

# AHEPA District 7 Fall Conference Orange, CT

October 11, 2008

Gov. Nicholas Nikas & George Scarveles brought the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Scarveles gave welcoming comments and introductions.

Mr. Stamos gave a history of the AHEPA National Convention basketball team. The program was revived this year; the Greek government helped with the funding. The team played four games in Greece: Three against pro teams and the final against future Olympians. The AHEPA is looking to reciprocate Greece for their generosity. All of the team members were enthusiastic about their experiences in Greece.

Donna Rados, Daughters of Penelope District Governor, gave a brief talk in which she urged the Ahepans to support a Daughters of Penelope chapter in New Haven.

Gov. Nikas spoke about Hellenic Affairs, saying that George Rados has been made a member of the National Hellenic Committee. He has been charged with getting New England Congressmen into the Hellenic Caucus. He has also created strong ties with Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), bring students to Pella in Greece where they participated in archaeological digs.

Gov. Nikas went over his thoughts and actions for the coming year.

- He asked members to send a letter to President Bush to allow Greece to be part of the Visa Waiver Program. Sample letters were shown.
- He asked members to fax or email the names of chapter officers to the National office. Several officers have not yet done so.
- Chapters should pay their 2008 dues (\$40.00) to the National office; the membership goal for this year is to increase by 20%.
- As of 2008, there were 641 chapters in District 7.
- He showed a graph regarding National numbers: The numbers have gone down somewhat since 1999, this year has improved somewhat, and District 7's numbers have remained stable.
- He showed the Greek Orthodox communities and their number of families.
- He looked at the penetration by AHEPA members in each community.
- Chapters were asked to promote the mission of the AHEPA.
- He went over the scholarships of each chapter.
- He named the educational programs available, AHEPA Academy and Journey to Greece. He wants to spread the Hellenic ideals to people with non-Greek heritage as well.
- Philanthropic fundraising includes funds for cancer research, elderly housing and responses to Greek and American tragedies.
- He went over the benefits of being an Ahepan, such as magazines and a directory of

members as well as making a positive contribution to the community and part of a pioneering legacy.

- He will send a personal letter to all of the 180 delinquent members of District 7.
- Initiation and reinstatement fees are waived through December 31, 2008.
- There is a membership drive contest with laptop computers going to the fastest growing chapters.
- One member suggested using *Facebook* to communicate with fellow Ahepans.
- The *AHEPA Academy* brings students to Washington D.C. for a week. The cost is \$1,000.00 per student. Students are high school juniors with high potential, strong grades, and Hellenic heritage.
- The *Journey to Greece* program sends Greek-Americans to Greece to study. The Governor says that it awakens their ethnic heritage.
- *Hellenic History Trophy*: The Governor wants to initiate a program where students compete with each other on Greek History in a Jeopardy format.
- He described the charter school program. One is set up in Wilmington, Delaware. The idea is to promote Greek language and history, etc.
- The New York parade needs \$50.00 from each chapter. He hopes to have a large contingent from District 7.
- The *2009 Regional Convention* is a Tri-District Convention. It is being held June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> in Mansfield, Massachusetts. He went over some items that are to be voted on at the Tri-District Convention.
- The *2009 National Convention* will be held July 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco, California. Brother John Grossomanides, Jr. is a candidate for Supreme Vice President.

Lieutenant Governor Emmanuel Moshovos urged members to promote new membership in their chapters.

Supreme Secretary Dr. John Grossomanides, Jr. gave greetings from the Supreme Lodge.

- He said that their main project will be *Cooley's Anemia*.
- 211 delegates went to the convention; \$38,000.00 was made.
- He urged members to go to San Francisco for the National Convention in July, hoping that each chapter will send two members.
- He asked for more information to be sent to *Yankee News*. The last page will now be a sponsor's page; he would like to see \$2,000.00 more from sponsors.

### **Chapter Reports:**

Due to the lateness of the time, not every chapter reported at this meeting:

- Waterbury:
  - September Golf Tournament: goal amount is \$10,000.00;
  - They hold monthly dinners and have pools for the Super Bowl;
  - They would like to reinstate up to 20 members;
  - They suggested a *Relay for Life*.

- Newport:  
Work closely with the Daughters of Penelope;  
They do seminars like College planning and Medicare Information;  
They started a Kafenio;  
On AHEPA Day they give books to their children.
- New Haven:  
They gave \$50,000.00 to the *St. Barbara Church Building Program*.

The Governor proposed having future District Conferences by going through the chapters in numerical order. This was approved.

The meeting concluded at 1:00 p.m., breaking for lunch.

Respectfully,



Jack Isaac  
Secretary, District 7