

2016 ACYOA Report

Despite less-than-active involvement in the ACYOA this year, there have been a couple of successful events. Rather than over-promising and under-delivering, the few events that we've had have exceeded expectations. This year's elections were in March. I was the only one that ran for any position, and there was not much interest in any of the positions other officer positions.

The biggest challenge early on was managing the bank account. I wanted to figure out who was on the account, and how to put myself on the account. I visited multiple Bank of America branches, some of which were more helpful than others. Months later, I figured out that the account was under the name of someone that has not been in charge of the account for a few years. Currently, the account is under my name, and Der Hayr has made the suggestion of keeping it in my name since I intend to run again next year.

Our three major events this year were the Palm Sunday luncheon, ACYOA Sports Day, and the Salvation Army Angel Tree. It has been tradition for the ACYOA to organize the luncheon for many years. Since it was only a couple weeks after our elections, I helped the Juniors with whatever they needed. They did a tremendous job setting the tables, making sure the hall was ready, and serving the food. That weekend, we hosted a member of the ACYOA Central Council, Daniel Zalinov, and he gave a speech about the ACYOA. I followed, and afterwards, we auctioned off a big choreg to raise funds.

Our second event, ACYOA Sports Day was hosted on May 28th at Ara and Sylva Dayian's house. We enjoyed a day at the pool, played dodgeball and basketball, and ate some delicious food. There was a great turnout of both Juniors and Seniors. Those who attended were required to bring new or lightly-used clothes so that we could donate them to the Christian Community Action (CCA), located in Lewisville. I collected all of the clothes at the event and took them all to the CCA together.

The last event was the most recent, and was another success. The Salvation Army has an event every year called the Angel Tree program, and it is a tradition for the ACYOA to participate. The program collects wish lists from children in need around the area, and they allow people to collect Christmas tags with the childrens' names on them. I collected 20 tags from Willow Bend Mall, and I took them to church the following Sunday. I was surprised to see that all of the tags were very quickly taken by people from the church, and I hope to participate in the program next year and collect even more tags.

Despite the lack of enthusiasm in the past few years, I hope to get the ACYOA active again. On January 20th, there is an ACYOA workshop being held in Houston that I am attending with Robert Samardjian. I have never attended a general workshop, and I hope to get some ideas there about how I can continue the growth of our chapter. We also have scheduled our first event of the year, an ACYOA kick-off event, on January 29th. The plan is to speak with everyone; I want to discuss the goals of the ACYOA and have a conversation with everyone about what they hope to gain from ACYOA, and any ideas they might have. I have spoken with Der Hayr about our ideas for the coming year, and I will try my best to strengthen the ACYOA. I hope that the Parish Council will fully support us.

Yours Truly,
Sevag Koulian