

**AMERICAN
CARPATHO-
RUSSIAN
ORTHODOX YOUTH**



ACRY

MEMBERSHIP GUIDEBOOK



ACRY Guidebook - Version 1.0 (Created 1/12/12)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
INTRODUCTION	3
HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER	4
HOW TO START A CHAPTER	5
HOW TO REACTIVATE A CHAPTER , MEMBER OBLIGATIONS	6
NATIONAL OFFICERS	7
OFFICERS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	8-10
FUND DRIVES TO SUPPORT ACRY OUTREACH PROJECTS	11
EVENTS, FUND DRIVES AND DEADLINE DATES	11-13
HELPFUL WEBSITE LINKS TO FORMS, DOCUMENTS AND OTHER INFO	14



INTRODUCTION

What is the ACRY?

The National ACRY (American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Youth) is the national youth organization of the American Carpatho-Russian Diocese of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. It is divided into two separate organizations. [The Junior ACRY](#) (for ages 8 to 18) and the Senior ACRY (for ages 18 and older). Every parish in the diocese is encouraged to have an ACRY Chapter in their parish. Currently there are 25 active chapters throughout the diocese.

Our Mission:

The ACRY is an Orthodox Christian family fellowship dedicated to the purpose of encouraging spiritual growth through charitable and apostolic missionary works, prayer and fellowship for the Glory of God and the building up of the Church and our Diocese.

The ACRY seeks to enable its membership to experience the spiritual joy and fulfillment of participating in the work of Christ on a local, national and global levels through its many charitable outreach and philanthropic initiatives.

Administration:

With the Blessing of the Supreme Patron, the Ruling Diocesan Bishop, and the guidance of the National Spiritual Advisor, the work and activities of the National ACRY is overseen by the National Board. The National Board is a group of appointed and elected individuals who guide the course of ACRY with the input of its membership.

The national officers are eager to provide guidance and assistance to local Chapters. Don't be afraid to contact them with your questions, concerns, and ideas! See the membership information section of the national acry website (www.sracry.org) for the names and contact information of our current officers.



How to Become a Member

If you are interested in becoming a member of the ACRY, the first thing you should do is visit our National ACRY web-site (<http://www.sracry.org>).

There are 2 separate groups based on age:

- Those ages 18 and older will become members of the Senior ACRY.
- Those under the age of 18 will become members of the Junior ACRY. See the National Junior ACRY web-site (<http://www.jracry.org>) for more information on becoming a member of their organization.

People who are not of the Orthodox faith but a spouse of an ACRY member, may join the ACRY as an “Associate Member”. They submit the same dues to the local chapter for National (and local if applicable) and are considered a member in good standing just like a full fledged member. The only restriction for Associate Members is that they cannot hold office on the local or national level.

If your parish has an active ACRY chapter, contact the Chapter President or your parish priest (who is the Spiritual Advisor) to let them know you are interested in becoming a member. You will want to submit National Dues (and any Local Dues that they may have) and contact information to the Chapter Secretary who will forward the National Dues and contact information to the National ACRY. Find out the next meeting date so you can attend.

If your parish does not have an active ACRY chapter and you along with 2 or more people are interested in becoming a member, go to our section on “How to Form a Chapter” to form a local chapter in your parish!

If your parish does not have an active ACRY chapter and you are the only person in your parish that is interested in becoming a member, you can become a member of the National ACRY’s Chapter At Large. You should download a copy of the National ACRY Membership Form (on the Forms page of the National ACRY web-site <http://www.sracry.org>), complete it and submit it along with the National ACRY Dues to our National ACRY Financial Secretary (see the Officers page of the National ACRY web-site).



How to Form a Chapter

If there are 3 or more people within your local parish that are interested in forming a local ACRY chapter because one does not already exist:

- Visit our National ACRY web-site <http://www.sracry.org> to get some basic information on the ACRY.
- Contact the National ACRY President (see the Officers page of the National ACRY web-site in the membership information section for contact information) to express your interest. The President can provide you with a copy of our National By-Laws and any marketing materials to help orient people with the principles and ideals of the ACRY which are also posted in the Membership Information section of <http://www.sracry.org>
- Schedule an organizational meeting and have it announced in your parish bulletin and by your priest during announcements at the end of Liturgy.
- At the organizational meeting
 - Review the By-Laws and marketing materials with everyone interested to see that everyone is in agreement to carry out the principles and ideals of the ACRY
 - Elect officers of your new local chapter (a minimum of 3 – President, Secretary and Treasurer)
 - Make some initial plans for your first year
 - Collect National Dues from each member
 - Complete the Membership and Officer forms (see Forms page of the National ACRY web-site)
 - Submit forms, dues and a charter fee of \$10.00 to the National President
- Upon approval from the National ACRY, have your officers sworn in by your Spiritual Advisor (your local parish priest)
- The National ACRY will present or mail to you an official ACRY Charter



How to Reactivate a Chapter

If your local chapter has been inactive for 5 or more years, you need to have a reorganizational meeting with the people in your church interested in reactivating it along with your parish priest. At this reorganizational meeting you need to:

- Get consensus from the group present to reactivate and elect 3 or more officers (3 officers is the minimum number of officers an active chapter can have – President, Secretary and Treasurer)
- Collect National Dues from each member (Check website for current amount)
- Fill out the Membership and Officer forms (see Forms page of the National ACRY web-site)
- Submit dues and reactivation fee of \$10.00 along with Membership and Officer forms to the National ACRY Financial Secretary (see the Officers page of the Membership Information Section of the National ACRY web-site for contact information)
- Plan a community service, church or social activity to do together in the near future

If your local chapter has been inactive between 1 and 4 years, you can follow the above steps with the exception that you do not need to pay the reactivation fee.

If there are less than 3 people interested in becoming members within your local parish, then you can become a member of Chapter-At-Large (see section on How to Become a Member).

Obligations of a Senior ACRY Member

Members in good standing will:

- Pay dues on time
- Attend local meetings
- Fulfill his/her spiritual obligations
- Participate in local chapter events
- Participate in National ACRY events when feasible
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Conduct themselves in a manner befitting an Orthodox Christian so as not to bring disrepute or disdain upon the Orthodox Church, our Diocese or the organization



National Officers

The National ACRY has officers which include:

- Supreme Patron/Associate Patron
- National Senior Spiritual Advisor
- National Junior Spiritual Advisor
- National ACRY Editor
- National ACRY Business Manager
- President (elected)
- Vice President (elected)
- Secretary
- Financial Secretary (elected)
- Treasurer (elected)
- Sergeant-at-Arms (elected)
- Athletic Director (elected)
- 3 Auditors (elected)
- Publicity Director
- Custodian of Properties
- Immediate Past President (only during the first term of a standing President)

ACRY Ambassador

A leadership position known as the **ACRY Ambassador** exists, to generate a greater awareness of and interest in the ACRY within our diocese. This position also was created to provide recognition to an individual who has demonstrated a deep commitment to the Orthodox Faith through their unselfish philanthropic service to their Church, Community and Local /National ACRY. Those interested in serving in this capacity, including members of the minor clerical orders of the Church (reader or subdeacon) are invited to apply for this position. Once all applications are received the ACRY Ambassador Review Committee will determine who is the most qualified candidate to fill this position.

Who Can Be A Member

Anyone who is a member in good standing with the National ACRY not a Pani or a member of the major (priest or deacon) or minor (reader or subdeacon) orders of the Church may hold a position on the National Board of Officers.

The positions not noted as “elected” are appointed either by our Supreme Patron or elected President.



Duties of National ACRY Officers

National Senior Spiritual Advisor. The National Spiritual Advisor shall conduct all religious exercises of the A.C.R.Y. He shall give advice on all religious and moral questions. He shall write articles of a religious nature of the Official Publications. He shall be the overseer of all religious publications published by the organization and shall secure from proper authority the proper approbation for them. He shall be a priest of good standing in the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Diocese.

National Junior Spiritual Advisor. The National Spiritual Advisor shall conduct all religious exercises of the A.C.R.Y. He shall give advice on all religious and moral questions. He shall write articles of religious nature of the Official Publications. He shall be the overseer of all religious publications published by the organization and shall secure from proper authority the proper approbation of them. He shall be responsible for countersigning any funds issue by the Junior A.C.R.Y. He shall be a priest of good standing in the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Diocese.

National President. The National President shall preside at all meetings of the National Board of Directors, Executive Board and National Convention. He/She shall have the power of convoking meetings of the National Board of Directors, Executive Board, upon the advice of the National Board or special convention. He/She shall be the Chief Executive Officer, exercising general supervision of the work and activities of the A.C.R.Y. It shall be his/her duty to see that the Constitution and By-Laws of the Organization are enforced. He/She shall with the advice of the Executive Board appoint necessary committees and see to it that they accomplish their task. He/She shall perform all such other duties as usually pertain to the office of the President.

National Vice President. The National Vice President, in event of inability of the President shall perform his/her duties and have the same authority as the President. He/She shall be the Vice Chairman of the National Convention, and he/she will be responsible for membership supervision, conduct and coordination of the Junior A.C.R.Y. He/She shall be responsible for countersigning any funds issued by the Junior A.C.R.Y. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President, National Board of Directors or Executive Board.

National Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall be the active managing officer of the A.C.R.Y. under the supervision of the Executive Board and the President. He/She shall assist in the conduct of the business affairs of the Organization and shall perform such duties as are specified or implied in the National By-Laws or assigned to him/her by the National Board of Directors or Executive Board. He/She shall keep accurate record of the minutes of all meetings of the National Board of Directors, Executive Board, and National Convention. He/She shall prepare and mail to the chapters various reports, announcements, convention material and other matters as directed by the President, National Board of Directors or the Executive Board.



National Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary shall keep the financial records of the A.C.R.Y., collecting and receiving all funds paid to the A.C.R.Y. and, within 30 days of receipt, turn same over to the Treasurer with original receipt. He/She shall receive bills and upon authorization of the National Board of Directors or Executive Board shall issue checks in payment. The Financial Secretary's records and books shall at all times be open to the inspection of the President, the National Board of Directors and Auditors. He/She will assume and conduct all necessary correspondence of the organization and shall keep proper records of all Chapters and Members. He /She shall sign all documents issued by the organization and shall upon the direction of the President affix the corporate seal when required. He/She shall make a report to the Convention and Board Meeting. The Financial Secretary shall see to it that a complete and up-to-date roster of Chapters and members as well as a copy of the Financial Reports of the previous year is kept at the National Headquarters.

National Treasurer. The National Treasurer shall take charge of all funds of the National Organization and deposit them in the name of the American Carpatho-Russian Youth in a bank approved by the National Board of Directors. All checks received by him/her shall be made out in the name of the American Carpatho-Russian Youth. All disbursements shall be paid by check drawn on the National Organization and co-signed by the National President, National Financial Secretary and Treasurer. His/Her accounts and books shall be open at all times to inspection by the President, National Board of Directors, Executive Board and Auditors. He/She shall present a report at the National Convention and all Board Meetings.

National Editor. The National Editor shall be appointed by the Supreme Patron and shall edit the "American Carpatho-Russian Section" in the official Diocesan publication in the interest of the A.C.R.Y., our youth as well as our Orthodox Greek Catholic Church and our American Carpatho-Russian Diocese. He shall supervise the publication of "The American Carpatho-Russian Youth Annual" as well as various booklets and pamphlets that may be published by the Organization, and all articles appearing in the A.C.R.Y. section of the Diocesan paper. An Assistant Editor shall be appointed by the Supreme Patron to assist in fulfilling these duties. They shall be priests in good standing in the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Diocese.

National Auditors. The Auditors shall faithfully and zealously audit the funds to the Organization at least once a year. They have the right at any time to examine the books, papers, records, accounts, and transactions involving finances. They are to notify the President and the members of the National Board of Directors immediately in case of misfeasance of any officer. Once the three auditors will be selected by the Auditors to be the Chief Auditor. The Chief Auditor shall present the Auditors report to the Convention and shall be a member of the Executive Board.

National Athletic Director. The Athletic Director shall at the beginning of each sports season organize with the approval of either of two Board teams of respective sports in every District, through the medium of the official publication, the District Athletic Directors and the local team managers. He/She has the right to require District Athletic Directors to assist him/her in the formation of leagues, elimination contests, tournaments, at which are decided the champions in the respective sports. He/She shall give a report of the athletic activities to the Convention together with recommendations and suggestions for the improvement and progress of these activities. He/She shall announce in the official publication the rules for the conducting of sports. He/She shall be final referee in cases of disputes arising in districts. He/She shall be subject to the President and the Executive Board. Chairmen of National Events shall be assistants to the



National Athletic Director. He She shall assist the Sergeant-at-Arms with moving and storage of National ACRY Equipment between events.

Sergeant-at-Arms. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain order at the National Convention and meetings of the National Board of Directors. He/She shall be subject to any duty imposed on him by the National Board of Directors. He/She shall be responsible for the Processional three-barred Cross, the American Flag and the other ceremonial materials needed during the Convention. Responsible for Miss A.C.R.Y. Contest.

Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President shall be a member of the Executive Board and the National Board of Directors. He/She shall be the advisor to the President and will act in his/her place when the President and Vice President are absent. He/She shall be subject to any special duties imposed on him/her by the President, National Board of Directors or the Executive Board. In the event that the standing President is serving a second or third term in accordance to Article XIV Paragraph 52, the office of Immediate Past President shall expire at the end of the first term.

National Publicity Director The Publicity Director shall be appointed by the Executive Board and be responsible for the promotion and communication of the National, district, and local level A.C.R.Y. activities to all chapters and parishes within our Diocese. He/she will be responsible for gathering information on current happenings from all A.C.R.Y. levels as well as Diocesan affairs. He/she will contact the official Diocesan Publications that communicates the goals, activities, and purpose of the A.C.R.Y. He/she should also be responsible for assisting in the organization and planning of events to benefit both A.C.R.Y. and non-A.C.R.Y. members, including programs on improving our knowledge of the Orthodox faith, moral issues, retreats, and maintaining contact with our college students. The Publicity Director shall perform such other duties as imposed upon him/her by the President, National Board of Directors of the Executive Board.

Business Manager of the A.C.R.Y. Annual. The Business Manager of “The American Carpatho-Russian Youth Annual” shall be appointed by the Supreme Patron. He will handle the finances of the Annual, keep proper records, supervise the soliciting of advertisements and the distribution of the Annual. He shall submit a report to the National Board of Directors or the Executive Board as well as the National Convention. After all funds have been collected and bills paid, he shall turn over to the National Financial Secretary a complete report and all profits that may have been derived form the Annual.



Fund Drives to Support ACRY Outreach Projects

The National ACRY has several funds that chapters and individuals can donate to on a voluntary basis. Please read through each and note that one fund does have a mandatory factor to it. See the section on Dates to see when donations typically are made to these funds.

ACRY Ambassador Fund

This fund was established to help provide financial support to our ACRY Ambassador as he/she does mission work/community outreach

ACRY Blessing Fund

This fund was established to help provide financial support to children with severe illness and/or disabilities.

Camp Fund

This fund was established to help support our diocesan youth camp, Camp Nazareth, located in Mercer, PA.

Publication Fund

This fund was established to help provide financial support for the publication of pamphlets, booklets, literature and marketing materials for the benefit of our ACRY and diocese.

Scholarship Fund

This fund was established to help provide scholarships to deserving ACRY members who are attending higher education institutions to further their education.

Note: Your chapter must make a donation to the Scholarship Fund Drive if any of your members are applying for a scholarship. Chapters who do not submit a donation postmarked by this date will cause their applicants to be disqualified.

Events, Fund Drives, and Deadline Dates

The following is a list of dates that the National ACRY follows for fund drives, events, deadlines and obligations. Where it indicates you should send items to a person you want to go to the Officers page of the National ACRY web-site to get their contact information.

October:

Camp Nazareth Fund Drive Donations

Send to National ACRY Financial Secretary

October 15th:

ACRY Annual Photo Submission

Send to the ACRY Annual Editor

October 31st:

ACRY Annual Ads Submission – Sponsors, Patrons, Boosters and Memorials

Send to the ACRY Annual Business Manager



Events, Fund Drives, and Deadline Dates

November:

Publication Fund Drive Donations

Send to National ACRY Financial Secretary

December 1st:

Membership Dues, Membership and Officers forms Submission

Send to National ACRY Financial Secretary

Lenten Season:

National ACRY hosted Lenten Retreats in Western, Central and Eastern regions of our diocese

Memorial Day Weekend:

National ACRY Metropolitan Orestes Memorial Bowling Tournament –

weekend long event that includes bowling competition, dinners, church services, family fun events, and community service opportunities

Look for details on our National ACRY web-site and submit reservations to the host ACRY chapter by the deadlines listed

June 1st:

Scholarship Application Forms Submission – those active members who are attending college or Junior ACRY members who will be going into their Freshmen year of college (and joining the ACRY in the next membership year) can apply for a National ACRY Scholarship in several different categories:

- Freshmen (6)
- Sophomore (4)
- Junior (3)
- Senior (2)
- Metropolitan Orestes Memorial (1)
- Graduate (1)
- Seminarian (1)
- Technical/Trade (1)
- Mary Kay Wanchik Memorial (1)

All applications as well as letters of recommendations must be postmarked by this date to be considered for an award. A member can only receive an award in each category once.

Note: Your local chapter must submit a donation to our Scholarship Fund Drive (see deadline below) to complete the qualification process. Those Senior ACRY members applying who are from Chapter At Large or Junior ACRY members who do not have an active Senior ACRY chapter in their parish are exempt from the Chapter Donation.

Send to National ACRY Scholarship Chairperson

July 1st:

Scholarship Fund Drive Donation - Send to National ACRY Financial Secretary



Events, Fund Drives, and Deadline Dates

Awards Applications – Awards are presented yearly at our National ACRY Convention for the following categories:

- Chapter of the Year
- Individual of the Year
- Church School Teacher of the Year

Send completed forms to National ACRY President - Forms are available on National ACRY web-site and need to be completed and postmarked by this date

August 1st:

ACRY Convention Delegate Forms – list of members that will represent your chapter at the upcoming National ACRY Convention Business Sessions

Send to the National ACRY Financial Secretary

Labor Day Weekend:

National ACRY Convention – weekend long event that includes business session meetings, church services, dinners, and family focused events

Look for details on our National ACRY web-site and submit reservations to the host ACRY chapter by the deadlines listed



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Helpful Links to Documents and Important Information Posted on National ACRY Website

ACRY Ambassador Program:

<http://www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/ambassador>

ACRY Blessing Program:

<http://www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/acryblessing>

ACRY National By-laws

<http://www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/acrymembership/acryforms>

ACRY Chapter List:

<http://www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/acrymembership/1888>

ACRY Officers List/ Contact Information

<http://www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/acrymembership/natofficer091>

Forms and Documents: (Membership, Scholarship, Awards and Convention Forms)

<http://www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/acrymembership/acryforms>

Scholarships & Awards:

<http://www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/1886>