



AHEPA YANKEE DISTRICT # 7

FALL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 20, 2012

HOSTS:

AHEPA CHAPTER # 48

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE CHAPTER # 199

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

937 CHASE PARKWAY

WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT

COMBINED LODGE MEETING

Welcome:

At 10:08 Daughters of Penelope Chapter # 199 President Myrsini Papoutsis of our host city Waterbury Chapters welcomed the members AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope to our Fall Conference

District Governor of the Daughters of Penelope Penny Pecka

District Governor Penny Pecka introduced from the Grand Lodge, Vice President Anna-Helene Grossomanides and Grand Secretary and District #7 Grand Liaison Demi Thomas. Then she introduced her current District Lodge Officers.

District Governor Pecka also asked all the Past District Governors to stand and be recognized.

AHEPA District Governor Jack Isaac

District Governor Jack Isaac introduced Supreme President John Grossomanides and Supreme Governor John Tanionos. Then he introduced his current District Lodge. DG Isaac then asks all the Past District Governors and Chapter Presidents to stand and be recognized. He also recognized the members of the Waterbury Sons of Pericles who were also in attendance. He then asked for a round of applause for Alexander Vlantes who will be 96 years of age in November and has been an active member of AHEPA for 75 years!

DOP District Treasurer Donna Rados

1/ District Scholarship August 3, 2012 Report

Net profit from the Diner was \$ 1,519.56. Most of the normal expenses associated with the Scholarship Dinner were donated thus increasing the profits.

\$1,000.00 will be given to the scholarship foundation and the rest will be kept to defray future expenses.

2/ Night At the Races

DG Isaac and DOP Treasurer Rados have begun to research the feasibility of sponsoring a “Night At the Races.” In addition to a being a new source of revenue and a very fun evening, it could also attract people who might not normally attend one of our events.

District Treasurer Rados explained the concept:

- a/ there are 8 races (tapes of previous races)
- b/ players bet with funny money with prizes for the winners
- c/ women would be asked to wear hats (such as those that are worn to the Kentucky Derby)
- d/ specialty drinks might be served.

She concluded by saying this has been done before and has proven to be successful.

PDG George Scarvelas: MOVED the project should be further researched, and to be implemented when feasible.

SECOND: PDG Ernie Pool

PASSED: Unanimous

Yankee District News

DG Isaac praised the efforts of Krystyna Kazakos the Editor-in-Chief of the Yankee District News. He emphasized we need to adhere to the deadlines for submitting material that will be used in future publications. It is unfair to our editor when we submit articles late and ask for last minute changes past the deadline. The deadline for the next issue is December 1, 2012.

Hellenic History Tournament

Chairman of the HHT, PSG Nick Nikas, reminded the members present the tournament will be next week October 27, 2012 at St. Barbara’s Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT. The actual tournament will begin after lunch, however, volunteers and participants need to arrive at the times designated on the schedule. In addition Chairman Nikas reminded all AHEPA chapters that they must submit their \$100.00 Tournament Fee as instructed by the District. In addition all teams must also pay their \$279.00 entrance fee. The money is needed ASAP because failure to do so will result in the winners and runners up not receiving their scholarship checks. This year 10 teams are entered in the tournament, included one from Nashua, New Hampshire and another from New Rochelle, New York.

Supreme Governor John Tanionos

As National Scholarship and National Athletic Director he spoke of the relationship between academics and sports. He also addressed the need to have all New England Congressional members as part of the Hellenic Caucus.

Supreme President John Grossomanides

Excited and honored to be at his home District Fall Conference. He was pleased to see that 72 % of chapters were present. The foundation filling for St. Nicholas has started and one year from yesterday October 19, 2012, the land will be turned over to the Archdiocese to begin construction of the church. New York Governor Cuomo praised our resolve. New AHEPA chapters have begun to start across the globe, including one in Germany that could begin during Thanksgiving. He was very proud of award winning Yankee District, especially its AHEPA Housing program, the Hellenic History Tournament, the Yankee District News, and its members retention efforts. This year the goal of AHEPA is to increase its membership to 17,000.

AHEPA MEETING

Membership Chairman Past Supreme Governor Nick Nikas

Chairman Nikas reminded all chapters that their membership goals were self-imposed. It is important to post all new members prior to December 31, 2012. To entice the chapters and the candidates for membership to join now, the extra fee for initiates has been waived.

The candidate's \$ 40.00 will cover their membership for both 2012 and 2013. Our district may not reach its projected membership goals but we will show an increase in total membership. National and District have a cash flow problems. To relieve this problem send payments in on a regular basis and as soon as possible.

Waterbury President Paul Velezis, "Relay for Life"

Relay for Life is a nationally sponsored fundraiser for Cancer. All the publicity and organizational work is done by the organization. AHEPA of Waterbury already sponsors a team with a banner and some financial support. The members of GOYA or other youth groups are the walkers. Each team consists of about 15-18members. Each walker gets a few sponsors; the group total collected is presented to the Relay for Life. The overnight program is very emotional when the candles are lighted. They represent those who survived and those who did not. The AHEPA gains the publicity as a philanthropic organization. President Velezis suggested that if several chapters all walk in one Relay, the total donation could be large and we would gain an increased positive image. There are several Relays

spread throughout the state, therefore the date of AHEPA's participation is flexible.

District Governor Jack Isaac's Report

1/National Awards

DG Isaac presented To PDG Emmanuel Moshovos for the District Lodge:
2011-2012 District of the Year
2011-2012 Member Retention Award

2/Chapter Visitations

Announced that by the end of October he hopes to have completed 8 chapter visitations. Some chapters are robust and progressing, while others are barely hanging on. At some chapter meetings, disagreements result in shouting and arguing. Members forget their oath "to speak evil of no one." This could escalate in physical altercations. It happened in one chapter, the DG stated he would act if that happens again. Admittedly an increase in membership is important, but the new member must be interested and willing to participate in the activities of the chapter. Chapter officers must run efficient meetings, including those activities that will create interest. Presidents need to fill a vacant position with some one who is willing to do the work, not just a body.

3/ District Support

a/ Per District By-Laws both the District Governor and District Secretary should be included on the mailing list of every chapter. Only a few have complied.

b/ A timely response to District Correspondence, telephone message or E Mail is requested. All chapters have been given the District Governor's E-mail address and telephone number. Unfortunately many requests for information from the District Lodge have been ignored.

4/ Yankee District News

Yankee District News needs every chapter's support. All chapters and members are urged to become sponsors. Sponsorship cost \$ 50.00-\$ 100.00 – and \$200.00 dependent upon the size. Every chapter's support is needed.

5/ Community Service Outreach Program

To remain relevant chapters should expand their community service to areas external to the Hellenic Community. (Waterbury's participation in the Relay for Life program is an excellent example) Some chapters already reach out to assist the their local community. Chapters are to name or list the organizations they assist.

Community participation will improve name recognition, and could result in the general population supporting our causes.

6/Future Dates

a/ May 17-19, 2012 Tri-District Convention

At Newport, RI

Plans are being made for 2 night or single night stay accommodations

b/ November 17, 2012 Tri-District Convention planning conference:

St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral

102 Russell Street

Worcester, MA 01609

c/ Spring Conference

March 16, 2013

Location: Bridgeport

Board of District Advisors

Introduced by PDG George Scarveles. That a Board of Advisors be organized to advise the District Governor. The members of the board will be all the former District Governors. The Chairman of the Board of District Governors would be the newest former District Governor. Approved by acclamation.

Supreme Governor John Tanionos Report

National Scholarship and National Athletic Director explained that both athletics and scholarship programs often establish life long friendships.

They are also vehicles for learning our Hellenic heritage. New candidates for the AHEPA Athletic Hall of Fame are currently being discussed.

Supreme President John Grossomanides Report

1/ Volunteer Firefighters from Greece

Sixteen volunteer Firefighters from Greece were trained at Narraganset RI fire fighting facility. This is a state-of-art training facility. Providence Chapter hosted a dinner for them. Wish to repeat it after Easter of early May. \$10,000 is needed to help expand the program. Possible source of revenue suggestions could come from the Tri-District Convention.

2/ Hellenic Culture and Activities Announcements

a/Study Abroad Programs Including Journey to Greece are available

b/AHEPA Academy is another educational program

c/AHEPA History (1st 50 years) is being reprinted. There will be a limited number of copies.

d/The next 50 years of AHEPA history is currently being written

e/Greek Independence Day Parade in New York will take place on April 7, 2013

3/National Project - Greek Humanitarian Effort

AHEPA feeds 500 families per month. We have collected \$ 150,000, and have given out \$62,000.00 worth of food. We will continue to distribute the food as long as we have the money to do so.

4/ Visitations

Supreme President Grossomanides announced that he plans to break the record and visit over 100 AHEPA chapters this year. Some of the chapters have not had a visit from the Supreme President in over 50 years.

<u>Chapters Present</u>	<u>Members Present</u>
Waterbury # 48	6
Hartford # 58	1
Bridgeport # 62	3
New Haven # 98	2
Stamford # 99	3
Providence # 106	2
Norwich # 110	4
New Britain # 117	2
Meriden # 126	1
Newport # 245	1
Sons of Pericles# 61	2

Fraternally Submitted,

Andy Aros
District Secretary