

MINUTES
OF THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA



SEPTEMBER 5, 6, AND 7, 1953
CLEVELAND, OHIO

MINUTES

SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

of the

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

September 5, 6, and 7, 1953

Cleveland, Ohio

PRESIDING: Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, Primate of the Diocese of
the Armenian Church of North America, President

Very Rev. Torkom Manoogian, Vicar General of the Diocese
of the Armenian Church of North America, Vice President

CHAIRMAN: Zaven A. Hovsepian, Chairman-Central Council

ATTENDANCE:

Chapters

BOSTON

Miss Teny Garoian
Mr. George Tikky
Miss Rose Yakoobian

CHICAGO

Mr. Jack Najarian

CLEVELAND

Miss Rose Bannaian
Mr. Richard Demirjian

DETROIT

Rev. Arnak Kasparian
Mr. Dennis Papazian
Miss Rosalie Papazian
Mr. Sooren H. Gozmanian
Miss Helen Partogian
Mr. Jack Kazanjian (Alternate)

EVANSTON

Mr. Harry Omartian
Miss Esther Danejian

HARTFORD

Very Rev. Issahag Ghazarian
Miss Armen E. Giligian

HAVERHILL

Very Rev. Hrant
Khatchadourian
Miss Anne Der Boghosian

LAWRENCE

Miss Isabelle B. Krekorian
Mr. Charles Sirmaian

NEWARK

Very Rev. Yeghishe Gizirian
Miss Irene C. Mazujian

NEW YORK-ST. GREGORY

Miss Terry Halburian
Miss Zabel Gadarigian

NEW YORK-HOLY CROSS

Miss Hasmig Malian

NORTH PHILADELPHIA

Miss Alice Arslanian

PATERSON

Mr. Charles Pinajian

PROVIDENCE

Miss Mary Taraian

RACINE

Rev. Artoon Sempadian
Mrs. Mary Ann Injasoulian
Mr. Mikael Garoukian

SOUTH MILWAUKEE

Very Rev. Soukias Kalfayan
Mr. Harold Baylerian
Miss Namzar Kaprelian

TROY

Miss Rose Artinian
Mr. Leo Movsesian

UNION CITY

Very Rev. Himayak Intoyan
Miss Diana Minasian
Mr. Nishan Eskigian

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. John Balian

WATERTOWN

Very Rev. Torkom Postajian
Mr. Zaven Der Hagopian
Mrs. Dorothy Der Hagopian (Alternate)

WEST PHILADELPHIA

Rev. Levon Arakelian
Miss Naomi Cholakian

WEST PULLMAN

Mr. Karneg Boyajian

WORCESTER

Deacon Hovhannes Kasparian
Miss Sharkey Heroian
Miss Helen Gasparian

The Lowell Chapter had no representative present at this Assembly.

Central Council Members

Vice-Chairman, Matthew Matteosian
Recording Secretary, Mary Azarian
Treasurer, Leo Bakalian
Publicity Director, Gerald Aharonian
Anniversary Ball National Chairman, Paul Hovsepien
Director of Junior Groups, Minas Kazanjian
Secretary to Executive Director, Arax Selvinazian

Miss Acabe Boornazian, Corresponding Secretary of the Central Council, was absent as she was on a vacation trip out of the country.

Executive Director

Mr. Hagop Nersoyan

First Session

(Saturday, September 5, 1953, 1:45 P.M.)

ASSEMBLY CONVENED:

The Archbishop opened the Assembly with the ACYOA Prayer, followed by the ACYOA Pledge.

ADDRESSES:

Welcoming addresses were made by Dr. Kegham K. Goekjian, Chairman of the Cleveland Parish Council, and by Mr. Jack Hacherian, Co-Chairman of the Assembly Committee.

The Archbishop then spoke to the delegation and guests. The text of his talk is attached. (Appendix 1) Also attached is the Archbishop's main speech which was given at the banquet. (Appendix 2)

TELEGRAMS AND MESSAGES:

Telegrams and messages which were received from the ACYO of California, the Racine Chapter of the ACYOA, Mr. John Soursourian, Archbishop Mampre Calfayan, Rev. Vahram Nazaretian, the Association of Armenian Church Choirs, Mr. Arthur Davidian, and the Campaign Committee of the Cathedral and Cultural Center Project were read.

CHARTER PRESENTATION:

A charter was presented to the Washington, D.C., Chapter and it was accepted by Mr. John Balian, Chairman of this chapter.

QUORUM:

Rev. Hagop Mekhjian informed the Assembly by means of a letter that he was unable to be present at this Assembly and requested that the Assembly grant permission to Deacon Hovhannes Kasparian to represent him. It was

Voted: That Deacon Hovhannes Kasparian represent Rev. Hagop Mekhjian at this Assembly.

Roll Call was taken and a quorum having been established, the Chairman announced that the Seventh Annual General Assembly of the ACYOA was in session.

MINUTES:

The Minutes Reading Committee reported that it had found the minutes of the Sixth Annual General Assembly in order. These minutes were accepted by the Assembly.

RULES OF PROCEDURE:

The Rules of Procedure for this Assembly were discussed and it was

Voted: That the Rules of Procedure as amended be accepted.

A copy of these Rules is attached. (Appendix 3)

BUSINESS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

1. Reports -

- A. The Central Council Report was read to the Assembly and it was

Voted: That the Central Council Report be accepted.

A copy of the Central Council Report is attached. (Appendix 4)

- B. The Auditing Committee presented the Financial Statement of the Organization and informed the Assembly that it had found all of the books in good order. It was

Voted: That the report of the Auditing Committee be accepted.

A copy of the Financial Statement is attached. (Appendix 5)

- C. The National Chairman of the Seventh Anniversary Ball, Mr. Paul Hovsepian, reported on the outcome of the Ball and also thanked the chapters for the good cooperation they had given him in making this Ball a great financial success. It was

Voted: That the report on the Seventh Anniversary Ball be accepted.

For a detailed account of the profits derived from the Ball see Appendix 6.

2. Election of Committees -

- A. In order to expedite the election of the Nominating and Minutes Reading Committees, it was

Voted: That the President be requested to appoint the members of the Nominating and Minutes Reading Committees.

The members of the Nominating Committee were chosen as follows:

Dennis Papazian, Detroit
George Tikky, Boston
Terry Halburian, New York-St. Gregory
Matthew Matteosian, Central Council Advisor

The following members were chosen to comprise the Minutes Reading Committee:

Richard Demirjian, Cleveland
Rose Bannaian, Cleveland

- B. The Central Council suggested that a Taxation Committee be elected to expedite the work of assigning tax points to chapters. After discussion, it was

Voted: That a Taxation Committee be elected to function as follows -

- a. Study each Chapter's Annual Report.
- b. Consider the size of the community or parish of the Chapter.
- c. Consider the potential earning power of each Chapter.
- d. Consider the size or number of the Chapter membership.
- e. Review past year's point assignment to each Chapter.
- f. Interview each Chapter's delegation.
- g. Assign the proper amount of points to each Chapter.

The decision of this Committee shall be final and will be accepted by the General Assembly.

Nominations for election to the Taxation Committee were made and when the total of nominees reached five, it was

Voted: That nominations be closed and that the five persons nominated comprise the Taxation Committee.

The members of the Taxation Committee were as follows:

Rose Yakoobian, Boston
Charles Pinajian, Paterson
Zabel Gadarigian, New York-St. Gregory
Harold Baylerian, South Milwaukee
Sooren Gozmanian, Detroit
Leo Bakalian, Central Council Advisor

- C. The Central Council requested that the Assembly grant permission to the Council to select the Auditing Committee. The Council informed the Assembly that this procedure had proved very satisfactory during the past year and it was

Voted: That the Central Council appoint the Auditing Committee.

3. Amendments, Resolutions, and Proposals -

I - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- A. The Central Council proposed that Article 7, Section 3, of the Constitution be amended. After discussion, it was

Voted: That Article 7, Section 3, of the Constitution be modified to read: Special Membership Meetings may be called upon two weeks' notice by the Executive Committee upon a majority vote of the Executive Committee, or upon the written request of at least one-third of the Senior Membership.

- B. The Central Council proposed that an addition be made to Article 17, Section 1, of the Constitution. Following some discussion, it was

Voted: That the following be added to Article 17, Section 1, of the Constitution: The Central Council shall submit to the chapters all amendments to the Constitution for ratification within thirty days after each Assembly.

- C. The Central Council proposed that an addition be made to Article 9, Section 10, of the Constitution. After discussion, it was

Voted: That the following be added to Article 9, Section 10, of the Constitution: The Treasurer shall notify each member of his financial obligation toward the Organization.

- D. The Central Council proposed that the present Section 1 of Article 15 be made Section 2 and proposed that an additional Section be included in this Article. Following considerable discussion, it was

Voted: That the following be Section 1 of Article 15 of the Constitution: Any member who fails to meet his financial obligation toward the Organization, as set forth in this Constitution, without justifiable cause, ceases to be a member of the Organization.

II - RESOLUTIONS AND PROPOSALS

- A. The Detroit Chapter proposed that the present Membership Card system be abolished and that a new system be adopted. After discussion, it was

Voted: That a new Membership Card system be used and that the Central Council take into consideration the suggestions made by the Detroit Chapter in having new cards made up.

- B. The Detroit Chapter proposed that immediate steps be taken to further the aims of the Organization as set forth in the Constitution. After some discussion, it was

Voted: That the Central Council take any steps necessary, such as posters, letters, etc., to propagandize and encourage members to study to be church school teachers and prepare for the Holy Orders of the diaconate, priesthood, and bishopric.

RECESS:

The first session recessed at 6:05 P.M.

Second Session

(Sunday, September 6, 1953, 3:45 P.M.)

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

The Assembly was resumed at 3:45 P.M. and the special educational program planned took place at this time.

INTRODUCTION AND PANEL DISCUSSION:

Rev. Arnak Kasparian introduced the topic, which was "The Mission of the Armenian Church and other Eastern Churches in the American Scene". Following the introduction, several persons participated in a panel discussion. They were; Very Rev. Torkom Manoogian, Rev. Artoon Sempadian, Deacon Hovhannes Kasparian, and Messrs. Paul Hovsepian and Hagop Nersoyan. Afterwards, delegates and guests joined in a general discussion of the topic.

BUSINESS SESSION RESUMED:

The Assembly then continued the discussion of Amendments, Resolutions, and Proposals.

II - RESOLUTIONS AND PROPOSALS

- C. The Central Council proposed that further concrete steps be taken toward the realization of the aims of the Organization. It presented its reasons as follows:

"The Seventh Annual General Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America in recognizing its mission and obligation of service to our Church, believes that the primary obligation of the Armenian community of America is toward its Church for the good of the Armenian people and of America, and for the greater glory of God.

"This work cannot be done without church school teachers and priests, and the Armenian community of America does not have enough church school teachers, deacons and clergymen to attend to its own religious and spiritual needs.

"During the more than fifty years of its organized existence in the United States of America, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America has witnessed the growth of an Armenian generation which is American by birth and general education.

"During the same period this Diocese has reached a status where it is no longer entirely dependent on other Armenian Church communities abroad to have the church school teachers and clergymen that it needs.

"The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America can, financially and otherwise, prepare its own church school teachers and clergymen."

After discussion, it was

Resolved by unanimous vote:

"That the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, as a national church organization, encourage and assist in every possible manner the Diocesan authorities in their selection and training of church school teachers and of candidates for ordination into the priesthood, and that this encouragement be as concrete as possible, to the full extent of the financial and other capacities of the Organization."

- D. The Central Council proposed that the objects of the Organization be reaffirmed on the following grounds:

"We who have committed ourselves to the truth and to perpetuate the truth through our faith and through our Church, firmly believe and proclaim that;

"The Armenian Church Youth Organization of America seeks, as indicated by its very name and stated in its Constitution, to cause, help and encourage its members to learn, practice, uphold and propagate the moral, dogmatic, and spiritual principles and teachings of the Christian religion, and this Organization also seeks to deepen and strengthen among its members the knowledge of, and loyalty to America. This Organization upholds the spirit of human freedom, universal justice, brotherhood of men and devotion to duty as good citizens, dedicated to the service of their God and country.

"In the present world situation, forces of atheistic materialism and other such ideologies are threatening the general foundations on which the above objectives can be carried out at all, and this Organization is convinced that the most potent power against atheistic ideologies is merely the reaffirmation of the positive teachings of the Christian religion."

After discussion, it was

Resolved by unanimous vote:

"That the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America make a special effort to use all its resources to create in its own ranks and among the Armenian people in general, a clear awareness of the necessity of spiritual values to be learned

and assimilated as part of their obligations to the Armenian people, to the United States of America and to God, and that this Organization stay clear, while engaged in the furtherance of spiritual life, from political activities, according to the American principle of separation of Church and State."

- E. The Central Council proposed that conference and study facilities be arranged to aid individual members in carrying out the aims of the Organization. After some discussion, it was

Voted: That the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America organize a series of conferences and studies, preferably in the Summer, the object of which conferences and studies will be to enlighten our youth on matters related to the Christian religion, their Church and national culture. These sessions, which will be mixed with appropriate social activities, will be particularly useful to Armenian Church School and Armenian School teachers. They will be held in an appropriate place and should last at least two weeks.

RECESS:

The second session recessed at 6:30 P.M.

Third Session

(Monday, September 7, 1953, 11:00 A.M.)

ASSEMBLY RESUMED:

The Assembly was resumed at 11:00 A.M. and the discussion of Amendments, Resolutions and Proposals continued.

II - RESOLUTIONS AND PROPOSALS

- F. It was proposed that a message of greetings and encouragement be sent to Arthur Davidian, a former member of the Worcester Chapter who is studying at the seminary of Antelias, Lebanon, to become a priest. It was

Voted: That a message be sent to Arthur Davidian to this effect.

- G. The Cleveland Chapter proposed that printing cuts used by host chapters of the Assembly be sent to the Central Council. After discussion, it was

Voted: That all cuts pertinent to the souvenir booklets of annual general assemblies not specifically needed by the year's host chapter be sent to the Central Council.

- H. The Worcester Chapter proposed that some action be taken to inform the forthcoming Diocesan Assembly that the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America desires the nomination and re-election of Archbishop Tiran as Primate of our Diocese. The Worcester Chapter requested that the Archbishop be urged to accept such nomination. After some discussion as to the procedure to be followed, it was

Voted: That Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan be urged to accept nomination for the coming Diocesan election to the office of Primate of the Diocese of North America, for the continued benefit of our Church and people, and that the Central Council take all necessary steps within its power to bring about the successful conclusion of said nomination.

- I. It was proposed that the Cleveland community be commended for the fine work done for and at the Assembly and it was

Voted: That letters of appreciation be sent to the Cleveland Parish Council, Ladies' Auxiliary, ACYOA, and Assembly Committee.

- J. It was proposed that the Organization send a gift to the three American-Armenian young men now studying at the seminary of Antelias. After discussion, it was

Voted: That the Central Council decide on a suitable gift which all three students, namely Arthur Davidian, Krikor Tatoyan, and Steve Barsamian, can use and that the Central Council set a quota for each chapter toward the price of the gift. Chapters may accept voluntary contributions from their members.

4. Assignment of Taxes -

The Taxation Committee reported that it had worked as directed by the Assembly and that it found this procedure very satisfactory. The Committee stated that it had operated on the basis of 100 points for the whole Organization and taking into consideration the total amount of the proposed budget, evaluated each point at \$31.88. The minimum number of points assigned being 2, the following number of points was assigned to the following chapters:

Boston	10	North Phila.	5
Chicago.	2	Paterson	2
Cleveland.	3	Providence	5
Detroit	11	Racine	4
Evanston	5	South Milwaukee	3
Hartford	2	Troy	5
Haverhill.	2	Union City	4
Lawrence.	4	Washington, D.C.	2
Lowell	2	Watertown	7
Newark	2	West Phila.	4
N. Y.-St. Gregory.	4	West Pullman	2
N. Y.-Holy Cross.	3	Worcester	7

5. Approval of Budget -

The Auditing Committee reported that it had reviewed the proposed Budget for the fiscal year 1953-1954 and found it in order. The Auditing Committee recommended that the Guardian Tax Plan as used during the fiscal year 1952-1953 be again adopted. It also recommended that the surplus remaining in the checking account be deposited in the Reserve Fund. Following some discussion, it was

Voted: That the Budget be accepted as presented; that the Armenian Guardian Tax Plan, as adopted by the Sixth Annual General Assembly to alleviate the deficit incurred in publishing the Guardian, be again used for the 1953-1954 fiscal year; and that if there remains any surplus in the checking account after deducting the operating expenses for the year, the Central Council use its discretion in placing such funds into the Reserve Fund, for purposes for which the Reserve Fund was established and mainly for future projects that are not now within our financial means.

A directive will be issued shortly to all chapters advising them as to how the Guardian Tax Plan works. A copy of the Budget as approved is attached. (Appendix 7)

6. Election of Central Council Members -

The Nominating Committee reported that it had reviewed the names of candidates for nomination and made its selection of nominees for election to the Central Council. After additional nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed.

An Election Committee, comprised of the following, was chosen:

Rev. Levon Arakelian, West Phila.
Mikael Garoukian, Racine
Richard Demirjian, Cleveland
Rose Yakobian, Boston
Paul Hovsepien, Central Council Advisor

After balloting according to the Rules of Procedure adopted at this Assembly, results were announced by the Election Committee. The following were elected to the Central Council:

Dennis Papazian - from Detroit
Ralph Yagjian - from Worcester
Matthew Matteosian - from Watertown

Outgoing members of the Central Council were Acabe Boornazian, Paul Hovsepien, and Matthew Matteosian. Mr. Matteosian was eligible for re-election because he was serving the unexpired two-year term of a Council member who had resigned.

7. Selection of Next Host Chapter -

Bids were made by the Racine, North Philadelphia, Troy and Boston Chapters to hold the Eighth Annual General Assembly in their cities. Balloting took place and Troy was chosen as the site of the next Assembly by majority vote.

The ACYOA Banner was presented to the Troy Chapter and Mr. Leo Movsesian received it on behalf of his chapter.

At this time, the Lawrence delegation requested that a vote of confidence be given to small chapters who wished to be host to forthcoming assemblies. After discussion, it was

Voted: That chapters in small parishes could combine their efforts and two or three chapters together be host to a future Assembly.

8. Eighth Anniversary Ball Representatives -

The Chairman informed the delegates that Mr. Minas Kazanjian had been appointed by the Central Council as National Chairman of the Eighth Anniversary Ball. He requested Mr. Kazanjian to announce the selections he had made of the delegates who would represent their regions and who would call the first meetings of the Anniversary Ball Committees. These representatives are-

REGION 1

So. Milwaukee, Racine,
Chicago, Evanston

-- Mr. Harold Baylerian

REGION 2

Detroit, Cleveland

-- Mr. Sam Arslanian

REGION 3

North Phila., West Phila.,
Washington, D.C.

-- Miss Naomi Cholakian

REGION 4

New York-Holy Cross, New
York-St. Gregory, Newark,
Paterson, Union City

-- Mr. Nishan Eskigian

REGION 5

Troy

-- Mr. Leo Movsesian

REGION 6

Worcester, Boston, Lowell,
Lawrence, Providence,
Haverhill, Watertown

-- Mr. Charles Sirmaian

REGION 7

Hartford

-- Miss Armen Giligian

Mr. Kazanjian again repeated the importance of the use of ad booklets, raffle tickets, and other special features for the greater financial success of the Ball.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

The Chairman called on Mr. Hagop Nersoyan, Executive Director, to make any comments that he deemed pertinent.

Mr. Nersoyan observed that during his visits to the chapters he had noticed that files were not kept as they should be. He urged the delegates to advise their respective chapters to purchase special file cabinets, if necessary, and keep systematic files arranged topically.

Mr. Nersoyan also observed that qualitative achievements must go along with increase in membership. He invited the delegates to see to it that this membership is increased by 20% by the next Assembly. No vote should be taken on such a measure, he said, because our present members should get new members of their own free will. All delegates unanimously promised to do their best.

SPECIAL SERVICE:

The Assembly was concluded with a religious service, prepared by Archbishop Tiran. All delegates, guests, clergymen and Central Council Members participated.

BENEDICTION:

All outgoing, new and remaining members of the Central Council were called forth and blessed by the Archbishop.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Seventh Annual General Assembly of the ACYOA was adjourned at 3:30 P.M. on September 7, 1953.

Respectfully submitted,

Zaven A. Hovsepian
Chairman

Mary Azarian
Recording Secretary

OPENING ADDRESS

I feel doubly happy for being with

you today; firstly, because it is a

pleasant feeling to be surrounded by dynamic

youth; its vitality is contagious; and

secondly, because in your midst I sense a

brighter future, in this country, for our

church, our community, our people and our

traditions. I am happy and proud, as acting

head of the Armenian Church in the United

States, to greet you and welcome you.

The Armenian Church Youth Organization

of America has been the embodiment of the

growth, the development and the increasing

maturity of the Armenian Youth in America.

The Armenian community in this country is in dire need of rejuvenation. The A.C.Y.O.A. is the source for that new blood and energy.

Your heritage, as the sons and daughters of the Armenian people, has a distinct and unique place in the family of nations. It is not chauvinism to cherish all our qualities of past greatness. It is indeed honesty and a service to know these qualities and to translate them into the lives we live today in the great and free land as this is.

Yours is a Church whose torchbearers, time and again, have shown their devotion to the great founder of the Christian brotherhood.

Yours is a Church which has borne its trials resolutely in times of stress, and which has known how to weather violence and survive.

And only in the knowledge and understanding of your selfless duty to your Church can you honestly dedicate yourselves to its perpetuation. You are all young and full of vitality, that is with you but once - and youthful vitality, with dedication and vision can, if properly used, perform no less than miracles.

Unity of purpose and unselfish devotion to its ideals are in themselves fundamental to any collective achievement.

As members of the A.C.Y.O.A., you are united to better serve your God, your Church, your people and finally yourselves.

Our Church is almost as old as Christianity itself. And God's Church is eternal. Seven years in the life of a Church Organization constitutes only a beginning. Therefore, the glorious work begun by your Organization should be forward-looking, dedicated to sublime principles, devoted to the glory of God and the prosperity of His Church and people.

You have not failed us in the faith that we have had in you, and have given us every assurance, too, that we will not be

wrong in our expectations of your future.

We live in an age that is fraught with trials and tribulations. The understanding and the willingness to put one's faith above one's self and to honestly devote one's self to the service of the Lord and His people should be the paramount motivation of our lives.

Faith in the Lord and an honest willingness to be guided by selfless good are the concomitant requirements for harmonious and fruitful fellowship and spiritual and moral satisfaction.

Your Assembly, motivated and inspired by these principles, is destined to be of significance.

I have no doubt that your deliberations-
will be forthright, wholesome and fruitful-
all for the glory of God and the prosperity of
our Church and community.

I welcome you all and invoke the
blessings of the Holy Spirit upon you and
upon your God pleasing work.