

ACYOA Central Council Abridged Minutes
Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 9:30 AM ET
St. John Armenian Church, Southfield MI

Attendance: Ani Misirliyan (Chair), Jackie Russell (Vice Chair), Andrew Yenicag (Treasurer), Dn. Garen Megrdochian (Secretary), Mara Najarian (Communications), Alisha Panthier (Ministries and Outreach), Sarah Tavitian (Ministries and Outreach), Jennifer Morris (Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministries), & Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian (Pastor)

1. Opening Prayer led by Hayr Aren
2. Adoption of Agenda -Adopted
3. Acceptance of September Meeting Minutes -accepted
4. Communications (Mara)
 - Mara thanked Andrew and Jenni for the job well done on the resources and videos for each session from the Fall Retreat.
 - Andrew asked about Mission Trip Registration.
 - a. Social Media, E-Blasts, and Website
5. Treasurer (Andrew)
 - a. Financial Report
 - Andrew talked through the financial report from this years Fall Retreat
 - Alisha asked a question about the expense of supplies and snacks.
 - Bishop Mesrop/Der Hratch want to do a national fall retreat 6 months apart. Jenni explained that in order to do so we would need an additional \$25,000.
 - Andrew asked if it would be okay to reimburse the council for the February meeting in the 2024 fiscal year.
 - b. Look at the budget for ACYO Global
 - Ani and Jackie met with Der Hratch, Der Hakob, and Jenni to discuss how to proceed with the ACYO Global Forum.
 - Ani gave a breakdown from the meeting and updated council on how we will be proceeding. CC will promote this event and try to find 30 young adults to attend. Ani will begin working on a proposal.
 - Andrew asked if they have a website for resources and information about the program.
6. Ministries and Outreach (Sarah and Alisha)
 - Alisha thanked CC for their help and also mentioned that participants enjoyed their time.
 - Sarah mentioned that the retreat was outstanding.
 - Sarah mentioned that the clergy did an outstanding job for their time speaking with participants and having an optional clergy chat.
 - The overall feedback was positive; however, icebreakers could be run better in future years.
 - a. National Fall Retreat -Feedback Forms
 - b. Christmas Gift Card Exchange (Jackie)
 - Jackie mentioned that 16 people signed up and mentioned to keep promoting it.
 - c. Virtual Ministries:
 - Yn. Lucine and Mardig are recording the next podcast with Der Harootiun and Der Nigoghos next week. They are planning another podcast for January as well.
 - i. Podcast Update

- ii. Lenten Monday Night Prayers
 - Sarah mentioned if this topic can be on the podcast by using a Lenten Prayer Rule.
 - The CC decided that they would record themselves reading the Prayer Rule and Andrew would upload it in podcast form.
 - Jackie offered to assign each CC member their reading portion before the zoom.
 - The Lenten Prayer recording will take place on January 22nd at 7pm via Zoom.
 - d. Mission Trip (Jenni)
 - Jenni mentioned there are 12 participants registered.
 - Jenni talked and asked Der Mardiros if there were any seminarians that could attend the Mission Trip and they have two that they will be participating in.
 - Sarah asked Jenni when the deadline would be.
 - It was decided that Jenni would send acceptance emails by December 20th.
 - e. Chapter Connections (Ani)
 - Ani emailed all the parish leaders to see if any chapters were interested in having a CC member come to their parish to lead a chapter connection.
 - There were three locations that were interested in having a CC member come in the spring, Ani will reach back out closer to to schedule.
 - f. Lenten Daylong Retreats (Ani)
 - i. Lenten Retreat Guidebook - Made in His Image
 - St. Leon in Fair Lawn would like to host Mid-Atlantic Lenten Regional Retreat
 - Watertown, Worcester and Haverhill could be the potential host for New England Lenten Regional Retreat.
 - Chicago and Evanston would be potential host for the Midwest Lenten Regional Retreat
 - Lenten Retreat would take place either on March 9th or 22nd.
 - Ani will reach out to the first choice locations by December 13th and get back to CC on the final locations.
 - g. Palm Sunday Planning (Ani)
 - Ani will email parish leadership in January to ask who is interested in having a CC member come to their parish for Palm Sunday/ACYOA Day.
 - h. Bishop's 5K (Jenni)
 - Jenni has nothing to report, Jenni will meet with Bishop Mesrop for availability, and also to look at locations by region.
 - i. 2025 ASP Seniors (Jenni)
 - Jenni received a quote from Shake at \$2245
 - Last year it was received at \$2145 and the trip was 3 days longer.
 - Jenni will reach back out to Shake and bring this up to hopefully lower costs.
 - The trip will be offered at \$2250 if the price can not be lowered, or potentially less if the price can be lowered.
 - Der Norayr will be the leader for ASP Juniors
7. Committee Updates
- a. 2024 GASW Committee Update (Alisha, Sarah, and Committee)
 - i. GASW committee will join us at lunch to review GASW updates.
 - Celene gave an update on all the venues and the contracts signed thus far.
 - Thursday Night will be a welcome and social event.

- Friday ACYOA General Assembly will be at church (Main Hall)
 - Friday Night Event will be at the Fifth Avenue
 - The hotel will be the Westin, which is a 3 minute drive to church
 - Saturday Night Event will be at Comerica Park and waiting on a contract to come in.
 - Sunday Night Banquet and ACYOA Alumni Cocktail Hour will be at church.
 - Andrew asked a question regarding the price of the athlete and non-athlete package.
 - The GASW registration platform to use is called Zeffy.
- b. Alumni Committee Update (Andrew and Garen)
- The info meeting will be at 8pm Eastern on Thursday December 12th
 - Overview of current ministries
 - Fundraising
 - ASP Juniors
 - Aspirations for the future
 - 80th Anniversary of ACYOA
 - 9-11 people will be on the committee
 - 2 year terms possibly; report to CC Quarterly about the activity.
 - Andrew and Garen need to make an agenda for the meeting and send it to Ani and Jenni when completed.
8. Review Goals
- Jackie read the Review Goals.
 - Andrew thinks the goals are really helpful to use for the future.
9. Review Liaison System and Updates (Jackie)
- a. Liaison communication and monthly timeline/reminders
- Feedback on liaison emails/How's everything at your parish?
 - Follow up with the pastor by phone call and see how everything is going with the parish.
- b. Inactive Chapters
- Jackie has no updates regarding Inactive Chapters.
10. New Business
- a. Hyeland Project
- Ani received an email from Sevan Chorluyan and had Jenni meet on zoom with him, he invited the ACYOA to participate and explained to Jenni what the event will entail.
 - A few central council members expressed interest in attending, we will reevaluate in the coming weeks. Bringing two CC Members.
 - March 7th-9th in Nashville, Tennessee
- b. ACYO Global Forum Update from Der Hratch
- Der Hratch updated the council that our goal for the ACYO Global Forum is to have 30 participants attend. He also stated the Dioceses would be covering most flight expenses.
 - The dates will be July 2nd-7th.
 - \$700 for the participant fee

- Der Hratch asked the Central Council to look at their budget to see if we could help financially.
- c. NextGen
 - NextGen is a new ministry where they do a 30 minute session at St. Vartan Cathedral monthly. This is to help connect young Armenians, and worship with the primate.
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 - d. ACYO-WD Meeting
 - The meeting will be on hold on a later date. Andrew will reach out about a meeting at the end of January.
 - e. ACYOA Junior-Interview Armenian Influencers for Ebalsts
 - Jenni updated the Council on a request from Grace Yacobe. She would like to contribute 1-2 Articles a month featuring Armenians during incredible things in our communities.
 - CC agreed to the initiative, Jenni will connect Mara and Grace to begin planning.
 - f. ACSA Basketball Collaboration (Mara & Andrew)
 - Andrew mentioned to cross promote sports competitions.
 - Mara mentioned conducting interviews with players.
11. Review Next Meeting Dates
- a. December 12th: ACYOA Alumni Meeting 8ET/7CT (Andrew, Garen, Ani)
 - b. December 21st: Ministries and Outreach Meeting 10ET/9CT (Alisha, Sarah, Jenni)
 - c. January 22nd: Lenten Prayer Recording 7ET/6CT
 - d. January: ACYO-WD Meeting
 - e. January 31 - February 2: CC meeting in Jacksonville, FL
 - f. February 20-23: ACYOA Mission Trip in Atlanta, GA
 - g. March 7th-9th: Armenian American Forum
 - h. March 8th/March 22nd: Lenten Retreats
 - i. April 13: Palm Sunday/ACYOA Day
 - j. April 25-27: CC Meeting
 - k. May 1-3: Diocesan Assembly
 - l. May 23-26: GASW
12. Closing Prayer