed to us in the New Testament and in the authority of the church councils and so on. Therefore, this organization being a body in the church, it cannot, it must not be 100% democratic in the sense in which lay people, secular people understand democracy. But we have already put in the constitution as much democracy as possible. I am using the word democracy in a technical sense. We all like and love democracy and our country is committed to the upkeep of democracy. That's a general term which describes the way of life of the American people. I'm not talking in that sense. You know, 'demos' means people. Democracy means the rule of the people. Any church body is not the rule of the people but the rule of God. It is the Kingdom of God of which we are here in America a kind of cell, a small body within the Kingdom of God. Now, therefore, our constitution is as democratic as it can properly, conveniently, profitably be. Therefore, pay attention and some of the provisions of the constitution have been drawn up very carefully. Others have not been so very carefully drawn up and as we go along we shall clarify without changing the fundamental concepts or taking any steps which may or would tend to change the fundamental concepts of the constitution. Now I'm making this point in a general way but if you bear that in mind when the problem of the amendments comes you will see that it has a bearing on some of them. Now then, there is always, as I said, a small determined group in each chapter which will push, which will be a kind of locomotive of the train and you should never think that because the other members are not so active, therefore, you do not have the duty of being active. Incidentally, in parenthesis I must say that you are delegates here. There are members behind you in your own chapters. I would like very much to have you take some of these points back to your chapters because I'm in no position to come to each of the chapters and to speak to all the members on these very important problems. I've a long experience, I'm young, but I've got plenty of experience in organization of this kind -- that is, church organization. Therefore, I'm saying these things with grave responsibility and with utmost seriousness because I want to repeat again I consider the nature of A.C.Y.O. of very vital importance for our future in this country and for the future of our church."

After the completion of the address the first session was adjourned at 5:30 P.M. to resume again Sunday following church services in Evanston.

Following church services and a luncheon for the delegates, the second session was resumed preceded by a Birthday Ball conference in the church proper with Arshag Gechijian in the chair as the National Chairman for the forthcoming Birthday Ball and with Father Torkom presiding.

Mr. Gechijian explained the breakup of the areas as follows: Newark and Paterson to be included in the metropolitan area chapters, along with Union City and New York--Leo Bakalian to act as chairman of this area; The Boston area, including Providence, Watertown, Lowell, Lawrence, Worcester, Haverhill to stay intact--a meeting to be called to appoint a chairman; S. Milwaukee, Racine, Chicago and Evanston, Waukegan area,

with Armen Babagian as chairman; North and West Philadelphia area--with Avedis Kevorkian as chairman; Detroit and Cleveland area; Troy area. Ways and means were discussed to make the affair a profitable one. The official name of the affair to be the Fourth Anniversary Ball. The manner of advertising, means and methods to be employed, etc., were also discussed. Following the informal discussion period, the Birthday Ball conference was brought to a close.

The business session was then called to order in the church hall, with Mr. Heditian in the chair and Syrpazan Hayr presiding. The Troy chapter here answered roll call with the registration of Leo Movsessian and Rose Artinian.

The chairman now passed on to the next item on the agenda: Amendments and Proposals -- (We incorporate the list of amendments and proposals discussed in order of presentation, comments made and decisions rendered):

Re: Article IV - Section 6:
Proposed by the Central Council:

THAT ARTICLE IV - SECTION 6: "All clergymen in the parish shall be honorary members of the chapter", SHALL BE DELETED FROM THE CONSTITUTION.

Comments: Motion made to accept the deletion. Motion seconded. Unanimous vote tally.

Re: Article IV - Section 17:
Proposed by the Central Council:

THAT JUNIOR MEMBERS UPON BEING ADMITTED SHALL MAKE THEIR PLEDGE, PAY THEIR INITIATION FEE, THEIR FIRST ANNUAL DUES, AND SHALL RECEIVE A JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP CARD SIGNED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND THE RECORDING SECRETARY OF THE CHAPTER.

THAT UPON ATTAINING THE AGE OF 18 A JUNIOR MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING SHALL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SENIOR GROUP BY TAKING THE SENIOR PLEDGE AND SHALL PERFORM THE DUTIES AND SHALL ENJOY THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF A SENIOR MEMBER. NO ADDITIONAL INITIATION FEE SHALL BE REQUIRED OF A JUNIOR MEMBER BECOMING A SENIOR MEMBER.

THAT ALL REPORTS OF JUNIOR CHAPTERS (SECRETARIAL AND FINANCIAL) SHALL BE INCORPORATED BY THE SENIOR CHAPTERS IN THEIR ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Comments: Motion made to accept this article as presented for clarification to the constitution. Motion seconded. Vote tally unanimous.

MOTION MADE FROM THE FLOOR THAT A VOICE OR HAND VOTE BE GIVEN ON EACH MOTION UNLESS AN OFFICIAL TALLY IS REQUESTED.

Comments: Motion seconded. Vote tally 19 to 22 against. Motion defeated.

Re: Article V - Section 1-2-3-:
Proposed by the Central Council:

THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BE MADE AND THAT ARTICLE V SECTION 1-2-3- BE AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE INITIATION FEE FOR SENIOR AND JUNIOR MEMBERS SHALL BE \$1.00 TO BE PAID UPON RECEIPT OF MEMBERSHIP CARDS.
2. THE DUES FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING OF THIS ORGANIZATION SHALL BE \$1.00 TO BE PAID ANNUALLY.
3. THE DUES FOR SENIOR MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING OF THIS ORGANIZATION SHALL BE \$2.00 TO BE PAID ANNUALLY.

Comments: Motion made to accept the proposal as presented. Motion seconded. Vote tally unanimous.

Re: Article IX - Section 1:
Proposed by West Philadelphia Chapter:

THAT THIS SECTION BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE THE ELECTION OF AN ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.

Comments: Proposal was withdrawn in view of counter argument presented that this was not necessary and same could be done through chapter by-laws.

Re: New article to be incorporated as Article X - Section 4.
Subsequent section to be renumbered.
Proposed by the Central Council:

THAT THE PRESIDENT OF A CHAPTER SHALL BE AN EX-OFFICIO DELEGATE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH THE POWERS OF AN ELECTED DELEGATE.

Comments: Following the arguments presented motion was made and seconded that the above proposal be incorporated. Vote tally: 31 affirmative, 7 negative, 3 abst. Motion passed.

Re: Article 10 - Section 10 - Constitution amendment:
Proposed by New Britain chapter:

THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ELECT THE RESOLUTIONS, CONSTITUTION, AUDITING AND FINANCING COMMITTEES AND ANY OTHER COMMITTEES WHICH THE ASSEMBLY DEEMS NECESSARY.

Comments: The Assembly ruled this proposal as being out of order since the constitution already allows it and that heretofore appointments have been made only to facilitate matters and only at the discretion of the assembly body.

Re: Article XI - Section 1 - Constitutional amendment:
Proposed by the New Britain chapter:

THAT NOT MORE THAN SEVEN MEMBERS SHALL BE ELECTED TO COMPOSE THE CENTRAL COUNCIL. THE TERM OF OFFICE SHALL BE TWO YEARS

FOR EACH MEMBER. MEMBERS ARE TO BE ELECTED TO THE CENTRAL COUNCIL IN THE ORDER OF FOUR THE FIRST YEAR, THREE THE NEXT, FOUR THE NEXT, THREE THE NEXT, ETC., MEMBERS MAY BE REELECTED TO ANY POSITION.

Comments: In view of the arguments presented against such a proposal, the proposal was withdrawn.

Re: Article XI - Section 5 - To be amended to read as follows:
Proposed by West Philadelphia Chapter:

THAT ... "AND WITHIN 90 DAYS A COPY OF SUCH RECORD SHALL ALSO BE SENT TO THE INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS FOR THEIR FILES."

Comments: Motion made and seconded to accept this proposal. Vote tally unanimous.

Re: Article XI - Section 12 - Constitutional amendment:
Proposed by New Britain Chapter:

THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL ELECT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE ASSEMBLY AT THE BEGINNING OF ITS FIRST SESSION. NO MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL CAN BE ELECTED TO ANY OFFICE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Comments: Following a great deal of discussion contrary to the presented proposal the vote tally was taken: 36 negative, 2 affirmative, 3 abst. Motion defeated.

Re: Article XI - Section 12 - Constitutional amendment:
Proposed by Waukegan Chapter:

THAT THE ASSEMBLY MEETINGS OF THE CONVENTION SHALL BE PRESIDED BY A CHAIRMAN SELECTED FROM AMONG THE DELEGATES AT THE CONVENTION. SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN SHALL BE MADE BY THE DELEGATES ON THE LAST DAY'S BUSINESS AFTER THE SELECTION OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR'S CONVENTION SITE. (CONVENTION CHAIRMAN WILL THUS BE SELECTED IN ADVANCE FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR'S CONVENTION).

THAT THERE SHALL BE AT LEAST 2 NOMINATIONS BUT NOT MORE THAN THREE FOR CONVENTION CHAIRMAN. NOMINATIONS ARE TO BE AS FOLLOWS:

1. One nomination presented by the Central Council.
2. One nomination presented by the Archonord.
3. One nomination presented from the floor by delegates.

Comments: Following a series of arguments against this proposal, vote tally was taken: 4 affirmative, 37 negative, motion was defeated.

Re: Article XVI - To be amended to read:
Proposed by the Central Council:

SECTION 1: THAT THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE AMENDED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PROVIDED SUCH AMENDMENTS AS MAY

BE MADE ARE APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF THE CHAPTERS AT THEIR SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT THEY ARE APPROVED BY THE ARCHBISHOP AND THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL. ALL AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE CHAPTERS MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE CENTRAL COUNCIL WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THEIR SUBMISSION TO THE CHAPTERS.

IF THE MAJORITY OF THE CHAPTERS DO NOT APPROVE AND/OR RESPOND TO THE AMENDMENT WITHIN A PERIOD OF 90 DAYS SUCH AMENDMENT SHALL BE CONSIDERED NULL AND VOID AND OF NO EFFECT.

SECTION 2: THAT ALL AMENDMENTS TO BE PROPOSED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MUST REACH THE CENTRAL COUNCIL SIX WEEKS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Comments: Following a series of discussion, vote tally was taken.
Result: Unanimous.

Re: GUARDIAN Subscriptions:
Proposed by West Philadelphia Chapter:

THAT GUARDIAN SUBSCRIPTIONS BE INCLUDED IN ANNUAL DUES.

Comments: Vote tally: 23 negative, 16 affirmative, 2 abs.
Motion defeated.

Re: Proxy Voting:
Proposed by New Britain Chapter:

THAT ALL VOTING IN THE ASSEMBLY SHOULD BE DONE BY INDIVIDUAL VOTES OF THE DELEGATES. A CHAPTER CAN STIMULATE THE DESIRE FOR PROXY VOTES TO FULFILL ITS QUOTA OF VOTES.

Comments: Vote tally: 35 negative, 6 affirmative. Motion defeated.

Re: Resolutions and Proposals:
Proposed by Detroit Chapter:

THAT PRIOR TO THE ASSEMBLY THE CENTRAL COUNCIL SHALL NOTIFY THE CHAPTERS OF ALL RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AS PROPOSED FROM CHAPTERS FOR PRESENTATION AT THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY.

Comments: Vote tally taken: 28 affirmative, 13 negative, motion passed.

Re: Executive Secretary:
Proposed by New Britain Chapter:

THAT THE OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BE ELIMINATED.

Comments: Vote tally: 39 negative, 2 affirmative. Motion defeated.

Re: Financial Report of Central Council:

Proposed by Boston Chapter:

THAT AN ITEMIZED FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL BE SENT TO EACH RESPECTIVE CHAPTER WITH THE REPORT OF THE ANNUAL CONVENTION.

Comments: The above was withdrawn when it was explained to the chapter that this is already done. However, a more itemized Central Council financial report would be appreciated.

Re: Standards or Banners for Chapters:

Proposed by Central Council:

THAT STANDARDS BE PREPARED FOR CHAPTERS. EACH CHAPTER TO HAVE ONE TO USE DURING THEIR MEETINGS, CEREMONIES AND ON SOLEMN OCCASIONS.

Comments: Vote tally taken: 28 affirmative, 11 negative, 2 abst. Motion passed. It was further decided that the Council look into this to obtain estimates, etc.

Re: Combining the HAYASTANYAITZ YEGBHETZI and the GUARDIAN:

Proposed by New Britain Chapter:

THAT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE BE FORMED AT THE ASSEMBLY TO COMBINE THE HAYASTANYAITZ YEGBHETZI AND THE GUARDIAN AND IF THAT CANNOT BE DONE, DISBAND WITH THE GUARDIAN.

Comments: After citing the impossibilities of this proposal, same was withdrawn.

Re: ARMENIAN GUARDIAN:

Proposed by the Central Council:

THAT THE GOAL FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE ARMENIAN GUARDIAN FOR THE YEAR 1950-1951 BE 2000. THAT EACH CHAPTER BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SALE OF A NUMBER OF COPIES PROPORTIONATE TO THE POINTS ASSIGNED TO EACH CHAPTER BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR TAXATION PURPOSES. THE REVENUE FROM SUBSCRIPTIONS EXCEEDING THE QUOTA ASSIGNED TO A CHAPTER SHALL BE RETAINED BY THAT CHAPTER. THE COUNCIL SUGGESTS THAT TWO METHODS BE ADOPTED TO PROMOTE THE SALE OF SUBSCRIPTIONS: 1. PERSONAL CONTACTS. 2. CORRESPONDENCE USING THE A. C. Y. O. AND PARYSH MAILING LIST WITH A SAMPLE COPY OF THE GUARDIAN ENCLOSED.

Comments: This proposal was tabled until the budget was discussed. Vote tally, 21 affirmative, 18 negative, 2 abst.

The chair here informed the assembly that the proposals as presented by the chapters were exhausted and we would pass on to new business. We list here the order of new business:

MOTION MADE THAT STARTING WITH THIS ASSEMBLY (1950) IN EVANSTON A COMPLETE FINANCIAL STATEMENT BE PREPARED AND PRESENTED TO THE CENTRAL COUNCIL AND SENT TO THE CHAPTERS.

Comments: Vote tally, 32 affirmative, 4 abst., 5 negative.

MOTION MADE THAT ALL INDIVIDUAL CHAPTER REPORTS BE INCORPORATED IN THE SECRETARIAL REPORT AS WAS DONE THIS YEAR AND NOT READ AT THE ASSEMBLY BY THE CHAPTERS.

Comments: Vote tally, 23 affirmative, 13 negative, 5 abst.

--In connection with the amendment with reference to the voting power of clergymen, clarification was asked for and as a result ...

MOTION MADE THAT ALL PRESIDENTS OF THE CHAPTERS BE ALLOWED TO VOTE AS INDIVIDUALS AND NOT AS MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS PROVIDED THEY ATTEND THE ASSEMBLY IN PERSON.

Comments: Vote tally, 40 affirmative, 1 negative.

Pending further motions and proposals the chair asked the Auditing Committee to report on the financial statement presented to the Assembly by the Central Council for approval. The chairman of the Auditing Committee stated that the financial records of the organization had been thoroughly examined and approved by the Auditing Committee. However, the following comments were made by the committee for the consideration of the Assembly Body:

1. That the books should not be audited at the assembly.
2. That they should be closed between June 30 and August 30.
3. That the Auditing Committee should be appointed at the assembly to audit the books prior to the subsequent assembly.
4. That the financial statement bearing the approval of the Auditing Committee should simply be read at the assembly.
5. That the Accounts Payable and the Accounts Receivable should be listed in detail.

MOTION WAS MADE THAT THE REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE BE ACCEPTED AS READ. VOICE VOTE TAKEN. MOTION PASSED. (We herewith incorporate the financial statement):

Sept. 1, 1949:

Bank Balance	\$673.27
Petty Cash on hand	<u>58.93</u>

\$732.20

RECEIPTS:

Armenian Guardian.	\$ 68.00
Initiation Fees.	152.00
Books (Sale of).	7.80
Taxes.	2058.46
Birthday Ball.	1189.74
ACYOA Pins	<u>55.00</u>

TOTAL RECEIPTS. 4121.00

GROSS BALANCE \$4853.20

GROSS BALANCE (Carried forward). \$4853.20

DISBURSEMENTS:

Armenian Guardian. \$1906.34
 Birthday Ball. 72.90
 Council Travel 834.29
 Executive Secretary. 51.29
 Petty Cash 158.93
 Office Supplies. 24.71
 Printing Expenses. 91.50

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 3139.96

CASH BALANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 1950. \$1713.24

With respect to the comments in reference to the auditing of the books, motion was made at this time that the assembly elect an Auditing Committee to audit the books immediately upon closing of the books, June 30 and to prepare the financial statement for the period 1950-1951 within 30 days after the closing.

It was decided to postpone this motion until a later session at which time a better proposal would be presented embodying the pertinent facts.

With respect to the status of chapters who have not paid their taxes Waukegan Chapter asked for clarification as to whether delinquent chapters would have to pay the full amount or the taxes for the current year only. Following discussions on this matter and a proposal presented by Waukegan, it was decided to table this matter also until a later session until such time that Waukegan would present a better proposal for consideration by the assembly body.

Here the chair asked that the Auditing Committee present the budget for the fiscal year 1950-1951. (We incorporate the budget as presented):

Council Travelling Expenses. \$ 900.00
 Office Expenses. 225.00
 Petty Cash 150.00
 Armonian Guardian (net). 900.00
 Guardian Editor. 900.00
 Secretarial Expenses 600.00
 Printing 250.00
 Travel Expenses to Chicago 454.60

GROSS TOTAL. \$4379.60

Less additional Birthday Ball
 income. 460.37

NET TOTAL OF BUDGET. \$3919.23

Upon presentation of the budget, motion was made and seconded that the budget be accepted. Vote tally taken - unanimous.

With respect to the proposal made previously by the Central Council and which was tabled for the while until the budget was discussed (Re: Guardian subscription goal and ways and means to reach such goal) motion was made that this proposal be withdrawn by Central Council. The Central Council members conferred here among themselves and informed the assembly that the proposal would be withdrawn.

The Chair here announced that it was now ready to discuss the point ratio system of taxation and that it was suggested that the 11 point system should be used.

Syrpazan Hayr explained that by increasing the number of points from 7 to 11 (in fact, even the 11 was not enough and that 22 should be used), we would be affording the chapters a more fair choice of points, within this wider range of points, in keeping with their ability to pay and that the greater the number of points the less amount of money per point, which again would make it easier for a chapter to take an additional point without presenting too much of a financial burden on the chapter.

Motion was made that we accept the 11 point system of voting. This system would bring the point value to \$33.60. Motion was seconded. Vote tally taken. Unanimous.

Here began a long drawn out session of many calls for points since every call fell short of the points needed to meet the budget.

The cooperation of the delegates was greatly manifested here as the time drew close to 12:30 A.M. and the delegates who had not taken time out for supper sat in a warm and crowded room trying to compute the tax. Arrangements were made, however, to have food brought in for the delegates. A half hour break was called here for the repast. When the session was resumed several calls were again taken until the budget was met. (We incorporate the final call):

6	Boston	11 points	\$ 368.50
1	Cleveland	1	33.50
1	Chicago	2	67.00
6	Detroit	11	368.50
4	Evanston	4	134.00
1	Hartford	3	100.50
1	Haverhill	4	134.00
	Lawrence	6	201.00
	Lowell	1	33.50
	Newark	2	67.00
	New Britain	4	134.00
4	New York	5	167.50
4	N. Philadelphia	10	335.00
1	Paterson	2	67.00
5	Providence	11	368.50
3	S. Milwaukee	3	100.50
4	Troy	6	201.00
	Union City	2	67.00
6	Watertown	11	368.50
5	W. Philadelphia	5	167.50
1	Waukegan	2	67.00
	Worcester	8	268.00
3	Racine	3	100.50
	TOTAL		\$3919.50

TOTAL (Carried forward) \$3919.50
 Loss approved budget 3919.23
 Difference \$.27

With this final call the session was brought to a close to resume again the following morning at the hotel in Chicago.

The last session of the Fourth Annual Assembly was resumed at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, at the Hotel Sheraton in Chicago.

The committee appointed for the reading of the minutes of the Third Annual Assembly was called upon to present its report.

The committee reported that they had read the minutes and had found them to be in order except for a typographical error on page 24 in the listing of the votes for Emma Hovsepien. Same should be corrected to 12 instead of 21.

Motion made and seconded that the minutes of the Third Annual Assembly should be accepted as read and corrected. Hand vote taken. Unanimous.

Next, the outstanding proposal with respect to the financial statement of the organization and the auditing committee was brought out.

The proposal was presented as follows:

Resolved that the Auditing Committee as elected by the Assembly in the first session be the standing committee to examine and audit all the books of the organization during the following fiscal year. That the financial statement be prepared in its final form immediately after the closing of the fiscal year.

Motion was made and seconded. Vote tally taken, 39 affirmative, 2 abst. Motion passed.

It was further suggested by Syrpazan Hayr that the Auditing committee also serve in an advisory capacity to advise the council in the preparation of the budget.

Another motion was made that the assembly appoint a committee of not less than three from the delegates of the Assembly to pass upon the minutes of the current assembly. Vote tally taken. Unanimous. Motion passed.

The following were elected to this committee: Mary Azarian, Minas Kazanjian, Esther Agabian.

The next item of the agenda was the selection of the Assembly site for the Fifth Annual Assembly.

Watertown and Boston had both submitted bids inviting the Assembly delegates to convene in their respective cities. After listening to discussions as presented by the chapters concerned, a vote tally was

taken .. 32 votes for Watertown and 9 votes for Boston. Here the Fourth Assembly Host Chairman, Miss Kafesjian, presented the Assembly Banner to the Watertown Host Chapter of the Fifth Annual Assembly.

The Chair informed the Assembly that the Plaque which was presented to the Evanston Host Chapter at the Banquet was done so as a gesture on behalf of the Central Council as a memento to the chapter and that the Council would make same retroactive insofar as all previous host chapters were concerned,

With respect to the other outstanding proposal which had been tabled in reference to tax delinquent chapters, Waukegan presented its proposal:

THAT THE STATUS OF A DELINQUENT CHAPTER WHICH PAYS ITS CURRENT TAXES SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE CENTRAL COUNCIL AS TO ITS VOTING POWER AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND AS TO THE PAYMENT OF TAXES IN ARREARS.

It was pointed out here that this should be done by the Central Council prior to the Assembly in order to facilitate matters and to avoid such a session as the one we had experienced at the opening of the Assembly in determining voting power. It was also clarified that the Central Council be given the authority to clear off or forgive outstanding taxes open on the books as it sees fit.

Motion was seconded. Vote tally taken, 36 affirmative, 4 abst., 1 absent. Motion passed.

The Chair passed on to the next item. The election of Central Council members. The Chair informed the Assembly that due to impending induction into service, Dr. Armen Shakerjian, who had one year more to serve had tendered his resignation. Mr. Heditian read Dr. Armen's letter of resignation. Syrpazan Hayr commended Dr. Armen and his work in the Council the past two years and informed the assembly that his resignation was tendered in the better interests of the organization. Motion was made that the resignation be accepted and that a letter be sent to Dr. Armen Shakerjian. Motion seconded.

Motion was further made that the members of the nominating committee be added to the list of nominees for election into the Central Council. Motion was seconded and passed.

Motion was made to vote individually on the election of members to the Central Council. Vote tally taken, 38 affirmative, 3 negative. Motion passed.

The names of the nominees were now listed on the blackboard as follows:

Paul Hovsepian - Detroit
Betty Kaffeian - Hartford
Esther Agabian - Worcester
Acabe Boornazian - N. Philadelphia
Matthew Matteosian - Watertown
Ralph Yagjian - Worcester

Norma Kafesjian - Evanston
Helon Partogian - Detroit
Avedis Kevorkian - W. Philadelphia
Charles Kundumian - N. Philadelphia
Leo Kovsessian - Troy
Mary Azarian - Lawrence
Arthur Yagjian - Worcester
Emma Hovsepian - Detroit

The Chair informed the Assembly that due to Dr. Armen's resignation a fourth member would be elected to the council at this assembly to serve for one year, and that Gertrude Nahigian, Harold Manoogian had completed their 3 year terms and Emma Hovsepian, who was elected for a period of one year, had completed the year and was eligible for re-election.

Specially prepared vote blanks were distributed to the delegates who were called upon one by one to drop their blanks into the voting box. At the first call, the results proved that Paul Hovsepian of Detroit had obtained a majority of the votes. However, at the subsequent calls, the voting was bogged down somewhat due to the inability of any of the nominees to obtain a majority of the votes. Following many tallies and revotes, the results proved that Avedis Kevorkian of West Philadelphia and Acabe Boornazian of North Philadelphia were the next runners-up. We also record here the fact that Matthew Matteosian, who was one of the favorites throughout, was in the lead many times. The next voting was tallied for the one year term. Mary Azarian of Lawrence was elected to fulfill the vacancy.

The Chair now passed on to pending business. Motion was made that a chapter be elected to audit the books for the coming year. Worcester was nominated and seconded. Watertown was nominated and seconded. Nominations were closed. Worcester withdrew. By a show of hands, Watertown was appointed to comprise the auditing committee.

Motion was made that the delegates from the Detroit Chapter form a committee to draw up a set of rules of procedure for the general assembly. Motion seconded. Show of hands vote. Motion passed.

With the business on the agenda now completed, the Chair called forward the newly elected members of the Central Council. Father Torkom aided Syrpazan Hayr in reciting the prayers. After blessing the new members and wishing them success in their work, Syrpazan Hayr said the benediction.

Mr. Heditian expressed the appreciation of the Assembly body to the Evanston chapter for their very fine and satisfactory show of hospitality and that this Assembly would be one long remembered by all alike.

The Assombly was here adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary V. Shalakian
Executive Secretary
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICA