



Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

REGIONAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

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| I. | Opening Prayer. | Host Pastor |
| II. | Welcome. | ACYOA Central Council
Regional Representative |
| III. | Survey. | Mark Kazanjian - Chairman
ACYOA Central Council |
| IV. | Address: "Purpose and Issues" | James Magarian
Executive Secretary - ACYOA |
| V. | Committee Session. | <i>[Participants in the Conference will be named to committees for discussion purposes.]</i> |
| VI. | Regroup / Exchange / Discussion. | Executive Secretary |
| VII. | Conclusions: "Course of Action" | Central Council Chairman |
| VIII. | Survey Results: "A New Idea" | Executive Secretary
Central Council Chairman |
| IX. | Next Regional Conference. | Regional Representative |
| X. | Announcements / Updates / Questions. | <i>[Information shall be provided regarding upcoming programs and events. General questions and ideas will be entertained at this time.]</i> |
| XI. | Educational Program:
"Symbolism in the Armenian Church:
The Church as the Temple of Our Faith" | Executive Secretary |
| XII. | Closing Prayer. | Host Pastor |

[NOTE: Just prior to the "Committee Session", please help yourself to refreshments.]

COMMITTEE # 1

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN YOUNG ADULTS AND THEIR PARISH.....

1. OBSERVATION: In recent years, the "idea" of local ACYOA Chapters has not been as popular as in the past, especially with regard to the Senior Division. It seems that there are so many other things to do and experience that are far more attractive, and require little of the individual, that the young adults are found not to relate to their parish and Church on any regular basis.

QUESTION: What is distracting our young people (legitimate and not), and what is not attractive about a Church Organization of young adults - the ACYOA ?

2. OBSERVATION: In successful young adult groups, it appears that the people are committed to the causes, projects and goals of the organization. This, along with able leaders who are willing to go out of their way to serve the group and meet its needs, provides for success. We know that success breeds success, and most people like a winner; something that they feel good about belonging to and continue to support and participate in.

QUESTION: What are the necessary ingredients that will produce a successful ACYOA Senior Division Chapter - either in the initial stages of the group's formation, or while the group has been operating for a period of time ?
(NOTE: Consideration may need to be given to clarify the meaning of the word "successful".)

3. OBSERVATION: The primary purpose of the ACYOA is to provide an opportunity for the young people of a given parish to participate in the life of their Church, as well as serve the Church as ability and capacity allow. In this way, the young adults may, in their own way and according to their own interests, relate to the Church and begin to build the bonds of friendship, loyalty and devotion, as well as ethnic awareness and sensitivity that are necessary to the future of the Armenian Church in America.

QUESTION: What types of parish involvements, projects, goals, traditions, customs, activities and events might a Chapter initiate to provide the "opportunity", as well as meet their needs and diverse interests ?

4. OBSERVATION: -- O P E N --

QUESTION: -- O P E N --

THE REGIONAL LEVEL.....a great potential to be realized....

1. OBSERVATION:

Imagine, if you will, a region (much like the New York City - New Jersey, or, New England areas) wherein exists 10 operating Armenian Church parishes. They have priests, parish councils, Church Schools, Armenian Schools, social organizations, perhaps ACYOA Junior and Senior Chapters, and maybe even facilities for large functions, programs and athletic events. Within the region are thousands of young people, some of whom are active within the parishes, others relate on occasion to attend a particular function or to play on a team of sorts. All these items add up to a tremendous potential in terms of resources, diversity, numbers, facilities and possibilities.

QUESTIONS:

How might all these aforementioned potentials and resources come together with regard to a regional program (s) for the young adults of the Armenian Church ?

What are the real possibilities, and, (more important) what might be the results ?

2. .OBSERVATION:

A regional format presents many potentials that are hard to come by in one individual parish. We might execute and offer certain programs, trips, events that otherwise could not be accomplished with a limited number of persons within a given parish jurisdiction. In our regions, there exists certain strengths and weaknesses, as well as certain limitations. We should be aware of all these and use them to our utmost advantage in planning our programs. We thereby might reach a higher number of youth, making their participation more interesting, exciting and worthwhile.

QUESTION:

In this particular region, where to the strengths exist, where are the weaknesses; what is the competition; how might the strengths overcome the weaknesses; and, what would make up a combination of "winning" ingredients ?

3. OBSERVATION:

The primary purpose of ACYOA is to provide an opportunity for young people to participate in the life of the Church. In this way, the young adults may, in their own way and according to their own interests, relate to the Church and begin to build the bonds of friendship, loyalty and devotion, as well as ethnic awareness and sensitivity that are necessary to the future of the Armenian Church in America.

QUESTION:

Given a regional perspective, what types of involvements, projects goals, traditions and activities might the region offer to provide this "opportunity" on a larger scale and with more diversity; what are the gains to be realized, and, what are the current needs in this region ?

COMMITTEE # 3

MEMBERS.....keeping current members and attracting new ones.....

1. OBSERVATION: At no other time in the history of the civilized world, has so much opportunity and potential been offered to us - especially as young adults. We are exposed to so many diverse and attractive ideas, thoughts, life-styles, and considerations that we sometimes are anxious about making a decision. This comes in in minor decisions (i.e. what particular product we might buy) as well as major decisions (i.e. what school or career to choose).

QUESTION: What types of needs does the ACYOA meet as a young person moves from adolescence into full adulthood, and, (if we agree that some needs are actually met) how might more needs be met, thereby offering more to our young people ?

2. OBSERVATION: Currently, the ACYOA (both Junior and Senior Divisions) is in some type of touch with about 2500 young Armenians in the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern USA and Canada). Of this number, approximately one half actually participate in any regular manner in the operations of ACYOA Chapters as dues-paying active members. Compare with a potential of well over 15,000 young people who are not even on our mailing lists, and we are overwhelmed with the possibilities and potentials.

QUESTION: In what ways might the ACYOA begin to try to reach some of the 15,000, and, once "reaching them" (names on a mailing list) what is offered to attract them to participate and be exposed to our Church and heritage ?

3. OBSERVATION: Given present day society and all its attractions and distractions (as observed above), it is fair to say that young adults who presently relate and are members of the ACYOA will be lured away by something new and exciting. If we are lucky, they will return sometime.

QUESTIONS: What methodology might we use to keep our present membership (especially our leaders and potential leaders), interested, challenged and motivated in their vehicle through which they relate to their parish, and, what might we do to attract some of those who make up the 15,000 ?

What are they looking for.....

What can we offer to allow them to be creative, to challenge them, and to sensitize them to the needs of the Church and their all important role as parish members, leaders, lay workers and clergy ?