

AGENDA
AHEPA – DOP DISTRICT # 7 SPRING CONFERENCE
MARCH 16, 2013
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
4070 PARK AVENUE
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06004
HOST CHAPTERS
AHEPA # 62 - DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE # 41

CHAPTERS PRESENT AND NUMBER PRESENT

WATERBURY # 48 - 2	Bridgeport # 41
HARTFORD # 58 - 2	Newport
BRIDGEPORT # 62 - 8	Meriden # 76
DANBURY # 90	New Britain # 138
NEW HAVEN # 98 - 1	Hartford #
STAMFORD # 99 - 2	Waterbury # 199
PROVIDENCE RI # 106 - 1	Danielson #
NORWICH # 110 - 2	
PITTSFIELD ,MA # 112	
NEW BRITAIN # 117 - 3	
MERIDEN # 126 - 1	
NEWPORT RI # 245 - 1	
NEW LONDON # 250	
NORWALK # 387	
DANIELSON # 418	

DISTRICT LODGE OFFICERS PRESENT

AHEPA	DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE
District Governor - Jack Isaac	District Governor- Penny Pecka
Lt. Governor- Alex Boutsoulis	Lt Governor - Anastasia Persico
District Secretary - Andy Aros	District Secretary - Myrsini Papoutsis
District Advisor- Emmanuel Moshovos PDG	District Advisor - Lucia Kazakos PDG
Hellenic Affairs Chair - George Rados PDG	District Marshal - Penelope Hiotas

JOINT MEETING

Welcome:

Time : 945 AM
Helen Yeotsas –DOP President Bridgeport # 41
John Bochanis – AHEPA President Bridgeport # 62

District Governors

Penny Pecka – DOP District Governor

- 1/ Grand President was introduced
- 2/ Chapter Presidents introduced “They keep everything going”
- 3/ PDG were introduced
- 4/ Rock Cats – Greek Night - June 11, 2013 rain Date June 13, 2013
 - a/ Daughters will sell Gyros.
 - b/ Parade
 - 1/ Need more people to participate in parade.

(Last year few people took part in the parade.)

2/ Steve Polezones will be asked to sing the Greek National Anthem.

c/ **Tickets must be purchased in advance**

5/ District Scholarships

a/ Joanne Hologgitas - Scholarship Chairperson

b/ Scholarship dinner will be held in New Britain August 4, 2013

More information will be forthcoming.

c/ Scholarship Chairperson had little to report. One scholarship application was coming and two were incomplete. She will confer with Nick Nikas.

Jack Isaac – AHEPA District Governor

1/ Nick Nikas PDG reported there is a scholarship available to immerse a student in the Greek culture. The \$ 6,000 is for tuition and fees to attend school in Salonika. It does not include transportation or pocket money. For more information see District # 7 website: www.Ahepa7.com

2/ George Anagnostos PSS- General Chairman NERC **May 17 – 19,2013**

a/ New England Regional Convention will be held at the Mainstay Inn, Newport, R.I. There are three different reservation packages for the delegates and guests.

b/ Friday Night

Current Plans include attending Newport Playhouse. Buffet dinner a play and afterward the playhouse becomes a cabaret ., Deadline for reservations

April 28, 2013

c./ Saturday

Breakfast

Combined Meeting

Individual meeting

1:00 PM Luncheon

Individual meeting continue

Afterword some free time

Saturday Evening Dinner Dance

Officers installed

d/ Sunday Brunch

And departure

e/ **April 17, 2013** is the deadline for Package Plans.

f/ **May 10,2013** is the deadline for refunds.

g/ **April 28, 2013** is the deadline for ad for Convention Album. Please send all ads unfolded for ease of reproduction .

Note National By-Laws Article 14 Section B: All chapters who have at least 15 members are entitled to 6 delegates. No delegate shall, have more than 1 vote.

3/ Hellenic Affairs George Rados

a/ Bristol, New Britain, Southington, Middletown are among the towns who have agreed to raise the Greek flag in honor of Greek Independence Day.

b/ April 7, 2013 both New York and Boston will have Greek Independence Day Parades.

c/ Businesses and homes should have Greek flags and raise them on March 25th.

d/ Each Chapter should try to raise the Greek flag in their local town.

4/ George Scarveles reported that AHEPA began the Greek Independence Day celebration at the State Capital Building in Hartford. The State Legislature

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was hesitant to acknowledge Greek Independence Day. They wished to call it Greek Freedom Day. Several brothers provided an abundance of Greek food, resulting in the Legislature of Connecticut recognition of Greek Independence Day. Currently Paidea has taken leadership of the state celebration.

5/ District Governor Jack Isaac, announced:

a/ Miss AHEPA 2013 for Yankee District # 7 will be Krystyna Kazakos our Yankee News Editor.

b/ Our late Brother George Peter Harlamon will be honored with his name on our combined District Float in the New York City Parade. Brother George was Mayor of Waterbury in 1968. He also served on the Parish Council of Holy Trinity Church for 30 years.

c/ Brother Greg Stamos of the New Haven Chapter has agreed to serve as our District Legal Advisor. He was the chairman of the recent Paidea fund raiser at St. Barbara. The affair attended by 350 people raised \$ 16,000.00 for completion of the amphitheater.

6/ Operation Community Outreach

a/ \$ 8,000.00 was raised by the Chapters of Yankee # 7 for the victims of Super Storm Sandy.

b/ Ernie Pool PDG and President of Norwich announced that his chapter distributes between 20-25 grants to the various nonprofit agencies in the Norwich area. Often the amounts are not very large, but they generate much positive public reaction.

c/ Members of the New Britain chapter serve on the board of CCARC, A Central Connecticut organization that assists adult members of the community whom have special needs.

d/ Bridgeport AHEPA family has instituted an outreach program. A local "26 Acts of Kindness" helping those in need has been instituted.

e/ Relay for Life - Chapters have begun to organize the local efforts to support Relay for Life and its efforts to fund cancer research.

AHEPA MEETING

District Governor Jack Isaac opened the AHEPA District Meeting at 10: 45 AM

1/ Announced that the District Board of Advisors passed at the Fall 2012 conference has been activated. Our most recent PDG Emmanuel "Mo" Moshovos is the current Chairman.

2/ Purpose of the this conference:

a/ Ideas to get more members to attend chapter meetings.

b/ Innovative ways of Fund Raising.

c/ How do we publicize the AHEPA family and our good works to the public external of the Hellenic Community.

Bill Trantalis – Norwich AHEPA Housing generates money. Government statutes dictate to nature of those organizations that can receive the money. The amount given is always greatly appreciated. Care is given as to which non profit receives the money and they are asked if AHEPA can

have a roll. Assuming a nonprofit is given financial support, it is suggested that Norwich AHEPA be identified as a donor. It might be a plaque, notice in a newsletter or even the AHEPA name on a van. The

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end result is AHEPA of Norwich is given free publicity and is identified with the philanthropic efforts of our community. Chapters should try find organizations that are influential in their local community.

CHAPTER REPORTS

DANBURY

Letter from the chapter was read by DG Isaac. Danbury AHEPA sponsors a smoker, the profits from the fund raiser go to local community nonprofit organizations.

BRIDGEPORT – John Bochanis

Sponsors several fundraising events. Including a blanket drive for the victims of Super Storm Sandy. More community outreach programs are planned.

HARTFORD – George Nakos

Chapter meets on the first Tuesday of the month. The DOP meets at the same time, after the meeting we socialize together. We also have combined officers meeting. While younger people are needed at our meeting, currently it is difficult to get them to attend meeting because they are bored. Outreach programs need not always be money. Volunteering is an excellent way of getting publicity and possible new members such as sponsoring a Blood Drive or assisting at a Soup Kitchen.

NEW HAVEN - George Scarveles

Chapter increased membership by using the church mailing list and writing personal letters. New Haven has been giving scholarships for over 40 years. The list of previous scholarship recipients is one source of possible new members. AHEPA sponsors a permanent Sunday Pancake Breakfast. The profits are used to pay the chapter's commitment to the community of St. Barbara. The chapter has donated money to the victims of Super Storm Sandy as well as the sending money to the needy of Greece Attempting to get a permanent date for the Hellenic History Tournament.

MERIDEN – Michael T Michael

Chapter increased its membership, however the chapter needs to increase its revenue. The chapter has reduced some of its expenses by meeting in the Community Center of St. George in New Britain. Possible way of increasing membership is to encourage people who earned scholarships to join their local AHEPA Chapter.

STANFORD - Nick Nikas

Chapter's membership has increased. Often the attendance at scheduled meeting is poor. The chapter's meeting/special events do bring large numbers of members to the activity. The profits are used to assist the needy, especially programs that help ease the current problems in Greece. The chapter has presented an extraordinary number of scholarships. One of the chapter's important events is its "Passing the Torch" dinner dance. It honors those fathers and sons who are both members of AHEPA.

HELLENIC HISTORY TOURNAMENT - Nick Nikas

Date for the next tournament is November 16, 2013. It will take place at St. Barbara in Orange. Chapters are reminded to submit their \$ 100.00 fee. The cost per team is dependent upon the number of teams that compete. Last year's expenses, including Student Prizes, totaled \$5,540.00. There is \$123.00 remaining to help offset the 2013 tournament expenses.

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MEMBERSHIP INCREASED – Nick Nikas

Yankee District # 7 goal was to total 934 members. Currently we have 837 members. Our district suffered a net loss of 29 members. Four chapters: Bridgeport, New Haven, Stanford, and Meriden did increase their total membership.

PDG George Rados recommended we extend offers of membership to men who are not of Hellenic extraction but are interested in the expansion of Hellenism in our communities.

NORWICH – Ernie Pool

Norwich has 113 members. Those who pay their dues during the first three months of the year are eligible for a raffle drawing of \$ 100.00. This has been a great motivation for members to pay their dues. Norwich will enter a local Relay for Life Race on June 8th, the team has been selected and prepared for the fundraiser. Members volunteer at a local Soup Kitchen. Our AHEPA housing, donation program stretches its money so that it can assist many different organizations and bring to the chapter much positive publicity. The chapter has also donated \$300,000 to Holy Trinity Church. On September 21, 2013, there will be a formal Dinner-Dance honoring Supreme President John Grossomanides jr. Tentative price is \$ 75.00. Chapter will replicate the Hellenic Philanthropic Trophy and it will be presented to the worthy winner.

WATERBURY – Paul Velezis

We have an annual golf tournament in September. Three times per year we have dinner at which approximately 160 attend. The event has become so well known in our area that we do not need to advertise. Super Bowl party and a March Madness Pool help keep the younger members interested. Our monthly dinner meeting draws a least 30 members. Use the talent of the younger members and keep them involved. Every June we have an end of the year party at Quassy Amusement Park, and we take a group picture. We also attend a Major League baseball game every year. We help at a soup kitchen, it helps the kids learn about the poor. The Relay for Life with much assistance coming from the AHEPA is a major activity for the young people of the Waterbury Community.

NEWPORT - George Anagnostos PSS

Led by our President Michael Sisak, we produced an Hellenic Film Festival. Prizes were awarded to the winners. Several events were held in conjunction with the residents of our AHEPA Home. We have reinstated the awarding of Scientific Scholarships at the three area High Schools, tentative named the Archimedes Award. Hosted a coffee Hour for Greek Letters Week. To gain further publicity for AHEPA we have begun to wear Hellenic T-Shirts at our festival. Peidea at the URI facility is in need of funding to accomplish its goals.

NEW BRITAIN – DG Jack Isaac

The Charitable Educational Philanthropic Trust has specific parameters. The money must be spent for scholarships within our local Hellenic Community or local church. All expenditures are reviewed by the Probate Court. For a student to be eligible for a scholarship, the parent must attend at least 50% of the scheduled AHEPA family meeting per year. We collected money, gave it to one of our Brothers who will

be going to Greece at Easter. With the help of his daughter who resides in Greece, he will locate a charity and purchase items they need. A Relay for Life team is currently being organized. Members of our chapter serve on the Board of CCARC. Dinner meetings are combined with a cultural event and have

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proven to be popular. Increasing the number members attending our meeting. Our culminating activity each year is our annual picnic.

Unseen Value of and importance of AHEPA Scholarships: Past President of Hartford, John Melonopoulos while attending our National Convention in Canada fell ill was in the ICU unit. His doctor refused to charge him, because the doctor explained he had received an AHEPA scholarship when he most needed a scholarship.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S REPORT

- 1/ As District Governor I have visited all but one chapter. We need to know what the other chapters are doing. Local Chapters visiting other chapters could bring unity and a cohesive power to our District.
- 2/ The District could purchase films of Hellenic history, culture, or interest. Then develop a lending library for the District's Chapters.
- 3/ If we are to educate the American community about our culture and rich Greek Heritage, we must expand knowledge of Ancient, Byzantine, and Modern Greek Culture.
- 4/ Spoke with Paidea about :
 - a/ Increasing Hellenic education courses in our colleges.
 - b/ Increase cooperation between AHEPA and Paidea since our goals similar.
 - c/ AHEPA is willing to work with Paidea
- 5/ State Capital Celebration of Greek Independence Day, on March 25th. He urged as many members as possible to attend.

District Advisor- Emmanuel Moshovos PDG Report

When visiting each chapter he hoped to draw from each chapter things that work, and can be used by other chapters. The extent to which our AHEPA ritual is used varies with the chapters. However, there are two times the ritual must be used:

- 1/ Initiation - Here the new members learn about the goals and mission of AHEPA.
- 2/ Death of an AHEPAN- This helps both the family and the AHEPA members.

Meeting ended at 1:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Aros
District Secretary