

AHEPA Yankee District # 7 – 2008 Fall Conference - Agenda

AHEPA Family Joint Session

10:00-10:05	Welcome to the New Haven Chapter	G. Scarveles
10:05-10:10	Welcome and Introductions	N. Nikas
10:10-10:15	Ahepa National Convention Basketball	G. Stamos
10:15-10:30	Welcome – How to help the Daughters	D. Rados
10:30-10:45	Hellenic Affairs – Hellenic Caucus, CCSU	G. Rados

AHEPA Session

10:45-11:45	Chapter Reports	Chapters
	1. Success stories – what has worked	
	2. Areas where they need improvement	
	3. What District 7 should be doing to help the chapters	
11:45-12:15	Thoughts and actions for the coming year and beyond	N. Nikas
12:15-12:30	Chapter recruitment efforts	E. Moshovos
12:30-12:45	Yankee News Actions	J. Grossomanides
12:45-13:00	Conclusion	N. Nikas

Thoughts and actions for the coming year and beyond

- **Action Alert – Letter to President Bush re Visa Waiver Program**
- **Email, Mail, Fax your Chapter Officers information to National - ANNUALLY**
- **Pay National for the 2008 dues already collected from your members - NOW**
- **Collect remaining dues as quickly as possible and send per capita portion to National**
- **Membership Goal: Increase Membership by 20%**
 - Membership Development Talking Points
 - Mission: Promote the Ancient Greek Ideals of Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence
 - Programs: Scholarships, Education, Low Income Housing, Philanthropic Fundraising, Community Service, Have a Voice in Washington, Connection to Hellenic Community, Fellowship, Athletics
 - Benefits: Quarterly Magazine (National, District), Access to Membership Directory, Making a Positive Contribution to Community, Part of Pioneering Legacy
 - Governor to send personalized letters to all 180 District 7 delinquent members
 - Initiation and Reinstatement Fees Waived through December 31, 2008
 - Membership drive contest – Laptops to Fastest Growing Chapters
- **Help collect membership emails for easier communication**
- **AHEPAcademy; Journey to Greece; Hellenic History Trophy**
- **Chapter Scholarship Data being collected to help with publicity**
- **Charter Schools (e.g. Wilmington)**
- **NY Parade (Independence Day) – GET READY – Money, Marchers**
- **2009 Regional Convention – Tri-District NERC X – June 5-7, 2009, Mansfield, MA**
- **National Convention – July 1-5, 2009, San Francisco, CA**



AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

*A MESSAGE FROM THE
SUPREME PRESIDENT*

A message from the
desk of Ike Gulas
Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Contact: Ike Gulas
SupremePresident@ahempa.org



THE U.S. VISA WAIVER PROGRAM: GREECE MUST BE INCLUDED

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends of the AHEPA Family:

It has been my steadfast belief that we should serve the purpose of informing our members, and those interested in our mission, of events pertaining to our community. That is why our weekly electronic newsletter was founded and why I believe it has been widely accepted. As many of you know, the Order of AHEPA has worked steadfastly over the past several years to facilitate Greece's acceptance into the United States Visa Waiver Program. To that end, we were extremely optimistic when the US Department of State nominated Greece in September 2007. It was our hope that Greece would join its EU counterparts as a member of the VWP by the end of this year.

Monday, I travelled to Washington to meet with Ambassador Alexandros Mallias of Greece and officials at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to learn how AHEPA could assist in moving the application of Greece forward. My meeting with the Ambassador was most informative. However, during my meeting with DHS, I was appalled upon hearing directly that Greece's application was being held up by the Executive Branch, due to

"political reasons." This retaliatory action is being taken because Greece exercised its veto authority to prevent FYROM's bid to join NATO this past April.

As president of AHEPA, but more importantly, a Greek American, I was outraged at this declaration. As a result, yesterday I issued a [letter to President George W. Bush](#) expressing our discontent with this inexcusable policy. In addition, we are asking all AHEPA family members, and the Greek American community, to unite and let the White House know that we find this act unacceptable, and furthermore, respectfully request that Greece be allowed to continue on its rightful path to become a visa waiver nation.

Later today you will receive an official action alert from AHEPA Headquarters, urging you to email, write and call the White House on this important issue. Prior to doing so, please download the [Visa Waiver Program AHEPA Fact Sheet](#). It is important for each of us to understand what the program is and why it is important for Greece to be included.



Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ike Gulas".

Ike Gulas, Supreme President

AHEPA is the largest Greek-American association in the world with chapters in the United States, Canada, Greece, Cyprus, and sister chapters in Australia and New Zealand. It was established in 1922 by visionary Greek Americans to protect Hellenes from prejudice originating from the KKK, and in its history, AHEPA joined with the NAACP and B'nai B'rith International to fight discrimination.

Action Request

AHEPA Supreme President Ike Gulas has sent a letter to President George W. Bush, and key administration officials and members of Congress, expressing the Greek-American community's strong discontent with the Executive Branch's new policy that blocks Greece's path toward becoming a visa waiver nation.

Now it is your turn. The constituents must have a voice. Please contact President Bush today!

Email (preferred) or call President Bush

Request that the President intervene to give a "Green Light" for Greece to proceed on its path to become a visa waiver nation.

Present the reasons why the resolution merits debate (you can utilize the talking points list below)

Email: president@whitehouse.gov Fax: 202-456-2461

Helpful Tips

Identify yourself as an American Citizen

Keep your message as brief and as focused as possible.

Personalize Your Letter! Explain how this policy affects you personally as a citizen.

Send us a copy of your correspondence or let us know that you called by dropping an e-mail to: policy@ahempa.org.

Sample Letter

October 11, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

I am writing as a concerned American citizen in regard your administration's recent policy decision to block Greece's path to become a visa waiver nation because of a "political issue" that has arisen between the United States and Greece, two long-standing NATO allies.

Greece is well-qualified and positioned as the leading candidate country for visa waiver expansion. Greece must meet the security requirements as presented to it by the Department of Homeland Security; however, obstructing Greece's roadmap to become a visa waiver nation based upon a "political issue" that has no bearing on Greece's outstanding merits to join the visa waiver program is unacceptable to me. It punishes American citizens of Greek heritage, and countless Philhellenes, who would look to Greece as a visa waiver nation as an opportunity to strengthen economic, cultural, and social ties in addition to it being a strong indication of trust from the United States.

The case for Greece is strong.

Greece is the only nation of all the candidate nations that has been formally nominated by the State Department; Greece's visa refusal rate is well below 3 percent (1.6 percent); and Greece's passport biometrics exceeds technology used by current VWP nations.

Therefore, please provide Greece with a "green light" in its quest to become a visa waiver nation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

NAME
ADDRESS

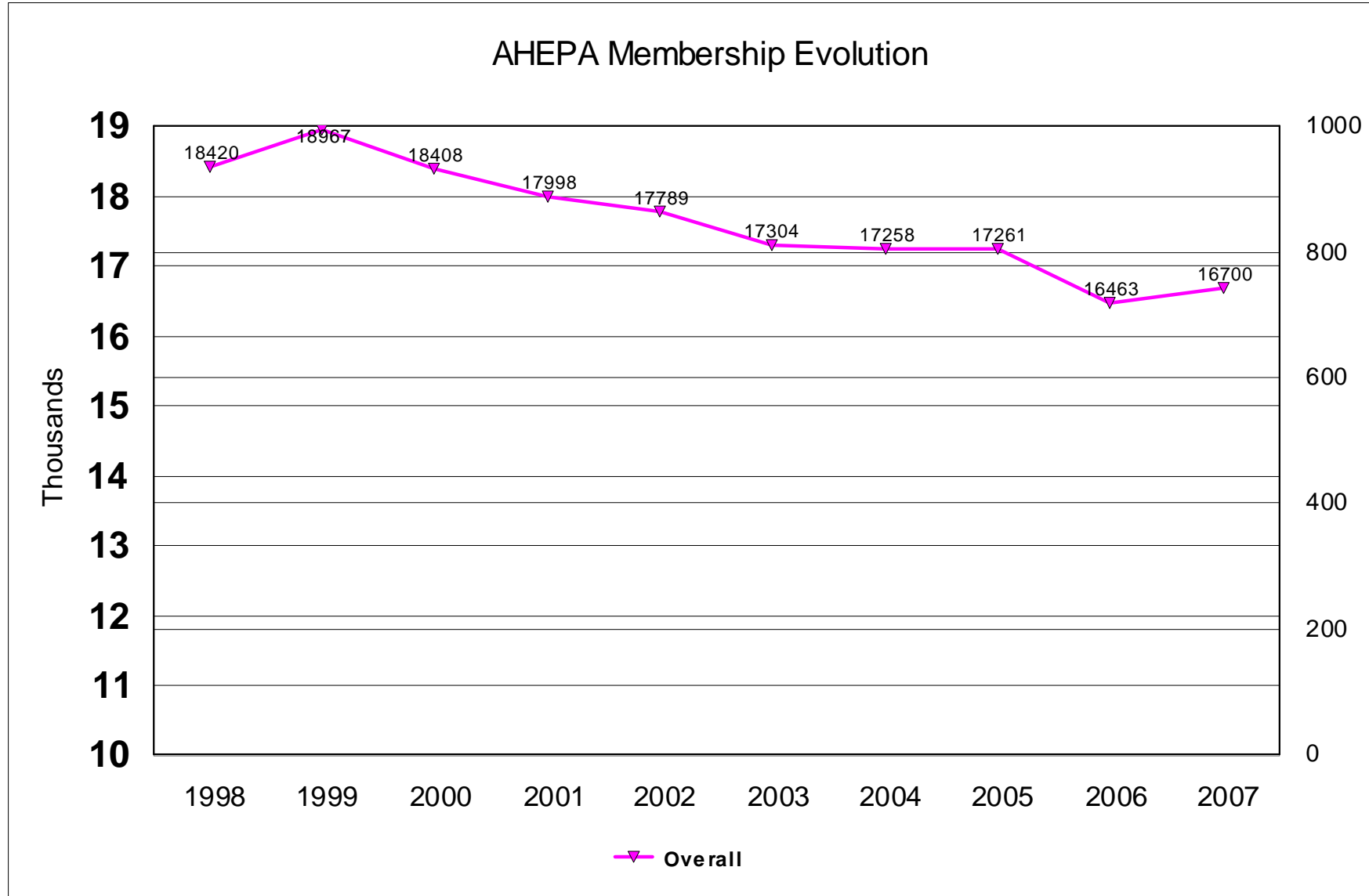
Chapters that had not sent Officers Information to National as of 9/13

- **Waterbury**
- **Hartford**
- **New Haven** **OK now**
- **Providence**
- **Norwich** **OK now**
- **New Britain** **OK now**
- **Meriden**
- **Newport**
- **New London**
- **Norwalk**
- **Danielson**

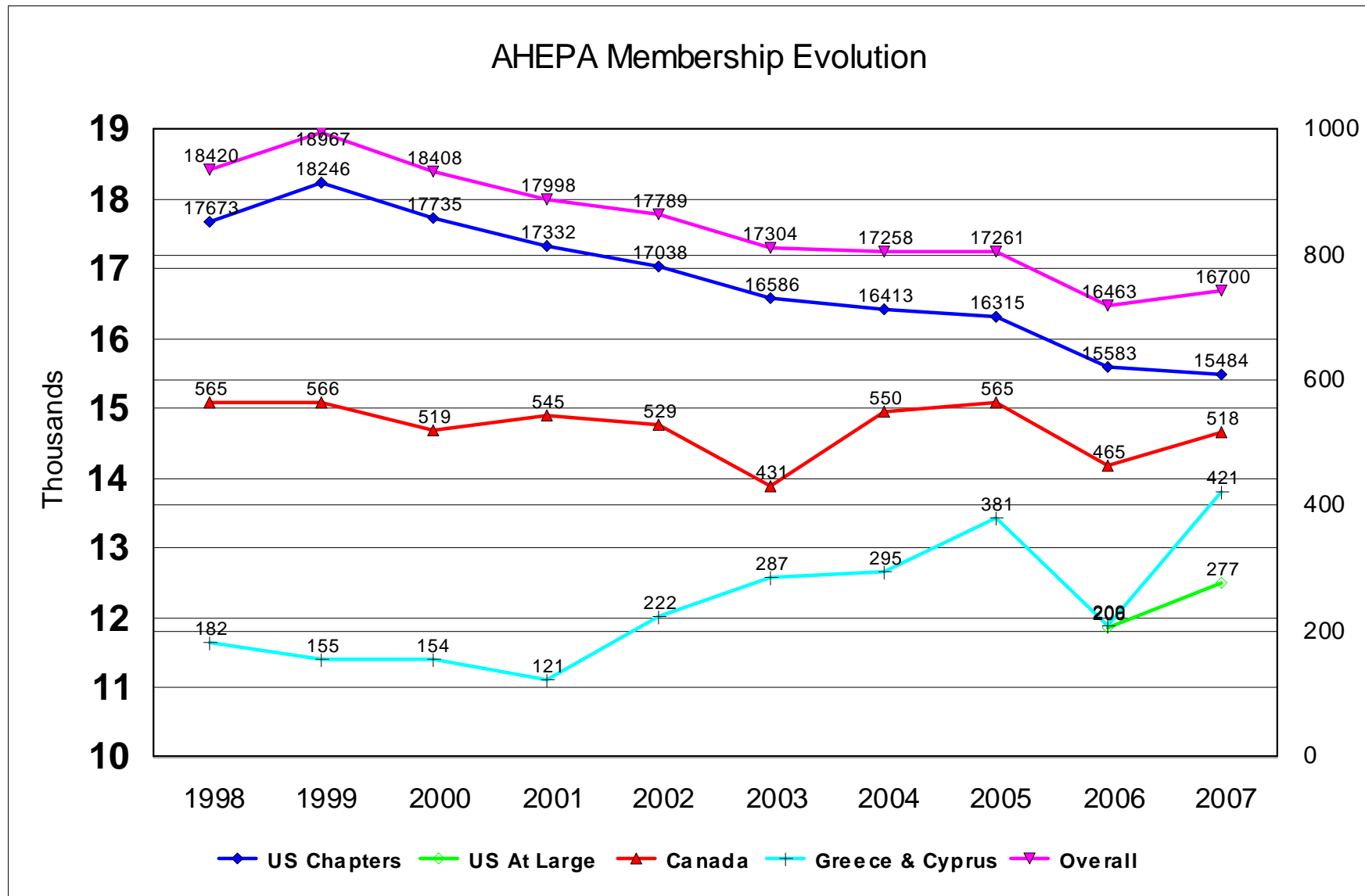
2008 per Capital Status as of October 6

#	Chapter	2007 Members	Paid & Life thru Oct 6	Percent Current
48	Waterbury	43	7	16%
58	Hartford	47	39	83%
62	Bridgeport	77	71	92%
90	Danbury	36	22	61%
98	New Haven	23	9	39%
99	Stamford	55	10	18%
106	Providence	69	6	9%
110	Norwich	81	71	88%
117	New Britain	52	52	100%
126	Meriden	16	2	13%
245	New port	51	49	96%
250	New London	36	24	67%
387	Norwalk	11	2	18%
418	Danielson	44	44	100%
	Total	641	408	64%
	NB+Meriden	68	54	79%

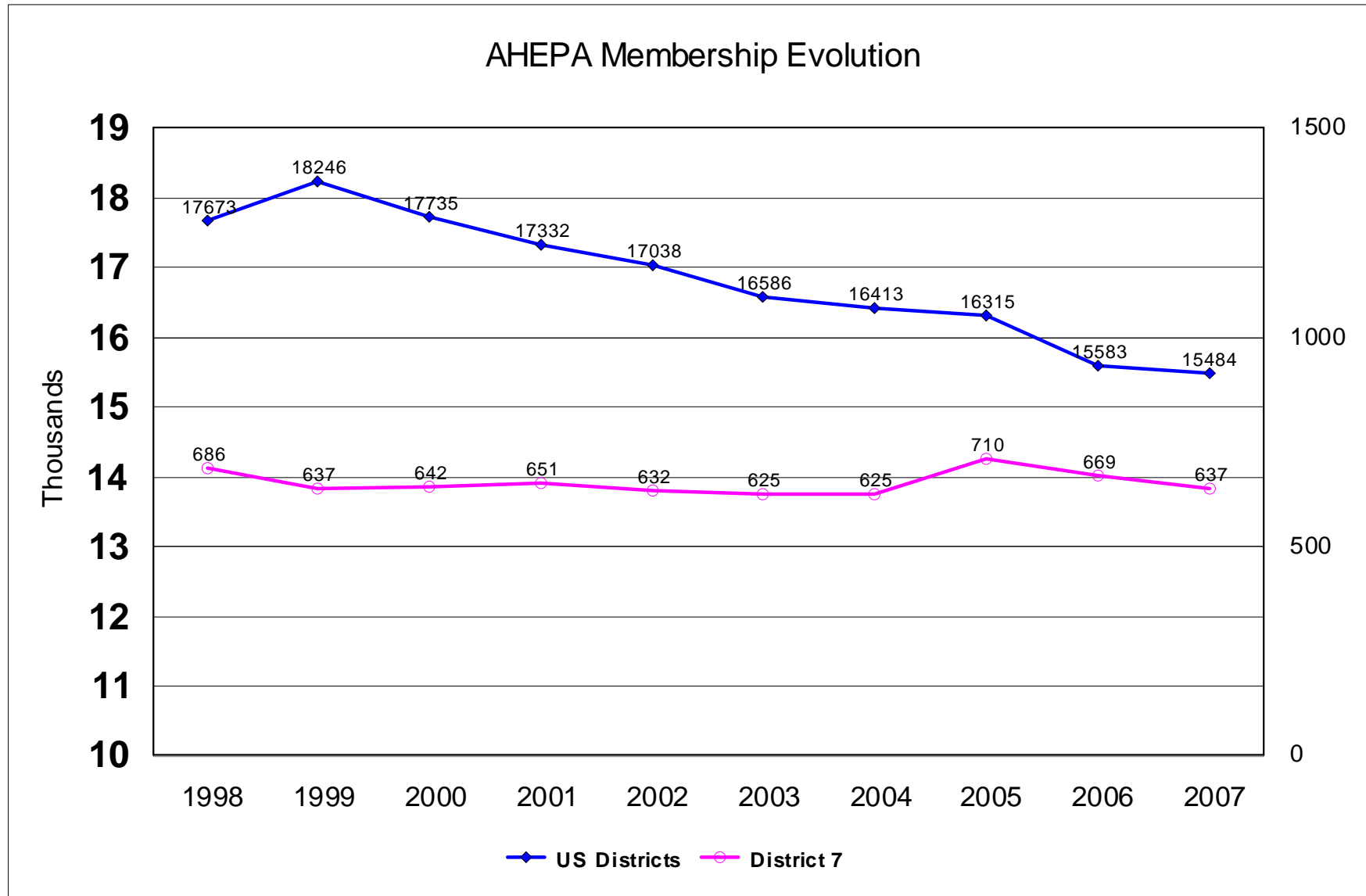
National Membership Evolution 1998-2007 – part 1



National Membership Evolution 1998-2007 – part 2 (components)



National Membership Evolution 1998-2007 – part 3 (with D7)



Collect Information on the Size of our Communities

State	City	Church	Families	#	Chapter
CT	Ansonia	Holy Trinity		98	New Haven
CT	Bridgeport	Holy Trinity		62	Bridgeport
CT	Bristol	St. Demetrios	60	126	Meriden
CT	Danbury	Assumption		90	Danbury
CT	Danielson	Holy Trinity		418	Danielson
CT	Enfield	St. Nicholas		58	Hartford
CT	Hartford	St. George		58	Hartford
CT	New Britain	St. George	150	117	New Britain
CT	New Haven	Saint Basil		98	New Haven
CT	New London	Saint Sophia	440	250	New London
CT	Norwalk	St. George	400	387	Norwalk
CT	Norwich	Holy Trinity		110	Norwich
CT	Orange	St. Barbara		98	New Haven
CT	Stamford	Annunciation	150	99	Stamford
CT	Stamford	Archangels	450	99	Stamford
CT	Storrs	Three Hierarchs		418	Danielson
CT	Waterbury	Holy Trinity	270	48	Waterbury
RI	Cranston,	Annunciation		106	Providence
RI	New port	St. Spyridon	250	245	New port
RI	Paw tucket	Assumption		106	Providence
	Total			2170	

Work in Progress
 Please help us complete
 and confirm the numbers

Focus Recruitment Efforts on High Potential Communities

#	Chapter	2007 Members	Church Families	2007 Penetration
48	Waterbury	43	270	16%
58	Hartford	47		
62	Bridgeport	77		
90	Danbury	36		
98	New Haven	23		
99	Stamford	55	700	8%
106	Providence	69		
110	Norwich	81		
117	New Britain	52	150	35%
126	Meriden	16	60	27%
245	New port	51	440	12%
250	New London	36		
387	Norw alk	11	400	3%
418	Danielson	44		
	Total	641	2020	
	NB+Meriden	68	210	32%

Work in Progress
Please help us complete
and confirm the numbers

Chapter and District Scholarships – Data Collection

#	Chapter	2008 Scholarships		
		Amount	Students	Range
48	Waterbury	\$8,000	15	\$500-\$1500
58	Hartford	\$3,000	3	\$1,000
62	Bridgeport			
90	Danbury	\$7,000	7	\$1,000
98	New Haven			
99	Stamford	\$1,000	1	\$1,000
106	Providence			
110	Norwich			
117	New Britain			
126	Meriden			
245	New port			
250	New London	\$6,000	n/a	n/a
387	Norwalk			
418	Danielson			
	Total Chapters	\$25,000	26	
	District #7	\$17,000	13	\$500-\$2500
	Grand Total	\$42,000	39	

Work in Progress
 Please help us complete
 and confirm the numbers

Items Voted On and Accepted at the 2008 Convention

1. Allow individual students to receive a maximum of three scholarships, up from the current maximum of two
2. Increase District assessments on chapters as follows:
 - Per Capita \$3
 - Scholarship \$4
 - Hellenic Affairs \$1
 - Yankee News \$4 with a maximum of \$7 (depending number of ads sold)
 - Total \$16

These items need to be voted on and accepted again at the next convention (2009).

Budget for July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009	
Income	
	Per Capita (700x2) 1400
	Scholarships (700x1.25) 875
	Yankee News (700x4) 2800
	Per Capita National Rebate 1200
	National Convention Rebate 25
	From Surplus 1375
	7675
Expense	
	District Gov - National Convention 2000
	District Gov - Gov Conference 400
	District Gov - expenses 600
	District Lodge – Officers expenses 600
	Scholarships 875
	Yankee News 2800
	Misc. parades & special projects 400
	7675

Take Away Actions

- Pay National LONG BEFORE year end deadline
- Membership Goal: Increase Membership by 20%
 - A Recruitment Event in Every Chapter before next June
 - ASK people to JOIN AHEPA !!!
- Help us develop the details for the HELLENIC HISTORY TROPHY
- NY Parade (Independence Day) – GET READY – Money, Marchers

- Proposal to hold Conferences in Chapter Numerical order

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| • Spring 2009 | Waterbury |
| • Fall 2009 | Hartford |
| • Spring 2010 | Bridgeport |
| • Fall 2010 | Danbury |
| • Spring 2011 | New Haven |
| • Fall 2011 | Stamford |
| • etc | |

*Work in Progress
Requested to concentrate only
on centrally located chapters
or other locations*