

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AND MINUTES
OF
SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



**AUGUST 30, 31 AND SEPTEMBER 1, 1952
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSSETTS**

SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

August 30, 31, and September 1, 1952

Worcester, Massachusetts

FIRST SESSION

The first session of the Sixth Annual General Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America convened at the Hotel Sheraton, Worcester, Massachusetts, at 1:35 P.M., on Saturday, August 30, 1952, under the presidency of the Very Reverend Torkom Manoogian, Vicar General of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, representing the Primate, the Most Rev. Archbishop Tiran, who was in Europe, and under the chairmanship of Mr. Zaven A. Hovsepian, Chairman of the Central Council of the Organization.

AGENDA

The agenda of the Assembly was as follows:

- Registration
- Invocation, Prayer, and Pledge
- Introductions and Opening Addresses
- Presentation of Charter to New Chapters
- Roll Call
- Election of Committees
- Committee Reports
- Central Council Secretarial Report
- Telegrams and Messages
- Anniversary Ball Conference
- Old Business
- Amendments and Resolutions
- New Business
- Election and Installation of Central 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

Father Torkom opened the session with the ACYOA Prayer, followed by the ACYOA Pledge.

INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING ADDRESSES

Rev. Hagop Mekjian, pastor of the host chapter, welcomed the delegates.

Mr. Hovsepien then introduced the following members of the Central Council:

Miss Mary Azarian, Recording Secretary
Miss Shockey Gengozian, Advisor
Miss Acabe Boornazian, Corresponding Secretary
Miss Arax Selvinazian, Advisor
Mr. Arshag Gechijian, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Paul Hovsepien, Advisor
Mr. Matthew Matteosian, Publicity Director
Mr. Leo Bakalian, Treasurer

Mr. Hovsepien then introduced Mr. Hagop Hersoyan, Executive Director of the Organization.

Mr. Harry Sogegian, Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council of Worcester, also gave a welcome address.

The Chairman of the Committee for the organization of this Assembly, Mr. Arthur Yagjian of the host chapter, welcomed the delegates and presented an engraved gavel to the Chairman of the Assembly.

PRESENTATION OF CHARTER TO NEW CHAPTER

A charter was presented to the New York Uptown (Church of the Holy Cross) Chapter and it was accepted by Mr. Peter J. Kalemkerian, Chairman of this chapter, and Mr. Ara Dosturian, Delegate.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken with 34 delegates present and accounted for, and with 8 clergymen. Evidence of a quorum having been established, the Chairman announced that the Sixth Annual General Assembly was in session.

The Recording Secretary of the Central Council who is also the Recording Secretary of the Assembly reported that delegates from the chapters of New York Downtown and South Milwaukee, who were delinquent in the payment of their taxes, were present and that their voting status should therefore be determined. Mr. Harry Ekizian, delegate from the New York Downtown Chapter presented their case, stating that they were misinformed and believed that the proceeds from the Anniversary Ball duly turned over to the Central Council would count towards the fulfilment of their tax obligation. He then informed the Assembly that his chapter would assume the responsibility of paying during the coming year its taxes for the year ended. Mr. John Sousourian of Boston made a motion to seat the New York Downtown delegate and give him the power to vote. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Esay Esaian, delegate from South Milwaukee, stated that the reason why his chapter had made only part payment of its taxes was that they felt they were overtaxed at the 1951 General Assembly where the Chapter of South Milwaukee had no delegate. After some debate the South Milwaukee delegate accepted the responsibility of paying during the coming year the balance of the taxes of 1951-52.

A motion was then made by Mr. George Tikky of Boston to seat the delegate from South Milwaukee and give him full voting power. The motion was carried unanimously.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Rules of Procedure as adopted at the last Assembly were reviewed. Mr. Gerald Aharonian moved that the same Rules of Procedure be adopted for this Assembly. The motion was carried unanimously.

TELEGRAMS AND MESSAGES

A congratulatory telegram from Racine was read.

ADDRESS

Mr. Hovsepien then called on Father Torkom to speak to the delegation. The text of his address follows:

"Mr. Chairman and dear delegates:

"I greet you in the name of His Grace, Archbishop Tiran, the Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and President of this Organization. The absence of His Grace is due to the fact that he had to attend the Conference of the World Council of Churches held in the town of Lund, Sweden. I am sure that His Grace remembers us today and prays for the success of this Assembly.

"I personally am happy to see our young people gathered from various parishes of our Diocese to give decisions and to take steps for the betterment of their own Organization, which presents itself as one of the lively branches of the main and the mother tree - that is, the Armenian Church.

"All those who have heard of the ACYO, all those who have followed the good work accomplished by this Organization have felt that the Armenian Church is becoming more and more lively in this country and is serving the spiritual aims designated to her by her very founder and leader, Our Lord, Christ.

"More members of our community feel themselves attached to the protector and the mother of their nation, the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church.

"We should admit that the process of these important functions of our Organization is very slow, but nevertheless we are happy to state that they do and will function steadily and surely as long as God is our guidance.

"The members of the Central Council have tried their best to meet their obligations. I have attended their meetings and I have seen their earnestness in thinking and working for the betterment and the progress of their Organization.

"The Central Council has been instrumental in reorganizing

the New York Uptown Chapter. The Union City Chapter has been reactivated. However, the work has been retarded due to the summer season. Bridgeport and Washington are now in the process of organizing. An Executive Director's Office has been established and correspondence, files, records are now in a well organized and efficient state. All correspondence is current due to the prompt disposition made by the Executive Director's office.

"The Armenian Guardian is the official publication of our Organization. It is the mouthpiece, the spokesman of the ideals for which the ACYOA stands. This past year we had a very competent editor. Mr. Hagop Nersoyan was the person properly educated for the work of our Church at large. He is well versed in the traditions and the teachings of our Christian faith. It goes without saying that the nature of the paper has been changed since the first issue edited by Mr. Nersoyan. There are persons who feel that the Armenian Guardian and the articles printed in it are beyond the reach of the average reader. This might be true, because we have readers who know very little about the fundamental teachings, the historical background and the traditions of our Church and nation. They should be taught. But on the other hand, I have heard the good comments of people who have enjoyed the exact presentation and sound interpretation of certain subjects published in the Armenian Guardian even though presented in a scholarly manner. This adds to the prestige of the Organization and is a credit to its publication. But still, the fact remains that we are handicapped; we are in a dilemma.

"The problem can be solved if we find writers to supply materials written in a style appealing to the first group of our readers.

"This end is easy to materialize if the chapters plan their educational programs to insert together with the entertainments, pleasant pastimes and socials, some of the so-called serious and informative talks, which are equally enjoyable. We do not have enough literature to distribute. We do not have funds for the publication of pamphlets and tracts which are of utmost importance. Chapters should encourage members of their community to do research work on subjects of general interest to be presented at the local gatherings, and in the meantime to be published in the Armenian Guardian.

"We have chapters who are doing commendable work. The Detroit Chapter has as a regular established function, a Bible Study Group, which meets regularly. The Cleveland Chapter, despite the fact that it does not have a church or a specific place in which to meet, has held its group together as a unit and has been active with regular meetings and a series of lectures on religious subjects.

"It is important that Junior Groups be organized. Each chapter should have its Junior Group regardless of the size of its membership. The youngsters should feel that they are

wanted; that they are being looked upon as members of the same family; that they are expected to grow up and take part in the life of a greater Body. Certain responsibilities should be entrusted to them. They should learn to give of their time, of their talents and of their money so that in turn they might enjoy and inherit the Christian fellowship. Junior Groups are the nurseries wherein the potentialities of the future are preserved and nourished.

"It is not of less importance to remember that we are members of the Militant Church. We have a battle to fight. Humility and devotion are the weapons of Christians. But this humility does not and never should mean timidity, inactiveness or compromise with any sort of thinking where our faith is endangered and the truth is distorted. In this respect and to that extent we are and we should be aggressive.

"The objects of our Organization are clearly defined in the Constitution which reads, "To cause, help and encourage its members to learn, to practice, to uphold and to propagate the moral, dogmatic and spiritual principals and teachings of the Christian religion according to the doctrine, sacraments, discipline and customs of the Armenian Orthodox Church.

"We know that we are not living in a homogeneous world. In the parable of the Sower, Christ likened persons of different types to the seeds fallen in the various places. This parable tell us of the difficulties we have to confront in life as members of the Militant Church. We have to live amongst people of all types and grow up with them.

"Many of us, in our zeal and good intentions, might be anxious to uproot the tares growing in the same field together with the wheat, as the servants of the householder wanted to do in the parable of the tares told by Christ. But the householder answered, "Nay, lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest; and in the time of harvest, I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat in my barn." It is hard to live the life of a true Christian.

"All those who have no faith, who have no patience, all those who are slow in apprehending the paradox of being humble and yet aggressive, the paradox of fighting against the evil and the false teachings and yet bearing with their existence in the same field will give up hope; they will turn back and will stop giving forth fruit.

"In view of these facts and factors, it is my sincere wish that the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America takes the lead in the life of our people in this country.

"ACYO should widen the scope of its activities.

"ACYO should go forth and work for aims which might seem to be beyond the reach of its powers and which might need

the devotion and the perseverance of generations.

"ACYO should plan and strive for the realization of objectives which are of vital importance considered from the viewpoint of the preservation and appreciation of our unique cultural heritage and the propagation of our spiritual life and orthodox faith.

"It is this American generation of Armenian descent that has started a new phase in the life of the Armenian Church of America. We shall, in time, be considered the elders of the future generations, therefore, we should take the responsibility of laying down the sound and solid foundation of the future edifice of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church of America.

"I shall quote a paragraph concerning the relationship of the elders with the youth and I shall ask you to take heed of the valuable suggestions recommended therein; I quote - "Unless the elders have dreams, rarely will the youth have visions. The spiritual bankruptcy of a generation has its roots in the mistakes of a previous generation which has not left its children the legacy of unfinished dreams. The venerable society before the wailing wall which condemns loudly the lack of idealism in the new generation condemns itself also. When the elders fail to transmit to their children the anxiety of lofty dreams, it will become difficult for the children to find an environment in which it is natural to have visions."

"I pray that this generation of ours, which will be considered the elder generation, might have dreams to be realized by many many generations to come, so that every young generation might have visions and bless our memory and transmit the dreams we have dreamt to the following generation.

"May God give us the wisdom and the courage to devote ourselves to the universal and sublime ideals embodied in His Church.

"May God bless us to serve "Our Church, our community and our country" as loyal and faithful soldiers of the Militant Church.

"My wish is that this Assembly might accomplish something in the line of dreams so that our work might really be considered fruitful."

The Assembly received the message of the Vicar General with enthusiastic applause.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The next business on the agenda was Committee Reports. Miss Emma Hovsepian of the Minutes Reading Committee informed the Assembly that the Committee had read the minutes of the last Assembly and

had found them in order and correct to the best of their knowledge. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Minutes Reading Committee.

Mr. Arthur Yagjian read the Financial Statement in lieu of Mr. Raffe Yagjian of the Auditing Committee who was absent. The statement follows:

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR
JULY 1, 1951 to JUNE 30, 1952

CASH ON HAND July 1, 1951			
Bank Balance		\$2,329.21	
Petty Cash		<u>34.32</u>	\$2,363.53
RECEIPTS			
Armenian Guardian:			
Subscriptions	\$ 578.50		
Advertising	<u>20.00</u>	598.50	
Anniversary Ball:			
1950-1951	328.15		
1951-1952	<u>2,221.82</u>	2,549.97	
Taxes:			
Back Taxes - 1950-1951	368.69		
Current Taxes - 1951-1952	<u>1,837.25</u>	2,205.94	
25% of Watertown Assembly Profit for Reserve Fund		430.85	
Initiation Fees		146.00	
Emblem Pins		4.00	
Miscellaneous Income		<u>19.34</u>	<u>5,954.60</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS			\$8,318.13
EXPENSES			
Armenian Guardian:			
Printing	\$1,375.00		
Editor--July to December 1951	<u>227.00</u>	\$1,602.00	
Executive Director & Guardian Editor-Salary 1951-1952		1,000.00	
Central Council Travel		1,259.30	
Postage		6.01	
Office Supplies		199.56	
Misc. Expense (Banners, Placques, etc.)		376.48	
Petty Cash		33.82	
Anniversary Ball Expense		<u>180.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES			<u>\$4,657.17</u>
CASH ON HAND June 30, 1952			
Bank Balance	\$3,638.87		\$3,660.96
Petty Cash	<u>22.09</u>		
	<u>\$3,660.96</u>		

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE as of June 30, 1952:
Taxes Due

\$270.25

Mr. John Soursourian recommended that a note be made on this statement giving the amount of Accounts Receivable. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Financial Statement with this additional note. Mr. Harry Sarkisian of the Watertown Chapter moved that the report be approved as amended. The motion was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEES

A motion was made and unanimously carried that the President of the Assembly, Father Torkom, appoint the Nominating Committee for this Assembly as well as the Minutes Reading Committee for the next Assembly. The President made the following appointments:

Nominating Committee

Emma Hovsepian - Detroit
Aghavney Paroonagian - North Philadelphia
Martin Kentigian - Lawrence
Arshag Gechijian - Central Council Advisor

Minutes Reading Committee

Gary Hovhannesian - Worcester
Grace Heroian - Worcester
Matthew Matteosian - Central Council Advisor

An Auditing Committee was not chosen on the advice of the Central Council, pending action to be taken on the Budget and recommendation by the Auditing Committee to have a Certified Public Accountant audit the books hereafter.

CENTRAL COUNCIL SECRETARIAL REPORT

The Central Council Secretarial Report was read by Mr. Arshag Gechijian. The text follows:

The Central Council of the ACYOA convened for its first two day session of the 1951-1952 period at the Diocesan Office in New York under the presidency of the Primate and the chairmanship of the retiring Chairman, Mr. Manoog Heditsian. Election of officers took place as follows: Chairman, Zaven Hovsepian; Vice-Chairman, Arshag Gechijian; Treasurer, Leo Bakalian; Recording Secretary, Mary Azarian; Corresponding Secretary, Acabe Boornazian. Upon the termination of elections, Mr. Hovsepian assumed the duties of the chair and the following appointments were made; Publicity Director, Matthew Matteosian; Junior Chapter Director, Shockey Gengozian; Anniversary Ball Chairman, Paul Hovsepian; and Advisor, Grayce Hadrian. The Central Council met in sessions four times throughout the year with plans for a fifth session to be held on the Assembly eve. This latter meeting to be held for the express purpose of checking on all last minute details pertaining to the Assembly.

Diocesan Assembly: The Central Council appointed Matthew

Matteosian, Acabe Boornazian, and Arshag Gechijian as ACYOA representatives to the Diocesan Assembly. It was the general consensus of opinion of the representatives that our elders are accepting our Organization as an established and well working group and one that can be called upon to offer any and all aid to their respective churches.

Amendments: Amendments to the Constitution as voted at the Fifth Annual General Assembly have been presented to the Diocesan Council for ratification. Upon approval they were incorporated into our present Constitution.

Old Chapters: New Britain Chapter has been dissolved and efforts have been made to reorganize this chapter. The Executive Director and Central Council members have met with a group in an effort to reorganize this chapter. Results have been successful and we hope that we will have a reorganized New Britain Chapter of the ACYOA within the course of next year.

New Chapters: The New York Uptown Chapter will be presented a charter at the Sixth Annual General Assembly.

Junior Chapters: There are now nine Junior chapters within the Organization and one in the formative stage, thus representing a gain of five over last year's figure. The Junior chapters are located as follows; Worcester, Watertown, West Philadelphia, Lawrence, Detroit, Racine, North Philadelphia, Lowell, Chicago and the one being formed in Providence. The first five have reported a total membership of 155 while the latter five have not recorded any total number of members in their reports.

Bulletins and Directives: The Central Council continues to send out bulletins and directives for the benefit and use of the chapters. The Council wishes to remind the chapters that previous bulletins will be the key to many questions concerning the Organization.

ACYOA Banners: Banners have been ordered and will be displayed in full at the Assembly.

Sixth Anniversary Ball: The Sixth Anniversary Ball, under the general chairmanship of Mr. Paul Hovsepian, was held in the month of January 1952 in the following cities; Philadelphia, Hartford, Racine, Troy, Boston, Detroit, and New York. The net financial outcome is tabulated as follows:

New York and New Jersey area	\$541.20
Philadelphia area	46.09
Hartford area	55.54
Racine area	87.64
Troy area	115.00
New England area	1,008.95
Detroit and Cleveland area	<u>361.40</u>

Total Receipts	\$2,215.82
Less Expenses	<u>187.49</u>
Net Profit	\$2,028.33

Of this net profit figure \$921.71 (representing 25% of the previous year's budget) was deducted thus leaving a reserve amount of \$1,106.62 to be applied against the forthcoming year's budget. This is indeed a heartening report and speaks well of the efforts put forth by the chapters.

Taxes and Finances: Taxes are paid up to date with the exception of the New York Downtown Chapter. South Milwaukee has paid one-third of its taxes.

Monthly Meeting Reports: Many chapters are very lax in their duty regarding reports. Only seven chapters have been sending these reports in. These reports are of definite importance as it is only through them that the progress of a chapter or the hardships encountered by others can be seen. With this information on hand, the Central Council can take necessary action.

1952 Assembly: The Central Council has maintained close contact with the Worcester Chapter on all phases of the Assembly. Mr. Arthur Yagjian, Assembly Chairman, and the members of the Worcester Chapter are to be commended for their very efficient planning for the Assembly.

Publicity: The ACYOA continues to reap publicity in the various Armenian-American papers. It is also felt that there has been more publicity meted out this year than in years past. This has come about through the efforts of the Publicity Director and the Office of Public Relations. We also wish to thank the Mirror-Spectator for devoting an "Assembly issue" to the ACYOA.

Chapter Statistics: Below is tabulated an overall picture of chapter facts, figures, and activities. This represents reports received from twenty-two out of twenty-three chapters. The missing report is from the Paterson Chapter.

Total number of Senior Members.....	612
Total number of Senior and Junior Members.....	767
Number of business meetings held during year...	322
Number of educational, social and cultural meetings held during year....	266
Members who are dues paying members of their church.....	218

All chapters have sponsored religious talks and lectures. These have pertained in particular to Baptism, Lent, History of Armenian Religious Music, Holy Communion, Divine Liturgy, and Nicene Creed. It is also noted that other lectures have been given by the clergy but the subject matter has not been specified in the reports. One must assume that our Church was the topic of discussion. Our Executive Director has also given numerous lectures. It must also be noted that a Bible Study Class has been formed by one of our chapters.

Educational and cultural subjects have been covered by religious movies, debates, history and background of ACYOA, lectures on law by attorneys and an eminent judge, choral groups, publishing of church papers, also the study of the Armenian language and history,

dramatics, and music appreciation.

Social activities have included dances, picnics (both indoor and outdoor), card parties, plays, outings, parents' night, and a Mother's Day affair. The sponsoring of a Regional Conclave by the New England Chapters must also be noted at this point.

In the realm of sports we have bowling, swimming, soft ball, basketball, and ping-pong.

All chapters have extended moral and financial aid to their churches. This financial aid totals \$2,130.00. Chapters are assisting in bazaars, picnics, banquets, and Building Fund Committees. Members are quite active in their church on Sundays as well as in the choir, Sunday School, or as members of the Parish Council.

Guardian Editor: Mr. Robert Sarian's resignation as Guardian editor was received and was accepted by the Central Council. This assignment was then assumed by Mr. Hagop Nersoyan.

Executive Director: Mr. Hagop Nersoyan has been appointed as Executive Director of the ACYOA. As Executive Director he has made numerous visits to various chapters. Through his efforts new chapters are in the process of being formed.

The Armenian Guardian: The Armenian Guardian, under the new editor, Mr. Hagop Nersoyan, has improved in content and has recorded gain in its subscriptions. The paper is issued regularly and there is no longer a lapse of months between issues. However, the paper is still not self-sustaining, which is largely due to the lack of sales activity on the part of the chapters. Mr. Nersoyan is particularly desirous of obtaining news from the chapters and also in receiving articles written by competent persons in the Organization. To date he has received little or none of either. Your paper needs your support in order that you may have the type of publication that you desire. Further ideas on the above will be presented at the Assembly.

Central Council Members: A letter of resignation was received from Mrs. Grayce Hadrian. This was regretfully accepted by the Central Council. The Council then used its power of cooption and appointed Miss Arax Selvinazian of the New York Downtown Chapter to fill the vacancy until the next Assembly.

California ACYO: Correspondence has been maintained with this Organization. They asked for and received permission to utilize our emblem design for their own use. This permission was granted with the understanding that the date on their emblem would be the date of their Organization's inception and the wording would read "ACYO of California" instead of "ACYO of America". This matter was to be taken to their Assembly for approval. Their Assembly will be held during the Thanksgiving Day weekend, November 28, 29, and 30.

"A" Award: In accordance with the wishes of the Assembly, a committee within the Central Council has studied the reports of the chapters and has made its selection of the most deserving chapter

of the year. This trophy will be presented at the Assembly.

Reprinting of the Constitution: The Constitution is being reprinted and will be ready shortly. This edition has been carefully edited and incorporates all the new amendments as of this date. Chapters may obtain copies by writing to the Executive Director at the New York office.

Respectfully submitted,
Zaven Hovsepian, Chairman
Central Council - ACYOA

Following the reading of the Secretarial Report, a comparison was made of the 1951 and 1952 membership totals. It was noted that there was a decrease in Senior Membership, with an almost equal increase of Junior Membership. The decline in the number of Senior Members was said to be attributable to the fact that many of the male members had been called into military service. Mr. Gerald Aharonian of Lowell mentioned at this time the withdrawal from the Organization of the New Britain Chapter and required elucidation of their case. The Chair recommended postponement of this subject to a later session.

A motion was made and seconded that the Secretarial Report be accepted and entered into the minutes of this Assembly. The motion was unanimously carried.

ANNIVERSARY BALL REPORT

Mr. Paul Hovsepian, National Chairman of the 1952 Anniversary Ball, gave his report on the Anniversary Ball and compared the total net profit of 1952 with that of 1951. The 1952 income, \$2,028.33, was almost double. He stated that this increase was gained through the use of ad books, boosters, and raffles. Mr. Hovsepian stressed the fact that the success of a Ball is dependent to a considerable extent upon use of these media. He urged the delegates to impress their chapters with the importance of cooperating with their regional Anniversary Ball Chairmen and further explained that the proceeds, which are sent to the Central Council, help to reduce the assessment of taxes. He congratulated among others the relatively small Hartford Chapter for its efforts in sponsoring a successful Ball and for its excellent cooperation with the Central Council.

AWARDS

"A" Award: Mr. Matteosian was called upon to present the "A" Award to the chapter showing the most progress in helping to promote the aims and objects of the ACYOA. The Detroit Chapter was selected as the chapter which, through its many endeavors, was found to merit this award.

The Armenian Guardian Promotion Award: In accordance with Bulletin #50 a roll call was taken to determine the chapter which was to receive the certificate for the most Armenian Guardian subscriptions brought in during the time specified in said bulletin. Some chapters claimed, however, that they had not received the

bulletin. Others maintained that the time limit given in the bulletin was too short for any effective action on it.

A motion was made by Mr. Martin Kentigian of Lawrence to postpone awarding the certificate in order to allow the Central Council to extend the deadline which was, according to the Bulletin, 12 o'clock Midnight preceeding the day of the first session of the Assembly. The motion was seconded but defeated. It was then decided, for the sake of fairness to those chapters who had striven toward the award, to present it as promised. In answer to the roll call the following three chapters reported the number of new subscriptions they had obtained:

Detroit.....18
Worcester5
Lawrence2

The certificate was awarded to the Detroit Chapter.

A motion was made by Father Mesrob that hereafter presentation of this certificate be made on the basis of the relative numerical and other strength of the chapters. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried. A suggestion was made that a package rate be established to promote subscriptions for more than one year. This was left to the discretion of the Central Council.

Mr. Arshag Gechjian presented the following plan previously adopted by the Central Council and by which it hoped to increase Guardian subscriptions:

1. A Guardian certificate to be given to the chapter procuring the most subscriptions from July 1 to August 29, 1952 (date of the Assembly).
2. A special Guardian drive handled by the Worcester Chapter during this Assembly only to sell subscriptions at \$1.00 for a year.
3. Establishment of the week of November 1 as Guardian Promotion Week.

The Assembly approved this plan.

DIRECTIVES TO THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

A report on the disposition of directives issued to the Central Council by the Fifth Annual Assembly was read by Miss Mary Azarian. The text of this report follows:

1. "Resolved, 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 first ACYOA Regional Conference was held by the New England chapters in June 1952 at Onset, Massachusetts, and in many ways can be considered successful. This matter has been studied by Councilman Paul Hovsepian who presents the following plan for conducting these conferences; (a) Regions should be established.

(b) Problems on activities, members, etc., must be brought to the conference and listed. Each problem will be discussed by an individual group with a leader and a secretary. Each group's findings will be reported to the Conference as a whole, recorded, and sent out to all chapters. (c) Those chapters interested in conducting such a Conference should contact the Council. In conjunction with this report, a booklet is being mimeographed and may be seen by delegates whenever they wish.

2. "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 ACYOA chapters 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." -- The request by the Council for fifty names has brought a response from only six chapters. The names so submitted have all received the Guardian as directed.

3. "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 to the next Assembly." -- This amendment will be submitted by the Council coincidentally with the West Philadelphia Chapter.

4. "Resolved, That all chapters be directed to have as a regular chapter activity a monthly session of formal instruction, in a scholarly fashion." -- A bulletin on this subject has gone to all chapters.

5. "Resolved, That all chapter banners be brought to and hung at the Assembly." -- A bulletin has been issued to all chapters regarding this.

6. "Resolved, That the chapters shall 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 these persons' background and active participation in club affairs should be included. The Nominating Committee shall receive this information at the first session of the Assembly." -- Chapters have been requested to submit two names as stated but only a few chapters have responded.

7. "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 its first meeting." -- Several companies have been contacted to forward their catalogues but these have not been received as yet.

8. "A suggestion was made that the Central Council purchase mementos, such as small size 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 ACYOA emblem and be distributed to the chapters as needed." -- Miss Acabe Boornazian of the Council has investigated this matter and will submit her report at a later time.

9. "Resolved, That a token of appreciation be given to all retiring Central Council members who have finished their designated terms." -- The Council voted unanimously that they would value a personal letter from our Primate, Archbishop Tiran, more than any token that may be purchased.

10. "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." -- A bulletin has gone forward to all chapters concerning this matter.

11. "A suggestion was made that more informative and lucid articles be printed in the Guardian 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." -- Letters have been sent to chapters asking for their recommendations but there has been no response.

12. "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 reenter. Bishop Tiran cited Diocesan regulations governing this problem and suggested that an amendment be brought to next year's Assembly concerning this by the Central Council." -- An amendment regarding this has been submitted by the Central Council.

OLD BUSINESS

The following reports were made to the Assembly:

Bibles: Miss Boornazian has corresponded with the American Bible Society and Books, Inc., and she reported as follows: The American Bible Society will supply the Holy Bible, 4 3/8" X 6 1/8" size, at 70¢ each plus 10¢ each for the inscription of the emblem, and the New Testament will cost 22¢ each plus 10¢ each for the inscription of the emblem. Books, Inc., quoted \$1.05 each for the Holy Bible plus 10¢ each for the inscription of the emblem.

Miss Boornazian stated that the American Bible Society will supply the Holy Bible free upon request and she suggested that each chapter make its own request of Bibles to the Society. A motion was made by Mr. Soursourian of Boston to accept the report. The motion was seconded and carried.

Guidance Material: The Chairman informed the Assembly that the Guidance Material had been finally prepared and would be on display for examination by the delegates. This manual is complete from the background of the ACYOA through the duties of its officers and members. It also contains samples of all the forms used by the Organization, he said.

Mr. Hovsepien described the manual and said that it will be in loose-leaf form in order to make additions and corrections possible and easy. He said that a great deal of time, labor, and expense would be needed to put these manuals in shape to be sent to the chapters and that particular care must be taken to see to it that they are not mishandled or mislaid. The Chair commended Miss Arax Selvinazian for completing the manual and acknowledged the initial contributions made towards this project by Miss Gertrude Nahigian and Mr. John Soursourian, former Council members.

Several recommendations regarding the distribution and the proper use of the manual were made. Mr. Michael Garoukian of Racine made a motion that the Central Council be allowed to choose the best method of handling the manual in a way as to assure its effective use and avoid its loss. The motion was carried unanimously.

In addition to the manual, a pamphlet on "Developing an Educational Program in Your Chapter" and one on "Regional Conference Plan" had been prepared by Mr. Paul Hovsepien. Both of these studies were displayed for the delegates to see them. The Chairman informed the Assembly that these would be mimeographed and forwarded to all chapters.

Reserve Fund: The question was raised of the establishment of a Reserve Fund. The Chairman stated that the Treasurer only recently had been authorized to set up this Fund in a separate savings account. This account would be opened as soon as possible.

Banners: Mr. Matthew Matteosian reported that all the banners were ready to be given to the delegates. The cost of each is \$10.00. Chapters will receive bills for them in the near future, he said.

The first session recessed at 5:45 P.M. to resume on Sunday, August 31, at 2:00 P.M., in the hall of the new Church of our Saviour.

SECOND SESSION

The second session of the Sixth Annual General Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America was called to order by Mr. Zaven Hovsepien, Chairman, on Sunday, August 31, 1952, at 2:30 P.M. in the hall of the Church of our Saviour, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Roll Call was taken which showed 33 delegates and 3 clergymen present.

The Chairman stated that he had been criticized for allowing a former Council member to speak to the Assembly. He was referring to an opinion expressed by Miss Gertrude Nahigian. Mr. Aharonian of Lowell moved that the Chair be empowered to extend to former Central Council members the privilege of speaking at this Assembly. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Miss Azarian, Recording Secretary, read a draft of the minutes of the first session. Father Mesrob made a motion that the volunteer secretaries be commended for their services. The

motion was carried unanimously.

The Chair stated that a communication addressed to the Assembly had been received from the newly reorganized New Britain ACYOA group. Mr. Hovsepian informed the Assembly that a representative from this group should be present at a discussion of their problem and he requested that a member from New Britain come forward. As no member from this group was present at this time, Mr. Michael Garoukian of Racine moved that the subject be tabled until a New Britain representative arrived. The motion was unanimously carried.

AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

Upon reviewing the Amendments and Resolutions sent to the Central Council for submission to the General Assembly, the Boston Chapter stated that it, too, had forwarded a proposed amendment, similar to the one presented by the West Philadelphia Chapter, to the Central Council for submission to the Assembly. This proposed amendment had not been read. Miss Selvinazian reported that the proposed amendment from Boston was received after the date that such amendments were to be in and after the forms were already made up. Considering these facts, the Boston Chapter yielded its proposed amendment to West Philadelphia.

Submitted by the West Phila. Chapter
and coincidentally by the Central Council

Article 5

Section 1. The dues for Senior Members in good standing of the Organization shall be \$3.00, to be paid annually.

Section 2. The initiation fee for Senior and Junior Members shall be \$1.00, to be paid upon first joining the Organization.

Section 3. The dues for Junior Members in good standing of this Organization shall be \$2.00, to be paid annually.

Section 4. \$1.00 from each Senior and Junior Member's annual dues shall be sent to the Central Council by the local chapter.

Incorporate the following section in Article 11

"The Central Council shall send a copy of all publications published by itself to every member in good standing of the Organization."

These proposed amendments were seconded and a discussion followed as to whether they should be voted upon as a whole or by each individual section. It was decided to vote on each section individually.

After a lengthy debate, a motion was made to cease discussion on these proposed amendments. The motion was seconded and a tally showed a 6 negative and 28 affirmative vote to cease discussion.

The following is a tabulation of the vote count on the individual sections of Article 5:

Section 1 - 36 affirmative (1 absent)
Section 2 - 32 affirmative, 4 negative (1 absent)
Section 3 - 20 affirmative, 14 negative (1 absent, 1 abstaining)
Section 4 - 30 affirmative, 6 negative (1 absent, 1 abstaining)

A motion was made by Mr. Kentigian of Lawrence that the voting on Article 5 be considered out of order as there had been no discussion on the sections individually and that Article 5 be brought up for reconsideration. This motion was seconded and defeated by a 28 negative and 8 affirmative vote (1 abstaining, 1 absent).

The Chairman then announced that the amendment to Article 5 was considered passed pending ratification by a majority of the chapters and approval by the Diocesan Council.

The Assembly then proceeded to discuss the section which is to be incorporated into Article 11. Mr. Soursourian of Boston moved that the term "leaflets and periodicals" be used instead of "publications". The motion was seconded and unanimously carried. The proposed amendment was therefore reworded as follows:

The Central Council shall send a copy of all leaflets and periodicals published by itself to every member in good standing of the Organization.

This amendment was passed by a 37 affirmative vote (1 absent).

The Resolutions submitted by the chapters were discussed next by the Assembly. They were as follows:

Submitted by the West Phila. Chapter

Resolved, That the ACYOA have an Athletic Council which will form athletic leagues.

The proposal was seconded and defeated by a 35 negative and 2 affirmative vote (1 absent).

Submitted by the Watertown Chapter

Resolved, That every chapter have a list, submitted to them, of persons in each area having subscribed to the Guardian and the expiration date of their subscriptions.

The proposal was seconded and withdrawn when the Central Council informed the Assembly that this was already being done.

Submitted by the N. Y. Downtown Chapter

Resolved, That the Central Council of the ACYOA submit to all chapters a quarterly report on their activities and planned programs.

This proposal was seconded and withdrawn when Father Torkom

stated that the Central Council was a higher body than the chapters and it was not required to submit such reports.

At this time it was noted that Deacon Garabed Potoukian was in the audience and the subject of the letter from New Britain was brought up again. The letter, which was read to the Assembly, follows:

August 27, 1952

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America
General Assembly
Worcester, Massachusetts

Dear Chairman:

We are very glad to inform you that the ACYOA - New Britain Chapter which was dissolved in September, 1951, was reorganized on the 13th of August 1952.

In a general meeting on August 26, the officers were elected. It was decided, nevertheless, that we should inform your General Convention that not all the former members joined in because they are waiting that the following amendments should take place.

"Article 10, Section 10: The General Assembly shall elect the members of the Central Council, its Nominating Committee and any other Standing Committees which it may deem necessary." Proceedings of prior years meetings have not been in accord with provisions of this section.

"Article 11, Section 12: The Chairman and Secretary of the Central Council shall act as Chairman and Secretary respectively of the General Assembly." We believe that the annual convention meetings should be conducted as that of the National Diocesan Convention. We mean by this, that the chairmanship and the subordinate positions and offices of the convention should be filled from the delegation at the annual convention and not as has been the practice. "Article III, Section 1, To function subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the Archdiocese of the Diocese of the Armenian Orthodox Church in North America (Except California) or the Locum Tenens and the Central Executive Council, in accordance with the Constitution and by-laws of the Armenian Orthodox Church in North America.", substantiates our views in this regard.

As we are anxious to have everybody in the ACYOA, we shall be grateful if the above mentioned issues could be brought to the attention of everybody.

Thanking you in advance, and hoping to be with you next year as a regular chapter.

Yours sincerely,

Avedis Kevorkian, Chairman
ACYOA - New Britain Chapter

The question arose whether this letter should have been read to the Assembly or not, since the writers were not constitutionally related to the Organization. Mr. Nersoyan remarked that the sole ground on which the letter was read to the Assembly was that it was, as a matter of fact, addressed to it.

Mr. Soursourian moved that a letter be written to the New Britain group to the effect that their letter had been read to the General Assembly but that the contents not considered since a charter had not as yet been granted to them. The motion was seconded but withdrawn when Mr. Nersoyan informed the Assembly that he had already answered previous letters from New Britain of similar contents. Mr. Hovhannesian moved that this letter be referred to the Central Council for further study and investigation and that the Council take further steps for the reorganization into a chapter of the New Britain group. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The second session recessed at 5:45 P.M. to resume on Monday, September 1, at 9:00 A.M., at the Hotel Sheraton.

THIRD SESSION

The third session of the Sixth Annual General Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America was called to order by Mr. Zaven Hovsepian, Chairman, on Monday, September 1, 1952, at 10:00 A.M., at the Hotel Sheraton, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Tad Takorian, Chairman of the Central Council of the ACYO of California, who happened to be in the vicinity of Worcester, was present at this session. He was introduced to the Assembly by the Chairman. Mr. Takorian said that he was very happy to be able to be present at this Assembly. He said that the California ACYO had seven chapters with an approximate total membership of 300. Their chapters were still in the formative stage and had a long way to go but they were all working diligently and striving to reach the position that the ACYOA had attained. He further said that in the near future they hoped to be able to have more subscribers to the Guardian and to contribute news and articles to it.

Roll call was then taken. There were 31 delegates present and accounted for, and 5 clergymen.

The minutes of the previous session were read by Miss Mary Azarian, Recording Secretary. Mr. Soursourian of Boston objected to having the letter from New Britain incorporated into the minutes. Mr. Hovhannesian of Worcester stated that since the communication was read and discussed it should form part of the minutes. Mr. Tikky of Boston moved that the letter from the New Britain group be excluded from the minutes of the second session of this Assembly. The motion was seconded but defeated.

AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

The Assembly then resumed the discussion of the Resolutions

submitted by the different chapters.

Submitted by the Lawrence Chapter

Resolved, That a specified date or period of time be set for an annual membership drive to be held by all chapters and to be called, e.g., National ACYOA Membership Week.

This proposal was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Kentigian of Lawrence recommended that the date or period of the membership drive be set to coincide with the week of the Anniversary Ball, making the Ball the climax of the week. It was noted that the Anniversary Ball does not take place during the same week in all areas. The Chairman assured the Assembly that the matter would be considered carefully by the Central Council.

Submitted by the Central Council

Resolved, That the Budget for 1952-1953 include an amount of \$300.00 for the preparation of tracts and pamphlets to aid pastors and educate the people in their Christian faith as received and interpreted by the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church. All delegates to the General Assembly will take on the responsibility of suggesting to the Public Relations Office subjects to be treated in such literature which in their opinion would be of greater value in the informational and educational program of their parishes and that such suggestions be sent to the Public Relations Office, 630 Second Avenue, New York 16, N. Y., at the earliest possible moment.

The Chairman informed the Assembly that this resolution was contained in a letter received from the Diocesan Council and he requested Father Torkom to explain it in more detail to the delegates. Father Torkom said that the Diocesan Central Council wishes to sponsor the publication of pamphlets on and about the doctrines, history, etc., of our Church and that the initial expense for this project is estimated at \$600.00. These pamphlets will be printed both in English and in Armenian, he said, and ACYOA members would benefit greatly from them. He informed the Assembly that the same resolution would be presented to the Diocesan Assembly requesting the same amount. The revenue from the sale of these pamphlets would pay for future publications of this category and it was only the initial publication that needed financing.

Mr. Soursourian of Boston objected to allotting any funds from our budget for this project. He recommended that we use the money to be eventually allocated for guidance material for our own use. The Chairman explained that if the Assembly voted to participate in the project in question the religious material portion of our program would be taken care of. Mr. Hovhannesian recommended that we go on record as being in favor of this project and, if possible, allocate money for it in next year's budget.

Mr. Nersoyan suggested that the resolution be voted on in two parts: (1) the willingness to contribute financially to this project. (2) the amount of money to be contributed. He stated that if the

Assembly is in favor of participating in the project then the amount can be determined, depending on how much can be afforded. Participation in the project was moved, seconded and passed by a 31 affirmative and 4 negative vote (1 abstaining). It was moved, then that the amount be \$300.00 as proposed in the original resolution. The motion was seconded and carried by a 20 affirmative and 15 negative vote (1 abstaining).

At this time two amendments to the Constitution that had not been included in the prepared forms and that the Central Council wished to submit, were discussed.

Submitted by the Central Council

Article 5

Section 5. Persons delinquent in annual dues up to three fiscal years can regain membership into the Organization by paying back dues to date, however, those persons delinquent for more than three years, must fulfill the requirements of new membership.

This proposed amendment was seconded and discussion followed. It was noted that this proposed amendment was financially more favorable to those who had been delinquent for more than three years, than to those who had been delinquent only three years or less, even though a member of the former category would be deprived of the privilege of holding office. Father Mesrob observed that the proposed amendment is detrimental to increase in membership as it discourages members who may have dropped out for good reasons from coming back into the Organization. Miss Azarian remarked, on the other hand, that the purpose of the ACYOA was to have excellent members rather than a large membership consisting of persons who would leave for petty reasons and return at their pleasure.

The Chairman reminded the Assembly that the Central Council had been directed to submit such an amendment by the last General Assembly. This proposed amendment is a means of insuring better members for the Organization, he said. A motion was then made to cease discussion. A vote was taken on the proposed amendment. It was defeated by 36 negative and 2 affirmative votes.

Father Mesrob then moved that a delinquent member of the ACYO may be readmitted for membership by the payment of the usual annual dues, provided, however, that he shall not enjoy any privileges of elective office until a year has passed. Mr. Kentigian proposed an amendment to this motion to the effect that if a member requested a leave of absence and if it was granted by his chapter, he be allowed, at the end of the period of absence, to pay his back dues without being considered delinquent in any way. However, Father Mesrob's original motion itself was not seconded and therefore failed.

Mr. Nersoyan invited the attention of the Assembly on the importance of this amendment and recommended that it be referred back to the Central Council for further consideration.

Mr. Sarkisian moved that the Central Council reconsider this subject and present it to the next General Assembly. This proposal was seconded and carried by 24 affirmative and 17 negative votes.

Submitted by the Central Council

Article 10

Section 14. Central Council Members shall be elected by a simple plurality vote of the delegates present at the Annual General Assembly.

The proposed amendment was seconded and after some discussion Mr. Garoukian of Racine moved the question and a vote was taken. The proposal was defeated by 20 negative and 16 affirmative votes (5 abstaining).

The Assembly then proceeded to the next topic on the agenda which was New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mr. Tikky of Boston that hereafter the "A" Award be presented at the Banquet instead of at the Assembly. The proposal was seconded and passed by a majority of voice votes.

Father Mesrob asked if a telegram had been sent to the California ACYO when they became organized. The Assembly was informed that a congratulatory telegram had been forwarded to them.

Miss Paroonagian of North Philadelphia moved that Father Torkom's address at the opening of the Assembly be placed in the next issue of the Guardian. This motion was seconded and carried by unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Garoukian of Racine that the Assembly allot a sum of money to be used for expenses by the Executive Director for a trip to the Midwest Chapters. The sum of \$200.00 was agreed upon. The motion was then seconded and passed by a majority of voice votes.

Mr. Ekizian of New York Downtown proposed that quarterly instead of monthly reports be submitted to the Central Council by the chapters. The motion was seconded and defeated by a majority of voice votes.

Miss Tarpinian of Providence moved that the Central Council be instructed to send copies of all communications to the chairman, secretary, and parish priest of each chapter. The motion was seconded. Mr. Nersoyan explained that copies of letters were already being sent to the parish priest whenever necessary. Mr. Soursourian amended the motion on the floor and proposed that only directives and bulletins be sent to the chairman, secretary, and president of each chapter. This proposal was seconded and defeated by 22 negative and 19 affirmative votes. Mr. Soursourian then moved the original motion and it was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Father Torkom was questioned about the use of the word Orthodox in referring to the Armenian Church. He explained the word and said that its use was proper.

The Lowell delegate, Mr. Aharonian, moved that the Executive Director visit each chapter at least once a year. The motion was not seconded and failed. It was emphasized that the Executive Director's visiting all the chapters would show that the Central Council is interested in each chapter's problems and progress. Mr. Aharonian moved that the Central Council reconsider this matter, in view of the recommendations made, and present a plan either through a bulletin or at the next Assembly. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote. The Chairman advised that if a chapter wishes to have a member of the Central Council present at any of its meetings and affairs, it should not hesitate to make the request and, if at all possible, would be answered favorably.

Next discussed was the New England Conclave. The Central Council was asked if it had carried out the requests made in the report submitted to this effect, earlier during the Assembly meeting. The Central Council stated that no particular directives were given in the report and that this Conclave was only a trial. The only official action taken by the Conclave was the selection of the New England Anniversary Ball Chairman, it was reported.

A suggestion was made that in future Assembly programs some sort of an activity be planned, which activity would take place in memory of Garegin Catholicos whose interests were instrumental in the organization, later, of the ACYOA. Since Garegin Catholicos was also a great servant of Armenian culture it was felt that a special tribute should be paid to him annually. It was recommended that other prominent persons also be remembered during this period and that a short talk be given on some aspect of our Church, culture, etc. Mr. Soursourian moved that future Assemblies include a memorial service to be arranged by the Central Council in consultation with the Primate. The motion was seconded. It was pointed out that it was beyond the Assembly's appointed function to decide on the nature of such a service. Mr. Soursourian then withdrew his original motion and moved again that the Central Council and the Primate plan, for the purpose under consideration, a session to be held during Assembly period and devoted to an educational subject. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Father Mesrob moved that the Association of Armenian Church Choirs be requested to send invitations and particulars concerning their annual seminar to all ACYOA chapters. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Father Mesrob that hereafter host chapters not arrange any activities after 12 o'clock on Saturday night. The motion was seconded and passed by 21 affirmative and 6 negative votes (11 abstaining).

Mr. Nersoyan again brought up the matter of sending copies of correspondence to pastors and suggested reconsideration of the original decision. He suggested restatement of the original motion

as follows: Copies of Communications be sent to the President of each chapter unless justifiable considerations prevent the Central Council from doing so. Mr. Tikky made a motion of the restated proposal. The Chair called this motion out of order as the original motion had been passed without any move for reconsideration. Mr. Kentigian then moved to reconsider the original motion. This recommendation for reconsideration was passed by a majority of hand votes. Following this, Mr. Soursourian made a motion that the Central Council be directed to send copies of all correspondence to the chapter chairman, secretary, and parish priest unless it has justifiable cause not to do so. The motion was seconded and passed by 24 affirmative and 11 negative votes.

Miss Hovsepien of Detroit moved that any further new business be brought to the next Assembly. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

REGIONAL CHAIRMEN, ANNIVERSARY BALL

The national chairman of the Anniversary Ball, Mr. Paul Hovsepien, then reported that the following regional chairmen were appointed for the Seventh Anniversary Ball:

Chicago	-	Ann Norehad
Detroit-Cleveland	-	Margaret Carmen
Philadelphia	-	Martin Zoolikian
New York-New Jersey-	-	Harry Ekizian
Troy	-	Rose Harmaian
New England	-	Charles Sirmaian
Hartford-New Britain-	-	Ann Boyajian

He repeated the importance of cooperating with these chairmen and wished them all success.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OBSERVATIONS

The floor was given, at this time, to Mr. Nersoyan to make his observations in his capacity of Executive Director. The Secretarial Report disclosed, Mr. Nersoyan said, that the ACYOA is losing its adult members and is gaining junior members. This loss of senior members is detrimental to the Organization, the Executive Director observed. He said that the body of the Organization should be composed of members who are serious and mature enough to be able to take from our fathers the heritage of our Church and to pass it on to the next generation. He emphasized the importance of making a special effort during the coming year to increase members who are 20, 25, and above 25 years of age so that these members may keep the Organization at its true level. The word "Youth" in our name should not mean "Teenagers"; in spite of a few grey hairs, many people might still be "young" as the term is meant by our Constitution, he said.

PROPOSED BUDGET

The Budget Committee presented, next, the proposed Budget for the fiscal year from July 1, 1952, to June 30, 1953. After reviewing

the recommendations made, a question was raised as to how it was possible to print the Constitution for \$75.00 when the cost of printing the original Constitution was much more. It was explained that the new edition had been sent to France and that the cost of printing there is less than in this country.

Mr. Nersoyan was questioned as to how much time he spent approximately on ACYO work. He stated that he was required to give one-third of his time to it but actually much more time was devoted.

An explanation was given covering Mr. Nersoyan's being selected Executive Director and Editor of the Armenian Guardian. The Diocesan Assembly needed Mr. Nersoyan's services as Director of Church Schools and as the Central Council was also in need of a qualified person to carry on the work of the ACYOA, arrangements were made with the Diocesan Council whereby he could do both the work of the Diocese and that of the ACYOA. It was decided that the ACYOA would pay \$1,000.00 toward Mr. Nersoyan's salary, for which he would devote one-third of his time to ACYOA work.

Miss Hovsepian of Detroit moved that the salary of the Executive Director be increased by at least \$500.00, making the total \$1,500.00. The proposal was seconded and passed by 32 affirmative and 1 negative votes (3 abstaining).

ADJUSTED BUDGET

The adjusted Budget for the coming year is as follows:

ESTIMATED EXPENSES:

Administration

C.P.A. to audit books of Organization	\$ 50.00
Expense for publishing Guardian	1,000.00 *
Petty Cash	150.00
Printing of Constitution	75.00
Printing of pamphlet and miscellaneous items	150.00
Purchase and maintenance of office machines	100.00
Purchase of office supplies	150.00
Salary of Exec. Director and Guardian Editor	1,500.00

Travel by Central Council and Executive Director

To meetings	900.00 **
To the General Assembly in Worcester	450.00
Executive Director's visit to Midwest chapters	200.00

Miscellaneous

Preparation of tracts and pamphlets by Diocese	<u>300.00</u>
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TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSES \$5,025.00

CREDIT:

Gross Profit of 1951 Anniversary Ball	\$2,041.82
25% of 1951 Budget (\$3,686.81) deducted	<u>921.70</u>

TOTAL CREDIT 1,120.12

NET BUDGET \$3,904.88

- * Anticipated deficit - pending recommendation of tax system for relieving chapters of this burden.
- ** Represents travel for only one Central Council member from the Midwest region.

Mr. Sarkisian of Watertown moved that the Budget as revised be accepted. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

TAX PROCEDURE

The last Assembly had directed the West Philadelphia Chapter to present a stable tax procedure this year but the West Philadelphia delegate stated that this had not been done because the needed information was not available to them. He recommended that the following statistics be secured from each chapter:

1. Survey of the membership of each chapter - senior members, junior members, male or female, age of each.
2. Size of parish, number of church members, locality.
3. Wealth of parish - properties owned.
4. Does the parish have a priest?
5. Are there other organizations in the parish?
6. Facilities of a chapter - do they have their own church or hall - are they building a new church?

Mr. Soursourian moved that we accept the West Philadelphia report and recommended that they continue to complete it. This motion was seconded but since it was noted that this chapter may not be able to secure the informations needed, the motion was reworded as follows: Moved that the report submitted by West Philadelphia on a new tax system be accepted. This motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Soursourian then moved that we adopt the old "point system" in order to fulfill our budget. This recommendation was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Paul Najarian, former Treasurer of the Central Council suggested that instead of having each chapter assume points from 1 to 6 as previously done, the whole Assembly assume a total of 100 points. After this is done, then each chapter will assume the number of points it can afford until a total of 100 is reached. On this basis, the Budget, \$3,904.88, was divided by 100 and each point was valued at \$39.04.

In order to see how the plan would work, each chapter was asked to assume the points it felt it could afford. The scheme proved successful and after some discussion, Mr. Garoukian of Racine moved that the 100 point system be adopted as a basis for taxation. This motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Adjustments were then made in the case of some chapters and a motion was made that

the points thus assumed by each chapter determine taxes to be paid for the coming year. This motion was carried unanimously. The following is a tabulation of the taxes each chapter must pay by the end of the fiscal year 1952-1953:

<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>POINTS ASSUMED</u>	<u>TAX DUE</u>
Boston	10	\$390.40
Chicago	2	78.08
Cleveland	2	78.08
Detroit	10	390.40
Evanston	5	195.20
Hartford	2	78.08
Haverhill	2	78.08
Lawrence	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	175.68
Lowell	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	97.60
Newark	2	78.08
New York Downtown	5	195.20
New York Uptown	3	117.12
North Philadelphia	6	234.24
Paterson	2	78.08
Providence	6	234.24
Racine	3	117.12
South Milwaukee	3	117.12
Troy	5	195.20
Watertown	9	351.36
Waukegan	2	78.08
West Philadelphia	5	195.20
West Pullman	2	78.08
Worcester	7	273.28
	<u>100</u>	<u>\$3,904.00</u>

PLAN PRESENTED BY CENTRAL COUNCIL TO
ALLEVIATE TAXES AND INCREASE GUARDIAN SUBSCRIBERS

In an effort at least to reduce the deficit with which the Guardian is being published, the Central Council presented the following plan:

- A. The sum of \$1,000.00 (anticipated deficit from Guardian expenses) is taken out of the Budget.
- B. This sum is then divided among the chapters according to the number of points that they have assumed towards the procurement of the Budget. (The sum total of points being 100, the money value of each point is \$10.00. Thus a chapter having assumed, say, 5 points, owes to the Organization toward the defrayal of Guardian expenses $5 \times 10.00 = \$50.00$.)
- C. The sum owed to the Organization (as the sum of \$50.00 in the example just given) is deducted from the total taxes of the chapter for the current year, provided the chapter can send in enough new subscriptions

during the current year at the rate of \$1.50 each, to cover its assigned contribution towards the defrayal of the anticipated Guardian deficit. If less new subscriptions are sold by the chapter its taxes will be reduced by a sum equalling the subscriptions sold only.

A motion was made that this new plan be adopted. It was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

A suggestion was made by Mr. Nersoyan that when the subscriptions are sent to the office, they be marked in red ink "New Subscriptions" and to include also the name of the chapter submitting them. He said that a bulletin on this subject would be issued.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW CENTRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Nominating Committee reported that it had received the list of names submitted by chapters as candidates for nomination. The Committee stated that it had made a selection of nominees as follows:

Arax Selvinazian	- New York Downtown
Rose Giragosian	- Watertown
Casey (Minas) Kazanjain	- Lawrence
Mary Mazmanian	- North Philadelphia
Gerald Aharonian	- Lowell
George Tikky	- Boston
Gary Hovhannesian	- Worcester
Charles Kumkumian	- North Philadelphia
Rose Bannaian	- Cleveland

The Chairman then called for nominations from the floor and the name of Miss Shockey Gengozian was added to the list. Father Shahe moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Several delegates spoke in favor of nominees they thought should be elected.

The Assembly was informed that three Central Council members were retiring, namely, Miss Arax Selvinazian, who had been coopted for six months to fill the balance of Mrs. Grayce Hadrian's term on the Central Council; Miss Shockey Gengozian, who had been elected for one year to fill the balance of Mr. Lee Bedigian's term and Mr. Arshag Gechijian, whose term of three years had been completed.

Father Torkom was asked to appoint an Election Committee. With the Assembly's approval, he appointed the Nominating Committee to serve as the Election Committee and Father Papken as advisor.

Voting proceeded and Miss Selvinazian received a majority of first place votes on the first ballot. Mr. Kazanjian received a majority of the votes on the second ballot. The third ballot did not give any one person a majority as the votes were scattered.

The Election Committee therefore recommended that the persons receiving the largest number of votes be voted upon and the other names be eliminated from the ballot. This was done but a majority was still not gained. Miss Norehad of Evanston then moved that the two who received the largest number of votes be placed on the ballot and voted upon. In this manner, Mr. Aharonian was able to obtain a majority of the third ballot votes. Miss Arax Selvinazian, Mr. Casey (Minas) Kazanjian, and Mr. Gerald Aharonian were thus elected.

SELECTION OF NEXT ASSEMBLY SITE

Bids were made by the Detroit, Cleveland, and Providence Chapters. Balloting took place and Cleveland was chosen by a majority vote.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A motion was made that a vote of thanks be given to the 1952 host chapter (Worcester) for planning one of the best assemblies ever had by the Organization. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Votes of thanks were also given to all those who helped to make this Assembly a success; to Mr. Zaven Hovsepian for conducting the sessions in an excellent manner; to Mr. Arthur Yagjian for the good planning and preparation of all the activities; to the Worcester Telegram, a daily newspaper, for the fine coverage made of the Assembly; to Father Torkom for his guidance and help during the sessions; and to the secretaries for recording the minutes. A special vote of thanks was given to the four priests, Father Arten, Father Shahe, Father Papken, and Father Mesrob, who attended all the sessions.

It was proposed that a telegram be sent to Antelias, Lebanon, in memory of the late Catholicos Garegin I. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Father Mesrob moved that a telegram also be sent to Etchmiadzin, to the Patriarch Catholicos Georg VI of all Armenians, expressing our filial affection and respects and asking for his patriarchal blessing of our Organization. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried. Mr. Tikky of Boston moved that a telegram be sent to Archbishop Tiran. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

PRESENTATION OF BANNER TO NEXT HOST CHAPTER

The banner was presented to the Cleveland Chapter as the host chapter of the 1953 General Assembly and Miss Rose Bannaian accepted it in behalf of her chapter.

BENEDICTION

Both the new and the old members of the Central Council were called forth and blessed by Father Torkom. Following this, he gave the Benediction.

ADJOURNMENT

The third session adjourned at 6:00 P.M. bringing to a close the Sixth Annual General Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Azarian
Recording Secretary

Zaven A. Hovsepian
Chairman