

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

31 July 80

MONTHLY REPORT - July 1980

Executive Secretary to the A.C.Y.O.A.  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

Preface to the First Monthly Report -

On a monthly basis, the Executive Secretary to the ACYOA shall prepare a report for the Primate and Diocesan Director concerning the status, activities and direction of the Senior Division of the ACYOA.

It should be noted that in reporting on the various events and activities of the organization, the analysis of same shall be somewhat subjective, and not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Central Council of the ACYOA.

## I. Executive Secretary - General Impressions

Having officially assumed the position of Executive Secretary as of the first of this month, I immediately involved myself in seeking out the dimensions of our Youth Organization at many levels (i.e. organizationally, structurally, nationally, locally, as well as the feelings and thoughts on the part of the membership). In discussions with various individuals, members and non-members, I have found that the up-beat, or the enthusiasm, of the period of 1976-77-78 has waned considerably. Moreover, general procedures (such as meetings and activities) and organizational structure is also suffering. ✓

It seems that a new group of young people are coming of age to begin to fully participate in the organization, especially in elected positions. At the same time, the older members are beginning to step-down from their positions, as well as end their status as members in good-standing. Obviously, the organization can only reflect the attitude and desires on the part of its membership. It can only succeed and grow and develop inasmuch as the members are excited, enthused and dedicated. n ✓

Thus, I shall have to place my primary concern in establishing and motivating the membership into proper organizational procedures and operations. Simply stated, we do not have a sound organization that is ready to move and grow (although some areas are ready for this).



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On the contrary, we have an organization that is experiencing a serious change in the general makeup of its membership. We must respond to this change by adapting to it, and seriously thinking about the immediate past members and how we are to provide them with a means of remaining within the Church.

## II. Diocesan Office

My initial contact with the ACYOA files and archives convinced me that I shall be doing a great deal of clerical work. If the files are to be of any value (reference, history, maintenance, etc.) they must be thoroughly reviewed and systematically structured enabling one to find items simply and easily. I understand that this has been done before, however I feel that another revision is necessary.

It seems that an office for the ACYOA (Senior and Junior Divisions) should be established, if not formally, then at least in a workable way. Perhaps the predicted additional office space will facilitate this endeavor.

## III. Central Council

The July 12th meeting of the ACYOA Central Council (Watertown) was my formal introduction to the members of the Central Council by His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

Prior to that meeting, and since then, I have been in contact with Council members Paul Pogharian (Chairman) and Michael Yapchaian (Treasurer) involving discussions and clerical work. We have discussed the state of the ACYOA (past and present) and what we should consider for the future. Procedural arrangements have also been discussed as well as preparation for the Annual General Assembly to convene in Cambridge on August 27-29.

We have prepared a mailing for all delegates to the Assembly, and have sent packets with Assembly material to responsible members in all chapters. Good attendance is expected at the Assembly, as well as the Sports Weekend immediately following.

The financial situation of the Central Council does not appear to be very sound. Because of organizational and procedural problems and breakdowns, reports have been late in coming out, as have funds and reports from events. Investigation into dividends from securities and their whereabouts has begun. It seems that a wrong address has been filed with the brokerage, and that dividend checks have not been received by the treasurer. It appears that this will be cleared up very shortly.

## IV. General Assembly and Sports Weekend

As hosts for this year's Annual General Assembly and Sports Weekend, the Watertown Chapter of the ACYOA has been working very hard in completing details and preparing for a very successful event. I have met with the Committee several times, as well as with the Chairman, Vaughn Totovian, concerning details and proprieties.

It appears that rising costs may prevent members from attending this

year. It seems that the economic situation in America may shape the programs we will be emphasizing in the very near future. Location and organization indicate that this year's edition of Sports Weekend should prove to be successful, from a financial perspective at least, but may not break any records.

#### V. Armenian Studies Program

I have received many comments in this short time about this program and its cancellation this year. Whereas last year posed the question of securing enough participants, this year might have seen many who were interested in the program.

I feel that this is perhaps our most important program for youth. We cannot reproduce the Armenian "experience" of the Fatherland in this country. There is simply nothing like it. Therefore, I have begun to seriously consider revising the entire program and expanding it to include and touch as many young Armenians in America as possible. Other sites for this Armenian experience have also come into the picture, especially because of strained U.S.-U.S.S.R. relations.

Maintaining unity among our young people in America is one method of programing (via dances, lectures, athletics etc.), but exposing them to the richness of our heritage by means of day-to-day living experiences is another method, perhaps the only meaningful one in the long-run.

I have been in touch with several persons who are interested in this area, especially in research and development. I will be meeting with them soon to further discuss this program.

#### VI. Parish Visitations

Maintaining personal contact with the membership and chapter executive committees is a very important part of this position. I have had several invitations to come to parishes to visit and meet with the young people. I feel that this is very important, especially in light of parishes without pastors and/or youth leaders/advisors.

As mentioned before, operations and organizational procedures seem to be a major factor in chapters who have had a history of problems and inactivity. Thus, I am preparing to print a Chapter Handbook that will, at the very least, give the executive committees a guide to follow that will enable them to be active and producing. Too many parishes have chapters that simply have nothing to do, or don't know how to get started. Once started and operating, programs may be introduced that will supplement the social/athletic activities and offer an ACYOA member a well-rounded experience in the parish.

#### VII. BEMA

The ACYOA finally has an instrument through which it can reach all its membership, and most importantly, a large segment of its potential membership. The Diocesan monthly publication, BEMA, must be used by the ACYOA to its fullest extent in reaching young people with

information, announcements, interesting articles, activities and events. We should be able to fill one full page with youth oriented material and photos so as to have every young person in a family look for the "ACYOA Section" for their news and information. Adults will also receive a positive feeling about the organization through this means. As a result, young people will be looking at the entire publication and possibly read an article or two on another subject.

In addition to the BEMA, there are of course other Armenian publications printed in English that we must include in our publicity campaigns. Local newspapers should carry chapter/parish news and announcements that will place community spotlights on the membership and its activities.

#### VIII. Saint Vartan ACYOA Camp

During the week of July 13th - 19th, The ACYOA and Diocesan sponsored St. Vartan Camp took place in New Milford Connecticut. Under the directorship of Father Patee Metjian, the Camp had 66 participants and a combined educational and athletic staff of 15.

The Cantabury School provided beautiful and modern facilities that certainly added to the over-all program for the campers. I attended the camp on an informal basis as an observer, and will be preparing a report shortly.

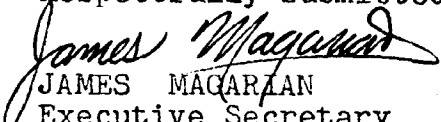
Briefly, the over-all program was certainly a positive one for the campers who were just getting into the routine as the week came to an end. Athletically the program was high grade with most campers participating fully and receiving many valuable lessons from the professional instructors. However, in my opinion, the educational/religious programing left a little to be desired. Perhaps because of time, funds, resources and experience a higher grade educational/religious program could not be instituted. In any case, the area that certainly needs revision is this, and it is my intention and responsibility to see that this is done.

Next year, it is hoped that the camp be expanded to two weeks at the same location.

#### IX. General

In discussions with Diocesan Staff, in particular the Director of the Department of Religious Education and the Director of the ACYOA Junior Division, I have come to the conclusion that we should attempt to coordinate our programing, share our ideas and experiences concerning the youth of our Church, and most of all work together in attempting to teach and prepare our young people for positions of leadership and participation in our Church. A coordinated effort, a sharing of resources and feelings, and a shared philosophy will certainly produce a most favorable and positive result.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 JAMES MAGARIAN  
 Executive Secretary  
 ACYOA - Senior Division

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - August 1980

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Executive Secretary to the A.C.Y.O.A.  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Diocese

Time spent at the Diocese this month concentrated on re-organizing and establishing a sensible filing system for the Organization. All materials and records from the Organization's birth to the present have been reviewed and placed in proper order. Various materials of a historical nature have been set aside in preparation for a display. The re-organizing of the files should provide for easy access as well as maintenance.

Meetings with the Primate and the Executive Director of the Diocese have also taken place this month. Discussions centering upon immediate and long-range plans were included. However, the main concern was the upcoming General Assembly. Minutes of the previous Assembly and various reports and proposals were reviewed.

Meetings and conversations with bank and brokerage officials concerning the issue of lost dividend checks proved to be helpful in locating and dealing with the problem. It was learned that an old address was used and that the addressee (a former Central Council Treasurer) was irresponsible in forwarding the various statements and dividend checks. It has now been established that all financial materials will be mailed to the Diocese in care of the Executive Secretary. This will avoid having to change addresses when new officers are elected. Follow ups will ensure reception of all previous dividend checks.

## II. 1980 General Assembly and Sports Weekend

During the month of August several meetings with Sports Weekend committee members and Central Council members took place in preparation for the yearly event. Consultations took place dealing with possible Assembly officers, nominations for Central Council, as well as ensuring the proceedings go smoothly. Details were reviewed concerning accommodations and decorum with regard to the Primate and his attendants. Hotel officials were briefed on security procedures for the Primate as well as for the weekend as a whole.



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### III. 1980 General Assembly

His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian opened the Assembly with an Invocation Service. 35 delegates were present (30 needed for a quorum) for the first session on Wednesday, August 27th. Three other sessions convened with one committees session where the delegates broke into several committees to discuss past and future considerations for the Organization.

(NOTE: For details and results of the Assembly, kindly refer to the brief forwarded to the Primate, or to the minutes of the Assembly itself.)

Informal meetings took place with delegates from various regions and the Executive Secretary. Discussions revolved around their particular areas of concern and specific problems. Ground work was laid in preparation for Parish Visitations in the very near future.

Following the final session of the Assembly, a meeting took place with current and newly elected members of the Central Council. Out-going Chairman Paul Pogharian conducted this meeting which mainly dealt with responsibilities of Central Council members, and the election of officers. Results of the elections are as follows:

Michael Yapchaian (Watertown)	Chairman
*Mark Kazanjian (Lawrence)	V. Chairman
Sona Yazijian (Chicago)	Treasurer
Nancy Malkasian (Detroit)	Recording Secretary
*Robert Bozakian (Boston)	Corresponding Secretary

(\*newly elected)

The first meeting of the new Central Council shall take place in late September.

The General Assembly atmosphere this year was somewhat mysterious. It seemed to lack any real enthusiasm or drive. Many times debate centered on negative aspects and perspectives. It wasn't until the "Proposals" section of the agenda that the delegates showed any life or desire to progress and move ahead with the Organization. The Assembly is a wonderful tool for bringing together the youth of our Diocese to deliberate and seriously consider their role in the Church. It is the intention of the Executive Secretary to see that this tool is used more effectively in the future.

### IV. 1980 Sports Weekend

Friday evening, August 29th, formally began the 1980 Sports Weekend. Several hundred youths from Miami to Toronto came to Cambridge to participate and join with other Armenians in a weekend of athletic and social activities.

Meetings with athletic directors and sports events coordinators took place to ensure proper scheduling and fairness for all participants.

The weekend followed the standard itinerary of athletic events on Saturday and Sunday, Alumni dinner-dance on Saturday evening, and the Awards banquet on Sunday evening. Monday held the usual farewell picnic.

More than 500 people formally participated in the weekend, with another 200-300 people attending the various activities. However, the weekend was not without incident, as some very excited and energetic young people caused the hotel management to become concerned with room parties and subsequently over-reacted to the usual noise and youthful behavior. The people involved were asked to quiet down, but were a little slow in responding, causing the hotel management to lose their patience and call the local police. The police were called on what was described to them as a "dangerous" and "riot-like" situation. They came in and like-wise over-reacted. The young people who were originally warned were not to be found, but non-involved people were. As curiosity slowly brought more young people out of their rooms, 14 persons were taken to the police station on what was called "disturbing the peace." Of the 14, 12 were arrested and charged, and were subsequently bailed out. At this writing, the outcome of their arraignment is not certain.

It is very unfortunate, but the 12 people arrested are among our most innocent young people. Moreover, had the hotel heeded the Weekend Committee's advice to provide proper security (they had only 2 security officers in the entire 15 floor hotel) the whole incident could have been avoided. Likewise, had the hotel called Committee members or clergy in when the excessive noise first began the problems would have ended there. Thus, we see several factors: lack of proper detailed planning in terms of sound communications between hotel and Committee; irresponsibility on the part of the hotel to ensure proper security; immaturity on the part of certain participants of the weekend; lack of having our clergy's presence felt and noticed (to both the hotel management and weekend participants).

Following the Saturday Night incident, the hotel threatened to evict the convention and cancel the Sunday night banquet and dance. After much discussion, the banquet was secured but a midnight curfew was instituted, thus virtually eliminating the dance. In addition, many participants of the weekend and supporters of the events were discriminated against and somewhat harassed when entering the hotel. Because of this and several other factors, the Watertown ACYOA Chapter and St. James Armenian Church is considering taking legal action. St. James parish shall keep the Primate informed as to any major developments.

(NOTE: Details to the above may be referred to in the Committee's full report to the Central Council, of which the Primate will receive a copy.)

The aforementioned points to a need in our Organization of proper planning and execution. The Executive Secretary is more than aware that we must be in touch with every aspect of our programs and events to avoid problems and dysfunction within our youth organization.

## V. Armenian Studies Programs

As perhaps one of our most valuable and worthy programs, the Armenian Studies Programs shall be a major focal point of the Executive Secretary.

In addition to the standard program, other avenues of programming are currently being pursued. We are considering expanding the program to provide the opportunity for larger numbers of participants to enroll. A program/pilgrimage to the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem is also under consideration. We have received numerous requests to organize tours and educational excursions to the Holy Land, and thus we hope to offer this program by next summer.

The Armenian Studies Programs have the potential of providing our youth with the best exposure to our Armenian heritage. We hope to fully realize this potential and offer to the youth of our Church an Armenian experience they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

## VI. Parish Visitations

In a recent meeting with the Primate, it has been decided that where possible and practical, the Executive Secretary (and other department heads) shall accompany His Eminence during parish visitations. Presentations and special meetings will be scheduled with the various parish organizations to create better communications and understanding of needs and problem areas.

In addition to the aforementioned, the Executive Secretary shall be scheduling separate parish visitations to meet with the youth of every parish and organize inactive chapters, as well as strengthen existing ones.

A special "Chapter Handbook" is currently being prepared to aid chapters in their operations as well as standardize procedures throughout the national organization.

## VII. Central Council

The Central Council is an area of the national organization that needs some attention. A defining of roles, standardizing of procedures, maintaining of files and records, as well as understanding what leadership is with regard to the Church are a few of the areas that will be addressed by the Executive Secretary.

It seems that the Central Council as a body has lost a little of its credibility on the Chapter level. The importance of serving on the Council, as well as the importance of the Council's work need to be brought back into focus. We hope to establish this from the onset with the new Council as we begin our work this year.

Newly elected members to the Council have been noted earlier in this report.

## VIII. Keghard

A most worthy publication that has seen in itself some evolution.



Consideration is now being made as to who the readers of the Keghard are and what are their interests. In addition, the question that is also being asked is, "What do we want our membership to be reading?"

It has been suggested that dated items be moved from the Keghard to the Bema; such as chapter news, individual items of interest, as well as calendar items. Most probably this will take place and more stories and articles of interest and information will appear in the Keghard. Suggestions for more "Armenian" type articles and information have been made, and for some humor sections.

#### IX. New Programs and Projects

Following the directives of the 1980 General Assembly, the Central Council and Executive Secretary shall be initiating and researching the following:

1. Mission Program.
2. National Youth Mailing list.
3. Audio-visual programming for educational purposes.


Details concerning these items shall be disclosed in the future. It is the intention of the Executive Secretary to see many more new and interesting programs for the youth and community. If the ACYOA is to continue as a worthy organization of the Diocese, it must become an organization far beyond its present bounds.

#### X. General

During the month of August at the Diocese, four prospective seminarians attended a special program designed to initiate and orientate them to the Armenian Church and language. The Executive Secretary assisted the educational and supervisory staff of this program in counseling and directive areas. This program has much potential, and with some revision can be a very useful tool in preparing prospective candidates for clerical positions in our Church.

Scheduled for the immediate future is direct work with the Central Council as previously explained. Visitations shall also take place as well as communication with next year's General Assembly and Sports Weekend hosts - Chicago and Evanston Chapters. The Executive Secretary plans to maintain very close ties with the Host Chapter planning Committee for next year's convocation.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
A.C.Y.O.A.

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - September 1980

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Executive Secretary to the A.C.Y.O.A.  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. 1980 National Sports Weekend

It has been determined that Chapters hosting national events shall have a more structured procedures of operations concerning the organizing and execution of the event. The Executive Secretary shall therefore be very much involved with the organizing of the 1981 National Sports Weekend.

In an informal way, St. James Armenian Church parish has been passing along information and progress reports concerning the incident at the 1980 National Sports Weekend. Father Yeprem Kelegian has been handling most of the responsibility in this area, and shall provide the Primate and Executive Secretary with timely reports. Any new information shall be included in next month's report.

## II. Visitations

October:

Plans made and itinerary drawn up for visitations to the Palo Heights Chapter of Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Church, and the Evanston and Chicago chapters of St. James and St. Gregory Armenian Churches.

Palo Heights has been granted the bid for the 1981 Archbishop Tokom Manoogian Basketball Tournament, (scheduled for the end of Feb.).

The Evanston and Chicago Chapters shall host the 1981 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend of the A.C.Y.O.A.

Both groups are very enthusiastic and willing to work hard to plan successful events. Meetings in October shall start their work in this direction.

November:

Plans to be finalized concerning the parish visitation to the parishes of Houston, San Antonio and South Florida. The Primate will be accompanied by the Director of Religious Education, Armenian Language Education, and ACYOA Juniors and Seniors.



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A special program-presentation is currently being prepared to inform and educate the members of the Church as to the role of the Diocesan Departments, the programs that are available and their basic format, as well as the role of the members of the community within the context of the various organizations that support the Church.

Other parishes are under consideration for the future.

### III. Central Council

The ACYOA Central Council met on September 19 & 20 in Watertown and Worcester. Presiding was His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian and his clergy representative, the V.Rev. Ghevont Samoorian.

The agenda included the full cycle of programs and responsibilities of the Central Council for the year. Much discussion took place concerning the operations of the Council. Simple and efficient procedures will be adopted and initiated. It was determined that posters, pamphlets and brochures are needed for public relations purposes to enhance the image of the organization, as well as give it more exposure.

#### Programs:

The Armenian Studies Programs for the future are to be expanded and modified. Included this year will be the standard one month program for 20 - 25 participants in Armenia. This group will be headed by one clergyman and two staff members. Two special pilgrimages will be added this year (dates to be determined according to interest). One to Holy Etchmiadzin and Armenia consisting of an informal educational program, and aimed at placing the participant in the very center of the Armenian culture. Instruction will consist of a more ethnic emphasis, with tours and information stressed. Opportunities to meet with professionals from Armenia that match up with the participants vocational goals are also being pursued.

The other special pilgrimage is to the Armenian Patriarchate of Holy Jerusalem and the Holy Land itself. This tour would explore the religious dimensions of the Armenian Church, taking advantage of the location, atmosphere, timelessness of the Holy City and the special role of the Armenian Church there.

Other national programs include: - Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament, Scholarship, Chairman's Roundtable Seminar, Mission Program, and Sports Weekend.

On the regional level - Religious Retreats, Anniversary Balls and various conferences and seminars.


On the local/parish level - Martyr's Day Commemoration, ACYOA Day Celebration, and educational programming.

Also discussed was the proposal of the General Assembly to pursue audio-visual programming and development. The reprinting of the now out of print book, Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church, is currently being pursued by the ACYOA. Many teachers and parishioners have requested this book as it provides a great deal of information and instruction.

IV. Chapters

It an effort to better serve the various chapters of the organization, the Council has assigned various regions to each Council Member. The Council Member is responsible for the chapters of that region insofar that they fulfill all obligations to the national organization, as well as to advise them on techniques and organizational planning. A special form has been drafted to ensure that chapters report on their activities and upcoming events. A special column in the BEMA will be afforded for these reports to enable other chapters an opportunity to be exposed to new ideas and happenings in other chapters throughout the Diocese.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
A.C.Y.O.A.

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - October 1980

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Executive Secretary to the A.C.Y.O.A.  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Meetings

Meetings this month included several appointments with the Primate to discuss the various programs of the A.C.Y.O.A. Included was the Armenian Studies Programs which will be expanded for 1981. The program will contain the standard itinerary for a one month visit to Armenia including classes and various instructed excursions. A second tour to Armenia will also be offered with a less structured format. This trip will be shorter in duration and possibly attract participants who are in the working stage of their lives and cannot afford a one month trip. This group will also receive instruction, but in a more relaxed manner with more sight-seeing and day trips all over the Motherland. A third trip is being planned for the Holy Land and Jerusalem. This trip's program would include instruction of a more religious type with trips to the various Holy Places and Armenian points of interest. There has been many inquiries into such a trip, and with enough participants, we can offer this trip and the second Armenia trip.

The Primate is currently considering the appointment of directors and coordinators for the various aforementioned trips.

Other meetings this month were held with various members of the Central Council to discuss the various operations and functions that need to be performed to keep the organization progressing.

Michael Yapchaian (C.C. Chair.) and Mark Kazanjian (C.C. V.Chair.) met with the Executive Secretary to discuss procedures and format in the operations of the Central Council. Also discussed was the progress of the "chapter handbook" as well as other forms and standardized methods of the organization.

Nancy Basmajian (ACYOA Jrs. Director) met to discuss coordinating efforts to visit parishes, as well as develop continuity from the Junior group to the Senior group. Discussion also centered on preparations for visiting the parishes of Houston, San Antonio, and South Florida (Ft. Lauderdale).



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## II. Visitations

Palos Heights, IL - Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Church, Thursday October 16th:

A special parish visitation to Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Church took place to meet with the Palos Heights Chapter of the ACYOA. They shall host the 1981 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament on February 27, 28, & March 1st.

Prior to the meeting with the Chapter, an informal discussion with the Parish Council Chairman, Mr. Sarkis Boyajian, took place to provide information on the parish (its make-up, population, resources, procedures, practices, and potential) that can aid the national organization in assisting and guiding the Palos Heights Chapter.

The meeting itself saw approximately 70% of the membership present with the Very Rev. Jirayr Tashjian presiding. The enthusiasm and willingness to learn and be taught was a breath of fresh air after working with large, more established, chapters and parishes. Given the size of the parish, they <sup>are</sup> naturally small in numbers, but they were very big on ideas and desire to host a very successful and event-filled basketball tournament. Unlike large chapters, the smaller chapter membership know each other, care when one is absent, and generally enjoy their tasks and service to the parish.

Chairman of the Palos Heights Chapter is Susan Boyajian. They are fairly well organized and have the tournament weekend well planned and thought out. Mark Kazanjian is the C.C. Liason to this event.

Chicago/Evanston, IL - St. Gregory the Illuminator and St. James Armenian Churches, Friday October 17th:

A special meeting of the joint chapter hosts of the 1981 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend. Chairman of the Sports Weekend Committee is Charles Babikian. A Committee of approximately 25 - 30 people has been organized and is evolving into a responsible working unit. They have broken down the weekend event into the smallest of parts and have almost everything covered.

Their eagerness and desire for a successful weekend is reflected in their ability to be flexible and learn from past years' experiences. The Chicago Marriott Hotel has been selected as the site for the annual event. This hotel has adequate accommodations and resources for the General Assembly, the Sports Weekend and all the business and social activities that accompany it. Athletics facilities have yet to be finalized with several sites under consideration.

As of this meeting, there seems to be no problem between the two chapters as co-hosts of the event. A more detailed report can be prepared upon request after the first of the year. The Executive Secretary has requested of the Spts. Wkd. Chairman to prepare monthly progress sheets so as to be kept informed of the Committee's work.

On Saturday, Oct. 18th, an informal meeting took place with Central Council member Sona Yazijian (Treasurer). This meeting centered on the direction and goals of the organization, as well as the importance of covering all details concerning the 1981 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend. Miss Yazijian is the Central Council liason to the Sports Weekend Committee.

### III. Development of Materials

The development of several instruments through which proper records may be kept has also been started. A chapter report form (monthly or bi-monthly) will ensure better publicizing of activities and events accomplished by the chapter. It will record what has been done, how successful it was, and what is planned for the future. The reports will also enable the Central Council to better determine the recipient of the "A" Award (given annually to the chapter that has met all its obligations to the national organization, and has served its parish and membership in an exemplary fashion). This will be a major resource in the drafting of news releases and Chapter News.

Work is continuing on the "Chapter Handbook". Compiling of materials, updating previously used materials, and adding new methods to organize chapters in large and small parishes. Many concepts and procedures outlined in the ACYOA Constitution are <sup>to be</sup> more clearly "spelled - out" and will enable all members, experienced or not, to develop a functioning and progressive chapter.

Work has also begun on producing a small one-page brochure promoting ACYOA within the Diocese. The brochure will be aimed at motivating members, attracting new members and educating parents and other adults as to the make up and direction of the national youth organization of the Diocese of the Armenian Church.


Consideration has also been given to the producing of guides for the various national and regional events. (i.e. General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Retreats, Regional Conferences, etc., etc.) This would support a more standardize methodology, and also serve to aid the host in preparing for such an event.

### IV. General

It has become quite apparent that several strong (or thought strong) chapters have experienced dysfunction and some have gone so far as to all but be abandoned. We shall be focusing on some of these parishes as attempt to revive, or re-organize, the chapter and assist the leadership in maintaining a well organizing and functioning chapter to better serve the parish and keep the youth together.

During the Winter months, the New England region will take the primary focus. During November and December, the parishes scheduled are Houston, San Antonio, South Florida, Detroit, Washington, Cheltenham, and Wynnwood.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 JAMES MAGARIAN  
 Executive Secretary  
 A.C.Y.O.A.

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - November 1980

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Executive Secretary to the A.C.Y.O.A.  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Programs

### 1) Armenian Studies Programs (ASP)

Work on the Armenian Studies Programs has been continuing since September with many avenues of transportation, accommodations, program agenda, supervision and coordination, and publicity being explored and pursued. Linda Ohanian has been assisting the Executive Secretary and Central Council in following up on the various means of properly formulating a well rounded program.

This year the ACYOA shall offer three programs:

- A) Standard Armenian Studies Program consisting of a one month's stay in Armenia with a structured itinerary of classes in language, history, dance; outings and excursions into the country-side visiting the many points of interest and historical significance; meeting with professional people from Armenia according to the participants field of study, profession and/or interest. (i.e. artists, scientists, archeologists, etc...)
- B) "Journey to Armenia" trip to be of 2 to 3 weeks informally structured and mainly consisting of field trips, some informal classes on history and historical perspectives, as well as experiences in the cities and country-sides. Designed for the less serious person and those who who not be able to attend for one month.
- C) Jerusalem and the Holy Land trip to be of about 2 weeks and included because of many inquiries. Centering on the Holy City, the group will also attend classes on the Armenian Church, the Holy Sites, the role of the Armenian Church in the Holy Land, as well as travel and visit the many points of interest. The Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem will be a major focal point of this trip.

Progress is being made in refining the complex details of all three trips. By Feb. first, almost all details should be completed. The Primate and Executive Secretary is presently in the process of selecting coordinators and directors for these trips. Final selection should be made soon.



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## 2) Mission Program

At the General Assembly, the delegates voted to reinstate the ACYOA Mission Program in 1981. This program mainly consists of a team of young people under the leadership of a clergyman making a weeklong visitation to a parish. The members of the team design various programs and activities for the parish during their stay and visit with many members of the community. Special attention is given to the Armenian School, Church School, ACYOA Junior and Senior divisions, as well as the parish as a whole. Usually, the Mission program takes place in a small parish community where they may, or may not have a clergyman. However, it is also very rewarding when the team visits a large, more established, parish wherein they may better utilize the facilities of the parish.

Presently, two Mission Programs are under consideration by the Primate, and are scheduled for the Lenten, or early summer period.

## 3) Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

This year the Tournament shall be hosted by the Palos Heights ACYOA Chapter of Sts. Joachim and Anna Armenian Church. As reported last month, the Exec. Sec. visited with the Palos Heights Chapter. We have been informed since then that almost all details have been completed and that publicity shall begin soon. A fine weekend has been planned with reasonable prices and proper social activities. His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, has included Sts. Joachim and Anna Armenian Church in his schedule and shall celebrate Divine Liturgy during the weekend.

## 4) 1981 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend

As reported last month, the Chapters of Evanston and Chicago shall co-host this year's edition of the General Assembly and Sports Weekend. Many experiences of previous years are being used to avoid any problems as the chapters attempt to host a most enjoyable and attended weekend. Monthly updates are being forwarded to the Exec. Sec. to allow him to remain informed of their progress.

## II. Visitations

Parish visitations took place this month in the cities of Houston and San Antonio, Texas. Under the direction of the Primate, Diocesan staff members Nancy Basmajian (Church School and ACYOA JRs.), Sylva Der Stepanian (Armenian Language) and ACYOA Executive Secretary to the Seniors travelled to Texas and met with the members of those respective organizations.

### 1) Houston - St. George Armenian Church

Staff members arrived on Friday (Nov. 21) for meetings in the evening with various groups. (Armenian Language Class, Church School Teachers, and ACYOA Srs.) Rev. Fr. Terenig Kondralian, pastor, was a very accommodating host.

The Houston parish is made up of a diversified population, mainly consisting of newly arrived Armenians from abroad, whose desire to preserve their Armenian identity remains a priority. (Above and beyond their Christian aspects of faith and devotion.)

Fr. Terenig has had to be cautious, deliberate and flexible in planning and developing this community. The presence of political groups as also been given consideration. Members of the Parish are somewhat about politics and some are quite adamant in their stance. Nevertheless, Hoston is certainly growing - both in Armenian population and in Armenian spirit. Their project to build the first Armenian Church and cultural center in Texas is gaining momentum as a wave of excitement is slowly coming over the community. They are looking forward to having their own place - for a variety of reasons.

#### ACYOA Seniors -

We are pleased to announce the formation of an ACYOA Senior Chapter in Houston. Pending approval by the Primate, and acceptance by the ACYOA Central Council into the National Organization, the Houston ACYOA Chapter of St. George Armenian Church is somewhat unique in character. Presently made up of individuals over 25yrs. old (compare with the National average age of 22), the Houston group is mainly a foreign born chapter who are professionals - or at least persons beginning careers, as well as some mothers and fathers. It seems their purpose in organizing is to be a part of the National Youth Organization of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, assist their parish (especially in building their new Church), and counter-balance the presence of any Armenian political youth groups operating in the Houston area.

It will be interesting to observe the development of the older and unique character of this Chapter, especially following the consecration of their new Church.

After much discussion in one meeting of the group, it was decided to elect officers and apply to the National Organization. Officers elected were:

John Jordan	Chairman
Vahe Asadourian	Vice-Chairman
Zohrab Tcholakian	Treasurer
Houry Sarkissian	General Secretary
Seta Simonian	Advisor
Haigaz	Advisor
Hamo Der Soukiasian	Advisor

The potential membership presently is about 50 - 60, with approximately 20-25 fairly active.

Concerning an over-all impression, the Diocesan Staff concluded that the Parish is not as "Church-oriented" as they are "Culturally-oriented," or to be more precise, "Ethnocentrically-motivated." Therefore, we can understand why very little attention is given to the Church School on a parish-wide basis, and most emphasis is given to the Armenian Language School.

As part of the presented Program by the Diocesan Staff, the film "The Growth of Our Children" was shown at what was advertised as a "cocktail-reception for members of the Diocesan Staff." We were not quite prepared for such an atmosphere. We adapted and the program progressed smoothly. However, the film was somewhat out of place. Not only at such a gathering, but in a community that places all educational concern on language. The film was not designed to address an audience whose ethnocentric concerns and motivation blinds them from the wholistic view of parish and church

the wholistic and reality that makes up the very fabric of the Church and is a real part of the parish. The film, being completely in English, was not fully appreciated by this community. In other words, they were somewhat "turned off." We may conclude from this experience that in the future we must consider the parish/community population (its make-up, motivation, etc.) in designing presentations and programs.

2) San Antonio

On Monday, Nov. 24th, Fr. Terenig drove the Diocesan Staff 3½ hours to the city of San Antonio. The itinerary included evening services in a church, refreshments and program in an adjoining cultural hall and in general, meeting with the members of this slowly developing Armenian Community - or Mission Parish.

The Church Service mainly consisted of the Jashou Jam with Holy Communion for those who wish to receive. We could tell that a number of the people were spiritually moved by this simple service and that they missed regular Armenian Church services. Following the service, refreshments were enjoyed by all attending. Many people from the community brought in various things - there were about 25-28 people in all. Each Diocesan Staff member addressed the group according to their area of expertise. Discussion was moderated by Fr. Terenig. We were happy to see six (6) young people at this community gathering and their enthusiasm when Nancy Basmajian and the Executive Secretary spoke concerning the ACYOA and the various programs thereof. The community was responsive to the programs of the Armenian Language programs, but again, the religious education was not of much interest. The film, "The Growth of Our Children" was shown and was very well received with favorable comments and praise.

Over all impressions here conclude that in "mission" type communities such as San Antonio, programs should be designed to teach, motivate, and somewhat educate through entertainment - or more accurately, entertaining activities and programs. The people should leave the gathering having received something that they may take with them and share with those who were unable to attend. These communities without an organized operation need visits from people who can offer some spiritual and cultural renewal, wherefrom they may become more involved and place a higher priority on the development of their faith and ethnic identity. We may then see noticeable progress in these slow-growing communities.

Concerning the youth in San Antonio, we shall be placing any and all names on our mailing lists, and remaining in touch with them. It is doubtful that they will organize into a chapter at this time, however several of them might participate in some of our programs.

### III. St. Vartan ACYOA Camp

Plans are under way for the 1981 Summer camp. In December, meetings shall be held with the Primate and Executive Secretary, as well as with staff members to consider educational and administrative procedures and development.


We have reviewed a slide-tape program promoting the camp. The program shall serve as a record of the first camp held in Connecticut in 1980. The program shall also promote the camp as an on going program for the youth of our Diocese. This program may be shown to the various parishes to introduce the Camp to parents and concerned adults. The program needs some revision, but should be ready by the first of the year.

### IV. General

Plans have been made to attend the Mid-West ACYOA Regional Conference at St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit. Chapters from that region meet 3 to 4 times per year to discuss local, regional, and national affairs and plan activities and events for the region itself. The conference shall take place during the last weekend of November. We are also planning to visit the Parishes of St. Mary Armenian Church (Washington, D.C.), Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church (Wynwood, PA) and Holy Trinity Armenian Church (Cheltenham, PA). We shall determine the status of the ACYOA Chapters in those parishes and design courses of action accordingly. We have been informed that these chapters are slowly developing and are somewhat weak.

We shall soon begin priority news releases concerning ACYOA Chapter news and events. We intend to place appropriate articles and perhaps begin a regular column for this purpose. News Papers to be used are: BEMA, Mirror-Spectator, Reporter, and California Courier

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - December 1980

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Executive Secretary to the A.C.Y.O.A.  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Visitations

Parish visitations this month consisted of St. John the Baptist Armenian Church ((Detroit), St. Mary Armenian Church (Washington, D.C.), Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church (Wynnwood, PA), and Holy Trinity Armenian Church (Cheltenham, PA).

### 1) Detroit:

The Executive Secretary attended the November Conference of the Mid-West Region of ACYOA Chapters on the weekend of November 29th through December 1st. Chapters attending the Saturday Conference were: Greater St. Louis, Palos Heights, Chicago, Evanston, Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Toronto, Cleveland and Detroit. Central Council members present were: Michael Yapchaian (Chairman), Sona Yazijian (Treasurer), and Nancy Malkasian (Rec. Secretary).

The conference was organized by the Central Council Mid-West Regional Representatives - Nancy Malkasian and Sona Yazijian. Three times a year the Mid-West Region convenes to execute regional activities and events. This conference focused on organizational structure for the region. Presentations were made by the Central Council members and then various issues and points were discussed in small groups by the conference delegates.

Adopted by the Conference was a plan for each chapter to be responsible for various areas of organizational structure. Each year at an initial meeting, the chapters would decide on each area of operation and then decide on which chapter shall do what. (i.e. Regional Anniversary Ball, Retreat, correspondence and publicity, financial, mailing lists, etc.)

It seems that the aforementioned structure will be effective if the designated chapters are strong, and able to execute their functions and carry out their responsibilities. It might serve to draw the chapters closer together and suggest more communication



**Central Council**

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between chapters and members. Coordinating the over-all operation shall be the Central Council Regional Representatives to the Mid-West Region.

Prior to the adoption of this plan, the Central Council members from this region would be responsible for carrying out the many and various functions. (Compare with N.E., which until recently had an operating "tivan" to carry out the functions and coordinate the work.) It will be interesting to see how this new set-up works, and if it does, how it might be implemented in other regions which have a similar make up as the Mid-West.

This November Regional Conference has become an annual weekend event, with the Detroit Chapter serving as host. In the evening, the annual November A.C.Y.O.A. Dance is held and allows conference delegates a chance to socialize and make the long journey from their respective parishes that much more rewarding.

The Detroit Chapter is typical of large parish chapters. They are highly organized and operate at a relatively efficient rate. All their events and functions operate on a budget system which has been put on a computer program. Although the chapter boasts a large membership (over 100), only 25-30 participate on any regular basis.

An unfortunate result of large chapter set-ups (or large parishes for that matter) is that a false sense of accomplishment is felt when a large number of members are present at a meeting or function. For example, at a regular meeting of the chapter membership, the number present might range from 25 to 35 or 40. While this may seem large, and even impressive, the potential in a large chapter/parish is usually double and most probably triple. We are contented with the large number, (perhaps because we are so used to small attendance) but can easily forget all the others who are not attending, or who have dropped out. It is easy to become "lost" or "unnoticed" in a large chapter/parish. Another unfortunate part of this situation is that the "Family" atmosphere and ideal is all but obliterated.

We are fortunate, perhaps, that large ACYOA Chapters exist (Detroit, Watertown) but can only imagine the many, many young people that live in those areas that aren't even considered or known of. We are hopeful that someday we may create more chapters in areas that are far removed from the church, and thereby draw in more young people that have yet to be involved.

## 2) Washington, D.C.:

During the weekend of December 5, 6 & 7th, the Executive Secretary visited the St. Mary Armenian Church parish and met with the Pastor, Parish Council members and youth. Washington, D.C. has never had an organized senior youth group, however following this visit, the Washington Chapter of St. Mary's Armenian Church will soon be recognized on the national level.

Following Church services on Sunday, the Executive Sec. met with potential executive officers and formally established the chapter.

They shall be writing to the Primate and Central Council for acceptance into the National Organization. A problem felt in the Washington, D.C. area, as in many other areas, is that the young people attend colleges and universities outside of their home cities. Therefore, the senior groups have a great deal of difficulty remaining strong, or even continuing as an organized chapter. However, in Washington there seems to be a renewed spirit and decision to dedicate time and efforts into making the senior group work out. They intend to solicit young Armenians in the area who are attending school or working for the Government.

The Pastor and Parish Council are very much concerned that the youth are organized and that they relate to each other and their Church. Their feelings were related to the Exec. Sec. and contact shall remain open with them regarding the youth situation in their parish.

### 3) Wynnwood, PA:

A meeting with Fr. Zaven Arzoumanian and seven young people of Junior ACYOA age (13-17) resulted in the following conclusion: The Wynnwood Parish has a strong Junior age youth group that is divided into two separate groups - juniors and seniors. The "juniors" include ages 13-15, while the "seniors" are made up of a group from 16-18. Post High School (or Senior ACYOA age youths) "are not around." In other words, there are no college or post college age young people to organize in the Wynnwood Parish. The intention for this visitation was to meet with young people of college or post college age to organize a chapter, or strengthen any remnant that might have still existed. Instead, we met with Junior age young people who could make up a senior group in a year or two, but are not inclined to do so because there is little support for such a group.

The reasons for the above situation seems to stem from the young people "going away" to colleges and universities. While this is probably true in many cases, we really can't believe that everyone leaves the parish, resulting in a void. There are colleges in the area, as well as young people returning following college graduation. In the nearby Cheltenham Parish, there are many young people that can and do (as will be noted below) make up a senior chapter. We simply are not convinced about the Wynnwood situation.

Fr. Zaven stated that many young people are involved in other areas of the parish (Church School, Parish Council, ...), however he gave no indication that he felt there was a need for an organized senior age group. We intend to visit Wynnwood again in the near future, and to meet with senior age young people - whoever we can find to speak with and organize into a chapter. We should note that the Junior Group is well organized and forms a well filled itinerary. With proper orientation they may be convinced to organize themselves into a proper senior ACYOA chapter.

## 4) Cheltenham, PA:

The past few months has seen a usually strong and active ACYOA Chapter descend into a state of dysfunction. Past leaders and active members seemed to have "had enough" (in their words).

A special meeting was called by the Pastor, V. Rev. Arshen Aivazian including all young people of the parish, Juniors and Seniors, and Parish Council Members. Attending the meeting were about 18-20 senior age youths, 10-12 juniors, 7-10 Parish Council Members as well as Fr. Arshen, Nancy Basmajian (Junior Director) and Mark Kazanjian, Central Council Vice Chairman.

The meeting began on many negative notes. Youths stated their concerns and reasons why youth operations (on the senior level) came to a halt. Some of the reasons included little support from Parish Council, Pastor, and the Parish in general. Few members attending ACYOA functions, activities and events. The same people doing all the work, etc., etc. All of which have been heard before - some may or may not be true. What was quite apparent was a small group of former leaders that seemed to want a reason to simply quit, without feeling guilty about it. They came out with many negative comments and didn't want to accomplish anything.

However, there were members that did want to move ahead and re-establish the chapter as an active and important part of the parish. We succeeded in allowing this new enthusiastic group to come out on top - to be elected/appointed/self-nominated - and to take on the responsibility of re-organizing and beginning again the many operations of the chapter in Cheltenham.

Although the meeting began slowly, and somewhat negatively, the result was positive and somewhat refreshing. It seems that some of the old, and perhaps "burnt-out" members have taken a lesser role and have allowed the more enthusiastic and energetic members to fully participate and put their efforts to work.

Fr. Arshen was concerned, as was the Parish Council, with the youth situation in the parish. It seems as though they are very supportive and willing to allow the youth enough flexibility to grow and expand, as well as mature into a well organized chapter. Although the communications, values and ideals between the Adults and the Youth could be better, it seems now that a more positive and mature situation has been established. We are confident in those elected to carry on and fulfill the responsible positions.

We should note that in the aforementioned situation, as in many others like it, the bulk of the responsibility (to do work, fulfill roles, execute tasks, be creative, propose new ideas, etc. etc...) falls on the elected officers. If a parish/chapter happens to elect persons who can't (or won't) fulfill the responsibilities, then the chapter is bound to experience the dysfunction that occurred in Cheltenham, and that is currently a state of being in many parishes. We are hopeful that with more visitations, the printing of the "Handbook" and with continued communications, the many chapters of the Diocese will be able to have the continuity necessary to maintain active and attractive chapters in our parishes.



Accompanying the Executive Secretary to Washington, D.C., Wynnwood, and Cheltenham, PA was the Vice Chairman of the Central Council and Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative, Mark Kazanjian. He assisted and met with various individuals discussing concerns and details. He related Central Council material and happenings. The Exec. Sec. attempts to have the various regional representative accompany him during visitations to facilitate and provide information on local matters.

## II. A.C.Y.O.A. St. Vartan Camp

In December, a meeting was held with the 1980 Camp Director, Fr. Patee Metjian, Diocesan Executive Director, Syraun Palvetzian, and the Executive Secretary. Presiding over the meeting was His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate.

Discussed were the structural organization of the Camp Program, as well as various details concerning the 1981 edition of the ACYOA St. Vartan Camp. The Camp will be held again this year at the Canterbury School in Connecticut from July 11th -18th.

The structural breakdown of the program includes the following:  
 Administrative Director - Fr. Patee Metjian  
 Camp Managers - Haig Dikranian and staff  
 Athletic Coordinators - Dikranians and staff  
 Program Committee - Diocesan Departmental Directors

The many and varied responsibilities of the above were discussed and established. His Eminence noted that it is important that all members of the Camp staff work together to teach the young people according to established goals and themes.

The ACYOA will maintain all official Camp Records and financial transactions, as well as solicit counselors and assistants from the general membership.

The Program Committee shall be meeting in January to begin establishing a formalized and definitive educational program to include religious, cultural, and social perspectives into the everyday schedule of the campers.

The 1980 Camp was successful and now provides the opportunity for expansion and even greater success. We hope that many more young people will participate and that more parishes will support the Camp.

## III. General

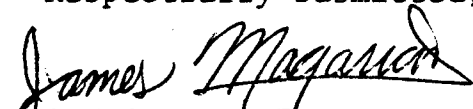
Work continues on the Chapter Handbook, as with the standardized system of forms and application cards, stationary, etc. We hope to have most of our material prepared and ready for distribution by the middle of January. It is our intention to begin sending more material in terms of content, (programs and operations) to all chapters during the first few months of the new year.

Preparations are now being made for the annual Chairman's Roundtable Seminar during the Diocesan Assembly. We are planning a seminar/work-

shop for all participants. This workshop will center on leadership abilities, functions, power, group interaction, and dynamics. We hope that it will serve to be of interest as well as teach the Chapter representatives about groups and the various motivations and techniques of leadership.

The Central Council Chairman and ACYOA Exec. Sec. shall be preparing the agenda for the next Central Council meeting, scheduled for January 23 & 24.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - January 1981

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Executive Secretary to the A.C.Y.O.A.  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Central Council

The Central Council met with the Primate and Executive Secretary at the Diocese during the weekend of January 23-25, 1981. Decisions reached included: Pursuing final reports from the Parish and ACYOA Chapter of St. James in Watertown relating to Sports Weekend, and the incident with the Hotel; Initiation of an essay contest; Revision of Martyr's Day Commemoration Program; Initiation of expanded Armenian Studies Programs; Fund-raising campaign to assist in continuing current and proposed programs and operations.

Meetings were held at various times throughout the month with individual Council members - assistance in formulating reports, discussing methods of implementing programs on the regional level, unique chapter situations and problems, as well as the development of current and proposed program materials and resources.

## II. Publications

The quarterly publication of the organization, Keghard, is in need of a new coordinator. The present coordinator, Michael Zeytoonian, has given his notice that the Winter 1981 issue will be his last. The Executive Secretary and Council will conduct a search for a new coordinator, as well as new staff members and writers.

The Council is considering sponsoring the re-printing of several booklets, and books dealing with the Armenian Church and culture. However, due to financial considerations, the initiation of this project will need to be postponed.

The producing of Audio-visual aids and programs is also under consideration, however this too will need to be postponed for the time being.



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### III. Development of Materials

The development of materials include: Printing and sending to chapters monthly fact sheets to be filled out by the chapter and sent to the Executive Secretary for use in evaluating chapter progress and activity, as well as provide information for news releases and information; the printing of membership renewal forms; the printing of parish visitation report forms to be used by Council members when visiting parishes. Also developed are new outlines for Martyr's Day Commemoration programs (which take place in April on the chapter level) to enable the chapters to sponsor programs in their own parish communities according to their own needs, facilities and population; new outlines for the Scholarship and Awards programs which include the Sam Nersessian Award and Scholarship. (The Award is given to an outstanding ACYOA member who exemplifies Christian virtues and character - a rotating award is presented. The Scholarship is given to an applicant for participation in the St. Nersess Summer Studies Conferences.) Also, proper and simplified application and nomination forms have been prepared.

A point system is currently being developed to assist in determining the recipient of the Chapter "A" Award. Chapters will be given points according to their participation in various activities and programs, as well as their sponsorship of religious, cultural and athletic events.

The Chapter Handbook is nearing completion - in terms of compiling its content. Proper layout and editing remains to be done.

### IV. Armenian Studies Programs

The Armenian Studies Programs (ASP) for 1981 include:

- 1) Educational Tour to Armenia (the original, now in its 11th year).
- 2) "Journey" to Armenia - new for 1981. 2 week tour of Armenia for the less serious-minded person.
- 3) Jerusalem "The Holy City" - new for 1981. 2 week tour of the Holy Land focusing on the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Various materials have been prepared. News releases have been and will continue to go out. Application forms for each tour have been prepared. Directors for each tour shall be selected by the Primate. The Executive Secretary shall be making the arrangements with the Travel Agents and formalizing the program for each group. Selected Directors shall work with the Executive Secretary and direct the group accordingly.

### V. Mission Program

Parishes to be selected by the Primate. Mission Team Leaders to be selected by the Primate. The Executive Secretary has met with the Primate several times to discuss this important program. Two Mission Programs are scheduled for this year - Mid West and East Coast.

## VI. Parish Visitations

During the Winter months, parish visitations are being concentrated in the New England region. Letters have been sent to all parishes and shall be followed with telephone calls to confirm dates, times and programs. Where possible, Central Council regional representatives accompany the Executive Secretary and assist in explaining programs, developing chapters and solving problems.

## VII. Fund Raising

As discussed at the Council meeting, the ACYOA will solicit donations from current and past members with the intention of placing the funds toward present and proposed programs. Operations and materials are becoming increasingly more costly. To continue using quality material as well as serve the national organization in an efficient manner, additional funds must be acquired.

## VIII. National Mailing List

The Executive Secretary and Central Council is currently preparing a campaign to solicit names of young people from throughout the Diocese to be compiled into a National Armenain Youth Directory. The purposes of such a compilation are many - as well as the possible resources and contact with young people who we are not communicating with now.

The ideal is to have a computerized listing of all Armenian youths from through<sup>out</sup> the Diocese from age one (1) to thirty (30). As the youth become of age (for Church and Armenian schools, St. Nersess Summer Studies Conferences, ACYOA Juniors, ACYOA Seniors, etc., etc.) we may contact them accordingly, as well as eliminate their names and place them on local listings with the parish. Usually at age thirty the individual is more stabilized and will more readily participate in parish oriented programs. At this time, we truly do not have an accurate listing of Armenian youths. Moreover, we believe that there are over 10,000 Armenian youths which could be included on such a list, and thus be contacted, notified, surveyed, solicited from and possibly participate in the ACYOA Junior and Senior levels.

We feel that this directory is absolutely necessary in projecting programs for the future. We hope to continue in our efforts and slowly bring this into focus.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 JAMES MAGARIAN  
 Executive Secretary

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - February 1981

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Executive Secretary to the A.C.Y.O.A.  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Armenian Studies Programs

The major focus for the month of February was finalizing the many details and plans for the Armenian Studies Programs (ASP) for 1981. Selected as the Director for the "Educational Tour to Armenia", is Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian of St. James Armenian Church in Westchester, N.Y. Fr. Karekin has directed several ASP groups in the past and will lead the group that is scheduled to depart June 10th. Other staff members for this group have not yet been selected.

Program number two, "Journey to Armenia", is scheduled for July 6th through July 16th. Directors have not been assigned, however the Primate has several persons in mind.

Program number three, "Jerusalem - The Holy City", is being scheduled for two weeks in July and August. His Beatitude, Archbishop Yeghishe Derderian, Patriarch of Jerusalem, has graciously accepted to host the group. This program will be similar to the programs to Armenia, however, it shall focus on the Holy City, its environs, as well as the Armenian Quarter.

Brochures have been prepared and sent out to all prospective youths, as well as to all Pastors and Churches. Thus far, response has been good, given the type of programs and expenses involved.

## II. Archbishop's Essay Contest

As passed at the last Central Council meeting, an Essay Contest shall be initiated to allow youths with literary inclinations to participate in this particular facet of the Organization. Outlines have been prepared and shall be sent out to all Parishes and Chapters.

## III. Publications

As noted last month, Keghard is in need of a new coordinator. The present Coordinator, Michael Zeytoonian, will be resigning as of the Winter issue. Notices have appeared in the BEMA, Mirror-Spectator,



Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

and Reporter, stating that the Central Council is looking for a new coordinator. Thus far, we have received no responses. However, the Executive Secretary is currently in touch with two persons to take over the position.

The Winter issue is being produced from the Diocesan Department of Communications, under the supervision of V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian. Mr. Zeytoonian and the Executive Secretary are working closely together in producing this issue, and are trying to cut down on the costs of its publication. By using the facilities of the Department of Communications, we are able to save about 45-50%.

#### IV. Mission Program

Two Mission Programs shall take place in the near future - one in the Eastern part of the Diocese, the other in the Mid-West. Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian and Deacon Michael Chevian have been selected to head the Mission Teams. Dates for the program are not yet final, however we are considering the week prior to Christmas (Jan. 6th) since at that time most families will be together, as well as being a time when communities look forward to religious programs and instruction.

#### V. General

Meetings this month took place with Father Karekin Kasparian on the ASP; Father Ghevont Samoorian on publishing/producing materials, Keghard, ACYOA Juniors Newsletter, etc.; Father Yeprem Kelegian on the Mission Program; Travel Agents for the ASP; Official from the Federal Government on Grants (applications, eligibility...); Central Council Members per areas of responsibilities and duties; Michael Zeytoonian regarding the publishing of the Keghard; as well as informal visits to young people regarding their particular chapter.

Parish Visitations will continue with more frequency as the weather becomes more reliable. Several dates have been established with parishes who have organized chapters, as well as those who do not.

Respectfully yours,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary

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JAMES MAGARTIAN  
Executive Secretary



# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - March 1981

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Executive Secretary to the A.C.Y.O.A.  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

The 1981 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament was successfully held on the weekend of February 27, 28 & March 1st. His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian presided over the festivities which brought 11 teams representing 10 parishes to Palos Heights, IL, for the annual tournament.

The small chapter and parish of Ss. Joachim and Anna Armenian Church were very well organized and prepared for the 200 visitors who participated in the tournament games, as well as in the social activities. The Awards banquet was held on Saturday evening at the Church Hall. Championship trophies were awarded in both the men's and women's divisions. The Detroit Chapter of St. John Armenian Church captured first place in both divisions. Awards were also presented to outstanding athletes.

An outline had been prepared to assist the host chapter in reporting on the weekend event. It includes statistical material, types of publicity used, income and disbursements, as well as other pertinent data that will assist next year's host chapter. This is the first time that a type of standardized reporting procedure is being implemented, and should yield some interesting results. A similar reporting procedure shall be used in other major, and not so major, events that are hosted by various chapters. Previously, little data and brief reports were submitted.

## II. Visitations

During this period the parishes of Worcester, MA and Haverhill, MA were visited.

The Worcester parish, although large and in an area that affords the local youth academic opportunities, has been experiencing problems with their youth going away to school. In the past, the Worcester ACYOA chapter - both juniors and seniors - have enjoyed many successful activities and



Central Council

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programs. The large parish has an active Junior Group, but the seniors have been struggling with reorganization and permanent leadership.

The Worcester ACYOA Chapter has approximately 12 to 18 members who meet about once a month. Many of the members are away at college and return for the meeting. They are planning their annual Palm Sunday/ACYOA Day Banquet and Program, together with the Juniors. In May, they may host the tentatively scheduled N.E. Regional ACYOA Conference, and a dance on the 16th. They are showing some signs of a solid organization, but the process is slow, with many members wanting immediate results, and sometimes becoming somewhat discouraged. Rev. Father Garabed, the pastor, is very supportive of the group and assists as much as possible.

In Haverhill, the situation is different. Owing to a small Armenian population, with increased numbers moving away, or finding jobs outside of the area, the youth have a combined organization of juniors and seniors. Although this situation is frowned upon by the Central Council, in cases such as this it is a viable and necessary alternative to enable the youth to come together and plan successful activities and events.

The youth hosted a very successful program during Great Lent which consisted of serving Friday evening Lenten dinners. The dinners preceded Evening Services and a guest speaker. Very Rev. Father Haigazoun has been working hard to bring together the small number of youth of his parish. It is possible that in the near future the juniors and seniors might have separate groups, but for now it seems best that they work together as much as possible and serve their parish.

### III. Armenian Studies Programs

Inquiries for information and application forms continue to come in as people from all over the Diocese are interested in what the ASP has to offer.

A special, and more permanent booklet for the participants in the Educational Tour To Armenia is nearing completion. It includes information on the various sites found in Armenia, brief history, history of the Church, various items of interest, some language instruction and a vocabulary list. The booklet is structured as to allow it to be used in future programs, using inserts for specific data relative to the year and dates and participants.

Programs two and three have also had much inquiry, however, with a later deadline, we have had less commitment thus far.

Next month, selection will take place for the 14-19 spots on the Educational Tour. Fr. Karekin shall review the application forms and make recommendations for the final selection.

#### IV. Awards Programs

Materials have been sent out regarding the ACYOA Awards programs for 1981. They include 1) The Sam Nersessian Award and 2) The Sam Nersessian Scholarship Award.

The Sam Nersessian Award is given to a nominated ACYOA Member who has demonstrated Christian virtues in daily life. The individual is nominated by the parish priest or ACYOA Chapter Executive Committee, and then reviewed by the ACYOA Central Council. The Award is presented at the Sports Weekend Awards Banquet.

The Sam Nersessian Scholarship Award is presented to an applicant to attend one of the St. Nersess Summer Studies Conferences. The scholarship covers tuition for the Conference.

Criteria for the ACYOA Chapter "A" Award, and the method of selection continues to be refined and reviewed. Information on this shall be sent to all parishes as soon as it is prepared.

#### V. Fund-raising

A major fund-raising program is in the beginning stages for the ACYOA. However, since the Executive Secretary is quite aware of the financial situation within the Diocese, the appeal has been somewhat postponed to avoid requesting donations from many of the same people that are donating to our Church already. (i.e. Easter youghakin, ACEF, general Diocesan appeal, BEMA, etc.)

The appeal, when begun, will initially consist of a letter requesting the individual, group, or business, donate to a specific area, or program, within the organization. This will be done attractively and with the intention of motivating the people to support the ACYOA. Any fund raising, appeal, etc., will first be approved by the Primate before it begins.

Respectfully submitted

  
JAMES MAGARLAN  
Executive Secretary

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - May 1981

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Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Armenian Studies Programs

**Educational Tour to Armenia:** Specially prepared handbooks have been sent to all participants of this program along with last-minute instructions and information. Der Karekin Kasparian, Tour Director, has met with his assistants for this program, Mr. & Mrs. Vartan Abdo, and has prepared the necessary materials and program outlines to be followed in Armenia. Although time was a factor, this program went as expected and should show positive and favorable results.

**"Journey" to Armenia:** Because the required number needed for this program was not reached (15 needed, 7 received), the tour director, Der Arsen Barsamian, was informed that he would not be able to lead the group. The signed up participants have been included in another, commercial, tour to Armenia. This made it possible for them to still visit the Fatherland at the special group rate, as well as secure a small financial gain from this program. As many as 38 persons were interested in this program, however only the seven mentioned above actually signed up. We feel next year will show better results.

**Jerusalem - "The Holy City":** This program continues to gain participants. Der Michael Buttero shall lead this group. Although a large number of participants are not expected (probably 10-15), this tour has a great potential and will evolved to a most fulfilling and worthwhile part of the Armenian Studies Programs.

A report on the Armenian Studies Programs of 1981, including statistics, will be published upon the completion of the entire program.

## II. Chairman's Roundtable Seminar

During the Annual Diocesan Assembly, the ACYOA Central Council conducts its Chapter Chairman's Roundtable Seminar. This year in Watertown the Seminar took place on Saturday, May 2nd and was conducted by the ACYOA Central Council Chairman. The guest speaker was Doris Der Mardirosian, a vocational and organizational counselor.



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Chairmen and chapter representatives from throughout the Diocese attended. Reports were heard from the Central Council, 1981 National Sports Weekend Committee, 1981 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament, Armenian Studies Programs, as well as short addresses by the Primate, and by the Executive Secretary to the ACYOA. The Seminar itself focused upon organizational behavior, technique and methods of operations. Motivation and group dynamics were also discussed.

It seems that these types of seminars and conferences are certainly needed. Many chapter leaders are in need of these sessions which allow them to gain a better understanding of their organization and the various factors that make it operate smoothly and sometimes roughly. Conducting these seminars on a regional basis is being given some consideration.

The Executive Secretary attend several of the sessions of the Diocesan Assembly and spoke with many parish priests and delegates concerning the youth situation in their respective parishes.

### III. Visitations

Holy Trinity Armenian Church - Cambridge, MA - The ACYOA Chapter of Greater Boston of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church has fallen into difficult times. Motivation and simple organizational responsibility seem to be key factors as to why the Gr. Boston ACYOA Chapter is not functioning. A meeting with the Pastor and Robert Borzakian, (a member of the parish council, as well as the ACYOA Central Council and regional representative to New England) took place during which many concerns and ideas were shared and discussed. A meeting/reception for all youths of the parish is planned wherein informal discussions shall take place to learn of the needs of the youth from the Gr. Boston area. From this meeting a direct plan of organization shall be drafted with key persons taking on leadership roles. It is intended to immediately begin activities and events to stir up interest in the ACYOA of the parish and thereby attract some of the youth that have fallen out.

Holy Cross Armenian Church - Lawrence, MA - the Gr. Lawrence ACYOA Chapter, winners of the 1980 ACYOA Chapter "A" Award, continue to be an active and progressive chapter. Although the chapter is essentially a combined Junior and Senior group, their individuality shows as the programs and events dictate. The combined set up is usually frowned upon by the Central Council - however in the cases of small numbers or small parishes, the chapter can only survive operationally if the two groups merge. It was noted that the need for spiritual guidance was somewhat lacking, mainly due to the absence of a permanent parish priest. Although their activities have waned lately, the summer time should provide them with a number of members who are away at school.

Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church - Chelmsford, MA - the Gr. Lowell ACYOA Chapter has had several activities over the Winter and Spring that attracted many young people. However, the need for leadership is lacking, as well as a common denominator to provide some cohesive-

ness for the group. There are several young persons who have spent alot of time and energy in trying to organize the group and re-activate some of the inactive members. The fruits of this shall show as a major drive is planned for the summer. Several members have shown interest in attending and participating in the ACYOA National Sports Weekend - this may be used as a catalyst to bring the youth together.

#### IV. Publications

Keghard - The Winter-Spring issue has been printed and shall be mailed out shortly. Several persons have been considered for the position of Keghard Coordinator. Christine Sarkisian, a member of the Watertown ACYOA Chapter, has expressed an interest in working on the Keghard staff and coordinating operations. A meeting of several staff members and professionals shall take place soon to discuss the publication and the focus of the quarterly altogether. It is very important that the youth receive into their homes, on a very regular basis, news and information that they can relate to and that may leave an impression on them.

Pamphlet - A pamphlet describing the ACYOA and its function has been drafted. The need for such an item is quite elementary. Many people, Armenian and non-Armenian, ask for brochures and pamphlets that say something about the organization and its purpose. The simple pamphlet is currently under review by the Primate and Central Council. Actually, several of these type of brochures should be printed so that the public may be educated, through this simplistic means, about the intent and purpose of the organization in general, its programs and its special activities and events. From a public relations perspective, this type of publication is essential.

Handbook to Armenia - This handbook has been prepared for use by the participants in the Armenian Studies Programs: Educational Tour to Armenia, and, "Journey" to Armenia. The handbook contains material for use by the group, as well as background information to the country and the various sites and points of interest. Currently, the Central Council is considering placing the handbook on public sale for those planning a trip to Armenia, or anyone interested in its contents. A small donation will cover the cost of the handbook as well as help defray the expenses of the program itself.

Chapter Handbook - Work continues on the Chapter Handbook. Material has been received from the Central Council Chairman to be included and much of the initial research has been completed. It is intended to be completed by the National ACYOA General Assembly - to be held this year in Chicago.

#### V. Sam Nersessian Scholarship and Award

Application forms and nomination forms have been sent out to all parish priests and chapters regarding the Sam Nersessian Scholarship and Award for 1981.

The Award is presented to an ACYOA Member upon nomination by a parish priest or Chapter Executive Committee. The Central Council selects the recipient and the presentation is made during the Awards Banquet of the National Sports Weekend. The Scholarship is awarded to an applicant to attend the St. Nersess Summer Studies Conferences. Applications are reviewed by the Central Council and a selection is made.

VI. General


Plans continue for the National ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend. Efforts are being made to publicize the fact that young people under 18 years of age are not permitted to reside in the hotel without their parents.

ACYOA St. Vartan Camp progresses with a very good return on application forms. The Educational Program for the camp is being produced by the Directors of the ACYOA - Junior and Senior, and the Director of the Armenian Language Laboratory. A successful camp program for 1981 is expected - both financially and educationally.

Next month the Executive Secretary will be in New York City to send off the participants of the ASP Educational Tour to Armenia. A visitation to the parish of Gr. St. Louis - Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church, in conjunction with the Mid-West Anniversary Ball and Regional Conference is also planned.

Preparation for the ACYOA General Assembly shall begin soon. Material for delegates shall be sent out and the various committee members informed of their duties and responsibilities. A meeting of the Central Council is planned for July.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

File

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - June 1981

Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Publications

Keghard - The final issue of the Keghard under the coordination of Michael Zeytoonian has been printed and mailed out to our members and subscribers. Copies have also been sent to all clergy and parishes.

A meeting has been arranged for July 8th with selected individuals to discuss the publication and its future make up and style. Christine Sarkisian will begin to head the staff, working closely with the Executive Secretary. The transition period will mean a cancellation of the summer issue. The fall issue, scheduled for late September, is the target for the new staff to work toward.

Observation: While the idea of the Keghard was good when it was instituted three years ago, the fact remains that it is not geared for the average member of the organization. It is important that serious literature of this type (although sometimes not always serious) reach the homes of our youth - it should not be the main-line publication of the organization - especially if we intend to teach and mold attitudes via our materials. If and when the Diocese prints a monthly publication, consistently, we should try to have a "youth" section wherein youth information, articles, chapter news, etc., etc., can be printed. Perhaps annually a Keghard type of publication could be printed re-capping the year's activities.

Pamphlet - In a discussion with the Executive Director of the Diocese, it was determined that professional pamphlets are needed by some of the Departments of the Diocese, including the Youth Department. Some research will be done into the proper styles and technique needed for professionally designed pamphlets. For the time being, a simple and inexpensive pamphlet will be printed for ACYOA purposes. The main intent of this pamphlet is for public relations purposes.



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## II. Armenian Studies Programs

Educational Tour to Armenian: On June 9th, 17 young people from across the Diocese officially began their participation in the 1981 ASP Educational Tour. The Program began with a one day orientation session at the Ouzoonian House under the direction of the group leader, Rev. Father Karekin Kasparian. One of the students did not receive the Soviet Visa on time and had to leave 5 days later. The Asst. Directors, Mr. & Mrs. Vartan Abdo, had their Visa applications rejected. We have not heard from the Soviet Consulate concerning the official status of the Abdo's application forms. The Primate and Executive Secretary tried to find last minute replacements for the Abdos, but due to the time involved with securing additional visas, it was decided that we would not send any additional staff members. There were several mature members included in the 18 participants that could assist Fr. Karekin should the need arise. The group is scheduled to return to America on July 10th.

Jerusalem - "The Holy City": The group is scheduled to depart on July 27th and shall be led by Rev. Fr. Michael Buttero. The Executive Secretary met with Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian, Dean of the Armenian Seminary at the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem to review the program. Fr. Nersess is coordinating the program for the group while they are in Jerusalem. At present, 12 people have registered for the program. The group is made up of older people, with the average age at about 35. As this is the first year for this trip, we expect future groups to be made up of more members from the organization - thus making for a younger group. Many members have expressed a great deal of interest in this program for next year.

## III. Visitations

Holy Resurrection Armenian Church - New Britain CT. - The ACYOA Chapter of New Britain is a small but enthusiastic group of young Armenians. On June 5th, a meeting was held at the Church and was attended by 10 members. They have worked hard in helping the parish build and consecrate their new church and cultural center. They are proud and very energetic. They realize the need for a good ACYOA Chapter and are now planning to recruit new members that have fallen out of the group. They are planning to bid for the 1982 ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend and hope that the activity generated from this event will bring together many of the youths from the area to join the group. Der Vartan Der Asadourian was unable to attend the meeting. However, Der Yeprem Kelegian, newly appointed pastor of the Hartford Church, visited the parish that night and was present for the meeting. Some discussion took place on having the youth from both churches get together for various functions and educational programs. Overall, the young people from this parish are a close-knit group that will continue to serve the Church and ACYOA. Elections were held and new people were somewhat eager to take on leadership positions, while those who had been officers for a long time are willing

to remain and advise. (Usually the older members fall out and want little if anything to do with the group, feeling that they've "paid their dues" and now have a right to take some time off. "Some time off" usually results in forever.)

Holy Shoghagat Armenian Church - Belville, IL - The ACYOA Chapter of Gr. St. Louis sponsored the Midwest ACYOA Anniversary Ball on June 13th. Many chapters participated and supported the Ball from all over the region. In the afternoon, a regional conference of the Midwest ACYOA Chapters took place at the Church. Due to the absence of the two Midwest regional representatives on the Central Council, Michael Yapchaian, CC Chairman, chaired the meeting. An interesting point during the general discussion was that the Chapters seem to want more structure and defined programs. They want to be able to have the resources to sponsor different types of activities and events. This is in contrast to the past, when chapters wanted little structure and little outside interference with the activities and events in their parish and chapter. We seem to be losing the older members who held to this perspective and are now faced with younger members, in leadership positions, who were not a part of the ACYOA of the past, and who want to have the confidence to be good leaders and organizers - but they lack the experience. We should use this to shake off some of our past habits and take on a new and fresh approach to the programs and intent of the organization in the frame-work of the Diocese.

The Chapter of Holy Shoghagat is very small and has a very difficult time in growing - simply because there are very few Armenians in their area. However, they are a good group that worked hard in organizing the Anniversary Ball and hosting the regional conference. They are young, they lack experience, but are willing to receive whatever input is necessary to build up their chapter. Support on the part of the Parish Council is somewhat lacking. They do not have a pastor, and perhaps the Parish Council is cautious and not committed to the purpose of ACYOA because it is such a small chapter. We hope that after the hosting of the Anniversary Ball that they will offer more support and assistance in helping the ACYOA Chapter of Gr. St. Louis form into a well organized and functioning chapter.

#### IV. Master Youth Mailing List

Recently, Ss. Vartanantz Armenian Church of Chelmsford completed a master youth mailing list for the entire parish. The list is made up of every Armenian youth in the area, listed according to birth year, and included the name, address, birthdate, zip code and telephone number. Two interesting points were revealed upon the completion of the listing: One, that there were at least 45 more names than were known before, and two, that over the years the listing showed a sharp decrease in the number of births - over a 100 percent drop over the last 17 year period.

The methodology used in compiling and making the listing was using existing mailing lists and referring to baptismal records and Church

and Armenian School records. The listing is arranged in chronological order. This allows for annual revisions, wherein the oldest group (thirty years of age) will be taken off the list and placed with the parish list, and new borns and families new to the area will be added. In this way, as the group of a given year become of age for Church School or ACYOA juniors, all the names of the given year are forwarded to the organization or individual in charge for recruitment and placement on the appropriate mailing lists. This is a simple and practical means of keeping up with the numbers of youth in the parish and trying to enroll them into the various programs offered.

With the permission of the Primate, this simple system will be introduced to other parishes that have no youth listing system (most do not) so that we may receive information as to the birth rate of Armenians nationwide, and to maintain national mailing lists for the dissemination of materials and information. This is very important if we are to plan programs and academic curriculum in the future.

The existing mailing list that is used by the ACYOA only has about 1500 names. Given the Diocesan mailing list, which has close to 30,000 names, we do not feel as though the ACYOA list is up to date. (If the average American family has 2.5 children; and of the 30,000 addresses half are contingent families, we should have at least 30,000 names of children, ages 1 to 25 ?! Perhaps not quite, but at least 10,000.) Although this project is not being given priority at the moment, some time is being spent on it with the intention of producing a master youth mailing list on a computer in the near future.

#### V. Central Council

The next scheduled meeting of the ACYOA Central Council will be on July 11th at Ss. Vartanantz Armenian Church in Chelmsford, MA. The Primate shall preside at the meeting. Reports will be presented on the on-going programs of the organization, as well as plans for the ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend. Proposals which have been received by the Council will be reviewed, as well as standing committee assignments. The various duties of the Council during the Assembly will also be discussed with the intention of conducting a fruitful Assembly.

Observation: Over the past year the Council has not shown a committed desire to fulfill its responsibilities. While understanding their volunteer status, one cannot forget that they are elected by a national body to represent and carry-on the programs and intentions of the national organization. At the Assembly, the Council will present their report - what exactly will be in it, aside from what the Executive Secretary's work, is a question. If the Council wants to seriously remain a part of the major decision making part of the organization, then it must make a good effort in fulfilling their obligations during the year.

One point made during the Midwest regional conference was that the chapters do not hear from their Council Representatives. One of the duties of every council member is to visit and maintain contact with

every chapter within their respective jurisdictions. During this past year, this has not happened. Little contact has been kept and the chapters are beginning to voice their disapproval. In an organization such as this, where we must try to keep every member we have, and try even harder to reach the many youths we don't have, we cannot afford any voices of disapproval. We hope that next year's council will fully taken on their role as elected officers and fulfill what is expected of them.

#### VII. ACYOA St. Vartan Camp


The ACYOA St. Vartan Camp continues to receive applications from all over the Diocese. In a meeting with Rev. Fr. Paree Metjian, Camp Director, and Nancy Basmajian, Program Director, it showed that this year's camp will have many more participants in a program that has had alot of thought and time put into it. The week long camp is filled with varied activities that take the campers from their waking hours to bed time. Balance between academics, worship, sports, competition, entertainment and social interaction has been meticulously scheduled to give the participants a well rounded week. We feel confident that when the campers go home this year, it will be our biggest promotion ever. Without going into the details, the daily routine is: 7a.m. wake up, worship, breakfast, religion class, sports instruction, lunch, rest hour, language and cultural classes, sports instruction, swimming, dinner, sports competition, evening program, discussion for older campers, half-hour free time, lights out. With a little more promotion and support on the part of the parishes, this camp could easily double in size next year. Some thought should be given to the possibility of sponsoring a camp for the Midwest Region. Regional camps would probably be the best setup for the camp program to fully reach all our youth. If they could be organized in the same way, with out much risk (as this camp is) then it should be seriously pursued.

#### VIII. General

Applications have been received for the Sam Nersesian Award and Scholarship. The Central Council will make a decision at their meeting on July 11th.

Annual report forms for the chapters have been sent. The reports, along with recommendations from Council members, determine the recipients of the Chapter "A" Award and Honourable Mention Award.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - August 1981

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Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

(Since the ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend have taken place previous to this writing, remarks on them shall be included.)

## I. Central Council

Preparation for the ACYOA General Assembly took up much of our time during this month. Many loose ends needed attention to fully prepare the necessary materials for the delegates.

The Minutes of the previous Assembly needed to be fully re-written as they were received in a most unacceptable condition as stated last month. A final copy was prepared and sent, along with the appendixes to all clergy and chapter chairmen. Although a copy was suppose to be sent to all delegates, proper addresses were not received for this to take place.

At the Assembly, one session is taken up with committee assignments for the delegates. The committees included: Armenian Studies Programs, Audio-visual Programming, Constitution, Proposals, Budget, Resolutions and Courtesies, and Goals. For each committee, discussion guidelines were prepared for use by the convener. The Committees were headed by a member of the Central Council and other designated persons.

As discussed at the July Central Council meeting, a special Audio-visual program was developed as a presentation to the delegates, as well as an example for the Audio-visual Programming Committee. The program focused on symbolism in the Church and its varied aspects. It was very well received, and used as an example of format.

Other preparations for the Assembly included finalizing the Report of the Central Council with the Council Chairman; reviewing the financial report; reviewing the proposed budget; meeting with the Nominating Committee and reviewing candidates for positions on Central Council, Nominating and Auditing Committees.



**Central Council**

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The Central Council was to prepare folders and needed materials for the delegates upon their registration for the Assembly. However, because the Council was not fully prepared, these materials were not ready upon registration and the opening of the Assembly was late by one hour. Although the Executive Secretary checked, double-checked and tried to ensure the Council's work and responsibilities were fulfilled, they nevertheless were somewhat negligent in their duties. Much of their work had to be done over, made more presentable or simply done for them. We may note that as we increase our bureaucratic system and become more entrenched in the paper work involved, the volunteers who make up the majority of our man-power simply cannot fulfill all aspects and requirements - even with a paid staff director.

We are planning to take steps from the very beginning this year to enable the Council Members to fully understand their roles and areas of responsibility.

II. 1981 ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 1981 General Assembly opened on September 2 with an Invocation Service lead by His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. 35 delegates were present (31 needed for a quorum).

The first session was high-lighted with an audio-visual slide program presented by the Executive Secretary. The program served to illustrate to the delegates and members of the Audio-visual Programming Committee the types of educational programs needed by our Churches and a way of developing them. It also served as fulfilling a needed educational aspect of the General Assembly itself.

Other sessions of the Assembly included Committee meetings, presentation of reports, the budget, proposals and elections.

(NOTE: For details and results of the Assembly, kindly refer to the brief forwarded to the Primate, or the minutes of the Assembly itself.)

Following the final session of the Assembly, the first meeting of the newly elected Central Council members took place along with the outgoing members. The Central Council for the upcoming year consists of:

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mark Kazanjian (Lawrence)        | Chairman                |
| Robert Borzakian (Boston)        | V. Chairman             |
| *Susan Mousigian (Detroit)       | Treasurer               |
| *Ralph Der Assadourian (Chicago) | Recording Secretary     |
| *Gary Hovhanessian (New Britain) | Corresponding Secretary |

(\* newly elected - two year term)

The meeting, which was presided over by the Primate, mainly dealt with the selection of the Chapter "A" Award recipient, Honourable Mention recipient, duties and responsibilities of the Council members, as well as regional assignments. The next meeting is tentatively planned for October.

The general atmosphere of the Assembly was one of quiet concern. While this Assembly lacked a large number of clergy representation, the delegates (who usually allow the clergy to voice their opinions) were concerned about their organization, its image and the Council members who they elected.

Two bids for next year's Assembly and Sports Weekend were presented; one by New Britain Connecticut, the other by Toronto, Canada.

✓ New Britain was selected as the host chapter for the 1982 Assembly.

Informal meetings and discussions took place with delegates and representatives from the various parishes of the Diocese. Many voiced their complaint on the lack of contact with their respective Council members. They also invited the Executive Secretary to visit their parishes to help motivate and stabilize their chapter members and operations. It is intended to visit those parishes which were not visited during this past year. If time and finances allow, we shall also visit others showing need.

This year's Assembly proposed very ~~few new ideas~~ of programs. We shall attempt to review and revitalize our current programs, making them more successful and more available to our chapters.

As a final note on the General Assembly; although it serves as a fine tool in preparing our youth for active participation in the life of our Church, from an operations point of view - ~~the Assembly does seem to waste alot of time (which is understandable in any participatory learning situation)~~ and money. The endless copies of reports and papers along with the costs involved with hotel accommodations and meeting rooms should seriously be reviewed in an attempt to channel this money in more responsible areas. It is very easy to become extravagant when preparing and hosting an Assembly. For example, the minutes of the Assembly proceedings can number in the hundreds of pages along with the various appendixes. Multiply by the number of delegates (about 50 in all, plus clergy and Chairmen) and include the postage involved with mailing this material, and it can easily cost much more than one might expect.

Over all, the Assembly illustrated a more motivated representation of ACYOA members than it did a year ago. The delegates were more involved and more responsible in their remarks and in voting. We anticipate a much more successful year ahead with more participation and a growing number of members - along with the revitalization of current inactive chapters. We are disappointed in the lack of clergy participation, however, we can only hope that they too will become more responsibly involved in the months ahead - as well as in the next General Assembly.

### III. National Sports Weekend

The hard work and long hours of meetings was certainly evident in the outcome of the 1982 National Sports Weekend. The combined efforts of the Chicago and Evanston ACYOA Chapters resulted in a very successful

and well attended National Sports Weekend. The problems with security and mis-behaviour experienced last year were solved with a responsible security team and a hotel facility more in tune with the needs of our young people at this large event. The layout and facilities of the hotel proved a major factor in the behaviour of our youth, as well as in serving the needs of the weekend events.

The weekend followed the standard itinerary of events and was well organized by the Sports Weekend Committee. The only noticeable problem came in the officiating of the volleyball competition, wherein a non-professional referee was used. An addition to this year's sports agenda was soccer competition which as well received.

Although the costs of the evening events (banquets and dances) were quite high (\$35.00 per person for Sunday evening Awards banquet and dance) the over all atmosphere proved that everyone enjoyed themselves and felt the weekend was well done. As prices continue to increase, we may have to reconsider this format for the Sports Weekend - many youths simply cannot afford to attend.

Meetings and communications between the Executive Secretary and the National Sports Weekend Committee proved needed and showed very positive and successful results. We intend to work closely with the New Britain ACYOA Chapter on next year's Sports Weekend to improve and provide a fine weekend of athletic competition and social events. This opportunity for our youth to come together from all over the Diocese is a needed and necessary part of our over all youth program.

IV. General


Reports from the Directors of the ACYOA St. Vartan Camp, and the Educational Tour to Armenia have been received. They are not quite as comprehensive as was requested, however, they shall be useful in planning next year's programs. We are waiting for the report on the Jerusalem - "The Holy City" program.

Discussion at the General Assembly included the consideration of sponsoring a Camp program in the Midwest Region. A committee has been appointed to investigate this possibility for next summer.

ACYOA "Today" pamphlets have been mailed out to all parishes in the Diocese - more pamphlets are available upon request.

Consideration is being given to producing a monthly or bi-monthly communique for all Chapter Executive Committee Chairmen and clergy dealing with upcoming events, deadlines, news, and thought provoking ideas and concerns. The intent is to increase communications and dissemination of information to our chapters from the Executive Secretary and Central Council.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary - ACYOA



# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - August 1981

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Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

(Since the ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend have taken place previous to this writing, remarks on them shall be included.)

## I. Central Council

Preparation for the ACYOA General Assembly took up much of our time during this month. Many loose ends needed attention to fully prepare the necessary materials for the delegates.

The Minutes of the previous Assembly needed to be fully re-written as they were received in a most unacceptable condition as stated last month. A final copy was prepared and sent, along with the appendixes to all clergy and chapter chairmen. Although a copy was suppose to be sent to all delegates, proper addresses were not received for this to take place.

At the Assembly, one session is taken up with committee assignments for the delegates. The committees included: Armenian Studies Programs, Audio-visual Programming, Constitution, Proposals, Budget, Resolutions and Courtesies, and Goals. For each committee, discussion guidelines were prepared for use by the convener. The Committees were headed by a member of the Central Council and other designated persons.

As discussed at the July Central Council meeting, a special Audio-visual program was developed as a presentation to the delegates, as well as an example for the Audio-visual Programming Committee. The program focused on symbolism in the Church and its varied aspects. It was very well received, and used as an example of format.

Other preparations for the Assembly included finalizing the Report of the Central Council with the Council Chairman; reviewing the financial report; reviewing the proposed budget; meeting with the Nominating Committee and reviewing candidates for positions on Central Council, Nominating and Auditing Committees.



**Central Council**

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

The Central Council was to prepare folders and needed materials for the delegates upon their registration for the Assembly. However, because the Council was not fully prepared, these materials were not ready upon registration and the opening of the Assembly was late by one hour. Although the Executive Secretary checked, double-checked and tried to ensure the Council's work and responsibilities were fulfilled, they nevertheless were somewhat negligent in their duties. Much of their work had to be done over, made more presentable or simply done for them. We may note that as we increase our bureaucratic system and become more entrenched in the paper work involved, the volunteers who make up the majority of our man-power simply cannot fulfill all aspects and requirements - even with a paid staff director.

We are planning to take steps from the very beginning this year to enable the Council Members to fully understand their roles and areas of responsibility.

II. 1981 ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 1981 General Assembly opened on September 2 with an Invocation Service lead by His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. 35 delegates were present (31 needed for a quorum).

The first session was high-lighted with an audio-visual slide program presented by the Executive Secretary. The program served to illustrate to the delegates and members of the Audio-visual Programming Committee the types of educational programs needed by our Churches and a way of developing them. It also served as fulfilling a needed educational aspect of the General Assembly itself.

Other sessions of the Assembly included Committee meetings, presentation of reports, the budget, proposals and elections.

(NOTE: For details and results of the Assembly, kindly refer to the brief forwarded to the Primate, or the minutes of the Assembly itself.)

Following the final session of the Assembly, the first meeting of the newly elected Central Council members took place along with the outgoing members. The Central Council for the upcoming year consists of:

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mark Kazanjian (Lawrence)        | Chairman                |
| Robert Borzakian (Boston)        | V. Chairman             |
| *Susan Mousigian (Detroit)       | Treasurer               |
| *Ralph Der Assadourian (Chicago) | Recording Secretary     |
| *Gary Hovhanessian (New Britain) | Corresponding Secretary |

(\* newly elected - two year term)

The meeting, which was presided over by the Primate, mainly dealt with the selection of the Chapter "A" Award recipient, Honourable Mention recipient, duties and responsibilities of the Council members, as well as regional assignments. The next meeting is tentatively planned for October.

The general atmosphere of the Assembly was one of quiet concern. While this Assembly lacked a large number of clergy representation, the delegates (who usually allow the clergy to voice their opinions) were concerned about their organization, its image and the Council members who they elected.

Two bids for next year's Assembly and Sports Weekend were presented; one by New Britain Connecticut, the other by Toronto, Canada.

✓ New Britain was selected as the host chapter for the 1982 Assembly.

Informal meetings and discussions took place with delegates and representatives from the various parishes of the Diocese. Many voiced their complaint on the lack of contact with their respective Council members. They also invited the Executive Secretary to visit their parishes to help motivate and stabilize their chapter members and operations. It is intended to visit those parishes which were not visited during this past year. If time and finances allow, we shall also visit others showing need.

This year's Assembly proposed ~~very few new ideas or programs~~. We shall attempt to review and revitalize our current programs, making them more successful and more available to our chapters.

As a final note on the General Assembly; although it serves as a fine tool in preparing our youth for active participation in the life of our Church, from an operations point of view - ~~the Assembly does seem to waste a lot of time (which is understandable in any participatory learning situation) and money~~. The endless copies of reports and papers along with the costs involved with hotel accommodations and meeting rooms should seriously be reviewed in an attempt to channel this money in more responsible areas. It is very easy to become extravagant when preparing and hosting an Assembly. For example, the minutes of the Assembly proceedings can number in the hundreds of pages along with the various appendixes. Multiply by the number of delegates (about 50 in all, plus clergy and Chairmen) and include the postage involved with mailing this material, and it can easily cost much more than one might expect.

Over all, the Assembly illustrated a more motivated representation of ACYOA members than it did a year ago. The delegates were more involved and more responsible in their remarks and in voting. We anticipate a much more successful year ahead with more participation and a growing number of members - along with the revitalization of current inactive chapters. We are disappointed in the lack of clergy participation, however, we can only hope that they too will become more responsibly involved in the months ahead - as well as in the next General Assembly.

### III. National Sports Weekend

The hard work and long hours of meetings was certainly evident in the outcome of the 1982 National Sports Weekend. The combined efforts of the Chicago and Evanston ACYOA Chapters resulted in a very successful

and well attended National Sports Weekend. The problems with security and mis-behaviour experienced last year were solved with a responsible security team and a hotel facility more in tune with the needs of our young people at this large event. The layout and facilities of the hotel proved a major factor in the behaviour of our youth, as well as in serving the needs of the weekend events.

The weekend followed the standard itinerary of events and was well organized by the Sports Weekend Committee. The only noticeable problem came in the officiating of the volleyball competition, wherein a non-professional referee was used. An addition to this year's sports agenda was soccer competition which was well received.

Although the costs of the evening events (banquets and dances) were quite high (\$35.00 per person for Sunday evening Awards banquet and dance) the over all atmosphere proved that everyone enjoyed themselves and felt the weekend was well done. As prices continue to increase, we may have to reconsider this format for the Sports Weekend - many youths simply cannot afford to attend.

Meetings and communications between the Executive Secretary and the National Sports Weekend Committee proved needed and showed very positive and successful results. We intend to work closely with the New Britain ACYOA Chapter on next year's Sports Weekend to improve and provide a fine weekend of athletic competition and social events. This opportunity for our youth to come together from all over the Diocese is a needed and necessary part of our over all youth program.

#### IV. General

Reports from the Directors of the ACYOA St. Vartan Camp, and the Educational Tour to Armenia have been received. They are not quite as comprehensive as was requested, however, they shall be useful in planning next year's programs. We are waiting for the report on the Jerusalem - "The Holy City" program.

Discussion at the General Assembly included the consideration of sponsoring a Camp program in the Midwest Region. A committee has been appointed to investigate this possibility for next summer.

ACYOA "Today" pamphlets have been mailed out to all parishes in the Diocese - more pamphlets are available upon request.

Consideration is being given to producing a monthly or bi-monthly communique for all Chapter Executive Committee Chairmen and clergy dealing with upcoming events, deadlines, news, and thought provoking ideas and concerns. The intent is to increase communications and dissemination of information to our chapters from the Executive Secretary and Central Council.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary - ACYOA

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT -- October 1981

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Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Visitations and Meetings

Arranging for parish visitations continues, but convenient dates for meetings with pastors and youth slows the process. Due to budgetary cutbacks, the number of long-distance visitations have had to be cut down. One of the major problems stems from the college age youth being away from the parish community while attending college. We are trying to arrange some meetings to coincide with holiday weekends, or semester breaks, thereby allowing for the most convenient time for all to attend the gathering.

Meetings took place this past month several times (about once per week) with the Chairman of the Central Council. We have been spending time setting up procedures and preparing mailings to the Chapters in anticipation of future visitations by Council members, as well as the Executive Secretary.

Attached are some of the materials that have been sent to the Council members, as well as some to the Chapters.

Meetings were also held with the Primate and Diocesan Executive Director, discussing programs and various procedures. Presently we have more programs in development as well as in execution than at any other time in the last six years. We anticipate reaching more youth within the next two years with our programs and publications.

## II. Programs

The following list of programs represents what the ACYOA offers its membership in terms of opportunity to participate and receive educational, cultural, religious and social experience within the context



Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

of the Armenian Church parish and community.

NATIONAL PARTICIPATION:

- 1) Armenian Studies Programs:
  - a- Educational Tour to Armenia
  - b- "Journey" to Armenia
  - c- Jerusalem - "The Holy City"
- 2) ACYOA Camp Program:
  - a- ACYOA St. Vartan Camp
  - b- (regional camp programs in development)
- 3) Chairman's Roundtable Seminar
- 4) Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament
- 5) Scholarship Program:
  - a- Sam Nersesian Scholarship
  - b- (others in development)
- 6) Awards Program
  - a- Sam Nersesian Award
  - b- Chapter "A" Award
  - c- Chapter Honorable Mention
  - d- Archbishop's Essay Award
- 7) National Sports Weekend

REGIONAL PARTICIPATION:

- 1) Retreats
- 2) Anniversary Balls
- 3) Regional Conferences
- 4) Regional Athletics

LOCAL PARTICIPATION:

- 1) Martyr's Day Commemoration
- 2) Parish Mission Programs:
  - a- East
  - b- West
- 3) ACYOA Day Celebrations
- 4) Lecture-Discussion Programs (in development)

(See attachments for a breakdown on the above programs.)

III. General

The records and files of the ACYOA are kept in the Diocese. These include almost all aspects of the Organization since its beginning in 1946. There are some years that present gaps in the records due to organizational problems and dysfunction.

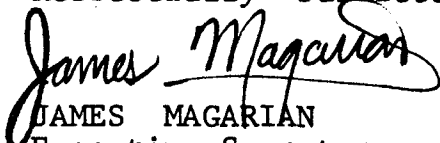
The files and records are presently in fair shape, after a complete review. However, there remains a great deal of proper filing and organization to the records that is in need at the present. We intend to slowly go through the entire file and properly organize them, enabling easy reference and addition when necessary.

We hope to prepare an exhibit of ACYOA materials "Through the Years" for display at the Diocesan Assembly in 1982.

By December, appointments to the programs of the ACYOA in need of leaders and directors shall have been made. Appointments are made by the Primate, based on input from the Executive Secretary and Central Council, as well as other variables.

The first ACYOA Central Council meeting shall take place on December 5th at the Diocese. A formal meeting has not yet taken place, as we did not feel the need to meet and expend the money necessary to bring together the five-member council from all over the Diocese. Contact has been constant with the Council members, with various materials and directive sent out enabling them to begin their work as Regional Representatives. Their primary concern at present is to visit their respective parishes and chapters, understanding their needs, and giving support and direction. The new Council is very enthusiastic to progress beyond past years and allow the ACYOA to develop along the lines it should. We hope to re-activate many chapters that have become inactive, and establish new chapters where there have never been chapters before.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

(attachments)

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - December 1981

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Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Programs:

- 1) Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament -  
To be held this year in the New York City area with the primary focus on the Diocesan Centre and Cathedral. This tournament is held in New York City every other year, with the odd year being held in a region other than the National Sports Weekend.  
The Westchester ACYOA Chapter may assist the ACYOA Central Council in producing the tournament. Most probable dates are April 16,17,18. The tournament is open to all parishes of the Diocese. There may be 8 to 12 men's and women's teams participating. Games are played all day on Saturday, with a dance and/or awards banquet in the evening. On Sunday all participants attend Divine Liturgy and are offered a farewell brunch.
- 2) ACYOA Camp Program - St. Vartan Camp -  
Rev. Fr. Parea Metjian will remain as Administrative Director of the ACYOA St. Vartan Camp for the 1982 session. A Program Director is yet to be appointed. Some publicity has begun for the Camp Program this year. A new brochure is currently being prepared, as well as volunteers sought. The possibility of other regional Camp Programs continues to be investigated, but is doubtful for the 1982 year.
- 3) Armenian Studies Programs (ASP) -  
The two new ASP programs introduced last year will again be offered. The three programs, although similar in format, present a well-rounded theme in providing an opportunity for American-Armenian youth to experience first hand their faith and heritage.  
Group Leaders for the three programs have not yet been appointed for the 1982 edition of the ASP. Some publicity has been done for this program which is one of the most successful and growing parts of the ACYOA.



Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710



- 4) Archbishop's Awards and Essay Contest -  
New this year, the Essay Contest has begun with information and publicity sent to all parishes, chapters and the Armenian press. The Archbishop's Awards are presented to the winners of the Essay Contest which shall run from January 1st to May 30th. The Contest is offered in both the Armenian and English languages and shall have three winners in each of the two language categories. Winners shall receive awards and certificates, with the 1st place winners published in the ACYOA Keghard.  
This program marks the beginning of offering "other than athletic" programs for the youth of our Diocese. Our goal is to offer and provide the opportunity for all youth to participate in the ACYOA - with all their diversified interests.
- 5) Regional ACYOA Conferences -  
The Midwest Region held a very successful Conference during the Thanksgiving Weekend. Many chapters participated from the Midwest Region in the discussions, program updates and educational presentation.  
The purpose of the Regional Conferences is to promote inter-chapter activities, share successful and problematic situations, discuss new programs, review past experiences, and participate in the offered educational program. All Regional Conferences now include some type of educational program. The New England Region is planning a Conference in February, while the Midatlantic Region shall have a northern and southern Conference. In these less active regions, the emphasis will be on re-activating regional programs, as well as the inactive chapters within the region itself.
- 6) Chairman's Roundtable Seminar -  
Once again the ACYOA Chairman's Roundtable Seminar will take place at the site of the Annual Diocesan Assembly (New Britain, CT). The purpose of the Seminar is for the Chairman (and other leaders of ACYOA Chapters) to gather and discuss problems and their solutions. Professional administrators, educators and professors are invited to address the ACYOA Leaders and lead discussions. Group dynamics, organizational methodologies, techniques of running meetings, etc., etc., are all part of this program.

## II. ACYOA Central Council

On December 4, 5, & 6 the ACYOA Central Council met with the Primate and Executive Secretary at the Diocesan Center in New York City. Also present was the Executive Director of the Diocese.

The Council began its meetings on Friday evening, according to established schedules for Council Meetings. This time was spent informally discussing procedures, presenting information, examining records and papers, as well as explaining the uses of the many administrative forms of the Organization. This session proved

very helpful in clearing up misunderstanding and misconceptions in dealing with the many responsibilities of the Council members.

On Saturday, the Council was address by the Executive Director of the Diocese on various points of the Organization and on future programs and procedures. The bulk of the business was formally handled during the Saturday session which took in the 25 item agenda in 12 hours. The sessions went very well with a good rapport established between the old and new Council members.

Some of the major items addressed were:

- financial securities and stocks;  
to maintain the highest yield and keep track of trends.
- 1981 ASP Report and unfinished business;  
to present a gift to the Patriarch of Jerusalem for the hospitality and generosity of His Beatitude.
- Report on the 1981 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend, as well as receive an update on the 1982 edition.
- Archbishop Awards and Essay Contest;  
review of procedures, rules and awards.
- ACYOA Camp Program - Guideline for Appointed Directors;  
review and amend - begin implementation.
- membership cards, promotional posters, chapter banners.
- National Armenian Youth listing.
- Audio-Visual Educational Programs and Publications;  
to continue development and pursue reprinting of "Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church."
- Revised printing of the ACYOA Constitution.
- Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Tournament;  
host, location, dates.
- update on ACYOA Parish Mission Programs.
- logo for the 1982 National Sports Weekend.
- fund raising - magazine subscription offer.
- Midwest Regional ACYOA Camp Program;  
received report of the appointed committee to investigate on the possibility of an ACYOA Midwest Camp Program.
- National Sports Weekend Rules and Regulation;  
reviewed area in need of clarification.
- promotion of Camp Program as directed by General Assemblby.

The Primate addressed the Council encouraging them to be responsible and diligent in their work. Informal discussion on procedures for parish visitations was also brought in and discussed with His Eminence.

On Sunday, the entire Council attended Divine Liturgy and closed out their business soon after. It was a very encouraging weekend meeting with many goals set with desires for an accomplish-filled year ahead.

(NOTE: For more information on the abovementioned items, the minutes of the meeting shall be on file at the Diocese.)

### III. Meetings

A meeting was held with Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian regarding the ACYOA Chapter of Worcester, MA. The Worcester ACYOA Chapter experienced some communication and organizational problems during the past 6-8 months, but now seem to be coming together as a "bona fide" group. A visitation is planned there in February. Also discussed with Fr. Garabed was his participation in the Audio-Visual Educational Programs. He expressed his pleasure in participating in such a worthwhile project and that he has some materials that may be utilized.

A meeting was held with V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian regarding the revision of the book, "Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church." Fr. Haigazoun is enthused about working on this project. The need for the availability of the book is without debate. Fr. Haigazoun shall revise and rewrite some of the sections, as well as add other pieces of information not presently included. We hope to have the book ready for a review by the Primate by May, and ready to print by June.

Meetings were also held with Council Members in the New England area to discuss various items and projects. There remains some transitional materials not yet received from former Council members.

A Keghard meeting was held for the new staff with the Executive Secretary. Unfortunately a snow storm prevent several staff members from attending. However, the new coordinator and those present seriously discussed the quarterly publication and the best means of distributing the work necessary for its production. An up to date membership listing (to whom the Keghard is mailed) along with past subscribers is currently being checked to be ready for immediate mailing when the first issue is printed.

"Executive Update", a periodical sent to all pastors and chapter chairmen by the Executive Secretary has had two printing thus far and remains an important part of our communications with the Chapters. Sent every 4 to 6 weeks, it contains reminders, informations, deadlines, suggestions and news about the ACYOA on the national level. Once the BEMA begins normal production, much of this information shall be place therein.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - November 1981

Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Central Council

Meetings with Central Council members from the New England area have taken place to discuss a variety of items and ideas. Meetings with the Council Chairman take place almost once a week to map out our work and exchange ideas and thoughts for new programs, as well as up date current ones.

A meeting was held with the Vice Chairman, who is assigned to the N.E. Region, to discuss the New England parishes. At this time very few chapters are operating efficiently in the New England Region. We are attempting to place a great deal of effort in bringing the existing chapters back up to strength, as well as re-establish those chapters which have become inactive.

A meeting was also held with the Corresponding Secretary, who is assigned the Mid-Atlantic Region. This region is also in need of an effort to re-junvenate and re-establish ACYOA Chapters. Of the 15 parishes in this region, only 2 or 3 have senior ACYOA Chapters operating with any regularity. This region shall also be the focus of attention during this year.

This month, a "conference call" took place between the Executive Secretary and the entire Council. This provided a chance for all Council members to discuss problems and concerns, as well as finalize the last section of the 1981 ACYOA General Assembly Minutes. The Minutes shall be prepared very soon and mailed to all Pastors and attending delegates, as well as all Chapter Chairmen. This is the first year that the Minutes of the Assembly have been prepared within the allowable time limit as stated in the ACYOA Constitution. We hope this trend will continue.

The December 5th meeting of the Council shall take place at the Diocese



Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

in New York City, and shall take up most of the weekend.

## II. 1982 ACYOA National Sports Weekend - New Britain ACYOA

A special meeting between the 1982 ACYOA National Sports Weekend Committee and the Executive Secretary took place in New Britain, Connecticut at the Holy Resurrection Armenian Church.

The Chairman of the Weekend Committee is Gary Hovhanessian. He is working very hard in putting together a solid committee, as well as handle many responsibilities himself. He is also a new member of the ACYOA Central Council.

Discussion included the hotel and athletic facilities, a complete run-down of the weekend schedule, publicity methods, areas of concern, logo, problems with past Weekends and ways to improve, as well as a number of other items.

The Committee is very enthusiastic and more than willing to place the extra effort and time needed to produce a well organized and executed weekend. The Executive Secretary intends to maintain very close contact with the Sports Weekend Committee to avoid any some of the usual problems that seem to occur every year.

Although the Weekend is sponsored by the New Britain ACYOA Chapter, the events shall take place at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Hartford. Athletic events shall take place within 10 minutes of the hotel.

The next meeting between the Sports Weekend Committee and the Executive Secretary shall take place in January.

## III. Regional Parish Meetings

During November two Regional Parish Meetings took place, at which the Executive Secretary presented programs and updates about the ACYOA Senior Division.

The New York area parishes met at Holy Martyrs Armenian Church, while the New Jersey area parishes met at St. Thomas Armeian Church.

Promotion was given to various programs of the ACYOA, as well as points made about the need and value of the ACYOA chapter within a given parish. Importance was placed on opportunity and participation on the part of the youth in the Church.

While at the Regional Meetings, the Executive Secretary met with various representatives of the parishes, including pastors, discussing problems within the parish concerning organizing the senior (post high school) age youth. As mentioned earlier, the Mid-Atlantic (N.Y.-N.J.) Region is of primary concern due to the number of chapters versus the number of parishes (and therefore potential chapters).

#### IV. Audio-Visual and Publications

Progress is slowly being made in the new program of Audio-Visual programming. Slide-tape presentations on available topics are currently pursued. Because of our present limited budget in this area, we are focusing our efforts on those programs that will be the least financial cost to us. In the future, when funds are more available, and perhaps benefactors are solicited, more extensive programs requiring research and time will be pursued as well.

Keghard continues to remain in a transition state. Locating qualified volunteers to write, layout, and produce the quarterly is difficult and time consuming. However, a small core is currently taking on the many responsibilities, and the next issue should be prepared by the middle of January. Of concern is updating our mailing lists and properly disseminating the publication. A new committee is to be formed to handle this one, major, task.

Reprinting of Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church continues as the V. Rev. Haigazoun Melkonian has been appointed to make the initial review of the small, but very valuable, booklet. A meeting shall take place very soon between Father Haigazoun and the Executive Secretary to discuss the booklet's revision. Any and all revisions shall be approved by the Primate. The booklet shall be reprinted under the name of "St. Vartan Press", as is all the publications of the Diocese.

The Executive Secretary has commenced with the periodic "newsletter" for pastors and chairmen of the Diocese and ACYOA. Entitled Executive Update, it shall be sent out every 6 to 8 weeks with information on ACYOA programs, events, activities, deadlines and ideas. It shall consist of 2 to 4 pages, and complement reminders and contacts made by the Executive Secretary and Central Council Members with the chapters.

All pamphlets of the ACYOA that were printed in August have been sent out to parishes, members and interested persons. We are considering reprinting the pamphlet to always have them on hand and displayed. the pamphlet explained the purpose of the Organization and the programs that are currently offered.

#### V. Parish Visitations

Attempts at visiting the many parishes of the Diocese meet with many obstacles. Money in the allotted budget for the expenses of the Executive Secretary is a problem, but not as difficult to deal with as cooperation and positive attitudes on the part of parish officials.

Contacts with pastors and parish council chairmen often result in an attitude of "it is very difficult to organize our youth in this parish." "They are all away at school. They aren't interested. etc. etc., or I'll get back to you soon."

We need a more positive spirit if we are to have a successful youth program in our Diocese. Everyone involved must make the necessary effort to bring together our youth and make available our programs, and thus enable their participation.

The Executive Secretary and all Central Council Members are preparing to visit parish - both those with chapters, as well as those without. We intend to meet with whatever youth are available and attempt to establish some semblance of an organization. Our goal in 1982 is to have 32 organized ACYOA chapters by the convening of our General Assembly in Hartford.

We can understand the frustration of our parish leaders. They have gone through all this before with the last generation of young adults. But what about the new generation? Those who are just coming up. They need attention and direction, and most of all opportunity.

#### VI. ACYOA Camp Program

A meeting was held between the Executive Secretary to the ACYOA Senior Division, and the ACYOA Junior Division Director. Discussion mainly dealt with the operation of the past camp session, as well as next year's program.

Later, a meeting was held with Haig and Maryann Dikranian - operators of the athletic camp, and athletic program of the ACYOA Camp. Problems with the past camp session were discussed and new approaches to be made.

The next camp most probably will run two weeks, with a focus on the 8 to 13 year olds. Rev. Fr. Patee Metjian serves as Administrative Director. A Director for the Program (content and execution) has yet to be appointed.


The possibility of a Camp program in the Mid-West Region continues to be explored. More information on this will be coming after the first of the year.

#### VII. General

As usual, meetings took place at the Diocese with the Primate and the Executive Director dealing with a wide range of aspects regarding the ACYOA. Reports were given and information exchanged.

Work continues on the records and files of the ACYOA at the Diocese, as well as compiling information for the Chapter Handbook.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

24 November 81

NANCY BASMAJIAN  
Director - ACYOA Junior Division  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
828 Brighton Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19111

Dear Nancy,

It was nice to see you again at the Diocese and at the Regional Conference of New Jersey Parishes. I am sorry that I was so late in getting to the Diocese from New England. I wished that we had the chance to leisurely discuss our mutual concerns, ideas and problematic situations. Let's try to schedule some time in the very near future.

Enclosed is a letter for your reference to Fr. Patee Metjian regarding some of our concerns. As I had mentioned, we shall be discussing the director's guidelines at our next Central Council meeting. I shall make the changes concerning recruitment of personnel for the camp.

Concerning the ACYOA Audio-Visual Program, and the DRE assisting in development, I should like to discuss this further. The primary purpose of the AV program is two-fold: 1- to actually produce programs about the Armenian Church and culture for use by ACYOA Chapters, parishes, Armenian organizations and the Armenian and non-Armenian community at large, 2- to allow Armenian youth a chance to participate in the development and production of the programs, utilizing their skills and resources. This program presents the opportunity for young people to actually be involved in the development of a program, as well as expose them to a process that they may consider in the future as a professional career.

I shall look forward to your correspondence regarding this and the role the DRE would like to play.

I shall be soon contacting Fr. Yeprem Kelegian regarding the directorship of the ACYOA Camp Program (educational). I'll inform you of his disposition.

Take good care of yourself, and keep up your good work. You may not realize what you're accomplishing, but it is noticed and appreciated. See you soon.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary



24 November 81

LEE ABRAHAMIAN  
35 West 65th Street  
N.Y.C., N.Y. 10023

Dear Lee,

We missed each other again. I really wanted to meet with you and discuss the ACYOA Audio-Visual Programs. I think you have a lot to offer in developing a "master plan" for producing programs and developing a complete schemata.

Enclosed are some scripts, so-called, that might give you an idea of the types of programs that are needed by the Church. I have also included a list of possible subjects that were brought up at the ACYOA General Assembly in Chicago this year. The committee determined that this program is necessary and may serve the dual purpose of allowing members to participate in producing such programs, as well as provide the actual programs for the use by ACYOA Chapters, parishes and the Armenian and non-Armenian community at large.

I do hope your schedule allows you to assist me in developing this program. I really need your input and professional perspective.

Review the enclosed at your convenience and please inform me of the type of commitment you are able to make to such a project. You have a lot to offer, and we might have a lot of fun doing this work together.

I shall be in N.Y.C. December 4,5,6 for a Central Council meeting at the Diocese. The next time will be in January. Let's not miss each other again!

Take good care and stay well. I wish you a joyous holiday season with time to rest from your busy schedule and enjoy this time of the year.

Yours sincerely,

JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary

24 November 81

THERESA ONDRIZEK  
Sales Representative  
Hotel Tudor  
304 East 42nd Street  
N.Y.C., N.Y. 10017

Dear Theresa Ondrizek,

This is to confirm our reservations for the dates of December 4 & 5, 1981: 1 single and 1 quin. (5 plus one).- all twin beds please. If the twins are not available, please make other arrangements.

I shall be arriving in the afternoon to check in. The other members are expected after 5 p.m. - we have a meeting at the Diocesan Center in the evening, which may run late, therefore I shall make the arrangements ahead of time.

I appreciate your cooperation and look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary.

24 November 81

FRANK STONESON  
Executive Director  
Diocese of the Armenian Church  
630 Second Avenue  
N.Y.C., N.Y. 10016

Dear Mr. Stoneson,

The following schedule shall be followed by us during the weekend of December 4-6, 1981 at the Diocese for the ACYOA Central Council Meeting.

Briday	8 p.m.	Arrival and informal meeting/discussion. Diocese - Gulbenkian Room
Saturday	9 a.m.	General ACYOA Central Council Meeting. (see agenda)
	1 p.m.	Lunch. (1)
	2:30 p.m.	Meeting resumes.
	6 p.m.	Dinner (2)
	7:30 p.m.	Meeting resumes.
Sunday	10 a.m.	Divine Liturgy.
	12:15 p.m.	Lunch. (3)
	1:15 p.m.	Meeting resumes (if necessary).

We shall attempt to conclude our meeting Saturday evening, however we are leaving Sunday afternoon open to conclude our business. Dinner on Saturday evening may not be at 6 p.m., depending on where we are in the agenda - we may finish and adjourn before dinner.

I suggest that two of the three meals be held in the Diocese. The third should allow the Council members a chance to go out and get a change of air. Kindly inform me of your intentions. You may present a bill for any charges to the Council Treasurer during the weekend.

I plan to arrive sometime Friday afternoon, so long as I don't travel with our favorite fund-raiser!

Sincerely,

JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary

13 November 81

GAIL M. TASHJIAN  
14223 Turtle Rock  
San Antonio Texas 78232

Dear Gail,

Please pardon the long delay since you last wrote to me way back in the month of August! I have had your note on my desk (it mentioned reference to Holly Coffee...) and have meant to write to you - but so many things came up that your note just kept getting buried.

In any case, I do hope you are well and enjoying college. Your reference to Holly did not mention if you had mentioned anything about ACYOA or receiving correspondence from me to her. Will she be responsive and willing to try to start some small activities?

I realize the small numbers of Armenian youth in the San Antonio area. But if you and a couple others are able to do just a little, it will really go a long way in keeping our fellow Armenians closer to each other, as well as get to know one another better.

Please let me know who I should address our general mailing to, and do try to schedule some time to devote to our Armenian faith and heritage, including the Armenian youth whom we are most concerned about.

Take good care of yourself - I look forward to hearing from you.\*

Sincerely yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN  
~~EXECUTIVE~~ Secre  
ACYOA

\* Please don't be like me and take too long to answer. Are you, or anyone else in your area, interested in going on a trip to Armenia or Jerusalem next summer?!

13 November 81

SHARON VARTANIAN  
145 Woodland  
Cromwell, CT 06416

Chairman - New Britain ACYOA Chapter  
Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection

Dear Sharon,

It was again a pleasure to visit your parish and members of the New Britain ACYOA National Sports Weekend Committee. It is evident that all of you are more than excited and willing to host a most memorable and fun-filled weekend.

In the future, correspondence and information shall be forwarded to the General Assembly/Sports Weekend Chairman - Gary Hovhanessian regarding the weekend event. The choice of Gary as General Chairman was a good one. We are confident that he will work hard and keep everyone primed to do their work as well.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future regarding a general Chapter Visitation. As we had discussed, it would be good to combine the Visitation with the next Sports Weekend Committee meeting with the Executive Secretary, some time in late January.

We'll be in touch. Take good care of yourself and keep up the good work!

Sincerely yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

6 November 81

REV. FATHER ARNAK KASPARIAN  
Pastor - St. Thomas Armenian Church  
P.O.B. 53  
Tenafly, N.J. 07670

Rev. Fr. Arnak:

As you know, one of the many responsibilities of the Executive Secretary to the ACYOA is to visit the parishes of the Diocese in an effort to strengthen existing ACYOA Chapters and establish new ones.

We have noticed that St. Thomas has an active youth group, but it mainly involves Junior ACYOA youth (high school age). We are very interested in trying to establish a Senior Chapter at St. Thomas and would like to meet with you, and your youth, for such purposes.

To this end, we shall contact you by telephone to arrange an appropriate date and time.

The New York-New Jersey area is presently experiencing difficulties in organizing the senior age (post high school) youth population. We are confident that in some of the parishes the senior youth can be organized and re-organized. With the help of priests such as yourself, as well as interested and dedicated youth workers, we can realize the greatest potential in your area.

We look forward to speaking with you, and especially in exchanging ideas and experiences regarding youth and their involvement in the Church.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

6 November 81

REV. FATHER CARNIG HALLAJIAN  
Pastor - Holy Cross Armenian Church  
318 27th Street  
Union City, N.J. 07010

Rev. Fr. Carnig:

As you know, one of the many responsibilities of the Executive Secretary to the ACFOA is to visit the parishes of the Diocese in an effort to strengthen existing ACYOA Chapters and establish new ones.

We would like to visit your parish in the near future to establish a senior age (post high school) ACFOA Chapter. We would like to meet with you to discuss the unique factors about the Holy Cross parish, and thereby adjust our organizational procedures accordingly.

To this end, we shall contact you by telephone to arrange an appropriate date and time.

We understand that Holy Cross has a Junior ACYOA Chapter. It is very important, therefore, that these junior age youth have a senior chapter to grow into - especially if we expect them to remain loyal to their parish and continue to serve their Church.

We look forward to speaking with you and visiting your parish.

Respectfully yours,

JAMES MAGARRAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

5 November 81

FRANK STONESON  
Executive Director  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
N.Y.C., N.Y. 10016

Dear Mr. Stoneson,

Enclosed is the Monthly Report of the Executive Secretary to the ACYOA. I trust you will find it in good order.

I am planning to be at the Diocese on Tuesday, November 17, and plan to meet with Nancy Basmajian and Haik Dikranian (athletics at St. Vartan Camp) concerning the program of the St. Vartan Camp. I shall remain in New York for the Regional Parish meetings. Perhaps we might meet to discuss any outstanding items.

Concerning Rev. Fr. Parea, I shall postpone my letter to him regarding proper procedures of an appointed ACYOA Program Director until after the Regional Meeting of the New Jersey Parishes.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES MAGARAIN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA



# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - January 1982

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Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. ACYOA Central Council

As we come closer to the dates of our Programs for 1982, meetings between the Executive Secretary and ACYOA Central Council Members increase, especially with the Council Chairman.

During the past month, the Executive Secretary and Council Chairman met on 5 different occasions dealing with a variety of concerns ranging from upcoming programs to individual chapter problems.

This year, the ACYOA Central Council is the host for the Annual Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament. This increases the responsibilities of the Council, and in turn, the Executive Secretary. (More on the Tournament can be found under "Programs".)

We have endeavored to revive Regional Conferences in the New England and Mid-Atlantic areas. Much planning and preparation was done in anticipation of the conferences scheduled for February 6 - involving the New York and New Jersey area parishes, as well as for February 14 - involving the New England parishes. A third Conference is currently planning for March 20th - involving the Philadelphia parishes, Richmond and Washington, DC. The conferences shall take place at the following sites respectively: Fair Lawn, N.J., Worcester, MA, and Washington, DC.

We have prepared agendas, program handouts, and discussion guides for "committee" sessions, wherein problems and observations are presented with corresponding questions for discussion and exchange of ideas. In each region, different problems exist, and the intent of the Conference is to deal with the problems, consider current and new programs, as well as promote the on-going activities of the ACYOA.

Also discussed with the Council Chairman were visitations done by other Council Members. It appears that time, unusual situations, and convenience has hampered the intent to visit all parishes by this time.

The Council Chairman has been informed that he should pursue this



Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

#### IV. Visitations and Trips

Meetings were held with the Executive Director of the Diocese during a 4 day visit in New York City. Discussed were various aspects of youth programming, progress over the last year and considerations for the future.

A special inter-departmental meeting was held whereat the various Diocesan Department heads met and exchanged experiences, ideas, situations and goals related with each department. The interaction, initiated and organized by the Executive Director, was a healthy and necessary meeting that has not really happened before. Future meetings are planned and shall include approaching our programming from a wholistic perspective.

Meetings with the Primate also took place to discuss upcoming programs and our progress with the Chapters. Clergy appointments were considered for the Armenian Studies Programs, Parish Mission Programs and Camp Program.

While in New York City, other meetings and discussions took place with the ACYOA Junior Director, youth from the area parishes, as well as with clergymen.

A visitation took place to Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Cambridge, MA, whereat the pastor, Rev. Mampre Kouzouian, had arranged to have several senior age ACYOA members present. There has been a problem in recent years in trying to organize an operative senior group in Cambridge. We are presently pursuing those who are 17,18,19...to formally begin a group. Some of these are presently in the Junior Chapter, but will be graduating this year. We plan to begin with them and assist them in getting started. There is a great potential here, as in many parishes, for a Senior Division ACYOA Chapter. A more formal meeting is scheduled for February 7.

The Executive Secretary attended the Mid-West Regional Parishes Meeting organized by the Diocese during the weekend of January 30th. A short presentation was delivered by the Executive Secretary on the work of the ACYOA, both Junior and Senior Divisions. Most of the parishes of the region were present. Updates on regional and national programs were given, with a short period for questions and answers.

During the evening before the Regional Meeting, a gathering of the youth from the nearby parishes took place with the Executive Secretary whereat discussion took place regarding the 1981 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend - final reports, critique, recommendations, etc. The Executive Secretary noted his disappointment that final reports were still not filed, and that 50% of the profits from the Weekend were yet to be forwarded to the ACYOA Central Council for deposit in the National Treasury. Other discussion involved upcoming chapter activities and ideas for ACYOA Day and Martyr's Day Commemorations.

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - January 1982

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Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

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Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

and keep after the Council Members to fulfill their obligations. Following each visitation, Council Members file "Visitation Report Forms" from which we can measure how chapters are operating and compare the observations of the Council Member with that of the Executive Secretary upon his visitation, as well as with Chapter Monthly Fact Sheets and the Chapter Annual Report. In this way we are able to somewhat determine if the areas of emphasis and programs are effective and worthwhile.

A meeting was set up between the Executive Secretary, Council Chairman and an individual proposing a fund-raising activity that could earn the ACYOA additional money for programs. At present, the proposal remains in the consideration stage. More information will be presented next month, or whenever a determination is reached. At the Regional Conferences, surveys are being taken to help in the determination. The fund raising involves magazine subscriptions and renewals, with the ACYOA receiving a percentage of the rates. There is no investment, and little effort involved.

## II. ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend

Communications between the Executive Secretary and the Chairman of the Gen. Assmb./Nat. Spts. Wkd. Committee have increased with many items to be addressed and start in motion in preparation for the annual Labor Day Weekend convocation.

A general meeting is scheduled for February at which the Executive Secretary shall hear the reports of the various sub-committees and offer advice, direction and ideas. At present, plans seem to be progressing a reasonable rate. Much consideration is being given to past weekends and the positive and negative aspects of each.

## III. ACYOA Armenian Studies Programs (ASP)

Already we are receiving inquiries and requests for additional information from all over the Diocese regarding the ASPs for 1982. Again we are offering the one month program in Armenia, a 2 week tour to Armenia, as well as the trip to the Holy Land.

At present, the three respective Group Leaders under consideration are V. Rev. Haigazoun Melkonian, Rev. Arsen Barsamian and V. Rev. Ghevont Samoorian. The Primate shall soon be confirming these appointments, and meetings shall be scheduled between the Group Leaders and the Executive Secretary to deal with areas of responsibility, obligations and program content.

We anticipate another successful year in providing our youth with a program that allows them three different trips exposing them to their faith and culture in a most exciting way. Many of the materials prepared for last years programs were done in such a way that they may be used again with slight changes. In this way, we save time and money and retain a "professional" image.

(See attached for details.)

#### IV. Visitations and Trips

Meetings were held with the Executive Director of the Diocese during a 4 day visit in New York City. Discussed were various aspects of youth programming, progress over the last year and considerations for the future.

A special inter-departmental meeting was held whereat the various Diocesan Department heads met and exchanged experiences, ideas, situations and goals related with each department. The interaction, initiated and organized by the Executive Director, was a healthy and necessary meeting that has not really happened before. Future meetings are planned and shall include approaching our programming from a wholistic perspective.

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## V. Other Programs

### ACYOA Camp Program - St. Vartan Camp:

Plans continue for the 1982 Camp session. Rev. Fr. Patee Metjian shall serve again as Administrative Director and is currently planning and preparing with potential staff, volunteers and assistants. A full scale promotion is also in the works, with the ACYOA playing a role in every parish to spread the word of this successful program to all potential campers.

The Departments of Religious Education and Armenian Language Education have been directed to prepare a two-week curriculum to be used during the educational instruction sessions. A Program Director has not yet been appointed to handle the education, instruction and evening programs of the camp session.

### Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament:

Hosted this year by the ACYOA Central Council, the tournament shall take place at Power Memorial Academy. Accommodations have been arranged with the Hotel Tudor (walking distance from the Cathedral and Diocesan Center), with receptions, meals, dance and awards presentations taking place at the Diocesan Center. (See attached for details.)

Publicity has already begun for this unique tournament which allows any member of the parish to participate on the parish team. All parishes from throughout the Diocese have been invited. To make the costs as reasonable as possible, the Central Council has set the prices to cover costs and return a small percentage. In this way, we hope to attract the out-of-town parishes who may have limited budgets. This may also encourage the participants who, being young people, do not have the money for an expensive weekend tournament.

### Regional Retreats:

Religious programs in the forms of retreats and religious conferences are currently planned for the Midwest (Palos Heights) and N.Y.-N.J. (Westchester) regions. The New England region shall consider this at the upcoming conference on February 14.

Religious Retreats (etc.) have fallen out of their attractiveness in recent years. Social trends, coupled with rising costs for use of retreat house facilities, have taken their toll for this ACYOA Program. However, we are adjusting to the times and shall continue to offer some semblance of religious educational and faith development activities as long as there are young people who wish to participate.

### Martyr's Day Commemorations:

Again this year the ACYOA Central Council shall encourage every ACYOA Chapter to commemorate the Armenian Martyr's of 1915. Because of the diversity of Armenian communities and parishes throughout the Diocese, we intend to prepare a suggestion sheet with different ideas and information that a chapter might consider in its commemoration. As always, the Chapters and all youth are highly encouraged to participate in their parish observances and religious services.

#### Leadership Seminar:

The Annual Chairman's Roundtable Leadership Seminar shall again take place during the weekend of the Annual Diocesan Assembly in New Britain, CT, May 8th. The intent of the Seminar is to bring together the executives of the ACYOA, as well as any interested youth, to participate in the days events. Featured are guest speakers, committee sessions, and updates on regional and national programs and activities.

A new emphasis begun last year is an approach to equip and prepare the participants for leadership roles in the ACYOA, and ultimately, in the parish. Group dynamics, organizational skills and methods shall be considered. Professionals in this area shall address the group as part of the all-day program.

#### Audio-Visual Educational Programs and Publications:

We are still pursuing the Audio-Visual Programs and Publications. Currently the first and second A-V Programs (1) Symbolism & (2) Jerusalem are scheduled for completion this year.

The reprinting of the book "Sacraments & Prayers of the Armenian Church" is progressing slowly. We intend to pursue this and reprint the booklet upon final review by the Primate.

The quarterly publication, Keghard, is scheduled to be published within the next month. The new staff is experiencing some difficulties with response and editing of copy. With some effort, the new staff should begin a regular routine and publish the quarterly on a regular basis. There is a great difficulty in calling upon people's professional expertise on a volunteer level. But with some commitment and results, we should be able to provide this needed communicative vehicle to all the dues paid membership of the ACYOA.

#### VI. Public Relations

We continue to send out news releases to the Armenian weekly newspapers almost every week. Upon the completion of a trip, program, conference or significant meeting, as well as promotionals for programs and activities, news releases are written by the Executive Secretary, duplicated and sent out.

With the re-establishment of the BEMA monthly Chronicle, we shall begin again to reach the highest number of Armenian readers possible within the Diocese. This is an important factor if our programs, propaganda and other related materials and announcements are to reach the youth (as well as the adults) and solicit their participation and involvement (as well as their support - financially and morally).

The Executive Update produced by the Executive Secretary shall continue to be sent to all Chapter Chairmen and Pastors on 4 to 6 week intervals. If BEMA becomes more regular, and space is available, it might be wise to utilize the monthly and eliminate the Update. The Update serves as a communicative device to remind, announce and promote various activities

and ideas involved with ACYOA on a regional and national level.

VII. Archbishop's Essay Contest

New this year, the Essay Contest invites writers to compete for awards presented by His Eminence, the Primate, during the Awards Banquet of the National Sports Weekend. Armenian and English language categories allow for diversified participation along Armenian oriented themes. Essays are judged on writing skills, and not on research.

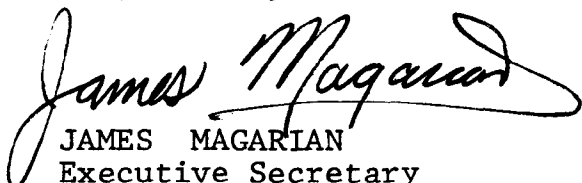
Currently, we are pursuing a list of judges to select the winners. They are to be professionals involved in some aspect of writing and journalism. In addition, appropriate certificates are being designed for the winners, to go along with the individual awards.

Our promotion of this program has only been in announcement form thus far - we intend to do more. However, this being the first year, we do not expect too many contributors. Time is needed for us to receive alot of participation.

VIII. General

Due to the heavy amount of paper work, general office duties, as well as travel, time devoted for development and evaluation has been somewhat limited. We intend to spend some time on this during the year with an emphasis on a wholistic approach to youth programming - from Baptism to adulthood. This is something that has not been given enough time or concern as we try to do the best with what we have. However, given our era in the late 20th century, we must seriously consider what we are doing for our youth - from the time they are introduced into the "Community of the Faithful", to when they are able to take on a mature and responsible perspective as adults and participants in the parish.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA





# Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

## APRIL 16-18

## New York City

HOSTED BY ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

All  
Parishes  
Invited!!



### WEEKEND ITINERARY....

#### FRIDAY EVENING

Hotel Registration  
Tournament Registration  
Wine & Cheese Reception  
Free-Time "In the City"

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#### SATURDAY

Tournament Games  
(preliminaries thru finals)

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#### SATURDAY EVENING

Awards Festivities...

Banquet Buffet  
Awards Presentations  
Gala Dance

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#### SUNDAY

Divine Liturgy (in Cathedral)  
Farewell Luncheon

\*Registration: Hotel registration direct at Hotel Tudor (4-7 p.m.) 42nd Street & 2nd Ave. N.Y.C. Tournament registration at Armenian Cathedral & Diocesan Ctr. 10 min. walk from hotel, 34th & 2nd - down-stairs - plenty of refreshments.

\*Tournament Site: Power Memorial Academy - "where Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) played High School ball." 161 W. 61st Street - 61st and Amsterdam Ave. - all games played here.

\*Shuttle Service: Courtesy transportation provided between hotel & gym.

\*Team Fee: \$85.00 per team. Includes gym fees, referees, award certificates and trophies for all-stars and championship teams. All parishes invited - no age restriction, both men's and women's competitions. Parish members only.

\*Package Plan: \$30.00 per person. Includes Tourney registration, Wine & Cheese Reception, Transportation to & from games, Banquet Buffet, Award's Dance, Sunday Farewell Luncheon....

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### .....A WORD ABOUT TRANSPORTATION.....

Arriving in NEW YORK CITY by bus or train:  
-get off at Grande Central Terminal, take 42nd St. exit, go left to 2nd Ave.  
-stay on 42nd for hotel, go down 2nd Ave. to 34th St. for Armenian Cathedral.

Arriving in NEW YORK CITY by air:  
-arrive via LaGuardia airport.  
-take "Carey Bus Service" to Manhattan (\$3.50 charge per person)  
-get off at Grande Central Terminal

Arriving by car.....we wish you luck and new shock absorbers.

---

Mark Kazanjian  
617-687-7002  
617-688-8356

....FOR MORE INFO....

Gary Hovhannessian  
203-747-5913  
203-747-6669

**PROGRAM ONE - Educational Tour to Armenia (For ACYOA Members)**

A one-month structured program in Armenia aimed at providing the maximum Armenian experience to the participants interested in direct exposure to their heritage.

**DATES:\*** June 9th - July 9th - depart and return via New York City.

**PRICE:\*\*** \$1450.00 entitles all participants to fully involve themselves in the program. Includes round-trip airfare from N.Y.C., Hotel in Moscow, meals, meals and accommodations in Armenia, program materials, transfers, outings, etc., etc. A deposit of \$500.00 is necessary along with a completed application form.

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**PROGRAM TWO - "Journey" To Armenia**

A two-week tour to Armenia providing the most exposure and experiences in the time allowed. Special tours and admissions, 3 days in Moscow, and a thrilling experience.

**DATES:\*** July 1st - July 16th - depart and return via New York City.

**Price:\*\*** \$1495.00 includes round-trip airfare from N.Y.C., delux hotels in Moscow and Yerevan, tours, meals, special admissions, prepared materials and literature. A deposit of \$500.00 is necessary along with a completed application form.

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**PROGRAM THREE - Jerusalem - "The Holy City"**

A two-week tour to the Holy Land, including three days in mysterious Cairo, Egypt. Special tours and lectures in the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem - the Holy Sites of Christendom, Bethlehem, Jericho, and opportunity to shop in the colorful bazaars.

**DATES:\*** August 1st - 15th - depart and return via New York City.

**Price:\*\*** \$1200.00 includes a most memorable trip to the Holy Land - includes round-trip airfare, delux hotel accommodation, meals, tours, guides, transfers, etc. A deposit of \$500.00 is necessary along with a completed application form.

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\* TENTATIVE DATES                      \*\* PRICES BASED ON LAST YEAR (*slight changes in dates and prices may occur - details and more informarion will be sent upon confirmation with airlines and officials of the "Intourist Agency" of the Soviet Union.*)

All participants must fill out the prescribed application forms, receive a doctor's certificate of good health, and send them along with a deposit to:

JAMES MAGARIAN, ACYOA Exec. Sec., P.O.B. 79, Chelmsford, MA 01824 - 617-256-7234

A \$10.00 application fee is included in the deposit and is non-refundable.

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - February 1982

Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Regional Conferences

During the month of February we convened two Regional Conferences for Church Youth.

The first took place February 6th for the New York - New Jersey region at St. Leon's Armenian Church in Fair Lawn, N.J. This region has never had a Regional Conference before, moreover, the ACYOA presence here is very minimal. Attending the meeting were the pastors of St. Leon, St. Thomas, Holy Cross (N.J.) and St. James of Westchester. Youth Representatives from the aforementioned were present, along with St. Mary's of Livingston.

Present from the ACYOA Central Council were Mark Kazanjian, Chairman, and Gary Hovhanessian, Regional Representative. The Executive Secretary briefed the Council Members on the agenda and methods of procedure. Prepared materials were presented and a variety of issues discussed. A highlight of the 4 hour Conference were the group discussion periods wherein the larger group was broken down into three separate groups to discuss prepared observations and questions. (See attached.) Major discussion upon reconvening the larger group centered on programs, attracting old and new ACYOA members, organizational methodology and upcoming events.

A major result of the Conference was the initiation of a proposed "Gr. New Jersey ACYOA Chapter" comprised of the four parishes of St. Leon, St. Thomas, Holy Cross and St. Mary. The Clergymen present expressed their support and encouragement, and, the youth themselves were eager to begin the process of forming a chapter within the National Organization. Another special meeting was planned involving the youth from the respective parishes in order to discuss more fully the setup of the new chapter. The meeting was scheduled for February



Central Council

26th at St. Leon Armenian Church. (Results from this meeting may be found elsewhere in this report.)

This particular Conference was certainly needed. It showed that there are concerned youth in this area - contrary to some public opinion. Although the process may be slow, our efforts in the New York and New Jersey areas will continue, with the goal being to reach as many youth in this area as possible and allow them the opportunity to participate in whatever capacity they can. The next Regional Conference for this area will take place during the day of the Regional ACYOA Anniversary Ball, most probably in June.

On February 14th, the New England Regional ACYOA Conference convened in Worcester at the Armenian Church of Our Saviour. Again the Executive Secretary prepared materials and briefed the Council Members on the day's agenda. Present from the ACYOA Central Council were Mark Kazanjian, Chairman, Robert Borzakian, Regional Representative, and Gary Hovhanessian, Council Corresponding Secretary. Seven of the ten parishes in the New England Region were represented. Only two clergymen were present representing Haverhill and Worcester.

A similar agenda was employed at this Conference, utilizing a group discussion format with exchange, brain-storming, confrontation of issues, and conclusions. Parishes that have experienced difficulties and problems were considered as well as programs of the National Organization.

The New England Region has suffered greatly in the past two years in terms of activity and interaction between chapters. The Region once boasted 10 operating chapters with monthly regional meetings, and many regional activities and events. However, as the leadership figures grow out of the ACYOA, few come up and take over. We thus experience a lull every few years which takes an extra special effort to overcome.

This Conference was successful in bringing together the youth for exchange, understanding, explaining and dialogue. Visitation schedules were formed whereby the Executive Secretary or Council Member will visit the various parishes of the region in the near future.

The next Regional Conference will most probably take place during the day of the Regional ACYOA Anniversary Ball for New England. This format is being used for two reasons - 1. It brings the Youth together on a specified date, utilizing an all day conference on Saturday, 2. The host of the Anniversary Ball is supported by all chapters of the region, as they come for the Conference and remain for the Ball. This has been effective in the past and we hope to continue this in the future.

A Regional Conference is scheduled for the Mid-Atlantic Region comprised of the parishes of Washington, DC, Richmond, VA, Cheltenham, PA and Wynnewood, PA on Saturday, March 20th. This again will be a first for these particular parishes.

The Midwest Region held their Conference during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, in conjunction with an annual dance sponsored by the Detroit ACYOA Chapter. This has been most successful in the past

several years. They too shall convene their next Conference in conjunction with the Midwest Regional ACYOA Anniversary Ball which will be hosted by the Toronto ACYOA Chapter in June. Presently, the Midwest Region is the strongest, functioning, ACYOA Region in the Diocese.

## II. New Chapter Being Formed

As a result of the New York - New Jersey ACYOA Regional Conference that took place at St. Leon Armenian Church on February 6th, a new Chapter of the ACYOA is being formed. "The Greater New Jersey ACYOA Chapter" comprised of St. Mary (Livingston), Holy Cross (Union City), St. Thomas (Tenefly) and St. Leon (Fair Lawn) Armenian Church parishes is in the formation stages.

A special meeting to discuss setup, direction, goals, purpose and function was held on Friday, February 26th at St. Leon's. Present and directing the meeting was the Executive Secretary, Council Chairman and Regional Council Representative. Eighteen young adults attended with a good deal of enthusiasm and "willingness to try". As a result of the meeting, a committee of eight persons was formed representing the four parishes. This Committee shall meet on March 12th to discuss the formal aspects of the Chapter formation and decide on a campaign to solicit more members and initiate activities and events.

The group has high hopes and goals to form into a solid, functioning chapter. They have indicated a desire to host the N.Y.-N.J. Regional ACYOA Anniversary Ball in June. This event, along with several small and member-oriented activities, will no doubt assist the group into their formal formation. They need reasons to interact and come together in the name of the Church and their organization. Through this interacting (via working on specific goals) relationships develop that help keep the group together and continue as a functioning chapter.

We shall be working closely with the committee and assist them in any way possible.

## III. ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend

A meeting was held on February 1st for all members of the New Britain ACYOA Chapter to specifically discuss plans for the National Assembly and Sports Weekend. Chairing the special committee is Gary Hovhanessian who is also a member of the ACYOA Central Council.

Attending the meeting was the Executive Secretary along with Mark Kazanjian, Council Chairman. The entire weekend itinerary was mapped out, problem areas addressed and discussion on varied ideas held. The group is very anxious about the weekend. They have high hopes of hosting a successful and fun-filled weekend and intend to have all their areas covered by responsible people. The experiences of past weekends will come into play, as we determined to avoid prolematic situations. One area of concern brought up by the Executive Secretary

was the presence of the Junior age ACYOA members (under 18) registered in the hotel. We shall make a point of noting that Junior ACYOA members are not invited to stay at the hotel on all flyers and correspondence. Although this alone will not alleviate the problem, we hope to at least begin here.

#### IV. Armenian Studies Programs (ASP)

Plans continue on the 1982 edition of the Armenian Studies Programs. The three programs are again being offered. We are fortunate to have organized our programs in such a way as to be able to cancel at any time with little or no financial burden. We need a certain number for each program to take place (with group airfare rates, etc.) and most probably the number will be reached. However, if for some reason we do not receive the number needed, we may cancel without any trouble. This is important, especially when finances may be a concern with our youth.

Program #1 - Educational Tour To Armenia - shall take place from June 9 to July 9 and led by V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian. Assisting Fr. Haigazoun will be Mrs. Arlene Dadekian. Maximum number is 18 participants; minimum is 14. We have allowed five spaces as a courtesy for members of the ACYOC. This is the same as last year, however no one from the California Diocese participated in this program.

Program #2 - "Journey to Armenia" - shall take place from July 1 to July 15 and led by Rev. Fr. Arsen Barsamian. No maximum; minimum is 14.

Program #3 - Jerusalem - "The Holy City" - shall take place in August and be led by V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian, assisted by Rose Aznavorian. We shall monitor the political situation in the Middle East and keep the safety of the group in mind. Maximum is 30; minimum is 14.

At this time, we have had many inquiries and requests for information regarding the three trips. If all goes well, we may expect another successful year for the ASP.

#### V. Meetings and Trips

Two trips were made to the Diocese this month in conjunction with Regional Conferences and other meetings. Meetings with His Eminence the Primate, as well as with the Executive Director of the Diocese took place to discuss ACYOA Programs, progress, administrative concerns as well as budgetary matters.

Meetings also took place with the Department Directors of ACYOA Junior Division, Religious Education and Armenian Language Education. These meetings concerned the involvement of the Department in ACYOA and other on-going programs in the Diocese. It is very important that strong communications between Department heads be maintained.

Moreover, it may be time that the entire Youth Program of the Diocese in America be reviewed - re: Religious Education, Armenian Language Education - schools, ACYOA Junior and Senior Divisions and how they all should and must interact. There should be a goal for our youth as we provide all these programs, and the individual grows in our system of development. All the parts should interact and complement each other for the final result to be positive and in line with continued service and participation in the Church at large.

Meetings were held with the Group Leaders of the ASP - Fr. Haigazoum Melkonian and Fr. Ghevont Samoorian, as well as with their respective assistants - Arlene Dadekian and Rose Aznavorian.

The ACYOA Central Council Chairman met with the Executive Secretary on many occasions in preparing for the Regional Conferences, as well as with regard to ongoing programs. The Executive Secretary expressed concern with the activity and productivity of the other Council members. Some are doing outstanding jobs while others are finding it difficult to allot the necessary time to fulfill their responsibilities. On the whole, the Executive Secretary is pleased with this year's Council and informed the Chairman to continue reminding the other Members, and inform him of ways that he may help them.

#### VI. ACYOA St. Vartan Camp

Rev. Fr. Parea Metjian, Administrative Director of the Camp, continues in his efforts to promote and handle the administrative aspects of the Camp for the 1982 season. A brochure has been prepared describing the program and containing an application form (see attached).

Currently, we continue to search for a competent Program Director to handle the educational aspects and instructional areas of the Camp Program. The Diocesan Departments of Religious Education and Armenian Language Education have been contacted to prepare appropriate materials for the two week program - expanded from the one week program of the last two years.

We have two candidates in mind for the position and intend to secure one by mid-March.

As per the director of the ACYOA General Assembly, all ACYOA Chapters shall promote the Camp program during the month of April, with a follow up in June. It is hoped that this will aid in the solicitation of many more Camp participants than before - especially from the New York, New Jersey and New England parishes.

#### VII. ACYOA Regional Anniversary Balls

The ACYOA Anniversary Ball is hosted each year by a selected chapter based upon their desire, ability and bid. The Balls are usually tied into a particular theme and sometimes include dinner and a program. The intent of the Balls is for each region to come together and cele-

brate the anniversary of the ACYOA and promote it as the Youth Program of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Presentations are sometimes made to "alumni" and present members, as well as to individual chapters within the region.

This year, the following are tentatively scheduled to host the ACYOA Anniversary Balls: New England - Lawrence, Mid-Atlantic - Gr. N.J., Midwest - Toronto. All Balls are tentatively being planned for June.

#### VIII. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

Response and interest is growing for the 1982 edition of this Tournament. Meetings have been held with the Tournament Coordinator, Gary Havhanessian, Council Chairman, Mark Kazanjian, and the Executive Secretary regarding details and final planning. Power Memorial Academy will host the games; Hotel Tudor will accommodate those from out of town, and the Diocesan Complex will host the social, religious and nourishing aspects of the weekend. Dates: April 16, 17, 18.

#### IX. ACYOA Regional Retreats

On a yearly basis, the ACYOA attempts to organize and offer to its members religious retreats on a regional basis. This year, the New England Regional retreat is tentatively being planned by the Providence ACYOA. For the N.Y.&N.J. areas, Westchester is hosting the event during the weekend of March 20, utilizing the facilities of the Ouzoonian House in New Rochelle. In the Midwest, Palos Heights shall host a Religious Conference Weekend, in lieu of a "retreat", whereat they shall consider religious concerns and issues, as well as spiritual dimensions and prayer.

#### X. ACYOA Parish Mission Program

The ACYOA Parish Mission Programs for 1982 were scheduled for the parishes of Ss. Joachim and Anna, Palos Heights, IL, and, St. Peter, Syracuse, N.Y.

Deacon Michael Chevian was appointed over a year ago to lead the Mission Team to Palos Heights. Dates were difficult to confirm and time went by before the dates of Armenian Christmas was confirmed for 1982. However, due to Deacon Michael's pending position at the St. Nersess Seminary, he decided to postpone the Mission Program until Holy Week 1982. This date was confirmed by the Parish Council Chairman of Palos Heights. However, Deacon Michael was then appointed to a position at St. Nersess, whereby he was no longer in the Midwest region. A question of transportation costs and time was addressed.

We asked the St. Nersess Board, via Deacon Michael, if the ACYOA and the St. Nersess Seminary might equally share the transportation costs



and thereby allow Deacon Michael to participate, and also perform some of his duties as his new position allows. This was not approved by the Board, as we were informed via the telephone and Deacon Michael. However, the ACYOA, willing to finally initiate this important program after years of postponement, informed Deacon Michael that all transportation costs would be assumed by the ACYOA. The Executive Secretary informed Deacon Michael that he would assist in an administrative way, and write letters, make contacts, etc.

Two weeks later, we received a letter informing us that Deacon Michael is not available to participate in any capacity in the Mission Program. At this time, we are forced to inform the Palos Heights Parish that we must, again, postpone (and most probably cancel) our plans for an ACYOA Parish Mission Program to Ss. Joachim and Anna Armenian Church.

We find this method of communication and irresponsibility simply contrary to our intention of initiating needed programs and following through when confirmations are made.

Regarding the ACYOA Parish Mission Program to Syracuse, this too was met with problems, only of a different nature.

Fr. Yeprem Kelegian was to lead this Mission Program. Arrangements were finally met and confirmed for Armenian Christmas 1982. However, due to personal reasons, this time was not convenient or appropriate for Fr. Yeprem, and he endeavored to change the dates. However, this time the Parish informed Fr. Yeprem that they didn't feel as if they could support, or accommodate, the Mission Program at this time - citing the need for a pastor, genuine leadership, etc., etc. as reasons.


Thus, we have two programs that are certainly needed - by the parishes that will benefit directly, as well as by the participants (ACYOA members) who will benefit indirectly - but simply cannot be executed for a variety of reasons and situations.

We have therefore decided, for the time being, to review the ACYOA Parish Mission Program, and not offer it until a proper and feasible methodology can be determined - both on the part of the Mission Team Leader, as well as on the part of the host parish.

#### XI. Public Relations

Attached is the latest "Executive Update" sent to all Pastors and ACYOA Chapter Chairmen. We have received many positive comments on this and intend to continue this communicative device every 4 to 6 weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 JAMES MAGARIAN  
 Executive Secretary  
 ACYOA

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - March 1982

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Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Regional Conference

On March 20th, a Regional Conference was planned for the Parishes of Richmond, VA, Wynnwood, PA, Cheltenham, PA and Washington, DC in Washington, D.C. Letters were sent, telephone calls were made, news releases were published.

We were assured that 5-6 youth from Richmond would participate, as well as 2-4 from the Philadelphia area. In addition, 10-12 were expected from the host parish in Washington. What resulted was participation from the Washington parish only. We did not receive word from the other parishes as to why they did not attend. Explanations will be sought.

However, the need to meet with the youth of the Washington, D.C. area was great, and the results were very good considering the prospect. Fifteen young people participated from St. Mary's of Washington and the exchange and dialogue was very good. Officially, St. Mary's does not have a Senior Division ACYOA Chapter. However, following the meetings, it was determined that a Senior group should be formed. The participants were very enthusiastic and willing to form a Senior group to serve the parish, as well as participate in the National Organization.

Present from the ACYOA Central Council were Mark Kazanjian, Chairman, and Gary Hovhanessian, Regional Representative.

Thus, although the "regional" conference did not materialize, the meetings with the Washington area youth was very worthwhile. We can expect a more participatory role of these youth in the parish and the ACYOA in the near future.



Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

## II. ACYOA Camp Program

Plans for the 1982 ACYOA Camp program are progressing as usual. Appointments for the Administrative and Program Directors have been made. They are: Rev. Fr. Paree Metjian, as Administrative Director, and Mr. Rupen Kiredjian, as Program Director.

Meetings were held with the appointed directors, both individually and together. The many facets of the Camp Program were discussed, and the positive and negative aspects of previous years were brought in to enhance the outline for the Camp this summer.

## III. Armenian Studies Programs

Response and inquiry continue to be received regarding the three ACYOA Armenian Studies Programs set for this summer. However, we are not receiving as many responses as last year when the Diocesan Chronicle BEMA was in full operation. We had many announcements and advertisements that reached far more Armenian homes last year than we are capable of reaching this year via youth mailings, parish newsletters, and general Armenian Newspaper articles.

However, we expect our groups to be well attended, and intend to continue our programs as best we can.

The five places reserved for participants from the Western Diocese for Program #1 - Educational Tour to Armenia - are expected to be all full. We have been in touch with the ACYOC Central Council and expect to receive their application forms very soon.

Regarding the Program to Jerusalem - Jerusalem the Holy City - we await word from His Beatitude the Patriarch as to whether the Patriarchate will host the group again this year.

Again this year we are not soliciting donations from prominent Armenians to off set our expenses. Because of the fund-raising projects of the Diocese, we did not want to create any confusion regarding solicitations. However, next year we intend to solicit donations to bring down the rising costs of these worthwhile programs overseas.

## IV. Meetings and Trips

Meetings were held at the Diocese this month with the Primate, Executive Director, Departments of Armenian Language Education and Religious Education. A joint meeting of all Department heads took place with the Executive Director of the Diocese to discuss ways to assist each other in our work, as well as begin to reach an understanding of the varying situations regarding youth in the parishes of the Diocese.

Meetings were held several times with the Chairman of the ACYOA Central Council, the Vice Chairman, as well as the Secretary regarding their various areas of responsibility and duties.

While in Washington, D.C., a meeting was held with Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian regarding the youth situation in the parish there. Although he was somewhat reluctant to write a letter of application for a new Senior Group, he realizes that the time is right to pull together the senior age youth and form a formal chapter. The Meeting with the youth (in lieu of the Regional Conference) also showed that they were ready to take on the challenges and responsibilities of a Senior Chapter. We intend to follow up here and ensure their participation in some of the ACYOA programs and activities in the very near future.

#### V. Audio-Visual Educational Programs and Publications

Work progresses on our Audio-Visual Educational Programs. Our initial program, "Symbolism in the Armenian Church: Part One - The Church as the Temple of Our Faith", is now ready for reproduction. We intend to have four copies of this program prepared for loan to parishes, ACYOA Chapters, Armenian organizations, etc.

Other programs include "Jerusalem - An Armenian Perspective", and, "Sexuality and Marriage in the Armenian Church". We are projecting that these programs will be prepared and ready by year's end.

Our Publications include the quarterly, Keghard. Christine Sarkisian who was appointed as editor last year does not have the free time required to put the publication together, edit the copy, etc., etc. We shall be meeting soon to discuss our procedures and find the means to publish this meaningful quarterly for our youth.

The book, Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church, is to be re-printed. Currently, the contents of the book are being revised and edited. Some of the material will be eliminated, and other more appropriate material added.

V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian, V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian are lending their areas of expertise to this ACYOA Program. In addition, ACYOA Members who are interested or experienced in these areas are also assisting in this endeavor. Thus, this program is multi-dimensional, in that ACYOA members participate in its development and design, learning while working on the programs; as well as benefiting from the actual programs themselves.

#### VI. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

Set for April 16-18 in New York City. We are receiving many inquiries from the parishes of our Diocese. Although in the past we have had only 7-8 teams participating, this year we can expect 10-12 teams.

Games will be played at Power Memorial Academy. The Hotel Tudor shall be used for our out-of town guests. Receptions, banquet, Awards Dance and farewell Luncheon shall all take place at the Diocesan Center.

Trophies and Awards are presented to the Champions, all-stars and the Most Valuable Players (men's & women's). The Awards are presented by The Primate during the Saturday night Awards Dance.

#### VII. ACYOA Leadership Seminar

The Annual ACYOA Leadership Seminar shall take place in conjunction with the Annual Diocesan Assembly in New Britain, CT, May 8th, 1982.

The format for the day will include a guest speaker whose topic shall be, "Leadership: Assuming the Responsibility". ACYOA Executive officers and members are invited to participate. Discussion will involve the dynamics of group interaction, organizational skills and techniques, as well as general interpersonal communications skills.

In addition, information on ACYOA Programs and activities will also be provided for the participants.


#### VIII. General

Membership cards have been designed and printed. They shall be distributed to all dues paying members, on file with the ACYOA Central Council. Under consideration is an incentive program for card-carrying members who attend and participate in ACYOA Programs. Possible discounts and special admissions will be included.

Design and content of a promotional poster for ACYOA is also currently being worked on for display in all Armenian Churches.

An Award Certificate for the Archbishop's Essay Contest is also being designed and drafted.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

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Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - April 1982

Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. ACYOA Central Council

On April 15 and 16 the ACYOA Central Council met at the Diocese in New York City with the Executive Secretary. General business of the Council was discussed. Highlights include the initial approval of two new chapters into the National Organization - "Northern New Jersey" and "Washington, D.C." Washington, D.C. is currently organizing its Senior age group, which is primarily made up of seniors in high school and college students. An "older" youth population is not present in the St. Mary parish. Northern New Jersey comprises the parishes of St. Thomas, St. Mary, St. Leon and Holy Cross. This grouping of parishes into one ACYOA Chapter has seen some success in Wisconsin. Here, however, we intend to form chapters in the individual parishes as time goes on. For now the ACYOA presence will involve the youth and expose the meaning and purpose of ACYOA in the area.

All programs of the Organization were reviewed and updated. It was noted that the ACYOA Parish Mission Program was cancelled in both Palos Heights and Syracuse. The ACYOA Armenian Studies Programs were progressing well, however the Jerusalem "the Holy City" trip was not receiving a very good response, perhaps due to the problems within the Armenian Community there, as well as international problems throughout the entire Middle-East.

During an early session, Mr. Maynard Merel (a magazine distributor) was invited to present his fund-raising program. The program consists of magazine subscription/renewals which are done through the ACYOA, whereby the ACYOA receives a percentage (avg. 18%) of the gross cost. There is no investment, except for time and energy to begin the program. The Council approved the proposal, pending approval by the Diocesan Council to allow the promotion of this program to be done on a Diocesan-wide basis. If successful, this program could produce



**Central Council**

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

between \$5,000 and \$8,000 initially, with a potential of \$20,000 per year after five years of promotion and allowing the Armenian (and non-Armenian) community to "remember the ACYOA" when renewing their magazine subscriptions. A detailed proposal shall be forwarded to the Diocesan Council for their approval during the month of May.

Attending the meeting were: Mark Kazanjian, Chairman, Susan Mousigian, Treasurer, Ralph DerAsadourian, Secretary, Gary Hovhanessian, Secretary - Robert Borzakian, V. Chairman was unable to attend due to illness.

Immediately following the Council Meeting was the Annual ACYOA Archbishop Tork Manoogian Basketball Tournament, hosted this year by the ACYOA Central Council. The meeting was scheduled to coincide with the Tournament to save on transportation and make it more convenient. (See other section for results of Tournament.)

For more information regarding the ACYOA Central Council Meeting, kindly refer to the Minutes of the Meeting which shall be on file with the Primate and Executive Secretary during the Month of May.

## 2. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

Annually held for the parishes of the Diocese, whereat basketball teams in mens and womens divisions are scheduled for tournament play. Winners receive the Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Trophy (one in both divisions), as well as individual awards for outstanding play.

The 1982 edition of this Tournament was held in New York City (as it is every other year to bring the youth of the Diocese to the Diocesan Center and Cathedral). A record 16 mens and womens teams representing 11 parishes participated in the all-day tournament held at Power Memorial Academy in Manhattan. Social events were held at the Diocesan Center. Never before have so many teams participated in this Tournament initiated by the Primate in 1971. This year, the ACYOA Central Council served as hosts. A profit of less than \$500.00 was realized, however, due to distance and time, a break-even result was projected.

## 3. ACYOA Day Celebrations

This program of the ACYOA is geared for the parish, in that the local ACYOA Chapter sponsors a program (banquet, guest speaker, discussion, etc...) for the parish. The program incorporates a promotion and expose' on the meaning of "ACYOA" and the important role the Organization plays in the developmental aspects of our youth in the Church community.

This year, many ACYOA Chapters sponsored programs on the customary day of Palm Sunday. Others on other days of the year. It has been recommended that "ACYOA Day" be incorporated into the Official Diocesan Calendar, on "Palm Sunday" to assist in a public awareness promotion of the ACYOA in the parish.

This year, the Executive Secretary was invited to speak and present a slide program at the ACYOA Day Program of the Lawrence ACYOA Chapter of Holy Cross Armenian Church. The program, consisting of the meaning of ACYOA, along with the ACYOA Audio-Visual Program - Symbolism in the Armenian Church, was well received by the Lawrence parish.

#### 4. Visitations

Because of preparations for the ACYOA Leadership Seminar, and ACYOA Central Council Meeting, as well as Easter related festivities, visitations during this month were postponed. One meeting was scheduled for Ss. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, RI. However, at the last minute, Hayr Vazken Keshishian cancelled the meeting because he was unable to attend. This is not the first time a meeting was cancelled due to the Pastor. Providence has been experiencing many problems among the youth in trying to organize themselves into a strong group. They have the numbers and the spirit, and have in the past been a very active and prosperous ACYOA Chapter. However, we have had many obstacles in trying to meet with them over the past year. We intend to reschedule in June.

#### 5. Regional Conferences/ACYOA Anniversary Balls

In an effort to attract more participants to our Regional Conferences, as well as assist hosting Chapters of the Annual ACYOA Anniversary Balls, we are scheduling both during the same weekend.

The New England ACYOA Regional Conference and Anniversary Ball shall be hosted by the Lawrence ACYOA Chapter at the Holy Cross Armenian Church on Saturday, June 5th, 1982.

The Midwest ACYOA Regional Conference and Anniversary Ball shall be hosted by the Toronto ACYOA Chapter at Holy Trinity Armenian Church and the AGBU Cultural Center in Toronto.

The Regional Conferences bring together the youth of the region, including the Chapter Executives and serves as a forum to air problem situations, express new ideas, provide updates on ACYOA programs and events, as well as plan programs for the region itself. These are usually held 2-3 times a year.

Anniversary Balls are held annually in each region of the Diocese to celebrate the birth of the ACYOA. A dinner and dance is usually the format with significant presentations as the occasion calls for. Depending upon the Region, these Balls can be very successful in bringing together the youth for social interaction and the growth of friendships.

#### 6. ACYOA Camp Program

The ACYOA Camp Program - ACYOA St. Vartan Camp, continues to progress as it prepares for the 1982 season. Administrative Director, Fr. Paree



Metjian (St. Leon) and Program Director Mr. Rupen Kiredjian (Holy Trinity, Cambridge) have met on several occasions to discuss the program and schedule for this year. Many inquiries have been received, and the application and Camp brochure sent out upon request.

Still unresolved are the Camp Funds of 1980 and 1981. Fr. Paree has expressed his reservations on several occasions of turning over the funds from this ACYOA Program to the ACYOA Central Council for deposit into the National Treasury. He was asked to submit a proposal to the Council regarding how the funds would be administered, however, this proposal never came for consideration at the April Council Meeting. Fr. Paree's reservations about the financial transfer raises some serious doubt regarding his sincerity and concern for the program.

#### 7. ACYOA LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Renamed from "Chairman's Roundtable" to attract "other-than chapter executives" to this program. Will be held as always in conjunction with the Annual Diocesan Assembly at the Assembly site (New Britain this year). This year's Topic: Leadership - Assuming the Responsibility.

The program consists of guest speaker Mr. Robert Wessman, former director of the Federation of Student Councils of the State of Connecticut. Emphasis placed on organizational methodologies, dealing with tender and problematic situations, motivation, etc. Because the ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend are also being held in New Britain this year, we do not expect many participants from long distances.

In addition to the guest speaker, updates and information on ACYOA programs are provided, with reminders of due dates and other operational procedures.

#### 8. ACYOA Armenian Studies Programs

Program #1 - Although we announced our deadline for this program 10 days earlier than last year, we continue to receive inquiry and applications beyond the April 1st deadline. All places (18) have been filled for this trip. Meetings have been held with V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian (Haverhill) since his appointment as Group Leader by the Primate. We anticipate a good trip as the group consists of mainly college and post college participants. An orientation session and reception with the Primate shall initially begin this Program scheduled for June 9 thru July 9, 1982.

Program #2 - Again this year we will most probably not receive the necessary number (15) to form our own group. However the registered participants shall be connected to a commercial tour, and thus receive the "group rate" as they would with our own group. We receive a percentage of their cost to cover our expenses and make a small profit.

Program #3 - We have received verbal confirmation and invitation from His Beatitude, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. However, due to many pro-

blems within the Patriarchate, as well as problems on the international level in the Middle East, we are not receiving the response anticipated for this program. In addition, the inconsistency and inavailability of the Diocesan Chronicle (BEMA) makes our promotion of this program quite limited. A decision shall be made in June regarding this year and the trip to the Middle-East.

This Program to Jerusalem has a great deal of potential and attractiveness. In the future, we shall aim at developing this program and make it more available and attractive to our youth who wish to experience their heritage and Church presence in a multi-dimensional community.

9. ACYOA Publications

We have received word from Christine Sarkisian, appointed last summer as Keghard Editor, that due to time problems and conflicts, she is resigning her position. We were confident that Miss Sarkisian was able to perform the necessary duties of the Editor, however her time schedule would not allow her to devote the time needed. We are currently searching for a new editor to take over this quarterly publication, not published for one year now.

10. ACYOA Audio-Visual Educational Programs

As reported last month, the first production of this project is ready for reproduction. We are currently in the process of securing a donation for slide reproduction, whereafter we shall make four copies of the program (Symbolism) and make them available for loan. This is expected by the end of the month of May. Research and development of other programs continue as time allows.

11. General

Applications for the Sam Nersesian Scholarship, as well as nomination forms for the Sam Nersesian Award have been sent to all parishes. The Scholarship is for attending the St. Nersess Summer Studies Conferences, while the Award is presented to an outstanding ACYOA member displaying Christian virtues.

Due dates for financial obligations, annual reports, etc., shall soon be sent to all chapters. ACYOA Fiscal year ends June 30th.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S  
COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - May 1982

Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. ACYOA Leadership Seminar

The Annual ACYOA Leadership Seminar was held in conjunction with the Diocesan Assembly in New Britain, CT, May 8th at St. Francis School. The Executive Secretary and ACYOA Central Council organized this program for all youth of the Diocese, especially members of the chapter executive committee. The purpose of the seminar is to inform, teach and expose various organizational methodologies and techniques that can help the chapter executives in their responsibilities.

This particular program is organized specifically by the Central Council Chairman (others members of the Council are given other programs to "organized" under their supervision). Mr. Robert Wessman, a teacher and former Director of the Connecticut Federation of Student Councils, was invited to speak during the morning sessions. In the afternoon, updates on all ACYOA programs and activities, as well as general discussion on the programs, was moderated by the Council Chairman. The Primate visited with the group of 20 youths who represented the following Parishes and Chapters: New Britain, Watertown, Worcester, Niagra Falls, Binghamton, Northern New Jersey, Totonto, Wynnewood - in addition to four ACYOA Central Council members present. Discussion on issues of concern was held while the Primate was present.

The "meeting" format has been done away with, as well as the former name (Chairman's Roundtable). The new format offers to the participants a learning experience; the new name opens the Seminar to any interested executive committee or general ACYOA member. What is needed to increase the number of participants is more publicity and promotion on the part of the ACYOA, specifically the Council Regional Representatives. A projection of this program is to have the Leadership Seminars take place at Regional Conference Weekends in the Fall of the year, to balance and compliment the spring Seminar at the Diocesan Assembly.



Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

## II. ACYOA Publications

Prepared for the Leadership Seminar is the newly printed ACYOA Chapter Handbook. Information, various rules and regulations, the ACYOA Constitution, program guidelines, ideas, etc... are all included to help existing and organizing ACYOA Chapters off on the right foot. This initial copy shall be used for 2-3 years, after which a review and revision shall be made to make the Handbook more useful and contain material that may have been inadvertently omitted.

One copy has been mailed to all parishes to be kept on file for reference purposes, another copy has been mailed to all Chapter Chairmen for regular use and circulation purposes. The Handbook is designed to be placed in a loose-leaf binder, or similar binder, and may be added to as new materials are produced.

Although the production of this Handbook took a long time, we think that its use will be welcomed by youth and adults alike. The Junior Division may find many parts helpful and useful to their Organization as well.

## III. ACYOA Armenian Studies Programs

This year, due to the absence of the regular monthly Chronicle of the Diocese, BEMA, we have been handicapped in promoting our programs throughout the Diocese. Direct mail is very costly, and our youth mailing lists are usually out of date or continually changing; we therefore rely on the Diocesan mailing list that reaches more Armenian homes than any other Armenian mailing list in the country.

Naturally, one of our programs that needs promotion, and thus has not had that much this year, is the Armenian Studies Programs. The difference in response from last year (when we had a regular BEMA) is very significant.

Program One is scheduled to depart on June 9th, following an Orientation Session led by the Executive Secretary and the Group Leaders. (V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian, and Mrs. Aline Dadekian.) The entire group shall have lunch at the Diocese, meet with the Primate, and depart for Armenia. All the places on this program have been filled, including 4 participants from the Western Diocese. It should be noted that the participants from the Western Diocese apply through their own ACYO Central Council. As a result, communications were difficult, and applications and deposits were received long after the designated deadline.

Programs Two and Three received marginal and little response respectively. These (being new programs) need the "big" promotion and the wide-spread publicity. Since the weekly Armenian newspapers have a limited circulation, we therefore received a limited response (as compared to last year).

Those who did register in Program Two are being offered a commercial tour, since the minimum was not received to form our own group. Program Three, for various reasons, received very little response. We

are cancelling the program for this year, and shall begin our publicity on a much broader scale at the beginning of the New Year. We hope that a regular publication from the Diocese is available at that time.

In addition, a special promotion to establish "benefactors" on a yearly basis is under consideration. Solicitation for donations has been done for the Armenian Studies Programs since its inception. However, due to Diocesan fund-raising, we did not solicit last year or this year. The purpose of these "benefactors" would be to defray the travel expenses for the participants in the various programs, and therefore attract those youth with limited resources. At present, this program is only available to those with wealthy and near-wealthy families.

#### IV. Meetings

Meetings and visitations held this past month included:

Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian and Mrs. Aline Dadekian regarding the ASP Educational Tour To Armenia.

Fr. Haigazoun on several occasions to review the program, the Orientation sessions, as well as prepare materials to be sent to the participants prior to departure.

National Sports Weekend Committee (New Britain Chapter) regarding the Weekend and the rules governing the activities.

ACYOA Central Council Chairman on several occasions regarding general administrative procedures and operations.

Fr. Ghevont Samoorian regarding the ASP Jerusalem Holy City Trip.

Next month the Executive Secretary shall be attending the N.E. Regional Conference, hosted by the Lawrence ACYOA Chapter.

The Regional Conference and Anniversary Ball for the Midwest Region, scheduled for June 12th, has been postponed due to internal problems within the Toronto ACYOA Chapter. The Executive Secretary, scheduled to be at the Conference in Toronto, shall visit the Toronto Parish and Chapter as scheduled. The organizing Montreal Chapter shall be visited as well.

#### V. Development

Promotional Poster for the ACYOA - design, layout, printing, distribution.

Audio-Visual Educational programs dealing with Jerusalem and the Marriage Sacrament.

Revision and reprinting of the book "Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church."

Materials involved with the 1982 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend. (sent to parishes and chapters/forms/info sheets/etc.)

Magazine fund-raising project.

Completed materials involved with the 1982 Armenian Studies Programs.

VI. ACYOA Camp Program

Discussions have taken place via telephone with the Administrative Director of the St. Vartan Camp, Rev. Fr. Paree Metjian. He indicated that applications are now beginning to come in, and, that it looks good for another successful Camp Program this summer. Rupen Kiredjian, Program Director, has expressed his concern over the amount of time allotted to educational programs as opposed to recreational and athletic. This is an area that needs development and serious review.

The funds from past camp sessions (1980 & 1981) remain unresolved and in sole possession by Fr. Paree. He insists on administering these funds and not forwarding any net profits to the ACYOA National Treasury. This is out of line with our other programs that turn over their money (except for operating funds) upon completion of that year's program. We continue to endeavor to solve this problem.

VII. Scholarships and Awards

Materials were sent to all parishes and chapters regarding the Sam Nersesian Award, and Sam Nersesian Scholarship. Applications and guidelines had been prepared. The Central Council shall review these during their July Meeting, and shall select the recipients.

The Archbishop's Essay Award shall be presented to the winner of the Essay Contest. Judges have been assigned/appointed to review the entries (not too many in this the first year). Presentations shall be made at the National Sports Weekend Awards Banquet.

VIII. General

Again we cannot stress enough the importance of communicative devices and vehicles. We hear from various parts of the Diocese that they have not heard of a certain program, or the dates of this or that. Yet, all this information has been sent to the responsible officers, the parishes and priests, etc., etc. Short of personal telephone calls and direct first class mail, we are certainly handicapped. We cannot rely on the limited circulation of the Armenian Press, and their editorial judgments, nor can we afford direct mail for each branch of the Diocese and all the programs therein. We need and must have a regular (weekly/monthly) publication entering the homes of our people. Only in this way can we truly expect them to respond within a reasonable amount of time, aware of the facts and able to contribute time, money, ideas, and expertise. Without such a vehicle, how do we expect to be heard above the roar of the hundreds of other voices from our society?

Respectfully submitted,

*James Magarian*  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - June 1982

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Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Regional Conferences

On June 5th, the New England Regional Conference convened at the Holy Cross Armenian Church in Lawrence, Mass. The Lawrence ACYOA Chapter served as host. Also planned for the evening was the N. E. Regional ACYOA Anniversary Ball.

The Executive Secretary attended the Conference and addressed the participants on the need for more participation in all youth programs. The Conference itself was not well attended. This was due, in part, to letters of invitation and publicity not being sent on time. The ACYOA Central Council Regional Representative is responsible for this and did not have the time to follow up on the needed materials and announcements.

The Conference dealt with the programs of the ACYOA, especially the General Assembly and National Sports Weekend.

June 12th was the scheduled date for the Midwest Regional Conference and Anniversary Ball. The hosts were to be the Toronto ACYOA Chapter of Holy Trinity Armenian Church. However, due to some internal conflicts and problems on the Executive Committee, the Conference and Anniversary Ball was postponed to July 10th. Many problems were dealt with over the telephone with the ACYOA Central Council Representatives in the Midwest Region, as well as members from the Toronto Chapter, two of which resigned from the Executive Committee.

Since the Executive Secretary had scheduled Toronto for a visitation on the weekend of June 12th, a special meeting was organized to meet with the Executive Secretary and discuss the activities of the Chapter and the problems experienced. (More on this under "visitations".)



Central Council

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## II. Armenian Studies Programs

Program #1 - "Educational Tour To Armenia" - June 9-July 9, 1982:  
Led by V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian and Arline Dadekian, the group participated in an orientation session at the Diocese on June 9th which included information on their trip, what to expect as well as a review of the rules and regulation for the program. A luncheon was prepared, as well as an audience with the Primate. A tour of the Cathedral and Diocesan Center was also given. Of the 18 registered participants (which is our capacity), four youths were from the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church (ACYO). Three of the 18 were not issued visas by the Soviet Government. The Soviets stated that their passports were received "too late" for processing. While this is true, since the three applied late, or had problems with their local passport office, the Soviets would not listen to reason, and thus no visas were issued to the three. The Travel Agent, realizing that time was short, and that the three visas were not coming, sent a representative to Washington, D.C. to investigate the situation with the Soviet Embassy. Even this "in person" approach would not change the minds of the Soviets who have a written "rule" which states that they require the passport of the applicant (for visas) at least 14-21 days in advance. Our experience tells us that there are times when the Soviets enforce this rule, and there are times when they do not. For the three youths, the Soviets decided to enforce it.

We fully intend to change our application schedule for this particular program next year. The change will mainly deal with an advance in the time schedule to ensure that all interested youths apply in plenty of time - both for our application process, as well as U.S. Government and Soviet Government passport/visa application processes.

Program #2 - "Journey to Armenia" - June 30, 1982:  
We offered this program again this year, however we again did not receive enough registered participants to form our own group, with our own Group Leader. Those who did register were offered the same basic rates with a commercial group traveling to Armenia, and thus their journey to their homeland took place. We shall receive a donation from the Travel Agent for giving our participants the commercial offer. The particular program is designed for the young person with limited "serious" desires (as required for program one), as well as limited time (2-3 weeks, instead of 4 weeks in program one). Over time we will know whether there is this need.

Program #3 - "Jerusalem the Holy City" - August 1, 1982:  
Postponed to next summer due to growing tensions and conflicts between the nations of the Middle-East. The American media coverage of the Middle-East conflict hurt our own publicity, as parents and young people were not encouraged by the problems and dangers there. Leading this group was V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian and Rose Aznavorian.

One of our problems with the Armenian Studies Programs, as well as with many programs of the Diocese, is proper public relations. In 1981 we were able to utilize the BEMA as a regular monthly publication reaching thousands of Armenian households. Response and inquiry to our programs was very encouraging. However, this year we did not have the use of such a tool, and thus our publicity reverted to a mediocre



standard experienced years ago. Two items indicate the great need for wide-spread publicity - 1: The response and public knowledge of the programs and the deadlines for registration. We had people inquiring about a program they had "heard" about long after the deadline! In addition, the number of inquires were cut in half - from 230 to about 110! Moreover, ASPs 2 and 3, which are still new, need the added exposure and publicity. And 2: The need to attract the many, many youths who have little or nothing to do with our Church (and organizations). The only way we can seriously interest these young people is through public relations of our programs. Especially solid attractive programs like our overseas trips. This can only be accomplished via a "newspaper" of our origin, in which we deliberately publish our propaganda, our announcements, promote our programs, and inform with our Church related materials and items of interest. We have experienced the use of the commercial Armenian weekly newspapers currently published. They have a very limited appeal, and, most importantly, have a very limited number of subscribers. Thus, we are stating again the need for our own public relations tool. We have been saying this for almost a year now.

### III. ACYOA Camp Program

The 1982 edition of the ACYOA Camp Program - St. Vartan Camp - is scheduled for July 4-17 at the Canterbury School in New Milford, CT. Indications show that a good number of participants shall be attending the extended two week Camp. Many "late" registrants are expected.

As we have stated in the past, working with Rev. Fr. Paree Metjian, Administrative Director, remains an enigma. Recent developments have shown that he has some trouble dealing with those who do not think like him. This year, we appointed Rupen Kiredjian as Program Director. Fr. Paree had mentioned that the ACYOA has not helped very much in one of their own programs. We sought out and appointed Mr. Kiredjian to help Fr. Paree, and take on the responsibility of the entire program for the camp participants. However, Fr. Paree and Mr. Kiredjian could not agree on the purpose of the Camp, but not on the method of achieving that purpose. Problems arose on the schedule, instructional time, free-time, bed time, etc.... areas dealing with the psychology of children and adolescents, of which Fr. Paree knows very little. A news release came out from the office of the Executive Secretary, as does most news releases dealing with ACYOA, promoting the Camp and announcing Rupen Kiredjian as Program Director. The next week, a news release was printed (Mirror-Spectator) announcing the Camp program, along with the Program Director - someone other than Mr. Kiredjian. In fact, Mr. Kiredjian was not even mentioned! The only one who can terminate appointments is the Primate, and in the case of non-clergy appointments, the Executive Secretary. No such terminations were given. Why Fr. Paree took this position is unclear, but certainly consistent in his independent attitude regarding this ACYOA Program. As we had mentioned last month, the funds from the 1980 and 1981 Camp Programs remain with Fr. Paree. The ACYOA Central Council can only show financial reports for the Camp during those two years. All funds of all programs are turned over to the ACYOA Central Council following their execution. Fr. Paree understands this, but refuses to comply.

Letters to the respective persons involved, as well as the Primate, have been sent regarding the aforementioned recent developments with the Camp staff and communications. More on this next month.

#### IV. Trips and Visitations

The Executive Secretary arranged and executed the Armenian Studies Program "Educational Tour to Armenia" Orientation at the Diocese. While there, meetings took place with the Primate, Executive Director and other Department Heads of the Diocese.

Informal visitation with young people from the Binghamton Armenian Community while enroute to Toronto. The Binghamton situation is weak in terms of youth, especially an organized Senior ACYOA Chapter. However, the young people there do maintain their contact and are planning to attend the General Assembly (observers) and the National Sports Weekend.

As mentioned before, the Toronto Chapter has experienced some problems during the past few months. We have determined that this is mainly due to their lack of serious leadership, and a genuine understanding of organizational operations. Two of their Executive Committee members who were responsible for the Midwest Regional Anniversary Ball resigned their positions. Their organizational structure did not allow for someone else to take over, since regular meetings of the membership to not take place. Thus, the Ball had to be postponed, and the Midwest Regional ACYOA Conference along with it.

The Executive Secretary met with the Chapter Executives and members at a meeting in the Church Hall. Various problems and difficulties were aired and discussed at length. Explanations were given for the current course of action, as well as the proper way of operating the Chapter. With some effort the group will sponsor the Anniversary Ball and host the Midwest Regional ACYOA Conference the weekend of July 10th. Meetings were also held with the Chairman, and past Chairman of the Chapter. A discussion on the question involving the financial report of the 1974 National Sports Weekend, brought up at the 1981 General Assembly, took place. The Executive Secretary advised that the current Officers conduct a thorough investigation into this question, and report to the ACYOA Central Council their findings. No matter the result, this question will be resolved, so as to not hurt the current members' chances of hosting the Sports Weekend some time in the future. The Delegates from the Toronto Chapter spoke with the Executive Secretary at length regarding this year's Assembly, and the necessary obligations of the Toronto Chapter.

The meeting ended on a good note, and the group is looking forward to a more organized structure, as well as participating in the upcoming General Assembly and National Sports Weekend.

The Executive Secretary then made a visitation to the Montreal Parish of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church. The purpose of this visit was to formally organize a new ACYOA Chapter. During the past several months, efforts were made to organize the youth and form a Chapter. A result of this effort was their participation in the Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament in April. The

Executive Secretary met with about 20 youths, Parish Council representatives, and the Pastor. Mr. Arto Basmajian, past Council Chairman and instrumental in organizing the youth, was also present. He shall act as advisor for the group.

The youth present were mix of Junior and Senior age young people who were very interested in forming their Chapter and participating in the activities and programs of the ACYOA. The Parish intends to formally petition the Primate and ACYOA Central Council for recognition into the National Organization, and , upon recognition, participate in the General Assembly and National Sports Weekend this year in Hartford, CT. This visitation was very encouraging and indicative of the needs in most chapters for some adult/parish council support and initiative. Keeping this in mind, we must also consider timing and the "stage" of the parish relative to youth. In some parishes, a few years go by before the youth are "ready" to be organized and serve the Church.

The Greater Lowell Chapter June meeting was attended by the Executive Secretary. Lowell has had a history of "ups and downs" depending on who was available to lead and serve on the Executive Committee. They are presently trying to stabilize their organizational efforts and attract new members. They mentioned that with the National Sports Weekend only two hours away this year, it would serve to bring in members who otherwise are not too interested in parish-based activities. The Executive Secretary addressed the group and stated that they should not set their sights too high, and then become disappointed when their plans are not successful. Taking on too many activities and responsibilities have hurt chapters in the past - large and small alike. They are planning to participate in the General Assembly and the National Sports Weekend in Hartford.

#### V. ACYOA Central Council

Chapter Obligation and Participation "check-lists" have been updated and sent to Central Council Members for their reference in dealing with the chapters in their respective regions.

The Council will meet in July in Chelmsford. Various materials related to that meeting, as well as on going work, has been prepared and sent out. The Council members were reminded of the various program and administrative deadlines to be observed, by them and the chapters, and that reminders to all chapters should be sent. In addition, telephone follow ups were also urged.

An updated membership list has finally been prepared by the Treasurer and sent to the Recording Secretary for Membership Card distribution. This is the first year in a long time that membership cards will be sent to ACYOA Members. The Cards will be sent direct, instead of to local chapters for distribution. It is planned to offer a discount at the National Sports Weekend for those members who have their membership cards with them. Other incentives on the national and regional levels are also planned to promote dues paying membership.

At the July Central Council Meeting, the winners of the Chapter "A" Award and Honorable Mention, Sam Nersesian Scholarship, Sam Nersesian Award, as well as the Essay Awards will be selected and announced by the Council. This is usually done at the last minute following the

ACYOA General Assembly in a "quick" meeting of the Council. This year a little more time and deliberation will afford the Council a more serious look at the entrants and applicants.

In addition, a first draft of a promotional ACYOA Poster will be presented for consideration and acceptance. The purpose of the poster will be to promote and illustrate the ACYOA. The posters are intended to be colorful and well done, including a descriptive few words on the programs of the organization, and inducement phrases. The Council will request that each parish hang the posters in public areas. It has been proposed that if the ACYOA has more exposure, via activities and illustrated materials, that more interest might be generated. Time will tell if this approach helps increase membership and chapter formations.

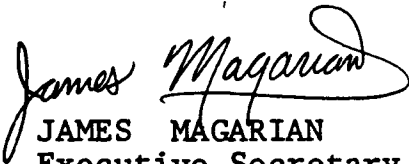
VI. ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend

The hosts of this year's annual convocation, the New Britain ACYOA Chapter, have been working very hard in preparing the many materials and making the many arrangements for the delegates to the General Assembly, as well as the participants in the Sports Weekend. We expect a very large turnout this year in Hartford.

The members of the Weekend Committee have been in touch with the Executive Secretary regarding the details to their respective areas of the Weekend. A meeting is scheduled for next month with the Executive Secretary whereat the final details will be reviewed. Materials dealing with the weekend, accommodations, athletic events, etc. have been sent to members and chapters. More detailed information is scheduled to be sent early in July.

We are attempting to cover many unintentionally forgotten details from past years during this major ACYOA event.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - July 1982

Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. ACYOA CAMP PROGRAM

The 1982 ACYOA Camp Program took place this year from July 4 through July 17. Approximately 120 children from the ages of 8 through 16 participated in the "St. Vartan Camp" which used the facilities of the Canterbury School in New Milford, CT. After expenses, approximately a \$2,000 profit was realized.

The Administrative Director for the Camp this year was Rev. Father Patee Metjian. Mr. Haig Dikranian, Director of the Victory Soccer Camp which also uses the Canterbury School facility, again assisted in executing the ACYOA Camp Program. He handled the athletic and recreational instruction, as well as other areas. Fr. Patee formed a volunteer staff of men and women, some of which were present for the entire two weeks of the Camp Program.

As mentioned in the June Report, difficulties in reaching an understanding of the procedures and means of operation for this ACYOA Program remain with Fr. Patee. A meeting is currently planned to help alleviate these problems. All funds from the last three years that Fr. Patee has been the Administrative Director remain with him. (This is not in accordance with standard procedures for ACYOA Programs. The procedure is for the program director to be given an advance from the ACYOA Central Council, use those funds to begin the program, use funds that will be received from participants and donations to run the program, then file a financial report - included in a full report with recommendations - and return the advance and any profits made. A small amount of funds may be retained as "start up" money for next year if the director is to handle the program again. What has happen with the Camp Program is highly irregular and remains a problem. The proper procedures have been communicated.) Fr. Patee has sent a "report" to the Primate regarding this year's Camp Program, including a financial



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section. However, no funds were forwarded with this report.

We cannot operate programs and administrative procedures if our appointed directors and assistants do not follow stated procedures. "Independant" perspectives and attitudes do not lend to a progressive and properly executed program. Moreover, unnecessary problems only take up valuable time and effort, and do not result in positive solutions. An understanding of "togetherness, mutual concerns and needs" are the only means of attaining a quality program - not only in the results of the program itself, but also in its development and method of execution.

The Executive Secretary was at the Camp for two days and observed the schedule, participation of campers, participation of staff as well as the general atmosphere. A tremendous potential is present, one that could develop into a solid educational and social experience for the children of the Diocese. The idea of a Camp Program was initiated during the 1978 ACYOA General Asssembly, and in the four years that the Program has been executed, it has slowly evolved and taken shape in a positive and progressive manner. However, the problems that remain are very real and need our attention.

## II. Trips and Visitations

In addition to the visitation to the ACYOA St. Vartan Camp, the Executive Secretary also visited the New Britain ACYOA Chapter. They are the hosts for the upcoming 1982 ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend - September 1-6, in Hartford, Conn.

The New Britain Chapter had many questions regarding procedure and protocol, in addition to proper scheduling. The Executive Secretary received brief verbal reports from each Committee for the Weekend, in addition to the various Coordinators of the many events planned. Suggestions were given and ideas proposed.

A visitation to the Bayside Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs re-organized the Chapter there, and prepared them for full participation in the upcoming Assembly and Sports Weekend. They are very excited and seem to be a well disposed group of young adults. They understand their role in the Parish, as well as their responsibilities to the National Organization. We are pleased to note that after almost three years, the Bayside ACYOA Chapter is re-established and should be an active and operating group during the next year.

The Providence Chapter has also been re-organized and is taking shape to again establish itself as a fully operating group. A visitation to the Providence Church of St. Sahag and St. Mesrob was quite productive. A general Chapter meeting was scheduled, whereat many questions and answers regarding the Chapter and the National Organization were discussed. Providence has been slow to re-activate and now is showing positive signs of improvement. A new group of young adults seem to be taking a very active interest in the formation and maintenance of their Chapter.

The Executive Secretary was present at the July Lowell ACYOA Chapter meeting, whereat the major focus was recruiting new members and preparing for the General Assembly and National Sports Weekend. It seems that many chapters perk up during the summer in anticipation for the big convocation during the Labor Day Weekend holiday. At the Lowell meeting, a prime example can be seen where a once strong and motivated youth group has slipped down in the past few years due to an absence of (1) leadership and (2) actual members/youth. This is a cyclical situation that occurs in many parishes - usually those that are medium to small, but it may be observed in large parishes as well - wherein the numbers of active and (most importantly) actual youth fluctuate to the point where it is extremely difficult to bring the remaining youth together to form an operating chapter. Presently in Lowell, a transition to another generation is taking place, and a new group is beginning to form. The older members are either gone or have too many other interests, and thus the cycle begins again with a new group. It's almost like starting all over again, since many of the new youth have had little exposure and experience in parish or ACYOA matters. (Some may say this is good.) The same situation is present in Bayside - a new group is taking shape with new faces, new ideas, but little or no experience. Hopefully we can remain in touch with these new groups of young people and give them every opportunity to participate and experience their Church and heritage.

### III. Meetings

Meetings that took place this month (of significance) were with the following:

Mark Kazanjian on several occasions to discuss ACYOA Central Council matters, as well as prepare for the Council meeting in July.

V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian on the design of a promotional poster.

V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian upon his return from Armenia as Group Leader of the "Educational Tour to Armenia".

V. Rev. Fr. Vasken Keshishian regarding the youth situation in his parish.

Gary Hovhanessian, Chairman of the Sports Weekend Committee regarding preparation for a meeting as well as other details.

ACYOA Central Council (see details elsewhere in this Report)

Frank Stoneson regarding various details and operations of the ACYOA.

Nancy Basmajian regarding methodologies in youth programming, as well as general discussion on ACYOA Junior and Senior Divisions.

### IV. ACYOA Central Council

The ACYOA Central Council held its July Meeting at Ss. Vartanantz Armenian Church in Chelmsford, MA during the weekend of July 23-25. The three day meeting included reports and discussion on the programs of the ACYOA, their operations and procedures, as well as in preparation for the General Assembly. All Council members were present.

Major discussion centered on the purchase of government-backed bonds to receive a higher rate of interest on funds in stocks and in the money-market. Ralph DerAsadourian (recording secretary) full time employment deals with stocks and the economy, and his input in this area was valuable. Other discussion concerned the fund raising plan to be introduced during the Assembly. The plan calls for the ACYOA to promote itself as a vehicle through which people may receive their magazine subscriptions; More importantly, through which they may renew their current subscriptions. The plan does not call for any sales, and will result in the ACYOA gaining 20% (approximately) for every subscription. A magazine distributor handles almost all the paper work and contacts. The ACYOA has no financial investment, but must assist in maintaining local or regional contacts with the members themselves to promote the plan. A sizeable profit could be realized once the plan is properly introduced throughout the Diocese, and people realize that they can give to the ACYOA without it costing them anything.

Preparation for the Annual General Assembly of the ACYOA took alot of time. Discussion on the duties of the officers, of the Council and of the Host Committee/Chapter was lengthy. The Executive Secretary informed the Council of his expectations, and that it is very important that they be fully prepared, before the Assembly is to begin, and avoid last year's two hour delay. Protocol was also stressed. The Report of the Central Council to the Delegates of the Assembly was reviewed and will be sent out to the parishes and chapters during the first week in August. Although this mailing (which includes other materials for the delegates, such as the Assembly Agenda, Proposals, etc.) is about one week late, it is the earliest these materials have ever been sent out. We are trying to remain as close to the designated deadlines and notice dates as possible in an effort to have everyone informed with proper information and plenty of time.

In general, the members of the ACYOA Central Council worked well together this year, well beyond last year's group who only found time to give negative criticism and very little actual work. The fact that the Council Chairman and Executive Secretary lived in close proximity, and were able to work well together also was of major significance.

However, the efficiency and practicality of a five member council of young adults to govern the official Youth Program of the Diocese is suspect. These young people are at a critical time in their lives. They are either in college or have graduated and have jobs, and even contemplating marriage and career choices. The little extra time they may have is not enough to carry on the many responsibilities and duties involved with a national organization. It may be time to give a critical look at our total youth program (from age 10 to 25) and re-evaluate what it is we want our youth to learn and participate in, as well as the structure we should use in achieving it. Although the ACYOA appears viable on paper, its execution and actual effectiveness is far from what it should be, given the critical stage the Armenian community in America is in relative to assimilation and apathy.



#### V. ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend

The Annual General Assembly of the ACYOA is scheduled to open on Wednesday, September 1st at the Sheraton-Hartford Hotel in downtown Hartford, CT. The Primate shall preside of the proceedings which will continue until Friday noon.

The ACYOA Central Council, along with the Executive Secretary, is planning to be fully prepared for the Assembly, and attempt to provide a smooth atmosphere for the meetings. Committee sessions will take place on Thursday, of which the Executive Secretary has outlined the areas of greatest need, and therefore Committee need. One area of importance will be the introduction of the fund raising plan to provide additional funds for the ACYOA. Another area is the publications and the need to communicate effectively and meaningfully with the youth of the Diocese.

Following the Assembly is the Annual National Sports Weekend which shall begin Friday evening, September 3rd, and continue until Monday afternoon. Hosting this year's event is the New Britain Chapter which has worked very hard for an entire year in preparing for this weekend which should bring together over 500 young adults.

#### VI. ACYOA Armenian Studies Programs

Simply to update from last month's Report, a meeting with V: Rev. Father Haigazoun Melkonian, Group Leader of the "Educational Tour to Armenia", revealed that the group had an outstanding experience in the Fatherland of Armenia. Their four week trip was highlighted by an audience with His Holiness, as well as many excursions throughout the country. A focus this year was to see as much of the country as possible, and receive a complete feeling for the land of Armenia. Fr. Haigazoun commented that the participants for the most part formed a cohesive group that built friendship that will last a life-time. Few major problems developed, and only 2 participants presented problems, minor for the length of time and possibilities.

Fr. Haigazoun was assisted by Mrs. Aline Dadekian who also commented on the outstanding nature of the participants, and the very meaningful experience they shared. A full report is being filed by Fr. Haigazoun and will be included in the over-all report by the Executive Secretary.

#### VII. Archbishop's Essay Contest

In its initial year, the Contest did not attract very many entries, however, we shall offer this program for the literary-minded young adult for the next two years, thereafter make an evaluation on its effectiveness. Although the youth who voiced the need for "other-than-athletic" programs by the ACYOA did not participate, they nonetheless did note a need on the part of the Organization to offer other

means of participation, communication and expression.

An independent panel of judges reviewed the essays received and chose Kevin Magarian as the winner in the English Language Category. (There were no entries in the Armenian Language Category.) Certificates and awards will be presented during the Awards banquet of the National Sports Weekend.

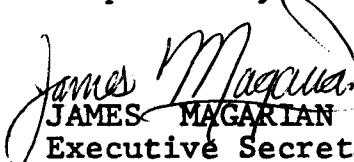
### VIII. Publications

The quarterly publication of the ACYOA, Keghard, remains a question at this time. Several reasons for this include the need for a qualified editor to assume the responsibility. Given the fact that ACYOA funds do not allow to hire a qualified person (if one could be found which is in itself a major problem), the areas of resources are limited. We have sent out letters to persons we know are in the field of journalism, but thus far only limited response and desire has been shown. We are contemplating that an interested and qualified clergyman assist in the area of this publication.

Nevertheless, the need for a regular publication to the membership of the Organization (as well as a publication to the Armenian Youth of our Diocese in general) is of utmost importance. Communication and dissemination of materials is a major factor that has been over-looked in the recent past, and may be one of the causes that the number of involved youth in the parish and the ACYOA at large is a fraction of what it should be. During this next year, we are planning some type of publication, whether or not it be a Keghard, or even on the same type of format as the Keghard remains to be seen.

The review of the booklet, "Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church", first printed by the ACYOA in 1958 with subsequent reprinting, continues by the V. Rev. Father Haigazoun Melkonian. Fr. Haigazoun plans to have the booklet ready for the press before the end of this year. The need and interest in having this booklet reprinted has been voiced for several years since it went out of print in 1968.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT -- August 1982

Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND NATIONAL SPORTS WEEKEND

The primary focus during the month of August is the upcoming ACYOA Annual General Assembly and National Sports Weekend. Preparing for the meetings, as well as encouraging attendance and participation took up a great deal of time and energy. We expect a record participation for the Assembly, and many new faces for the Sports Weekend.

These expectations come from the addition of new chapters into the Organization, as well as our increased contact with the Armenian Youth population in general. The inquiries made regarding the requirements and eligibility for participation have been more numerous than in the past.

The "packet" which is sent out annually in the beginning of August to all Parishes, Chapter Chairmen and Chapter delegates was prepared and sent out on time. It contained various information for the delegates to better prepare them for active and intelligent participation in the Assembly proceedings. Proposed Constitutional Amendments, General Proposals, Agenda, Itinerary, etc., etc., made up the packet.

In addition to the aforementioned items sent, materials were prepared for use during the Assembly itself. Outlines for discussion for the various Assembly Committees, materials for registration, etc. were upgraded utilizing the experiences from past Assemblies. Each year we are endeavoring to avoid problems and other time consuming dysfunction that can result from poor planning. Next year we will again improve to make the proceedings smooth running.

The expected response of over 500 youths for the National Sports Weekend is about to be a reality. The advance reservations for hotel and package plans is higher than in past years. The hosts, the New Britain ACYOA Chapter, have worked extra hard this past year in planning and preparing for the Weekend. All points seem to be covered. During this



Central Council

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past month, numerous phone conversations with the Host Committee members have served to straighten out situations that might result in problems. We are confident in a smooth and exciting Weekend for the ACYOA.

## II. PROMOTIONAL POSTERS

In preparing for the General Assembly, we have prepared Promotional Posters for display in an appropriate place in all parishes of the Diocese. One poster features a redrawing of the ACYOA emblem, the other features a map of Armenia, the emblem, "ACYOA" in bold letters, and a descriptive mention of what ACYOA provides. However, the interesting feature of this poster is the map of Armenia. The names of the actual cities and towns on the map have been replaced with the names of the cities and towns whereat we have Armenian Church parishes and ACYOA Chapters. This unique concept will undoubtedly draw attention to a quite ordinary poster and map of Armenia. Appreciation to the Vr. Rev. Ghevont Samoorian who assisted in the graphic preparations, as well as to Mr. Don Depoyan who donated the silk-screening costs.

## III. MEETINGS

Meetings held this month included the following:

- V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian - publications and promotions
- Frank Stoneson at Diocese - general administration
- Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian - liaison to ACYOA Central Council
- Rev. Fr. Patee Metjian - ACYOA Camp Program
- Gary Hovhanessian - General Assembly and National Sports Weekend
- Mark Kazanjian - ACYQA Central Council - general operations
- Primate - general update on programs and prep for Assembly.

## IV. VISITATIONS

The Executive Secretary attended the Monthly meeting of the Lowell and Lawrence ACYOA Chapters, as well as met in a special session with the New Britain ACYOA in preparation for the Assembly, as already mentioned.

Lowell is relying heavily on the Sports Weekend to revitalize itself and bring in new members. They expect between 15 and 20 members participating which is the most ever attending from Lowell. The new Chairman, Michael Amboian is energetic and enthusiastic. He may have the ability to bring some life into the youth of the Lowell Chapter - 24 members.

Lawrence is also gearing up for the Weekend. They now have approximately 50 members and expect to have at least 30 at the weekend. The new Chairman, Kory Sirmaian, is also enthusiastic and has a good following. He represents some "new blood" for the Chapter which should have a good showing at the Weekend.

## V. ACYOA Camp Program

The meeting held this month with the Rev. Fr. Parea Metjian in Fair Lawn, N.J. was also attended by the ACYOA Central Council Chairman Mark Kazanjian, as well as Mr. Frank Stoneson of the Diocese. The meeting discussed the camp program and its procedural aspects, in addition to the funds that Fr. Parea retains in a Camp Account under his sole jurisdiction. Mr. Stoneson made it clear that this situation is highly irregular, and that the requests by the Central Council and Executive Secretary should have been met. Fr. Parea expressed his reservations regarding the funds in the hands of the Central Council, and decided to maintain an account for them on his own. Mr. Stoneson requested that Fr. Parea transfer all funds to the Diocese for proper administration, and reassured Fr. Parea that restricted accounts will be maintained. We understand that by the end of August, and after two reminder letters, the funds from the past three Camp seasons have been transferred to the Diocese. Although these funds technically belong to the ACYOA, this issue has yet to be addressed, especially in light of the possibility that the Diocese itself may take over the sponsorship of the Camp Program.

Plans for the 1983 Camp Program should begin very soon, regarding site location, dates, staff, etc.

## VI. General

Initiated last year at the Annual General Assembly, an educational presentation will be made to the delegates. This is in keeping with the focus of ACYOA as a learning experience, incorporating educational programs and discussions into the agenda of conferences and other gatherings. In the past, the agenda was filled with only "business" and many times the delegates would leave a 3 day meeting only knowing how boring the process can be. We are attempting to include educational programs when the ACYOA meets so that our young adults can learn about their Church and Heritage. Preparation for the educational program was coordinated with the V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian who accepted the role as presentor.

In speaking with Fr. Ghevont and other clergymen, it appears that we will have a higher number of clergy participation than in past years at the Assembly. This is a good indication that our clergy are again becoming involved and interested in the ACYOA. It is important that the young adults are exposed to the Clergy of the Church if only to informally discuss a topic, enjoy meals together, or even debate an issue during the Assembly itself.

The booklet ("yearbook") for this year's Sports Weekend will again be presented during the Awards Banquet. However, this year we shall offer some content to the usual "ad" book setup. Research was done this past month into the files of past Sports Weekends to find the records of the sports winners in the various categories. Although some records have been kept, some items are missing, and none have ever been prepared and published. This year we shall incorporate the records


we have in an attempt to make up a "record book" of the past participants and champions of the Sports Weekend. In addition to this information, other materials dealing with the ACYOA, the Church, etc. will also be included so that the young adults will want to keep the booklet instead of discarding it after the Weekend. Unfortunately, alot of time was placed in doing the necessary research due to past record keeping practices. We intend to upgrade the records of the ACYOA so that needed materials and information will be available when required.

A major topic of Committee and general Assembly discussion will be the magazine fund raising project for the ACYOA. Invited to assist in the explanation of the project is Mr. Maynard Merel of New York City. The project is one that over time will net the ACYOA a considerable amount of money for programs and development. If the entire Diocese becomes involved in "spreading the word" regarding this, it will no doubt be a success.

A meeting was held this month between Mr. Merel, the ACYOA Central Council Chairman and the Executive Secretary regarding the project. In essence, all magazine subscriptions and renewals that "go through" the ACYOA will net the ACYOA approximately 20% of every dollar. All checks are made out to ACYOA, all money is handled by ACYOA. Mr. Merel handles all the paper work and orders with the magazine publishers, and assists in the "P-R" of the project - which is the most important aspect. There is no financial investment on the part of ACYOA. Over time, as people begin to think of "ACYOA" when they think of "magazines" the Organization will receive a fine return on the time spent in promoting the project. After a while, the renewals will be a continuous source of income. Only time will tell if this project will net a really large return.

Two methods of encouraging more participation in this year's Assembly and National Sports Weekend was (1) inviting all Clergy to a special reception for clergy, chapter chairmen and Central Council Members, as well as offer the Clergy a special discount on the package plan; and (2) offering a \$20.00 discount to those who registered by Aug. 6th, as well as present their "ACYOA Membership Card" upon registration at the Hotel. The \$10.00 discount for those who show their membership card was initiated by the Executive Secretary and ACYOA Central Council to encourage membership participation, as well as lend some importance to becoming a dues paid member of the Organization. Indications thus far show that this idea is well received by the Chapters and the membership.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - September 1982

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Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. 1982 ACYOA General Assembly

The Annual Assembly of the ACYOA took place on September 1-3 at the Sheraton-Hartford Hotel, and was hosted by the New Britain ACYOA Chapter of Holy Resurrection Armenian Church.

For the first time since the 1975 re-organization, the Primate was unable to preside at the Assembly sessions. The Vicar General, the V. Rev. Fr. Houssig Bagdasian, and the V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian, represented the Primate during the various Assembly sessions and banquets of the National Sports Weekend.

The Assembly proceeded smoothly and without needless deliberation which had been a major part of past Assemblies. Certainly a learning experience for the young people, the Assembly offers them a chance to make changes in their Organization, as well as involve them in the process of organizational structure, execution and decision making.

Letters of appreciation and thanks have been sent out to the various persons involved. The results of the Assembly (proposals, elections, etc.) have been forwarded to the Primate and Diocesan Council for their approval and confirmation. After receiving this confirmation, official letters were sent to the newly elected Council Members, as well as their home parishes encouraging them to support and offer assistance when possible to make the duties of the Council members a little easier.

Letters have also been sent to all Parishes and ACYOA Chapters of the Diocese informing them of the elections, and to the regions the Council Members represent for the 1982-83 ACYOA year.

The promotional ACYOA Poster, previously discussed, was prepared for distribution at the Assembly. The Poster features a redrawing of the



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ACYOA emblem, along with a centrally located Map of Armenia. The Map awakens a curiosity factor as one notices that the original cities and towns of Armenia have been replaced with the cities and towns of American Armenian Church parishes. The concept was very well received by young and old alike at the Assembly and Sports Weekend. The V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian was thanked for his assistance in designing the Poster. The Poster also features a pocket for the ACYOA "Today" brochures - the intent of which is to hang the Posters in a conspicuous place in the Parish. All delegations were given Posters to take back with them.

A major focal point of the Assembly was the initiation of the new fund raising project of the ACYOA. Dubbed "ACYOA MagMoney", the project was greeted by much enthusiasm by the delegates who were anxious to begin. The project has been described here before, however, it basically entails a commission for the ACYOA whenever a magazine subscription or renewal is order via the project. It will be slow to catch on, but it could mean a sizable amount of money for the Organization in the long run.

## II. National Sports Weekend

Immediately following the Assembly, the National Sports Weekend took place at the same facilities. Attracting at least 500 young people, the New Britain ACYOA did a fine job of hosting the Organization for both the Assembly and Sports Weekend.

One highlight of the Weekend was the participation of the new chapters of the Organization. The fellowship, exchange and comradery are the real fruits of this program. While the games were played with some serious competition, the friendships and relationships that are started and renewed here is something we cannot do without.

More Chapters participated than ever before, in addition to those young people who came to Hartford on their own to be with other young Armenians. The facilities and activities there at were well planned and designed to counter any major mischief. We intend to ensure that future Weekends are similarly designed.

A highlight of the Weekend was the Awards Banquet, during which the first "National Sports Weekend Yearbook" was introduced to the attendees. For the first time, the winners of the various events were published in a small booklet, which included messages from the Primate, Executive Secretary and Host Pastor. Other information was provided in the Booklet concerning the accomplishments of the ACYOA over the years, significant dates in the history of the Church, etc. Although it was difficult to research the past winners of the various sporting events, the information was fairly accurate with only a few missing years. Records in the past were very poorly kept, and revealed another aspect of the Organization that needs to be addressed. We intend to maintain accurate records from now on.

One area of concern by some of the delegates to the Assembly, was the rising costs of Sports Weekends, and the possibility that some young



people cannot afford the high prices. These prices reflect the settings, the professional look, the desire to use hotels and well equipped athletic facilities, etc. A serious look will be made into the possible ways of lowering the costs to the three-day event which is the only national convening of the members and chapters of the ACYOA.

((For details on the Assembly proceedings, kindly refer to the Minutes of the Assembly which will be published by December.)))

((For details on the National Sports Weekend - general information will appear in the Armenian press. Financial information will appear in the Minutes of the ACYOA Central Council Meetings for 1982-83.)))

### III. ACYOA Central Council

The newly elected members of the ACYOA Central Council, serving two year terms, are Vaughn Totovian (Watertown) - Corresponding Secretary, and Melanie Barsamian (Worcester) - Recording Secretary. They join Susan Mousigian (Detroit) - Chairman, Gary Hovhanessian (New Britain) - Vice Chairman, and Ralph DerAsadourian (Evanston) - Treasurer, all with one year remaining on the Council.

Without a doubt, the accomplishments, congeniality, fellowship and ability to work together marked the ACYOA Central Council which served during the past year. They enjoyed each other's company, and were able to work out their differences in opinion without hurting feelings. This is very important for a group of persons handling many responsibilities on the national level - in addition to the fact that they meet 4 or 5 times per year.

This relationship was carried over in their ability to work with the Executive Secretary and the Diocese itself. Past Council views of the Youth Director and Diocese were somewhat different, and many times led to problems that could have been averted.

The addition of the new Council members may be seen as a continuance of the good relationship and ability to carry out the work together. When a group has goal orientation, along with a sense of accomplishment, the relationship of the members of the group cannot help to be good. It is intended to maintain the cohesiveness of the Council through the next year. The results of which will be seen in the amount of work that is accomplished, as well as the progress made in bringing into the Organization more young people of the Church.

The Council members, old and new, were given materials to assist them in their endeavors. It was also stressed to maintain contact with the various parishes in their regions, and thereby initiate more inter-chapter activity which has seen a decline in the past few years.

The first meeting of the Council is scheduled for November.

#### IV. Unfinished Business

A meeting took place with the New Britain ACYOA Chapter two weeks following the Weekend in Hartford. They were very well organized and are preparing their final report soon. This is very much welcomed in light of the fact that the Chicago-Evanston Chapter, who hosted the Weekend last year, took almost 12 months to complete their general and financial reports.

The meeting was productive and allowed time for the members to discuss their particular area of responsibility - and how to make it better and improve upon it for next year. All were very positive.

Financially, the preliminary figures show a profit of approximately \$10,000. This is divided between the host and the National Organization.

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For the first time, no ACYOA chapter bid for the next Assembly and National Sports Weekend. The ACYOA Central Council has again invited bids from capable chapters - however, only the Lawrence ACYOA has shown a desire (as well as capability) to host the big event. Since no bids were received by the Assembly, the Council will decide on the host for the 1983 convocation. A decision will be made by October 10th.

Some may view this occurrence as poor showing for the Organization. However, if one looks further, a cycle has developed wherein the members of the Organization are beginning to turn over - in terms of age and maturity. The older ones are becoming too old, and the younger ones are maturing. A gap can occur, like this year, resulting in many of the chapters not capable of handling the Sports Weekend, or, not mature enough to organize and plan for it.

This is a strange situation, in light of the fact that more young people of the Diocese participated in more ACYOA events and activities (local, regional and national) than ever before. Through this increased participation, the sensitivity of the young people, their desire to be with other Armenians, their concern for their Church, and their interest in Armenian Church and Cultural affairs, should be increased. This is the whole point of having a Church Youth Organization. However, we will only see the results of this in the future.

#### V. ACYOA MagMoney Project

The operations of the MagMoney project are now in full gear. Regional coordinators have been established to help in communications and promotion. The entire project rests on the promotion of the ACYOA as able to handle magazine subscriptions, and, that when anyone receives their magazines through the ACYOA, they are helping the young people of the Church, as well as the Church itself.

Maynard Merel, the distributing agent and Project Administrator, has been most helpful in initiating the Project. He was invited to the Assembly to assist in explaining the mechanics of the operation. This was most helpful in answering the many questions involved.

A Secretary has been appointed in the New York City area to handle the incoming checks, which will be addressed to the Diocese.

#### VI. Visitations

During the Assembly and Weekend, many contacts were established, whereby visitations can be planned to the parishes in need of them. Appropriate letters have been written, and a schedule has been started for the year. Next month, Cleveland and Wisconsin are planned.

#### VII. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

During the National Sports Weekend, the winner of the bid to host this annual Tournament was announced. The Detroit Chapter of St. John Armenian Church was awarded the bid. The Tournament will take place at their new facilities in February or April. A meeting is planned with the Executive Secretary and the Detroit Chapter to discuss the details and execution of the Tournament.

#### VIII. Meetings

Meetings held this month included:

- Executive Director of Diocese - general administrative
- Primate - proceedings of Assembly and Sports Weekend
- Maynard Merel - MagMoney Project details
- New Britain ACYOA - recap meeting on Assembly and Weekend
- Chairman of National Sport Weekend Committee - details and report
- Past Central Council members - transfer of materials
- V. Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretian - Lawrence Chapter/bid for next Weekend
- Central Council Chairman - discuss coming year

#### IX. ACYOA Central Council Meeting

Immediately following the Assembly, the customary transitional meeting of old and new ACYOA Central Council members took place. At this meeting, the minutes of the previous Council meeting were reviewed, as well as any other unfinished business pending on the old Council. Elections for the coming year were held (as previously reported), and the assignments regarding the regions and programs of the ACYOA distributed.

This year the transitional meeting was much better organized than before, since much of the pending business was completed by the Council at their July meeting. The major point was the awarding of the 1983 Tournament site for the Archbishop T.M. Basketball Tournament, which was given to Detroit.

X. ACYOA SAINT VARTAN CAMP

It was learned from the Executive Director of the Diocese that the Diocesan Council has decided to take over sponsorship of the Camp for the next season. While this is certainly within the rights of the Diocesan Council, it must be stated that due to some of the problems encountered with the Camp Director, the success of the program (from an administration standpoint) was far from what was expected. It is hoped that the reason for this take over is not due to a failure on the part of the ACYOA in dealing with the Camp director, but rather an interest to expand, progress, and begin to fulfill the needs of the children of our Church.

The ACYOA began this program in 1979, and has, albeit with problems, sponsored a camp for the children of the Diocese for four years. Each year better than the last; and each year providing a good experience for the participants.

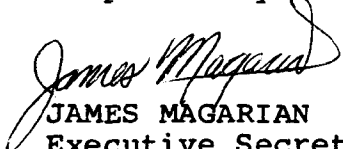
It is highly suggested that both the ACYOA Junior and Senior Directors have an advisory role in the structure of the Diocesan Sponsored camp. This input may serve as a resource in avoiding past problems and ensuring a quality program throughout.

XI. ACYOA PUBLICATIONS

As discussed at the Assembly, in committee and on the floor, the need for expanded communications and publications directed at the young people of the Church is of vital necessity.

The Assembly considered a new monthly publication, written and directed at the youth - through which information, motivation, consideration and learning can be had. More on this as this idea evolves. It was stated that the "Keghard" format and content not be used as a monthly (being literary and not directed at all youth). However, it is considered to make the "Keghard" a annual - containing all the events of the past year with photos and brief descriptions.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary  
ACYOA

# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

PRIMATE'S  
COPY

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - October 1982

Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Meetings and Visitations

During the month of October, the following meetings and visitations took place with:

- V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian, regarding the final report for the Armenian Studies Program.
- Cleveland ACYOA Chapter/Parish - met with Chapter Chairman, Executive Committee, Liason, and general Chapter membership.
- ACYOA Central Council Chairman regarding general business.
- V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian regarding publications and communications.
- Michael Zeytoonian, regarding materials for the BEMA.
- Host Committee of the Detroit ACYOA Chapter for the 1983 Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament.

The Cleveland ACYOA Chapter of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church is typical of a small parish. They are struggling with their small numbers and lack of qualified leadership, beyond a few members of the Executive Committee. They are energetic, dedicated to the Church and most certainly have come a long way over the past 2-3 years. This past year was most fulfilling as they were awarded the ACYOA Chapter "A" Award.

The Chapter Chairman is Nancy Bagdasarian, who works closely with the immediate past Chairman (of 3 years) Cheryl Arslanian. We had the opportunity to discuss informally the many needs of their Chapter, as well as the needs of the Organization at large. One of the re-occurring items was the need for direct communications with their membership. A newsletter from the chapter was discussed, along with ideas for a national publication sent out on a monthly basis. Cleveland has the



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usual problems of attracting the young adults of the community who do not relate to any Armenian organization or institution. They are trying to reach these people, and with some direction offered by the Executive Secretary, they will continue to try. Their relationship to their Parish is good. The Liason from the Parish Council attended the meeting and seemed interested and offered advise and suggestions as necessary. Because of their distance from other parishes, the chance for inter-chapter activities is very limited. When regional and national events come up, usually there are some members who will travel to them. This experience and exposure has helped their Chapter and has kept them close together.

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The meeting with the ACYOA Central Council Chairman was quite useful. This year, the distance between the Executive Secretary and the Council Chairman is much greater, and the opportunity to get together is not convenient. The meeting dealt with the projects and programs of the ACYOA, as well as the Council meeting in November.

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Meeting with both V. Rev. Fr. Ghevont Samoorian and Michael Zeytoonian concerned communications and public relations. The need for more exposure and publicity of activities and programs is more important than ever before. The fact that few (a really small percentage) Armenian young adults read the Armenian press is becoming more and more evident as time goes by. We are placing more and more articles about the ACYOA, however, very few young people are "noticing" them, or responding. We hope with the renewed regularity of the BEMA we will realize a better response, since this newspaper enters more Armenian homes than any other. However, the need for a direct "to the youth" paper may become acute before long.

## II. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Basketball Tournament

As mentioned last month, the Detroit ACYOA Chapter of St. John Armenian Church was awarded the hosting of the 1983 Tournament at the National Sports Weekend. This month, a meeting took place with members of the Host Committee and the Executive Secretary regarding the dates and the details for the weekend event. The dates will be April 15,16,17, primarily at the St. John Armenian Church complex. Co-Chairing this event is Bob Simonian and Janet Malkasian.

## III. ACYOA MagMoney Project

During October a special checking account was to be set up for the specific use of this project. Unfortunately the Council members have been somewhat slow to set up the account resulting in a time delay in setting up the mechanism for the project to really get rolling. From what the members and chapters have been saying, most people are very receptive to the project, especially since it offers them a chance to support the youth, while not having to pay extra. This is a most wel-

comed procedure given the economic situation of the day. Many chapters have begun campaigns to promote the project in their respective parishes.

IV. 1983 Site for Annual ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend

Since there were no bids received by the General Assembly for the hosting of the next Assembly and Sports Weekend, the Assembly authorized the Central Council to receive bids and decide. The decision was to be made by October 1st, however the Council Chairman extended this deadline to October 9th.

Three bids were received - Lawrence, Toronto, Palos Heights. Watertown expressed an interest, if no other chapter presented a bid.

The ACYOA Central Council voted via telephone calls to the respective Council members from the Chairman, whereupon the Executive Secretary was notified. The award was given to the Toronto Chapter.

We have some reservations regarding this Award, mainly due to the fact that Toronto had a "bad" year. There were many conflicts within the chapter membership, as well as some disturbing leadership breakdowns. Toronto bid and won the Midwest ACYOA Anniversary Ball last year, however due to their disorganization and conflicts had to postpone the Ball and eventually cancel it. Their inability to follow prescribed procedures and meet deadlines was also quite evident.

On the other hand, the Lawrence and Palos Heights ACYOA Chapters have been almost "model" chapters. They have been recent winners of the "A" Award and Sportsmanship Trophy. They have both been diligent in meeting deadlines and supporting the Organization. Yet, for some reason, the ACYOA Central Council found Toronto more worthy. Perhaps some discussion on this matter will reveal the true reason for this decision, which undoubtedly will be on the agenda for the next ACYOA Central Council meeting.

This situation regarding such an important event presents a problem and may point to a major breakdown within the organizational set up of the ACYOA itself. The fact that the Council could not maintain a degree of objectivity in this decision could mean they are not qualified to make such decisions. On the other hand, perhaps their subjectivity did not allow them to make an objective decision. Moreover, there is another impact by such a decision - that being the fact that worthy chapters were passed over. It appears that those chapters who work hard, meet their deadlines, support the national Organization and in fact serve the Church more effectively do not receive recognition for doing so. In other words, the impact also means that it makes no difference.

We do intend to work with Toronto to ensure that the next Assembly and Sports Weekend is organized well and executed professionally. It may take a lot more attention than in the past to do this.

V. Miscellaneous

News releases continue to flow. We are happy to note that the various Armenian newspapers usually print about 95% of our articles and news items. As mentioned before however, the average Armenian young adult in our Diocese does not receive, or, does not read Armenian newspapers. The fact that the articles appear does serve a public relations need with the general Armenian population. Not to play that aspect down, for it is certainly needed, we also need a means of direct communications with the young adult - talking directly to him, informing him, asking him, inviting him and most of all staying in touch with him and letting him know we care.

The Executive Update was expanded this past printing to give it a more finished look. Many positive comments proved this change good. The Update is sent to all parishes, all Chapter Chairmen, all Central Council members, all Diocesan Council Members, in addition to the Executive Director of the Diocese, Department Directors and of course the Primate. It is printed every 6 to 8 weeks, depending upon need.

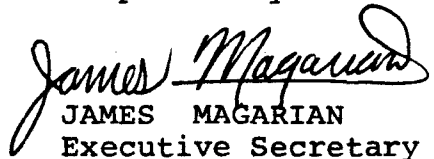
The final report of the 1982 ACYOA Armenian Studies Programs has been prepared and sent to the Primate and Executive Director of the Diocese, in addition to the members of the ACYOA Central Council. A copy is maintained on permanent file for reference purposes, avoiding the problems of finding past records and procedures.

A special mailing is presently in process to all parishes and chapters regarding ACYOA Constitutional changes, and updates to the Chapter Handbook.

The ACYOA Audio-Visual Program dealing with Symbolism in the Armenian Church was shown this month in Racine, WI.

The ACYOA Audio-Visual Program continues to develop with two programs currently under development - 1. Jerusalem - An Armenian Perspective. 2. The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in the Armenian Church. Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian has offered his assistance here.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America



# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

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Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - November 1982

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Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. ACYOA Central Council

The ACYOA Central Council held its fall meeting during the weekend November 12-14 at St. George Armenian Church in Hartford, CT. The Hartford location was chosen to coincide with the Primate's Pastoral visit there. The Executive Secretary was also present.

The meeting began Friday evening with all Council members in attendance. (This was one of the few meetings that began on time with all members present for the Friday session.)

Major decisions included: approval of the final session of the ACYOA General Assembly; procedures to follow up on the promotional aspects of the MagMoney Project; expansion of public relations to include more contact with chapters via parish visitations on the part of Council members (something they are responsible to do, however it was further emphasized) as well as increase letters and personal contact; also, to expand the circulation of the Executive Update, which presently is sent direct to all pastors/parishes and Chapter Chairmen, to include all names on the master general Armenian Youth Mailing Listing.

The move to increase the circulation of the Update reflects a great need to be in touch with the youth of the Diocese with ACYOA news, announcements, information and program developments. The Council members themselves shall be responsible for disseminating the Updates in their respective Regions. The next Update is scheduled for the first week in December.

The Council also decided to fully support the Diocese in their sponsorship of the Camp Program. However, there remains one question regarding the initial "start up" money given to Rev. Fr. Patee Metjian in his first year as Camp Director (1979-80). A letter will be sent from the Council to the Diocese regarding this matter.

One of the Council members volunteered to be responsible for materials



Central Council

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and articles concerning the ACYOA to be sent and published in the BEMA. This, and a general attitude of "doing" on the Council members, indicates that this particular group may be one Council that accomplishes something during this year. They seem to be very interested in the ACYOA, Church and the youth of the Diocese. However, they are usually somewhat slow in accomplishing their specific tasks and responsibilities. Many reminders from the Executive Secretary are usually needed.

The next meeting of the ACYOA Central Council is scheduled for January at the Diocesan Center in New York City.

(Comment: This past meeting was somewhat refreshing in the sense that there was little or no unnecessary discussion or editorializing. The meeting progressed smoothly and covered the agenda completely. In fact, the meeting ended early.)

## II. MagMoney Project

Several hundred dollars have already "gone through" the ACYOA as people have responded to the promotions regarding this project. The setting up of the special account to handle this money exclusively has been slow to finalize. Council members not realizing the urgency didn't give this their full attention, and as the third month passed, the final signatures were attained.

Regional coordinators have been set up in all Regions of the Diocese and have worked well to a degree. However, the major concern here is getting the word out about the Project, the simple means of participating, and finally having the public receive their magazines via the ACYOA. After the first of the year, a more structured plan is to be initiated wherein more people will be aware of the importance of their participation and the need for their attention when ordering and renewing their magazine subscriptions.

## III. Armenian Studies Programs

Preliminary plans have begun again on the 1983 edition of the Armenian Studies Programs - "Educational Tour to Armenia" (4 wks.), "Journey to Armenia" (3 wks.), and "Jerusalem the Holy City" (15-18 days).

A meeting with the Primate will take place soon to determine general dates and Group Leader selection. A question has arisen from the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church and the ACYO of the Western Diocese, regarding their input into the Programs, as well as their participation. In the past 2 years, we have invited their participation, and have opened 5 places in Program One. However they are now interested in more places, as well as input in the decisions regarding the Programs themselves. This question will be taken up with the Primate.

Concerning Program Three (Jerusalem), we hope that the problems presently taking place at the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem will be solved, thereby enabling us to fully concentrate on this most important experience to the Holy Land for our young people. There is a great deal of potential in this program, once we are able to seriously begin

planning and execution. Last year, due to the political and national conflicts in the Middle East, we canceled our plans.

#### IV. Administrative

As the end of the year approaches, we begin our annual report for inclusion in the Diocesan Annual Report. In addition, end of year file revision and permanent materials for the ACYOA records also begin. A serious attempt to maintain accurate and up to date files has begun. In addition, only the most important and needed materials are being kept for our records. In the past, it seems that "everything" was kept, and our files at the Diocese were bulging with useless items and too many duplicated materials.

#### V. Audio-Visual Educational Programs

Progress continues slow but sure on our Audio-Visual Programs. Although we have only one program presently in circulation, it is evident that the need for these types of materials is great and in demand. We know of no presentation-type programs available from any outlet regarding the Armenian Church, culture or history. The few films that have been prepared only deal with the Genocide and limited subject matter. Our purpose here is to develop programs for use by our parishes and chapters whereby we may inform, instruct and motivate interest in a contemporary and simplified way.

Presently, a program dealing with the Armenian presence in the Holy Land, focusing on the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, is under development. Also in process is a program on the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, Divine Liturgy, and the other parts of the Symbolism series.

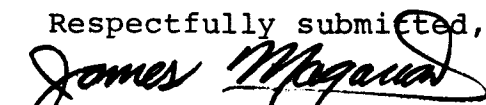
#### VI. Publications

The Executive Update, as mentioned above, is now to be sent to all young people of the ACYOA Senior Division on its periodic basis. This publication is produced by the Executive Secretary, initially for Chapter Chairmen informing them of programs, events, activities, and reminding them of their duties and responsibilities. More information will now be included, thereby informing more people of ACYOA activities.

Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church, originally published by the ACYOA, and last printed in 1968, remains in revision. The V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian is heading up the revision. The need for this book has been great over the past few years.

Other reprintings will be considered, as suggested by the Primate and Executive Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,



JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary - ACYOA

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# Armenian Church Youth Organization of America

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate

MONTHLY REPORT - December 1982

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Executive Secretary to the ACYOA  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

## I. Public Relations / News Releases

As events and activities occur, along with their promotion and follow up, news releases are sent to the weekly Armenian newspapers, the BEMA, and major news sent to parishes for inclusion in their newsletters. News is also included in the "Executive Update".

When there is little to report and write about, stories are expanded, drawn out and somewhat repeated to keep the ACYOA in the news in some way.

We are somewhat disappointed that the BEMA has been reduced to an eight page format. The last issue had no room for any ACYOA Senior Division news - this coming after one of the most successful and major events of the year - the General Assembly and National Sports Weekend.

At a recent meeting of the ACYOA Central Council, at which the Primate was present, it was decided, at the direction of the Primate, that the Council provide enough information to fill an entire page with ACYOA Senior Division news and information. One of the Council members was assigned to handle this responsibility, and thus it was assumed that some space would be available in the paper.

## II. Administrative

A mailing to all ACYOA Chapters and Parishes of the Diocese this month included several pieces dealing with the MagMoney Project, the availability of the prepared promotional ACYOA posters and pamphlets (these are free to all parishes and chapters), explanation



Central Council

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America 630 Second Avenue New York, N. Y. 10016 (212) 686-0710

of the dues increase to the National Treasury, as well as the various forms and dues required by the end of the calendar year. Also included was a sheet with general announcements about the ACYOA at large, and the promotion of the Archbishop's Essay Contest. A sheet promoting and explaining the Audio-Visual Program "Symbolism" (part one) was also a part of this mailing.

Several letters have been sent to those chapters and parishes that are not operating or failing to respond to our administrative procedures. These parishes will be visited in the near future and a more detailed explanation of their status will be given then.

As mentioned last month, the files and records of the ACYOA continue to be reviewed. End of year procedures for records and filing purposes will also continue into next month. Only the most important information and references are kept on file from year to year. This will avoid a previous situation in which everything pertaining to ACYOA was kept and stored - most of which was on little or no value.

The pamphlet, ACYOA Today, has recently been reprinted with some slight modifications and revision. Many requests have been made for the pamphlets, and we have sent copies to all parishes for display and distribution purposes. The promotional posters mentioned above provide a "pocket" wherein the pamphlets may be kept.

Reports and reference items pertaining to the 1982 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend continue to be compiled. The dossier for this ACYOA event will be kept on file and referred to by next year's host Chapter.

### III. Publications

The "Executive Update" was prepared and mailed out taking in the holiday season and suggestions for the new year. As reported last month, the Update will be sent to all Armenian youth on the National mailing list, via the Regional Representatives of the ACYOA Central Council. The Executive Secretary sends the Update direct to all parishes and ACYOA Chapter Chairman, as has been the practice since its inception.

### IV. ACYOA Camp Program

With the decision of the Diocesan Council to fully sponsor and oversee the operations of the Camp Program, the ACYOA will drop this activity from their lists of offered programs. However, the ACYOA will support and promote this important Program and solicit youth counselors and assistants.

We have received a letter from the Diocese and the newly appointed Camp Committee inviting our participation in the meetings concerning the Camp and its development.

V. Armenian Studies Programs

Preparations for announcements, news releases, and special flyers have begun. The first of the year will mark the time we will send out our materials and promote this important program. Due to the Primate's absence, we have been unable to meet and discuss the details for the coming year. However, we shall take care of this soon. We have begun the many other aspects of the trips and will soon have our dates and other items secured.

VI. 1983 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend

As reported in October, the 1983 General Assembly and National Sports Weekend will take place in Toronto. A meeting will be convened in late January with the members of the Toronto ACYOA Chapter to discuss the details and review the many aspects of this major ACYOA event.

VII. MagMoney Project

Money continues to be received, although rather slow, from this fund raising project. The major problem here is promotion and information. It seems that with all the news releases, letters, and other means of explaining the project and its procedures, there remains people, young and old, who do not know about the project or who can't understand it. It seems that because it's so simple, people can't seem to understand it.


All that is needed for the ACYOA to receive 20% of every dollar is for everyone and anyone to order their general interest magazines via the ACYOA - new subscriptions or renewals. There are no extra charges, no hidden surprises - people can support and actually give something to the ACYOA without it costing them one extra penny. So simple. There is no investment on anyone's part.

We intend to try other means of promoting the project and with it realize some serious revenues to help in the planning of programs.

VIII. General

Next month a special meeting will take place at the Diocese involving all departments. During this same few days, the ACYOA Central Council will meet in its second meeting. And the Camp Committee will hold a regular meeting. The Executive Secretary is planning to be present, as well as schedule visitations with the Bayside and New Jersey ACYOA Chapters.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JAMES MAGARIAN  
Executive Secretary - ACYOA