



American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association



October 24, 2009

10:08 a.m.: The meeting was called to order.

Joint Session

Welcome to the Chapter:

Demetrius Tasoulas welcomed the members to the 2009 Fall Conference.

Welcome and Introductions:

Donna Rados, Daughters of Penelope Governor introduced the Past District Governors, Past Grand Governor and Past President.

AHEPA, District 7 Scholarship Status:

Past District Governor Joanne Hologgitas went over the current status of the District Scholarship system. The applications are now graded by Salve Regina. Three evaluators check the applications. She spoke about how well the present system is working.

D. Rados spoke about a possible scholarship awards dinner in the future. She and Governor Nikas will bring this up to both bodies. J. Hologgitas was asked to remain as chairman; she accepted.

Committee on Faster Decision Making:

Advisor Kyp Kyprianou spoke about the necessity of streamlining the process. He wants issues to be put forward at conferences and/or have notices sent to chapters. His feeling is that if they get the notices sufficiently ahead of time, they should be able to come to the Convention and vote.

Gov. Nicholas Nikas said that two things were discussed after the last District Convention. After conferring, the Daughters of Penelope said that they do not want to extend scholarship eligibility to grandchildren of Ahepans. Secondly, the Daughters said that they were against extending eligibility to High School students.

Comments from the floor: One comment was that Scholarship Delegates were the body authorized to make changes (not true, it is the Convention body). Another speaker said that if we include grandparents we lose an incentive to have new members join. Another comment made was that three months notice should be enough time so that people could vote and not have to wait so long for something to be decided upon. It was also pointed out that some organizations lock their doors so that there will be no distractions.

Hellenic History Trophy Day:

Gov. Nikas went over the procedures that will take place on the day of the contest. He went on to say that there would be 24 questions for each match, and that each match should last approximately 18 minutes. A moderator's meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. with the event starting at noon. The tournament ends at 3:00 p.m. with a short break until the play. The Governor pleaded with all chapters to promote attendance and expected all Chapter Presidents to be in attendance.

Several members praised the Governor for his persistence in bringing the contest to this point. The Governor then went over the chapter fees and payment status. 12 out of 14 chapters have paid the participation fee. The Governor said that he received enough money to carry out the program. Private fundraising helped to complete the amount required.

Governor Nikas went over the team assignments. Each winning team member will receive a trophy, as will the winning chapter sponsor- this trophy will be rotated each year among the winning chapters.

AHEPA Session

The President of the Waterbury Sons Of Pericles, John Ververis, spoke about how he is trying to get new members. They have thirty members currently. They are trying to get another chapter started and have made a connection in Orange. They are also trying to get a Maids of Athena chapter going.

John Grossomanides welcomed the Region 4 Supreme Governor, Alex Geourntas. He spoke of decreasing membership. The Regional Banquet is coming up: November 21st in New York. He also spoke of the *United We Serve* Program, which was designed to raise awareness of hunger and does canned food drives. He suggested support for local food pantries. He gave a brief biographical description of himself and thanked those brothers who supported him at the convention. He suggested that membership be increased so that we can be more significant in the eyes of political leaders.

Brother J. Grossomanides reminded everyone that the Patriarch Dinner will be on November 5th at the State Department. The Supreme Convention for next year will be in Montreal, Canada from July 11th to July 18th. He was appreciative that 14 delegates went to California from our District for the convention.

Yankee News:

The deadline for sending in news is November 1st. He asked for news and pictures, and stated that the scholarship form will be in the next issue.

Brother Ernie Pool spoke about ads for the *Yankee News* and stated that we fell somewhat short of what we hoped for. He said he got cooperation when he went personally to people. Some chapters gave last minute ads, which helped. He said that if he could get some leads he would go wherever there is a potential ad. We now have a good product and everyone likes it.

Actions for the Rest of the Year:

The Governor asked the Norwalk Chapter (Chapter 387) to host the next convention. It will be held on May 21st through May 23rd at the Norwalk Inn.

Selected Chapter Recruitment Status:

Norwalk: They have three new members; will initiate 1 new member.

Stamford: They created a list of 75 potential members of AHEPA. They sent out 61 invitations for a dinner; 30 replied positively, 12 became new members. They want to cooperate with other chapters to be able to afford to bring in some theatrical performances.

New London: Discussed how they try to recruit new members. When they do the bar during their festival they have pamphlets on the bar for any prospective member, and they always have membership forms available.

Danbury: They will be holding a pot-luck dinner with a movie about the AHEPA and have 7 possible new members.

Hartford: They check out members who are delinquent. Brother Emmanuel Moshovos praised the work of John Melanopoulos who agreed to be the membership chairman. He said that reinstatements are important.

Newport: Spoke about their successful books program. They said that they have a new priest who now actively promotes the work of the AHEPA.

Bridgeport: Holds a Christmas dinner with the Ahepans and the Daughters of Penelope. Most Ahepans pay their dues at the dinner.

Waterbury: Holds frequent dinner meetings and has a Christmas party with their Daughters of Penelope.

New Britain: Secretary Jack Isaac spoke about the importance of engaging the chapters into the community. He said that in New Britain, where poverty is such an issue, the chapter has developed a relationship with the *Friendship Center*, a center for homeless people. The New Britain Chapter has cooked for them and supplies them frequently with food. They will be having a Christmas party where they will present two grants to community organizations and one to the mayor for his charities. If we want to grow, we must be known for our community service. Otherwise we will remain an organization known only to the Greek Community.

AHEPA Housing Update:

Brother Terry Mitchell reported that two projects are ongoing in Alabama and in Hartford. 6 new applications have been submitted and 82 buildings are now open.

Treasurer John G. Grossomanides reported that 11 of the 14 chapters were represented at this conference. 27 members were in attendance, plus 16 Daughters of Penelope members, making a total of 43 (see details below).

Governor Nikas made concluding remarks at approximately 1:00 p.m.; the conference then broke for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jack Isaac
Secretary
District 7
AHEPA

Conference Attendees

Chapter	Attendee
48 Waterbury, CT	Alex Boutsoulis Richard PeckaSr Steven Gagas Dean Tzezos John Ververis
58 Hartford, CT	Emanuel Moshovos
62 Bridgeport, CT	Van Hatzis
90 Danbury, CT	Kip Kyprianou, PDG
99 Stamford, CT	Arthur Kiratsous JamesW Cocolis Nicholas Nikas
110 Norwich, CT	George Grossomanides John Grossomanides, PDG, SS JohnG Grossomanides, PDG John Louziotis, PDG Ernest Pool, PDG
117 New Britain, CT	Jack Isaac
245 Newport, RI	Basile Panoutsopoulos George Koulouvardis Steve Jennings, PDG
250 New London, CT	Demetrius Tasoulas George Mitchell John Fakis Terry Mitchell, PDG, Board Member
387 Norwalk, CT	George Papadopoulos
418 Danielson, CT	Michael Leotsakos James Balis

Summary by Chapter

Chapter	City	Attendees
48	Waterbury	5
58	Hartford	1
62	Bridgeport	1
90	Danbury	1
98	New Haven	0
99	Stamford	3
106	Providence	0
110	Norwich	5
117	New Britain	1
126	Meriden	0
245	Newport	3
250	New London	4
387	Norwalk	1
418	Danielson	2