

## THE AHEPA CORNER

## 3rd Annual Hellenic History Tournament to be Held at St Barbara in Orange

**NEW YORK** - The third annual Hellenic History Tournament will be held on Saturday, October 29, at the facilities of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, 480 Racebrook Road in Orange, Connecticut. Sixteen participating teams of three high school students each (48 students total) will compete for a total of \$4,500 in prizes based on their knowledge of the 4000 year-old history of the Hellenes.

The Tournament is sponsored by the Connecticut and Rhode Island districts of the Order of AHEPA and is hosted by the members of the New Haven chapter and the St. Barbara community. The prime mover in this, one of the Greek-American community's most interesting new endeavors, is Tournament Chair Nicholas Nikas. He said the idea for the tournament emerged "at the end of a long thought process... I wanted to find a way to preserve a little bit of an ethnic identification with the Hellenic culture and I

realized language cannot be the main way of doing it because [not every] Greek American speaks Greek". So he thought of focusing on the history of Greece, which was accessible to English speakers. The first tournament was held in 2009 at the Norwich Free Academy and has since been held at the Church.

Nikas explained that "necessity being the mother of invention" he bought himself a book that helped him create a program that takes presents questions to the contestants and keeps track of the score. The questions were taken from a book titled "Hellenika" by Peter Limber, which Nikas says is valuable because it helps the students create a timeline from the very beginning of Greek history.

Students from grades 8-12 register for the tournament by forming teams of three and then asking for sponsorship by their local chapter of AHEPA, which must provide a about \$150 per



Students at the 2009 inaugural tournament are seen with Nicholas Nikas, then Governor, AHEPA, Yankee District #7, Joseph Keane, then Chairman, AHEPA Educational Foundation, Dr. John Grossomanides, then Supreme Vice President.

student.

The AHEPA chapters' sponsoring teams this year are Wa-

terbury, Hartford, Bridgeport, Danbury, New Haven, Stamford, Norwich and New Britain (all

from Connecticut), Newport, RI, and guest chapters from Boston, MA and New Rochelle, NY. The

Supreme President of the Order of AHEPA, Dr. John Grossomanides, is expected to attend.

The day will begin at 11:30AM with lunch, and the competition will get underway at 12:30PM and is expected to last about four hours. Fifteen four-round matches will be required to determine the winners of this single elimination or "sudden death" tournament. The winning team members will each receive a \$1,000 cash prize and a trophy. The members of the second team will get \$500 each. All students who stay till the end will receive a certificate of participation. For more information, visit [www.ahepad7.org](http://www.ahepad7.org).

Nikas stated that although the idea has yet to take root in other parts of the country, Supreme Secretary of AHEPA, Phil Francos, based in Michigan, has been "aggressively asking him to write a guide" about the Tournament's format, which hopefully help in generating interest across the country.

The AHEPA CORNER was recently instituted as a result of an initiative of our Supreme President, Dr. John Grossomanides, and the National Herald. It is being produced on a weekly basis. The paper will welcome AHEPA news items covering our vast programs from across the country. Please send articles to Dean Sirigos at the National Herald in hopes of getting them published. His email address is: [sirigos@thenationalherald.com](mailto:sirigos@thenationalherald.com)