

**MINUTES OF THE 2016 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ARMENIAN CHURCH YOUTH ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts
May 26-27, 2016**

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016

First Assembly Session

The General Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America convened on Thursday, May 26th, 2016 at 6:09 p.m. The 2016 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)

Mallory Maslar, Treasurer (Pinellas Park, FL)

Sarine Atamian, Public Relations Coordinator (Bayside, NY)

Lauren Piligian, Programming Coordinator (Framingham, MA)

Daniel Zalinov, Chapter Relations Coordinator (Charlotte, NC)

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

Invocation

His Eminence Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate (New York, NY), offered the Invocation.

Introduction of Robert's Rules of Order

2015 Assembly Chair Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) reviewed meeting procedures 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 B*)

Roll Call – Confirmation of Quorum

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress (Fair Lawn, NJ) conducted roll call. She stated that 39 delegates were present out of 67.

Election of Assembly Chair and Vice Chair

Representing the Nominating Committee were Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL), Sona Dagley (Southfield, MI), and Alina Grigorian (Racine, WI).

Melissa Mardoian presented the following nominees for Assembly Chair: Arthur Sabounjian (Framingham, MA), Greg Torosian (Cambridge, MA) and Caitlin Zeytoonian (Watertown, MA).

Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA) motioned to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA) and passed. Ronald Malconian and Aaron Derderian (Watertown, MA) stood as the Sergeant-at-Arms until those positions were officially appointed.

Melissa Mardoian explained the voting process and noted the bylaws state plurality vote is necessary. Forty-two out of 67 ballots were collected.

Caitlin Zeytoonian (Watertown, MA) was elected as Chair of the Assembly and Gregory Torosian (Cambridge, MA) would serve as Vice Chair of the Assembly. Caitlin Zeytoonian thanked the Assembly for electing her but asked to step down as Assembly Chair to serve as Assembly Vice Chair due to a sore throat.

Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian (Jacksonville, FL) offered a point of order. He stated that the Assembly voted and elected Caitlin Zeytoonian as Assembly Chair; therefore, the Assembly Chair may step aside for the evening session and the Assembly Vice Chair assumes responsibilities, but the elected Assembly Chair still carries the title.

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

Assembly Vice Chair Gregory Torosian appointed Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian and Harry Kezelian as the joint parliamentarians. Ronald Malconian and Aaron Derderian were appointed Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mary Keutelian (Greenfield, WI) and Adrienne Ashbahian (Fair Lawn, NJ) were appointed as the Assembly Co-Secretaries.

Assembly Vice Chair Gregory Torosian (Cambridge, MA) appointed Rev. Fr. Vazken Kouzouian (Cambridge, MA) and Peter Oundjian (Fair Lawn, NJ) on the Resolution and Courtesies Committee. Jennifer Morris (Director, DYYAM) was appointed to assist in this process.

Adoption of Agenda *(See Attachment C)*

Peter Oundjian (Fair Lawn, NJ) made a motion to accept the agenda for the 2016 General Assembly and was seconded by Aaron Derderian. The motion passed with no discussion.

Acceptance of 2015 General Assembly Minutes

Ronald Malconian made a motion to accept the 2015 General Assembly Minutes and close discussion. The motion was seconded by Christine Hovsepian (Cambridge, MA). The motion passed.

Joint Report of the Central Council and Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (DYYAM) *(See Attachments D & E)*

Ani Grigorian (CC Chair, Racine, WI) presented the ACYOA 2105 Annual Report. *(See Attachment D)*

The floor was opened for discussion.

Danielle Malconian asked if other parishes have submitted their yearly goals to Central Council and, if so, if they have started working toward those goals. Ani Grigorian responded that Central Council had a check-in with parishes in the spring in regards to goals. She stated that Central Council wants to take responsibility with checking in and assisting chapters with achieving their goals.

Jennifer Morris (Director, DYYAM) presented the Annual Report of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. *(See Attachment E)*

James Kalustian, who attended General Assembly on behalf of Diocesan Council, reminded delegates that they are not the future of the Church but the present, and spoke positively about the work ACYOA is doing. James Kalustian also introduced Director of Administration Dr. Armen Baibourtian as well as members of the Diocesan Council present at the meeting; Thomas Ashbahian, Roseann Manoogian Attar, Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, Paul Mardoian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian, Zaven Tachjian and Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian.

Report of the 2015 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee

(See Attachment F)

The report of the 2015 General Assembly and Sports Weekend was presented by Chair Linda Kalfayan (Southfield, MI), and committee members Anahit Movsesyan (Southfield, MI) and Lisa Mardigian (Southfield, MI). Part of their success was the involvement of alumni in the planning of the weekend by serving on sub-committees as well as the financial support from the entire church community.

Aaron Derderian asked what had happened with the leadership change within the 2015 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee and what could be done to avoid this change in leadership in the future. Linda Kalfayan and Jennifer Morris both responded that it was an unavoidable personal matter that would not be discussed openly.

Caitlin Zeytoonian thanked the 2015 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee for planning an amazing sports weekend and encouraged the Assembly to attend more Midwest events.

Aaron Derderian made a motion to accept the Report of the 2015 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee. The motion was seconded by Danielle Malconian. The motion passed and the report was accepted.

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress offered a point of clarification to the Assembly that everyone must speak loudly when making a motion and to state their name and parish so that Assembly Co-Secretaries can properly record minutes.

Assembly Vice Chair Gregory Torosian welcomed Deacon Saro Kalayjian back from his studies in Armenia and thanked him for joining the Assembly.

2016 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee Welcome

On behalf of the 2016 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee, Co-Chair Danielle Malconian welcomed all the participants to Boston. She spoke about how it is an honor to host General Assembly & Sports Weekend on the 70th anniversary of the ACYOA. Co-Chair Ronald Malconian reminded everyone sign in at registration for the weekend and to download the phone app Yapp, as the app will be used as the main form of communication between the committee and participants. Information about the app is also available in the registration packets.

Informational Presentations: St. Nersess Armenian Seminary

Seminarian Dn. Michael Sabounjian (St. Nersess Seminary) presented on behalf of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. The biggest news is that St. Nersess has officially relocated to Armonk, NY, which is about 30 minutes away from the previous New Rochelle campus. The Assembly viewed a short video on St. Nersess' mission and new campus.

Informational Presentations: Mission Parishes

The presentation about mission parishes was delivered by Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian.

V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian (Southfield, MI) requested a point of information whether there will be a presentation on the history of the delegate reception location (Armenian Heritage Park). His Eminence, Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate, confirmed there would be a presentation and service at Armenian Heritage Park later in the evening.

The meeting for the evening concluded with a prayer.

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016

Second Assembly Session

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian (Watertown, MA) called the Assembly to order at 8:46 a.m.

Roll Call

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress (Fair Lawn, NJ) conducted roll call and announced 49 delegates present.

Primates Message

His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate (New York, NY), delivered his annual message to the Assembly. (*See Attachment G*)

His Eminence Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate, asked the delegates what was the most memorable event that happened in the last year since the canonization of the martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. Aaron Derderian (Watertown, MA) responded that the most memorable moment for him was the blessing of the Icon of the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. Harry Kezelian brought up the joint liturgy service in Rome with His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II, His Holiness Catholicos Aram I, and Pope Francis. Nora Dulkadir (Chicago, IL) mentioned the joint Badarak with the Diocese, Prelacy and Armenian Evangelical churches in the Chicagoland area. Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate, responded to these shared memories that regional badaraks and events demonstrate "We are not alone. We all come together." Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate, shared his memorable moment of the past year which was April 23, 2015, when the martyrs of the Church were canonized in Holy Etchmiadzin. To conclude his message, Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate, read the poem "Yegheghetzi Haygagan" by Vahan Tekeyan.

Video - Living Legacies: Armenians a Century After the Genocide

Jennifer Morris (Director, DYYAM) showed a brief video by the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern), Department of Communications titled, "Living Legacies: Armenians a Century After the Genocide."

Small Group Bible Study - Discussion & Partner Work

Central Council Programming Coordinator Lauren Piligian (Framingham, MA) and Kathryn Ashbahian (DYYAM, New York, NY) introduced the format of the Bible Study. Copies of the Bible Study exercise (*See Attachment H*) were distributed, and the Assembly broke into assigned groups.

Whole Group Discussion

Discussion was opened by Lauren Piligian for Bible Study groups to respond. The Bible Study discussion focused on “21st Century Sainthood”, the effects of our recent martyrs’ canonization, and our legacy.

Sarine Atamian (Central Council Public Relations, Bayside, NY) mentioned that her group was filled with nurses and social workers, and their responses resonated with her, on how their legacy shows through their actions.

Aleen Kaltakdjian (San Antonio, TX) said her group reflected on their experience traveling to Jerusalem and its reinforcement of their legacy of being an Armenian Christian. Aleen Kaltakdjian expressed how it was interesting how the lives of those in Jerusalem are very different than our lives in the United States.

Anahit Movsesyan (Southfield, MI) said her group discussed when they felt God is most in them. For example, Anahit Movsesyan also said, “When you go to Armenia, you feel this really strong connection. And it’s something you can’t describe. It’s almost genetic.”

Alina Grigorian (Racine, WI)’s group, which was also Sarine Atamian’s group, reflected on when God’s light shines in you, which is when the job is stressful and recognition or thanks is not always given for the work done. It is after feeling appreciated or recognized they feel their light shining.

Sona Dagley (Southfield, MI) spoke on behalf of her group and countered Alina Grigorian’s group’s response on where they find darkness in their lives. Sona Dagley mentioned going away for college and being challenged puts us in situations where we are unsure how to react. However, Sona Dagley recognized that there was something missing when that darkness was present and that she looked forward to being embraced back into a thriving church community.

Christine Hovsepian (Cambridge, MA) said her group was mostly from the Boston area, and she recognized how, even though they are all from the same state, there were still some differences and divisions within the group. Christine Hovsepian pointed out that the divisions come from different organizations (ACYOA, AYP, HMEM, AGBU, etc.), and she mentioned how she wanted to continue to unite these organizations, similar to how they came together for April 24 commemoration.

Third Assembly Session **Report of the Auditing Committee**

Adrienne Ashbahian (Fair Lawn, NJ) and Aleen Kaltakdjian presented the report of the Auditing Committee (*See Attachment I*). They reminded the Assembly that revenue and expenses reviewed are for the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Both Adrienne Ashbahian and Aleen Kaltakdjian verified the report is accurate with the budget and the Committee reconciled banking activity in the same period.

Adrienne Ashbahian and Aleen Kaltakdjian addressed several line items in the 2015 Financial Report and made several recommendations.

The floor was opened to questions, however, no one had questions for the Auditing Committee.

Christine Hovespian motioned to close the floor and accept the Report of the Auditing Committee. The motion was seconded by Danielle Malconian, and the motion passed.

2015 Financial Report

Central Council Treasurer Mallory Maslar (Pinellas Park, FL) stated she did not have anything additional or different to add to the Report from the Auditing Committee. Mallory Maslar acknowledged the recommendations of the Auditing Committee for future Central Council Financial Reports.

Peter Oundjian (Fair Lawn, NJ) motioned to accept the 2015 Financial Report and was seconded by Ronald Malconian. The motion passed.

Report of the Nancy Basmajian ASP Scholarship Fund Committee

Central Council Treasurer Mallory Maslar shared with the Assembly that the Nancy Basmajian ASP Scholarship Fund was created in honor of Nancy Basmajian after her retirement from working at the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern). Mallory Maslar asked the Assembly if there was interest in forming a committee to assist with fundraising ideas for the scholarship fund, whether it is through auctions, regional efforts, etc.

Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian asked for a point of information on the Report for the Nancy Basmajian ASP Scholarship Fund. Mallory Maslar stated that no funds were distributed from the scholarship fund, and therefore a separate report was not necessary.

Tania Melkonian (Watertown, MA) expressed interest in being part of the Scholarship Fund Committee.

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian asked the Assembly for a motion to accept the Report of the Nancy Basmajian ASP Scholarship Fund Committee. Lilit DerKevorkian (Cambridge, MA) made a motion to accept the report which was seconded by Michael Demerchian (Hye Pointe, MA). The motion passed.

Elections: Introduction of Central Council Candidates

The 2015 Nominating Committee members Melissa Mardoian, Alina Grigorian, Sona Dagley presented the candidates for Central Council (*See Attachment M*):

Vicken Asadourian (Houston, TX)
Mary Keutelian (Greenfield, WI)
Noelle Hagopian (Watertown, MA)
Danielle Malconian (Cambridge, MA)
Arsen Yelegen (White Plains, NY)

The floor was opened for further nominations.

Armen Bijimian (Bayside, NY) nominated Peter Oundjian. Ronald Malconian seconded the nomination. Peter Oundjian respectfully declined.

Adam Parnagian (Providence, RI) nominated Arthur Sabounjian (Framingham, MA). Aaron Derderian seconded the nomination. Arthur Sabounjian accepted the nomination.

Jonathan Pelaez (CC Vice Chair, Livingston, NJ) nominated Sona Dagley. Anahit Movsesyan seconded the nomination. Sona Dagley respectfully declined.

Christine Hovsepien nominated Michael Demerchian (Hye Pointe, MA). The nomination was seconded by Danielle Malconian. Michael Demerchian respectfully declined the nomination.

Sarine Atamian nominated Aaron Derderian (Watertown, MA). Danielle Malconian seconded the nomination. Aaron Derderian respectfully declined the nomination.

Peter Oundjian nominated Nora Knadjian (Chicago, IL). The nomination was seconded by Jonathan Pelaez. Nora Knadjian accepted the nomination.

Ronald Malconian motioned to close the floor for nominations and was seconded by Anahit Movsesyan. The motion passed.

Melissa Mardoian reminded everyone that they may vote for up to three candidates on the ballot.

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian asked that each nominee briefly introduce themselves.

Parliamentarian Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian responded with the point of information that it would be improper for balloting to be intervened with Central Council candidates introducing themselves.

Ronald Malconian asked for a point of information, if elections for Nominating and Auditing Committees can be postponed until after Central Council elections are complete in case any unelected nominees want to run. Ronald Malconian was given an affirmative response from Central Council and the Assembly.

Jennifer Morris asked for a point of information from Parliamentarian Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian that in order for the candidates to speak, would it be okay if the distributed ballots can be collected and discarded.

Parliamentarian Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian stated that this would be inappropriate.

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian requests a motion from the floor to hear from each of the candidates and discard the distributed ballots.

V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian (Southfield, MI) motioned to hear from Central Council nominees, regardless if ballots have been distributed or not. The motion was seconded by Aaron Derderian.

Parliamentarian Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian responded with the point of information that it would be improper for balloting to be intervened with Central Council candidates introducing themselves. The process of balloting had begun and needed to be completed before anything else happened. It is up to the assembly if they wish to overrule this.

Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian (Framingham, MA) motioned to move the question. A vote was taken and the majority of the delegates were in favor of hearing candidates' introductions and not disregarding ballots. Only 4 opposed hearing introductions. The motion passed that Central Council nominees would introduce themselves. All candidates present came up to the microphone to briefly introduce themselves to the Assembly. Central Council Chair Ani Grigorian gave a brief introduction on behalf of Vicken Asadourian (Houston, TX) since he was unable to attend General Assembly due to personal reasons.

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian asked for roll call. Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress conducted roll call and counted 58 voting delegates present.

Christina Parnagian (Providence, RI) requested a point of information to verify that the Providence, RI Chapter was not counted as voting delegates since their chapter has been inactive for over a year. Chelsea Kress corrected the quorum to 54 voting delegates.

V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian requested a point of information as to where there is a provision in the bylaws that state a chapter cannot vote if it has been inactive for a year. Jennifer Morris referenced Article 9, Section 2 which state that the number of delegates present and voting depend on the past fiscal year.

New Business: Proposed 2017 Budget

Central Council Treasurer Mallory Maslar presented the proposed budget for 2017 (*See Attachment K*). She stated since Chapter Workshop is officially an established event it is added to the budget as its own line item. Mallory Maslar also stated that the Religious Education line item was to be decreased and reallocated to Chapter Workshop. She also informed the Assembly for a plan to increase the budgeted expense for Leadership Conference since now it will alternate between the Midwest and New York.

Ronald Malconian inquired about expense line item 2001 (ASP – Present Year) and why 2015's actual expense was so low as opposed to other years. Mallory Maslar responded the actual expense was so low compared to the budgeted expense because last year's ASP program only had 6 participants. Mallory Maslar responded that the hope was to increase to number of participants for future ASP groups.

Ronald Malconian also inquired about the increased budget for expense line item 2019 (Website). Mallory Maslar responded that the Central Council's goals are to further advance the ACYOA website, which requires additional costs.

Central Council Treasurer Mallory Maslar announced that the 2017 proposed budget plans to remove expense line items 2023 (Essay Contest) and 2026 (Conference Calls) since neither have been utilized for the last five years.

Arthur Sabounjian asked why expense line item 2006 is being reduced \$4,000 from 2016 to 2017. Mallory Maslar explained again that those funds are to be relocated to expense line item 2007 (Chapter Workshop).

Aaron Derderian inquired what income line item 1013 (Parish Assessment) is. Mallory Maslar responded that it is a \$250 donation from parishes to Central Council. Fourteen parishes participated in the Parish Assessment program in 2015 and this was initiative voted on at the Diocesan Assembly.

Danielle Malconian asked by expense line item 2004 (Central Council Meetings) is proposed for \$12,000, and Mallory Maslar clarified the budgeted expense covers travel costs for Central Council members to meetings, which are held throughout the Diocese.

Alina Bazarian (Watertown, MA) inquired why income line item 1005 (Fundraising) has a higher estimated budget for 2017. Mallory Maslar explained Central Council hopes to increase fundraising through t-shirt sales, the Nancy Basmajian Scholarship Fund, etc. She added that question might have been better addressed with the 2015 Financial Report.

Ronald Malconian inquired why expense line item 2007 (Chapter Workshop) does not have anything recorded for past years. Mallory explained that it is a new line item, which is why past expenses appear as \$0.

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian asked for a motion to accept the proposed 2017 budget. Ronald Malconian motioned to accept the proposed 2017 budget, and Jack Jamgochian (Bayside, NY) seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business: New Proposals

Central Council Chair Ani Grigorian stated that she did not receive any new proposals for 2017 prior to General Assembly. However, she reminded the Assembly that if there are any proposals ready to present today, they could be presented during the New Business section of the meeting.

New Business: General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2017 Bids

Central Council Chair Ani Grigorian informed the Assembly that since no organized ACYOA chapter presented bids to host General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2017, it became Central Council's responsibility to find a host parish for next year. Unfortunately, Central Council—despite speaking to several ACYOA chapters—was unable to find a host parish either. Ani Grigorian proposed that because Central Council was not able to secure a host parish, 2017

would solely be a General Assembly without a Sports Weekend at the Diocese in New York City. Bids to host General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2018 would still be open.

Christine Hovsepian asked if there was a reason why Central Council would not host General Assembly & Sports Weekend next year. Ani Grigorian answered that Central Council has hosted regional General Assembly meetings in the past; however, they would not be able to successfully host the Sports Weekend portion.

Harry Kezelian requested a point of information if the plan for 2017 was to host a General Assembly & Sports Weekend from Friday through Sunday rather than Thursday through Monday of Memorial Day weekend, as had been done prior to the 1970's. Ani Grigorian responded that it is not that Central Council does not want to host the sports portion of the weekend but that it would be impossible for Central Council to provide a full program of schedule for next year.

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian (Watervliet, NY) suggested General Assembly be taken to the Ararat Center and his parish would assist with hosting a weekend retreat on the Ararat Center property.

Danielle Malconian referred back to Christine Hovsepian's question, and asked how not having a full General Assembly & Sports Weekend would affect the ACYOA at large. She inquired about the ramifications of that decision. Ani Grigorian responded that Central Council has spoken about that same concern in numerous meetings and have reached out to parishes to possibly host. However, Ani Grigorian said Central Council recognized the responsibility of hosting a full General Assembly & Sports Weekend and did not want to force a parish to host if they were not prepared. Ani Grigorian mentioned the parishes Central Council reached out to were not ready to host in 2017 but were considering to bid hosting in 2018.

Nora Knadjian (Chicago, IL) asked if a regional committee can be formed rather than placing the burden of planning a General Assembly & Sports Weekend on one parish. Ani Grigorian responded that a New York/New Jersey regional committee came together in 2009, and Central Council would hope to do something similar next year.

Harry Kezelian (Southfield, MI) told the Assembly that the Southfield parish has the manpower to hold General Assembly & Sports Weekend again, however, many East Coast delegates, athletes and participants did not attend. Linda Kalfayan (Southfield, MI) said, as a result, it was a struggle to meeting their budget last year. St. John covered their expenses through community donations and not because of delegates or participants' attendance.

Brian Sarafyan (Bayside, NY) explained that airline tickets were very expensive last year and that might be a reason as to why there was low attendance from East Coast parishes.

Anahit Movsesyan (Southfield, MI) reminded the Assembly that last year's packages were comparatively inexpensive and the hotel was only \$100/night. The Committee was able to find ways to make the weekend more affordable for attendees to balance flight expense.

Central Council Public Relations Coordinator Sarine Atamian (Bayside, NY) expressed that she has been on both sides, as a host committee chair and an attendee, and she expressed appreciation to Detroit for hosting a phenomenal weekend. She suggested to Detroit, if they decide to host next year, to think of ways to lower their venue costs and to keep package prices low.

Greg Torosian (Cambridge, MA) speculated that many people did not attend because General Assembly & Sports Weekend was located in Novi, MI, and not Detroit—that being in a suburb of Detroit might have deterred participants from attending.

Alina Grigorian (Racine, WI) said that Southfield, MI, did an amazing job hosting last year—it was both fun and inexpensive. She said she attended for the camaraderie of Sports Weekend and that maybe the venues do not need to be as extravagant, should they host again next year.

Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian made a commitment on behalf of their ACYOA chapter that they would all attend next year.

Arthur Sabounjian (Framingham, MA) wanted to clarify to the Assembly that many of the delegates present today are usually the people who attend and that there should not be any tension in the room. He said the bigger challenge would be to bring the people who are not delegates and therefore not at Assembly to attend Sports Weekend, whether in the Midwest or Detroit. Arthur Sabounjian then made a motion to table the discussion until after lunch. Jonathan Pelaez seconded the motion, and the motion passed unopposed.

Primate's Luncheon

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

The Gregory Arpajian Leadership Award:
Ronald Malconian, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA

The Sam Nersesian Award:
Adrienne Ashbahian, St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ

ACYOA Seniors Chapter "A" Award:
St. Hagop Armenian Church, Pinellas Park, FL

The V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Malkonian Award:
Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian, Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern)

The Rev. Fr. Haroutiun and Yn. Patricia Dagley Award:
Garen Karamyan, Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY

Fourth Assembly Session

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian called the assembly to order at 2:22 p.m.

Nominating Committee – Elections: Central Council

Melissa Mardoian reminded the Assembly that one member has been elected to Central Council before lunch and the lower vote receiver will be dropped off the ballot. Delegates should vote for up to two Central Council nominees on the next ballot.

The remaining names on the ballot are Vicken Asadourian, Mary Keutelian, Arsen Yelegen, Arthur Sabounjian and Nora Knaldjian.

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress conducted roll call and counted 52 voting delegates present.

Continued: General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2017 Bids

Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian made a motion to continue the discussion of General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2017 bids. The motion was seconded by Alina Bazarian. The discussion left off with the possibility of the Southfield chapter hosting General Assembly & Sports Weekend again next year.

Linda Kalfayan thanked those who spoke to her during the lunch break but, after some consideration and speaking with other Detroit delegates, Detroit has decided to decline hosting General Assembly & Sports Weekend again next year due to time constraints.

Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian brought up that this might be an opportunity for the ACYOA to reconsider Memorial Day Weekend for General Assembly & Sports Weekend. He suggested Central Council reconsider rather than a Sports Weekend to host a “youth convocation/camaraderie” weekend. Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian asked if this would be an opportunity to reach out with AYF who hosts Senior Olympics over Labor Day Weekend and host a joint event? He said this would be a reason to join together as youth of the Armenian Church.

V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian explained to the Assembly that Detroit is willing and able to host General Assembly & Sports Weekend but because of the negative experience the committee had last year and the feeling that the East Coast wouldn't be supportive or attend is why they decided not to host. However, he agreed with Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian that there might need to be a hiatus next year and gauge the reaction from the youth if or when there is not a Sports Weekend in 2017.

Anahit Movsesyan wanted to clarify Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian's comment if he meant that the ACYOA would have a joint event over Labor Day Weekend with the Prelacy/AYF. She said that they (Southfield, MI) have had experience trying to host a joint November Dance with the local AYF chapter, and they came across issues.

With Assembly Vice Chair Gregory Torosian at the podium, Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian expressed her appreciation for the effort from Detroit and said she enjoyed the weekend last year. More importantly, she said, last year's low attendance highlights a geographical rift, that if Sports Weekend cannot unite the East Coast and Midwest communities, there is a bigger issue. Attention should be paid to this even outside this discussion.

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian made a motion that Central Council investigate or explore the possibility to host General Assembly and some kind of camaraderie weekend at the Ararat Center. The motion was seconded by Arthur Sabounjian.

His Eminence Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate, made a recommendation to Central Council: Since no parish is hosting in 2017, the decision for next year is in the hands of Central Council. His Eminence said there is a possibility of asking a local parish host in the New York area or to follow through with Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian's suggestion.

Harry Kezelian spoke in favor of Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian's motion for General Assembly to be at the Ararat Center in 2017.

Tania Melkonian spoke against the Ararat Center as the location in 2017, since it only sleeps 130 campers during Saint Vartan Camp, and it would be difficult to host a full General Assembly & Sports Weekend there.

Christine Hovsepien spoke in favor of General Assembly & Sports Weekend relocating to the Ararat Center next year. She expressed that the Center should be used for more than just Saint Vartan Camp.

Rev. Fr. Shnork Souin (Providence, RI) spoke in favor of the motion and that taking a year off may allow for strategic planning for the future of ACYOA and General Assembly & Sports Weekend. He said New York City would be a distraction for long-term strategic planning of the weekend.

Central Council Chair Ani Grigorian (Racine, WI) said the Assembly should not take the lack of bids for 2017 as a negative. General Assembly will still happen on a yearly basis, as per the bylaws, so there will still be some sort of event next year, even if it is only General Assembly.

Arsen Yelegen (White Plains, NY) spoke in favor of St. Peter Armenian Church, Watervliet, NY, assisting with hosting General Assembly at the Ararat Center and knows they will be very supportive.

Harry Kezelian said he is concerned about the lack of housing at the Ararat Center and asked if there are nearby hotels. His Eminence, Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate, responded that Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian's motion was just an option that Central Council look into hosting General Assembly at the Ararat Center; it is not a formal bid to host.

Central Council Programming Coordinator Lauren Piligian (Framingham, MA) asked if St. Peter can host a General Assembly on a smaller scale rather than a full General Assembly & Sports Weekend.

Ronald Malconian motioned to close discussion on General Assembly & Sports Weekend bids for 2017. Anahit Movsesyan seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

A vote was taken on the motion of Central Council investigating hosting General Assembly at the Ararat Center in 2017. The motion stood with one opposition, and Central Council will investigate that possibility.

Continued: Central Council Elections

Melissa Mardoian announced one more person has been elected to Central Council and there is a three vote spread between the remaining nominees. The only recommendation from the Nominating Committee is to remove the person who has been elected.

The remaining names on the ballot for Central Council are: Vicken Asadourian, Mary Keutelian, Arsen Yelegen and Arthur Sabounjian. Melissa Mardoian asked that delegates vote for only one candidate.

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress conducted roll call and counted 51 voting delegates present.

Continued Discussion on General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2017

Peter Ounjian (Fair Lawn, NJ) motioned to close the discussion of General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2017. The motion was seconded by Greg Torosian, and the motion passed with three opposed.

Assembly Chair Caitilin Zeytoonian asked if there were any further bids. Since no other bids to host General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2017, Arthur Sabounjian motioned to close the bidding process. The motion was seconded by Emily Janikian (Racine, WI), and the motion passed with one opposition.

General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2018 Bids

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian called up Central Council Chair Ani Grigorian. Ani Grigorian asked anyone who would like to bid to host General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2018 to come forward at this time.

Central Council Treasurer Mallory Maslar came forward with a point of information that St. Hagop Armenian Church in Pinellas Park, FL, could potentially come forward with a formal bid after they receive approval from their pastor and parish council.

Danielle Malconian made a motion that Central Council accept and approve bids that are submitted after General Assembly.

Parliamentarian Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian explained that Danielle Malconian's motion is not acceptable because the Assembly needs to vote on bids in accordance with the bylaws. Danielle Malconian withdrew her motion.

Melanie Derderian (Wynnewood, PA) came forward and stated that St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church might be able to host in 2018 as well, but do not have permission from their pastor or parish council. They want to explore the option of hosting General Assembly & Sports Weekend.

Arthur Sabounjian asked if Central Council could vote on the 2018 host parish in lieu of General Assembly by two-thirds vote.

Parliamentarian Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian said that the bids need to be official and information needs to be presented to General Assembly.

Central Council Chair Ani Grigorian offered a point of information that while it is ideal that a parish has two years to plan after submitting a bid, General Assembly & Sports Weekends have been planned within one year.

Rev. Fr. Krikor Sabounjian asked for a point of information to Central Council. He asked if Central Council could contact all delegates who are present today to vote through an online survey after St. Hagop's ACYOA gets approval from their parish council to host in 2018 within 60 days of today's General Assembly.

Ani Grigorian offered a point of information stating that the bylaws states that it is a responsibility of the assembly, however they do not specify a timeline.

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian asked if there is a motion to table the discussion briefly for the Nominating Committee to share results from Central Council elections. Danielle Malconian motioned, and Lauren Piligian seconded. The motion passed.

Elections: Central Council

Melissa Mardoian stated that no one was elected, stating that the spread from the lowest vote getter to the 2nd is two, and the spread from the 2nd to the 3rd is four, and the 3rd to the next is eleven. The committee recommends no candidate be dropped from the ballot.

Ronald Malconian made a motion to drop the last two names on the ballot. The motioned was seconded by Aaron Derderian and the motion passed with four opposed.

The following names remain on the ballot for Central Council: Arthur Sabounjian and Arsen Yelegen.

Melissa Mardoian offered a point of clarification that two ballots were voided because two individuals voted for two nominees rather than only one. She reminded the Assembly to vote for only one nominee.

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress conducted roll call and counted 55 voting delegates present.

Continued: General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2018 Bids

Andrew Khanarian (Fair Lawn, NJ) asked for a point of information that if St. Hagop or any other parish wanted to make a bid at present if they could do so contingent upon the approval of their parish and priest.

Central Council Chair Ani Grigorian stated that there are two potential chapters that are interested in hosting in 2018 and a bid could not be accepted without appropriate approval.

Jennifer Morris offered a point of information that Article 9, Section 12, Letter E of the bylaws states that the assembly is “to decide the time and the place of the next General Assembly”, and it does not place a timeline on that decision. Historically, there have been many years where a General Assembly & Sports Weekend has been planned one year in advance.

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian said that if there are two parishes that wish to bid to host General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2018, they could do so at next year’s General Assembly.

Chapter 2015 Reflections

Assembly Chair Caiti Zeytoonian asked Ani Grigorian (CC) to lead discussions on Chapter 2015 Reflections.

Ani Grigorian reminded delegates this agenda item was asked for by delegates a few years ago to share successes and challenges. She also invited those who want to come forward to do so.

The discussion took a brief pause as Nominating Committee returned with results for Central Council elections.

Elections: Central Council

The Nominating Committee wanted to thank Ani Grigorian, Jonathan Pelaez and Sarine Atamian for their four years of service to the ACYOA and the Armenian Church.

Sona Dagley (Southfield, MI) presented the three new members to Central Council: Danielle Malconian, Nora Knadjian and Arsen Yelegen. Arthur Sabounjian is the alternate.

Elections: Nominating Committee

Alina Grigorian presented the nominees for Nominating Committee. Since Sona Dagley and Melissa Mardoian are on the Nominating Committee ballot, Emily Janikian and Danielle Malconian offered to assist with collecting and counting ballots.

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress nominated Peter Oundjian, and Lilit DerKevorkian (Cambridge, MA) seconded the nomination. Peter Oundjian accepted the nomination.

Aaron Derderian made a motion to close nominations. Tania Melkonian seconded the motion. Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian said she believes there is a possibility for more nominations and that it is not appropriate to close nominations so hastily.

Emily Janikian (Racine, WI) reminded everyone how long Central Council election took and to keep in mind there are currently 10 names on the ballot for Nominating Committee.

A vote was taken to close nominations for Nominating Committee: 34 votes in favor, 8 opposed. The motion passed.

The following individuals are on the ballot for Nominating Committee (*See Attachment M*):

Armen Bijimenian (Bayside, NY)
Sona Dagley (Southfield, MI)*
Lilit DerKevorkian (Cambridge, MA)
Ani Hollisian (Cambridge, MA)
Linda Kalfayan (Southfield, MI)
Sarah Kalfayan (Southfield, MI)
Melissa Mardoian (Palos Heights, IL)*
Tania Melkonian (Watertown, MA)
Anahit Movsesyan (Southfield, MI)
Peter Oundjian (Fair Lawn, NJ)

* Indicates incumbent nominees.

Danielle Malconian asked the Assembly to vote up to three candidates.

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress conducted roll call and counted 53 voting delegates present.

Elections: Auditing Committee

Before the floor was opened for nominations to Auditing Committee, Anahit Movsesyan respectfully requested to be removed from the Auditing Committee ballot.

Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian nominated Alexander Shafiyev (Jacksonville, FL) to the Auditing Committee, and the nomination was seconded by Jonathan Pelaez. Alexander Shafiyev accepted.

Meline Derderian requested a point of information for clarification if someone's name appears on both Nominating and Auditing Committee ballots. It was expressed that it was okay for names to appear on both ballots.

Armen Bijimenian nominated Tania Melkonian (Watertown, MA) to Auditing Committee, and the nomination was seconded by Danielle Malconian. Tania Melkonian accepted.

Linda Kalfayan nominated Aleen Kaltakdjian (San Antonio, TX). Anahit Movsesyan seconded the nomination. Aleen Kaltakdjian accepted.

Peter Ounjian nominated Christine Hovsepian (Watertown, MA), and Aaron Derderian seconded the nomination. Peter Ounjian declined the nomination.

Christine Karakouzian (Watertown, MA) nominated Brian Sarafyan (Bayside, NY), and the nomination was seconded by Tatiana Nalbandian (Watertown, MA). Brian Sarafyan accepted the nomination.

Alina Bazarian moved to close the floor for nominations. Aaron Derderian seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.

The following individuals are on the ballot for Auditing Committee (*See Attachment M*):

Lilit DerKevorkian (Cambridge, MA)
Ani Hollisian (Cambridge, MA)
Ronald Malconian (Cambridge, MA)
Alex Shafiyev (Jacksonville, FL)
Tania Melkonian (Watertown, MA)
Aleen Kaltakdjian (San Antonio, TX)*
Brian Sarafyan (Bayside, NY)

* Indicates incumbent nominees.

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress conducted roll call and counted 53 voting delegates present.

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian called for a 10-minute recess and to return at 4 p.m.

Fifth Assembly Session

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian called the Assembly to order at 4:05 p.m.

Auditing Committee Elections: Continued

Melissa Mardoian presented the results from Auditing Committee elections. Only one person was elected onto Auditing Committee. The Nominating Committee recommended that the three lowest vote receivers be dropped from the ballot. The spread from the lowest to the third lowest is 5 (lowest vote receiver), 1 (second to lowest) and 3 (third lowest).

Aaron Derderian made a motion to drop the lowest three vote receivers from ballot. Tania Melkonian seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

The remaining names on the Auditing Committee ballot are: Lilit Der Kevorkian, Alex Shafiyev, Aleen Kaltakdjian, and Brian Sarafyan. The Nominating Committee asked delegates to vote for one or two candidates only.

Nominating Committee Elections: Continued

Emily Janikian presented the results from the Nominating Committee election and announced only one person was elected. The Nominating Committee recommended to drop the three lowest vote receivers from the ballot.

Aaron Derderian motioned to drop the lowest three vote receivers from the Nominating Committee ballot. The motion was seconded by Sona Dagley, and the motion passed with no opposition.

The remaining names on the Nominating Committee ballot are Lilit DerKevorkian, Linda Kalfayan, Melissa Maroian, Tania Melkonian, Anahit Movsesyan, and Peter Ounjian. It was asked the delegates vote for up to two nominees.

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress conducted roll call and counted 44 voting delegates present.

2015 Chapter Reflections

Arthur Sabounjian spoke that the ACYOA chapter of Armenian Church of Holy Translators, Framingham, MA, is still trying to formalize board members.

Jennifer Morris asked what local ACYOA chapters are doing to mentor the ACYOA Juniors' transition to ACYOA Seniors, and if they can offer any suggestions to other delegates.

Christine Hovsepian answered that Greg Ekjian started a young adult mentoring network at St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA, where they run different sessions including résumé writing, interviewing, etc. As a result, the Seniors led different discussions with the Juniors and built a database with contact information.

Tania Melkonian shared that a few years ago, St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA, started hosting panel discussions where Juniors can ask Seniors about the college application process and college life. Having these types of discussions helps build relationships between the Juniors and Seniors during the stressful time of applying for college.

Gary Dodakian (Worcester, MA) stated that the Armenian Church of Our Savior has hosted a few successful events, including a spaghetti night, AYF night and a 100th Anniversary Genocide Commemoration March.

New Business: Other

Harry Kezelian proposed to amend the bylaws and change the voting procedure for Nominating and Auditing Committee to plurality vote.

Parliamentarian Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian stated the proposal is out of order and bylaw amendments are different than proposals. Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian informed the Assembly that bylaw amendments need to be submitted 30 days prior to General Assembly. As a result, Harry Kezelian retracted his proposal.

Danielle Malconian proposed to create a committee of prior General Assembly/Sports Weekend Chairs to assemble guidelines for future Sports Weekend Hosting Committees (in regards to timelines, etc.).

Jennifer Morris responded with a point of information that, based on previous discussions, a set of guidelines is currently being drafted. However, she stated it was intended the incoming Central Council would appoint a committee.

Danielle Malconian motioned to appoint a committee who will write Sports Weekend Hosting Committee Guidelines. The motion was seconded by Christine Hovsepian. The motion required two-thirds vote to pass: 43 voted in favor, 2 opposed. The motion passed. Danielle Malconian recommended three people be on this committee. His Eminence, Abp. Khajag Barsamian,

Primate, suggested the Central Council appoint committee members. It was mentioned the committee would present the guidelines at next year's General Assembly, however, Abp. Khajag Barsamian said the guidelines do not need to be presented.

Central Council Chair Ani Grigorian offered a point of information that there is a template already in place for this new committee to follow when creating the guidelines.

Danielle Malconian amended her motion allowing Central Council to appoint a committee to finish the guidelines that will be presented at next year's meeting. Arthur Sabounjian seconded the amended proposal. A vote was taken on the amended motion: 33 voted in favor, 1 opposed. The amendment on the previous proposal was accepted.

A vote to accept the proposal as amended carried with one opposition.

Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian asked about the \$250 parish assessment on the budget. He asked if there are 50 parish in the Diocese who should contribute \$250, the ACYOA is missing out on \$9,000 of income. Rev. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian expressed that every parish should be supportive of this, as directed by His Eminence, Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate. Even though St. Peter Armenian Church has been in deficit for the past four years, the parish has given the \$250.

Central Council Chair Ani Grigorian responded with a point of information that passing a parish assessment was a large part of the Assembly discussion two years prior. This year at Diocesan Assembly, she was asked why there were only a limited number of contributions. Central Council Chair Ani Grigorian responded that it would be better if parishes submitted everything at once rather in pieces, including dues, assessments, etc.

Dn. Michael Sabounjian (St. Nersess) suggested Central Council look into alternatives to paper voting ballots to speed up the election process for future General Assembly meetings. He suggested either voting apps or hand-held voting devices.

Elections: Nominating Committee (Continued)

Danielle Malconian stated that no one was elected to Nominating Committee for this round of voting. The Nominating Committee recommended dropping the three lowest vote receivers.

Greg Ekchian (Cambridge, MA) motioned to drop the lowest three vote receivers, and Nora Knadjian seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

The remaining names on the ballot are: Lilit DerKevorkian, Melissa Mardoian, and Peter Ounjian. Nominating Committee reminded the Assembly to vote up to two people.

Elections: Auditing Committee (Continued)

Sona Dagley announced that one person had been elected to Auditing Committee. The Nominating Committee recommends dropping the lowest vote receiver from the ballot, which would leave only two names on the ballot.

Anahit Movsesyan motions to drop the lowest vote receiver, and Chelsea Kress seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

The remaining names on the ballot for Auditing Committee are: Alex Shafiyev and Brian Sarafyan. The Nominating Committee asked the Assembly only vote for one nominee on the ballot.

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress conducted roll call and counted 52 voting delegates present.

New Business: Other

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian invited Jonathan Campbell to give a presentation about Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) and its suborganization *Ayo!*, of which he is the Development Manager.

Elections: Nominating Committee (Continued):

Emily Janikian presented the results for Nominating Committee. She announced that no one was elected by majority vote, and since two people need to be elected, no names will be dropped. The Assembly will need to vote on the same candidates as before.

The remaining names on the ballot are: Lilit DerKevorkian, Melissa Mardoian, and Peter Ounjian. Nominating Committee reminded the Assembly to vote up to two people.

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress gave a point of information and asked the Sergeant-at-Arms not to allow people to walk in and out of the room after the ballots have been distributed.

Elections: Auditing Committee (Continued):

Sona Daley stated the no one was elected onto Auditing Committee because there were multiple invalid ballots. Therefore, the Assembly will need to vote on the same candidates as before.

The remaining names on the ballot for Auditing Committee are: Alex Shafiyev and Brian Sarafyan. The Nominating Committee asked the Assembly only vote for one nominee on the ballot.

Jennifer Morris requested a point of information that blank ballots be used for both Nominating and Auditing Committee elections to clear any confusion.

Central Council Secretary Chelsea Kress conducted roll call and counted 48 voting delegates present.

New Business: Other

Central Council Treasurer Mallory Maslar spoke how, in honor of the 70th anniversary of ACYOA, there will be a “Seniors to Seniors” ACYOA event held around Armenian Independence Day (September 21). The event will be current ACYOA seniors honoring past ACYOA seniors.

Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee

Peter Oundjian and Rev. Fr. Vazken Kouzouian (Cambridge, MA) present the Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee (*See Attachment N*).

Rev. Fr. Vazken Kouzouian pointed out several names missing from the Report, specifically Rev. Fr. Vart Gyozyan as well as Dn. Saro Kalayjian, Dn. Michael Sabounjian and Dn. Diran Jebejian.

Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian (Retired) asked to add Archbishop Avak Asadourian, Primate of Iraq and other priests in the Eastern Diocese who are from Iraq.

Arthur Sabounjian requested to add Houry Gebeshian, first female gymnast to represent the Republic of Armenia at the Olympic Games in Rio 2016, who spoke to delegates during the Primate's Luncheon.

Taleen Jermakian (Springfield, MA) requested to add Rev. Fr. Sevak Gabrielyan of St. Mark Armenian Church in Springfield, MA, to the Report.

Ronald Malconian motioned to accept the Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee with the amendments provided. The motion was seconded by Alina Bazarian, and the motion passed unopposed.

Elections: Nominating Committee (Continued)

The Nominating Committee returned and announced that no one was elected by majority to the 2016 Nominating Committee. His Eminence, Abp. Khajag Barsamian, Primate, announced that he was going to pick names from a hat or bowl.

Assembly Chair Caitlin Zeytoonian respectfully requested a point of order that elections should not be decided by an arbitrary act such as out of a hat.

Ronald Malconian motioned to drop the lowest vote getter, and the motion was seconded by Tania Melkonian. The motion passed, and the lowest vote receiver was dropped from the ballot.

The 2016 Nominating Committee members are: Melissa Mardoian, Peter Oundjian and Sona Dagley. The alternate is Lilit DerKevorkian.

Elections: Auditing Committee (Continued)

The Nominating Committee announced the results for Auditing Committee elections. The 2016 Auditing Committee members are: Ronald Malconian, Aleen Kaltakdjian and Alex Shafiyev. The alternate is Brian Sarafyan.

Adjournment and Benediction

Jonathan Pelaez motioned to adjourn the Assembly and was seconded by Ani Grigorian. The motion carried unopposed and the Assembly was adjourned. The Primate offered the benediction to officially close the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Ashbahian (Fair Lawn, NJ)
2016 ACYOA General Assembly Co-Secretary

Mary Keutelian (Greenfield, WI)
2016 ACYOA General Assembly Co-Secretary

Attachment Directory

- Delegate, Observer, Clergy List
- Robert's Rules of Order
- 2016 General Assembly Agenda
- ACYOA Annual Central Council Report 2015
- Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Annual Report 2015
- Report of the 2015 Sports Weekend Committee
- Primate's Message
- Bible Study
- Report of the Auditing Committee
- 2015 Financial Report
- 2017 Proposed and Approved Budget
- 2016 ACYOA Central Council Award Recipients
- 2016 Election Results
- Report of the 2016 Resolutions and Courtesies Committee

Attachment A Delegate, Observer, Clergy List

Rev. Fr. Tateos
Abdalian

X

Mission Parish - Armenian Church of Jacksonville, FL
Allen
Ackan

X

St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
Brandon
Ajamian

X

Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY
Rev. Fr. Arakel
Aljalian

X

St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
Christopher
Artun

X

Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY
Adrienne
Ashbahian

X

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

X

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
Tom
Ashbahian

X

Diocesan Council
Sarine
Atamian

X

Central Council
Abp. Khajag
Barsamian

X

Primate
Alina
Bazarian

X

St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
Armen
Bijimianian

X

Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY
Elizabeth
Boghosian

X

St. Mark Armenian Church, Springfield, MA
Jonathan
Campbell

X

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) - AYO/FAR
Linda
Chamesian

X

St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ
Sona
Dagley

X

St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, Southfield, MI
Michael
Demirchian

X

Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, Ward Hill, MA
Aaron
Derderian

X

St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
Maria

Derderian

X

St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
Meline
Derderian

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Wynnewood, PA
Lilit
DerKevorkian

X

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA
Shant
DerTorossian

X

St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
Gary
Dodakian

X

Armenian Church of Our Savior, Worcester, MA
Rev. Fr. Stepanos
Doudoukjian

X

St. Peter Armenian Church, Watervliet, NY
Gregory
Ekchian

X

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA
Garibian
Antranig

X

Diocesan Council
Katie
Gengozian

X

St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, Racine, WI
Alina
Grigorian

X

St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, Racine, WI
Ani
Grigorian

X

Central Council
Noelle
Hagopian

X

St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
Hayley
Hovhanessian

X

St. Hagop Armenian Church, Pinellas Park, FL
Christine
Hovsepian

X

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA
Jack
Jamgochian

X

Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY
Greta
Janigian

X

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, RI
Emily
Janikian

X

St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, Racine, WI
V. Rev. Fr. Aren
Jebejian

X

St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, Southfield, MI
Rev. Fr. Nersess
Jebejian

X

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
Talene
Jermakian

X

St. Mark Armenian Church, Springfield, MA
Linda
Kalfayan

X

St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, Southfield, MI
Aleen
Kaltakdjian

X

Armenian Church of San Antonio, TX
Jim
Kalustian

X

Diocesan Council
Christine
Karakouzian

X

St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
Garen
Karamyan

X

Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY
Roupen
Kayayan

St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church, Cleveland, OH
Rev. Fr. Khachatur
Kesablyan

X

Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church, Chelmsford, MA
Yn. Diana
Keutelian

X

St. John the Baptist Armenian Church, Greenfield, WI
Mary

Keutelian

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, Chicago, IL
Rev. Fr. Nareg
Keutelian

X

St. John the Baptist Armenian Church, Greenfield, WI
Harry
Kezelian

X

St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, Southfield, MI
Andrew
Khanarian

X

St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ
Nora
Knadjian

X

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, Chicago, IL
Chelsea
Kress

X

Central Council
Yn. Arpi
Kouzouian

X

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA
Rev. Fr. Vasken
Kouzouian

X

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA
Danielle
Malconian

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA
Ronnie
Malconian

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA
Anthony
Maldonado

X

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, RI
Roseanne
Manoogian-Attar

X

Diocesan Council
Lisa
Mardigian

X

St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, Southfield, MI
Melissa
Mardoian

X

Sts. Joachim and Anne Armenian Church, Palos Heights, IL
Paul
Mardoian

X

Diocesan Council
Mallory
Maslar

X

Central Council
Hayk
Matevosyan

X

Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY
Tania
Melkonian

X

St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
Raffi
Moroukian

St. Peter Armenian Church, Watervliet, NY
Jennifer
Morris

X

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
Rev. Fr. Kapriel
Mouradjian

X

New Britian, CT
Anahit
Movsesyan

X

St. John's Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, Southfield, MI
Tatiana
Nalbandian

X

St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
Lorie
Odabashian

X

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
V. Rev. Fr. Simeon
Odabashian

X

Diocesan Council
Peter
Oundjian

X

St. Leon Armenian Church, Fair Lawn, NJ
Adam
Parnagian

X

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, RI
Christina
Parnagian

X

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, RI
Jonathan

Pelaez
X

Central Council
Lauren
Piligian
X

Central Council
Arthur
Sabounjian
X

Armenian Church of Holy Translators, Framingham, MA
Rev. Fr. Krikor
Sabounjian

X
Armenian Church of Holy Translators, Framingham, MA
Michael
Sabounjian

St. Nersess Seminary
Brian
Sarafyan
X

Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY
Christopher
Saroufim

St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA
Aleks
Shafiyev
X

Armenian Church of Jacksonville, FL
Rev. Fr. Shnork
Souin

X
Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, RI
Rev. Fr Aved
Terzian

	X
Diocesan Council Greg Torosian	X
Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA Emily Weiss	
St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, Racine, WI Nazley Wilson	X
St. Hagop Armenian Church, Pinellas Park, FL Arsen Yelegen	X
St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church, White Plains, NY Andrew Yenicag	X
Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY Daniel Zalinov	X
Central Council Caiti Zeytoonian	X
St. James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA	

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

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

NO¹

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

YES²

AMEND A MOTION
"I move to amend the motion
by..."

NO

YES

YES³

YES

MAJORITY

YES

INTRODUCE BUSINESS
"I move that..."

NO

YES

YES

YES

MAJORITY

YES

*

*

**M
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T
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N
S**

**A
B
O**

**V
E

A
R
E

I
N

O
R
D
E
R

O
F

P
R
E
C
E
D
E
N
C
E
*

PROTEST BREACH OF RULES OR CONDUCT

"I rise to a point of order."

YES

NO

NO

NO

NO VOTE⁴

NO

VOTE ON A RULING OF THE CHAIR

"I appeal from the chair's decision."

YES

YES

YES

NO

MAJORITY⁵

YES

AVOID CONSIDERING AN IMPROPER MATTER
"I object to consideration of this motion."

YES

NO

NO

NO

TWO-THIRDS⁶

-7

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

.8

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

¹ Unless vote on question is not yet taken

² Unless the committee has already taken up the subject

³ Only if motion to be amended is debatable

⁴ Except in doubtful cases

⁵ A majority in negative needed to reverse ruling of chair

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

⁷ Only if main question or motion was not considered

⁸ Only if motion to be reconsidered is debatable

Attachment C

2016 ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Hosted by Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Cambridge, MA Westin
Boston Waterfront Hotel, Boston, MA
MAY 26-27, 2016
AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2015

General Assembly Registration

5:00 - 6:00 pm

First Assembly Session

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

I. Invocation

II. Roll Call - Confirmation of Quorum

III. Introduction of Robert's Rules of Order

IV. Election of Assembly Chair and Vice Chair

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

VI. Adoption of Agenda

VII. Acceptance of 2015 General Assembly Minutes

VIII. Joint Report of the Central Council and DYYAM

IX. Report of the 2015 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee

X. General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2016 Committee Welcome

XI. Informational Presentations

a. St. Nersess Armenian Seminary

b. Mission Parishes

8:00 pm – Clergy and Delegate Reception

FRIDAY MAY 27, 2015

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

Second Assembly Session

9:00 am – 10:45 am

I. Video – Living Legacies: Armenians a Century After the Genocide

II. Small Group Bible Study - Discussion & Partner Work

III. Whole Group Discussion

Third Assembly Session

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

IV. Roll Call

V. Report of the Auditing Committee

VI. 2015 Financial Report

A. Report of the Nancy Basmajian ASP Scholarship Fund Committee

VII. Elections

A. Introduction of Central Council Candidates

B. Central Council (3)

C. Nominating Committee (3)

D. Auditing Committee (3)

Primate's Luncheon

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

Fourth Assembly Session

2:15 pm – 3:45 pm

VIII. Elections (cont'd)

IX. New Business

A. Proposed 2017 Budget

B. New Proposals

C. General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2017 Bids

D. General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2018 Bids

E. Chapter 2015 Reflections

F. Other

Break – 15 Minutes

Fifth Assembly Session

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

X. New Business (cont'd)

XI. Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee

XII. Adjournment and Benediction

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 21 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 four times this year. His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian was present for our July meeting. The Diocesan Vicar, the Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, was present at our April, July, October and December meetings. Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Jennifer Morris, was present for all of our meetings in 2015. Those meetings were held as follows: April 25 (Diocese – New York, NY), July 18 (Diocese – New York, NY), October 3 (Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA) and December 19 (St. Mesrob, Racine, WI). 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.

Seventh Annual Chapter Workshop

The ACYOA Central Council sponsored a Chapter Workshop for a seventh consecutive year. More than 35 young people representing 11 parishes across the Eastern Diocese gathered in St. Petersburg, FL, for the annual ACYOA Chapter Workshop. Over the course of three days, from January 9-11, 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.

Lenten Regional Retreats

Smaller regional retreats were held during the Lenten season, with more than 60 members from close to 20 parishes of the ACYOA Seniors in attendance. Members gathered for regional retreats on February 28 at Holy Resurrection Armenian Church, New Britain, CT; March 7 at St. Sarkis in Carrollton, TX; March 14 at St. Mesrob in Racine, WI, and March 21 at Holy Martyrs in Bayside, NY. During the day-long retreat, titled "Living the Gospel of Christ: Legacy of Our

Martyrs,” young adults were led in a Bible study and discussion on the Crucifixion and Resurrection, along with a discussion on the canonization of the Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. The ACYOA Central Council members shared their personal family histories and spoke about how their family legacies helped to shape their own lives. 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 retreats.

Leadership Conference

Year after year, the Leadership Conference has proven to be the most exciting and energetic program that the ACYOA offers. Young adults from across the Eastern Diocese gathered for the annual ACYOA Leadership Conference hosted by the ACYOA Central Council at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansasville, WI, from November 13 to 15. The conference program was prepared by the Diocese’s Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the ACYOA Central Council. This year's weekend drew close to 50 ACYOA members from 18 parishes.

The conference opened on Friday evening with a session on the Fund for Armenian Relief’s “Ayo!” crowd-funding platform. and the importance of teamwork and stewardship. Throughout the weekend the participants engaged in discussion surrounding the challenges of Christian living in today’s society and understanding our spiritual gifts.

Several clergy in the area attended this year’s conference; along with Jennifer Morris and Lorie Odabashian. Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian served as the chaplain for the weekend, and V. Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian 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. ACYOA Central Council members were active throughout the Diocese this Palm Sunday to address parishioners and local young people on the traditional occasion of “ACYOA Day” in the Eastern Diocese.

Chair Ani Grigorian visited St. Mary Church in Hollywood, FL, which hosted a Palm Sunday luncheon for 80 people. Vice Chair Jonathan Pelaez shared Palm Sunday with members at Hye Point parish in Haverhill, MA, where around 150 parishioners gathered for a luncheon and program. Treasurer Shant Paklaian traveled to St. David Church in Boca Raton, FL, for a luncheon hosted by local ACYOA seniors. Public Relations coordinator Sarine Atamian visited the St. George Church in Hartford, CT, and Secretary Chelsea Kress spent Palm Sunday with the St. Mark Church in Springfield, MA.

Diocesan coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Lorie Odabashian spent the day with the parish community in St. Mary’s Church in Washington, DC. All the visitors spoke about their personal influences, and encouraged local youth to take advantage of programming offered by the Diocese.

General Assembly & Sports Weekend

Youth and clergy from across the Eastern Diocese gathered in Detroit, MI for the 69th annual ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend. The weekend was hosted by the ACYOA Seniors of St. John Church of Southfield, MI.

The General Assembly was held on May 21 and 22, with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Diocesan Primate, presiding. Delegates elected new ACYOA Central Council members and heard reports on the organization's various programs for young people. They took part in small-group Bible study and heard a message from Archbishop Barsamian on this year's Diocesan theme, "Living the Gospel of Christ: The Legacy of Our Martyrs."

More than 300 people took part in Sports Weekend events, which included an evening at the iconic Fox Theater and Henry Ford Museum, as well as the annual awards banquet at the parish. In addition to sporting events, the ACYOA members enjoyed social evenings and took part in a special program dedicated to the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide. Sports journalist Armen Keteyan of CBS News and Pastor Chuck Gaidica gave presentations on the significance of the Armenian Genocide centennial year and on the broader theme of peace and justice. On Sunday, May 24, the Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian celebrated the Divine Liturgy at St. John's in Southfield, MI. Special appreciation to the host committee and the St. John's community.

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. Tadeos Barseghyan, pastor of St. Sahag of St. Paul, MN, 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.

(HEEM) PAN/Global-ACYO Conference

This past summer, July 1-5, 100 representatives from 20 different countries gathered in Etchmiadzin, Armenia. On behalf of the ACYOA, Ani Grigorian (Chair), Jonathan Pelaez (Vice Chair), Sarine Atamian (Public Relations Coordinator), and Armen Terjimanian (Former Central Council Member) represented the Eastern Diocese of America and the ACYOA. The positive energy that the participants brought to the conference could be felt in homeland like a vibrant pulse. We, as an assembly were brought together to discuss the issues that face us globally as well as our local communities. Our goals were to provide support to the other organizations in

our respective regions around the world, and to connect with each other spiritually. Strong bonds were formed among the North American leadership present, as well as other regions. This will spark communication for the future. We look forward to working with the Central Councils in the regions around us.

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 bounce-back 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, work hand in hand 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. 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 2014 Diocesan Assembly passing the proposal to implement an annual parish assessment, we can

continue to benefit the ministry of the ACYOA on a national level, we feel confident in the state of our organization.

This year, we had 14 parishes that contributed to the ACYOA Parish Assessment. A special thanks to Bayside, NY; Elberon, NJ; Fair Lawn, NJ; Livingston, NJ; Tenafly, NJ; Chelmsford, MA; Framingham, MA; Providence, RI; Watervliet, NY; Chicago, IL; Palos Heights, IL, Racine, WI; Evanston, IL; and St. Petersburg, FL.

We pray that future members and councils of this organization will benefit from our initiatives, and further strengthen the foundation.

Dadourian Foundation

The ACYOA was fortunate enough to receive a donation from the Dadourian Foundation which we were able to utilize to offset costs for the expenses associated with ASP. We would like to thank them for their continued financial support with programming.

ACYOA Central Council Officers

January to May

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).

June to December

Ani Grigorian (Chair), Jonathan Pelaez (Vice Chair), Mallory Maslar (Treasurer), Chelsea Kress (Secretary), Sarine Atamian (Public Relations Coordinator), Lauren Piligian (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 -2015

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 three 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.

ACYOA Juniors Retreats: Five regional retreats were organized and led by the Director and Coordinator with the support of area clergy and lay leaders. The retreat series theme focused on Living the Gospel of Christ: Legacy of Our Martyrs. Discussions and activities helped teens to better understand the canonization of the saints and apply this information to their daily lives. The retreats reached out to 131 youth between the ages of 13-18, 16 clergy and 27 chaperones from 22 different parishes. The following retreats were held:

- February 20-22, New England Regional Retreat at St. Methodius Faith and Heritage Retreat Center, Contoocook, NH
- February 27 – March 1, Michigan and Ohio Regional Retreat at Camp Wise, Chardon, OH
- March 7-8, New York, New Jersey, and Mid-Atlantic Regional Retreat at St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church, White Plains, NY
- March 7, Texas day-long Retreat, St. Sarkis Armenian Church, Carrollton, TX
- March 20-22, Wisconsin and Illinois Regional Retreat at Camp Hickory, Ingleside, IL

ACYOA Juniors Hye M’rtsoom: Hye M’rtsoom was hosted Memorial Day weekend (May 22-25) by St. James Church, Watertown, MA. This year, 282 participants representing 16 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 9-12). This year, it was hosted by the parish community of Holy Martyrs Armenian Church of Bayside, NY. 220 participants from 17 different parishes travelled to take part in the weekend’s sporting events, dances and worship services.

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 with Rev. Fr. Hratch Sargsyan and Rev. Fr. Tadeos Barseghyan serving as the Assistant Hye Camp Directors. The director and coordinator shared responsibilities during the seven-week camp season from June 27-August 8 at St. Vartan Camp in Greenville, NY and July 26-August 8 at Hye Camp in Ingleside, IL. The Director developed and led the staff training at both camps. 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 21 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 9-11, ACYOA Seniors Chapter Workshop
- February 14, Midwest Poon Pareegentan Dance
- February 15, June 27, September 29, Hye Camp Board Meetings, Evanston and Chicago, IL
- February 28 (New Britain, CT), March 14 (Racine, WI), and March 21 (Bayside, NY) - ACYOA Seniors Retreats
- February 29, St. Mary Armenian Church (Livingston, NJ) Parish Camp Presentation
- March 18 and October 5, St. Vartan Camp Directors Meeting, Cambridge, MA
- March 29, Palm Sunday Luncheons DYYAM and CC travelled to 9 parishes
- April 11-12, St. Sahag Armenian Church (St. Paul, MN) Parish Camp Presentation
- April 25 (New York, NY), July 18 (New York, NY), October 3 (Cambridge, MA), and December 19 (Racine, WI) - ACYOA Central Council Meetings
- May 7-10, Diocesan Assembly, New York, NY
- May 21-25, ACYOA Srs. General Assembly and Sports Weekend, St. John Armenian Church, Southfield, MI
- May 31, St. Leon Armenian Church (Fair Lawn, NJ) Parish Camp Presentation
- June 12, Armenian Sisters Academy Graduation Speaker
- June 1-10, Jerusalem Pilgrimage Trip Planning
- July 1-20, Armenia Service Program Trip Planning
- September 19, SCOOCH Youth Conference, Fair Lawn, NJ
- October 3, Ararat Center Cruise, Philadelphia, PA
- November 13-15, ACYOA Seniors Leadership Conference, Kansasville, WI

Professional Development: Each year, the director attends a three-day conference hosted by the Orthodox Christian Camp Association (January 22-24). The theme this year was “Walking Alongside Our Youth.” 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. Jennifer was invited to lead on a session titled “Out of the Darkness” which focused on suicide awareness and prevention. In preparation for the camp season, the director and coordinator spent a day receiving CPR for the professional Rescuer and AED training 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 celebrated her tenth year of service at the Diocese 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. In October, Kathryn Ashbahian, St. Nersess Seminary graduate joined the department and is focusing on curriculum development for the summer camp programs, and a new video and bible study series.

**St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit
~ACYOA SENIORS~**

**ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2015
Committee Report**

**Submitted by: 2015 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee
Fr. Garabed Kochakian**

**2015 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend
Committee Report**

Introduction:

The 2015 General Assembly & Sports Weekend was hosted by the ACYOA Seniors of the St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit, Michigan, from May 21-25. The hotel that we provided for our guests was the Crowne Plaza Hotel located in Novi, Michigan, where we also held the General Assembly meetings. With the theme “Made in Detroit, We Are The Legacy”, we were able to provide the ACYOA senior chapters of the Eastern Diocese with an opportunity to see the unique and notable city of Detroit, of which we are very proud.

Committee:

Pastor: Fr. Garabed Kochakian Youth Coordinator:
Lisa Mardigian Chairman: Linda Kalfayan
Vice-Chairman: Alexandra Hachigian
Registration: Sona Movsisyan & Sevan Misirliyan
Co-Treasurers: Roseann Manoogian Attar & Brandon Maake
Public Relations: Anahit Movsesyan

Preparation:

After the initial bid in 2013, the committee promptly began organizing and planning the activities for Sports Weekend. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the steering committee changed its leadership after the first year. This resulted in a change of opinion in the direction Sports Weekend was heading and a loss of time for planning and advertising for the General Assembly & Sports Weekend. It was after these unforeseen circumstances that ACYOA members in Michigan from near and far joined the steering committee in order to ensure a faithful and fun weekend for all.

Once the steering committee was established, volunteers were sought out to help create sub-committees. The 15 sub-committees included: Welcome Gifts; Ad Booklet; Transportation; Security; Entertainment and After Hours; Advertising/Social Media; Budget/Finance; Sports; Sports Concessions; Friday Evening Event; Saturday Morning Program; Saturday Evening Event; Sunday Brunch; Sunday Evening Awards Banquet; and Monday Brunch. The steering committee assigned two or more volunteers to a sub-committee based on their skills and expertise. Each sub-committee was assigned tasks.

The steering committee met every other week in 2014 and coordinated with the sub-committees to ensure that each task was handled appropriately and in a timely manner. There were open lines of communication between the steering committee and each sub-committee which including google drive components, skype, conference calls, etc.

Location:

After 8 years, the St. John Armenian Church of Greater Detroit had the opportunity to host General Assembly & Sports Weekend. With the theme “Made in Detroit, We Are The Legacy”, we wanted to show our participants the historical side of Detroit they would not normally see. We chose one of our venues to be at the extravagant & renowned Fox Theatre located on Woodward Avenue in Detroit. This theatre was recognized as a National Historic Landmark in 1989 and had housed spectacular performances for many years. We also chose another national landmark in metro Detroit for our second venue to be at the Henry Ford Museum, in Dearborn, MI. Named after the automobile industrialist, Henry Ford, the museum was founded on his idea of preserving history. For the traditional Sunday night banquet, we decided to host our third event at the church hall of the St. John Armenian Church.

In order to provide the participants with a commercial area during the day--walkable distance to a nearby mall--we decided to partner with the Crowne Plaza Hotel located in Novi, Michigan. We knew that transportation would be an issue while planning the weekend, but we chose the most cost effective and convenient transportation for our city.

Events:

1. Thursday, May 21: Delegates' Reception at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Novi Our committee decided to hold an elegant reception in the back of the room used for the General Assembly to make it easy and convenient for the delegates. Both food and beverages were provided.

2. Friday, May 22: Venue-The Fox Theatre, Detroit

To show our guests a glimpse of the beauty and magnificence of Detroit, we decided to host our Friday night venue at the Fox Theatre on Woodward Avenue in Detroit. As our guests walked up to the front of the theatre to check in, they were greeted by our marquee lighting up Downtown Detroit with "Armenian Church Youth Organization of America, Sports Weekend 2015...We Are The Legacy". After checking in, they were allowed to roam the theatre from the upstairs balconies to standing downstairs on the very stage of great artists. Our guests were able to enjoy the music provided by our own DJ's, the red carpet provided by our committee, and eat food catered by the Fox Theatre along with a cash bar.

3. Saturday, May 23: Honoring Our Saints at Hillside Recreational Center, Novi

As an intermission to the morning sporting events, we decided to hold a one hour-long program called "The Court is in Session: Peace & Justice". Our committee had decided to bring two celebrities, one local and one national, to speak on the events of the Armenian Genocide from the

aspects of peace and justice, as a continuation of the 100th commemoration of the Armenian Genocide and the continuing celebration of honoring our ancestors who were canonized as saints in the Armenian Church in the earlier month. A Hunter House food truck was provided outside the recreational center shortly after the program finished and the sports resumed.

4. Saturday, May 23: Venue-The Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn

Continuing along with our theme, we chose our Saturday night venue to be at the Henry Ford Museum, named after Henry Ford himself. By choosing this museum as our venue, we were able to show off not only pieces of Detroit's history, but American national history. Our guests were invited to walk around the main hall to see the automotive history, antique machinery, and anything the American hands made. Our guests were able to walk around the nearby portions of the museum, dance to the music provided by our own band and DJ underneath the Northwest Airlines DC-3 aircraft, eat gourmet food provided by the Museum along with a cash bar.

5. Sunday, May 24: Divine Liturgy at St. John Armenian Church, Southfield Church service was held at the St. John Armenian Church on Sunday morning with close to 100 young adults in the pews, preceding the morning brunch held in the church hall.

6. Sunday, May 24: Venue-St. John Armenian Church Banquet Hall, Southfield

To finish off the weekend, our committee had decided to host an awards banquet with an alumni cocktail hour. Our guests were invited to join us for a delicious Armenian meal and to dance to our “all-star” band and DJ, cash bar, and finish the night with a traditional Detroit coney. ACYOA alumni were also invited to this event.

Lessons Learned:

Issue

Description

How to Avoid

Athletes not purchasing complete package

There were many athletes who only paid the \$10 athlete fee and did not purchase a package

Do not put \$10 athlete fee as an al-a-carte option but require athletes to purchase a package.

Low number of participants

Compared to previous Sports Weekends, we had a low number of participation of athletes and ACYOA members from different chapters.

Build a stronger connection with other ACYOA chapters through various events.

Rooms were not near each other

Even though it was a smaller hotel, we had requested that the rooms be near each other in order for the noise to be maintained in one area of the hotel, and they were not.

Contact the hotel the week before Sports Weekend and make sure that the rooms are gathered in one area.

Change of leadership in 2 years

After the first full year of planning, many dedicated members to the board that bid on Sports Weekend dropped out and left the committee up in the air to find new leadership with different ideas than before.

Make sure that leadership involved in planning Sports Weekend know that it is a two-year full commitment.

A few lost buses

During the course of the weekend, a few of the buses got lost during the duration of the ride to the event.

Make sure the drivers know where they are going and how to get there before they leave the hotel. Make sure to have their phone numbers listed.

Suggestions:

1. Transportation: Use smaller buses instead of fewer larger buses.
2. Advertising: Start advertising at the General Assembly & Sports Weekend the year before therefore the participants during that Sports Weekend see your enthusiasm and have an idea of what to expect.
3. Proximity: Try to centralize the venues and hotel to one area, if possible.
4. Venues: More than two people should visit a venue together to get an idea and take notes to be able to provide feedback to the rest of the committee.
5. Contracts: Aside from having many people, including the parish attorney, parish council and ACYOA Central Council, review the contract before signing but also review the contract a week or two before the weekend with each venue and go over with them exactly what is necessary.
6. Deadlines: Try to keep deadlines as an important cut-off for participants to stay away from problems...unless you do not have many participants.
7. Teamwork: Keep the steering committee strong and always working together. Teamwork is the key to success!

Achievements:

1. Transportation: Small luxury shuttles ran every 15 to 30 minutes promptly. . We used our shuttle system to our advantage to get all participants to the events on time by advertising the “last shuttle” a half hour before the actual last shuttle. This was instilled to make sure that the last shuttle was not packed and overcrowded, and no one was left behind.
2. Chaperones: There was a chaperone on each shuttle to ensure the safety of all participants and prevent any altercations.
3. Alumni Cocktail Hour: Introducing this idea allowed for more ACYOA community members and alumni to attend our banquet event.
4. Mobile Application: Included places to go and eat, shuttle times, dress attire, descriptions of each night, etc. We were able to direct any questions the participants had to the App.
5. Gift Bags: For each participant/guest who bought the entire package of all 3 events, a themed “Made in Detroit” gift bag was provided at the time of check-in.
6. Budget: Debt free due to generous benefactors from the St. John’s Armenian community!
7. Steering Committee: The new board was able to work with and around previous decisions to ensure a fun and faithful weekend for all!

Conclusions:

Hosting the 2015 ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend in Detroit was an honor and privilege. Our ACYOA Seniors were able to make connections with the ACYOA alumni and learn from their experiences and expertise in planning Sports Weekends.

After 8 long years, ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend finally returned to Greater Detroit, and our guests were able to witness some of the most beautiful and historical places in Detroit. During the 20th century, Greater Detroit welcomed a significant number of Armenians to build their lives and families. Detroit welcomed Armenians in the past, in the present, and will continue to in the future.

Until next time, ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend!

General Assembly and Sports Weekend
Participation

Hotel Information

Room Nights Sold

Wednesday

1

Thursday

29

Friday

53

Saturday

51

Sunday

48

Total

182

Number of Attendees

General Assembly

Clergy/Staff

12

Delegates

36

Total

48

Friday Night

202

Saturday Night

209

Sunday Night

487

Registration Information

Packages Sold (\$180)

101

Athletes

48

Clergy

12

Non - Members/ Locals

367

ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2015 Signatures

Attachment G
Primate's Message

Attachment H

21st Century Sainthood

Every April, Armenians are reminded of their people's bitter history in the 1915 Genocide. The collective pain of extermination and the Genocide's subsequent denial could easily embitter the most forgiving of individuals. In 2015, the Holy Spirit led the Armenian people to a significant decision: the Church officially canonized the victims of the Genocide as saints.

How do we engage with saints in the 21st century? Do they have any relevance at all in our busy, technological world? The Church would argue that they do. They point us towards the reality of Christ's work on the Cross: out of death comes life, out of problems come opportunities. In their earthly lives, saints were keenly aware of God's presence in the world, and they built intimate relationships with him through prayer, fasting, and worship. They worked through their human weaknesses and fought to emulate divine strengths. In their heavenly lives, saints continue their steadfast practice of prayer for us, their earthly brothers and sisters. Their icons are visible reminders of the rewards that come from constantly striving for holiness.

- *Read 1 John 1:5-10. When is God's light most present in you?*
- *What things in your life cause darkness rather than light?*
- *What gifts have you received that bring light to the world?*

The Christian journey calls us to be honest with ourselves about where we fall short of our godly image and encourages us to make improvements. With Christ as their guide, the saints did this. Sainthood is not an unattainable and foreign reality. Our calendar of saints is filled with individuals- pregnant teenagers, stubborn runaways, and doubting friends- who turned seemingly stressful and hopeless situations into chances for redemption, growth, and strength. We aspire to their holiness because they gave us very real examples of how to love and praise God even when circumstances made it hard. They saw God working and moving even when it did not outwardly appear as such.

- *Read Acts 17:24-31. Do you believe that God is "not far from each one of us"? Why or why not?*
- *What obstacles keep you from seeing God in "the world and everything in it"?*
- *How has the canonization of our Genocide martyrs encouraged you in your daily spiritual growth? Explain.*
- *What does the legacy of the Holy Martyrs mean to you? What legacy would you want to carry forward?*

In closing, recite the prayer of our Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide together: Christ our God, you crown your saints with triumph and you do the will of all who fear you, looking after your creatures with love and kindness. Hear us from your holy and heavenly realm by the intercession of the Holy Mother of God and by the prayers of all your saints, especially the holy martyrs who gave their lives for faith and for the homeland. Hear us Lord, and show us your mercy. Forgive, redeem and pardon our sins. Make us worthy thankfully to glorify you with the Father and with the Holy Spirit. Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern)
ACYOA General Assembly | May 2016

1 John 1:5-10 (NRSV)

⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷ but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Acts 17:24-31 (NRSV)

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him-though indeed

he is not far from each one of us.²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'²⁹ Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image fanned by the art and imagination of mortals.³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Attachment I
AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT
2015 ACYOA CENTRAL COUNCIL

The Auditing Committee has completed an audit of the ACYOA Central Council's revenue and expenses for the period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. This audit serves to verify that the financial position of the ACYOA Central Council accurately reflects the 2015 budget. In addition, the Committee reconciled banking activity for the same period.

With respect to the 2015 financial report, the Committee first addressed budgeted versus actual income and expenditures.

Income line item #1004 "Donations" prompted a question as to the high amount as compared to 2014. The Treasurer responded that \$15,000 was granted by the Dadourian Foundation and \$1,070.75 was the total donations made to the ACYOA PayPal account.

Income line item #1008 "Sports Weekend returned seed money": The Treasurer confirmed that the 2015 Detroit Sports Weekend committee did not request seed money, thereby creating a \$0-line item for the 2015 year.

Income line item #1010 "Other Income" prompted an inquiry as to the source of the income. It was listed as a closing balance of \$217.98 from a Merrill Lynch bank account. The Treasurer confirmed that this was an old account and the closing balance was placed into the ACYOA Bank of America account.

Expense line item #2003 "Leadership Conference" was noted to be \$1,283.13 over budget. The Treasurer explained that the Central Council made a decision to host Leadership Conference in the Midwest for the 2015 year after the budget had been passed. She noted although the previous facility in NY was less expensive, the Central Council felt it was time to host at a new facility which cost more, but ultimately was a better environment for the participants.

Expense line item #2016 "General Assembly" was noted to be \$1,651.34 over budget. The Treasurer confirmed that this was due to high cost of travel, as all seven Central Council members required flights this year.

The Committee next reviewed the 2015 expenses by reconciling the transactions for the year. It was determined that according to the bank statements provided, all financial activity was conducted with accepted accounting procedures.

The Committee appreciates that the Central Council considered the recommendations of the 2014 Auditing Committee. We also thank the Treasurer for providing bank e- statements. This was extremely helpful in our review and reconciliation 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 amounts were budgeted for future years.
 - a. Income #1009: Interest Income (Budget \$0.00, Actual \$0.00)
 - b. Expense #2008: Standing Committees (Budget \$400.00, Actual \$0.00)
 - c. Expense #2009: Chapter Assistance Program (Budget \$1,000.00, Actual \$0.00)
 - d. Expense #2018: Copies and Supplies (Budget \$100.00, Actual \$0.00)
 - e. Expense #2023: Essay Contest (Budget \$500.00, Actual \$0.00)
 - f. Expense #2025: Nancy Basmajian Scholarship Fund (Budget \$1,000.00, Actual \$0.00)
2. It is noted that income line item #1009 “Other Income” has had a \$0.00 value since at least 2010. The committee suggests removing the line item from future budgets.

The Auditing Committee would like to thank the Central Council, specifically Treasurer Mallory Maslar, for her kind attention in answering our questions and support during the auditing process. We conclude that the combined financial records for the 2015 ACYOA Central Council are a fair representation in accordance with generally acceptable accounting procedures.

Respectfully submitted,
 Adrienne Ashbahian
 Aleen Kaltakdjian
 Shant Paklaian

Attachment J

ACYOA 2015 FINANCIALS
 BGT

REMAINING

(31,150.00)
 2,978.65
 8,062.45
 11,070.75 (5,840.00) (4,399.50)
 2,527.20 (1,500.00)
 0.00 (782.02) (510.00)
 0.00

%

-69.22%

24.82%
62.02%
221.42%
-97.33%
-62.85%
0.00%
-100.00%
0.00%
-78.20%
-17.00%
0.00%

(19,542.47)
-20.04%

PY VAR.

%
(23,139.00)
1,083.27
7,841.38

12,620.75 (6,022.12) (1,049.50) (10,756.02) (1,500.00)

0.00 (3,282.02)

955.00
4,000.00
-62.56%
7.80%
59.31%
365.82%
-97.41%
-28.75%
-80.97%
-100.00%
0.00%
-93.77%
62.21%
0.00%

(23,248.26)
-23.92%

LINE

INCOME

2015 ACTUAL

2015 BUDGET

FY 2014 ACT

1001
1002
1003
1004
1005
1006
1007
1008
1009

1010			
1011			
1012			
Armenia Service Program (ASP)			
ACEF Interest Beginning Balance Donations Fundraising			
Religious/Educational Programs			
Sports Weekend Profit			
Sports Weekend Returned seed money			
Interest Income Other Income Dues			
Parish Assessment			
13,850.00			
14,978.65			
21,062.45			
16,070.75			
		160.00	
		2,600.50	
		2,527.20	
			0.00
			0.00
		217.98	
		2,490.00	
		4,000.00	
45,000.00			
12,000.00			
13,000.00			
5,000.00			
6,000.00			
7,000.00			
			0.00
1,500.00			
			0.00
1,000.00			
3,000.00			
4,000.00			
36,989.00			
13,895.38			
13,221.07			
3,450.00			
6,182.12			
3,650.00			
13,283.22			
1,500.00			
			0.00
3,500.00			
1,535.00			
			0.00
1000			
TOTAL INCOME			
77,957.53			
97,500.00			
97,205.79			

LINE

EXPENSES

2015 ACTUAL

2015 BUDGET

FY 2014 ACT

2001
 2002
 2003
 2004
 2005
 2006
 2008
 2009
 2010
 2011
 2012
 2013
 2014
 2015
 2016
 2017
 2018
 2019
 2022
 2023
 2024
 2025

ASP - Present Year

ASP - Upcoming Year Leadership Conference Central Council Meetings Chapter Visits/Contacts

Religious/Educational Programs

Standing Committees Chapter Assistance Program Conference Calls

Fundraising Initiatives

Scholarships (ASP)

Sumr Prog Scholarships

Sports Weekend Seed Money

Diocesan Assembly General Assembly Postage

Copies and Supplies

Website

Jerusalem Patriarchate Essay Contest Miscellaneous

Nancy Basmajian Scholarship Fund

16,776.94
 0.00
 8,989.93
 12,206.66
 2,669.45
 7,363.98
 0.00
 0.00
 0.00
 109.22
 0.00
 1,500.00
 0.00
 826.53
 3,651.34
 29.40
 0.00
 1,548.00
 1,000.00
 0.00
 62.66
 0.00

45,000.00

3,500.00

8,000.00

12,000.00

3,000.00

7,000.00

	400.00	
	1,000.00	
		0.00
	1,500.00	
	1,000.00	
	1,500.00	
	1,500.00	
	2,500.00	
	2,000.00	
50.00		
	100.00	
	4,500.00	
	1,000.00	
	500.00	
	450.00	
	1,000.00	
		39,964.00
		0.00
		6,369.20
		6,568.55
		1,198.97
		7,029.51
		0.00
		0.00
		0.00
		6,036.14
		500.00
		0.00
		0.00
		1,694.75
		2,043.80
		0.00
		0.00
		1,548.00
		1,000.00
		0.00
		950.00
		0.00
2000		
TOTAL EXPENSES		
56,734.11		
97,500.00		
74,902.92		

BGT

REMAINING

	%
28,223.06	
3,500.00 (989.93) (206.66)	
	330.55
	(363.98)
	400.00
	1,000.00
	0.00
	1,390.78
	1,000.00
	0.00
	1,500.00
	1,673.47 (1,651.34)
	20.60
	100.00
	2,952.00

	0.00
	500.00
	387.34
	1,000.00
62.72%	
	100.00%
	-12.37%
	-1.72%
11.02%	
	-5.20%
	100.00%
	100.00%
	0.00%
92.72%	
	100.00%
	0.00%
	100.00%
66.94%	
	-82.57%
41.20%	
	100.00%
65.60%	
	0.00%
	100.00%
86.08%	
	100.00%
40,765.89	
41.81%	

PY VAR.

	%	
		23,187.06
		0.00 (2,620.73) (5,638.11) (1,470.48) (334.47)
	0.00	
	0.00	
	0.00	
		5,926.92
500.00 (1,500.00)	0.00	
		868.22 (1,607.54) (29.40)
	0.00	
	0.00	
	0.00	
	0.00	
	887.34	
	0.00	
	58.02%	
	0.00%	
	-41.15%	
	-85.83%	
	-122.65%	
	-4.76%	
	0.00%	
	0.00%	
	0.00%	
	98.19%	
	100.00%	
	0.00%	
	0.00%	
	51.23%	
	-78.65%	

18,168.81
24.26%

0.00%
0.00%
0.00%
0.00%
0.00%
93.40%
0.00%

Attachment K

Attachment L ACYOA Award Recipients

ACYOA Juniors Awards (Watertown, MA, May 2016):

The Abp. Tiran Nersoyan Service Award:

Talin Bedonian, St. Gregory the Enlightener Church, White Plains, NY

The Abp. Tiran Nersoyan Leadership Award:

Danielle Jae, St. Mary Armenian Church, Livingston, NJ

The Abp. Tiran Nersoyan Vision Award:

Tanner Asadourian, Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY

ACYOA Juniors Chapter "A" Award:

St. Mary Armenian Church, Livingston, NJ

ACYOA Seniors Awards (Cambridge, MA, May 2016):

The Gregory Arpajian Leadership Award:

Ronald Malconian, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA

The Sam Nersesian Award:

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

ACYOA Seniors Chapter “A” Award:

St. Hagop Armenian Church, Pinellas Park, FL

The V. Rev. Fr. Haigazoun Malkonian Award:

Rev. Fr. Tateos Abdalian, Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern)

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

Garen Karamyan, Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY

**Attachment M
2016 Election Results**

Chairman of the Assembly (elect 1)

- Arthur Sabounjian, Holy Translators, Framingham, MA
- *Greg Torosian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA**
- **Caiti Zeytoonian, St. James, Watertown, MA**

Nominating Committee (elect 3)

- Armen Bijimenian, Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY
- **Sona Dagley, St. John’s, Southfield, MI**
- Lilit DerKevorkian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA*
- Ani Hollisian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA
- Linda Kalfayan, St. John’s, Southfield, MI
- Sarah Kalfayan, Holy Resurrection, New Britain, CT
- **Melissa Mardoian, Sts. Joachim & Anne, Palos Heights, IL**
- Tania Melkonian, St. James, Watertown, MA
- Anahit Movsesyan, St. John’s, Southfield, MI
- **Peter Ounjian, St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ**

Auditing Committee (elect 3)

- Lilit DerKevorkian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA
- Ani Hollisian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA
- **Ronnie Malconian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA**
- ~~Anahit Movsesyan, St. John’s, Southfield, MI~~
- **Alex Shafiyev, Armenian Church of Jacksonville, FL**
- Tania Melkonian, St. James, Watertown, MA
- **Aleen Kaltakdjian, Armenian Church of San Antonio, TX**
- Brian Sarafyan, Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY*

Central Council (elect 3)

- Vicken Asadourian, St. Kevork, Houston, TX
- Mary Keutelian, St. John the Baptist, Greenfield, WI
- Noelle Hagopian, St. James, Watertown, MA

- **Danielle Malconian, Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA**
- **Arsen Yelegen, St. Gregory, White Plains, NY**
- Arthur Sabounjian, Holy Translators, Framingham, MA*
- **Nora Knadjian, St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL**

Please note:

Italics indicate incumbent

Bold indicates elected.

* indicates alternate

Attachment N

Report of the 2016 Resolutions and Courtesies Committee

REPORT OF THE 2016 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 2016 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 and continue to inspire us in our journey of faith. We pledge our continued love and support to His Holiness and the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

2. Whereas His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, our beloved Primate, has presided over the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly, and has provided immeasurable support for the 2016 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 2016 ACYOA General Assembly expresses its gratitude and appreciation for his love, patience, knowledge, insight, and guidance, thanks him for his inspirational and moving message which was delivered at Morning Service during the Assembly.

3. Be it resolved that the 2016 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

4. Whereas this year marked the 101st 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 2016 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 2016 General Assembly continue to pledge to “Live the Gospel of Christ” and honor the “Legacy of the Martyrs”.

5. Whereas we celebrate the life and ministry of His Eminence Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian who passed away on March 18. His legacy as a spiritual father and an example of Armenian Christian holiness will carry on in the Armenian Church forever. The 2016 General Assembly will continue to remember his love, compassion and his dedication to make sure that the youth will continue to live their lives as an exemplary model as Christian Armenians.

6. Whereas we celebrate the life Rev. Fr Arten Ashjian, a long time priest of the Diocese of the Armenian Church and dedicated pastor of several of our parishes whose intellect and passion to instill his knowledge in others. The 2016 General Assembly honors and will continue to remember his faith and dedication.

7. Whereas we recognize modern day genocide taking place around the world, we as Armenians who know the pain and suffering of genocide stand with our brothers and sisters of the world who similarly face injustices of crimes against humanity.

8. Whereas we continue to show compassion to the people of Iraq and Syria and recognize that the suffering of refugees from the Middle East is pervasive and real. In addition, we hope that Syrian-Armenians continue to live their lives in the communities into which they have settled into.

9. Whereas two seminarians who graduated on May 20th from St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, Dn. Narek Garabedian and Edgar Gevorgyan. Be it resolved that the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly congratulate them in their accomplishments and pray for their growth in serving the church.

10. Whereas May 28 marks the 87th anniversary of Armenia first being proclaimed an independent republic, and whereas on September 21, the Republic of Armenia will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its renewed independence, be it resolved that the 2016 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 2016 ACYOA General Assembly extends heartfelt prayers to our brothers and sisters in Nagorno-Karabagh, including Primate of Nagorno-Karabagh Archbishop Barkev Martirosyan, and President of Nagorno-Karabagh, Bako Sahakyan, and all others in the world defending their basic human rights and right to self-determination and whereas we promote peace to the region and people of Nagorno-Kharabagh.

12. Be it resolved that the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly extends sincere appreciation to the ACYOA Seniors of Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA,

including its pastor Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, Yn. Arpi Kouzouian, its youth director and Co-Chairmen Danielle Malconian and Ronald Malconian and the 2016 General Assembly and Sports Weekend Committee and advisors, for hosting the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly and Sports Weekend.

13. Be it resolved that the 2016 General Assembly expresses its appreciation to the historic city of Boston for its hospitality and support of the Armenian Heritage Park located on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway in the heart of the city.

14. Whereas we give gratitude to Houry Gebeshian for sharing her story with us and demonstrating that passion, perseverance and having a positive attitude can help us accomplish our dreams. We wish her the best of luck in representing the Republic of Armenia in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

15. Whereas our Lord speaks through the words of St. John the Evangelist that all Christians, “may become completely one,” be it resolved that the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly pray for unity of all Churches following the mission established by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (John 17:23)

16. Whereas there were 19 clergymen present at this year’s Assembly including His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian: Rev Fr. Tateos Abdalian, Rev Fr. Arakel Aljalian, Rev Fr. Mardiros Chevian, Rev Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, Rev Fr. Sevak Gabrielyan, Rev Fr. Vart Gyzolyan, V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, Rev. Fr. Nersess Jebejian, Rev. Fr. Khachatur Kesablyan, Rev. Fr. Mampre Kouzouian, Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, Rev Fr. Kapriel Mouradjian, V. Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian, Rev Fr. Krikor Sabounjian, Rev Fr. Shnork Souin, Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian, Dn. Diran Jebejian, Dn. Saro Kalayjian and Dn. Michael Sabounjian. 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 2016 ACYOA General Assembly delegates and the Central Council express their sincere gratitude to the clergy of the Armenian Church and the Diocesan Council members.

17. Whereas the Diocesan Council made a concerted effort to be present and vocal in this year’s 2016 General Assembly. We express gratitude for their leadership, support, and insight.

18. Whereas this is the 27th 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 70 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 2016 ACYOA General Assembly prays for the soul of Tiran Srpazan and expresses its gratitude for his legacy.

19. Whereas the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries serves as advisor to the ACYOA Central Council, be it resolved that the Central Council and the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly extends its sincere appreciation to Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries Jennifer Morris, Coordinator, Lorie Odabashian and Associate Kathryn Ashbahian for their hard work and dedication towards the youth of the Armenian Church.

20. Whereas new ACYOA Chapters in Nashville and Jacksonville and reactivated chapters in Hye Point, Cleveland, Houston and Providence continue to be formed in our Diocese, be it resolved that the 2016 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.

21. Be it resolved that the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly offers sincere appreciation to out-going Central Council members Ani Grigorian, Jonathan Pelaez, and Sarine Atamian as well as remaining Central Council members, Chelsea Kress, Mallory Maslar, Lauren Piligian, 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 Danielle Malconian, Nora Knadjian, Arsen Yelegen and alternate, Arthur Sabounjian

22. Be it resolved that the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly thanks the Central Council, and all the delegates and participants for attending and making this Assembly a positive, productive and enlightening experience, and for their service in their respective parishes through the year.

23. Be it resolved that the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly extends its deepest gratitude to the 2016 ACYOA General Assembly Madame Chairman, Caiti Zeytounian, Vice-Chairman, Greg Torossian, General Assembly Secretaries, Mary Keutelian and Adrienne Ashbahian, Sergeants-at-Arms, Aaron Derderian and Ronald Malconian, Parliamentarians Fr. Tateos Abdalian and Harry Kezelian, as well as the Nominating and Auditing committees, for making this 2016 ACYOA General Assembly a true success.

Respectfully Submitted,
2016 ACYOA General Assembly Resolutions and Courtesies Committee

Rev. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian
Peter Oundjian