

**MINUTES OF THE 2015 GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA  
St. John's Armenian Church, Southfield, Michigan  
May 21-22, 2015**

**THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015**

**First Assembly Session**

The General Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America convened on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 at 7:00PM. The 2015 ACYOA Central Council Chair Ani Grigorian (Racine, WI) welcomed delegates and called the meeting to order.

The following Central Council (CC) members were present:

Ani Grigorian, Chair (Racine, WI)  
Jonathan Pelaez, Vice Chair (Livingston, NJ)  
Chelsea Kress, Secretary (Fair Lawn, NJ)  
Shant Paklaian, Treasurer (Chicago, IL)  
Sarine Atamian, Public Relations (Bayside, NY)  
Adrienne Ashbahian, Programing (Fair Lawn, NJ)

Jennifer Morris, Director, Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (DYYAM)

**Invocation**

The Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian offered the Invocation.

**Roll Call – Confirmation of Quorum**

Chelsea Kress (CC Secretary, Fair Lawn, NJ) conducted roll call. She stated that 32 delegates were present out of 47.

Chelsea informed the assembly that Daniel Zalinov (CC Chapter Relations, Charlotte, NC) will be present tomorrow at the assembly.

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

2014 Assembly Chair Greg Torosian (Cambridge, MA) reviewed meeting procedure and provided a brief explanation of Robert's Rules of Order, referring to the "Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance" chart supplied to delegates in their registration folders. (*See attachment*)

**Election of Assembly Chair and Vice Chair**

Representing the Nominating Committee, Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL) stated that Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) and Caiti Zeytoonian (Watertown, MA) were unable to attend this evening; Sona Dagley (Southfield, MI) and Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL) will be assisting for the first session of the assembly. Melissa presented the following nominees for Assembly Chair: Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) and Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL).

V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL) motioned to close nominations. The nomination was seconded by Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL) and passed. Thirty two out of forty six nominations were collected. Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA) was asked to stand as the Sergeant-at-Arms until a new one was appointed. Greg Torosian (Cambridge, MA) explained the voting process. Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian (Racine, WI) noted that the bylaws state plurality vote is necessary. Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) was elected as Chair of the Assembly and Mallory Maslar (Pinellas Park, FL) would serve as Vice Chair of the Assembly.

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

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) appointed Fr. Yeprem Kelegian and Greg Torosian as the joint parliamentarians. Stephen Hollisian was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms.

Lauren Piligian (Framingham, MA) and Mary Keutelian (Greenfield, WI) were appointed as the Assembly Co-Secretaries. Adrienne Ashbahian (CC Programming, Fair Lawn, NJ) temporarily filled in for Mary Keutelian until her arrival. Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) appointed Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL), Sona Dagley (Southfield, MI) and Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL) on the Resolution and Courtesies Committee.

Jennifer Morris (Director, DYYAM) was appointed to assist in this process. Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian requested that delegates limit screen time with phones and to engage in this decision making meeting, and reviewed the rules and how to approach the microphone. Harry announced of how the evening and Friday's schedule.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL) made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Ani Grigorian (CC Chair, Racine, WI). Mallory motioned to close discussion seconded by Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL). The motion passed.

### **Acceptance of 2014 General Assembly Minutes**

Fr. Yeprem Kelegian (Racine, WI) noted a grammar correction on page four.

Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL) wanted to commend the secretaries for their excellent job with the 2014 General Assembly minutes.

Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL) made a motion to close discussion, seconded by Anahit Movsesyan (Southfield, MI). The motion passed.

### **Joint Report of the Central Council and Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (DYYAM) *(See attachment D)***

The floor was opened for discussion. Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL) inquired about the top of the third page on the Central Council report about the Armenian Service Program, and requested

that the total number of participants be listed. Ani Grigorian (CC Chair, Racine, WI) responded that twelve participants attended in the summer of 2014.

Fr. Aren Jebejian also inquired about where to find the recipients of the Nancy Basmajian Scholarship Fund. Ani Grigorian (CC Chair, Racine, WI) explained that the scholarship fund will not be utilized until five years from now.

Fr. Yeprem Kelegian (Racine, WI) inquired about the total monies collected from the Parish Assessment. Ani Grigorian reported that \$3,750 dollars was collected by 15 parishes throughout the Diocese.

Jennifer Morris (Director, DYYAM) presented the report as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. (*See attachment E*)

Anahit Movsesyan (Southfield, MI) expressed that the number may be lower because many people go away for college and suggested an idea to have different chapters at different colleges, to affiliate at different chapters. Jennifer replied that the Diocese did do campus visits but it conflicted with Armenian Student Associations.

Ani Grigorian (CC Chair, Racine, WI) thanked Diocesan Council members for being in attendance throughout General Assembly.

Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL) motioned to accept the Central Council and DYYAM report, seconded by Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL). Greg Torosian (Cambridge, MA) moved to close discussion and Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA) seconded. The discussion was closed. The report was accepted.

There was a motion to receive the report by Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL) and Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL) seconded. Greg Torosian (Cambridge, MA) made a motion to close the floor seconded by Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA). The motion passed and discussion closed.

### **Report of the ACYOA/FAR Committee**

(*See attachment F*)

The report of the ACYOA/FAR Committee was given by Adrienne Ashbahian (CC Programming, Fair Lawn, NJ) in place of Eric Ashbahian (Fair Lawn, NJ).

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian motioned to accept the ACYOA/FAR report, which was moved by Gabrielle Barikian (Bayside, NY) and seconded by Anahit Movsesyan (Southfield, MI). The motion to close was moved by Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL) and seconded by Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA).

## **Report of the 2012 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee**

*(See attached G)*

Shant Paklaian (CC Treasurer, Chicago, IL) presented the report of the 2012 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee.

Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL) commented that the net loss is being absorbed by the parish and when the dispute is successful, a donation to ACYOA Central Council will be made in order for the books to close.

Fr. Yeprem Kelegian (Racine, WI) commented that it is good to keep the package price down and that the parish and chapter followed the guidelines set forth by the ACYOA and Central Council.

Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) motioned to accept the addendum to the 2012 report with the conditions Fr. Aren Jebejian presented. This was moved by Fr. Garabed Kochakian (Southfield, MI) and seconded by Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL). The motion to close was moved by Mallory Maslar and seconded by Talin Dursunian (Bayside, NY). The Assembly voted to accept the addendum to the report.

## **Report of the 2013 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee**

*(See attachment H)*

Fr. Shnork Souin (Providence, RI) presented the report. He moved to bring the vote from the table on seconded by Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL). The motion is now active to accept the report which was given last year by the Providence committee. The report was voted on and is now taken off the table.

Greg Torosian (Cambridge, MA) called a point of order that the report was not given by the Providence chapter at the 2014 assembly. Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian stated that Greg Torosian spoke out of order.

Fr. Shnork Souin (Providence, RI) made a motion to accept the report, and went on to articulate that if the report was not accepted, he felt it necessary to read the addendum out loud to the Assembly. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian recommended that the Assembly asks Fr. Shnork Souin any questions that they may have regarding the new addendum

Fr. Yeprem Kelegian (Racine, WI) moved to table the discussion on the addendum of 2013 Providence General Assembly and Sports Weekend until the next day (May 22, 2015). He went on to further ask that each member of the Assembly receive a copy of the report to read before the session continues the next day.

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian stated that it was necessary to second Fr. Shnork Souin's motion to in order to accept the report. There was no second from the Assembly; therefore the motion did not pass.

Fr. Yeprem Kelegian's motion to table the discussion until the next day was seconded by Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL). He asked if the amended report was presented to the ACYOA Central Council and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. Ani Grigorian (CC Chair, Racine, WI) stated that it was presented to Central Council and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and after discussion it was decided not distribute to the Assembly.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian stated that Central Council tried to find solutions to accept the report, which is why he recommended that Providence ACYOA and Central Council cooperate to close the issue.

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian stated that there should not be a discussion to table a motion amongst the Assembly. The Assembly was then asked to accept the motion to move the discussion of the amended report of the Providence General Assembly and Sports Weekend to the next day once the body was able to receive a copy of the addendum. The assembly accepted the motion to table the discussion. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian advised to make copies for each member of the body to receive to read for the next day.

Fr. Shnork Souin (Providence, RI) articulated a point of information, wondering if he will be able to make the motion to accept the report of the Providence General Assembly and Sports Weekend the next day when the addendum is discussed.

Fr. Yeprem Kelegian (Racine, WI) stated that questions about the report need to be answered.

### **Report of the 2014 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee**

*(See attachment I)*

The report of the 2014 General Assembly and Sports Weekend was presented by Chairperson Sarine Atamian (Bayside, NY), and committee members Talin Dursunian (Bayside, NY), Gabrielle Barikian (Bayside, NY), and Armineh Babikian (Bayside, NY).

Fr. Shnork Souin (Providence, RI) asked about the \$1,000 dollars the Providence Sports Weekend committee had donated. The committee answered it was included in the weekend Ad Book.

Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL) motioned to accept the report and Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL) seconded it. The motioned passed and the report was accepted.

### **2015 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee Welcome**

On behalf of the 2015 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee, Chairperson Linda Kalfayan welcomed all the participants to Detroit. Host pastor, Fr. Garabed Kochakian (Southfield, MI) spoke about how this year is special because of the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the genocide, and that the theme will be reflected throughout the weekend. He discussed about how on Saturday the sports will pause for a program on the genocide with two different celebrities. Committee member Linda Kalfayan asked for everyone to download the YAPP phone app to receive information about the weekend. She wished the attendants a fun and safe weekend.

### **Informational Presentations: Pan-ACYO**

The Pan-ACYO presentation was given by Sarine Atamian (CC Public Relations, Bayside, NY), accompanied by a pictorial Power Point.

Fr. Garabed Kochakian (Southfield, MI) inquired how the delegates are chosen from our diocese and other dioceses. Sarine replied that they are working on a set of guidelines now; it initially was decided by the total number of members in your organization, and will eventually move onto choosing delegates from different assemblies. Fr. Garabed Kochakian asked how the trip is funded and Sarine answered that there was a sponsor who funded the trip. In an effort to keep costs down, they also included members who are currently in Armenia. This is another topic included in the Guidelines meeting.

### **Informational Presentations: St. Nersess Armenian Seminary**

A powerpoint presentation about St. Nersess Armenian Seminary was presented by Seminary Dean, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian.

### **Informational Presentations: Zohrab Information Center**

The presentation about the Zohrab Information Center is presented by V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan (Diocese, NY).

The meeting for the evening is concluded with a prayer. The addendum for the Providence Sports Weekend will be passed out after the meeting concludes. Jennifer Morris (Director, DYYAM) stated a point of information that the entire sports weekend report will be passed out along with the addendum.

### **FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2015**

Before the second assembly session began, Jennifer Morris (Director, DYYAM) showed a brief video by the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern), Department of Education titled, "A Great Cloud of Witnesses."

### **Primates Message**

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian delivered his annual message to the Assembly. *See Attachment J.*

Archbishop Barsamian opened the discussion and asked if there were questions delegates may have for him. Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL) mentioned the Chicago-area parishes held a joint celebration of Divine Liturgy and Requiem Service. She then asked what happens now that the martyrs have been canonized and how can all parishes work together as a community hereafter. Archbishop Barsamian replied that [the event Nora referred to] inspires us all to come together for the canonization. He further encouraged the delegates to be leaders and do something about this opportunity; this is an inspiring moment to move forward with the prelacy church, which he reminded isn't a theological separation but political.

Fr. Shnork Souin (Providence, RI) asked about how requiem services will work for those who request one on or around the April 24 date. Archbishop Barsamian responded that this is a "new era" so it will be a process for us all to get a deeper understanding of this meaning. He further explained that if someone asks for a specific hokihankeesd for someone who died in the Genocide, it's still possible to do, but as a Church, we will not have hokihankeesd for the collective Genocide martyrs.

### **Second Assembly Session**

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) called the Assembly to order at 9:56 a.m.

### **Roll Call**

Chelsea Kress (CC Secretary, Fair Lawn, NJ) conducted roll call. There were 37 delegates present (out of 47).

### **Bible Study – “Legacy of Our Martyrs”**

Adrienne Ashbahian (CC Programming, Fair Lawn, NJ) introduced the format of the Bible Study. The Assembly broke into groups and Adrienne distributed copies of the Bible Study exercise (*Attachment K*).

### **Recap of Group Discussions**

Discussion was opened by Adrienne Ashbahian for Bible Study groups to respond. The Bible Study discussion focused around the theme of renewal during the Lenten season and the effects of our recent martyrs' canonization.

Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL), who was in Jonathan Pelaez's (CC Vice Chair, Livingston, NJ) group, discussed how verse Ezekiel 37:14 was prominent in their group's discussion, as was the phrase "I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live."

Danielle Malconian's (Cambridge, MA) group discussed how we can further the legacy in our own lives. She acknowledged that though we may live in silos between parishes and churches (i.e., prelacy, evangelical, etc.), but we can learn from others who have started their own chapters and other efforts in continuing the legacy.

Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA), who was in the group led by Chelsea Kress (CC Secretary, Fair Lawn, NJ), discussed how we looked as a Christian group, not just an Armenian Christian group, and how others are still dying for their faith today all over the world. He mentioned that we can give back to the community by going to nursing homes and learning the stories of our

elders, and leading others through the church by being mentors to younger generations. He mentioned the need to spread the word of God through our actions, not just through our words.

Caiti Zeytoonian (Watertown, MA) discussed renewal within their church and faith. In terms of legacy, she reflected on her grandfather and how proud he would have been to see his grandchildren participate in ACYOA (the idea of direct family-related legacy).

Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) reflected on what the Genocide meant to him as a Christian and Armenian.

Emily Janikian (Racine, WI) talked about the challenges our generation has with standing by our faith. She mentioned that one of the struggles is hatred, and reminded everyone the marches we do are about the faith that our martyrs had.

Anahit Movsesyan (Southfield, MI), elaborated on how people in the United States do not have the cultural connection with their past, but as the youth and younger generation, we need to revisit that cultural connection so we may pass it on to future generations.

Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL) agreed with Anahit, but said she thinks sometimes we over-highlight the Armenian culture and push aside our faith. Nora said we need to find a balance between our culture and faith: "It's our faith that made the ACYOA and our church."

Jonathan Pelaez (CC Vice Chair, Livingston, NJ) reflected on the arts, language and faith of our culture, and how faith is interwoven in everything that we do. He said there is a difference between the Diaspora and Armenia, in terms of how the youth interact. Understanding the differences between the two will help us understand each other. Anahit Movsesyan (Southfield, MI) expanded on what Jonathan Pelaez said: She and her family moved to the United States when she was 10 years old, and all she knew about the Genocide while living in Armenia was Dzidzernagapert (Armenian Genocide Memorial Monument in Yerevan, Armenia).

Aleen Kaltakdjian (Baton Rouge, LA) shared an experience of how she came across a stranger in Baton Rouge asking about the flag she was holding. When she explained it was the Armenian flag, the stranger opened up and told her he knew Armenia was the first Christian nation.

Fr. Abraham Malkhasyan (Bayside, NY) brought up that we create a problem of Armenian identity and faith. Greeks are patriotic Greeks (American born or not) and faith is an important part of their culture. They are all learning the language, religion and culture. He mentioned how growing up, in school, everyone knew that when you say 'Armenian,' it means 'Christian.' To meet this balance, Fr. Abraham said we need education: sermons, Zohrab Center, other resources.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian expressed happiness that the conversation of faith and culture is coming up. He acknowledged the issue is there and said it's there is because of the history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Communism in Europe, Soviet Union). His Eminence mentioned the secularist idea is based on the European idea of secularity (separation of Church and culture). For Armenians, faith is the base of our cultural identity.

Gabrielle Barikian (Bayside, NY) wanted to answer question #4 to the Bible Study (Attachment I), as their group focused on this question the most. She rhetorically asked, “How do you not feel any different?” She reflected on that question as all our major cities held rallies, marches, programs for the martyrs; the purpose of these actions was to come together for martyrs’ legacy, and she mentioned that it’s our generation’s responsibility to carry on the strength of our martyrs and ancestors.

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) called for a break at 11:31 a.m. and stated that the Assembly will reconvene in 9 minutes.

### ***THIRD ASSEMBLY SESSION***

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) called the meeting to order at 11:49 a.m. and reminded everyone that theirs is a Robert's Rules of Order cheat sheet in the delegates’ folders, and if there are any questions, to speak with Central Council Secretary, Chelsea Kress.

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian appointed Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL) and Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA) as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Ani Grigorian (CC Chair, Racine, WI) explained the 2014 Chapter Reflects item on the agenda, which is a designated time for each chapter to discuss any successes and challenges they had.

Armineh Babikian (Bayside, NY) moved to take from the table the Providence Addendum discussion. Seconded by Gabrielle Babikian (Bayside, NY). A vote was taken whether to initiate the discussion on the Providence Sports Weekend Committee Report. All for: 26; all opposed: 9. The motion carried.

### **Discussion of Providence General Assembly Sports Weekend Report of 2013 and Addendum**

Fr. Shnork Souin (Providence, RI) was asked to speak on behalf of the 2013 General Assembly Sports Weekend Committee (GASW). He said it was a privilege for Providence to host GASW in 2013 and that the Providence Committee did attempt to follow—in good faith—the guidelines to hosting. He acknowledged some points were open to interpretation.

Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) was not pleased her words were misconstrued and a full image was not given in the Providence report and addendum. She pointed out that there was no opportunity to respond to questions and clarifications asked by Providence individuals (profit sharing, hotel concerns, etc.).

Fr. Shnork said that these were in the minutes from the 2014 General Assembly.

Ani Grigorian (Central Council Chair, Racine, WI) offered a point of clarification that the minutes from Thursday evening (the previous evening) and were not completed within the standard 90 days. His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian had also asked that the minutes not be disseminated until last night.

Fr. Shnork responded that it was discussed that His Eminence had decided and that these concerns were addressed in the addendum. He also mentioned that the auditors of the Providence parish and Diocesan Council reviewed the addendum.

Ronald Malconian said that there is a reason why the General Assembly delegated an auditing committee. While it was His Eminence's decision not to disseminate, Ronald still expected the auditing committee to see the numbers.

Fr. Shnork explained that in the desire of following the guidelines, the committee hosted an event titled, "Providence Kef Time." He continued saying that perhaps it wasn't the best way of doing it, or maybe it was misinterpreted. The Providence parish hosted an event the same weekend as General Assembly Sports Weekend 2013, and it was called "Providence Kef Time." Fr. Shnork said Central Council was aware the Providence parish was doing that. He explained the way the event was handled: ACYOA weekend participants paid their packages, and the amount for the entrance to Kef Time was tied to the packages. The proceeds from Kef Time were separated into two amounts: ACYOA weekend participants and those outside of the ACYOA group (parishioners, community members, etc.). The revenues generated by ACYOA weekend participants went entirely into the General Assembly financials. The revenues that came from everyone else went into the report for the Kef Time event. The entirety of the cost of Kef Time was absorbed by Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church (rather than splitting it, in fairness to the ACYOA). At the end of the evening, the Providence parish gave fifty percent of the net proceeds of Sports Weekend back to Central Council and rounded up to \$10,000.

Lauren Piligian (Framingham, MA) asked about the a la cart/purchase at the door option and how they were differentiated from the ACYOA/non-ACYOA packages at the Providence Kef Time event. She suggested the numbers may be unclear when looking at just the packages sold online.

Fr. Shnork said he is unsure of how to answer that question and cannot really explain the details.

Fr. Shnork continued by reiterating that the guidelines for hosting a General Assembly and Sports Weekend state that the host parish is to get the best rate they can for the hotel. The executive Providence host committee negotiated with the hotel to get a rate of \$159.99/night. The hotel would not publish anything below that amount so they (the hotel) said they will lower the amount on a per-room basis and offer a rebate on the number of nights stayed. Fr. Shnork explained that the rebate money is recorded in the revenues of the weekend. He explained the executive committee, when planning package costs, took into account the rebate of the rooms and tried to work that into the amount—they weren't trying to make a profit.

Talin Dursunian (Bayside, NY) asked that if the rebate was \$10/room, how did the tax exemption fit in and asked for clarification. She also asked about the pizza costs in the budget and if it was for one night or multiple.

Caiti Zeytoonian (Watertown, MA) thanked Fr. Shnork for preparing the addendum document. She echoed the regret of Ronald and Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) for the delayed dissemination of the document, as it would have made a more prepared and informed discussion. She asked for a solution rather than picking the report apart, acknowledging that both Central

Council and the Providence committee made mistakes. She continued to acknowledge that there is underrepresentation of the Providence committee at the current General Assembly session. Caiti suggested that, moving forward, it would be good to see a group of representatives from Providence to prevent a similar situation from happening again. The Providence chapter should not be made to feel ousted from the General Assembly, and Caiti recognized Fr. Shnork was placed in a difficult situation by being the only one to represent the Providence committee.

Armineh Babikian (Bayside, NY) pointed out that while questions asked to Fr. Shnork are very detailed, they are also valid. She understands that Fr. Shnork might not be the best person to answer these detailed questions, but someone has to take responsibility and answer them. She continued to say that she did not think it's appropriate to belittle the questions brought forward, and that these questions should be forwarded to the people who can correctly answer them.

Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL) reflected on a policy for underage drinking. She asked if attendees were aware of the Christian Code of Conduct, and that the Code should've been better enforced or have a way to be enforced.

Fr. Shnork Souin clarified that his personal opinion is that General Assembly and Sports Weekend should be a 21 and older event.

Linda Kalfayan (Southfield, MI), in the topic of moving forward, mentioned that the Central Council should work with the host committee to come up with one accounting system and one reporting system.

Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA) commented on the numbers in the report. He said that if one person stays in a room for three nights, it would be a \$30.00 rebate. However, the report listed \$4,077.00 as the rebate and Stephen said he is having trouble getting to that number. He also commented that the number of rooms used was not on the report.

Alexandra Hachigian (Southfield, MI) understood that the minutes for Providence General Assembly and Sports Weekend were tabled; however, she commented on the poor language used by the Providence committee on page 43, paragraph 3. The language doesn't reflect positively on the assistance of the Central Council.

Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA) offered a point of information that the same paragraph was pointed out at the 2014 General Assembly, and that it was tabled because no one from Providence there to answer or represent. He said he was not sure if there is a solution to re-word the paragraph or strike it altogether, but the language was discussed last year. He said the General Assembly delegates could not hear Providence's point of view before making any decisions.

Sarine Atamian (CC Public Relations, Bayside, NY) offered another point of information: the reason the addendum was passed at last year's General Assembly was because of that paragraph. It was to request a new report with a new tone, which is why there is an addendum.

Ani Grigorian (CC Chair, Racine, WI) offered a point of information that the report and the addendum are something that should be looked at together as a whole and not as two separate parts.

Thomas Ashbahian (Diocesan Council, Fair Lawn, NJ) said he was not in attendance to last year's General Assembly, but he has spoken to the Diocesan Council Chairman about the report received. He applauded everyone for their valid concerns in dealing with this incident and with coming to terms with eventually running a church. He called it "graduating through the system." However, he continued, the Diocesan Council is not happy with the report, but recognizes there are inaccuracies and that there are convolutions of some of the facts, lack of objectivity and the tone of the report could be better. The Diocesan Council will, to the best of its ability, work to help, but cannot direct or dictate a solution to the issue. He pointed out there was a lack of clear reporting on financial activity for the weekend. Mr. Ashbahian said we all make mistakes, we learn from our mistakes, and we become better people by acknowledging mistakes and correcting them.

Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL) said a lot of points were brought up are valid, and the delegates are looking at things with a critical eye and are interested in what was reported and how it makes the ACYOA look. He said that it is our fiduciary responsibility to receive the financial report from national events. He said he thought the books from the weekend were supposed to be turned over but was enlightened by reading the ACYOA bylaws. He reminded the Assembly, We are the legacy of our martyrs. We are better than this. He suggested the Central Council makes sure guidelines are followed in the proper manner. Fr. Aren read from this morning's prayer to "Forgive, redeem and pardon our sins," and that the Assembly should accept the financial report and move on.

Gregory Torosian (Cambridge, MA) moved to end debate and discussion on the 2013 Providence General Assembly and Sports Weekend report and addendum. The motion was seconded by Fr. Aren Jebejian.

Fr. Yeprem Kelegian (Racine, WI) made a motion that we simply get a detailed list of events that happened at Providence Sports Weekend plus a financial report, and dispense with the original Providence report and addendum. This motion was seconded by Fr. Aren Jebejian.

The motion was opened for discussion.

Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian explained his rationale: The report is negative for various reasons, but as a Christian organization, we need to move on. Fr. Shnork Souin has given his best report on things he cannot answer. While the documents are negative, these are things we do not want to show up 50 years from now, so we as an Assembly need to accept the financial report and move on. Fr. Yeprem asked for Addendum G (the original report) and the addendum not be included.

Armineh Babikian (Bayside, NY) asked if this motion was not accepted, if that means this topic will be brought up and discussed again in the future.

ACYOA Central Council responded that yes, a new report will need to be debated at next year's General Assembly.

Fr. Shnork Souin replied he will not be attending next year's General Assembly.

Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Framingham, MA) expressed that he did not see the point in resubmitting a report again next year. The information needed is in the current report. Central Council can take the list of events and financials from the original report and addendum.

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian spoke, saying Fr. Yeprem Kelegian's motion was very clear.

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) reminded everyone that this new report, per Fr. Yeprem's motion, will not be debated next year.

Caiti Zeytoonian (Watertown, MA) moved to close discussion. Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA) seconded. All accepted to close discussion. The motion presented by Fr. Yeprem Kelegian (Racine, WI) passed.

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) called for a lunch break until 2 p.m.

#### **Primate's Luncheon & Presentation of ACYOA Awards**

The following awards were presented by the Central Council (*Attachment L*):

*The Gregory Arpajian Leadership Award* – Danielle Malconian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA

*The Sam Nersesian Award* – Talene Jermakian, St. Mark, Springfield, MA

*ACYOA Seniors Chapter "A" Award* – Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY

*The Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Malkonian Award* – Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Dean, St. Nersess Seminary

*The Rev. Fr. Haroutiun and Yn. Patricia Dagley Award* – Lisa Mardigian, Southfield, MI

#### ***FOURTH ASSEMBLY SESSION***

Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA) motioned to move elections up to now. The motion was seconded by Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA), and passed.

#### **Elections: Central Council**

The Nominating Committee presented the nominees for the 2015 Central Council (*Attachment P*):

Alyne Corrigan (Elberon, NJ)

Mary Keutelian (Greenfield, WI)

Chelsea Kress (Fair Lawn, NJ)\*

Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL)

Lauren Piligian (Framingham, MA)

Daniel Zalinov (Charlotte, NC)\*

*Note:* Asterisks (\*) denote incumbent nominees.

The following nominee was not present: Daniel Zalinov (Charlotte, NC).

The floor was opened up for further nominations.

Caiti Zeytoonian (Watertown, MA) nominated Shant Paklaian (CC Treasurer, Chicago, IL). Jonathan Pelaez (CC Vice Chair, Livingston, NJ) seconded. Shant respectfully declined.

Jonathan Pelaez nominated Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL), and it was seconded by Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA). Nora accepted the nomination.

Sarine Atamian (CC Public Relations, Bayside, NY) nominated Linda Kalfayan (Southfield, MI). Danielle Malconian seconded. Linda accepted the nomination.

It was moved to close the floor for nominations which was seconded by Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA).

Assembly Chairman Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) called for roll call. Chelsea Kress (CC Secretary, Fair Lawn, NJ) conducted roll call and counted 38 voting delegates present.

### **Report of the Nancy Basmajian Armenia Service Program (ASP) Scholarship Fund Committee**

Jonathan Pelaez (CC Vice Chair, Livingston, NJ) presented the report for the scholarship fund on behalf of the Central Council. This endowment fund is to provide scholarships to ongoing ASP trips Jonathan opened the floor for volunteers of those who would like to be on the standing committee.

The following delegates volunteered:

Alyne Corrigan (Elberon, NJ)

Shant Paklaian (Chicago, IL)

Alexandria Hachigian (Southfield, MI)

### **Report of Auditing Committee**

Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA) presented the report of the Auditing Committee (*Attachment M*), which covers financial reports and budget for the 2014 calendar year. Ronald noted in the audit that the ASP's income was budgeted for \$55,000 but only received \$37,000—this was because it was budgeted for 20 participants, however only 12 signed up. The Committee reviewed 2014 expenses and according to their audit, all the numbers matched and reports were done accurately.

Ronald recognized and thanked Shant Paklaian (Central Council Treasurer, Chicago, IL) for his assistance with drafting their report.

Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL) motioned to close the discussion. It was seconded by Adrienne Ashbahian (CC Programming Coordinator, Fair Lawn, NJ). The motion passed.

Jonathan Pelaez (CC Vice Chair, Livingston) motioned to accept the report and was seconded by Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA). The motion passed and the report was accepted.

### **Elections: Central Council (continued)**

The Nominating Committee returned with results and Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) said three nominees have been elected to Central Council. There was a suggestion to drop the lowest vote receiver.

The motion to drop the lowest voted name on the ballot was made by Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA) and seconded by Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA). The motion passed.

The following names remained on the ballot and delegates were asked to only vote for one: Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL), Lauren Piligian (Framingham, MA), Alyne Corrigan (Elberon, NJ), and Linda Kalfayan (Southfield, MI).

Chelsea Kress (CC, Fair Lawn, NJ) conducted roll call and counted 38 delegates present and voting

### **2014 Financial Report**

Shant Paklaian (CC Treasurer, Chicago, IL) presented the 2014 financial report to the Assembly. (*See Attachment N*) He pointed out that the top portion of the report was the income statement and the bottom portion was the expense statement.

Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL) asked if the increase in dues will affect the financial statements.

Shant answered that with the increase of chapter dues and new parish assessment line item, the Central Council wants to take more of an opportunity to visit parishes throughout the diocese and have more face-to-face visits with parishes, chapters and councils. That money will also be spent for Leadership Conferences as well.

Anahit Movsesyan (Southfield, MI) motioned to accept the 2014 financial report and seconded by Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA). The motion was accepted.

### **Elections: Central Council (continued)**

The Nominating Committee returned with results and informed the Assembly that no one additional nominees were elected for Central Council. Danielle Malconian recommended dropping the two lowest vote receivers. She said there is a two-point spread between the lowest and second lowest, and a five-point spread to the third lowest.

Ronald Malconian motioned to accept the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, and was seconded by Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL). The motion passed and the two lowest vote receivers were dropped.

The ballot had the following names remaining: Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL) and Lauren Piligian (Framingham, MA).

Chelsea Kress (CC Secretary, Fair Lawn, NJ) conducted roll call and counted 39 voting delegates present.

### **New Business: 2016 Proposed Budget**

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) called up Shant Paklaian (CC Treasurer, Chicago, IL) to present the 2016 proposed budget. (*See Attachment O*) Shant presented the proposed budget and recalled that last year, a parish assessment was also proposed.

Shant discussed that the ASP budget will stay as-is because it is inclusive of 15 participants, and lower participation needs to be accounted for. The dues for 2016 will remain at \$10 per participant, and the budget reflects 300 ACYOA members (hence \$3,000).

Website budget (line item 2019) is \$6,500 in hopes to get a new website, which will include hosting fees, design and development, etc., and the budget was increased by \$2,000.

The Conference Calls line item has been removed since a free service is used for the same purpose and nothing has been budgeted for the past three years.

Shant also recommended removing interest income (line item 1009) from the budget because the interest that comes from the endowment fund is all-inclusive in ACEF interest (line item 1002).

New Business discussion was paused for Nominating Committee results.

#### **Elections: Central Council (continued)**

The Nominating Committee returned and Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) informed the assembly that half-plus-one was not reached, therefore, there will be another round of voting.

Jennifer Morris (Director, DYYAM) offered a point of information that Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian (Southfield, MI) has arrived to the Assembly.

Danielle Malconian asked that everyone vote for one: Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL) or Lauren Piligian (Framingham, MA).

Chelsea Kress (CC Secretary, Fair Lawn, NJ) conducted roll call and counted 40 voting delegates present. Chelsea stated that 21 votes for one nominee needed to end the election.

#### **New Business: 2016 Proposed Budget (continued)**

CC Treasurer Shant Paklaian continued his discussion from before that the Dues line item (1011) will remain at \$3,000, calculated at \$10 per person for 300 people.

Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA) asked why Fundraising Efforts (line item 2011) is \$1,500. He recalled that the last four years, the budget has exceeded the \$1,500 budget and asked why the proposed budget for 2016 does not reflect a higher proposal amount.

Shant responded that fundraising money is used for purchasing t-shirts and paraphernalia, and the budget was when working Hand in Hand with FAR. He expressed that he believes \$1,500 is enough to purchase t-shirts and paraphernalia for the following year.

Ronald Malconian motions to accept the 2016 proposed budget. Seconded by Armineh Babikian (Bayside, NY). The motion carried.

Shant Paklaian closed by thanking the Assembly for the opportunity to serve the community through Central Council.

**Elections: Central Council (Results)** *(See Attachment P)*

The Nominating Committee congratulated the new Central Council members:

Chelsea Kress (Fair Lawn, NJ)  
Daniel Zalinov (Charlotte, NC)  
Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL)  
Lauren Piligian (Framingham, MA)  
Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL) – Alternate

**Elections: Nominating Committee**

Caiti Zeytoonian (Watertown, MA) explained the responsibilities of the Nominating Committee to the Assembly, prior to opening the floor for additional nominations.

Caiti Zeytoonian nominated Tania Melkonian (Watertown, MA) and was seconded by Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) Tania accepted the nomination.

Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA) motions to close nominations. Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA) seconded. The motion carried.

Caiti Zeytoonian reminded the Assembly to vote up to three nominees.

**Elections: Auditing Committee**

The floor was opened to nominees for auditing committee.

Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) nominated Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA). The nomination was seconded by Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA). Stephen accepted.

Ani Grigorian (CC Chair, Racine, WI) nominated Shant Paklaian (CC Treasurer, Chicago, IL) and was seconded by Jonathan Pelaez (CC Vice Chair, Livingston, NJ). Shant accepted.

Ronald Malconian was nominated and was seconded, but Ronald respectfully declined.

Caiti Zeytoonian (Watertown, MA) nominated Talin Dursunian (Bayside, NY) and was seconded, however Talin respectfully declined.

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) offered a point of information that Nominating Committee will collect ballots for both elections at the same time.

Jennifer Morris (Director, DYYAM) offered a point of information, asking if two separate rolls calls for auditing committee ballots and another for nominating ballots. Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian said that only one roll call will be conducted to collect both ballots at once.

Chelsea Kress (CC Secretary, Fair Lawn, NJ) conducted roll call and counted 40 voting delegates present.

### **New Business: Proposals**

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian called for any new proposals. There were no new proposals to present.

### **New Business: 2017 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Bids**

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian mentioned that there are no bids for 2017 and asked if anyone would care to bid.

Parliamentarian Fr. Yeprem Kelegian (Racine, WI) said that bids must be approved by a Parish Council and pastor before a formal bid can be presented.

Harry Kezelian said 2017 bids would need to be tabled until next year.

Jennifer Morris (Director, DYYAM) offered a point of information that when there has not been a secured General Assembly and Sports Weekend host two years out, it's been Central Council's responsibility to choose the location.

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian asked for a motion on Jennifer's point of information. Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Framingham, MA) motioned and was seconded by Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA). The motion passed. Central Council will take the responsibility to choose the location for General Assembly and Sports Weekend in 2017.

Jennifer Morris called for a point of information and stated that Fr. Garabed Kochakian (Southfield, MI) is requesting altar servers for Sunday's Badarak. Also, if anyone has Hokeehankeest requests to please submit them to Chelsea Kress (CC Secretary, Fair Lawn, NJ).

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian called for a 15 minute recess, and the Assembly will reconvene at 4:15 p.m.

### ***FIFTH ASSEMBLY SESSION***

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian called the Assembly to order at 4:10 p.m.

### **Elections: Nominating and Auditing Committees**

The Nominating Committee returned with the results for Nominating and Auditing Committees elections.

Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) announced only one person has been elected to Nominating Committee, three have received majority votes and those three all tie. She informed the Assembly there's a 15-point spread between the lowest vote receiver and the three that tied, and made a motion that the Assembly drop that lowest vote receiver.

The motion was made by Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA) and seconded by Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA). The motion carried and the lowest vote receiver was dropped.

The new ballot for Nominating Committee is:  
Adrienne Ashbahian (Fair Lawn, NJ)  
Sona Dagley (Southfield, MI)  
Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL)

Danielle Malconian announced that two people have been elected onto the Auditing Committee. She further announced that two people are within a two point difference of each other; however, there's an 11-point difference between the bottom two vote receivers. Danielle requests a motion is made to drop the lowest two vote receivers.

The motion is made by Armineh Babikian (Bayside, NY) and was seconded by Anahit Movsesyan (Southfield, MI). The motion carried.

The new ballot for Auditing Committee is:  
Aleen Kaltakdjian (Baton Rouge, LA)  
Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA)

Chelsea Kress (CC Secretary, Fair Lawn, NJ) conducts roll call and counts 41 voting delegates present.

#### **New Business: 2014 Chapter Reflections**

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) invited Ani Grigorian (CC Chair, Racine, WI) to lead discussion on the 2014 Chapter Reflections.

Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL) thanked Central Council, especially Daniel Zalinov (CC Chapter Relations, Charlotte, NC), for reminding her that even though her parish only held one event in 2014, it was an accomplishment from the previous year, when they held zero.

Anahit Movsesyan (Southfield, MI) asked the Assembly if they have had successes with transitioning ACYOA Juniors to the Seniors chapter, and how it was handled.

Armineh Babikian (Bayside, NY) shared that their parish has attempted to bond with the Juniors on a social level to diminish the distinction between Juniors and Seniors because there might be an intimidation factor. Armineh suggested chapters try social activities like bowling to try to get Juniors more involved in fundraising events and philanthropy. She continued that the two groups should have the same goal and work to accomplish that unified goal, perhaps through mentorship.

Mallory Maslar (St. Petersburg, FL) shared that her parish did a kickball game of Juniors vs. Seniors to get them interacting with each other and to feel comfortable.

Daniel Zalinov (Central Council Chapter Relations, Charlotte, NC) shared that he enjoys getting Juniors and Seniors involved in smaller parishes. He suggested engaging with the 16-17 year olds with the Seniors events to show them what it is like to be a part of the next phase of ACYOA.

Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA) shared that he had a similar problem: they had a strong Juniors chapter but had to revitalize their Seniors chapter. When this happened, they tried to find solutions on how to get the Seniors involved when they went away for college. He suggested socialize and hold events that will build comradery. Holy Trinity's ACYOA Juniors and Seniors chapters bought Dunkin Donuts gift cards and together passed them around to the homeless in Harvard Square.

Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA) suggested community outreach and to come up with a routine, such as trivia night once a month, as a way to motivate Seniors to come back to the church for a fun night and engaging with peers when away for college. Second, he suggested social media communication—even on a personal level—to keep people engaged with ACYOA, such as an email (not mass email) reminding them of events, etc.

Alina Grigorian (Racine, WI) suggested that to get college kids involved (and Juniors) is to go Christmas caroling at nursing homes. St. Mesrob's ACYOA (Racine, WI) goes caroling December 25 and 26, so that if some ACYOA Seniors cannot make it one day, they can go to the other. With Bible studies, Seniors will lead the Bible study discussions with Juniors.

Ani Grigorian (CC Chair, Racine, WI) thanked everyone for discussing their successes and suggestions because the transition from Juniors to Seniors is a struggle all chapters have, not just one. All efforts are appreciated.

#### **Elections: Nominating and Auditing Committees (continued)**

The Nominating Committee returned and Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) presented the new Nominating Committee: Sona Dagley (Southfield, MI), Alina Grigorian (Racine, WI) and Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL). The alternate is Adrienne Ashbahian (Fair Lawn, NJ).

The new Auditing Committee members are:

Adrienne Ashbahian (Fair Lawn, NJ)

Shant Paklaian (Chicago, IL)

Aleen Kaltakdjian (Baton Rouge, LA)

Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA) - alternate

#### **New Business: 2014 Chapter Reflections (continued)**

Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL) reminded the Assembly that next year (2016) is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the ACYOA and assumed that Central Council will be planning a celebration around that date. He suggested throwing out some ideas at the Assembly on this to do as we approach next year.

Armineh Babikian (Bayside, NY) offered one possibility is to field out parishes and discover ACYOA within our own parishes and the people who used to be involved (e.g., couples who met at Sports Weekend). She reflected on how she had done a spotlight on couples who met at Sports Weekend, and more couples came forward after that. She found this a way to celebrate and bridge the gap of generations.

Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) informed everyone that there is something they'd like to share in their 2016 bid presentation about the ACYOA's anniversary.

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian encouraged the Holy Trinity, Cambridge Chapter to involve alumni in their Sports Weekend planning next year, and to possibly bring back an anniversary dance at the end of January for when the original General Assembly and Sports Weekend took place in Providence, RI. Harry also suggested possibly doing a retreat with the alumni to discuss their past or do a yearbook of past alumni with stories of past members and chapters.

Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Framingham, MA) suggested doing a short video on His Eminence Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan on his life as a way to educate the current generations who don't know him.

Fr. Garabed Kochakian (Southfield, MI) expressed that we should take advantage of the Diocesan Communications Department, and use a task force appointed by Central Council to get visibility on the Diocesan website. He suggested we commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ACYOA all year, rather than just Sports Weekend, similar to how the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide was commemorated weeks in advance prior to the Washington, D.C. event held early May 2015. He felt that it should be in the eyes of the people as frequency is in the eyes of success.

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian continued saying that the success in doing activities for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, could springboard the creation of an alumni committee, which has been attempted in the past. Harry also offered himself to be a part of that committee.

### **Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee**

Sona Dagley (Southfield, MI), Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL) and Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL) presented the report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee (*Attachment Q*).

Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian (Diocesan Vicar) requested that the Ethiopians who were martyred on April 28, 2015, be added to the resolutions.

Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian (Chicago, IL), under the section about His Eminence Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, requests it be mentioned His Eminence was a Genocide survivor.

Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) motioned to accept the report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee) and was seconded by Stephen Hollisian (Cambridge, MA). The motion carried.

### **Passing of the Banner to the 2016 General Assembly Committee and Presentation**

Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) announced that Yn. Arpi Kouzouian (Cambridge, MA) prepared a video that she'd like to present to the Assembly about Boston.

Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA) presented what had been accomplished for the 2016 General Assembly & Sports Weekend preparations, including the hotel, General Assembly meeting, sports and venues.

The 2016 General Assembly Committee shared the work they have accomplished in the past year preparing and planning the 2016 General Assembly and Sports Weekend. The Committee

consists of diverse groups, working with subcommittees. The Sunday night event hopes to capture the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ACYOA and will be open to all alumni. Executive members of the Sports Weekend planning committee were presented, as were other membership who support.

### **Adjournment and Benediction**

Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) called for final thoughts.

Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Framingham, MA) commended everyone for running an “awesome” assembly session stated that we have a bright future for the Diocesan Assembly. Fr. Krikor also encouraged everyone to run for Parish Council.

Fr. Shnork Souin (Providence, RI) motioned to watch Lara Setrakian’s speech, and was seconded by Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL). The motion did not pass. However, His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian suggested that those who want to watch the video may do so after the Assembly is adjourned.

Harry Kezelian welcomed the two new members of Central Council and recognized the two members who are departing Central Council.

Jonathan Pelaez (CC Vice Chair, Livingston, NJ) made a special announcement and read a passage from Vehapar Karekin I, in blessed memory, addressed to the youth of the Armenian Church.

Stephan Hollisian (Cambridge, MA) motioned to adjourn the Assembly and was seconded by Shant Paklaian (CC Treasurer, Chicago, IL). The motion carried and the Assembly was adjourned. The Primate offered the benediction to officially close the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Keutelian (Greenfield, WI)  
2015 ACYOA General Assembly Co-Secretary

Lauren Piligian (Framingham, MA)  
2015 ACYOA General Assembly Co-Secretary

## **Attachment Directory**

<b>A.</b>	Delegate, Observer, Clergy List
<b>B.</b>	Robert's Rules of Order
<b>C.</b>	2015 General Assembly Agenda
<b>D.</b>	ACYOA Annual Central Council Report 2014
<b>E.</b>	Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Annual Report 2014
<b>F.</b>	Report of the ACYOA/FAR Committee
<b>G.</b>	Report of the 2012 Sports Weekend Committee
<b>H.</b>	Report of the 2013 Sports Weekend Committee ( <b>Revised</b> )
<b>I.</b>	Report of the 2014 Sports Weekend Committee
<b>J.</b>	Primate's Message
<b>K.</b>	Bible Study
<b>L.</b>	2015 ACYOA Central Council Award Recipients
<b>M.</b>	Report of the Auditing Committee
<b>N.</b>	2014 Financial Report
<b>O.</b>	2016 Proposed and Approved Budget
<b>P.</b>	2015 Election Results
<b>Q.</b>	Report of the 2015 Resolutions and Courtesies Committee

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**DELEGATE, OBSERVER AND CLERGY LIST**

<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>	<i>Delegate</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Clergy/Staff</i>	<i>Parish</i>
Allen	Ackan	X			Watertown, MA
Adrienne	Ashbahian	X			Central Council
Thomas	Ashbahian		X		Diocesan Council
Sarine	Atamian	X			Central Council
Howard	Atesian		X		Diocesan Council
Victoria	Babikian	X			Bayside, NY
Gabrielle	Barikian	X			Bayside, NY
Abp. Khajag	Barsamian			X	New York, NY
Fr. Mardios	Chevia			X	Seminary
Alex	Cholmakjian		X		Detroit, MI
Alyne	Corrigan	X			Elberon, NJ
Patrick	Corrigan	X			Elberon, NJ
William	Corrigan	X			Elberon, NJ
Sona	Dagley	X			Detroit, MI
Nora	Dulkadir	X			Chicago, IL
Talin	Dursunian	X			Bayside, NY
V. Rev. Fr. Daniel	Findikyan			X	New York, NY
Antranig	Garibian		X		Diocesan Council
Kati	Gengozian	X			Racine, WI
Alina	Grigorian	X			Racine, WI
Ani	Grigorian	X			Central Council
Alexandra	Hachigian	X			Detroit, MI
Stephen	Hollisian	X			Cambridge, MA
Emily	Janikian	X			Racine, WI
Fr. Aren	Jebejian	X			Chicago, IL
Fr. Nersess	Jebejian			X	Retired Clergy
Linda	Kalfayan	X			Detroit, MI
James	Kaloustian		X		Diocesan Council
Aleen	Kaltakdjian		X		Baton Rouge, LA
Fr. Yeprem	Kelegian			X	Racine, WI

Mary	Keutelian		X		Greenfield, WI
Harry	Kezelian	X			Detroit, MI
Fr. Garabed	Kochakian			X	Southfield, MI
Fr. Vasken	Kouzouian			X	Cambridge, MA
Chelsea	Kress	X			Central Council
Danielle	Malconian	X			Cambridge, MA
Ronnie	Malconian	X			Cambridge, MA
Fr. Abraham	Malkhasyan			X	Bayside, NY
Roseann	Manoogian-Attar		X		Diocesan Council
Melissa	Mardoian	X			Palos Heights, IL
Paul	Mardoian		X		Diocesan Council
Mallory	Maslar	X			Pinellas Park, FL
Tania	Melkonain	X			Watertown, MA
Gregory	Merjian	X			Boca Raton, FL
Tamar	Merjian	X			Boca Raton, FL
Jennifer	Morris			X	Diocese
Anahit	Movsesyan	X			Detroit, MI
Sona	Movsisyan		X		Detroit, MI
Dn. Richard	Norsigian		X		Diocesan Council
V. Rev. Fr. Simeon	Odabashian			X	Diocesan Vicar
Shant	Paklaian	X			Central Council
Jonathan	Pelaez	X			Central Council
Lauren	Piligian	X			Framingham, MA
Fr. Krikor	Sabounjian			X	Framingham, MA
Fr. Shnork	Souin			X	Providence, RI
Zaven	Tachdjian		X		Diocesan Council
Fr. Aved	Terzian		X		Diocesan Council
Gregory	Torosian	X			Cambridge, MA
Emily	Weiss	X			Racine, WI
Daniel	Zalinov	X			Central Council
Caiti	Zeytoonian	X			Watertown, MA
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	

# ATTACHMENT B

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

TO DO THIS:	YOU SAY THIS:	May I interrupt the speaker?	Do I need a second?	Debatable?	Amendable?	What vote is needed?	Can it be reconsidered?
ADJOURN MEETING	"I move that we adjourn."	NO	YES	NO	NO	MAJORITY	NO
CALL AN INTERMISSION	"I move that we recess for..."	NO	YES	NO	YES	MAJORITY	NO
COMPLAIN ABOUT HEAT, NOISE, ETC.	"I rise to a question of privilege."	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO VOTE	NO (USUALLY)
TEMPORARILY SUSPEND CONSIDERATION OF AN ISSUE	"I move to table the motion."	NO	YES	NO	NO	MAJORITY	NO
END DEBATE AND AMENDMENTS	"I move the previous question."	NO	YES	NO	NO	TWO-THIRDS	NO <sup>1</sup>
POSTPONE DISCUSSION FOR A CERTAIN TIME	"I move to postpone discussion until..."	NO	YES	YES	YES	MAJORITY	YES
GIVE SOMETHING CLOSER STUDY	"I move to refer the matter to committee."	NO	YES	YES	YES	MAJORITY	YES <sup>2</sup>
AMEND A MOTION	"I move to amend the motion by..."	NO	YES	YES <sup>3</sup>	YES	MAJORITY	YES
INTRODUCE BUSINESS	"I move that..."	NO	YES	YES	YES	MAJORITY	YES
<b>–MOTIONS ABOVE ARE IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE</b>							
PROTEST BREACH OF RULES OR CONDUCT	"I rise to a point of order."	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO VOTE <sup>4</sup>	NO
VOTE ON A RULING OF THE CHAIR	"I appeal from the chair's decision."	YES	YES	YES	NO	MAJORITY <sup>5</sup>	YES
AVOID CONSIDERING AN IMPROPER MATTER	"I object to consideration of this motion."	YES	NO	NO	NO	TWO-THIRDS <sup>6</sup>	– <sup>7</sup>
VERIFY A VOICE VOTE BY HAVING MEMBERS STAND	"I call for a division." or "Division!"	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO VOTE	NO
REQUEST INFORMATION	"Point of information."	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO VOTE	NO
RECONSIDER A HASTY ACTION	"I move to reconsider the vote on..."	YES	YES	– <sup>8</sup>	NO	MAJORITY	NO
TAKE UP A MATTER PREVIOUSLY TABLED	"I move to take from the table..."	NO	YES	NO	NO	MAJORITY	NO
SUSPEND RULES TEMPORARILY	"I move to suspend rules so that..."	NO	YES	NO	NO	TWO-THIRDS	NO

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>7</sup> Only if main question or motion was not considered

<sup>8</sup> Only if motion to be reconsidered is debatable

# ATTACHMENT C



**2015 ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
*Hosted by St. John's Armenian Church, Southfield, MI*  
**Crowne Plaza, Novi, MI**  
**MAY 21-22, 2015**  
**AGENDA**

## **THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015**

### **General Assembly Registration**

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

### **First Assembly**

7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

- I. Innovation
- 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 2014 General Assembly Minutes
- VIII. Joint Report of the Central Council and DYYAM
- IX. Report of the ACYOA/FAR Committee
- X. Report of the 2012 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee
- XI. Report of the 2013 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee
- XII. Report of the 2014 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee
- XIII. 2015 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee Welcome
- XIV. Informational Presentations
  - a. Pan-ACYO
  - b. St. Nersess Armenian Seminary
  - c. Zohrab Information Center

9:30 p.m. – Clergy and Delegate Reception

## **FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2015**

8:00 a.m. – Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – Morning Worship and Primate's Message

## **Second Assembly Session**

9:00 – 10:45 a.m.

- I. Roll Call
- II. Legacy of Our Martyrs - Small Group Bible Study and Discussion
- III. Recap of Group Discussions

## **Break – 15 Minutes**

## **Third Assembly Session**

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

- IV. Report of the Nancy Basmajian ASP Scholarship Fund Committee
- V. Report of the Auditing Committee
- VI. 2014 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. 2016 Proposed Budget
  - B. Proposals
  - C. 2017 General Assembly/Sports Weekend Bids
  - D. 2014 Chapter Reflections
- E. 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. Passing the Banner to the 2016 General Assembly Committee and Presentation
- XIII. Adjournment and Benediction

## **ATTACHMENT D**

### **ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA (ACYOA)**

### **2014 ANNUAL REPORT**

This year was one of hard work, restructuring, foundation building and grass roots efforts for the **Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA)**. At the end of the year, the ACYOA had 22 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, 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. His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian was present for our May, June and December meetings. The Diocesan Vicar, the Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, was present at our March, May and September meetings. Hayr Aren Jebejian, Diocesan Council member was present for our March meeting. Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Jennifer Morris, was present for all of our meetings in 2014. Those meetings were held as follows: March 1 (St. Gregory's the Illuminator – Chicago, IL), May 3 (Diocesan Assembly – New York, NY), June 21 (Diocese – New York, NY), September 6 (Detroit, MI), and December 8 (Charlotte, NC). Additionally, the ACYOA Central Council met 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.

#### **Sixth Annual Chapter Workshop**

The ACYOA Central Council sponsored a Chapter Workshop for a sixth consecutive year. More than 30 young people representing 14 parishes across the Eastern Diocese gathered in St. Petersburg, FL, for the annual ACYOA Chapter Workshop. Over the course of three days, from January 24 to 26, participants built their faith, discussed the accomplishments and setbacks faced by their local ACYOA chapters, shared advice, and brainstormed new programming possibilities.

St. Hagop Church of Pinellas Park, FL, again hosted this year's event; the Rev. Fr. Hovnan Demerjian, parish pastor, served as the weekend's chaplain. The sessions were organized by the ACYOA Central Council, with assistance from Lorie Odabashian, coordinator in the Diocese's Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, who also attended the workshop. The theme of the workshop was to focus on the development of our chapters; concepts were developed by the Central Council to inspire participants into strategic planning with practical tools and tips to strengthen their chapters and regions. The Central Council sought to have participants leave the workshop with clear goals for their communities and the necessary resources on how to accomplish those short and long term goals. The workshop sessions and overnight accommodations were held and provided at the Marriott, St. Petersburg, FL.

Smaller regional retreats were held during the Lenten season. More than 40 members of the ACYOA Seniors gathered on March 29 for regional Lenten retreats in two locations: Sts. Joachim and Anne Church in Palos Heights, IL, and St. Leon Church in Fair Lawn, NJ. During the daylong retreats, titled *#MadeInHisImage*, young adults took part in small-group discussions on what it means to be made in the image of Christ. The discussions were led by ACYOA Central Council members.

Rev. Fr. Tavit Boyajian, pastor of Sts. Joachim and Anne Church in Palos Heights, IL, and Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, pastor of St. Peter Church in Watervliet, NY, led Bible studies on Psalm 139. Other presentations were made by the Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Chicago, IL, and Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian, pastor of St. Leon Church in Fair Lawn, NJ in Fair Lawn, NJ. Jennifer Morris, director of the Diocese's Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and Lorie Odabashian, Youth and Young Adult Ministries coordinator, also attended the two retreats. The third retreat was scheduled for the fall, although had to be postponed to Lent of 2015.

### **Leadership Conference**

Year after year, the Leadership Conference has proven to be the most exciting and energetic program that the ACYOA offers. Young people from across the Eastern Diocese gathered for the annual Leadership Conference hosted by the ACYOA Central Council at the Don Bosco Retreat Center in Stony Point, NY, from November 14 to 16. Themed "Know Thyself: Responding to Life's Challenges," the conference program was prepared by the ACYOA Central Council to help ACYOA members learn more about themselves as individuals and as members of the Armenian community, and to encourage them to take up leadership roles in their parishes. Several area clergy attended this year's conference; along with Jennifer Morris and Lorie Odabashian, who coordinated the speakers and logistics for the weekend. The Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan served as the chaplain for the weekend, and celebrated the Divine Liturgy with the ACYOA's members. There were also engaging and insightful speakers who challenged participants in various areas. The program was well received and evaluations were overwhelmingly positive.

### **ACYOA Day**

Palm Sunday is the official ACYOA Day in our Diocesan calendar. The following Central Council members traveled to parishes throughout our Diocese to make presentations about the importance of the ACYOA (April 13): Jonathan Pelaez – New Britain, CT; Ani Grigorian – Watertown, MA, Shant Paklaian – Evanston, IL, Chelsea Kress – Bayside, NY, Armen Terjimanian – White Plains, NY; Adrienne Ashbahian – Watervliet, NY and Daniel Zalinov, Charlotte, NC.

### **General Assembly & Sports Weekend**

Youth and clergy from across the Eastern Diocese gathered in New York City for the 68th annual ACYOA General Assembly. The two-day meeting, held May 22-23 at the Diocesan Center in Manhattan, and the annual Sports Weekend activities that followed, were hosted by The Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs Church of Bayside, NY ACYOA Chapter. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Diocesan Primate, presided over the General Assembly and delivered a message to the 79 delegates present on Friday morning. More than 500 people took part in Sports Weekend activities, which included a cruise on the Hudson River and the annual

awards banquet. On Sunday, May 25, the Rev. Fr. Abraham Malkhasyan celebrated the Divine Liturgy at Holy Martyrs Church in Bayside, NY. Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian blessed the new ACYOA Central Council during an installation service following the Divine Liturgy. Special appreciation to the host committee, Fr. Abraham Malkhasyan and Youth Director Garen Karamyan.

### **Armenia Service Program**

From July 1 to 20, 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. Hratch Sargsyan, pastor of St. Gregory of Narek Church of Richmond Heights, OH, the group visited landmarks ranging from the Khor Virab and Datev monasteries to the Erebuni Fortress and the Dzidzernagapert Genocide Memorial. They took part in the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of Holy Etchmiadzin, and met with His Holiness Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. The three-week journey was much more than a tour of the homeland, as the participants expressed, it was also an introduction to the local way of life, their culture, and an opportunity to give back. In what many described as the most rewarding aspect of the trip, the group spent one week in Vanadzor, Armenia’s third-largest city, where they volunteered at the Dzidzernag Summer Camp and at the Vanadzor Old Age Home, run by the Fund for Armenian Relief.

### **Communication**

The Central Council continues to use various methods of communication to reach out to its chapters and membership. Social Media remains to be one of our main forms of communication and allows us to stay current with our membership on a weekly and daily basis. We currently use Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to promote our programming, attract visitors to our website, and to disseminate general information. We post prayers and Bible passages for people to read that are relevant to their lives today. Our most consistent and effective form of communication is our monthly e-blast which we use to inform ACYOA members of future events and share the successes of our chapters. When necessary, we try to be proactive about sending e-blasts to communicate important information and news. 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 bounceback rate. During both the Lent and Advent periods, we received reflections from various clergy, as well as lay people from across the Diocese to share weekly. With our current demographic widening in the form of which media they choose to receive, it has become necessary for us to disseminate our information across as many mediums as possible to capture our audience and provide them with up to date information.

### **Nancy Basmajian ASP Scholarship Fund**

During the 2013 General Assembly, the body of the Assembly moved to create an endowment fund honoring Nancy Basmajian's service to our Diocese, specifically her tenure as the ACYOA Executive Secretary. The endowment fund's purpose is to support the ACYOA's ASP program by providing scholarships to participants with its disbursements. The *Nancy Basmajian Fund Committee* was formed shortly after to raise awareness and money for the fund. We continue to strive to raise funds for this worthwhile initiative to grow our endowment and provide financial opportunities for young adults to travel to Armenia and serve their homeland.

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

The Director and Coordinator of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Jennifer Morris and Lorie Odabashian respectively, transitioned to working with the ACYOA Central Council and have taken over all of the responsibilities of the ACYOA Executive Secretary. Jennifer Morris attended all of the Central Council Meetings, while Lorie attended our March, May and June meetings. Jennifer and Lorie also coordinated and attended programming throughout the year, inclusive of Chapter Workshop, Regional Retreats, ASP and Leadership Conference.

## **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 Diocesan Assembly passing the proposal to implement an annual parish assessment, beginning September 1, 2014, to benefit the ministry of the ACYOA on a national level, we feel confident in the state of our organization. For the inaugural year, we had 15 parishes that contributed to the ACYOA Parish Assessment. A special thanks to Bayside, NY; Cheltenham, PA; Chicago, IL; Detroit, MI; Fair Lawn, NJ; Framingham, MA; Houston, TX; New Britain, CT; Palos Heights, IL; Racine, WI; Tenafly, NJ; Watertown, MA; Watervliet, NY; White Plains, NY and Worcester, MA. We pray that future members and councils of this organization will benefit from our initiatives, and further strengthen the foundation.

## **ACYOA Central Council Officers**

### **January to May**

Jonathan Pelaez (Chair), Ani Grigorian (Vice Chair), Shant Paklaian (Treasurer), Chelsea Kress (Secretary), Armen Terjimanian (Public Relations Coordinator), Adrienne Ashbahian (Programming Coordinator), Daniel Zalinov (Chapter Relations).

### **June to December**

Ani Grigorian (Chair), Jonathan Pelaez (Vice Chair), Shant Paklaian (Treasurer), Chelsea Kress (Secretary), Sarine Atamian (Public Relations Coordinator), Adrienne Ashbahian (Programming Coordinator), Daniel Zalinov (Chapter Relations).

Respectfully submitted,

Ani Grigorian, Chairperson  
ACYOA Central Council

## **ATTACHMENT E**

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

#### **Annual Report – 2014**

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.

**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. Among the parishes of our Diocese: only four have a full-time, paid youth adviser; one has a part-time paid youth adviser; and 26 have clergy appointed youth advisers working on a volunteer basis. However, there are still 11 parishes in which the only contact is the parish priest and/or parish council chair. It is imperative that each parish continue to ensure that there is at least one designated youth worker mentoring its young people and disseminating information about youth programs. In 2015, we will be implementing regional Youth Worker Training to better equip the clergy and laity with tools to assist them in working with our youth and young adults.

**ACYOA Juniors Retreats:** Six regional retreats were organized and led by the Youth Outreach Coordinator. The retreat series theme focused on Living the Gospel of Christ: #MadeInHisImage. Discussions and activities challenged teens to think about how we can let our light shine despite the darkness we face in our daily lives. The retreats reached out to 173 youth between the ages of 13-18 from 26 different parishes. The following retreats were held:

- February 7-9, Michigan and Ohio Regional Retreat at Michigan Christian Youth Camp, Attica, MI
- February 22-23, New York, New Jersey, and Mid-Atlantic Regional Retreat at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cheltenham, PA
- March 14-16, New England Regional Retreat at St. Methodius Faith and Heritage Retreat Center, Contoocook, NH
- March 15, Texas day-long Retreat, St. Sarkis Armenian Church, Carrollton, TX
- March 22-23, Florida Regional Retreat at St. Hagop Church, St. Petersburg, FL
- April 4-6, Wisconsin and Illinois Regional Retreat at Camp Hickory, Ingleside, IL

**ACYOA Juniors Hye M'rtsoom:** Hye M'rtsoom was hosted Memorial Day weekend (May 23-26) by St. James Church, Watertown, MA. This year, a record breaking 252 participants representing 17 parishes attended. Four awards were presented on behalf of the ACYOA Central Council to the ACYOA Juniors: the Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan Vision Award, the Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan Leadership Award, the Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan Service Award, and the Chapter "A" Award to an ACYOA Juniors Chapter.

**ACYOA Juniors Sports Weekend:** Each year, a different parish takes on the responsibility of hosting the ACYOA Juniors Fall Sports Weekend during Columbus Day weekend (Oct 10-13).

This year, it was hosted by the parish community of St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ. Another record breaking 266 participants from 16 different parishes travelled to take part in the weekend's festivities.

**Diocesan Summer Camp Programs:** Preparations for the diocesan summer camp programs began in early January. Before, during and after the camp season, the 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, Hye Camp Director. The director and coordinator shared responsibilities during the seven week camp season from June 25-August 9 at St. Vartan Camp in Greenville, NY and July 24-August 9 at Hye Camp in Ingleside, IL. The Director developed and led the staff training at both camps. We extend our sincere appreciation to outgoing camp director, Rev. Fr. Krikor A. Sabounjian, for his many service years of service and look forward to his continued support as a visiting clergyman, instructor and adviser.

At *St. Vartan Camp*, the Director and Coordinator were responsible for all of the logistical planning and paperwork including: public relations, registration, CIT and staff applications and hiring, meeting New York State Department of Health requirements and inspections, insurance and financial record-keeping, and supervised the day-to-day operations.

For *Hye Camp*, the Director worked closely with the volunteer Hye Camp Board for the pre-camp planning, registration, and preparation. While at camp, she supervised day-to-day operations and oversaw the daily programming. The Director and Coordinator are appreciative of all of the staff and volunteers who contributed to a successful camp season which reached out to more than 500 participants from around the Diocese. Please see the St. Vartan Camp and Hye Camp Reports for additional information.

**ACYOA Seniors:** There are currently 22 active ACYOA Senior chapters in the Diocese with a potential for many more that already gather for church-sponsored activities. The Director and Coordinator collaborate, direct and manage all young adult ministry programs and work in unison with the ACYOA Central Council and local ACYOA chapters. Please see the ACYOA Central Council Report for additional information.

**Additional Work Travels and Presentations:**

- January 27-30, February 12 and 26, March 26-28, April 30, May 1, 21-22 and 27,
- June 18-20, August 18-20, October 6, November 13, 17-18, December 15-17, work from Diocese, New York, NY
- January 24-26, ACYOA Seniors Chapter Workshop
- January 27, Youth Advisory Committee Meeting, (Diocese, New York, NY)
- February 2, June 9, October 20, Hye Camp Board Meetings, Palos Heights, Evanston and Chicago, IL
- March 1 (Chicago, IL), May 3 (New York, NY), June 21 (New York, NY),
- September 6 (Detroit, MI), and December 8 (Charlotte, NC), ACYOA Central Council Meetings
- March 10, Poon Paregentan Dance (Chicago, IL)
- March 17, June 11 and October 7, St. Vartan Camp Directors Meeting, Cambridge and Chelmsford, MA

- May 1-3, Diocesan Assembly, New York, NY
- May 22-26, ACYOA Srs General Assembly and Sports Weekend, New York, NY
- August 16, SCOOCH Youth Conference, Paramus, NJ
- October 5, Speaker at Ordination Banquet, Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY
- October 17, Ordination and 50th Anniversary Celebration, St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, Chicago, IL
- October 25, Ararat Center Cruise, Boston, MA
- November 2, Ordination and Luncheon, Armenian Church of the Holy Translators, Framingham, MA
- November 14-16, ACYOA Seniors Leadership Conference, Stony Point, NY
- November 22, ACYOA and FAR Hand-in-Hand Art Auction and Dance, St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ
- December 8, Ordination and Luncheon, St. Sarkis Armenian Church, Charlotte, NC

**Professional Development:** Each year, the director attends a three-day conference hosted by the Orthodox Christian Camp Association (January 23-25). The theme this year was “Writing Icons of the Kingdom.” More than 100 participants gathered at Antiochian Village in Bolivar, PA, so clergy and lay workers could have a forum to discuss how to best meet the needs of their campers and staff, spiritually and socially. In preparation for the camp season, the director and coordinator spent a day receiving CPR for the professional Rescuer and AED training and two days in training for certification in Responding to Emergencies both offered by the America Red cross and required by state law. They also participated in several webinars and learning opportunities through the American Camping Association.

**Staff:** Jennifer Morris served as the as the Director of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and Lorie Odabashian served as the Coordinator of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

## **ATTACHMENT F**

### **FAR and ACYOA Healing Hearts Dance and Art Auction**

Several years ago, the ACYOA General Assembly passed a resolution to partner with FAR in an effort to collaborate on a project which would better connect the Armenian youth in America with Armenian Youth in Armenia. The project took the form of the Hand-N-Hand committee which comprised 10 people, half of whom were FAR representatives and half of whom were ACYOA representatives. A pilot skype style program between children at the FAR Children Center in Armenia and Armenian speaking American youth took place in the first year of the committee formation, but due to various logistical issues, failed to establish itself as a permanent program.

The Hand-N-Hand committee, committed to the goal of the original ACYOA resolution, regrouped and decided to put on a silent auction which would 1) Empower the children at the FAR Children Center by showing them that they have the power to shape their own lives through having proceeds from their artwork directly benefit them, 2) Raise money for the FAR Children Center, and 3) Educate the public about what FAR and the Children Center are accomplishing in Armenia. A date was set for the silent auction but due to another Armenian event taking place on the same night, the event was canceled. A non-refundable deposit had been given to St. Leon Armenian Church during the planning of the event and even though the event was canceled St Leon stated that they would hold the deposit for the Hand-N-Hand committee to be used at a later date. Due to conflicting schedules and the passing of time the Hand-N-Hand Committee was effectively disbanded although no formal disbanding had taken place.

Approximately a year after the cancellation of the silent auction a new committee was formed and planning of a new event to take place at St. Leon Armenian church began. After much discussion and numerous meetings, the new event was realized in the final form of a dance and art auction. The event was primarily a dance but included an art auction of photos taken by children at the FAR Children Center. Besides the original 3 goals set by the committee the Dance/Art Auction also set out to educate the Armenian Community about the new FAR “WEAREAYO” online platform which is basically an Armenian version of Kickstarter and seeks to help promote projects thought up and carried out by Armenian’s living in Armenia.

It was discovered approximately a month before the event was to take place that another Armenian event, an art auction, was taking place the same night but the decision was made by the committee and Central Council to move forward with the event. On November 22, 2014 the Dance/Art Auction at St. Leon Armenian Church took place. The event did not get the attendance the committee expected but the event did net 900 dollars profit which will go to FAR. After the event the committee conducted a meeting to discuss what we had done correct and ways in which we could have improved. The event did not bring in the age demographic (Early 20’s to Early 40’s) we were hoping for which the committee felt was due to the way in which the event was marketed. The marketing highlighted the silent auction aspect of the event while the event in actuality was primarily a dance. Further, the fact that another high-profile event was the same night and had taken place annually for the past few years hurt the attendance at the Dance/Art Auction. In retrospect the committee felt that changing the date would have been a better option. Despite needing to do some things differently for a future similar event, the

committee accomplished all 4 of the goals that it set out to accomplish with the event. We 1) Empowered the children at the FAR Children Center by showing them that their artwork (photography) raised money benefitting their lives, 2) Raised approximately 900 dollars for FAR, 3) Educated the public as to not only the accomplishments and existence of FAR and the Far Children Center but also about the existence and wonderful benefits of the FAR “WEAREAYO” online platform, and 4) Gave the ACYOA more visibility to the public and showed the public that the ACYOA was committed to helping those less fortunate.

In summary, the ACYOA followed through on its resolution and in doing so raised 900 dollars for FAR and educated the public about a wonderful organization. None of the accomplishments would have been possible without the time and effort of both FAR and ACYOA representatives over the past four years. A personal thank you to all who have given their time, support and money in helping us accomplish all we have.

Submitted by,

Eric Ashbahian

# ATTACHMENT G

## Report of the 2012 Sports Weekend Committee

St Gregory the Illuminator ACYOA Seniors  
2012 General Assembly and Sports Weekend  
Financial Report

ADDENDUM 1

INCOME	As of 5/20/2015	IF dispute with Knickerbocker is overturned
<b>Registration</b>		
General Registration	37,120.00	37,120.00
Team Registration	1,330.00	1,330.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,450.00</b>	<b>38,450.00</b>
<b>Fundraising-Other</b>		
Ad-Booklet	16,087.48	16,087.48
Palm Sunday / Coffee And	4,350.00	4,350.00
Raffi's on 5th Dance	745.85	745.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,183.33</b>	<b>21,183.33</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Alhambra Dance Only	8,803.36	8,803.36
Primates Luncheon	4,649.40	4,649.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,452.76</b>	<b>13,452.76</b>
<b>Loans</b>		
Parish Council Seed Money	8,000.00	8,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>81,086.09</b>	<b>81,086.09</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Loans</b>		
Parish Council Return Seed Money	8,000.00	8,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>
<b>Hotel</b>		
Hotel Food, Beverage, Rentals	8,693.99	8,693.99
Primates Luncheon	4,649.40	4,649.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,343.39</b>	<b>13,343.39</b>
<b>Friday night</b>		
10Pin Bowling	10,020.00	10,020.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,020.00</b>	<b>10,020.00</b>
<b>Saturday night</b>		
Knickerbocker	21,746.50	14,853.50
Transportation	1,500.00	1,500.00
DJ	500.00	500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,746.50</b>	<b>16,853.50</b>
<b>Sunday night</b>		
Alhambra Palace	15,200.00	15,200.00
Transportation	1,500.00	1,500.00
Hye Vibes/Karoon Band	3,250.00	3,250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,950.00</b>	<b>19,950.00</b>
<b>Sports</b>		
Windy City Fieldhouse Rental	5,500.00	5,500.00
Ref's	1,395.00	1,395.00
Transportation	2,240.00	2,240.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,135.00</b>	<b>9,135.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Ad Book Printing	2,541.56	2,541.56
Promotional Material	1,117.21	1,117.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,658.77</b>	<b>3,658.77</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>87,853.66</b>	<b>80,960.66</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>(6,767.57)</b>	<b>125.43</b>

Revised 5/20/2015

## ATTACHMENT H

### Report of the 2013 Sports Weekend Committee

*(Revised by the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly Secretary, as directed by the 2015 General Assembly delegates.)*

# PROVIDENCE 2013

## *ACYOA General Assembly & Senior Sports Weekend*

### *Recapture Report*

#### ***Where We Were Successful***

The Providence 2013 ACYOA General Assembly & Senior Sports Weekend was a successful event from many perspectives: attendance, fellowship, participant quality, logistical planning, financials, sports and community development.

- **Attendance** – Providence 2013 attracted more than 350 participants from around the Diocese, in addition, over 30 participants from the Canadian Diocese.
- **Participant Quality** - Three-quarters of our participant base were over the age of 21. The KefTimeProvidence2013 event was a large contributing factor to our participant quality perspective throughout the weekend. This event hosted over 350 additional guests from around the region (*over 700 present at KefTimeProvidence2013*).
- **Logistical Planning** - The idea was to plan the large items (*hotel accommodations, evening activities, General Assembly meetings, sports facility & transportation*) in excessive advance. From there, every item was re-planned with specific attention to details. This process ensured that nothing would be overlooked, which allowed the committee to focus 100 percent on execution during the actual event. All decisions on the specific planning level delineated to value versus cost, with the understanding that value must be sensitive to the holistic goals of the weekend.
- **Financials** - By remaining fiscally responsible, the Providence2013 Host Committee is proud to report an approximate Diocesan share net profit of \$10,000, with a much greater overall gross. It is important to note that Providence did not benefit from any large-scale donors.
- **Sports** - There were no issues with sports at all over the weekend. The sports schedules worked seamlessly and we finished with time to spare every day.

- **Community Development** - This is probably one of the most important items where any host community should spend time focusing. Planning and executing ACYOA General Assembly & Senior Sports Weekend is what the community is doing, but how they do it and the process they go through should help to build and strengthen their community internally.

### ***“Game Changing” Items***

There were a slew of small, behind the scenes, planning items that made a difference over the course of the weekend that are important to note.

- **Providing Food** - Throughout the course of the weekend, we made concerted efforts to provide the participants food at the venues as well as at the end of the night.
- **Police Presence** - The police presence offered a significant value and authority to those working directly with the participants. *(The police details were arranged months in advance to Sports Weekend, and were not changed in any way throughout the weekend. An email was sent by the Host Committee, announcing the police presence positioned as if it were a result of weekend activity in an attempt to have a greater impact on potential misconduct.)*
- **Organized Volunteer Security** - Each night, an organized security plan was in place, with direct corroboration between volunteer and hotel staff security. The design was to provide a support system for the hotel’s existing system and staff.
- **Hotel Cooperation** - All committee members were available to the hotel staff throughout the weekend to assist with items from table setup to noise complaints.
- **Absolute Immediate Response & Reaction** - Host Committees have two major responsibilities: to plan the event, and to execute the event. Being prepared and dealing with all obstacles with quick and immediate decisions is vital to preserving the weekend experience for participants.
- **Online Centralization** - Aside from the registration process, developing an online/mobile accessible database for necessary weekend information provides better control to the Host Committee for their ability to manage the event.
  - The key documents to keep active and available:
    - **Weekend Spend Analysis** - This was designed to have an expected “weekend spend,” broken down by line item, with an actual column that is updated as various items settle up throughout the weekend.
    - **Master Registration List** - Timestamp, First Name, Last Name, all contact information, emergency contacts, payment information, etc., all available with immediate access.
    - **Check In Lists** - The weekend check-in, venue check-in, as well as additional guest check-in.

- These documents were live and active throughout the weekend, and could be changed and viewed by select people on our committee, at any point during the weekend. The ability to view, change and report to the other committee members was invaluable and could be done via mobile phone or computer.
- **Manage Contracts & Reconciliation** - Working with the venues and service providers throughout the weekend is extremely important. Payments, refunds and alterations will need to happen, and it is important that it all happen expediently.
- **Dismiss & Removal Follow-Through** - While the Providence2013 weekend came and went with relatively limited misconduct, it is vital to make dismissal decisions swiftly and commit to them once they are made. Over the course of the weekend, there were three weekend dismissals and four hotel dismissals (*2 of which were not hotel guests but removed from the property*). \*\*details below

### ***Issues during the Weekend***

Below is a listing of known issues throughout the weekend:

- **Thursday Night**
  - A delegate/participant was rude with hotel staff as they had locked themselves out of their room.
- **Friday Night**
  - The Providence2013 Host Committee, in conjunction with the Point Street Dueling Piano Bar owner, made the decision to end the evening 45 minutes early as a result of two individuals who attempted to start a fight -- twice, in addition a presence of under-age drinking.
  - The individuals involved were escorted out of the venue early and sent back to the hotel. They were dismissed from the weekend the next morning.
  - Minor noise complaints in the hotel.
- **Saturday Night**
  - An individual became ill, and was taken to the hospital as a precaution.
  - A non-participant of the weekend harassed a volunteer. The individual was removed from the hotel by police.
  - Minor noise complaints in the hotel.
- **Sunday Night**
  - Two individuals were asked to leave the hotel for throwing food from their balcony. The Committee supported the hotel in their decision.
  - The Providence2013 Host Committee, in conjunction with the View Lounge & Waterplace Restaurant, made the decision to end the evening 30 minutes early as a result of a presence of under-age drinking.
  - Minor noise complaints in the hotel.

The predominant issues:

- Under-age drinking at the venues on Friday & Sunday.
- Hotel noise complaints
  - The hotel explained that there was nothing out of the ordinary that they didn't expect from our group, albeit the noise level or conduct within the hotel.

It should be noted that, at every known instance mentioned above, a Host Committee member was present or immediately summoned to directly deal with the situations as they developed.

## ***Moving Forward***

There are two areas of improvement which we believe should be focused on for each host committee when necessary. Those are: 1) The working relationship between the Host Committee and the ACYOA Central Council in alignment of a consistent mission and developed goal for the event, and 2) Identifying improvements and augmentations for the event year after year.

### *ACYOA Central Council & The Event*

It takes time to fine-tune and develop something that works and accomplishes its desired effect and goal. However, since ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend is recreated and reinvented every year, by a different committee, with sometimes little experience in the structure and planning.

Consistency and continuity should be paramount in all aspects of the Diocese, but most importantly within the youth organizations. We recommend the ACYOA Central Council practice better communication with the Host Committee.

### *Improvements & Suggestions*

There are simple points as well as stylistic considerations that future host committees should review.

### **Simple Points** *(These were implemented by Providence, but should be developed and enhanced.)*

- Having a police presence in conjunction with night security makes a big difference. The police might not be needed, but it's better to over-plan in regards to misconduct suppression.
- In addition to police, our committee requested and took progressive steps to have a strong clergy presence. We drafted a letter that was sent to the clergy encouraging their presence for as much of Sports Weekend as their schedules and parish responsibilities would allow.
  - Generate a strict misconduct protocol and anticipate the manpower required to implement it over the weekend, and during the weekend, dismiss anyone, without prejudice, who violates the "terms and conditions" of the weekend.
- Work more closely with the hotel to try to accomplish the following:

- Have a hospitality suite every night to accommodate those that wish to stay awake.
- Meld a hotel and volunteer security staff.
- Implement a hotel room/hallway noise curfew.
- If possible, place participants in one section of the hotel. (*This is not as simple as it sounds, but should be emphasized.*)
- Provide for the participants. It is important that around every corner, they are getting something, such as tshirts, snacks, giveaways etc.

**Weekend Stylistic Changes** (*Ideas on how to subliminally restructure the weekend to effect change.*)

- Possible suggestions on how to reduce under-age drinking:
  - Have Friday be an informal gathering with food, available bar, possibly some music, and do it in the hotel. As opposed to a full-on Friday Night Venue, you turn the tone towards more of a welcome event and gathering.
  - Consider having a split event (Over 21 can go to either venue; however, under 21 cannot go to the over 21 venue.) As an example, the Point Street Dueling Piano Bar and bowling/mini golf/etc.
  - Providence was very successful with KefTimeProvidence2013, in that we attracted over 350 outside guests to mix and mingle with the Sports Weekend participants. This was a family event, and didn't lend itself to any kind of excessive drinking or misconduct.
  - Provide food throughout the weekend. We cannot stress the importance of giving food to the participants. In the weeks since Sports Weekend, one of the most commonly heard compliments was for the pizzas late at night (*over 500 pizza were provided by the Host Committee throughout the weekend*) and the amount of food at every event.

***Providence2013 Wrapped Up***

Overall, Providence2013 was a great success from the experience, value and financial perspectives. The Providence Host Committee and Senior ACYOA have become closer and stronger as a unit. We are very pleased with the way we approached, planned and executed the weekend. There will always be room to grow, and it is our hope that growth and opportunity is encouraged for this event as we all help to see it through into the future.

### **2013 GASW Financial Breakdown**

#### **Item Sub Item Amount**

General Registration	\$ 38,035.00
KefTimeProvidence2013 subdivision	\$ 19,860.00
Team Registrations	\$ 2,800.00
Hotel Profit Sharing	\$ 4,077.00

#### Fundraising

Ad Booklet	\$ 16,650.00
Car Give-A-Way	\$ 1,200.00
Family Night	\$ 1,200.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 83,822.00</b>

### **2013 GASW Expense Breakdown**

#### **Item Subitem Amount**

Hotel & Catering	\$ 26,306.58
Providence Piano Bar	\$ 10,000.00
View Lounge Providence	\$ 1,500.00
Academy Busing	\$ 7,316.00
Providence Technical Academy	\$ 3,675.00
Warwick Police Department	\$ 3,785.33
Ronzio Late Night Pizza	\$ 2,400.00
Ad Booklet Printing	\$ 1,780.00
Ad Booklet Mailings	\$ 734.49
Sports Weekend Shirts	\$ 2,747.50
Tote Bags	\$ 330.00
Discretionary Spending	\$ 2,530.09
First Donation to Bayside Community	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 64,104.99</b>

2013 GASW Net Profit	\$ 19,717.01
Profit Sharing to Diocese	\$ 9,858.51
Providence Community Additional Contribution	\$ 141.49

**Total Amount Remitted to Diocese \$ 10,000.00**

**ATTACHMENT I**  
**Report of the 2014 Sports Weekend Committee**



**The Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs**  
**ACYOA SENIORS**

*General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2014*  
**Committee Report**

Submitted by: 2014 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee  
Fr. Abraham Malkhasyan, Pastor

# 2014 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee Report

## Introduction

The 2014 General Assembly & Sports Weekend was hosted by the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs of Bayside, NY. The weekend was held in New York City from May 22 – 26th, 2014. The hotel we provided for our guests was The Westin New York Grand Central located in Midtown Manhattan and General Assembly was held at The Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America also located in Midtown Manhattan.

## Committee

<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Fr. Abraham Malkhasyan
<i>Youth Director</i>	Karen Karamyan
<i>Chairperson</i>	Sarine Atamian
<i>Treasurer</i>	Talin Dursunian
<i>Fundraising Coordinator</i>	Victoria Armineh Babikian
<i>Events Coordinator</i>	Gabrielle Barikian
<i>Athletics Coordinator</i>	Aram Spendjian

## Overview

Our committee did an extensive amount of research around the city of New York. There were discussions whether to host the weekend in New York City or in the outer boroughs. We visited and gathered proposals from various hotels, venues, and sporting facilities.

Our primary goal was to manage the cost of the weekend, keep our events centralized, and host a safe, fun – filled weekend for participants. Our committee wanted to instill the best possible experience for our guests which allowed us to come to the decision of having the hotel, sports facility, and all events in New York City, and hosting General Assembly at the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

## **Preparation**

We utilized the approach of “divide and conquer” for the great task of planning a General Assembly and Sports Weekend. We formed a committee unique to our needs in order to tackle every aspect of this large event. Our Chairperson was the connection between committee members and Central Council. In addition, our Chairperson handled all correspondence with the Diocese, lawyer, hotel, and transportation companies. Our treasurer handled all finances including overseeing incomes and expenses, reviewing bank account transactions, and keeping records in Quickbooks. Our Fundraising Coordinator was responsible for organizing and spearheading all fundraising events, including chapter events, online fundraising campaigns, ad booklet advertising, and donation collections. Our Events Coordinator was in charge of event registration, finding appropriate venues and vendors, and negotiating prices, conditions, contract changes, and vendor policies. Our Athletics Coordinator had to find the athletic space, referees, organize the sporting schedule, and facilitate team registration.

Another valuable component of our preparation was social media. We wanted everyone to know about our upcoming events, fundraising opportunities, service activities, and overall enthusiasm as a chapter. We wanted to be as visual about our preparation as possible. We greatly utilized Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (300+ followers) to post our flyers, pictures, and updates. We also created a chapter video to bring a face to the name of “Holy Martyrs ACYOA Seniors.” This helped generate support, enthusiasm, and excitement not only throughout our church, but the entire Eastern Diocese. One of our biggest achievements was being the first committee to create a mobile application for our participants to access before and during the weekend. This along with our other social media outlets allowed us to provide live real-time updates during the weekend regarding anything from sports and scoring, events, dining suggestions, tourist tips, etc.

## **Locations**

Hosting General Assembly and Sports Weekend in New York, we were unlimited with our options. We had the option of different boroughs, such as Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and we also had the option to host the weekend’s events on Long Island.

In order to create the most memorable experience possible for our participants, we opted for Manhattan. It is New York’s staple region and defines who we are as New Yorkers. It was our pride and pleasure to showcase New York City in the heart of the Big Apple itself.

Although this appeared to be the more difficult and costly choice at a glance, our devoted committee was able to partner with the Westin New York at Grand Central, steps away from the infamous Grand Central Station, and provide affordable rates for our guests. The hotel’s transportation options were limitless with multiple nearby subway/bus stations, and its proximity to anything and everything New York City had to offer could not be beat. Baruch College’s

Athletics & Fitness Center, which were used for our sporting events, was within walking distance of the hotel as well. In addition to the hotel and gym accommodations, we were able to negotiate with and book venues that delivered a true and spectacular “New York experience” for our evening events, all while staying within our modest budget.

## **Events**

What seemed almost impossible at first – hosting **all** evening events in Manhattan – was made possible through the keen effort of our committee. Months were spent seeking out the right event options that would not only be of reasonable costs, but would entirely deliver the vision we had in our minds for a New York City Sports Weekend. It was really “all or nothing” for us, as we wanted to give attendees the best experience possible.

All of our events enforced a strict **Zero Tolerance** policy. Before signing with any venue, we made sure to go over all alcohol purchasing and security procedures. We made it very clear that if any attendee was in violation of the venue’s policy, the venue had the right to eject them from the facilities. In addition to venue security, our own committee stepped up and patrolled each venue as well, working in shifts with at least two members on duty at all times. There were minimal incidents throughout the entire weekend and, thankfully, no attendee required medical attention or risked expulsion from the weekend.

Please see below for event descriptions:

1. Thursday, May 22nd: **Delegates’ Reception at the Diocese** – Our committee was able to host a quaint and catered Delegates’ Reception at the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Food and beverages were provided.
2. Friday, May 23rd: **404 NYC** – A part of the NYC lifestyle is the nightlife. Without utilizing an actual club/bar/lounge, we were able to imitate the tone of a New York City club with this venue. They gave us the freedom to design the raw space with lighting, use our own DJ’s, and furnish the space so all attendees were comfortable and enjoying themselves. They also provided a “21 and over” section on the upper level of the venue that was guarded by security, which was the only section that allowed alcohol to be present from the cash bar.
3. Saturday, May 24th: **Hornblower NYC Skyline Cruise** – With the Hornblower cruise, we were able to show off our beloved city on a 3-hour boat ride with catered food, music, and an outdoor deck to view the skyline. All accommodations were included and a cash bar was provided.
4. Sunday, May 25th: **Broad Street Ballroom Banquet** – Another raw space we used was the Broad Street Ballroom, a beautiful former bank space in the Financial District. This event featured passed hors d’oeuvres, a sports awards ceremony, cash bar, speeches, photo booth and photography, DJ and live entertainment.
5. Sports: **Baruch Athletics Fitness Center**- Minutes from the hotel and equipped with basketball and volleyball courts, storage areas, and a concession stand.

6. Sunday Church Service: **The Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs in Bayside, NY-**  
The hosting chapter wanted to showcase the church where we all grew up.

### Lessons Learned

Issue	Description	How to Avoid
Same color bracelets for every night	Was confusing during event check-ins because some people thought they were already checked in if they had a bracelet. Some even snuck into events they did not pay for because they already had a bracelet from a previous event.	Use different color bracelet for every night.
Not enough buses	Buses were not able to abide by the schedule because there were not enough. We did not account for time loading and unloading, as well as possible traffic.	The more buses, the better.
Hotel did not abide by our requests.	Rooms were not near each other, which caused issues and complaints from other guests. Floors were not designated according to age, separating over 21 and underage, as requested.	Call hotel prior to event to remind and ensure requests will be abided by. Make sure hotel rooms are near each other to avoid issues with other guests. Blocking off entire floors is preferable. Patrol hallways at night to warn attendees and quest them down.
Tardiness of award ceremony	Because people came late and the buses were delayed, the program had to start around 10:30 p.m. in the middle of dancing and no one paid attention.	Tell winners to come early to receive their awards in order to continue the night uninterrupted.

### Suggestions

1. Remember to always review every venue and vendor contract thoroughly before signing it. This can help avoid issues with venue capacity, alcohol policy, outside vendors, insurance, etc.
2. When visiting a potential venue, be sure to have at least 2 people present and take notes. This way, you can provide insight on the venue to your committee and provide concise details. Review details with the point of contact via email to ensure information is correct.

3. When distributing the Code of Conduct to your attendees, be sure to have them read it in front of you and fully understand the guidelines they are committing to. This is especially helpful with the Zero Tolerance policy we enforced.
4. Have different color bracelets for the different nights to avoid people sneaking in and under-age guests from switching bracelets.
5. Have extra security at check-ins to avoid large crowds at the table and keep everything orderly.
6. Have all hotel rooms on the same floors, and separate by over/under 21. Patrol the hallway to warn guests and quiet them down before complaints get out of hand.
7. Have chaperones on the buses to keep rowdiness to a minimum.

### **Achievements**

1. First General Assembly and Sports Weekend to have its own mobile application.
2. Huge social media presence and following (300+) allowing us to generate enthusiasm and excitement and to provide live real-time updates during the weekend regarding anything from sports and scoring, events, dining suggestions, tourist tips, etc.
3. We were able to keep transportation costs low because General Assembly and the Sports Facility were both in such close proximity to the hotel.
4. The number of attendees throughout the weekend was record breaking compared to previous years.
5. No major incidents involving police, medical emergencies, or participants being ejected from the weekend.
6. Being the most expensive city in the Eastern Diocese we were able to effectively budget our weekend and keep our cost below \$100,000.
7. We were able to keep all events in Manhattan and within a 10-mile vicinity.
8. NO DEBT.
9. We were able to host one of the most profitable weekends compared to previous years.
10. We are all still friends. 📧

### **Conclusion**

Hosting General Assembly & Sports Weekend was a great opportunity for the ACYOA Seniors of the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs who had not hosted a General Assembly & Sports Weekend in 15 years. Membership grew extensively in the two years we spent planning the weekend and our community of young people became a staple in our parish. The committee while planning and fundraising for this event became a family. It was an honor to be able to host such a successful weekend while also giving back to our community and youth of the Eastern Diocese.

2014 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Participation	
<b>Hotel Information</b>	
<b>Room Nights Sold</b>	
Wednesday 5/21	1
Thursday 5/22	31
Friday 5/23	113
Saturday 5/24	115
Sunday 5/25	107
<b>Total</b>	<b>367</b>
<b>Events</b>	
<b>General Assembly</b>	
Clergy	15
Delegates	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Friday Night 404 NYC</b>	450
<b>Saturday Night Hornblower Cruises &amp; Events</b>	420
<b>Sunday Night Broad Street Ballroom</b>	465
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>
	5
<b>Registration Information</b>	
Members	185
Delegates	56
Athletes	148
Clergy	15
Non - Members / Locals	107
<b>Total Registered</b>	<b>511</b>
Over 21	347
Under 21	164

Holy Martyrs ACYOA Seniors Sports Weekend 2014	
Profit and Loss Standard	11/03/14
January through July 2014	
	<u>Jan - Jul '14</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Advertising Revenue *	22,264.83
Bake Sales *	1,207.00
Easter Egg Party registration *	283.80
Mothers Day Luncheon *	915.00
Palm Sunday Luncheon *	1,125.00
Registration fees	79,140.00
Spinathon *	4,105.94
Sunday Fellowship *	50.00
Super Bowl Party *	3,557.00
Telethon *	96.35
Total Income	<u>112,744.92</u>
Gross Profit	112,744.92
Expense	
Ad Booklet	575.00
Basketball Tape	300.00
FAR Sponsorship	1,467.00
Dues and Subscriptions	95.00
Entertainment	7,344.30
Food	13,218.14
Hotel Deposit	3,000.00
Processing Fees- Paypal	2,598.00
Referees	2,200.00
Security	480.00
Spinathon gym	200.00
Sports Facility	6,000.00
Sports Weekend Reimbursement	1,803.18
Sports Weekend T-shirts	1,575.00
Sports weekend Trophies	93.50
Super Bowl Winnings	100.00
Supplies	1,370.36
Transportation Expense	5,420.00
Venues	33,960.00
Video	3,500.00
Water Bottles	879.00
Total Expense	<u>86,178.48</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>26,566.44</u>
Net Income	<u>26,566.44</u>

\* Fundraising \*

## **ATTACHMENT J**

### **Primate's Message**

**Archbishop Khajag Barsamian**

**Address: ACYOA Assembly—May 21, 2015**  
**St. John Armenian Church, Southfield, Michigan**

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. Garabed and the St. John Church of Detroit—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.

Beginning with the milestone year of 2015, our Diocesan churches have built their activities around the theme: “Living the Gospel of Christ: The Legacy of Our Martyrs.”

It's a simple title, but it contains a great deal of meaning, I feel.

“The Legacy of Our Martyrs” refers, first and foremost, to those saintly souls who lost or sacrificed their lives 100 years ago, in the name of preserving their identity as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ. We owe them so much, and we have inherited so much as a result of their love and sacrifice.

As of two weeks ago, they became the latest martyrs to be canonized by our church. [The video we just saw reminds us of the beauty and majesty of that historic occasion.]

But of course, they were hardly the first such martyrs for our people. The Armenian Church—to use a phrase spoken by Pope Francis earlier this year—is truly “a church of martyrs”: of men and women who showed their faith in the most powerful way possible.

Our history is a history of martyrdom: from the pious princess St. Sandtougkt, to the companions of St. Hripsime, to the Forty Martyrs of Sepastia.

Their stories, too, are part of the “Legacy of Our Martyrs.” It is a legacy that reaches back through the Apostles and St. Stepanos the Proto-martyr, to the divine template for all sacrificial deaths: Jesus Christ. And it is a legacy that has not concluded, but is still being enacted, in physical and spiritual ways, down to our own day.

The “Legacy of Our Martyrs” is something shared by all Armenian Christians. But it also has a personal dimension for each of us.

Nothing shows that more than the canonization of our Genocide martyrs: for they represent your own *mayrigs* and *hayrigs*; the people with whom you share family names and family ties; the departed souls whose stories were told to us by the survivors of the Genocide.

Another way of saying that is: We are all connected, at the deepest level, to the “Legacy of Our Martyrs.” And that personal connection gives us a larger connection to the whole community of believers—and to the heavenly communion of saints.

I will return to this idea of “connection” in a moment. But first, let me reflect on this year, and its larger meaning to our church.

One of our objectives this year has been to create awareness of the Genocide in the broader society—so that the lessons of our history can inform the world, and the sufferings of our people will never again be visited on others. That effort has been tremendously successful; I think—as the incredible world reaction to the liturgy and statements of Pope Francis, to the canonization service, and to the services in Washington, D.C., with Catholicos Karekin II and Catholicos Aram I, surely show.

We have been commemorating the Genocide for many years now. But we have never seen so many items in the news, on television and the internet, telling our story in such a forceful way.

We have never been able to experience such events together--as a people—in the way we have this year, thanks to the modern technologies of the Internet and social media.

And we have never seen such a powerful expression of support for Genocide recognition in the surrounding culture.

I want to say that this result is not some miracle, or some favor that people have decided to bestow on Armenians. The incredible awareness of the Genocide we have seen this year is the result of many years of quiet, determined work by a small number of people—making connections within the society and culture, with journalists and political leaders—to tell the Armenian story, and defend our history against denial and distortion.

These people have given our community the best of themselves, and our community has gained a great benefit, as a result.

This is the year that all those efforts bore fruit and blossomed in all their beauty and strength; but the tree grew from seeds planted and nourished in the past. And there is a lesson—about the power of giving your best—for all of us to derive from this experience.

This year is also an opportunity for us to be “empowered”: to remember the life and commitment of all those who sacrificed—who became martyrs for our Lord—as well as those who survived by walking across the deserts, as our Lord Jesus walked to Golgotha, carrying his cross.

It should be empowering to us to know that the martyrs died for their faith, emulating Christ's example. As I said, we are connected at the deepest level to them. And each of us has something of their spirit within us. That is something I want to impress on your generation, as you move forward in life.

We must make ourselves ready to echo the immortal words of another Armenian martyr, St. Vartan, who stood up and proclaimed, against great opposition, that *"From this faith...nothing can shake us! Not men or angels. Not fire or water. Not the sword—not even torture!"*

The fact that we still remember Vartan's proclamation proves that he left behind a powerful legacy. The fact that we remember the Genocide martyrs—and that the whole world is beginning to recognize them—proves that they left a powerful legacy behind them.

And as we reflect on all these powerful legacies in this 100th year of remembrance, we should ask ourselves: *What legacy are we leaving behind?*

What will be our legacy as a church? What will be our legacy as a community? As individuals?

Perhaps a few of you, even in your time of youth, have asked yourself such a question. But I can assure you that it is a question many of us think about, when we reach a certain season of life.

I have to admit it is a question often on my own mind. I think back upon the 25 years I have been blessed to serve as Primate of the Eastern Diocese, and upon the 43 years since my priestly ordination. I think about the legacies left by churchmen like Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, Catholicos Karekin Hovsepian, Archbishop Hovsep Sarajian—the very first Primate of the Armenian Church in America.

I ask myself how the Diocese is different for my service to it. Whether we saw material growth in our church—in terms of parishes and membership—as well as spiritual growth in terms of people's feelings of fulfillment, vocation, and mission in Christ.

I ask myself about the legacy of outreach to our people in Armenia; to our countrymen in other dioceses; and to the wider ecumenical and political world.

I ask whether we have effectively passed on the treasure of our Christian tradition to the younger generation.

Like everyone who thinks about these things, I am haunted by the thought of opportunities that might have been, but were missed. But overall, thinking about a legacy causes you to concentrate more on the future than on the past.

And that is the question I want to urge upon everyone in this room today: *What will be your legacy? What will be our legacy?*

Reflection on the "Legacy of Our Martyrs" has been a crucial part of our experience this year. As I said, we have inherited so much from them, and from our survivors. We can hardly repay what we owe them.

But we will surely fail in upholding this legacy if we merely inherit it, and refuse to build a legacy of our own: a legacy built on the foundation we have received—from 100 years ago, and from 2,000 years ago—but also one shaped by the demands of the present, and the opportunities the future holds out.

So I ask again: *What will be your legacy?* As we look back, with pride and reverence, on the Armenian Christians of 100 years ago, how will the Armenians of 100 years from now look back on your generation?

\* \* \*

That is not a question to answer today, of course. But it is a question that should occupy our thoughts and prayers in the days to come.

This 100th anniversary year has given us a great opportunity to be inspired by our past; to be creative and outgoing on the local, national, and international levels; and above all, to act, serve, and be together, as a united people, with a common focus, and a profound sense of connection.

I have already noted how our sense of connection to the generation of 100 years ago—both the martyrs and the survivors—inspires our activities in the present day. This year, we have made powerful connections to the greater society, showing that we are not isolated in the world, but participants in a larger reality.

That same sense of connection is something we should promote in our internal life. How can we create stronger connections with each other? Between Armenia and the diaspora?

How can we strengthen the connection between our present-day life, and the eternal kingdom of our saints and our Lord?

Building a connection with God and with each other is the goal of our Christian faith; it is through such connection that the church is a living body. Holy Communion—*haghortoutiun*—is the mysterious sacrament given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ, to enable us to restore mankind's lost connection with God.

In making that connection, we fulfill the “Legacy of Our Martyrs,” by affirming the ideal for which they gave their lives.

And as the young, intelligent, inspired generation of our church, you can show others the right way to understand the meaning of the “Legacy of Our Martyrs.” For surely that meaning is to give the best of ourselves, the best we have to offer, to the cause of advancing our people and church. It is your generation—with your talents and education, your passion and promise—which represents the best, most precious part of our community life.

Over the years, in our youth gatherings, camps, pilgrimages, leadership events, and ACYOA assemblies, I have gotten to know most of you. I have come to admire you as you've grown and matured into Armenian Christian men and women. I know that you have so much to give; and I encourage you to offer the best part of yourselves—in every aspect of your life, but especially in your leadership of our church.

If you do that, then you will have done justice to the legacy we have inherited from our martyrs. And by giving your best, you will also receive the best that our precious legacy has to offer in return.

With such thoughts, let us continue with our session today, and go forward with full hearts to the inspirational events of this weekend. May our risen Lord strengthen, inspire, and sustain all our people along this path.

# **ATTACHMENT K**

## **Bible Study**

**ACYOA General Assembly  
Bible Study  
May 22, 2015**

**How do you focus on renewal and drawing closer to God during Lent? Did you do what you planned to do? How could you have done better; been more worship focused?**

**We can draw much inspiration from our ancestor's staunch faith; many of them survived by faith alone. What challenges us today to stand by our faith today; to cling to God?**

**Does the steadfastness of faith displayed by our ancestors and the fact that we now have saintly blood running through our veins inspire our daily renewal? Do you feel renewed by this?**

**Do you feel any different? Do you feel more responsibility to live up to the honor as the legacy of our martyrs?**

**How does this/will this influence YOU as leaders of the ACYOA and of our church community?**

**In what ways can each of us share and give back with our greater community?**

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NRSV)

The Valley of Dry Bones

**37** The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath<sup>[a]</sup> to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath<sup>[b]</sup> in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath:<sup>[c]</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,<sup>[d]</sup> and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

**ATTACHMENT L**  
**ACYOA Award Recipients**

**ACYOA Junior Awards: (May 2015)**

**The Abp. Tiran Nersoyan Service Award** – Zaven Dadian, St. John, Southfield, MI

**The Abp. Tiran Nersoyan Leadership Award** – Anna Margaryan, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA

**The Abp. Tiran Nersoyan Vision Award** – Lucine Boloyan, St. James, Watertown, MA

**ACYOA Juniors Chapter “A” Award** – Holy Trinity, Cheltenham, PA

**ACYOA Senior Awards: (Southfield, MI, May 2015)**

**The Gregory Arpajian Leadership Award** – Danielle Malconian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA

**The Sam Nersesian Award** – Talene Jermakian, St. Mark, Springfield, MA

**ACYOA Seniors Chapter “A” Award** – Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY

**The Very Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Malkonian Award** – Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Dean, St. Nersess Seminary

**The Rev. Fr. Haroutiun and Yn. Patricia Dagley Award** – Lisa Mardigian, Southfield, MI

# **ATTACHMENT M**

## **Report of the Auditing Committee**

Auditing Committee Report  
2014 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, 2014, through December 31, 2014. This audit serves to verify that the financial position of the ACYOA Central Council accurately references the 2014 budget. In addition, the committee reconciled banking activity for the same period.

With respect to the 2014 financial report, the committee first addresses budgeted versus actual income and expenditures. The committee noted that line item #1001 "ASP Income" of \$36,989.00 was thirty three percent less than the budgeted amount of \$55,000.00. It was asked whether the budgeted amount included other income or donations to the ASP trip. The treasurer reported that the budgeted amount of \$55,000 is inclusive of 20 participants. At the 2014 General Assembly the 2015 Approved Budget was passed to revise this line item to \$45,000 to account for less than average ASP participants. In 2014 ASP accommodated 12 participants which resulted in the amount of \$36,989.00. The following breakdown for that amount is \$34,140.00 for program fees, \$500.00 in Central Council scholarships and \$2,349.00 in miscellaneous donations from DYYAM.

Income Line item #1004 "Donations" prompted a question as to why there was a \$15,918.00 difference from 2013 actual to 2014 actual. The Treasurer responded that there were more donations in 2013.

The Committee next reviewed the 2014 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 questioned expense line item #2011 "Fundraising Initiatives" as this line item exceeded its budget by \$4536.14. We sought an explanation and breakdown why so much was spent for what ended up being less in return. The treasurer responded that this expense is used as start up for various Fundraising Initiatives the Central Council may pursue during the year. In response to the question "We sought an explanation why so much was spent for what ended up being less in return" the ACYOA ended up making a \$145.98 profit - line item #1005 less line item #2011. In 2014 the amount of \$6,036.14 exceeded the approved budget due to the FAR/ACYOA Art Auction fundraiser. In order to kick-start the event various monies were used to for deposits (band, catering, supplies etc.) The breakdown for line item #2011 Fundraising Initiatives is as follows, \$3,873.64 allocated for expenses in regards to the FAR/ACYOA Art Auction, \$900.00 was used to purchase t-shirts for sale at General Assembly, and \$1,262.50 was spent to purchase additional t-shirts for revenue.

The committee appreciates that the Central Council considered all the recommendations of the 2014 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 should be provided for why there are no expenses in the current fiscal year even though in some cases; even though amounts were budgeted for future years.

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

Expense #2007: Newsletter (Budgeted \$0.00, Actual \$0.00)

Expense #2008: Standing Committee Expense (Budgeted \$400.00, Actual \$0.00)

Expense #2009: Chapter Assistance Program (Budgeted \$1,000.00, Actual \$0.00)

Expense #2010: Conference Calls (Budgeted \$0.00, Actual \$0.00)

Expense #2017: Postage (Budgeted \$50.00, Actual \$0.00)

Expense #2018: Copies and Supplies (Budgeted \$100.00, Actual \$0.00)

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

Expense #2025: Nancy Basmajian Scholarship (Budgeted \$0.00, Actual \$0.00)

2. We note that no expenses have been reported for the past four years for Expense #2007 "Newsletter". We also note that no expense has been reported for the past three years for Expense #2010 "Conference Calls". We recommend that these lines be removed from future budgets. The treasurer responded in favor of the Auditing Committees' recommendation. In previous years, the Central Council needed to allocate funds to host conference calls, however in recent years we have utilized the free conference call system. The 2016 Proposed Budget will reflect this line item being removed. Furthermore, the Hye Hokin Newsletter has not been in effect since 2010. The 2015 Approved Budget that was passed at the 2014 General Assembly has removed this line item therefore beginning January 1, 2015 line item #2007 Newsletter will be omitted from the balance sheet.

On behalf of myself, Armen and Aras, The Auditing Committee would like to thank the Central Council, Specifically Treasurer Shant Paklaian, for his kind attention in answering our questions and support during the auditing process. We conclude that the combined financial records of the 2014 ACYOA Central Council are a fair representation in accordance with generally acceptable accounting procedure.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronald Malconian

Armen Terjimanian

Aras Mermer

## ATTACHMENT N ACYOA 2014 FINANCIALS

Prepared by: SHANT PAKLAIAN

LINE	INCOME	2014 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	FY 2013 ACT
1001	Armenia Service Program (ASP)	36,989.00	55,000.00	25,540.00
1002	ACEF Interest	13,895.38	11,500.00	13,331.47
1003	Beginning Balance	13,221.07	15,500.00	12,634.57
1004	Donations	3,450.00	4,000.00	19,368.00
1005	Fundraising	6,182.12	4,000.00	1,360.00
1006	Religious/Educational Programs	3,650.00	7,000.00	3,465.00
1007	Sports Weekend Profit	13,283.22	0.00	10,000.00
1008	Sports Weekend Returned seed money	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
1009	Interest Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
1010	Other Income*	3,500.00	3,000.00	0.00
1011	Dues	1,535.00	1,500.00	1,605.00
<b>1000</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>97,205.79</b>	<b>103,000.00</b>	<b>88,804.04</b>
LINE	EXPENSES	2014 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	FY 2013 ACT
2001	ASP - Present Year	39,964.00	55,000.00	25,504.00
2002	ASP - Upcoming Year	0.00	3,500.00	3,175.00
2003	Leadership Conference	6,369.20	8,000.00	6,797.07
2004	Central Council Meetings	6,568.55	11,250.00	4,697.87
2005	Chapter Visits/Contacts	1,198.97	2,500.00	2,582.11
2006	Religious/Educational Programs	7,029.51	7,000.00	6,285.98
2007	Newsletter	0.00	0.00	0.00
2008	Standing Committees	0.00	400.00	0.00
2009	Chapter Assistance Program	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
2010	Conference Calls	0.00	0.00	0.00
2011	Fund Raising Initiatives	6,036.14	1,500.00	835.75
2012	Scholarships (ASP)	500.00	1,000.00	500.00
2013	Sumr Prog Scholarships	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
2014	Sports Weekend Seed Money	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
2015	Diocesan Assembly	1,694.75	2,000.00	2,481.40
2016	General Assembly	2,043.80	2,000.00	2,794.83
2017	Postage	0.00	50.00	0.00
2018	Copies and Supplies	0.00	100.00	69.98
2019	Website	1,548.00	2,000.00	1,611.98
2022	Jerusalem Patriarchate	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
2023	Essay Contest	0.00	500.00	0.00
2024	Miscellaneous	950.00	200.00	14,253.00
2025	Nancy Basmajian Scholarship	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
<b>2000</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>74,902.92</b>	<b>103,000.00</b>	<b>75,588.97</b>
<b>NET</b>		<b>22,302.87</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>13,215.07</b>

\*\$3,500.00 Parish Assessment

**ATTACHMENT O**  
**ACYOA 2016 PROPOSED and APPROVED BUDGET**  
**Prepared by: SHANT PAKLAIAN**

**ACYOA 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Prepared by: SHANT PAKLAIAN

LINE	INCOME	2010 ACT	2011 ACT	2012 ACT	2013 ACT	2014 ACT
1001	Armenia Service Program (ASP)	50,000.00	0.00	49,416.42	25,540.00	36,989.00
1002	ACEF Interest	14,941.59	13,384.28	12,852.23	13,331.47	13,895.38
1003	Beginning Balance	0.00	13,611.87	20,989.50	12,634.57	13,221.07
1004	Donations	12,720.00	10,500.00	10,500.00	19,368.00	3,450.00
1005	Fundraising	1,330.00	1,014.00	5,211.00	1,360.00	6,182.12
1006	Religious/Educational Programs	300.00	7,459.80	7,405.00	3,465.00	3,650.00
1007	SportsWeekend Profit	3,719.30	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	13,283.22
1008	Sports Weekend Returned Seed Money	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
1009	Interest Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1010	Other Income	12,353.95	8,255.25	130.00	0.00	3,500.00
1011	Dues	1,100.00	1,250.00	1,585.00	1,605.00	1,535.00
1012	Parish Assessment	0.00	4,000.00			
<b>1000</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>96,464.84</b>	<b>55,475.20</b>	<b>108,089.15</b>	<b>88,804.04</b>	<b>97,205.79</b>
LINE	EXPENSES	2010 ACT	2011 ACT	2012 ACT	2013 ACT	2014 ACT
2001	ASP - Present Year	53,341.00	3,125.00	51,640.00	25,504.00	39,964.00
2002	ASP - Upcoming Year	0.00	0.00	3,125.00	3,175.00	0.00
2003	Leadership Conference	17,267.29	8,437.51	8,343.62	6,797.07	6,369.20
2004	Central Council Meetings	7,089.83	11,403.82	7,143.74	4,697.87	6,568.55
2005	Chapter Visits/Contacts	0.00	540.84	3,990.03	2,582.11	1,198.97
2006	Religious/Educational Programs	1,000.00	9,031.35	7,678.23	6,285.98	7,029.51
2007	Newsletter	1,608.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2008	Standing Committees	0.00	0.00	26.75	0.00	0.00
2009	Chapter Assistance Program	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2010	Conference Calls	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
2011	Fund Raising Initiatives	164.98	3,691.90	6,934.67	835.75	6,036.14
2012	Scholarships (ASP)	0.00	400.00	1,000.00	500.00	500.00
2013	Sumr Prog scholarships	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,500.00	0.00
2014	Sports Weekend Seed Money	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
2015	Diocesan Assembly	0.00	2,084.83	1,678.96	2,481.40	1,694.75
2016	General Assembly	0.00	2,700.00	3,158.18	2,794.83	2,043.80
2017	Postage	402.12	92.94	89.00	0.00	0.00
2018	Copies and Supplies	377.30	70.89	38.00	69.98	0.00
2019	Website	1,740.00	1,644.00	1,548.00	1,611.98	1,548.00
2022	Jerusalem Patriarchate	0.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
2023	Essay Contest	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2024	Miscellaneous	200.00	962.50	1,542.60	14,253.00	950.00
2025	Nancy Basmajian Scholarship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>2000</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>83,208.52</b>	<b>47,985.88</b>	<b>101,636.78</b>	<b>75,588.97</b>	<b>74,902.92</b>
<b>NET</b>		<b>13,256.32</b>	<b>7,489.32</b>	<b>6,452.37</b>	<b>13,215.07</b>	<b>22,302.87</b>

**ATTACHMENT P**  
**2015 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**ELECTION RESULTS**

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

1. **Harry Kezelian, St. John, Detroit, MI \***
2. Mallory Maslar, St. Hagop, St. Petersburg, FL
3. *Greg Torosian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA*

**Nominating Committee (elect 3)**

1. Adrienne Ashbahian, St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ
2. Alyne Corrigan, St. Stepanos, Elberon, NJ
3. **Sona Dagley, St. John, Southfield, MI**
4. **Alina Grigorian, St. Mesrob, Racine, WI**
5. Alex Kaftajian, St. Sarkis, Carrollton, TX
6. *Melissa Mardoian, Sts. Joachim & Anne, Palos Heights, IL*
7. Arsen Yelegen, St. Gregory the Enlightener, White Plains, NY

**Auditing Committee (elect 3)**

1. Brian Ansbikian, St. James, Watertown, MA
2. **Adrienne Ashbahian, St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ**
3. Aleen Kaltakdjian, St. Garabed, Baton Rouge, LA
4. Sean Yessayan, St. Sarkis, Carrollton, TX
5. **Shant Paklaian, St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL**
6. **Stephen Hollisian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA**

**Central Council (elect 4)**

1. Alyne Corrigan, St. Stepanos, Elberon, NJ
2. Mary Keutelian, St. John the Baptist, Greenfield, WI
3. *Chelsea Kress, St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ \**
4. **Mallory Maslar, St. Hagop, St. Petersburg, FL\***
5. **Lauren Piligian, Holy Translators, Framingham, MA \***
6. *Daniel Zalinov, St. Sarkis, Charlotte, NC\**
7. Nora Dulkadir, St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL
8. Linda Kalfayan, St. John, Southfield, MI

*Please note: Italics indicate incumbent.*

**\* denotes elected**

## **ATTACHMENT Q**

### **REPORT OF THE 2015 RESOLUTIONS AND COURTESIES COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE 2015 RESOLUTIONS AND COURTESIES COMMITTEE**

1. Whereas His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all Armenians, is a firm supporter of the youth of the Armenian Church and spends generous time with Armenian youth around the world, be it resolved that the 2015 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 (on April 23<sup>rd</sup>), pledge our continued love and support to His Holiness and the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin and congratulate him on his 64th birthday this year.

2. Whereas His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, our beloved Primate, has presided over the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly, and has provided immeasurable support for the 2015 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 2015 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 64th birthday and 44th anniversary of his ordination.

3. Whereas this year marked the 100th 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 2015 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 2015 General Assembly continue to pledge to “Live the Gospel of Christ” and honor the “Legacy of the Martyrs”.

4. Whereas, His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians and His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia together along with the worldwide synod of Armenian bishops made the church-building decision to canonize the Martyrs of the Genocide of 1915, and whereas on April 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year they presided over the canonization ceremony at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, be it resolved that the 2015 General Assembly pledge to embark on a new relationship with the new saints of the Armenian Church.

5. Whereas on February 15<sup>th</sup> of this year twenty Coptic Orthodox Christians and one Muslim (who converted on the spot) were Martyred and canonized by the Coptic Orthodox Church, and whereas on April 19<sup>th</sup> of this year, 28 Ethiopian Orthodox Christians were murdered for their faith in Christ, be it resolved that the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly stand in solidarity with our Coptic Orthodox and Ethiopian Orthodox brothers and sisters in witnessing to Christ in our fallen and violent world.

6. Whereas on May 7-9 the historic National Commemorations of the Armenian Genocide took place in our nation’s capital, presided over by His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians and His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia,

and whereas thousands upon thousands of Armenians gathered to make witness to the legacy of our Martyrs, be it resolved that the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly recommit to never forget the Martyrs of 1915 and to tirelessly seek justice for all crimes of Man's Inhumanity to Man.

7. Whereas on April 12<sup>th</sup> of this year, His Holiness the Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis, celebrated the mass at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City and brought worldwide recognition to the Armenian Genocide. Be it resolved that the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly show their appreciation to not only His Holiness, Pope Francis, but also to our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters in Christ.

8. Whereas Rev. Fr. Samuel Rith-Najarian from St. Sarkis Church of Charlotte, NC, and Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Ksachikyan (of the Western Diocese) were both ordained as priests in the Armenian Church. Be it resolved that the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly congratulate them and their Yerezgins in their continued ministry to the children of God.

9. Whereas three seminarians will be graduating on May 29<sup>th</sup> from St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, Dn. Vahe Bagdasarian, Arpi Nakashian, and Kathryn Ashbahaian. Be it resolved that the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly congratulate them in their accomplishments and pray for their growth in serving the church.

10. Whereas May 28 marks the 97th anniversary of Armenia first being proclaimed an independent republic, and whereas on September 21, the Republic of Armenia will celebrate the 24th anniversary of its renewed independence, be it resolved that the 2015 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 of President Serzh Sargsyan.

11. Be it resolved that the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly extends heartfelt prayers to our brothers and sisters in Nagorno-Karabagh, including Primate of Karabagh Archbishop Barkev Martirosyan, and President of Karabagh, Bako Sahakyan, and all others in the world defending their basic human rights and right to self-determination.

12. Be it resolved that the 2015 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.

13. Be it resolved that the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly extends sincere appreciation to the ACYOA Seniors of St. John's Armenian Church, Southfield, MI, including Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, pastor, and the 2015 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee and advisers, for hosting the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

14. Whereas our Lord speaks through the words of St. John the Evangelist that all Christians, "may become completely one," be it resolved that the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly pray for unity of all Churches following the mission established by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (John 17:23)

15. Whereas there were 13 clergymen present at this year's Assembly including His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian: Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian, Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin, Rev. Fr. Vasken Koukouzian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian and Rev. Fr. Abraham Malkhasyan. 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 2015 ACYOA General Assembly delegates and the Central Council express their sincere gratitude to the clergy of the Armenian Church and the Diocesan Council members.

16. Whereas this is the 26<sup>th</sup> 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 69 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 2015 ACYOA General Assembly prays for the soul of Tiran Srpazan and expresses its gratitude for his legacy.

17. 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 2015 ACYOA General Assembly extends its sincere appreciation to Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Jennifer Morris and Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Lorie Odabashian, for their hard work and dedication towards the youth of the Armenian Church.

18. Whereas new ACYOA Chapters continue to be formed in our Diocese, be it resolved that the 2015 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.

19. Be it resolved that the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly offers sincere appreciation to outgoing Central Council members Shant Paklaian and Adrienne Ashbahian, as well as remaining Central Council members, Jonathan Pelaez, Ani Grigorian, and Sarine Atamian, and the re-elected Central Council members, Chelsea Kress and Daniel Zalinov for their dedication to our organization and hard work on its behalf, and also extends congratulations to the newly elected Council members Lauren Piligian and Mallory Maslar, and alternate, Nora Dulkadir.

20. Be it resolved that the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly thanks the 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.

21. Be it resolved that the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly extends its deepest gratitude to the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly Chairman, Harry Kezelian, Vice-Chairman, Mallory Maslar, General Assembly Secretaries, Mary Keutelian and Lauren Piligian, Sergeants-at-Arms, Stephen

Hollisian and Nora Dulkadir, Parliamentarians Fr. Yeprem Kelegian and Gregory Torosian, as well as the Nominating and Auditing committees, for making this 2015 ACYOA General Assembly a true success.

Respectfully Submitted,  
2015 ACYOA General Assembly Resolutions and Courtesies Committee

Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian  
Sona Dagley  
Melissa Mardoian