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WESTERN PRELACY
OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF AMERICA
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THE PRELATE ENCOURAGES THE YOUTH AT THE ACYA BOOTH OF THE H.M.E.M. NAVASARTIAN GAMES

The Armenian Church Youth Association of the Western Prelacy had a large presence at the Homenetmen Navasartian games during the long weekend of June 30 to July 4th. The Central Board of the ACYA took an active role in helping local chapters recruit new members for all Prelacy churches of the Western United States. Through the support and direction of His Eminence Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate, the ACYA made a great impact on this year's Navasartian games.

The mission of the Armenian Church Youth Association is to revitalize the spirit of Armenian youth in the Armenian Apostolic Church, with the intent to strengthen the Christian faith and resolve of young Armenians. The ACYA created biblical based education and networking opportunities within the Armenian Church, while highlighting aspects of Armenian culture, heritage, tradition, and history.

Through the dedication of the ACYA towards promoting church involvement, faith, service, mentoring, and networking, as well as debate and open forums, Armenian communities of the Western United States have welcomed and embraced this newly formed organization into their homes and families.

The booth at the Navasartian games recruited young adults from the ages of 18 to 30. Through the support of the ACYA Central Board of the Western Prelacy, the ACYA collected over three hundred new membership applications.

The five-day event proved that the remedy has been found for the lack of youth participation in the Armenian Apostolic Church. The ACYA has filled the prescription and is moving forward with large numbers, but most importantly with quality members.

On Sunday July 2nd, at 2:00 p.m., the Prelate made a special visit to the booth where he was greeted by Rev. Razmig Khatchadourian, ACYA Central Board Chair Greg Martayan, Holy Martyrs ACYA Chair Mardig Nalbandian, and Pasadena ACYA member Sahag Yedalian.

The Prelate greeted the members of the ACYA with warm wishes and blessings for continued success. He commended the work of the ACYA Central Board for their dedication and ability to recruit so many new members in such a short period of time. He also reaffirmed his support of the ACYA stating "you are the future of our Church, and through your positive actions today we will have a more promising tomorrow in the Armenian Apostolic Church and community.

The Prelate then met with several members of the ACYA where issues of faith and service arose. The visit of the Prelate concluded with the blessing of the Prelate. The members were left with rejuvenated energy to continue the day's work.

The Armenian Church Youth Association was created with the intent to preserve, protect, and educate the youth about the Armenian Church. The Central Board of the ACYA serves the entire Western region of the United States, and has tripled in membership since the beginning of the year.

The motto of the Armenian Church Youth Association is “To Know, To Love, and To Serve”. It is a statement that the members live and work by. If you or your family members are interested in being involved with the ACYA, please contact your local parish or the Western Prelacy.