**Present:**

Diocesan Vicar Father Simeon Odabashian, Father Krikor Sabounjian, Michael Guglielmo, Diocesan Executive Director, ACYOA Central Council Members: Chair Danny Mantis, Vice Chair Karen Dardarian, Secretary Armen Terjimanian, Public Relations Alex Ouzounian, Programming Coordinator Olivia Derderian and Chapter Relations Coordinator Adrienne Ashbahian; Executive Secretary Nancy Basmajian, Eric Ashbahian.

**ACYOA Central Council Meeting**

**Saturday, December 10, 2011 – 9:00 a.m.**

**St. Mary Armenian Church – Livingston, NJ**

1. **Opening Prayer**

Diocesan Vicar Father Simeon Odabashian opened the meeting with a prayer in St. Mary’s sanctuary.

1. **Adoption of Agenda**

a. Father Simeon passed on a request from His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian that the Central Council reach out to the Houston and Dallas youth as the churches in both cities have new clergy.   
b. The agenda was adopted.

1. **Acceptance of Sept. 24 Meeting Minutes**
2. The minutes were approved.
3. Armen Terjimanian was welcomed to the Central Council.
4. **Bible Study**
5. Father Krikor Sabounjian led the Bible Study.
6. Rob Bell’s “Shells” DVD was shown.
7. Focus of bible study was on having a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and letting go of things that may stand in the way of that relationship.
8. **Strategic Plan**
9. **Identifying struggling chapters and develop a plan to support, assist and strengthen them.**
10. Chapters have been identified and a ranking system is being worked on.
11. Four chapters (Hollywood, Fla., Wynnewood, Pa., Boca Raton and Cambridge) did not reply to feelers.
12. Members being away for college an issue for arranging meetings or forming a chapter.
13. Some parishes have ACYOA-aged youth but are inactive—deemed “our biggest challenge” by Nancy.
14. Father Krikor suggests creating a program for chapters to help college outreach in some form, whether it’s taking over college ministry work or short “constant contact” connections.
15. Fulfilling at least one Circle of the Cross every other month
16. How do you bring together members besides fellowship?
17. Some chapters, including Washington DC and Detroit, have issues trying to get members to come to events that are not strictly fellowship.
18. Seniors and Juniors interaction needs to improve to set an example.
19. Danny suggests we cannot please everyone—people must attend events for the right reasons.
20. Nancy: Time may have come to redefine ACYOA seniors for a new generation although juniors are going strong.
21. Only 2-3 chapters have a Bible Study ongoing.
22. Mentoring of Strong Chapter Chairs to Weak Ones
23. Try to facilitate communication among chairpersons in different regions.
24. Have an open forum/blog to share ideas among chapters
25. ACYOA website and Facebook.
26. Could do a monthly e-blast Bible Study.
27. “Program of the Month” feature that would need to be planned out.
28. Reach out to those not involved i.e. a membership rally with an incentive (example: Free ASP ticket for a chapter to get 100 new members).
29. Provide program evaluation tool to see how effective events, Central Council, etc is.
30. Nancy: Could potentially discuss at Chapter Workshop ways to fix/revamp/replace the current chapter model.
31. **Create a Christian Education Model That Takes Participants from Cradle Through Adulthood, Including Transitioning Juniors to Seniors.**
32. Meet with DYE staff to discuss the scope of project.
33. Approach Diocesan Leadership about One-Day gathering of Lay Leaders (ACHOA, CC, Women’s Guild CC, Sacred Music Council, DYE Staff, Diocesan Council) to share goals, get on same page and discuss a Christian education model.
34. Danny will ask Diocesan Council to put this on their agenda.
35. Propose a one-day retreat with above people; purpose is spiritual growth and getting to know the lay leaders of our Church during this year of lay ministry.
36. Rationale: ACYOA has similar issues as other Diocesan councils and a forum/dialogue would be valuable to all.
37. Father Simeon spoke in favor of this proposal, believes it should be an annual event.
38. Father Krikor believes Primate should invite everyone via the Diocesan Council.
39. CC meeting informally with various Boards of Directors (St. Nersess, FAR, Ararat Center).

1. Suggested that this should be kept smaller and more ministry-based.

1. Create program to transition Juniors to Seniors
2. May not be our responsibility upon further review, according to Danny.
3. Alex says the assumption is juniors will become seniors like a “continual flow.”
4. **Develop a Plan to Engage Alumni with the Current Organization in Various Ways, Including Mentoring, Fundraising, Support, Etc.**
5. Create a database of alumni.
6. Create an alumni committee in the area of highest concentration/population of ACYOA alumni.
7. Working on developing guidelines of membership and organization.
8. Committee could be self-sufficient and helpful to ACYOA as a whole.
9. With proper organization, it could be a catalyst for fundraising.
10. Need to determine if this will be a support group and how will it look like i.e. faith based? Fellowship based?
11. George says he will create a Mission Statement by January 15 in order to get the ball rolling by the Alumni Ball.
12. Father Krikor suggests having a Mission Statement ready by next Diocesan Council meeting to present to them.
13. Alumni Party
14. Alumni Bible Study/retreat
15. Alumni Ball.

**6. Other (moved up to due to scheduling issue)**

a. Michael Guglielmo, Diocesan Excutive Director

i. Push to donate to Annual Appeal due to His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian’s 40th anniversary of his ordination.

1. ACYOA donated $500.

ii. Consider using Ararat Center for programs.

iv. Encourage an outreach of St. Vartan Camp alumni as a way to promote Ararat Center.

v. Suggests a job development program to bring support and Christian fellowship to those members who are unemployed and have a hard time trying to find jobs.

**7. Lunch**

**8. Treasurer’s Report**

a. On track with budget and if we stay that way, will be able to handle winter and spring programming for remainder of fiscal year.

b. Travel costs on average have gone down, which is usually the biggest CC expense.

c. Paid: ASP 2012 deposit, $5,700 Don Bosco payment, $2,500 2011 SW and Archbishop luncheon, $25/month for website.

d. Received last year $10,000 from Dadourian Foundation.

e. Treasurer suggests moving $2,500 into ACEF account, which would earn $200 interest.

**9. Executive Secretary’s Report (Attached).**

**10. Chapter Reports (Attached).**

**11. Public Relations report (attached).**

**12. ACYOA/FAR**

a. Eric Ashbahian, chair of hand-in-hand committee gave report.

b. Mission Statement a work in progress, will be ready by January.

c. Foster Child Support Program.

i. FAR wants the ACYOA to sponsor a child for $3,000 a year until he/she is 18—child would live with a foster family as opposed to an orphanage.

ii. Cost may be an issue.

iii. Passing on idea.

d. Skype Pal Initiative did not work out well due to time difference.

e. Art Auction.

i. Could be a good way to raise FAR awareness and would grab greater audience attention as opposed to sponsoring a child.

ii. Such an event would need to be in New York.

iii. Eric will write a proposal.

f. Internship program

i. Former interns though program should be longer—10 weeks.

ii. Wouldn’t cost anything

iii. Open to Birthright Armenia partnership

g. Adobe Youth Vision

i. ACYOA could be vehicle in which kids get Adobe editing products.

ii. FAR looking for someone to work part time as a creative writer.

**13. Leadership Conference**

a. Deemed a success despite setup issues on Don Bosco’s part.

b. Father Krikor, who served as chaplain, said quality of participants “was phenomenal.”

**14. Future Programs**

**a. Chapter Workshop**

i. Central Council will contact chapter leaders to spur registration

ii. As of Dec. 10, no one had officially registered.

iii. Theme is “All in This Together.”

iv. Karen will handle icebreaker.

v. Clear mission of ACYOA needed at event.

iv. Nancy will organize program, CC will facilitate program.

**b. Alumni Ball**

i. DC St. Mary to hold dance.

**c. Alternative Spring Break**

i. Buffalo, NY, March 17-24, led by Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian.

ii. Habitat for Humanity

iii. Participants will fly into Albany and drive with Fr. Stepanos or fly into Buffalo.

iv. $100 deposit paid, need to pay $685. Need at least four people.

**d. Regional Retreats**

i. Bayside, Evanston and Dallas (latter two dates TBD).

**e. ASP**

i. Fr. Hratch Sargsyan has people interested from Cleveland but cost is a huge issue.

ii. Asking those interested to fill out an application.

iii. ASP alumni committee created with Daron Bolat, Dikran Callan and

Karen Kalayjian.

**f. General Assembly and Sports Weekend**

i. Contract language needs to be adjusted and negotiated for hotel.

ii. Primate’s luncheon cost needs to go down into low $30s or less.

iii. Contract needed to be signed by Dec. 8, but are expecting another

contract after negotiating.

iv. May move Sunday Liturgy to a church within walking distance of hotel

v. Try to build and evolve Thursday GA spiritual discussion. Options

include Badarak, Theology on Tap.

vi. Perhaps add an athletes’ prayer before sports begin on Saturday.

**18. Next meeting**

a. Need to complete small parish requirement passed at GA.

b. Tentatively decide on March 10 in Atlanta (will change as of Jan. 3 due to

Primate’s request.

c. Final decision to be made at Chapter Workshop in January.

**19. Closing Prayer**

**20. Adjournment**