



# Yankee News

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



## February 2020

### AHEPA on the Move!



Supreme President George Horiates, participated in the fourth biennial Three-Country Leadership Mission to Israel, Cyprus, and Greece.



Grand President Celia Kachmarski with Supreme President George Horiates and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America at the AHEPA Epiphany Banquet.



Grand President Celia Kachmarski and Prime Minister of Greece Kyriakos Mitsotakis at the AHEPA Family Epiphany Banquet.

In a historic day for the Greek American community, **Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Kyriakos Mitsotakis** visited Tarpon Springs, Fla., and addressed the community at the annual Epiphany Banquet hosted by AHEPA. It was also **His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America's** first time presiding and participating at AHEPA's Epiphany Banquet since he became Archbishop.

AHEPA Supreme President George Horiates joined a 22-member delegation of leaders of the American Hellenic and American Jewish organizations as they completed a fourth, **three-country Leadership Mission** to Greece, Cyprus and Israel. *"Our meetings clearly revealed the trilateral partnership between Israel, Cyprus and Greece, now together with the United States in a 3+1 framework, is moving forward on a sustained course with a commitment to achieve peace and stability in the eastern Mediterranean and the broader region...The friendship and hospitality shown to us made the trip even more meaningful and productive."*

SP Horiates has been "on the move", spreading the message to communities worldwide on the need to become more civically engaged and AHEPA's role to **"Defend Hellenism"**. Horiates has been spreading the message nearby as well. Recently he was at Saint Basil's Academy in Garrison, New York, Liberty State Park in Jersey City, and then at the Philadelphia IOCC Banquet where the AHEPA Supreme President was honored as its guest speaker.



IOCC Greater PA Committee Chairman Tony Pantazopoulos, IOCC Development Officer Louis Zagami, and honoree, SP George Horiates at the IOCC Benefit.



We welcome "Dr. Tom" to AHEPA!  
Archon Gregory P. Stamos, Supreme President George Horiates, the newly initiated UConn President Dr. Thomas C. Katsouleas, D7 Lt. Governor Demetrius E. Tasoulas, R4 Supreme Governor Jack Isaac, and Past Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides



Supreme President George Horiates visits District 7!  
See more on pg.4. Standing: Alex Boutsoulis, D5 Governor Steve Marmarou, George Scarveles, Manny Cosmas, Greg Stamos, Jack Isaac, George Horiates, Greg Simones, Nicholas Nikas. Seated: George Rados, Peter Stamos, SP George Horiates, E.Vagos Hadjimichael

## Yankee District 7 Convention

Mystic Hilton, 20 Coogan Blvd, Mystic, CT May 1-2, 2020



**A MESSAGE FROM THE  
AHEPA D7 GOVERNOR**

Greetings Brothers,

I want to thank all of you who sent me cards, gifts and well wishes from the AHEPA domain during my various health problems. I improve daily and am making progress every day. The plan is to be able to attend the District and National conventions in 2020.

I want to thank members of the District Lodge who have assisted me with various duties as District Governor. A special thank you to District Secretary Greg Simones and Supreme Governor Jack Isaac who really stepped up with major assistance during my illness.

Currently we have established dates of May 1 & 2 for the 2020 District Convention. We will be hosting the event at the Mystic Hilton, Mystic, CT. Please note that you must apply directly to the hotel should you require room reservations. In this issue of the YANKEE NEWS you will find a Delegate Reporting Form that is needed for your delegates to register, and an ad blank for your chapter to purchase and sell ads in the Convention Commemorative book.

I want to thank Dr. John Grossomanides, PSP for accepting convention chairmanship for AHEPA.

Good luck,  
Fraternally,  
John Melonopoulos  
District Governor



**A MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF  
PENELOPE D7 GOVERNOR**

Dear Sisters,

I hope that you are enjoying our fairly mild winter! An email was sent to all Chapters with important information regarding scholarships and awards. Included in that email was a downloadable copy of the District 7 Scholarship application, and The Daughters of Penelope Foundation Scholarship.

The District 7 Scholarship application is now available! Please have your students be mindful to complete the application with all required paperwork and have the application in by the

stated deadline. I thank Sofia Swaby and Emanuel Cosmas for their work in co-chairing the scholarship committee. The scholarship dinner is scheduled to be held in Waterbury on June 28th.

The Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc. scholarships are awarded to qualifying young women enrolled in Graduate and Undergraduate programs. The form can be obtained online through the Daughters of Penelope website under the "FORMS AND APPLICATIONS" tab. In order to apply a current member of your immediate family or legal guardian (court appointed) in the Daughters of Penelope or the Order of AHEPA who are active and in good standing for a minimum of 24 continuous months prior to the scholarship deadline date, or be an active member in good standing for a minimum of 24 continuous months prior to the scholarship deadline date in the Daughters of Penelope or the Maids of Athena. My best wishes to all those students applying for scholarships!

We have upcoming deadlines on March 31st for the following:

- District 7 Obligations
- District Penelope of the Year
- District Estia Award
- National Obligations and Dues

Our District Convention will be held at the Hilton in Mystic, CT May 1st - 2nd. Reservations can be made directly with the hotel. When calling don't forget to tell them you are attending the AHEPA Convention. Registration forms have been emailed to the chapters. I would ask that each chapter place an ad in the Convention Book. Please ask any members or businesses to consider placing an ad as well. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention!

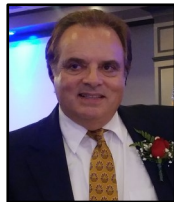
In Theta Pi,  
Marianne Boutsoulis  
District 7 Governor

**GEORGE G. HORIATES**



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SUPREME PRESIDENT**

*Best Regards to all of our  
AHEPANS & Daughters  
Demetrius E. Tasoulas  
Lieutenant Governor*



Join your local AHEPA Chapter as a recurring member or log on to [www.ahepa.org/join](http://www.ahepa.org/join) to become a National Member



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Past Supreme President  
AHEPA  
&  
Anna-Helene  
Grossomanides  
Past Grand President  
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**Editor's Notes** by Jack Isaac

The numbers for 2019 membership are now history. Let's look at the results. The total Ahepan membership surpassed the 15,000 mark for the first time since 2014. This was a positive sign but, upon reflection, it means we've spent the last six years playing catch-up to reach the 2014 numbers. Europe has seen significant growth but in America we've remained stagnant. Region 4 is made up of Districts 7, 8 and 9. We had a slight increase in membership as a region for 2019. Am I pleased? Of course, but let's look at the results more closely. Districts 7 and 9 had small reductions in membership, while District 8 increased enough to give the region an overall increase. In reality, the increase was statistically insignificant. Where should we look for future growth?

We know the issues: An aging membership and a failure to retain members, apathy and inertia and a lack of "outside the box " thinking. We need to ensure that, when Sons of Pericles members have outgrown their Order, that they continue with the Order of AHEPA. These are the next generation of leaders. We need their youth and energy to revitalize our Fraternity. Alas, it is not always happening. Do we investigate when a Brother leaves his chapter? In many cases whatever caused him to leave can be remediated. Exit interviews should become standard procedure.

Emulate those chapters that are innovative. Some chapters use incentives to get their dues in early or to increase membership. Those are the chapters that are growing. Be sure you've reached out to every eligible candidate in your church and Greek community. Many have never been asked to join. Host a breakfast or lunch at your church and invite them to come. Invite your Governor or Supreme Governor to come and speak about the benefits of becoming an Ahepan

Finally, reach out to the Non-Greek community. Your church has many who have married into our faith. This could be an opportunity for significant future growth. Invite your friends, colleagues, relatives to come to a meeting or social event. Let's share the great joy of being an Ahepan. In my travels around the region, I'm seeing more and more Philhellenes in leadership positions in their chapters. They become true believers and are great assets to AHEPA. I can attest to this as a proud Philhellene and devoted Ahepan. Let's make 2020 the year our numbers show the kind of growth we all want to see and we all know is possible.



*Salute to a Veteran*

**Nikiforos Mathews**

Prior to his military service, Nikiforos "Nik" Mathews graduated from the University of Notre Dame, B.A., Government, with honors, and Yeshiva University, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, J.D. In March, 1999, Nik received a direct commission as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General's Corp (JAG), and was assigned to the 4th Legal Support Organization in the Bronx, New York. As an officer in that Unit, he prosecuted numerous administrative boards in connection with soldier discharges. In 2005, he was activated in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom as an Operational and Administrative Law Attorney for the Third United States Army (Coalition Forces Land Component Command) in Arifjan, Kuwait. During his deployment, he was assigned as legal advisor in connection with detainee operations missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. As part of his annual duty, he has served as a Staff Attorney for the Central Criminal Court of Iraq, Roslyn, Virginia, as a Trainer (Civilians on the Battlefield) for Operation Highland Warrior at the United States Military Academy (West Point), and as a Legal Assistance Attorney in the Stuttgart Law Center, Stuttgart, Germany. Nik has attended numerous military courses, including the Judge Advocate Officer's Basic Course, the Government Contract Attorney's Course, the Security Manager's Course, the Law of Land Warfare Course and the Judge Advocate Officer's Advanced Course. He has been awarded a right Shoulder "Combat" Patch, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (four awards), the Army Achievement Medal (four awards) and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, among others. In 2008, he resigned his commission as a Captain.

After his military career, Nik was vice president and assistant general counsel at Goldman, Sachs & Co., and director and counsel at UBS AG. He also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Nicholas Tsoucalas of the United States Court of International Trade.

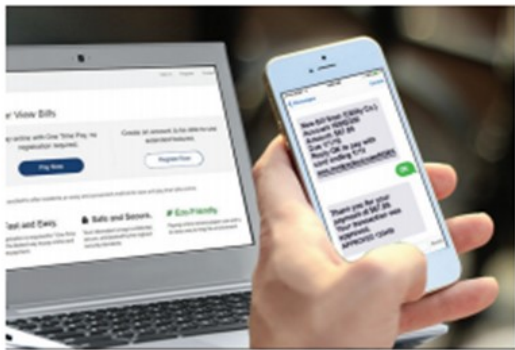
Today, Nikiforos is a partner in Orrick's New York office, where he serves as Global Co-Head of the Derivatives group. He is also a member of the Structured Finance, Banking and Finance, and Energy and Infrastructure groups, and is lead editor of Orrick's publication, *Derivatives in Review*.

Besides being a member of AHEPA Chapter 99 in Stamford, he is a Board Member of Hellenic Classical Charter School in Brooklyn, NY. He was invested as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with the offikion of *Ekdikos* in 2009, and has served as the Regional Commander for District 1 of the Order of Saint Andrew since 2010. He is the son of the Very Rev. Constantine Mathews and Presbyteria Anna Mathews. Fr. Mathews served as the parish priest of the Annunciation in Stamford for over 33 years and, before that, as the parish priest of St. Andrew's in South Bend, Indiana. Nik is married to Lambrina (Vellios), also an attorney and the Chief Compliance Officer and Associate General Counsel at Commonfund. They recently moved to New Canaan with their two beautiful children, Alexandra (15), and Luke (11).



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**How a Breakfast in November 2019 can Change our Resolutions in January 2020!**

**The (new) Society of Friends and us, the Greeks of America**

by Yiannis Apostolakis, D7 Hellenic Affairs Co-Chair



Dear Brothers and Sisters of District 7,

Happy New Year and best wishes from all of us at Pawtucket. A new year started and, typically, it is the time to make our resolutions. Resolutions can be a tricky thing. We can always decide them and announce them, but are we planning on upholding them?

At the Hellenic History Tournament last November we had the honor and pleasure of meeting our Supreme President. He informed us of all the activities AHEPA is making in exposing Turkey for what it is; a security threat to the ideas of the Western World and an aggressor, bringing destruction and ethnic cleansing wherever they go! He emphasized that this is the time for all Greek Americans to take an active stand to defend Hellenism and to engage in a grassroots campaign to strengthen AHEPA. Furthermore, he presented each chapter with an AHEPA banner, donated at his own expense. I rejoiced! What an inspiration! On the top of the banner are the words "Defend Hellenism".

When Greece was enslaved for 400 years under the unbearable occupation of the Ottoman Turks, Hellenism was threatened with extinction, and some Greeks who loved Greece began something unprecedented. The Society of Friends (Φιλική Εταιρεία) was the most important of the secret organizations formed for the preparation of the Revolution for the liberation of Greece from the Ottoman Empire. Founded in 1814 in Odessa, the Society, after being initiated into the company, swore a vow of faith and communicated with codes, aliases and messages. Thus began the salvation of Greece. The educated Greeks from Western Europe helped with the ideas of Greece's rebirth and freedom; the wealthy merchants and sailors from the Black Sea helped with money and supplies.

Today, in the Americas and throughout the world, there is the new Society of Friends - AHEPA. We are united under oath, to fight for Hellenism, to bring our tradition into this country and all the world and to have a voice; a pulse to fight for what our parents have left us. Above all, we strive to guarantee our own children the pride of Hellenism. At the same time, we have offered so much in this country, much more than any other organization. In America, they all know how good the Greeks of America are. Every Greek in America - from the laborer to the restaurant owner, from the student to the professor, from the scientist to the entrepreneur - has accomplished a great deal! Everyone knows about our festivals, our food and our dances. But how many people know that Greece is in danger? How many people know about the Pontian genocide of the Turks? How many people know about the invasion of Cyprus and the brutal atrocities, even to small children? How many people know that Turkey today considers that the Aegean Sea with its islands, Crete and Cyprus are its own and threatens war? How many people know that Turkey wants to re-establish the Ottoman Empire? How can we even attempt to justify that there are millions of Greeks in America, and America knows so little about current matters of significance to Greece? For all this and more, AHEPA tries to become known. In the House, in the Senate, in Europe and around the world, AHEPA came to fill this void. The time when Greeks in America did not have a strong voice for Hellenism or a good reason to make it heard is in the past!

The big question is how can we defend Hellenism in District 7? With vision, courage, logistics, persistent effort, change of habits, cooperation and coordination and, above all, a clear message! Here are some ideas how we can defend Hellenism:

- Support and expand the Hellenic History Tournament (HHT)
- Support and expand our scholarship programs
- Finance AHEPA representation in key events
- Coordinate every Greek American organization in our area; create joint campaigns
- Establish Hellenic Affairs committees in every chapter and conduct a summit
- Establish communications to communities to educate on key aspects of Greek History and their significance
- Engage with the academic community to help AHEPA in media publications and community educations for matters important to Hellenism
- Work with the Greek school and the PTO in raising our next generation
- Work with every parish in our District to have a welcome package when political dignitaries visit us during our functions or festivals
- Limit participation fees for our Brothers and Sisters in District 7 for conferences, conventions and meetings
- Above all – bring in new members!

We have had golf tournaments, taverna nights, socials, Facebook etc. How about looking in the face every Greek American and saying, "What have you done for Hellenism? It's time to make history in America and the world. Only we will do it, no one else will do it for us. Join AHEPA, help us in every way."

I'd like to close this article with a bit of history. Back in the 1900's, when Makedonia was in imminent danger a Greek politician said, "Rally to save Makedonia, and Makedonia will save Greece!". History proved him right! Let's us give thanks to our Brother George Rados, Hellenic Affairs Chair for our District 7 for his amazing and unselfish effort in Hellenic Affairs for so many years and let us all make a new resolution for 2020:



**Let's Defend Hellenism!  
Let's establish a grassroots Hellenic  
Affairs campaign in our District 7!**

**"Rally to defend Hellenism,  
and Hellenism will save AHEPA!" ....  
and AHEPA will save Hellenism in return!**

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

*"To lose a Brother is hard; we made a lot of good memories over the years. You know, I was hoping for a lot more."*



**Brother Markos Terpou** of AHEPA Chapter 48 from Waterbury, CT passed away January 4, 2020.

Markos was born April 12, 1931 in Kolokinthou, Greece, son of the late Apostolos and Vasiliki Terpou. He served in the Greek Army.

After immigrating to the United States in 1968, Markos worked at Sheet Metal Manufacturing and at Lake Quassapaug Amusement Park until his retirement. Markos was also a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

In addition to his wife, Hariklia, Markos is survived by his son, Michael Terpou of Waterbury, CT, two daughters, Maria O'Donnell of Clearwater, FL and Vasiliki Terpou-Tsagas of Kastoria, Greece, two sisters Stavroula Kiriazis and Dorethea Jazxhi of Waterbury, CT and four grandchildren. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather.



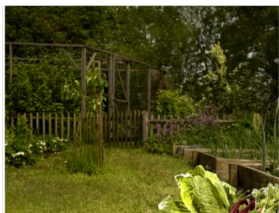
**Chrysanthe "Chrys" Lampros** passed away on February 1, 2020 She was born on March 13, 1941, in Norwich, CT to the late Constantine and Theofania Pantelis. Chrys was the beloved wife and soulmate of the late Nicholas Lampros for 51 years. She was predeceased by her loving brother, the Reverend Father George Pantelis.

Above all, she cherished her three daughters; Sofia and her husband Michael Psillas, Theonne and her husband Eugene Lawrence and Nicole and her husband Hector Luciano. Her grandchildren, Austin and Athena Lawrence and Evan Psillas consumed every beat of her heart. Chrys is survived by her twin brother, the Rev. Joachim Pantelis of Clairton, PA. Chrys embraced her Greek faith and heritage. She was a loyal parishioner of both St. George Greek Orthodox Church in New Britain and St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in New London. She was a former President of the Ladies Philoptochos Society, a Sunday School teacher, a member of the Daughters of Penelope and the Kitchen Club.

Simply stated, Chrys was a devoted, dedicated and immensely generous wife, mother, Yiaya, Thea, sister-in-law and sister. We will miss her.

*"I can only imagine in my beautiful dreams at night,  
Of seeing you once again in that beautiful garden in heaven.  
Where we will meet our loved ones once again, someday,  
In that beautiful garden in heaven."*

~ Charles H. Miranda



Our condolences as well to Maria Klementoro and the Paindiris family on the passing of Maria's brother, Charlie Paindiris.

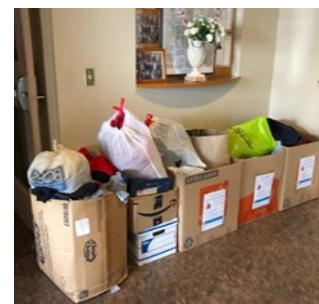


**Pawtucket, RI Chapter 121** by Ioannis Apostolakis

**Pawtucket Chapter Sponsors a CASA Drive**

One of the greatest and most visible courses of action for AHEPA Chapters is the Philanthropy one. It is a core value of AHEPA and we all do our best to make AHEPA shine through Philanthropy. The Pawtucket Chapter sponsored a CASA (*Coats And Sweaters from Assumption*) drive this winter to collect used clothes, especially sweaters and jackets to be distributed to those in need. Our drive exceeded our expectations and the community's participation was massive. Our 2019 CASA drive was a stellar success! on behalf of our AHEPA Chapter and our Assumption parish, Brother Dr. Thomas Walsh and his wife Marie delivered five large boxes and six bags of clothing, all of which were filled to capacity and weighed nearly 300 pounds to Providence Rescue Mission.

Providence Rescue Mission is a Christian-based mission (open 24/7) in Providence that provides food, clothing, and temporary shelter for the urban poor. We were met by several people at the Mission who expressed deep gratitude for this important contribution. In our Brother's words: *"Congratulations and may God bless our community for your compassion and generosity"* [providencerescuemission.org](http://providencerescuemission.org)



**Chapter 121 Donates a Multimedia Learning System to our Greek School**

On September 29th, the Pawtucket Chapter held its annual fundraising to rally community support for our chapter and to also help our Greek School. We typically have a major fundraising event every year and we use our event to promote AHEPA and the work we do as an AHEPA chapter of District 7. We also use our event to raise money for an important goal. This year, we were approached by our Greek School teachers and we were asked to lead an effort to supply our Greek School program with modern teaching aids, helping both teachers and students by providing a great learning and fun experience. We are happy to announce that we delivered a multimedia system for our Greek School including a new Dell Multimedia Laptop, a 32" LG LED TV, and all of the accessories, cables and software.

This is part of our effort to help our amazing Greek School teachers to offer an enhanced and exciting learning experience. We also hope that our effort will draw more young families to our parish. We are very excited as an AHEPA chapter for our contributions, as AHEPA stands for Education (the "E") and Hellenism (the "H"). With our commitment to the Greek School and the Hellenic History Tournament, we proudly honor our AHEPA name!



**Daughters of Penelope of Waterbury, Chapter 199**

by Marianne Boutsoulis

Sisters from Waterbury Deucalion Chapter 199 were inspired to raise money for White Field Farm's Hope Project. The **HOPE PROJECT** is a Non-Profit organization that offers the women survivors employed at White Field Farm basic life necessities.

White Farm is located in Clarksville MO and was founded by Greek Orthodox nuns, Sisters Gerontissa, Foteini and Theonymphi. The chapter and individual members purchased items from **White Field Farm** ([whitefieldfarmco.com](http://whitefieldfarmco.com)). The items were placed in a basket, and the chapter sold raffle tickets. 100% of the profits were sent as a donation to Hope Project.



Pictured: Marianne Boutsoulis, Joani Mihalakos, Penny Pecka, Despina Tsetsos, Androulla Louca, Cassie Skabardonis, Cassandra Rinaldi, Eva Sfinarolakis, a representative from White Field Farm (in black apron), and Gina Kotsaftis.

~\*~

**With Compliments of**  
**Jack Isaac**  
**Supreme Governor,**  
**Region 4**  
**&**  
**Karen Isaac**  
**Daughters of Penelope**  
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~\*~

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**New Haven Chapter 98  
HELLENIC HISTORY TOURNAMENT 2019**

by E. Vagos Hadjimichael

The 2019 Hellenic History Tournament (HHT) was hosted by Chapter 98 at its home base in the St. Barbara Church in Orange, CT on Saturday, November 23, with participation from ten teams from District 7. Present during the tournament were the Supreme President of the Order of Ahepa, George G. Horiates, and Region 4 Supreme Governor, Jack Isaac.

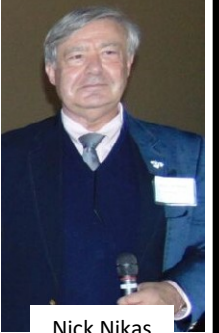
The Chapter 98 team, the Aristotelians, composed of Luke Berner, Andreas Lolis and Giovanni Panagiotakis, (pictured) won the competition and garnered the First-Place trophies. Chapter 98 is profoundly happy for the boy's success. Their triumph is a testament to their determination and intellectual maturation over a period of more than two years that the team members have been working together under the guidance of Brother Manny Cosmas. The same team had reached and competed also in the semifinal round of HHT on July 5, 2019, at the AHEPA Supreme Convention in Chicago IL. The team's win this November qualifies it to participate again in the national Hellenic History Tournament that will take place at the next Supreme Convention in Orlando, Florida, in July 2020. Chapter 98 Brothers will have the opportunity to personally congratulate Luke, Andreas, and Giovanni, at a special ceremony in early spring 2020.



Chapter #	Chapter City	Team Name	Captain	Member No. 1	Member #2
54	Paramus, NJ	Από Μηχανς Θεοί	Yanni Leakas	Fanourios Tsatalios	Georgios Tsatalios
58	Hartford, CT	Glastonbury HS	Julia Walsh	Jack Anderson	Kylee Webster
62	Bridgeport, CT	Olympians	Sebastian Machado	Nektaria Karagiannis	Alexander Valbuena
90	Danbury, CT	Nighthawks	Stephen Vournazos	Justin DeThomas	Constantine Kyprianou
98	New Haven, CT	Aristotelians	Andreas Lolis	Luke Berner	Giovani Panagiotakis
99	Stamford, CT	Argonafes	Daphne Hartch	Peter Giannakopoulos	Caroline Hartch
117	Bnew Britain, CT	Hip Hoplites	Sophia Manos	Vaia Poursaitidou	Medori Wheatley
117	New Britain, CT	Philomathia	Constantinos Soteriou	Alexander Manos	Mika Stamos
121	Pawtucket, RI	Μολών Λαβέ	Nikolaos Platsidakis	Konstantina Platsidakis	Sofia Stefanopoulos
405	New Rochelle, NY	Oracles of Delphi	Alexander Mulder	Maria Iliadi	Andreas Mulder

The team from Pawtucket RI was the second place winner, composed of Nicholas Platsidakis, Konstantina Platsidakis, and Sofia Stefanopoulos. All participants were given a Certificate of Participation in the HHT of 2019, in recognition of their commendable dedication to the study of Hellenic history spanning four millennia, from pre-Homeric times to the present times. In the course of their studies, they were enabled to envision the panorama of events which, to a large extent, shaped the development of western civilization. The Certificates were awarded to the students by Supreme President George Horiates, Supreme Governor of Region 4 Jack Isaac, and Chapter 98 President Vagos Hadjimichael.

The Order of AHEPA, regionally and nationally, is profoundly grateful to Past District 7 Governor Brother Nick Nikas, from Chapter 99 in Stamford CT, who first conceived of the Hellenic History Tournament ten years ago, and has remained the inspiration and the driving force behind the event. Brother Nikas has designed the format for the competition, composed hundreds of history tests employed in the competition and based on the book HELLENICA by T. Peter Limber; he continues to oversee the annual proceedings from beginning to end. HHT is slowly but surely attracting the attention of Ahepans, beyond District 7 where it was originated, at the national level. The tournament has already been staged in the Philadelphia area and in the Chicago area, and in Canada's Toronto area. It has been enthusiastically adopted by the Order of AHEPA as a most valuable educational experience for young Hellenes. For this reason, the HHT competition has been incorporated into the agenda of the annual AHEPA Supreme Convention. This development is a testament to the vision of Brother Nick Nikas.



Nick Nikas

We are also thankful to the several Ahepans who annually volunteer their services on the day of the HHT. This year, close to twenty volunteers were present to assist. They dealt successfully with the logistics for the tournament, from setting up the facilities and the electronic hardware for the contest, and providing lunch for all present, to serving as moderators and scorekeepers during the contest.

This year's volunteer team included: New Haven's Gregory Anastasiou, Gary Andrews, James Benas, Manny Cosmas, Ilias Diamantis, Constantine Panayiotakis, George Scarveles, Mike Suffredini, Tom Tambis, and Chapter 98 President Vagos Hadjimichael; New London's Kevin Burke and Greg Simones; New Britain's Andy Aros and R4SG Jack Isaac; Cherry Hill, New Jersey's Steve Marmarou, and Stamford's Nick Moisiades and Dimitris Vasquez. Brother Nikas oversaw the proceedings. The event closed with the award of trophies to the first-place and second-place winning teams. Congratulations to all participants and best wishes for continued success in all their endeavors.



Rev. Peter Orfanakos, Luke Berner, Andreas Lolis, Giovanni Panayiotakis, Manny Cosmas and E. Vagos Hadjimichael

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**Daughters of Penelope of Hartford, Chapter 198** by Maria Tougas & Adele Antoniou

The Daughters hosted the Annual **Founder's Day Celebration** on Sunday, November 17. We had a nice turnout for the Artoclasia and we hosted coffee hour with the Daughters' history on display. For the **2019 Fall Raffle**, the Daughters of Hartford raffled off a wreath donated by Elaine Melonopoulos and a wine basket donated by Maria Tougas and Priscilla Kokinis. We sold raffle tickets on three Sundays in December and took in a grand total of \$461.00. We drew the winning tickets on December 29th. Kathy Orsaris won the wine basket and Irene Emmanuel won the wreath. Our thanks to all who supported the raffle and our congratulations to the winners!

Thoas Chapter rang in the new year with the traditional **Vasilopita**. The lucky 2020 New Year coin was received for St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Hartford!



Donna Nakos receiving the Artoclasia from Rev. Dr. George Zugravu at St. George, Hartford



At the Fall Raffle: Tina Smith, Priscilla Kokinis (Farmington), Catherine Deros, Adele Antoniou, Priscilla Kokinis (Wethersfield), President Maria Tougas, Helene Moran, Elena Argintaru, and Elaina Varunes

On Founders Day: Gloria Pitchell, Donna Nakos, Elena Argintaru, Maria Tougas, Helene Moran, Catherine Deros, Parthena Yaakob, & Stephanie Zapatka.

Vasilopita >  
Rear: Adele Antoniou, Priscilla Kokinis, Elaina Varunes  
Front: Maria Tougas, Marie Klementon



**Hartford Chapter 58**

**Annual American Red Cross Blood Drive**

by Paul Matsikas

Nathan Hale Chapter 58 hosted its annual blood drive on December 27, 2019 at St George Cathedral in Hartford, CT. The blood drive was a success and we could not have reached our goal without the support from our local AHEPA and Daughters chapters, St George Greek Orthodox Cathedral and most importantly, the generous support from the community for their life giving donation. Each pint of blood can be used three different ways to save multiple lives. Our unique location is critical to the Red Cross in their community outreach mission in the south end of Hartford. We would like to thank Larry Papanic, George Bouzakis and Christina Matsikas for donating their time and effort during the drive.



**Testimonial for Rev. Dr. George Zugravu**

by Greg Simones

On October 27, 2019, a testimonial was held for Rev. Dr. George Zugravu, A church hall full of well-wishers were present to honor Fr. George and his family for 10 years of service to the St. George community. District 7 was one of the community organizations that made presentations at the event. District Secretary Greg Simones, PDG presented Fr. George with a plaque recognizing his unwavering support of AHEPA programs throughout the years.



Fr. George Zugravu and PDG Greg Simones

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**New Britain Chapter 117** by Andy Aros

**NEW BRITAIN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

New Britain AHEPA Chapter # 117, held its annual Christmas Party Dinner and Awards Ceremony at the St. George Hellenic Center on December 7, 2019. Chairman for the event was Brother Panagiotis Palkanikos who was ably assisted by Brother James Babetas. Joining the AHEPANS and Daughters of Penelope of New Britain, were the AHEPANS and Daughters of Penelope of Meriden. Also present were Region 4 SP Jack Isaac and PDG Gregory Simones. Teresa's Catering provided the dinner. Then all present listened and danced to the music of Athenian Entertainment.



Co-chairs, Tom Morikis and Andy Aros



The money collected from the Christmas 50/50 raffle will be donated to the Music School of Giannitsa. At the end of the dinner, Chapter President Emmanuil Stergakis and Scholarship Co-Chairmen Thomas Morikis and Andrew Aros (picture, top right) awarded Nicholas Kounaris Charitable Educational Philanthropic Trust Scholarships. This year's scholarship recipients were: Colette Polezonis (her father Steve accepted), Elias Manos (his sister Sophia accepted), Andreas Karamanos, Eve Galanis, James Christodoulos, Kristina Bolovis (her father Michael accepted), and Carlos Beltran (pictured left). The Demetrius Kounaris Memorial Scholarships, awarded for both academic excellence and service to the St. George Community were

earned by James Christodoulos and Andreas Karamanos.

President Stergakis also presented AHEPA Service Pins. Receiving pins for 10 years or more of service: Theodoros Panagopoulos, Michael Bolovis, Nickos Koukouves, Constantine Galanis, Sam Christodoulos, Nicholaos Bouras, James Babetas, John Bourlopgiannis, Richard Brander, Jack Isaac, Stelios Koutouvides, Michael Kouzelis, Peter Lemnotis, Jeff Louis, Stavros Mellekas, Nickolaos Morikis, Thomas Morikis, Pericles Moustakakis, Nicholas Nasiakos, Ahillefs Papadimitriou. Gus Pelarinos, Gary Robinson, and Evangelos Vasiliadis. Receiving pins for 25 years or more of service: Dr. Stephen Polezonis, John Georgopoulos, Angelo Moutogiannis, Dimitrios Dimopoulos, Xenophon Dimopoulos, Costas Georgacopoulos, Christos Nasiakos, George Rados, Harilaos Sitalides, and Leonidas Sitalides.



25-year pin recipients

SG Isaac and President Stergakis presented the Past President's Pins to: Costas Georgacopoulos, Jack Isaac, Dimitrios Loukopoulos, Pericles Moustakakis, Evangelos Psillas, George Rados, and Harilaos Sitalides. George Rados and Jack Isaac were given their Past District Governor's Pins, and Jack Isaac was presented with his Supreme Governor Pin. SG Isaac and President Stergakis also presented the 2019 service awards. Hellene of the Year was awarded to James Babetas and AHEPAN of the Year was awarded to Panagiotis Palkanikos. President Stergakis announced and presented the selection of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Costas Georgacopoulos.



10-year pin recipients

**NEW BRITAIN AHEPA DECEMBER ACTIVITIES**

At St. George Greek Orthodox Church on Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>, New Britain AHEPA remembered their late brother and benefactor Nicholas Kounaris with a memorial service in his honor. The next week, the students of the Sunday School and Greek School under the direction of Menia Manos, Stamo Dimitratos, and Stella DeLuca performed their annual Christmas Pageant.

Immediately following the Christmas Pageant, New Britain AHEPA invited the entire congregation of St. George to free Christmas Breakfast. Brothers James Babetas, Nikolaos Bouras, Aristotle Nasiakos, Panagiotis Palkanikos, and George Rados prepared the meal.

As in previous years, Santa Claus, instructed AHEPA to purchase gifts for all the students of Greek School, Sunday School, and the Altar Boys. He specifically directed Brothers Panagiotis Palkanikos and James Babetas to purchase the gifts. Santa also directed New Britain Daughters of Penelope Sisters Mary Aros, Sue Leppones, and Donna Rados to wrap the gifts. Shortly after everyone had eaten, Santa Claus arrived! Several observant brothers thought Santa looked very similar to our Parish Priest Father Constantine Makrinos. In spite of a having a very busy schedule Santa took the time to take a picture with every person who received a gift. The New Britain Police Department's annual Christmas Children's Toy Drive for the needy children of the city was also supported by New Britain AHEPA. The chapter purchased and delivered three large tote boxes full of toys and games to the Police Facility.



Jim Babetas



Peter Palkanikos



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



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**Winthrop Chapter 250  
Continuing a Family Tradition**

by Tony Vallombroso  
Theodore "Ted" James Jr. of Salem Connecticut was initiated into the AHEPA Winthrop Chapter 250 on January 20, 2020. Ted is a third generation Ahepan continuing in the footsteps of his Father and Papou.

Ted's father, Theodore James Sr. was born in Groton, CT and served in WWII on a U.S. Navy minesweeper. Ted Sr. was also a career Electrician working for Enterprise Electric Company.

Ted Jr.'s maternal grandfather, George P. Negris was also a Chapter 250 member. George arrived from Athens, Greece to New London, where he married and had a daughter. During WWII, George was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army participating in the Normandy Invasion. After the war, he managed dining and special events at the Mohegan Hotel in New London followed by the Groton Motor Inn before he retired.

Both Ted's father and grandfather were active members of the Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in New London, as well as Winthrop Chapter 250 of the AHEPA.



Ted James being initiated by Chapter Secretary John Fakis.

**Newport, RI Chapter 245** by A. Stefanopoulos  
To close out 2019 and their 90th year as a Chapter (founded November 24, 1929), the Newport Maud Howe Elliott Chapter No. 245 hosted an AHEPA Family Christmas party at the Wyndham Newport Atlantic Resort in December where many of the brothers and their families enjoyed a festive evening of fellowship. They were joined by some of the brothers and their families from the Pawtucket, RI Chapter 121, and by PDG Greg Simones.

The youth of our AHEPA family sang traditional Christmas *kalanta* for all and Greek and English Christmas carols were played by Vasilios Zarkadas on his violin. *Και του χρόνου παιδιά!*



Vasilios Zarkadas



Standing: Constantine Anagnostopoulos, PDG Greg Simones, Treas. Thanasi Stefanopoulos, Seated: Eleni Anagnostopoulos, Demetri Georgiou, Sofia Stefanopoulos, Rev. Dr. George Economou and Pres. Elaine Economou.



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**The Next Yankee News Deadline for submissions:**

**April 1, 2020 to: [YankeeD7News@AOL.com](mailto:YankeeD7News@AOL.com)**

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

**Our apologies to John J. Johnson**

He has been a good standing Ahepan for many years. He was inadvertently omitted from the member listing in the December 2019 issue. Thanks for your many years of continued support, John!

**Yankee District 7 Upcoming Events List: 2020**

- 03/13/2020: New Haven Initiation, St. Barbara, Orange, CT
- 03/29/2020: NYC Greek Independence Day Parade, New York City
- 03/31/2020: 2020 AHEPA Membership Dues Deadline
- 03/31/2020: National Scholarship Application Deadline
- 04/01/2020: Yankee News Deadline for May Issue
- 04/15/2020: Deadline for Yankee District Educational Scholarship
- 05/01/2020: AHEPA Magazine Deadline for Summer Issue
- 05/1-2/2020: Yankee District 7 Convention, Mystic Marriott, Mystic, CT
- 05/14/2020: Capitol Hill Day/45<sup>th</sup> Biennial Congressional Banquet
- 06/28/2020: D7 Educational Scholarship Event, Waterbury, CT
- 06/30/2020: Registration Deadline for Hellenic History Tournament
- 07/19-26/2020: Supreme Convention, Orlando, FL

*Additional events or chapter visitation invitations should be sent to the District Governor **John Melonopoulos** & Secretary **Greg Simones** for inclusion in calendar.*

**AHEPA District 7 Yankee News**

Production dates are scheduled in conjunction with Conferences & Conventions.

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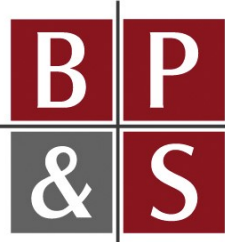
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