



Yankee News

Publication of AHEPA District #7
Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Western Massachusetts
In Continuous Publication Since 1949
September, 2017



Awarded 1st Place as "Most Outstanding District Publication" at the Supreme Convention for the 3rd Year in a Row!



*It Was A Magical Event!
Meet Your New AHEPA Family Officers!
See page 11*



*District 7 Governor
Greg Simones*



*Region 4 Supreme
Governor Jack Isaac*



*District 7 Governor
Karen Isaac*



DISTRICT 7 FALL CONFERENCE — OCTOBER 14TH, 2017 — ST. BARBARA CHURCH, ORANGE, CT





A MESSAGE FROM THE AHEPA DISTRICT 7 GOVERNOR

Dear AHEPA Brothers, DOP Sisters, and friends,

As I write this, it is summer, the National Convention in Orlando, Florida is upon us, and we are celebrating our 95th year as a fraternity. The big question is what's next for us as a district (and nationally). Efforts have been made toward improvements over the last year and I thank you for your

support. Some of these are:

- 1) Membership – Efforts to collect dues earlier is paying off. As of mid July, 600 of 760 are paid (5 chapters in full and 5 others with less than 10 left). The last 5 chapters account for 139 of the 160 left to collect. There are 35 new or reinstated members so far in 2017. The goal of 800 members by the end of 2017 is possible. Remember, there are no initiation or reinstatement fees. If your chapter is struggling with collection, don't wait until December, and ask us for help now if you need it.
- 2) District Scholarship Event – The date of the awards was moved into June from August to get students before they left for school in the Fall or took off for the Summer, applications were due earlier thereby streamlining the review process, and we made sure all information and materials were available well ahead of time. The result was one of the most successful events in years in terms of attendees and profit, which funds the annual DOP scholarship.
- 3) NERC Tridistrict Convention 2017 – Region 4 banded together and put on one of the best and most well attended Conventions in recent memory. Just shows what can happen when we work together and have a plan.
- 4) Board of Past District Governors – Please plan on meeting at the Fall Conference to aid in selecting potential current/future candidates for Lodge offices and making other requested recommendations for improvements.
- 5) Fall Conference – There will be a different format this year. We are planning a workshop with the new online membership system that has been introduced in phases over the last year. Many of you are not using it or don't even know how to log on. Presidents, please bring a laptop and be ready for hands on. An event calendar will be distributed and will be discussed only as much as needed or to respond to your specific questions.
- 6) Fundraising – District projects such as our Education Foundation, Greek Firefighters Training Fund, or Service Dogs for Warriors need money to work. We plan to have two major fundraisers a year with a minimum goal of \$5,000 every year. The district has the talent to do this and the Lodge can't do it alone.

Contact me with any ideas, suggestions, or thoughts. Remember the "P" in AHEPA stands for Progressive. Let contribute to the Yankee District's progress together.

Fraternally,
Gregory Simones
District 7 Governor

Brothers,

Please join me in thanking two brothers who have stepped up to serve the District Lodge. Dr. John Grossomanides, PSP of Norwich Chapter 110 (Rose of New England) has volunteered to serve out this year as Secretary through elections at the next Convention in May 2018. Also, thanks to Brother Sam Christodlous of New Britain Chapter 117 who will be serving as Marshal. When you see them, please offer your congratulations and thanks.

Brothers, please consider serving in our 2 remaining vacancies: Warden and Sons of Pericles Advisor. The latter is of particular importance since our new national project is our Sons and Maids organizations. We need to foster growth of new chapters and offer mentorship to those we have. AHEPA is about giving back.

How will you choose to serve?

Fraternally,
Gregory Simones



A MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE DISTRICT 7 GOVERNOR

We hope you had a good summer!

We wrapped up our Daughters' District Year on a lovely evening at the end of June by welcoming and honoring the District Scholarship recipients in Waterbury. To start our new year the District Lodge welcomes Nikitoula Menounos, PDG as the new District Scholarship committee co-chair. She replaces Valerie St Peter who has stepped down. We thank her for her service. I am confident that Niki will do an

outstanding job given her years of experience in education.

The Ahepa National Convention was held at the Yacht Club Resort in Disney World. A new Grand Lodge was elected. Each seat was contested this year which made for a very interesting and exciting election. Eva Jean Fomalont, who hails from New Jersey and currently resides in New Mexico was elected Grand President.

Daughters from all over the United States, Canada, and Australia met to exchange ideas and vote on new legislation. This year there were no grievances presented. We honored sisters who have passed on. We also selected National Projects.

I am so excited that not only did we sell many of our specially designed cosmetic bags, a District fundraiser, to sisters in this country, but that the bags will see the light of day in such faraway places as Canada, and Australia. They were well received by all.

There was a strong presence of young people throughout the Convention. Besides the Maids and Sons who elected their officers, there were Scholar Athletes who were given awards at a lovely luncheon. We were proud of them and awed by their accomplishments.

We all had a wonderful time at the Epcot Illuminations Fireworks and the Epcot Dessert Event hosted by Disney to commemorate Ahepas' 95th Anniversary. All of our favorite Disney characters were there along with an evening of music and luscious desserts displayed in true Disney fashion. Walt Disney World has invited us to return in 2020.

It will be hard to surpass this years Convention. We will see you all next year in Atlantic City.

Yours in Theta Pi,
Karen Isaac, D7 Governor
Daughters of Penelope



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Eptahorian Saint George Society Founded in Nashua, NH in 1903

Since its inception, June 3, 1924, Greek-Americans from Eptahori, Greece have taken an active role in AHEPA Chapter 48 of Waterbury, Connecticut.

Currently, over forty Eptahorians are also involved fraternally in the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope.



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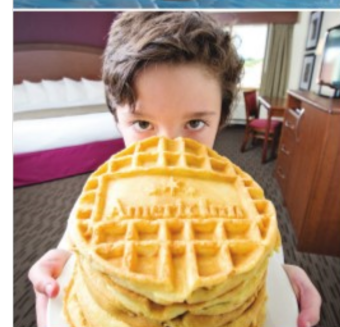
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EDITOR'S NOTES by Jack Isaac

For many years one of the highlights of my AHEPA year has been the awards night of the Norwich Chapter. This is an event where local nonprofit organizations are awarded grants to help fund their missions. The success of this awards night has encouraged other chapters to emulate what is done in Norwich.

When you see the joy on the faces of the recipients it makes you proud to be an Ahepan. Thanks to the AHEPA Housing Program, funds are available to chapters for community grants. I strongly believe that every chapter, whether they have AHEPA housing or not, should attempt to reach out to their communities and assist. It doesn't always take money. Use your time and talent to volunteer and work with these organizations. Spread the AHEPA name throughout your towns so that our good work becomes known to everyone.

How to Deal with Declining Membership

Richard Pecka, Sr.

Chapter Treasurer, AHEPA #48, Waterbury, CT

Why is AHEPA membership going down instead of up? Many chapters have faced this: either their numbers are declining or remaining stagnant at best. District conferences throughout the year face the same challenge. The same faces going over the same topics year in, year out.

We, as Brothers, need to evaluate our organization. AHEPA contains the word "Progressive," which would imply progress is involved. However, it is clear, progress is sorely needed. There have been many conversations revolving around membership for a number of years now. All point to the failure of some chapters being able to engage new members.

For example, recent talks at the Tri-District Conference alluded to the possibility of amending the District Scholarship By-Laws to allow grandchildren of AHEPANS (and Daughters of Penelope) to apply for monetary awards. My question is why is there a missing generation between the applicants and their grandparents? It would seem to me that if we were performing our due diligence, we would be attracting members in the demographic, which would have children in college. Furthermore, there has been talk during recent visitations of how the Sons of Pericles have "failed to come through" in terms of creating new members for AHEPA. The Sons have been in our District for nearly 15 years, but only in Waterbury. Multiple attempts have been made to reinstate other inactive SOP chapters during that time, but all have fallen through without **consistent support** from hosting AHEPA chapters.

So the question remains, what can be done?

We need to put greater effort into attempting to attract younger members and have them attend meetings where they can undertake leadership roles. For the most part, current meetings fail to attract younger members because they tend to be a huge turn-off for that age group. Such affairs at both the chapter and District level often consist of men over the age of 60 arguing

over trivial items, and a select few wanting to speak on every topic whether they have any valid input or not. (Mostly not.) These are not meetings which younger members between the ages of 21 and 40 can typically relate to, and most would probably walk away with no desire to come back.

As was previously stated, we need to evaluate the name of our organization. Perhaps change could begin by involving more "American" initiatives (another word in AHEPA). This would stand to attract younger people who would be willing to participate in (and enjoy) chapter events, rather than force them to sit through tiresome meetings which revolve around fruitless debate and Greek politics. Some topics have their place, but should not monopolize conversation. In the spirit of true progress and philanthropy, the door should be open to prospective young members to bring forth initiatives, charities, and causes they are passionate about. Give **them** a voice, and let **them** take our chapters in dynamic new directions.

A recent initiative that seems to move us in the right direction is this year's National Project, which centers around service dogs for American veterans. This is a contemporary issue that young people can identify with. Many have family who have served in the Middle East (or other conflicts), and those who do not can at least feel compassion toward such brave soldiers in need. Moreover, meetings should not always focus on rote ceremony or ritual. We have seen successful meetings in Waterbury that have provided dinners, viewing of major sporting events, and other unique ideas successfully draw younger AHEPANS. This includes many past and present members of our Sons of Pericles chapter, the result of maintaining and **consistently supporting** our Sons chapter so they could stay engaged at the national level, resulting in five members serving on the Sons Supreme Lodge since 2004.

We are at a crossroads. The boom of Greek immigrants is in decline, and we in District #7 all now have the privilege to call ourselves Americans, whether we were born here or not. Not every AHEPAN watches Greek news in the evening. It is time to stand up and embrace progress.



Waterbury

-Congratulations to Michael & Emily Carrington on the birth of their daughter, Noel. Congrats also goes to Mark & Connie Carrington, Noel's grandparents and Ramona, Noel's great-grand mother.

-Congratulations to John Boutsioulis, a 50 year AHEPAN celebrating his 90th birthday on May 1st.

-Over 25 Chapter 48 AHEPANS went to a New York Mets/Washington Nationals baseball game at Citi Field in Queens, NY on Fri., June 16

-17 Chapter 48 AHEPANS and family members attended the Yankee District 7 Hartford Yard Goats baseball game on Sat., July 1.

Hartford

-Congratulations to Bro. Nick Alexis on the marriage of his daughter Christina to Demetrios Togias in November.

Norwich

-Kristina Grossomanides married Jeremy Woodley on February 19, 2017 in Gainesville, Florida. She is the daughter of Bro. George Grossomanides of Chapter 110, Norwich. She is employed by Destination Weddings/Karisma Resorts as National Training Manager.

Stamford (Yay, Hellenes!)

-Congratulations to Bro. Nick Nikas for having a run-off of the HHT at the Supreme Convention!

Meriden

-Congratulations to Nick and Sister Chrysanthe Lampros on their 50th Wedding Anniversary! Their daughters Sofia, Theonne, and Nicole hosted a surprise party attended by relatives and friends.

-Congratulations to Brittany Nemphos who graduated from Villanova. She is the daughter of William and Sister Diane Nempos, granddaughter of Angelo and Sister Artemis Nemphos, PDG. Brittany is employed by Price Waterhouse Coopers.

-Congratulations to Nicole Ladas, daughter of Michael and Linda Ladas, granddaughter of Brother Gregory and Sister Helen Ladas. Nicole graduated from Mercy Hill School and will be attending Hilton School in VT.

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Salute to a Veteran - Apostle Alexander

The incredible story of Private Apostle (Paul) Alexander, of Norwich, CT, began when Alexander enlisted in the U.S. Army on May 23, 1918. Alexander, immigrated from Limnos, Greece and first settled in Rockville, CT. When the War-To-End-All-Wars began, America called on all its citizens to don a uniform and go overseas to fight with England and France, against Germany.

On October 6th, 1918, Alexander was "gassed" and received a bullet wound in the left arm and wrist during the battle at St. Mihiel, France. He spent six weeks in a French Hospital recovering from those first wounds. While in the hospital, the French General Henri Gouraud, who was in charge of half of the French troops on the Western Front, visited Alexander. Both of them were avid hunters and they seemed to have made an instant bond with each other.

After being released from the hospital Alexander went right back to his unit who were still fighting in the trenches. Then, on November 10th, 1918 at 4 p.m., they were given the order to attack the Germans - one more time. They knew that the next morning the war would end with an Armistice at 11 a.m. yet their generals ordered them out of their trenches to charge into heavy German fire.

Private Alexander heard the whistles blow and jumped out of the trenches and advanced with the rest of his unit into machine gun fire. Alexander was almost immediately hit by four machine gun bullets and fell on the battlefield. He was reported as *killed in action*, when he did not return with his unit.

When the French General Henri Gouraud, who earlier had befriended Alexander, heard that he was missing in action,



he sent out a French search party to find Alexander and to return him or his body back to his unit. Had not the French found him that night, he surely would have died on the battlefield.

After many weeks in the hospital and after several operations, Alexander recovered from the 4 bullet wounds that he received on his left side. His left arm was almost completely disabled.

Of the 4 bullets that hit him, three of them were removed, but the 4th one was too close to his heart. The doctors decided to leave

it there as it was too risky to operate.

Again, French General Henri Gouraud decided to visit Alexander in the hospital. The General, was known as the "One Arm General", because he too had his left arm totally disabled. Alexander never regained full use of his left arm either, so now they had two things in common: hunting and just the use of their one right arms.

General Gouraud was there to present Pvt. Alexander with the French Croix de Guerre, with Palm. The General had to ask the nurse to pin the medal on Alexander, because he was unable to.

Other medals received by Alexander when he returned from the war included Sharp Shooter - BAR, the Silver Star, Victory Medal - St. Mihiel, and the Purple Heart with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters.

After the war, Apostle Alexander settled in Norwich, Connecticut and became an integral part of the Greek Community. He joined the Norwich AHEPA Chapter in 1927 and was a key member throughout his life. He owned and operated Alexander's Luncheonette in the center of Norwich.

One day in Dec. 1958, while driving home through the city, his car was found stopped and Mr. Alexander was slumped over the wheel. A doctor pronounced him dead and the cause, according to the doctor, was that the bullet that was lodged 1/8 of an inch from his heart, during the war (Nov. 10th, 1918) moved, killing him. 40 years after the battle during which he received that wound.



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 Secretary, Dr. John Grossomanides
 Treasurer, John Melonopoulos
 Advisor, Alex Boutsioulis
 Marshal, Sam Christodlous
 Athletic Directors, Greg Stamos & Alex Boutsioulis
 Scholarship Chairman, Evangelos (Vago) Hadjimichael
 Hellenic Affairs Advisor, George Rados
 Supreme Governor of Region 4, Jack Isaac



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

District Governor - Karen Isaac
 Lt. Governor & Secretary - Marianne Boutsioulis
 Treasurer - Valerie St. Peter
 Marshall - Virginia Argiros
 District Advisor - Donna Rados
 Maids of Athena Advisor - Anna-Helene Grossomanides
 Grand Governor, Zone 1 - Georgette Boulegeris
 Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility,
 Family and Individual Excellence

Supreme President Zachariades Visits Norwich, Chapter 110 Submitted by Tony Petros

The Annual Norwich AHEPA Chapter 110 held its Annual Awards Banquet, at the AHEPA Senior Citizens Complex on Hamilton Avenue on Tuesday, June 27th. AHEPA members from Norwich, New London, Hartford, New Britain, Westerly and New Jersey were in attendance.

Among the items on the agenda were the presenting of cash awards to area non-profit organizations. The Norwich AHEPA presented a total of \$6,700 to worthy organizations by foundation president Bill Trantalis. Representatives of the following organizations were present to receive their awards, as follows:

Norwich Free Academy Greek Studies Program, Three Rivers Community College, Backus Hospital Out-Reach Program, Besaida/Katie Blair House, Otis Library, ARC of New London County, the Hellenic Firefighter Program of RI, Pet Care For Veterans, Paideia Society of Univ. of Connecticut, The Three Tenants Associations of AHEPA. The Community Service Award went to Nina Barkley and the Annual Ahepan Of The Year Award was presented to Tony Petros.

The Norwich AHEPA installed their new officers. They are:

President Prof. Peter Patsouris, Vice President George Grossomanides, Secretary Larry Wyland and Treasurer Dr. John Grossomanides.

The Norwich AHEPA presented a check of \$10,500 to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Norwich. This represents the total proceeds of their just recently released book, *A Story That Should Be Told*. The AHEPA book is a historical record of the 97 Greek American Veterans of WW II and the 27 WW I Veterans who were from the Norwich Greek Community. Over 300 books have been sold in 20 states. The main speaker for the evening was the Supreme President of the Order of AHEPA Andrew Zachariades from Brick, NJ, representing the 500 chapters of AHEPA worldwide. The Supreme President was presented a copy of the new book. In attendance were 3 WW II veterans from Norwich - Brothers Pappas, Grossomanides and Hominski - who were recognized for their service in WW II.



Daughters President Anna-Helene Grossomanides, PGP, Region 4 Supreme Governor Jack Isaac, Chapter President Peter Argiros, Chapter 110 President Tony Petros, Supreme President Andrew Zachariades, Father Demetrios Panteloukas and PSP Treasurer Dr. John Grossomanides, PSP.



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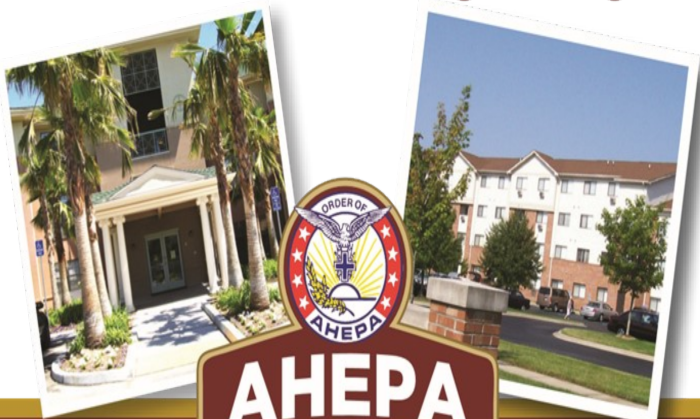


Peter Pappas, John Grossomanides Sr., Supreme President Andrew Zachariades, Tony Petros, Joe Hominski and Chapter President Peter Argiros.



John Grossomanides, Larry Wyland, George Grossomanides, Peter Patsouis, Andy Zachariades, Region 4 Supreme Governor Jack Isaac, Peter Argiros and District 7 Governor Greg Simones.

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Region 4 New England Regional Convention

Submitted by Gregory Simones, DG

Over 100 people attended the Region 4 (Districts 7, 8 & 9) Convention, which showcased a presentation, during its joint session, from the Service Dogs for Warriors program and a thank you presentation for honored members, Ellen and George Anagnostos.

Meetings were culminated with a banquet, attended by over 95 persons that had a military color guard and a presentation of the Greek volunteer firefighters fundraising campaign. District governors from AHEPA and the DOP from all three districts were sworn in at the event. Honored guests in attendance were DOP Grand President Jan Spanos, AHEPA Supreme Counselor George Horiates, MOA Grand Vice President Effie Sapuridis, Supreme Governor Jack Isaac, and Grand Governor Lili Respass.



A portion of the Service Dogs for Veterans presentation.



SP Jack Isaac, assisted by NERC chairman Dalton Respass, present Ellen Anagnostos with the Lifetime Achievement award.

Elections resulted in the following slate of officers :

AHEPA: Governor Greg Simones, Lt. Gov. Demetrius Tasoulas, Treasurer John Melonopoulos, Advisor Alex Boutsoulis, Co-Athletic Directors Alex Boutsoulis and Greg Stamos, Hellenic Affairs George

Rados, and Education Chair Evangelos Hadjimichael.

Daughters of Penelope Governor Karen Isaac, Lt. Gov. and Secretary Marianne Boutsoulis, Treasurer Valerie St. Peter, Advisor Donna Rados, Marshall Ginny Argiros, and MOA Advisor Anna-Helene Grossomanides.

**AHEPA at its FINEST—AROUND TOWN
Chapter 250**

Installation of Chapter 250 officers for 2017-2018 took place at the chapter meeting room located at AHEPA 250 IV Apartments 267 Roxbury Road, Niantic, CT. New officers are: Anthony Vallombroso, President, Richard SeMon, Vice President, John Fakis, Recording Secretary, Joe Josephides, Corresponding Secretary, James Maistros, Treasurer, and Fr. Charles Simones, Chaplain.

Providence, RI, Sophocles 106

In May, with the help of Supreme Governor Jack Isaac and District Governor Greg Simones, Sophocles Chapter 106 initiated 3 new members!

Chapters 90 Danbury and 387 Norwalk

April 30 the two chapters held a Sofia Papazoglou Concert at the Norwalk Concert Hall with the proceeds going to AHEPA Scholarship Programs. A meet and greet program followed at the Norwalk Inn.

Danbury Chapter 90

Submitted by George Stratigakis
On May 7th Danbury Chapter 90 celebrated one of its own as Nick Metaxas completed 43 years of service as an AHEPAN. In an awards ceremony attended by friends and family, Nick was recognized with a plaque for his exemplary values and citizenship and hailed as 'άξιος.' In addition, an annual award was established in his name hereafter to acknowledge AHEPANs and members of the

community who epitomize Hellenic ideals or have made substantial contributions to the community.

Chapter 98, New Haven

Submitted by Gregory Simones
In April, Chapter 98 made a pilgrimage to the St. Nicholas Shrine, and the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum at Ground Zero in New York City. Chapter 98 organized this event and opened it to the community. Fifty-five participants traveled by bus. The detailed tour of the St. Nicholas Shrine was conducted by Andrew Veniopoulos, Project Manager in charge of the Shrine project. Lunch at the World Essex Café' and guided tours of the National 9/11 Memorial followed.



Chapter 250



Chapter 106



Takis Vournazos, Nikos Gkanatsios, Nikos Gazetos, John Metaxas, Nikos Metaxas and his wife Anna, Chapter 90 Pres. George Stratigakis, Pat Storino.



Chapter 98



Chapters 90 & 387: Children & Dino Kolitsas with Sofia Papazoglou

~*~

**With Compliments of
Jack Isaac
Supreme Governor,
Region 4
&
Karen Isaac
Daughters of Penelope
Governor, District 7**

~*~



**AHEPA Stamford Chapter 99,
home of the current champions
of the AHEPA District #7
and the National
Hellenic History Tournaments,
salutes the Yankee News
editorial team
for their dedication, hard work
and good taste.**

The First National Hellenic History Tournament

Submitted by Nick Nikas

Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts, Orlando

After eight years of demanding work and perseverance, the long-term goal of Nicholas Nikas, the founder of the AHEPA Hellenic History Tournament, was achieved on July 28, 2017. Under the auspices of the annual AHEPA Family Supreme Convention, six teams of high school students who had been winners and runner ups of three regional tournaments were invited by George Vorkas, the Chairman of the AHEPA Educational Foundation, to compete in the first ever National Hellenic History Tournament. This was the result of an initiative by AHEPA Executive Director, Basil Mossaidis, the keen interest of George Vorkas, and a fundraising effort by the then Supreme Secretary and now Supreme President of AHEPA, Carl Hollister.

As the name indicates, the teams compete on how well they know the millennia-long history of the Hellenes by answering multiple-choice questions. The questions are drawn out of "Hellenika: Heritage and History", a beautiful book written by Peter Limber that covers the entire sweep of Greek history, complete with colorful maps and illustrations of the Mediterranean region over time. The questions are projected from a laptop onto a screen and read by a moderator who also records the answers. Family and friends are encouraged to attend the competition and watch their teams compete.

After studying the book and participating in the tournament, the students become familiar with a historical timeline ranging from 1600 B.C. to the present.

The participating teams from the District 7 & Neighbors tournament were:

1. The Hellenes: Alexander Koutsoukos, Phoebe Hartch, and Lukas Koutsoukos, sponsored by the Stamford, CT, chapter 99;
2. Athena's Owls: George Kalyvas and Alexandros Kerwick, sponsored by the New Rochelle, NY, chapter 405.

The teams from the Mid-Atlantic tournament were:

1. Apteros Nike: Amelia Antzoulatos, Dionysios Antzoulatos, and Katherine Marie Bacolas, sponsored by the Tenafly, NJ, chapter 285; and
2. Pontos: Kyriakos Mossaidis, Maximos Mossaidis, and Daphne Neal, sponsored by the Upper Darby, PA, chapter 515.

The two Midwestern teams were unable to attend this year.

Before the competition began, AHEPA Educational Foundation Chairman George Vorkas handed each student a certificate of participation and posed with them for a group photograph. Carl Hollister praised the students for wanting to learn about their Hellenic roots and offered the funds he had raised towards the tournament prizes to the Educational Foundation.

With only four teams, the tournament was structured as a round robin, with each team competing with every other team in the first three rounds. The fourth and final round was a match between the two teams with the highest number of points achieved during the round robin.

The final team rankings were: 1. The Hellenes, 2. Apteros Nike, 3. Athena's Owls, and 4. Pontos.

The awards were:

\$2,000 per team member for team 1; \$1,000 per member for team 2; \$500 per member for team 3; and \$250 per member for team 4.

The annual tournament was started in 2009 in District 7 by then Governor Nicholas Nikas who was motivated by an ardent desire to preserve a spark of Hellenic consciousness in our youth for as long in the future as possible, even if they never learn to speak Greek. All of the District 7 chapters enthusiastically supported the idea

and sponsored 20 teams for the first tournament. Pretty soon, chapters from neighboring districts joined in the competition, and the tournament was renamed "District 7 & Neighbors". The number of teams has varied from 10 to 16. The largest number of participating states occurred in 2015 with 16 teams from 7 states: NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, and NC.

Most Supreme Presidents since 2009 have attended the District 7 & Neighbors tournament and have consistently expressed the wish to see more regional tournaments and to have the winners compete for the National HHT Championship at the Supreme Convention. In 2014, the Mid-Western tournament was initiated under the leadership of Themistocles Frangos and has been going strong ever since. Finally, the Mid-Atlantic tournament started in 2016 under the leadership of Basil Mossaidis, George Horiates and Steve Marmarou.

The publicity generated by the First National HHT has already borne fruit. The two Canadian districts based in Toronto and Montreal have expressed the desire to start their own tournaments. It is hoped that the West Coast and the Southeast will soon follow suit. That would produce a total of 14 teams to join the competition in the Second National HHT to take place under the auspices of the 2018 National Convention in Atlantic City.



National Champions: The Hellenes: Lukas Koutsoukos, Phoebe Hartch, and Alexander Koutsoukos



#2 Team: Apteros Nike: Katherine Marie Bacolas, Amelia Antzoulatos, and Dionysios Antzoulatos

The Bridgeport Chapters of AHEPA and DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE



Salute the Yankee District News for its Years of Service to our Organizations.



George Vorkas & the 11 National HHT Participants with their certificates of participation.

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The Yankee News Wins Again!

Submitted by Dalton Respass

Yankee News CFO, John Melonopoulos proudly receives the First Place plaque on behalf of the Yankee News for the "Outstanding Newspaper in AHEPA Domain" from Supreme President Andrew Zachariades, and Vice Chairman Phil Vogis, Publication Board.

We are so proud!

Daughters of Penelope, Priam Chapter 76, Meriden, CT

Submitted by Margaret Curtis

- We held our elections in May and the following were elected:

Lillian Tella, PDG– President,
Chysanthe Lampros - Vice President,
Margaret Curtis - Secretary,
Helen Ladas - Treasurer,
Artemis Nemphos, PDG - Chairman of the Board.

- On Sunday, July 16, we had our end-of-the-year luncheon at Viola's in Meriden. Everyone had a great time seeing all of the sisters and guests.
- We are looking forward to August 20, the date of our annual wine tasting party at Arrigoni Vineyard in Portland and to a wonderful 2017-18 year!

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AHEPA DISTRICT 7 FALL CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 14, 2017 - AGENDA

Location: St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, 480 Racebrook Road, Orange, CT

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Joint AHEPA/DOP Sessions

Introductions, Greetings, Joint AHEPA/DOP business

10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

AHEPA General Business

Minutes, Annual events list and Mini-reports (HHT, YN, Budget, Spring Conference?, D7 Convention, Scholarship Dinner, Fundraising, SOP, PDG Advisory Council, Unfilled Offices (Sons Advisor, Warden), By Laws update) – Various people

National and Governor's Convention/Conference Reports

Supreme & District Lodge Reports – Jack Isaac and Greg Simones

10:50 AM – 11:00 AM

Break

11:00 AM – 11:20 AM

National Budget Discussion – Cos Marandos (Board of Trustees)

11:20 AM – 11:50 AM

Chapter Announcements/Updates – Chapter representatives (2 to 3 minutes each)

11:50 AM – 12:00 PM

Break

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Workshop

Demonstration of New Membership/Billing System

Initiation Video – Membership Goals/Strategies – Greg Simones, Demetrius Tasoulas

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Lunch

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Adjournment

New London 250

Submitted by Dr. Theologos Malahias

AHEPA New London Foundation President AHEPA Chapter 250 with the AHEPA foundation hosted the Foundation Awards. The 29 recipients at the AHEPA IV apartments in Niantic, Connecticut were: L&M Hospital NICU, American Warrior, BP Learned Mission, Chorus of Westerly, The Connecticut Hospice, East Lyme Scholarship Association, Ella T Grasso High school, Fairview Odd Fellows nursing home, Fitch Senior High school, Homeless Hospitality Center, La Grua Center, Montville High School, New London Science and Technology magnet school, New London High School, New London Community meal center, Our Shoreline Community Association (OSCA), Lyme Old-Lyme High school, Old Lyme volunteer fire department, Old Saybrook High School, Hellenic Society Paideia, Stonington Senior high school, the Williams School, Waterford High School, Safe Futures, the Salvation Army, Ledyard Senior High School, Kids of American Heroes, AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors, Yankee News. Brothers from the Winthrop Chapter and spouses were present along with guests Yankee District Lt. Governor Demetrius Tasoulas, Governor Greg Simones (both of the Winthrop Chapter), and Supreme Governor Jack Isaac.

A total of 12,500 dollars was

distributed. The local AHEPA foundation has given away \$150,000 dollars since 1998. The recipients were very appreciative of the work AHEPA does in the community.

On June 11th, 2017: Lt. Gov. Demetrius Tasoulas was selected by St. Sophia Hellenic Orthodox Church of New London for the Laity Ministry Award for service to his community. The Metropolis of Boston honored all recipients at a banquet dinner in Randolph, MA.



Fr. Dean Panagos with the Tasoulas family, Demetrius, Deborah and Stacey



\$12,500 was distributed during the Foundation Awards Ceremony in New London



AHEPA Sunday at New London was well attended in New London!

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Patricia A. Martin

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Elpis Chapter 117, New Britain
Submitted by Andrew Aros, PDS

AHEPA Family Celebrates Summer- After the Divine Liturgy on Sunday June 11, Chapter 117 hosted its annual picnic for the entire St. George Community at Churchill Park in Newington. Chairmen Costas Georgacopoulos and Nick Koukouves made certain there was enough food for everyone. In addition to hamburgers, hotdogs, and barbeque chicken the people were served traditional favorites including spanakopita, souvlakia, and baklava. Perhaps the highlight of the afternoon was the annual bocce tournament or the women's search for the perfect grape leaves that grow naturally in the park.

2017-2018 AHEPA Elections- Our chapter officers for 2017-18 are: President Emmanuil Stergakis, Vice President Ahillefs Papadimitriou, Treasurer Michael Stamos, Recording Secretary Emilio Theodoratos, and Corresponding Secretary Andrew Aros

Quassy Amusement Park Outing- Annually the chapter sponsors a summer outing for the Greek and Sunday School students, paying for all expenses for the outing. This year more than 40 children and their parents went to Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury Connecticut.

Help for the Orphanages in Greece- Among the most important activities of New Britain is their support of children in the orphanages of Greece. This year \$1,000 was given to SOS Children's Village orphanage and the special needs orphans at PIKPA. Past President Costa Georgacopoulos's daughter, Stergia, lives in Greece. Ms. Georgacopoulos goes to the orphanages inquiring about their most pressing needs, then purchases items with the funds our chapter provides. In July she purchased a wide range of items including blankets, underwear, towels, flip flops, and, probably most importantly, food. Doing this requires a large amount of time and dedication, but Ms. Georgacopoulos does this without complaint for which both our chapter and the children are very grateful. *For safety reasons orphanages in Greece don't allow pictures of the children under their care.*

DOP Eretria # 138- On Wednesday June 28 the Sisters of Eretria Chapter 138 along with their husbands enjoyed their end-of-the year dinner party at JD's Restaurant in Southington. Sister Eva and Brother Jimmy Dimopoulos were gracious hosts. President Irene Sklavouris praised the sisters for their willingness to work together, especially during "rough spots". The chapter looks forward to an exciting and active year.

2017-2018 Daughters Elections- Elected officers for next year are: President Irene Sklavouris, Vice President Eva Dimopoulos, Corresponding Secretary Sue Leppones, Recording Secretary Artemis Karamanos, and Treasurer Donna Rados.



Ahillefs Papadimitriou, Jenny Loukopoulos and Costas Tsakopoulos at Churchill Park.



Pericles Moustakakis, Panagiotis Palkanikos, and Picnic Chairmen Nickos Koukouves at Churchill Park.



Peter, Margo, Rhianna & Chapter 138 President Irene Sklavouris at Quassy Amusement Park



District 7
Fall Conference
October 14th, 2017
St. Barbara Church
Orange, CT

AHEPA Provided Support to Come to America in 1955
Submitted by Alex Boutsoulis



Brother George Zikos of AHEPA Chapter 48 recently celebrated his 101st birthday June 12, 2017. George came to America on October 2, 1955, where he joined his brother Sam Zikos in Wrightstown, New Jersey. The local AHEPA Chapter provided financial support for George and Sam to come to America.

Like most other Greek immigrants, George initially worked in the restaurant business. In Greece, George was a master tailor. In less than two years, George saved enough to buy a tailor shop in Morristown, NJ. There he built a successful business and prospered with his family, which he brought from Greece in 1960.

George celebrated his 100th birthday in 2016 with nearly 150 friends and relatives attending the affair. The highlight of the event was George giving a very inspiring speech in both Greek and English.

From his first days in America, George has been a loyal, 59 year member and supporter of AHEPA, its goals, functions and ideals. Fully active for many years with the Morris County, NJ AHEPA Chapter 300, George for the last 20 years has been a Brother of AHEPA Chapter 48 of Waterbury, CT. He currently lives with his daughter, Eferpy and son-in-law, Nicholas Velezis of Middlebury, CT.

AHEPA Family Attends Yard Goats Double Header
Submitted by Greg Simones

July 1, District 7 held an event at the Hartford Yard Goats Minor League baseball game at Dunkin Donuts Park. About 40 AHEPANS and their families from Waterbury, Norwich, Hartford, and New London attended the double header. Let's do it again!



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AHEPA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Chapter 90 Submitted by George Stratigakis, Chapter 90 President
 On Sunday June 25th AHEPA Chapter #90 awarded \$7,000 in scholarships to deserving Assumption youth for the furtherance of their education. Brother Dino Macricostas has entrusted Chapter 90 with an annual scholarship fund to further the education of youth who embody Hellenic ideals. Participation is open to Danbury AHEPANS, their families, and the Assumption Community. Now in its 22nd year, the fund has awarded over \$130,000 and been invaluable in sustaining AHEPA in the Danbury Area.



(Front) Will Daly (accepting for sister Dina Daly), Ourania Koutoumba, Michael Koutoumba, Anna Mederer, Angelica Storino, Rachel Rockwell (accepting for sister Robin Rockwell), Anthony Vournazos. (Rear) Fr. Peter Karloutsos, Chapter Pres. George Stratigakis, Scholarship Benefactor Bro. Constantine Macricostas, Chapter VP/Committee Chair Bro. Constantine Vournazos. Not pictured: Dimitris Koutoumba.

Chapter 245

The Maud Howe Elliott Chapter 245 of AHEPA awarded \$1,000 scholarships to Anastasia Psilos and Panagiotis Panoutsopoulos, Sunday, June 17.

Anastasia is a 2017 graduate of The Prout School where she excelled in track, cross country, and lacrosse. A member of the National Society of High School Scholars, Anastasia will be attending URI in the fall where she will pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

Panagiotis is a 2017 graduate of Middletown High School where he was elected to The National Honor Society. He is a member of the Aquidneck Island Robotics Team which three times competed in the national championships. Panagiotis will be attending CCRI in the fall where he will major in chemical engineering.

Anastasia is the daughter of Brother Christos and Connie Psilos, Panagiotis the son of Brother Basile and Lily Panoutsopoulos.

AHEPA 48 & Daughters of Penelope 199

The AHEPA Chapter 48 and the Daughters of Penelope Deucalion 199, both of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 937 Chase Parkway, Waterbury, recently presented 20 scholarships to deserving high school & college students in the Waterbury area & surrounding towns. The recipients were honored at a Scholarship Luncheon in the Holy Trinity Banquet Hall on Sunday, June 4th. Memorial scholarships awarded include: The Sam Procopion Scholarship, Rev. Fr. James Diavatis Scholarship, George P. Harlamon Scholarship, Christopher N. Rigopoulos Scholarship, Dan Perrone Scholarship, George Pistolas Scholarship, Arthur D. Velezis Scholarship, Martha A. Velezis Scholarship, Constantine Tzepos Scholarship, George Sr. & Catherine Frantzis Scholarship, Dr. George Soteriou Scholarship, & the Constantine 'Charlie' Chekas Scholarship as well as the Deucalion Chapter 199 Daughters of Penelope Scholarships.

District 7 Scholarships hosted by Waterbury

Seventeen college students received \$18,000 in scholarships at a dinner hosted by the Waterbury Chapters of the Daughters of Penelope and the AHEPA. Guest speaker, Dr. George Z. Tsepas gave the keynote address. Governors Karen Isaac (DOP) and Greg Simones (AHEPA) and John Grossomanides, PSP and D7 Foundation President presented scholarships to the students. The program was chaired by Penny Pecka, PDG and emceed by Rick Pecka, SOP PSP.



Waterbury scholarship recipients

Winthrop Chapter 250 Submitted by John Fakis & Greg Simones

The Winthrop Chapter 250 Scholarship Awards Dinner was held on Wednesday June 21, 2017 at the Winthrop 250 Elderly Apartments in Niantic CT. Approximately 30 AHEPA brothers, their families, and guests attended the affair and everyone enjoyed good food and great camaraderie. Winthrop Chapter 250 awarded a total of \$3600 in scholarships to 4 deserving students who were graduating from high school and are continuing their college education. The award recipients included Emma Donalson the granddaughter of George and Heather Perinis, Gregory Andreopoulos the grandson of Gus and Tina Andreopoulos, Konstantinos Dallas the grandson of Kosta Flores, and Lillian Whittaker the daughter of James and Sharon Whittaker.



John Fakis, scholarship committee chairman, Lillian Whittaker, recipient of the George W. Shenas Memorial Scholarship, and her parents Deacon James and Sharon Whittaker

The Winthrop Chapter has an annual scholarship fundraiser in conjunction with the Celebrate East Lyme event on Main St. in Niantic, CT. The AHEPANS have a booth at the 6-hour festival where they sell traditional and chicken gyros, hot dogs, and soft drinks. Over \$3,000 was raised for the chapter scholarship program.



Steve Seferlis, Greg Simones & Konstantinos Floros

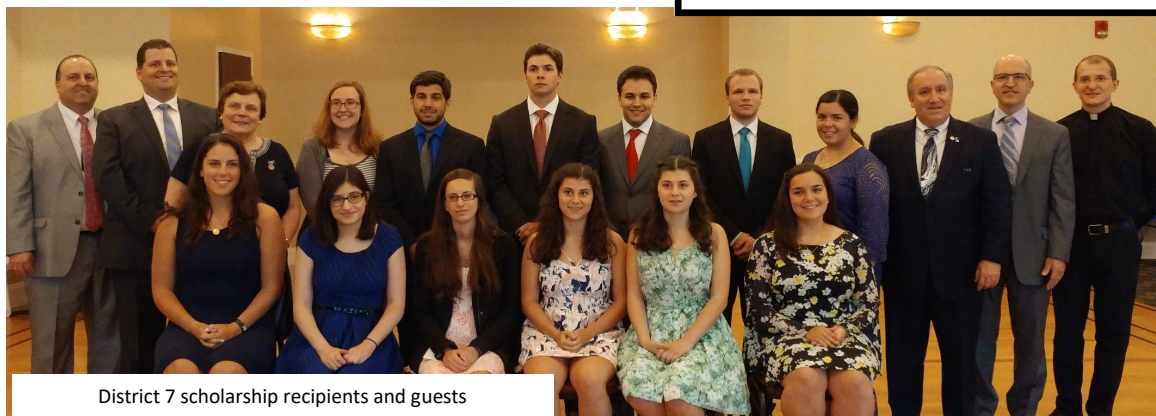


Anastasia Psilos and Panagiotis

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District 7 scholarship recipients and guests



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Convention Highlights and News About the Yankee District

Submitted by Alex Boutsoulis & Greg Simones



- 1) Yankee District's own Margarete "Margo" Calmar received the Franklin R. Manios PSP Scholar-Athlete & Service award at the 2017 AHEPA Family National Convention in Orlando, FL. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in academics and athletics as well as extra-curricular activities and community service. Greg Stamos, PSC of New Haven Chapter 98 and Andrew Zachariades, PSP presented the award. Margo was a three-sport All-State athlete in high school. She is now a member of Duke University's Women's Varsity Lacrosse and Varsity Rowing Teams. Margo is from Stonington, CT and is the daughter of Judge Hal and Martha Calmar. Hal is a member of Winthrop Chapter 250 in New London, CT.
- 2) Jack Isaac from Elpis Chapter 117 in New Britain was elected to a second term as Supreme Governor for Region 4. We thank Brother Jack for serving with distinction last year and wish him all success in the year to come.
- 3) Yankee News won first place for the third year in a row for the best publication in the AHEPA domain.
- 4) District 7 was represented at the Convention by AHEPANs Jack Isaac, Greg Simones, John Melonopoulos, Alex Boutsoulis, Greg Stamos, Dr. John Grossomanides, James Panagakos, Terry Mitchell, Nick Nikas, and Art Poly and by Daughters, Karen Isaac, Marianne Boutsoulis, Anna-Helene Grossomanides, Ester Mitchell, Sandra Wilcox and Elisa Marotta.
- 5) There were many committee reports, which will be addressed outside of Yankee News such as budget and Hellenic affairs.
- 6) It was the first year of the National Hellenic History Tournament, which originated nearly 9 years ago in the Yankee District.
- 7) There were opportunities to talk to people such as the Australian AHEPA president, the Cypriot Ambassador to the US, the Greek Minister of Defense, the CEO of Walt Disney Resorts, the President of Chick-fil-A, Basile the Comedian, Archbishop Demetrios, a 1960 Olympic boxer who roomed with Cassius Clay, and US Congressmen, just to name a few.
- 8) Three Legislative proposals passed. The first was to clean up language that still remained in the bylaws pertaining to reinstatement and transfer fees, which have been eliminated. The second was a rewrite of the AHEPA International Committee's composition and responsibilities. The third was a reorder of Sections to have District Secretary come before the District Treasurer to reflect their relative ranks.
- 9) A final discussion that will have information distributed to the Chapters for review is whether the AHEPANs in Canada and in Europe can run for Supreme Office. Right now, those offices are only filled by American citizens and the question of an AHEPA growing outside of America and whether those AHEPANs should have full rights equal to AHEPANs in America.
- 10) Come to the next national convention at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey July 22 to 28, 2018 and find out first hand what goes on!



The organizations that comprise the AHEPA Family held elections. As shown on the cover: Sons of Pericles Supreme President Bill Poulos III, Daughters of Penelope Grand President Eva Jean Fomalont, AHEPA Supreme President Carl Hollister, AHEPA Australasia National President Peter Yiannoudes & Maids of Athena Grand President Sophia Shakolas.



A view of the Convention Center...and the attendance at the Supreme Convention, 2017



Honored guests and award recipients at the Athletic Luncheon in Orlando.



Orlando Convention: Our own District Governor Greg Simones, Region 4 Supreme Governor Jack Isaac & Past District 7 Governor Alex Boutsoulis.

3rd Greek delegation from the Union of Hellenic Fire Service Volunteers to visit and train at the Union Fire District of South Kingstown Training Ground

For the third time in the last six years, a contingent of volunteer firefighters from Greece will have the opportunity to learn strategies and tactics held at the Union Fire District (UFD) Training Ground. The firefighters arrive Saturday, October 21, 2017 and will spend the week exchanging ideas and strategies.

With the assistance of the National Volunteer Fire Council's (NVFC) International Relations Committee and financial sponsorship from AHEPA, the leaders of the Union Fire District have been planning these special training sessions with the Union of Hellenic Fire Service Volunteers. The NVFC and the UFD are committed to fostering relationships with the international fire service community. NVFC board member Kevin Quinn (RI) has been coordinating the upcoming visit and training since the first delegation of Greek firefighters trained in Rhode Island in October 2011. Under the direction of UFD Chief Steven Pinch and UFD Deputy Chief Richard Collinson, members of the UFD will demonstrate tactics and accompany the delegation through live fire training exercises. This type of advanced hands-on training is not typically available to firefighters in Greece.

AHEPA will be providing transportation and meals for the visiting firefighters. "We have a history of lending support to the Union of Hellenic Fire Service Volunteers, especially when wildfires ravaged Greece in 2008 and our financial support of Operation Hellenic Expedition I and II back in 2011 and 2013," said Dr. John Grossomanides, Past Supreme President of the Order of the AHEPA.

501(c)3 tax deductible donations can be made to:
AHEPA HARTFORD FOUNDATION, INC. - Hellenic Firefighters Program
and mailed to: 14-B Hartung Place, Old Lyme, CT 06371.

The monies collected will be used to housing of the 12 firefighters (6 rooms for seven nights), transfers to and from airport, feeding the firefighters for seven days and nights, and a small amount of training costs. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 for this worthy program for these Hellenic Volunteers.



UFD Chief Richard Collinson with D7 Gov. Greg Simones and PSP Andrew Zachariadis.

For additional information, please contact:
Chief Richard Collinson,
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The Next Yankee News Deadline for submissions:

November 10, 2017

Submit to: YankeeD7news@AOL.com



PLEASE send pictures and articles TOGETHER whenever possible, with those in the picture(s) named in the context of the article or with it.



Dale, John & Anna Helene Grossomanides, and Chip at the Supreme Convention in Orlando, FL :)

AHEPA District 7 Yankee News

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Supreme Vice President



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In Loving Memory of

Stephan Grossomanides,

Nathan Hale Chapter 58

and

Claire Grossomanides PDG,

Thoas Chapter 198

from

George and Gerri Grossomanides

Chapter 110

Chapter 181

Norwich, CT



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