



OUTLINE OF PROGRAMS FOR 1981 - 1982

The following breakdown on the programs of the ACYOYA is meant to assist Central Council Members in drawing up agenda for Parish Visitations (both in person or via telephone or letter), as well as Regional Conferences. Any further information may be received from the Executive Secretary upon request.

The programs of the Organization are the most direct and most meaningful way of leading, educating, providing for, and attracting current and new members to actively participate in the "idea" of ACYOYA. One might say the programs are the very components that give the ACYOYA true form, direction and real meaning for everyone involved. The promotion of our programs (and thereby youth participation in) will lead to greater success and a satisfying sense of purpose. We should strive to continue to develop current programs, as well as new ones, as we attempt to provide a well rounded experience for the American-Armenian Youth of our Diocese.

I. NATIONAL PARTICIPATION

(1) ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAMS:

One of the most successful and meaningful programs ever offered by the ACYOYA. The Armenian Studies Programs (ASP) expanded last year to offer two other trips. Program one (original) met with success, as did Program Three. Program Two did not receive enough interest to provide for a private group, however those who did apply were connected to another group, and did travel to Armenia at a special rate.

Program One - "Educational Tour to Armenia"

Limited to ACYOYA members. 20 spots open, including two staff members. 4 weeks in duration. Guests of the Catholicos and Government of Armenia. Instruction in Armenian history, language, music and dance. Tours and excursions all over Armenia.

Program Two - "Journey to Armenia"

Open to anyone interested in traveling to Armenia and participating in this program. Led by an Armenian Clergyman. 12-15 participants are needed - maximum of 20-25. 2-3 weeks in duration and usually includes another city in the Soviet Union. Less structured than Program One, and geared for working young people who cannot take four weeks off for Program One. A good trip, and a good Armenian experience.

Program Three - "Jerusalem the Holy City"

Open to those interested in visiting the Holy Land and participating in this program centered in and around the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem. Guests of the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem. 20-30 maximum - 12-15 minimum. Led by an Armenian Clergyman with a staff assistant. Lectures and instruction on the Biblical lands, the Armenian involvement in the Holy Land, the Church, customs, etc., etc. Tours, excursions throughout the region. Usually includes another city - Cairo, Istanbul.....

Information and brochures shall be sent to all ACYOA members, chapters and parishes of the Diocese in January, outlining the programs and giving details for the 1982 edition.

Participants are encouraged to decide and make plans early (by the end of January for Program One) to take advantage of this unique opportunity. All three programs offer a different, yet similar, experience in seeking out the dimensions of our heritage and religious faith. For additional information, inquiries should be sent to the Executive Secretary.

(2) ACYOA Camp Program:

Initiated in 1979, and held at the camp facilities of the AGBU Camp Nubar. In 1980 the Camp was moved to the facilities of the Canterbury School in Connecticut in conjunction with a soccer camp. The efforts were combined for a successful program in both 1980 and 1981. Some organizational difficulties remain, but over all the Camp Program of the ACYOA is a need and valuable tool in preparing the Youth of the Armenian Church. The name of the camp is St. Vartan.

At the ACYOA General Assembly in Chicago, a proposal was made to investigate the possibility of sponsoring the ACYOA Camp Program in the Midwest region, primarily utilizing the facilities of Hye Camp. A committee was appointed to investigate and shall report by January 1st. It should be noted that the intention is to initiate the ACYOA Camp Program in those regions that have the need and the desire to support such an endeavor. It is not to supplement existing camp programs.

Ideally, the ACYOA Camp Program should be available to as many youth as possible. This requires regional camps to make participating convenient and effective. In the future this ideal may be approached.

ACYOA Members should be solicited and encouraged to participate in this program via assisting in promoting the Camp, as well as attending as counselors and staff members. The need is great and the rewards are more than satisfying.

The content of the program is developed by Diocesan Staff members. Camp Directors are appointed by the Primate. As any program of the ACYOA, directors are required to file a report on all aspects of the program, along with a financial statement. All funds resulting from the program are turned over to the ACYOA Central Council, unless other provisions are stated. Operating funds may be kept depending on the needs of the program.

(3) CHAIRMAN'S ROUNDTABLE SEMINAR:

Annually held at the Diocesan Assembly. Chairman and other members of the ACYOA meet together to discuss pertinent issues dealing with the ACYOA in general.

A new feature last year is to include instruction, discussion, seminar, exchange for the purposes of equipping the Chapter leaders to be more effective and handle their responsibilities better. Some of the topic to be addressed include organizational skills, group dynamics, administrative procedures and techniques, as well as general problem situations involved with youth organizations and motivation.

It is suggested to change the name of this program to "Leadership Seminar" to make it more inclusive for any ACYOA member to attend.

(4) ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT:

Basketball competition in both men's and women's divisions. Teams are made up of youth from parishes from throughout the Diocese, and not necessarily ACYOA members, but parish members - no age restrictions.

Locations given by the ACYOA Central Council to bidding chapters. Bi-annually held in the New York City area, with related events held at the St. Vartan Cathedral and Diocesan Center.

Certificates are presented to the championship teams, championship players, and outstanding players of the tournament. Trophies are awarded as well, in addition to the rotating championship trophies.

(5) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Currently, there is only one scholarship sponsored by the ACYOA - the Sam Nersesian Scholarship. This is awarded to applicants to attend the St. Nersess Summer Studies Programs. Applications are sent to all chapters and parishes, as well as those who request. Recipients are selected by the ACYOA Central Council at the Summer Meeting.

The amount of the Scholarship equals the amount of the tuition for the program.

Other scholarships that should be considered include: Camp Program, ASP, clergy education, graduate work in the arts, music or religion.

(6) AWARDS PROGRAM:

The ACYOA Awards Program currently consists of the following:

- 1- Sam Nersesian Award (rotating trophy and certificate)
- 2- Chapter "A" Award (rotating trophy and certificate)
- 3- Chapter Honorable Mention (certificate)
- 4- Archbishop's Essay Awards

1- Sam Nersesian Award:

Award given annually to the ACYOA Member who best exemplifies the character of a true Christian and servant of the Church. Presented during the Awards Banquet at the National Sports Weekend. Possible recipients are nominated by Chapters or pastors. Selection is made by the ACYOA Central Council at the Summer Meeting.

2- Chapter "A" Award:

Award given annually to the ACYOA Chapter that best fulfills the requirements and standards set forth by the ACYOA Central Council. Chapters are expected to meet deadlines, file proper reports and other administrative procedures, as well as continue to meet the needs of the youth in the given parish with programs and activities designed to present a well rounded schedule of events throughout the year.

It is suggested that a system of points be designed for the proper selection of a given chapter - tallying points as the chapter fulfills requirements and participates in the National Organization.

3- Chapter Honorable Mention Award:

Given to the Chapter that is second in the abovementioned selection.

4- Archbishop's Essay Awards:

To begin in January 1982. Information and details shall be sent to all Chapters and parishes. Armenian and English categories. Awards to be given for first place, and first and second runners-up in both categories.

A panel of judges (professors and those with literary background) shall make the final selection of winners. Emphasis is on writing style and literary ability, and not on subject matter - although subjects must be Armenian oriented.

Awards shall be presented during the Awards Banquet of the National Sports Weekend. Winners shall be notified by July 15th - deadline is May 30th.

(7) NATIONAL SPORTS WEEKEND:

To be held in Hartford, CT, and hosted by the New Britain ACYOA Chapter of the Holy Resurrection Armenian Church. Plans are already underway. Meetings have begun. Annually held since 1969 under varying formats. Deadlines will be strictly adhered to this year.

Chapters will be notified with plenty of notice concerning outstanding obligations to the National Organization, as well as details for participation in the Weekend.

II. REGIONAL PARTICIPATION

(1) RETREATS:

Organized and coordinated by Central Council Regional Representatives, in conjunction with regional committees (where they exist).

Retreats must be headed by Armenian Clergymen. Formats may include weekend retreats at selected retreat centers, one-day retreats at churches, one-night retreats with participants staying at ACYOA member homes.

Many times, the period of Great Lent is utilized to formulate themes and present a specific atmosphere for the group. However, retreats may be held at any time of the year. Every region is to have/sponsor at least one retreat per year.

If organized well, and most importantly publicized sufficiently, (including personal contacts) retreats are usually well received and realize a spiritual and educational profit. Financial profits are not a consideration in this program. Fees for the retreats should be kept at a minimum.

(2) ANNIVERSARY BALLS:

Annual event marking the anniversary of the ACYOA (1946-1982/36years). Usually held in the Spring and hosted by an individual chapter.

All efforts for this event should be coordinated by the Central Council Reg. Rep. All Chapters should be encouraged to participate in the activities. As a regional event, a portion of the proceeds are forwarded to the ACYOA Central Council Treasury.

(3) REGIONAL CONFERENCES:

Although this may appear like more of an organizational procedure, or operation, than a program, Regional Conferences are perhaps one of the most important programs because it provides the opportunity for ACYOA members to gather and discuss the Organization. Both Chapter Executives and members alike should be encouraged to attend and participate in the scheduled agenda. The building of a strong regional relationship between chapters is vital - especially in areas where weak chapters exist.

A suggested agenda might be the following:

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| 1- Opening Prayer | 9- Educational Presentation, Guest speaker, Seminar, Discussion groups, etc., etc., etc. |
| 2- Welcoming remarks | 10- New Business |
| 3- Minutes (or notes) of a previous Conference | 11- Chapter Problems - Concerns - Questions |
| 4- Treasurer's Report (especially if the Region is highly organized) | 12- Announcements |
| 5- Local Programs | 13- Closing Remarks |
| 6- Regional Programs | 14- Next Conference |
| 7- National Programs | 15- Adjournment |
| 8- Old business | 16- Closing Prayer |

Naturally, the type of conference, regional set-up, organization, etc., will determine how formal the proceeding will be, as well as the content of the agenda. It is very important that the representatives of the various Chapters do not simply come to the Regional Conference to sit and talk, or merely attend a "meeting". They should go away with some handouts, something learned, and something to share with their respective chapter membership.

(4) REGIONAL ATHLETICS:

Although not a specific program as yet, regional athletic competition and interaction should be encouraged as much as possible. Aside from regions, any chapter in relative close proximity to another chapter should interact on athletic as well as other levels. This interaction is important to keeping the perspective of the Organization along the lines of a "other than local" orientation.

In the future, more formal schedules of chapter interaction may be brought forth to add a little structure and promote regional chapter interaction.

III. LOCAL PARTICIPATION:

(1) MARTYR'S DAY COMMEMORATION:

Annual commemoration for the Armenian Martyrs. Held on a local (parish) basis throughout the Diocese on April 24th (or the closest convenient day).

ACYOA Chapters choose formats that best meet the needs of the specific community, as well as complement other commemorative programs being held. Formats can vary from worship services to panel discussions to community service projects.

A guideline with differing formats and suggestions is sent to all chapters for reference purposes. All Chapters should be encouraged to sponsor a commemorative program.

(2) PARISH MISSION PROGRAM:

Once a very popular and meaningful program of the ACYOA, the Mission Program fell out of use during the period when the ACYOA was experiencing organizational difficulties. The Mission Program was one that had been neglected, but has recently been given a chance to once again provide the opportunity for ACYOA members to experience it.

The Mission Program consists of a team of 4-5 members, headed by a clergyman, who visit a designated parish for one week. During this period, the team presents various programs to parish, seminars, bible study, cultural activities, as well as visit the elderly, the sick, the shut-ins, etc. Meetings with Church Organizations, especially the youth, is also a part of the program

Selection of the parish is determined by the Primate, as well as the clergy Team Leaders.

The parishes currently selected are Palos Heights, Ss. Joachim and Anna, and Syracuse, St. Paul. The Team Leaders are Deacon Michael Chevian and Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian respectively. Due to problems in organizing the programs, as well as allowing the Team Leaders to be free from Parish responsibilities, we have had to postpone the Mission Program dates from early January (in line with Christmas) to Great Lent.

Qualified ACYOA members should be encouraged to apply as members of the Mission Team. They should have a sound knowledge of the Church, have attended ACYOA retreats or St. Nersess Summer Studies Programs, and have the abilities and desire to learn and be teachers as well. Names of qualified persons should be forwarded to the Executive Secretary and Mission Team Leaders for consideration.

(3) ACYOA DAY CELEBRATIONS:

A day selected to celebrate the meaning of the National Youth Organization of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America - the ACYOA. Local Chapters sponsor various events or activities to bring to the general local Armenian Community (and non-Armenian community) the importance of the local chapter - especially within the context of the parish.

Palm Sunday has become the custom in many parishes to celebrate the meaning of the ACYOA. Many times a banquet format is used with guest speakers and presenting of awards to outstanding members of the chapter, parish or community at large.

Suggested formats include: banquets, guest speakers, cultural exhibits, receptions, as well as dances and festivals. Chapters with varying facilities will be limited to what is available to them.

A guideline with suggestions will be published for the chapters to use as a reference.

(4) LECTURE - DISCUSSION PROGRAMS:

Yet to be a specified program of the ACYOA, this particular program might well fill the gap in most chapters in the areas of education and awareness. These lectures and discussion might be not only for chapter membership, but open to the parish at large. The intent would be for the chapter to schedule some type of educational activity a few times a year.

Suggestions include: Guest lecturers, panel discussions, debates and films.