

St. Sarkis Armenian Church

ACYOA SENIORS

**2022 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Submitted by:

St. Sarkis ACYOA Seniors

2022 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee

Fr. Ghevond Ajamian, Pastor

2022 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend  
Committee Report

### **Introduction:**

The ACYOA Seniors of St. Sarkis Armenian Church were extremely excited to host the 2022 General Assembly & Sports Weekend from May 27-29 in Dallas, Texas. Our committed team was prepared to host the event in 2021 after submitting our bid during the 2019 GASW. After having to change our plans due to the pandemic, we were ecstatic to be able to host the event in Dallas for the first time since 2004.

With the support and guidance of our pastor, Fr. Ghevond Ajamian, our committee worked tirelessly to host an eventful weekend with the goal of having an unforgettable weekend. We wanted to welcome Armenian young adults from across the diocese that may not have been aware of the Armenian presence in Dallas while showcasing what our city has to offer. When we began our planning, we could not have expected the popularity of the weekend - over 325 ACYOA Seniors and Armenian young adults came together for a wonderful weekend encompassing the ACYOA's Five Circles of the Cross.

### **Committee Members:**

Fr. Ghevond Ajamian – Pastor

Rita Katanjian – Chairperson

Sevag Koulian – Vice Chairperson

Arpi Dayian – Marketing

Vatche Kaftajian – Entertainment

Mardig Klachian – Transportation

Kristine Ratevosyan – Service Project

Valentina Ratevosyan – Food

### **Preparation:**

In our efforts to build a strong team, we wanted to continue the amazing efforts of our ACYOA seniors in our parish pre-pandemic. We were very proud of the fact that we had hosted so many events in the community, which also led us to receive the chapter of the year award at the 2019 GASW.

Since our team did not have a vast knowledge of GASW history, we decided to leverage as many options as we could. We reached out to a few ACYOA alumni that hosted the 2004 GASW in Dallas. We also asked as many questions as we could to our Central Council – we especially annoyed Andrew Yenicag, who we could not have celebrated a successful weekend without.

### **Hotel:**

Participants stayed at the Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre in North Dallas, which also served as the location of the General Assembly on Friday, as well as the banquet hall for our Sunday gala. When we presented the Hilton as our hotel option at the 2019 General Assembly, we still remember the applause that was met when we presented the \$99/night rate. The hotel had a Texas-sized lobby and plenty of space for all of our guests.

### **Events:**

#### Friday, May 27: General Assembly, Primate’s Luncheon, and A Taste of Texas with Antic

Our GASW weekend started on Friday morning at 9:00 with our General Assembly. Other than a slight delay due to technical difficulties, the assembly was completed without any hitches. During our Primate’s Luncheon intermission, the following awards were given: ACYOA Seniors “Chapter A” Award—St. Leon ACYOA (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ), Sam Nersesian Service Award—Lucine Boloyan (St. James, Watertown, MA), Gregory Arpajian Leadership Award—Sevag Koulian (St. Sarkis, Carrollton, TX), Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian Award—Fr. Avedis Kalayjian (St. Mesrob, Racine, WI), Fr. Haroutiun & Yn. Patricia Dagley Award—Yn. Tirouhe Boyajian (Sts. Joachim & Anne, Palos Heights, IL).

Our evening event was held at St. Sarkis. Our team wanted to show off our beautiful new church, which was consecrated the month before the event. There were lawn games, Texas-style food trucks, and a mechanical bull to top it off. The night was headlined by comedian Antic, who performed a stand-up comedy routine in the hall.

#### Saturday, May 28: Sports and the Perot Museum

### **Sports:**

Our committee, striving to create a weekend that would be above and beyond, wanted to focus on enhancing the “sports” of Sports Weekend. We decided to include futsal (indoor soccer) as an event, as we thought that there would be much interest since it is not normally included during the weekend.

Also, for the first time ever, we introduced esports. The tournaments included three video games: Mario Kart, FIFA, and Super Smash Bros. Overall, there were some bumps in the road (to be outlined later), but the sports were all in all a success.

For our evening event, we hosted everyone at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in downtown Dallas. The entire venue was rented out for the ACYOA, including exhibits on all four floors. The venue had stunning views of downtown Dallas, which we wanted to highlight as a steering committee. All of our ACYOA members had a fantastic time at the event, even learning some new facts along the way!

#### Sunday, May 30: Divine Liturgy, Sports Championships, and Gala at the Hilton

Sunday morning began with Divine Liturgy at the newly consecrated St. Sarkis Church, celebrated by the newly elected Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan. Following the Divine Liturgy, the Primate officiated the ACYOA Central Council's installation of new officers.

After Divine Liturgy, ACYOA members and members of the St. Sarkis community moved to the St. Sarkis gymnasium, where the championship games took place. This was the first sports tournament held in the facility, including the soccer, basketball, and volleyball championships. The esports championships were also held in the recreation room in the building.

In the evening, ACYOA members and the St. Sarkis community gathered at the Hilton banquet hall. Following the opening prayer, Rita Katanjian and Sevag Koulian handed out the awards to the champions of the sports and esports. After dinner, everyone danced the night away with Kevork Artinian and his band. The night ended up lasting longer than originally planned since everyone was having a blast.

**Lessons learned:**

Issue:	Description:	How to avoid:
Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite having “time blocks” for each sport every 45 minutes, there were delays that prevented the sports from starting on time</li> <li>• Due to the sheer amount of sports being offered, the individual competitions (esports, chess, nardi) did not take place until the end of the day since most people were not available throughout the day</li> <li>• “Regional teams,” or “free agents,” did not all show up, resulting in disbanding one team and forfeits for some teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If future SWs are going to be having soccer as well as volleyball and basketball, make sure that the time blocks are more concrete – more time should have been left in between events</li> <li>• Find a better way to let people know who their competitors are in the individual competitions</li> <li>• Instead of splitting the regional teams into two, just have one big team with more people on the team</li> </ul>
Bus Schedules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedules were not adhered to as necessary</li> <li>• Bus drivers were all on different pages, making it difficult to stick to our own schedule</li> <li>• Friday night comedian was forced to push his show back a few hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure that there is more communication with the bus company</li> <li>• Make sure that you vet your options for the company that you are choosing, and that there is only one contact person that you can rely on at the company</li> </ul>

### Suggestions:

- 1) **Audio/Visual:** Be sure to confirm that all A/V equipment is secured for all events (General Assembly, Sunday gala, etc.), and that any vendors approve of all equipment. Our band was CCd on e-mails with A/V vendors, and we still ran into issues with microphones right before the Sunday gala.
- 2) **Location:** Keeping our hotel in the center of all our events was very important to us. The hotel we chose (which happened to be the same hotel used in 2004) was 15-20 minutes from downtown Dallas, as well as our church in Carrollton.
- 3) **Transportation:** We STRONGLY recommend making sure that you vet your options for transportation. Even using a nicer bus company does not guarantee that you will have good service. Our points of contact were always changing, and we were very displeased with the timeliness of the busses and the professionalism of the company.
- 4) **Advertising:** Our PR team was extremely strong – keeping Instagram/Facebook posts (our main source of distributing information) constant was key in keeping the anticipation alive for the weekend.
- 5) **Central Council communication:** We could not have had a successful weekend without the guidance of the Central Council. Leverage them to ask as many questions as you need, despite how much you think that you're annoying them.
- 6) **Community information:** Most of our community had never heard of GASW. We notified the community of what the event was, as well as which parts of the weekend that they were encouraged to join. We could have done better with advertising to the community about our Sunday night event since we thought that more of the community would be there.

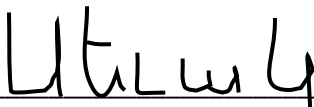
### Highlights:

- 1) **Showcasing Dallas:** Since we knew that most of our participants had never been to Texas, it was important to us to showcase our city and state. No matter how cliché it was, we thought playing it up would be fun for everyone.
- 2) **St. Sarkis campus:** We were very fortunate to be able to use our church for two of the events during the weekend. Our Friday night event was held on the church grounds, and the championship games were held in the gym.
- 3) **Community help:** We didn't want to ask our community for money or too much help, but we also wanted to leverage the talent we have in the community. We had an A/V expert, multiple photographers, and older GASW veterans help ensure that the weekend went smoothly.
- 4) **Goal:** Make sure that your team is all on the same page about what your goal is for the weekend. We wanted to go above and beyond the GASW status quo, regardless of what that would mean for our profits.

- 5) **Organization:** Early in our planning, we did not have roles assigned for all of our steering committee. Making sure everyone knows early in the process what they were working on was extremely important in our success.
- 6) **Budgeting:** We decided to estimate low on the number of attendees and estimate high for our expenses just to make sure that we would be okay even with the worst case scenario.
- 7) **Communication with PC:** Make sure that you have one liaison to your Parish Council that will communicate clearly where you are in the process of planning. They need to know where you are in the planning process since the event will be represented by your entire parish, not just the ACYOA.

If anyone reading this in the future has any questions, please don't hesitate to ask! We will be more than happy to help in any way we can.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sevag Koulian, Vice Chair

  
Fr. Ghevond Ajamian, Pastor

St. Sarkis Armenian Church ACYOA Seniors  
2022 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee

<b>General Assembly &amp; Sports Weekend Participation</b>	
<b>Hotel Rooms Sold</b>	
Wednesday	2
Thursday	40
Friday	74
Saturday	78
Sunday	82
Monday	3
<b>Total</b>	
<b>General Assembly Attendance</b>	
Clergy / Staff	7
Delegates	33
Observers	16
<b>Total</b>	
<b>Event Attendance</b>	
Friday Night	254
Saturday Night	287
Sunday Night (ACYOA / community)	308
<b>Registration Information</b>	
Total Packages Sold	331
Athletes	154
Clergy	7



# Financial Report

## Income:

Weekend registration	\$63,405.00
Sunday Banquet (community)	\$9,320.00
Ad booklet	\$6,450.00
T-shirts	\$1,270.00
Donations	\$5,700.81
Primate's Luncheon Reimbursement	\$3,247.50
Fundraisers	\$35,302.08
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$124,695.39</b>

## Expenses:

Friday Night	\$17,062.17
Saturday Night	\$27,189.42
Sunday Night	\$48,192.46
Presidential Suite	\$1,840.00
Weekend Transportation	\$12,860.05
Ad Booklet	\$1,170.00
T-Shirts	\$3,389.13
Square Fees	\$2,539.32
Miscellaneous	\$805.77
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$115,048.32</b>

<b>Total Profit</b>	<b>\$9,647.07</b>
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