

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

ASSEMBLY AGENDA

20th Annual General Assembly

September 3, 4, 5, 6, 1966

INVOCATION, PRAYER, AND PLEDGE

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ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Central Council Report

1965-66

The Central Council of the ACYOA met six times during the past twelve months. These meetings included one session held subsequent to the completion of the 19th Annual Assembly in New York, four weekend sessions held in the Diocesan House in New York City, and one session the day preceding the 1966 Annual Assembly in Providence.

At its first meeting held on September 6, 1965, the Central Council elected its officers as follows:

Chairman	Michael Simonian
Vice-Chairman	Artin Artinian
Recording Secretary	Judy Hachikian
Corresponding Secretary	Nancy Kaprelian
Treasurer	Leon Hojagian

Subsequently, the new Chairman made the following appointments:

Anniversary Ball Coordinator	Bette Meserlian
Religious Education Coordinators	Deacon M. Mouradian & Bette Meserlian
ACYOA Day Coordinator	Artin Artinian
Assembly Coordinator	Joan Handelman
Finance Directors	Michael Simonian & Ashod (Raffi) Aprahamian
Junior Groups Directors	Nancy Kaprelian & Judy Hachikian
Publications Coordinator	Nancy Kaprelian
Publicity Director	Nancy Kaprelian
Lenten Offering Coordinator	Charles Takesian

In addition to these appointments, Central Council members were assigned chapters for visitations and liaison. Every chapter was informed as to which Council member was to be its liaison with the head office.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

As of July 1, 1962, Deacon Megerditch Mouradian has been serving as full-time Executive Secretary of the ACYOA. The Diocesan Assembly at present allocates \$2600 towards his annual stipend while the balance is assumed by the ACYOA. The Executive Secretary maintains the ACYOA Office in New York City, makes occasional field trips to chapters and serves as editor of The Armenian Guardian.

GUIDANCE

His Eminence Archbishop Sion Manougian, Primate, presided over Central Council meetings and provided many valuable suggestions regarding problems of the ACYOA. Also, Dr. Arra Avakian, in his capacity as Diocesan Liaison, attended two of our meetings and benefited us with his wise suggestions.

THE ACYOA CHAPTER IN THE PARISH FAMILY

The Vice-Chairman of the Parish Councils acted as liaison to the local ACYOA chapters, as requested by the Primate. Chapters should keep their liaisons informed of all matters pertaining to the ACYOA activities in the parish.

MEMBERSHIP

In 1965-66 the ACYOA had 33 active chapters of which 13 had separate Senior and Junior groups, 7 had combined chapters, and 13 had Junior groups only. The following table illustrates the chapters and their characteristics:

<u>Name of Chapter</u>	<u>Senior Group</u>	<u>Junior Group</u>	<u>Combined</u>
Boston	x	x	
Bridgeport		x	
Chicago	x	x	
Cleveland		x	
Detroit	x	x	
East St. Louis	x	x	
Evanston			x
Fairlawn		x	
Hamilton		x	
Hartford		x	
Haverhill			x
Lawrence			x
Long Island	x	x	
Lowell		x	
Miami			x
Montreal			x
Newark		x	
New York Holy Cross	x	x	
New York St. Gregory		x	
Niagara Falls			x
North Philadelphia	x	x	
Providence	x	x	
Racine	x	x	
Richmond	x	x	
St. Catharines			x
Tenafly		x	
Toronto	x	x	
Troy		x	
Watertown	x	x	
West Allis		x	
West Philadelphia		x	
West Pullman		x	
Worcester	x	x	
New Britain		x	

The following membership trend should be noted as well:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Number of Seniors</u>	<u>Number of Juniors</u>	<u>Total</u>
1960-61	464	218	682
1961-62	467	267	734
1962-63	513	419	932
1963-64	454	525	979
1964-65	419	425	844
1965-66	326	547	873

Since ACYOA was founded as an organization of young adults, the trend towards decreased Senior membership must be viewed with apprehension. It can be reversed by only exerting a concerted effort on the local parish level. New Senior Chapters must be organized and old ones revitalized with new and imaginative programs. The Central Council will do its share, but a program of revitalization cannot succeed without a sustained effort by the local chapters.

1966 ASSEMBLY

The Central Council through its Assembly coordinator, Joan Handleman, maintained close liaison with the Providence chapter during the last year. This being the 20th Annual General Assembly, invitations were sent out to all past Central Council members inviting them to the Assembly as guests of honor at the Sunday banquet and dance. As part of the proceedings the idea of a Youth Rally has been incorporated into this year's Assembly. Also a slight change has been introduced into the schedule by having Assembly Committees meet on Friday night rather than during Saturday.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

The Central Council Chairman, Michael Simonian, was again invited by the Primate to participate as a non-voting delegate at the Diocesan Assembly held on April 29-30, 1966, at St. Thomas Armenian Church in Tenafly, New Jersey. On Saturday evening, April 30, Chairman Michael Simonian addressed the Assembly Banquet guests on behalf of the ACYOA. The diocesan Assembly raised the ACYOA Executive Secretary's stipend subsidy from \$2600 to \$2800. To better acquaint the Diocesan delegates with the work of the ACYOA, a packet was again distributed to each delegate together with a cover letter from the Central Council Chairman.

The Assembly considered a request by the Central Council for a subsidy to pay the stipend of a full time field worker for the ACYOA. Although the delegates were generally sympathetic to the request, they felt that they needed more time to consider the matter. Consequently, the motion was tabled. A more detailed presentation will be made to the Diocesan Council. Because the need for a field worker is a current one, the Central Council is presenting a proposal to establish the position of ACYOA Field Worker and recommends that money from the reserve fund be allocated to provide initial financing.

ST. NERSESS THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

For the fourth consecutive year the Central Council granted scholarships to ACYOA members to participate in Religious Study courses sponsored by St. Nersess School. The scholarships consisted of one-half the tuition and one-half the traveling expenses. Recipients of the scholarships were the following:

Grant Anteramian	North Philadelphia Chapter, Tuition Only
Louise Aram	Detroit Chapter
Charles Chavdarian	Detroit Chapter
Joann Hovnan	Detroit Chapter
Daniel Maroukian	Tenafly Chapter
Byron Melkonian	Detroit Chapter
Susan Shamamian	Tenafly Chapter

The total sum of the scholarships granted amounted to \$400. (Last year's total was \$350.)

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

The recipients for this year's college scholarship grants were:

Haig Baltadjian	Montreal Chapter
Marcia Gazoorian	Worcester Chapter
Manoog Kelegian	West Allis Chapter
Paul Korian	Watertown Chapter
Robert Nakashian	Long Island Chapter

A total of \$900 was granted. (Last year's total was \$700.) The funds were derived from Reserve Fund Interest and 1966 Lenten offerings.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUND

The sum of \$150 was granted towards the school expenses of seminarian, Arshag Dayian, who is presently attending St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary in Yonkers, New York; request for the grant was made by St. Nersess Theological School.

MISSION '66 PROGRAM

According to a decision made during last year's Assembly the ACYOA Central Council sponsored two Mission programs (formerly known as YACK) this July. The Niagara Frontier (Niagara Falls and St. Catharines) and West Pullman were visited each for a period of ten days. The mission group consisted of a priest, a deacon and 3-4 ACYOA members. A typical day consisted of Morning Service, Bible Study, visitations, Evening Service, and finally discussion groups. The Central Council spent the sum of \$812.65 for both projects. (Previous Assembly allocated \$600.) Members who participated in the programs were Rev. Mampre Kouzoulian, Rev. Arsen Barsamian, Rev. Dajad Davidian, Rev. Krikor Hayrabetian, Deacon Megerditch Mouradian, Deacon Dickron Metjian, Marcia Gazoorian, Peter Bilazarian, Brenda Toromanian, Susan Yeghissian and Daniel Maroukian.

The programs were well received. The Niagara Falls parish donated \$25 towards next year's program.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Conferences, both for Juniors and Seniors, were held:

May - New York-New Jersey - Juniors
May - Mid and South Atlantic - Seniors
May - Midwest - Juniors
June - Lawrence - Seniors
March - Watertown - Seniors
March - Worcester - Juniors

It is suggested that one regional conference should be scheduled in each region immediately following the Annual Assembly. The post Assembly conference will incorporate leadership techniques to newly elected executive committees and a general ACYOA membership orientation.

The Central Council provides a partial subsidy to visiting chapters to regional conferences. A maximum of \$50 is paid to each participating chapter.

RETREATS

Retreats during the past year were held in the following areas:

December, 1965 - Midwest - Juniors
March, 1966 - New York-New Jersey-Philadelphia - Juniors
March, 1966 - New England - Junior-Senior
May, 1966 - New England - Juniors

Central Council spent a total of \$488.29 for retreats (\$200 was allocated in budget).

LENTEN OFFERING PROGRAM

Lenten offering cannisters were distributed to all Senior and Junior groups. The funds collected from this program are to be deposited in the College Scholarship Fund. A total of \$349.92 was collected as of August 31, 1966. (Total of \$365.54 collected in previous year.) Sixteen Junior and Senior chapters have turned in their proceeds.

ACYOA DAY

Nineteen of our 33 chapters reported observing ACYOA Day. As instructed by the 19th Assembly, proceeds from this program were donated to a community project selected by the local chapter. Some donations were made as follows:

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Charitable</u>
Racine	Cathy Weborg Fund (kidney transplant)
North Philadelphia	Children's Hospital Telethon

ACYOA DAY - continued

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Charitable</u>
Providence	Widows and Orphans of Viet Nam
Detroit	Donation of 14 books on the Armenian Church to the Southfield Public Library

Most chapters, however, forwarded proceeds to a parish project.

ANNIVERSARY BALLS

Anniversary Balls were held in the following regions: New York-New Jersey, New England, Philadelphia, Midwest, Detroit-Cleveland, Richmond-Washington, East St. Louis and Montreal. Net profit from booklet was \$1003.91. Of this figure \$692 has been received and \$311.79 is yet to be collected. Approximately \$500 was received in total as profit for all dances held. Central Council will send a national mailing for next year's anniversary ball booklet. Also the idea of one general flier designed and printed for all Anniversary Ball mailings has been adopted. Vice-Chairmen serve as Anniversary Ball Coordinators.

JUNIOR ESSAY CONTEST

The theme of the contest for this year was "The Peculiar Ones". The program was not very well received as only two entries were received. However, no award was given this year.

MONTHLY GUIDES

A total of six monthly guides were sent to the chapters to supplement their educational activities. Parish priests, deacons, chapter chairmen and advisors received copies. Some chapters used the guides with favorable results. However, the Central Council is not able to give an accurate evaluation of the guides since chapters fail in returning the evaluation sheets.

Topics for Monthly Guides were as follows:

- I. Literary Armenia
- II. Why Viet Nam
- III. Youth Considers Sex
- IV. Powers and Principalities
- V. Language of the Liturgy
- VI. Psalms and Planets

THE ARMENIAN GUARDIAN

The Armenian Guardian, ACYOA's national publication is published under the editorship of the Executive Secretary. He is assisted

THE ARMENIAN GUARDIAN - Continued

by a staff of four members: Mary Selvinazian, Joseph Kalemkerian, Regina Ekizian and Arshag Dayian.

The present circulation of the Guardian is 1500; of this, 850 are sent to ACYOA members and the rest to subscribers. \$5,138.77 was spent for the Guardian. Guardian subscriptions amounted to \$912.59; thus, the Guardian operated with a net loss of \$4,126.18.

In addition, Central Council feels it essential to initiate the following program of expansion for The Armenian Guardian:

1. A concerted subscription drive whose goal would be to double the present subscriptions to two thousand.

It is suggested that a Guardian campaign be conducted in conjunction with the Anniversary Ball booklet and that all who donate \$10 or more in sponsorship ads would receive a free subscription for one year, or the contributor would have the option to designate a gift subscription.

2. Enlarging the Guardian staff to include representatives from the various regions which have ACYOA chapters.
3. Reorganization of staff to include Junior Topics and Campus Activities Editors.
4. Possibly enlarging size of magazine.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Aurora (Melikian) Jebajian represented the ACYOA at the General Committee meeting which was held in September, 1965, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Also, Deacon Nersess Jebajian, Joann Hovnan, and Louise Aram participated in the International Ecumenical Youth Conference in July, 1966. Participation at these meetings was subsidized by Central Council.

JOINT STUDY WITH PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH

Initiated by the Central Council, joint programs were held in Detroit and Racine with Presbyterian Church youth. A series of study sessions in respective churches were held with participation at worship services too. The main objective of this program was to provide opportunity for young people of both churches to come together for study and worship. Plans are being made next year to have similar programs in Long Island and Philadelphia.

RELATIONS WITH THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF CALIFORNIA

A steady correspondence was maintained with our sister organization during last year. A joint Central Council meeting somewhere in the Midwest is still in the planning stage. As in the past years, the Chairman of the ACYOC was invited to attend our 20th Annual Assembly.

MANUALS

The manuscript of the chapter manual has been completed and is ready for publication. A separate manual will also be prepared for Junior Groups. They will be distributed to chapters upon printing. The Central Council manual is still under study.

PUBLICATIONS AND SLIDES

During 1965-1966 a total of \$984.67 was received from the sale of publications and slides. We have in our possession the manuscript of The Divine Liturgy Handbook by Very Rev. Mesrob V. Semerjian, which we will proceed to publish immediately. Plans are also being made to publish a new set of slides covering points of importance in the 1965 ACYOA Pilgrimage. Also a publication describing the background of the Armenian Church "split" will be produced. In addition, a new promotional brochure is being prepared by Central Council and will be distributed.

INVESTMENTS:

Our investment portfolio is currently composed of the following securities.

<u>SECURITY</u>	<u>ORIGINAL VALUE</u>	<u>ORIGINAL COST</u>	<u>PRESENT PRICE</u>	<u>PRESENT APPROX VALUE as of 8/5/66</u>
AT & T Bond	1-Bond @ 98 3/4	990	1 @ 88 5/8	885.00
AT & T	20 shares @ 73 7/8	1480	20 @ 53 1/2	1070.00
Eastman Kodak	10 shares @ 132 3/4	1330	20 @ 128	2560.00
General Motors	15 shares @ 87 1/2	1310	15 @ 80 1/2	1207.50
Goodyear Tire	10 shares @ 43 1/8	430	10 @ 52 1/2	525.00
Niagara Mohawk	25 shares @ 45 7/8	1150	25 @ 22 3/8	559.25
Std Oil of Calif	15 shares @ 52	780	15 @ 62	930.00
		<u>7470</u>		<u>7737.75</u>

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

April 26, 1966

Std Oil of Calif	13 shares @ 75 1/2	981.50	13 @ 62	806.00
Goodyear Tire	10 shares @ 48 1/8	481.25	10 @ 51 1/2	525.00
		<u>1462.75</u>		<u>1331.00</u>

ANNUAL REPORT

A well prepared Annual Report accomplishes the following:

1. It provides a brief summary of chapter activities for the year.
2. It describes member participation in other church activities (choir, church school, etc.)
3. It shows any indication of chapter growth.

ANNUAL REPORT - Continued

4. It provides the names of the new chapter executive committee and the delegates to the Assembly. It is impossible for the Central Council to prepare for the Annual Assembly without having all the chapter annual reports. This year the Chapter Representative was made responsible for the annual reports of the respective chapters. Out of 26 Junior Groups, 17 reports were received. Out of 20 Senior Groups, 13 reports were received.

EVALUATION OF PROGRAMS

A survey among members for the evaluation of existing national and local programs was undertaken by Central Council during 1965. Our findings show that the Lenten Offering Program was rated lowest (63%) and the Annual General Assembly was rated highest (94%). It was found that generally those programs that are more familiar to members were rated higher than those that were not familiar.

SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATES AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Efforts to introduce graduating Sunday School students to the ACYOA are continuing. In addition a campaign to approach potential members who are attending college will be initiated. A directory of Armenian-American college students will be compiled.

NEW ACYOA EMBLEM

According to the decision of last year's Assembly, a proposed emblem containing both the American Eagle and the Canadian Maple Leaf has been prepared by Central Council for approval and adoption.

FIELD WORKER

Plans were made by the Central Council for the securing of a Field Worker for the ACYOA whose major responsibility will be the strengthening of chapters on the local level. A proposal to this effect will be presented to the Assembly.

LONG RANGE GOALS

As suggested by the Diocesan Council Liaison, Dr. Arra Avakian, the Central Council during the past year spent many hours in discussing long range goals of the ACYOA. Topics included:

1. The organization of a possible young adults group under the auspices of the ACYOA.
2. Annual Guardian subscription drive within each chapter.
3. Expansion of the Guardian staff to include regional correspondents.
4. Preparation of slide series on Armenian Cathedrals throughout history to raise funds for the Cathedral.

LONG RANGE GOALS - Continued

5. To hold an annual convocation for Junior groups' etc.

Proposals on some of these items will be introduced to the Assembly.

JUNIOR GROUP CITATION

Following careful review of the Annual Reports submitted by Junior Groups, the Central Council selected the Worcester Junior Group as the recipient of the Junior Group Citation for its accomplishments during the 1965-66 fiscal year.

HONORABLE MENTION AWARD

Following careful consideration of the Annual Reports, the Central Council selected the Philadelphia Chapter for an Honorable Mention.

"A" AWARD

Following extreme judicial review of the Annual Reports, the Central Council would like to announce that due to its accomplishments during fiscal year 1965-66, the Racine Chapter has been selected as last year's winner of the ACYOA "A" Award.

The above-mentioned three awards will be announced for the first time at the Assembly Banquet.

Respectfully submitted,

ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

Michael Simonian,
Chairman