



REPORT ON DIOCESAN CONVENTION HELD
IN TROY ON OCTOBER 11 AND 12, 1947
AS REPORTED BY ACYOA REPRESENTATIVES.

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At the last meeting of the Central Council in Worcester, Mass. on June 29, 1947, a motion was made and duly passed that the Central Executive Committee of the Diocese be approached so that permission might be received to allow members of the Central Council to be present at the Diocesan Convention on October 11 and 12, 1947 as observers and reporters to the ACYOA of proceedings and decisions made. Such permission having been granted, the Central Council elected two members of that body to attend the Diocesan Convention.

The following is a report of Zaven Hovsepian and Grayce Yeramian who were the elected members:

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After the registration, roll call and all other preliminary activities, telegrams and letters of well wishes were received and read by the chairman pro-tem. The first telegram was from A.H. Karagheusian, chairman of the AGBU Million Dollar Campaign Committee who expressed the desire of the AGBU to have full co-operation with the Armenian Church in its Second Million Dollar Campaign for Repatriation and further wished the Diocesan Convention success. A second telegram was received from the AGBU Central Committee expressing the same sentiments as the former telegram. A third telegram was on behalf of the ACYOA sent by the Central Council of the ACYOA. A letter was received from the Armenian National Council expressing its hopes for continued cooperation of the Armenian Church and it outlined in detail the goals which they wish to attain.

Following the verification of new delegates, election of presiding officers for the Convention took place.

Chairmen - Dickran Boyajian
Zaven Baikar
Secretaries Bedros Bondatzi
Bedros Semerjian

Arachnord Syrpazan Hayr made his report to the Convention of the previous year's activities and also suggested matters for discussion and consideration. Such subjects were:

1. Relative to re-patriation - the necessity of the convention to consider it; and the necessity of cooperation with the AGBU as in the past; and further discussing the role of the Armenian National Council with reference to the Armenian Question.
2. The need for a Seminary in the United States since clergymen are urgently needed in the North American Diocese.

3. Progress made with reference to the construction of new churches in many parishes.
4. The urgency of a Cathedral and Community Center Project.
5. The necessity of enlarging and projecting auxiliary groups of the Prelacy for expediency in and for its undertakings.
6. The establishment of a mid-western sub-diocese and its progress.
7. The strides taken by the ACYOA in its short existence, which embodied a commendation and comment of the healthy spirit existing in that organization.
8. To take into consideration and devise methods and means to expand the Armenian Schools in the Diocese in a uniform manner.
9. Devising a plan for Old Age Security for the members of our clergy.
10. Consideration of a proposal to have all church property throughout the Diocese belong in title to a real estate committee under the jurisdiction and supervision of the Catholicos through the Central Ex. Council.
11. To promote better harmony and understanding between the churches of the Diocese and the Prelacy.
12. Suggested means to effectuate a re-union of our separated brothers of the faith.

Formalities such as election of committees, reading of reports of last year's Diocesan convention, reports of the Central Executive Council's activities and other Committees under the jurisdiction of the Prelacy, reports of the ACYOA were all made and discussion ensued for clarification, questioning the several activities and criticizing actions taken by the several bodies; so that from these discussions the Resolutions Committee could draw up resolutions embodying the expressed sentiments of the Convention body.

The discussions centered around the following subjects:

1. An explanation was requested as to why after four years the plans for the compilation and edition of a Sunday School book was not consummated. The answer given was that until recently it had been a physical impossibility to procure capable personnel to tackle this undertaking but recently two priests in London have committed themselves in preparing this book.
2. Why local committees in the out of town parishes had not been organized to assist in procuring funds for

the Cathedral and Community Center project? The Prelacy felt that there were many organizations in the communities collecting monies for such things; such as re-patriation, etc. As a result it was thought advisable to wait until these campaigns were over before it launched its own nation-wide campaign.

3. Why after two years since a decision was made by the Diocesan Convention to appoint a visiting worker - no progress has been shown? Inavailability of capable personnel seemed to be the tenor of the answer.

Proposals for the establishment of an old age benefit fund were received from the Committee of the Clergy outlining three methods for the creating of such fund;

1. 15% of the dues to the prelacy from the Parishes to be applied to such fund.
2. 10% of the Income of the Auxiliary Committees to the Prelacy to be applied to such fund.
3. 5% of the salaries of the clergy to be devoted to this fund.

After considerable discussion, motions were made and carried that this fund be established by a payment of 5% out of the clergy-men's salary as well as an equal amount from the Parish. As to devising a system, just to all, and a system for administering such fund a three man committee was nominated to study all of the possibilities and to report to the succeeding Diocesan Convention.

The second session convened Sunday October 12, 1947 at 1:30 p.m. The first business to be considered was a proposal that the Central Executive Committee issue requests to parishes and wardens of the parishes for their participation in an all-out effort, both morally and financially, in the Second Million Dollar Campaign of the AGBU. This proposal was accepted unanimously.

In the financial section of our Church Constitution there is a provision stipulating the portion of parish funds which is considered working capital for the succeeding year and a portion which goes into the capital surplus account. Clarification was requested with regards to this section relating to the custodian of this latter fund and under whose jurisdiction the custodians would be. A proposal was made and carried that the General Membership Meeting of each parish elect a committee of three as custodians of this capital surplus fund.

Several proposals were considered to have all church property throughout the Diocese belong in title to a real estate committee under the jurisdiction and supervision of our Catholicos through the Central Executive Council. It was thought advisable to have Bishop Tiran and the Central Executive Committee take such steps and make such plans as are necessary to effectuate that scheme.

It was decided that a committee of five persons be elected by the Diocesan Convention to take over and administer the program of obtaining and supporting theological students sent to Etchmiadzin for our Diocese.

There is in our Church Constitution a provision which states that 5% of the income of the parish and 5% of the income of the Prelacy in all the parishes of the See is to be set aside for the use of Etchmiadzin. A proposal was made that 5% of the net income be put aside by the parishes and that the Central Executive Council determine how net income will be construed.

It was proposed and unanimously accepted that the succeeding Diocesan Convention be held on the second Sunday in October and that no functions requiring the services of the clergy be planned for this period of the Diocesan Convention with the exception of funeral services.

There was considerable discussion relative to the unbecoming uses the parish halls are being rented out for. It was decided that the Bishop and the Central Executive Committee determine and issue a directive to all parishes stating for what functions the Church Halls may be used, with the view of forbidding dispersion of intoxicants in the Church Halls.

A fund of \$1000.00 was established to pay expenses of clergy who visit communities where there is no parish for the purpose of organizing and starting parish activities.

Bishop Tiran gave a report of the progress of the Cathedral and Community Center Project stating in addition that thus far there was the sum of \$170,000 in the fund.

After considerable discussion as to the necessity of the convention authorizing funds to supplement Bishop Sion's expenses in the Mid-west sub-diocese it was determined advisable to maintain the same financial arrangements as in previous years.

The final business which your representatives were permitted to witness was the election of the new members of the Central Executive Committee. The members of the committee are as follows:

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| Bedros Hazarabedian | Dick Simsarian | Krikor Kaloustian |
| Rev. Jelalian | Rev. Toumayan | Bedros Bondatzi |
| Very Rev Manoogian | Very Rev Simonian | Avedis Keljikian |

Respectfully submitted.

Grayce Yeramian
Zaven Hovsepien

October 30, 1947

February 22, 1976

ACYOA Central Council Report

The ACYOA, under the auspices of the Diocese, convened a General Assembly in conjunction with the Sixth Annual Sports Weekend in Miami. The purpose of the Assembly being the re-organization of a national structure for senior age members.

Following two years of preparation, a new constitution was adopted and a Central Council elected. The members of the Council and their terms of office are:

Edward P. Kaiserian, Chairman; Holy Trinity ACYOA; Cheltenham, PA; 2 years
David Onanian, Vice Chairman, St. Vartanantz ACYOA; Lowell, MA; 2 years
Lisa Mooradian, Recording Secretary, Holy Shoghagat ACYOA; E. St. Louis, IL; 2 years
Richard Takvorian, Corresponding Secretary, St. James ACYOA; Watertown, MA; 1 year
Anna Garabedian; Treasurer, St. John the Divine ACYOA, Springfield, MA; 1 year

The Council has had two meetings since the Assembly and it is presently involved in contacting all the parishes throughout the Diocese to determine the potential for starting new ACYOA chapters. In addition, the Council is interpreting the Constitution to establish guidelines for the chapters.

Concerning the Seventh Annual Summer Studies Program two clergy have been appointed as directors of the trip. Fr. Nersess Jebejian of Springfield, Mass., has been named Managing Director and will handle all logistical matters. The Very Rev. Fr. Houssig Bagdasian, Livingston, N.J., has been named Educational Director and will coordinate the trips educational aspects.

Planned for the Diocesan Assembly is a Chairman's Roundtable with the Senior Chapter Chairmen attending sessions discussing the Central Council's operations this year and a seminar on organizational dynamics.

We look forward to the success of our endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward P. Kaiserian
Chairman
ACYOA Central Council

Handwritten notes:
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SECRETARIAL REPORT

CENTRAL COUNCIL

ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

The Central Council of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America convened for its first two day session of the 1950-1951 period in New York on Sept. 23-24, 1950, under the presidency of Arachmord Syrpazan Hayr and the chairmanship of Mr. Manoog Heditsian. The new members, Miss Acabe Boornazian, Mr. Paul Hovsepian, and Mr. Avedis Kevorkian were welcomed into the organization. Election of officers took place as follows: Mr. Manoog Heditsian, Chairman; Mr. Arshag Gechijian, Vice-Chairman; Miss Mary Azarian, Secretary; Mr. Paul Najarian, Treasurer. Appointments were made as follows: Miss Acabe Boornazian, Guardian Promotion Manager; Mr. Paul Hovsepian, Jr. Chapter Director; Mr. Avedis Kevorkian, Publicity; Mrs. Grayce Hadrian and Mr. Lee Bedikian were to act as Councillors.

In accordance with the Constitution, an Executive Secretary was appointed. Miss Mary Shalakian was unanimously elected to that position.

The Central Council met in session, together with its Secretary, six times. Bishop Tiran was present at four of the meetings.

Diocesan Convention: Again the Council appointed its representatives to attend the Diocesan convention -- namely Mr. Manoog Heditsian, Mr. Paul Hovsepian and Miss Mary Shalakian. They report that our seniors are pleased to have the interest and assistance of the A.C.Y.O.A.

Amendments: Amendments to the constitution as voted at the Fourth Annual Assembly have been ratified and are ready for printing.

Initiation Ceremony: Formulated by Father Shnork. Copies have been printed and sent out to Chapters.

Chapters: Uptown New York Chapter has been officially dissolved as per the constitution and their treasury balance forwarded to the Central Council. The Chicago Chapter was also officially dissolved as per the constitution and their treasury balance forwarded to the Central Council.

New Chapters: We are pleased to report the formation of three new chapters. They are New York (Downtown), West Pullman. Chicago has reorganized and a new charter will be presented to them.

Junior Chapters: Mr. Paul Hovsepian, Jr. Chapter Director, reports a new Jr. Chapter in Watertown, making a total of five Jr. Chapters within the Organization. *DETROIT, WATERTOWN, CHICAGO - No PHILADELPHIA, WEST PHILADELPHIA*

A.C.Y.O.A. Emblem Pins: A.C.Y.O.A. pins have been distributed to the various chapters ordering them.

Bulletins and Directives: The Central Council continues to send out bulletins and directives for the benefit of the chapters. However, it should be pointed out that many questions in mind can be answered by previous bulletins -- please refer to them. Sufficient council has been sent out to enable any chapter to conduct itself befitting the A.C.Y.O.A.

A.C.Y.O.A. Standards and Plaques: Definite information as to size and cost has been obtained and will be presented to the Assembly and the Chapters represented for their approval. Plaques have been purchased for past assemblies. Several extras have been purchased for future use.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY BALL: The Fifth Anniversary Ball of the A.C.Y.O.A. was held in the month of January in the following cities: Boston, Detroit, Troy, Philadelphia, Hartford, Racine and Paterson. The net financial outcome is tabulated as follows:

New York area	\$ 70.00
Philadelphia area	2.10
Boston area	442.56
Detroit area	312.19
Troy chapter	328.15
Chicago area	109.96
Hartford area	---
	<u>\$1264.96</u>
Less expenses	<u>184.89</u>
Net Profit	\$1080.07

Of this net figure, \$979.87 was deducted from the taxes thus leaving a reserve amount of \$100.19 to be applied against the forthcoming budget.

Special note and commendation should be given to the Troy Chapter, who unassisted, produced **such fine results.**

Taxes and Finances: All back taxes have been cleared, with the exception of Union City. All current taxes have been cleared with the exception of Union City, New Britain and Providence. In regards to the latter two--New Britain and Providence--both have paid taxes on account and the balance to be paid pending clarification of accounts and standing. It is felt that by assembly time these two chapters will be paid in full. It must be noted that this is indeed a wonderful record and points up the sense of responsibility that the chapters have.

Monthly Meeting Reports: These reports have been revised this year. Once again, please note these forms are important, they are read, compared and tabulated. Their importance cannot be stressed enough.

1951 Assembly: Close contact and check has been maintained by the Central Council and the Watertown Chapter on all phases of the forthcoming Assembly.

Publicity: Throughout the year, publicity pertaining to the A.C.Y.O.A. has appeared in various Armenian-American papers. In particular we wish to thank the Armenian Mirror-Spectator for devoting an issue to the A.C.Y.O.A.

Chapter Statistics: Below is presented an overall picture of chapter facts, figures and activities. However, this includes only 20 of our 24 chapters. The missing reports represent the following chapters: New York, Union City, Waukegan and Miami.

Total paid membership - 783 plus 120 Jrs. Total 903

Business meetings held - 289

Social, educational, religious, cultural meetings - 207

A.C.Y.O.A. members who are members of their church - 208
Chapters having Jr. groups - 5
Chapters sponsoring religious talks and subjects - 16
Chapters observing religious holidays - 1
Chapters engaged in quizzes and discussions - 7
Chapters engaged in question and answer period - 7

All chapters have extended financial and moral aid to their local church. Practically all chapters have sponsored educational, cultural and religious lectures. Many have sponsored educational and religious movies. They have also attended group communions, organized bible studies and visitation committees for the sick and aged, and also have sponsored debates. B

All chapters have sponsored dances and socials. Some have produced plays and have held picnics and outings; minstrel shows and parent's night has been held. They have also participated in both basketball and bowling.

The Armenian Guardian: This has been of the utmost concern of the Council and at each of its sessions, much time has been devoted on the subject in order that we may realize a better paper. Recently a suggestion has been brought forth that would ease the burden of the Guardian (this will be presented at the Assembly). In any event, after serious deliberation the Central Council decided that a new editor would be appointed to the Guardian. This change over to take place before the end of the year. It may also be recorded that there has been a slight increase of subscriptions over last year. a
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Central Council Members: Letters of resignation were received from Mr. Avedis Kevorkian and Mr. Lee Bedikian. These were accepted and the Council used its power of cooption to fill these vacancies. Mr. Zaven Hovsepian and Mr. Matthew Matteosian were elected to fill these vacancies until the next Assembly.

California A.C.Y.O.A.: A letter from California informs us that an A.C.Y.O.A. group has been formed there and now consists of six chapters. They have a constitution similar to our and they are holding their convention over the Labor Day weekend.

National Publicity Director: This office has been a very important and necessary one. Mr. Zaven Hovsepian has been delegated to fulfill its duties.

Vartanantz Celebration: The committee set up to organize the celebration of the 1500th anniversary of the Armenian Hero Vartan has asked the A.C.Y.O.A. Central Council to plan and carry out an essay contest related to the Celebration. Mr. Zaven Hovsepian has outlined the rules and regulations of the essay; also has seen to the printing and distribution of these rules to the various chapters. a

Rules of Procedure: The Detroit Committee set up at the last Assembly to prepare Rules of Procedure for the Assembly have come forth with several excellent suggestions and recommendations that will be presented at the Assembly.

"A" Awards: As an incentive to the Chapters, announcement will be made at the Assembly of awards to be presented to chapters. These awards will be based on certain factors such as membership increase, church member increase, Guardian subscription increase, and the group with the most increase in a religious and cultural line. Mr. Paul Najarian will present a silver cup to the A.C.Y.O.A. who, in turn, will present it to the most deserving chapter. This will be a traveling cup, presented to the most deserving chapter for the year.

✓ Reproduction Machines: During the course of the year three machines were purchased. They were a graphotype machine, addressograph machine and an electric mimeograph machine. The cost of these machines was borne by three organizations, namely the A.C.Y.O.A., the Diocesan office and the Cathedral Project.

Resignation of Executive Secretary: A letter of resignation was submitted by Miss Mary V. Shalakian, Executive Secretary. A motion was made and seconded that this resignation should not be accepted and upon her refusal to withdraw her resignation and to reconsider same, the Central Council had no alternative but to accept her resignation.

Retiring C.C. Members: It was decided to present a memento to retiring Central Council members as a token of their three year's work to the Organization. A bible was decided upon as most appropriate. This matter will be taken to the Assembly for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Manoog Heditian, Chairman
Central Council
Armenian Church Youth Organization of
America