**Present:**

**Diocesan Vicar Father Simeon Odabashian,** **ACYOA Central Council Members: Chair Lydia Kurkjian, Vice Chair Danny Mantis, Secretary Karen Dardarian, Chapter Relations Coordinator Alex Ouzounian, and Programming Coordinator Gevork Vartanian; Executive Secretary Nancy Basmajian;**

**Absent:**

**His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian;**

**Central Council Member: Treasurer George Macarian and Public Relations Ara Janigian**

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**ACYOA Central Council Meeting**

**Saturday, April 30, 2011 – 10:00 AM**

**Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA**

1. **Opening prayer**

Father Simeon Odabashian opened the meeting with a prayer and we all recited the Hayr Mer.

Since Hayr Simeon has become Vicar, the communication between Central Council and Surpazan has not been what it should be. Central Council would like the communication with the Primate to be more efficient.

1. **General Assembly** 
   1. **bylaws assembly**
      * 1. review procedure

Gev reviewed the procedure for the assembly

What is going to happen...

-Have not received any proposals

-During the assembly, we will discuss article by article

-If they want to discuss majority vote

-If amend 2/3rd vote

\*Gev please respond to Der Tatios ~ different points that he brought up.

**\*2 projectors - tell SW committee**

* + - 1. **decide what to provide –hard copies of revisions, present bylaws, etc**

Will discuss through e-mail

*Lydia introduced the new executive director of the Diocese, Michael Guglielmo.*

Michael Guglielmo, executive director of the Diocese discussed the motion that was passed at Diocesan Assembly; please see **attachment A**.

Central Council members discussed how if we communicated better on the issue, it would not have been brought up at Diocesan Assembly. Central Council and Mr. Guglielmo exchanged ideas and thoughts about the proposal.

*\*\*\*For the first meeting, new and old council members meet and go forward together, where we set our goals, so that we are all on the same page. First meeting at the Diocese and Surpazan will be there.*

* 1. **appointments**

Discuss by email

* + - 1. **Assembly Secretary**

- Olivia

- Adrinene

* + - 1. **Parliamentarian(s)**
      2. **Sergeant(s) of Arms**
      3. **Resolutions and Courtesies Committee (usually 3 people)**

- Aaron Derderian

* 1. **tutorial - CC is supposed to provide candidates for GA Chair with a tutorial on how to run an Assembly. Who/what/when?**

-Central Council discussed and voted that no Central Council members can be Chair of the Day at General Assembly

-Danny and Gev will do a PowerPoint presentation

-Der Nersess gave his point of view in regards to CC members being Chair of the Day. He feels very emotional about the ACYOA, as a person; at the assembly it is much better for someone else to come in and be the chairlady or chairman.

* 1. **Primate’s luncheon**
     + 1. **MC**

Ara or Gevork

* + - 1. **order of program (must be sent to Primate)**

-Make the program

**e) delegate stipends**

Lydia made a proposal to offer delegates who ask for financial help to attend General Assembly, $50. Gevork made a second to the motion.

-The $50 stipend will come from our programming budget.

- This will show Central Council support and assisting chapters.

For the future... what is the criteria?

1. **Awards - (if there are no nominees, can we skip the award for 2011?)** 
   1. **Seniors**
      * 1. **Sam Nersesian Award**

Alex Derderian

* + - 1. **Gregory Arpajian Award**

Greg Dalakian

* + - 1. **Chapter “A” Award**

White Plains

* 1. **Juniors**

Danny proposed that Jennifer Morris assist Central Council in making the Juniors awards decision

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Lydia - make deadline week before....

* + - 1. **Nersoyan Service Award**

-Brandon Ajamian (check spelling of last name)

* + - 1. **Nersoyan Leadership Award**

-Sevan Misirliyan

* + - 1. **Nersoyan Vision Award**

-Michael Sabounjian

* + - 1. **Chapter “A” Award**

- Cambridge

* 1. **Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian Award**

Der Vasken

* 1. **Fr. Haroutiun and Yn. Patty Dagley Award**

Yn. Arpi

1. **Insights** 
   1. **finalize program**

Friday Night - Danny and Hayr Simeon will be in charge

-Look up at the hotel to find a place

-Informal young adult bible study

-Central Council's goal is to get 20 people to attend

-location: hotel lobby

-Harry Kezelian to lead discussion (Danny will talk with Harry)

Insights program ~ FAR

-Informal

-Just a talk... introduce Skype pal educate them on that... couple stories of kids in the center, and if you want to get more involved.. to sign up. Open up the floor. Interested on doing an interview... Being part of ACYOA., to show kids in the center

-Danny and Gev will speak with Gev

-Speaker as the Chair person: Greg Dalakian

* 1. **flier**

- Lydia will create flier

1. **Chapters**
   1. **review reports**
   2. **Make recommendations for next CC**

-Next year at Diocesan Assembly - read the answers from chapter reports.

-Invite leaders from strong ACYOA chapters to talk about their success ~ pick out things that other chapters can do.

- IPhone Application?

-Focus on regional conferences/workshops and being there for chapters and providing programming that is going to strengthen chapters.

-Der Tatios suggested that there needs to be more of a connection. Bridges;

-Chapters (chairman and/or board members) meet with the priest once a month.

-Connect more with Juniors

-We should write a job description for Nancy/see what is there and work on it

-Regional 1 day events

-Regional ski trips/beach trips

-Refocus the structure of the organization.

-Regional coordinator (take turns of being in charge) the chairs of each of those chapters, host an event/program

- Chapter A award chapters... be a "big brother" to another chapter that is struggling

-What other church chapters do with their chapters.....

-Engage clergy, bible studies, etc.

1. **New business/Other**

Gev suggested that we need to start focusing on the younger generation.

*\*25% of delegates to be youth for Diocesan Assembly delegates*

1. **Closing prayer**

Father Simeon Odabashian closed the meeting with a prayer and we all recited the Hayr Mer.

**ATTACHMENT A: Executive Secretary Proposal**

WHEREAS the youth, including the ACYOA, represent the life line of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America;

WHEREAS this Assembly believes in supporting the youth and would welcome the process of revitalizing our church's ministry thought the Department of Youth and Education;

WHEREAS the leadership of the ACYOA were not consulted in the decision to reduce the employment status of the Executive Secretary;

WHEREAS the youth and others are ready, willing, and able to raise funds needed to support necessary program and administrative expenses to benefit the ACYOA;

WHEREAS this Assembly decided nine years ago to hire an Executive Secretary as a full time employee of the Diocese;

WHEREAS the message that was sent to your youth by the opaque way this process was handled is not one this Assembly supports;

WHEREAS the Executive Secretary position of the ACYOA is vital providing the support needed to our youth leaders to build programs and processes necessary to allow our youth to grow in their faith as Armenian Christian leaders;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that this Assembly would like to reinstate effective immediately to full time status the Executive Secretary position until such time as a new plan of action can be formulated by the Council in a collaborative, transparent and constructive manner, and adopted by this Assembly.

**ATTACHMENT B**

**REPORT OF ACYOA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**Central Council Meeting**

**April 30, 2011, Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA**

**March-April Activities**

1. **National Lenten Retreat (March 25-27):** A first-time attempt by the CC to host a national retreat attracted 19 participants from 9 parishes. Held at the Columbiere Center in Clarkston, MI with Fr. Daniel Findikyan serving as retreat leader, all those who attended were more than pleased with the program. CC needs to evaluate the low attendance and, rather than abandon the retreat format, re-think the national venue. The Executive Director of the Diocese has asked for a report on the retreat. Evaluation forms were sent to participants; two people have replied (only one CC member).
2. **FAR/ACYOA Partnership:** Supply drive is officially closed with $27,546 worth of supplies collected, as well as $5918 in cash donations. Skype Pal Initiative continues with one volunteer; HiH Committee still seeking more volunteers. To date, have received two applications for summer internship at FAR Children’s Center.
3. **Armenia Service Program-ASP (July 28-July 18):** After an unsuccessful attempt to piggyback ASP with the Young Professionals Trip sponsored by FAR, the program was cancelled. On April 14, those registered (4) were contacted and all deposits returned.
4. **2011 General Assembly (May 26-27):** Annual report documents, including 24 chapter reports, gathered and mailed to leadership on April 27. GA registration information sent to clergy. Assisting host chapter with various tasks.
5. **Fundraising Letter:** Processing donations; depositing checks and sending thank you letters. To date, $1,014 has come in from 7 parishes.

**Other Activities**

* ***DYE:*** Ongoing work assignments and meetings with colleagues and supervisors.
* ***New Sunday school curriculum:*** Serving as reader for new 8th grade curriculum text.
* ***Diocesan/AGBU Summer Internship***. Processing applications; will serve as Coordinator.
* ***International ACYO***. Continuing to liaison with Fr. Avedis Avdoian, who is coordinating the North American participation.
* ***Publicity:*** Continue to provide information to Diocesan PR department for inclusion in weekly e-newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Basmajian