

**ACYOA Central Council Meeting
Diocesan Center, New York City
June 9, 2007**

Present:

Fr. Haigazoun Najarian (Diocesan Vicar), Johnny Elchemmas (Chair), Ani Tovar (Vice Chair), Sarine Zenian (Secretary), Alex Derderian (Treasurer), Talin Hitik (Programming), Stan Sheridan (Chapter Relations), Danielle DerAsadourian (Public Relations), Nancy Basmajian (Executive Secretary)

Guests: Fr. Mardiros Chevian (Department of Youth and Education), Bill Casey (Director of Finance and Administration), Dr. Michael O’Hurley-Pitts (Director of Stewardship and Communication)

Meeting highlights were as follows:

- Members of the **Diocesan leadership**—Bill Casey, Director of Finance and Administration, Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Acting Director of the Department of Youth and Education and Dr. Michael O’Hurley-Pitts, Director of Stewardship and Communication—were present to brief CC on the workings of their various departments and offer their assistance to the ACYOA. Each presentation was followed by Q and A.
- **Administration**
 - (1) **Regional liaisons** were appointed as follows: Midwest A (Chicago, Evanston and Detroit) – Danielle DerAsadourian; Midwest B (Cleveland, Greenfield, Palos Heights, Racine) – Stan Sheridan; Mid-Atlantic (Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey) – Alex Derderian; New England/Washington, DC, Richmond – Sarine Zenian; South A (Texas, Atlanta, Charlotte) – Ani Tovar; South B (Florida, mission parishes) – Talin Hitik. Liaisons will contact their parishes to introduce themselves.
 - (2) The Central Council set **goals** for 2007-08, which they shared with the Primate at a luncheon meeting on June 10. Goals are focused on (a) annual ACYOA programming such as ASP, regional conferences, the annual leadership conference, ACYOA Day, etc., (b) outreach efforts, such as chapter development and assistance, events with youth of the Western and Canadian Dioceses and our sister Oriental Orthodox Churches, CC participation at the St. Nersess Summer Conferences, etc., (c) communication, which includes *Hye Hokin*, website maintenance, monthly e-mail blasts, regular press releases, Face Book updates, pod casts, etc., (d) other goals include participation in the Pontifical visit of His Holiness Karekin II, implementing General Assembly proposals (essay contest, by-laws committee, etc).
- **Programming**
 - (1) The **Armenia Service Program** (July 5-28) is closed with 28 participants from 11 parishes; Deacon Artak Khachikyan will serve as ASP leader and CC member Talin Hitik as assistant.

- (2) The ***Holy Land Pilgrimage*** (August 5-14) being co-sponsored by the ACYOA is closed with 50 participants, half of whom are young adults. The group leader will be Fr. Mardiros Chevian; assisting him will be Nancy Basmajian, ACYOA Executive Secretary and DYE staff members Julie Hoplamazian (College Ministry Facilitator) and Elise Antreassian (Christian Education Coordinator). CC members Alex Derderian and Stan Sheridan will be part of the pilgrimage. As approved by the ACYOA General Assembly in May 2007, the CC will be gifting \$1,000 to the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem.
- (3) Two ***regional conferences*** will be sponsored by the Central Council in the fall, one in New England and one in the South. Dates and venues will be announced in the coming months. A 25-person minimum attendance will be required.
- (4) The 9th ***Annual Leadership Conference*** has been confirmed for March 7-9, 2008 at the Don Bosco Retreat Center in Stony Point, NY. The theme will focus on Church and Home: One in Spirit.
- (5) On the recommendation of the Primate, the ***2008 General Assembly*** and Sports Weekend will not be hosted by a national committee but rather by a parish. The Central Council will be pursuing the site and communicate details to chapters as soon as they are available.