



**72<sup>ND</sup> ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern)-New York, New York**  
**Kavookjian Hall-Friday, May 25, 2018**

**MINUTES**

**ACYOA General Assembly Registration-Kavookjian Hall**

**Morning Service-St. Vartan Cathedral**

10 AM. Led by V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan.

**First Assembly Session-Kavookjian Hall**

The 72<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America convened on Friday, May 25, 2018 at **10:24 AM**.

The following Central Council members were present:

Mallory Maslar, Chair

Nora Knadjian, Vice Chair

Danielle Malconian, Secretary

Ronnie Malconian, Treasurer

Melissa Mardoian, Programming Coordinator

Sona Dagley, Chapter Relations

Arsen Yelegen, Public Relations

Also present:

V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Primate

Jennifer Morris

Kathryn Ashbahian

Clergy

Members of Diocesan Council

**Roll Call-Confirmation of Quorum**

**10:27 AM**

Nora Knadjian (Central Council) took roll call.

## **Introduction of Robert's Rules of Order**

**10:32 AM**

Arthur Sabounjian (Armenian Church of Holy Translators, Framingham, MA) Chair of 2017 Assembly welcomed everyone and served as chair until the assembly elected a new chair. He reviewed Robert's Rules and highlighted the most popular/commonly used terms such as 'I move to', Point of Order, and Point of Information to further ask questions. He referred attendees to the provided document titled 'Robert's Rules of Order-Parliamentary Procedure At A Glance.' (Attachment Q).

## **Election of Assembly Chair and Vice Chair**

**10:34 AM**

Arthur Sabounjian asked for a motion from the floor to allow for opening of nominations for Chair of the 2018 General Assembly.

Lauren Piligian (Armenian Church of Holy Translators, Framingham, MA) made the motion to open General Assembly chair nominations. Peter Oundjian (St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ) seconded the motion.

Nominations were made from the floor

- Peter Oundjian nominated Jonathan Pelaez (St. Mary, Livingston NJ). Jonathan Pelaez respectfully declined.
- John Soraghan (Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, Haverhill, MA) nominated Michael Demirchian (Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, Haverhill, MA) who is already on ballot.

Arthur Sabounjian asked for a motion to close nominations for Chair of the 2018 Assembly.

Liana Kurkjian (St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church, White Plains, NY) motioned to close nominations for chair of the assembly. Unknown seconded.

Arthur asked the Nominating Committee to pass out ballots.

- Representing the Nominating Committee were Christina Parnagian (Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, RI), Greta Janigian (Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, RI), and Peter Oundjian.

A Point of Information was requested by Unknown asking for each candidates for Chair of the 2018 Assembly to speak about themselves. Arthur Sabounjian stated he would have them do so, then proceeded to read the names of each nominee upon which each nominee stood.

The three nominees for 2018 General Assembly Chair of the day were

- Michael Demirichian (Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, Haverhill, MA)
- Rafael Grigoryan (Armenian Church of Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL)
- Daniel Zalinov (St. Sarkis Armenian Church, Charlotte, NC)

**10:37 AM** Nominating Committee passed out ballots.

- Arthur Sabounjian explained to the Assembly that only one name should be indicated for Chair of the Assembly. Voting for multiple people renders the vote as void, and therefore would not be counted.
- Christina Parnagian of the Nominating Committee informed the delegates names should not be written in on the ballot. If a name is written in on the ballot, the vote would not count.

**10:38 AM**

Arthur Sabounjian asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to go to the back of the Assembly room to ensure no one else enters or leaves.

**10:39 AM** Christina Parnagian also reminded the assembly that the deciding of the vote would be majority plus one. Also, observers were reminded they are ineligible to vote, and should not take a ballot from the nominating committee.

**10:40 AM** Delegate roll call was taken to establish quorum. While roll call occurred, nominating committee collected ballots for the Assembly Chair election.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

**10:46 AM** Arthur Sabounjian asked the assembly to review the agenda so that a vote could be made to adopt the agenda. He then asked for a motion from the floor to adopt the agenda.

Daniel Zalinov (St. Sarkis Armenian Church, Charlotte, NC) motioned for us to accept the agenda. Tania Melkonian seconded the motion.

Lauren Pilgian declared point of order to know if we appointed secretary. Arthur Sabounjian responded that the 2018 Chair of the Assembly, once elected, would oversee the appointment of Secretaries. He stated that we would move forward and return to appointment of secretaries once the Chair of the 2018 Assembly was announced.

Motion passed to adopt the 2018 General Assembly agenda.

**Acceptance of 2017 General Assembly Minutes**

**10:47 AM** Arthur Sabounjian asked for a motion to accept the 2017 General Assembly Minutes. Lauren Piligian made the motion. Michael Demirchian seconded.

Motion was passed to accept the 2017 General Assembly Minutes.

Mallory Maslar (Central Council) motioned to table Central Council/Nominating Committee/Auditing Committee elections until the 2018 Chair of Assembly was established and move forward with the joint report of the ACYOA Central Council and Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (DYYAM). Liana Kurkjian seconded. The motion passed. We tabled the remaining elections to follow the joint report of ACYOA CC and DYYAM

**Joint Report of the ACYOA Central Council and Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (DYYAM)**

Mallory Maslar presented the ACYOA Report on behalf of 2017 CC. (See Attachment B)

Lauren Piligian, Daniel Zalinov, Chelsea Kress were thanked for their dedicated to the Central Council as they completed their service at 2017 General Assembly.

Sona Dagley, Ronnie Malconian, and Melissa Mardoian were congratulated for being elected in and beginning to serve in 2017.

Mallory thanked the 2018 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee for their hard work and putting on an amazing weekend.

The 2017 Central Council came up with 3-4 pages of goals, which were split into 3 categories: Financial, Branding, and Relationship

- Rebranding is a big focus, hope to expand upon service
  - Give all chapters lesson plans and can bring back to their parishes
  - Arsen Yelegen has been working on new website
- Relationship Goals:
  - Danielle Malconian and Sona Dagley have been working to connect with Alumni by sending out surveys to active and inactive members looking for perspective
  - Encourage chapters to promote a smooth transition from ACYOA Juniors to Seniors
- Financial/Scholarship goal
  - Additional scholarships to help save on costs

- CC is looking into VENMO or PAYPAL to promote smoother exchange of funds (ie pay dues), but VENMO has been used for reimbursement and helps save cost of buying checks
- Communication
  - CC has many conference calls throughout year and they travel frequently to meet as a group as well as with other chapters

Mallory Maslar thanked Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, V. Rev. Fr Simeon Odabashian, the DYYAM staff, V. Rev. Fr. Mesrob Parsamyan, and V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan for their continued support of the ACYOA

Mallory thanked Danielle Malconian who served on CC for two years. Danielle served as liaison to Sports Weekend Committees the past two years. She has been working on to create a workbook to assist chapters hosting Sports Weekend.

**10:54 AM Jennifer Morris presented the report for the DYYAM (Attachment C)**

Jennifer Morris works closely with Kathryn Ashbahian to work with and support the Youth, ACYOA Juniors, and ACYOA Seniors.

Since last assembly, there have been many changes in department. Jennifer and Kathryn have ideas but are flexible to work with V. Rev. Fr. Daniel and his visions so that the DYYAM can meet the needs of our youth and young adults in the Diocese. They seek to be a resource year round to all youth and young adults.

Lorie Odabashian departed DYYAM but continues to be active home parish of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob in Wynnewood, PA.

Kathryn has taken on St Vartan Camp (SVC) and ACYOA Jrs and attended Hye M’rtsoom 2018 at St James in Watertown MA to oversee the weekend.

DYYAM looks to the young adults of the diocese for advice and to hear what programs, materials, and forms of social will help them be successful young Christian Armenians in today’s world.

There are many opportunities for alumni of SVC and Hye Camp to return and provide their services

- At time of Assembly, Kathryn was seeking male staff for SVC
- Hye Camp staff apps were open at the time and were due June 1 2018.

- Apps done online for both camps
- Volunteers can also help on weekends with shopping, transportation to and from airport, and transition weekends with check in. Everyone was encouraged to reach out to express their interest if they were available.

DYYAM has also been working with Diocesan Team (Diocesan Ministries/Creative Teams) led by V. Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan who is director for Armenian studies and Christian Education and Communications.

Jennifer Morris encouraged us to download the VEMKAR APP and sign up to receive Vemkar E-Letter every Tuesday, as well as Diocese weekly newsletter which comes out every Thursday. The Diocesan newsletter serves as a way for members of diocese to be aware of all events on diocesan level, not just at our own parish.

Kathryn creates a monthly Bible Study which can be utilize throughout our parishes, not just for ACYOA purposes(ie use with Parish Council, Mens' Clubs, Womens' Guilds, other parish groups)

The Bread and Salt series and Choices series are available to expand outside of church.

Kathryn Ashbahian supported Jennifer's message. Jennifer stated that she and Kathryn found joy in working with the young leaders of the Armenian church.

Jennifer then opened the floor to any questions.

**10:59 AM** V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian (St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, Southfield, MI) inquired about the total attendance at the Regional Lenten Retreats.

Mallory Maslar responded that the Central Council rotates various regions and locations. She stated that the number of participants in her report was for all of the regions.

**11 AM** Arthur Sabounjian requested a motion from the floor to accept the Report of the ACYOA Central Council and the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Allen Ackan (St James, Watertown, MA) motioned. Andrew Kayaian (St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church, White Plains, NY) seconded. All were in favor of acception Joint Report of ACYOA and DYYAM.

**11:01 AM** Nominating Committee was called to the podium

Daniel Zalinov was announced as Chair of the 2018 General Assembly

There was a tie for Vice Chair which would necessitate a second vote. However, Rafael Grigoryan withdrew his name from the ballot. Therefore Michael Demirchian served as Vice Chair.

### **Transition of Chair**

**11:02 AM** Arthur Sabounjian called Daniel Zalinov up to the podium.

Sara Kheboian (Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Worcester MA) and Tanner Asadorian (Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY) were appointed co-secretaries of the assembly.

Ani Misirliyan (St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, Southfield, MI) and Armen Arslanian (St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, Southfield, MI) were appointed as the 2018 General Assembly Sergeant-At-Arms.

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian (St. Mesrob Armenian Church, Racine, WI) and Jonathan Pelaez were appointed as Parliamentarians of the Assembly.

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian (St. Peter Armenian Church, Watervliet, NY), Nicholas Tashjian (St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ), and Tatiana Nalbandian (St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA) were appointed to serve on the Courtesies and Resolutions Committee.

### **Central Council Nominations**

**11:03 AM**

Seven names were listed on the ballot for CC elections. However, two individuals, Tim Aivazian (Holy Cross Church of Armenian, NY) and Harry Kezelian (St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, Southfield, MI), withdrew their names from the ballot.

**11:04 AM** The Floor was opened up for nominations to Central Council

Liana Kurkjian would like to nominate Tim Aivazian. He respectfully declined.

Danielle Malconian nominated Christina Parnagian. Harry Kezelian seconds. Christina Parnagian respectfully declines.

**11:05 AM** Mallory Maslar made a motion for candidates on ballot to give speech as to why they want to serve on Central Council.

Point of Clarification by V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian for number of nominees necessary. Mallory Maslar explained only one and a half of spots were necessary to be added to ballot, which was changed in 2017 per Diocesan guidelines.

Nicholas Tashjian gave a point of information that we need to motion to close the nominations to be able to give speeches and vote.

Tim Aivazian nominated Greta Janigian. Jon Pelaez seconds the nomination. Greta Janigian respectfully declined.

Danielle Malconian (Central Council) motioned to close nominations for Central Council. Ronnie Malconian (Central Council) seconded the motion. The vote to close was unanimous.

### **Central Council Elections**

**11:11 AM**

Each nominee provided a short speech as to why they sought to serve on Central Council.

*Central Council Ballot:*

- Shant Der Torossian (St. James, Watertown MA)
- Rafael V Grigoryan (Armenian Church of Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL)
- Nora Knadjian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL)
- Nicholas Tashjian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ)
- Arsen Yelegen (St. Gregory the Enlightener, White Plains, NY)

Christina Parnagian reminded us that we were voting up to 3 names and since Harry and Tim retracted their names from the ballot, voting for them would render a vote invalid.

**11:15 AM** Roll Call by Nora Knadjian which was accompanied by nominating committee collecting the ballots. Fifty-nine (59) ballots were collected.

### **Report of the 2017 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee**

**11:20 AM**

Linda Chamesian (St. Leon's, Fair Lawn NJ) gave report on behalf of 2017 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee. (Attachment D)

- A lot of positive energy throughout the weekend
- Under a year to plan but came together as a united front to plan a successful weekend

- Goal make affordable packages for attendees and highlight local attractions in New Jersey
- Committee did not run into many issues, but some issues were listed in the report
- Not all participants checked into hotel, however they did check-in at the night events
- Future committees can use a remind service. This allows committee to give updates to participants/fast changes/remind things are starting on time.
- Attendance was strong. 236 Packages sold. Sales taken at door to further increase number of attendees.

Mallory Maslar motioned to accept report. Nora Knadjian seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend 2018 Committee Welcome**

**11:24 AM**

Liana Kurkjian, 2018 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee chair thanked everyone and welcomed them to New York City.

- Invited to delegates to the Delegate's Reception
- She reviewed the agenda of events and reminded us when buses would be available for transport
- Thanked the regional committee/team who worked hard to give the best weekend possible
- Thanked CC/V. Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan/Primate/Jennifer Morris/Kathryn Ashbahian for their support
- Thanked Archbishop Khajag Barsamian for his guidance and support he showed to the ACYOA
- Look forward to work with V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan to strengthen ACYOA under dome of Armenian Church
- Liana encouraged attendees to download the YAPP APP and provided the event code so attendees could get latest information and updates

### **Results of Central Council Election**

**11:28 AM**

Christina Parnagian announced the results of the Central Council Election.

- Nora Knadjian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL)
- Arsen Yeleghian (St. Gregory the Enlightener, White Plains, NY)
- Nicholas Tashjian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ)
- *Alternate:* Rafael Grigoryan (Armenian Church of Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL)

## **Nominating Committee Elections**

**11:29 AM**

Mallory Maslar motioned for joint nominations and voting for nominating committee and auditing committee, with two separate ballots-one for each committee. Rafael Grigoryan seconded and the motion passed.

Nominations from the floor were opened.

Sona Dagley (Central Council) nominated Ani Misirliyan. Danielle Malconian seconded. Ani respectfully declined.

Arthur Sabounjian motioned to close nominations for nominating committee. Der Krikor Sabounjian seconded.

### **Nominations for Auditing Committee**

Needed one more candidate to fill ballot

Peter Oundjian nominates Christina Beylerian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn NJ). Christina Parnagian seconds. Christine Beylerian respectfully declines

Danielle Malconian nominates Shant Der Torossian. Shant was already on the ballot.

Nick Tashjian offered a point of clarification that he served on auditing committee. He wanted attendees to understand the Auditing Committee is a not a challenging task, but is an important task. He encouraged new people/those interested in becoming involved in ACYOA to run for this committee.

Danielle Malconian nominated Arthur Sabounjian. Michael Demirchian seconded. Arthur Sabounjian declined.

Greta Janigian nominated Armen Arslanian. Christina Parnagian seconded. Armen Arslanian respectfully declined.

Nora Knadjian offered a point of clarification to second what Nicholas Tashjian stated. If someone is thinking of getting involved or being on CC, this is a good way to get introduced. A good way to develop a baseline understanding of the organization.

Peter Oundjian nominated Rafael Grigoryan. Michael Demirchian seconded. Rafael Grigoryan accepted the nomination

Delegates were instructed to add Rafael Grigorian to ballot.

Mallory Maslar made a motion to close nominations for auditing committee. Erik Zalinov (St. Sarkis, Charlotte NC) seconded. Nominations for auditing committee were closed.

Nominating Committee handed out two sets of ballots-one for Nominating Committee and one for Auditing Committee. Delegates were instructed to elect up to 3, but no more than 3 candidates for both nominating committee and auditing committee.

Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Armenian Church of Holy Translators, Framingham, MA) offered a point information for us to know all voters must not only write in Rafael's name on the ballot, but also circle it to indicate if someone was in fact voting for him. Simply writing in his name did not indicate a vote.

The ballot of the *Nominating Committee* contained the following names:

- \*Greta Janigian (Sts.Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, RI)
- Christine Karakouzian (St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA)
- Anna Margaryan (Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA)
- Tania Melkonian (St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA)
- \*Peter Oundjian (St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ)
- \*Christina Parnagian (Sts.Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence,RI)

The ballot of the *Auditing Committee* contained the following names:

- Zaven Dadian (St. John Armenian Church, Southfield MI)
- Michael Demirchian (Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe, Haverhill MA)
- Alen Dokmeciyen (Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY)
- \*Brian Sarafyan (Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY)
- Rafael Grigoryan (Armenian Church of Jacksonville, FL)

**11:39 AM** Nora Knadjian called role as Nominating Committee collected ballots.

### **PRIMATE MESSAGE**

**11:43 AM**

V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan took the podium to deliver his message.

- V. Rev. Fr. Daniel recognized that almost entire Diocesan Council is presented. They stood and were acknowledged. They scheduled their monthly meeting to correspond with General Assembly to be present (Thank You!)

- Provided us a timeline of the past few weeks regarding the Diocese and his election of Primate.
- Khajag Srpazan was on ballot, and then chose to step down as our Primate after more than two decades of service.
- By election, Fr Daniel became primate. He is excited and has a real sense that if we serve with our gifts and work together, we will do great things for God, for Armenian Church, for Diocese, for Youth.
- He explained the word Primate. Explains it is an archaic, technical word. Ecclesiastical in Head of monastery. The Shepherd, in charge of shepherding his monastery. Women primates did exist.
- He spent his remaining time with the delegates sharing the Mission Statement of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern) along with the Mission of the Armenian Church According to the Teaching of St Gregory the Illuminator (see Attachment E). He challenged delegates to dissect the words and share what they mean to each of them and their ministry in the Armenian Church. He encouraged delegates to focus on the action verbs. He directed each of us to focus on these two statements for each and every activity and program.
- He shared that he met with the Central Council in White Plains during Diocesan Assembly at their meeting and shared some of his vision for the young people of our Diocese moving forward. He shared his idea to incorporate an annual ‘Bishop’s Run/Walk’ and has enlisted Mallory to take the lead on organizing it. He sees this as a way to promote a healthy lifestyle with exercise while using it as a fundraiser for the ACYOA. He will be running, and if he is running he expects each us to run including the clergy. If we can’t run we will walk until we can run.
- **12: 25 PM** Fr. Daniel opened up the floor for questions.
- Lisa Mardigian mentioned that the Detroit community sponsored a very successful walk-a-thon to raise money for Armenia after the earthquake and would be glad to support this event.
- In closing, Fr. Daniel asked for each of us to pray for him, as he will pray for us.

End Primate message

### **Results of Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee**

**12:30 PM** Daniel Zalinov asked the Nominating Committee to step forward with Jennifer Morris  
Peter Oundjian announced the results of the Auditing Committee

Those elected to the auditing committee were

- Michael Demirchian (Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, Ward Hill, MA)
- Brian Sarafyan (Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY)
- Rafael Grigoryan (Armenian Church of Jacksonville, FL)

- *Alternate*: Alen Dokmeciyan (Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY)

For Nominating Committee elections, since all three of the current committee members were on the ballot, three delegates were selected to count the votes alongside Jennifer Morris.

Jonathan Pelaez, Ani Misirliyan, and Liana Kurkjian joined Jennifer Morris to count for nominating Committee.

Ani Misirliyan announced the results of the election. Majority was reached for three of the candidates for Nominating Committee, however a tie occurred for the alternate. Ani Misirliyan inquired if the assembly wished to hold a second vote, or have one of the delegates respectfully withdraw.

Rafael Grigoryan offered a point of information inquiring if the assembly should hear the names who won the majority.

Daniel Zalinov responded that the names would be announced after the assembly decided on which option would break the tie to select the alternate for nominating committee.

V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian made a motion to re-do voting dropping those who with scores lower than those who tied and also leaving out those who won the majority. Stephen Hollisian (Holy Trinity, Cambridge MA) seconded. The motion passed.

#### **Alternate Member for Nominating Committee Elections**

After removing the majority and lowest vote receivers, the ballot for alternate nominating committee contained the following names:

- Christine Karakouzian (St James Armenian Church, Watertown MA)
- Anna Margaryan (Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Watertown MA)
- Naneh Petrossian (Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Watertown MA)

**12:39** Nora Knadjian called roll call and nominating committee collected ballots.

**12:43 PM Blessing for Luncheon led by V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan-End of First Session**

#### **Primate's Luncheon**

**12:45 PM**

Both Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan were present at the luncheon.

*The following awards were presented by Central Council:*

The Gregory Arpajian Leadership Award was presented to Jonathan Pelaez (St. Mary Church, Livingston NJ).

The Sam Nersesian Award was presented to Sandra Hovsepien (Holy Trinity, Cambridge MA).

ACYOA Seniors Chapter “A” Award was presented to Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe (Haverhill, MA).

The V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Malkonian Award was presented to Archbishop Khajag Barsamian.

The Rev. Fr. Haroutiun and Yn. Patricia Dagley Award was presented to Yn. LuAnn Sabounjian (Holy Translators, Framingham MA)

**Following the Primate’s Luncheon, delegates and observers reconvened in the assembly area of Kavookjian Hall.**

#### **Nominating Committee Election Results**

- Greta Janigian (Sts. Sahag and Mesrob, Providence, RI)
- Peter Oundjian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ)
- Christina Parnagian (Sts. Sahag and Mesrob, Providence, RI)
- *Alternate:* Christina Karakouzian (St. James, Watertown MA)

Christina Parnagian recapped the results of Central Council, Nominating Committee, and Auditing Committee.

Daniel Zalinov congratulated election winners and encouraged those who ran but did not win to remain motivated and run again next year. He then invited Sona Dagley (Central Council) to begin the Diving Deep Discussion.

#### **Diving Deep Discussion**

**2:15 PM**

Sona Dagley prefaced us with the background and purpose of Diving Deep.

- Diving Deep is a new initiative created by the Central Council in 2018 with a goal to have raw open authentic discussion similar to the Bible Study and discussions had camps and retreats, but are hard to have on daily basis.
- The discussions are held via video conference and are about an article, video, photograph, or other form of media that relates to Christian values/the circles of the cross. The discussions are open to anyone to become involved in and last approximately 40 minutes.

- Diving Deep discussions promote an interconnection between those who are not in the same parish, and allow ACYOA members to see each other more frequently. They are a way to freely share ideas in a safe environment. The discussions are intended to allow us to have a faithful, strong discussion that we otherwise would not have in our daily lives.

Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) then came to the podium and explained this year during General Assembly, instead of the traditional Bible Study, participants would engage in a Diving Deep Discussion. She presented us the “Williams Bay Manifesto” which was originally presented at General Assembly on September 2, 1968 in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. The Manifesto was handed out to participants, and also presented in the form of an on screen video **(See Attachment F)**.

- The Williams Bay Manifesto was mentioned in an article on the Vemkar app. Melissa explained that Vemkar is an electronic media platform that the Diocese utilizes to promote connection outside of the walls of the church. It is comprised of a website, phone app, and e-newsletter (aforementioned by Jennifer Morris), and provides inspirational resources to church community.
- The article on the Vemkar app was called ‘Changes’ and discussed the challenges the church and its attendees faced to maintain their identity in the face of changes in the world. It also addressed how this could instill some fear and uncertainty. The Williams Bay Manifesto was a message young adults put together to have at assembly presented to those their elders. The essential purpose was to get to elders to change our organization based on needs and how world was changing.

Once the video was shown, participants were split into groups each facilitated by a Central Council member and clergy. Group discussion lasted for approximately 45 minutes.

### **3:12 PM Reconvened as group**

Attendees were given the opportunity to share themes that arose during the group discussions with the entire assembly.

V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian encouraged members of the assembly to download the Vemkar app if they had not done so already. He stated that it was a valuable tool, especially for those away in college.

Stephen Hollisan stated that worship is the centerpiece and it is important think about worship as we grow and get involved in our parishes.

Benjamin Tavitian (Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, Haverhill, MA) shared that is important to preserve our past to honor those who suffered during the Genocide, but not be segregated into various groups or limit our identity to belonging to one parish. We should be one united group assessing things holistically. We should interact through love.

Erik Zalinov noted the statement that the primary function is to have better nationalism. Armenians are proud but right now in the states we should focus on bringing each other together and giving back to our communities. The focus should not just focus our own church but the entire community around us.

Anais Astarjian (St James, Watertown MA) shared an observation that she has seen many Armenians are comfortable hanging out together outside of church not in church. Following the Genocide, Armenians gathered together at church because that was where they found each other. Now, church is no longer the hangout because Armenians are able to identify each other and gather together outside of church.

Mallory Maslar shared a statement Der Vasken ((Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA) said during the earlier group discussions, and felt it was important for the entire group to hear. Many times we, the youth, say that our voices are not being heard. However, Der Vasken reminded us that when it comes time for Parish Assembly, not many young people are present-and this is an ideal opportunity for voices to be heard. It is important for us to attend events such as Parish Assembly, and lead by example, so that our parish turn to us as leaders in a variety of capacities and possibly future parish council members.

Harry Kezelian shared an idea that Melissa Mardoian brought up in their group discussion, and he felt that Father Daniel Findikyan would also like the idea. When young adults go away to college, the parish that is close to the university should reach out the students to encourage them to become engaged in their Parish and ACYOA. Parishes should communicate amongst one another when young parishioners are going to a school close to an Armenian Church.

Sona Dagley agreed with Harry Kezelian that this is a great idea. Since Sona served as Chapter Relations Chair in 2017, one of her roles is to receive a list from each parish of outgoing high school seniors who will be attending school. She sends lists to parish leaders who are closest to that college. Sona then sends that list to parish leaders that are closest to the college, so that the parish leader (usually pastor), will reach out to the incoming college student.

Not many Parishes helped with this initiatives; only about 3-4 clergy responded and took action with the list. Central Council is taking the initiative to help make these connections, however they need parish and clergy support to follow through and reach out to the college students directly.

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian (St Mesrob, Racine WI) and his group discussed the relevancy of the document roughly 50 years later. He then took a poll to survey the assembly to ask who found the document, in almost its entirety, to be relevant today. Many hands were raised.

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian then began to make a motion, and stated that the motion could be entertained with permission of 2/3 of the assembly. However, he then provided background on the Williams Bay Manifesto stating that it was proposed in 1968 but never ratified or approved/accepted.

He then clarified this fact with Central Council, and Melissa Mardoian verified that the information was correct.

**(Original) Motion:** We accept this document in homage to the authors fifty years ago and moving forward, in the same spirit as the original authors of intent, and having brushed off the negativity they encountered from clergy and elders, and we move forward and adopt this document as written as written and make it officially part of the ACYOA history as an official document/statement.

A Point of Information was then made by Unknown asking if we were in session where a motion could be made and discussed.

Melissa Mardoian then stated we were in the Diving Deep Discussion.

Rev. Fr. Avedis then reiterated with 2/3 of the Assembly approval, we could suspend the rules and entertain the motion.

Sona Dagley then offered a point of information, asking in accepting the manifesto, the youth accepted the document but the church leaders did not.

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian then stated that the 1968 Assembly at Williams Bay, Wisconsin did not accept this manifesto.

Melissa Mardoian shared that she spoke to Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian who was present at the 1968 Assembly, and Der Yeprem said “It was brought the assembly. The manifesto got signatures but was never moved on to the next level. Those 40 years and older in clergy disliked what was said and felt it was blasphemy, insulting towards them, and therefore it got shot down.” However, there were signatures in support of the manifesto.

Melissa Mardoian then sought to clarify Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian's goal in making a motion-Let's do something about these statements.

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian then reiterated that we, the assembly, should formally adopt this document. Whether we act on it in the future is up to us. The motion is simply that we adopt this document as a statement/message.

Erik Zalinov made a motion to suspend the rules of the assembly to allow for the motion made by Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian to be entertained. Rafael Grigoryan seconded the motion.

During this time, there was a question of whether or not attendance of the assembly needed to be taken prior to voting in order to officially start the session that would begin once the motion passed to suspend the rules to be able to vote on the motion made by Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian. Jennifer Morris clarified that we did not need to complete roll call.

All were in favor of suspending the rules with 2/3 majority of assembly to vote on adopting the Williams Bay Manifesto. 2/3 Majority was achieved and therefore the motion passed.

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian then restated his motion to accept the Williams Bay Manifesto as an official document of the ACYOA. Nora Knadjian seconded.

John Soraghan (Hye Pointe, Haverhill MA) made a motion to open floor for discussion of the motion to accept the Williams Bay Manifesto as an official document of the ACYOA. Rafael Grigoryan seconded this. The motion passed, and Daniel Zalinov announced that the floor was opened for discussion.

### **Discussion regarding Accepting the Williams Bay Manifesto**

John Soraghan feels this piece should be incorporated into the ACYOA or Armenian Church as a political piece. However, he does not feel it is the role of ACYOA to take the political stance because we are a church organization. He did not see any mention of faith or worship in the document. In his group discussion they discussed how the ACYOA struggles with embodying worship, a circle of the cross. Ultimately, he does believe this document has a place in the ACYOA because it is politics and no church.

Stephen Hollisian stated that he agreed with points John Soraghan made since there are some controversial statements made in the Manifesto. Stephen stated that while he did agree with some parts, if this is something we are going to vote on this document, we need more time to revise the Manifesto and go over in more depth. He felt the forty minutes we spent in our discussion on the Manifesto was not enough time to allow for it to formally become part of the ACYOA. He felt

some points made should not be part of the ACYOA. He reiterated that the ACYOA should not have a political voice.

Tim Aivazian pointed out to the Assembly that this was written during a time that was very tense in our country (USA). 50 years ago, the vernacular may be foreign to us, it's a potent document, but to keep in mind that its political that we understand its relating to the events of today, but it doesn't mean the basis behind this is not a faith based document. He strongly advise we do not amend or leave out anything in the document. Those who wrote this are those in our churches who came before us and set the path for us, and there are very important things in the document. He said if this makes someone uncomfortable it should cause us to question what it means to us. If we didn't question it wouldn't be important. Believes dismissing this document after a thirty minute discussion would be a careless move.

Mallory Maslar asked everyone to keep this 1 minute comment each as there was a large group waiting to take the floor to share their thoughts.

Daniel Zalinov viewed this document not as a political statement but rather a social statement. From the founding of the church with its disciples, the church has been a social moving point, and even throughout history, there has been a focus on both social and political constructs.. However, if we take a lot of opinions and examples from other churches that are socially active, underlying social aspects that need addressing whether it was 1968 the time of the assassination of MLK and Vietnam War, or today with our own similar events.

Anais Astarjian believed many valid points were brought up in today's discussion. However, she did not feel we should make this document official in ACYOA document. We should use it a guideline as what we can do to improve in future. It is something we should keep in mind rather than making it official.

Arthurs Sabounjian shared with us that God, Christianity, and church were mentioned at least 26 times throughout the Williams Bay Manifesto. One thing he noted was that it was very charged and the authors of this document saw a lot of things going on but were not happy; he agrees this is not a happy go lucky manifesto. But, we live in a time where apathy is plaguing the church. He feels a bit of a 'Christian revolution or reform' is necessary. We are at a point where our youth is experiencing many things mentioned in document, so something charging and revolution may be good and gain the attention both we present day and the authors of the Williams Bay Manifesto were seeking.

Danielle Malconian echoed Arthur Sabounjian's message that God is mentioned throughout the Manifesto. Danielle felt that during this discussion we were not providing suggestions on how to

take action to adopt this Manifesto. She reminded the assembly that it is important to remember how ACYOA was and how it is now. Upon initial reading of the document, Danielle thought the document was written in current day as opposed to 1968. She believes recognizing and acknowledging the history is important, despite the split beliefs of the 2018 assembly. As an entire body we need to remember our roots and history; we need to hold each other accountable.

Lena Krikorian (St Gregory the Enlightener, White Plains, NY) shared that ‘Christianity is not a religion for the timid, for it takes....convenient in favor of gods at will renewal reform and...’in the Manifesto stuck out to her. She believed that, while she agreed political undertones exist, this particular quote would bring us back to why we are here, why the ACYOA is important and the Armenian church unifying presence in our identity. As Armenians we struggle with placing with what that is. Both what is happening in America in 1968 and today and also in Armenia, the homeland we have left. During the protests the Armenian people demonstrated courage and did so peacefully. If that isn’t Christian I don’t know what is. Now more than ever the Williams Bay Manifesto is prevalent not just in what we as young Armenians want to do as believers in the Christian faith, but those trying to connect what our people in Armenia are experiencing and have been experiencing in this modern day in this post Soviet society. Therefore, Lena is thankful that this document has been brought to our attention and that our people have been all gathered to discuss.

Daniel Zalinov allowed the rest of those in line to speak, but for sake of time, we would soon close the discussion portion.

Nora Knadjian said many of us thought this document was written today as opposed to 50 years ago in 1968. She said if this document was aggressive to anyone, it probably hit a nerve. Its relevant here today. Politics and faith inevitably mix. Many years ago Armenians went to church it was a safe haven to be with each other following persecutions and other severities. Political issues exist but with that is growth and acceptance, and these issues will continue. If we want to build the church let’s acknowledge the issues our church continues to face today.

Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Holy Translators, Framingham, MA, Diocesan Council) was part of ACYOA juniors when the Williams Bay Manifesto was presented at the 1968 Assembly. He sought clarification of the motion as stated. The way he understands the motion, while adopting this motion, he feels this history should not be lost. But he does not feel the motion states we are endorsing it, but rather we are adopting it for longevity to ensure it does not get lost. Therefore, Rev. Fr. Krikor believes it is okay to adopt the document since adopting and endorsing are two separate actions.

During this time Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian agreed that his initial motion was not adopt the Williams Bay Manifesto but not endorse it.

Stephen Hollisian believes we are not arguing about relevancy of the document but rather the content and way its written. He then pointed out some words from the manifesto including rule, perform, revolution, defenders of nationalism, revolutionary commitment, radical concern. To Stephen, words like this do not embody the purpose of the ACYOA. The manifesto is supposed to be for political reasons and other outside factors. Does not feel ACYOA should go in a way that speaks about these types of terms. Does not feel these terms reflect what ACYOA would say about these things. This is a turn we would have to live with should we adopt this manifesto. Therefore, feels more discussion would be needed.

Rafael Grigoryan reminded everyone this is a discussion. He believes the Central Council brought this manifesto up to show history doesn't repeat itself it rhymes. He believes reluctance to change defeats progression. He feels it hit a lot of nerve and needs more discussion. ACYOA is religious, political, and social group. We invest in the future; and in summary this manifesto would need a lot more document but does not need to be dismissed.

Harry Kezelian does not believe ACYOA is political. Nor does not feel the document is political either. But this document is important. It speaks about revolution in the church. The verbiage used in '60s inspired by challenges occurring in the 1960s, but is not endorsing everything in the 60s. This document is not asking the church to change its verbiage to reflect modern times, but rather recognize and speak to modern times through the means and values of Christianity. Christ himself was a revolutionary. Therefore Harry endorses we accept this document.

John Soraghan referred to Lena Krikorian's reference to the line Christianity not for timid. He feels it takes an extreme amount of courage. It is convenient to be an atheist. It is not convenient to be a Christian. Therefore, he disagrees that adopting this document is the courageous thing to do, as he mentioned earlier in the conversation he felt that this document was straying away from Christian ideology. Also, he feels all forms of speech have an agenda and he feels this manifesto was written with politics in mind as opposed to Christian. He felt that, since we were able to access this document already, adopting it would equvalate to endorsing it, since the document is already accessible to those wishing to read it.

Erik Zalinov made the motion to close the discussion. Jon Pelaez seconded to close the discussion.

Mallory Maslar sought clarification from the parliamentarians as to whether majority or  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority favor was needed in order to close the discussion. Parliamentarians responded majority was needed.

Majority was received, and therefore the discussion on adopting the Williams Bay Manifesto was closed.

Daniel Zalinov asked for a motion for voting.

Peter Oundjian made a motion to suspend the rules.

Arthur Sabounjian called to question to suspend the rules. Nick Tashjian seconded.

V. Rev. Fr. Aren called point of order that the secretaries should be reading what the proposal was.

Daniel Zalinov asked the secretaries to read the motion to the assembly.

Tanner Asadorian then read the motion made by Rev. Fr. Avedis. Rev. Fr. Avedis called to motion that the ACYOA honor the Williams Bay Manifesto and adopt it as an official document of the ACYOA.'

Daniel Zalinov then stated that when the motion first came up to the assembly it was never accepted or adopted by an assembly, and the motion today is to officially adopt it as a document.

V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian then offered a point of clarification that documents have to be in the minutes of the 1968 assembly and therefore are a part of the history/a document of the ACYOA.

Mallory Maslar then stated that we have to motion to support it.

Arthur Sabounjian then stated we already have a motion on the floor, and we were just re reading the motion.

V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian then stated that now that he understands the motion, he was questioning if it was even necessary as the Williams Bay Manifesto is already a document of the ACYOA by being in the 1968 General Assembly minutes.

Stephen Hollisian then called a point of order that we voted to suspend the rules temporarily, and now we have to vote to bring the rules back in to order we can actually vote on the motion regarding accepting the Williams Bay Manifesto.

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian then amended his original motion to remove words such as honor, and simply we accept this document. He stated that this document was presented at the 1968 General Assembly in Williams Bay, but it was not voted upon to be officially accepted by an assembly. Mallory Maslar then further provided clarification to explain that this document was not accepted by an assembly in the manner that we can accept documents such as agendas and prior minutes. That protocol was not followed to accept the Williams Bay Manifesto, and Rev. Fr. Avedis Kayaljian wanted us to go through those steps at the 2018 assembly so that this document could formally be ‘accepted.’

**3:55 PM. Rev. Fr. Avedis Revised:** We the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly accept The Williams Bay Manifesto an accepted document of the ACYOA.

Daniel Zalinov then asked for those in favor to raise their green cards. He then asked for those in opposition to raise their red cards.

**Motion Passed.**

In favor 44. Against 15.

Melissa Mardoian then came to wrap up our Diving Deep Discussion, which was the initial presentation of the Williams Bay Manifesto. She encouraged everyone to remain involved in the online Diving Deep discussions.

**3:59 Erik Zalinov made a motion to un-suspend the rules.** Jon Pelaez seconded. Motion Passed unanimously.

V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian appreciated the spirited discussion everyone had regarding the Williams Bay Manifesto. He feels it is a document of ACYOA by virtue that this document was discussed at an ACYOA meeting. V. Rev. Fr. Aren then reminded us that our primate called us to something greater than this. Our primate called us to remember the scripture in the Armenian Church written by St. Gregory the Illuminator and utilize those writings to guide how we should be as an organization and live our lives.

Arsen Yelezen (Central Council) : Passed around notepads to encourage attendees to be involved in Sunday Badarak at St. Vartan Cathedral, New York, NY.

1. Requiem requests

2. List of people who want to serve on altar on Sunday or sing in the choir.

### **Second Session**

#### **4:02 PM Roll Call called by Danielle Malconian**

Ronald Malconian encouraged the assembly to refer to the financial documents provided to each attendee so that questions could be prepared ahead of time.

#### **4:05 PM Report of the Auditing Committee (See Attachment G)**

Chairperson Daniel Zalinov called the Auditing committee to the floor to present their report.

Nicholas Tashjian presented the 2017 Report on behalf of the Auditing Committee

- Central Council received many donations in the past year as many chapters donated in varying amounts. This is highly encouraged.
- The budget got additional funding and additional donations. They also lowered expenses than budgeted, which was also well done.
- Any questions the auditing committee had, central council responded promptly and honestly with everything aligning appropriately.

Nicholas Tashjian then made some recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year.

- Provide footnotes and explanations in financial report so Auditing Committee report has more information to utilize in their assessment of the budget
- Some expenses in 2016 and 2017 zero'd out due to lag in bank statements from Bank of America. Nicholas asked if this could be prevented in the future, acknowledging it would be a challenge.
- Its best to separate lodging expenses from other aspects of event expenses (ie, lodging for chapter workshop be separate from expenses for activities that occur at chapter workshop)

Nicholas Tashjian then thanked Central Council and pointed out Ronnie Malconian for answering questions during the auditing process. He concluded that the 2017 financial record is a fair representation and was prepared in accordance with accounting procedure.

Floor opened for questions

Peter Oundjian motioned to close the discussion on auditing report. Stephen Hollisian seconded. The motion to close presentation of the 2017 Auditing Committee Report passed.

#### **2017 Financial Report Presentation (See Attachment H)**

Ronald Malconian, Central Council Treasurer, presented the 2017 Central Council Financial Report.

Ronald thanked the Auditing Committee. They were quick in responding (24-48 hours) and overall were great to work with.

Ronald's goals as his first year of treasurer included cutting down on expenses. This was done by reducing spending money on checks and postage.

Ronald started a VENMO account for the ACYOA. At the time of the 2018 Assembly the account was unable to accept funds yet to change from cards or put card in with ACYOA name. But, the goal is to be able to do so in the future.

Central Council was able to receive donations which continues to be appreciated and helpful.

Ronald also acknowledged that Central Council benefited from income generated by Sports Weekend 2017. He thanked the 2017 St. Leon's Sports Weekend Committee.

The floor was then opened for questions regarding the 2017 Financials.

Ben Tavitian had questions on lines 1004, 1005, 1006 which were Fundraising and Religious Educational Programs. Benjamin felt that this was very under budget. He felt he was focused more on the social aspect which will get people active in the community. He is questioning why the numbers are low in the areas such as fundraising because he felt that fundraising would further promote an active participation by membership.

Ronald Malconian answered Benjamin Tavitian by explaining donations not guaranteed every year primarily from the Dadourian foundation. We got less this year from the foundation. A lot of competing organizations for that budgeting/funding. Never know that donation each year in addition to what other donations may come in. Therefore it is hard to accurately budget.

The Religious/ Education Programs line item was new for this year. Central Council had a line item for Chapter Workshop and Lenten Retreats. When budget made it was counting in effect multiple events which we created different line items for. So this line item used to incorporate events such as Lenten Retreat and Chapter Workshop but now these events have their own line items. In regards to fundraising, at time of budget creation a Sports Weekend committee had not been formed, so Central Council was uncertain if they would have to raise more money. Central Council has been discussing various ideas to fundraising on a national level to promote all chapter participation. One example is the Bishop's Run V. Rev. Father Daniel Findikyan discussed earlier during the Assembly.

Benjamin Tavitian then asked if social media had been considered to utilize to promote fundraising.

Ronald Malconian stated that at their most recent ACYOA meeting, they had discussed ways they could use social media to fundraise.

Mallory Maslar shared Nora Knadjian supported FAR through Facebook, and that we could potentially utilize that platform for ACYOA. She also shared that in the past, Central Council has tried to do fundraising with larger events held over a weekend, but were not successful. If Central Council were to host events, they want to make sure Central Council has the financial strength to hold events such as a alumni dances and basketball events.

If anyone has ideas they can talk to Ronnie offline to share their ideas.

Stephen Hollisian asked for clarification on Line # 1011 in regards to what encompasses 'Other Income'.

Ronald Malconian responded that other income includes money that comes in unexpectedly, but is not a donation. This includes refunds that had to be made when testing out an ACYOA Venmo account, and other cash flow that does not really fit into another category elsewhere. Usually they put \$1000 into this line item, but sometimes it fluctuates.

Stephen Hollisian then inquired what happens with these funds? Ronald Malconian explained that this money is then added to the general fund in the end.

Rafael Grigoryan inquired about Line 1012 Dues that the ACYOA appears to be coming in under budget. Rafael then explained the current cost of dues per day at 2.7 cents/day and increasing it to 6 cents per day would be \$10 versus \$20 per year. He then asked what would happen to bottom line if we raised dues?

Ronald Malconian responded that increasing the cost of ACYOA member dues would give Central Council more funds to go towards events. This may allow for Central Council to cover more costs, therefore members may end up paying less for attendance to various events.

It was concluded raising dues could be beneficial to ACYOA as a whole.

John Soraghan made a motion to close discussion of 2017 Financial Report and accept the report.

Benjamin Tavitian seconded the motion.

All were in favor of closing discussion and accepting the 2017 Financial Report.

**4:24 PM**

**2019 ACYOA Budget (See Attachment I)**

Ronald Malconian then began to present the proposed 2019 Budget.

There was a question as to how and where ACYOA should report its transfer of funds to the ACEF Endowment. Discourse was exchanged as to whether it belongs on the balance sheet.

This will be further discussed as the 2018 Central Council treasurer will meet with 2018 Diocesan Council treasurer.

Motion made by to accept budget by Stephen Hollisian. This was seconded by Arthur Sabounjian. The assembly voted to approve the 2019 ACYOA Budget.

**4:31 PM *New Business***

**New Proposals**

**Proposal 1: Bylaws amendment submitted by Peter Oundjian (See Attachment L)**

Daniel Zalinov read the amendment aloud. Mallory Maslar made a movement to open discussion. This was seconded by Tania Melkonian.

Mallory Maslar stated that Central Council was not in favor of the proposal. Mallory said the high school graduation requirement was specifically for eligibility to attend GA/SW, not for eligibility to be a member of ACYOA. Central Council feels it is important for those members who are 18 and older to be able to attend events such as Lenten Retreat, Chapter Workshop, and Leadership Conference, regardless of whether or not they have been out of high school for a year to promote a transition from ACYOA Juniors to ACYOA Seniors.

Arthur Sabounjian agreed with the spirit of the proposal, but believes the bylaw serves a purpose written as is. There may be those who graduate high school. There is a way to distinguish a minor from someone of age, but utilizing the requirement to have graduated high school may alienate some who did not graduate high school but meet the age requirement.

Harry Kezelian reminded the assembly that when the bylaw was written in 2011, previous to this, the rules stated to be member of ACYOA an individual had to to be 18 or greater than high school. He believes we return to rule with stipulation, is suggesting to amend, to adopt old rule that this does not apply to sports weekend. He feels those younger in local events should be able

to attend to promote maintaining involvement. Also, a lot of people turn 18 after graduating high school.

Tim Aivazian sought a point of clarification from the author of this proposal if there is a reason or event that inspired the writing of proposal for clarification to better understand for assembly the spirit of the proposal.

Peter Oundjian, who was the author of this proposal, shared that he was looking to promote a discussion and essentially poll the committee.

Erik Zalinov made a motion to close the discussion. Stephen Hollision seconded and the motion passed.

4:40 PM Clarification and instruction was provided to the assembly to vote to accept or reject the first proposal made by Peter Oundjian. The assembly voted to reject the proposal, and therefore, no changes were made to the bylaws.

## **PROPOSAL # 2 (See Attachment M)**

**4:41** Danielle Malconian made a motion to open discussion on the second proposal. Aleksandr Shafiyev (Armenian Church of Jacksonville, FL, Jacksonville, FL) seconded.

Mallory Maslar says Central Council does not support this proposal. She says they understand there are responsibilities to share with the committee. However, Central Council feels it is best host committee puts together a weekend based on the host's vision. Central Council seeks to provide guidance and recommendations as necessary, but would not want to 'control' the planning of the weekend.

Arthur Sabounjian agrees with the spirit of the proposal but does not believe the way it is written does provides concrete rule or guidelines or anything. He believes much of it cites many concepts that leave room for interpretation/subjectiveness such as 'no more flashy venues.' He believes more items need to be objective in order for the ACYOA to interpret and follow this.

V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan: Applauds the spirit. This exact topic came up in his first discussion with Central Council. Central Council and Father Daniel agreed that formal and further discussion regarding Sports Weekend and General Assembly needs to occur. He is very much in agreement with the principle behind this proposal, and intends to pursue this with Central Council.

After being granted permission to speak since he was an observer, Harry Kezelian thanked V. Rev. Fr. Daniel. As author of the proposal, Harry asks that it not be adopted as is, but rather start a conversation. Harry encouraged Arthur Sabounjian to work off this proposal to create a concrete proposal and work on with Central Council. Harry stated that he felt the concepts were important and ACYOA should be considering them as future events are planned. Harry suggested the driving force when planning General Assembly/Sports Weekend should not solely be attendance, but rather a clear enjoyable weekend for those in attendance where members interested in the nature and purpose of ACYOA attend. Harry was encouraged that V. Rev. Fr. Daniel is in agreement and was separately having similar conversations, and therefore did not feel this particular proposal needed to be further addressed.

Rafael Grigoryan explained that after hearing the rationale, he understands this proposal came from a place of passion for the ACYOA and its events. Something needs to be revamped and that starts with having a discussion. He also feels he ACYOA needs to reassess and finances, and events such as General Assembly/Sports Weekend truly help bring in the revenue necessary to sustain ACYOA. Rafael believes the proposal could be interpreted in a way that reduces both the enjoyment and opportunity to raise money, and that the approach should be reassessed. However, he does agree something must change for lasting success.

Tim Aivazian spoke to clarify parts of the proposal as a co-author. The proposal was intentionally written with vague language to encourage Central Council to reconsider spirit of weekend, as opposed to an order or demand to change the rules. It was not solely to assess finance but attendance between years vary, the size of the venue dictates cost, and the people show up on weekends are not just the delegates. But it is usually just those who serve as delegates or observers of General Assembly who attend other events Central Council hosts throughout the year. He questioned why sports weekend has a major attendance but leadership conference and chapter workshop have lower numbers?

Mallory Maslar replied about 1/6 of people at sports weekend attend other events throughout the year.

Tim Aivazian then continued and said we need to come together and reconsider the spirit of the sports weekend-what exactly its purpose is. Tim stated that it is to come together as young leaders of the church to participate in Christian fellowship.

Sophia Yedigarian (Washington, DC) pointed out a line from the proposal that stuck out to her referring to some attendees as 'bad apples.' She feels this description is unfair. She does not see an issue with those who utilize sports weekend as a means to reconnect with friends. Sophia also pointed out the line referring to the quality and intentions of those choosing as to attend, rather

than the quantity of attendees. She echoed that SW and other events are both important; and if socializing with other Armenians at sports weekend helps someone feels 'more connected' because of it, Sophia questioned who are we to discourage that? Armenian is hand and hand with being Christian. Sports Weekend can be a wonderful way to be introduced to the other events ACYOA has to offer. Growth can occur with exposure to various events. More Armenian traditional dances, and spend more quality time doing traditional things, but if people feel closer to being Armenian and Christian, unfair to exclude these peoples. This could discourage future participation.

Danielle Malconian felt the issue with sports weekend doesn't manifest in the makeup of whether large venues or people who come that may get in trouble, because people can change. She feels issue lies in chapters not willing to step up and host. Danielle encourages chapters to identify ways they can host a General Assembly/Sports Weekend. If you look at expense report, Sports Weekend has been successful in raising over \$15,000 per weekend. Central Council enjoys letting the committee plan the weekend as it allows them to add originality. As a Sports Weekend Co Chairman, Danielle found the planning experience to promote bonding amongst chapters and parishioners.

Stephen Hollisian referenced a discussion had at last year's Sports Weekend about Central Council hosting and 'paying' for things related to sports weekend. Stephen said last year he mentioned how this can reduce the uniqueness of the host city. Stephen said sports weekend can be fun regardless of location, but that location can dictate cost.

Liana Kurkjian spoke on behalf of participation and those attending sports weekend. It is not the responsibility of Central Council or the Host Chapter to decide who registers or is able to come. Liana suggested the clergy approval process be revised if we are looking to 'limit' who is registering. Liana Kurkjian shared that upon reviewing attendee applications for this Sports Weekend, she noticed many clergy who approved the attendees were not from the parishes the attendees listed (ie there was a 'mismatch').

Allan Akcan believed the line of quality over quantity sticks out to him. We are already a small organization, and actions to exclude will not bring in membership. Allan shared he has encountered perceptions of ACYOA that we are solely focused on religion, and he feels that that is not the best representation of his church's chapter. So he questions what the proposal will bring to the organization as a whole. He asked how is kef music going to save sports weekend? Mallory Maslar provided clarification that this document was not a bylaw or guideline proposal change, but rather a proposal to the body, similar to the Williams Bay Manifesto.

Arthur Sabounjian reiterated he agrees with the spirit of this proposal, but feels it is not a proposal or a suggestion. Arthur recommends that Central Council should utilize the document to further improve events in the future. However, at the assembly, to compose a concrete actionable statement, Arthur reworded the proposal directing action towards Central Council to find ways to make General Assembly/Sports Weekend more affordable, and increase alumni involvement.

There was a question of whether Arthur was making a proposal.

Arthur Sabounjian stated he was not making a proposal as the assembly was in a discussion phase and the discussion phase had not been closed.

Danielle Malconian offered a point of clarification stating there was a General Assembly/Sports Weekend handguide offering suggestions and encouraging hosts to keep costs low. She stated that this could be shared with the assembly.

Arthur Sabounjian stated that he was helping to reform the proposal to turn it into a statement with a concrete action so that it could be voted on and taken as a clear directive.

Mallory Maslar reiterated that a sports weekend guideline was in place approved by Diocesan Council.

Arthur Sabounjian proposed to amend the guidelines so the proposal upholds and supports that Central Council ensures costs are kept low, events are not overly indulgent, and alumni involvement increases.

V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian stated that he agrees with the spirit of this proposal, but in the current state of the affairs having just elected a new spiritual leader and new central council, we should not set restrictions or demands, but rather provide them with this insight to allow them to freely explore options to improve.

Unknown made a motion to close this discussion. Arthur Sabounjian seconded and the motion passed.

Daniel Zalinov then asked the assembly if any amendments were going to be made the proposal.

No amendments would be made, and the assembly proceeded to voting on the proposal.

Anais Asarjian asked for a point of clarification if the vote for the proposal had to be called to question. We closed discussion to then move on to voting on the proposal.

Daniel Zalinov then asked for votes for those in support of/in opposition of accepting the proposal.

The proposal was denied.

### **Third Proposal (Attachment N)**

Once Daniel Zalinov moved the assembly into the third proposal, V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan shared he was going to excuse himself from the assembly to catch a plane to visit ACYOA Juniors Hye M'rtsoom in Watertown, Massachusetts. In relation to this final proposal, he first thanked those who offered the proposals as they did not know there would be a change in Primate upon submission of these proposals. Father Daniel stated that the issues the second and third proposal touched upon were also on his agenda to also address. He assured the assembly that the desires and suggestions of the ACYOA seniors were very much heard by him, and he did not take them lightly. However, he urged us not to take action on this third proposal regarding extending the age range of ACYOA seniors. He has several ideas to present to Central Council and then slowly to the membership, and feels these ideas would accomplish the larger goals expressed in this third proposal. He believes we would like to hear these ideas before making radical changes to the structure of the ACYOA. Father Daniel expressed his gratitude to having participated in most of the Assembly and appreciated the constructive conversation. He is eager to further hear the thoughts and ideas from the ACYOA membership.

V. Rev. Fr. Daniel then encouraged participants attend church and the dance/banquet/social events. The goal is to have large number of participants come together, he anticipates we will mentor them to lead to church on Sunday to hear his message and pray with us. V. Rev. Fr. Daniel set expectations that the young men who could serve on the altar would do so, and other participants sing in the choir on Sunday. He shared his goodbyes and left the podium to a standing ovation.

**5:09 PM V. Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, Vicar of the Eastern Diocese, relieved V. Rev. Fr. Daniel's presiding of the 2018 General Assembly and took his place at the podium/front of assembly.**

### **Daniel Zalinov reads the third proposal. (See Attachment N)**

Mallory Maslar then called to question that the assembly does not have a discussion regarding the third proposal. Michael Demirchian seconds the motion, and it passed.

The assembly then immediately voted on the proposal, and it was rejected.

Mallory Maslar made a motion to break and redo timeline.

- All were in favor to take a break until 5:15 PM.

**After the break, the assembly restarted with sports weekend bids.**

### **ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2019 Bids**

The 2019 ACYOA Seniors General Assembly/Sports Weekend will be hosted by St. Mesrob Armenian Church in Racine, Wisconsin. Racine was described to us by Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian as a humble town, but most of the events will be held in Milwaukee. One option for hotel is the Crown Plaza in Milwaukee, which is a very desirable location in regards to many attractions, the airport, and church. The chapter is discussing a volunteer component, music and arts component, and some other culturally based activities to develop a well rounded program.

- The committee is assuring the plan events to provide a comprehensive, enjoyable experience. The parish council is very supportive of this endeavor.
- Most attendees will come directly to Milwaukee or go to Chicago and then Milwaukee.
- The chapter is small and spread out, but they have been working with others in the area who will assist in manpower. They are seeking others who may be available to assist during the weekend.

There were no other bids made for 2019 General Assembly/Sports Weekend 2019.

Stephen Hollisian motions to close 2019 bids. Andrew Yenicag (Armenian Church Holy Martyrs, Bayside, New York) seconded and the motion passed.

The motion then passed to accept St. Mesrob Armenian Church as the 2019 General Assembly/Sports Weekend Host.

### **5:32 PM ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2020 Bids**

Daniel Zalinov asked for any bids for General Assembly/Sports Weekend 2020.

Sarkis Dagley (St John, Detroit, Michigan) shared that St. John's is considering putting in a bid for General Assembly/Sports Weekend 2020, however they are fearful that attendance will be low with consecutive weekends in the midwest.

There was then encouragement that attendees should make the effort to attend regardless of the location.

**5:34 PM**

**Motion made by Sarkis Dagley proposing Central Council leave window to accept bids open for 60 days and then vote on the 2020 General Assembly/Sports Weekend bids.**

Michael Demirchian seconded the motion.

**Mallory Maslar then moved to open discussion on motioning to vote on bid in 60 days.** Peter Oundjian seconded the motion. The motion to open discussed was passed.

**Discussion then opened for 2020 General Assembly/ Sports Weekend bids**

- Lauren Piligian endorsed St John's for hosting sports weekend in 2020. We all need to be realistic if people would go to Midwest two years ago. Lauren shared that she is from the Boston area, and would go to the midwest two years in a row to attend sports weekend. She stated that the membership cannot complain and be selective regarding sports weekend locations.
- Tim Aivazian reminded that those on the east coast have many opportunities to drive to attend events, whereas when events are on the east coast, those in the midwest must fly every time they want to participate. He encourages St Johns to consider bid because the meeting the held in 2015 was awesome and he believes they can outdo themselves in 2020.
- Stephen Hollisian also conveyed his support for Detroit to host in 2020. People are interested and went and he knows that many who assisted in the 2015 planning would be provide a breadth experience to the 2020 planning which would help church successfully plan a meeting. Stephen stated he would go if Detroit hosts
- Ronnie Malconian encouraged St John's to host. He enjoyed 2015. One discussion in 2016 in Boston for GA was discussion and fearful of attendance. As delegates, we are the members who will go, but we need to reach out to rest of parish to encourage those who do not serve as delegates to also attend. It is critical that the members who serve as delegates also encourage other members to attend, as that is what truly increases attendance and the success of a weekend.
- Daniel Zalinov offered a point of clarification that the proposed motion for this discussion was if there are no bids today, then Central Council will come back to the assembly in 60 days with suggested hosts for the 2020 General Assembly/Sports Weekend. Daniel sought any points to be made on the proposed topic of discussion.
- Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian asked Central Council if they felt 60 days was enough time to identify a host.
- Danielle Malconian spoke from experience of having hosted a sports weekend and stated that she felt 60 days is enough time, as the host chapter needs as much time as possible to begin and undergo the planning.

- Mallory Maslar clarified that the 60 day window served as the defining period for a chapter to achieve parish support in hosting a weekend.

Michael Demirchian called to question that we close the discussion of having a 60 day window for Central Council to receive bids for Sports Weekend/General Assembly 2020 hosts. Arthur Sabounjian seconded and the motion passed to close discussion.

Daniel Zalinov then announced the assembly would vote on the proposal that if there is no bids placed today for 2020, ACYOA Central Council will have 60 days to propose to bids for 2020. Daniel Zalinov clarified that any chapter can turn in a bid.

Danielle Malconian encourages hosts in 2020 or 2021. There are many benefits to bring others together. It is an opportunity to show your parish the leadership skills of your chapter in addition to bringing in revenue for the parish. Central Council is here to support hosts, in addition to chapter Advisors, ACYOA alumni, and the DYYAM. Danielle encouraged all chapters to set a goal to host a sports weekend.

Nora Knadjian offered a point of clarification that you do not have to be a chapter to host. Regional committees do exist, and if a parish is not confident in hosting alone, they can collaborate with other chapters.

Tania Melkonian offered a point of information that if considering bid for 2021, are we able to discuss today or is discussion tabled until next year?

Mallory Maslar responded that bids are placed 2 years in advance, and reminded all members to keep in mind that 2021 is 75<sup>th</sup> year celebration of ACYOA.

Daniel Zalinov then asked for a motion to close bids for 2020. Tim Aivazian motioned and Unknown seconded. All were in favor.

#### **5:44 PM ACYOA Chapter Reflections and Feedback (See Attachment K)**

Mallory Maslar then explained central council wanted to give time for chapters to ask questions of central council, express concerns, or share any successful events that occurred throughout the year.

John Soraghan motioned to close discussion. Ronnie Malconian seconded. All were in favor to close discussion.

#### **5:45 PM-Additional Topics**

Andrew Kayaian made an announcement and request on behalf of the Fellowship St. Voski and the Zohrab Center. He first asked when all delegates return to their parishes, they make their parish leadership and members aware of work of Fellowship of St. Voski and inform them of the Fellowship's magazine, The Treasury.

- The Treasury Magazine was first published in 2015 and is a quarterly magazine. It educates readers on topics from church including theology, history, and original translation of prayers. It is a fantastic publication with a mission to fulfill void of knowledge and comprehension that is present. Resource for young people/those not as familiar, expands/builds upon Sunday School lessons in more detail; it provides additional depth. The cost is \$30/year to subscribe, but is much less than a graduate level course where one would otherwise learn this information. It is a worthwhile investment which can also be shared with others. The Treasury magazine can also be accessed online for free.
- The Fellowship of St. Voski also has a website and a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Fellowship-of-St-Voski-1374228289566186/>)

**5:50 PM**

**Summertime Service (See Attachment O)**

Melissa Mardoian presented the ACYOA summertime service flyer which was presented to all attendees of the assembly. Central Council had initiative to have weekend in April where they wanted all chapters to do a service project. Some did, some did not. Central Council then realized that assigning one weekend was restricting to many schedules, and therefore developed a new initiative-the Summertime Service.

- Summertime Service was presented to the assembly in the form of a video produced by members of Central Council and can be viewed here
- Each month of the summer will have a theme-June will promote environment, July will promote community, and August will promote the needy
- Checkout #ACYOASERVICE on all forms of social

**5:54 PM Mallory Maslar provided additional insight**

- **Summertime Service** gives all chapters the opportunity to help over summer. It an extension of ACYOA Day to be a national event.

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian polled the assembly in regards to their thoughts on a one day assembly versus a Thursday Night plus all day Friday meeting.

Mallory Maslar provided clarification that no business was removed from the agenda to promote a 'shorter' meeting. We covered all same amount of business in **1 day** as opposed to Thursday and Friday night.

There was not much discussion on the timeframe of the agenda, and Mallory Maslar introduced Arsen Yelegen to share with the assembly a sneak peak to the new and fresh appearance of the ACYOA website.

#### **5:56 PM**

Arsen Yelegen showed us the current website which was last designed in 2008-2009. He stated that the goals of the new website are to appear sleek, be user friendly, be more accessible including easy to use on a mobile device. He pointed out details including the organization of information to be easier to identify and read, more vivid colors, and better clarity on pictures. The new website is set to debut by the end of the year.

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian commented on Fr Avedis' question. He was in favor of a one day meeting, but he saw a lot of people here Thursday evening. Therefore, he encourages Central Council to, should the meeting remain one day, plan an informal gathering Thursday evening for those who arrive early for the assembly.

Mallory Maslar congratulated Watervliet for forming a chapter.

Rafael Grigoryan sought to continue the conversation about increasing ACYOA membership dues. The last increase in dues was from \$5-\$10 in 2012, and has not been consistent with inflation of the US Dollar. Rafael believes it would be beneficial to pay \$20 to central council per member for dues. This would roughly be a theoretical doubling of a budget from \$3500 to \$7000, therefore allowing Central Council to increase programming/support attendance/etc.

Mallory Maslar included that this may be different for dues on a chapter level. Rafael was proposing the national dues.

Daniel Zalinov offered a point of clarification that the last time the discussion of a dues increase was brought up, the math was done to account for inflation of chapter dues in the past, and we are paying much less than what dues would be if accounting for inflation.

There was an agreement among the assembly to be considerate for what people can afford. Also, different chapters get different types of support from their parishes to assist in paying dues. However, there is a consensus that it is hard to collect dues for any chapter regardless of size.

John Soraghan questioned if dues were doubled successfully where the number of dues paid members remained consistent.

Ronnie Malconian explained that initially the proposed dues increase was to be much more than doubling from \$5 to \$10, and there was a lot of pushback from membership regarding this increase. However, the compromise so that an increase were to occur was to double.

Mallory Maslar then referenced the income statements and pointed out 2014 where the dues change occurred. She then said that this was a discussion, not a proposal to increase dues.

Nicholas Tashjian questioned whether there would truly be value in increasing dues by the suggested amount. That is, how much more could Central Council truly accomplish?

Daniel Zalinov then questioned the impact paying more would have on the chapter level.

Nicholas Tashjian hoped Central Council would identify concrete actions that they could expand upon should they receive a consistent additional income as a result of a dues increase.

Tim Aivazian stated it seems the group agrees something must be done to increase dues, but an outstanding issue exists on how are smaller chapters going to raise money for dues. Tim encouraged chapters to get creative in raising money to go towards national dues that are paid to Central Council such as car wash or bake sale. From there the sum can go towards dues and decrease the cost each member has to pay. Tim then suggested \$40 per person for dues.

Mallory Maslar informed the assembly that a few years ago it was proposed at Diocesan Assembly by a former Central Council member to have parishes submit a parish assessment for \$250 to Central Council. In the past 2 years the Diocese has been helpful to guide this initiative and 'invoice' every parish. Almost every parish has contributed in some way.

Lauren Piligian reminded the assembly that the ACYOA is diverse in both age range and circumstances. Some are in college, some are young working professionals, some are looking to settle. Lauren suggested we increase dues but start a stewardship program. So that each year you can donate money as part of your stewardship directly to ACYOA-this would be separate from dues but a way to directly give to ACYOA.

Stephen Hollisian expressed a concern that if dues were increased, this would reduce recruitment. If dues rise and are expected to be paid in a lump sum, it may deter new members from joining the ACYOA. Those members who have been invested will not mind paying, but those who are coming in new may question why such a large jump. Stephen used his parish of Holy Trinity in Cambridge as an example that ACYOA members must be in good standing with their parish via paying parish dues, but then additionally also pay their ACYOA dues.

Arthur Sabounjian believed the assembly was spending a lot of time discussing dues increase. He appreciated the discussion, but reminded members of the assembly how much money they may spend going out on weekends. He stated that those who value ACYOA will pay the membership fee. Arthur also made the point that with an increase of dues, there should also be an increase in the valuable experiences offered by the ACYOA.

Timothy Aivazian stated that the Armenian Youth Federation and other Armenian organizations also have members pay dues, and he questioned if ACYOA has compared the dues of these organizations to its own. Tim also suggested that during a recruitment or welcoming period, the conversation of dues should be held off. Potential members should see the value and experience time spent with the organization before they are asked to pay.

Daniel Zalinov said that his ACYOA chapter frequently has volunteer and fundraising opportunities members can participate in. If it is a fundraiser, the chapter will set aside a certain percentage of money over the year cover dues. They then put the raised money towards dues, but if they do not have enough money to cover the dues for every member, the difference that needs to be made up that is split up out of pockets of the members. This is a way to take burden off of an individual. Chapter members support each other in maintaining active standing.

Daniel Zalinov then asked if there were other topics of business.

Tim Aivazian sought a point of information regarding chapters participating in sports weekend this year and if all chapters participating were under the auspices of the Eastern Diocese. He said in years past and this current year, there have been teams from California. There is a California team, who would be under a different diocese. Tim referenced the ACYOA bylaw that all participating teams would have to be members of dues paying chapters of the Eastern Diocese.

Rafael Grigoryan motioned to close discussion of new business. Gary Dodakian (Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Worcester MA) seconds the motion and discussion of new business was closed.

### **6:21 PM Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee (See Attachment P)**

Nicholas Tashjian and Tatianna Nalbandian presented the report on behalf of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee, and thanked Rev Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Jennifer Morris and Arthur Sabounjian for their assistance in preparing the message.

Ronnie Malconian motioned to accept the report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee. Sona Dagly seconded the motion, and all were in favor to accept the report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee.

Michael Demirchian proposes to adjourn assembly and Stephen Hollisian seconded it.

V. Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian provided closing words and benediction. He described this assembly as historical for a variety of reasons, and encouraged members to reflect on the importance of the 100th anniversary of the first Republic of Armenia as well as the election of a new Primate of our Eastern Diocese, election of a Prime Minister of Armenia, and a election of ACYOA central council members. Father Simeon also recognized V. Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan for his work to oversee the Central Council. V. Rev. Fr. Simeon asked the membership to pray for our clergy and for the Central Council members. He believes things are moving quickly to allow us to move forward successfully. V. Rev. Fr. Simeon recognized the Central Council, General Assembly Chair Daniel Zalinov and secretaries Tanner Asadorian and Sara Kheboian, as well as Danielle Malconian who was was completing her term serving on Central Council. He then lead the assembly in prayer.

**At 6:38 PM the 72nd General Assembly and Sports Weekend of the ACYOA came to a close.**

## Attachments

- A. 2018 ACYOA General Assembly Agenda
- B. 2017 ACYOA Central Council Report
- C. 2017 Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (DYYAM) Report
- D. 2017 ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend Report
- E. Mission Statement of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern) and Mission of the Armenian Church According to the Teaching of St. Gregory the Illuminator
- F. William's Bay Manifesto
- G. 2017 Auditing Committee Report
- H. 2017 ACYOA Central Council Financial Report with Pie Chart
- I. 2018 ACYOA Central Council Proposed Budget
- J. 2018 ACYOA General Assembly Slate of Candidates and Biographies
- K. 2017 ACYOA Chapter Reports
- L. Proposal 1
- M. Proposal 2
- N. Proposal 3
- O. Summertime Service Flyer
- P. Resolutions and Courtesies Report
- Q. Robert's Rules of Order



**72nd ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern), Kavookjian Hall, New York, NY**  
**Friday, May 25, 2018**

**AGENDA**

**ACYOA General Assembly Registration - Kavookjian Hall**

9:00 - 9:45 am

**Morning Service - St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral**

9:45 - 10:00 am

**First Assembly Session - Kavookjian Hall**

10:00 am – 12:30 pm

- I. Invocation
- II. Roll Call - Confirmation of Quorum
- III. Introduction of Robert's Rules of Order
- IV. Election of Assembly Chair and Vice Chair
- V. Appointment of Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, Parliamentarian, and Resolutions and Courtesies Committee
- VI. Adoption of Agenda
- VII. Acceptance of 2017 General Assembly Minutes
- VIII. Elections
  - A. Introduction of Central Council Candidates
  - B. Central Council (3)
  - C. Nominating Committee (3)
  - D. Auditing Committee (3)
- IX. Joint Report of the ACYOA Central Council and Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
- X. Report of the 2017 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee
- XI. ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2018 Committee Welcome
- XII. Primate's Message with Q&A
- XIII. Diving Deep Discussion

**Primate's Luncheon**

12:30 - 2:00 pm

Presentation of Awards

Group Photo

Tour of the Diocesan Center and St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral

**Second Assembly Session**

2:15 - 5:00 pm

XIV. Roll Call

XV. Elections (Continued)

XVI. Report of the Auditing Committee

XVII. 2017 Financial Report

XVIII. New Business

A. Proposed 2019 Budget

B. New Proposals

C. ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2019 Bids

D. ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2020 Bids

E. ACYOA Chapter Reflections and Feedback

F. Other

**Break – 15 Minutes**

**3rd Assembly Session**

5:15 – 6:30 pm

XIX. New Business (cont'd)

XX. Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee

XXI. Adjournment and Benediction

Delegates' Reception

## **Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) 2017 Annual Report**

This year was one of hard work, restructuring, foundation-building, and grassroots efforts for the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA). At the end of the year, the ACYOA had twenty-three (23) official chapters throughout the Diocese. We have aimed to lead these young people closer to Jesus Christ using the **Circles of the Cross: Worship, Witness, Education, Service, and Fellowship**. As the years pass, we play an increasingly pivotal role in keeping the Church and Jesus Christ present in the daily lives of our young adults. Comprised of primarily college-aged and young professionals who are beginning to forge their own path in the world, it is the ACYOA's responsibility under the auspices of the Armenian Church to encourage these individuals to live out their faith. The ACYOA set out to continue our efforts through the programs discussed in the report below.

The Central Council met five times this year. The Diocesan Vicar, the Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, was present at the meetings from January to October. The Very Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan attended his first Central Council meeting in December. The Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (DYYAM) director or coordinator was present at all of our meetings. Those meetings were held as follows: February 11 (St Mary, Washington, DC); May 5 (Diocesan Assembly, Pinellas Park, FL); July 1 (Diocese, NY); September 23 (The Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe, Haverhill, MA); and December 9 (St. Sarkis, Charlotte, NC). Additionally, the ACYOA Central Council met and worked together at each of the national events it hosted. We continue to utilize conference calls to keep travel costs down.

On behalf of the ACYOA Central Council, and all of the ACYOA members across our Diocese, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your support this year. In 2017, the Diocesan staff assisted the ACYOA in invoicing parishes for their annual assessment, and because of this joint effort, the ACYOA had close to 100% participation in the collection. These assessments greatly benefit the ministry of the ACYOA.

### ACYOA's National Programs

**Chapter Workshop:** Participants built their faith, discussed the accomplishments and setbacks faced by their local ACYOA chapters, shared advice, and brainstormed new programming possibilities.

**Lenten Retreats:** Three retreats were held regionally during the Lenten season. Young adults shared their insights during a Bible Study, discussed the significance of maintaining a personal prayer life, and learned the theological role of the Holy Spirit in the Armenian Church.

**ACYOA Day:** ACYOA Day is celebrated on Palm Sunday. ACYOA Central Council members and DYYAM staff shared their stories and promoted the importance of our Diocesan programs.

**General Assembly and Sports Weekend:** Delegates reviewed reports on various programs and participated in a Bible Study, as well as elected new Central Council, nominating, and auditing committee members. Hundreds of youth gathered to participate in Sports Weekend competitions, social events, and the annual awards banquet held at the Marriott's Grand Ballroom.

**Armenia Service Program (ASP):** A group of ACYOA members traveled across Armenia, taking in its historic and spiritual sites, meeting local residents, volunteering with children, and cleaning a local park.

**Leadership Conference:** Participants engaged in discussions surrounding the challenges of living a Christian lifestyle and understanding how we can use media as our resource to explain the ACYOA.

EVENT	2014	2015	2016	2017
Chapter Workshop	29 participants (Pinellas Park, FL.)	35 participants (Pinellas Park, FL.)	49 participants (Pinellas Park, FL.)	41 participants (Houston, TX)
Lenten Retreat	50 participants	60 participants	63 participants	50 participants
ACYOA Day	7 parishes	6 parishes	10 parishes	7 parishes
General Assembly and Sports Weekend	56 Delegates, 15 Clergy, 389 packages (Bayside, NY)	36 Delegates, 12 Clergy, 221 packages (Detroit, MI)	48 Delegates, 19 Clergy, 345 packages (Cambridge, MA)	64 Delegates, 11 Clergy, 236 packages (Fair Lawn, NJ)
ASP	13 participants	6 participants	16 participants	22 participants
Leadership Conference	44 (Stony Point, NY)	50 (Kansasville, WI)	58 (Lakeside, CT)	42 (Kansasville, WI)

### **ACYOA Central Council Goals**

**Communication:** The Central Council continues to use various methods of communication to reach out to its chapters and membership, such as Facebook, Instagram, and e-blasts. We have continued our monthly e-blasts which includes chapter spotlights, an interview with alumni, Circles of the Cross event ideas, and a calendar of upcoming events from our local chapters.

**Chapter Relations:** The Central Council continues to strive to build our relationships with the chapters. We have set up a liaison system that regularly checks in with our chapters. We continue to encourage our chapters to be active with their ACYOA Juniors and to promote an easy transition into Seniors. We are also lucky to have amazing alumni, and we strive to have them work with our active members.

**Fundraising:** Besides having an ACYOA “swag” for sale, the Central Council has begun looking into additional grants and scholarships we can offer our members. We are very grateful for the generous donation from the Dadourian Foundation that we have received for ASP. With fundraising and scholarship opportunities, our goal is to try and take the financial burden off of the participants that attend national events.

**Programming:** This year the Central Council has worked to provide all of our national program sessions to the chapters. After each national event, we share lesson plans with the clergy and chapter chairs in the hopes that they will be able to utilize the program at a parish level.

### **ACYOA Central Council Officers:**

January to May: Mallory Maslar (Chair), Chelsea Kress (Vice Chair), Daniel Zalinov (Treasurer), Lauren Piligian (Secretary), Arsen Yelegen (Public Relations Coordinator), Nora Knadjian (Programming Coordinator), and Danielle Malconian (Chapter Relations).

June to December: Mallory Maslar (Chair), Nora Knadjian (Vice Chair), Ronnie Malconian (Treasurer), Danielle Malconian (Secretary), Arsen Yelegen (Public Relations Coordinator), Melissa Mardoian (Programming Coordinator), and Sona Dagley (Chapter Relations).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mallory Maslar, ACYOA Central Council Chair

## **Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries**

### **Annual Report 2017**

The **Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries** oversees all programming for the Diocesan Summer Camp programs, Hye Camp and St. Vartan Camp, as well as the ACYOA Juniors and Seniors, while working with the ACYOA Central Council to develop programs across the Diocese. The department strives to make the Armenian Church significant in the lives of youth and young adults by creating and delivering Christ-centered programming based on the *Cross of Circles*. Diocesan Summer Camps, the ACYOA Juniors, and the ACYOA Seniors continue to serve as the main vehicles through which this ministry can be fulfilled.

**Diocesan Summer Camp Programs:** The St. Vartan Camp and Hye Camp programs were led by their camp directors, Rev. Fr. Khachatur Kesablyan (Session A), Rev. Fr. Vart Gyozyan (Session B) and Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian (Session C), V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian (Hye Camp) and Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian (Hye Camp, assistant). Kathryn served as the on-site Camp Administrator throughout the summer at St. Vartan Camp, and Jennifer served as the off-site Camp Administrator for Hye Camp while Armen Terjimanian served as the on-site Camp Administrator with the assistance of the staff director, Lisa Mardigian, and several other young adults at Hye Camp.

Staff training was well-received by both sets of staff, with an emphasis placed on personal reflection through Bible Studies led by the camp directors. We spent time focusing on mentoring, self-reflection, programming, as well as all of the required material on emergency procedures. Staff engaged in conversations about problem solving skills, teamwork, acting out possible camper behavioral scenarios, and discussing how to handle them. Securing camp nurses and lifeguards continues to be a challenge. It is valuable to note that more than 75% of currently active ACYOA leaders at parish, regional, and national events are past campers, CITs, and Staff from Hye Camp and/or St. Vartan Camp. This stands as a true testament to the success of the camp programs and their ability to nurture future leaders of the Armenian Church.

Of the annual expenses at both camps, approximately 75% is rental of facilities, 9% is staff stipends, 9% is supplies (t-shirts, bottled water, Arts & Crafts supplies, etc) and 7% is insurance (liability, workers' comp, etc).

The Diocesan Summer Camp Programs continue to endure as an enriching platform for developing our young people into strong servants of the church and providing a solid foundation of faith for them to take back home. Our greatest challenge is keeping the fire burning inside of our participants throughout the year and keeping them connected to the life of their parishes. We continue to rely on our camp families to serve as our greatest tool in recruiting new families to join our camp community. Continued support of the parish leadership is necessary in order to strengthen our camp programs and reach out to new families.

**ACYOA Juniors:** There are currently 35 active ACYOA Junior chapters across the Diocese, with a potential for many more that already gather for church-sponsored activities. We continue to request that every parish has an appointed youth adviser to work with the teens to organize events, disseminate

information, and keep them connected to the parish community. Regional retreats are organized by the department each year during the Lenten season. In addition, our department attends and participates in the national events such as ACYOA Juniors Hye M’rtsoom and the ACYOA Juniors Sports Weekend, which both draw in more than 250 teens from across the Diocese.

**ACYOA Seniors:** The DYYAM worked with the ACYOA Central Council to plan and execute Chapter Workshop, Leadership Conference, Lenten Retreats, General Assembly and Sports Weekend, and Armenia Service Program. In addition, department staff was present at every quarterly meeting and assisted with e-blasts, articles, advertisement, and more. Please see the ACYOA Central Council report for details regarding the programs of the ACYOA Seniors.

**Professional Development:** The department, along with several of the Summer Camp Directors, attend a three-day conference hosted by the Orthodox Christian Camp Association (OCCA) in January, as well as participate in several webinars and learning opportunities offered through the American Camping Association (ACA). In compliance with state regulations, the department staff are certified in First Aid: Responding to Emergencies (RTE), CPR for the Professional Rescuer, and AED training offered by the American Red Cross.

**Resources:** Kathryn continued to create Monthly Bible Studies to share with parish priests, youth workers, and ACYOA chapter chairs for implementation at meetings and events. The staff also worked closely with the Diocesan Ministries staff on the development of parish resources. Our programs incorporated the videos and discussion questions created by the Creative Ministries department during our Diocesan Summer Camp programs, regional retreats, and workshops.

**Staff:** The Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Staff in 2017 was Jennifer Morris, Director (personal leave February to May); Lorie Odabashian, Coordinator (resigned in June); and Kathryn Ashbahian, Associate.

DYYAM PROGRAMS	PARTICIPANTS / PARISHES		
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Diocesan Summer Camps (ages 8-28)</b>			
Hye Camp	108 Campers 46 CITs 20 Staff 13 Parishes	148 Campers 29 CITs 35 Staff 13 Parishes	129 Campers 37 CITs 35 Staff 13 Parishes

St. Vartan Camp	191 Campers 51 CITs 38 Staff 34 Parishes	195 Campers 48 CITs 39 Staff 30 Parishes	198 Campers 64 CITs 45 Staff 32 Parishes
<b>ACYOA Juniors (ages 13-18)</b>			
Members/Chapters	appr. 625 / 35	appr. 650 / 35	appr. 650 / 35
Lenten Regional Retreats	131 / 22	154 / 22	157 / 22
Hye M'rtsoom	282 / 16	211 / 14	306 / 20
Fall Sports Weekend	220 / 17	248 / 16	285 / 17
<b>ACYOA Seniors (ages 18-30)</b>			
Members/Chapters	appr. 315 / 21	appr. 325 / 24	appr. 300 / 23
Chapter Workshop	35 / 11	49 / 13	41 / 13
Lenten Retreats	60 / 20	63 / 20	50 / 20
ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend	36 Delegates 12 Clergy 221 Packages 30 Parishes	48 Delegates 19 Clergy 345 Packages 30 Parishes	64 Delegates 19 Clergy 236 Packages 32 Parishes
Armenia Service Program	6 / 5	16 / 12	22 / 15
Leadership Conference	50 / 18	58 / 25	42 / 23
Jerusalem Pilgrimage	21 / 20	28 / 24	29 / 24

**St. Leon Armenian Church  
ACYOA SENIORS**

**2017 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Submitted by:  
St. Leon ACYOA Seniors  
2017 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee  
Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian, Pastor**

**2017 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend  
Committee Report**

## **Introduction:**

The ACYOA Seniors of St. Leon Armenian Church were extremely excited to host the 2017 General Assembly & Sports Weekend, from May 25-29, in Fair Lawn, New Jersey. Our committee of hardworking volunteers embraced our Armenian roots and Christian spirit to plan a memorable weekend of ACYOA tradition for hundreds of expected guests to enjoy.

Under the guidance of our pastor, Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian, and advisor, Diran Jebejian, the committee worked diligently to achieve our mission: to welcome Armenians from across the country to a weekend celebrating the ACYOA community. By adapting a tenacious work ethic, our committee organized a series of unique events that allowed for a weekend of rekindling friendships, competition and camaraderie, evening dances, and embracing our Armenian Christian culture. With over 230 package plans sold, and an overflow of additional guests at our evening events, we were humbled by the success of such an incredible weekend!

## **Committee Members:**

Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian, *Pastor*

Linda Chamesian, *Chairperson*

Paul Chamesian, *Athletics*

Leeza Cinar, *Social Media*

Laura Dosch, *Hospitality*

Ara Kasparian, *Athletics*

Lenna Keshishian, *Art Design*

Andrew Khanarian, *Treasurer*

Chelsea Kress, *Transportation & Ad Booklet*

Jennifer Oscherician, *Events*

Peter Oundjian, *Registration*

Nicholas Tashjian, *Secretary*

Diran Jebejian, *Advisor*

## **Preparation:**

After the very real fear that there might not be an able parish to plan the 2017 General Assembly and Sports Weekend, the St. Leon ACYOA Seniors considered hosting. Motivated to celebrate yet another annual ACYOA Memorial Day Weekend, our Seniors revitalized the once idol ACYOA Seniors chapter in mid-July, and formed a committee to host the 2017 weekend by August!

With under a year of planning time, our committee members were driven by passion and enthusiasm to plan a memorable weekend for hundreds of expected guests. We held meetings regularly to ensure the committee was working cohesively, and everyone was kept up to date on progress. Individuals on the committee worked on their respective tasks, checking in with the chairperson and advisor, between meetings. By March of 2017, meetings became more frequent, and by late April, our committee was meeting weekly. Dedicating countless hours to the planning process of this weekend was well worth it!

## **HOTEL:**

Participants stayed at the Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe in Teaneck, New Jersey, which also served as the location of the General Assembly on Thursday and Friday, as well as the banquet hall for our Sunday night event, Gala at the Glenpointe. The Marriott had a spacious lobby, restaurants, conference space and other amenities ideal for hosting a General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

**Lessons Learned:** Having dedicated floors of hotel rooms for weekend guests helped avoid noise complaints from guests of the hotel who were not weekend participants. The lobby was spacious and far removed from hotel rooms, which also kept noise on the floors to a minimum. After the Sunday Night banquet, we arranged for our guests to stay in an area outside of the banquet hall, removed from the lobby, allowing the flow of the party to continue, and discouraging weekend participants from dispersing around the hotel. Having reserved this space, the celebration continued to naturally unfold, and guests did not feel that the event had an abrupt ending.

Note: Our hotel guests had access to free wifi, but were not always notified upon check in. Be sure that the front desk is telling each guest upon check in.

## **SPORTS:**

We were able to utilize St. Leon Youth Center's gym for our sports competitions. The court allowed for two basketball games to be played simultaneously, as well as two volleyball games to be played during breaks from basketball games. Individual sports, including tavloo and ping-pong, were set up in a room just outside of the gymnasium. We also had access to a kitchen, where we served bagels (a North Jersey specialty) to our morning athletes, and sold drinks and snacks to our guests throughout the weekend.

## **EVENTS:**

### **Thursday, May 25: General Assembly at the Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe, followed by Delegates Reception at the Glenpointe**

Following Thursday evening's General Assembly in the Manhattan room of the Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe, all delegates, clergy and guests were invited to the Delegates Reception, which was held in an atrium just outside of the meeting room. Guests were served passed hors d'oeuvres, and there was a cash bar available as well. Having the reception adjacent to the meeting room allowed for a simple flow from the meeting to the reception.

**Friday, May 26: General Assembly (continued) at Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe, Primate's Luncheon, followed by The Block Party at St. Leon**

The General Assembly continued Friday, May 26th in the Manhattan Room of the Glenpointe, with a break for the Primate's Luncheon. At the conclusion of the General Assembly, Sports Weekend kicked off with our first event: The Block Party. The event was set up in the parking lot of the St. Leon campus, which was transformed with string lights, picnic tables, food trucks, a cash bar, and live band. The lot was surrounded by a wooded backyard, enclosing the event space. The event provided the opportunity for hungry guests to enjoy famous New Jersey food truck delicacies, and ease into a relaxing start to a busy weekend!

**Saturday, May 27: Coaches Club at MetLife Stadium**

Following the day's sporting events, participants were bused from the hotel to the Coaches Club at MetLife Stadium, a unique space combining elements of dancing and lounging, with a patio that overlooks the famous MetLife field, home to the New York Giants, New York Jets, and host of Super Bowl XLVIII. Guests enjoyed music from a live DJ, and there was a cash bar available.

**Sunday, May 28: Divine Liturgy at St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ; Sports Finals; Gala at the Glenpointe**

Sunday morning began with Divine Liturgy at St. Leon Church, celebrated by Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan. Presiding over Divine Liturgy was our Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. Following Divine Liturgy, the Primate officiated the ACYOA Central Council's Installation of Officers.

After Divine Liturgy, guests moved to the St. Leon gymnasium, where the championship games took place. Athletes took part in basketball and volleyball finals, and spectators watched eagerly, cheering from the sidelines.

Following the sports championships, athletes and weekend guests attended an awards banquet at the Glenpointe hotel. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian presided over the banquet, and distributed trophies to all the winners. Following dinner, a dance took place with Joseph Krikorian and his band taking the stage. Guests continued to enjoy the evening, as live music flowed throughout the ballroom.

**Lessons Learned:**

Issue	Description	How to Avoid
<p><b>Check In</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately half of our guests formally “checked in” to the weekend, where they received a welcome package, signed up for a text remind service (Remind.com -for updates throughout the weekend) and had the option of purchasing a t-shirt.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It seemed that some guests didn’t feel there was an incentive to “check in” to the weekend. Since there was a check in for each night event, and a separate wrist band for each event, this wasn’t an issue of security. However, we would liked to have had more people sign up for the Remind.com service, to ensure all guests were receiving updates and weekend reminders.</li> <li>An option for the future would be to have the check in at the gym during the sports. The issue here is that guests will be walking around with welcome packages. Another option is to make it necessary for guests to check in (ex: Check in to the weekend to pick up your tickets for each night’s event).</li> <li>If check in isn’t a priority for the future host committee, we strongly encourage using the Remind.com service for guests, and having them sign up for it as part of the online registration process.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bus Schedules</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus drivers followed an hourly schedule, acting as a shuttle between the hotel and each respective venue. However, there were times when a bus would hesitate to travel with only a couple passengers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the bus drivers to follow the schedule so guests and drivers know what to expect. Share this schedule with the guests so there isn’t any confusion, and guests can plan accordingly.</li> <li>Also, it is imperative to have a point of contact between the committee and the bus driver to answer any questions or in case of a schedule change.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Late Attendance (Evening Events)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Despite having early start times to our evening events, guests typically arrived 2 hours into the events.</li> <li>Busses were overcrowded at these late times, which caused a large crowd of guests at check in.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staffing the check in desk from 10-11:30 with more volunteers is encouraged to keep the crowd manageable.</li> <li>Offering an incentive for guests to arrive early could motivate an even distribution of attendance (ie: free drink ticket from 9-11pm)</li> <li>Keeping in contact with guests via a text service (ex: Remind.com) to message guests about arrival, and provide incentives if necessary (ie: food trucks will be leaving soon, arrive if you plan on ordering dinner!).</li> </ul>

## SUGGESTIONS:

1. **Contracts:** In addition to the Core Committee, have attorneys and contract specialists on advisory committee to review contracts review before signing. Also be sure to review the contracts in detail and negotiate points to best suit your committee's needs.
2. **Insurance:** Make sure to contact your Church's insurance company well in advance of the event to find out if additional insurance will be required.
3. **Audio-Visual:** Be sure to speak with your contact at the hotel or venues for any AV/technical needs, as fees add up quickly. Try to negotiate the prices or bring in your own equipment (projectors, microphones, etc.)
4. **Proximity:** Keeping our hotel in proximity to the gym and night events made it easy for guests to go to and from locations throughout the weekend. It also kept transportation costs down.
5. **Transportation:** We strongly encourage to have **one** person designated as the point of contact for bus drivers through the weekend to help with communication regarding scheduling, directions and payment. See above for more suggestions on bussing.
6. **Advertising:** Keep advertising steady and strong leading up to the weekend. During the weekend, we **HIGHLY** recommend the use of Remind.com, or a similar service to be able to send guests updates and reminders throughout the weekend. While we had guests sign up for this during check in, a more practical sign up time would be to embed this in the registration page.
7. **Central Council Communication:** Ensure that communication between the committee and the Central Council follows a chain of command, so communication remains clear and consistent. Review all Assembly needs well in advance to ensure everything is covered and there are no last minute surprises on either side.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

1. **Showcasing our City:** Atypical from the past few General Assembly & Sports Weekends, our committee welcomed guests to our home state, as opposed to a city. It was our goal to showcase the hidden gems of our home and embrace our Jersey pride.
2. **Home Gym Facilities:** Our committee was fortunate enough to utilize St. Leon Church's youth center gym, keeping our costs down, and making the sporting competitions easily accessible from our campus.
3. **Location! Location! Location!** Accessibility was an important factor in our decision making and we felt the location of the hotel and venues made them very accessible, both physically and by providing amenities that benefited our participants and program.
4. **Social Media:** Our guests were very excited about the "Remind" texting service offered throughout the weekend. We were also active on Instagram and Facebook, posting updates for sports schedules, events updates and photos!

5. **Photographs:** We hired photographers to be at each evening event, as well as the sports competitions. We uploaded the pictures to our Facebook page which resulted in more activity on our page, and spurred the excitement for people to reminisce on the events. We posted them a day or two after each event, providing a quick turnaround.
6. **Online Registration:** We had an online registration page for general weekend registration, clergy registration, and sports team registration. This allowed for ease of organizing registrations, database development, online payments, etc. We used [www.123ContactForm.com](http://www.123ContactForm.com) (\$29.95/month) and recommend the application for future organizers.
7. **Event Check in:** We used an application called Attendium, to help keep track of guest check in at each evening event. Committee members downloaded the Attendium app to their phones, which was pre-loaded with our registration list, and simplified the check-in process. This made it easy to keep track of our guest count, and allowed easy access to the information for after-event reporting.
8. **Commemorative Ad Booklet:** Our Ad Booklet was included in the welcome packages that guests received upon check in. It was full of supporting messages and incredible signs of sponsorship from family and friends who helped our weekend come to life!
9. **Donations:** We had an overwhelming amount of financial support from our local parish and ACYOA community at large. In addition to submissions to our Ad Booklet, we received several donations in the months leading up to the weekend, earmarked specifically for Sports Weekend. We were also blessed to have a few individuals and families willing to sponsor parts of the weekend. We also received donations from some local corporations which we were able to put towards snacks for the weekend.
10. **Budgeting:** By reviewing the figures of several prior Sports Weekends, we prepared lower anticipated numbers for attendees, athletes, and fundraising, offering a more conservative budget for our weekend. This helped us to stay on track with profit and loss margins, and offer one of the most affordable package plan prices for participants in recent history. Keeping track of all incomes and expenses, no matter how minimal, were crucial to our record keeping.
11. **A Supportive Parish:** Having just revitalized our ACYOA Seniors chapter, we were blessed to have the support of our parish. Working with parishioners and ACYOA supporters helped yield a successful weekend, and also helped our ACYOA Seniors chapter flourish. We are humbled by the financial and spiritual support from all who helped our cause.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Linda Chamesian, Chairperson



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Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian, Pastor

St. Leon Armenian Church ACYOA Seniors  
2017 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee

<b>General Assembly and Sports Weekend Participation</b>	
<b>Hotel Rooms Sold</b>	
Thursday	23
Friday	64
Saturday	67
Sunday	65
Monday	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>Number of Attendees</b>	
<b>General Assembly</b>	
Clergy/Staff	13
Delegates	54
Observers	9
<b>Total</b>	
<b>Event Attendance</b>	
Friday Night	252
Saturday Night	328
Sunday Night	379
<b>Registration Information</b>	
Packages Sold – includes athletes	236
Athletes	126
Friday	23
Saturday	42
Sunday	34
Clergy	5
<b>At the Door Sales</b>	
Friday Night	23
Saturday Night	52
Sunday	111

## Financial Report

### Income:

<b>Registration</b>		
	Individual registration (including partial refunds)	\$46,040.00
	Team registration	\$2,275.00
<b>Donations</b>		
	Ad Book and Sponsorships	\$22,175.00
	Other donations	\$816.00
<b>Fundraisers</b>		
	Volleyball Fundraiser	\$702.11
	Palm Sunday Fundraiser	\$545.93
	Super Bowl Fundraiser	\$1,233.61
	Bake Sale Fundraiser	\$223.18
<b>Concession Sales</b>		
	Food and beverage sales	\$1,327.00
	Shirt Sales	\$2,250.00
<b>Door Sales</b>		
	Friday door sales	\$940.00
	Saturday door sales	\$4,055.00
	Sunday door sales	\$7,100.00

**Revenue: \$89,682.83**

**Expenses:**

<b>General Assembly</b>	
Thursday Reception	\$2,520.00
Friday Breakfast	\$1,750.00
GA Room	\$750.00
Audiovisual	\$1,502.00
<b>Friday Event</b>	
Setup, food and security	\$8,646.94
Entertainment	\$1,200.00
<b>Saturday Event</b>	
Venue	\$16,138.58
Entertainment	\$400.00
<b>Sunday Event</b>	
Food and venue	\$17,275.00
Entertainment	\$9,469.40
<b>Athletics</b>	
Referees	\$1,400.00
Trophies and athletic equipment	\$312.19
<b>Fees</b>	
PayPal	\$1,106.75
123Contact	\$117.00
Square	\$184.58
Bank fees	\$6.00
Attendium	\$65.00
<b>Other</b>	
Transportation	\$2,920.00
Hotel security	\$1,890.00
Photographers	\$820.00
Administrative (postage, letterhead, envelopes, meeting refreshments)	\$1,589.96
Promotional materials (ad book, schedules, signage, Geotag)	\$1,614.01
T-Shirt Printing	\$1,861.25
Wristbands	\$41.97
Welcome bags and snacks	\$733.01
Gratuities (bus drivers, entertainers, contract contacts)	\$959.98

**Total Cost: \$75,273.62****Profit: \$14,409.21**

THE ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

# Mission in Ministries

THE DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (EASTERN)

MISSION OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH ACCORDING TO  
THE TEACHING OF ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR

To illumine all people who come into the world;

To give repentance of salvation to all;

To wash all people and deliver them from the bonds of darkness by baptism;

To seal all nations as Christ's inner circle;

To make the Spirit of God dwell in people's hearts;

To unite and join them to the love of the Son of God, that the heart of all

might cry as one, and to unite all the world in saying: "Abba, Father," so that

the name of enslavement might be taken away, and the name of adoption be

placed on them by the grace of Christ; (1)

To enable them to eat the flesh of the Son of God and drink the life-giving

blood, (2) so that thereby they might bring all the world into the inheritance

of Christ, to become "heirs of God and fellow heirs of Christ." (3)

**1. ROMANS 8:15, GALATIANS 4:6-7.**

**2. JOHN 6:54**

**3. ROMANS 8:17.**



**MISSION STATEMENT OF THE DIOCESE OF THE  
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (EASTERN)**

The mission of the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church is to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and to proclaim its message of salvation. This mission is realized through worship, education, witness, service, and the common life in Christ as expressed in the distinctive faith-experience of the Armenian people. All members of the Armenian Church—both clergy and lay—are called to participate fully in its mission.

PRESENTED AT THE 72ND ANNUAL ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK - MAY 25, 2018  
V. REV. FR. DANIEL FINDIKYAN, PRIMATE



**“WILLIAMS BAY MANIFESTO”**  
**September 2, 1968–Williams Bay, Wisconsin**

The world is in an age of revolution, a time of changing and becoming. The Church, if it is to be relevant to the world, must speak of God's will in terms of today. Christianity is not a religion for the timid, for it takes courage and strength of conviction to resist that which is comfortable, convenient and traditional in favor of God's will, which may at times be difficult. Christ continually calls His followers to renewal, reform, and revolution.

As the youth of the Armenian Church, we are disturbed by our Church's refusal to be a part of the twentieth century, to face the urgent and real problems of today, and to seek Christian solutions to them. Poverty, hunger, disease, wars, racial tensions, social discontent and turmoil sear the world around us, and yet our Church concerns itself mainly with erecting costly buildings and monuments and amassing material goods, rationalizing that it is necessary for self-preservation. We want our Church to see beyond its own interests, to share others' sufferings and problems.

At present, in the mind of many Armenians, the Armenian Church's primary function is to act as the defender of nationalism, to protect Armenians from assimilation. This is indicated by their fear of reform, for they worry that with change would come a certain loss of identity. On the contrary, we feel that specific reforms would bring increased dedication and enthusiasm, a renewal and rebirth of our Church.

Apathy and spiritual indifference pervade our Church life. Few Church members have that sincere relationship with God which is the basis of Christian living. We, as the youth, are not simply condemning the adults of our Church; we can see the same problems among ourselves. The ACYOA is suffering from an internal malaise; membership has fallen off, only socials and dances are well attended, spiritual growth has come to a complete standstill.

The time has come when we, the youth of the Armenian Church, can no longer in conscience allow ourselves to be used as instruments for the preservation of a Church which is living in the archaic past. We feel we must make known our discontent with the present antiquated and meaningless structures and institutions and our desire to ameliorate the stagnated condition of the Church which is ours. We are told so often that the Church belongs to us; therefore, we have not only the right but the duty to see that our Church relates to the present day, and thus, becomes meaningful to its members. We are committed to action, the watchword is revolution. Our revolutionary commitment and action addresses itself to a radical concern of making Christ live and grow in our Church and members. We are now resolved to speak out and act in accordance with the dictates of our conscience in all areas of life within and without our Church, wherever Christ is being crucified anew.

## **Auditing Committee Report 2017 ACYOA Central Council**

The Auditing committee has completed an audit of the ACYOA Central Council's revenue and the expenses for the period January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017. This audit serves to verify that the financial position of the ACYOA Central Council accurately references the 2017 budget. In addition, the committee reconciled banking activity for the same period.

The auditing committee first assessed the 2017 income and expenditures on a macro level. According to the first bank statement of 2017, the central council had a beginning balance of \$9,586.86. In terms of additional income, the central council allocated a \$99,500.00 budget, but actually accrued \$122,296.65 in income. This difference is mostly due to an increase in donations to the central council and larger than planned parish assessment. The central council budgeted \$102,300 for total expenses. The actual 2017 expenses totaled \$96,330.49. Expenses for central council meetings, chapter meetings, religious/education programs, general assembly, and the website were noticeably lower than budgeted.

The auditing committee then assessed and questioned specific line items which categorized incomes and expenses. We questioned line item #1003 "beginning balance" due to the bank statement stating the initial balance for 2017 was \$9,586.86, not the \$13,590 reported on the central council balance sheet. However, deeper review revealed the \$13,590 beginning balance also includes both expenses and credits which were made in 2016 but were not paid or posted until 2017. It also included 2016 parish assessments which weren't made until 2017. The aggregate of the beginning 2017 balance, the parish assessments and donations made in late 2016, and the expenses made in late 2016 but were not posted until 2017 equated to the \$13,590 beginning balance reported on the central council financial sheet. This is also the reason the 2016 net balance does not equate to the 2017 beginning balance.

We questioned line items #1006 and #2006 "Religious/Educational Programs." In 2016, this item had \$8,050 inflow and \$8,336.55 outflow. In 2017, there was no inflow but a \$254.25 outflow. The central council explained that a new line item for chapter workshop was added in 2017 which was the bulk of the spending in 2016.

We questioned line item #1011 "Other Income" which increased from \$75 in 2016 to \$1,195.85 in 2017. Part of this is explained by bank adjustments from prior overpayments. There was also a travel overpayment made to a central council member which was rectified with a debit back to the account. Lastly, there was an income titled "Venmo Test" which was completed in an attempt to switch to venmo to reimburse central council members. Ordering checks is costly, thus there was a desire to switch to venmo to save additional money.

We questioned line #2015 "Diocesan Assembly" which increased from \$414.90 in 2016 to \$2,398.92 in 2017. The expenses in 2017 were mostly due to travel and lodging costs. The central council explained that in 2016 only one person attended the Diocesan Assembly and this

person was within driving distance. In 2017, the entire council attended the Diocesan Assembly in Florida which required travel expenditures.

The auditing committee also went through each expense and credit on the bank statements and cross referenced them to the financial sheet provided by the central council. All credits and expenses in the statements were properly accounted for in the financial sheet. We did have some questions about certain expenses which the central council was able to elaborate further.

We questioned a cash deposit and subsequent bank adjustment made on May 16th 2017. The central council explained their account is linked with the Women's Guild Central Council account and incorrect deposit was made into the ACYOA account rather than the Women's guild.

We questioned a returned check on April 28th 2017 and an overdraft fee. The central council did not know the reason for the returned check. They called Bank of America who did not credit the fee back, thus the central council had to pay a \$35 fee.

We questioned a \$300 expense for a rental car on 12/11/17. We specifically asked how many days the car was rented. The central council stated the car and insurance was rented for a central council meeting in Charlotte, NC. \$300 is reasonable for a three day rental and insurance.

The auditing committee reviewed the recommendations from 2016. One recommendation which was not implemented that we believe would have been helpful was:

“The Assembly would be better served in the future if footnotes and explanations were provided for all line items that show an actual fiscal year balance of zero.”

The auditing committee recommends the following:

- 1) Provide further clarity in terms of beginning balance. The beginning balance reported in the financial sheet also includes both late expenses and credits from 2016. We recommend this distinction and clarification be provided in note form or create sub categories of incomes and expenses for late 2016 rolled over incomes and expenses. Expenses in 2016, should not be included as income for 2017.
- 2) Break out expenses which require travel and lodging to have travel and lodging sub categories. Travel and lodging appear to be the largest and most numerous expenses and it should serve the central council well to have better feedback on these costs.

The Auditing Committee would like to thank the Central Council, specifically Ronald Malconian, for his kind attention in answering our questions and support during the auditing process. We conclude that the combined financial records of the 2017 ACYOA Central Council are a fair representation in accordance with generally acceptable accounting procedure.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Tashjian

Brian Sarafyan

Aaron Derderian

**ACYOA 2017 FINANCIALS**  
Prepared by: RONNIE MALCONIAN

LINE	INCOME	2017 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET	FY 2016 ACT
1001	Armenia Service Program (ASP)	0.00	45,000.00	40,530.00
1002	ACEF Interest	0.00	13,000.00	15,323.24
1003	Beginning Balance	0.00	13,000.00	22,421.62
1004	Donations	0.00	5,000.00	8,050.00
1005	Fundraising	0.00	6,000.00	495.00
1006	Religious/Educational Programs	0.00	3,000.00	6,050.00
1007	Chapter Workshop	0.00	4,000.00	0.00
1008	Sports Weekend Profit	0.00	0.00	10,063.00
1009	Sports Weekend Returned seed money	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
1010	Interest Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
1011	Other Income	0.00	1,000.00	75.00
1012	Dues	0.00	3,000.00	3,010.00
1013	Parish Assessment	0.00	5,000.00	9,250.00
<b>1000</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>99,500.00</b>	<b>115,267.86</b>

BGT REMAINING	%
(45,000.00)	-100.00%
(13,000.00)	-100.00%
(13,000.00)	-100.00%
(5,000.00)	-100.00%
(6,000.00)	-100.00%
(3,000.00)	-100.00%
(4,000.00)	-100.00%
0.00	0.00%
(1,500.00)	-100.00%
0.00	0.00%
(1,000.00)	-100.00%
(3,000.00)	-100.00%
(5,000.00)	-100.00%
<b>(94,500.00)</b>	<b>-94.97%</b>

PY VAR.	%
(40,530.00)	-100.00%
(15,323.24)	-100.00%
(22,421.62)	-100.00%
(8,050.00)	-100.00%
(495.00)	-100.00%
(6,050.00)	-100.00%
0.00	0.00%
(10,063.00)	-100.00%
0.00	0.00%
0.00	0.00%
(75.00)	-100.00%
(3,010.00)	-100.00%
(9,250.00)	-100.00%
<b>(106,017.86)</b>	<b>-91.98%</b>

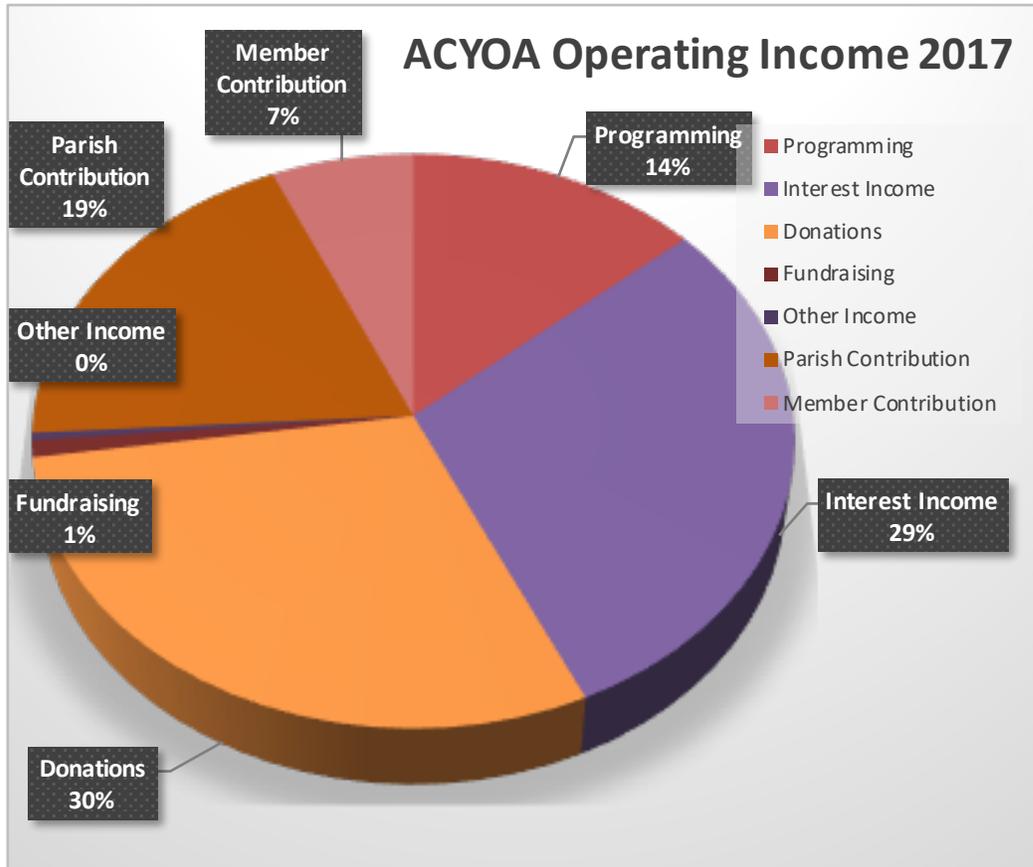
LINE	EXPENSES	2017 ACTUAL	2017 BUDGET	FY 2016 ACT
2001	ASP - Present Year	0.00	45,000.00	44,378.00
2002	ASP - Upcoming Year	0.00	3,500.00	3,125.00
2003	Leadership Conference	0.00	9,500.00	12,594.09
2004	Central Council Meetings	0.00	12,000.00	9,732.73
2005	Chapter Visits/Contacts	0.00	3,000.00	2,975.77
2006	Religious/Educational Programs	0.00	3,000.00	8,336.55
2007	Chapter Workshop	0.00	6,800.00	0.00
2008	Standing Committees	0.00	400.00	782.94
2009	Chapter Assistance Program	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
2011	Fundraising Initiatives	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
2012	Scholarships (ASP)	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
2013	Summer Program Scholarships	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
2014	Sports Weekend Seed Money	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
2015	Diocesan Assembly	0.00	2,500.00	414.90
2016	General Assembly	0.00	2,000.00	2,855.75
2017	Postage	0.00	50.00	9.40
2018	Copies and Supplies	0.00	100.00	0.00
2019	Website	0.00	5,500.00	1,954.00
2022	Jerusalem Patriarchate	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
2023	Essay Contest	0.00	500.00	0.00
2024	Miscellaneous	0.00	450.00	10,305.00
2025	Nancy Basmajian Scholarship Fund	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
<b>2000</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>102,300.00</b>	<b>101,964.13</b>

BGT REMAINING	%
45,000.00	100.00%
3,500.00	100.00%
9,500.00	100.00%
12,000.00	100.00%
3,000.00	100.00%
3,000.00	100.00%
6,800.00	100.00%
400.00	100.00%
1,000.00	100.00%
1,000.00	100.00%
1,000.00	100.00%
1,500.00	100.00%
1,500.00	100.00%
2,500.00	100.00%
2,000.00	100.00%
50.00	100.00%
100.00	100.00%
5,500.00	100.00%
1,000.00	100.00%
500.00	100.00%
450.00	100.00%
1,000.00	100.00%
<b>102,300.00</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

PY VAR.	%
44,378.00	100.00%
3,125.00	100.00%
12,594.09	100.00%
9,732.73	100.00%
2,975.77	100.00%
8,336.55	100.00%
0.00	0.00%
782.94	100.00%
0.00	0.00%
0.00	0.00%
1,000.00	100.00%
1,500.00	100.00%
0.00	0.00%
414.90	100.00%
2,855.75	100.00%
9.40	100.00%
0.00	0.00%
1,954.00	100.00%
1,000.00	100.00%
0.00	0.00%
10,305.00	100.00%
1,000.00	100.00%
<b>101,964.13</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

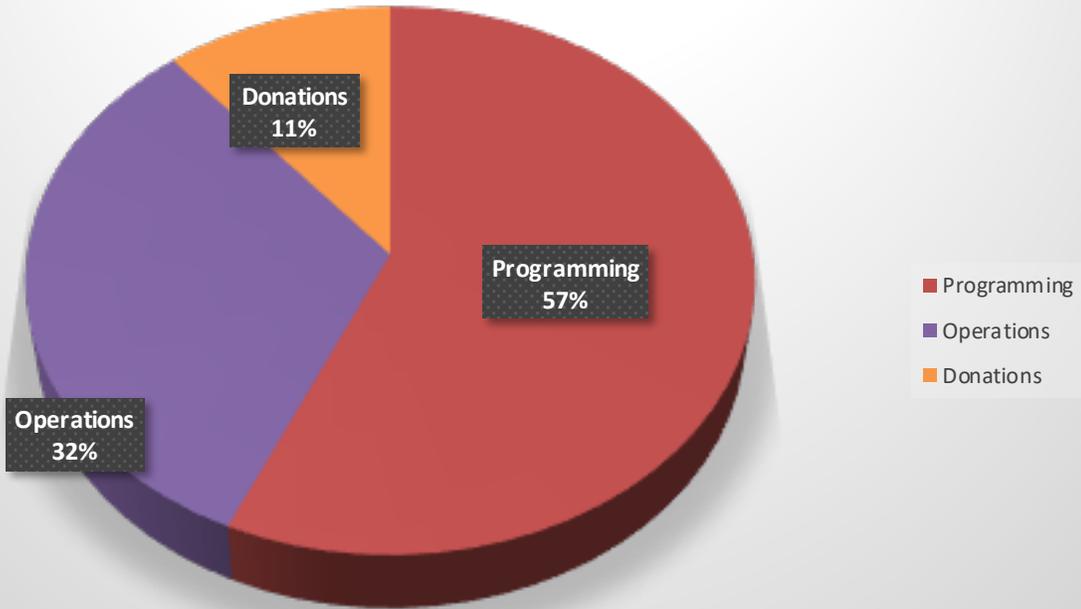
<b>NET</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(2,800.00)</b>	<b>13,303.73</b>
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<b>ACYOA Operating Income</b>	<b>\$52,884.05</b>
Programming	\$7,204.60
Interest Income	\$15,618.82
Donations	\$15,620.00
Fundraising	\$502.80
Other Income	\$217.83
Parish Contribution	\$10,250.00
Member Contribution	\$3,470.00



<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$40,508.83</b>
Programming	22,962.95
Operations	13,045.88
Donations	4,500.00

### ACYOA Operating Expenses 2017



ACYOA 2019 PROPOSED BUDGET  
Prepared by: Ronnie Malconian

LINE	INCOME	2009		2010		2014		2015		2016		2017		2019	
		BUDGET	ACT	BUDGET	ACT	BUDGET	ACT	BUDGET	ACT	BUDGET	ACT	BUDGET	ACT	BUDGET	ACT
1001	Armenia Service Program (ASP)	65000	50000	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 36,989.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 13,850.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 40,530.00	\$ 55,500.00	\$ 50,150.00	\$ 55,500.00	\$ 55,500.00	\$ 55,500.00	\$ 55,500.00
1002	ACEF Interest	15000	14941.59	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 13,895.38	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 14,978.65	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 15,323.24	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 15,618.82	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
1003	Beginning Balance	14000	0	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 13,221.07	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 21,062.45	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 22,421.62	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,590.94	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	
1004	Donations	7800	12720	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,450.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 16,070.75	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 8,050.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 15,620.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
1005	Fundraising	0	1330	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,182.12	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 495.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 870.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	
1006	Religious/Educational Programs	5000	300	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 2,600.50	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,050.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	
1007	Chapter Workshop														
1008	Sports Weekend Profit	5000	3719.3	\$ -	\$ 13,283.22	\$ -	\$ 2,527.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,326.45	\$ 7,204.60	\$ -	\$ -	
1009	Sports Weekend Returned Seed Money	1500	0	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	
1010	Interest Income	1100	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
1011	Other Income	0	12353.95	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 217.98	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,195.84	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
1012	Dues	1100	1100	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,535.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,490.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,010.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,470.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
1013	Parish Assessment														
<b>1000</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>115500</b>	<b>96464.84</b>	<b>\$ 103,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 97,205.79</b>	<b>\$ 97,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 73,957.53</b>	<b>\$ 100,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 106,704.86</b>	<b>\$ 115,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 122,296.65</b>	<b>\$ 115,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 115,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 113,000.00</b>	

LINE	EXPENSES	2009		2010		2014		2015		2016		2017		2019	
		BUDGET	ACT	BUDGET	ACT	BUDGET	ACT	BUDGET	ACT	BUDGET	ACT	BUDGET	ACT	BUDGET	ACT
2001	ASP - Present Year	65000	53341	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 39,964.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 16,776.94	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 44,378.00	\$ 55,500.00	\$ 59,370.70	\$ 55,500.00	\$ 55,500.00	\$ 55,500.00	
2002	ASP - Upcoming Year	0	0	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,125.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	
2003	Leadership Conference	7500	17267.29	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 6,369.20	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,989.93	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 12,594.09	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 8,322.99	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	
2004	Central Council Meetings	13000	7089.83	\$ 11,250.00	\$ 6,568.55	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,206.66	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 9,732.73	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 8,942.60	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	
2005	Chapter Visits/Contacts	4000	0	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,198.97	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,669.45	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,975.77	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,861.97	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
2006	Religious/Educational Programs	6000	1000	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,029.51	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,363.98	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 8,336.55	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 254.25	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	
2007	Chapter Workshop														
2008	Standing Committees	700	0	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 782.94	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	
2009	Chapter Assistance Program	2000	0	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
2010	Fund Raising Initiatives	1300	164.98	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 6,039.14	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 109.22	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 367.20	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	
2011	Scholarships (ASP)	1000	0	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
2012	Summer Program Scholarships	1200	0	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	
2013	Sports Weekend Seed Money	1500	0	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	
2014	Diocesan Assembly	1000	0	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,694.75	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 826.53	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 414.90	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,398.92	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
2015	General Assembly	1000	0	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,043.80	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,651.34	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,855.75	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 982.80	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
2016	Postage	500	402.12	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 29.40	\$ 50.00	\$ 9.40	\$ 50.00	\$ 69.48	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
2017	Copies and Supplies	1000	377.3	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
2018	Website	3000	1740	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,548.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,548.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 1,954.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,634.88	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
2019	ACEF														
2020	Jerusalem Patriarchate	1000	0	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	
2021	Miscellaneous	200	200	\$ 200.00	\$ 950.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 62.66	\$ 450.00	\$ 10,305.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 978.01	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	
2022	Nancy Basmalian Scholarship	0	0	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
<b>2000</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>110900</b>	<b>81582.52</b>	<b>\$ 102,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 74,905.92</b>	<b>\$ 97,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 56,734.11</b>	<b>\$ 100,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 101,964.13</b>	<b>\$ 115,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 96,330.49</b>	<b>\$ 115,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 115,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 113,000.00</b>	

<b>NET</b>	<b>4600</b>	<b>14882.32</b>	\$ 500.00	\$ 22,299.87	\$ 500.00	\$ 17,223.42	\$ 500.00	\$ 4,740.73	\$ -	\$ 25,966.16	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
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**2018 ACYOA General Assembly  
Slate of Candidates**

**Chairman of the Day (elect 1)**

1. Michael Demirchian, Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe, Haverhill, MA
2. Rafael V. Grigoryan, Armenian Church-Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL
3. Daniel Zalinov, St. Sarkis Armenian Church, Charlotte, NC

**Nominating Committee (elect 3)**

1. \*Greta Janigian, Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, RI
2. Christine Karakouzian, St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
3. Anna Margaryan, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA
4. Tania Melkonian, St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
5. Peter Oundjian, St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ
6. \*Christina, Parnagian, Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, RI
7. Nanah Petrosyan, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA

**Auditing Committee (elect 3)**

1. Zaven Dadian, St. John Armenian Church, Southfield, MI
2. Michael Demirchian, Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe, Haverhill, MA
3. Alen Dokmeciyan, Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY
4. \*Brian Sarafyan, Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY

**Central Council (elect 3)**

1. Tim Aivazian, Holy Cross Armenian Church, New York, NY
2. Shant Der Torossian, St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
3. Rafael V. Grigoryan, Armenian Church-Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL
4. Harry Kezelian, St. John Armenian Church, Southfield, MI
5. \*Nora Knadjian, St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, Chicago, IL
6. Nicholas Tashjian, St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ
7. \*Arsen Yelegen, St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church, White Plains, NY

*Please note: \* indicate incumbent.*

**2018 General Assembly  
Biographies of the Central Council Candidates**

**Tim Aivazian, Holy Cross Armenian Church, New York, NY**

Tim Aivazian has been an active member of ACYOA from a young age both in the Eastern and Western Dioceses. Having been active at both the local and diocesan levels of ACYOA, he has helped organized service and social events as well as retreats and bible studies. He has also been a counselor and staff member for Hye Camp in California and St. Nersess Summer Conferences.

He has a BFA in Graphic Design from RIT in Rochester, NY, where he was active in the small Armenian community and surrounding areas. He is a member of Holy Cross Church in Manhattan, where he serves on the altar.

**Shant Der Torossian, St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA**

Shant grew up at a local Armenian Catholic Church that had an inactive youth group. He decided to join the ACYOA juniors when he was 13 at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown, MA. This was the best decision he has ever made. On a local level at St. James, Shant was provided with an abundance of opportunity that has ultimately made him the capable leader that he is today. Shant participates and helps plan local events such as Hye Cafes, service projects, Palm Sunday banquets, planning of Hye'Mertsoons, retreats, and local gatherings with other Armenian groups in the Greater Boston Area. As he got older he realized that he had barely scratched the surface of what he can accomplish. For the past three years he has been heavily involved with St. James ACYOA Seniors. The past two years he has served on the executive committee.

One of Shant's most important endeavors has been his involvement with advising the upcoming juniors on staying active in the ACYOA, and how to keep in touch with their faith as they begin college and enter the real world. All of his experiences at St. James and attending St. Vartan camp have shaped him into the person he is today, he has made lifelong friends and has devoted himself to serving his church and community.

Shant is also heavily involved on a national level. He attends chapter workshops, leadership conferences, and general assembly and sports weekends. Currently he is finishing his 3rd year at Regis college studying Biochemistry. He hopes to continue serving the ACYOA on a national level.

**Rafael V. Grigoryan, Armenian Church-Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL**

Rafael was born in his native Armenia, and his family immigrated to the United States in 1992 and has since resided in sunny Florida. His involvement in ACYOA happened by chance after attending a chapter workshop in January of 2016 where he instantly felt

connected with his fellow peers and his experience was one that drove him to begin his national membership and aided him to establish an ACYOA Jacksonville Chapter. He has participated as a delegate since Boston ACYOA and has been attending ever since. During 2016, he was elected to represent the Jacksonville ACYOA at the annual Jerusalem Pilgrimage. He's served as Treasurer and Vice President for his chapters and remains active in ACYOA. He also brings experience as a former President of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter at Florida State University managing over 120 people and over \$150,000 in funds during his tenure; effectively establishing an investment fund for the chapter and a housing fund which has now translated into a brand-new chapter house for the fraternity only 3 years after inception.

Rafael currently resides in Tampa, FL working in the Investment Banking Division at Raymond James Financial and has a dedicated passion for capital markets, boxing, hockey, cinema, The Office, and The Jacksonville Jaguars (Duuuvalll).

### **Harry Kezelian, St. John Armenian Church, Southfield, MI**

Harry is a 3rd generation ACYOA member and 4th generation member of St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit. He has been active since ACYOA Juniors, attended and counseled Hye Camp, attended and counseled St. Nersess Summer Conferences, sung in the choir for many years before joining the altar servers and was recently ordained Subdeacon. A few years back, he attended St. Nersess for a semester to explore a call to the priesthood, but is currently pursuing a career as a high school Social Studies teacher. Regardless, Harry says that he greatly values his time at the seminary and he was able to gain a lot of experience and knowledge in that short time, and the impetus to learn more. He has been active in ACYOA Seniors since he was old enough and has attended General Assembly every year since he was first asked to be a delegate. Harry feels his parents were great role models for him in this respect and always encouraged his involvement in ACYOA. His parents met in ACYOA and they are truly an "ACYOA legacy family." Harry has been on the executive board including acting as chairman of the Detroit chapter for many years, and was chairman of entertainment for the 2015 GA/SW in Detroit. Harry has a strong interest in Armenian history and culture and in his spare time plays and sings Armenian kef music especially with his band the Kef Tones in the local Detroit area. Harry has also studied the history of the ACYOA and wrote his undergrad senior thesis on founder and great figure of the Armenian Church, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan of blessed memory. Harry feels it would be an honor and privilege to accept the responsibility of serving on Central Council should he be elected. Harry feels that at this point in his life he has a lot of experience with the ACYOA and the Church that he can bring to the table were he to be chosen for this role.

### **\* Nora Knadjian, St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, Chicago, IL**

Nora Knadjian moved to Chicago, IL from Istanbul, Turkey, at six years old. In moving to the states, St. Gregory became her second home. On a parish level, after graduating Sunday school, she joined St. Gregory's ACYOA Juniors chapter. Later she helped rebuild the St. Gregory ACYOA Seniors chapter, in which she became the chair of

in 2011. She also regularly sings in the choir at her church. On a diocesan level, Nora attended Hye Camp for many years. There, she began as a camper, then counselor, and finally became the head female counselor and taught the Armenian language class to the campers. Along with camp, she helped chaperone many regional lock-ins and retreats. Nora also attended St. Vartan Camp, as head female counselor, and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, staffing the high school sessions. In 2012, Nora was a participant in the Armenian Service Program and, in 2014, she was a participant in the pilgrimage to Jerusalem with the Primate.

Nora has a degree in Public Health. She is currently a Health Navigator, certified Wellness Coach, and Fitness Instructor. She is specialized in dietetics. She works at Advocate Health Care-- the largest health system in Illinois-- which she helps improve the lives of employees by assessing their health and working with them to better develop their well-being as they progress toward their goals. She strives to improve lives by pushing her clients to find success and satisfaction from every element of their lifestyle. She helps her clients find the motivation and tools to get to their physical and emotional health goals, and overall well-being. Nora has a passion for helping people and serving the Christ in the Armenian Church.

Nora has served on Central Council for two years; first year as Programming Chair and this past year as Vice Chair.

**Nicholas Tashjian, St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ**

Nicholas Tashjian resides in Dover, NJ as a 25-year-old engineer who wishes to better serve the Armenian Church community by participating on the ACYOA Central Council. Nick served the St. Leon Chapter of the ACYOA Juniors first as a corresponding secretary and then the chairman. In 2016-2017 he served as secretary for both the St. Leon Chapter of the ACYOA Seniors and the General Assembly and Sports Weekend planning committee. He was responsible for taking meeting minutes, planning events, and fabricating the giant jenga at that awesome food truck event the Sports Weekend committee managed to pull off. Some of the events he planned and executed were the first annual 2016 St. Leon ACYOA volleyball tournament, the ACYOA Super Bowl fundraiser where he fabricated the wings, and the St. Leon hiking and fishing outing. In 2017 he served the Central Council on the auditing committee. Nick has attended ACYOA functions such as chapter workshop, leadership conference, Armenian Service Program (ASP), and General Assembly as a delegate. The Armenian community and the ACYOA has provided him with a sense of fulfillment since he was a kid at St. Vartan Camp. He hopes to give back in a greater manner by serving on the Central Council. He appreciates the opportunity to run for a position on the Central Council and would work passionately to contribute to the Armenian Church community.

**\*Arsen Yelegen, St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church, White Plains, NY**

Since a young age, Arsen Yelegen has been an active member of St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church in White Plains, NY. He is both an Armenian School and Sunday School graduate. After graduating from Sunday School, Arsen began serving on the

altar and is currently a sub-deacon. He is an active member of the ACYOA and has served as the ACYOA Juniors Chairperson as well as the vice co-chair of the Seniors. Arsen has served as the public relations coordinator on the Central Council for the past two years. During that time, the Central Council has switched over to a new user-friendly email marketing platform, and has begun featuring chapters and individuals in their monthly newsletters. Arsen is currently in the process of creating a new ACYOA website to replace the current outdated website.

During his time away at college, Arsen volunteered as a youth advisor for the St. Peter ACYOA Juniors in Watervliet, NY. He also helped lead altar serving classes with the youth of the parish.

Arsen has been actively involved with the national programming that the Eastern Diocese has to offer. He has served as a CIT and as a staff member at St. Vartan Camp. He has also attended several Lenten Retreats, Chapter Workshops, and Leadership Conferences. In the summer of 2016, Arsen had the privilege of participating on the Armenian Service Program (ASP). Lastly, Arsen has attended numerous St. Nersess summer conferences over the past 11 years as a participant as well as a counselor. In 2014, Arsen was a participant in the pilgrimage to Jerusalem with the St. Nersess Deacons' Training Program.

Arsen graduated from the University at Albany in 2014 with a double major in Sociology and Criminal Justice. He is currently working as a caseworker for adolescent youth at The Children's Village and is also attending grad school at John Jay School of Criminal Justice.

Parish	Priest	Chapter Chair	# of mem	List Activities/Events sponsored by your chapter in 2017 based on the Circles of the Cross: Worship, Witness, Education, Service and Fellowship	Describe your most successful event in 2017:	How was your priest's involvement in your chapter?	What was your relationship with the Parish Council?	Describe your greatest challenge as a chapter:	Describe a goal you have for your chapter in the coming year:	What regional and national events did your ACVOA members participate in this past year?	Please select the answer that best describes your contact with your liaison:	Name/Position of person completing the report	How can the ACVOA Central Council help your chapter in the coming year?	Additional Comments
Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY	Abraham Makrisian	Brian Sarafyan	22	Fellowship, relationships that nourish the Armenian youth - Father's Day BBQ - Relationship with church - aycoia Sunday, every 2nd Sunday we help with church services Witness: Sharing the light with others - attending aycoia retreats Service: fulfill needs of parish and community - soup kitchen last spring - hosting fellowship at church, once or twice a year - coat drive in December	Palm Sunday - Juniors made food, Seniors put together a program	He would support us as much as he can, and he is always here if we need help.	In the past years we didn't real have a real relationship, we are slowly building on it	Attendance, participating juniors	Helping juniors, Attendance.	Chapter Workshop, Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Leadership Conference	I love my liaison, they have been extremely helpful	Brian Sarafyan, Chairman	Not sure, more discussion with group needed	N/A
Holy Trinity Armenian Church	Vahken Kozdoulan	Anna Margaryan & Sandra Hovsepian	51	Trivia night, Lenten discussion series with st James, hosting fellowship hour, volleyball tournament, asavadzian brunch, Palm Sunday ACVOA day, thanksgiving luncheon, Dave and Buster's ACVOA Night.	Our Volleyball tournament had a turnout of over 70 athletic participants and 20 spectators. We made close to \$1,000 in profit just in one day because of the tournament.		Getting new people to come to events, competing with surrounding Armenian events and communities	Increase chapter participation in regional and diocesan events	Chapter Workshop, Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Armenia Leadership Program, Leadership Conference	My liaison is helpful	Mostly Sandra but I asked Anna and Ya to confirm what I put in :)	Reach out to all dues paying members in participation, I feel like the same chairs and executive board reaching out isn't doing enough. We would be nice to have CC reach out to people individually and encourage members to be more involved	N/A	
St David Armenian Church in Boca Raton	Dea Paron	Tatiana Iskandarian	13	Masquerade Ball, food festival, school dance, women's guild, Valentine's Day event	Food Festival	Very involved	Close	Communication	To help out more around the church and come together	Chapter Workshop	I love my liaison, they have been extremely helpful	Tatiana Iskandarian Chairwoman	Your guys are doing awesome	Not
Armenian Church of the Holy Translators	Rev. Fr. Kiyor Sabourjian	Arthur Sabourjian	13	Various Social Dinners, A Thanksgiving Pot Luck.	Thanksgiving Pot Luck	Spiritual inspiration and Supportive Role	Very Good	Getting a group of young adults self-motivated to get together for formal ACVOA Events.	We will be transitioning Chairpersons, and transforming the role into a Co-Chair position.	Chapter Workshop, Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend	I love my liaison, they have been extremely helpful	Arthur Sabourjian - Chair Person	Continue to hear with us as we transition into a new group of young adults.	N/A
Hy'e Pointe in Haverhill, MA	Rev. Father Vard Vart Gyzozian	Nathan Khiban	12	Hosted Palm Sunday Dinner, Mother's Day Dance, Sunday School Breakfast, Volunteer at Annual Picnic, Tavoo night.	Mother's Day Dance featuring Tigran Asatryan and band.	Excellent. Dea Vard is an incredible resource when it comes to planning events and acting as liaison to other groups at our parish.		Increasing youth involvement and membership to a point where new leaders can step up.	Hold more bible studies and general meetings. Increase youth involvement and develop leaders for the coming year.	Chapter Workshop, Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Leadership Conference	I respect a few liaison from my ACVOA	Daniel Khiban - Treasurer ACVOA Hy'e Pointe	We would like to receive ideas for generating more interest in our chapter from the youth in our region.	Looking forward to another year of growth and learning!
St. Mary - Livingston, NJ	Dea Arakel Vardazayan	Marcus Dalakan	5	Palm Sunday Luncheon, Christmas Bake Sale	The Palm Sunday Luncheon was a successful fellowship event.	Not involved, but we don't do anything.	We are not very active.	Participation	To participate in more ACVOA sponsored events	Palm Sunday, Sports Weekend, Armenia Service Program	I love my liaison, they have been extremely helpful	Matt Dalakan, Chairman Emeritus	Send Malloy back here for Palm Sunday	Malloy is the best liaison
St. Sarkis, Charlotte	Fr. Samuel Manucharov	Michael Manucharov	8	Palm Sunday Luncheon, Theology on Tap, Bible Studies, House Blessings, Kids Movie Nights, Church Food Festival, UNCC International Festival, Volunteering at Second Harvest Food Bank, Serving during Badarak, few others that I can't remember :)	Most of our events are successful, if I have to choose one it would be Palm Sunday Luncheon because we work together to cook the meals, always have a blast while doing it, as well as fund raise a good amount.	Father Samuel is always working with us and helping out.	Parish Council is very supportive and cooperative with the ACVOA.	With all of us being so busy, it is always difficult to get full attendance on events. Additionally with so few members we have to worry about if we will have enough resources to complete events.	To have bible studies/meetings once a month and have some kind of event once a month.	Chapter Workshop, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Leadership Conference	I love my liaison, they have been extremely helpful	Michael Manucharov, Was Chairman during 2017. Currently Vice Chair.	Central Council helped suggesting how we can succeed with such few members and provided ideas to increase event/fundraising occurrences.	I believe we have a strong group of hard working members as well as a strong family bond. We are going to try to find more time to participate while building our families and hoping that we can top previous years.

Parish	Priest	Chapter Chair	# of mem	List Activities/Events sponsored by your chapter in 2017 based on the Circles of the Cross: Worship, Witness, Education, Service and Fellowship	Describe your most successful event in 2017:	How was your priest's involvement in your chapter?	What was your relationship with the Parish Council?	Describe your greatest challenge as a chapter.	Describe a goal you have for your chapter in the coming year.	What regional and national events did your ACVOA members participate in this past year?	Please select the answer that best describes your contact with your liaison.	Name/Position of person completing the report	How can the ACVOA Central Council help your chapter in the coming year?	Additional Comments
St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago	Dr. Narek Garabedian	Mary Keutelian	5	Worship ACVOA Juniors and seniors serve both on the altar and in the choir weekly. Witness Attendance Regional Lenten Retreat (Juniors and Seniors) Juniors' retreat at Camp Hickory in Ingleside, IL Seniors' retreat at St. John in Detroit, MI Leadership Conference in Kamsville, WI (November 17-19) Attendance at ACVOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend in Fair Lawn, NJ (May 25-29) St. Gregory ACVOA highlighted in ACVOA Central Council Monthly e-Newsletter (November) Education Signing of "The Promise" and Q&A discussion (September 30) Service Volunteered at New Moms / Bright Endeavors with Dr. Narek (March 11) Preparing and passing out meals to the homeless (June 17) Hosted Palm Sunday / ACVOA Day Luncheon (April 9) Armenian Fast (August 13-14) Prepared dinner at the Ronald McDonald House in Hines, IL (November 3) Hosted a Christmas donation drive for New Moms (November 5 - December 10) Fellowship Summer outing at the Evanston beach (July 15) Hosted "Halloween-themed coffee hour" (October 29)	These events were most successful: (1) 12 ACVOA Juniors and St. Gregory church on a Saturday morning to prepare and pass out homeless lunches in downtown Chicago. One individual who we met asked that we pray with him, and it impacted the group as to WHY we do/should do these acts of kindness. (2) About a dozen of us volunteered at a Ronald McDonald House and prepared dinner for the homeless. (3) We were in the hospital. This was a family affair in that parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents joined our ACVOA with the evening. (3) Over the course of five weeks, the ACVOA held a Christmas donation drive for the organization New Moms. We collected toys, books and clothes for young kids, and clothes, toiletries, and gifts for their parents. We also collected over a dozen large donations bags worth of donations which required to trips to take to the organization.	Dr. Narek joined us full-time midway through the year, but on a Saturday morning he had an integral part in encouraging us to plan events.	Good. See additional comments below.	Two-fold. We have great involvement when we have the ACVOA fellowship with Juniors. It's difficult to get the same level of participation for all events, depending on what the event is. Even though we have a core group, how do we get others more engaged?	Retain current membership and work on growing ACVOA. We need to make sure they remain involved as they transition to college. Develop more of a presence within the parish by hosting fellowship hour every other month.	Chapter Workshop, Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Leadership Conference	I love my liaison, they have been extremely helpful	Mary Keutelian, ACVOA Srs. Chair	N/A at this time.	With Ani Agorian as our ACVOA Srs. Advisor, the PC in constant communication with the ACVOA's activities. She's been a huge asset in getting out Juniors and Seniors more engaged with email/text communications and attending events.
Armenian Church of Our Saviour Worcester, MA	Dr. Ayved	Gary Doudakian	5	0	none	Very responsive to any question, inquiries or needs.	Great communication sharing between councils.	none	Revive chapter and promote membership amongst church youth.	Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, Sports Weekend, Armenia Service Program, Leadership Conference	I received a few emails from my liaison	Gary Doudakian	I do not believe the central council can help our chapter	No additional comments.
Jacksonville	Fr. Takos Abdalian	Nicholas Yedigiarov	10	Food drive, volunteering for homeless, cleanup events	Food drive generated a lot of product to send over to the local youth charities	Excellent even though there is a traveling priest and we are a mission parish, he has been with us since we were considered "Juniors" age and is actively involved in the betterment and advanced of the Armenian Church of Jacksonville	Close, some of the deacon assistants are actively working with the PC to ensure growth, effective capital allocation, and recruitment for our future.	Recruitment is difficult especially with us considered a mission Parish and having to use a temporary facility for a church.	To continue focusing on services, worship and overall comradere.	Chapter Workshop, Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Leadership Conference	I received a few emails from my liaison	Rafael Gtigroryan-Vice Chair	Continuing clear communication to improve overall efficiency	N/A
St. Kevork	Martiros Hakobyan	Vicken Asadourian	25	Chapter Workshop (technically CC), Antic Margaryan Show (fellowship), Palm Sunday Luncheon (Service)	Antic Margaryan Comedy Night, Palm Sunday Luncheon	(Comes to meetings (usually hosted in his office), comes to events. He is active.	Met with them when needed to ask to use the facilities or plan an event.	Getting people engaged.	Thinking in a post-Vicken world	Chapter Workshop, Sports Weekend	I love my liaison, they have been extremely helpful	Vicken Asadourian - Chair	Teach them how to run a chapter	2018 has gotten off to a good start, and we're looking to keep it up!
St. Sarkis Carrollton, TX	Der Ghevord	Sevag Koulian	25	Palm Sunday luncheon, Kyarik ou Krv movie night	Palm Sunday luncheon	He always has our back, and he encourages us to be as active as we can be.	We have a good relationship, and they have a selected individual ACVOA liaison in order to communicate better.	Participation and consistency in events	Have an event every month	Chapter Workshop, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend	My liaison is helpful	Sevag Koulian, chairman	I'd like to hear more from other chapters for better ideas for smaller chapters.	
Ss. Joachim and Anne	Fr. Tavak Boyajian	Natalie Merdjanian	5	None	N/A	There wasn't much he could have been involved with, he normally would sit in on meetings whenever we've had them (which is rare)	Not much interaction (hope to change this in 2018)	To gather as a group and take action. Most people are in college, so it's hard to take initiative.	To get our chapter up and running again and actually DO things	Chapter Workshop, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Armenia Service Program, Leadership Conference	My liaison is helpful	Natalie Merdjanian	They could provide examples of service projects/organizations.	Working on a website for our chapter @ acvoaseniors.com

Parish	Priest	Chapter Chair	# of mem	List Activities/Events sponsored by your chapter in 2017 based on the Circles of the Cross: Worship, Witness, Education, Service and Fellowship	Describe your most successful event in 2017:	How was your priest's involvement in your chapter?	What was your relationship with the Parish Council?	Describe your greatest challenge as a chapter:	Describe a goal you have for your chapter in the coming year:	What regional and national events did you participate in this past year?	Please select the answer that best describes your contact with your liaison:	Name/Position of person completing the report	How can the ACVOA Central Council help your chapter in the coming year?	Additional Comments
St. Gregory of Narek	Fr. Hrach Sargsyan	Rupen Kayayan	3	Held bible study, mission parish trips to Columbus and Pittsburgh	Bible study.	Der Arakel led bible study, drove us to mission parish for bakarak	There was no communication with parish council.	Not enough youth of age available in getting involved with the ACVOA.	Get someone from Cleveland to go to Sports Weekend.	Parish Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Leadership Conference	calls, texts, and emails from liaison - Melissa is doing a great job	Rupen Kayayan, Chair	Send people our way.	It's been difficult in Cleveland. We just don't have many people interested in the ACVOA. Personally, haven't been going to church regularly and haven't had the time to run the chapter.
Saint James-Methuen Massachusetts	Der Arakel Ajlalian	Anais Asatryan & Vimey Moushigian	60	Each Lent we host and partake in our Lenten Discussion series along with Holy Trinity in Cambridge. This combines worship, education and fellowship and has grown in popularity over the past two years. We also encourage our members to attend a soup kitchen, where we work together to serve the homeless. Each year we also help out with our Family Day Thanksgiving Dinner and a Palm Sunday Banquet, which is fun for our ACVOA. Our members also have a Lenten prayer service for Sports Weekend as well. Each year we also partake in Gabriel's Day of Kindness, and this year we did so by handing out bagged lunches to the homeless. We also hosted a College Student Sunday for our ACVOA Seniors, where many of our members came, since they had just returned from college, and we watched the football game as a group. I think we have done a good job of planning and partaking in events that draws from all of the circles of the cross.	As an executive board we always discuss how we define success. For some events it is gathering a large number of people to attend, whereas for others it is more about how the content of the event helps our members to grow as Armenian Catholics. We have had many successful Lenten events, such as the Lenten Discussions. Members always comment on how those were beneficial to them.	Der Arakel has a great relationship with all of our members. He checks in with our executive board often and makes all parts of almost all of our general and executive meetings.	Our Parish Council supports us in all of our endeavors.	Our greatest challenge that we face as a chapter is getting members to attend our events. This is difficult because there are so many events that take place in our area that	One of our goals for this year is to hold events that more of our members will attend to increase attendance. We are currently planning one major event that will hopefully bring in Armenian youth from Cleveland to help us to work together to support a great cause.	Chapter Workshop, Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Leadership Conference	I love my liaison, they have been extremely helpful	For us, the change in liaison was very helpful, as we are now able to meet with our liaison in person. Danielle has provided us with a lot of guidance and is always willing to support our ideas, which is	none	Looking forward to hosting sw
St. Gregory the Enlightened	Der Mesrob Hovsepian	Michael Givsekhan	15	Pain Sunday banquet, Acvoa fjs and seniors icea breakers	Pain Sunday	We haven't been doing as much as we would like with the acvoa and plan on doing more this year, whenever we need our priest's guidance however he is always there for us!!	We have an open communication, and work together with our central council liaison and feel we have a lot of support	Getting everyone together for meetings	Hosting a dance to bring neighborhood parishes together, build basketball teams to join the ACSA basketball league	Chapter Workshop, Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Leadership Conference	I love my liaison, they have been extremely helpful	Michael Givsekhan acvoa seniors chairperson	Ideas for scheduling the year in full	
St. Mesrob Amniant Church	Der Avedis Kalyan	Emily Janikian	15	Christmas Caroling, Hot Meal Program, Raised Money for FARR at Palm Sunday Luncheon, Habitat for Humanity	Christmas Caroling	Very involved	Not close	Participation/their want to be involved	More participation/involve ment from members	Chapter Workshop, Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Leadership Conference	My liaison is helpful	Anna Grigorian		
St. Mark Armenian Church, Springfield MA	Der Sevak Gabrelyan	Tatene Jermekhan	8	Our St. Mark ACVOA hosted a pasta Lenten dinner for our parish in March. We were also invited at the opportunity for our parish to host an ACVOA Seniors Regional Retreat. ACVOA members are a highlight on our parishioners and a time for us to connect with our members and talents in putting on a successful event as a group. Our Labor Day weekend at our parish's annual Armenian Fest, the ACVOA once again had an iced coffee booth. We were happy to participate in the parish's biggest fundraiser. In December the ACVOA hosted a coffee hour, and helped decorate the church Christmas tree! Maybe the biggest highlight for our group was once again organizing a "Giving Tree" for St. Mark, parishioners to buy gifts for children living at two local shelters. We are always overwhelmed with the generosity of our parishioners and loved delivering the gifts to the shelters just before Christmas. All members have been so helpful in making sure we are having the opportunity to help those in need is extremely fulfilling.	ACVOA Palm Sunday was our most financially successful, and we had the most parishioners attend this past year. We have a great relationship with the UMass Armenian club to come as our guests and also speak to our parishioners. They loved being at our church and are planning to do this again this year.	We are not as organized as we should be with having regular meetings. Our Der Sevak made an effort to connect with our youth.	Tatene, our Chair, is our most informed so they are informed about ACVOA activities	ACVOA Seniors aging out of the group, or are in different places in their lives (for example). The younger Seniors are all away at school.	Have more regular meetings, do more community service	Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend	I love my liaison! I should do a better job of keeping in touch as well. He has checked in and he has been good.	Tatene Jermekhan, Chair	Continue advertising ACVOA events to local activities and highlight the successes of various parishes. It's encouraging to read about the hard work of different ACVOA committees come to life!	none)
St. Leon, Fair Lawn NJ	Der Drian Botghian	Linda Charnesian	51	Pizza & Bible study, saint baking, General Assembly & Sports Weekend, Food Blessing, Food Blessing, Super Bowl Party, Food Festival, Hiking, Clothing Drive for old age home, General Body meetings (beach and bakarak in the works)	Hosting GA & Sports Weekend, or Volleyball Tournament	Der Drian is always very supportive of our ACVOA. He attends meetings regularly, offering his advice and guidance.	Our Parish Council was also extremely helpful in supporting us in our events throughout the year and especially in supportive when it came to Sports Weekend plans.	Our greatest challenge is our ACVOA members to attend worship events. We have plans to implement new bible studies and worship activities to motivate more members to attend.	To plan events that target heart treatment of the local and national level.	Chapter Workshop, Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend	I love my liaison, they have been extremely helpful	Linda Charnesian		

P parish	P Priest	C Chapter Chair	# of mem	List Activities/Events sponsored by your chapter in 2017 based on the Circles of the Cross: Worship, Witness, Education, Service and Fellowship	Describe your most successful event in 2017:	How was your priest's involvement in your chapter?	What was your relationship with the Parish Council?	Describe your greatest challenge as a chapter:	Describe a goal you have for your chapter in the coming year:	What regional and national events did your ACYOA members participate in this past year?	Please select the answer that best describes your relationship with your liaison:	Name/Position of person completing the report	How can the ACYOA Central Council help your chapter in the coming year?	Additional Comments
St. Mary, Washington DC	Dei Housep	Vesken Sepkekan	10	The ACYOA Seniors attended and held several events in 2017. We started off 2017 with our Annual Christmas party hosted by Debbie and Steve. We had a luncheon at PF Chang's and enjoyed dinner and meeting at PF Chang's, and enjoyed fellowship with each other. In the month of March, we hosted a Lenten dinner immediately following service. Additionally, the ACYOA Seniors hosted the annual Palm Sunday luncheon, with the help of some ACYOA Juniors. The ACYOA Seniors attended the General Assembly and Sports Weekend in New Jersey, as delegates and attendees. St. Mary's Seniors had both a basketball and volleyball team. Near the end of the summer, ACYOA Seniors planned a National VS Misses baseball game ending with the ACYOA Juniors on 1st pitch at the ballpark. Lastly throughout the year, we had a Lenten Bible study and ACYOA Seniors attended and hosted weekly Advent Bible studies at the church.	Our most successful event was the bowling event in 2017. We had a general meeting and then went bowling, and went to dinner as a group. Approximately 12 members were present.	Our priest is very supportive, but he was very ill this past year so he was not as involved.	Our PC chairman was very helpful and they helped and supported us to attend national ACYOA events and offered financial support from the church.	There is a slight disconnect within our board. Some members have stopped participating. We also find it difficult to get people to attend events, especially "non-fellowship" events.	Our goal for the coming year is to form a group with ACYOA Juniors.	Chapter Workshop, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Leadership Conference	I love my liaison, they have been extremely helpful	Vesken Sepkekan/ President	Provide additional ideas to increase attendance to events	N/A
Sis. Sahag and Mesrob Armentian Church	Dei Shirok Souin	Christina Panagian	11	Bowling outing (fellowship), Softball game (fellowship worship), Chocolate covered pretzels fundraiser (service).	Our most successful event was the bowling event in 2017. We had a general meeting and then went bowling, and went to dinner as a group. Approximately 12 members were present.	Good, our chapler has a great relationship with our priest	Good, we communicate well to each other	We created a new board this year and it has been an adjustment as we all try and grow into our new roles. We have a very young board as well.	My goal for our chapter would be to make more events that are appealing to all of our members and get everyone involved.	Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Armenia Service Program, Leadership Conference	My liaison is helpful	Art Misirlyan/ Chair	continue giving us support as our board is so young	nothing
St. John's, Southfield	Father Aren	Art Misirlyan	20	1. Lenten Dinners 2. ACYOA Day - Palm Sunday at the church hall 3. Election meetings electing the new board 4. November Darco Meetings 5. Attending ACYOA Annual Leadership Conference in Wisconsin 6. November Darco 2017 7. Sponsored tea, coffee, and cookies for Western Christmas Eve	Our most successful event in 2017 would be our annual November dance. We had over 200 people this year, and we are hoping to continue increasing the amount of people that attend this event in the future.	Good, our chapler has a great relationship with our priest	Good, we communicate well to each other	We created a new board this year and it has been an adjustment as we all try and grow into our new roles. We have a very young board as well.	My goal for our chapter would be to make more events that are appealing to all of our members and get everyone involved.	Lenten Retreats, Palm Sunday, General Assembly, Sports Weekend, Armenia Service Program, Leadership Conference	My liaison is helpful	Art Misirlyan/ Chair	continue giving us support as our board is so young	nothing
														We would like Central Council to Regional events.

## **Bylaws Amendment for 2018 ACYOA General Assembly**

*Submitted by: Peter Oundjian*

*Whereas*, Article 4, Section 1 of the ACYOA bylaws states, “All persons at least 18 years old, who are communicant members of the Armenian Church, are eligible for membership.”

And *Whereas*, the ACYOA Juniors is open to youth ages 13-18 in junior high and high school.

And *Noting*, no statement in the ACYOA bylaws point out a clarification of the eligibility of members 18 years old.

And *Reaffirming*, this amendment will be in accordance to all Sections of the bylaws in Article 14

*Be it proposed*, to amend Article 4, Section 1 of the ACYOA bylaws stating, “All persons at least 18 years old and completed high school, who are communicant members of the Armenian Church, are eligible for membership.”

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ATTENDEES OF THE ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 2018, IN NEW YORK CITY  
A PROPOSAL TO REFORM THE ACYOA ANNUAL SPORTS WEEKEND

We, and many others, feel that in recent years the ACYOA's flagship event, the annual General Assembly and Sports Weekend, has gradually drifted from its original intent. Sports Weekend was initiated in 1970 as an enhancement of the annual ACYOA Convention that had been held yearly starting in 1947. The conventions of the 1940s, 50s, and 60s included General Assembly, activities for non-delegates to do around the city during the meeting sessions, as well as the three nightly dances which we have become accustomed to. The event took place annually on Labor Day Weekend. Starting with a welcome reception on Friday night, all day Saturday was devoted to General Assembly, occasionally with tours of local attractions thrown in, Saturday night featured a dance, Sunday was the occasion for attendees to participate in Badarak, which was followed by a wrap-up of General Assembly, and Sunday night was highlighted by a banquet and dance, attended by the primate. Monday morning featured an Armenian picnic of shish kebab with the trimmings, hosted by the local parish. The evening events were generally held at the hotel or at the host parish's hall. Of course, live Armenian keff bands were a must at all dances and at the picnic, though in the early days, live American dance bands were often additionally hired. In the 1970s, the format was changed to the familiar Sports Weekend, meetings started on Thursday night and went all day Friday while Saturday was devoted to sports and Sunday to Badarak and the sports finals. Both a banquet and keff dance was held all three nights, and there was still the Monday picnic. Again, a second, American dance band was often hired in this era as well. Venues remained hotel ballrooms and church halls.

As you can see from the history of Sports Weekend and the ACYOA Convention Weekend which preceded it, the focus of the weekend was not on overpriced, flashy, and unnecessary venues, hitting up the hottest nightclubs in town, and hiring flashy Armenian pop singers who charge an arm and a leg to perform. The focus of the weekend was, and we believe in the minds of many participants still is, on fellowship as members of the ACYOA. Fellowship as Armenian Christians dedicated to their Christian faith, Armenian Church, Armenian community, Armenian culture, and good citizenship.

In the past few years, measures were taken to try to "clean up" Sports Weekend from the negative "partying" image that it has taken on. Some of these measures were kept, and some were only used for a brief period. It was attempted to hold the event at a conference center rather than a hotel (discouraging many participants); later small boutique hotels were tried out (too expensive and hard to fit many people into one room as is customary). The system of getting clergy approval was instituted, which only led to those who did not have regular contact with diocesan clergy from being excluded from the event. Yet, the system of clergy approval had not been proven to be fool proof as the bad apples who really wanted to come just to party, ended up finding a way to come anyway.

It is our feeling that all of the above measures, while well intended, were taken in the wrong direction. They were all exclusionary measures, trying to limit the amount of people coming and what kind of people were coming and what kind of hotel the event could be held in. But at the same time that these exclusionary measures were taken, year after year, the host committees attempted to outdo each other in how flashy and extravagant they could make Sports Weekend. Some of these added attractions were indeed cool, but many of them were expensive and all of them were unnecessary. Holding events in expensive venues drives up the price of the attendee's package. Holding them in boutique hotels also made Sports Weekend cost prohibitive for many attendees. The focus on club nights with "hot" DJs was

a departure from the shoorch-bar filled Armenian dance parties of earlier years, which were a continuation of our age old traditions that our ancestors brought with them from historic Armenia. And in general, the mentality of host committees was that despite the clergy approval rule and other restrictions, everything else about the weekend had to be as flashy as possible in order to get the most attendees from the general Armenian population.

In our opinion, we don't necessarily want the highest possible number of attendees from the general Armenian population. We want quality and not quantity. The purpose of this weekend is not to generate revenue. The purpose is Christian fellowship for ACYOA members and friends (those from the greater Armenian community to showcase the uniqueness of the ACYOA). In addition, the purpose is to recruit people into ACYOA – who are going to be interested in the purposes of ACYOA. If we recruit people with club nights, how are we going to get them interested in coming to other Christian formation events like Leadership Conference, or starting a chapter in their home parish, or immersing themselves in the spiritual life of the Armenian Church? If this is the purpose then the weekend should reflect the values of ACYOA. That doesn't mean it has to be a tea party or a spiritual retreat. We need our annual social affair, as any organization does. But it does mean that we need to take a hard look at what our priorities are when we plan a GA/SW and the events we include, the venues we choose, and so forth. It can be as simple as hosting the event at the hotel ballroom or the church hall, rather than a fancy venue. It can be as simple as giving the bid to a smaller chapter, rather than only voting for larger chapters in larger cities every year. Making Sports Weekend better this year can be as simple as getting the best oud or clarinet players rather than the hottest DJ; holding a shish kebab picnic on Monday instead of having no food served to attendees all weekend, because the money needed to be spent on a flashy downtown venue.

We would like to add another suggestion to make Sports Weekend better, and that is more alumni involvement. Encouraging the alumni of the local host parish community to attend the Sunday banquet and dance is a start. But if we also had alumni walking around the hotel all weekend, maybe some of the destructive behavior we have seen would be diminished merely by their presence. Having alumni involvement at larger events during the weekend will allow them to support the ACYOA beyond the years in which they can members, and in turn, guide, counsel, and have a positive impact on the younger generation of ACYOA members. We feel this can be a self-sustaining atmosphere for our organization to better create multigenerational members and encourage a positive atmosphere which the ACYOA is intended to create.

We suggest therefore a threefold reform to Sports Weekend: 1. No more flashy venues; hold events in the hotel ballrooms and church halls (thus enabling the local community to support and encourage the youth for the weekend); and have banquets every night so attendees come down from their hotel rooms to get their money's worth. 2. Make sure it is affordable to all (simple venues, and hiring traditional Armenian bands, desirable in themselves, rather than flashy acts will help with that) and open to all (an end to the clergy approval system). 3. Increase alumni involvement, in order to tone down the weekend, and re-orient it toward the spirit of the ACYOA.

All three of these points are aimed at re-orienting the weekend to true spirit of our organization, however, this threefold reform is not our formal proposal; our proposal is the following:

## PROPOSAL

That the Central Council take it upon themselves to see to it that reform is carried out in order to re-orient the decision-making process of GA/SW host committees toward the true spirit of the ACYOA. The above comments are some of our suggestions in that regard.

Harry Kezelian, St. John's, Southfield, Michigan

Timothy Aivazian, Member-At-Large

## A PROPOSAL FOR THE ACYOA TO EXPAND ITS OUTREACH TO YOUNG ADULTS

That the ACYOA extend its stated age range to 35, and to work to create programming to minister not only to this “new” group of 30-somethings, but also to be more active in recruiting and creating programming aimed at the people in their late 20s (25-30) whom the ACYOA already states are within its target audience, but who often feel they are too old for the organization and feel too young for other auxiliary organizations within the church.

### REASONING

The ACYOA constitution clearly lays out the purposes of the organization. Although the constitution goes into more detail, broadly there are 4 parts to the purpose of the ACYOA, 1. to encourage its members to learn and practice the Christian faith according to Armenian Church tradition; 2. To strengthen the Armenian Church and promote Armenian heritage; 3. To strengthen the spiritual and social bond among its members, and contribute to healthy Armenian community life; 4. To uphold the Constitution of the United States, in other words, to be good American citizens. To this, the recent revision of the Constitution added the 5 circles of the cross: Worship, Service, Education, Fellowship, and Witness. These 5 circles were actually borrowed from the youth programming of the Lutheran Church but they have served us well. The original four purposes can be summarized even more succinctly as 1. Armenian Christian faith 2. Support of the Church and Armenian culture. 3. Fellowship/Armenian community life and 4. Citizenship.

What none of these purposes mention explicitly, although they often mention that these purposes be promoted “among the membership” or that there be spiritual and social bonds “among members,” is who are the members?

Considering that the name of the organization is the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, it is clear that the intended membership is the youth. But what do we mean by youth? In some churches, youth is used to refer to adolescents of high school age or even younger. We use it that way too, but in terms of the ACYOA as an organization, it has always been stated that members must be 18 or have graduated from High School. Further changes to our policy have stated that to attend General Assembly and Sports Weekend, the participant must be 18 AND have graduated from high school, moreover, have been out of high school since the previous school year. Therefore it is safe to say that the intended membership of the ACYOA is what we would typically call “young adults.” This is in line with the original purposes of ACYOA when it was founded by Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan of blessed memory.

What is a young adult? A young adult, anyone would most likely tell you, is a person who is an adult, that is, over 18 and legally independent from their parents, yet who is still considered

“Young,” who is in the transitional stage of their life; who is perhaps still in college, perhaps still in graduate school, who has not yet settled into their first stable career, who is not yet married or who is perhaps married but hasn’t yet had any children. People in this stage of life are uniquely open to new ideas, they are deciding what course they want their life to take, they are in flux. It was the goal of Tiran Nersoyan in 1946 to create an organization to create activities and programming for the first American-born Armenian generation within the context of the Armenian Orthodox Church; to minister to them on their own terms and give them the support, love, opportunities, and fellowship that they needed to feel that they were a part of the Armenian Church and the Armenian Church was speaking to them and had a

place for them while they were in this transitional period of life. Furthermore, one could say that it was feared the young generation would be lost to the Armenian Church if programming was not developed to cater specifically to them while they were in this transitional and uniquely fluctuating stage of life; when they were no longer being brought to church by their parents. And it can be further said that once an individual has a stable career and children of their own, priorities completely change. If the individual still feels at home in the Armenian Church, they will begin to focus on bringing their children to Church, baptizing them, enrolling them in Sunday School, and so on. The goal of ACYOA then, is really to bridge the gap between the time one is going to church in the context of the family life of their childhood, and the time when one is taking their own children to church, or participating in the Church as a established and settled adult in more responsible roles, whether the person has children or not. All of the purposes of the ACYOA stated in the constitution can apply equally to Women's Guild or any of the other auxiliary organizations of the church; it is the ACYOA's goal, though unstated officially, to minister to the age group of young adults whose lives are still in flux.

For many years, though unstated in the ACYOA constitution, the age range which the ACYOA claims to minister to has been considered 18-30. Sometimes, this range is stated as 18-28, which seems to be explained by someone's desire to make the age range an even 10 years. In the 1970s, when many of our parents were active ACYOA members, this age range made a lot of sense. In most of the 50s, 60s, 70s, into the 80s, by the time someone was 30 they were basically established in their adult life. Less people went to college, very few people went to grad school, (both factors meaning that they got permanent jobs earlier) and people got married earlier. But this age range is not some kind of law for all time. The situation of modern American society has vastly changed, especially for the generation of young adults affected by the Great Recession. We are constantly reading articles saying that, for example, young people have not continued to live with their parents at the current levels in decades. Even without the Great Recession, modern society has postponed the end of young adulthood a great deal. Almost all those with the means to do so are attending college, huge numbers of people attend some kind of graduate school or post college education, people are choosing to get married later than in the past, and so on. The ACYOA, however, has not changed with the times. We have kept our stated age range as 18-30, and in real life, people begin to already feel too old for ACYOA as early as 25. If the ACYOA is going to successfully minister to people in the young adult stage of life, it needs to expand its age range to people in their 30s.

Such an age range would not be something unprecedented. In an interview later in his life, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan discussed his reasons for founding the ACYOA and how it all took place and casually mentioned that "we targeted people in their 20s and 30s." John Soursourian, vice chairman of the first ACYOA Central Council, was first elected in 1946 at the age of 32. There is a probable reason for the wider age range in the 40s; World War II meant that many young men and women put their lives on hold as they either served in the military or helped out on the home front. As the war ended in 1945, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan wanted to grab the generation who had just gone through this experience and in fact specifically targeted recently returned veterans as pillars of the young adult community. For that brief moment in time, the end of a young person's "period of flux" skewed older, until it returned to the normal societal levels of the era during the 1950s and people once again had their lives in order by the age of 30.

Currently the ACYOA does not cater to the older contingent of young adults. This means that after graduating high school, a young person stays involved in ACYOA for 4-5 years on average, and gradually drops out. ACYOA is not really catering to people in their late 20s, which is part of their stated mission. But in addition to that, there is an age range of people in their 30s that ACYOA does not even pretend to cater to. So after dropping out of ACYOA around 25, most young people continue with their lives, disengaged from the Armenian Church until they become settled in their lives sometime in their 30s. At that point they might become involved again, if they are particularly devoted to the Church. But many do not; a whole age range of approximately 10 years is not being ministered to by the church; the ACYOA either officially does not take responsibility for them (if they are over 30) or de facto is not ministering to them (if they are in their late 20s). The other roles in the church and auxiliary organizations are not targeted at them either, these roles and groups have always been aimed at adults already established in their lives. The ACYOA is the only group dedicated to ministering to young adults, but due to outdated ideas on the age range of young adulthood, and perhaps an unwillingness to do the work to minister to a larger age group, is falling short in its mission.

Our proposal then, is that the ACYOA extend its stated age range to 35, and to work to create programming to minister not only to this new group of 30-somethings, but also to create programming aimed at the people in their late 20s whom the ACYOA already claims to be ministering to. It is with this proposal that we feel the ACYOA can maximize its fullest and truest potential to realize the mission envisioned by Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan.

Timothy Aivazian, Member-At-Large

Harry Kezelian, St. John's, Southfield, Michigan

# ACYOA SUMMERTIME SERVICE



Summertime Service was established to fulfill the Service Circle, while encompassing the other four Circles of the Cross: Worship, Witness, Education, and Fellowship. This is a new initiative created by the ACYOA Central Council to have all ACYOA chapters actively involved in Service. ACYOA chapters across the Eastern Diocese are encouraged to give back to their local communities by illustrating exemplary leadership through Service opportunities.

## Suggested Guidelines

- ACYOA Senior Chapters will organize a Service Project while incorporating the other Circles of the Cross.
- ACYOA Chapters can plan a Service Project regionally, as well as encourage ACYOA Juniors and church parishioners to join them.
- ACYOA Chapters can work with their Central Council Liaison to brainstorm ideas and plan service projects.

## June

Service to the Environment



### IDEAS:

- Help a neighbor in need with yard work
- Plant flowers and/or landscape at church
- Pick up litter on the roads
- Beach/Lake/Park clean up
- Initiate parish recycling program

## July

Service to the Community



### IDEAS:

- Volunteer at American Red Cross
- Make cards for a local hospital
- Host a blood drive
- Participate in a charitable race/walk
- Partner with The Fuller Center for Housing

## August

Service to the Needy



### IDEAS:

- Serve meals at a soup kitchen
- Have a book, clothing, and/or canned food drive
- Partner with Salvation Army
- Make sandwiches for the homeless
- Volunteer at a food bank

SHARE YOUR SERVICE PROJECTS USING #ACYOASERVICE

## **REPORT OF THE 2018 RESOLUTIONS AND COURTESIES COMMITTEE**

1. Whereas His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians, is a firm supporter of the youth of the Armenian Church and spends generous time with Armenian youth around the world, be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly extends its filial love, respect, and wishes of good health to His Holiness. We, the members of the ACYOA, stand in awe of the extraordinary step to canonize the Martyrs who died for their faith and for fatherland, pledge our continued love and support to His Holiness and the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and congratulate him on his 67th birthday this year.
2. Whereas the V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, our beloved Primate, has presided over the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly, and has provided immeasurable support for the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly, and whereas he continues to implement new programs and carries the torch of enthusiasm for the youth of our Diocese, be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly expresses its gratitude and appreciation for his love, patience, knowledge, insight, and guidance, thanks him for his inspirational and moving message which was delivered at Morning Service during the Assembly.
3. Whereas extend our heartfelt appreciation to our spiritual father and outgoing Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian for his 24 years of dedicated service and leadership of our Diocese and support for youth and young adult programs. We pray for his continued good health and many more years of service to the Armenian Church as he embarks in a new ministry.
4. Whereas Rev. Fr. Arnak Kasparian, passed away this past year, be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly join us in a moment of silence praying for the enlightenment of his soul.
5. Whereas this year marked the 103rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, and whereas there were several extraordinary commemorations of that day throughout the world this year, be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly prays that God continue to give strength and health to the survivors of that horrific event, as well as provide comfort to those families whose relatives perished. We the 2018 General Assembly continue to pledge and honor the “Legacy of the Martyrs”.
6. Whereas May 28<sup>th</sup> marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armenia first being proclaimed an independent republic, and whereas on September 21, the Republic of Armenia will celebrate the 27th anniversary of its renewed independence, be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly extends warm wishes to our brothers and sisters in Armenia, prays for peace and stability in its internal politics, and offers heartfelt prayers for the continued success the Republic of Armenia.
7. Be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly extends heartfelt prayers to our brothers and sisters in Nagorno-Karabagh, including Primate Archbishop Barkev Martirosyan, and President, Bako Sahakyan, and all those around the world defending their basic human rights and right to self-determination.

8. Be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly extends heartfelt prayers to the Armenians living in the homeland, including the newly appointed prime minister Nikol Pashinyan, and President Armen Sarkissian to bring prosperity and equality to Armenia, and peacefully lead Armenia into the future, free from government and corporate corruption.

9. Be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly extends heartfelt prayers to the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Nourhan Manoogian and as well as Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople Archbishop Mesrob II Mutafian, as well as our brothers and sisters amongst the Diaspora around the world.

10. Be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly extends sincere appreciation to the V. Rev. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian for his 28 years of service as out primate, and his support for the Armenian American youth.

11. Be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly extends sincere appreciation to the ACYOA Seniors of the New York Metro Regional Sports Weekend Committee, chaired by Liana Kurkjian along with committee members Adrienne Ashbahian, Aline Givelekian, Michael Givelekian, and Brian Sarafyan, for hosting the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

12. Whereas there were 10 clergymen present at this year's Assembly including: Very, Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Hovsepian, Rev. Fr. Armash Baghdasarian and Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian. And whereas the ACYOA is an integral part of the Armenian Church; it is imperative that the clergy of our parishes support our youth in every endeavor. We also thank all the Diocesan Council members who took time out of their schedule to be with us this weekend. Be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly delegates and the Central Council express their sincere gratitude to the clergy of the Armenian Church and the Diocesan Council members.

13. Whereas this is the 29th year of the passing of Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, and whereas our organization, the ACYOA was founded under his leadership and vision in 1946 and has flourished these 72 years, and whereas Tiran Srpazan was a genocide survivor and also the founder of St. Nersess Seminary, the Choir Association, and many other important initiatives at one of the most crucial times in the history of our Diocese, engaging the first American-born generation of Armenians, be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly prays for the soul of Tiran Srpazan and expresses its gratitude for his legacy.

14. Whereas our Lord speaks through the words of St. John the Evangelist that all Christians, "may become completely one," be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly pray for unity of all Churches following the mission established by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (John 17:23)

15. Whereas the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry serves as an advisor to the ACYOA Central Council, be it resolved that the Central Council and the 2018 ACYOA General

Assembly extends its sincere appreciation to Jennifer Morris and Kathryn Ashbahian for their hard work and dedication towards the youth of the Armenian Church as well as the Director of Ministries, V. Rev. Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan.

16. Whereas new ACYOA Chapters continue to be formed in our Diocese, be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly pledges to assist all chapters in their endeavors, consistent with the teachings of the Armenian Church, and hopes to establish chapters in all parishes within our Diocese.

17. Be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly offers sincere appreciation to outgoing Central Council member Danielle Malconian, re-elected council members Nora Knadjian, and Arsen Yelegen, as well as remaining council members Mallory Maslar, Sona Dagley, Melisa Mardourian and Ronald Malconian, for their dedication to our organization and hard work on its behalf, and also extends congratulations to the newly elected council members Nicholas Tashjian, as well as the alternate, Rafael Grigoryan.

18. Whereas our Primate, the Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, proposed a “Bishop’s Run” in the fall to be a fundraiser for the ACYOA which its proceeds will help fulfill the evangelized mission of the Armenian Church. Be it resolved that the 2018 General Assembly along, with all ACYOA members, will fully support, organize and implement this endeavor.

19. Be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly thanks the 2018 Central Council, and all the delegates and participants for attending and making this Assembly a positive and enlightening experience, and for their service in their respective parishes through the year.

20. Be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly extends its deepest gratitude to the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly Chairman, Daniel Zalinov, Vice-Chairman, Michael Demircian, General Assembly Secretaries, Sara Khebobian and Tanner Asadorian, Sergeants-at-Arms, Ani Misirliyan and Armen Arslanian, Parliamentarians Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian and Jonathan Pelaez, as well as the Nominating Committee comprised of Christina Parnagian, Greta Janigian and Peter Oundjian and Auditing committees comprised of Nicholas Tashjian, Brian Sarafyan, and Aaron Derderian for making this 2018 ACYOA General Assembly a true success.

21. Be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly accepts the 1968 William’s Bay Manifesto as a document of the ACYOA.

22. Be it resolved that the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly will strive to live out the faith-centered Mission Statement of the Armenian Church According to the Teaching of St. Gregory the Illuminator, as presented by our Primate, The Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan.

Respectfully Submitted,  
2018 ACYOA General Assembly Resolutions and Courtesies Committee  
Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Nicholas Tashjian, and Tatiana Nalbandian

## Attachment K - ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AT A GLANCE

TO DO THIS:	YOU SAY THIS:	May I interrupt the speaker?	Do I need a second?	Debatable?	Amendable?	What vote is needed?	Can it be reconsidered?
ADJOURN MEETING	"I move that we adjourn."	NO	YES	NO	NO	MAJORITY	NO
CALL AN INTERMISSION	"I move that we recess for..."	NO	YES	NO	YES	MAJORITY	NO
COMPLAIN ABOUT HEAT, NOISE, ETC.	"I rise to a question of privilege."	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO VOTE	NO (USUALLY)
TEMPORARILY SUSPEND CONSIDERATION OF AN ISSUE	"I move to table the motion."	NO	YES	NO	NO	MAJORITY	NO
END DEBATE AND AMENDMENTS	"I move the previous question."	NO	YES	NO	NO	TWO-THIRDS	NO <sup>1</sup>
POSTPONE DISCUSSION FOR A CERTAIN TIME	"I move to postpone discussion until..."	NO	YES	YES	YES	MAJORITY	YES
GIVE SOMETHING CLOSER STUDY	"I move to refer the matter to committee."	NO	YES	YES	YES	MAJORITY	YES <sup>2</sup>
AMEND A MOTION	"I move to amend the motion by..."	NO	YES	YES <sup>3</sup>	YES	MAJORITY	YES
INTRODUCE BUSINESS	"I move that..."	NO	YES	YES	YES	MAJORITY	YES
<b>**MOTIONS ABOVE ARE IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**</b>							
PROTEST BREACH OF RULES OR CONDUCT	"I rise to a point of order."	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO VOTE <sup>4</sup>	NO
VOTE ON A RULING OF THE CHAIR	"I appeal from the chair's decision."	YES	YES	YES	NO	MAJORITY <sup>5</sup>	YES
AVOID CONSIDERING AN IMPROPER MATTER	"I object to consideration of this motion."	YES	NO	NO	NO	TWO-THIRDS <sup>6</sup>	-
VERIFY A VOICE VOTE BY HAVING MEMBERS STAND	"I call for a division." or "Division!"	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO VOTE	NO
REQUEST INFORMATION	"Point of information."	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO VOTE	NO
RECONSIDER A HASTY ACTION	"I move to reconsider the vote on..."	YES	YES	7	NO	MAJORITY	NO
TAKE UP A MATTER PREVIOUSLY TABLED	"I move to take from the table..."	NO	YES	NO	NO	MAJORITY	NO
SUSPEND RULES TEMPORARILY	"I move to suspend rules so that..."	NO	YES	NO	NO	TWO-THIRDS	NO

<sup>1</sup> Unless vote on question is not yet taken

<sup>2</sup> Unless the committee has already taken up the subject

<sup>3</sup> Only if motion to be amended is debatable

<sup>4</sup> Except in doubtful cases

<sup>5</sup> A majority in negative needed to reverse ruling of chair

<sup>6</sup> A 2/3 vote in negative needed to prevent main motion consideration

<sup>7</sup> Only if motion to be reconsidered is debatable