



74th ACYOA VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Saturday, May 22, 2021
10:00 AM - 2:30 PM (EDT) / 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM (CDT)

Welcome from ACYOA Central Council Chair

Opening Prayer, Requiem Service, and Primate's Message

First Assembly Session

The 74th ACYOA Virtual General Assembly of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America convened on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at **10:03 AM**.

The following Central Council members were present:

Sona Dagley, Chair
Nora Knadjian, Vice Chair
Nick Tashjian, Secretary
Rafael Grigoryan, Treasurer
Melissa Mardoian Fanizza, Ministries & Outreach
Alina Grigorian, Ministries & Outreach
Arsen Yelegen, Public Relations

Also present:

Bishop Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Primate
Jennifer Morris & Kathryn Ashbahian, DYYAM
Clergy
Members of Diocesan Council

Roll Call-Confirmation of Quorum via Zoom Poll

10:40 AM

Nick Tashjian (Central Council) took roll call.

Housekeeping

Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) introduced himself as the 2019 Chair of the Day and presented housekeeping notes, an introduction of Robert's Rules of Order and Zoom etiquette.

Election for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

10:48 AM

Rafael Grigoryan welcomed the nominating committee to speak and present the nominees for Chair and Vice Chair of the Day. Ani Misirliyan (Nominating Committee) mentioned Mary Keutelian offered to be Chair of the Day. Ani Misirliyan (Nominating Committee) asked if

anyone from the floor had a nomination for the second slot on the ballot. Ani described that whoever has the most votes would be elected Chair of the Day and whoever has the second most votes would be the Vice Chair of the Day.

Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) nominated Alisha Panthier (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL), Nick Tashjian (Central Council) seconded the nomination and Alisha accepted.

Nick Tashjian (Central Council) motioned to close nominations, Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Rafael Grigoryan (Chair of the Day) appointed Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) and Kathryn Ashbahian (DYYAM) to be Sergeant of Arms during this election.

Nick Tashjian took the roll call. Thirty-five (35) delegates present to vote. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) stated that delegates can now vote for the Chair of the Day via Zoom Poll. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) clarified that you can only vote for one person via Zoom Poll for the Chair of the Day and the second person on the ballot will be the Vice Chair of the Day.

Election results: Mary Keutelian as Chair of the Day and Alisha Panthier as Vice Chair of the Day.

Adopting of Agenda

10:56 am

Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) made a motion to adopt the agenda. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) noted that 75th Anniversary Members will join the meeting at 12PM (EDT) and suggested we amend the agenda. Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) made a motion to amend the agenda to reflect the time change. Nick Tashjian (Central Council) seconded the motion. The new agenda was approved.

Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) presented Aline Tashjian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ) as the Secretary of the Day and that she would be writing the Meeting Minutes. Nick Tashjian (Central Council) made a motion to accept and Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) seconded. The Secretary was approved.

Nick Tashjian made a motion to accept the 2019 ACYOA General Assembly Minutes. Rafael Grigoryan seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Election for Central Council

11:00 AM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) presented the Slate of Candidates for the Central Council. Zaven Dadian (St. John Church, Southfield, MI) was nominated by Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) and the motion was seconded by Nick Tashjian (Central Council). Zaven declined. Melissa nominated Christine Beylerian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ). Andrew Yenciag (Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY) seconded the motion to nominate Christine. Christine Beylerian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ) accepted. Nick Tashjian (Central Council) made a motion to close the nominations. Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) seconded the motion. Nominations closed.

Election for Nominating Committee

Ani Misirliyan (St. John, Southfield, MI) presented the ballot for the nominating committee. Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) made the motion to close the nominations. Alina Grigorian (Central Council) seconded the motion. Nominations closed.

Election for Auditing Committee

Ani Misirliyan (St. John, Southfield, MI) presented the ballot for the auditing committee. Nick Tashjian (Central Council) nominated Oscar Derderian and he respectfully declined. Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian (St. Peter, Watervliet, NY) nominated Thomas Nevins (St. Peter, Watervliet, NY), and he accepted. Christine Beylerian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ) made the motion to close the election. Anais Astarjian (St. James, Watertown, MA) made a motion to add Tania Melkonian (St. James, Watertown, MA) to the auditing committee. Nick Tashjian seconded the motion. Christine Beylerian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ) made the motion to close the nominations. Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) seconded the motion. Nominations closed.

11:08 AM - The Central Council nominees made short speeches as to why they should be elected.

11:12 AM - Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) informed attendees of the voting platform, Election Buddy along with the voting rules and instructions. Nick Tashjian (Central Council), Arsen Yelegen (Central Council), Nora Knadjian (Central Council), Melissa Mardoian (Central Council), and Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian (St. Peter, Watervliet, NY) will be the only ones who can review the votes.

11:15 AM - Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) mentioned that there are now 34 delegates as one of the members had to leave the Zoom meeting for the day.

11:16 AM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) invited Nora Knadjian (Central Council) to discuss the Report of the 2020 ACYOA Central Council. She invited attendees to ask questions if anyone had any questions. There were no questions.

11:17 AM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) invited Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) to present the Report of the 2020 Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) invited any questions. There were no questions.

11:21 AM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) invited Fr. Avedis Kalayjian (St. Mesrob, Racine, WI) to present the Report of the 2019 General Assembly & Sports Weekend Committee. Fr. Avedis presented the Report and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

11:28 AM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) mentioned that we will move on to Item 13 - 2020 Highlights and Reflections of ACYOA Chapters. Alina Grigorian (Central Council) invited Ani Misirliyan (St. John, Southfield, MI) to present the chapter's highlights and reflections. Once Ani Misirliyan concluded, Alina Grigorian (Central Council) invited Sarah Tavitian (Armenian Church of Hye Pointe, Haverhill, MA) to present the chapter's highlights and

reflections. Once Sarah Tavitian concluded, Alina Grigorian (Central Council) invited Andrew Yenciag (Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY) to present the chapter's highlights and reflections. Alina Grigorian (Central Council) invited any other meeting members to present highlights from their parish. Lucine Sabounjian (Holy Resurrection, New Britain, CT) presented the pchapter's highlights and reflections. Alina Grigorian (Central Council) invited Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) to present the 2021 Virtual Armenia Service Program (ASP) 2021 information and schedule, and encouraged delegates to participate and share the information. Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) invited Nick Tashjian (Central Council) to discuss the interactive Armenian Wine Tasting evening. The registration link for the event was sent in the Zoom meeting chat.

11:33 AM - Melissa Mardoian messaged attendees in the Zoom meeting saying she had directed Election Buddy to send out the link to all registered voters via email. She mentioned that if meeting members are a voting delegate then they would receive an email titled "Vote now: ACYOA SENIORS" which contained the link to the ballot. She mentioned that voting would be open at that moment, and would close in 5 minutes. She mentioned to check your "unimportant," "all email," or "spam" inbox if you don't see it pop up. If we did not see the link in 2 minutes, members were instructed to private message Melissa.

11:45 AM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) mentioned that we still have 15 minutes before the 75th Anniversary Members join the meeting so we will continue on with the agenda. Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) invited Zaven Dadian (St. John Church, Southfield, MI) to present the Report of the 2019 and 2020 Auditing Committee. Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) asked if there are any questions for the Auditing Committee. Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) asked if we would like to accept the report by the auditing committee. Christine Beylerian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ) made a motion to accept the report of the 2019 and 2020 Auditing Committee. Thomas Nevins (St. Peter, Watervliet, NY) seconded the motion. The report was accepted.

11:51 AM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) invited Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) to present the 2019 and 2020 Financial Report. Fr. Aren (St. John, Southfield, MI) asked a question regarding the 2019 ACYOA Sports Weekend profit. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian interjected and provided more information. Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) thanked them for their comments and asked if there are any more questions or comments. Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) asked if anyone wants to make a motion to accept the report. Christine Beylerian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ) made a motion to accept the report. Sona Dagley (Central Council) seconded the motion. The report was accepted.

12:03 PM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) invited Kim Bardakian and Shake' Derderian to present an update on the 75+1 ACYOA Anniversary Planning Committee. The event will be held from September 16-18, 2022 in Northern New Jersey. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) asked what participants can do to help the event. Kim Bardakian asked people to follow @ACYOA75 on Instagram. Fr. Andreas Garabedian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL) asked if the Canadian Diocese or Western Diocese would be invited to participate. Kim and Shake' said yes. A member in the chat asked if a representative from Canada can be appointed to the committee. The answer was yes. Andrew Yenciag (Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY) asked if pictures from ACYOA Juniors events can be included and the answer was yes.

12:13 PM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) invited Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) to present the election results. Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) noted that for the Central Council, two (2) people have been elected and that we need one (1) more to be elected. Melissa recommended one (1) be taken off the ballot. Melissa recommended removing the lowest vote receiver. Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) made a motion to remove the lowest vote receiver because of the large spread of votes. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian (retired clergy) seconded the motion. This was approved.

Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) noted that for the Nominating committee, two (2) people have been elected and we needed one (1) more to be elected. Melissa recommended that no one is taken off the ballot. Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) asked if anyone would like to make a motion to accept this recommendation. Fr Aren Jebejian (St. John Church, Southfield, MI) made a motion to accept the recommendation. Fr. Andreas Garabedian (St. Gregory, Chicago, IL) seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) noted that for the Auditing committee, no one was elected. Melissa recommended two (2) nominees be taken off because of one (1) vote split. Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) asked if anyone would like to make a motion to accept this recommendation. Sona Dagley (Central Council) made a motion to accept. Aline Tashjian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ) seconded the motion. The recommendation was accepted. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) recommended that we do a roll call and then elections, and that while the elections are tabulated, we take a break.

12:20 PM - Nick Tashjian (Central Council) began a roll call. The roll call ended. Thirty three (33) were present and voting. Eighteen (17) votes or more are needed for a majority.

12:24 PM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) mentioned that we can now take a break until 1:00 PM (EDT) and we will receive an email to vote during the break.

Break: 12:30 - 1:00 PM (EDT) / 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CDT)

1:01 PM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) invited Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) to present the Proposed 2021 Budget and Proposed 2022 Budget. Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) asked if anyone had questions on the Proposed 2021 Budget. Lucine Sabounjian (Holy Resurrection, New Britain, CT) asked about the 2021 Fall Virtual Retreat. Roseann Manoogian Attar (Diocesan Council, St. John Church, Southfield, MI) asked what monies were spent for the summer program/scholarships. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) said that these monies will go to the virtual programs for the summer camp and summer conferences. Fr. Andreas Garabedian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL) asked if there will be any income from the 2021 Virtual ASP. Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) said that there are no anticipated expenses or income since it is a free virtual program. Lucine Sabounjian (Holy Resurrection, New Britain, CT) asked why there is a Sports Weekend Returned Seed Money on the budget. Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) said that this is for parishes who need starter funds to put a deposit down for Sports Weekend, and these monies are usually returned to the Central Council. Tania Melkonian (St. James, Watertown, MA) had a question about the website line item. Rafael Grigoryan (Central

Council) said that this line item includes expenses such as Constant Contact, etc. It is used as extra cushion money in case we have a bump in virtual events/outreach, a shift in how we do email blasts, etc. Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) presented the 2022 Proposed Budget. Anais Astarjian (St. James, Watertown, MA) asked if we can allocate more money towards the Jerusalem Patriarchate. Fr. Aren (St. John, Southfield, MI) responded and said that we need to be activists for those part of the Jerusalem Patriarchate and need to visit the site. He noted that doing these items are more important and valuable than the ACYOA giving a dollar amount. Lucine Sabounjian (Holy Resurrection, New Britain, CT) asked what the funds to the Diocesan Assembly are used for.. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) responded and said that it covers any expenses that are incurred as a result of Central Council members attending the Assembly such as travel and lodging. Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) asked if there is a motion to accept the Proposed 2021 Budget and Proposed 2022 Budget. Nick Tashjian (Central Council) made a motion to accept the budget, and Fr. Andreas Garabedian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago, IL) seconded the motion. The budgets were approved.

1:20 PM - Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) announced that the Auditing committee vote is complete. She also announced that we did not come to a one (1) person vote for the Nominating committee. Melissa recommended moving to a plurality winner for the Nominating committee. Fr. Avedis Kalayjian recommended against it. Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) recommended removing the lowest vote received. Fr. Aren Jebejian (St. John, Southfield, MI) made a motion to accept, and Rafael Grigoryan (Central Council) seconded. Melissa's recommendation was approved. Melissa noted that we had to run the vote again for Central Council. Fr. Aren (St. John, Southfield, MI) wanted to make a point of clarification that there will be another roll call to confirm the numbers. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) responded and said we did not need to do another roll call because of how many people are in the Zoom room. Nick Tashjian (Central Council) mentioned that this is not true because some of the people in the Zoom room are not present to vote. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) agreed to proceed with the roll call.

1:29 PM - Nick Tashjian (Central Council) took roll call. Nine (9) are not present and thirty (30) are present and voting. We need sixteen (16) votes. The observers of the General Assembly were moved into a waiting room to make the process easier since we would be using a Zoom poll for voting.

1:34 PM - Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) launched the Zoom Poll for the Nominating Committee vote. Voting closed. Jennifer Morris (DYYAM) launched the Zoom Poll for the Central Council vote. Voting closed.

1:37 PM - Observers were allowed back in the main Zoom room.

Conclusion of Elections

1:38 PM - Melissa Mardoian (Central Council) presented the election results.

Elected onto the Auditing Committee: Zaven Dadian (St. John Church, Southfield, MI), Stephen Hollisian (Holy Trinity, Cambridge, MA), Donny Rask (St. John the Baptist, Greenfield, WI) and alternate is Tania Melkonian (St. James, Watertown, MA).

Elected onto the Nominating Committee: Alex Dayinian (St. George, Waukegan, IL), Natalie Mardoian (Sts. Joachim and Anne, Palos Heights, IL), Madeline Ovassapian (Sts. Joachim and Anne, Palos Heights, IL), and alternate is Derik Boghosian (Holy Trinity, Cheltenham, PA).

Elected onto the Central Council: Christine Beylerian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ), Ani Misirliyan (St. John Church, Southfield, MI), Andrew Yenciag (Holy Martyrs, Bayside, NY), and alternate is Kareen Kaltakdjian (St. Garabed, Baton Rouge, LA).

1:40 PM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) invited Nora Knadjian to present the ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2022 Update. A video was played to present the progress report as Rita Katanjian was not present. Fr. Aren (St. John, Southfield, MI) asked what Rita meant when she said the committee is “waiting”. Nora Knadjian (Central Council) and Vatche Kaftajian (St. Sarkis, Dallas, TX) clarified that this was meant to refer to COVID restrictions, etc. and that the committee is indeed ready to move forward with planning. Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) said that we can move to the next agenda item.

1:54 PM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) asked if any chapters are prepared to make a bid to host the ACYOA General Assembly & Sports Weekend 2023. There were no bids. It was noted that the Central Council would be open to receiving bids between now and the next General Assembly.

1:54 PM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) said that Christine Beylerian (St. Leon, Fair Lawn, NJ) and Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian (St. Peter, Watervliet, NY) are working on the Report of the Resolutions and Courtesies Committee, and this will be emailed out as a Google Doc to give delegates an opportunity to provide feedback, and then the final version would be emailed out with the Meeting Minutes.

1:55 PM - Mary Keutelian (Chair of the Day) invited Fr. Simeon Odabashian, Diocesan Vicar to provide closing words and the Benediction.

Fr. Simeon Odabashian gave the closing remarks and prayer. He shared his love for and belief in the ACYOA, and reminded us that tomorrow, Sunday, May 23, is the Feast of Pentecost and the birthday of the Church.

Meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM (EDT)

Note: See Google Folder for Resolutions and Courtesies Report and all Attachments