

**ACYOA Central Council Meeting
St. Mary Armenian Church, Washington, DC
September 8, 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)

Meeting highlights were as follows:

- A memo with follow-up information regarding the **2007 General Assembly** was sent to pastors and ACYOA parish leadership along with the 2008 Budget and ACEF statements on our endowment fund and newly-established investment fund.
- The Central Council donated **scholarships** in the amount of \$250 each to the following three summer youth programs of the Diocese: St. Vartan Camp, Hye Camp and the St. Nersess Summer Conferences.
- Central Council reviewed their responsibilities as **parish liaisons** and reported on the status of their chapters.
- A report was presented on the **Holy Land Pilgrimage** (August 4-15), co-sponsored by the ACYOA and DYE, in which 25 young adults (among 48) participated; two CC members (Alex Derderian and Stan Sheridan) who were part of the pilgrimage presented the Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian with a check for \$1,000 informing him that at the 2007 General Assembly the ACYOA voted to gift the Patriarchate with a donation of at least \$1000 annually; evaluations of the trip were very positive; the CC will investigate the possibility of sponsoring a similar pilgrimage (with a service dimension) in the summer of 2008
- Evaluations from the 27 participants of the 2007 **Armenia Service Program** (July 5-28) were mostly positive; CC agreed to make some changes for next year, among which are requiring that participants be at least 20 years old or be entering their sophomore year of college and that the trip include two nights in Karabagh
- A fall issue of **Hye Hokin** is being prepared by Danielle DerAsadourian, the new editor of the quarterly publication.
- The Standing Conference of Oriental Orthodox Youth of America (**SCOOYA**) of which the Armenian Church is a member (through the ACYOA) will be sponsoring the 3rd Annual Oriental Orthodox Youth Conference on Saturday, November 10 at St. Leon Church in Fair Lawn, NJ; a planning meeting will be held at the Diocese on Saturday, September 15
- Dates and locations of two **regional conferences** have been confirmed: 1) New England on November 3 at Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA and 2) Midwest on December 8 at St. Mesrob, Racine, WI; publicity will be prepared and disseminated in the coming weeks

- All pastors and ACYOA parish leadership were sent information about the 3rd Pan North American Retreat (***PNAR***) for young adults of the three North American Dioceses of the Armenian Church; it is being hosted by the Canadian Diocese this year on September 28-30 at a retreat site just outside Toronto; at least 12 people representing the Eastern Diocese will be in attendance; plans are already underway for the 2008 PNAR to be sponsored by the Central Council of the Eastern Diocese
- ***Pontifical Visit***. Regional liaisons will be in touch with their chapters and parishes to encourage attendance at the various youth gatherings being planned for His Holiness Karekin II; two CC members (Alex Derderian and Talin Hitik) will participate in a panel discussion at the youth gathering in New York on Saturday, October 27
- Information about the ***Essay Contest*** (a proposal approved by the 2007 General Assembly) on “Why do you belong to the Armenian Church?” will be posted on the ACYOA website and mailed to parishes; contestants will be able to submit either a written essay or a video essay; the deadline will be December 31, 2007.
- The Central Council continues to work with the Primate and the Diocesan Council on the venue and status of the ***2008 Sports Weekend***; as soon as details are confirmed, the CC will notify pastors and ACYOA parish leadership