

2013 Yankee District #7 Hellenic History Tournament

On November 16, 2013, the 5th Annual Hellenic History Tournament took place at St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT. What an exciting event! This is what AHEPA and Hellenism is all about. Our younger generation is showing us the way.

Originally, there were 17 registered teams of 3 students each, but 3 dropped out in the last week, so only 14 teams showed up to compete. Also, 3 additional team members were unable to attend and could not find replacements, so there were 39 contestants. It was a truly regional contest with 10 chapters (Nashua #35, Paramus #54, New Haven #98, Stamford #99, Norwich #110, New Britain DoP #138, Newport #245, New Rochelle #405, Watertown #406 and Wyckoff #453) from 6 states (NJ, NY, CT, RI, MA and NH) and 5 AHEPA Districts (5, 6, 7, 8 and 9) fielding teams. It was a sudden death elimination tournament, with each team competing with another in the 1st round, with the losing teams dropping off until only 2 teams are left in the 4th round.



The 39 contestants proudly holding their certificates of participation before the matches, with the AHEPA Executives behind them: Jack Isaac, Yankee District 7 Governor; Nicholas Nikas, tournament organizer and Region 4 Supreme Governor; Andrew Zachariades, Supreme Treasurer; John Ververis, SOP Supreme President, and Gregory Stamos, Supreme

The tournament depends on many volunteers: Chaperones (members of the students' communities) make sure the students sign up, form teams, study, and show up at the event; the Set up Crew (members of the New Haven chapter) prepares the hall and the classrooms and provides and serves the food; our Technical Support team (Kip Kyprianou) sets up the computers and projectors in each classroom; Moderators (Nina Barclay has moderated more matches than any other moderator in the 5 year history of the tournament) operate the computerized match guide during each match; Scorekeepers keep a manual tally of as backup in case the computer malfunctions (has not happened yet); the Dispute Resolution Advisor (Greg Stamos) is ready to help resolve disputes among teams; the Photographer (Greg Simones) memorializes the proceedings. And of course, the prize money is provided by the sponsoring chapters. A big heartfelt THANK YOU to all our volunteers!

This year we had the opportunity to engage John Grossomanides, immediate Past Supreme President, and Alex Boutsioulis, Lieutenant Governor, as moderators. Following are some photos taken before and during the matches.



Lunch being served by the set up crew.



SoP President John Ververis educating the attendees about the Sons of Pericles.



Supreme Treasurer Andrew Zachariades delivers greetings from the Supreme Lodge. In the foreground, D5 PDG Philip Vogis.



PSP John Grpssomanides moderating a round 1 match between Stamford's Titans and New Britain DoP's Hip Hopliteds. New London President Demetrius Tasoulas scorekeeping.



Lt Governor Boutsoulis moderating the round 3 (semifinal) match between The Newport Team and Hip Hoplites. Newport advanced to the finals. At left a group of 7 Sons of Pericles who came from Waterbury to support the tournament and perhaps find new Sons.



The final match between Feta kai Psomi on the left and The Newport Team on the right. In the foreground, L-R: Governor Isaac scorekeeping; Nina Barclay moderating.

The Feta kai Psomi team, comprised of Nicholas Georgiou, Yiorgos Argyros and Christian DeKnatel, sponsored by the New Rochelle Chapter #405, won the final match and the Tournament. They each received \$1,000 and a Hellenic History Trophy. New Rochelle President, Joe Keane, received the shared chapter Hellenic History Trophy. They get to inscribe it with their chapter's name and number and to keep it for a year until the next tournament. This is the 1st time the Trophy was won by a chapter from another district.



(At right) The *Feta Kai Psomi* team, Nicholas Georgiou, Yiorgos Argyros and Christian DeKnatel and with Jack Isaac, Yankee District 7 Governor; Nicholas Nikas, HHT creator and organizer; and Joe Keane, the Hellenic Cultural Commission Chairman and President of the New Rochelle chapter.

Second prize went to the Newport Team, consisting of Theodore Panoutsopoulos and Nikolaos Spentzos. They each received \$500 and promised to come back for a first prize win next year.



(At left) L-R: District Governor Isaac; Second prize winners *The Newport team*, Theodore Panoutsopoulos and Nikolaos Spentzos; Supreme Governor Nikas; President of the hosting New Haven chapter, Eugene Esares. Theodore's brother, Panagiotis, was originally a member of the team but was unable to attend.

Several AHEPAnS who attend the Tournament every year remarked that this one was the best yet. Let's hope that it continues to improve each year and that we get other Districts or Regions to conduct their own Tournaments so that we can start sending our winners to the National Convention and to a National HHT to determine the National winners.



Some AHEPAnS who helped make this year's tournament a success. L-R: SG Nikas, PSG Kip Kyprianou, D9 PDG Nick Kallan, ST Andrew Zachariades, SC Stamos, New London President Tasoulas, PSP John Grossomanides.

The Hellenic History Tournament committee and the whole Yankee District express their gratitude to President Eugene Esares, the set up crew, the New Haven chapter and the whole community of Saint Barbara's for hosting the Tournament in style.