



AHEPA Yankee News



Publication of District #7

Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Western Massachusetts

September, 2016

*Awarded 1st Place as Most Outstanding District Publication
In its Class at the Supreme Convention for the 2nd Year in a Row!*

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Introducing your new Supreme President,
Andrew Zachariades!

Your new
Daughters of
Penelope
Grand President,
Jan Spanos!



Your new AHEPA
District 7 Governor,
Greg Simones!



Your new Daughters of
Penelope District 7
Governor
Karen Isaac
and new
Supreme Governor of
Region 4, **Jack Isaac!**

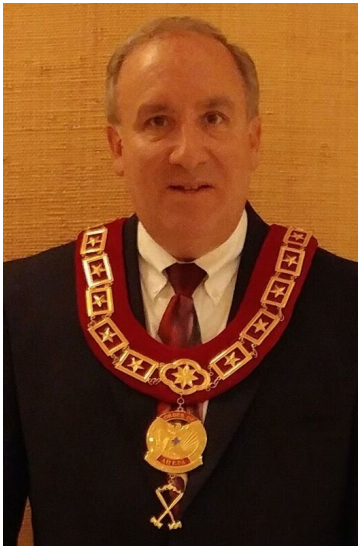
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AHEPA District 7 Fall Conference - Norwich, CT - Saturday October 22, 2016



**A MESSAGE FROM THE
AHEPA DISTRICT 7 GOVERNOR**

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and friends of the Yankee District,

I offer my thanks for the faith you have placed in me by choosing me as your District Governor at the Yankee District Convention in Newport, RI in May. It is a humbling experience and a great honor to follow in the footsteps of so many capable and dedicated AHEPANS. Congratulations to the other elected Lodge Officers: Lt.

Governor Demetrius Tasoulas, Secretary George Rados (also Hellenic Affairs), Treasurer John Melonopoulos, Advisor Alex Boutsioulis PDG, and Sons of Pericles advisor and Scholarship Liaison, Rick Pecka. The District wishes to thank outgoing District Governor, Alex Boutsioulis, for his service and example of dedication to the Order of AHEPA and the Yankee District.

Since taking office at the District Convention, I have attended the following events:

- Sunday June 5th: Liturgy at Three Hierarchs Chapel at UCONN Storrs with the New Haven, Norwich, and New London chapters. AHEPANS were given a tour of the museum and amphitheater followed by lunch nearby.
- Sunday June 12th: New Britain Chapter picnic with District Treasurer John Melonopoulos and PDG Jack Isaac.
- Saturday June 18th: Pan Laconian Conference Banquet at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Hartford. New President George Marafatsos is an AHEPAN from Washington DC Chapter No. 31.
- Tuesday June 28th: Norwich Chapter Foundation Awards Dinner and Officer installations at Norwich Senior Housing.
- Thursday June 30th: First District Lodge Officers meeting in East Lyme.
- Saturday July 16th: New London Chapter gyro fundraiser in East Lyme raising nearly \$3,000 for educational scholarships.
- Tuesday July 19th: Yankee News staff meeting in New Britain.
- July 25-29th: National Convention

A joint AHEPA/Daughters of Penelope District Lodge meeting is planned for September and the District Governors meeting will take place in Washington DC September 16 & 17th. The District is planning to have the Fall Conference in Norwich, CT on Saturday October 22nd. Please consider having your chapter send their delegates to the Fall Conference, as we will be considering By-Laws revisions and proposals for amendments. All chapters should have a say in the document that governs our activities.

On a somber note, I offer the sincere sympathies on behalf of the brothers of the Yankee District to the family of Brother Don Feliciano as well as his brothers in the New Haven Chapter #98. I also offer sympathies to the family of Brother Mavroudis "Mike" Vassiliou as well as to his brothers of the New Britain Elpis Chapter #117.

The vision for this year is to

- 1) improve/streamline communications with the chapters,
- 2) encourage/guide increased chapter membership and reinstatements,
- 3) provide guidance to and aid underperforming chapters,
- 4) recruit the next generation of district leaders by filling unfilled positions on the District Lodge, and to
- 5) assemble a Board of Past District Governors to meet once during the year to advise the District.

Please direct all chapter correspondence to the District Governor and Secretary. We need to set up visitations for chapter meetings and events as early as possible. I will be in contact with the chapter presidents to establish communications. The chapters should be sending the District Lodge all paperwork concerning their recent elections of officers as well as a calendar of meetings and other activities. Also, we want to help you make AHEPA better by offering support and training for the various AHEPA rituals.

Fraternally,
Gregory Simones, PG
Governor, Yankee District 7



**A MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF
PENELOPE DISTRICT 7 GOVERNOR**

Dear Sisters,

It is with great humility and pride that I undertake the responsibilities of District 7 Daughters of Penelope Governor for this year. I congratulate the members of the District Lodge and look forward to working with them as well as our counterparts in the Order of AHEPA, under the leadership of District 7 AHEPA Governor

Bro. Greg Simones. We will both work to spread the cause of Hellenism.

Chapter Presidents, please add me to your mailing lists, notify my secretary and me of future activities and invite us to meetings or other chapter functions. Don't hesitate to contact me anytime if you have questions or wish to pursue any issues in your chapter.

I'm looking forward to working together to make it a great year for the district. I encourage all chapters to let everyone know of the philanthropic work being done by your members. Utilize our award winning AHEPA family newspaper, the Yankee News, to spread the good news.

Yours in Theta Pi,
Karen Isaac
Daughters of Penelope
District 7 Governor

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ENJOY THEM TODAY.**

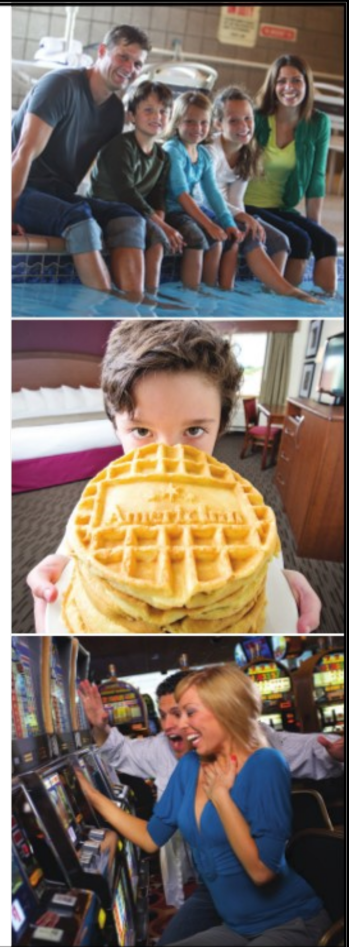
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**COMPLIMENTS FROM ALEX, CASSIE,
EMI & MARIANNE BOUTIOULIS**





An Interview with Tony Petros, author of "A STORY THAT SHOULD BE TOLD"

Editor: There are many talented and creative Ahepans in our district doing

amazing things. One is Brother Tony Petros from the Norwich chapter. Tony has taken on the monumental task of compiling a history of Norwich Greek-Americans who served in World War II.

Editor: Brother Tony, how did you come up with the idea for this project?

Petros: About 2 years ago a group of Ahepans were sitting around the chapter meeting room and the subject of WWII came up. We knew we had a number of veterans from Norwich, possibly 25-30, but we didn't have a central location to get the information. Finding their pictures would be an even greater challenge.

EDITOR'S NOTES

I have just returned from the Supreme Convention excited about the AHEPA's future. Our fraternal order is doing amazing things in America and throughout the world. We should not be reticent about sharing these accomplishments with the general community. Use these great philanthropic activities as a recruiting tool, particularly among the Philhellenes.

I accepted with great pride and humility the 1st place award for our Yankee News as the premier publication in the AHEPA domain for the second year in a row. This is a tribute to the hardworking staff who volunteer so much of their time to our newspaper. Congratulations to Bro. John Melonopoulos, Chief Financial Officer, Gov. Greg Simones, Photographer, PDG Alex Boutsoulis, Editor, Andy Aros, Secretary and Terry Plumley, Publisher.

Please continue to send information about your activities. Pictures are always welcome but be certain to identify everyone. Also, support the Yankee News with an ad! From your business, family and chapter. We are trying hard to remain financially solvent, but it's the ads that make a difference in our financial health.

Jack Isaac, Editor

Editor: Who were the members of the original committee?

Petros: The original members were Peter John Hominski, George Maistrelis, John Louziotis, Peter Pappas, Cleon George, Ernie Pool, and me.

Editor: How was the project funded?

Petros: We presented the idea to the AHEPA 110 Development Fund and they agreed to sponsor our book and gave us a budget of \$10,000. I was elected chairman of the committee.

Editor: What was the first step in beginning to put this together?

Petros: We searched the internet to start looking for military histories of veterans from WWII and we were able to get some, but not all. We found out that the U.S. record center in Saint Louis had a major fire and millions of records were destroyed. Valuable information was found in the Norwich cemetery where many of our veterans were buried. We also made use of the local high school and the graduation books, which provided us with pictures. The Norwich Bulletin, our local newspaper, was a valuable source of information.

Editor: What were the numbers you eventually came up with?

Petros: We were able to verify that we had 96 WWII veterans and of those, we were able to get 87 pictures, most in uniform. We found that there were 3 of our own Greek WWII veterans who were killed in action. One of our veterans' death was recorded on a WWII official newsreel and we were able to get permission from 20th Century Fox Film Corp. to use it. We also found, from the Otis Library in Norwich, that we had a number of veterans from WWI. In total there were 26 veterans from the first World War. We even found some pictures of some in uniform.

Editor: Can you give us some interesting discoveries you made while researching the book?

Petros: We were fortunate to enlist the services of Elaine Alexander, formerly of Norwich, now in L.A. She had researched the war at the Army War College in PA. She told us the story of how her father was severely wounded in the last battle on the last day of WWI – November 10, 1918, 4p.m. The armistice was effective on November 11th at 11a.m. A bullet close to his heart had to be removed and ultimately was the cause of his death – 40 years later.

We next came up with the story of 2 Greeks who came to Norwich in 1864 to join the Union Army.

One was accepted and we were able to trace his record where he was wounded at the Battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, 1864.

Editor: What were some other interesting facts you discovered?

Petros: We found that, of the 96 WWII vets, there were 18 sets of brothers, 2 with 3 brothers, 2 with 4 brothers, 1 with 6 brothers. There were 2 women in WWII; one army and one navy nurse. One veteran and the army nurse met after the war and married. In 1 group of 4 brothers there was a set of twins. One twin was killed in action and the other returned home. 14 Greek-American veterans lived in 1 Norwich city block.

Editor: Brother Tony, thank you for allowing the Yankee News to interview you and hear this incredible story. How can our readers purchase a book?

Petros: Advance sales are being accepted. Cost for the hard cover book is \$24.95 plus \$6.25 shipping. Checks in the amount of \$31.20 should be made out to AHEPA 110 History Book c/o Tony Petros, 132 Apache Street, Norwich, CT, 06360. All proceeds from the book will be donated to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Norwich.

Editor: Tony will be doing a book signing of "A Story That Should be Told" at the Otis Library with a date yet to be determined. If you would like to have a book signing and lecture, give Tony a call to make arrangements.

**Hellenic Affairs Report
94th Supreme Convention**

During one day's deliberations the Cypriot problem dominated the discussions and was deemed proper to start a separate caucus in order to draw more politicians on our side, I supported that with gladness, figuring that - when combined with its Hellenic counterpart - it would give up the upper hand as opposed to Turkish and Fromian ones. I protested strongly as I saw that hardly any mention was given a very lame excuse but, when I questioned if Hellas can do without Macedonia and AHEPA without the membership of Macedonian Greeks, my point was taken and the next day the resolution of support appeared!

A very serious observation has to come forth: If AHEPA wants to lead truly, the AHEPA has to concern itself with all Hellenic Issues equally!

Respectfully,
G.A. Rados - PDG, Hellenic Affairs

Brother GEORGE RADOS

District Secretary George Rados is a busy AHEPAN. His additional District # 7 Lodge assignment is that of Hellenic Affairs Chair. Not content with just serving AHEPA, he is Governor of the Pan Macedonian Association of Southern New England. In his spare time, he wrote "Makedonia, The Gordian Knot Unraveled" which was recently published.

He attended the 70th Pan Macedonian Convention at the LaGuardia Plaza in New York City from June 23 to June 26, 2016. At the convention the Signature Petition Drive to correct the United States' error of recognizing F.Y.R.O.M. as Macedonia was discussed. A special thanks was directed to our District AHEPANS for their support.

The convention goers were pleased and promoted his book. He had a live book interview on Radio Hellas.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The lack of respect Yankee District Seven has for its Life Members is unacceptable. The Supreme Lodge long ago determined that Life Members are exempt of paying Per Capita Tax. Regrettably District 7 insists that Life Members be billed for their District Per Capita Tax. The issue is not money; it is about respect. For fifty years the Life Member willingly paid chapter dues and bought an untold number of tickets to events. Additionally, the Life Member gave hours of his time and talent to support AHEPA, and he is very willing to continue to do so. Suggesting the individual chapter pay the District Per Capita Tax for Life Members of their chapter ignores the issue of District 7 having respect for its Life Members. The brother is still being taxed by District 7, it just results in having someone else is paying for it.

The argument that the District Lodge needs the Per Capita Tax of Life Members to support its many programs is merely a negative reflection of the local chapter leadership. Each chapter should have in place creative and energetic programs that would easily attract new members. Increased membership would automatically increase the coffers of the District Lodge.

At the 2016 Fall Conference, the District Governor and Treasurer should bring to the floor a discussion "Excusing Life Members from paying Per Capita Tax and be exempt from paying any other fees required by the District Lodge." Respect demands at the 2017 Yankee Seven District Convention; the issue should be introduced as an Amendment to District Seven By-Laws. Common Sense insists the Amendment pass at the 2018 Convention.

Andrew Aros, AHEPA Life Member

BEST WISHES,

TOM GOBER

SUPREME

GOVERNOR



George J. Scarveles

Director Of Operations

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Order of AHEPA

May Their Memories Live Eternal



Donald C. Feliciano passed away on Thursday, July 14, 2016, surrounded in loving care of family, at Yale-New Haven Hospital, following a battle of spinal stenosis and Parkinson's disease. He leaves behind his high school sweetheart and wife of 48 years Larisa Gromyko; daughter, Tanya F. DeMattia, spouse John, and grandchild, thereto, Alexia; son, Donald T. Feliciano, spouse Britta, and grandchildren thereto, Andrew, Dylan and Jillian; sister-in-law, Lily Gallagher and spouse, Robert; two brothers, Michael, Robert and respective spouses; three sisters, Dorothy Harmon, Carol Bennett and Theresa Crawford and many nieces and nephews.

Prior to retirement, Donald was a chemical engineer and cosmetic chemist and worked for Chesebrough-Pond's/Unilever. Some of Donald's many achievements include holding patents for certain chemical compositions, and earning a Lifetime Merit Award from the Connecticut Chapter of Cosmetic Chemists, which he founded in CT. Donald held officer posts for "PAN," Parkinson's Action Network; was active in "CAP," Connecticut Advocates for Parkinson's network; and he and his wife were involved with the Michael J. Fox Foundation. Donald loved his Orthodox faith and was an active member of New Haven Chapter 98, Order of AHEPA. Donald will be remembered for his devotion to his family and his faith, his sense of humor, and his love for animals, as well as his determination that his Parkinson's diagnosis would not prevent him from living life to its fullest. His funeral was held at St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT. Donations in his name may be made to: St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church; Connecticut Advocates for Parkinson's (CAP); The Michael J. Fox Foundation; ASPCA or The Humane Society.

Mavroudis "Mike" Vassiliou, 60, of Bristol, beloved husband of Paraskevi "Evvie" (Hatzisavvas) Vassiliou, died on Monday, July 25, 2016. Mike was born in the village of Profilia in Rhodes, Greece on April 6, 1956, and was one of six children of Stamatia (Psellakis) Vassiliou, of and the late Nikolaos Vassiliou. He was raised in Rhodes, Greece, and moved to East Hartford in 1976. He and Evvie were married in St. George Cathedral in Hartford on April 17, 1977, and together they came to Bristol in 1979, establishing Mike's Pizza on Pine Street. In 1990, he started Family Pizza in Southington and has been the proud owner ever since. He could always be found in either the restaurant's kitchen or sharing stories and a glass of wine with his customers. Mike loved to hunt and fish and he enjoyed cooking for his family and friends. Most of all, he was a very generous person and devoted family man who did everything for his family and especially for his grandchildren whom they considered him to be the world's greatest "Papou".

He was a parishioner of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Bristol. In addition to his wife and mother, Mike leaves a son and daughter-in-law, Nikolaos and Susan Vassiliou and his adored grandsons, Nikolaos Jr. and Michael; a daughter, Jaimie Vassiliou; five siblings, Savvas, Vassilia, Stavros, Panagiotis, and Steryoula, all of Rhodes, Greece; and many nieces and nephews. His funeral services was held at St. Demetrios Church in Bristol, CT. Memorial donations may be made to the Mike Vassiliou Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o AHEPA, P.O. Box 1753, New Britain, CT 06052 or to St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 31 Brightwood Road, Bristol, CT 06010.



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Warwick, RI,

& the
Thursday Night Crew
at Crusty's Pizza!



~ Brother Lakis Andriotis ~

Dr. John Grossomanides
Past Supreme President
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&
Anna-Helene
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The National Convention-Las Vegas, Nevada



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Karen Isaac, Stanley Gorzalany, Donna Rados, George Rados & Jack Isaac



Donna Rados, Karen Isaac, Anna-Helene Grossomanides,
Connie Gorzalany, Stamo Dimitratos, Helene Moran



This year, the principal honoree for the 94th AHEPA Grand Banquet was Basile Katsikis, comedian, entertainer, and voice talent; who received the 2016 AHEPA Academy of Achievement Award in the Arts. Shown here with Greg Simones.



Region 4 Supreme Governor Jack Isaac & PSG Frank Fotis



Greg Simones, Niko Koutouvides and Greg Stamos. Niko received the AHEPA Sports Hall of Fame Award.

AHEPA NATIONAL CONVENTION—JULY 25-29
by Greg Simones

Las Vegas, Nevada I was in attendance along with 10 other delegates from the District and can report the following:

- 1) Legislative changes: a) clarification language to exactly specify the cutoff for delegate registration for the national convention, b) a perpetual AHEPA membership trust to allow members to pay a one-time, lifetime fee that will pay perpetual dividends to AHEPA.
- 2) Election Results: The 2016-17 Supreme Lodge is comprised of: Supreme President Andrew C. Zachariades, Brick, N.J., Canadian President Bill Bakalis, Kitchener, Ontario; Supreme Vice President George E. Loucas, Esq., Cleveland, Ohio; Supreme Secretary Carl R. Hollister, Mason, Ohio; Supreme Treasurer James Kokotas, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Supreme Counselor George G. Horiates, Esq., Moorestown, N.J.; Supreme Athletic Director Louis G. Atsavas, Lake Forest, Ill.; and Sons of Pericles National Advisor Sandy Papadopoulos, Atlanta, Ga. The eight Supreme Governors are: Region I: Gus Paras; Region II: Anthony Drakos; Region III: Chris Diamantoukis;


- Region IV: Jack Isaac; Region V: George L. Kalantzis; Region VI: Donald Vanover: Timothy Joannides; Region VIII: George Booras; and Region X: Nicholas C. Papadopoulos. Elected to positions on the Board of Trustees were: Cos Marandos, who was re-elected, and Elias Tskerides. Craig Clawson was re-elected to the Board of Auditors.
- 3) Yankee News took first place prize in a new tabloid division voted on by the Publications Committee.
- 4) Annual Athletic Awards: Greg Stamos of the New Haven chapter is the chairman of this program. The following District 7 athletes were recognized at the luncheon: Margarete "Margo" Calmar of Stonington, CT received the Past Supreme Athletic Director Dr. Monte N. Kofos Scholar-Athlete award; Sam Anas received the William G. Chirgotis award for the most outstanding collegiate scholar-athlete for his final season with the Quinnipiac Bobcats Hockey team; and Niko Koutouvides of New Britain, CT was inducted into the AHEPA Hellenic Athletic Hall of Fame for his outstanding football career, which ended with the New England Patriots and two

Superbowls. I have a heightened awareness of the task ahead of me as Governor of the Yankee District, which became clear at the Governor's meeting. We offer our congratulations to our very own Jack Isaac (New Britain chapter) upon his election to the office of Supreme Governor of Region 4 (New England, Districts 7, 8, 9). I look forward to working with brother Jack and the DGs of Districts 8 and 9 this year. Thank you to outgoing SG Frank Fotis from the Athens (Boston) chapter of Region 8 for his service to AHEPA on the Supreme Lodge.



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Brother Steve Costas



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SALUTE to VETERAN JIM VERINIS
"With Jim Verinis,
over the Still Mighty Germany in '42"
From The AHEPAN Nov./Dec. 1990

In the winter of 1942, James Verinis, a 22-year-old Connecticut native, took off from an airfield in England for a bombing raid over the Nazi submarine pens on the Brest Peninsula of occupied France. Verinis, and the other nine crew members of the Memphis Belle, were to fly an additional 24 daylight bombing missions over occupied territory, and Germany itself, before their tour of duty ended. "We ran the first American raids over Germany. We caught them by surprise," the 74-year-old veteran now remembers. But the surprise didn't last long. While the British had been making nighttime bombing runs in order to avoid Hermann Goring's Luftwaffe, the young Americans, part of the U.S. Army Air Force's 91st Bomber Group, soon found themselves and their lumbering B-17's challenged by Messerschmitt 109s, Focke-Wulf 190s and merciless ground fire in the full light of day. "The opposition in Germany was very bad news," Verinis recalled, "the flack was nerve racking and intense for fifteen minutes or so over the targets, and the fighters would come at us for hours."

In its day, the B-17 "Flying Fortress," was one of the most dangerous weapons to the enemy targets it was aimed against, but with a casualty rate of more than 80 percent, it was also a most dangerous place to be for the courageous American servicemen who flew them. Ahepan Verinis was co-pilot of the most famous B-17, the Memphis Belle. The Belle was not famous for the targets t destroyed, but rather simply for surviving 25 missions.

Celebrated in a 1943 William Wyler documentary, a 1987 book, and a \$25 million Warner Bros. film, the exploits of the Belle are legend. Verinis, son of Greek immigrants, was part of the real story behind that legend.

A former high school basketball star and 1941 Business and Administration graduate of the University of Connecticut, Verinis was a young airman in training when Pearl Harbor was Bombed. He had chosen to fly for the Army soon after graduation from college on the recommendation of his old roommate. "He loved to fly," Verinis recalled, "and he wrote and told me all about it. I wasn't as gung-ho, but I thought it would be an adventurous thing to do." Shortly, the young man who had joined the army Air Force for a little "adventure", would find himself in most unfriendly skies. By the time he had completed 25 missions he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Force Medal with three oak-leaf clusters and a Presidential Citation. Verinis had actually chosen to fly B-17s because he thought they were safe. Verinis had been training in single engine P-39 and P-40 fighters in North Carolina and had crashed two planes after engine failures. After the first crash his commanding officer asked him if he wanted a desk job.

"No' I told him," recalls Verinis, then he asked me why I wanted to fly.

"I had heard about the B-17 'flying fortress' and knew each had four engines. Well, one prop wasn't enough, so I told the colonel that I wanted to fly B-17s." Verinis was then sent to Tampa to train as a B-17 pilot. With its four powerful engines, 108 foot wingspan and seven defensive machine-gun positions, the Boeing B-17 was a formidable war machine. The front of its nose, the top turret and the ball turret were made of a then revolutionary material called Plexiglas. The Flying Fortress' greatest advantage was that it could carry twice the payload and had twice the range of the other bombers.

Due to its complexity and size, the B-17 required

ten well-trained men. The crew consisted of: a pilot, who needed leadership qualities in addition to flying skills; a co-pilot, who relieved the pilot on the long and fatiguing missions; a radio operator; a navigator; a ball-turret gunner, tucked away in a small sphere on the underside of the plane; a bombardier; a tail gunner; two waist gunners (the most dangerous position); and a flight engineer, who also manned the upper turret during combat.

The crew not only had to fight off the German Luftwaffe and survive the consistent flack from anti-aircraft guns, but they also had to survive the elements, especially the bitter freezing cold of the high altitudes. Verenis had qualified as a pilot, but joined the Memphis Belle as co-pilot because of a shortage of aircraft. He flew four raids on the Belle, including one where he proved himself a pilot when Bob Morgan, the formal pilot, missed a mission due to illness. Verenis was then given his own B-17 which he named the Connecticut Yankee. He flew the Yankee on 8 missions and then rejoined the Belle when he heard the crew would be allowed to go home after they completed their two final raids. "I rejoined the Memphis Belle so I could come back to the states with them if they made 25," Verinis said. The average B-17 lasted only 13 missions. The crew of the Belle did survive their final missions. On those missions, William Wyler, director of the film classics "Ben Hur" and "The Best Years of Our Loves" shot a documentary.

The Wyler documentary made the Belle and its crew famous. The heroes toured the country with the Wyler film, and as national celebrities, helped sell war bonds and boost flagging morale at home. Almost 48 years later, Wyler's daughter, Catherine, and David Putnam, producer of "The Killing Fields" and "Chariots of Fire" made a Hollywood version of the exploits of the Belle and her crew. Ms. Wyler and Verinis met years three years ago in Memphis at the dedication of the permanent home of the Belle. The aircraft had been deteriorating in a Memphis hanger. It is now restored. with 25 bombs, one for each mission, and eight swastikas, one for each enemy fighter plane shot down, painted on its side.

Wyler said her father's documentary was the driving force behind her dream to make a movie about that famous bomber. The film presents a somewhat fictionalized version of the famed B-17. The action-packed script is an interpretation of some of the most harrowing missions.

The movie account centers around the final mission before the crew is to return home. Some of the footage from Wyler's documentary is used in the film, but its not exactly true to life. "Our last raid over Germany was very different from the one depicted in the movie," Verinis said, "but I guess that's Hollywood." What happens in the movie over Germany actually did happen, but it didn't happen all at the same time, nor did it all happen to the Memphis Belle. Verinis explained that the movie in fact recreates the

Belle's most difficult mission over Hamm, Germany, in the middle of its tour. While thousands of B-17s would eventually fill the air over Germany, during that early phase of the war there were only a few dozen of the bombers. According to Verinis there were only 15 bombers on that raid, "and 15 planes in the air-raid over Germany just wasn't enough."

We were in the back of the formation that day, and the back was the worst place to be because the Germans always came from behind. We had to fight with the Germans for more than an hour that day and I'll tell you, it was one horrendous fight."

Although the film's portrayal of the final mission is fictionalized, some aspects of the film are quite accurate. According to Verinis, the scenes inside the bomber, the difficulty of finding the target and the heavy flak were realistic. Verinis also noted the strong camaraderie among the crew was true to life. In fact the surviving eight members of the crew have had several reunions and keep in touch. At the rededication of the Belle in 1987, Verinis had a chance to fly in a B-17 but opted to stay on the ground. "The planes are too old and I didn't want to press my luck," he said.

After his tour with the Wyler documentary, Verinis became a flight instructor for the Army. He then went into the furniture business in Connecticut. At the time of the writing of this article he was still active, playing a lot of golf and working out at the local YMCA. His brother, the late Constantine P. Verinis, also a World War Two Veteran, was a two-term Supreme President of the AHEPA in the late 1960s.

The "Memphis Belle" 1940s documentary and 1990 Hollywood film are both available to view or purchase online. A more factual account of the Belle and its crew can be found in The Memphis Belle, Home at Last, by Menno Duerkson, 1987, available from Castle Books, is also available for purchase online.

"Stuka" Jim's pet Scottie and faithful companion of the crew of the Memphis Belle, lived the rest of her life as James's pet in the USA.

James Angelo Verinis was born on October 23, 1916 in Stamford, Connecticut. He died on March 3, 2003 in Jupiter, Florida at the age of 86.



Daughters of Penelope
Yankee District
Lodge #7

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- Lt. Governor - Marianne Boutsoulis**
- Secretary - Marianne Boutsoulis**
- Treasurer - Valerie St. Peter**
- Marshall - Virginia Argiros**
- Maids of Athena Advisor - Lili Respass**
- Daughters Advisor - Myrsini Papoutsis**

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New London Scholarship Awards

by Greg Simones

On June 22nd, the New London chapter hosted their annual high school graduate scholarship awards and picnic event at the AHEPA Senior Housing Building 4 in East Lyme, CT. Four students were honored that evening and a total of \$3,700 in scholarships were distributed. The Winthrop chapter was out in full force with District Governor Greg Simones and Lt. Governor Demetrius Tasoulas in attendance. Event chairman **John Fakis** organized a wonderful event as always.

Hartford Presents Scholarships

by Jerry Copsinis, Chairman

The Nathan Hall chapter 58, awarded scholarships on Father's Day, June 19. The awards were presented following church services as part of the recognition of students graduating this year. Six students were honored by the chapter as \$5,500 was distributed to the following students:

Constantine Bouzakis, graduating from Northwest Catholic HS; Katerina Bouzakis, attending Southern Conn State University; Tara Falvey, attending Hofstra University; Efrosini Makris, graduating from Berlin HS; Christina Matsikas, graduating from Avon HS; and Anastasia Perry attending Villanova University. Making the presentations this year were Brother Paul Matsikas and Brother George Karageorge. Close to \$50,000 has been awarded over the years to worthy students. The committee enjoyed reading students' essays on the impact of growing up Greek and being Orthodox has had on their lives. It was a very rewarding experience for the committee.

Danbury Presents Macricostas Scholarships

by George Stratigakis

As administrator of the "Macricostas Scholarship," Chapter 90 is awarding \$7000 this year to Ahepan and non-Ahepan high school graduates of Assumption bringing to over \$130,000 the value of scholarships awarded over the past 10 years.

On June 19, 2016 after Sunday services, Danbury Ahepa Chapter 90 presented \$6,000 in scholarships to students pursuing education beyond high school. This annual event benefiting the Danbury Assumption Community and Danbury Ahepans is made possible by the generosity of Dino Macricostas, an Ahepan since 1962.

The winners were: Fredrick Flannery, Ourania Koutoumba, Angela Storino, Christina Storino, Robin Rockwell, Christos Stratigakis, and Anthony Vournazos.



Scholarship recipient William Mountzoures with John Fakis



John Fakis with scholarship recipient Amber Josephides

2016 Scholarship Luncheon, Bridgeport

by Jack Isaac

On August 13, 2016, the Bridgeport Chapters of AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope hosted the 2016 Scholarship Luncheon for District 7. The event was held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Bridgeport, CT. In attendance were scholarship recipients, family, friends and supporters. Also in attendance were the AHEPA and DOP District Governors as well as the Supreme Governor for Region 4, Jack Isaac.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Rick Pecka, PSP of the Sons of Pericles and co-chairman of the Scholarship Selection Committee. Awarding the scholarships were District 7 Governor Greg Simones and District 7 DOP Governor Karen Isaac. *(pictured below)*

The guest speaker was Atty. John Louizos, Vice President of the Stamford AHEPA, Chapter 99 and partner in the Stamford, CT law firm of Curtis, Brinckerhoff & Barrett. Atty. Louizos spoke about his life as an immigrant from Greece as well as his diverse educational experiences. His inspirational speech encouraged the students to be proud of their heritage as well as the Greek Value System.

2016 Scholarship Recipients

Mary & Angelo Pappas Scholarship

Katerina Bouzakis (Waterbury),
Christina Flynn (New London),
Setven Gagas (Waterbury) ,
Nefeli Makris (Hartford),
Adrianna Mihalek (Waterbury),
Nicholas Manos (New Britain),
Brittany Nemphos (Meriden),
Stephanie Sorosiak (Waterbury),
Zach Tzepos (Waterbury), &
Marianna Zugravu (Hartford)

Macriocostas Scholarship

Drew Gazetos (Danbury),
Angelina Storino (Danbury),
Christina Storino (Danbury),
Nicholas Tracey (Waterbury),
Kristina Tougas (Hartford)

Peter E. Mitchell Scholarship

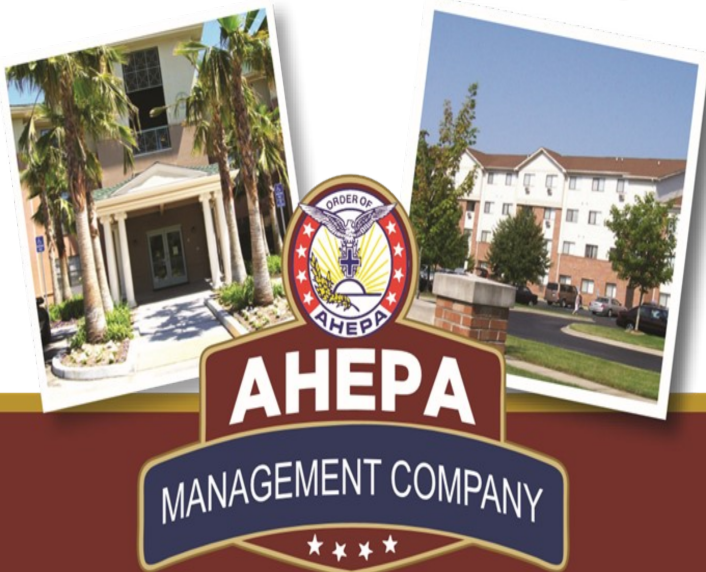
Margarete Calmar (N London),
Kristina Dibble (Waterbury)

**Daughters of Penelope
No. 7 Lodge Scholarship**

Stephanie Antonellis (N Haven)



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THE YANKEE NEWS RECEIVES 3 GRANTS

We are pleased to announce that 3 housings foundations have awarded grants to the Yankee News:

- ◆ AHEPA Hartford Foundation, Inc.
- ◆ AHEPA Norwich Foundation, Inc.
- ◆ AHEPA New London Foundation, Inc.

It is an honor for the Yankee News to have received these grants.

This on-going financial support will assist in maintaining the quality of the publication.

With their help we can continue to bring you news from your District 7 AHEPA Family.

THANK YOU!



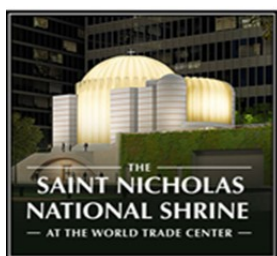
Brothers George Demopoulos, Mike Karavolis, Yiannis Apostolakis, Fr Phillip Zymaris, Nick Bitsakis, John Dafulas, Jon Mastin, Dr Konstantin Pagonis. In the center: former Brother and past Pawtucket Chapter President Charlie Lehourites.



Back Row: Nikos Gkanatsios, Spyros Theodorides, Nikos Metaxas, Fr. Peter Karloutsos, Nikos Kleopoulos, Greg Kallas; Front Row: Peter Athanasoulis, Peter Koukos, Paschalis Storino, Chris Neofitides, George Stratigakis (President), Takis Vournazos (Vice President).

**AHEPA Day Breakfast to benefit
St. Nicholas Shrine**
by Ioannis Apostolakis

AHEPA Pawtucket Chapter 121 celebrated AHEPA Day with a community breakfast and a fundraiser to support *the Saint Nicholas Shrine at the World Trade Center* on May 22nd, at the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, Pawtucket, RI. We worked very hard to secure donations for the key breakfast items and volunteers to support our cause. We are happy to announce that we will be making a donation of \$850 dollars to the National Lodge for the St Nicholas Shrine. In addition, we sold AHEPA chocolates from District 7 to support the overall effort.



The event turned out to be a great success while making our Chapter more visible within the community. We were extremely encouraged when former AHEPA Brothers, who were members of our Chapter many, many years ago, came to help us with our event. We were touched by personal stories of attendees about how their family

members were members of AHEPA

and how AHEPA had helped their community in so many ways.

We also met a lady who, through AHEPA, was adopted from

AHEPA Day in Danbury

Danbury Chapter 90 celebrated AHEPA Day with a presentation celebration informing the community of AHEPA's contributions and mission.

Saint Nicholas Shrine Update

As of August 8, 2016, all of the donations to the St. Nicholas Shrine in New York City are:
 Total Pledged to Date: \$39,783,357 Total Collected to Date: \$22,713.891
 Pledge Balance: \$16,609,465 OUR GOAL: Between \$40-50M

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NEW LONDON FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTES \$12,500 to SCHOOLS & NONPROFITS
by Ted Malahias

AHEPA New London Foundation held its annual scholarship grant presentation on May 26 at the AHEPA apartments in Niantic Connecticut.

The recipients had a feeling of camaraderie in that all their missions had a similar focus to help students, the poor, the elderly, the needy, and improve the community. The surrounding communities all recognize the philanthropic work AHEPA New London Foundation does and are very impressed with the senior housing projects and how AHEPA gives back to the

community. AHEPA New London Foundation distributed 12,500.00 dollars in total to local high schools and non-profits. The local schools receiving scholarships were: New London, New London Science and Technology School, Waterford, East Lyme, Lyme, Old Lyme, Fitch, Ella T. Grasso, Stonington, Old Saybrook, Montville, and The Williams School.

The following organizations also received grants: Lawrence and Memorial neonatal unit, American Warrior, BP Learned Mission, The Chorus of Westerly, Connecticut Hospice, Fairview Nursing Home, Homeless Hospitality Center, La Grua Center, OSCA, Old Lyme Volunteer Fire Department, Hellenic Society Paideia, Safe



Demetrius Tasoulas, John Melonopoulos, Terry Mitchell, Greg Simones, Ted Malahias, and Alex Bousioulis.

Futures, The Salvation Army, the Yankee News and the residents of the AHEPA apartments annual thanksgiving dinner.

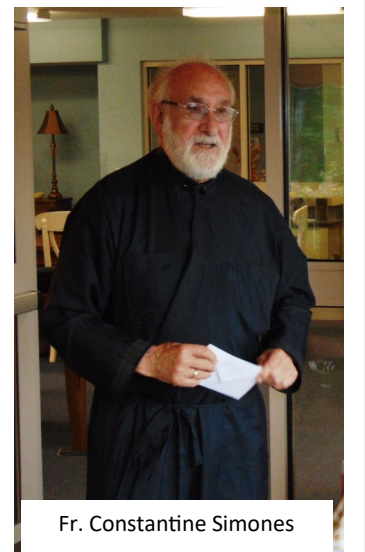


NORWICH CHAPTER HOSTS AWARDS BANQUET - THIS IS OUR 90TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR 1926 - 2016
by Tony Petros

The Rose of New England Chapter 110, Order of AHEPA of Norwich held its Annual Awards Banquet this past Tuesday in the Pappas Community Center at AHEPA 110 Apartments.



Seventy-five Ahepans and guests attended the banquet to witness the awarding of cash grants to area non-profit organizations. The Norwich chapter presented \$6,500.00 in grants to the following organizations: Norwich Free Academy Greek Studies Program, Three Rivers Community College, Backus Hospital Outreach Program, Betasaida/Katie Blair House, Otis Library, ARC of New London County, AHEPA Yankee News, Paideia Society at the University of Connecticut, Martin House, the Three Tenants Associations of AHEPA Apartments and The Center for Hospice Care of Norwich.



Fr. Constantine Simones



Mike Vassiliou

NEW BRITAIN ANNUAL AHEPA PICNIC
by Jack Isaac

June 12, 2016 was a beautiful sunny day at Churchill Park in Newington, CT, the site of Elpis Chapter 117's annual picnic. Each year the New Britain chapter invites not only its members but also the entire St. George community to a fun-filled day of food, activities, and conversation. We were honored to also have as our guest the new District 7 Governor, Greg Simones. Our restaurateurs from the New Britain chapter cooked up an amazing array of food including chicken, ribs, and – of course – hot dogs and hamburgers. About 75 people attended and all agreed that it turned out to be a very special day.



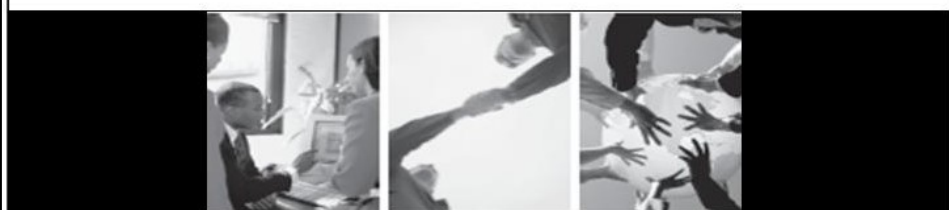
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Yankee District 7 Convention

by Alex Boutsioulis

A successful AHEPA & DOP Yankee District 7 Convention was held May 28 in Newport, Rhode Island. The organizational skills of Bro. George and Sister Ellen Anagnostos, with Bro. George Scarveles as chairman, made for a very well-run convention. The following were highlights:

- All Lodge officers submitted their reports on the year's activities.
- Yankee News (YN) staff reported on winning the 2015 AHEPA National publication award. Bro. John Melonopoulos, the YN Financial Officer gave the YN financial report and the need to sell new ads. Bro. Jack Isaac, YN Editor, urged everyone to provide information for upcoming issues.
- A report was given by the D7 Scholarship Committee Co-Chairman, Bro. Rick Pecka.
- Bro. Nick Nikas reported on the state of the Hellenic History Tournament.
- The New Haven and Stamford AHEPA Chapters will commemorate the 90th anniversary of their chapters on Saturday, October 29.
- Welcomed the Pawtucket, RI Chapter for re-joining the AHEPA D7 family.
- The District Officers were nominated.

- Past AHEPA and DOP D7 Governors were honored at the convention banquet on Saturday night. We were happy to see past DG's Harold Demopoulos (PDG: 1966-67) and Peter Stamos (PDG 1976-77) attend the affair. There were 13 PDGs in attendance.
- Bro. Jack Isaac was honored as D7 AHEPAN of the Year and Bro. Nick Nikas was honored as D7 Hellene of the Year at the banquet.
- The Rose of New England Norwich, CT Chapter was honored as Chapter of the Year for 2015, while the New Haven Chapter was honored as Chapter of the Year for 2016.

The Convention was a great time with a fun Friday night out at the Newport Playhouse & Cabaret Restaurant. I would encourage brothers who have never attended or haven't recently attended a Convention to consider doing so.



Karen Isaac, Lili Respass & Myrsini Papoutsis



George Anagnostos, PDG



Rick Pecka, PSP SoP



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Norwich Installations

by Tony Petros

Photographs by Democles Angelopoulos

Norwich installed its new 2016 AHEPA Chapter officers for the year as follows: President - Peter Argiros, Vice-President - George Grossomanides, Treasurer - Dr. John Grossomanides.

Daughters of Penelope District Governor from New Britain Karen Isaac installed the Norwich DOP officers: Chrysanthi Mangafakis - Treasurer, Anna-Helene Grossomanides - President, Gerri Grossomanides - Vice-President, Virginia Valace - Recording Secretary and Nina Barclay - Secretary.

This year's **AHEPA Community Service Award** was presented to Mrs. Mahi Patsouris for outstanding service and devotion to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and the Norwich Greek Community. The presentation was made by chapter president Peter Argiros.

Annual AHEPA service pins were presented by the District Governor of New London - Gregory Simones.



John Grossomanides, Peter Argiros, Greg Simones, Peter Patsouris and George Grossomanides

Karen Isaac, Chrysanthi Mangafakis, Anna-Helene Grossomanides, Gerri Grossomanides, Virginia Valace, and Nina Barclay



Peter Argiros with Mahi Patsouris



Greg Simones gives pins: Steve Patsouris, George Grossomanides, Ted Daniska, Peter J. Hominski and Democles Angelopoulos and George Maistrelis.



**New Haven Visits
Storrs Chapel**
by Greg Simones

On June 5th, brothers from the New Haven chapter organized a special Liturgy at the Three Hierarchs Chapel and a tour of the Hellenic Society

Paideia facilities at the UConn Campus in Storrs, CT. Brothers from New Haven, Norwich, and New London were in attendance along with family members. Fr. Charles Simones performed the Liturgy for the assembled group. There were about 25 brothers in attendance.

This was followed by a tour of the facilities by Paideia president, Iliia Tomazos, which included the academic building, museum exhibits, site of the future museum (under construction) and the amphitheater. This was followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. Those in attendance included District Governor Greg Simones, New Haven President Vagos Hadjimichael, past Supreme Counselor Greg Stamos, and several PDGs.



Winthrop 250 GYRO DAY

Members, families and friends of AHEPA, Chapter 250 once again enjoyed the Annual Celebrate East Lyme Day by selling Gyros, Souvlaki, Hot Dogs and hamburgers to the public who showed up with eager anticipation. The fundraiser was a hit with the community of East Lyme and with our volunteers alike.



Presbytera & Fr. Simones in East Lyme

"I want to say how honored I am to have served as your Supreme Governor for the last two years.

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Brother Frank P. Fotis
Past Supreme Governor, Region 4

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**District Secretary &
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Supreme Governor, Region 4

Jack Isaac

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860-224-2183
jckisaac012@gmail.com

District Warden
To be announced

Athletic Advisor
To be announced

Marshall

To be announced

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 1-
Chapter 90 Art Auction: Danbury, CT
Saturday, October 22-
District 7 Fall Conference: Norwich, CT
Saturday, October 29-
Chapters 98 & 99 Anniversary Celebration: Norwalk Inn, Norwalk
November 12, 2016-
8th Annual Hellenic History Tournament: Orange, CT

Next Yankee News Deadline for submissions: October 22, 2016
Submit to Terry: YankeeD7news@AOL.com
cc: Alex, Jack, Andy, Greg +/- John

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The AHEPA District 7 Foundation is in the process of raising funds to support a new college scholarship in the memory of District Governor Greg Simones' nephew, **Constantine Thomas Simones**, who died in February at the age of 21. We need to raise \$20,000 in order to make this a perpetual scholarship. Checks should be made out to the AHEPA District 7 Foundation and reference the Constantine Thomas Simones Memorial Scholarship. Donations should be sent to:

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