

ACYOA Central Council Meeting Minutes- **Abridged**
Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 9:30 AM EST
Armenian Church of our Saviour, Worcester, MA

Attendance: Ani Misirliyan (Chair), Jackie Russell (Vice Chair), Maddie Ovassapian (Secretary), Michael Sarafian (Treasurer), Yn. Lucine Sabounjian (Ministries & Outreach), Mardig Klachian (Ministries & Outreach- Virtual), Andrew Yenicag (Communications), Jennifer Morris (Diocesan, Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Program Administrator), Der Tadeos Barseghyan (Pastor of Armenian Church of Our Saviour)

Opening Prayer

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Approval of July Meeting Minutes - approved
3. Review Central Council Roles and Responsibilities
 - a. **Der Tadeos will give Council a youth contact that they can reach out to.**
 - b. Jenni and Jackie will work on organizing the drive.
 - c. Mardig suggested using whatsapp or another communication app.
4. Review Liaison System and Updates (Jackie)
 - a. Maddie and Yn. Lucine will swap chapters
 - b. Ani suggested asking other chapters in general who don't answer if there is someone else they want to receive emails as well.
 - c. Inactive quarterly emails- beginning of October, April, and July
5. Ministries and Outreach (Mardig and Lulu)
 - a. Hope and Healing
 - i. Great turnout for first one.
 - ii. Next one (Compassion and Sacrifice) is on October 4th
 - iii. Dn. Yervant will do November 1st.
 - b. Podcast
 - i. Mardig and Yn. Lucine were going to post about topics this week, but it wasn't appropriate with Artsakh.
 - ii. Central Council decided to call it "Growing In Faith Together- ACYOA Podcast" to show our connection to the Diocese.
 - iii. Goal is 3 podcast episodes by General Assembly.
 - c. Fall Retreat
 - i. Jenni gave updates on who will be coming which days (clergy wise)
 - ii. Yn. Lucine talked through session ideas/topics
 - iii. Yn. Lucine went over session schedules and Ani mentioned making sure most sessions have small group embedded in them
 - d. Chapter Chair Connections
 - i. Jackie led the most recent one and chairs are benefiting from it.

- e. Chapter Connections Planning for 2023-2024
 - i. St. Gregory of Narek in Ohio - Jackie and Ani
 - ii. Church of our Saviour in Worcester- Yn. Lucine and Andrew
 - iii. Armenian Church of Holy Martyrs- Ani to confirm- Maddie & Andrew
 - iv. St. Sahak and Mesrop (Winwood)- Mardig and Michael
- f. Mission Trip
 - i. Jenni discussed arrival and departure times, along with her timeline on planning and who she has asked to attend.
- g. Recap ASP 2023
 - i. Scholarship was discussed along with change in leader for 2024 and success with participants booking their own flights.
- h. 2023 Fundraising Initiatives
 - i. **Yn. Lucine and Andrew will meet to discuss further in the next month.**
- 6. Review Goals
 - a. Jenni shared goals based on our sticky notes/activity from last meeting
 - b. Each Central Council member looked through the goals for a few minutes and Central Council made slight changes to the goals to make them more achievable
- 7. Treasurer Update (Michael)
 - a. Financial Report
 - i. Overall, budget is looking as it should- website was switched to two year contract, which saves money
 - ii. Ani mentioned that General Assembly Sports Weekend committee will need the seed money this year instead of next year
 - iii. Michael mentioned that there are only 3 checks left, **Jenni to follow up.**
 - b. ASP Income/ Expense Report
 - i. Michael went through the ASP report.
- 8. Communications (Andrew)
 - a. Social Media, E-Blasts, and Website
 - i. Andrew will do E-Blast on Wednesday talking about upcoming and past ministries and outreach events
 - b. Alumni of the Month
 - i. Andrew asked for recommendations from Jenni- she gave some suggestions
 - ii. Jackie asked if there should be a google survey for people to recommend Alumni, Andrew agreed
 - iii. Brainstormed how Alumni can be on fundraising items
 - c. ACYO-WD
 - i. Andrew will create a whatsapp group chat with them and ACYOA
- 9. 2023 General Assembly

- a. Jenni sent small group discussion responses to Central Council members to review

10. Committee Updates

- a. 2024 GASW Committee Update (Ani and Jackie)
 - i. The GASW Committee gave an update about reviewing contracts, looking for a sports venue, night events ideas, and update on timing on events
- b. 2024 Bishop's 5K - (Mardig and Lulu)
 - i. Will still likely take place in Boca, Detroit, Watertown area, and Southern location
 - ii. Future- Yn. Lucine mentioned alternating years on the big initiatives
- c. Bylaws Guidelines Committee (Maddie and Andrew)
 - i. Maddie and Andrew will finish reviewing bylaw guidelines.

11. Upcoming Meetings/Events

- a. October 4th: Hope and Healing- Michael and Mardig- 8pmET/7pmCT
- b. October 11th: Retreat Review (feedback)- 8pmET/7pmCT
- c. October 14th: Episcopal Badarak at St. Vartan Cathedral
 - i. Yn. Lucine, Jackie, and Andrew will be attending. Ani is TBD.
- d. October 25th: Chapter Chair Connections- 7pm ET/6pm CT
- e. November 1st: Hope and Healing- 8pmET/7pmCT
- f. November 8th: Retreat Review (session run through)- 8pmET/7pmCT
- g. November 10th-12th: National Fall Retreat in Wisconsin
- h. November 29th: Bylaws Implementation Open Forum- 7pmET, 6pmCT
- i. December 6th: Hope and Healing- 8pmET/7pmCT
- j. December 8th-10th: Central Council Meeting at St. Gregory Chicago
- k. January 24th: Chapter Chair Connections- 7pmET, 6pm CT
- l. February 2nd-4th: Central Council Meeting (**tentatively at St. Petersburg- Michael initial reach out and Ani will follow up**)
- m. Lenten Retreats will take place on March 2nd or March 9th- potential places are Philadelphia- Springfield, Philly- Cheltenham, Detroit (March 9th), and Dallas
- n. May 3rd-5th: Central Council meeting- Springfield (**Ani to confirm**)

12. New Business

- a. Secret Santa will happen again this year.

13. Closing Prayer

- a. Yn. Lucine will lead us in a closing prayer.