

'Byzantine Beasts' win Second Hellenic History Tournament

ORANGE, Conn. – The team “Byzantine Beasts” of Stamford took home the trophy at the Second Annual Hellenic History Tournament on November 20.

The event was held at St. Barbara’s Church in Orange, and the twelve teams of high school students who participated were sponsored by local AHEPA chapters in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

The members of the “Byzantine Beasts” are Stephanie Adams, a sophomore at Westhill High School; John Crist, a junior at Fairfield Prep; and Alexandra Glenges, a junior at Westhill High School. They were recruited to participate in the tournament by their GOYA adviser from the Archangels Church, Diane Skoparantzios. All of the team members each received a trophy and a \$1,000 scholarship.

The team was trailing behind the St. George Cathedral team of Hartford for most of the match but managed to rally at the end of the tournament by correctly answering questions on former Greek Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos (c 1915).

The St. George Cathedral team members are Jordan Augustinos, a junior at Glastonbury High School; Elias Kapetanopoulos, a freshman at Conard High School; and Alexandra Walsh, a freshman at Glastonbury High School. Each received a \$500 scholarship award.

Both the teams and the prize money were provided by participating chapters of AHEPA. Yankee District Seven chapters fielding one or two teams were Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, New Haven, Norwich and Stamford, CT. Chapters from neighboring AHEPA districts also sent teams: New Rochelle, N.Y., and Wyckoff, N.J.

All high school students, regardless of ethnic background, were invited to participate. Once they register, students received and study a copy of “Hellenika, Heritage and History,” by T. Peter Limber, the book on which most of the questions are based.

Dr. George Melikokis, Principal of Jamaica Greek American Day School, provided the vast majority of the questions and answers. All students staying to the end received a polo shirt with the Hellenic History Tournament logo, and a certificate of participation.



The winning team, “Byzantine Beasts,” with their trophies. Pictured, from left, are tournament chairman Nicholas Nikas, team members Stephanie Adams, Alexandra Glenges and John Crist, and Joe Keane, AHEPA’s Hellenic Cultural Commission chairman.