

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA - Senior Division

Annual Report to the Primate:

His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

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New Programs, efficient operations and providing for more youth participation marked the 1981 Armenian Church Youth Organization of America year. By updating and expanding current programs, as well as introducing new ones, and increasing the efficiency of organizational operations and procedures, the ACYOA has made a great deal of progress. Moreover, this progress has provided for more youth to participate in the Organization, and in the Church itself.

During the past year, the Primate and Executive Secretary to the ACYOA, James Magarian, met with the ACYOA Central Council to discuss programs, general business, problems and future goals. These meetings took place at the Diocesan Center in New York City, as well as in different regions throughout the Diocese.

The ACYOA Central Council for the 1981-82 fiscal year includes: Mark Kazanjian (Chairman), Robert Borzakian (V. Chairman), Susan Mousigian (Treasurer), Ralph DerAsadourian (Recording Secretary), and Gary Hovhanessian (Corresponding Secretary). The Council is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the ACYOA General Assembly, maintaining the operations and records of the National

Organization - programs and archives, as well as working with the Executive Secretary in continuing proper procedures, developing new programs, and maintaining an awareness of the dynamics, needs and cross-sections of the Armenian youth population in the Diocese.

Among the programs offered this year were:

The Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament, successfully hosted by the Palos Heights ACYOA Chapter of Ss. Joachim and Anna Armenian Church. This was one of the best Tournaments ever held, bringing together nine teams for the weekend games.

The Chairman's Roundtable Leadership Seminar was held in conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly in Watertown, Mass. Chapter leaders from throughout the Diocese participated in the one-day seminar which focused on the dynamics of groups, problems, and ways of providing members with interesting and stimulating roles within the chapter. The guest speaker was Doris Der Marderosian, a career development counselor from Boston College. Discussion also included updates on national and regional programs, reminders, and general information on chapter activities and events.

The Armenian Studies Program was expanded this year to three different programs. (1) "Educational Tour To Armenia" - the standard four week trip, hosted by the Vehapar. (2) "Journey to Armenia" - a 2 to 3 week trip, less structured and geared for those with less vacation time and seriousness of purpose. (3) "Jerusalem - The Holy City" - a 3 week trip to the Holy Land and Cairo, with some educational content. This program was hosted by the Armenian

Patriarch of Jerusalem. The Armenian Studies Programs provide for an indepth and enriching experience in the living heritage of the Armenian Church and culture. These programs will all evolve and grow, allowing for more and more American-Armenian youth to be fully exposed to their faith and heritage - a true and unique experience not found in America.

The ACYOA Camp Program continues to grow and develop as this past year brought over 100 children to the ACYOA St. Vartan Camp. Under the directorships of Rev. Fr. Paree Metjian and Nancy Basmajian, the camp was open for one week in New Milford, Connecticut, and shall be expanded to two weeks next year. An important ACYOA program, the Camp exposes the participants to a well rounded program of educational and athletic activities and instruction. This program is geared to be an initiatory experience for our children as they grow to be ACYOA members, and eventually members of the Church.

The Annual ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend were held in tandem on September 2-7, ^{in Chicago, Illinois.} Hosted by the combined efforts of the Evanston and Chicago ACYOA Chapters, the General Assembly brought together 50 delegates representing 16 chapters to discuss the bussiness of the National Organization. His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, presided over the Assembly, as well as the entire weekend affair. Well over 600 participants attended the athletic and social activities which included competitions, banquets, parties and dances. Divine Liturgy was held in the hotel facilities on Sunday morning and was well attended by the youth.

The Awards Program of the ACYOA consists of the Chapter "A" Award and Honorable Mention, presented to chapters who fulfill obligations to the National Organization, in addition to serving their home parish and providing activities and programs for their members. The "Sam Nersesian Award" is given annually to an ACYOA member who has continually exemplified Christian virtues and serves the Church. New this year is the "Archbishop's Essay Awards". An Essay Contest shall provide the opportunity for Armenian youths with literary inclinations to compete for the awards and citations. Other awards given by the National Organization are included in the athletic programs.

A new program of the ACYOA introduced this year is the development of Audio-Visual Educational Programs. Using slides, films, physical exhibits, slide-tape, video-tape, and lecture discussion formats, the ACYOA shall provide to the Diocese and Armenian community at large programs on Armenian subjects ranging from religion to the arts. This program shall not only produce audio-visual programs for use by ACYOA Chapters, Church Schools and other Armenian and non-Armenian groups, it shall also provide the opportunity for youths who are interested in assisting to gain experience and participate in the actual production itself.

Other programs of the ACYOA include local ACYOA Day Celebrations, Martyr's Day Commemorations, regional retreats, Anniversary Balls and athletic competitions, and publications. A special pamphlet describing the ACYOA - its purpose and programs - was prepared and distributed to all parishes. Additional copies are to be sent

via mass mailings.

The ACYOA publication, Keghard, has gone through an editor and staff transition. A fresh new look and new approach shall accent the quarterly as it resumes distribution to all ACYOA members and subscription holders. The new editor is Christine Sarkisian, an ACYOA member and public relations professional.

During this year, many new program and administrative materials were prepared and instituted in an attempt to make the operations and procedures of the ACYOA more standardized and efficient. A complete revision of the filing system is currently underway.

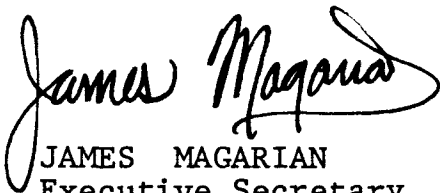
Over twenty parish visitations took place this year by the Executive Secretary. In addition, meetings were held with individuals and clergymen to solicit their assistance in developing new programs and attracting our Armenian youth.

The emphasis for the next several months on the part of the Executive Secretary and ACYOA Central Council is to increase communications between all the parishes of the Diocese. An effort is being made to fully re-activate inactive chapters, as well as establish new ones where the potential exists. In addition to this, an emphasis is also being made on the programs of the National Organization and providing the opportunity for as many Armenian youth as possible to participate in them according to their interest. This makes the diversity and scope of our many programs (and future programs) all that much more important.

The ACYOA Central Council members have been assigned regions to represent, as well as administer. All Council members, along with the Executive Secretary shall visit their respective parishes, thereby increasing communications, establishing contacts and developing relationships. Priority shall be given to those parishes with the greatest potential and youth population.

A changing social system means that our programs and methods must change as well. To effect and attract the large and diverse American-Armenian youth population, our programs must include something for everyone. Our efforts are moving in this direction.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMES MAGARIAN
Executive Secretary
ACYOA



MARK KAZANJIAN
Chairman
ACYOA Central Council

December 1981