

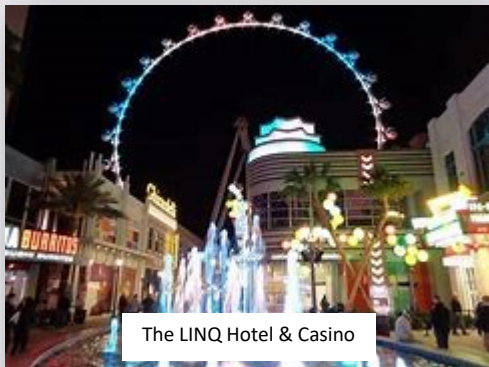
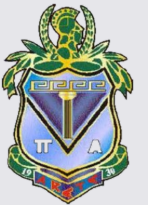


Yankee News



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

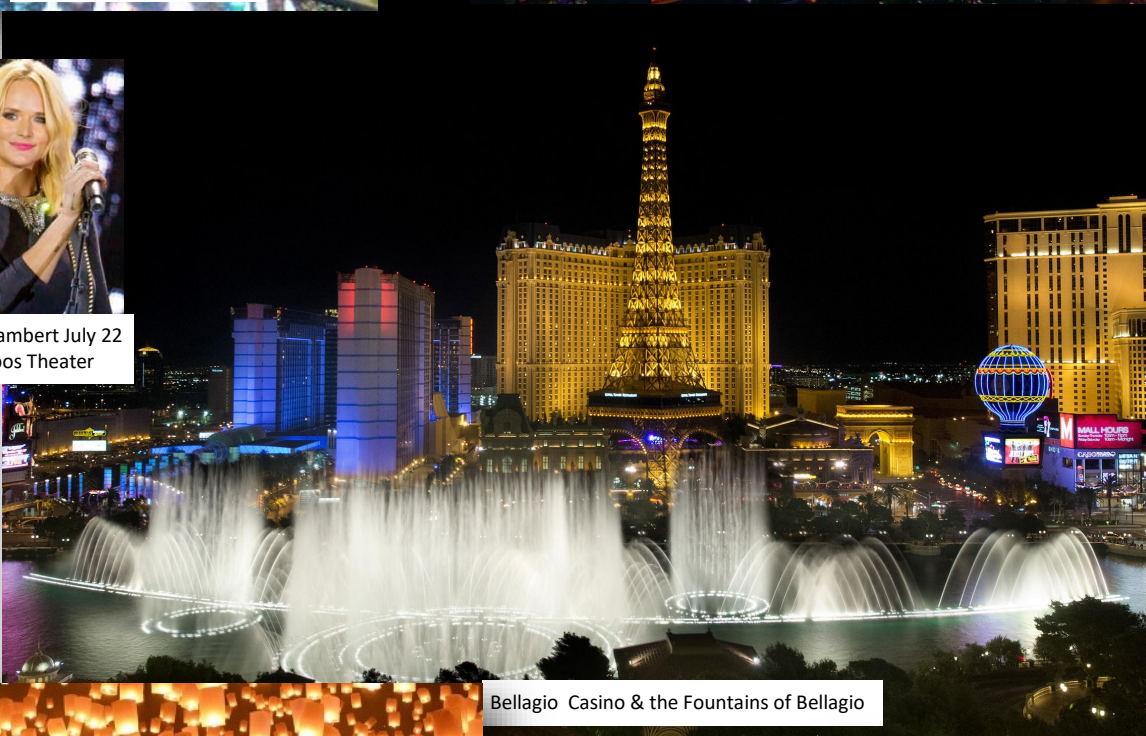
May 2023



The LINQ Hotel & Casino



Michelle Lambert July 22
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Bellagio Casino & the Fountains of Bellagio



The Las Vegas Eiffel Tower @ Paris



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National Geographic Photographs of the Extraordinary



Arcade at Horseshoe Resort



Bellagio Conservatory & Botanical Gardens

THE AHEPA FAMILY DISTRICT 7 CONVENTION

Newport, Rhode Island - MAY 6, 2023 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wyndham Newport Hotel, 240 Aquidneck Ave, Middletown, RI

Deadline for registration forms: April 25, 2023. See Alex Boutsioulis.
Walk up registration (day of Convention) will be an additional \$15.

Delegate/Alternate:

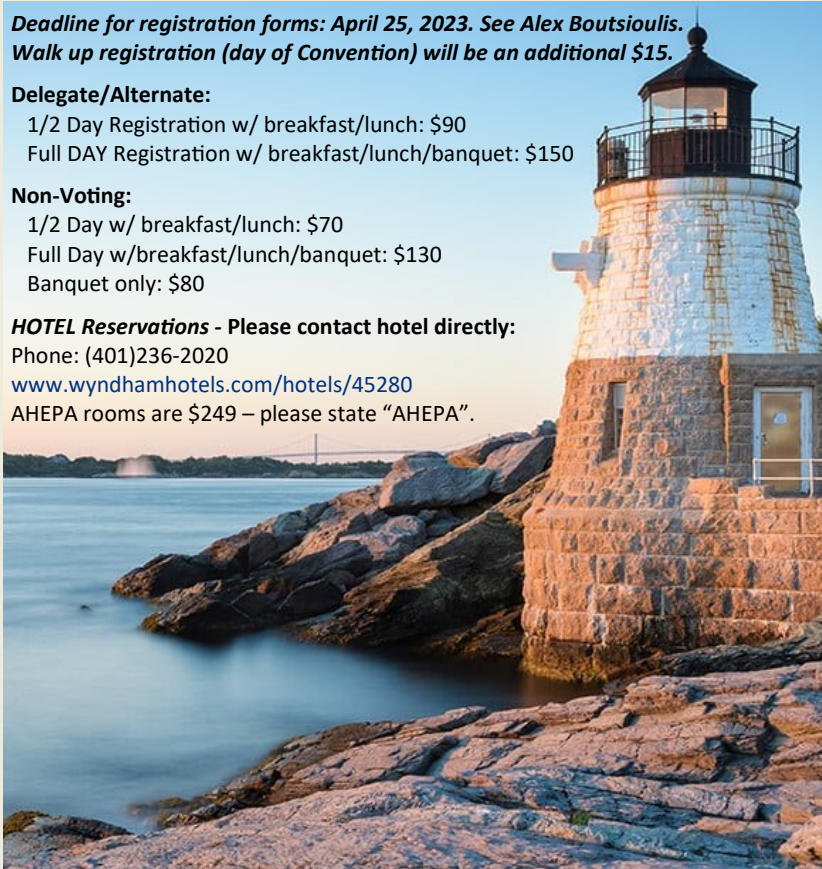
1/2 Day Registration w/ breakfast/lunch: \$90
Full DAY Registration w/ breakfast/lunch/banquet: \$150

Non-Voting:

1/2 Day w/ breakfast/lunch: \$70
Full Day w/breakfast/lunch/banquet: \$130
Banquet only: \$80

HOTEL Reservations - Please contact hotel directly:

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www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/45280
AHEPA rooms are \$249 – please state "AHEPA".



PROGRAM	
8:00 – 9:00 am	Breakfast and Registration (<i>Sunset Room</i>)
9:00 – 10:00 am	Convention Opening & Invocation Pledge and Anthems Welcome and Introduction of Guests Remarks Region 4 Supreme Governor Grand Zone 1 Governor
10:00 am – 12 noon	District Meetings AHEPA (<i>John Clarke Room</i>) DOP (<i>Mariner Room</i>)
12 noon – 12:45 pm	Convention Photo and Luncheon (<i>Sunset Room, Combined, AHEPA & DOP</i>)
12:45 – 1:00 pm	Yankee News Video Presentation
1:00 – 1:30 pm	Salute to Hellenism Making the Parthenon Whole, Cultural phase (<i>Dr. Katherine Schwab</i>)
1:30 – 2:00 pm	District 7 Scholarship Foundation
2:00 – 3:00 pm	District Meetings Resume Election of New District Lodge Officers (<i>nominations from the floor</i>)
3:00 – 5:00 pm	AHEPA and DOP (<i>John Clarke Room</i>) Swearing in of new Lodge Officers Lodge Photos AHEPA Awards Daughters of Penelope Awards
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Social Hour, Cocktails
6:00 – 8:00 pm	Banquet (<i>Mariner Room</i>) Dinner speaker, <i>Ilias Tomazos</i>



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE SUPREME PRESIDENT OF AHEPA
*Read the entire Yankee News exclusive interview with
Supreme President of AHEPA, Jimmy Kokotas, on page 3 of this issue.*



A MESSAGE FROM THE AHEPA D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Brothers of Yankee District 7, Greetings.

I am writing this message in March, a month shared by winter and spring alike. By the time you read this in the May issue of the Yankee News, the period of Lent and the celebration of Easter will have come and gone, and Spring 2023 will have fully changed the colors of nature. May we all be in good fit to enjoy the delights of the season. Summertime is on the way.

Activity in District 7 Chapters has also picked up. Several initiations of new brothers into our Fraternal Order have already taken place this year. My hope is that new initiates throughout the brotherhood are given the opportunity for a thorough orientation into the Order of AHEPA and an understanding of its nature as a cauldron of fellowship and lifelong friendships. One's personal relations with God, with others, and with oneself, are what life is all about. The quality of personal relations is reflected in the quality of one's daily life. A defect in any one of the three will blemish the other two. AHEPA's milieu is meant to offer opportunities for quality personal relations. But there is more. AHEPA serves as "a school of Hellenism" for its members, new and old. In sum, the benefits from one's immersion into the AHEPA environment may surpass all one could have imagined.

By the beginning of summer, as AHEPA Bylaws dictate, D7 chapters will elect their leaders for 2023-2024. Leadership is, of course, the source of inspiration that promotes good long-term planning and management. It further shapes the chapter's profile by conferring responsibility on individual brothers, or teams of brothers, to assist with the chapter's activities. Fortunate are those chapters which have ample human assets to select "the right person for the right job", an important prerequisite for success. Skills and attitude matter when it comes to competent execution of specific tasks. Fortunate also are all brothers who have found their niche inside the AHEPA infrastructure. Their reward will be great.

At the national level, the AHEPA leadership has been projecting robustly the name and image of AHEPA in this country and abroad. The Winter 2022 issue of Ahepan illustrates the whirlwind of activities of the Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas at the four corners of the AHEPA world in this country and abroad in France and in Athens and Crete, Greece. The year 2022 being the 100th anniversary of the founding of Ahepa added impetus to celebrations commemorating the birthing of our Order.

Brother Kokotas visited D7 in early March. On March 3, he first stopped at the Connecticut Capitol where Connecticut State Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and State Representatives Nicole Karides-Ditria presented him with a proclamation that commemorates AHEPA's 100 years of service, signed by Bysiewicz and CT Governor Ned Lamont. He then was given a tour of the PAIDEIA facilities on the campus of the University of Connecticut by Ilias Tomazos, Director of PAIDEIA. He closed the day at a reception and dinner in New Haven, hosted by the District 7 Lodge. In attendance were several past District Governors, past Supreme President John Grossomanides, past Supreme Governor, District 4, Jack Isaac, and past Supreme Counselor Greg Stamos. It was an opportunity to interact with Brother Kokotas, at close quarters, regarding the affairs of AHEPA and the vision for its future.

At present, the District Lodge has been busy with the organization of the District Convention on May 6, 2023, in Newport RI. This event, always shared with the Daughters of Penelope, provides an opportunity to our members to review the state of D7, honor Ahepans who have demonstrated excellence as Hellenes and Ahepans, and strengthen the alliance among the D7 Chapters.

In closing, I would like to mention and promote again the D7 Yankee News, and the D7 website, ahepadistrict7.org, as the primary nodes in district communication lines. The benefits from consistent use of these media by D7 chapters cannot be overstated.

Sincere wishes to all for many blessings in the months ahead.

E. Vagos Hadjimichael



A MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Sisters,

March 18th was the "Power of WE (women's empowerment)" Zone 1 (Districts from Maine to North Carolina) Sisterhood Conference in Waterbury, CT. Approximately 100 members attended the conference. It provided a wonderful opportunity to hear from the Grand Lodge and share ideas about how to build our organization and strengthen it for future generations.

I had the opportunity to present one of the round table focus topics on Understanding and Engaging a Multi-Generational organization towards growth and productivity. During the round table, we explored ways to capitalize on each generation's unique strengths and focus on building technology to attract and retain younger members. The discussions were lively and I would encourage each chapter to identify ways to build participation and reach out to a wider audience who may be interested in joining, such as posting on bulletin boards at coffee shops and using social media to hold cooking lessons.

I'd like to thank the sisters of the Deucalion Chapter #199 in Waterbury who hosted the Zone 1 conference. It seemed like there was a professional caterer, because they flawlessly handled every aspect of the conference weekend, starting with setting up the venue, through Saturday's breakfast, luncheon and cleanup! Amazing work from a dedicated group! The night before the conference, Grand Governor Zone 1, Marianne Boutsoulis, hosted out-of-town guests and local participants at her home for a dinner that was not short on food. It was a wonderful opportunity to eat, drink and network.

I had the pleasure of doing the following district visitations:
Dec. 4, 2022 – Priam Chapter #76 Meriden & Eretria #138 New Britain
March 5, 2023 – Asteria Chapter #368 Danielson
March 7, 2023 – Thoas Chapter #198 Hartford
March 21, 2023 – Deucalion Chapter #199 Waterbury
These visitations are a great way to share information with local chapters about the broader Daughters objectives and administration changes. Additionally, they provide a great opportunity to know the wonderful sisters who make our organization great.

Additionally, as election season approaches, I want to encourage members to identify candidates that might be a good fit for a district role. If we want to continue to build a robust organization that will survive and thrive after we leave our roles, it is imperative that we build a talent pipeline and move members through the chapter, district and (with fingers crossed) national levels.

Enjoy each opportunity of Sisterhood:

May 6, 2023—D7 AHEPA/DOP Spring Convention

Wyndham Newport Hotel, Newport, Rhode Island

June 25, 2023—D7 AHEPA/DOP Scholarship Dinner

Holy Trinity, Waterbury, Connecticut

Week of July 23, 2023—AHEPA Family Supreme Convention

Las Vegas, Nevada

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Dr. John Grossomanides ~ Treasurer PSP
George P. Ververis, Jr. ~ Secretary



EDITOR'S NOTES by Jack Isaac

On March 3rd, 2023, Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas made a visitation to District 7. He started his day with a visit to Paideia at the University of Connecticut, where he was given a tour of the facilities. While there, he met with Prof. Ilias Tomazos, Director of Hellenic Studies at UCONN, and engaged in discussions about the role of the complex at Storrs.

That evening D7 hosted the Supreme President at a dinner at Tre Scalini's Restaurant in New Haven CT. In attendance were most of the leadership of the district, including PSP Dr. John Grossomanides, PSC Gregory Stamos, PSG Jack Isaac, PSS George Scarvelles, D7 Governor Vagos Hadjimichael and members of his District Lodge. Several PSG's were in attendance as well as Prof. Ilias Tomazos.

In a wide-ranging discussion, the Supreme President presented the current state of the Order of AHEPA, and opened the floor for questions. All present agreed that this was a highly productive meeting where we all shared our thoughts about the future of AHEPA. We ended the evening by thanking Bro. Kokotas for coming to D7 and thanked him for his long service to our beloved Fraternal Order. He and I agreed that we would find time in his frenetic schedule to sit down for an exclusive interview for the Yankee News. That interview is included here.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW with AHEPA Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas



Editor: When and why did you first become an Ahepan?

Supreme President Kokotas: I had been involved with the Sons of Pericles at various levels of participation for quite some time. An older friend of my family had asked many times for me to join the Order of AHEPA, but it never seemed to be the right time. It so happened that a former Greek School teacher whom I respected very much became quite ill. I went to visit him and we discussed my joining. . I made him a promise that when he recovered I would become a member. He did, and I kept my promise to him. I was about 30 years old at the time and have been a member ever since.

Ed: You've been on countless visitations of chapters throughout the AHEPA domain. What are some of the similar characterizations of the more successful chapters?

SP: I think the most successful chapters are those who engage in outreach in their communities and provide opportunities for the community to get to hear the story of AHEPA. I'm thinking of a chapter in Michigan that arranged for milk to be delivered to children in their community where lead had leached from its pipes. It was found that milk alleviated the symptoms. I can

tell you countless stories of Ahepans helping their communities in times of need. On a social level, a chapter recently hosted a cigar night which was attended by 350 people, most of which were not Ahepans. What a great opportunity to bring non-Greeks into our organization.

Successful chapters make it a point to regularly schedule fun activities to keep their members interested. You don't always have to have a formal business meeting. Have a dinner meeting once in a while, watch sports events, and bring in speakers. This will help retain your membership and will attract new members. Constant two hour formal business meetings tend to be counter-productive.

Ed: What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of the Order of AHEPA?

SP: One great strength is the dedication of our members to AHEPA and its goals. Many of our members have served the Order for decades. They truly love and appreciate the vital role we play all around the world. AHEPA is respected in all corners of the world and our brand has never been stronger.

People today have so many options as to how to spend their time. Too much time, in my opinion, is spent on social media rather than participating in community services and our Church. Ahepan brothers react quickly to disasters around the world, whether man-made or natural. We are an organization with a big heart and this is without question one of our biggest strengths. We generously give of our time, treasure and talents to help our fellow man.

Ed: How has the position of Supreme President changed Jimmy Kokotas?

SP: First of all I've had the great honor to represent the thousands of brothers all around the world. It has been a great opportunity to meet and confer with important world political and religious leaders from many different countries. This has been a tremendous educational experience and a once in a lifetime opportunity.

It has given me the chance to honor our ancestors who served the Order of AHEPA so faithfully. On a personal note, I wish my father could have lived to see me experience the Supreme Presidency of his beloved organization. I truly believe he is watching what is happening and feeling the pride of a father. I also wish my daughter were a little older so she could understand the enormity of my present role in AHEPA.

Ed: Every President of the United States since Ronald Reagan has left a private note to his successor in the famous "Resolute Desk" in the Oval Office.

What would Supreme President Kokotas' note say to the man who will succeed you?

SP: I would tell him to remember how privileged he should feel to attain the leadership of the greatest Greek-American organization in existence. I would say to always try to do what's right for AHEPA. He should make every attempt to boost people's morale and sense of esteem. He should set the tone for others by being positive and humble. Above all he should enjoy the opportunity to serve and have fun in the journey.

Ed: When you complete your tenure as Supreme President, what things would you like to do for the Order of AHEPA?

SP: I haven't really had time to think about that, but one thing is to spend more time with my home chapter. I'm looking forward to that. I'd like to spend time motivating and mentoring the members of the Sons of Pericles, something I have done for many years. I'd also like to work to bring the many different Greek-American organizations together to work towards our mutual goals.

I think it would be a good thing for all past Supreme Presidents to continue to advise future leaders, whether by serving on the Board of Trustees or in any other capacity. Their knowledge and experience are invaluable.

Ed: Thank you Brother Supreme President for all you've done for the Order of AHEPA and for taking the time to let everyone get to know you a little better.

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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.



Gregory C. Ladas, 88, beloved husband of Helen Ladas, passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on Thursday, November 24, 2022. Gregory was born January 12, 1934, in South Hadley, MA, to the late Charles and Helen Ladas. After his father's passing, he was raised on their family farm by his mother and stepfather, Charles Couvas and godfather Bill Dellis. Gregory proudly served in the U.S. Air Force from 1953-1957 as an aircraft mechanic. After serving in the military, he moved to Meriden and began working for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in North Haven, CT. Gregory retired from Pratt & Whitney in 1987. In his free time, he enjoyed drawing, painting, playing the piano and accordion, gardening, playing cards with friends, but most of all, spending time with his family. He was a parishioner of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in New Britain and a long-time member of the Meriden Chapter of AHEPA.

Besides his wife Helen, Gregory leaves behind three loving children and their spouses, William (Kathy) Ladas, Michael (Linda) Ladas and Peter (Barbara) Ladas of Berlin; seven beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

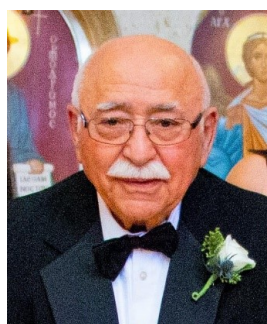


Constantine "Gus" Andreopoulos was born December 20, 1930. He married his beloved wife Tina in 1956 and they lived together in Forest Hills, NY before retiring to Niantic, CT where he talked to every single person who crossed his path, whether it be on his weekly trips to Walmart or on his frequent strolls on the boardwalk.

Gus graduated from George Washington High School in NYC, and after his first semester at the University of Connecticut, he was drafted into the Coast Guard at the end of World War II. Gus served his country proudly from 1948-'52. Following military service he married the love of his life before taking over the family flower business. He owned Anderson Florist for nearly 50 years. He was a pillar of the community, known and loved in Forest Hills for his infectious sense of humor and incredible jokes.

Gus was an exceptional golfer, familiar with nearly every golf course on the eastern seaboard. He could paint a detailed picture of how to get to each one, and what the greens were like. Gus was truly the best among us. He was a generous, caring, and light-hearted soul. He made every room brighter and enjoyed his life to the fullest. He always said there would be skid marks when he left this world and he was right. He has left an indelible mark on all who knew him.

Gus is survived by his 3 children, Spero (Demetra), Stephen (Liza), and Evelyn (Douglas), and 8 grandchildren. Gus passed surrounded by his loved ones on January 23, 2023, at the age of 92.



Cary (Kyriakos) V. Mossaidis

The Order of AHEPA and AHEPA family's deepest sympathies are with Executive Director Basil N. Mossaidis, and the entire Mossaidis family, on the sad news of the passing of Brother Basil's father, a Life Member. Cary passed away March 24, 2023. He was 86. Cary was a friendly familiar face at Supreme Conventions, various AHEPA events throughout the domain, and he participated on several AHEPA family leadership excursions to Greece, Cyprus, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He will be remembered fondly and warmly by the entire AHEPA family. He contributed significantly to the Greek American community of Philadelphia and Upper Darby, PA. Cary proudly served Chapter 515, Radnor, PA, and previously, Chapter 445, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.



**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 Boustiouslis, PDG
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How Should we Celebrate 25th of March 1821?

Yiannis Apostolakis, Hellenic Affairs Chair – District 7
March 25th, 1821 marks the rebirth of Greece, after 400+ years of brutal Ottoman occupation. Our fathers and mothers stood tall, when their faith, heritage and life was under siege. They fought without military training, without supplies and oftentimes without food so that today we, the descendants of heroes, patriots and martyrs, can celebrate. They fought the Ottomans as well as the oppressive powers of Europe at the time opposing any idea of freedom or independence. They were driven by faith, by the ideas of American and French revolution, by the desire to be free or to happily give their lives so that their children could be free. In their fight, they were joined by Philhellenes from the United States, France and other parts of the world.

Today we have many options to celebrate 25th of March. Poems, songs, parades, speeches – they are all good and necessary. *However, they typically end in about 1-2 hours and then what? Are the ideas of Hellenism, such as Greek culture, civilization, principles and ideals, including humanism, reason, the pursuit of knowledge, the arts, moderation and civic responsibility brought to life for just 1-2 hours and then they are forgotten?*

Today, in 2023, in the Americas and throughout the world there is the new *Society of Friends*, AHEPA. We are united, by oath, to fight for Hellenism, to leave our tradition in this country and all the world and to have a voice, a pulse to fight for what our parents have left us. Above all, from 1922, we strive to guarantee our children the pride of Hellenism. *At the same time, we have offered so much to this country, much more than so many other organizations.*

Let's all add one more way to celebrate 25th of March – Philhellenes, Greeks, Greek Americans and Americans *Let's celebrate 25th of March each and every day, for what it stands, as proud AHEPANS!*

Some Words About Greek Americans, March 25, 2023

"Today, we honor the heroism of Greek revolutionaries who fought for their independence more than two centuries ago and celebrate the sacred idea that has always bound our great nations together: that "we the people" hold the power to shape our own destinies..."

Greek Americans are leaders in every industry and every community, helping build an economy that works for everyone and working toward greater social justice for all. I have been blessed with lifelong friendships and political mentors in the Greek American community, and I have seen firsthand how Greek culture and values enrich our American fabric...

This Greek Independence Day, as we mark 202 years of friendship between the modern Hellenic Republic and the United States, let us recommit to defending democracy together – standing up for the rights, equality, and dignity of all people."

- PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR. [Whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)

2023-24 AHEPA District 7 (Northeast)

HELLENIC HISTORY TOURNAMENT

Competition Sponsored by Yankee District #7 of AHEPA
Tournament: Saturday, November 18th
Registration forms and fees due: Friday, June 30th
St. Barbara Church: 480 Racebrook Road, Orange, CT 06477



- Go to <https://ahepadistrict7.org/Hellenic-History/> for:
- ⇒ HHT Brief Description & Instructions
 - ⇒ HHT Registration Form
 - ⇒ HHT Flyer
 - ⇒ HHT Rules for Chapters & Students

For more Information contact:
Gregory Simones
803-463-0495, or
pdgahepad7@gmail.com



We Honor and Salute Those who Upheld Hellenism with Their Lives!

Yiannis Apostolakis, Hellenic Affairs Chair – District 7
The Hellenic Airforce is considered one of the very best among NATO and Eastern Mediterranean countries. The way that the Hellenic Airforce practices is much more advanced than other NATO countries. A few weeks ago, (2) Hellenic Airforce pilots, while on a very risky training mission of flying low altitude above sea level, lost their lives in *defense of Hellenism*. As Ahepans, we will need to honor them and keep them in our hearts and prayers for their sacrifice. They were both very young and planning to get married soon. In the picture below from one of the funerals, according to the tradition of the Greek Armed forces there is always an officer ahead of the casket holding the sword of the fallen officer. The Hellenic Airforce soldier in front of the casket was the best man to be (*koubaros!*) of the fallen officer! There is a Greek song which goes like this: "The eagle always dies in the air!"

Truly, life throws us some curveballs. We cannot help but feel emotional. However, Brothers and Sisters of District 7, this may be a good point in time to realize the true meaning of "Defend Hellenism"! This may be the time to think about Diamataris' comments in our D7 Fall Conference last year about reconnecting with Greece and Cyprus and helping as much as we can.



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Daughters of Penelope Visitations by DG Elisa Marotta

I truly enjoy doing the district visitations and having the opportunity to meet and get to know the unique women who make up the D7 chapters. Wonderful actions are taking place in our local chapters, such as a lily sale to adorn the church for Easter, collections for domestic violence shelters, hosting coffee hours, dinners and presentations, fundraisers (a variety of raffles, themed baskets, designer bag bingo, etc.) to raise funds for scholarships, to donate to charities and other worthy causes.

- Dec. 4, 2022 – Priam # 76 Meriden & Eretria # 138 New Britain
- March 5, 2023 – Asteria #368 Danielson
- March 7, 2023 – Thoas #198 Hartford
- March 21, 2023 – Deucalion #199 Waterbury

WE are the Daughters of Penelope.

We are women who always push forward.



#138: Mary Aros, #76: Eva Kokis, Maria Theodoratos, Mary Petrus



#138: Stamo Dimitratos, Julie Soteriou, Andrea Lemnotis, Artemis Karamanos



Initiate Brittany Laraia, Marianne Boutsoulis, Pres. Nikitoul Menounos, Sec. Fani Haidemenos, Treas. Clara Angelos, DG Elisa Marotta, Marcella Calagias, Christa Haveles, Christina



Elisa Marotta, #76 Pres. Artemis Nemphos



#368 Initiate Christa Jolliff



#138: Donna Rados, Pres. Irene Sklavouris, PDG Karen Isaac



#198 Pres. Maria Tougas, Tina Smith, Penny Pecka, Marianne Boutsoulis, Elisa Marotta



368: Eleni Bouzakis, Elizabeth Broadbridge, Margo Ricciardi, Ellen Tinios, Maria Forte, Despina Tsetsos, Jennifer DeMatteis, Lule Tracey, Barbara Tzezos, Anna Michaels, Athena Ziogas, Cassandra Rinaldi, Linda Koulouris. Seated: PDG Penny Pecka, Marianne Boutsoulis, Pres. Julie Koulouris



Christina Bates, Maria Petrus, Gia Papadopoulos, Helen Ladas, and Staff (far left and right) from the Connecticut Food Bank on Research Parkway in Wallingford.

Daughters of Penelope News, Chapter 76, Meriden

by Margaret Curtis

We have been climbing uphill since COVID-19 began! Just a few highlights:

- ☆ In June we had our end-of-the-year dinner at Viola's Restaurant in Meriden, and we had s our guest the priest of Saint George Church, the Very Rev. Archimandrite Spyridon Chatzis.
- ☆ In November we celebrated Founder's Day together with the Eretria Chapter of New Britain at St. George Church, with an Artoclasia and coffee hour serving sandwiches and sweets.
- ☆ During the Christmas holidays we donated food products to the Wallingford Food Bank, delivered by members of our chapter.
- ☆ In March we had our annual pancake breakfast in honor of Godparents and Grandparents Day, which was well attended. The proceeds of our raffle were donated to the church.
- ☆ We were saddened at the loss of our sisters Androulla Varvatsis and Maria Misenti, and brother Gregory Ladas, husband of Sister Helen Ladas. May their memories be eternal.
- ☆ At the beginning of the summer, we will have our wine tasting our dinner party. Then we hope everyone has a great summer!

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Chapter 250 News by John Fakis



On Monday January 23, two new members were initiated into Chapter 250. The new initiates were Bill Woloshin and George Mallys. 18 brother Ahepans were in attendance for the initiation. D7 Lt.Gov. John Fakis, DS PDG Greg Simones, and PDG Demetrius Tasoulas conducted the initiation. Also in attendance was PSS Terry Mitchell.

The brothers enjoyed a wonderful "Evangelia" Greek chicken dinner made by master chefs Joe Josephides, George Mitchell, Jimmy Maistros, and Stephan Seferlis prior to the meeting.

Daughters of Penelope News, Chapter 41, Bridgeport

by Kathy Yiannoulis & Theo Fatibene

Chapter 41 started the year with an Acts of Kindness Drive. The Acts of Kindness Drives are mini-drives collecting items such as socks, pet food and toiletries for charity. Our first drive, a Sock Drive, collected over 1,000 pairs of socks. Our Pet Food Drive was also successful where we donated to local rescue groups.



Our knitting group made countless items such as scarves hats, lap blankets and shawls which were given to charities such as Homes for the Brave, CT Love Army and Feed the Hungry which is run out of St. George in Norwalk, CT. The group has knitted baby blankets for the 40-day old babies at our church. With some of the socks and knitted hats, we made 127 "Kindness Bags" that included a pair of socks, a knitted hat, granola bars, snacks and a water bottle. These were given out to homeless at "Under the Bridge", a woman's shelter in Norwalk. Some of the knitted hats were given to a cancer treatment center in Norwalk. We give thanks to the Feed the Hungry group at St. George in Norwalk for their help in distributing these items.

At Christmas we prepared 10 food baskets for the needy in our church community and will be preparing 12 food baskets to be given out for Easter. To support our philanthropic activities and scholarships, we had fundraisers such as a Christmas Basket, Mother Day Flower Basket, and Super Bowl Squares Raffles.

We are looking forward to more Acts of Kindness Drives and making more Kindness Bags for the needy in the weeks ahead!

Follow us on Instagram: [@dopchapter41](https://www.instagram.com/dopchapter41)

and on Facebook: [Daughters of Penelope-Bridgeport "Hermes"Chapter 41, District 7](https://www.facebook.com/DaughtersofPenelope-Bridgeport-HermesChapter41-District7)



Join the AHEPA Family for our 101st Annual Supreme Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada this July!

We have an excellent week planned so book your hotel rooms early!

Horseshoe - \$69 weekdays (Mon-Thurs) & \$99 Weekends (Fri-Sun)

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Meetings will be taking place in the HORSESHOE convention space, but the hotels are connected.

Visit <https://book.passkey.com/go/SPAHE3> to book your room or call to make your reservation (and ask for the AHEPA rate!): 877.603.4390 (Horseshoe) or 702.946.7000 (Paris)



Proud of our members' immigrant roots;
Proud to have celebrated our 95th Anniversary in March 2021;
Proud chapter of AHEPA District 7.

A valued AHEPA mentor once told me, "You get out of AHEPA what you put into it".

I believe you get more. Get active in your chapters today!



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- AHEPA 250-V Apartments**
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News from Chapter 121, Pawtucket

by Yiannis Apostolakis, President

The AHEPA Pawtucket Chapter organized a Superbowl 2023 party at our Community Center on Sunday, February 12th. We had great food and drinks (assorted pizzas, chicken wings, pastichios, Greek style meatballs, French fries and chips). We had a great evening full of fun, relaxing and enjoying a good time together. We are planning to have similar events in the future, and we will let you know when they are!

We continue with our seminars. Our most recent seminar on Sunday, February 19th, was on the topic: **“The Hellenic and Cyprus Air Force Case: Geopolitics of the New Security Architecture in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Role of Air Power as a Geostrategic Lever.”** Our most esteemed guest speaker was retired Hellenic Airforce Pilot Stefanos Karavidas. Stefanos Karavidas served in the Hellenic Airforce flying an A-7E Corsair, F16Blk52+Adv, was trained in network central operations, a graduate of the Department of Turkish and Contemporary Asian Studies of the University of Athens, and a PhD candidate in Geopolitics. Karavidas was the first Greek to fly with the French fighter jet Rafale in 2015 during air force training. Today he is a flight instructor at the United Arab Emirates Air College. We were privileged to have such a knowledgeable and impressive speaker at our seminars, and we strive to have more of his caliber in the near future.



News from Chapter 48, Waterbury by Alex Boutsoulis

On Saturday March

11, Waterbury AHEPA Chapter 48 held a very successful **Nite at the Races** fund raiser. Bill Broadbridge was not only a very funny MC, he acted as the horse race announcer and along with John Gagas were the



John Gagas



Bill Broadbridge

horse race bookmakers. Paul Velezis, Anthony Rinaldi, Nick DeMatteis, John Rowland, and Carl Breiner prepared appetizers and entrées for approximately 80 attendees, while Dick Pecka and Alex Boutsoulis acted as the bartenders.

The event included 6 horse races with 10 horses in each race. Each of the sixty horses was sponsored and given a name by various Waterbury Ahepans, Daughters, and local community businesses and organizations. Dick and Penny Pecka also prepared a humorous event brochure with each horse detailing a fictitious name, jockey, and storyline.

Instead of winning money picking the horses, the bettors who selected the winning horses won raffle tickets which were placed in various donated gift certificate containers. At the end of the 6 horse races, each gift certificate winner was selected. Waterbury AHEPA Chapter 48 would like to thank those who donated and sponsored horses and the various Waterbury area restaurants and businesses who donated gift certificates.

Overall, the Waterbury AHEPA Chapter 48 Nite at the Races event was very entertaining and raised a considerable amount of money for charity.



Dionysos Greek Festival 2023

Friday, May 19

11 am-1 am

Saturday, May 20

11 am-1 am

Sunday, May 21

12pm-8pm



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hard work and good taste.



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Daughters of Penelope Chapter 198 News, Hartford by Elaine Melonopoulos

Congratulations to our Chapter President, Maria Tougas, on her election to serve as a St. George Cathedral Parish Council member. We are grateful for her wonderful leadership and are confident that she will do her best for the good of our church and community as a leader of our Cathedral. We are proud of her many achievements.

We are happy and excited to report that our Chapter is experiencing growth and activity. We had one initiation and reinstated 3 former members this past Nov./Dec. and are looking forward to initiating 3-4 more new members in May.



Maria Tougas, DG Elisa Marotta, Stephanie Zapatka, Tina Smith



At our Vasilopita cutting in January, congratulations to Tina Smith who won the Vasilopita coin! In February we, along with chairperson Paul Vardoulakis and our brother Ahepans, held a social at St. George Cathedral which was a success and an evening of fun and fellowship.

On March 7 we hosted a D7 Visitation, with Grand Gov. Zone 1 Marianne Boutsiolis, DG Elisa (Lisa) Marotta, and PDG Penny Pecka.

On March 17 President Maria Tougas, her mom, Priscilla Kokinis, DG Lisa Marotta, and Tina Smith attended a dinner at the home of GG Z1, Marianne Boutsioulis. The next day, "The Power of WE" Zone I Sisterhood Conference was attended by our members: Lisa Marotta, DG, Barbara Bellas, Lucia Kazakos, Marie Klementon, Anna Rafti, Christina Smith, and Elaina Varunes. This particular conference of Zone I has not convened for many years and this year it was reinstated by our vibrant current Grand Lodge. Many sisters came together to experience special presentations by the Grand Lodge.

The conference was informative and the talks of the presenters were well received. First to speak was GP Georgette whose enthusiasm and love for our organization and words greatly inspired all those in attendance. The presentation by Grand VP Marianthi expounded on the "WE" theme of the conference and the 3 I's for a successful sisterhood "Invite" "Involve" "Invest" – 3 powerful words and tools for any organization to thrive. The conference also included interesting short, lively presentations from several District Governors on various topics along with round table discussions. DG Lisa Marotta made an important presentation on the multi-generational make-up of the Daughters and the importance of understanding and engaging all by communicating and attracting them to our Order so we can continue to grow and be a productive organization of like-minded women.



Our Hartford AHEPA Family hosted a Faki Lenten Luncheon for St. George Cathedral parishioners following church Services on March 19. Chapter President, Mike Bonatsakis along with brother Tony



Mike Bonatsakis, Tony Kazakos

Kazakos, shared their cooking skills along with the help of brothers Paul Vardoulakis and George Bellas in the Kitchen. Anna Rafti and Barbara Bellas helped serve, Lucia Kazakos assisted in setting up for the event.

We extend our best wishes to all our brothers and sisters in District 7 and wish for all a warm and wonderful summer.



Paul Vardoulakis, Tony Kazakos, George Bellas



Anna Rafti, Paul Vardoulakis

Place an advertisement for yourself or for your business in the Yankee News!

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

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Ad pricing is for one (1) year.

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

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!



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To our
AHEPA family:
Wishing you
all a successful
& productive year.

Daughters of Penelope
Thoas 198
"WARRIORS"
Hartford, CT





News from Chapter 58, Hartford by John Melonopoulos, PDG & Mike Zerbini
Fr. George Zugravu Named West Hartford Fire Department Chaplain - On Friday, February 28, at the monthly meeting of the West Hartford Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 1241, the Rev. Dr. George Zugravu, Dean of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Hartford, was pinned with his badge by Sean Howard, Local 1241 Vice President, and parishioner of St. George Cathedral. He also received his helmet shield donated by the membership. Our community is grateful to Fr. George for his service to our Cathedral, and proud that he has committed to volunteering for this important commission for West Hartford.



Community Outreach: Days of Caring - Nathan Hale Chapter #58, together with Daughters of Penelope, Thaos Chapter #198, volunteered to serve dinner for the guests of The South Park Inn and Shelter on 3 Thursdays this past autumn. On a typical evening, anywhere between 50-75 guests are served dinner at the shelter. For those not familiar with this organization, the South Park Inn and Shelter is an emergency homeless shelter located at 75 Main Street in Hartford. Founded in 1982, the clients of the South Park Inn are assigned counselors who help with transportation, provide personal hygiene supplies and help clients find more permanent housing. Clients must be at least 18 years old to stay overnight. The shelter opens at 5 pm every day and closes at 8 pm for admission to the shelter for the evening and overnight stays. Of note, one of our chapter members, Attorney Ted Augustinos, has been a long time member of the Board of Directors of the South Park Inn. Members who have recently participated in serving dinners have included: Barbara & George Bellas, Anna & Tony Rafti, Kevin Ward, Lisa Marotta, Marie Klementon, Elena Argintaru and Larry Papanic. Additional dates for future serving events will be scheduled for the upcoming year.



Valentines Day - The Hartford AHEPA family hosted their first Valentines Event on February 11, 2023, held at Mathews Hall, St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Hartford. The event offered heavy appetizers with music by Hellenic Express. We offered this event for the first time with limited seating as the plan was for 100 people to enjoy the overabundance of food with music. We were pleased to have 136 guests in attendance. Our thanks to the prep chefs Mike Bonatsakis and Tony Kazakos who worked during the week prior, purchasing and preparing for the event, and to Paul Vardoulakis who assisted in the kitchen. Our beverage bar was chaired by George Bouzakis with soft beverages including water, assisted by Mike Zerbini. The decorating committee was chaired by Sister Anna Rafti and assisted by Katina Arnold, Barbara Bellos, Beatrix Fox, Stephanie Zapatka and Parthena Yakoob.

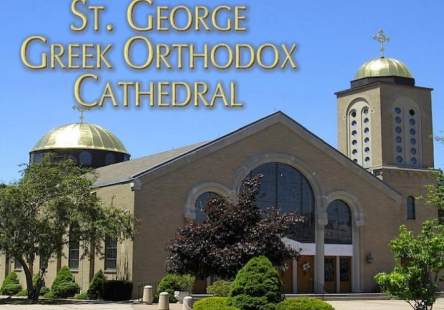
During the months prior, after church on Sundays, Kevin Ward and Maria Tougas sold tickets. All 136 were sold and paid prior to the event. We hope to have a similar plan for next year. Thank you all, also, all those not mentioned for assisting and for those who attended.







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Chapter 117 News, New Britain by Andrew Aros

Kounaris Sunday - New Britain Ahepans, on the first Sunday in December, sponsored a memorial service honoring our late Brother Nicholas Kounaris. His initial bequeathment became the Nicholas Kounaris Charitable Trust which in turn over the years awarded scholarships whose total worth has equaled more than \$700,000. During the same period of time an equal amount of money has been donated to St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

Annual Christmas Party - New Britain's Annual Christmas Party was an enormous success because of the efforts of Chairman Panagiotis Palkanikos. Bro. Palkanikos explained the party would not have taken place without the support of his hardworking committee members. His committee members included: Andreas Aros, Jim Babetas, Mike Bolovis, Jack Isaac, Stamatis Kounaris, Perry Moustakakis, Chris Nasiakos, and Collette Polezonis.



At the conclusion of the dinner, Pres. Thomas Morikis, who is also the chapter's Scholarship Chairman, distributed scholarships to the students. Scholarships for academic excellence were awarded to Kristina Bolovis, Eva Galanis, Alexander Manos, Elias Manos, Nicholas Manos, Sophia Manos,



Kudos to George A. Rados for his lecture at the Eirotan Museum in NYC about the life of King Pyrrhus (318 a.C.-272 a.C.).

Nicholas Morikis, Angela Panagopoulos, Alicia Polezonis, Collette Polezonis, Alexandra Ritsatos, Sophia Stamos, and Jordon Stergakis. Additionally, the Demetrius Kounaris Memorial Scholarships for service to the community of St. George, were awarded to Eve Galanis and Alicia Polezonis. Next, Pres. Morikis honored all the living past presidents of Elpis Chapter # 117 by presenting them with their Past President Pins. The Past Presidents were: Gregory Benios, Costa Georgacopoulos Jack Isaac, Dimitrios Loukopoulos, Michael T. Michael, Pericles Moustakakis, George Rados, Harilaos Sitalides, Agapitos (Pete) Sklavouris and Emmanuil Stergakis. Morikis next announced that New Britain Chapter 117 was named D7 Chapter of the Year and Andrew Aros D7 Ahepan of the Year. He then presented a plaque to Dr. Titos Ritsatos for his election to Chapter Hellene of the Year, to Nikolaos Bouras Hellene of the year. R4 PSG, PDG and Past Chapter President Jack Isaac was presented with the Chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award. Once all the scholarships, pins and plaques were distributed, Chairman Palkanikos introduced the evening's entertainment "for our dancing and listening pleasure, Fotia Live."

Toys for Greek Tots - Every year AHEPA purchases Christmas gifts for the students of the Greek and Sunday Schools. With assistance from the Greek and Sunday School teachers, Jim Babetas, Mike Bolovis and (newly elected St George Church, New Britain Parish Council President) Perry Moustakakis purchased age appropriate toys and games for the students. The presents were distributed to the youngsters after their Christmas Pageant.



March Initiation Dinner Meeting - Thank you to D7 Governor Evangelos (Vagos) Hadjimichael for attending our March 7 dinner meeting and giving the AHEPA Oath of membership to our newly initiated members. Prior to the initiation, Panagiotis Palkanikos and his intrepid kitchen crew of Mike Bolovis, Perry Moustakakis, and Chris Nasiakos prepared a delicious dinner for the members. Members scheduled to be initiated into AHEPA Chapter 117 included: Charlie Aygoustakiis, Matthew Golkin, Demetrius Koutsofavas, Statos Livanis, Michael Milio, Ted Tolis, Alexander Tsarouhas, Dr. Fotis Tsetsos, and Dr. Michael Tsiappoutas.



Greek Flags Flying - Members of our local chapter took their annual journey around local towns to hang Greek flags for Greek Independence Day, March 25. Pictured here are members of Elpis Chapter 117 and city officials in West Hartford (top) New Britain (left), and Middletown (right).



SALUTATIONS

AHEPA DISTRICT SEVEN LODGE

<https://ahepadistrict7.org>

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

- E. Vagos Hadjimichael – Governor
- John Fakis – Lt. Governor
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AHEPA District 7 Officers
Gov. **Evangelos Hadjimichael**
(203) 747-0203 ehadjimichael@fairfield.edu
Lt. Governor **John Fakis**
(860) 326-9543 yanni46@aol.com
Secretary **Gregory C. Simones, PDG**
(803) 463-0495 pdgahepad7@gmail.com
Treasurer **Alex Boutsoulis, PDG**
(203) 271-2929 alexboutsoulis@gmail.com
Marshal **Dean Panayotakis**
(203) 843-1174 constantine.panayotakis@lmhosp.org
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Gov. **Elisa Marotta**
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Lt. Governor **Christina Smith**
smithcm3@cvshealth.com
Treasurer **Penny Pecka, PDG**
(203) 756-7651 ppecka@newhaven.edu
Marshal **Stamo Dimitratos**
(860) 583-0163 sdimi9747@gmail.com
D7 Advisor **Anna-Helene Grossomanides, PGP**
ahgrossomanides@gmail.com
Grand Gov., Zone 1 **Marianne Boutsoulis**
(203) 271-2929 boutsie5@cox.net



Vincent Antonelli, DDS
Ted Malahias, DDS
Sean Kim, DDS, MAGD
860-446-8744
115 Bridge St., Groton, CT 06340
www.bridgeworksfdc.com



**Yankee News Office: 14 Hartung Place, Old Lyme, CT,
06371**

Editor Jack Isaac jckisaac012@gmail.com
Publisher Terry Plumley yankeed7news@AOL.com
Secretary Andy Aros aaros@cox.net
Reporter/Photographer Greg Simones pdgahepad7@gmail.com
Reporter Alex Boutsoulis alexboutsoulis@gmail.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 6, 2023—District 7 AHEPA/DOP Spring Convention
Wyndham Newport Hotel, Newport, Rhode Island
May 19-21, 2023—Dionysos 2023 Greek Festival
St George Church, New Britain
June 1-4, 2023—Hartford Greek Festival 2023
St George, Cathedral, Hartford
June 25, 2023—District 7 AHEPA/DOP Scholarship Dinner
Holy Trinity Church, Waterbury, Connecticut
June 30—Hellenic History Tournament Registration Deadline
July 23-29, 2023—AHEPA Family Supreme Convention
Las Vegas, Nevada
August 5, 2023—The Next Yankee News Deadline
November 18—Hellenic History Tournament
Saint Barbara Church, Orange, Connecticut

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