



Yankee News

Publication of AHEPA District #7
Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Western Massachusetts
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December, 2016



AHEPA Welcomes President Barack Obama's Visit to Greece



President Obama tours the Acropolis Museum with Professor Dimitrios Pandermalis. Reuters

From President Obama's speech at the State Dinner in the Presidential mansion in Athens: "Kalispera. Of course, your hospitality comes as no surprise. As Pericles said many centuries ago, 'In nobility of spirit, we differ from most others in the way we conduct ourselves towards other people. We make friendships not by receiving kindness from others but by conferring it on others.' We certainly felt the kindness of the Greek people conferred on us today.



President Obama with President Prokopis Pavlopoulos at the State Dinner. Pablo Martinez Monsivais / AP

We are deeply grateful for our alliance with the Greek people. I think we inspired each other to reach for independence, stood in solidarity during war and peace, in good times and in bad, including these very difficult years for the Greek people. And tonight I want you to know that as you work to move your country forward, you will always have the support and friendship of the U.S. -The White House, 11/15/16



President Obama with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. Daily Herald.com

AHEPA vigorously applauds President Obama: "If Greece can meet a NATO commitment, all our allies should be able to do so. Greece has done this even during difficult economic times. I will continue to urge creditors to take the steps needed to put Greece on a path towards a durable economic recovery, because it is in all of our interests that Greece succeeds." Likewise, President Obama commended Greek Americans who have "worn the uniform to keep our country free, who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and in an example of the



The President tours the Acropolis with Dr. Eleni Banou of the Ministry of Culture. Pablo Martinez Monsivais / AP

shared spirit of resilience, cited how St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, once in ruins, is rising again." Supreme President Andrew C. Zachariades issued the following statement on the President's visit to Greece: "AHEPA lauds the visit of President Barack Obama to Greece as it demonstrated a heightened level of commitment the U.S. has with its alliance with the Hellenic Republic, a longstanding NATO ally and EU nation," said.

After the election, he followed with: "We congratulate President-elect Donald J. Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence on their election. We look forward to working with the Trump Administration on the public policy priorities that are critical to the American Hellenic community. Furthermore, we congratulate the champions of the American Hellenic community who won re-election to Congress, including: Hellenic Caucus Co-Chairs U.S.

Representatives Gus Bilirakis and Carolyn Maloney; U.S. Representatives John Sarbanes, Dina Titus, and Niki Tsongas; and the entire memberships of the Hellenic Caucus and Congressional Hellenic Israeli Alliance. We also congratulate Charlie Crist on his election to the U.S. House of Representatives. We look forward to their continued strong support in the 115th Congress.." - www.ahepa.org, November 9, 2016 SP A. C. Zachariades

Order of AHEPA—District 7
14 Hartung Place
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06371-2230



A MESSAGE FROM THE AHEPA DISTRICT 7 GOVERNOR

Dear Brother AHEPANS, Daughters of Penelope, and friends of the Yankee District, Kala Christouyena! I extend to you Christmas greetings on behalf of the District Lodge. Here are highlights of some events I have attended since my last letter to the District:

- Aug. 13th: District 7 Scholarship Foundation awarded 17 scholarships at a lunch event hosted in Bridgeport, CT.
- Sept. 16 and 17th: District Governors

meeting Washington, DC.

- Oct. 5th: Joint AHEPA/DOP Lodge meeting Old Lyme, CT.
- Oct. 22nd: District Fall Conference in Norwich, CT
- Oct. 29th: New Haven/Stamford 90th Anniversary, Norwalk, CT.
- Nov. 12th: 8th Hellenic History Tournament, St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church, Orange, CT Sponsored by District 7 and the New Haven Chapter.
- Nov. 14th and 16th: Thanksgiving Dinners for Senior Housing Residents by the Norwich and New London Chapters.

Important notes coming out of the Governor's and the District Fall Conferences:

- 1) A reminder for all chapters to pay their per capita dues to national and to make a shift to paying them in the first quarter, not the last of the year.
- 2) St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine national fundraiser needs about \$400,000. If your chapter has not given to this yet, please consider a donation. I also have \$100 tickets to a national raffle expected to raise \$250,000 if you wish to contribute that way. Only 2,500 will be sold.
- 3) There is a new national online system now available for printing chapter rosters and mailing labels. The 2nd phase of this program will allow chapters to pay members' dues online (avail. Spring 2017).
- 4) Several chapters in the district are not healthy. It takes effort and commitment to make an unhealthy chapter healthy again. I am offering the full support of the Lodge to those chapters needing guidance to improve their standing.
- 5) Changes are being considered to improve the District Education Scholarship event. The plan is to announce the date and location with the initial notice that comes out after the first of the year. The date in 2017 will be in early July (either 9th or 16th) in Waterbury, CT. We will also need the scholarship winner or a family member to be in attendance at the event to collect the award.
- 6) We have set in motion the formation of a Board of Past District Governors to advise the Lodge and to tap into the institutional knowledge of our brothers who have served at a high level in the past.
- 7) The Chapters should start deciding their nominees for Hellene and AHEPAN of the year awards. The Lodge will expect your nominations by March 3, 2017.
- 8) We are asking for each Chapter to assign a brother to head up Hellenic Affairs and to work with George Rados who heads up this for the District.
- 9) We are looking for nominations or recommendations for District Secretary, Marshall, Sentinel, and Athletic Director immediately.
- 10) There will be several issues that will be considered for a vote at the 2017 District Convention in May; to include funding of the Hellenic Affairs Committee and financial support for our Region 4 Supreme Governor. This will be detailed in another correspondence that will be sent to each chapter.

On a somber note, I offer sincere sympathies on behalf of the brothers of the Yankee District to the family of Brother Peter Pantelis (65 year life member) as well as to his brothers in the New London Winthrop Chapter #250. This kind of loss is a constant reminder and message that each chapter needs to reach out to younger potential members and to grow AHEPA by teaching and passing on knowledge of our great Order to a new generation so we can preserve the mission of AHEPA for the future.

Please direct all chapter correspondence and event invitations to the District Governor and Secretary. I would like to visit with as many chapters as possible for meetings, initiations, and installations.

Fraternally,
Gregory Simones, PG
Governor, Yankee District 7



A MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE DISTRICT 7 GOVERNOR

Dear Sisters,

Wishing you warmth and happiness as you celebrate this holiday season with your family and friends.

In the past months I had the opportunity to attend two major AHEPA Family functions; the National Convention in Las Vegas and the Governor's Conference in Washington D.C. I was reminded of the philanthropic values that we as Daughters

and Ahepans share. The events gave us opportunities to share inspiring ideas and to discuss common concerns and their solutions. They reinforced what the focus of the Daughters is and how that focus should be directed. By the sharing of information across the country, we all benefit. This ensures that we are all moving in a common direction.

At the very informative Fall Conference we all heard about **Penelope's Place** in Brockton, Massachusetts, one of our National Projects. Julia Kehoe, CEO of Health Imperatives, answered questions about children in crisis and the aid provided for them at Penelope's Place. The Daughters and Ahepans who were there came together to give their support.

The Bridgeport Daughter's of Penelope Chapter was honored at the National Convention with an award for their outreach "**Under the Bridge**" program which provides frequent support, in a very direct way, to homeless individuals in their community.

Much thanks to Elaine Kevgas, PGP and presently District 8 Governor, and Lili Respass, Grand Governor of Zone 1, our liaison to the Grand Lodge, for all of their support given to District 7.

Thank you to Hartford and Bridgeport for inviting me to your installation of officers.

Please continue to invite me to installations, initiations and other events that demonstrate what your chapter is doing. Continue with your great energy and ideas as we enter into the New Year.

Yours in Theta Pi,
Karen Isaac
Daughters of Penelope

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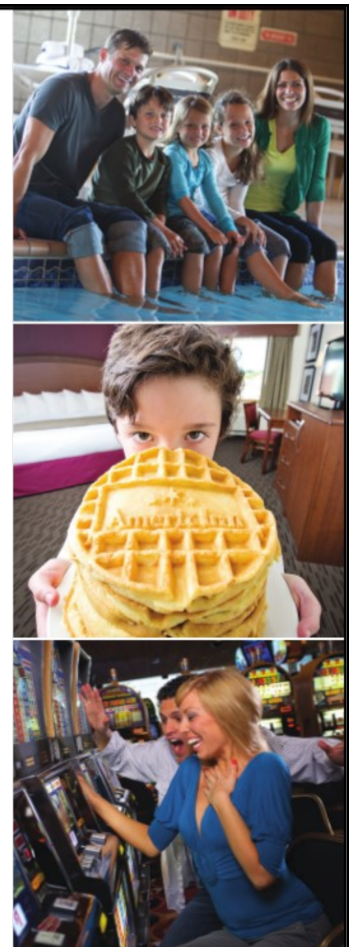
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EDITOR'S NOTES

By Jack Isaac

Let's philosophize for a moment. If you asked 100 brothers what Ahepa's biggest challenge is, what would be the answer? I submit that you would get various responses clustered around a central theme, "The Graying of AHEPA" and the need to increase the number of new and younger members.

One of my Supreme Governor colleagues from Florida uses the slogan "AHEPA plus one". The idea is for every Ahepan to find one other person to bring into our Fraternity. This would ideally double the membership. This may seem like a Herculean task, but doesn't it make a worthy goal?

AHEPA is an easy sell. We are the premier Greek-American organization in the world. We have for the last 94 years served as the voice of our community. Whenever disasters, man-made or natural, have occurred AHEPA has been there. We have supported the education of our youth, fought discrimination, and fed the hungry. Let us reach out to our fellow Greek-Americans and Philhellenes and grow our fraternity to the size it deserves. If you have any thoughts on the subject, use our letters to the Editor forum.

**LETTER to the EDITOR
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
SPRING CONFERENCE**

By Andy Aros

Within a few months the District Lodge will convene our annual Spring Conference. If the 2017 District Spring Conference follows recent trends, most of the brothers attending will be the same small handful that are present at every District 7 business meeting. The meeting will follow a familiar pattern: reports from Supreme and District Lodge officers to followed by more reports from the chapters. Intertwined with the saddened refrain of "why aren't more members present?" is the observation that the average age of the brothers present is steadily increasing. As the barrage of speakers continues, the collective brothers' seats become sore, the brains cease to efficiently absorb information and the focus of interest for some of the brothers becomes "how much longer before we eat lunch?".

The task for the District Lodge is to engage those brothers who are present at the Spring Conference. Perhaps many of the reports could be published, collated and presented to those present. A calendar of

coming events including National, District and Chapter functions will have more impact and will be more accurate than an oral presentation.

Certainly the Spring Conference under the direction of the District Governor could appoint chairmen for the committees that meet at the District Convention. This will enable the appointed chairman to review and investigate their committee's responsibilities. It would also give the chairmen time for reflection and development of possible solutions. At the convention the committee could actually produce innovative solutions to problems.

These are just two suggestions for the Spring Conference. They should be improved and expanded by the ideas of Past District Governors and those of the current District Lodge Officers.

Increased interest in the actions of the District Lodge is imperative if the District Lodge is to remain viable. The average brother's disinterest in the District and the actions of the District Lodge are obvious. We are nearly half way through this current year, and many appointed offices on the District Lodge remain unfilled.

**Governor's Conference September 17th
2016 Washington DC**

By Greg Simones

Approximately 165 AHEPANS, Daughters, Sons and Maids gathered in Washington, DC at the Washington Hilton Hotel to have meetings and information sharing sessions. Additionally, the AHEPA Supreme Lodge, the Board of Trustees and the Educational Foundation also had meetings. The meetings were productive and informative. Two highlights of the day were one, the presence of former Miss America, Becky Cantrell, who is of Greek descent, who showed her great talent as a singer; and two, our visit to the Greek Embassy to the USA for an evening presentation by Diane Harris Cline, associate professor of history and classics at George Washington University. Ms. Cline spoke of her companion book to **The Greeks** miniseries shown on PBS. Greek Ambassador, Haris Lalacos, was a gracious host and was presented a copy of the book by the author.



Our trip to the Greek Embassy in Washington D.C.

SG Jack Isaac, DOP D7 Governor Karen Isaac and AHEPA D7 Governor Greg Simones

**Fall Conference October 22nd, 2016
Norwich, CT**

By Greg Simones

24 Daughters and 18 AHEPANS from 9 chapters gathered at the AHEPA Home in Norwich for our annual Fall Conference. Special guests were our Supreme Governor of Region 4, Jack Isaac, Dalton Respass, District 8 Governor and Lili Respass, Daughters Grand Governor and Elaine Kevgas, District 8 Governor. AHEPA and DOP governors presided.

A variety of topics were discussed including changes to the District Scholarship event to encourage better participation among recipients and their families.

A Board of PDGs was established under the chairmanship of PDG Alex Boutsoulis to advise the District Lodge. Bylaws have been in need of revision for some time and will now be updated.

The Lodge is encouraging all chapters to nominate and submit candidates for consideration for the **AHEPAN of the Year** and **Hellene of the Year** awards.

The Lodge will determine the **Chapter of the Year** but that is based on their knowledge of the activities of each chapter, which need to be submitted to the Lodge.

A vote for consideration of a chapter assessment for the support of Hellenic Affairs in the District under the guidance of Brother George Rados will be taken during the 2017 Convention in May. Chapters are being encouraged to name Hellenic Affairs representatives of their own to work with Brother George.

**The New England Regional Convention
for Districts 7, 8, & 9 to be held on**

May 5, 6, 7 2017

Holiday Inn - Norwich, CT

Our Friday Night Venue will be a trip to Mohegan Sun Casino via a free hotel shuttle for delegates and friends.



Greg Simones with Greek Ambassador Haris Lalacos

BEST WISHES,

TOM GOBER

PAST SUPREME

GOVERNOR



George J. Scarveles

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John W. Galanis

Past Supreme President

Order of AHEPA

ΤΑ ΝΕΑ

HARTFORD-

- ◇ Sister Adele Antoniou's son Jason purchased a fiber-speed boat this summer and has earned his boaters registration from the US Coast Guard. Unfortunately while fishing he caught 1 fish (Tzipoura) all summer- good luck next year.
- ◇ Good luck to Bro. Paul and Anthia Vardoulakis and children on moving into a new home in Wethersfield.
- ◇ Congratulations to Bro. James (Springfield AHEPAN – visitor to Hartford 58)) and Sister Jean Atheneos on their daughter Kristi's marriage to Enzo Faienza which was held at St. George Cathedral Hartford, May 8, 2016. The Sacrament was officiated by Brother Rev. George Zugravu. They honeymooned in Greece and Crete.
- ◇ Congratulatiions to Bro. Tim & Sister Wendy Kontogouris on the birth of their second child "Olivia"—born on 08.21.16 weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz. and 17.5" long. "Na sas Zizi"
- ◇ Congratulations to Bro. Jordan and Sister Tina Smith on the marriage of their Son, Bro. Peter and Wife Mandy on Oct. 15th.

WINTHROP-

- ◇ Fr. Charles Simones of the Winthrop Chapter in New London celebrated the 58th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood in November.
- ◇ Fr. Dean Panagos of the Winthrop Chapter in New London celebrated the 10th anniversary of his assignment to St. Sophia Hellenic Orthodox Church in November.
- ◇ Congratulations to Brother Peter and Diane Galetsa who were the BIG WINNERS of the St. Sophia GO raffle. Additional AHEPA Brother winners Terry Michell, Jim Maistros and Dale Athanas.
- ◇ Our sympathies to Deborah Tasoulis on the passing of her mother Presbytera Mary Mourikis. Deborah is the wife of Lt. Gov. Demetrius Tasoulis. The funeral was held on August 25th, 2016 in Centerville, Ma.

NORWICH –

- ◇ Best Wishes to Sister Helen Homski recovering from her recent operation late September. A speedy recovery to Sister Heide Pappas, also recovering from her September operation.

- ◇ Brother Tom Simones from Norwich dedicated his recently renovated law office in Waterford, CT in honor of his mother, Presbytera Joan Simones, who has been instrumental in its success. The whole Simones family was present for the events including District Governor Greg Simones, Fr. Charles Simones, Tom's wife Katina and sons George and Dimitri.

WATERBURY-

- ◇ Congratulations to Teddy & Claire Tsetsos upon the birth of their daughter, Laila. Congrats also goes to Donna Tsetsos, Laila's grandma.
- ◇ Congratulations to Keith & Sofia Swaby (Waterbury Daughters of Penelope Chapter President) upon the birth of their son, Keith and to George Ricciardi & Audra Ramos upon their birth of their daughter Niccola. Congrats also goes to George and Margo Ricciardi, Keith and Niccola's grandparents.
- ◇ Congratulations to John & Gabby Velezis upon the birth of their son, Silvio. Congrats also goes to Spiro and Lola Velezis, Silvio's grandparents.
- ◇ Congratulations to Vasilios & Lauren Kaloidis upon the birth of their twins, son, Athanasios and daughter, Demetra. Congrats also goes to Tula Kaloidis, Vasilios and Demetra's grandma.
- ◇ Congratulations to Anthony & Katherine Velezis upon the birth of their son, Anders. Congrats also goes to George and Helena Velezis, Ander's grandparents.
- ◇ Congratulations to Despina Ververis and William Parker upon their wedding, May 28. Congratulations to Eva Ververis and Simon Kleigman upon their wedding, October 15. Despina and Eva are daughters of Ted and Marianthe Ververis.
- ◇ Lauren Karamavros graduated from UCONN in 2015 with a degree in Clinical Dietetics & Nutritional Sciences and just completed a year-long internship at the University of Delaware, where she passed her state license exam. Lauren recently accepted a dietician position in Massachusetts, is the daughter of Harry and Roseanne Karamavros.

- ◇ Matoula Tsetos graduated from UCONN with a Master's Degree in Social Work. Matoula recently accepted a school social work position in the area. Kosmas Tsetsos graduated from Post University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. He is pursuing a career as a probation officer. Matoula and Kosmas are the daughter and son of Michael and Despina Tsetsos and the grandchildren of Matoula Tsetsos.
- ◇ Constantine (Dean) Tzezos graduated from Emmanuel College in Boston, Massachusetts with a BA in Business Management. Dean is planning to apply to law school and follow in his father's footsteps. Dean is the son of George & Barbara Tzezos and the grandson of Tula Tzezos.
- ◇ Cassandra Boutsioulis graduated from Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island with a BS in Business Management. She is currently working in Denver, Colorado. Cassandra is the daughter of Alex and Marianne Boutsioulis and the granddaughter of John and Efthalia Boutsioulis.

Happy Birthday, Joe!

By Ginny Argiros

A lifelong Yankee fan and member of the Norwich, CT AHEPA Rose Chapter #110, Brother Joe Hominski was more than surprised during coffee hour after Liturgy at Holy Trinity where we celebrated his 90th birthday (9/30/1926)! The picture on his cake depicts the 1936 World Series won by the Yankees vs. the NY Giants. It was determined that Joe was 10 years old at that time!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOE - 90 YEARS LOVED!



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DISTRICT 7 AHEPANS**

May Their Memories Live Eternal

George Savva, 90, of Hartford, died Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at his home. He was born in Rhodes, Greece son of the late George and Christina (Phillips) Hatzisavva. George was head of purchasing for a local manufacturing company. He was a U.S. Army Air Corp Veteran and bottom turret gunner in WWII, an active member of St. George Cathedral, a 50 year member of AHEPA Nathan Hale Chapter 58, and served as Sergeant of Arms at the State Capitol. He is survived by nieces and nephews: Elaine, Vasilias, George, Philip and Nicholas Emmanuel, Vivian St. Germain, Philip, Charles and Christina Savva, Aldea Moore and his sister-in-law, Aldea Savva. He was predeceased by his parents, sister Irene, brother Emmanuel, brother-in-law Philip Savva, Lucas Emmanuel, 2 nephews Lucas and Stephen Emmanuel and niece Christina Lovejoy.



Peter G. Pantelis, 90, of Waterford, passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 14, 2016, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, New London. Peter was born on Dec. 3, 1925, the son of the late George and Mersina (Mastrogeorgiou) Pantelis. He was married to the former Lucille Kimball, on Aug. 21, 1960, at St. Barbara Church in New Haven. A 1944 graduate of the former Chapman Technical School, Peter attended the University of Connecticut, and received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Hartford. He was granted a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Rhode Island. He was an Army veteran of World War II and worked in the engineering department at Electric Boat Company in Groton for over 37 years. An avid runner, Peter participated in many local races as well as 23 marathons, and ran Mt. Washington many times. His proudest achievement was winning the 70+ age bracket at the Athens Marathon in 1997 in Greece. He was a life member of both VFW New London Post and Order of AHEPA Winthrop Chapter. He is survived by his wife and three children: Peter G. Pantelis Jr. and wife, Brenda of Stratford, Irene Burrows of Waterford, Thomas S. Pantelis and wife, Erin of Portsmouth, N.H.; and two grandchildren, Kristin Pantelis of Stratford and Lauren Hill of Los Angeles, Calif. Peter was predeceased by his brother, Constantine; and sisters, Mary Kavarnos, Ruth Luke and Bessie McCary.



WWII Veteran Recognized in Niantic

By George Mitchell

John C. Angelopoulos, 92, a resident of Ahepa Housing Unit 4 and veteran of World War II, is shown with our Representative to the U.S. Congress, Joe Courtney and myself.

Joe Courtney belatedly awarded him three combat medals that he earned in WWII action in the Pacific as well several other ribbons shown in the picture (72 years later). The award was made at the Niantic AHEPA 4 building on October 28, 2016.



Dr. John Grossomanides
Past Supreme President
AHEPA
 &
Anna-Helene Grossomanides
Past Grand President
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**SALUTE to VETERAN
GEOFF PERRY**

Geoff was born in New Hartford, NY in October, 1963 and grew up in Westford, MA. He attended Westford Academy, graduating 2nd in his class in 1981. He received a full Navy ROTC scholarship to Cornell University, where he graduated in 1985 with a BS in Electrical Engineering.

Immediately after graduating, Geoff attended Naval flight school in Pensacola, FL. Graduating first in his class from VT-10, he moved to Norfolk, VA and joined VAW-120 as a student in the E-2C Hawkeye. One year later, finishing his training at the top of his class and the first "Golden Nugget" ever in the Hawkeye community (top honors with no below average grades in any training evolution, flight or test), Geoff joined the Bluetails of VAW-121, as an energetic new aviator. During his three years with the Bluetails, VAW-121 deployed to the Mediterranean, worked missions throughout the Caribbean, supported NASA shuttle launches and worked hand in hand with the Coast Guard's drug interdiction mission. After three years flying off the USS Eisenhower (CVN-69), Geoff was asked to be a flight instructor at VAW-120, where he served until he left active duty in 1993. Geoff continued his military career in the Naval Reserves for the next 12



years, changing his designator to become a Naval Intelligence officer. He was affiliated with DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) and ONI (Office of Naval Intelligence). He served as Training Officer, Operations Officer, XO and finally OIC (Officer in Charge) of a unit with ONI at Fort Devens, MA. He retired as a senior officer (Commander), in April of 2006.

Geoff received the Joint Services Achievement Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Battle "E", Meritorious Unit Commendation, National Defense Medal, Expert Rifle and Pistol Medal, and Navy Armed Forces Reserve Medal, amongst other service ribbons. While serving in the reserves, Geoff was also a physician recruiter and started his own golf club fitting and retail business (Master Clubfitters in Thornton, CO). As his two daughters began school, he and his wife,

Christine, decided one of them needed to be at home- so Geoff made the transition to be a stay at home Dad.

Geoff and his family have moved many times, living in VA, CT, CO, NY, MA, and again in CT. The last move landed them in Avon, CT, where they currently live. Geoff's wife Christine, is a senior executive with Libbey Glass Co., based in Toledo, OH. They have two daughters. Demi earned her Masters in Food Science from Penn State and her BA in Chemistry from Cornell University. Anastasia is currently a sophomore at Villanova University studying Bio-chemistry.

Geoff has been and remains active in his church and community. Currently serving as VP of Administration at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Geoff has been on the Parish Council for 4 years, held roles as JOY advisor and GOYA advisor for many years, sings in the choir, and served as the annual festival Set-up/Clean-up Chair. He served as Treasurer for the local AHEPA Chapter 58 for two years, earning both a local and a national Certificate of Merit for his efforts. He was the regional chair for the Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network for Western Connecticut for six years leading a team of 72 alumni volunteers performing admission interviews. Geoff is also the VP of the Carriage Club in Avon, a 120 family community tennis and pool club.

A Story from Newport

By Michael Sisak, President

In the autumn of 2012, District 7 Governor Jack Isaac made a visitation to our chapter in Newport, RI. In his remarks, he exhorted us to "Get out into the community and get involved". We reflected on these words, and eventually, after considering our finances and our manpower, we decided upon a course of action. We would offer a scholarship in the name of AHEPA to a deserving graduate in each of the three high schools on Aquidneck Island; our little world.

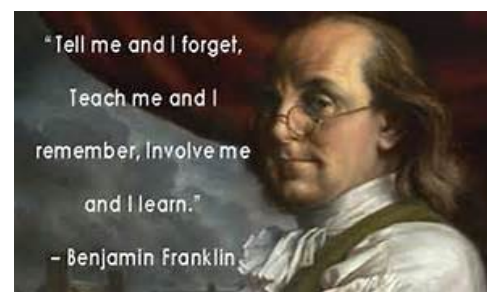
We continued to ponder this initiative over the following months. Everything came together conceptually during a car ride to the testimonial dinner in honor of outgoing Supreme President, John Grossomanides in Mystic, Connecticut during the spring of 2013, which many of you certainly will remember. In the car were Past District Governor of the Daughters of Penelope, Ellen Anagnostos, Past

Supreme Secretary George Anagnostos, the President of the Daughters of Penelope in Newport at that time, our beloved, and recently departed, sister, Penny Hiotas, and the President of the AHEPA in Newport at that time, Michael Sisak. We bandied about many ideas and rationales, and eventually hit upon the idea to name the scholarship, the AHEPA Benjamin Franklin Award. By naming it after Mr. Franklin, we honored a man who was a premier example of an individual who flourished in the application of classical Greek subjects such as science and civic contributions. Furthermore, in as much as Benjamin Franklin and his accomplishments are well known throughout America, connecting his name with the AHEPA quickly and clearly sent a meaningful message.

Armed with a thorough concept, we set out to organize for the award to be presented in the Newport high school in 2014. This was executed successfully. The following year, we

extended our organizational effort in order to have the award presented not only at Newport's high school but also at the Middletown high school. And finally, in 2016, we presented at the previously mentioned high schools and also at Portsmouth high school.

The original mission was complete. We covered all of the high schools in our region. In each case, a brief speech and the presentation have been made in front of an audience of about 200 people, thereby spreading an awareness of the AHEPA and some of what it stands for to many people on our island. We happily intend to continue this mission into the foreseeable future. Thanks, Jack.



**Daughters of Penelope
Yankee District
Lodge #7**

- District Governor - Karen Isaac
- Lt. Governor - Marianne Boutsoulis
- Secretary - Marianne Boutsoulis
- Treasurer - Valerie St. Peter
- Marshall - Virginia Argiros
- Maids of Athena Advisor - Lili Respess
- Daughters Advisor - Myrsini Papoutsis

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Family and Individual Excellence*



**In honor of our
Chapter President
Lakis Andriotis
for his many years of service!
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Sophocles Chapter 106**



Another Successful Hellenic History Tournament

Dear D7 Friends of HHT,

Thank you very much for your support of the 2016 HHT. You know very well that this event would not be possible without you! In summary, at the 8th Annual Hellenic History Tournament at St Barbara GOC, Orange, CT, 11 teams from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey competed fiercely for the top prize of \$1,000 per team member. After five rounds of competition, the Stamford team "**Hellenes**" composed of Alexander & Loukas Koutsoukos and Phoebe Hartch won first place! Both fathers, Jim Koutsoukos and Tim Hartch, are members of the Stamford AHEPA.

Runners up were "**Athena's Owls**" from neighboring New Rochelle. The final match was extremely close, with Stamford winning by two points 14-12 in overtime. Congratulations to all 11 teams! If you know of any 8-11 graders, please urge them to sign up for next year's tournament!

All the best,
Nicholas Nikas



The Stamford Hellenes



Athena's Owls from New Rochelle

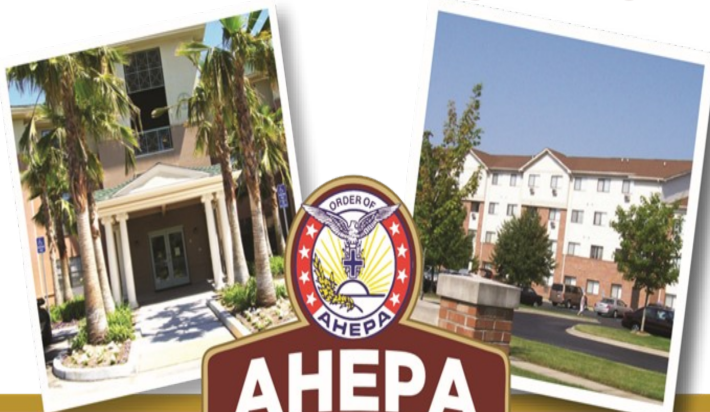


Norwich Daughters of Penelope member **Nina Barkley** has been volunteering for the HHT since its inception. This year she was presented with a gift of gratitude from Nick Nikas. **Thank you, Nina!**

2016 Hellenic History Tournament Participants

- | | |
|--|--|
| Nashua, #35—Gate City Gyros
J. Johnson, G. Powell, M. True | Stamford, #99—Centaur's of Attention
M. Lee-Chin, G. Ferrara, Z. Filler |
| Paramus, #54—Akrites
A. Frangiskou, E. Baltzis, E. Vardakis | Norwich, #110—Norwich Free Academy
E. Wyland, T. Carty, E. Novosad |
| Paramus, #54—Saria
P. Logothetis, M. Delaney, F. Tsambounieris | New Britain, #117—Hip Hoplites
E. Manos, K. Ciebelski, S. Manos |
| New Haven, #98—Troy Story
P. DeBassio, A. Lolis, E. Nikolakis | Pawtucket, #121—Μολών Λαβέ
V. Platsidakis, E. Dafulas, N. Zervas |
| Stamford, #99—Hellenes
A. Koutsoukos, P. Hartch, L. Koutsoukos | New Rochelle, #405—Athena's Owls
J. Geogiou, G. Kalyvas, A. Kerwick |
| Stamford, #99—Annunciation Church
A. Evangelidis, V. Servos, A. Handrinos | Watertown, #406—Socrates
A. Paschalidis, I. Pantekidis, I. Zavras |

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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 Secretary 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:

AHEPA District 7 Foundation
Attn: John Grossomanides
153 High Street #3, Westerly, RI 02891

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Norwich Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

This is a scene of our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by the Norwich AHEPA for 120 seniors living in the AHEPA apartments. Our seniors were treated to a full course turkey dinner with all the trimmings, including pumpkin pie and apple cider. One of the big attractions each year is the drawing for the terrific door prizes, thanks to area merchants who donate them. We had enough prizes for all of the residents—everyone won something. Thanks go out to all of the Ahepans and Daughters who volunteered their services by serving the food and helping out. WE SALUTE ALL OF YOU WHO HELPED OUT.



A Story That Should be Told

Dr. John Grossomanides, at the Annual AHEPA Thanksgiving Dinner, asked everyone to purchase one of the Chapters' just published book. He stated that we have sold almost 200 copies of the book in over 14 states around the country. The book is called **"A Story That Should Be Told"** and he promises that all who purchase the book will surely feel pride in what our Greek Ancestors in Norwich did for their country in WW II. The chapter has taken in \$7,300.00 to date - all proceeds are being donated to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Norwich. The book also explains what AHEPA is and what it does for the community, as well as how much of an impact AHEPA Housing for seniors has on Norwich. We are very pleased with the results so far. Sunday after Church, we were selling the books. Some people came up purchased a book, sat down and looked through it . . . and then came back and purchased another book. We had one member purchase 14 books and he will be giving one each to his family members. Other large sales were one for 8 books, another for 5 books and multiple sales of 2 or 3 books. We are asking every member to purchase a book by sending in their check for \$31.20 (includes shipping) to: AHEPA 110, c/o Tony Petros, 132 Apache St., Norwich, CT.

We are receiving help in advertising this book in multiple ways. Last Friday, there was a full page advertisement by our chapter promoting the book. AHEPA National Headquarters has helped us several times by putting our book in their e-mail newsletters. A Greek Newspaper also promoted our book. People have put us on their Facebook Pages, e-mails have been sent to hundreds of Ahepans throughout the country with success, our sister AHEPA Chapter in New London has come through for us big time - we have sold over 25 books there. Some of you have family members who are featured in this book - Fathers, Uncles, Cousins. You all will be proud of how the book came out.



NOW...WE NEED YOU TO PLEASE COME THROUGH FOR US. **ALL OF YOU ARE ASKED TO PURCHASE A BOOK AS THIS IS AN OFFICIAL PROJECT OF OUR CHAPTER.**



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Best wishes to the Brothers in Yankee District #7



**Vincent Antonelli, DDS
Ted Malahias, DDS
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Hartford DOP Collects Donated Items for Two Area Charities

By Jordan F. Smith

The Daughters of Penelope, Thoas Chapter #198, conducted a drive over a three week period to collect needed items for two Hartford-based charities: **Mercy Shelter**, a shelter for the homeless, and **Interval House**, a shelter for abused women and their children. We reached out to them to see what their current most urgent needs were. These are worthy organizations, and we can be assured all donations will be put to immediate good use. There was a tremendous response from the St. George Greek community and we collected many of the items on their list.

Interval House Mission: Interval House is dedicated to providing services to prevent and break the cycle of family and intimate partner abuse. We strive to reach all persons at risk and bring about social change.

Mercy Shelter Mission: Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation provides housing assistance and supportive services to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming

homeless. Mercy works to empower its clients to become independent, so they may live and work with dignity and respect. Mercy seeks to end homelessness by advocating for changes in the social systems that perpetuate homelessness. Mercy welcomes and serves all in need in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, who founded the organization in 1983. DOP President Christina Smith and AHEPA President Jordan Smith delivered the collected items. The recipients were grateful, as they rely on the support of the community to function well.



Tina & Jordan Smith making a delivery.

An AHEPA Family Thanksgiving Dinner

By Jordan Smith

In-lieu of a regular chapter meeting, on November 1, 2016, the Thoas Chapter 198 and Nathan Hale Chapter 58 hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for the combined membership. The AHEPA Lodge room was decorated with a Thanksgiving theme using period table cloths, dinnerware and center pieces for Brothers, Sisters and friends. The evening started with a cheese, wine and beverage cocktail hour before all were asked to be seated. Father George Zugravu offered a prayer of thanks for the event. President Jordan Smith asked that all remain standing for a silent prayer for all past, current members and Veterans past and current of our armed services. Sister President Tina Smith also offered welcome to all from the DOP Thoas Chapter 198. Brother Dino Karabetsos catered the dinner. The meals were presented to the members and guests by the AHEPA Family.

After dinner Evynia & Vasoula Papageorge, daughters of Bro. Sava and Marguertia Papageorge, spoke of their attendance of the AHEPA Academy which Nathan Hale Chapter 58 sponsored. They discussed their networking with other gifted students while at George Mason University in Washington, DC. This is a one week program for high school juniors which allows mentoring their education throughout the balance of high school and college. Nathan Hale #58 has sponsored students since the inception of the program 8 years ago. Many questions were asked from the floor getting those in the audience to better understand this program.

A Special thank you goes to our members that worked during the evening both chapters including the officers, governors and volunteers.



DOP Chapter Thoas #198 initiated one new member in October and three in November! Past President Adele Antonio, President Christina (Tina) Smith, Elaine Melonopoulos, New: Alexa Melonopoulos Fleury, New: Eleni Bouzakis, New: Anna Karahalios, Priscilla Kokinis, New: Katina Bouzakis, Past President and PDG Marie Klemention, Bessie Kacoyannakis. Missing from Photo: Elisa Marotta.

The Augustinos Family

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~ Brother Lakis Andriotis ~



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Brother Steve Costas

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Smith Brothers Insurance, LLC is proud to support Yankee News and I am personally honored to have been part of the efforts of the AHEPA organization in their Affordable Senior Housing program for over 20 years.

Patricia A. Martin

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Banquet in Celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Chapters 98 and 99

By Greg Stamos

On Saturday, October 29, the anniversary of the establishment of Chapters 98 (New Haven) and 99 (Stamford) was celebrated with a banquet at the Norwalk Inn, in Norwalk. The celebration was attended by about 150 Ahepa brothers and their families, as well as by Ahepa dignitaries, namely Supreme President Andrew Zachariades, Region 4 Supreme Governor Jack Isaac, District 7 Governor, Gregory Simones, and by several past District 7 Governors. Rev. Fathers Peter Orfanakos from St. Barbara, and Evan Evangelides from Annunciation Church offered the invocation.

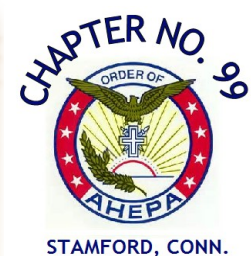


SG Jack Isaac, SP Andrew Zachariades, Stamford President James Cocolis



SG Jack Isaac, SP Andrew Zachariades, New Haven President Vagos Hadjimichael

Bro. Nick Nikas served as the Master of Ceremonies, and Vagos Hadjimichael, President of Chapter 98, addressed the history and accomplishments of the two Chapters. The accomplishments of the respective Chapters were highlighted, including Stamford Chapter 99's ongoing cultural series and significant contributions to the St. Nicholas Shrine Initiative; New Haven Chapter 98's being the first Chapter to have 2 Supreme Presidents, Constantine P. Verinis and George J. Margoles; being the initiators of National Congressional Legislation to provide Federal funds for Cooleys Anemia Research and numerous fundraising initiatives, including providing scholarships, assistance to the UCONN Hellenic Studies Center and other charitable fundraising. The net proceeds of the evening were given to the St. Nicholas Shrine AHEPA Initiative. Supreme President Zachariades offered remarks on recent works on behalf of Hellenic affairs and contemporary issues dear to all AHEPA brothers. Following his remarks, the President awarded Chapters 98 and 99 the 90th Diamond Emerald Certificate. Entertainment during the celebration was provided by George Karatzas and his Athenian Entertainment band, and by comedienne Ellen Karis.



George Scarveles, Jim Benas and New Haven President Vagos Hadjimichael

PSG George Scarveles, D #7 Governor Greg Simones, PSC Gregory J. Stamos, SP Andrew Zachariades, PSG Nick Nikas, SG Jack Isaac and Chapter #98 Pres. Dr. Evangelos Hadjimichael.

Norwalk Inn manager, Nick Nikas, Stamford President James Cocolis and Nick Loussides



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**New Britain AHEPA
Supports a Disabled Child**

By Andy Aros

Athanasios Kardamimes was born in Cyprus on August 3, 2007. Unfortunately his lower legs were misshapen and were amputated. He was brought to the Shriners Hospital in Massachusetts and fitted for prosthetic legs. As he grows he must be refitted for new prosthetic legs. Yearly he and his family travel from Cyprus to the Shriners Hospital in Massachusetts for the procedure. The Shriners and the government of Cyprus pay for the medical costs as well as tickets to and from America. However, the remaining financial costs create a hardship for the family.

Elpis Chapter # 117 annually donates \$500.00 to assist defraying the expenses incurred by the family.



Waterbury AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope Scholarship Awards Luncheon

By Alex Boutsoulis

On Sunday, June 5, 2016, Waterbury AHEPA Chapter 48 and Daughters of Penelope Chapter 199 awarded nearly \$26,000 to twenty-five students at its annual scholarship luncheon. **Seated:** Kristina Dibble, Eleni Tsetsos, Emi Boutsoulis, Alexandra Gagas, Zach Tzezos, Steven Gagas, Dimitri Tracey **Standing:** Costas Bouzakis, Elena Persico, Christina Forte, Adrianna Mihalek, Spencer Mourges, David Gagas, and Katerina Bouzakis.



Bridgeport Daughters Installation By Ginny Argiros

On September 21, 2016, members of the District Lodge visited Bridgeport, Connecticut's Daughters of Penelope Hermes Chapter 41 for their installation of officers. Standing from left to right are: Karen Isaac, District Governor; Theo Fatibene, Vice President; Stella Capiris, Recording Secretary; Helen Yeotsas; Viola Skendaris; Kathy Yiannoulis, Past President; Kathy Santella, Janice Bouloubasis, Sunshine Secretary; Kneeling: Cindy Waldron, President; Sophia Maragos, Treasurer.

Nice job volunteering for the Presidency, Cindy! We know it will be a wonderful term!

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Saint Nicholas Shrine Update

All St. Nicholas Shrine donations should be sent to headquarters. Please have the Chapter(s) follow the instructions below:

- 1) Make check out to:
The AHEPA Charitable Foundation
- 2) In check memo line please have them note "St. Nicholas Shrine"
- 3) Mail check to: **AHEPA Charitable**
c/o AHEPA Headquarters
1909 – Q Street, N.W. Suite 500
Washington, DC 20009

Any questions, please free to contact us.
- Rory Puckerin, Program Coordinator

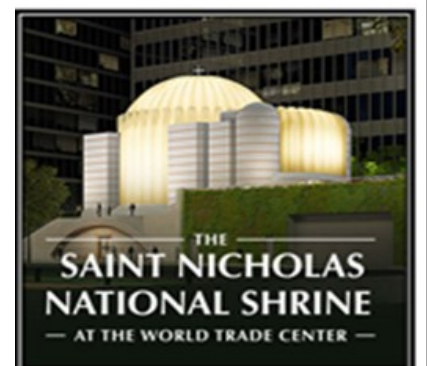
Donations to Date

As of October 4, 2016, donations are:
Total Pledged to date: \$39,869,897
Total Collected to date: \$28,522,231
Pledge Balance: \$10,947,665

This memorial, combined with the famous Sphere that will be installed in the same park opposite the new Church, give more than ample testimony to the significance that the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine will have, not only for our community, but for all Americans and indeed for the whole world.

Καὶ ἔσται ἐπ' ἐσχάτων τῶν ἡμερῶν ἐμφανὲς τὸ ὄρος τοῦ κυρίου ἔτοιμον ἐπὶ τὰς κορυφὰς τῶν ὀρέων καὶ μετεωρισθήσεται ὑπεράνω τῶν βουνῶν καὶ σπεύσουσιν. Micah 4:1

"In the last days the mountains of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains, it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream into it."



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





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The Next Yankee News Deadline for submissions:

January 31, 2017

Submit to: YankeeD7news@AOL.com

cc: Alex, Jack, Andy, Greg +/-or John

PLEASE send pictures and articles TOGETHER whenever possible, with those in the picture(s) named in the context of the article or with it. Submit your information TO YANKEED7NEWS@AOL.COM to be certain your submissions -in their entirety- get to us by the deadline.

CALLING ALL AHEPA, DOP, SoP & MoA CHAPTERS:

SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS WITH TIMES AND LOCATIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE YANKEE NEWS CALENDAR!

We want to know about your events before they happen and we want pictures and articles about them afterwards!

CALENDAR

Sat., Dec. 3, 2016 - Annual Christmas Party, New Britain, CT

Thurs., Dec. 29, 2016 - Annual Blood Drive, Hartford, CT

Sat., Mar. 4, 2017– NE Regional Sisterhood Conference to be held at DOP Housing 98 Central Street, Peabody, MA

Sun., Mar. 26, 2017 - NYC Greek Independence Day Parade

May 5,6 &7, 2017 - Tri-District Convention, Norwich, CT

When is YOUR AHEPA Family Event?

Let us know before Jan. 31st !!!

AHEPA District 7 Yankee News

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AHEPA Congratulates His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I

The members of the AHEPA congratulate Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I on the joyous occasion of the 25th Anniversary of his elevation to the venerable Patriarchal Throne of Constantinople. His All-Holiness Bartholomew was elected in 1991 as the 270th Archbishop of the 2000-year-old Church founded by St. Andrew, serving as Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch.

"On behalf of the AHEPA family, I offer sincere congratulations to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on this special, momentous occasion," Supreme President Andrew C. Zachariades said.

"For 25 years, His All-Holiness has provided spiritual leadership and guidance to more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide and has been an inspiration to countless individuals as evidenced here in the U.S. by being bestowed with the Congressional Medal of Honor by the US Congress in 1997. His All-Holiness has conveyed a loving message of peace, tolerance, and care for the environment that has made a meaningful difference the world over and has brought people of all faiths together. His All-Holiness has promoted fundamental human rights, including the universal right of religious freedom, which unfortunately, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and His All-Holiness himself does not enjoy fully. "The AHEPA family cherishes its long-standing relationship with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. On this joyous occasion, AHEPA reaffirms its commitment toward the advancement of *religious freedom and tolerance.*"



BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

By Jerry Copsinis, Chairman

For the ninth year in a row the Hartford Chapter of AHEPA will host a blood drive for the Red Cross. Along with providing assistance during natural disasters the Red Cross also provides hospitals with blood during times of emergency. The chapter along with the Cathedral provides the facility and administrative support. This includes registration personnel and the running of the canteen. This year the drive will take place on Thursday, **December 29, 2016.**

The holiday season is usually the most critical time for providing blood transfusions. Advertising the event within the community takes place prior to the event. The location of the church also provides locals in the area with a convenient place to donate their blood. The chapter has enthusiastically supported the event and feels its a way of providing an important contribution to the area.

In the past the following brothers have assisted with the various duties needed to carry out the event: Brothers Pangakis, Matsikas, Karageorge, Papanik, Copsinis, Melonopoulos, Calibey, and Smith, have assisted in running the drive. If you have time and are eligible to donate please stop by on that date. The preliminary screening is conducted by the Red Cross and is strictly confidential.

Giving this time of year makes you feel good and that you are contributing to save someone in dire need.

"You must never think of anything but the need...and how to meet it."

