

**MINUTES OF THE 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, New Jersey
May 25-26, 2017**

Thursday, May 25, 2017

First Assembly Session

The General Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America convened on Thursday, May 25th, 2017 at 7:34 p.m. The 2017 ACYOA Central Council welcomed delegates and called the meeting to order.

The following Central Council (CC) members were present:

Chelsea Kress, Vice Chair (Fair Lawn, NJ)

Arsen Yelegen, Public Relations Coordinator (White Plains, NY)

Nora Knadjian, Programming Coordinator (Chicago, IL)

Danielle Malconian, Chapter Relations Coordinator (Cambridge, MA)

Invocation

The Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian offered the Invocation and presided over the General Assembly.

Roll Call - Confirmation of Quorum

Nora Knadjian conducted roll call. She stated that 47 delegates were present out of 64.

Arthur Sabounjian (Framingham, MA) thanked the Diocesan Council and the Chair James Kalustian for being present.

Introduction of Robert's Rules of Order (See Appendix K)

Arthur Sabounjian introduced Robert's Rules of Order. He provided a brief explanation and referred the delegates to the "Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance" sheet in their folders (See Attachment J).

Election of Assembly Chair and Vice Chair

Representing the Nominating Committee were Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL), Peter Oundjian (Fair Lawn, NJ), and Sona Dagley (Framingham, MA).

Melissa Mardoian presented the following nominees for Assembly Chair: Andrew Khanarian (Fair Lawn, NJ), Arthur Sabounjian, and Rafael Grigoryan (Jacksonville, FL).

Melissa Mardoian opened the floor to nominations and no nominations were made. Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA) motioned to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Danielle Malconian and passed.

Melissa Mardoian explained the voting process and noted that the bylaws state that plurality vote is necessary in order for someone to be elected. Nominating Committee members distributed the ballots. Ronald Malconian and Aaron Derderian (Watertown, MA) stood as the Sergeant-at-Arms until the positions were officially appointed. Forty-seven ballots were collected.

Arthur Sabounjian was elected as Chair of the Assembly and Andrew Khanarian would serve as Vice Chair of the Assembly.

Adoption of Agenda (*See Appendix A*)

Chelsea Kress made a motion to amend the 2017 agenda so that the joint report of Central Council and Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (DYYAM), and the Host Committee welcome are moved after the FAR presentation (move items VIII and V after XIa). Mary Keutelian (Chicago, IL) seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian (New York, NY) made a motion to correct Friday's agenda so that "Communications Department" is changed to "Department of Creative Ministries". Jonathan Pelaez (Livingston, NJ) seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Aaron Derderian motioned to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Ronald Malconian and it passed.

Acceptance of 2016 General Assembly Minutes

Chelsea Kress made a motion to accept the 2016 General Assembly Minutes. Motion seconded by Danielle Malconian and motion passes.

Report of the 2016 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee (*Appendix B*)

The report of the 2016 General Assembly and Sports Weekend was presented by Co-Chairs Danielle Malconian and Ronald Malconian. They thanked this year's General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee. Ronald stated that the weekend was very successful and they were able to donate half the profits to their church and half to Central Council. Danielle expressed the benefits of hosting General Assembly and Sports Weekend. She expressed how creates sense of community within the parish, how you learn many new skills and she encouraged other parishes to host.

Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian (Cambridge, MA) expressed how lucky he is to have people like Danielle and Ronald in his parish.

Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian motioned to accept the 2016 General Assembly and Sports Weekend report. Jonathan Pelaez seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Appointment of Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, Parliamentarian, and Resolutions and Courtesies Committee

Alen Dokekiyan (Bayside, NY) and Brian Sarafyan (Bayside, NY) were appointed Sergeant-at-Arms.

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian (Racine, WI) and Jonathan Pelaez were appointed as joint Parliamentarians.

Hayk Matevosian (Bayside, NY) and Greta Janigian (Providence, RI) were appointed as the Assembly Co-Secretaries.

Michael Demirchian (Haverhill, MA), Michael Givelekian (White Plains, NY), and Sophia Yedigarian (Washington, DC) were appointed to be on the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee.

Informational Presentation

Jonathan Campbell (AYO!) gave a presentation on Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) and its sub organization Ayo!. He encouraged all ACYOA members to become involved with the organization and showed two short informational videos.

Joint Report of the Central Council and Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Lorie Odabashian (Coordinator, DYYAM) presented the annual report of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. ([Appendix C](#))

Chelsea Kress gave a brief report of Central Council in place of Mallory Maslar (Central Council Chairman, Pinellas Park, FL) who had not arrived yet.

Ronald Malconian motioned to table the discussion until Mallory Maslar arrives to give the full report. The motion was seconded by Nora Knadjian and the motion passed.

2017 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee Welcome

Linda Chamesian (Fair Lawn, NJ), Chairman of the 2017 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee, welcomed and thanked everyone for being there. She reminded the delegates about the delegates reception after the meeting and breakfast the next morning at 8:00 am.

Report of Central Council (Continued)

Mallory Maslar arrived and gave official report of the Central Council ([Appendix C](#)). Mallory Maslar thanked everyone for being there, as well as the Primate, the Diocesan Vicar and the DYYAM for their continued support.

The floor was opened for discussion.

Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian pointed out that ACYOA has seen an increase in national events and would like to know what has caused the increase (especially with ASP). Mallory Maslar responded that they've shortened the length of the ASP to lower the price and amount of vacation days participants need to take. Rev. Fr. Vasken suggested that they publicize and promote their huge successes, especially to parishes.

Jonathan Pelaez asked what the Central Council has viewed as their biggest struggle and their biggest strength in the past year. Mallory Maslar responded that their biggest struggle has been chapter relations and helping individual chapters become stronger. She said that their biggest strength has been public relations thanks to Central Council Public Relations Coordinator, Arsen Yelegen.

Ronald Malconian motioned to accept the joint report of the Central Council and DYYAM. The motion was seconded by Michael Demirchian and passed.

Chelsea Kress motioned to recess the meeting until tomorrow. Ronald Malconian seconded the motion and it passed.

The meeting for the evening concluded with a prayer.

Friday, May 26, 2017

Second Assembly Session

Assembly Chair Arthur Sabounjian called the Assembly to order at 8:30 am.

Morning Service

The Primate led the morning service.

Primate's Message

The Primate delivered his annual message to the Assembly ([Appendix D](#)).

Bread and Salt Video and Discussion

Kathryn Ashbahian (Associate, DYYAM) showed a Bread and Salt video to the Assembly. The delegates were then split into groups to discuss the video.

Presentation: Department of Creative Ministries

Arpi Nakashian (Department of Creative Ministries) explained that the Bread and Salt videos are on topics on the Armenian Church and that there is another video series called Choices which is put together by pastors. Eric Vozzy (Department of Creative Ministries) shared that a podcast series will come out soon, as well as a new video series called Hye Manners. Deacon Arthur Petrosyan (Department of Creative Ministries) encouraged everyone to share these videos on social media. The Primate thanked Deacon Arthur for all of his hard work.

Andrew Khanarian, acting Chairman, opened up a question and answer session for the Department of Creative Ministries.

Arthur Sabounjian asked if breadandsalt.org is the main website to find all of these videos. Eric Vozzy responded that it is but that they can also be accessed through Facebook and the Eastern Diocese website.

Deacon Arthur Petrosyan asked the assembly what topics they would like the videos to feature. Chelsea Kress suggested incorporating technology and communication in modern times. Ronald Malconian said he would like the videos to incorporate modern day issues such as drugs and suicide. Shant Der Torossian (Watertown, MA) suggested the topic of religion around the 1800s and religious issues with neighboring countries. Anais Astarjian (Watertown, MA) said she would also like to see more modern day issues such as gay marriage and the church's stance on topics like this. Nick Tashjian (Fair Lawn, NJ) would like to see a video on the founding of the Armenian church in the United States and to help young people better understand the history of the separation of the Diocesan and Prelacy.

Sona Dagley said that sharing videos like these on social media can be scary because people don't want to be judged by non-Armenians.

Peter Oundjian asked how the videos are funded and where they are filmed. Deacon Arthur responded that there is a "donate now" button on the website and that the videos are all filmed in Armenia to provide work for Armenians.

The Primate suggested that ACYOA chapters sponsor a video by donating \$3000 (approximate cost for each video).

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian suggested making a video about parish life because many people from overseas aren't used to being involved a church parish.

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian (Watervliet, NY) challenged the Central Council to raise \$3000 for a Bread and Salt video, with help from other ACYOA chapters.

Rev. Fr. Daniel Karadjian (Elberon, NJ) announced that their Parish Council donated \$2000 towards Bread and Salt.

Aaron Derderian suggested a video on a day in the life of an Armenian in Jerusalem and/or the history of Armenians in Jerusalem.

Nora Knadjian applauded the Department of Creative Ministries for making these videos and suggested using Go Fund Me to raise money for Bread and Salt videos.

Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian suggested a video on how to live out the Armenian faith while at college or anywhere that does not promote faith.

Deacon Arthur thanked everyone for their comments and closed the discussion.

Small Group Round Table Discussion

Mallory Maslar explained the next small group discussion in which groups will give feedback on Central Council and discuss what Central Council can improve on.

Mallory Maslar opened up a large group discussion when all groups return.

Melissa Mardoian suggested reading an ACYOA email or watching a bread and salt video in the mornings instead of checking social media.

Andrew Khanarian suggested that Central Council tries taking a regional approach to ACYOA (e.g. when students move to another city for college).

Third Assembly Session

Report of the Auditing Committee (See Appendix E)

Ronald Malconian, the head of the 2016 General Assembly auditing committee, gave a brief overview of the financial report. He addressed several line items. Line item 1009 but assured that all items matched up.

Arthur Sabounjian opened the floor to questions, but there were none.

Mary Keutelian motioned to accept the 2016 auditing report. The motion was seconded by Peter Oundjian and the report was accepted.

2016 Financial Report (See Appendix F)

Mallory Maslar gave the 2016 financial report in place of the treasurer, Daniel Zalinov (Central Council Treasurer, Charlotte, NC), who could not be there. She pointed out that Central Council received a \$10,000 donation from Holy Trinity after last year's General Assembly and Sports Weekend and the funds were transferred to the ACEF account as funds were previously withdrawn for cost of the regional committee for the 2009 General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

Mallory Maslar opened the floor to questions.

Ronald Malconian asked why there is no essay contest (the line is grayed out). Mallory Maslar responded that this will be voted on for the 2018 budget to be removed.

Sona Dagley motioned to accept the 2016 financial report. The motion was seconded by Chelsea Kress, but the motion was declined.

Nick Tashjian asked how the surplus money from each year is spent. Mallory Maslar responded that there is not normally a surplus and if there is a surplus, then it rolls over into the next year.

Peter Oundjian asked what the miscellaneous money is used for. Mallory Maslar responded that it is used for random fees.

Melissa Mardoian motioned to accept the 2016 financial report. The motion was seconded by Tania Melkonian (Watertown, MA) and the report was accepted.

Elections: Introduction of Central Council Candidates

Jonathan Pelaez briefly reviewed Robert's Rules of Order.

Mary Keutelian, Christina Parnagian (Providence, RI), and Artak Apyan (Pinellas Park, FL) will be filling in for Melissa Mardoian, Peter Oundjian, and Sona Dagley as Nominating Committee, since their names are on the ballot for Central Council. Mary Keutelian explained the election process. Noel Hagopian no longer was interested in running for Central Council and she was removed from the ballot. Mary Keutelian stated that they need one more name on the Central Council ballot to make it a full ballot.

Mallory Maslar motioned to open the floor for nominations for Central Council, and Danielle Malconian seconded the motion. The floor was opened for nominations.

Danielle Malconian nominated Christina Parnagian. Peter Oundjian seconded the nomination. Christina Parnagian respectfully declined.

Mallory Maslar nominated Jonathan Pelaez. Danielle Malconian seconded the nomination. Jonathan Pelaez respectfully declined.

Chelsea Kress nominated Michael Givelekian. Arsen Yelegen seconded the nomination. Michael Givelekian respectfully declined.

Danielle Malconian nominated Michael Demirchian. Lauren Piligian (Central Council Secretary, Framingham, MA) seconded the nomination. Michael Demirchian respectfully declined.

Chelsea Kress nominated Talene Jermakian (Springfield, MA). Danielle Malconian seconded the nomination. Talene Jermakian respectfully declined.

The Primate suggested that the assembly votes with only seven names on the ballot.

Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian offered a point of information that the Diocesan rules have changed and we may not need eight names on the ballot.

Jonathan Pelaez nominated Greta Janigian. Danielle Malconian seconded the nomination. Greta Janigian respectfully declined.

Danielle Malconian nominated Aaron Derderian. Chelsea Kress seconded the nomination. Aaron Derderian respectfully declined.

Aaron Derderian nominated Arthur Sabounjian. Chelsea Kress seconded the nomination. Arthur Sabounjian accepts the nomination.

Michael Demirchian motioned to close nominations. Tania Melkonian seconded the motion and it passed.

The Central Council candidates each gave a short speech:

Sona Dagley (Framingham, MA)

Liana Kurkjian (White Plains, NY) - not present

Rafael Grigoryan (Jacksonville, FL) - not present

Ronnie Malconian (Cambridge, MA)

Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL)

Mallory Maslar (Pinellas Park, FL)
Peter Oundjian (Fair Lawn, NJ)
Arthur Sabounjian (Framingham, MA)

Christina Parnagian reminded everyone to add Arthur Sabounjian's name to the ballot and that everyone can vote for up to four candidates.

Lauren Piligian conducted roll call and counted 60 voting delegates present.

Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian offered a point of information that you do not need to write the name of the person nominated off the floor in order for your ballot to be valid.

New Business: Proposed 2018 Budget (See Appendix G)

Mallory Maslar presented the proposed budget for 2018. She stated that the main increase in the budget is for ASP (Armenia Service Program) by \$10,000. She also asked to remove the essay contest from the budget.

Melissa Mardoian asked what the essay contest is. Mallory Maslar responded that it was used in the past for scholarships but it is no longer used.

Ronald Malconian made a motion to add line item 2026 for Bread and Salt videos. Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian made a point of order that you cannot add a line item with no dollar amount.

Andrew Khanarian asked if a line item can be added before it has been authorized or voted on. Andrew Khanarian followed up by asking if it would be appropriate to put new business before the budget since it may affect the budget.

Ronald Malconian made a motion to table the discussion about the proposed budget until after lunch. Aaron Derderian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

New Business: New Proposals

Arthur Sabounjian read the proposal stating that Central Council should cover any costs associated with General Assembly rather than the General Assembly and Sports Weekend committee. General Assembly is required by ACYOA bylaws and is for the good of Central Council. The costs for the host can be very high and without them, the host committee would be able to profit more from the weekend and would provide more funding for their chapter.

Arthur Sabounjian opened the floor to discussion regarding the proposal.

Aaron Derderian asked what the General Assembly line item for expenses is used for. Mallory Maslar answered that the line item covers Central Council travel and hotel rooms for the Assembly.

Chelsea Kress spoke against the motion because it is too big of a cost for Central Council and this additional cost of General Assembly would take away from other programming that Central Council organizes and funds. She added that when parishes sign up to host General Assembly and Sports Weekend, they are signing up to host the entire weekend.

Mallory Maslar spoke on behalf of Central Council against the proposal. Central Council has no control over where General Assembly takes place. The host committee could choose to have the meeting at their church instead renting a room, AV equipment would not have to be rented, and the Primate's luncheon is covered by the Primate, therefore costs would be minimal (only delegate's reception and light breakfast). She said if Central Council was required to pay for General Assembly, they would be forced to hold the meeting at the diocese every year which would limit the parishes who could host General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

Aaron Derderian noted that some parishes do choose to hold General Assembly at their church, as Watertown did. Aaron also suggested a line item of a specific amount that Central Council would contribute to General Assembly, but would not necessarily have to cover the whole cost of the meeting.

Nick Tashjian spoke in favor of the proposal because this meeting is run by Central Council and therefore they should be required to pay for it. Also, half of the proceeds from the weekend are going towards Central Council anyways, so this would streamline the process. He also noted that there was a surplus in the Central Council end of year report from the last few years.

Mallory Maslar replied to Nick's comment stating that there was not actually a surplus in Central Council's end of year report the past few years. Actually the beginning balance each year was similar for a few years and this year Central Council is starting with less money than in years past.

Armen Terjimanian (Detroit, MI) spoke against the proposal. He pointed that there have been several years when General Assembly and Sports Weekend has made no profit, and if this happens, then the entire cost would fall on Central Council. He said that this proposal would force Central Council to fundraise even more than they already do and would be a huge burden.

Arthur Sabounjian briefly paused the discussion.

Central Council Elections (Continued)

The nominating committee announced the newly elected Central Council members: Sona Dagley, Ronald Malconian, Melissa Mardoian, Mallory Maslar, and the alternate is Peter Oundjian.

Christina Parnagian made a motion to recess the meeting until after lunch. The motion was seconded by Lenna Keshishian and the motion passed.

Primate's Luncheon

The following awards were presented by the Central Council

The Gregory Arpajian Leadership Award:

Mary Keutelian, St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, Chicago, IL

The Sam Nersesian Award:

Harry Kezelian, St. John Church, Southfield, MI

ACYOA Seniors Chapter "A" Award:

St. John Church, Southfield, MI

The V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian Award:

Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan, St. Mary Church, Washington D.C.

The Rev. Fr. Haroutiun and Yn. Patricia Dagley Award:

Tom Ashbahian, St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ

Fourth Assembly Session

Elections: Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee (See Appendix H)

Melissa Mardoian announced that the assembly will vote for both Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee at the same time. She then opened the floor to nominations.

Chelsea Kress nominated Peter Oundjian for Nominating Committee and Mallory Maslar seconded the nomination. Peter Oundjian respectfully declined.

Peter Oundjian nominated Christina Parnagian for Nominating Committee and Anna Margaryan (Cambridge, MA) seconded the nomination. Christina Parnagian accepted the nomination.

Tatiana Nalbandian (Watertown, MA) nominated Tania Melkonian for Auditing Committee and Anna Margaryan seconded the nomination. Tania Melkonian accepted the nomination.

Danielle Malconian nominated Andrew Khanarian for Auditing Committee and Peter Oundjian seconded the nomination. Andrew Khanarian respectfully declined.

Chelsea Kress nominated Laura Dosch (Fair Lawn, NJ) for Nominating Committee and Sona Dagley seconded the nomination. Laura Dosch respectfully declined.

Peter Oundjian nominated Greta Janigian for Nominating Committee and Danielle Malconian seconded the nomination. Greta Janigian accepted the nomination.

Danielle Malconian nominated Sophia Yedigarian for Nominating Committee and Mallory Maslar seconded. Sophia Yedigarian accepted the nomination.

Mallory Maslar motioned to close nominations and Mary Keutelian seconded. The motion passed.

Melissa Mardoian reminded the assembly to add the names of the people nominated off the floor and to only vote for up to three candidates per ballot. Nominating Committee distributed the ballots.

The following individuals are on the ballot for Nominating Committee:

Christina Parnagian (Providence, RI)
Greta Janigian (Providence, RI)
Sophia Yedigarian (Washington D.C.)
Chelsea Kress (Fair Lawn, NJ)
Tania Melkonian (Watertown, MA)
Shant Der Torossian (Watertown, MA)
Emily Janikian (Racine, WI)
Talene Jermakian (Springfield, MA)
Anna Margaryan (Cambridge, MA)
Andrew Yenicag (Bayside, NY)

The following individuals are on the ballot for auditing committee:

Aaron Derderian (Watertown, MA)
Michael Demirchian (Haverhill, MA)
Brian Sarafian (Bayside, NY)
Nicholas Tashjian (Fair Lawn, NJ)
Aleen Kaltakdjian (San Antonio, TX)

Alen Dokmeciyan (Bayside, NY)
Tania Melkonian (Watertown, MA)
Noelle Hagopian (Watertown, MA)

Lauren Piligian conducted roll call and counted 54 voting delegates present.

Proposed 2018 Budget (Continued)

Andrew Khanarian made a motion to table the 2018 proposed budget until a resolution has been made about the new proposals.

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian offered a point of order. He stated that earlier we were discussing the proposal, not the budget, when the discussion got tabled and thus we do not need a motion to table the budget discussion.

Mallory Maslar made a motion to un-table the 2018 proposed budget discussion so it can be discussed prior to new proposals. Tania Melkonian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Ronald Malconian made a motion to reconfigure \$3,000 of the budget to go into the 'religious and educational programs' line item and to use that money for a Bread and Salt video, instead of creating a new item specifically for a Bread and Salt video. \$1,000 would come from the proposed expense for ASP, \$1,000 would come from Chapter Workshop, and \$1,000 would come from the proposed website budget. The new amounts would be: ASP: \$54,500, Chapter Workshop: \$4,000, and website: \$2,000. The new total budget for religious and educational programs would be \$6,000.

Aaron Derderian seconded this motion.

Arthur Sabounjian opened the floor to discussion about the proposed motion.

Jonathan Pelaez disagreed with lowering the ASP budget, which is meant to net to zero, and the Chapter Workshop budget, which would increase the cost for participants. He said a new revenue stream would be needed to support such an item.

Armen Terjimanian said he does not have any problems with taking money away from the website and wanted to know if Central Council has any plans to update the website. He agreed with Jonathan Pelaez's points about ASP and Chapter Workshop.

Mallory Maslar responded that updating and improving the website is one Central Council's goals for this year and they are looking into finding a cheaper source to manage their website.

Jonathan Pelaez acknowledged the importance of the Bread and Salt videos, but asked how the ACYOA supporting a Bread and Salt video would specifically benefit the ACYOA.

Mallory Maslar said that Central Council simply does not have the funds to support a Bread and Salt video and that Central Council already donates to the diocese and supports them in other ways.

Harry Kezelian pointed out that the Bread and Salt videos are directly aimed at the youth and this is an Armenian Youth Organization and therefore the videos would be within ACYOA's purview to support.

Danielle Malconian agreed that the Bread and Salt videos are important but doesn't believe Bread and Salt videos should be a top priority for Central Council.

Lauren Piligian also acknowledged the importance of Bread and Salt videos but Central Council has not been budgeting for this and suggested doing a video for the 75th anniversary of ACYOA.

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian said that supporting a Bread and Salt video could be an opportunity for the youth to make a statement and promote their religion. He also suggested that all 24 of the active ACYOA chapter be asked to raise \$100 and this would be an easy way to raise most of the money required for one Bread and Salt video. He also said the ACYOA would be able to choose the topic discussed in the video.

Jordan Reed (Racine, WI) said that he believes Central Council money is better spent funding camp activities and camp scholarships.

Danielle Malconian said there are other ways to promote these videos without the Central Council funding one and she does not believe it is the best use of Central Council funds.

Harry Kezelian suggested forming a standing committee to fundraise for a Bread and Salt video, rather than having Central Council pay for it out of their budget.

Arthur Sabounjian called to vote on the motion to adjust the budget for Bread and Salt video and was seconded by Der Shnork Souin (Providence, RI). The floor voted to decline the proposal.

Arthur Sabounjian added that he would encourage Central Council to look into forming a fundraising committee for the video or asking chapters to fundraise for it.

Jonathan Pelaez motioned to accept the 2018 budget. Danielle Malconian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

New Business: Proposals (Continued) (See Appendix I)

Arthur Sabounjian opened the discussion regarding the proposal that Central Council pays for all costs associated with General Assembly.

Andrew Khanarian spoke in support of the proposal. He said that eliminating the cost of General Assembly will give higher incentive for parishes to bid for General Assembly and Sports Weekend and that it will help the host parish decrease overall costs so that package prices can be lowered. He added that hosting General Assembly at the host parish's church rather than at the hotel also entails costs and could decrease General Assembly participation and that Central Council paying for General Assembly would turn a higher profit and that money would eventually go back to Central Council.

Armen Terjimanian spoke against the proposal. He stated that no parish is obligated to host General Assembly and Sports Weekend, but if a parish agrees to host they should have the finances. He added that the money from Sports Weekend does not always go back to Central Council. He concluded by saying that this would be a large burden on Central Council and could affect the cost of Chapter Workshop and Leadership Conference and have other significant consequences.

Aaron Derderian motioned to briefly table the discussion to get voting results. Mallory Maslar seconded and the motion passed.

Nominating and Auditing Committee Elections (Continued)

Sona Dagley announced the results of the Auditing Committee elections. The 2017 Auditing Committee members are: Aaron Derderian, Brian Sarafian, Nick Tashjian. The alternate is: Michael Demirchian.

Melissa Mardoian announced that one candidate for Nominating Committee received majority. The Nominating Committee recommended dropping the bottom three vote receivers.

Ronald Malconian motioned to remove the bottom three vote receivers. Chelsea Kress seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Nominating Committee instructed the assembly to remove Tania Melkonian, Shant Der Torossian, Christina Parnagian, and Emily Janikian from the ballot. Melissa reminded the assembly to only vote for up two candidates.

The remaining names on the ballot are:

Greta Janigian (Providence, RI)
Sophia Yedigarian (Washington D.C.)
Chelsea Kress (Fair Lawn, NJ)
Emily Janikian (Racine, WI)
Talene Jermakian (Springfield, MA)
Anna Margaryan (Cambridge, MA)
Andrew Yenicag (Bayside, NY)

Lauren Piligian conducted roll call and counted 59 voting delegates present.

New Business: Proposals (Continued)

Mallory Maslar spoke on behalf of Central Council against the proposal. Mallory Maslar informed the assembly of the Parish Assessments the ACYOA receives that greatly benefits them, but pointed that these donations are not guaranteed every year, and so adding General Assembly to Central Council's budget is unwise.

Mary Keutelian spoke against the proposal and pointed out that when you agree to host General Assembly and Sports Weekend, you are agreeing to host both. She also pointed out that it is in the bylaws that General Assembly happens every year and Sports Weekend is an added bonus. She added that bringing your own A/V equipment is another way to save money.

Aaron Derderian spoke against the proposal. He stated that making a profit is not the point of General Assembly and Sports Weekend, the point is to bring Armenians together.

Harry Kezelian spoke against proposal. He said that Central Council already has a lot on their plate regarding other national events and he would not like to see any of the other events be taken away for financial reasons.

Mallory Maslar offered a point of information that this is a proposal for a guideline change, not a bylaw change. If this proposal passes, it will have to go to Diocesan Council to be approved.

Anais Astarjian spoke against the proposal and stated that she believes it is much easier for parishes to fundraise than it for Central Council to fundraise.

Jonathan Pelaez spoke against the proposal and said he does not believe it would be wise to have another group plan part of the General Assembly and Spots Weekend. He reiterated that General Assembly must happen every year but not Sports Weekend. He also said that having General Assembly at a hotel has no reflection on the General Assembly attendance. He concluded by

saying that if this proposal passed it would be a great financial burden on the organization and would take away from other ACYOA events. It would overwork the Central Council members and he does not think it feasible.

Andrew Khanarian spoke in favor of the proposal. He said this would be a small cost to Central Council compared to what could happen if no parishes bid for General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

Mallory Maslar replied that it would only cost only around \$800 for Central to host General Assembly.

Aaron Derderian reminded the delegates that they just voted down a proposal of \$3000 for the Bread and Salt video.

Chelsea Kress spoke against the motion and emphasized how much Central Council struggles with fundraising each year. She said they simply do not have the funds.

Ronald Malconian made a motion to end the discussion. Chelsea Kress seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Harry Kezelian called to question the proposal that Central Council would pay for General Assembly and was seconded by Aaron Derderian. The motion did not pass.

Nominating Committee Elections (Continued)

Melissa Mardoian announced that no candidates received majority. The Nominating Committee recommended dropping the lowest vote receiver.

Michael Demirchian motioned to drop the lowest vote receiver. Mary Keutelian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Nominating Committee instructed the assembly to drop Talene Jermakian's name from the ballot.

The remaining names on the ballot are:

Greta Janigian (Providence, RI)
Sophia Yedigarian (Washington D.C.)
Chelsea Kress (Fair Lawn, NJ)
Anna Margaryan (Cambridge, MA)

Andrew Yenicag (Bayside, NY)

Lauren Piligian conducted roll call and counted 57 voting delegates present.

General Assembly and Sports Weekend Bids 2018

Arthur Sabounjian announced that there are currently no bids for General Assembly and Sports Weekend 2018 and he opened the floor to bids.

Aaron Derderian motioned to table the discussion until after chapter reflections. Stephen Hollisian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Chapter Reflections

Mallory Maslar opened a discussion for ACYOA members to share any successes and challenges that their ACYOA chapters face.

Aaron Derderian shared that the St. James ACYOA seniors of Watertown, MA has had success bridging the gap between juniors and seniors by hosting a college Q&A night for the juniors.

Anais Astarjian shared that St. James has paired up with Holy Trinity Church in Cambridge and held Lenten discussions on Thursday nights during Lent and showed some of the Bread and Salt films.

Jordan Reed said that St. Mesrob ACYOA in Racine, WI went Christmas caroling during the Christmas season. He said this event usually gets a good turnout because there is no cost involved.

Stephen Hollisian said that Holy Trinity in Cambridge, MA holds trivia nights once a month which has been a good fundraiser.

Michael Demirchian from Hye Pointe Church in Haverhill, MA shared that they recently completed the construction of their new Family Life Center and their ACYOA hosted their first dance in the new hall. He encouraged other chapters to reach out to their members more directly because this tactic was quite successful for their chapter in getting more members involved.

Danielle Malconian encouraged chapters to make hosting General Assembly and Sports Weekend a goal for their chapter.

Nora Knadjian added that if one parish does not feel that they have a strong enough ACYOA chapter to host General Assembly and Sports Weekend then they can combine with another local parish to host.

Shant Der Torossian stated that Watertown has had success with their annual New Year's Eve party.

Mike Givelekian said that St. Gregory ACYOA in White Plains, NY has struggled with communicating with their juniors and he said that doing icebreakers and games with the juniors has helped with this.

Nominating Committee Elections (Continued)

Melissa Mardoian announced that no one received majority. The Nominating Committee suggested dropping the bottom two vote receivers.

Ronald Malconian motioned to drop the bottom two vote receivers. Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA) seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The candidates left on the ballot are:

Greta Janigian (Providence, RI)

Chelsea Kress (Fair Lawn, NJ)

Sophia Yedigarian (Washington, D.C.)

Lauren Piligian conducted roll call and counted 55 voting delegates present.

Aaron Derderian motioned for a brief recess. Tania Melkonian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Nominating Committee announced the winner of the 2018 Nominating Committee: Christina Parnagian, Greta Janigian, and Chelsea Kress. The alternate is Sophia Yedigarian.

General Assembly and Sports Weekend Bids 2018 (Continued)

Danielle Malconian motioned to open discussion for 2018 General Assembly and Sports Weekend bids. Stephen Hollisian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Framingham, MA) asked if there are guidelines on how to prepare for GA and SW.

Mallory Maslar responded that there is currently a two page guideline for hosting General Assembly and Sports Weekend but Central Council is working on a more detailed document.

Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian suggested to Central Council to get the document out to priests and parish councils so everyone will know what is involved with hosting, which may be a better incentive.

Harry Kezelian (Detroit, MI) informed the assembly that Detroit is currently trying to get in touch with their pastor and parish council to place a bid for General Assembly and Sports Weekend 2018 or 2019.

The Primate stated that next year is the 50th anniversary of St. Vartan Cathedral and there will be many activities throughout the year. He said the diocese is thinking of hosting a weekend for young people and suggested that ACYOA could host a weekend similar to Sports Weekend at St. Vartan Cathedral. He also asked if anyone had any ideas on how the young Armenian Christians in the diocese could celebrate the 50th anniversary of the cathedral.

Harry Kezelian thanked His Eminence for the idea and retracted the Detroit bid for 2018 and suggested that Central Council heads up General Assembly and Sports Weekend 2018 in NYC at St. Vartan Cathedral.

The Primate suggested not having sports at the weekend and just having a one day General Assembly. He also suggested inviting the millennial generation of Armenians (not just ACYOA) on other days and having speakers, lectures, etc. on the other days. He asked to open a discussion on how to celebrate the 50th anniversary of St. Vartan Cathedral.

Harry Kezelian said he is fine with taking out sports next year and agreed with all of His Eminence's ideas. He asked to hear Central Council's thoughts on this idea since they will be the ones in charge.

Peter Oundjian agreed that we could take out the sports portion but still would like to have two days of General Assembly and then events on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Mallory Maslar said that Central Council has a tentative General Assembly schedule for next year if Central Council is in charge; General Assembly would run Friday to Saturday instead of beginning on Thursday, church on Sunday and then possibly a dance Sunday night.

The Primate again suggested having just a one day General Assembly meeting on Friday and then having speakers during the day on Saturday, Badarak at the cathedral on Sunday, and dances on Saturday and Sunday nights. He also added that Central Council could appoint a committee who would be in charge of organizing this weekend.

Andrew Khanarian asked if the budget would need to be revised if Central Council hosted.

Mallory Maslar responded that we would not need to adjust the budget because the cost would be very low.

Anais Astarjian said that she likes the idea but believes that the sports are important and that many people look forward to them.

The Primate responded that good speakers could engage people as much as sports. He said this weekend could be a form of outreach for those who are not as involved with the church and that the juniors could also have a sports weekend in the area so they could join everyone for Badarak on Sunday.

Chelsea Kress said that it may be good to have a year without sports so people will realize what is really important to ACYOA.

The Primate pointed out that there was a gathering of ~1000 people at the cathedral in LA this year, with speakers, etc. and many young people who are not normally involved in the church attended. He said that this year being the 50th anniversary of the cathedral is a great opportunity for ACYOA to reach out and bring people to the cathedral as well.

Peter Oundjian said that most people don't think about the sports component, so he believes that taking out sports and focusing on events is a great idea.

Harry Kezelian asked if we'd need a motion to accept Central Council hosting in 2018. He said Detroit retracts the statement about hosting in 2018 but 2019 is still possible. He also suggested having an alumni gala event at the weekend next year.

Nora Knadjian said that it not a bad thing that no one is bidding and that this has happened in the past. She assured everyone that there will be real Sports Weekends again in the future.

Anais Astarjian suggested having an event for all ages to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the cathedral, including families, alumni, etc., but not necessarily on that same weekend. She also suggested a having a fundraiser.

Stephen Hollisian agreed with Nora that it is not a bad thing that there is no bid for next year. He added that he thinks a major deterrent for hosting General Assembly is the price and that we don't necessarily need to hold lavish events during Sports Weekend.

Mallory Maslar said there are no guidelines on what the events should be like from Central Council.

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian said that he thinks the St. Vartan Cathedral idea weekend is great idea. He suggested casual basketball games at the park nearby and other casual sporting events. He said that this could be a family fun weekend to celebrate the cathedral with meetings and General Assembly at the same time.

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian thanked the Primate for this unique idea and said that this could be a “youth revival” type of event.

Sona Dagley motioned to close the discussion. Stephen Hollisian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Chelsea Kress motioned to turn the decision regarding General Assembly and Sports Weekend 2018 over to Central Council and that Central Council will get back to the assembly within 60 days. Nora Knadjian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

GA and SW 2019 Bids

Harry Kezelian said Detroit is willing to host General Assembly and Sports Weekend 2019 but they are waiting for approval from their pastor.

Laura Dosch asked if Florida had put in a bid from last year’s General Assembly for 2019.

Mallory Maslar responded that both Florida and Philadelphia had put in tentative bids last year but both later declined.

Jonathan Pelaez made a motion to close nominations for 2019 General Assembly and Sports Weekend bids. Laura Dosch seconded the motion but the motion did not pass.

The Primate proposed that the delegates in the room vote now on 2019 Detroit even though it is still pending approval.

Arthur Sabounjian clarified that the parish council and priest must approve the bid before it can be voted on.

Mallory Maslar made a motion that any parish can put a bid in for General Assembly and Sports Weekend 2019 in the next 60 days to host and Central Council can confirm. If multiple bids are placed then Central Council will send out an online poll to all delegates. Sona Dagley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Primate asked if the assembly could partake in tentative vote for Detroit until the bid is approved.

Chelsea Kress motioned to close discussion for General Assembly and Spokes Weekend 2019. Christina Parnagian seconded the motion but the motion did not pass.

Michael Givelekian said that St. Gregory the Enlightener in White Plains, NY would like to place a bid for 2019 but they are waiting for approval from their pastor and parish council. St. Gregory also offered to help out with the 2018 General Assembly.

The Primate said that since there are now two bids on the floor that Central Council will handle the rest and send out an online poll to delegates if necessary.

Mallory Maslar motioned to close 2019 General Assembly bid discussion. Lauren Piligian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mallory Maslar motioned to propose that the two parishes (Detroit and White Plains) have 60 days to submit a full bid to Central Council with list of possible venues, hotels, etc. and then Central Council will send out an online poll to delegates. Chelsea Kress seconded the motion.

Aaron Derderian motioned to amend the motion on the floor made by Mallory Maslar so that Central Council will allow any church to submit a bid in 60 days (not just Detroit and White Plains) and then Central Council will send out an online poll to this year's registered delegates if necessary. Mallory Maslar accepted the amendment. Stephen Hollisian seconded the motion to make the amendment and the motion passed.

The assembly voted to accept the proposal of Central Council sending out a poll in 60 days to vote on the General Assembly and Sports Weekend 2019 host.

Jonathan Pelaez and Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian made an announcement that online voting should not be a precedent in the future and that the poll should only be sent out to the registered delegates from this year's assembly.

Lauren Piligian encouraged parishes to discuss hosting with their parishes beforehand, so there are bids placed at next year's General Assembly.

Stephen Hollisian motioned to close new business. Aaron Derderian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee (See Appendix J)

Michael Demirchian, Sophia Yedigarian, and Michael Givelekian present the Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee (See Attachment ?).

Aaron Derderian pointed out that the report should say 2017 rather than 2016.

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian asked to change V. Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian to Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian. He also asked to add V. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian as well as Rev. Fr. Hagop Gevorkian.

The Primate suggested that they should acknowledge the victims of the attack in Egypt.

Andrew Khanarian pointed out that they should check why the most recent presidential election was not acknowledged. He said he believed the election was mentioned in 2009 and does not want this to reflect any political leaning.

Chelsea Kress suggested that the changes are made within 60 days and sent to Central Council.

Andrew Khanarian asked to confirm that only the changes that were discussed today will be made.

Aaron Derderian motioned to accept the Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee as amended. Stephen Hollisian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Adjournment and Benediction

Ronald Malconian motioned to adjourn the assembly. Jonathan Pelaez seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The Primate offered the benediction to officially close the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly.

Appendix A — Agenda



71st ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Hosted by St Leon Armenian Chair, Fair Lawn, NJ
Teaneck Marriott at Glenpointe, NJ
MAY 25-26, 2017

AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2017

General Assembly Registration

6:00 -7:00 pm

First Assembly Session

7:00 pm — 9:00 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 2016 General Assembly Minutes
- VIII. Joint Report of the Central Council and DYYAM
- IX. Report of the 2016 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee
- X. General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2017 Committee Welcome
- XI. Informational Presentations
 - a. FAR

9:00 pm -- Clergy and Delegate Reception

FRIDAY MAY 26, 2016

8:30 am - Morning Worship and Primate's Message

Second Assembly Session

9:00 am -10:45 am

- I. Bread and Salt Video and Discussion
- II. Presentation: Communications Department
- III. Small Group Round Table
- IV. Whole Group Discussion

Third Assembly Session

11:00 am — 12:30 pm

- IV. Roll Call
- V. Report of the Auditing Committee
- VI. 2016 Financial Report
- VII. Elections
 - A. Introduction of Central Council Candidates
 - B. Central Council (4)
 - C. Nominating Committee (3)
 - D. Auditing Committee (3)

Primate's Luncheon

12:30 pm — 2:00 pm Presentation of Awards Group Photo

Fourth Assembly Session

2:15 pm — 3:45 pm

- VIII. Elections (cont'd)
- IX. New Business
 - A. Proposed 2018 Budget
 - B. New Proposals
 - C. General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2018 Bids
 - D. General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2019 Bids
 - E. Chapter Reflections
 - F. Other

Break — 15 Minutes

Fifth Assembly Session

4:00 pm — 6:00 pm

X. New Business (cont'd)

XI. Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee

XII. Adjournment and Benediction

Appendix B – 2016 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee Report

**Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston
ACYOA SENIORS**

**2016 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend
COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Submitted by:
2016 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee
and Rev. Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, Pastor
2016 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend
Committee Report**

Introduction:

The ACYOA Seniors of Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge, MA, eagerly took on the task of hosting the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend, held May 26-30, 2016 in Boston, MA. Our committee of over 20 dedicated members worked for almost two years preparing for this comprehensive gathering, working hard to organize a weekend that showcased both our Boston and Holy Trinity parish pride!

Having never hosted a Sports Weekend, and it being nearly 60 years since Holy Trinity hosted a General Assembly back in 1957, our chapter was particularly honored to host the 2016 Weekend, especially as it marked the 70th anniversary of the ACYOA. Our hope was that the Weekend would provide an opportunity for not only present-day ACYOA to gather for a weekend of Christian fellowship, Armenian cultural expression and healthy sports competition, but that ACYOA alumni would recall with fondness their own ACYOA days, and rekindle their passion for the ACYOA by attending the 70th Anniversary Gala on Sunday night. With over 350 package plans sold, and nearly 500 guests at the Sunday night Alumni Gala Dance, we believe our desire to host a meaningful and memorable Weekend were accomplished.

Core Committee:

Pastor:	Fr. Vasken Kouzouian
Youth Director:	Yn. Arpi Kouzouian
Co- Chairmen:	Danielle Malconian and Ronald Malconian, Jr.
Events	Christine Hovsepian
Public Relations	Christine Hovsepian and Sandra Hovsepian
Registration:	Caroline Ekchian and Anna Margaryan
Treasurer:	Suzanne Ekchian
Fundraising:	Greg Ekchian
Transportation	Greg Torosian
Service Project	Lilit DerKevorkian and Ani Hollisian

General Committee:

Bobby Avakian, Christina Azarian, Oscar Derderian, III, Greg Dorian, Stephen Hollisian, Cynthia Hovsepian, Amalia Petrosyan, Naneh Petrosyan, Caroline Thayer, Haig Torosian, and Anoush Youssoufian

Preparation:

Our initial bid was prepared for presentation at the May 2014 General Assembly hosted by Bayside, NY. Prior to presenting our bid at the General Assembly, we approached our Pastor and Parish Council, advising of our desire to host, and presenting our proposed bid with our preliminary findings. Our Pastor and Parish Council unanimously encouraged us to take on this Weekend, and their unwavering support continued throughout the entire planning process.

After winning the bid at the 2014 General Assembly, during which our chapter also won the Chapter “A” award, we felt very motivated and excited to take on the challenge. We began planning right away, and by September 2014 we had signed our hotel contract, and were well underway to booking our Sunday night contract and other venues.

In the beginning stages we had a small core committee, but as the planning got underway, our ultimate committee grew to over 20 members. Our core committee met monthly, with the bigger group meeting every few months for the first year, and then beginning in January 2016, the core committee moved to weekly meetings, and monthly for the larger group. As the Weekend grew closer, we met more often, various committee members meeting nearly almost every night in the month prior to the Weekend.

HOTEL:

Participants stayed at the Westin Waterfront Hotel in downtown Boston, which also served as the location of the General Assembly on Thursday evening. The Hotel had a spacious lobby, restaurants, conference space and other amenities ideal for hosting a General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

Lessons Learned: Despite trying to keep all Weekend guests housed on as few floors as possible, because all hotels only have a set number of double bed rooms per floor, our guests were spaced out onto nearly every floor of the hotel. This caused a number of disturbances, resulting in the eviction of at least three Weekend participants from the hotel. A stronger security presence, both hotel and Committee provided, may help keep disturbances to a minimum. Having a large hotel lobby, and a hotel that allowed guests to stay there all night, helped alleviate what could have been even more evictions.

SPORTS:

The state-of-the-art newly renovated Boston University Fitness & Recreation Center, located on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston, served as the venue for all sporting events. With 11 Men’s basketball teams, 3 Women’s Basketball Teams, and 10 Co-Ed Volleyball teams, the multiple courts enabled us to keep on schedule and end sports at the projected times on both Saturday and during Sunday’s finals.

Lessons Learned: The awards ceremony, held on Sunday evening prior to the start of the Alumni Gala Dance, was poorly attended, with some teams either not being present or caring about the awards ceremony. Perhaps awards should be given at the end of finals at the gym, with only the Babayan Cup (overall champions) and Sportsmanship awards being presented at the Sunday evening event. Also, when planning the schedule, make sure to plan for double elimination, and do not make any last minute changes to the schedule.

EVENTS:

Saturday, April 16: ACYOA Sports Weekend Service Project

Prior to the Weekend, members of our Sports Weekend Committee organized an ACYOA Sports Weekend Service Project for local area ACYOA members. ACYOA Seniors gathered the morning of April 16, known as Global Youth Service Day, to prepare hand-packed sack lunches, which included a meal, first aid kit, Bible verse and note of encouragement. The 25 ACYOA members who participated in the project then traveled around the Boston area to distribute the care packages to the local homeless population. Many thanks to Lilit DerKevorkian and Ani Hollisian for organizing this effort.

Thursday, May 26: General Assembly at the Westin Waterfront Hotel, followed by Prayer Service at Armenian Heritage Park and Delegates' Reception at the Bostonian Hotel

Following Thursday evening's brief General Assembly, all delegates, clergy and guests were transported to Armenian Heritage Park, located between the historic Faneuil Hall and North End of Boston. With the hope of starting off our Weekend in not only a spiritual way, but also connecting us to our Armenian culture and history, an evening prayer service was held at the Park. We then walked across the street to The Bostonian Boston Millennium Hotel for the Delegates' Reception.

Friday, May 27: General Assembly continues at Westin Waterfront Hotel, Primate's Luncheon, followed by Laugh Boston Welcome event at Westin Hotel

The General Assembly continued all day Friday. During the Primate's Luncheon, Armenian Olympic Gymnast, Houry Gebeshian, addressed the delegates about the challenges she has faced in preparation for the 2016 Rio Olympics, followed by the presentation of awards by the ACYOA Central Council. At the conclusion of the General Assembly, Sports Weekend kicked off with a welcome event at Laugh Boston, an event space right off of the lobby of the Westin Waterfront Hotel. Knowing that guests would be coming in from all over and arriving throughout the evening, we planned a relaxing and casual evening in the hotel.

Saturday, May 28: Sports Competition; Space 57, Revere Hotel, Boston

Following the day's sporting events at the Boston University Fitness and Recreation Center, participants were bused to Space 57 in the Revere Hotel in Boston, a unique space perfect for socializing and dancing. The space was a bare room that we decorated with lighting (belonging to our ACYOA) and rented lighted furniture.

Sunday, May 29: Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA; Sporting Finals; 70th Anniversary Alumni Gala Cocktail Dinner Reception and Alumni Gala Dance at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel

During Sunday morning’s Church services at Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge, the large number of weekend participants who attended services witnessed a visual reminder of the power of God (and light) when the power that had gone off at the beginning of Badarak was restored in the middle of Fr. Vasken’s sermon, while he was preaching about “being the light of the world.” [No, this was not staged.] At the conclusion of services, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, conducted the installation of the new ACYOA Central Council. Church by candlelight and the choir singing a cappella truly enhanced the beauty of the morning’s Church services. Participants were then bused from both Church and the hotel to the sports venue for the afternoon’s sports finals.

Sunday evening, just over 100 alumni and weekend participants attended the elegant and elaborate Alumni Gala Cocktail Dinner Reception at the newly renovated Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Having used this hotel when our church hosted the 2011 Diocesan Assembly, we were excited to also welcome our guests to the beautiful historic Boston landmark. When we signed the contract nearly a year earlier, the hotel was undergoing renovations, which included a completely newly renovated Grand Ballroom just in time for our weekend. Both the renovations and the menu for the Alumni Gala Dinner Reception went well beyond our expectations.

At the conclusion of the Alumni Gala Dinner Reception, our Committee presented the Sports Awards. The Alumni Gala Dance then began, and the nearly 500 guests enjoyed the contemporary live Armenian music of Kevork Artinian & Friends, and a late night dessert buffet. The music and dancing continued well into early morning.

Lessons Learned:

Issue	Description	How to Avoid
FRIDAY NIGHT VENUE AT THE HOTEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We debated whether or not to host Friday night in the hotel, and decided that for both financial (cost of venue; no bus transportation) and logistical reasons (people would be arriving throughout the night) it would be a good fit. • However, being in the hotel made it easier for guests to go back and forth to their rooms, and we had a lot of unregistered weekend guests trying to either register last minute or sneak into the Weekend. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either do not host Friday night at the hotel, or have more people on duty for registration and more vigilant committee and hotel security to remove unregistered weekend guests.
BUSES GETTING LOST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite repeated assurances from the bus company that the drivers knew the route and the roads to take, buses were getting lost going to the sports venues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though the bus company should do this, map out the directions for the drivers, and supply them to the company well in advance <u>and</u> again during the Weekend. • Also, it is imperative to have a bus captain on each bus (committee member or someone from parish) to ensure familiarity with the area and someone to keep in touch with the Committee

		(i.e. sports teams running late, upcoming arrival at a venue, etc.)
TOO MANY PEOPLE SHOWING UP AT ONCE AT EVENING VENUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite offering a staggered bus times throughout each evening, most participants all tried to get on the buses at the same time. • We had a 9:00 p.m. start time on Saturday, and most participants did not start to arrive until closer to 11:00. The same was true for Sunday night, although we had many more arrive earlier on Sunday. • There were many empty buses in the beginning, and then filled to capacity buses arriving later in the evening, all arriving close together, which caused a lot of issues for check-in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller buses (much more expensive) and more committee members assigned to check-in would help alleviate the check-in issue • A later start time for Saturday night event would help alleviate empty buses in the beginning • A stricter bus schedule, i.e. stopping bus service to the venue and letting guests know there will be no transportation after a certain point to the venue may encourage an earlier arrival time.
Issue	Description	How to Avoid
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each venue will require a separate contract, which is written in contract language not easily understood by those not in the field. • Our hotel contract negotiations alone took over 8 months. • We had a total of 9 venue/company contracts and 4 audio-visual contracts! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have attorneys and contract specialists on your advisory committee. • Their commitment will primarily be in the beginning of the process and taper off once all the contracts have been signed. • Don't be afraid to ask for what you think is fair. We received almost all of our requests.
INSURANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our insurance company required that we take out an additional \$1 million of liability coverage, and also required a number of provisions be met before coverage would be bound. Because of dissimilar experience, there was little assistance from past SW host committees or the diocese on this matter, which meant we were left to figure things out on our own which was very complicated and time-consuming. • For example, the bus company did not provide a formal contract, and the insurance company required one, which meant we had to create and approve a contract, all in the last few days leading up to the Weekend. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure to contact your Church's insurance company well in advance of the event to find out what will be required. • We reached out almost a year in advance and still had last minute issues. • Have an insurance and contract specialist serve on the advisory committee.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. **Contracts:** In addition to the Core Committee, include the parish attorney, Parish Council and ACYOA Central Council in the contract review before signing. Also review the contracts a week or two before the weekend with each venue and go over with them exactly what is necessary, expected and required. Have copies of all contracts on hand at each venue during the weekend so you can refer back to what was agreed upon.
2. **Audio-Visual:** All of our Boston venues required the use of in-house audio-visual companies (in Boston, the local company was PSAV). These fees add up quickly. See what you can do to bring these costs down (we used the diocesan LCD projector and our own parish's portable microphone to save \$2,000 at the hotel). Also, if the same company is in more than one venue, ask in the beginning if you can have one contract for the whole weekend which may provide a discount.
3. **Proximity:** Try to centralize the venues and hotel to one area, if possible. Spending time getting to/from venues makes for a difficult schedule, especially for sports.
4. **Transportation:** Make sure you provide directions for the drivers. Bus captains help with communication from the hotel and the venue, as well as control on the buses.
5. **Advertising:** Have one person in charge of advertising, and post frequently keeping everyone's interest. Make sure to have a way of communicating during the weekend to keep participants up to date. We highly recommend using an app (we used www.yapp.us.)
6. **Deadlines:** Keep a master calendar of all deadlines. Set reminders for your deadlines.
7. **Central Council Communication:** Make sure everything is corresponded through email so you are able to refer back when needed. Review all Assembly needs well in advance to ensure everything is covered and there are no last minute surprises on either side. Also, realize that this weekend has been planned by many chapters; there is no need to re-invent the wheel. JUST ASK!
8. **Teamwork:** Know that you will get stressed, but remember that you are all in this together and that you have the support of the Central Council.

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. **Unwavering Support:** We could not have achieved any of our goals without the unwavering support from our Pastor, Parish Council and entire Holy Trinity parish.
2. **Showcasing our City:** The Armenian Heritage Park Service and Delegates' Reception provided the perfect way for us to set the tone for the Weekend – highlighting both our Armenian faith, pride, and history, and the beauty and history of our beloved City of Boston.
3. **Unique Programming:** Olympian Houry Gebeshian's address at the Primate's Luncheon allowed for us to welcome an inspiring contemporary and relevant sports figure to share her story of struggle and triumph with our delegates and clergy.

4. **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.
5. **Social Media:** The use of a mobile application (e.g. YAPP app) and other forms of social media by our Committee made for greater excitement and communication both before and during the Weekend.
6. **Online Registration:** One of our greatest goals and achievements was the development of an online registration form, 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 (\$29.95 per month) and recommend the application for future organizers.
7. **Commemorative Ad Booklet:** The Booklet was a unique (shaped like the Massachusetts license plate) keepsake of a successful and memorable weekend. We received overwhelming financial support from parishioners and diocesan faithful, including in kind services by the printers.
8. **Budgeting:** Preparing a conservative budget, anticipating lower numbers for both attendees and fundraising, helped us to keep on track and stay within our budget.
9. **Advisory Committee:** We had a number of adults who advised our committee along the way, all of whom were in place as early as May 2014. Their help was especially instrumental in the areas of contract and venue negotiations.
10. **An Awesome Team:** The Holy Trinity ACYOA Seniors really stepped up to the plate, willing to roll up their sleeves and commit to “getting the job done!” We have grown so much closer these past two years, spending countless hours together, strengthening both our chapter and friendships.

Conclusions:

Hosting the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend in Boston was both an honor and privilege. For the past many years, our Holy Trinity parish has watched our ACYOA Seniors grow and flourish, becoming a stronger and more cohesive team of hard-working and dedicated members, a vital resource to the parish. Hosting this Weekend helped to show not only our parish, but the entire diocese, what we are capable of doing. The sense of accomplishment for our ACYOA is beyond words.

To say we were blessed with a fantastic committee and an unconditionally supportive parish is an understatement. Our parish welcomed our undertaking of Sports Weekend with open arms, holding us to the high expectations of the past, but ready to help wherever needed. Der Vasken and Yn. Arpi served as the greatest mentors. There have been countless family and friends that assisted us in this huge endeavor, offering their help in their respective areas of expertise. The undertaking of such a tremendous weekend would not have been possible without our entire Holy Trinity Family.

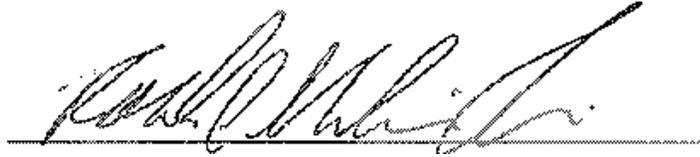
We love the city of Boston and our parish and were so happy to share that with everyone! Thank you for “Shipping up to Boston” for the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend!

General Assembly and Sports Weekend Participation	
Hotel Information	
Room Nights Sold	
Wednesday	1
Thursday	46
Friday	100
Saturday	104
Sunday	95
Monday	2
Total	348
Number of Attendees	
General Assembly	
Clergy/Staff	19
Delegates	48
Observers	18
Total	85
Event Attendance	
Friday Night	344
Saturday Night	378
Sunday Night	472
Registration Information	
Packages Sold – includes athletes	345
Athletes	136
Saturday and Sunday Package	14
Saturday	19
Sunday	14
Clergy	14
Non - Members/ Locals	85

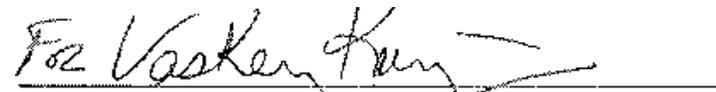
Respectfully Submitted,



Danielle Malconian, Co-Chairman



Ronald Malconian, Jr., Co-Chairman



Rev. Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, Pastor
Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Cambridge, MA
September 20, 2016

2016 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend Hosted by ACYOA Seniors of Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA May 26-30, 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT			
INCOME		EXPENSES	
Registration Fees - Packages Sold	\$ 71,140.37	General Assembly - Audiovisual costs	\$ 4,011.40
Saturday Night - Ticket Sales - Online	\$ 1,700.00	General Assembly - Miscellaneous (Guest Speaker travel; Subway bagged snacks)	\$ 441.01
Sunday Night Gala Ticket Sales	\$ 8,050.00	Delegate's Reception - The Bostonian Millenium Hotel	\$ 2,224.00
Saturday and Sunday Night - Add On - Online	\$ 2,590.00	Friday Night - Laugh Boston	\$ 11,000.00
Sports Registration Fees	\$ 4,145.00	Saturday Night - Space 57 (Venue + DJ, Furniture Rental)	\$ 13,584.23
Fundraising - Salsa Kef Night (May 2015)	\$ 2,654.84	Sunday Night Gala - Boston Park Plaza (Venue, decorations)	\$ 36,826.37
Fundraising - Volleyball Tournament (Nov. 2015)	\$ 2,715.88	Sunday Night Gala - Band Expenses	\$ 9,586.87
Fundraising - Celtics Fundraiser (Jan 2016); Jillians (April 2016)	\$ 310.00	Sports - Gym Rental	\$ 4,231.50
Fundraising - Parents' Fundraising Luncheon (April 2016)	\$ 772.65	Sports - Referees	\$ 2,145.00
Fundraising - Manti Making (April 2016)	\$ 690.00	Sports - Equipment & Trophies	\$ 973.34
Fundraising - Miscellaneous Donations	\$ 300.00	Transportation	\$ 7,955.00
Fundraising - Ad Booklet	\$ 28,685.00	Commemorative Booklet Publication	\$ 4,310.80
Sports Weekend T-shirts (includes online - Paypal fees deducted)	\$ 1,719.80	Fundraising - Donor Mailings (flyers, copies, postage)	\$ 731.42
Miscellaneous	\$ 35.00	Sports Weekend T-shirts	\$ 1,010.25
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 125,508.54	Public Relations - Yapp App + Snapchat filter	\$ 388.52
		Public Relations - Pre-Event PR (May 2014 General Assembly, signage)	\$ 362.95
		Insurance - Premium for Additional Coverage	\$ 300.00
		PayPal Fees	\$ 2,585.86
		Bank Fees	\$ 51.00
		Online Registration Monthly Usage Fee (123 Contact Form) (\$29.95/month - Feb to Aug)	\$ 209.65
		Miscellaneous - Administrative Operating Expenses (office supplies, lanyards, swag bags, tips, parking, etc.)	\$ 2,082.15
		Miscellaneous - Committee Expenses (dinner meetings; committee hotel reimbursements)	\$ 1,315.56
		TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 106,326.88
		TOTAL PROFIT	
		TOTAL INCOME	\$ 125,508.54
		Less TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ (106,326.88)
			\$ 19,181.66

Appendix C – Joint Report of the Central Council and the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA)

2016 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 24 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 them to live out their faith. The ACYOA set out to continue our efforts through the programs discussed in the report below.

Central Council Meetings: The Central Council met five times this year. The Diocesan Vicar, the Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, was present at all of our meetings as well as the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Those meetings were held as follows: February 20 (Nashville, TN); April 9 (St. Kevork, Houston, TX); July 8 (Diocese, NY and a visit with St. Leon in Fair Lawn, NJ); September 17 (Sts. Sahag and Mesrob, Providence, RI); and December 10 (St. Gregory, Chicago, IL). Additionally, the ACYOA Central Council met and worked together at each of the national events it hosted. Due to the rising cost of travel, the ACYOA Central Council employed the use of more frequent conference calls.

Programming: Throughout the year the Central Council organizes six national events. The year begins with Chapter Workshop. Over the course of three days, from January 22-24, participants built their faith, discussed the accomplishments and setbacks faced by their local ACYOA chapters, shared advice, and brainstormed new programming possibilities. We would like to thank Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian for serving as chaplain throughout the weekend, and the entire St. Hagop, Pinellas Park, FL parish community for welcoming us.

In the spring, three regional Lenten Retreats were held on March 5 at St. James Armenian Church (Evanston, IL); St. James Armenian Church (Watertown, MA); and St. Leon Armenian Church (Fair Lawn, NJ). During the day-long retreat, entitled "The Legacy of Our Martyrs: A

Gift to Carry Forward," young adults shared their insights during a Bible Study, discussed the significance of maintaining personal prayer life, and considered the impact of the canonization of the Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide.

Palm Sunday is the official ACYOA Day in our Diocesan calendar. ACYOA Central Council members and DYYAM shared their stories and a video made in honor of ACYOA Alumni for the organization's 70th anniversary. The local youth of each visited parish were encouraged to take advantage of programming offered by the Diocese. This year we visited: Chicago, IL; Evanston, IL; Washington, DC; Boca Raton, FL; Framingham, MA; Elberon, NJ; Dallas, TX; Belleville, IL; Springfield, MA; and Providence, RI.

Youth and clergy from across the Eastern Diocese gathered in Boston, MA for the 70th annual ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend Memorial Day Weekend. The weekend was hosted by the ACYOA Seniors of Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA. The General

Assembly took place May 26 and 27, where our Diocesan Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, presided and shared his message on this year's Diocesan theme, "The Legacy of Our Martyrs: A Gift to Carry Forward." Delegates reviewed reports on various programs and participated in a Bible Study, as well as elected three new members to Central Council. Hundreds of youth gathered to participate in Sports Weekend competitions, social events, and the annual awards banquet held at the Park Plaza Grand Ballroom. On Sunday, May 29, the Rev. Fr. Nareg Keutelian celebrated the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity and Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian offered the sermon. Special appreciation goes to the host committee and the Holy Trinity's parish community.

From July 1 to 17, a group of young ACYOA members traveled across Armenia taking in its historic and spiritual sites, meeting local residents, and volunteering with children and the elderly as part of this year's ACYOA Armenia Service Program. Under the leadership of the Rev. Fr. Tadeos Barseghyan, pastor of St. Sahag in St. Paul, MN, the group visited landmarks ranging from Khor Virab and Datev monasteries to the Erebuni Fortress and the Dzidzernagapert Genocide Memorial. They celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin and met with His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

Our year wrapped up with Leadership Conference, from November 18 to 20. The theme of the weekend was, "A Legacy of Our Martyrs: Our Gift to Carry Forward." Participants engaged in

discussions surrounding the challenges of living a Christian lifestyle and understanding our spiritual gifts. We would like to thank all of the clergy who helped participate in the weekend. We are excited that we have so many opportunities throughout the year to interact with our members from all of the different regions of our Diocese. We are proud that we continue to grow as a community. Below is a table reflecting our growth over the past three years.

EVENT	2014	2015	2016
Chapter Workshop	29 participants	35 participants	49 participants
Lenten Retreat	50 participants	60 participants	63 participants
ACYOA Day	7 parishes visited	6 parishes visited	10 parishes visited
ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend	56 Delegates, 15 Clergy, 389 packages	36 Delegates, 12 Clergy, 221 packages	48 Delegates, 19 Clergy, 345 packages
Armenia Service Program (ASP)	13 participants	6 Participants	16 Participants
Leadership Conference	44 (Stony Point, NY)	50 (Kansasville, WI)	58 (Lakeside, CT.)

ACYO North American Conference: From June 17 to 19 members of the ACYOA Central Council (Eastern Diocese) and the ACYO Central Council (Western Diocese) met for the first time together with the blessings of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, and Archbishop Holman Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese. The two Councils met at St. Nersess Seminary, and the V. Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian served as the chaplain. We had sessions lead by past Central Council members and seminarians. We were able to discuss each of our roles on council and compare notes, documents, and ideas. We celebrated Badarak at St. Vartan Cathedral and met with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian afterwards for a luncheon.

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 relaunched our monthly e-blast which includes chapter spotlights, an interview with alumni, Circles of the Cross ideas, and a calendar of events our chapters are hosting. Our statistics show that this has been an effective tool for us, with a higher-than-average open rate for similar organizations with a low bounce back rate. We also continue to have our Lent and Advent reflections from various clergy and lay people from across the Diocese to share.

Alumni Relations: For the 70th anniversary of the ACYOA, the Central Council made lapel pins with the ACYOA crest to give to past Central Council members to honor them for their support of the organization. We were able to mail these pins to all of the past Central Council members and have received great feedback. We have also launched the ACYOA Alumni Facebook page and LinkedIn group. As a new part of our monthly e-blast, we have also included an alumni interview.

ACYOA Parish Assessment: 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. Through the 2014 Diocesan Assembly passing of the proposal to implement an annual parish assessment, we can continue to benefit the ministry of the ACYOA on a national level. This year, we had 25 parishes that contributed to the ACYOA Parish Assessment. Special thanks go to Bayside, NY; Belleville, IL; Boca Raton, FL; Charlotte, NC; Chelmsford, MA; Cheltenham, PA; Evanston, IL; Fair Lawn, NJ; Framingham, MA; Houston, TX; Hye Pointe, MA; Livingston, NJ; New York, NY; Pinellas Park, FL; Providence, RI; Racine, WI; Richmond, VA; Syracuse, NY; Tenafly, NJ; Trumbull, CT; Watertown, MA; Waukegan, IL; White Plains, NY; Worcester, MA; and Wynnewood, PA. We pray that future members and councils of this organization will benefit from our initiatives and further strengthen the foundation.

We would also like to give a special thanks to Diocesan Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, V. Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, and the entire DYYAM staff: Jennifer Morris, Lorie Odabashian, and Kathryn Ashbahian. With their continued support and guidance, we are able to fulfill the mission and vision of the ACYOA set out 70 years ago.

ACYOA Central Council Officers

January to May: Ani Grigorian (Chair), Jonathan Pelaez (Vice Chair), Mallory Maslar (Treasurer), Chelsea Kress (Secretary), Sarine Atamian (Public Relations Coordinator), Lauren Piligian (Programming Coordinator), and Daniel Zalinov (Chapter Relations).

June to December: 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).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mallory Maslar, ACYOA Central Council Chair

Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Annual Report 2016

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 ACYOA Seniors continue to serve as the main vehicles through which this ministry can be fulfilled.

Diocesan Summer Camp Programs: Preparations for the diocesan summer camp programs begin as soon as the previous camp season concludes. Before, during, and after the camp season, the DYYAM Director and Coordinator worked closely with Rev. Khachatur Kesablyan, Rev. Fr. Vart Gyozyan and Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian (St. Vartan Camp Directors) and V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian and Rev. Fr. Hratch Sargsyan (Hye Camp Directors). Jennifer, Lorie, and Kathryn were on-site throughout the summer, with Lorie serving as the Camp Administrator for St. Vartan Camp and Jennifer serving as the Camp Administrator for Hye Camp. Kathryn focused her energies on facilitating the Curriculum, Photography, and Blogs at both camps while learning the ropes of administrative duties. We feel blessed to have a strong working relationship with our camp directors. The seven-and-a-half-week camp season ran from June 22-August 6 at St. Vartan Camp in Greenville, NY and July 27-August 13 at Hye Camp in Ingleside, IL.

Some challenges with which we were faced were medical emergencies, termination of CITs, concerns and complaints with the food selection at both camps, securing camp nurses at both camps, meeting state requirements for lifeguarding at St. Vartan Camp, and meeting the emotional needs of the campers, CITs, and Staff

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.

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 program and its ability to nurture future leaders of the Armenian Church.

This year, both camps used a new three-year curriculum plan. The overview was laid out by the Youth Advisory Committee in 2015, and the ten-day lesson plan was developed by the DYYAM. In the new curriculum, we switched from four 30-minute classes each day (Religion, Armenian Language, Culture & Heritage, and Arts & Crafts) to three 40-minute classes a day (Religion, Armenian Language and Culture, and Arts & Crafts). The newly developed Religion curriculum provided participants with a more diversified layout along with youth ministry topics, and it provided many opportunities for discussions amongst the campers themselves. The second year of the religion curriculum will be developed in the coming months and will be utilized in the 2017 camp season. We will also be looking at how we can restructure the Armenian Language curriculum to make it more relevant in a camp setting. We found that the campers enjoyed the language placemats at meal times, but we feel there is even more we can do to enhance the application of the language both in class and during the daily life of the camp. 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). Below is a breakdown of the current tuition for our Diocesan Summer Camps:

St Vartan Camp:

- One-week = \$550 before March 15 and \$590 after March 15
- Two-week = \$950 before March 15 and \$990 after March 15
- CIT (two-week) = \$600

Hye Camp:

- One-week = \$475 before June 1 and \$525 after June 1
- Two week = \$875 before June 1 and \$925 after June 1
- One-week CIT = \$275
- Two-week CIT = \$525

Session A	Session B	Session C
Campers A1: 42	Campers B1: 77	Campers C1: 56
Campers A2: 42	Campers B2: 70	Campers C2: 56
CITs: 13	CITs: 18	CITs: 16
Staff: 17	Staff: 24	Staff: 23
Clergy/Volunteers: 6	Clergy/Volunteers: 11	Clergy/Volunteers: 9

Hye Camp - Week 1	Hye Camp- Week 2
Campers: 141	Campers: 47
CITs: 28	CITs: 15
Staff: 31	Staff: 12
Clergy/Volunteers: 17	Clergy/Volunteers: 12

The Diocesan Summer Camp Programs continues 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 groups in the Diocese with a potential for many more that already gather for church-sponsored activities. We continue to work with parishes to ensure that a youth adviser is appointed in every parish 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 staff attend and participate in the national events such as ACYOA Juniors Hye M'rtsoom and the ACYOA Juniors Sports Weekend, which both draw in more than 200 teens from across the Diocese.

Please see the ACYOA Central Council report for further information regarding the programs of the ACYOA Seniors.

Professional Development: Each year, the department along with the camp directors attends a three-day conference hosted by the Orthodox Christian Camp Association (OCCA) in January. The theme this year was "Feed My Sheep: Crisis, Trauma, and Everyday Life." More than 100

participants gathered in Dallas, TX so clergy and lay workers could have a forum to discuss how to best meet the needs of their campers and staff, both spiritually and socially. In preparation for the camp season, the department spent a day being recertified in Responding to Emergencies and another day receiving CPR for the Professional Rescuer and AED training offered by the American Red Cross, as required by state law. They also participated in several webinars and learning opportunities through the American Camping Association (ACA).

New Initiatives: As of January 2016, the DYYAM created and distributed a new Monthly Bible Study series to share with parish priests, youth workers, and ACYOA chapter chairs for implementation at meetings and events. The DYYAM has also worked closely with the Creative Ministries department on the development of several Bread and Salt videos. These bible studies and videos have been utilized during our Diocesan Summer Camp programs, regional retreats, and workshops.

Staff:

Jennifer Morris, Director, Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Lorie Odabashian, Coordinator, Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Kathryn Ashbahian, Associate, Department of Youth and Young Adult

Ministries

DYYAM PROGRAMS	PARTICIPANTS / PARISHES		
	2014	2015	2016
Diocesan Summer Camps (ages 8-28)			
Hye Camp	122 Campers 39 CITs 27 Staff 14 Parishes	108 Campers 46 CITs 20 Staff 13 Parishes	148 Campers 29 CITs 35 Staff 13 Parishes
St. Vartan Camp	212 Campers 53 CITs 32 Staff 34 Parishes	191 Campers 51 CITs 38 Staff 34 Parishes	195 Campers 48 CITs 39 Staff 30 Parishes
ACYOA Juniors (ages 13-18)			
Members/Chapters	appr. 600 / 29	appr. 625 / 35	appr. 650 / 35
Lenten Regional Retreats	173 / 26	131 / 22	154 / 22
Hye M'rstoorn	252 / 17	282 / 16	211 / 14
Fall Sports Weekend	266 / 16	220 / 17	248 / 16
ACYOA Seniors (ages 18-30)			
Members/Chapters	appr. 275 / 23	appr. 315 / 21	appr. 325 / 24
Chapter Workshop	29 / 16	35 / 11	49 / 13
Lenten Retreats	50 / 21	60 / 20	63 / 20
ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend	56 Delegates 15 Clergy 389 Packages 30 Parishes	36 Delegates 12 Clergy 221 Packages 30 Parishes	48 Delegates 19 Clergy 345 Packages 30 Parishes
Armenia Service Program	12 / 10	6 / 5	16 / 12
Leadership Conference	44 / 17	50 / 18	58 / 25
Jerusalem Pilgrimage	29 / 28	21 / 20	28 / 24

Appendix D — Primate's Message

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian

Address: ACYOA Assembly—May 26, 2017

St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair lawn, New Jersey

1,780 words

Reverend Clergy, ACYOA Delegates, Friends:

I want to start by giving thanks to God, for granting us another opportunity to come together, at this General Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America.

My appreciation goes to our hosting committee — Fr. Diran, Yeretzgin Kismet, and the St. Leon Church—who have worked so hard to plan this gathering. And I thank each of you — clergy, Central Council members, and parish representatives — for serving the Armenian Church, and for bringing your enthusiasm from the parish to the Diocesan level.

Above all, I am happy to have this occasion to share my thoughts with you, to speak with you as a pastor, and to simply be among you all, as we serve the Armenian Church together.

* * *

As a pastor, I have been visiting our parishes over the past several months, with an intent to listen to our people — especially to the younger generation. My goal was simply to listen: listen to the voices of our people.

In the course of these parish visits I met with youth like yourselves; and also with married couples, young families, seniors. I met with longtime parish leaders and relative newcomers. We spoke candidly about the challenges facing them, and what they expect from their church. I heard success stories as well as concerns existing in our parishes.

Here are some of things I heard — I think they will be of interest to you as ACYOA members:

- Of course, there's great concern for attracting youth. But this longtime concern is magnified today by the knowledge that the "millennial generation" is less interested in organized religion. Reaching them is much more challenging for the church.

Last fall, when Catholicos Karekin the Second was in New York, I arranged breakfast meeting with Cardinal Dolan, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York. During the meeting, we were talking about some of the challenges facing the church. Cardinal Dolan mentioned that the millennial generation believe in God when you ask them; but then they don't want to be associated with any organized religions or religious affiliation. And the other bishops present were all in agreement. We have some work to do here.

- There is also a concern about creating a more welcoming atmosphere in the church: making it a place where newcomers, non-Armenian spouses, even people from other backgrounds who want to worship among us, all feel at home, valued, and acknowledged.
- Another critical concern that parishioners are very aware of is that the surrounding culture seems to be moving away from our traditional values. They are eager for the church to address modern social issues. They want to hear where the Armenian Church stands regarding these issues.

These are just a few items I'm sharing after listening to our parishioners. Certainly, our people are thoughtful, intelligent, and serious in expressing their concerns. Some of their questions are very hard to address: issues such as suicide, drug and sexual abuse, homosexuality, gender issues, addiction, and others. But we can't ignore them.

Admittedly, some of these are issues our church cannot simply settle overnight—our church at present may not even have the tools to address them.

What we can do is not discriminate. The key is love. Look at the example of Jesus, he was with everyone. He was accepting and being with everyone.

Jesus was accused of being a friend of sinners. That was the word on the street in the first-century Palestine.

The precise phrase "friend of sinners" is mentioned twice in the Gospels—in Matthew 11:19 and Luke 7:34. The naysayers of the day, the religious aristocracy, criticized Jesus as a "glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners."

They called him this because it was true. He was a friend of sinners. Jesus himself said that he didn't come for the spiritually healthy, but for the sick. "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:31-32).

Jesus spent so much time eating with sinners that the religious leaders accused him of being a sinner, but he wasn't—Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life to take our place, pay for our sins, and give us eternal, abundant life. He didn't encourage or condone the sin of the sinners seated around his dinner table. *He wasn't ok with it, but He was ok with them. He loved them, taught them, encouraged them, and built relationships with them.* He did the same thing for them then that he does for us now.

I feel strongly that our pastors — the clergy who lead our churches — are a key to our efforts and they are prepared for ministry in our culture and society today. Our commitment is to strengthen St. Nersess. The new campus in Armonk marked a new beginning for the seminary's 50-year-old mission. Just as importantly, it marked a new beginning for the program of study being developed for those who feel the calling to serve in a meaningful ministerial capacity — among the clergy as well as laity. The program of "pastoral development" is preparing priests for ministry in our culture and society today. We are also proud to be supporting several priests as they pursue higher education in university graduate programs.

And of course, we've been working to educate our young people in new and exciting ways. This year, we built on our efforts through a new creative ministries project, in which all our departments collaborate. You will see more of that in the Creative Ministries presentation after my remarks. It represents an important new approach—we're trying new methodologies to break out of old forms and expand into promising new areas.

As you will see, it's all very exciting, and the results and plans are very impressive. They inspire Hope, and express our hopes for the Armenian Church in America.

For all of this to come to life, we all need to work together. And we need the participation of your generation, most of all. Sometimes, your role can be as a listener. Sometimes, you may need to reach out and support someone during a difficult time. Other times, your role can be as simple as forwarding a link to a video, or recommending it to your circle of friends and family. That in itself can create a massive effect in outreach.

Other concerns are more difficult to deal with; their solutions are harder to come by. But of course, we always have Hope—the great gift our Lord has given us. With hope, what seems impossible can become possible.

I imagine that this was the conviction that drove the disciples of Christ: that transformed them from fearful souls hiding in the Upper Room, into bold apostles of the Good News of the Resurrection, fearlessly traveling to the remote corners of the globe — our homeland of Armenia among them.

How would our people have overcome adversity, without this precious gift of Hope?

I was thinking about this after watching the film *The Promise*. At a critical moment in the film, as the Armenians wait for dawn on Musa Dagh, the main character Mikael confesses that he feels a darkness opening in his soul. He speaks of his desire for revenge — to pay back in destruction all the suffering that the Turks have inflicted upon him and his loved ones.

But the woman Anna holds him back. "Our revenge will be to survive," she says. By the end of the film, we see that "The Promise" of the title has many meanings. For me, the most important is Mikael's promise to raise and care for his orphaned niece—and all the orphan children he helped escape. It's all symbolized in the wedding at the end, where the survivors of the Genocide commit to beginning a new generation.

Again, that is the spirit of Hope our survivors embodied. It's what marked the martyrs as saints.

Yes, it seems there are many challenges today. However, there have been challenges always, beginning with Adam and Eve. There have been challenges since the early days of Christianity, in all Christianity, and for the Armenians. No moment in the history of the Armenian church was smooth.

And indeed, it's the essential story of our faith. From the stories of the martyrs, to the stories of Armenia's conversion and the Apostolic Age, all the way back to the story of the Crucifixion, we learn that the mission of the church has never been easy.

As Christ told his disciples, to follow him means to follow him in hard times and in good times. We follow Him in times of comfort and peace, as well as in times of distress.

Christ is always with us. And what Christ promised us, what he showed us, is that Hope is always there, too. That is his gift to us, and to forget that Hope is in some sense to deny the miracle of his overcoming of the world. Embracing Hope is to embrace Christ's presence in our lives.

We need above all to pray together. That is surely the foundation of all our aspirations as a church. Indeed, prayer is what happened in the earliest moments of the church: in the Upper Room where the disciples hid during the days after Christ's ascension. They were young people like yourselves, remember. They too felt unsure of where life would take them— of what to do next. But they knew how to pray— and they prayed as Jesus had taught them.

And the rest was history.

So please join me now, as we pray together, for the guidance of our Lord, in our individual lives, and in the life of our church.

O Lord, our God Jesus Christ:

In this gathering of your youthful followers, we deeply feel your unconquerable power which overcame the world.

We thank you for the strength we draw from your message of Hope. Against all our causes for concern, we do not despair. For through you, O Christ, our people have been tested, and emerged victorious. As we chart our paths in life, our faith stands firm. For you are always with us, beside us, giving us Hope for our lives. In your name, we will shine with that Hope in our parishes, in our Diocese, in our church as a whole. We will shine your light to our communities, to our country, to our homeland and the world. May your name be blessed for ever and ever. Amen.

With such thoughts, let us continue with our session today, and go forward with hearts full of the Hope our Lord has given us. May the risen Christ strengthen, inspire, and sustain all our people along this path. END

Appendix E — Auditing Committee Report

Auditing Committee Report - 2016 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, 2016-through December 31, 2016. This audit serves to verify that the financial position of the ACYOA Central Council accurately references the 2016 budget. In addition, the committee reconciled banking activity for the same period.

With respect to the 2016 financial report, the committee first addressed budgeted versus actual income and expenditures. The committee noted that line item #1005 "Fundraising" had a proposed budget of \$5000 when the actual income over the past couple of years has been lower than that. We wondered if there were any plans for additional fundraisers because of the high budgeted amount. The Treasurer responded by explaining that this is for the normal fundraisers like t-shirt and pin sales, but the budgeted income also leaves room for anything additional that might come up throughout the year.

Income Line item #1009 "Interest Income" prompted a question as to why this was a line item since there has been no activity on it since 2011. The Treasurer responded by saying that this was from when they had a savings account. They have not removed it yet because they would like to have an account like this in the future.

The Committee next reviewed the 2016 Expenses by first reconciling the transactions for the year. It was determined that according to the banking statements provided, all financial activity was conducted with accepted accounting procedures.

We also wanted to look into Line item #2003 "Leadership Conference." We wanted to know why they had gone 57% over budget. The Treasurer said Leadership Conference was over budget because at the 2015 General Assembly, they did not know if they would be able to find a retreat center nicer than Don Bosco. We also had 70 people sign up, a much higher number than the previous year in New York that brought in 45 attendants.

We questioned expense line item #2008 "Standing Committee" as this was over budget by 95%. There has not been an actual amount spent in this category within the last couple of years. The

Treasurer said the Standing Committee's line item is for subcommittees we form on Council and/or at GA, such as the Nancy Basmajian Scholarship Fund. Last year for the 70th anniversary, they were forming committees for different projects. The expense was for the gold pins that were given to all Central Council alumni for their continued support.

We questioned line item #2024 "Miscellaneous" since this was over budget by 2190%. We were wondering what happened that caused the expenses to go up so drastically. The Treasurer reported back that Miscellaneous was over budget because they reimbursed the ACEF account with the Sports Weekend profit money. In 2009, the committee needed to withdraw over

\$10,000 from the ACEF account to cover the cost for the regional Sports Weekend. Central Council thought it was best to reimburse the account because the profit was larger than we anticipated, and now we will hopefully receive a higher return on the ACEF interest in future years.

The committee appreciates that the Central Council considered all the recommendations of the 2016 Auditing Committee, especially in providing e-statements via email. This was very helpful in our review process.

The Auditing Committee recommends the following:

1. 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.

Explanations were provided for why there are no expenses in the current fiscal year, even though in some cases amounts were budgeted for future years.

Income #1009: Interest Income (budgeted \$0.00, Actual \$0.00)

Expense #2009: Chapter Assistance Program (Budgeted \$1000.00, Actual \$0.00)

Expense #2011: Fundraising Initiatives (Budgeted \$1500.00, Actual \$0.00)

Expense #2009: Copies and Supplies (Budgeted \$100.00, Actual \$0.00)

Expense #2023: Essay Contest (Budgeted \$500.00, Actual \$0.00)

2. We note that no expenses have been reported for the past four years for Expense #2023 "Essay Contest." We recommend that this line item be removed from future budgets.

The Auditing Committee would like to thank the Central Council, specifically Treasurer Daniel Zalinov, for his kind attention in answering our questions and support during the auditing process. We conclude that the combined financial records of the 2016 ACYOA Central Council are a fair representation in accordance with generally acceptable accounting procedure.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald Malconian Aleen Kaltakdjian Aleksandr Shafiyev

Appendix F — Financial Report

ACYOA 2016 FINANCIALS

Prepared by: DANIEL ZALINOV

	2016 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	FY 2015 ACT
INCOME			
Armenia Service Program (ASP)	40,530.00	45,000.00	13,850.00
ACEF Interest	15,323.24	13,000.00	14,978.65
Beginning Balance	22,421.62	13,000.00	21,616.85
Donations	8,050.00	5,000.00	16,070.75
Fundraising	495.00	6,000.00	160.00
Religious/Educational Programs	6,050.00	7,000.00	2,600.50
Sports Weekend Profit	10,063.00	0.00	2,527.20
Sports Weekend Returned seed money	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
Interest Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Income	75.00	1,000.00	217.98
Dues	3,010.00	3,000.00	2,490.00
Parish Assessment	9,250.00	5,000.00	4,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	115,267.86	99,500.00	78,511.93

BGT REMAININ	%
(4,470.00)	-9.93%
2,323.24	17.87%
9,421.62	72.47%
3,050.00	61.00%
(5,505.00)	-91.75%
(950.00)	-13.57%
10,063.00	0.00%
(1,500.00)	-100.00%
0.00	0.00%
(925.00)	-92.50%
10.00	0.33%
4,250.00	85.00%
11,517.86	11.58%

PY VAR.	%
26,680.00	192.64%
344.59	2.30%
804.77	3.72%
(8,020.75)	-49.91%
335.00	209.38%
3,449.50	132.65%
7,535.80	298.19%
0.00	0.00%
0.00	0.00%
(142.98)	-65.59%
520.00	20.88%
5,250.00	131.25%
31,505.93	40.13%

	2016 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	FY 2015 ACT
EXPENSES			
ASP - Present Year	44,378.00	45,000.00	16,776.94
ASP - Upcoming Year	3,125.00	3,500.00	0.00
Leadership Conference	12,594.09	8,000.00	9,283.13
Central Council Meetings	9,732.73	12,000.00	12,206.66
Chapter Visits/Contacts	2,975.77	3,000.00	2,669.45
Religious/Educational Programs	8,336.55	7,000.00	7,625.18
Standing Committees	782.94	400.00	0.00
Chapter Assistance Program	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
Fundraising Initiatives	0.00	1,500.00	109.22
Scholarships (ASP)	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Summer Program Scholarships	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Sports Weekend Seed Money	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
Diocesan Assembly	414.90	2,500.00	826.53
General Assembly	2,855.75	2,000.00	3,651.34
Postage	9.40	50.00	29.40
Copies and Supplies	0.00	100.00	0.00
Website	1,954.00	6,500.00	1,548.00
Jerusalem Patriarchate	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Essay Contest	0.00	500.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	10,305.00	450.00	62.66
Nancy Basmajian Scholarship Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	101,964.13	99,500.00	57,288.51

BGT REMAININ	%
622.00	1.38%
375.00	10.71%
(4,594.09)	-57.43%
2,267.27	18.89%
24.23	0.81%
(1,336.55)	-19.09%
(382.94)	-95.74%
1,000.00	100.00%
1,500.00	100.00%
0.00	0.00%
0.00	0.00%
1,500.00	100.00%
2,085.10	83.40%
(855.75)	-42.79%
40.60	81.20%
100.00	100.00%
4,546.00	69.94%
0.00	0.00%
500.00	100.00%
(9,855.00)	#####
0.00	0.00%
(2,464.13)	-2.48%

PY VAR.	%
#####	#####
(3,125.00)	0.00%
(3,310.96)	-35.67%
2,473.93	20.27%
(306.32)	-11.48%
(711.37)	-9.33%
(782.94)	0.00%
0.00	0.00%
109.22	100.00%
(1,000.00)	0.00%
0.00	0.00%
0.00	0.00%
411.63	49.80%
795.59	21.79%
20.00	68.03%
0.00	0.00%
(406.00)	-26.23%
0.00	0.00%
0.00	0.00%
(1,000.00)	0.00%
#####	-77.98%

NET	13,303.73	0.00	21,223.42
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21223.42

Appendix G — 2018 Proposed Budget

ACYOA 2018 PROPOSED BUDGET									
Prepared by: DANIEL ZALINOV									
LINE	INCOME	2011 ACT	2012 ACT	2013 ACT	2014 ACT	2015 ACT	2016 ACT	2017 Budget	2018 Proposed
100	Armenia Service Program (ASP)	0	49416.42	25540	36989	13880	40530.00	45,000.00	55,500
100	ACEF Interest	13384.28	12852.23	13331.47	13895.38	14978.65	15323.24	13,000.00	17,000
100	Beginning Balance	13611.87	20989.5	12634.57	13221.07	21062.45	22421.62	13,000.00	13,000
100	Donations	10500	10500	19368	3450	16070.75	8050.00	5,000.00	7,000
100	Sundraising	1014	5211	1360	6182.12	160	495.00	6,000.00	5,000
100	Religious/Educational Programs	7459.8	7405	3465	3650	2600.5	6050.00	3,000.00	3,000
100	Chapter Workshop	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	4,000.00	4,000
100	Sports Weekend Profit	0	0	10000	13283.22	2527.2	10063.00	0.00	0.0
100	Sports Weekend returned seed money	0	0	1500	1500	0	0.00	1,500.00	1,500
101	Interest Income	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.0
101	Other income	8255.25	130	0	3500	217.98	75.00	1,000.00	1,000
101	Dues	1250	1585	1605	1535	2490	3010.00	3,000.00	3,000
101	Parish Assessment	0	0	0	0	4000	9250.00	5,000.00	5,000
100	TOTAL INCOME	55475.2	108085.15	88804.04	97205.79	73957.53	115,267.86	99,500.00	115,000
LINE	EXPENSES	2011 ACT	2012 ACT	2013 ACT	2014 BGT	2015 ACT	2016 ACTUAL	2017 Budget	2018 Proposed
200	ASP - Present Year	3125	51640	25504	39964	16776.94	44,378.00	45,000.00	55,500
200	ASP - Upcoming Year	0	3125	3175	0	0	3,125.00	3,500.00	3,500
200	Readership Conference	8437.51	8343.62	6797.07	6369.2	8989.93	12,594.09	9,500.00	12,500
200	Central Council Meetings	11403.82	7143.74	4697.87	6568.55	12206.66	9,732.73	12,000.00	12,000
200	Chapter Visits/Contacts	540.84	3990.03	2582.11	1198.97	2669.45	2,975.77	3,000.00	4,000
200	Religious/Educational Programs	9031.35	7678.23	6285.98	7029.51	7363.98	8,336.55	3,000.00	3,000
200	Chapter Workshop	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	4,000.00	5,000
200	Standing Committees	0	26.75	0	0	0	782.94	400.00	400.
200	Chapter Assistance Program	300	0	0	0	0	0.00	1,000.00	1,000
201	Fund Raising Initiatives	3691.9	6934.67	835.75	6039.14	109.22	0.00	1,000.00	1,500
201	Scholarships (ASP)	400	1000	500	500	0	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000
201	Summer Program Scholarships	1200	1200	1500	0	1500	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500
201	Sports Weekend Seed Money	0	1500	1500	0	0	0.00	1,500.00	1,500
201	Diocesan Assembly	2084.83	1678.96	2481.4	1694.75	826.53	414.90	2,500.00	3,000
201	General Assembly	2700	3158.18	2794.83	2045.8	3651.34	2,855.75	2,000.00	3,000
201	Postage	92.94	89	0	0	29.4	9.40	50.00	50.
201	Copies and Supplies	70.89	38	69.98	0	0	0.00	100.00	100.
201	Website	1644	1548	1611.98	1548	1548	1,954.00	5,500.00	3,000
202	Jerusalem Patriarchate	2000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000
202	Essay Contest	300	0	0	0	0	0.00	500.00	0.0
202	Miscellaneous	962.5	1542.6	1423.3	950	62.66	10,305.00	450.00	450.
202	Nancy Basmajian Scholarship	0	0	0	0	0	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000
200	TOTAL EXPENSES	47985.58	101636.78	75588.97	74905.92	56734.11	101,964.13	99,500.00	115,000
	NET	7489.62	6452.37	13215.07	22299.87	17223.42	13,303.73	0.00	0.0

Appendix H — 2017 ACYOA General Assembly Slate of Candidates

Chairman of the Assembly (elect 1)

1. Rafael Grigoryan, Armenian Church of Jacksonville, FL
2. Andrew Khanarian, St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ
3. Arthur Sabounjian, Armenian Church of the Holy Translators, Framingham, MA

Nominating Committee (elect up to 3)

1. Anais Astarjian, St. James, Watertown, MA
2. Shant Der Torosian, St. James, Watertown, MA
3. Emily Janikian, St. Mesrob, Racine, WI
4. Talene Jermakian, St. Mark, Springfield, MA
5. Chelsea Kress, St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ
6. Anna Margaryan, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA
7. Tania Melkonian, St. James, Watertown, MA
8. Andrew Yenicag, Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY

Auditing Committee (elect up to 3)

1. Aaron Derderian, St. James, Watertown, MA
2. Michael Demirchian, Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, MA
3. Alen Dokmecian, Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY
4. Noelle Hagopian, St. James, Watertown, MA
5. *Aleen Kaltakdjian, Armenian Church of San Antonio, TX*
6. Brian Sarafyan, Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY
7. Nicholas Tashjian, St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ

Central Council (elect up to 3)

1. Sona Dagley, Armenian Church of the Holy Translators, Framingham, MA
2. Rafael Grigoryan, Armenian Church of Jacksonville, FL
3. Noelle Hagopian, St. James, Watertown, MA
4. Liana Kurkjian, St. Gregory the Illuminator, White Plains, NY
5. Ronald Malconian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA
6. Melissa Mardoian, Sts. Joachim and Anne, Palos Heights, IL
7. *Mallory Maslar, St. Hagop, Pinellas Park, FL*
8. Peter Oundjian, St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ

Please note: Italics indicate incumbent.

2017 General Assembly
Biographies of the Central Council Candidates

Sona Dagley, Holy Translators, Framingham, MA

Sona has been a part of the ACYOA in multiple parishes, beginning with the ACYOA Juniors chapter in Cleveland, continuing into Detroit where she transitioned to Seniors, and currently in her new home of Holy Translators in Framingham, MA, with Holy Trinity welcoming her when she first moved to Massachusetts. Sona has had a fair share of experience of the Diocesan camps moving through the ranks of Hye Camp as a camper, continuing to a CIT, then counselor. She also attended St. Vartan camp where she went from CIT, to Counselor/sports director, to Head Counselor. Sona is a part of the choir at her church and has attended lock-ins, Lenten retreats, leadership conference, and the general assemblies and sports weekend. She has done an internship in Armenia and will soon venture on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem later this summer. The ACYOA has played a large part in Sona's life and she wants the members of the ACYOA to experience all the organization has to offer its youth in the way it has positively affected her.

Sona graduated from Michigan State University in 2016 with a B.S. in Kinesiology. She is currently a personal trainer where she continues to use her passions to help others.

Rafael Grigoryan, Armenian Church of Jacksonville, FL

Rafael has been a member of the Armenian Church of Jacksonville since he was 7 years old. He has served on the altar and for over 16 years and helped start the Jacksonville ACYOA chapter this past year.

He currently resides in Tampa, FL where he attends the University of South Florida Business School. He served as treasurer in the ACYOA chapter as well as internal and external operations Vice President for 3 consecutive semesters at Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity at Florida State University. He also served as the Chapter President for the 2014 calendar year. He was also the treasure for the USF Investments society and is part of a select group to run the University Investment Fund. He has experience on executive committees and operations for various organizations. He recently trekked with 30 other pilgrims to Jerusalem and has pledged to continue improving the Armenian community domestic and abroad.

Noelle Hagopian, St. James, Watertown, MA

Noelle attended UMass Amherst in 2007, and participated in the University's Armenian cultural group. Her faith and pride in her heritage increased tremendously after college, and she strived to maintain a presence in her local Armenian community. She really wants to give back, and help

guide young people. She works in quality operations for a behavioral health care organization based in Boston. As a remote worker, she seeks more connection with her peers, especially those that share her Armenian culture.

Liana Kurkjian, St. Gregory the Enlightener, White Plains, NY

Liana Kurkjian has been a faithful member of the St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church in White Plains, NY, since a very young age. She is a Sunday School and Armenian School graduate, and continues to partake in the spiritual enrichment of the badarak by singing in the choir. She has served as the Chairman of St. Gregory's ACYOA Juniors and has been serving as the Vice Chairman of the ACYOA Seniors for the last five years. In those years, Liana coordinated and participated in several dances, Palm Sunday luncheons, midnight runs, mentoring the ACYOA Juniors, and increasing overall involvement and volunteer work. Throughout the years, she has attended countless Leadership Conferences, Chapter Workshops, retreats, and General Assemblies.

Liana regularly attended St. Vartan Camp, from the age of 8-18, as a camper, CIT, counselor, and Armenian language instructor. She also attended numerous St. Nersess summer conferences. In 2009, Liana graduated from Khrimian Lyceum, the Diocese's language and cultural program in New York, NY. In July of 2010, she was chosen to represent the St. Gregory the Enlightener Church on the Armenian Service Program, in which she assisted with undergoing renovations at FAR's Ounjian School and Soup Kitchen. This June, Liana will have the honor and privilege to participate in the spiritual and holy pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

In 2016, Liana graduated honors with a M.S in Speech Language Pathology and is completing her clinical fellowship year. She currently develops and provides speech, language, and feeding therapy for young children, ages 10 months-5 years of age, with a variety of diagnoses including, autism spectrum disorder, auditory processing disorder, disorders in receptive and expressive language, and selective mutism.

Ronnie Malconian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA

Ronnie grew up in Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge, MA. He was an active member in the ACYOA Juniors, and has made it a priority to be in a leadership position within the ACYOA Seniors for the last six years. He values having the church as a part of his life and has always been a part of a thriving ACYOA. Since he was 18 he has attended leadership conferences, Chapter workshops, Lenten retreats, St. Nersess Conferences as well as serving in various Counselor roles at St. Vartan Camp.

Ronnie started out by serving on the Executive committee at Holy Trinity when he was 19 years old. In 2014 Holy Trinity won the Chapter A Award while Ronnie served as Vice-Chairman, which showed their hard work and dedication they had while rebuilding their chapter, and it was the beginning of their newfound presence in the ACYOA Seniors. He was the chairman of the Holy Trinity ACYOA chapter in 2016 and is currently serving as co-chairman. In 2016 Ronnie, co-chaired the 2016 General Assembly and Sports Weekend in Boston. At that Assembly he won the Gregory Arpajian award for his dedicated leadership in the ACYOA.

He has also served as the head of the auditing committee two years ago and is currently the head of the auditing committee for this year.

Ronnie graduated from Merrimack College in 2013 with a degree in Business Administration. He currently works as a Brokerage account specialist for Empower Retirement in their IRA and a 401(k) department.

Ronnie hopes to use all his ACYOA and business experience to serve the ACYOA on a national level. He would be honored to receive the opportunity to serve as a Central Council member.

Melissa Mardoian, Sts. Joachim & Anne, Palos Heights, IL

Melissa Mardoian has been a member of Sts. Joachim & Anne Armenian Church in Palos Heights, IL since she was born. Her mother and father are very involved in the church on a parish and diocesan level and they have been great models to her. She has been involved in Sunday School, serving on the altar, singing in the choir, establishing an ACYOA seniors chapter, and being the youth representative for the church. Melissa has represented her parish at Lenten Retreats, Leadership Conferences, Chapter Workshop, General Assembly & Sports Weekend, and as the chair of the 2017 Poon Paregentan Dinner Dance committee. She also had the pleasure to take part in the 2012 Armenian Service Program and the honor of being chosen to walk Jesus' steps on the 2014 Pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Melissa attended Hye Camp as a camper, CIT, counselor, art teacher, and night security. She is also very involved with the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, participating in high school sessions for 4 years and post-high for 1 year and staffing high school sessions for 3 years and post high sessions for 2 years. Melissa finds great joy in helping others grow spiritually, as it also helps her continue to grow. She wants to share her passion for the church with those involved in the ACYOA by taking a role on Central Council if she is given the honor.

Melissa graduated with her Bachelors in Chemistry and Secondary Education from University of Illinois — Urbana/Champaign, and Masters in English Language Teaching and Learning from Loyola University. She is currently a high school regular chemistry, English Language Learners chemistry, and regular physics teacher, as well as the girls track and field jumps coach.

Mallory Maslar, St. Hagop, Pinellas Park, FL

Mallory Maslar has been a member of St. Hagop Armenian Church in Pinellas Park since she was a little girl serving on the altar and attending Sunday School. When Fr. Hovnan Demerjian became the priest at St. Hagop he helped establish an ACYOA chapter. Since then she has served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of St. Hagop's ACYOA. She has also attended Leadership Conferences, Chapter Workshops and General Assemblies. She attended St. Vartan Camp as a counselor and served as Head Counselor.

In years past, Mallory has worked with Central Council to help coordinate the annual Chapter Workshop at St. Hagop and help organize the service project portion of the weekend. Every year the participants of the weekend make sandwiches for Pinellas Hope, a local homeless shelter. She also currently serves as the Sunday School superintendent and Vice Chair for St. Hagop's Parish Council. This past March she organized St. Hagop's first annual 5K Run to help recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Mallory graduated from Florida State University with a degree in business finance and business management and currently works for an insurance company in Tampa. She is also currently treasurer for her sorority's Tampa Alumni chapter.

Mallory's first year on Central Council she served as treasurer and she is the current Chairman. She is also excited to be participating in ASP this year.

Peter Oundjian, St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ

Peter Oundjian is a longstanding member of St. Leon, Fair Lawn, and plays an active role as Co-Chairman of his ACYOA.

As a child, Peter attended Sunday School and Armenian School which founded his passion and love for the Armenian Church. Peter also attended St. Vartan Camp for 12 years, which gave him an even stronger enthusiasm for becoming an active member of the ACYOA. His experiences with these programs further strengthened his commitment to the Armenian Church, and provided him with the tools, drive, and determination to be a dedicated and knowledgeable leader of the ACYOA.

As a teenager, Peter was an active member of the St. Leon ACYOA Juniors. He also graduated from the Diocese's Khrimian Lyceum where he learned the importance of preserving the Armenian culture and faith.

During his time in college, he interned through the AGBU Yerevan Summer Internship Program at a school in Davtashen, Yerevan. There, Peter taught local students English through collaborative learning. Though he was away from his home parish during his college years, he still remained committed to the ACYOA by joining the St. James chapter in Watertown, MA. Peter graduated from Suffolk University in Boston, MA with a Bachelor's degree in International Relations.

Peter is currently employed with an engineering firm in Manhattan, working with the New York City Housing Authority.

Last year, Peter had the opportunity to work with a group of dedicated individuals to reactivate the St. Leon ACYOA. On the Sports Weekend Committee, Peter took on the role of being in charge of registration. This year, Peter is a member of the Nominating Committee for the 2017 General Assembly.

If elected on Central Council, Peter pledges to strengthen membership participation by guiding and encouraging recent graduates to continue their involvement with the church by joining their local Seniors chapter. Using his experience reviving the St. Leon ACYOA, he will work to establish new and reshape inactive chapters. Peter firmly believes that the ACYOA is a symbol of the Armenian Church of America's bright and thriving future.

Appendix I — Proposal for General Assembly Cost

Proposal for 2017 ACYOA General Assembly

Submitted by: Nicholas Tashjian

Whereas Article 10, Section 8 of the ACYOA bylaws states, "It shall be the responsibility of the ACYOA Central Council to convene the General Assembly...";

And *whereas* the ACYOA Central Council coordinates and dictates the agenda for the ACYOA General Assembly;

And *whereas* the use of audio and video equipment at the ACYOA General Assembly is required as part of the agenda;

And *whereas* the cost of providing audio and video equipment at the ACYOA General Assembly currently falls on the General Assembly & Sports Weekend Host Committee;

And *whereas* the cost of the delegates reception and the cost of reserving a location for the general assembly currently falls on the General Assembly & Sports Weekend Host Committee;

And *whereas* Article 11, Section 5 of the ACYOA by-laws states, "Half of the net proceeds from Diocesan-wide functions shall be sent to the ACYOA Central Council by the sponsoring Chapters.";

Be it proposed that starting with the 2018 ACYOA General Assembly and moving forward, any and all costs associated with the planning and/or execution of the annual ACYOA General Assembly be paid for by the ACYOA Central Council.

Rationale: The delegates reception, General Assembly meeting room reservation, and audio and video costs associated with meetings can be very expensive. The General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee is already required to send half of the weekend's profits to the ACYOA Central Council, and A/V costs coupled with potential rental fees can total several thousand dollars, further cutting into the profits for the host committee. Since the General Assembly is required to convene under the bylaws of the ACYOA, and the ACYOA Central Council is the

governing body of the ACYOA, it makes sense for the Central Council to incur the costs for their meeting. Furthermore, the previous two budgets of the central council (2015 and 2014) show an income surplus of over \$20,000 which could be used to fund the aforementioned expenses. Taking over these costs will allow the host chapter to retain more profits, providing the chapter and their parish more funding for youth programming and growth.

Appendix J — Resolutions and Courtesies

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 2017 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 66th birthday this year.
2. Whereas His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, our beloved Primate, has presided over the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly, and has provided immeasurable support for the 2017 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 2017 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, and congratulates him on his 66th birthday and 46th anniversary of his ordination.
3. Whereas Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian, Rev. Fr. Arten Ashjian, and Rev. Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian all passed away, be it resolved the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly and whereas on May 25th a bus full of Egyptian Coptic Christians suffered casualties as a result of terrorism, be it resolved that the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly join us in a moment of silence in the mourning of their souls who art in heaven.
4. Whereas this year marked the 102nd 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 2017 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 2017 General Assembly continue to pledge to “Live the Gospel of Christ” and honor the “Legacy of the Martyrs”.
5. Whereas Rev. Fr. Armash Baghdassarian from Holy Resurrection in Orlando, FL, and Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian of St. Mesrob Armenian Church in Racine, WI, were both ordained as priests in the Armenian Church this year. Be it resolved that the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly congratulate them and their Yeretzgins in their continued ministry to the children of God.
6. Whereas May 28th marks the 99th anniversary of Armenia first being proclaimed an independent republic, and whereas on September 21, the Republic of Armenia will celebrate the 26th anniversary of its renewed independence, be it resolved that the 2017 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 2017 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 2017 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.
9. Be it resolved that the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly extends sincere appreciation to the ACYOA Seniors of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, Cambridge, MA, including Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, pastor, Yerezgin Arpi Kouzouian, and the 2017 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee and advisers, for hosting the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend.
10. Whereas there were 15 clergymen present at this year's Assembly including:
 - a. His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
 - b. Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian
 - c. Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian
 - d. Very. Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian
 - e. Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian
 - f. Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian
 - g. Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoudkjian
 - h. Rev. Fr. Mesrob Hovsepyan
 - i. Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian
 - j. Rev. Fr. Daniel Karadjian
 - k. Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian
 - l. Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin
 - m. Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian
 - n. Rev. Fr. Abraham Malkhasyan
 - o. Rev. Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan

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 2017 ACYOA General Assembly delegates and the Central Council express their sincere gratitude to the clergy of the Armenian Church and the Diocesan Council members.

1. Whereas this is the 28th 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 71 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 2017 ACYOA General Assembly prays for the soul of Tiran Srpazan and expresses its gratitude for his legacy.

2. Whereas our Lord speaks through the words of St. John the Evangelist that all Christians, “may become completely one,” be it resolved that the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly pray for unity of all Churches following the mission established by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (John 17:23)
3. Whereas the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry serves as advisor to the ACYOA Central Council, be it resolved that the Central Council and the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly extends its sincere appreciation to Director Jennifer Morris, Coordinator Lorie Odabashian, and Associate Kathryn Ashbahian for their hard work and dedication towards the youth of the Armenian Church.
4. Whereas new ACYOA Chapters continue to be formed in our Diocese, be it resolved that the 2017 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.
5. Be it resolved that the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly offers sincere appreciation to outgoing Central Council members Chelsea Kress, Lauren Piligian, and Daniel Zalinov, re-elected council member Mallory Maslar, as well as remaining council members Danielle Malconian, Arsen Yelegen, and Nora Knadjian, for their dedication to our organization and hard work on its behalf, and also extends congratulations to the newly elected council members Sona Dagley, Melissa Mardoian, and Ronald Malconian, as well as the alternate, Peter Oundjian.
6. Be it resolved that the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly thanks the 2016 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.
7. Be it resolved that the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly extends its deepest gratitude to the 2017 ACYOA General Assembly Chairman, Arthur Sabounjian, Vice-Chairman, Andrew Khanarian, General Assembly Secretaries, Greta Janigian and Hayk Matevosyan, Sergeants-at-Arms, Brian Sarafyan and Alen Dokmeciyan, Parliamentarians Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian and Jonathan Pelaez, as well as the Nominating and Auditing committees, for making this 2017 ACYOA General Assembly a true success.

Respectfully Submitted,

2017 ACYOA General Assembly Resolutions and Courtesies Committee

Rev. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian, Michael Demirchian, Michael Givelekian and Sophia Yedigarian