



Alumni of the Month  
February 2018  
**Doreen Nersesian**

*Central Council Chairperson Mallory Maslar interviews former ACYOA member, Doreen Nersesian about her involvement in the ACYOA, the impact it had on her life, and her current parish involvement.*

**Mallory Maslar: How did you first get involved in the ACYOA?**

**Doreen Nersesian:** It was just the natural thing to do. Kids in my parish were involved. It looked like it was fun so I got involved and it grew from there.

**MM: What impact has the ACYOA had on your life?**

**DN:** It has helped shape me for the role that I have in my church life today. From the way the ACYOA is structured and from what I learned while in ACYOA, I have been given the foundation, exposure, and understanding to be effective in what I do.

**MM: What are some of your favorite memories being involved in the ACYOA?**

**DN:** Some of my favorite memories are going to regional dances, Sports Weekends, and meeting people who have become life-long friends. These are friends I wouldn't have met otherwise.

**MM: What have been some of your influences in your Christian life?**

**DN:** My parents, family, church family, fellow ACYOA members, and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary have all played a part in my Christian life and have helped me to get to this point.

**MM: Are you still involved in your parish community?**

**DN:** Yes. I have served as Parish Council Chair, as well as in the Choir and Women's Guild.

**MM: Any advice for current and future ACYOA members?**

**DN:** First and foremost: enjoy the friendships that you make through ACYOA. They will be life-long friendships. Coupled with that, be mindful that the experience and exposure you gain through ACYOA will be something that you draw upon years from now as you grow into leadership roles within the Armenian Church. In its own subtle way, ACYOA is preparing you to be a leader of tomorrow. Finally, individuals you work with in ACYOA today will be many of the same individuals you will work with years from now at different levels within the Armenian Church. Having those established relationships will be beneficial in the years to come.