



77th ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Friday, May 24, 2024

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Marriott Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel

Meeting Room: The Looking Glass

First Assembly Session (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

The following Central Council members were present:

Ani Misirliyan, Chair

Jackie Russell, Vice Chair

Maddie Ovassapian, Secretary (arrived later due to work)

Michael Sarafian, Treasurer

Andrew Yenicag, Communications

Mardig Klachian, Ministries & Outreach

Yn. Lucine Sabounjian, Ministries & Outreach

Also present:

Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate

Jennifer Morris, DYYAM

Clergy, Diocesan Council members, Delegates and Observers

1. Morning Service

- a. Began at 9:10 a.m., ended 9:22 a.m.

2. Opening Remarks from 2023 Assembly Chair and Introduction of Robert's Rules of Order

- a. 9:22 a.m.: Alex Dayenian (St. James, Evanston, IL), the 2023 ACYOA General Assembly Chair of the Day, welcomed everyone and gave some opening remarks. He stated that the Nominating Committee will be running elections.

3. Appointment of Assembly Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms

- a. The Central Council has appointed two secretaries, Sevana Mailian (St. John, Southfield, MI) and Melissa Pogharian (St. James, Watertown, MA).
- b. Appointed Sergeant-at-Arms, Allen Ackan (St. James, Watertown, MA) and Arin Parsanian (St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, Armonk, NY).

4. Confirmation of Quorum - Roll Call

- a. Per bylaws, delegates will constitute a quorum, 37 of 41 registered delegates have checked in, therefore, we have a quorum.

- b. Introduction of the Nominating Committee.
- c. The Chair of the Day asked for a motion to close nominations, delegates were instructed to use the colored sheets of paper received to write the name of their candidate of choice and hand it in to the members of the Nominating Committee.
- d. Per bylaws, Chair of the Day shall be elected by plurality, the highest number of votes.
- e. 9:32 a.m.: Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Central Council) performed a roll call.
- f. Alex Dayenian (St. James, Evanston, IL) asked if any name was not called, no one responded.

5. Election of Assembly Chair and Vice Chair by Paper Ballot

- a. Ani Jermakian (St. Mark, Springfield, MA) and Elizabeth Kalfayan (Holy Resurrection, New Britain, CT) of the Nominating Committee announced the candidates for Chair of the Day as Tanner Asadorian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL) and Jacklyn (Jackie) Ovassapian (St. James, Evanston, IL).
- b. 9:25 a.m.: Motion to close nominations by Fr. Hratch Sargsyan (St. Gregory of Narek, Richmond Heights, OH), and seconded by Jackie Russell (Central Council).
- c. 9:32 a.m.: Sergeant-at-Arms take place at the door.
- d. 9:35 a.m.: Voting is finished. Roll call performed as votes are counted..
- e. The Nominating Committee returned to announce that Jackie Ovassapian (St. James, Evanston, IL) was elected as Chair of the Day and Tanner Asadorian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL) will serve as Vice Chair of the Day.

6. Adoption of Agenda

- a. 9:38 a.m.: Jackie Ovassapian (St. James, Evanston, IL) invited Tanner Asadorian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL) to join her in front, she introduced herself and began with the adoption of the agenda, she asked if there are any changes that needed to be made to the agenda.
- b. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM), Diocesan employee, stated that Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Holy Translators, Framingham, MA) informed her that Fr. MardirosChevian's (St. Nersess, Armonk, NY) flight was canceled yesterday, and would not be arriving until late morning. She requested that their presentation be moved to the afternoon.
- c. 9:41 a.m.: Andrew Yenicag (Central Council) motioned to move St. Nersess' presentation to the afternoon, seconded by Jackie Russell (Central Council), motion approved.

7. Election Results of Assembly Chair and Vice Chair

- a. 9:38 a.m.: Jackie Ovassapian Ovassapian (St. James, Evanston, IL) will serve as Chair of the Day and Tanner Asadorian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL) will serve as Vice Chair of the Day.
- b. Appointment of Parliamentarian and Resolutions & Courtesies Committee
 - i. In consultation with the Central Council, Fr. Avedis (St. Mesrob, Racine, WI) and Stephen Hollisian (Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA) will be point people should we have questions during assembly.
 - ii. 9:42 a.m.: Linda Yenicag (Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY) and Sarah Tavitian (Hye Pointe Haverhill, MA) will be Resolutions and Courtesies Committee, Fr. Yeprem Kelegian (Retired Clergy) will be helping.
 - iii. Committee will work on this document and will be called upon at the end of assembly to read to the rest of the assembly, pass around a clipboard to share names of previous ACYOA members/ if anyone would like to serve on Sunday during *Badarak*.
 - iv. Jackie Ovassapian (St. James, Evanston, IL) stated the duties of the General Assembly.

8. Confirmation and Adoption of the 2023 ACYOA General Assembly Minutes

- a. Jackie Ovassapian (St. James, Evanston, IL) asked if there were any edits or additions to last year's minutes.
- b. 9:44 a.m.: Motion to approve minutes from last year's Assembly by Fr. Hratch Sargsyan (St. Gregory of Narek, Richmond Heights, OH), seconded by Mary Keutelian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL).
- c. 9:45 a.m.: ACYOA General Assembly 2023 minutes approved.

9. Nominating Committee

- a. Presentation of Slate of Candidates for Central Council.
 - i. 4 individuals looking to elect (ballots will be sent out via email).
 - ii. 9:47 a.m.: Motion to close nominations from Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Central Council), seconded by Andrew Yenicag (Central Council), all in favor.
- b. Acceptance of Nominations from the floor for Central Council.
- c. Remarks from Central Council Candidates
 - i. Central Council candidates lined up to provide remarks on why they want to

serve. They made their remarks in alphabetical order.

- ii. Tanner Asadorian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL), Anastasia Bohajian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ) read by Ani Misirliyan (Central Council), Elizabeth Kalfayan (Holy Resurrection, New Britain, CT), Dn. Garen Megrdochian (Sts. Sahag and Mesrob, Providence, RI) read by Andrew Yenicag (Central Council), Mara Najarian (St. John, Southfield, MI), Alisha Panthier (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL), Celene Phillip (St. John, Southfield, MI), and Sarah Tavitian (Hye Pointe, Haverhill, MA).
- iii. Review Procedures of Election Buddy and Electronic Ballot for Central Council (4).
- iv. Vote electronically by email, voting will close at the end of the 10 minute break.
- v. Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Central Council) will verify that those who are registered are the only ones who will receive a ballot.
- vi. 9:58 a.m.: Sergeant-at-Arms take doors again .
- vii. Point of information from Jackie Russell (Central Council): per bylaws there are candidates running from the same parish, so only 1 person from each parish is allowed to be elected in the same year.
- viii. Fr. Hratch Sargsyan (St. Gregory of Narek, Richmond Heights, OH) asked who the outgoing members are.
- ix. The outgoing members are Yn. Lucine Sabounjian, Mardig Klachian, Maddie Ovassapian, and Michael Sarafian.
- x. 10:00 a.m.: Roll call performed again, ballot was sent out, you can vote for up to 4 people or may abstain.
- xi. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian (St. Mesrob, Racine, WI) asked for clarification on if you can vote for two people in the same parish. Yes, however, whoever gets the most votes of the 2 running from the same parish will be able to get on the Central Council.
- xii. 10:03 a.m.: Linda Yenicag (Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY) made a motion to modify the bylaws for future General Assemblies: no more than 2 people from the same parish can be elected at the same time - Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Central Council) stated that it will be addressed in new business.

Break commenced at 10:05 a.m., will come back at 10:20 a.m.

10. 2024 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee Welcome

- a. Resumed at 10:24 a.m.
- b. Jackie Ovassapian (St. James, Evanston, IL) welcomed Fr. Andreas Garabedian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL) and Alisha Panthier (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL) to welcome everyone.
- c. Alisha Panthier (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL) introduced herself as Chair person of 2024 GASW planning committee.

11. St. Nersess Armenian Seminary Presentation → moved to afternoon

- a. 11:02 a.m.: Zoom to present award to Dn. Daron Bolat; Mardig Klachian (St. Sarkis, Dallas, TX) presented the award to him.
- b. 1:42 p.m.: Fr. Mardiros Chevian (St. Nersess, Armonk, NY) and Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Holy Translators, Framingham, MA) was invited to present. They shared the history of St. Nersess and the current need to recruit more seminarians to meet the immediate needs of the Diocese. They called upon all of us to think about seminary and assist with recruitment.
- c. Video shown to honor graduates.
- d. 2:01 p.m.: Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Holy Translators, Framingham, MA) invited to speak, emphasize God's purpose, there is a need for clergymen (5-10); need 3 years of seminary, 1 year in a sacred site, and 1 year internship in a parish. Most candidates come from the Western Diocese. Program of an annual giving to support St. Nersess frkrikor@gmail.com.
- e. 2:12 p.m.: Fr. Tavit Boyajian (Sts. Joachim and Anne, Palos Heights, IL) asked for someone to clarify what it would be like to "try it out", Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Holy Translators, Framingham, MA) said that incoming students must come to the deacon's training program, come during vacation time/breaks - 1st year is probationary . There is a cost to attend seminary, however, there are a number of sources that help mitigate the costs (scholarships, grants, etc.).
- f. 2:17 p.m.: Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) asked what is the prerequisite for a young person to attend and what are the different tracks? Fr. Mardiros Chevian (St. Nersess, Armonk, NY) stated that you must have an undergraduate degree in the field of choice or graduate degree of one of the seminaries in order to begin the process of priesthood, 5 interviews (conducted by Dean and others), application process, must have the blessing

of an *Archnort* (can be Mesrop Srpazan), must stay with them for a week (Masters of Divinity program). For Masters of Arts program, 2 year program offered by St. Vladimir's Seminary, Masters of Theology, Doctor of Ministry program. Women can receive Masters of Divinity or Arts. If the interest is in serving the church, you must have the blessing of a Primate.

- g. 2:22 p.m.: Bishop Mesrop stated the need of staff members of the diocese in different sectors of the church/ministries.

2:23 p.m.: Break.

12. Election Results for Central Council

- a. Second Ballot, if needed (Roll Call)
- b. Election Results
 - i. 10:31 a.m.: The Nominating Committee said 3 individuals have been elected onto the Central Council.
 - ii. Removing two names from the ballot, will leave 3 names to choose from which will be conducted via paper vote (Elizabeth Kalfayan, Dn. Garen Megrđichian, and Anastasia Bohajian).
 - iii. Fr. Hratch Sargsyan (St. Gregory of Narek, Richmond Heights, OH) stated that the Central Council is doing an amazing job and thanked them.
 - iv. 10:33 a.m.: Sergeant-at-Arms take doors.
 - v. Ani Misirliyan (Central Council) point of information, 3 individuals were elected by majority vote (those who got 19 or more votes).-
 - vi. Previous ballots were collected, new ballots will be passed out for a second.
 - vii. Point of information, Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Central Council), there will be an alternate elected as well (has the next highest number of votes).
 - viii. Started off with 8 individuals, 38 voters, in order for someone to be elected, they need 20 votes to be elected (half +1).
 - ix. 10:40 a.m.: Roll call conducted to collect ballots.
 - x. 10:56 a.m.: All in favor of dropping the lowest vote, as the second vote did not receive a majority for any candidates → now there will be voting between Anastasia Bohajian and Dn. Garen Megrđichian)
 - xi. 10:58 a.m.: Roll call for third round of voting for Central Council by Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Central Council), has 37 voters.

- xii. Point of information from Jackie Russell (Central Council), 20 votes are needed for majority.
- xiii. 11:10 a.m.: Nominating Committee: stated that Dn. Garen Megrdochian, Mara Najarian, Alisha Panthier, and Sarah Tavitian were elected onto the Central Council, with Anastasia Bohajian as the Alternate.

Primate's Luncheon, Presentation of Awards & Group Photo (12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.)

Second Assembly Session (1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

13. Nominating Committee

- i. 1:32 p.m.: Meeting reconvened.
- ii. Plurality vote for nominating and auditing committee.
- b. Presentation of Slate of Candidates for Auditing and Nominating Committees
 - i. Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Central Council) presented the slates. Dn. Garen Megrdochian was removed from the Nominating Committee slate due to the Central Council election. There is a need to fill 5th spot on the ballot in order to have an election.
 - ii. The Nominating Committee assists with filling the slate for the Central Council, main time commitment is before the General Assembly.
 - iii. The Auditing Committee assists with financials mostly prior to the General Assembly.
- c. Acceptance of Nominations from the Floor for Auditing and Nominating Committees
 - i. Ani Misirliyan (Central Council) nominates Celene Phillip (St. John, Southfield, MI), seconded by Andrew Yenicag (Central Council), she accepted.
 - ii. Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Central Council) nominates Serien Keleshian (St. Sarkis, Carrollton, TX), seconded by Fr. Hratch Sargsyan (St. Gregory of Narek, Richmond Heights, OH), she accepts.
 - iii. Stephen Hollisian (Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA) nominated Vinney Moushigian (St. James, Watertown, MA). He declined.
 - iv. Motion to close nominations for Nominating Committee, seconded by Mardig Klachian (Central Council).
 - v. Motion to close nominations for auditing committee by Fr. Yeprem Kelegian

(Retired Clergy), seconded by Jackie Russell (Central Council)

- vi. 1:38 p.m.: Sergeant-at-Arms take position.
- vii. 1:39 p.m.: Roll call taken.
- d. Review Procedures for Election of Auditing and Nominating Committees
- e. Ballot sent out 1:42 p.m.
 - i. Nominating Committee (3)
 - ii. Auditing Committee (3)

14.2023 ACYOA Central Council Report→ continued with this after break

- a. 10:27 a.m.: Ani Misirliyan (Central Council) gave her report as Chairman for 2023 fiscal year. In 2023, ACYOA had 16 chapters, met 5 times in person, focused on expanding ways of communication (Instagram, remind app, e-blasts) during lenten season; Central Council decided on having regional retreats, 70 participants from 20 communities across Diocese In February, held Mission Trip “5 circles of the cross”, to help build a home and do home visits. In 2023, visited 3 different parishes for ACYOA day, held the National Fall Retreat in Wisconsin with 37 participants from 19 parishes and had 7 clergy in attendance. Implemented 2nd annual national secret santa; website and event calendar was another form of communication that was added.

15. 2023 Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Report

- a. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM), works for the Eastern Diocese in Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries as Program Administrator, stated that current Central Council is very independent and can successfully do many things on their own (they travel 10-12 times a year for various events), also works as Administrator to Hye Camp (Ingleside, IL) had a successful 2023 camp season, Lisa Mardigian (St. John, Detroit, MI) serves as Hye Camp board Chairman, she encouraged anyone interested to serve on board. She stated that there are currently 115 campers registered, 34 CITs (last year 27), have 8 staff registered, need support to recruit for Hye Camp), St. Vartan Camp, Lerna Lacinian (DYYAM) served as Hye Camp Office Coordinator last year, was hired in December to serve as Camp Ministries Coordinator as St. Vartan Camp Administrator, session B camper enrollment as waiting list, session A, still enrolling campers, session C needs more campers (only 9 as of right now).
- b. Takeaways from Diocesan Assembly: shared message from Primate that resonated with her, some of the challenges that he has heard from parish leadership is church

attendance which is low, ignite fire in faithful, youth participation is also a little low.

16.2023 Department of Ministries Report

- a. 11:11 a.m.: Fr. Hratch Sargsyan (St. Gregory of Narek, Richmond Heights, OH), on behalf of Diocesan Council as the Director of Ministries at the Diocese, trying to create more programs and resources that will serve to the spiritual betterment of the youth and young adults, diocese has 7 ministries, Dn. Hovhanness is in charge of Armenian Language ministries, most recent highlight was the Vemkar series, working to address modern day issues young adults are facing (overcoming anxiety, hope from depression, overcoming addiction, suffering, controlling anger).
- b. 11:19 a.m.: video recap showing what was done in the ministries department
 - i. 11:24 a.m.: Motion to approve ACYOA 2023 Central Council report, Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries report.
 - ii. 11:24 a.m.: Jackie Russell (Central Council) made a motion to accept.
 - iii. 11:24 a.m.: Reports accepted.

17.2023 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Report

- a. 11:26 a.m.: Aline Tasjian (St. Leon, Fairlawn, NJ) zoomed in to give 2023 GASW report highlights: committee utilized St. Leon's gym which helped keep costs down, able to go to local schools for more spacious gym facility, location accessibility was an important factor in decision-making, felt the locations were accessible for attendees, and lastly a supportive parish was helpful in executing everything.
- b. Lessons learned: bus schedules, hourly schedule with bus company, some of the bus drivers were hesitant to leave because they only had a few attendees on the buses as a result the schedule getting pushed back, unavoidable run-in with the Taylor Swift concert, keep check-in desks stacked with at least 2 volunteers to avoid lines, lastly, negotiating with vendors don't take first number as end-all-be-all.
- c. 11:32 a.m. motion to accept 2023 GASW report
- d. Jackie Russell (Central Council) made a motion to accept, seconded by Ani Misirliyan (Central Council).
- e. 11:33 a.m. 2023 GASW report accepted.

18.2023 Financial Report

- a. 11:34 a.m. Michael Sarafian (Central Council), 2023 Central Council Treasurer presented the 2023 Financial Report. The goal is not to have a high surplus or deficit as

ACYOA is a nonprofit, goal is to get as close to zero as possible; 1001-1012 were various income streams.

- b. Net deficit of \$3,000, happy with results
- c. 11:36 a.m.: Stephen Hollisian (Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA): pointed out that Bishop's 5K will be expanding to other cities, line 2005 (chapter visits section) noticed that 2023 actual was down from 2022 actual, asked why was there a decrease in the amount that was spent in 2023 opposed to 2022.
- d. 11:38 a.m.: Michael Sarafian (Central Council) stated that they make a cost-conscious effort to stay where they can, housing was provided by parishioners for parish visits.
- e. 11:39 a.m.: Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Holy Translators, Framingham, MA) stated that parish assessments in 2022 went down and wanted to know why. Michael Sarafian (Central Council) stated that the check was deposited in 2022.
- f. 11:40 a.m.: Jennifer Morris (DYYAM), stated there was a proposal that every parish give a \$250 assessment regardless if they have an active parish or not, funds are collected as part of stewardship to the diocese, not all parishes participated and mission parishes are not as well.
- g. 11:41 a.m.: Der Yeprem (Retired Clergy)
- h. Dadourian Foundation gave the majority of funds, receiving \$5K-\$6K more than budgeted, this resulted in only a \$3K deficit (not including Bishop's 5K which would likely lead into surplus).
- i. 11:44 a.m. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Holy Translators, Framingham, MA) motion to accept 2023 Financial Budget and Fr. Hratch Sargsyan (St. Gregory of Narek, Richmond Heights, OH) second the motion, accepted.

19. Review 2024 Approved Budget and Present and Vote on 2025 Proposed Budget

- a. 11:44 a.m.: Michael Sarafian (Central Council) proposed \$40,000 for ASP, considering inflation ASIF, looking for a larger than expected donation.
- b. Expenditures: \$3,000 dollar increase for Central Council meetings, for Mission Trip, Fall Retreat, Lenten Retreat, increasing budget.
- c. Stephen Hollisian (Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA) asked for elaboration in significant increase for planned budget from last year, what are some of the things being planned in the future for the increase, Michael Sarafian (Central Council) stated that the largest expenditures (went over budget of \$3,700 last year), wanted to include good buffer

amount this year - gave buffer of \$4,500 consider went over \$3,700 last year.

- d. Andrew Yenicag (Central Council) stated that many ministries are cost effective as we have virtual ministries as well, Stephen Hollisian (Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA) stated that having different and various opportunities is a great thing.
- e. Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Central Council) stated that retreat center also takes a large portion of the budget.
- f. Jackie Russell (Central Council) in 2023 budget says line 23 is expired on the 2025 proposed budget it came back.
- g. Point of information : Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) - line item is kept to encourage future Central Council to be smart with their money- Jackie Russell (Central Council) also stated line item 2021 is listed as expired on 2023 actual budget but does not appear in 2025 budget and isn't listed as expired. Michael Sarafian (Central Council) states that he must add that information.
- h. 11:52 a.m.: Jackie Ovassapian (St. James, Evanston, IL) motion to accept 2025 proposed budget.
- i. 11:53 a.m.: Stephen Hollisian motion to accept, seconded by delegate of St. Sarkis (Carrollton, TX), it was accepted.

20. Auditing Committee Report

- a. 11:53 a.m.: Presented by Jackie Ovassapian (St. James, Evanston, IL) on behalf of the committee.
- b. Addressed lines 1004 and 2011 of the 2023 Financial Report, Bishop's 5K projected at \$15,000, shown zero actuals, planned to return in 2024 which is why it was left on the budget.
- c. ASP lines 1001 and 2001-2002, a lot allocated in 2023 and actuals were much lower, in 2023 the budget was based on success in 2022 which was very successful.
- d. Diocesan Assembly only 13% of the budget was used (Central Council members did not need to be flown out).
- e. \$0 budget and actuals shown - Central Council moved to chapter-based chapter connections, but per bylaws, line 2007 archived.
- f. 11:57 a.m.: Motion to approve.
- g. Motion to approve George Avakian (Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY), accepted.

11:57 a.m. Luncheon

21. Election Results for Nominating and Auditing Committee

- a. 4:12 p.m.: Jackie Ovassapian (St. James, Evanston, IL) asked the Nominating Committee to give results of the future Nominating/Auditing Committee.
- b. Nominating: Serien Keleshian (St. Sarkis, Carrollton, TX), Ani Jermakian (St. Mark, Springfield, MA), Sevana Mailian (St. John, Southfield, MI) were elected, Celene Phillip (St. John, Southfield, MI) as alternate.
- c. Auditing: Jackie Ovassapian (St. James, Evanston, IL), Serop Rea (St. Sarkis, Carrollton, TX), Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Central Council), alternate is Madeline Ovassapian (Central Council).

22. Awards

- a. 2024 ACYOA Chapter “A” Award awarded to Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection presented by Ani Misirliyan (Central Council).
- b. Sam Nersesian Service Award awarded to Greg Marifian (Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat, Belleville, IL), presented by Michael Sarafian (Central Council) and to Cindy Panthier (St. Gregory the Enlightener, Chicago, IL) presented by Jackie Russell (Central Council).
- c. Gregory Arpajian Award awarded to Vinney Moushigian (St. James, Watertown, MA), presented by Andrew Yenicag (Central Council).
- d. Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian Award: Fr. Vart Gyozyan (Hye Pointe, Haverhill, MA) presented by Yn. Lucine Soubounjian (Central Council).

Break

23. Primate’s Message

- a. Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, our beloved Primate, presented inspiring words encouraging us to “Be My Witnesses”, and asked all of the young adults gathered to witness their faith in all they do as they go forth and share the Gospel.
- b. “Be My Witness” video played.
- c. Mardig Klachian (Central Council) was asked to share a reflection about what it means to “be a witness” to him, which he also shared at the Dicoesan Assembly.

Small Group Discussions

- d. 3:15 p.m.: Break for small group discussions led by Central Council members.
- e. 4:02 p.m.: Ani Jermakian (St. Mark, Springfield, MA) stated that we all can connect that the desire to be here is something we all share.

- f. Dn. Johnny Chadoyan (Sts. Sahag and Mesrob, Providence, RI) stated how we are witnesses and how our friends are witnesses to us.
- g. Michael Sarafian (Central Council) stated that it is important for us as the youth to recruit each other to bring the youth to the church.
- h. Areen Krikorian (Sts. Joachim and Anne, Palos Heights, IL) stated that an important thing to inspire the youth to continue helping the church is to have trust and offer leadership/events/parish meetings to have the youth be involved in the day-to-day.
- i. Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Central Council) asked if people would be willing to share any favorite ministries/feedback on how things are going.
- j. Shahe Der Torossian (St. James, Watertown, MA) stated that outreach could be improved upon, communication could be improved, Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Central Council) informed the Assembly of the Remind messaging system, Ani Misirliyan (Central Council) stated that there is a WhatsApp group chat that has been started.

24. New Business

- a. Proposals (none were submitted)
 - i. 4:15p.m. Linda Yenicag (Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY) motion to amend article 10 section 1 (at the moment only 1 per parish can be elected in a given year) → shared her intent to submit a proposal to change this before next year's General Assembly..
 - ii. Stephen Hollisian (Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA) asked about having ACYOA Juniors be potential observers to the ACYOA General Assembly.
 - iii. Ani Misirliyan (Central Council) offered a point of information that the initiative was given by Michael Kashian (St. Mesrob, Racine, WI) to Diocesan Assembly, Fr. Hratch Sargsyan (St. Gregory of Narek, Richmond Heights, OH) asked for clarification, Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) gave a point of information that juniors have Hye M'rtsoom the same weekend and there needs to be more discussion regarding getting time off school, etc.
 - iv. Greg Marifian (Holy Virgin Mary and Shoghagat, Belleville, IL) suggested pickleball be considered as sport for future ACYOA Seniors Sports Weekends.
 - v. 4:22p.m.- Shahe Der Torossian (St. James, Watertown, MA) asked if there are other sports/activities to incorporate, proposing that Central Council take action to survey chapters on what they would like to see at Sports Weekend, seconded

by Mardig Klachian (Central Council).

- b. 2025 ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend Update
 - i. 4:23p.m. Presented by St. John Armenian Church, Southfield, Michigan.
 - ii. Talia Oknayan (St. John, Southfield, MI) stated that they are waiting on confirmations for venues, activities, en route to having a very fun and exciting weekend, Detroit provided chips to be placed in the welcome bags.
- c. 2026 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend Bids
 - i. 4:25p.m. Vinney Moushigian (St. James Watertown), shared he may have a possible bid for 2026, stated that they set out with a goal to bring a lot of the St. James ACYOA back, received support from Maria Derderian, their youth minister, and are waiting on approval from their parish council and pastor before moving forward with a formal bid.
 - ii. 4:28 p.m.: Vinney Moushigian (St. James, Watertown, MA) motioned to give the Central Council the authority to accept any bids that are presented between now and the next General Assembly, motion approved. The Central Council will send a letter to parish leadership inviting them to give a formal bid by a certain date.

25. Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee

- a. 4:30 p.m.: presented by Linda Yenicag (Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY) and Sarah Tavitian (Hye Pointe, Haverhill, MA).
- b. 4:44 p.m.: Motion to accept the report by Andreas Aghamianz (St. Hagop, Pinellas Park, FL), seconded by Rayeanne Magee (St. John, Southfield, MI).

26. Benediction and Adjournment

- a. 4:44 p.m. Ani Misirliyan (Central Council) stated that if you have not received a welcome bag or if you didn't register for the weekend, you can do so immediately after the meeting on the 3rd floor. She also gave thanks to the four outgoing Central Council members.
- b. Red/green cards and morning service booklets should be given back to Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) for use again, following assembly 2024-25 Central Council members must stay after to meet with Bishop Mesrop and Jennifer Morris.
- c. 4:45p.m. Motion to adjourn assembly given by Rayeanne Magee (St. John Southfield, MI), seconded by Maria Panthier (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL), accepted.

Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan led the Assembly in a closing prayer.