



Yankee News



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



December 2022

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from all of us in the Yankee News staff to all of you!





A MESSAGE FROM THE AHEPA D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Brothers of Yankee District 7,

Greetings and best wishes for the holidays ahead. In the last few months, since my first Governor's message in the Yankee News in September, I have come to know much about the fourteen Chapters in District 7, their leaders, and the issues and complex challenges each Chapter is faced with. Clearly, the D7 Lodge and I should develop strategies to assist in meeting those challenges.

I am most thankful to brothers who assisted me in organizing the two Leadership Retreats for Chapter presidents and members of their Boards, in New London and Orange. Also, my gratitude to all those brothers who assisted in the preparation for, and in the running of the D7 fall conference in Norwich. The keynote speaker at the conference, Mr. Antonis Diamataris, publisher of the National Herald, offered thoughtful remarks on the *Role of Ahepa in the Future of the Greek American Diaspora*. His comments are food for thought as we contemplate and plan the future of AHEPA and DOP. We are grateful to the AHEPA and DOP Chapters in Norwich for their hospitality in hosting the conference. Copies of the conference reports are available upon request.

Lastly, my gratitude to those who helped with and the staging of the OXI Day dinner, held in partnership with the Hellenic Bar Association of Connecticut. The event had a two-fold theme, namely, to pay homage to the historic OXI Day of October 28, 1940, which marks the time when Greece was snared into WWII - see related article in this issue of YN - and also to honor a member from our community, Themis Klarides, former Representative in the Connecticut Legislature, for her long and distinguished career in public service.

I will end this message by addressing one housekeeping task, the fulfillment of annual obligations of our members to the District and the National Order of AHEPA. Our overall membership (paid up and life members) on 10/31/2022 stands at 10,986. This is 3,694, or -25.2%, lower than the 2021 final of 14,680. Specific to D7, the current number stands at 610, vs 716 at the end of 2021. Our challenge is to meet the 2021 total in the next two months.

Why are membership numbers so important, aside from the obvious need of affording the Order the wherewithal for maintaining our obligations and standing in the Greek American diaspora? Because it is the heft of the AHEPA membership that gives weight to the AHEPA leadership in its interactions with government, political, and faith-based authorities, in defending Hellenic interests when threatened, and honoring Hellenic values and Hellenic history.

Best Regards to all brothers in District 7.
E. Vagos Hadjimichael



A MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Sisters,

Happy Holidays to all! I hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving and I send my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Since becoming D7 Governor I have had the opportunity to attend many wonderful events. I attended my first District Governor's Seminar in Washington, DC. "The Power of WE" (women's empowerment) is our theme this year. Our focus is

on empowering women to explore and share ideas with confidence. We believe each member has unique talents and skills that can be harnessed to strengthen the whole. "The Power of WE" allows us to express unity and sends the message when working together anything is possible. I will be implementing some of these key messages in my interactions with chapters:

- 1) Get to know your chapter! By getting to know the strengths and weaknesses of your chapter you can contribute to its overall success.
- 2) Communicate! By keeping an open dialogue all members can be on the same page about our goals and objectives.
- 3) Celebrate! You have to have FUN to invest your time & energy to the DOP. It can't be all work, no play. Celebrate & enjoy your sisterhood!

I'd like to thank the sisters who attended the Fall Conference in Norwich, CT on Oct. 15. We were honored to have GVP Marianthi Treppiedi from Spokane, WA and Grand Governor Zone 1 Marianne Boutsoulis (PDG D7). Governors Elaine Kevgas, D8 (MA) and Toula Barber, D9 (VT, NH & ME) and some of their members joined us. You could really feel the bonding and sisterhood. Many thanks to the Norwich AHEPA Chapter #110 and our sisters of Lysandros Chapter #181 for their hard work in hosting a successful event.

On Oct. 19 I attended the Bridgeport Chapter #41 officer installation with Marianne Boutsoulis Grand Governor Zone 1. There was a lot of positive energy and it was heartwarming to see such a well-attended meeting and hear about their projects and upcoming fundraisers. I'm looking forward to visiting Meriden Priam Chapter #76 and New Britain Eretria Chapter #138 on December 4, 2022 and Waterbury Deucalion Chapter #199 on March 21, 2023. I was very excited to participate in a meeting with the Maids of Athena officers and young women who are interested in starting a chapter in New Haven/Orange. Enjoy each opportunity of Sisterhood! (details to follow):

- Dec 17, 2022 - New Britain annual Christmas dinner & dance
- March 18, 2023 - DOP Sisterhood Conference, Waterbury, CT - Districts 3-9
- May 5 & 6, 2023 - D7 AHEPA/DOP Spring Convention, Newport, RI
- Week of July 23, 2023 - Supreme Convention in Las Vegas, NV.

Yours in Theta Pi,
Elisa Marotta

Compliments of the Officers of AHEPA "Rose of New England" Chapter #110, Norwich, CT



George S. Grossomanides ~ President
Anthony G. Petros ~ Vice President
Dr. John Grossomanides ~ Treasurer PSP
George P. Ververis, Jr. ~ Secretary

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Congratulations and Apologies to James Bitzonis

Our deepest apologies to James Bitzonis for incorrectly labeling his picture on the cover of our last issue. And our congratulations again for being awarded District 7 Entrepreneur of the Year!

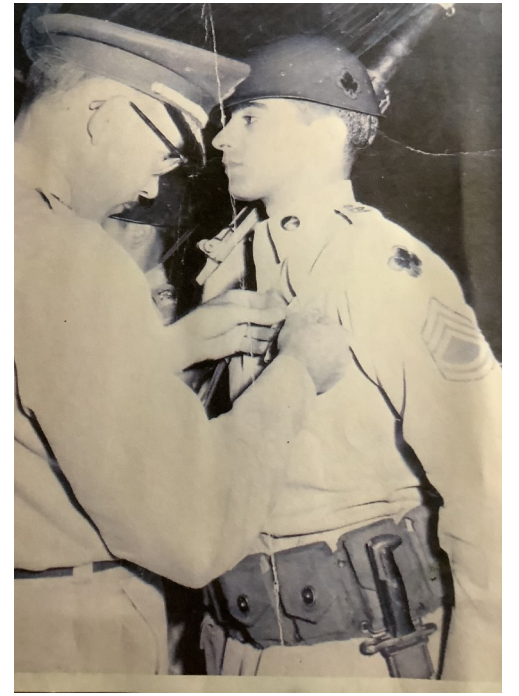


D7 Entrepreneur of the Year

Salute to a Veteran

~ Anthony Petros ~

Anthony "Tony" Petros was born in Norwich in 1936. While on active duty, Sgt. First Class Anthony Petros was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma where he attended several courses on radio maintenance and was graduated from the Communications Chief Course. For two years he worked full time in the CT National Guard as a Sergeant First Class in administration. Another position was chief for a 90 mm long range artillery gun. Tony received his sharpshooter medal (pictured) while in Company K, 169th Infantry Regiment.



169th Infantry (1st Connecticut) Coat of Arms

Tony served on his church Board of Directors (Holy Trinity) and was elected president in 1973 and was president during the construction of their new Church in 1974.

Tony is a 59 year member of the Norwich Chapter of AHEPA. He worked his way through all the offices of Chapter 110. In 1989, he was president of the Norwich AHEPA Chapter when they built the first of 3 buildings for Senior Citizens, under the HUD 202 program. While involved in the HUD Housing Program, he traveled through-out the country, on the AHEPA National Board of Directors assisting other chapters to get started in this program.

Tony also worked his way through all the offices of D7, including District Governor. He served as the editor of the Yankee News for several years and worked on the AHEPA Magazine in various capacities. He is currently Vice President of Chapter 110 and Vice President of AHEPA 110 Housing Board of Directors.

Tony is married to Heidi (Pappas) and together they have four children - Evangeline, Joanne, Ann-Marie, and Demetrios. In addition they have five grandchildren - Preston, Marissa, Melina, Olivia and Lia.



EDITOR'S NOTES by Jack Isaac

2022 has been a challenging year for most Americans as we have had to face one crisis after another on the international front, while dealing with a surging inflation at home. Inflation has hit every home and business making long term financial planning nearly impossible. The cost of printing the Yankee News has increased dramatically forcing our CFO John Melonopoulos to look for solutions. Facing a 40% increase, he looked at various printing companies before settling on one that was significantly cheaper. We pre-ordered a year's worth of paper, thus locking in that price. These steps were necessary to preserve the financial integrity of our paper.

It is now more important than ever for our members to assist by helping to procure ads, which will bring in the vital income we need. Go back to your chapters and solicit ads from your brothers who are professionals and businessmen and ask them to play a role in the future of the Yankee News. Contact our CFO via phone or email for the particulars. Contact information is in each issue for all staff members of the paper.

We again implore our brothers to motivate your chapter leaders to continue sending us information and news of your activities. Unfortunately, we still have chapters that are not submitting information. Please encourage your chapter leaders to become part of the Yankee News family and to begin informing us of your undertakings. All news should be sent to me as Editor, and to Terry, our Publisher. Here are a few things to remember about submissions:

1. Keep your articles as short as possible and stick to the point.
2. If you are including pictures, be sure to identify everyone in them, unless it is a large group shot.
3. Use our Letters to the Editor feature to make comments or suggestions.
4. We reserve the right to edit and to select what goes in a particular issue.
5. Be sure to follow the deadlines for submissions. Each deadline for the next issue is on the back page.
6. Articles sent after the deadline will be held for the next issue or not used.
7. I will send a reminder to each chapter President one week prior to the deadline.
8. Send everything to yankeed7news@AOL.com and to me as Editor.

Thank you all for your cooperation and participation. We want to keep our paper as professional as possible. We are not working journalists, but we try hard to maintain a certain level of quality.

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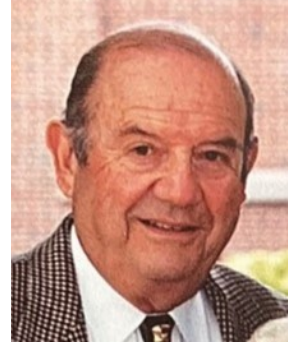
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To the outside world, we all grow old. But not to our brothers and sisters. To them we will live eternal.

Victor Kudrin, 86, of East Lyme passed away on Tuesday, August 9 after a brief illness. He was born in Odessa, Russia, the son of Arseny and Ilsa Kudrin. He emigrated to the US after World War II, and upon completion of his education joined the US Air Force and was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada where he served as a medic. He was also a swim instructor and lifeguard at the Officers Club. Victor became interested in furthering his education and enrolled at NYU School of Radiology for his certification in Xray technology. He was employed at the Rusk institute in Manhattan NY. It was there that he met "the love of his life" Themis, and declared on a daily basis she was the best thing to ever happen to him. He and Themis recently celebrated 60 years of a most happy marriage. Victor went to SUNY School of Nursing in NY State and then relocated to New London where he was accepted at the L&M School of Anesthesia and became a registered nurse anesthetist and an APRN where he remained for 38 years. There he was declared the most requested anesthetist by both patients and surgeons alike. Victor was dedicated and hard working, loved his profession, and retired at age 67. At home Victor was known as "golden hands" by his family as he could repair or build almost anything. He also enjoyed working his property, planting shrubs, bushes and trees. Victor was a member of St Sophia Hellenic Orthodox Church and AHEPA. Most importantly he was a loving, kind, gentle, a dedicated husband, father and friend to many. In addition to Themis, he is survived by his daughter Elissa Nauman and her husband Steve, grandchildren, brother-in-law John Matis, sister Natalia Patenaude, and many, many cousins.



Steve John Costas passed away on Sunday, August 28, 2022 at home. Steve was raised in Hartford and was a graduate of Buckley High School and Bryant College, Providence, RI. He served his country during the Korean Conflict, and upon completion of his education and military duty, Steve joined his father in the family business, Omar Coffee Company in Hartford. He was married and a dedicated husband to Sophia (Bacus) and together they raised three daughters in Wethersfield, CT, Pompano Beach, FL and White Sands Beach in Old Lyme, CT. Steve was devoted to family and also to St George Cathedral which he loved. He proudly served on the Parish Council as a member and as a president. He and Sophia were members of the choir for over 60 years, and he participated and chaired many events contributing time and resources to his church throughout his life. He was honored by the Patriarch of Constantinople as Archon Depoutatos of the Ecumenical Patriarchate – a distinction bestowed on a select few - and the highest honor for a lay person in the Eastern Orthodox Church representing service and leadership. Steve was also a 55 year member of the Nathan Hale #58 Order of AHEPA and originated and sponsored a charity golf tournament, The Omar Cup, which continues to support multiple charities to the present day. Omar Coffee was a success through Steve's hard work and became one of Hartford's leading coffee companies. Steve was named Purveyor of the Year by the CT Restaurant Association in 1977 and held honorary memberships and served on the boards of several civic and arts organizations. He and Sophia supported local theatres, Hartford Symphony, Goodspeed Opera House and the CT Opera. He enjoyed golf and tennis and was a member at the Wethersfield Country Club for nearly 5 decades. He was also a diehard, lifelong NY Yankees fan who never missed a game. Steve is survived by his wife Sophia, daughters, Suzanne Stamos (Chris), Joanne Lemnios, and pre-deceased by daughter Diane Bokron and brothers, Nicholas and Chris Costas. He will be deeply missed by his beloved eight grandchildren. Heartfelt sympathies are extended to Sophia, the Costas family, and his many cherished friends.



Dr. George James Paul passed away at home on August 12. He was 103 years of age. Dr. Paul was born in Clinton, Massachusetts, to his parents, the late James and Anastasia (Relias) Paul, where he graduated from Clinton High School in 1936. He was a Veteran of World War II, serving in the Army from 1941-1945 during which time his regiment invaded the Philippines on D-day, October 1944, for which they received the Presidential Citation of Honor with 4 clusters, for their heroism and bravery on the front lines of battle. In 1949 he received his diploma from Lincoln Chiropractic College in Indianapolis, Indiana. During his chiropractic career, he served as President of the CT Chiropractic Association. He practiced for 50 years, the latter in partnership with his son, Dr. George Philip Paul, retiring at the age of 81. He loved sports of all kinds and was an avid golfer and a Charter Member at Glastonbury Hills Country Club. He never had a bad day. He was an active member of St. George Cathedral in Hartford for close to 70 years, serving on the Parish Council, helping at their annual Greek Festival and was a member of the order of AHEPA. He faithfully attended church every Sunday he could, well into his 100's. Every Wednesday, he looked forward to gathering with his church family at "Seniors" where he enjoyed great fellowship together with them. He loved his neighbor as himself and as a result, he was loved by all. He was predeceased by his wife, Ann (Kaimakamis), his brothers and sisters; Danny Paul, Frank (Penny) Paul, Lena Paul, Charles (Dorothy) Paul, Helen Skrekas, Kathleen "Poppy" Paul, and his sisters and brothers-in-law; Chris and Pauline Pappas, Bill and Bess Poulivos. He leaves his children: Stacy (Ken) Kardos, Mark (Mur) Paul, George, Philip Paul (Ellen), Thalia (Tom) O'Gorman, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many generations of nieces and nephews.



Past Supreme President Anthony Kouzounis passed away on November 8, 2022. He was 86. Bro. Kouzounis, a Life Member of Alexander the Great Chapter 29, Houston, served as SP in 2013 to 2014.

During his term, AHEPA amassed hundreds of thousands of dollars for humanitarian assistance, delivering medical supplies shipments to Greece. He also oversaw the donation of food assistance for the children of Greece and Cyprus and AHEPA provided relief aid to tornado victims of the Midwest. Bro. Kouzounis led a vital AHEPA

delegation as part of an inaugural landmark Leadership Mission comprised of American Hellenic and American Jewish organizations to Israel, Cyprus, and Greece in January 2014.

Additionally, during his term, AHEPA secured funds to donate a cart for His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to use on the island of Halki. In 2019, Bro. Kouzounis and his wife, Millie, donated \$50,000 to AHEPA's "Century Capital Campaign." Bro. Kouzounis also served as chair of the AHEPA International Committee. For all his contributions to AHEPA and the Greek American community, Bro. Kouzounis received the AHEPA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022.



E. Vagos Hadjimichael, PhD

District 7 Governor, Past President Chapter 98
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Yankee News Editorial Team
and their Commitment to Excellence.



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The AHEPA Yankee District 7 Conference
 The District 7 Conference was held on Saturday, October 15th in Norwich, CT and was hosted by the Rose of New England AHEPA Chapter 110 and by the Lysandros Daughters of Penelope Chapter 181 at the Senior Housing Complex. The program started at 8:30 a.m. with a coffee hour and then a joint meeting with the Daughters of Penelope of all 3 districts in New England. In commemorating

the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Order of AHEPA in July 1922, the program for the day included a celebration of the Order's longevity and accomplishments.

The keynote speaker for the occasion was Mr. Antonis Diamataris, the publisher of the National Herald. His topic was *the Role of AHEPA in the Future of the Greek American Diaspora*. He expressed his admiration for AHEPA and its original scope as a defender of the rights of newly arrived Greek immigrants. However, he emphasized that the passage of time over ten decades demands that, now, AHEPA's role in the Greek American diaspora must attain a larger presence and influence. No other organization, fraternal, civic, or regional, has the staying power of AHEPA and its geographic breadth and organizational skills. The time has come for its leadership, given a longer term in office, to undertake long-term planning and bold projects, as, for example, full-fledged schools in this country with educational programs beyond the teaching of the Greek language. Mr. Diamataris graciously answered many questions from the audience, and was thanked profusely for taking the time to visit at Norwich and for his thoughtful views on the future of AHEPA. They all hoisted a glass of champagne to toast AHEPA's 100th anniversary, and wished continued success of AHEPA as a force for good in the Greek American diaspora.

At 10 a.m., the Ahepans went up to the 3rd floor Chapter meeting room, while the daughters stayed in the Pappas Center. At 12:00 noon a luncheon was served. After lunch both Ahepans and Daughters continued their programs into the afternoon.

We thank the president of the Norwich Chapter George Grossomanides and his team who spent several days on the preparations for this conference. We also thank both Brother Greg Simones and Sister Anna-Helene Grossomanides for supplying us with the photos.



Mr. Antonis Diamataris at the center of the photo, with participants of the conference.



DG Hadjimichael with Helene of the Year, Ioannis Apostolakis

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There are two basic ad sizes, priced below. If you are interested in an odd size, call John to discuss options.

2.5" x 2.5" : \$100 or 5" x 5" : \$200

Ad pricing is for one (1) year.

This is planned to be 3 issues each year (per the D7 Bylaws).

If we print a 4th issue, this will be complimentary!

Additionally:

- ◆ If you want to advertise your local church Greek Festival, it is a one-time 5" x 5" ad for \$100. Get it in by the deadline!
- ◆ If a Daughters of Penelope chapter solicits \$200 worth of ads, their chapter will get a year of Yankee News subscriptions for their chapter members! Save \$15/member!

AHEPA Leadership Retreats by Vagos Hadjimichael



The AHEPA Leadership Retreats were held on September 17 in Niantic and on September 24 in Orange.

With participation from ten District 7 Chapters, it was proposed that the present model of operations of individual Chapters in isolation from each other, each one in its own silo-type configuration, does not favor the health and vitality of the AHEPA community. A better model might be an inspiring alliance among the Chapters, a coalition of members with shared interests and values.



Furthermore, the challenge faced by Chapter leaders in bringing into the AHEPA community men with diverse life priorities and busy daily schedules, especially at the younger end of chronological age, was addressed. To elicit the members' interest and their willingness to be co-contributors to



the AHEPA life, suitable cues and signals should be sent out, as a matter of course, from the Chapter leadership. The quality of the message counts.



The AHEPA Stamford Chapter 99 salutes the Yankee News editorial team for their dedication, hard work and good taste.



Compliments from

AHEPA Chapter No. 418

Danielson, CT

Established 1962

District 7 Daughters of Penelope Conference

by Tina Smith, D7 Secretary, Lt Governor
 Our Daughters of Penelope District Conference was held on October 15, 2022, hosted by our Norwich, CT chapter. We were most honored to have our Grand VP, Marianthi Treppiedi. We warmly welcomed our new Grand Zone Governor, Marianne Boutsiouslis, whom you all know as D7 Past District Governor. We were glad to have representatives from Districts 7, 8 and 9 and all appreciated being back together for the first time since the pandemic began!



Conference Attendees, Members of Daughters of Penelope District 7, 8 and 9



GVP Treppiedi & D7G Marotta



GGZ1 Boutsiouslis, D8 DOP of the Year & GVP Treppiedi



Norwich #18



Htfd #198

D7 Governor Elisa Marotta shared her enlightening experience at the Supreme Convention in Disney and the feeling of sisterhood that was generated at this event. She stressed our Grand President, Georgette Boulgeris' message of "The Power of We". GG Marianne spoke of Growth and Expansion, finding ways to bring in new members such as bringing a friend to the social part of our meetings. She also suggested ways to plant "seeds" – such as seeds of knowledge, friendship, celebrating women, honoring those who have served, etc. PGP Anna-Helene Grossomanides joined us as well and spoke of DOP Foundation, and their initiatives such as the Bridges Incentive Program. More information on the DOP Foundation can be found on their website www.dopfoundationinc.com. D7 Treasurer Penny Pecka gave the D7 Scholarship Dinner report indicating that the dinner was well attended and 20 district scholarships were awarded. GVP Marianthi spoke of various philanthropic efforts which could be undertaken by our Districts, such as support for local shelters and for Penelope's Place. She reported that the DOP had an increase in membership of 1,000 members last year. She explained Growth and Expansion can be looked at as the letter 'I' to the 3rd power: Invite, Involve, Invest in members. She suggested ways to make our meetings fun (e.g. learn a new skill). She mentioned the no reinstatement fee for those reinstated in the month of November, which would cover dues for November and December at the 2022 rate. A fun Ice Breaker activity was held which gave us a chance to get to know our DOP sisters that much better.



DOP Bridgeport Chapter 41 News



Bridgeport DOP Chapter No. 41 recently had the privilege of a visitation by the DOP Grand Governor of Zone 1 Marianne Boutsiouslis and District 7 Governor Elisa Marotta. On October 19, 2022, GG Boutsiouslis and D7G Marotta presided over the Installation of Officers. The newly sworn in officers (pictured, left to right) are Sentinel Pauline Halkias, Treasurer Katina Zachariadis, Vice President Alexis Koulouris, and President Theodora Fatibene. We wish them all a great term!



Daughters of Penelope District Governor Leadership Seminar

Submitted by Elisa Marotta
 These pictures are from the DOP District Governors Leadership Seminar held in Washington D.C. on September 10. From D7 were PDG Anna-Helene Grossomanides, D7G Elisa Marotta and Grand Governor Zone 1 Marianne Boutsiouslis.



We had a great time, learned a ton and brought that knowledge and experience to share with the women of Yankee District 7.



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

District Governor - Elisa Marotta
 Lt. Governor - Christina Smith
 Treasurer - Penny Pecka, PDG
 Marshal - Stamo Dimitratos

District Advisor - Anna-Helene Grossomanides, PDG
 Grand Governor, Zone 1 - Marianne Boutsiouslis, PDG

*Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy,
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 Family and Individual Excellence*

COMPLIMENTS FROM



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

The Greek OXI Day of October 28th, 1940 by Yiannis Apostolakis, D7 Hellenic Affairs Chairman

The days before October 1940 were very difficult for Europe. European countries, including Austria, Poland, France, Belgium and others were under German control. Only England was still free and some of the Balkan countries, including Greece and Serbia. Italian dictator Mussolini wanted to use Greece as an opportunity to show Hitler a quick victory. On August 15th, the day Orthodox Christians celebrate the Dormition of the Holy Mother, the Italians secretly sent a submarine to torpedo a Greek warship at the island of Tinos. Many sailors died with this cowardly act and, at that time, all Greeks knew that war was inevitable. The Greek government had tried everything possible to avoid going to war but this was about to change. On the night of October 28, the Italian ambassador went to the home of Prime Minister Metaxa, woke him up and asked for permission for Italian forces to enter Greece. He immediately refused, and with him the Hellenic people answered "OXI" (meaning NO). The war started around 5:30 a.m. The sirens wailed, the enemy planes flew, and the Italian army, invading through Albania, was on Greek land. Greece had just entered World War II.

Most of the fight was in Epirus, at the mountainous terrain of Pindus. The days that followed, fierce battles along the mountain range broke out. What might have seemed to Mussolini as an easy operation soon turned out to be a nightmare. Soon Greece counter-attacked and forced the Italian army back deep into Albania. Many Greek towns of Albania such as Argyrokastró, Premeti, Aghii Saranta, Korytsa were liberated. It was a very harsh winter, and Greek soldiers had to fight cold and hunger as well as the Italian army. These events led Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of England, to say that "The world will no longer say that Greeks fight as heroes, but heroes fight as Greeks".

Adolf Hitler was unwilling to allow Italy, his major ally, to be humiliated and he prepared to attack Greece, Britain's last European ally. Germans attacked Yugoslavia and Greece on April 6, 1941. Resistance in Yugoslavia quickly collapsed. The Greek armies, reinforced by British, Australian and New Zealand forces, did not last much longer. Germans entered Greece and German soldiers raised the swastika over the famous Acropolis in Athens on April 27, 1941. The fight continued on the island of Crete. When Crete fell to German hands, despite the heroic fight of its people, the Greek government and whatever was left of the Army moved to Egypt, joining the allies in fighting against the Germans and Italians. People in Greece suffered through a very cruel occupation. Many of them joined the resistance in fighting. Hundreds of thousands of Greeks died from starvation or imprisonment and executions for fighting against the Germans. This never took away their hope for freedom and in October of 1944 Greece was free again!

So, why is OXI DAY so important today?

Today we celebrate the 28th of October 1940 to give honor and respect to the people who were the first to give us the hope of victory in World War II. Their epic achievements are an everlasting example of sacrifice and pride for us, their descendants. We should also always have in our hearts the Greeks of Albania who, even today under very challenging conditions, struggle to maintain their Greek heritage and culture as well as their Orthodox faith. Let's pay our respects and honor those who fought and gave everything, including their own lives, for freedom. Today we are living through very challenging times. What the Greeks of 1940 proved to us is that simple people, driven by faith, love of country, dignity and heroism fought not only the Italians but also the winter, the lack of food and clothing and yet they marched! The women of Epirus carried not only their babies but also ammunition in the front lines. They chose to make a stand and honored their decision with their blood! Today Greece and Cyprus are facing a real threat from Turkey, where its political leadership threatens to take over the Greek islands of the Aegean, and come during the night to do exactly what they did in Asia Minor in 1922, in Cyprus in 1974, as well as in Syria, Iraq, Libya!

So, what is the difference between fun and joy? At our Fall Conference, we had the honor of listening to Mr. Diamataris who praised AHEPA's history and at the same time gave us a direction – to turn to our Greek heritage, support Greece and become a true grass root organization. We all listened to his remarks! We also heard remarks about building AHEPA on having fun, not the "boring" stuff. Brothers and Sisters of District 7, there is a fundamental difference between fun and joy! Fun is short lived. No matter what we do, it is not built on ideas and values and it is quite random in nature. Joy comes with values. It springs from being true to your heritage, it is long lasting and at the end of the day cannot be replaced by anything else. Have we not lived too long on the guts and glory of our fathers and mothers?

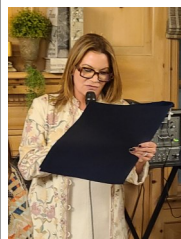
The task at hand! Let's find out what kind of AHEPA Brothers and Sisters we want to be! Let's plot our course - not with the rusted approaches of the 60s and 70s - but rather turning our D7 AHEPA into a true grass roots organization where not only philanthropy and education are the focus, but also reuniting our communities and especially the youth with the realities in Eastern Mediterranean, Greece and Cyprus and making them Defenders of Hellenism as those Greeks who fought in the mountains in 1940! We truly owe our youth at least that much.



OXI Day Celebrated by Vagos Hadjimichael

AHEPA District 7 and the Hellenic Bar Association of Connecticut (HBA) partnered in staging a dinner and celebration on October 28, 2022, with a two-fold theme, to pay homage to the 82nd anniversary of the OXI Day of October 28, 1940, and to honor Themis Klarides, former Connecticut State Representative, with the first OXI award, for her long and distinguished career in public service.

The celebration was held in the Lightle Center banquet room of St Barbara Church in Orange, Connecticut, and was attended, by a capacity audience of Ahepans and members of the community at large, primarily from the civil service sector. Musical entertainment was provided by Peter Halepas and his orchestra. Stephanie Halepas led the Greek National Anthem, then the evening started with an opening prayer by Fr Peter Orfanakos, pastor at Saint Barbara, followed by introductions by Gregory Stamos who is both an Ahepan and President of HBA. Vagos Hadjimichael, D7 Governor, sketched out the Hellenic character of AHEPA, its affinity to Hellenic culture and history, and its heart-felt obligation to pay homage, annually, to OXI Day on October 28, a date that reflects a heroic moment in Greek history. What put OXI in the history books, Hadjimichael said, was not just the defeat of the Italian invading force, but also the price that Greece paid during 1941-1944 for resisting the invasion from the Axis forces. Atty Nicholas Paindiris, a member of HBA, extolled the character and integrity of Themis Klaridis' public service in the Connecticut Legislature where she served for more than twenty years. Performing her duties in the contentious environment of the Legislature, she said NO to positions that she judged to be counter to public interest. Themis, also a member of the HBA, responded with mention of her Hellenic roots, warm memories of her Greek immigrant grandparents, and warm thanks for the OXI Award honor bestowed upon her.



Vagos Hadjimichael, Greg Stamos, Themis Klarides and Nick Paindiris.



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Greetings to all the D7 Chapters and best wishes for continued success

- E. Vagos Hadjimichael – Governor
- John Fakis – Lt. Governor
- Gregory C. Simones, PDG – Secretary
- Alex Boutsoulis, PDG – Treasurer
- Dean Panayotakis – Marshal
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**Chapter 58 News, Hartford
Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner**

Submitted by Mike Bonatsakis, President; Pictures by Paul Vardoulakis



The Hartford AHEPA Family, Thoas Chapter 198 and Nathan Hale Chapter 58 held a Thanksgiving Dinner for its membership on November 1, 2022 in its lodge room. Presidents Bonatsakis and Tougas welcomed the attendees and Fr. George Zugravu offered a fitting prayer for Thanksgiving. Over 55 Brothers and Sisters attended the function.



The catering was purchased from Elaine's Restaurant, and Brother Dino Karabetsos designed the menu to fit the occasion. Delicious turkey, stuffing and all the extras including dessert was served. The Sisters decorated the lodge room to fit the occasion of Thanksgiving.

We thank the Strategy Committee who spent a number of

months preparing: John Melonopoulos, Mike Bonatsakis, Paul Vardoulakis, Costas Loukellis, Maria Tougas and Tina Smith. Back ground music was available for the event. A thank you also goes out to the prep, serving and cleanup committee.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



DOP Thoas Chapter 198 News, Hartford

Submitted by Elaine Melonopoulos

The AHEPA #58 and DOP Thoas #198 of Hartford have been revitalized! The dynamic leadership of both organizations are enthusiastic and deserve our thanks and respect for doing a wonderful job, making us all proud to be members of this special organization. Together we are actively planning philanthropic and fun events to look forward to for the future.



The Fall months have been filled with activity – September, October and November have welcomed new Daughters and reinstatements into our order. We were represented at the Fall Conference in Norwich on Oct. 15 by D7 Governor Elisa Marotta, Chapter

President Maria Tougas, D7 VP Tina Smith, Secretary Helene Moran, PDG., and members Marie Klementon and Stephanie Zapatka.

On Tuesday, November 1, DOP #198 and AHEPA #58 enjoyed a delicious family turkey dinner held at the Nathan Hale Center. A fun and friendly atmosphere of fellowship prevailed and a 50/50 raffle was a highlight of the evening.



I to r, South Park volunteer, DG Elisa Marotta, Kevin Ward, Marie Klementon, & Elena Argintaru

Thursday, November 3, as part of our Hartford AHEPA Chapter's ongoing "Give Back" Project, members of our chapter and AHEPA volunteered to serve dinners to the homeless of the area at Hartford's South Park Inn. Those who have been helping to serve have noted that it was a both a rewarding and heartfelt project, with many comments of thanks by those in the community being served.



Stephanie Zapatka

To celebrate Daughters of Penelope Founders Day on November 13, we offered an *Artoklasia* in Church for the wellbeing of our membership, sponsored the coffee hour, and offered membership information for anyone interested in joining. We also launched our magnificent Gift Baskets fundraising raffle sale following Divine Liturgy in the social hall. We thank our membership and friends who volunteered for this project, creating ten imaginative and outstanding baskets for this raffle. Special thanks to Stephanie Zapatka for coordinating and Joanne Lemnios for her special help! Anyone out there in the District wishing to support and purchase tickets, please contact Stephanie at (860) 214-3454. *Imagine winning one of these for a great Christmas gift...for a loved one or even yourself!*

In December many of our membership look forward to starting off our holidays together with our brothers and sisters of Elpis #117 and Eretria #138, New Britain, for an evening of delicious fare, live music and dancing under twinkling lights at their beautiful and festively decorated hall for their annual Christmas Dinner Dance.

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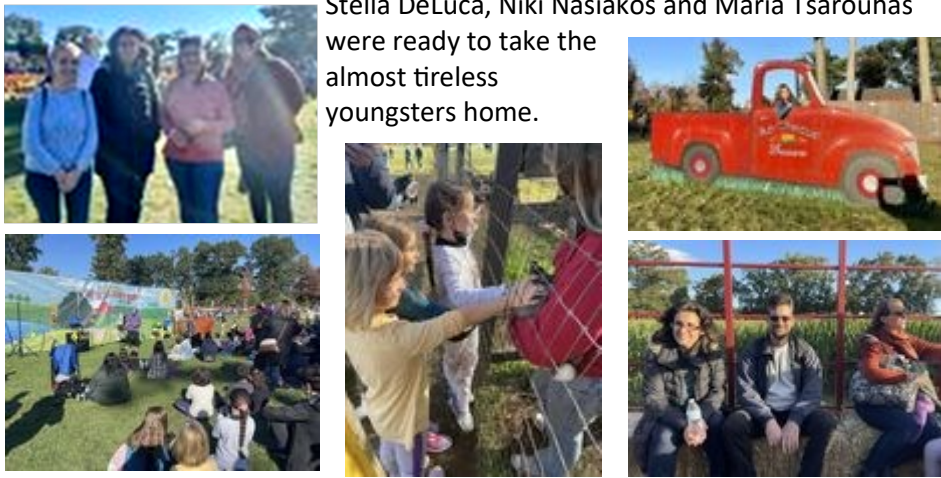
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Chapter 117 News, New Britain Submitted by Andy Aros

During the recent summer, Past President Pericles Moustakakis led a phalanx of AHEPANS as they worked to improve the St. George building complex. This included replacing the floor in Archimandrite Spyridon's and the secretary's office, and improving the shrubs and flower beds, around the exterior of the church. New Britain AHEPA began the 2022-23 year with a dinner meeting. After the regular business meeting, President and Scholarship Chairman Thomas Morikis met with the scholarship Committee. He presided over the division of \$25,000 for scholarships. A dozen worthy recipients ranged from first year undergraduates to a Doctorial candidate. The scholarships will be presented to the students at our chapter's annual Christmas Party.

AHEPA also sponsored the Greek School, Sunday School and altar boy's autumn gathering at Fair Weather Growers Farm, in Cromwell. In addition to hay rides and a corn maze (A "maize maze"?), activities included a grain corn pit, a scarecrow walk, a "funny farm" comedian and a pumpkin patch. Some of the youngest students enjoyed the petting zoo and the various rides available to them. By evening, the chairpersons Vera Metzner,

Stella DeLuca, Niki Nasiakos and Maria Tsarouhas were ready to take the almost tireless youngsters home.



Chapter 121 News, Pawtucket Submitted by Yiannis Apostolakis
AHEPA Seminars for our Pawtucket Community

We are excited to announce that the Parish Council has given our AHEPA Chapter the approval to present our community seminar series for the benefit of our community members. Our seminars will be presented during coffee hours on Sundays after Liturgy, and everyone is invited to attend. We will be announcing our seminars ahead of time so people can attend if the subject is to their interests. We will be covering topics such as:

- ◆ Protecting yourself against scams and identity theft schemes,
- ◆ Financial planning for retirement,
- ◆ Financial planning for educating your children,
- ◆ Historical topics of interest to our heritage,
- ◆ Hellenic Affairs & Geopolitical analysis,
- ◆ Health related topics

Our AHEPA seminars are free of charge in the interest of helping our community and for making coffee hours more exciting and beneficial!

AHEPA Pawtucket Chapter Remembers the Asia Minor Disaster (1922-2022)

On Sunday, October 9, the chapter organized an online event with Evangelos Syrigos, Deputy Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, and Associate Professor of International Law & Foreign Policy at Panteion University, Athens. He also happens to be a well-known geopolitical analyst with huge experience in Greek-Turkish relations. At a moment where Greece's and Cyprus' sovereignty are threatened by Turkey on a daily, if not on an hourly basis, we thought it would be a great opportunity to understand our past. Over 500,000 Greeks of Asia Minor and Pontos were subjected to genocide by Turks. We need motivation to understand what we need to do as Greeks, Greek Americans and Philhellenes. We thank Bro. Vasilios Chrysanthopoulos for organizing the event and Bro. Nick Bitsakis for his technical support. It was a great honor indeed for our community and our chapter to have a government official from Greece address our community (first time ever!). We also thank Fr Philip and Parish Council President George Foussekis for greeting Prof. Syrigos, our honored guest. The online ZOOM link was also made available to our D7 Lodge for distribution.

Clothes, Dry Food and Dental Supplies from Assumption (CASA)

Our chapter has started the annual CASA (Clothes and Supplies from Assumption Church) effort! We are asking our parishioners to donate their used clothing for men, women, and children. In addition, we are collecting dry food items such as pasta, rice, beans etc. We are also collecting dental supplies like toothpaste, toothbrushes, and dental floss. Our drive is to help people in need this winter. We will donate boxes to homeless shelters in our Pawtucket area. And the boxes are marked with our AHEPA Pawtucket Chapter logo!



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Gregory C. Simones, PDG

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Initiation of Pantelis Kehayes (center of picture).

Winthrop Chapter 250 News

Submitted by John Fakis

It has been a very active summer for Winthrop Chapter 250 of New London. On June 20 we initiated a new member into the chapter, Pantelis Keyahias who lives in Chester, CT. The ceremony was preceded by a delicious dinner of chili and salad prepared by our master chefs, Brothers Jimmy Maistros, George Mitchell, and Joe Josephides. We are proud to have initiated Pantelis and we wish him success in helping to strengthen our chapter.



New London Housing Foundation Awards

On July 11 the chapter held an AHEPA New London Housing Foundation awards ceremony. \$20,000 in grants was offered to 17 charitable organizations in the New London community. The grants included scholarships to young deserving seniors of 13 local high

schools. Grants were also provided to Yankee News and AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors. Winthrop 250 has provided over \$270,000 in AHEPA housing foundation grants to local charitable organizations and high schools since 1998. This year we had 9 organizations in attendance for the event and received great feedback on what the organizations provide and appreciation of receiving the grant. There were approximately 35 AHEPA members, spouses, and friends that attended. There was delicious food, great camaraderie, and a good time was had by all.

On July 25 the chapter honored this year's scholarship recipients. A total of \$5000 was given to five deserving seniors that are graduating from high school and are continuing their college education. Scholarships were awarded to Elias Orphanides, grandson of Brother Demetrios Orphanides and his wife Lana, Abigail Manthous, granddaughter of Brother Aristides Manthous and his wife Eve, and Addie Donalson, Keira Quinn, and Meghan Wycke, granddaughters of Brother George Perinis and his wife Heather. Elias will be attending Ithaca College where he will be majoring in Music Education, Abigail will be attending the University of Connecticut where she will be majoring in Biology and will play collegiate soccer, Addie will be attending the University of Virginia's nursing program in the fall and has committed to play Division 2 college lacrosse, Keira will be attending the University of Kentucky where she will begin her studies in Physical Therapy towards her goal as a DPT, and Meghan will be attending Ohio University where she will be majoring in Special Education. Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients and good luck on their future endeavors. The scholarship committee consisted of Brothers John Fakis, Demetrius Tasoulas, Greg Simones, and Peter Galetsa. Winthrop Chapter 250 has been providing scholarships to deserving high school graduates for over 32 years and has given out approximately \$130,000 during that time.

On September 19 the chapter held its 4th annual lobster bake dinner at the Niantic Yacht Club. The affair was held outside under a tent and was attended by 44 members including their spouses and family. We also had the great honor of having District Governor Evangelos Hadjimichael attend along with his wife Olympia and daughter Despina. The dinner consisted of lobster, steamers, corn, potatoes, and salad. There was great camaraderie, a beautiful scenic view of Niantic Bay, and everyone had a great time.

AHEPA-Sponsored Firefighters Visit New York

A group of Greek volunteer firefighters is visiting New York, following the completion of a fire training expedition. The sixteen Greek firefighters were in South Kingstown, RI, from Saturday, October 29th until November 5th, 2022, in order to participate in structure fire and rescue training at the Union Fire District of South Kingstown's (UFD) Training facility. This is the fourth training



expedition, organized by the Hellenic Volunteer Firefighters Association (HVFA). Volunteer Firefighters from the HVFA first came for training at the Union Fire District in 2011 to learn new techniques in structure firefighting and rescue so that they could share their experiences and new knowledge with their colleagues at their fire stations in Greece. This successful cooperation was followed by two more training expeditions in 2013 and in 2017, all of which had been sponsored by AHEPA.

The firefighters of the IV Fire Training Expedition, three female and thirteen male, come from Athens, Crete, Hydra and Kos. The training was completed with a Graduation & Closing Ceremony at the UFD Training Facility on Saturday November 5th, 2022, with the presence of the Consul General of Greece in Boston Symeon Tegos, Past AHEPA Supreme President Dr John Grossomanides and PGP of Daughters of Penelope Anna-Helene Grossomanides.

The group of firefighters will remain in New York until Thursday 10th November, 2022, and, during their stay, they will be visiting NYC Fire Stations, the Fire Museum and the FDNY Academy, as well as the local NY AHEPA chapter.



Norwich Chapter 110 News

Congratulations to Brother John Louziotis (Life Member) on his granddaughter Alexis Michon's many awards this year. Alexis was selected to the All-American Team, Division 3 National Pitcher of the Year Award and the Ct. Female Athlete of the Year Award. Alexis is a Junior at ECSU, Willimantic and led her team to the College World Series with a 24-1 record, a 107 ERA & 204 strikeout record. *Bravo Alexis!*



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all a successful
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