


ACYOA Central Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

7:30 PM EDT / 6:30 PM CDT zoom

Attendance (VIRTUAL): Ani Misirliyan (Chair), Jackie Russell (Vice Chair), Maddie Ovassapian (Secretary), Michael Sarafian (Treasurer), Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Ministries & Outreach), Mardig Klachian (Ministries & Outreach), Andrew Yenicag (Communications), Jennifer Morris (Diocesan, Department of Youth and Adult Ministries Program Administrator), and Hayr Mesrop Parsamyan (Primate of the Eastern Diocese)

1. Opening Prayer
 - a. Yn. Lucine Sabounjian led us in an opening prayer.
2. Check-in on New Positions
 - a. No one had questions/comments.
 - b. Assign CC Liaisons to Committees
 - i. Ani proposed some options for ways to go about committees.
 - ii. She asked our opinion on having a Bylaws and Guidelines committee. Yn. Lucine asked what it would look like. Ani and Jenni answered/explained. Ani said she likes the idea of two people on the Bylaws committee. **Andrew and Maddie will be the liaisons for it.**
 - iii. Bishops 5K committee
 1. Andrew asked if that person is going to be organizing it and Ani said that is her vision for it, but Jenni could help if that person needed it. Jenni said we are looking to have it in 3 locations and explained that they would be working with the local committee hosting it (coordinating timing, food, registrations, etc). **Yn. Lucine and Mardig will be the liaisons.**
 - iv. ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend
 1. Chicago bid and Ani will announce after July 1st. Ani said she wants a variety of people on committees from different areas. **Ani and Jackie will be the liaisons.**
3. Liaison System Update - (Jackie)
 - a. Jackie explained that she plans to keep the system the same as far as liaisons go. Jackie said Yn. Lucine will add DC to her chapters. Jenni reminded Council to personalize emails.. **Jenni asked Jackie to send her mailing address to her. Jackie will send out the new template and liaison emails should start going out again July 1st.**
4. ASP Update (Jenni)
 - a. Jenni said Fr. Hratch and her had a zoom with 5 of the 6 participants. Participants are excited. Jenni said cost went up because less than 12 people are signed up. 4 of them fly in a day early on July 1st. ASP is July 1st-21st. Jenni will have someone send Andrew pictures.
5. Treasurer Report (Michael)
 - a. Update on Chapter Dues  [2023 Master Spreadsheet for ACYOA Financials](#)
 - i. Michael said we're waiting for Holy Martyrs dues. Michael messaged Alex (chairman) and he said he forgot the check at home that he was going

to bring to General Assembly. He is going to be at church tomorrow and will be sending dues in mail this week (according to Andrew). Michael said he has not received Armenian Church of Jacksonville dues. He said they do not seem serious about sending their dues. Michael said he received dues from Hye Pointe this week. **Jenni said Ani should send an email to Jacksonville asking if they want to be inactive or send their dues. Ani will keep Jackie and Mardig updated on that. Michael needs to continue following up with Holy Martyrs.**

- b. Review of Travel Guidelines and Reimbursements
 - i. Michael encouraged Council to continue being cost effective, add receipts, parking at the airport gets reimbursed, screenshot miles for driving.
Michael said he will make a folder for Jackie with an example.
6. GA & SW Update (Ani)- Ani gave an update on a bid she received from St. Gregory, Chicago.
7. Communications (Andrew)- Did not get to this due to time. Moved on.
8. Hayr Mesrop's Message to Central Council
 - a. Hayr Mesrop joined us and led us in an opening prayer. Hayr Mesrop shared that he will share his vision for ACYOA. He explained that he is here to plan with us and envision the ministries together with us. He reminded us of his Gift plan from the assembly. He discussed the 5 circles of the cross being used to grow and empower our youth ministries and ACYOA. He explained he believes that a strong ACYOA means a strong diocese and serving as role models for young kids in the community. He also explains that we have 5 areas of ministries.
 - i. Worship, Education, Witness, Service, Fellowship
 - b. Hayr Mesrop explained that his approach is that he wants to be working with us.
 - c. Council talked about barriers they see in ACYOA- participation, etc
 - d. Hayr Mesrop asked what 3 programs are successful in our ACYOA. Council said Fall Retreat, Lenten Retreat, Sports Weekend, Mission Trip
 - e. Council discussed challenges in ACYOA- Council said money to traveling, priests/parishes wanting Central Council to visit, zoom ministries being difficult at times after covid
 - f. Hayr Mesrop also mentioned some suggestions he has
 - i. Inviting speakers to a weekend/gathering for young people to share their professional life, faith, meditation, etc., maybe even to our retreats? Yn. Lucine mentioned the Diocese helping financially if it is a new event and Hayr Mesrop agreed.
9. Bishop's 5K Update
 - a. Bishops 5K will be moved to Spring.
10. Closing Prayer
 - a. Hayr Mesrop led us in a closing prayer.
11. Upcoming Meetings/Events
 - a. July 21st - July 23rd: CC Meeting- **Location is TBD- Ani is working on it and will keep us posted.**
 - b. November 10 - 12: National Fall Retreat in Wisconsin (Hayr Mesrop will stop by)
 - c. Adding September meeting
 - i. September 22nd-24th weekend.

- d. October 14th would be the date of Hayr Mesrop's Episcopal Badarak Service
- e. Create Date for December Meeting
 - i. December 8th-10th weekend.