

ACYOA Central Council Abridged Minutes
Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 9:30 AM EST
Holy Martyrs, Bayside, New York

Attendance: Ani Misirliyan (Chair - Virtual), Jackie Russell (Vice Chair), Andrew Yenicag (Treasurer), Dn. Garen Megrdochian (Secretary), Mara Najarian (Communications), Sarah Tavitian (Ministries and Outreach), Alisha Panthier (Ministries and Outreach), Jennifer Morris (Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries), Rev. Fr. Abraham Malkhasian (Pastor)

Opening Prayer led by Rev. Fr. Abraham Malkhasian at 9:40 am.

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. ACYOA Hye Kids
 - a. Donna Sirounian, PC Chair, was invited to share about the parish's new initiative called ACYOA Hye Kids focusing on kids ages 10-12 in hopes of rebuilding their ACYOA Juniors and then ACYOA Seniors chapter.
 - b. They are piloting this program and launched it during the food festival at Holy Martyrs. The first meeting will be October 18 followed by a service project around Thanksgiving.
 - c. Will keep us informed of its success, so it can then be shared with other parishes.
3. Approval of August Meeting Minutes
4. Review Liaison System and Updates (Jackie)
 - a. Jackie mentioned encouraging the CC to follow up, call, or reach out through other platforms if email is not working and they continue to not get a response.
 - b. Jenni requested that all CC call the clergyman for our liaison chapters to introduce ourselves and see how things are going from their perspective and to ask what we can do to help them with support and guidance.
 - c. **Jackie will send out an email to inactive chapters this month for fall retreat registration
 1. Jackie gave the deadline to send out the liaison emails by September 30
5. Ministries and Outreach (Alisha and Sarah)
 - a. ASP 2025 (Jenni)
 1. Jenni met with Fr. Hakob to review the ASP 2024 trip and surveys. Scholarship applications were reviewed and checks were sent.
 2. Jenni will request to meet with Shake' from SIMA Tours in mid-October once she returns from Armenia to share feedback from 2024 and begin planning for 2025.
 3. The dates suggested for 2025 are June 27-July 18 or June 28-July 19, in mid-October, Camp dates will be finalized and we will share dates with SNAS to try and avoid conflict.

- b. Fall Retreat Updates
 - 1. Sarah and Alisha gave an update on this year's fall retreat. They went through each of the sessions and asked for feedback.
 - 2. Jenni mentioned the clergy she has reached out to for services and sessions and is waiting to hear back. She is also waiting to hear back from Hayr Simeon regarding the celebrant for Sunday.
 - 3. Ani suggested doing more small group discussions, rather than large ones.
 - 4. Jackie brought an idea to give clergy the questions from each participant's registration form. Jenni confirmed that she will be doing this and based on the clergy availability we will have an optional clergy chat during the free time.
 - i. Fall Retreat 2025
 - 1. The Fall Retreat will be at St. Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansasville, WI November 7-9, 2025.
- c. Virtual Ministries
 - i. Podcast Series
 - 1. Jenni shared the list of clergy that Mardig and Lulu will be reaching out to, to speak on specific topics.
 - 2. Jackie will add podcast series to liaison email.
- d. Chapter Chair Connections
 - 1. Ani gave a rundown on Chapter Chair Connections and the agenda.
 - 2. Jackie and Ani will be meeting with the chairs on Zoom on October 2.
- e. Chapter Connections Planning for 2024 - 2025
 - i. Andrew suggests working on keeping in contact and following up with chapters after the connection with their goals.
 - ii. Ani will send out an email asking who is interested in a chapter connections
- f. Mission Trip 2025 (Jenni)
 - 1. Jenni mentioned the dates February 13-16, could be pushed back to 20-23 based on Habitat for Humanity's availability and work site readiness.
 - 2. Jenni contacted the Mission Parish, contacted the hotel, and the person who runs the Habitat for Humanity, and will keep it posted.
- g. Bishop's 5K Planning
 - 1. Based on recent conversations, the Primate wants to continue with this event
 - 2. Jenni will brainstorm the locations and discuss dates and locations with the Primate before our November retreat.
 - 3. Jackie suggests discussing this on Zoom when we meet before the retreat.
- h. Christmas Card Exchange
 - i. Alisha and Sarah agreed to continue with the national Christmas Card Exchange. We had 30 participants last year, and people enjoyed being connected with others across the Diocese.

- ii. They will “copy” the Google Form before the retreat. Mara will create a flyer. \$10 gift card mailed to someone that the CC will pair people up and send out emails with the recipient’s mailing address, etc.
 - iii. CC Exchange?
 - 1. Jackie explained how the Secret Santa exchange runs and CC wants to do it. She will send out the Elfster and we will exchange it at our December 7 meeting in MI.
- 6. Review Goals
 - a. The Council spent a great deal of time reviewing the goals shared at the August meeting and condensed them into four overarching SMART goals as listed below.
 - b. Click [HERE](#) to view the goals that were created for the 2024-2025 Central Council term.
- 7. Treasurer Update (Andrew)
 - a. Financial Report
 - 1. Andrew gave an update on the financial report.
 - 2. Andrew discussed the ASP Income/Expense Report from the previous meeting.
 - 3. Andrew gave the update on the Fuller Center ASP donation that was transferred in July but not yet received by the Fuller Center. He is working on rectifying the situation.
- 8. Communications (Mara)
 - a. Social Media, E-Blasts, and Website
 - 1. Mission Trip throwback post - be on lookout for 2025 Mission Trip sign ups!
 - 2. Mara mentioned that the fall retreat info will be in the newsletter.
 - 3. Sarah suggested sharing stories twice a week for stories on social media.
- 9. Committee Updates
 - a. 2025 GASW Committee Update (Alisha and Sarah)
 - 1. Alisha and Sarah haven't had a meeting with the committee because they wanted to have an initial meeting with Fr. Aren. They will attend the next meeting via Zoom. They plan to meet bi-weekly for an hour.
 - 2. Mara gave an update on the contracts for the weekend and venues.
 - b. Alumni Committee Update (Andrew and Garen)
 - 1. Andrew will be sending out an email to the Alumni Committee now that the draft has been reviewed and he has compiled all of the email addresses.
 - 2. Jackie suggested a two week deadline to reply.
- 10. Upcoming Meetings/Events
 - a. October 2 Chapter Chair Connection 8pm EST/7pm CST
 - b. October 30 Fall Retreat Meeting 7pm EST/6pm CST
 - c. November 8 - 10: National Fall Retreat in Lakeside, CT
 - d. December 6 - 8: ACYOA Central Council Meeting @ St. John Southfield, MI
 - e. January 31- February 2nd (tentative): CC Meeting in Jacksonville, FL

- f. February 13-16 ACYOA Mission Trip Atlanta, GA (Tentative)
 - g. April 13 Palm Sunday/ACYOA Day
 - h. April 25-27 CC Meeting (Tentative)
 - i. May 1-4 Diocesan Assembly
11. New Business
- a. ACYOA Juniors Initiative with ayo! (Jenni)
 - i. Jenni was contacted by an ACYOA Junior from White Plains, NY who has been in contact with ayo! regarding creating an ACYOA Fundraiser for the Juniors chapters to compete across the Diocese. This will be presented at the ACYOA Juniors Fall Sports Weekend, and Jenni asks that the CC support them in their effort by encouraging senior chapters to mentor and support the juniors chapter and help them fundraise and promote it on our social media.
 - b. ACYO-WD Central Council Meeting (Andrew)
 - i. Andrew mentioned that they had a few virtual meetings with ACYO-WD Central Council last year, and the new Council Chair reached out with a request to have another Zoom.
 - ii. Possible dates to propose are October 22 or 23, 9pm EST
12. Closing Prayer led by Jenni based on prayer requests from the entire Council.