



ORDER OF AHEPA
MOTHER LODGE FOUNDED JULY 26, 1922
YANKEE DISTRICT # 7
2015 DISTRICT FALL
CONFERENCE, BRIDGEPORT, CT
OCTOBER 17, 2015 MINUTES

COMBINED MEETING OF AHEPA FAMILY

9:50 AM: The membership of the District 7 AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope gathered at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Hall in Bridgeport, CT on October 17, 2015.

Approximately 60 AHEPANs and Daughters were in attendance. The gathering was honored by the presence of Region 4 Supreme Governor, Frank Fotis, Bay State District 8 Governor Dalton Respass, Lili Respass Daughters of Penelope Grand Governor for Zone 1, and Maids of Athena Grand Secretary, Effie Sapuridis. A majority of the District 7 Lodge officers from both branches of the AHEPA family were present.

A summary of the Spring Conference joint business meeting is as follows. John Bochanis (Bridgeport Chapter #62, President) welcomed the assembled AHEPANs and Daughters in attendance. He referenced that the Bridgeport AHEPA is celebrating their 90th anniversary. He offered thanks to the Bridgeport Daughters for their significant work in making this conference happen.

Kathy Yiannoulis (Bridgeport Chapter #41 President) was next to speak on behalf of the Daughters of Penelope offering greetings of the host chapter. She noted that the Daughters in Bridgeport were celebrating their 80th anniversary. She recognized Fr. George Livaditis (their new priest). She called Fr. George to offer the opening prayer for the conference. Fr. George welcomed everyone to Bridgeport and noted that he is a proud AHEPAN originally from Brooklyn #41. She introduced the District Governor, Myrsini Papoutsis, to address the gathering.

The DG offered thanks to Bridgeport for hosting the conference and for all their hard work. She introduced her District Lodge, Lt. Gov. Karen Isaac, Secretary Marianne Boutsioulis, Treasurer Valerie St. Peter, Marshall Ginny Argiros (not present), Advisor Penny Pecka, and seven PDGs present. Supreme officers in attendance were Lili Respass Grand Governor for Zone 1 and Effie Sapuridis Grand Secretary of the Maids of Athena. Lili Respass was asked to make a few remarks. She offered the greetings of the Grand President Connie Pilallis who is traveling in Europe to Germany and Greece. Effie Sapuridis offered greetings from the Deanna Socaris, Grand President.

The AHEPA District 7 Governor, Alex Bousioulis was introduced. Alex added his thanks to the Conference organizers and remarked about how well he has been received at all of the District 7 Chapter events he has attended and learning how the various Chapter conduct their business. He introduced his District Lodge: Lt. Gov. Demetrius Tasoulas, Secretary Greg Simones, Treasurer John Melonopoulos (not present due to illness and was wished a speedy recovery), Advisor Jack Isaac, Hellenic Affairs Chair George Rados (not present), Sons of Pericles Advisor Rick Pecka, and six PDGs. He also recognized Dalton Respass, District 8 Governor, and Frank Fotis, Supreme Governor Region 4. On behalf of Ernie Poole, the DG stated that the Supreme President John Galanis would make a visitation to Norwich and New London on November 5th and 6th. He recognized the Norwich Chapter for raising over \$25,000 through a truck raffle to be donated to the St. Nicholas Shrine building fund.

He introduced PSG Nick Nikas to discuss the Hellenic History Competition (HHC) to be held in Orange, CT November 14th. Bro. Nick was glad to have a chance to discuss the HHC in front of this combined meeting as the DOP members are generally more closely involved with the participating students. This will be the 7th HHC with 16 teams participating. He discussed the mechanics of the contest and how prize money is awarded. He stated that participating teams have offered tremendously positive feedback as to the value of the experience. Next, he went through the roster of teams: Nashua, NH; Waterbury, CT; Paramus, NJ (2 teams); Hartford, CT; New Haven, CT; Stamford, CT (2 teams); Norwich, CT; New Britain, CT; Pawtucket, RI; Newport, RI, New London, CT; New Rochelle, NY; Watertown, MA; and Wilmington, NC. The NC team wanted to participate so they could plan another regional competition in the Southeastern region. He went through the names of the chapters that still owed money to fund the competition. The DG went on to say that Chicago is getting ready to host their second event and the hope is that with new events in the southeast and west coast that a national event may happen in the future at a national convention.

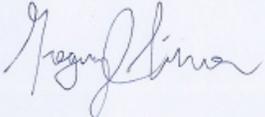
Next, the DG asked the Supreme Governor Frank Fotis to make some remarks. He thanked the members for the invitation and for electing him to the office. He explained that Region 4 is composed of Districts 7, 8, and 9. He went on to discuss the national fundraiser for St. Nicholas and recognized the \$25,500 raised by Norwich (the most at that time by any chapter nationally) and that the check would be presented to the Supreme President next month. Another item is the Region 4 banquet, which is a departure from annual regional banquets in New York and Washington, DC. The Supreme Lodge decided to hold four regional banquets a year on a rotating basis and that Region 4 was selected this year to be held in Boston on November 6th at the Cathedral Center with the Supreme President to be in attendance. He also wishes the Chapters of AHEPA and the DOP to report to their DGs how much money they give out in educational scholarships in an effort to advertise the AHEPA Family's commitment to charitable endeavors. He believes the national amount to be in excess of two million dollars annually. He also asked that Chapter Secretaries include him on all mailings (ahepar4@gmail.com) so he can make arrangements to attend if possible. He congratulated Bro. Nick Nikas on his success with HHC and is proud of its start here in District 7.

Next, Demetrius Tasoulas was asked by the DG to give a report on the District Scholarship awards dinner held in New London. Approximately \$20,000 was awarded to 19 recipients with about 70 total people in attendance. He gave thanks to all who supported the event in the various

ways. The DG Alex offered reminders of upcoming events. He also said that \$2,500 of the proceeds from the Nite at the Races event held in the spring was presented to St. Nicholas Shrine fund during the testimonial for Anna Helene Grossomanides. He thanked the Secretary for the minutes and asked if there were any questions before adjournment.

DG Alex Boutsoulis adjourned the joint meeting at 10:24 AM with the DOP staying in the hall and the AHEPA moving to another room.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gregory Simones", is centered within a light blue rectangular background.

Gregory Simones
Secretary, District 7

COMBINED MEETING OF THE AHEPA/DOP – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OCTOBER 17, 2015 – Bridgeport, CT

- 1) Welcomes by John Bochanis (Bridgeport Chapter #62, President), Kathy Yiannoulis (DOP Bridgeport Chapter #41, President), Fr. George Livaditis (Bridgeport Priest), Myrsini Papoutsis (District 7 Governor), Lili Respass, (DOP Grand Governor for Zone 1), Effie Sapuridis (Maids of Athena Grand Secretary), and Alex Bousioulis (District 7 Governor).
- 2) The AHEPA DG offered a report, on behalf of Ernie Pool (Norwich), about the Supreme President's visit to the District in November.
- 3) Brother Nick Nikas (Stamford) gave a report on the upcoming Hellenic History Competition to be held in November. He described the growth of the program now in its seventh year in District 7, year 2 in Chicago, and soon to be one in the Southeast.
- 4) Frank Fotis, Region 4 Supreme Governor, gave a report about the St. Nicholas Shrine fundraiser and the Region 4 banquet. He requested that the AHEPA and DOP chapters in District 7 make a tally of all their scholarship disbursements to get a full assessment of the charity of our AHEPA family.
- 5) Demetrius Tasoulas (Lt. Governor District 7) gave a report of the 2015 District Scholarship Dinner and Awards held in New London, CT.
- 6) The DG offered reminders of upcoming events.



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MEETING OF THE AHEPA

10:38 AM: AHEPA District 7 meeting began in the Bridgeport Church Community Center Classroom. There were 25 AHEPANs in attendance. List of the 25 in attendance as follows: PDS Andy Aros, New Britain (117), Michael Michael, Meriden (#126), Jordan Smith, Hartford (#58), Gregory C. Lalas, Meriden (#126), Nick Nickas, Stamford (#99), DLG Demetrius Tasoulas, New London (Winthrop #250), Rick Pecka, Waterbury (#48), Dick Pecka, Waterbury (# 48), DS Greg Simones, New London (Winthrop #250), SG Frank Fotis, Boston, MA (Athens #24), PDG Jack Issac, New Britain (#117), Van Hatzis, Bridgeport (#62), DG Alex Boutsoulis, Waterbury (#48), Jerry Copsinis, Hartford (#58), Nick Fatibene, Bridgeport (#62), PDG George Anagnostos, Newport (#245), PDG Steve Jennings, Newport (#245), PSG George Scarveles, New Haven (#98), Peter Paspalis, Stamford (#99), James Cocolis, Stamford (#99), Arthur Kiratsous, Stamford (#99), George Baker, Bridgeport (#62), D8G Dalton Reppass, Worcester, MA (#80), Michael Bouloubasis, Bridgeport (#62), and Constantinos Vlamis, Bridgeport (#62).

District Governor Alex Boutsoulis opened the meeting by asking Secretary Greg Simones to present the minutes from the last meeting. He presented a summary of the minutes from the Spring meeting. Rick Pecka made a recommendation to summarize the highlights of the minutes in bulleted form, which was accepted by the Secretary. George Scarveles moved to approve the minutes and Demetrius Tasoulas seconded. Discussion: George Scarveles offered complements to the Secretary for the most detailed minutes he has seen. Demetrius Tasoulas offered his complements on the detail and accuracy of the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The DG passed out the budget prepared by John Melonopoulos for review. Discussion by George Scarveles and Steve Jennings regarding review of the annual amount that goes to district scholarship (\$1.25) and possible ways to increase the giving from the District to the scholarship foundation (501c3). John Bochanis suggested that an "opt out" feature of the Yankee News (\$6 from per capita) be considered and to receive it electronically instead. The DG answered that could be a way over time to save costs as a District and to members and it is being considered. The District Lodge is considering a number of ways to save costs on the Yankee News (YN). There was a motion to accept the budget as presented (Rick Pecka) and seconded by George

Scarveles. Further discussion: Greg Simones brought up that the savings would be limited to printing costs. The DG stated that he receives a monthly digital only newsletter from the Sons that is very informative. Greg went on to say that John Melonopoulos said at the last Convention that there were nonmembers that were requesting the YN and asked if that number was generating any extra revenue at \$12 per subscription? The DG said there were about 10 to 20 subscriptions of that type. Demetrius Tasoulas said that he was happy that the YN was running in the black. Greg Simones reminded the group that John Melonopoulos had asked that each chapter procure at least one ad. The budget was passed unanimously.

DG Alex spoke on behalf of Ernie Poole who has been coordinating the Supreme President's visit to Norwich and New London in November. On November 5th, dinner at Prime 82 (\$22) in Norwich to honor the Supreme President John Galanis and present the \$25,500 check and the Region 4 Banquet on November 6th in Brookline (\$55). Demetrius Tasoulas added that the SP will be visiting New London on the 6th to see the AHEPA housing units and to have lunch at the church festival. Frank Fotis added that the banquet will be a nice affair with the Governor of Massachusetts, Mayor of Boston, Metropolitan Methodios, and the Supreme President attending. Greg Simones added that he had Ernie's email announcing the events and could forward details to the distribution list.

Rick Pecka was asked to speak about the District Scholarship. He said that there were changes to the criteria this year including revised essay questions, GPA increased from 2.5 to 3.0, and the due date was pushed back to May 15th because of a late start getting out the information. The eligible applications are sent to Salve Regina University via Dropbox, which is a secure site. The applicant information is blocked out so the applications can be reviewed without bias. Salve provides recommendations and rankings for the applicant pool, which was followed by the District Scholarship committee. There were 30 total applicants of which 21 were eligible. 19 scholarships were awarded (17 undergraduates, 2 graduate students) from Waterbury, Newport, Hartford, New London, Meriden, Norwich, and Danbury. He thanked New London as a first time host of the scholarship dinner for an amazing event with good food and a great speaker, Dr. Sadie (Barchini) Elisseau. Dalton Respass asked about Salve Regina and their part in the scholarship. They are independent evaluators to remove any bias. They charge no fee but donations have been made over time to the University from AHEPA. The top two recipients received \$2,000 and the remaining 17 received \$1,000 scholarships. A question was raised as to why 9 applicants were ineligible. The reasons for ineligibility were below 3.0 GPA, lack of understanding of AHEPA to properly address the essay topics, late transcripts, and lack of chapter president signature to verify AHEPA membership. Discussion also included reasons for not awarding scholarships beyond ineligibility, which then is based on available funds and overall ranking among the eligible. The scholarship is given to the student and the school so it is used only for the intended purpose. There was a concern whether an award would lower a student's ability to get Federal loan funding. The consensus was that it didn't adversely affect funding, however, Greg Simones said that the FAFSA application asked about other sources of funding. An extra \$1,000 or \$2,000 in funding shouldn't affect the federal funding. Bridgeport is the next scholarship dinner location for 2016. The reason for the scholarship both going to the student and the school is due to federal nonprofit regulations. Steve Jennings said that coming from a nonprofit organization like AHEPA the funding needs to go to another nonprofit like a college and that the money never goes to the students personal account but goes straight to the

school. The scholarship committee has improvement recommendations for the coming year which, are: the forms will be available no later than mid January, deadline language will change to “postmarked by April 15th”, get language added that student transcript requests should be made early, acceptance of scanned applications with signature have been recommended, reach out to underrepresented chapters (Bridgeport, Danielson, Orange, Norwalk, Stamford, Providence), and remind Pawcatuck as a new chapter to participate. There was some discussion by Andy Aros being concerned about people taking advantage of the system to join AHEPA just to get a scholarship. Discussion continued about the various chapter restrictions about years of membership before eligibility and meeting attendance by members but this does not apply to the District scholarship. Demetrius Tasoulas asked if grandchildren of AHEPANs would ever be considered for the District scholarship. Nick Nikas said that a movement to include grandchildren happened several years ago and was soundly defeated. Brother Rick reminded everyone that it is not practical for the District to micromanage chapter member attendance and that is why the District scholarship cannot enforce such a rule. The DG stated that as long as the District was making money at fundraisers that a proportion should be earmarked for the Scholarship Foundation (presented as a recommendation only).

Next, Rick Pecka continued with another presentation regarding his efforts as District Sons of Pericles Advisor. The Waterbury Sons Chapter is one of the most active in the country along with Boston and Albany known as the Big 3. There will be a St. Nicholas Shrine fundraiser featuring Ellen Karis, comedienne on Saturday December 19th at Holy Trinity in Waterbury. Cost \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door for an hour-long comedy show with food and beverages available. He is asking for help promoting and supporting this effort.

DG Alex called on George Anagnostos to discuss preparations for the 2016 District Convention. He gave a report on the 2015 Convention and that we had a lot of VIPs where we covered those costs that put us lower financially than in years past even though the attendance was somewhat similar. There may be a new venue coming available in 2017 in Newport. Discussion took place regarding the merits of the Friday night outing and participation or lack of by George Anagnostos and Steve Jennings with no apparent resolution. Jack Isaac thanked both George and Steve for their efforts over the years as perpetual hosts to District 7 as Newport is a wonderful destination with much to do for visitors.

DG Alex asked Jack Isaac to speak about the Yankee News. He showed an example of the new format and said he hoped the brothers were enjoying it, which was met with applause. He thanked the staff of YN, which is comprised of coeditors Jack Issac and Alex Boutsoulis, Andy Aros (secretary), photographer Greg Simones, publicist Terry Plumley, and John Melonopoulos, finances and ad procurement. The YN was entered at the last National Conference through the Publications Committee. YN took first place for the whole AHEPA domain. We are going to continue to make YN better by adding new features such as letters to the editor and Ta Nea. Hartford and New Britain Daughters have sold ads and have been added to the mailing list. He reminded the chapters to either sell ads or buy one for their chapter to support YN since several chapters have not done either. George Scarvelas asked about a CT tax number referenced on the report, if obtained, would save on mailing costs. Further discussion took place regarding chapters submitting news if they want news printed. Greg Simones said that chapters that have newsletters can use their content to put forward news to the District. Maybe the District could

sponsor a chapter newsletter contest to spur competition to create more and greater interest among the chapters.

DG Alex Boutsoulis gave the Governor's Report. He noted that several chapters have had difficulty with viability after leadership changes, which hasn't had a presence at the last couple of years worth of Conferences. The DG made a visitation to Danbury recently where he initiated 2 new members. They have new leadership and he hopes to see more of them in the future. Other chapters that have not been active are Danielson and Norwalk. We need to focus our efforts on collecting dues and initiating new members (many people might join AHEPA that have never been asked). He recommended that chapters form committees to evaluate ways to help them bolster membership. He called out New London as one that is making efforts to identify and pursue potential new members or to reinstate lapsed members. He has initiated 12 people this year in the District and he is willing to go attend chapter initiations for any number of initiates.

Frank Fotis stated that he was not properly recognized as a Supreme Lodge member by having him sit up front of the meeting. He said that he has never been properly recognized by District 7 for seating. A discussion followed about the November December feature where if you joined in those months your membership would be counted for that year and the following year. SG Frank said that there were instances of chapters taking advantage of that so it was being discontinued. Nick Nikas recalled that feature was part of the bylaws and should not be subject to a year-to-year ruling by the Supreme Lodge. Frank said that he will check on it and report back at another time. Dalton Respass agreed with Nick assessment, however, Van Hatzis said his chapter's reports from national do not reflect that. Brother Mo Moshovas said that when he was involved with membership that he was taught to remember the 3 Rs: recruitment, retention, and reinstatement. Many chapter officials discussed their problems with getting payment from members and all acknowledged it was a universal problem. Andy Aros said that New Britain dealt with this problem in the following way: They send out a notice saying that if all members send in their dues by March 15th, that at the April meeting those members will get their names in a raffle and whomever get their name pulls gets their dues returned. For 2 years, they have had 100% payment by March. By the summer, they pay all their per capita for district and national.

DG Alex opened the discussion to the membership to discuss chapter events. John Bochanis (Bridgeport) said that he has the Parish Council President, Gus Vlamis, present and that they had a wine tasting here last night, which was a huge undertaking and a lot of work to clean up so we could have our meeting today, so he offered his public thanks. George Scarveles (New Haven) reported on an indoor picnic they had in New Haven with District member participation where they presented a certificate to Sperry Perakis who was DG in 1952-53. He said that Sperry gets upset if you ask his age but that he did graduate from Yale in 1937. They are presenting a series of seminars featuring brother George Syrimis from Yale. They are cooking for the home shelter in Branford in December and having several pancake breakfasts to raise money for the scholarship fund (approx. \$1,400 to 1,500 per event). They have a new president, Vagos Hadjimichael, professor of Physics at Fairfield University who couldn't attend this meeting due to a talk he had to give in Washington, DC and Greg Stamos couldn't attend due to his full schedule. Demetrius Tasoulas (New London) reported that the New London chapter is embarking on its 6th housing project through tax credit funding and they are pursuing an

aggressive membership drive. He encouraged the other chapters to remember Oxi Day in their communities. Nick Nikas (Stamford) stated that back in May they hosted a lecture given by George Syrimis about the history of the Greek language with 60 people in attendance. He recommended other chapters ask him to give the same informative and engaging lecture in their locations. They will have 5 members of the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music to offer Russian church music and folk songs. Wells Fargo has stopped having nonprofit accounts without charges and anyone having accounts with them should check on that. He asked that someone from the Lodge sit down with him today to draw the teams that will compete with each other in the first round of the Hellenic History Competition. Michael Michael (Meriden) asked if an AHEPA president could also be a Parish Council President because he was told that that was not allowed. The answer was that there was no rule over such a thing. Rick Pecka (Waterbury) hosts monthly dinners for its members and family for \$25 per person on the last Monday of the month. Alex Boutsoulis said that they have gotten philhellene members from their dinner meeting participation. It is an easy way to foster chapter engagement and bonding. They also hosted an annual golf tournament to raise money for the chapter scholarship fund. It is generally a successful event even though they had only 40 participants as opposed to their usual 60. They also have a March Madness event and football square event for the Superbowl. The Sons of Pericles, in addition to the Ellen Karis event, are having a prize raffle for a 42" TV with the prize being awarded during their annual Hall of Fame event. They also have a Dodgeball Tournament in January. Jack Issac said that Waterbury is a chapter that really thinks outside the box and he has tried to emulate those types of events in New Britain. Dinner meetings have been successful there. John Bochanis echoed the success of the dinner meeting in Bridgeport in that it brings in more people. They also have had a Taverna Night event. Jerry Copsinis (Hartford) said that they have a scholarship committee and that they have distributed \$6,000 to 10 students. They are having a Thanksgiving dinner for \$12 per person for AHEPANs. The Housing Foundation distributed \$4,500 to various charities around their area. They also gave \$1,000 to the AHEPA Academy. They had two speakers about Homes for Heroes where Veterans are assisted with their housing through this charity. They are also having a blood drive. He remarked that John Melonopoulos went to the national conference in Montreal a few years back and was in an accident that required a blood transfusion and that the attending doctor did not charge for his services since he was a recipient of an AHEPA scholarship. This is proof of AHEPA making a positive difference for many people. A discussion followed regarding the impact of scheduling conflicts with church events and if it posed problems. Demetrius Tasoulas added to his chapter report saying that the New London chapter hosts Thanksgiving for the 270 housing residents in 5 homes. The local scholarship has provided funding to 5 students this year. Frank Fotis said that the standing drive for the Supreme Lodge is membership, which should amount to one new net member per chapter. He congratulated all the chapters on their outstanding events and efforts for charity. The best way to get money from those members who don't pay is through invoices followed by additional follow up invoices and phone calls as needed. He thanked the brothers who brought up the important issue of member retention. He also said that national has many programs like AHEPA Academy as well as Journey to Greece, which is a great way to get young people involved and maybe become eventual members. He encouraged the brothers to visit the AHEPA website to become more familiar with the programs AHEPA promotes like the AHEPA Marathon. They are exploring an idea at National to get Chapters to pay their per capita earlier by potentially offering \$5 off each member for payment in full for all members by March 1st. He wanted to congratulate the chapters and the districts for the money raised and distributed as

educational scholarships. It is believed that combined AHEPA gives about \$1 million a year, which he thinks is low, so he asked that the chapters tally their amounts and report to the DG and the District Lodge can report to the Supreme Governor. He reminded the brothers that he would be happy to attend any initiation or installation of officers when invited. He stated that he made 49 visitations last year (some multiple visits to the same chapters). Rick Pecka asked the brothers to consider their comments and concerns carefully and to make them in the proper forum by paying attention to the agenda and to determine whether they are items for group discussion or could be handled person to person outside of the meeting. He also recommended that communications within chapters can be enhanced beyond email by taking the time to make phone calls. George Scarveles encouraged all chapters to attend the Hellenic History program in Orange. Mo Moshovos spoke about the AHEPA Academy. He is passionate about the program and Hartford has sent 4 students (3.5 GPA or better) over the last 3 years. He feels it is the biggest bang for the buck at \$1,000 per student.

With all business concluded, the District Governor, Alex Boutsoulis, thanked all in attendance for a good meeting.

Motion to Adjourn made by John Bochanis
Seconded by Greg Simones
Meeting Adjourned at 12:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregory Simones", is centered within a light blue rectangular background.

Gregory Simones
Secretary, District 7

MEETING OF THE AHEPA –EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OCTOBER 17, 2015 – Bridgeport, CT

- 1) The budget was presented by Alex Boutsoulis, on behalf of John Melonopoulos, and approved by the membership with much discussion about the Yankee News and further cost saving measures but with no real path forward to do so in the short term. Many recommendations and ideas are being considered going forward.
- 2) A report was presented by Alex Boutsoulis, on behalf of Ernie Poole, regarding the Supreme President's visit to the District and honorable mention to the Norwich Chapter for raising over \$25,000 for the St. Nicholas Shrine Fund.
- 3) Rick Pecka presented a detailed report of the District Scholarship and the recent changes to the criteria. He discussed the process of selection of recipients and some of the issues surrounding ineligible applications. New London had a successful first year event hosting the scholarship dinner. Bridgeport will host in 2016. The presentation generated a lot of discussion and questions that were addressed by Brother Rick.
- 4) Rick Pecka presented a report as District Advisor to the Sons of Pericles and their St. Nicholas fundraising event featuring Ellen Karis, comedienne.
- 5) George Anagnostos and Steve Jennings discussed the District Convention in Newport. A report was given about the 2015 event and future conventions. Discussion regarding VIP comped packages and the financial viability of the Convention as well as how to better manage the Friday fun events was made resulting in a need to address those issues.
- 6) Jack Isaac submitted his report for the Yankee News, which won first place in the national competition for 2015. Efforts to improve the publication further and to secure ads perpetually are ongoing.
- 7) Alex Boutsoulis gave his Governor's report. Danbury, Danielson, and Norwalk have not been active nor have they participated in District events lately. Efforts are underway to assist these chapters with progress being made only in Danbury so far. He stressed the importance of following up with maintaining and growing membership in the chapters. Significant discussion followed regarding improving ways to collect dues and to encourage earlier payment of dues.
- 8) Alex Boutsoulis opened the floor for chapters to share their events and successes with the other chapters. What became apparent was that the chapters have significant active efforts to raise funds for scholarships and other charities, encourage education through sponsoring seminars, and provide for chapter teambuilding through local events.
- 9) Our Supreme Governor, Frank Fotis, encouraged the chapters to address their membership retention and recruitment to help AHEPA thrive. He also encouraged the brothers to visit the AHEPA website and become familiar with all the programs AHEPA has to offer such as AHEPA Academy, Journey to Greece, AHEPA Marathon, etc. He also wants the chapters and district to make an AHEPA family tally of donations to scholarships within chapters and as a district to take stock of the full impact we are having on education and to take a little credit for all the good we do as AHEPANS.