

ACYOT

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



**SEPTEMBER 1, 2, 3, 1951
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS**

FIFTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

September 1, 2, 3, 1951

The first session of the Fifth Annual Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America convened at the Hotel Bradford, Boston, Massachusetts, at 12:45 P.M. on Saturday, September 1, 1951, under the presidency of the Arachnord, the Right Reverend Bishop Tiran, and the chairmanship of Mr. Manoog Heditisian, Central Council Chairman. The agenda of this Assembly was as follows:

Registration
Invocation, Prayer, and Pledge
Introductions and Opening Addresses
Presentation of Charter to New Chapters
Roll Call
Rules of Procedure
Election of all Committees:
 Nominating, Auditing and Budgeting, Minutes Reading, etc.
Committee Reports
Council Secretarial Report
Telegrams and Messages
Birthday Ball Conference
Old Business
Amendments and Proposals
New Business
Election and Installation of Council Members
Selection of Next Assembly Site
Presentation of Banner to Next Host Chapter
Benediction
Adjournment

REGISTRATION

All the delegates presented their credentials and registered in accordance with the usual procedure.

INVOCATION, PRAYER, AND PLEDGE

His Grace, Bishop Tiran, opened the session by leading the assemblage in Hyre Mer, followed by the A.C.Y.O.A. Pledge and Prayer.

INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING ADDRESSES

Mr. Heditisian introduced the Central Council Members, namely:

Arshag Gechijian, Vice Chairman
Paul Najarian, Treasurer
Paul Hovsepian, Junior Chapter Director
Acabe Boornazian, Guardian Promotion Manager
Zaven Hovsepian, National Publicity Director
Matthew Matteosian, Advisor

Mrs. Grayce Hadrian, Advisor, was expected to arrive momentarily and Miss Mary Azarian, Secretary, was unable to attend and sent a telegram giving her reason. Miss Acabe Boornazian was delegated to the post of Assembly Secretary in her place.

The following members of the Clergy were introduced next:

Father Shnork Vartabed Kalousdian, Vicar of the Bishop, Newark
Father Torkom Vartabed Manoogian, North Philadelphia
Father Mesrob Vartabed Semerjian, Troy
Father Levon Arakelian, West Philadelphia
Father Torkom Apegha Postajian, Watertown
Father Arten Ashjian, Paterson
Father Garen Gdanian, Lowell
Father Vartan Megherian, Evanston

Father Torkom Postajian, President of the host chapter, was called upon to welcome the delegates. He spoke in Armenian and the following is a translation:

"On behalf of the members of the St. James Church of Watertown and all the organizations connected with the Church, we welcome all the guests and the youth of the A.C.Y.O.A. On this occasion, we wish you success with your meetings. We thank you for the honor given to us in Watertown for the privilege of being your hosts. The preparation for this Assembly has again aroused a great interest on the part of our youth. Thank you again and success to you and the Organization."

Mr. Henry Toroyan, Chairman of the Watertown Board of Trustees, then spoke and welcomed the delegates and wished the Assembly success. He made particular mention of how, night after night, the members of the Watertown Chapter worked in the Parish House preparing for this Assembly.

Mr. Dikran Boyajian, Chairman of the Diocesan Assembly and Toastmaster for the Banquet, spoke. The following is part of his address:

"Surpazan Hyre, Reverend Fathers, and delegates to the Fifth Annual Assembly of the A.C.Y.O.A., I have had a craving, I must confess, to attend one of your Assemblies, but somehow up to now I have been unable to do so. This is a very happy moment for me and I would like to have you believe me when I say that. I look upon all of you as the followers of a generation who have, with untiring efforts, tried to uphold not only the spirit of their Christian fathers, but their Church as well. You are, therefore, the followers of your Church and in the very near future, it will be entrusted to your care. I am quite sure that each and every one of you realize and appreciate the duty and the responsibility which is expected of you and I know that you will always keep up to our expectations. You will carry the Christian flag until death. May God bless you and may your efforts in this convention be crowned with success. God bless all of you and good luck to you in this convention."

Mrs. Ardemis Matteosian, Chairman of the Assembly Committee of Watertown, also welcomed the delegation and wished them luck. As a token of appreciation, a gavel was presented to Mr. Mancoog Heditsian from the Watertown Chapter. Mr. Heditsian accepted the gavel and said he would try to use it sparingly yet effectively.

His Grace, Bishop Tiran, President of the A.C.Y.O.A., was the next speaker. His address is as follows:

"I want to express my deep happiness and the thrilling feeling which I have when I see delegates and others coming from all over our Diocese in America to this Assembly of our Organization. During the last year, I think I am right in saying, we have had no outstanding achievement. Years ago, when we started this movement in Providence, and considering how our community lived in this country and the difficulties with which we were faced right from the start, I never expected spectacular achievements. Our Organization has not been expanding as rapidly as some people would like it to. I am very glad to say, however, that our progress has been steady and sure. We have taken root firmly and with determination. Therefore, we should be grateful to God that we have come thus far on our path."

"Our Organization is gradually getting stronger and I think the machinery is pretty well oiled and is going well. So far as the by-laws is concerned, it has been pretty well perfected and I think it is quite satisfactory. Those who have been in the Organization for the last five years are beginning to create a tradition which is extremely important for an organization of this type. The creation of a tradition, to be handed to the newcomers as we go along, is very important and fundamental."

"Now is the time for us, after having created the machinery, after having established such a wonderful organization...now is the time for us to do more creative work, both on the national scale as well as on the local scale. Unless the vessel which we have fashioned is full of the proper nourishment - spiritual food - the organization will not be able to serve its purpose by feeding its members."

"There are two levels on which our work is done. One is the general diocesan level, where work is being done by the Central Council which is the center of the whole organization. I have attended all the meetings of the Council during the past year and have taken very active interest in its work. I can say here that they have been doing a wonderful job. They have been very diligent in performing their duties. The other level, needless to say, is the parish level on which the chapters have to work. The Organization can only prosper if the chapters are alive and produce results in their own sphere. We stand or fall on the fruitful and diligent work done on the chapter level."

"So far as the expansion of the Organization is concerned, I am glad to note, as you will hear from the report, that we have added four new chapters with Downtown New York, Miami, West

Pullman, and Chicago, organized or reorganized, and another chapter is in the process of organization in Springfield, Massachusetts."

"What we really need is an Executive Director who would take care of details. Such a director should have his office in the Diocesan office. He would not only execute what the Central Council decides, but also direct the activity of the chapters - helping them to do their work more effectively. I have some ideas in this respect and after the Diocesan Assembly, which will take place in October, I hope that we shall take another very important step in the direction of more effective work for our Organization and in the direction of performing the duties, aims, and policies of our Organization more fruitfully and in a manner more pleasing to God."

"Another phase of our work is connected with our monthly organ, the 'Armenian Guardian'. I am sorry to say the 'Guardian' has not been sufficiently promoted in the last few years to be of such service to our Organization as we expected. The fault mainly lies with the Chapters and their Executive Bodies, which have been a little slack in pushing the 'Guardian'."

"The important thing is that we should keep our aims high, persevere in our sacred task, put our trust in our Lord and His guidance. We should seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and go forward full of faith, hope, and charity."

PRESENTATION OF CHARTER TO NEW CHAPTERS

Charters were presented to the following chapters:

West Pullman - Sarkis Boyajian
New York, Downtown - Rose Kuzujian
Chicago - Mary Najarian

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with thirty-eight delegates present and accounted for and eight members of the Clergy. Evidence of a quorum having been established, Mr. Heditian announced the Fifth Annual Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America was in session.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

First consideration on the agenda was given to Rules of Procedure as presented by the Detroit delegation. The recommendations were as follows:

Section A -- Resolved that there shall be no absentee voting. Voting shall be on individual basis; however, each chapter shall report its total affirmative and negative votes at one time.

Motion was made and seconded to adopt the above resolution and was voted upon in the affirmative unanimously.

Section B -- Resolved that the preferential method - Bucklin Plan - shall be employed in electing new Central Council members. The voter must indicate his first, second, and third preferences; but each preference must be expressed for a different person. The candidate wins who has a majority of all the first choices; or failing that, a majority of all the combined first and second choices; or failing that, a majority of all the combined first, second, and third choices.

An amendment was proposed to the above resolution as follows:

Be it further resolved that the point system

3 for 1st choice
2 for 2nd choice
1 for 3rd choice

be adopted.

Motion was made and seconded to put the original resolution to a vote. The tally showed a forty-six affirmative vote.

Motion was made and seconded to put the proposed amendment to a vote. The tally showed a thirty-six affirmative and eleven negative result. Motion was carried.

A third vote was taken on the combined original proposal and amendment. Motion was carried unanimously.

Section C of the presented Rules of Procedure was deleted due to the fact that the provision had been adopted at a previous Assembly.

Section C -- Reading of reports - the individual chapter reports shall not be read as such, but they shall be summarized in the Central Council Secretarial Report.

Section D -- Resolved that the number of nominees shall not exceed twice the number of committee members required for each committee. Voting shall be by hand.

After much discussion, motion was made and seconded that the above be accepted. Vote was taken with a unanimous affirmative result.

ELECTION OF ALL COMMITTEES

The Assembly then proceeded to the Election of Committees. Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved that the President, the Bishop, be requested to appoint the committees in order to expedite the work of the Assembly. The committees and appointed members were as follows:

Minutes Reading Committee

Martin Agizian	-	Detroit Chapter		
Edward Papaelian	-	"	"	
Helen Partogian	-	"	"	
Paul Hovsepian	-	"	"	- Central Council Advisor

Nominating Committee

Florence Minassian - Boston Chapter
Emma Hovsepian - Detroit Chapter
Charles Kumkumian - Philadelphia Chapter
Arshag Gechijian - Watertown Chapter - Central Council Advisor

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The next business on the agenda taken up by the Assembly was Committee Reports. The Minutes Reading Committee requested a postponement of their report to the second session due to the fact that they had not received the minutes in time to prepare a report for this session. Their request was promptly granted. Mr. Arra Derderian of the Watertown Chapter presented the Financial Statement and the findings of the Auditing Committee. A recommendation was made by the Auditing Committee with reference to the 25% allocated toward Central Council expenses to the General Assembly by the host chapter. The recommendation was tabled for later discussion. The findings of the Auditing Committee were approved by the Assembly and they are as follows:

A.C.Y.O.A. Financial Statement - July 1, 1950, to June 30, 1951

BALANCE ON HAND - July 1, 1950 \$1,713.24

RECEIPTS:

Armenian Guardian:

Subscriptions \$ 609.06
Advertising 63.50 \$ 672.56

Initiation Fees 49.00

Taxes:

Back Taxes 2,478.54
Current Taxes 2,475.57 4,954.11

Birthday Ball:

1949 - 1950 134.24
1950 - 1951 926.81 1,061.05

Emblem Pins 447.00

Evanston:

25% Assembly Profit for Council Travel .. 382.70

TOTAL RECEIPTS 7,566.42

GROSS INCOME \$9,279.66

DISBURSEMENTS:

Armenian Guardian:			
Printing (1949 - 1950)	\$ 120.00		
Printing (1950 - 1951)	<u>1,545.00</u>	\$1,665.00	
Editor (1949 - 1950)	75.00		
Editor (1950 - 1951)	<u>900.00</u>	975.00	
Other (1949 - 1950)	6.00		
Other (1950 - 1951)	<u>158.41</u>	<u>164.41</u>	\$2,804.41
(Postage, printing, stationery, petty cash)			
Taxes:			
Refunds			69.77
Anniversary Ball:			
Operating Expenses			184.89
Emblem Pins			613.29
Council Travel:			
Meetings (1950 - 1951)	820.54		
Chicago Assembly	<u>388.86</u>		1,209.40
Secretarial Expenses:			
1949 - 1950	548.71		
1950 - 1951	<u>600.00</u>		1,148.71
Printing Expenses			47.25
Telephone and Telegrams			10.70
Office Equipment and Supplies			479.25
Other Expenses			199.30
(Banner, gift, bibles - organization Downtown New York)			
Petty Cash			149.16
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS			\$6,916.13
BALANCE ON HAND - June 30, 1951			\$2,363.53
BANK BALANCE - June 30, 1951		\$2,329.21	
PETTY CASH ON HAND - June 30, 1951		<u>34.32</u>	2,363.53

Edited and approved by Auditing Committee - August 4, 1951, Watertown, Massachusetts,
for fiscal year 1950 - 1951.

Alex Ashjian
Arra Derderian
Louis B. Barsam, Jr.

CENTRAL COUNCIL SECRETARIAL REPORT

The Central Council Secretarial Report was read by Mr. Arshag Gechijian. After a very brief discussion, motion was made and seconded to approve and incorporate the report in the Assembly minutes. The motion was carried in the affirmative unanimously. The report reads as follows:

The Central Council of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America convened for its first two-day session of the 1950-1951 period in New York on September 23 and 24, 1950, under the presidency of Arachnord Surpazan Hyre and the chairmanship of Mr. Manoog Heditsian. The new members, Miss Acabe Boornazian, Mr. Paul Hovsepian, and Mr. Avedis Kevorkian, were welcomed into the Organization. Election of officers took place as follows: Mr. Manoog Heditsian, Chairman; Mr. Arshag Gechijian, Vice-Chairman; Miss Mary Azarian, Secretary; Mr. Paul Najarian, Treasurer. Appointments were made as follows: Miss Acabe Boornazian, Guardian Promotion Manager; Mr. Paul Hovsepian, Junior Chapter Director; Mr. Avedis Kevorkian, Publicity Director; Mrs. Grayce Hadrian and Mr. Lee Bedikian, Councillors.

In accordance with the Constitution, an Executive Secretary was appointed. Miss Mary Shalakian was unanimously elected to that position.

The Central Council met in session, together with its Secretary, six times. Bishop Tiran was present at four of the meetings.

Diocesan Convention:

Again the Council appointed its representatives to attend the Diocesan Convention - namely, Mr. Manoog Heditsian, Mr. Paul Hovsepian, and Miss Mary Shalakian. They report that our seniors are pleased to have the interest and assistance of the A.C.Y.O.A.

Amendments:

Amendments to the Constitution as voted at the Fourth Annual Assembly have been ratified and are ready for printing.

Initiation Ceremony:

Formulated by Father Shnork. Copies have been printed and sent out to Chapters.

Chapters:

Uptown New York Chapter has been officially dissolved as per the Constitution and their treasury balance forwarded to the Central Council. The Chicago Chapter was also officially dissolved as per the Constitution and their treasury balance forwarded to the Central Council.

New Chapters:

We are pleased to report the formation of three new chapters. They are New York, Downtown, and West Pullman. Chicago has reorganized and a new charter will be presented to them.

Junior Chapters:

Mr. Paul Hovsepian, Junior Chapter Director, reports a new Junior Chapter in Watertown, making a total of five Junior Chapters within the Organization.

A.C.Y.O.A. Emblem Pins:

A.C.Y.O.A. pins have been distributed to the various Chapters ordering them.

Bulletins and Directives:

The Central Council continues to send out bulletins and directives for the benefit of the Chapters. However, it should be pointed out that many questions in mind can be answered by previous bulletins. Please refer to them. Sufficient council has been sent out to enable any Chapter to conduct itself befitting the A.C.Y.O.A.

A.C.Y.O.A. Standards and Plaques:

Definite information as to size and cost has been obtained and will be presented to the Assembly and the Chapters represented for their approval. Plaques have been purchased for past Assemblies. Several extras have been purchased for future use.

Fifth Anniversary Ball:

The Fifth Anniversary Ball of the A.C.Y.O.A. was held in the month of January in the following cities: Boston, Detroit, Troy, Philadelphia, Hartford, Racine, and Paterson. The net financial outcome is tabulated as follows:

New York area	\$ 70.00
Philadelphia area	2.10
Boston area	442.56
Detroit area	312.19
Troy Chapter	328.15
Chicago area	109.96
Hartford area	-
	<u>\$1,264.96</u>
Less Expenses	<u>184.89</u>
Net Profit	\$1,080.07

Of this net figure \$979.87 was deducted from the taxes, leaving a reserve amount of \$100.19 to be applied against the forthcoming budget.

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

Taxes and Finances:

All back taxes have been cleared, with the exception of Union City. All current taxes have been cleared with the exception of Union City, New Britain, and Providence. In regard to the latter two - New Britain and Providence - both have paid taxes on account and the balance to be paid pending clarification of accounts

and standing. It is felt that by Assembly time these two Chapters will be paid in full. It must be noted that this is indeed a wonderful record and points up the sense of responsibility that the Chapters have.

Monthly Meeting Reports:

These reports have been revised this year. Once again please note these forms are important. They are read, compared and tabulated. Their importance cannot be stressed enough.

1951 Assembly:

Close contact and check has been maintained by the Central Council and the Watertown Chapter on all phases of the forthcoming Assembly.

Publicity:

Throughout the year publicity pertaining to the A.C.Y.O.A. has appeared in various Armenian-American papers. In particular we wish to thank the Armenian Mirror-Spectator for devoting an issue to the A.C.Y.O.A.

Chapter Statistics:

Below is presented an overall picture of Chapter facts, figures, and activities. However, this includes only twenty of our twenty-four Chapters. The missing reports represent the following Chapters: New York, Union City, Waukegan, and Miami.

Total paid membership	(783 plus 120 Juniors)	903
Business meetings held		289
Social, educational, religious, cultural meetings		207
A.C.Y.O.A. members who are members of their church		208
Chapters having Junior groups		5
Chapters sponsoring religious talks and subjects		16
Chapters observing religious holidays		1
Chapters engaged in quizzes and discussions		7
Chapters engaged in question and answer periods		7

All Chapters have extended financial and moral aid to their local church. Practically all chapters have sponsored educational, cultural, and religious lectures. Many have sponsored educational and religious movies. They have also attended group communions, organized Bible studies and visitation committees for the sick and aged, and also have sponsored debates.

All Chapters have sponsored dances and socials. Some have produced plays and have held picnics and outings; minstrel shows, and parent's night have been held. They have also participated in both basketball and bowling.

The Armenian Guardian:

This has been of the utmost concern to the Council and at each of its sessions much time has been devoted to the subject in order that we may realize a better paper. Recently a suggestion has been brought forth that would ease the burden of the Guardian. (This will be presented at the Assembly.) In any event, after serious deliberation the Central Council decided that a new editor would be

appointed to the Guardian. This change-over will take place before the end of the year. It may also be recorded that there has been a slight increase in subscriptions over last year.

Central Council Members:

Letters of resignation were received from Mr. Avedis Kevorkian and Mr. Lee Bedikian. These were accepted and the Council used its power of cooption to fill these vacancies. Mr. Zaven Hovsepian and Mr. Matthew Matteosian were elected to fill these vacancies until the next Assembly.

California A.C.Y.O.:

A letter from California informs us that an A.C.Y.O. group has been formed there and now consists of six chapters. They have a constitution similar to ours and they are holding their convention over the Labor Day weekend.

National Publicity Director:

This office has been a very important and necessary one. Mr. Zaven Hovsepian has been delegated to fulfill its duties.

Vartanantz Celebration:

The committee set up to organize the celebration of the 1500th Anniversary of the Armenian Hero Vartan has asked the A.C.Y.O.A. Central Council to plan and carry out an essay contest related to the Celebration. Mr. Zaven Hovsepian has outlined the rules and regulations of the essay; also he has seen to the printing and distribution of these rules to the various Chapters.

Rules of Procedure:

The Detroit Committee, set up at the last Assembly to prepare the Rules of Procedure for the Assembly, have come forth with several excellent suggestions and recommendations that will be presented at the Assembly.

"A" Awards:

As an incentive to the Chapters, announcement will be made at the Assembly of awards to be presented to Chapters. These awards will be based on certain factors - such as, membership increase, church member increase, Guardian subscription increase, and the group with the most increase in a religious and cultural line. Mr. Paul Najarian will present a silver cup to the A.C.Y.O.A. who, in turn, will present it to the most deserving Chapter. This will be a traveling cup, presented to the most deserving Chapter for the year.

Reproduction Machines:

During the course of the year, three machines were purchased. They were a graphotype machine, addressograph machine, and an electric mimeograph machine. The cost of these machines was borne by the A.C.Y.O.A., the Diocesan office, and the Cathedral Project.

Resignation of Executive Secretary:

A letter of resignation was submitted by Miss Mary V. Shalakian, Executive Secretary. A motion was made and seconded that this resignation should not be accepted, but upon her refusal to withdraw her resignation or to reconsider same, the Central Council had no alternative but to accept the resignation.

Retiring Central Council Members:

It was decided to present a memento to retiring Central Council members as a token of their three years' work for the Organization. A Bible was decided upon as most appropriate. This matter will be taken to the Assembly for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Manoog Heditian, Chairman
Central Council
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

TELEGRAMS AND MESSAGES

Telegrams and messages was the next business on the agenda. A wire was received from Miss Mary Azarian, Central Council Secretary, who expressed her regret for her inability to attend the Assembly and offered her sincere good wishes for the success of our undertakings.

Discussion then followed on the A.C.Y.O. of California, which is also having its Annual General Assembly at this time. It was determined to send them a congratulatory message.

ANNIVERSARY BALL CONFERENCE

The Anniversary Ball Conference was the next subject opened for discussion by Mr. Paul Hovsepian. After much discussion, it was determined to postpone this subject to a later session in order to allow the delegates an opportunity to confer among themselves before making any final decisions which might affect the success of the undertaking.

OLD BUSINESS

The delegates next took up the proposition of Old Business. The first subject under this heading to be discussed was Banners, with prices quoted as follows:

1 Banner	-	\$10.00
15 Banners	-	8.80 each
20 "	-	8.20 "
25 "	-	7.35 "

It was determined to discuss this question further under New Business.

Then followed brief but pertinent discussions on Guidance Material and appropriations for same, St. Vartan Essay Contest, and Church Membership. It was decided to postpone the entire category of Old Business to a later session.

AMENDMENTS AND PROPOSALS

The next topic on the agenda brought to the attention of the delegates was Amendments and Proposals. First consideration was given to Amendments as presented by the various Chapters.

Submitted by the Watertown Chapter -

Re: Article IV as follows: - Any member failing to attend four consecutive meetings, without justifiable cause, may be expelled by the Executive Committee with the approval of the Central Council.

After much discussion a motion was made and seconded and the proposal was put to a vote. The proposed amendment was defeated by a forty-two negative to an eight affirmative vote.

Submitted by the New Britain Chapter -

Re: Article X as follows: - That the General Assembly shall elect the Executive Body of the Convention at the first session and that no member of the Central Council can be elected to any office on the Executive Committee.

Re: Article XI, Section 1, as follows: - That no more than seven members shall be elected to compose the Central Council. The term of office shall be for two years for each member. Members elected to the Central Council in the order of the first year, three for the next, four the next, three the next, etc. That members may be re-elected to any office.

After some discussion on both proposals, the delegate from the New Britain Chapter withdrew the proposed amendments.

Submitted by the Haverhill Chapter -

Re: Article XI, Section 1, as follows: - That the members of the Central Council shall be elected so as to allow representation to every region within the Diocese. Central Council members shall visit Chapters within their region at least twice a year.

After a discussion motion was made and seconded and the proposal was put to a vote. The proposed amendment was defeated by a thirty-nine negative, nine affirmative, and two abstaining tally.

Submitted by the Central Council -

Amendment as follows: - Any member acting against the provisions of this Constitution may be expelled by the decision of the Chapter Executive Committee provided such decision has been approved by the Central Council.

After a brief discussion motion was made and seconded to put the above proposed amendment to a vote. The motion was carried by a forty-three affirmative, five negative, and two abstaining vote.

The first session was adjourned at 6:05 P.M. to resume again on Sunday, following Church services in Watertown.

Following Church services and a luncheon for the delegates, the second session convened at the St. James Church Hall on Sunday, September 2, 1951, at 2:35 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Manoog Heditian and Surpazan Hyre opened the session with the Hyre Mer, A.C.Y.O.A. Prayer and Pledge. The Chairman then introduced Hmayag Vartabed Intoyan of the Lawrence and Haverhill parishes.

Roll call was taken with forty-three delegates and six Clergymen present and accounted for.

ANNIVERSARY BALL

Mr. Paul Hovsepien presented the following report of Regional Chairmen:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
Hartford - New Britain	Mrs. Lucy Hamalian
Paterson - Newark	Charles Pinajian
New York	Terry Halburian
North Philadelphia - West Philadelphia	Avedis Kevorkian
Troy	Leo Movsesian
S. Milwaukee - West Pullman - Chicago - Waukegan - Racine - Evanston	Alice Hachikian
Lawrence - Haverhill - Lowell - Watertown - Worcester - Providence	Gary Hovhanesian
Detroit - Cleveland	Helen Partogian

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Minas Kazanjian, Chairman of the Minutes Reading Committee, submitted the following report:

Corrections:

- A. Include the full agenda of the Assembly at the beginning of the minutes.
- B. Page 12 - name correction 4th line - Minas Kazanjian instead of Gloria Chakurmanian.
- C. Page 1 - dates should be September 2, 3, and 4, instead of 1, 2, and 3.
- D. Inclusion of the beginning and ending times and dates of each individual session.

- E. Page 29 - 2nd paragraph - 2nd sentence - should read as follows: "Paul Hovsepian of Detroit, Avedis Kevorkian of West Philadelphia, and Acabe Boornazian of North Philadelphia were elected for the three-year terms to the Central Council." Also, completely omit the fifth sentence as superfluous.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the corrected minutes of the last Assembly.

A rough draft of the minutes of the first session was read and approved by the delegates, with the understanding that the final form would be more detailed and exact.

AMENDMENTS AND PROPOSALS

The Assembly, at this time, decided to continue on the subject Amendments and Proposals.

Submitted by the Lawrence Chapter -

Resolved that A.C.Y.O.A. Chapters be divided into regions for the purpose of having regional conferences, to promote better understanding, exchange of ideas, and also to facilitate the work of the Annual Assembly.

After much discussion motion was made and seconded to vote on the above recommendation. The Lawrence delegation then wished to withdraw the resolution and a vote was taken on whether the Chapter, once motion was seconded, should be allowed to withdraw the resolution. The tally showed a forty-two affirmative, eight negative result. The Lawrence Chapter then withdrew the resolution. The delegates from the Worcester Chapter then proposed that the Central Council divide the Chapters into regions, if the Central Council deems it practical and useful to motivate such action; and report the results at the next Assembly. The Central Council was directed to do so by the entire Assembly.

Submitted by the North Philadelphia Chapter -

Resolved that the cost of the Armenian Guardian be taken from the annual tax and that the monetary income from the subscriptions from each individual Chapter be kept in the Chapter's treasury.

Motion was made and seconded to put this proposal to a vote. Then followed a discussion as to the merits of the resolution. Rev. Torkom Mancoogian suggested that the resolution be put to an immediate vote and the Detroit Chapter delegates moved the question. An amendment to the resolution was proposed as follows:

That each member subscribe to the Guardian and pay his subscription fee along with his annual dues.

After a prolonged discussion the original resolution, as proposed by West Philadelphia, was put to a vote. The tally showed a thirty-five negative, sixteen affirmative, and one abstaining result.

Submitted by Troy Chapter -

Resolved that, as a means of increasing the number of subscribers to the Armenian Guardian, introductory copies of the Guardian be sent for three months during this coming year to those young people of our Church who do not yet receive it and whose names and addresses shall be submitted by the A.C.Y.O.A. Chapter or parish councils of our various communities, and to appropriate, if necessary, a special budget to finance this drive. Individual Chapters must send in fifty names to the Central Council before extra copies are sent to the Chapters.

Much discussion followed this proposal. It was explained that this practice was already in effect. The motion on the proposal was seconded and the vote tally showed a twenty-three affirmative, twenty-one negative, and nine abstaining result.

The question of banners was reopened at this time and the price quotation repeated as follows:

1 Banner	-	\$10.00
15 Banners	-	8.80 each
20 "	-	8.20 "
25 "	-	7.35 "

The delegates decided that they would have to report to the Central Council on this after returning to their respective Chapters, and October 10, 1951, was set as the deadline.

The next resolution was submitted by the Troy Chapter as follows:

Resolved that the annual dues be raised to \$3.00 to include a subscription to the Guardian.

A question was raised as to whether this was an amendment or a resolution. It was finally tabled with the directive that the Central Council present it in the form of an amendment at the forthcoming Assembly.

Submitted by North Philadelphia Chapter -

Resolved that if a proposal is refused at two consecutive assemblies, the same proposal cannot be brought forward within the next two assemblies.

After a brief discussion motion was made and seconded and a vote taken. The tally showed a forty negative, twelve affirmative, and one abstaining result.

Submitted by Troy Chapter -

Resolved that the Chapters be directed to have as a regular monthly event, evening services and sermons in English under the direction of the local pastor or other priest.

After a brief discussion motion was made and seconded and the question put to a vote. The tally showed a forty-four affirmative, seven negative, and two abstaining result.

The second session was adjourned at 6:00 P.M. to be resumed on Monday at the Hotel Bradford in Boston.

* * * * *

The third session of the A.C.Y.O. General Assembly was called to order on Monday, September 3, 1951, at 9:30 A.M., at the Hotel Bradford, Boston, Massachusetts. Surpazan Hyre opened the session with the Invocation and the A.C.Y.O.A. Prayer and Pledge. The Chairman introduced the Reverends Shahe Altounian and Arnag Kasparian, who had not been present at previous sessions. Mr. Heditsian stated that although he had been most liberal at the previous sessions, he was going to use the gavel freely due to the shortage of time and a preponderance of work to be completed.

Roll call was taken and a quorum established.

The minutes of the previous session were read and accepted with corrections.

AMENDMENTS AND PROPOSALS

The Assembly continued on with the Amendments and Proposals left from the previous session.

Submitted by West Philadelphia Chapter -

Resolved that all Chapter banners be brought to and hung at the Assembly.

After a brief discussion motion was made and seconded. Motion was passed by a show of hands.

Submitted by Troy Chapter -

Resolved that the income of the Anniversary Dances be combined and on the basis of the total sum, each Chapter be required to send in an amount proportionate to its size.

After much discussion Bishop Tiran made a suggestion that the proposal be postponed. Motion was made to postpone the proposal. Motion was seconded and passed by a show of hands.

Submitted by Boston Chapter -

Resolved that each Chapter receive 50% of the amount of the subscription fees of the Armenian Guardian collected by them.

After a discussion motion was made. Motion was not seconded and it was defeated.

Submitted by North Philadelphia Chapter -

Resolved that the Chapters submit the names of not more than two persons from their own Chapter whom they recommend for possible candidacy to the Central Council along with their Annual Report. Accompanying the names, a resume of the person's background and active participation in club affairs should be included. The

Nominating Committee should receive this information at the first session of the Assembly. Names of candidates will also be accepted from the floor at the time of election.

After a lengthy discussion motion was made and seconded to adopt the proposal. The tally showed a thirty-nine affirmative, zero negative, and one abstaining result.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Heditian then called for Old Business.

The question raised about the report received from the Evanston Chapter on the Fourth Annual Assembly was satisfactorily clarified by the delegate from Evanston. The report was submitted and accepted.

A report was given by Mr. Zaven Hovsepian regarding a suitable site for the Youth Camp. He reported that there is nothing available at present. The subject was temporarily tabled due to the impracticability of carrying out such a project at the present time. There was a brief discussion and the subject was again remanded to the discretion of the Central Council.

There was a discussion on the availability of religious films and recordings which the Chapters could use. The Central Council advised that it does not know what is in the Film File at present but will undertake to check the matter thoroughly at their first meeting.

The question was raised from the Watertown delegates as to the reason for the non-renewal of existing subscriptions and the lack of new subscriptions; whether it was the lack of salesmanship or the general appeal of the paper itself. Some of the reasons given were - lateness of the publication, not enough cooperation received from Chapters, duplication of subscriptions, and language used in the publication not able to "reach" the average reader. The Watertown Chapter suggested these points to correct this condition - bring the tone down to the popular level and not cater to church-going members only. In answer to this, the Philadelphia Chapter stated that no matter how low the tone was brought it would still be above the popular level. Considering the nature of the publication, they emphasized that the contents must be kept high at all times. A suggestion was made that more informative and lucid articles be printed, using every-day language rather than philosophical. It was decided that each Chapter should discuss the matter in their meetings and send their recommendations to the Central Council.

NEW BUSINESS

As there was no further Old Business to discuss, the Assembly went on to the next topic, which was New Business.

A request was made for clarification of the qualifications required to attain the status of an honorary member. It was explained that there are three classifications of members - namely, Honorary, Senior, and Junior. A person cannot be an active Senior member and an Honorary member at the same time. Each Chapter may bestow Honorary membership upon any member through its by-laws. Honorary members must pay dues but have no voting power. Senior and Junior active members can be divided into two groups - voting active and non-voting active. The question was raised as to what status should be given to members who have voluntarily, due to

various reasons, stepped out of the Organization and wish to re-enter. Bishop Tiran cited Diocesan regulations governing this problem and suggested that an amendment be brought to next year's Assembly in this respect by the Central Council. After much discussion it was decided that until the next Assembly each Chapter would make decisions as to the status of members within the jurisdiction of its by-laws.

A proposal was made by the Troy delegation that all Chapters be directed to have, as a regular Chapter activity, a monthly session of formal instructions, in a scholarly fashion, along the lines indicated in Article 2, Section 1, of the Constitution, which reads as follows:

"To cause, help and encourage its members to learn, to practice, to uphold and to propagate the moral, dogmatic, and spiritual principles and teachings of the Christian religion according to the doctrine, sacraments, rites, forms of worship, canons, rules, discipline, and customs of the Armenian Orthodox Church."

A suggestion was made to have four events during one month - such as, one entertainment, one instructive, one religious, and one business meeting. The North Philadelphia Chapter suggested having a program booklet made available. After a discussion a motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal made by the Troy Chapter. The tally showed a forty affirmative, zero negative, seven abstaining and eight absent result.

The North Philadelphia Chapter proposed that the Central Council send directives to all A.C.Y.O. Chapters requesting them to make special efforts in inducing their members to take active part in the religious life of the Church - such as, attending Sunday School, singing in the Choir, or going to Church services. A discussion revealed that in some parishes there were no Sunday School teachers and that the Sunday Schools in others were not strong enough. A suggestion was made that every member of the A.C.Y.O.A. consider it his Christian duty to either go to Church on Sunday morning, help in the Sunday School, or to attend Sunday School classes. Responsibility for perpetuating this duty remains with each Chapter. This suggestion revised the proposal presented by the North Philadelphia Chapter. A motion was made and seconded to accept the revised version of this proposal. The motion was passed by a show of hands in the affirmative.

A suggestion was made by the North Philadelphia delegates that the Central Council purchase mementos, such as small-sized New Testaments, to be distributed to each Chapter and given to all persons entering the Organization upon their initiation. It was proposed that the New Testaments be stamped with the A.C.Y.O.A. emblem and be distributed to the Chapters as needed. Motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal. The tally showed a twenty-eight affirmative, eighteen negative, three abstaining, and six absent result.

The Detroit Chapter proposed that the subject of New Business be brought to a close. Any further new business is to be brought forth at the next Assembly as a proposal or amendment.

TELEGRAMS AND MESSAGES

A congratulatory telegram, which was received from the Detroit Chapter, was read. Letters were read from Mr. Aro G. Gabriel, dated August 28, 1951, and Mr. Charles T. Shakarjian, dated August 29, 1951, commending the fine conduct of guests at the A.C.Y.O.A. dance sponsored by the North Philadelphia Chapter at Asbury Park, New Jersey.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Budget Committee presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year from July 1, 1951, to June 30, 1952:

PROPOSED BUDGET OF THE A.C.Y.O.A.

Council Travel Expenses	\$	900.00
Office Equipment		100.00
Office Supplies		150.00
Petty Cash		50.00
Postage - Mailing		100.00
Guardian Editor		900.00
Guardian Expense		1,000.00
Executive Secretary		600.00
Printing		185.00
Council Travel - Watertown Assembly 1952 ..		250.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$4,235.00</u>
LESS: 1950 Travel Allowance	\$448.00	
1951 Birthday Ball Surplus	<u>100.19</u>	548.19
NET BUDGET		<u>\$3,686.81</u>

Budget approved by the Central Council and Auditing Committee: Alex Ashjian, Arra Derderian, and Louis B. Barsam, Jr.

A motion was made and seconded that the budget, as submitted be accepted. The tally showed a forty-seven affirmative, zero negative, zero abstaining, and eight absent result.

A discussion about the tax system now in effect followed and a motion was made and seconded that we again abide by the point system for taxation, keeping and bearing in mind the size of community, income of each Chapter, and the number of members in each Chapter. Bishop Tiran suggested the point system be based on 1 to 6 rather than 1 to 11 as affected at the Evanston Assembly. A vote was taken and the tally showed a forty-eight affirmative, zero negative, zero abstaining, and seven absent result. The Chapters assumed their number of points and the net total of the budget was divided by the total number of points assumed by the Chapters and the value of each point was established at \$55.00, in round figures. The following is an itemization of taxes due by each Chapter at the end of fiscal year June 30, 1952:

<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>POINTS ASSUMED</u>	<u>TAX DUE</u>
Boston	6	\$330.00
Chicago	1	55.00
Cleveland	1	55.00
Detroit	6	330.00
Evanston	4	220.00
Hartford	1	55.00
Haverhill	1	55.00
Lawrence	2	110.00
Lowell	1	55.00
Miami	1	55.00
Newark	1	55.00
New Britain	2	110.00

West Pullman	1	\$ 55.00
New York	4	220.00
North Philadelphia	4	220.00
Paterson	1	55.00
Providence	5	275.00
Racine	3	165.00
South Milwaukee	3	165.00
Troy	4	220.00
Watertown	6	330.00
West Philadelphia	4	220.00
Waukegan	1	55.00
Worcester	4	220.00
	<u>67</u>	<u>\$3,685.00</u>
BUDGET		\$3,686.81
TAXES		<u>3,685.00</u>
		\$ 1.81

The West Philadelphia Chapter suggested that a stable tax procedure be brought to the next Convention and the Assembly chose Mr. Avedis Keyorkian and the 1951 delegates of the West Philadelphia Chapter to present such a tax system to the next Assembly.

Mr. Heditsian then proceeded to explain that a Surplus Fund should be established and gave the reasons for the need of such a fund, one of them being the necessity of having a field worker. The Budget Committee proposed that a Reserve Fund be created into which available sums will go at the discretion of the Assembly. Motion was made and seconded to accept this proposal and a show of hands in the affirmative passed the motion.

A proposal was made by the Budget Committee that 25% of the net profit from the General Assembly be put into the Reserve Fund. After a brief discussion motion was made and seconded that the proposal be accepted. Vote was taken and the proposal was passed by a show of hands.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

The next topic on the agenda was the Election of Central Council Members. The Nominating Committee presented the following ballot, together with nominations which came from the floor:

Martin Agigian	Detroit (requested his name deleted from ballot)
Mary Azarian	Lawrence
Ardash Chilingirian	Haverhill
Shakey Gengezian	Racine
Gary Hovhanessian	Worcester
Zaven Hovsepian	North Philadelphia
Minas Kazanjian	Lawrence
Matthew Matteosian	Watertown
Betty Kaffeian	Hartford
Leo Bakalian	Paterson
Sue Boyajian	New York, Downtown
Emma Hovsepian	Detroit

Florence Minasian
Charles Kumkumian
Avedis Kevorkian

Boston
North Philadelphia
West Philadelphia (requested his name deleted
from ballot)

Ralph Yaghjian
Raffie Najarian

Worcester
Providence

A motion was made by the Worcester Chapter that nominations be closed. The motion was seconded and voting proceeded. The following were elected to three-year terms on the Central Council:

Zaven Hovsepian
Mary Azarian
Leo Bakalian

Matthew Matteosian was elected to serve a two-year term and Shakey Gengozian was elected to serve a one-year term.

SELECTION OF NEXT ASSEMBLY SITE

The Assembly then passed on to a discussion of the next Assembly site. Bids had been submitted by the following Chapters:

Detroit
Philadelphia
Racine
Worcester
Providence

Votes were cast and after five ballots and through the process of elimination, the Worcester Chapter received a majority of votes and thereby was declared to be the Host Chapter for the 1952 General Assembly.

A motion was made to thank the Watertown Chapter for a splendid General Assembly and a rising vote of thanks was made.

The Detroit Chapter proposed that a token of appreciation be given to all retiring Central Council Members who have finished their designated terms. Motion was made and seconded and the proposal was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Zaven Hovsepian was called upon to elaborate further on the contest being conducted on Vartanantz essays. He advised all members to publicize this event and to participate in the contest. Torkom Vartabed Manoogian made a proposal that the A.C.Y.O.A. give a prize to the best written essay at the next Assembly. There was not sufficient time to go into this thoroughly and the subject was dropped.

Mr. Heditian then thanked all for their cooperation during the sessions. Surpazan Hyre expressed his appreciation for a successful Assembly and suggested that when the delegates return to their parishes they impress the members of their Chapters with the tremendous importance of attending Sunday School. He said we must campaign and publicize the importance of parents' sending their children to Sunday School. Also, all those Chapters which have shown a decline in membership should engage in Good Membership Drives.

The newly elected Central Council was then called forth and the entire Central Council for 1951 and 1952 was blessed by the Bishop.

PRESENTATION OF BANNER TO NEXT HOST CHAPTER

The banner was presented to the Host Chapter for the 1952 General Assembly and Mr. Arthur Yaghjian accepted it for the Worcester Chapter.

The third session adjourned at 4:00 P.M., bringing to a close the Fifth Annual Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America. Before departing the assemblage said a prayer, led by Bishop Tiran.

