



Yankee News



The Publication of AHEPA District #7
Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Western Massachusetts
In Continuous Publication Since 1949
May 2025

AHEPA'S GOING BACK TO THE HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH!



Dust off your Mickey ears and get ready for a summer of magic! AHEPA returns to the happiest place on earth, the Walt Disney World® Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, this July for our 103rd Annual Supreme Convention! You're not going to want to miss this one, so make sure to bring the whole family!

We've secured rooms at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort starting at the rate of \$199/night + tax and resort fee.

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More information available at ahepa.org/supreme-convention



WWW.AHEPA.ORG/SUPREME-CONVENTION

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NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL CONVENTION AHEPA Family Districts 7, 8 & 9

Holiday Inn - Norwich, CT
May 2-3, 2025



Brother George Scarveles at the Greek Independence Day Parade in NYC on March 30th

HUMANITARIAN MISSION FROM RHODE ISLAND TO ASHVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE HELENE:

6th Annual CASA Drive of AHEPA, Pawtucket Chapter 121

In following the CASA (Clothing and Sustenance from Assumption) tradition, an annual AHEPA Chapter 121 effort since 2019, led by AHEPAN Dr. Thomas Walsh, along with his wife, Marie Lascarides, dedicated this year's efforts to help the victims of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina. Starting in mid-October, Assumption parishioners, as well friends and neighbors, donated clothing, food, blankets and hygienic supplies filling 128 large boxes. Marie succeeded in obtaining the charitable donation of R+L Carriers, which contributed drivers, trucks, gas and liability insurance to transport these supplies to those in desperate need.

Dr. Thomas Walsh located a charitable storage and distribution center, America Cares, near Asheville, NC. Marie and Tom flew and drove, at their own expense, to Asheville, NC on January 8 and met the R+L Carriers driver to oversee the offloading of the supplies on January 9. Later that day, Sokratis Katsadouros, Parish Council President of Holy Trinity Church in Asheville gave the couple a tour of their beautiful Church, followed by a luncheon at Apollo's Bistro where members of the Parish Council, AHEPA and Philoptochos had gathered to welcome them. The group included Andy Apostolopoulos with whom Marie had frequent communication and provided helpful advice. Concluding their visit, Tom and Marie were heartbro-

ken to witness the devastation throughout the area which was provided by Tom & Sue Aracas of Asheville.

The Walsh's would like to thank AHEPA President, Ioannis Apostolakis, and their beloved priest, Fr. Philip Zymaris for their unwavering support for this very important Humanitarian Mission. They would also like to thank their dear friend, John Kanelakos, for suggesting to reach out to R&L Carriers in Seekonk, MA. The couple would also like to extend their gratitude to the wonderful parishioners of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Pawtucket, RI, as well as friends and neighbors who so generously donated items in support of this mission.



Dr. Thomas Walsh & his wife Marie Lascarides



AHEPA FAMILY 103RD ANNUAL SUPREME CONVENTION

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JULY 21-26, 2025
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

WALT DISNEY WORLD
CORONADO SPRINGS
RESORT



A MESSAGE FROM THE AHEPA D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Brother AHEPANS of Yankee District 7,

Chapters throughout the District have been busy this past year hosting local events. In Hartford, the AHEPA and Daughters had a very successful Valentines Day dance. They also held a blanket drive to benefit South Park Homeless Shelter. Norwich held their annual Thanksgiving dinner for over 100 AHEPA Housing residents. Christmas parties were sponsored by a number of chapters. Scholarships continue to be given out to local high school seniors. New London will be sponsoring an awards recognition night for charitable organizations who were given money from the AHEPA Foundation. Danielson Chapter 416 has been working hard to strengthen their chapter. They have initiated new members and reinstated old members to their roster. They are sponsoring a basketball team to play at the Agganis Tournament in Lynn, MA. The Tri-District convention is well

under way. The convention will be hosted by District 8 and held at the Holiday Inn in Norwich, CT on May 2 and 3, 2025 Registration and delegate forms have been sent out to all the chapters. I continue to look forward in meeting the 700+ members of the fourteen Chapters of District 7 during the year. I hope to see a big District 7 turn-out at the convention.

Fraternally, John Fakis

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DOP D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Sisters,

I hope you and your family are well, and had a wonderful Easter! It is such a wonderful feeling to see the trees and flowers coming back to life!

Chapters elections should be held in April or May. Please remember to send your election results in as instructed on the election form! This is particularly important to Headquarters for correspondence with the Chapters. I would like to thank all the Chapter Presidents and their officers for doing an outstanding job running their chapters. You and the sisters in your chapter are the heart and spirit of the Daughters of Penelope. Without you there would be no DOP!

I would like to remind you we will be having our New England Regional Convention May 3rd at the Holiday Inn in Norwich. I hope to see you there! District Lodge Elections will be held at the Convention in May. If you are interested in a position on the District Lodge, please feel free to contact me, or any Lodge member. A big thanks to our District Lodge Officers for their service to our order. Marcella Calagias, PDG (D5) Lt. Governor, Maria Tsougas, Secretary, Katina Arnold, Treasurer, Christina Smith, Marshal and Elisa Marotta, PDG District Advisor.

At the Convention we will be announcing our 2025 Penelope of the Year and our Estia Award recipient.

On June 22 there will be a Yankee District Scholarship dinner at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Waterbury. The money this event raises is used to provide a scholarship in the name of the Daughters of Penelope. Please save the date and try to attend.

With Warm Regards In Theta Pi,
Marianne Boutsioulis
District Governor

*Compliments from
the Brothers of*

**SOPHOCLES
CHAPTER No. 106**

Providence, Rhode Island

CHAPTER NO. 86

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**Daughters of Penelope
Deucalion #199, Waterbury**

Officers

President: Despina Testos
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Secretary: Jennifer DeMatteis
Treasurer: Elaine Dibble
Priestess: Maria Forte

Compliments of

**Waterbury
Chapter #48**

**District
Mother Chapter**

Waterbury, CT

EDITOR'S NOTES by Greg Simones, PDG

Change is hard! The passing of the baton is complete. Some of the names are familiar and some are not. We will make every effort to live up to the standards set by the team that managed Yankee News for the last 10 years. What was true then is still true today. We can't do this without your support in the form of articles, ideas, and advertising. Write to me at pdgahepad7@gmail.com with your ideas, concerns, and letters to the editor.

One idea I have had would be to showcase our chapters, their history, and significant contributions to the Yankee District. In addition to our spotlight on brothers with military service, I would like to start honoring educators among our membership as Education is a core principle of AHEPA.

If anyone is interested in joining Yankee News staff, now is the time as we have openings. Please send any letter of interest to my attention. Thanks for reading and supporting this award-winning publication of our district. We have made an impact! Let's continue the tradition.



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**Eptahorian
Saint George Society**
Founded in Nashua, NH in 1903
Since its inception, June 3, 1924, Greek-Americans from Eptahori, Greece have taken an active role in AHEPA Chapter 48 of Waterbury, Connecticut. Currently, over forty Eptahorians are also involved fraternally in the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope.



DOP DEUCALION CHAPTER 199 - WATERBURY NEWS

The Daughters of Penelope Deucalion Chapter #199 celebrated Sister Toni (Antoinette) Coukis for her remarkable 75 years of service as a founding DOP member. The Chapter honored Sister Toni, along with other Sisters, for their years of service, support, and friendship at the annual Founder's Day Celebration held on November 10, 2024. It was a memorable and meaningful occasion to recognize their dedication and contributions.

Sister Toni, a lifelong Waterbury resident, was married to George Coukis (deceased in 2001) and raised two children, Peter and Valerie (deceased in 2006). She has been an integral member of Holy Trinity, serving as a founding member of the Daughters of Penelope, a Ladies of Philoptochos member, and Choir Director for 50 years, while volunteering extensively at church events. At 94, she remains a beloved pillar of the Holy Trinity community, admired for her unwavering dedication and commitment.



Toni Coukis with her son & grandchildren

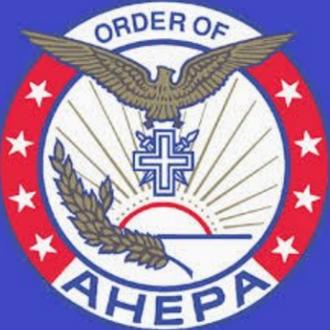


DOP Chapter 199 President Despina Tsetsos, Vice President Barbara Tzezos, PDG District 7 Penny Pecka



Founders Day Celebration DOP Chapter 199 - November 2024

Compliments



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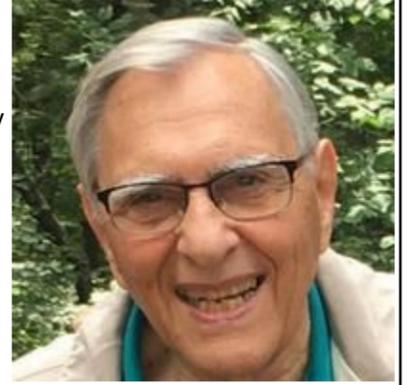
Brother Nicholas Stavropoulos

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

Jerry N. Pangakis, an AHEPA member of Nathan Hale Hartford Chapter 58, passed away on March 7, 2025 at the age of 90. Jerry was born in Bangor, ME to Nicholas Pangakis and Anna (Christakos) Pangakis. He graduated from the University of Maine with a major in history and government and proudly served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army. Jerry then made his career in Human Resources/Staffing Management. On New Year's Eve, 1960 fate stepped in when Jerry met the woman God chose for him, Martha Matsikas at a Greek dance in Hartford. They knew it was love and were engaged and married within that same year. They grew their family, having three children and then their lives were made even fuller when they were blessed with their grandchildren. Jerry was a very devoted family man who made so many memories, most of them by sharing his beloved birthplace, Maine, with his family enjoying the most wonderful vacations in Bar Harbor / Acadia National Park and Bangor. Jerry had a gift of making everyone he met feel like they were the only person in a room, showing a genuine interest in learning about them and using his quick wit and grace to create a connection and bond. He was admired for his kindness, sense of humor (mostly corny "dad-jokes") and his faith in God.

Jerry was an avid lover of music his entire life, playing the piano and singing as often as he could. He also felt very fortunate to learn and love the game of golf, in later years saying, "when I was young it was a rich man's game, but now I get to play 3 times a week!" He especially loved playing at Kebo Valley in

Bar Harbor, Maine, as well as his years as a member at Wethersfield Country Club and at Timberlin in Berlin, where he was a member of the men's club for 20 years. Jerry was a devoted member of his church his entire life and has been a recognizable face in the St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral – Hartford Community, where he served on the Parish Council and sang in the church choir for many decades. He also participated and emceed many of the church's events where his personality and sense of humor always shined through.



Jerry is survived by the love of his life, his wife, Martha; his children, Kathy (George) Falvey, Nicholas (Mary Anne) Pangakis and Maria (William) Swan and his adoring grandchildren, Anna, Tara and Zachary Falvey, Nicholas Swan, Charles McConnell and Mark (Lindsey) McConnell and his sister Paula Stamos. In addition, he is survived by his sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, his cherished nieces, nephews, four great-grandchildren, his cousins and their families - all of whom he loved with his whole heart.

Thales who said, "Filotimo to the Greek is like breathing. A Greek is not a Greek without it. He might as well not be alive."

Providing Secure Elderly Housing in 88 Buildings!

AHEPA National Housing Corporation has been providing affordable, independent housing for low income elderly since 1980. In this short period, 89 buildings have been built, providing 4,650 housing units, with a total HUD commitment of almost \$600 million.

The involvement of the AHEPA and Penelope Family Chapters provides the strong foundation for the projects, both financially, social and supportive services for the tenants.

AHEPA Senior Living, established in 1991, provides management for all the AHEPA projects.

In 2018, AHEPA National started a new assisted living venture for those seniors who need assistance with the activities of daily living. Hellenic Senior Living Communities offers a wide variety of services and amenities to live independent and offer the assistance they require.

For Further Information Contact:

Executive Assistant
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**Salute to a Veteran ~ Richard W. Pecka, Sr. ~
Vietnam Era Veteran**

Richard (Dick) W. Pecka Sr. was initiated into AHEPA Chapter 48 in Waterbury, CT on March 21, 1991. He has been an active member of the chapter serving as treasurer for close to 20 years, resigning from the position in January 2025.

Dick was born in Waterbury and attended local schools including the UCONN Waterbury branch. He enlisted in the Air Force in February 1965. Dick trained in Lackland, TX and in September 1965 was assigned to 40th Combat Support Squad unit in Aviano Air Base located in northern Italy at the base of the Southern Carnic Alps on the border of Slovenia and Croatia. He served in Aviano as an Accountant Specialist until he was honorably discharged in September 1968 with the rank of Sergeant. Dick was fortunate to not have served in Vietnam, but he did witness and interacted with many soldiers coming to Aviano with injuries because the Air Base was one of the R&R locations for those soldiers serving in Vietnam.

After his discharge Dick returned to Waterbury and worked for 10 years at Retail Credit, now known as Equifax, as a supervisor and an insurance investigator. During the next 30 years he worked as a Production Manager for various manufacturers in the Waterbury area, including Century Brass, Waterbury Companies, WHYCO Manufacturing and ANAMET Manufacturing. The last 15 years of his working career was spent with Easter Seals of Greater Waterbury serving as the Work Center Manager for people with various disabilities. This was the most challenging and satisfying position of his career. He had over 100 different clients each day which he was challenged with finding appropriate assembly jobs for each of them based on their individual disabilities. He was always thrilled when he was able to find the right assembly positions for those with the most severe disabilities.



Dick married his wife Penny (Koutroumanis) in October 1970. They welcomed their son, Rick, in November 1980. Their family became a true AHEPA family. They all attended various District events and a few National events. Dick was treasurer of AHEPA 48. Penny held all offices including President for Daughters of Penelope Chapter 199. She then became a member of District Lodge No.7 holding various positions including District Governor. Rick joined the Sons of Pericles while he was in college and was later elected to the Supreme Lodge in 2004. He became the first individual from District 7 to serve as Supreme President of the Sons. Rick was also instrumental in reinstating the Waterbury Sons and establishing the first Maids of Athena chapter in Waterbury. Dick continues to live in Waterbury and is happy to spend time with his wonderful family which includes Rick, his wife Kristen and their daughters Lily and Nora of Madison, CT, as well as his daughter Sharon Camilleri, her husband Joe of South Windsor, CT and his grandson, Ryan Courey and his wife Krystiana of Manchester, CT. He especially enjoys his Monday night poker games with his Poker Pals which have been going on for over 30 years!

L to R: Dick, Kristen with Nora,
Rick with Lily & Penny

When submitting articles for the Yankee News, please send them as a Word document with photos in jpeg format attached *separately* (not embedded in the article itself). Please send all submissions to both Alex Boutsoulis (alexaboutsoulis@gmail.com) and Carrie Smernoff (holyltrinitywaterbury@gmail.com) . Thank you!



**The AHEPA Stamford Chapter 99
salutes the
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for their dedication,
hard work and good taste.**

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AHEPA NORWICH CHAPTER 110 FOUNDATION AWARDS

Each year, AHEPA Rose of New England Chapter 110 in Norwich, CT receives funding from the National AHEPA Housing Corporation out of the revenues generated by the nation-wide AHEPA apartments. The Chapter manages 138 apartments in three AHEPA senior housing buildings. Our Chapter Foundation committee makes grant awards every year to area not-for-profit organizations deserving support. In 2024, the Foundation made twelve grant awards to the following groups: NFA Foundation - Norwich, Slater Memorial Museum - Norwich, Three Rivers Community College - Norwich, St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen - Norwich, Otis Library - Norwich, Madonna Place - Norwich, Backus Foundation - Norwich, ARC of Eastern CT, Always Home of Mystic, CT, Rose City Senior Center, AHEPA Yankee District #7 News and Paedeia at UCONN, Storrs, CT.



Norwich Free Academy Foundation



The Backus Foundation

AHEPA NORWICH CHAPTER 110 – ANNUAL SENIOR HOUSING RESIDENT PICNIC

The 35th Annual Resident Picnic of AHEPA III Apartments Senior Housing was held outdoors at the Chapter 110 pavilion on August 24, 2024. It was a perfect day weatherwise. More than one hundred residents and their building managers who attended enjoyed picnic food including hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, corn-on-the-cob donated by Malerba’s Farm and a visit by a soft ice cream truck. Troubadour Tom Callaghan played his guitar, sang folk songs, and led a sing-along. The picnic was honored with the presence of both AHEPA District 7 Governor John Fakis and Lieutenant Governor Greg Simones and by Father Dimitrios Panteloukas from our local Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Thank you goes out to the twenty AHEPAN and Daughters of Penelope volunteers who helped set-up, cook, serve, and clean-up at the resident picnic.



THANKSGIVING 2024 CELEBRATED AT AHEPA #110 HOUSING: Thanksgiving this year fell on Thursday, November 28, 2024. It was a holiday to be thankful for many things and a time to celebrate with a good old-fashioned turkey dinner.

AHEPA Chapter #110 offered, as they have done for many years, a free Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings to the residents of AHEPA #110 Housing Apartments. Over 100 residents signed up. This year, instead of delivery of the boxed turkey dinners to residents at their apartment doors, a seated dinner was served in the Pappas Center.

The meal was prepared and served by Chefs Brother Kostas Marasiotis and his wife Irene Marasiotis and their staff in the kitchen at Irene’s Restaurant in Norwich, CT. AHEPAns & Daughters of Penelope member volunteers helped set-up, serve dinners, and clean-up. This year at the dinner we were honored to have in attendance a number of special guests from our greater AHEPA community who came to the dinner and also volunteered to help serve. Those honored guests included AHEPA Supreme Vice President E. Chris Kaitson, AHEPA Supreme Treasurer Themistocles Frangos, Daughters of Penelope District #7 Governor Marianne Boutsoulis, and AHEPA District #7 Governor John Fakis.



PSP DR. JOHN GROSSOMANIDES MAKES PRESENTATION TO CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH COURTNEY

AHEPA Past Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides presented U.S. Representative Joseph Courtney (D-CT) with a complimentary copy of the “Rose of New England” Norwich, CT AHEPA Chapter #110 History Book during the annual Greek Festival at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Norwich, CT on September 10, 2024. The book, which was researched and written and published by Anthony G. Petros, is being sold to raise funds for the Church. It highlights the history of AHEPA and of its Greek Veteran members in the community.

ORDER OF AHEPA Maud Howe Elliott Chapter No. 245

The Newport Maud Howe Elliott Chapter 245 held a very successful October meeting at Flo’s Clam Shack at First Beach in Newport, RI. Nearly half the membership joined us, including Flo’s proprietor Bro. Komes Rozes, who met some new members for the first time. The food and drinks were excellent, and everyone enjoyed themselves. We were also pleased to welcome a few brothers from Pawtucket Olympia Chapter 121, some of whom joined us later in downtown Newport to continue the festivities.

*At our November meeting we initiated five new members. Thank you to those who attended to support our chapter and welcome our new members.

*The AHEPA District 7 Hellenic History Tournament was held Saturday, November 23, 2024 in Orange, CT. Our Newport team, the Monastiraki Wanderers, participated and we wished them well as they competed against teams from AHEPA chapters from around New England.

*Last year, our chapter joined the Christmas Party of Providence Sophocles Chapter 106 at Demetrakas Hall in Cranston, RI. This year, the Providence chapter again invited the surrounding chapters to their Christmas Party in December. Additionally the Newport chapter coordinated our own Christmas ‘cocktails and hors d’oeuvres’ gathering at Sea View Villa in Middletown.

* Stay tuned as the new officers are planning gatherings at an entertainment complex, a sporting event and a museum for the winter and spring seasons!

Pictured to the right: Newly elected and installed Chapter 245 officers for 2024/2025 with members in attendance at our September meeting at Sea View Villa. Longtime member and former Vice President, Anthony Spiratos, is our new President. Ilias Arsenis was elected Vice President, and Thanasi Stefanopoulos and Babi Ntaskas continued as Treasurer and Secretary. In the spirit of our shared journey through life, consider the wisdom in the following words:



53rd Annual WATERBURY GREEK FESTIVAL

**Mother's Day Weekend
May 8, 9, 10 & 11, 2025**

**Thurs, May 8th: 11am-8pm
Fri, May 9th: 11am-11pm
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NEWS FROM THE AHEPA PAWTUCKET CHAPTER 121!

Brothers and sisters of District 7, here are some updates from our Pawtucket Chapter!

We are growing!

We are very excited to announce that we have initiated (5) new Brothers in our Chapter. Our membership campaign still goes on to attract new members.

AHEPA Christmas Gathering! Last December, we held our first ever AHEPA Christmas Gathering, a casual lunch gathering of our Pawtucket community in a local Greek restaurant. We had a great success and part of the proceeds were donated in support of our Pawtucket, Greek Pride of Rhode Island, dance troop! Great food, great hospitality at Briggs Corner Pizzeria and, above all, very pleased attendees!

Community Seminars! The Pawtucket Chapter is committed to educating our community in areas relating to Hellenism, Financial, Health related as well as other topics. In February we presented a seminar in "How to keep your personal information safe" which was well attended. We received very positive feedback, and this motivates us to plan more community education seminars.

Evening Chapter Meeting with Dinner! In February, we held our evening meeting with dinner (lamb burgers, fries, spinach rolls, honey chicken bites and salad). It was well attended, and we had a great time planning our next steps!

AHEPA CHAPTER 48 NEWS - WATERBURY

- ◆ We had our 27th Annual Golf Tournament September 8th at Hawks Landing with approximately 95 golfers participating.
- ◆ A Christmas Party at Pizza Castle took place on December 4th, hosted by Brother Peter Skabardonis & Sister Sia Skabardonis. Approximately 50 people attended.
- ◆ January's Dinner of the Month on Monday the 15th was a huge success with approximately 170 in attendance. This dinner helps to support our AHEPA Chapter 48 Scholarship Fund.
- ◆ A Nite at the Races took place on Saturday, March 8th and approximately 75 attended & was a huge fundraiser for our Scholarship Fund & multiple charities.

SOUTHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SENIOR NIGHT

Congratulations to Andrew Morikis on being named to the CCC (Central Connecticut Conference) All Conference basketball team. Alexander Morikis also played on the Southington basketball team and is pictured below. In the Newington game, the Morikis brothers scored 9 three-pointers.



Pictured left to right: New Britain AHEPA Chapter President Thomas Morikis, Nikolaos, Niko, Andrew, Grace, Alexander & Athanasia Morikis

AHEPA NEW HAVEN CHAPTER 98 SPONSORS GOYANS WITH YALE BASKETBALL GAME

The St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Youth Association (GOYA) enjoyed attending Yale University men's basketball victory over Dartmouth College on Monday January 20, 2025, Martin Luther King Day, at the Payne Whitney gym in New Haven, CT. AHEPA Chapter 98 of New Haven treated the GOYAN's to the game, where they witnessed the stellar performance of Yale senior John Poulakidas of Naperville, IL. Poulakidas 1st Team Ivy League All-Star was selected as the 2025 Ivy League Tournament MVP. Poulakidas honored with the 2023 AHEPA Most Outstanding Hellenic Collegiate Athlete William Chirgotis award is considered a NBA prospect. Following the game, a meet and greet with



AHEPA Chapter 98 @ Yale Basketball game



St. Barbara (Orange) GOYA at Yale Basketball game

John occurred, with John encouraging the GOYANS to stay grounded in their faith and Hellenic values and "first of all, always listen to your parents". Such brought a smile to John's father, Mike, who attends every Yale basketball to cheer his son on.

Attendees included Reverend Father Peter Orfanakos of St. Barbara, AHEPA Chapter 98 President George Scarveles, AHEPA Hellenic Athletic Hall of Fame Chairman Greg Stamos. Chapter 98 members and St. Barbara parishioners.



L-R Bill Cambras, Isaac Celiscar, George Scarveles, Bob Wheway



Greek Independence Day Parade in NYC on March 30th

Celebrating our 100th Year

1925 - 2025



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Mikhail Gorbachev, Nana Mouskouri, Archbishop

AHEPA District 7 Chapter 106 Sophocles (Cranston RI) Yankee News

Chapter 106 Initiation - AHEPA Chapter 106 of Cranston, RI, welcomed six new members in an initiation ceremony led by our chapter president, George Cocolin. The new brothers, Costas Dafoulas, Anthony Pappas, Alex Biliouris, Kevin Phelan, Henry Degaitas and Russ Wheatly joined our ranks, strengthening our mission and values. With their initiation, our chapter now exceeds 50 members, a milestone reflecting our ongoing growth and dedication to Hellenism, education, philanthropy, and civic responsibility.



Chapter 106 100 Year Centennial Gala - Exciting preparations are underway for AHEPA Chapter 106's 100th Centennial Gala, set to take place in May 2026 at the historic Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. We extend our gratitude to our dedicated brothers, Steven Sterpis and Nicholas Lambros, for chairing this momentous occasion. Their leadership will ensure a celebration worthy of our chapter's rich history and bright future. As part of the festivities, we are organizing a special Sponsorship Gala Album. Any district brother interested in advertising is encouraged to reach out to secure a spot.

AHEPA Brother Christopher Lambros - Rhody Sports Cards Success



AHEPA Chapter 106 proudly recognizes our brother Christopher Lambros, a junior at Bryant University, for his outstanding entrepreneurial success. Christopher founded Rhody Sports Cards, a thriving sports card reselling business already surpassing six figures in revenue—a remarkable achievement for a young entrepreneur. We congratulate him on this accomplishment and look forward to seeing his continued success in the future!

AHEPA Chapter 106 Enjoys December Gathering at Antonio's Trattoria

Last December, AHEPA Chapter 106 brothers came together for an informal gathering at Antonio's Trattoria, sharing great food, laughs, and camaraderie. The relaxed setting allowed everyone to unwind and enjoy the holiday season in true brotherhood spirit.



We extend a big thank you to Christopher Lambros for organizing this fantastic event. His efforts brought our chapter together for a memorable evening, reinforcing the bonds that make AHEPA so special.

AHEPA Champions Greek Heritage License Plate for Rhode Island - AHEPA is proud to announce that legislation to create a Greek heritage license plate in Rhode Island is moving forward, with the bill set to reach the State Senate on March 25. This initiative, sponsored by our brother, State Senator Leonidas Raptakis, represents a significant step in celebrating and promoting Hellenic heritage in our state. All Rhode Island AHEPA chapters—Cranston, Pawtucket and Newport—worked together to bring this effort to life. Chapter members testified at the State Senate, demonstrating a united commitment to the cause, and all chapters agreed on a uniform plate design that reflects our Greek pride.

Chapter 250, Winthrop News

Submitted by John Fakis

2024 AHEPA Thanksgiving Dinner

On November 20, 2024 Chapter 250 prepared and distributed a complete Thanksgiving dinner to over 250 residents of our five AHEPA houses. Many members helped with preparing the food. A big thank you to Joe Josephides, Jimmy Maistros, and George Mitchell who did the brunt of the work in buying the supplies, prepping, and cooking the food and to Chapter 250 members who put it all together and delivered.



From left to right: Jimmy Maistros, George Mitchell, Panteli Kehayias, Steve Seferlis, James Scarles, Joe Josephides, Terry Mitchell, Milton Papatthanasiou, Tony Vallombroso . . . and 10 cooked turkeys

2024 AHEPA Family Christmas Party

Winthrop Chapter 250 hosted the annual family Christmas party on December 12, 2024. The party was held at Constantine's Restaurant in Niantic CT. There were 45 AHEPA members, spouses, and friends that attended the dinner. There was a delicious menu of beef short ribs, baked dover sole filet, and lemon parmesan chicken. It was a wonderful atmosphere, great camaraderie, and a good time was had by all. The party ended with the singing of Christmas carols led by John Fakis.

2024 Chapter 250 Initiation Ceremony



On Monday October 16, 2024 two new members were initiated into Winthrop Chapter 250. The new initiates were Athan Tasoulas, brother of PDG Demetrius Tasoula, and Jack Koziatek. Nineteen AHEPANS were in attendance for the initiation. District 7 Governor John Fakis, PDG Demetrius Tasoulas, and chapter president Adam Rand conducted the initiation. Prior to the meeting, the brothers enjoyed a delicious dinner made by master chefs Joe Josephides, George Mitchell, and Jimmy Maistros.

Left to right – New members Jack Koziatek and Athan Tasoulas taking their oath

YANKEE NEWS RECEIVES GRANTS John Melonopoulos, PDG, CFO

We are proud to announce 2 additional grants we received to support the Yankee News in its efforts to maintain our quality and to assist it to remain financially stable. We thank the following foundations for their support:

- AHEPA Newport Foundation Inc. \$1,000.00
- AHEPA New London Foundation Inc \$ 750.00

The above grants conclude all the housing foundations in D7 with money from the FY-2023 funding. Both Norwich and Hartford granted Yankee News \$1,000 in May of 2024. THANK YOU.



SALUTATIONS

AHEPA DISTRICT SEVEN LODGE

<https://ahepadistrict7.org>

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

- John Fakis – Governor
- Gregory Simones – Lt. Governor
- Glenn Arnold – Secretary
- John Melonopoulos, PDG – Treasurer
- Alexander Philippides – Marshal
- Gregory Stamos – Athletic Director
- Alex Boutsoulis – Region 4 Supreme Governor

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John N Fakis
District 7 Governor and
Past President, Vice President
and Current Secretary Of Chapter 250

and
Jeanne Fakis
Daughters PDG



ACKNOWLEDGING SISTER TINA SMITH Christina Meggie Smith was honored by our Archdiocese at the Servant Leadership Awards Banquet last June at the Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle, New York. The banquet was attended by 800 guests from the entire Archdiocesan District. Individuals were recognized from each parish for their service to their church and presented awards by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros.

Tina has worked in the religious education program for 50+ years, starting during her college career earning a degree in education and a masters as a reading specialist (she has taught grades 1-12 in public school and also served as a reading specialist). What she finds most rewarding is imparting to children the teachings of Jesus, the love for our fellow man, thinking of what we are grateful for and looking outside ourselves to find ways to help those less fortunate. Tina has also been organizing the yearly St. George Christmas pageant for the last 34 years. Additionally, she works alongside her son Peter Smith, also a religious education teacher, in preparing for the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival.

Tina is active in Philoptochos, assists with our church festival, and is a district officer for Daughters of Penelope. Tina volunteers for NAMI as a trained family support facilitator and teacher of the Family to Family course. Tina is married to Jordan Smith, has two children and two grandchildren and is currently a software development engineer. She loves hosting weekly Sunday dinners with her full family.



Hellenic History Tournament 2024

Orange, CT, November 23, 2024: The 15th Northeastern Region Hellenic History Tournament (HHT) took place at the St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church and was hosted by AHEPA Northeast HHT Committee, Yankee District 7, New Haven, CT Chapter 58, and the St. Barbara's Community. Under the direction of chairman, Greg Simones PDG and emeritus chairman and founder Nick Nickas PSG, eight (8) teams of three team members each competed for prize money and the coveted regional trophy. There were six teams from District 7 and one each from Districts 8 and 9. Each member of the top two teams, Nashua, NH Byzantine Brothers and the New Haven, CT Aristotelians received \$1,000, and \$500, respectively. Highway 2 Hellas (Toronto, CA), The Spartans (Stamford, CT), Trojan Horses (Pawtucket, RI), Sentinels (Providence, RI), Pythagoras (Woburn, MA), Monasteraki Wanderers (Newport, RI), and Spanakopites (Stamford, CT) were the remaining teams in order of finish. Besides the coordinators listed above, the following volunteers: Alex Boutsoulis, SG Region 4, John Fakis, DG, Andy Aros, Nina Barclay (DOP), James Koutsoukos, Jim Benas, George Scarveles PSC, Manny Cosmas, DOP Grand Governor Lainie Damaskos-Christou, and Nick Kallan were responsible for moderating, scoring, and supervising the matches. Congratulations to the teams, parents, coaches, and volunteers for your hard work and dedication to this educational program. The top two available teams are invited to the International HHT to be held in July at the Supreme Convention in Orlando, FL. Our next regional tournament will be held Saturday November 22, 2025.



Winning Team: Byzantine Brothers Athanasios, Sotirios & Christos Miris from Nashua, NH



DOP Chapter 198, Hartford News

Submitted by Anna Rafti

AHEPA/DOP 3RD ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DANCE

We came together with Brothers of AHEPA 58 and had a successful Valentine's Dance. It was an unforgettable evening of dancing, laughter, and Greek pride. A winter storm was in the forecast but that did not stop the crowd from coming. The storm held off long enough for everyone to enjoy themselves with the sounds of the Hellenic Express Band.



L to R - George Bouzakis, Peter Marangoudakis & Costas Loukellis

LAMBADES (EASTER CANDLES) FUNDRAISER

Sisters of Daughters of Penelope Thoas Chapter 198 have been gathering in fellowship and love to craft beautiful lambades in preparation for Pascha. With ribbons, flowers, and faith-filled hearts, we came together to create these special candles that will light the way to the Resurrection of Christ.



Stephanie Zapatka & Maria Tougas

As a philanthropic organization, we cherish these moments of unity, service, and tradition. A huge thank you to all who participated — your dedication to our mission shines brightly!



L to R - Alexia Koudellou, Nitsa Tsipouras, Anna Rafti, Athena Androulakis, Kal Astras, Maria Reveliotis & Ioanna Kalas



L to R - Barbara Bellas, Elaina Varunes, Helen Limnios, Counte Lake, Marie Klementon & Catherine Deros



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

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Lt. Governor - Marcella Calagias

Secretary - Maria Tougas

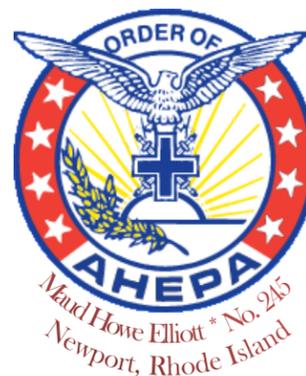
Treasurer - Katina Arnold

Marshal - Christina Smith

District Advisor - Elisa Marotta

Grand Governor - Lainie Damaskos-Christou

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Newport, RI

*founded
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CEOBL SENIOR DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the Holy Trinity (Waterbury) Senior Team on winning their third straight Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Basketball League Championship. They defeated St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral (Hartford) 44-43 in overtime on March 2nd. The team has won the last three championships and has had a 33-win/3-loss record over that time period.

Congratulations to (1st row kneeling): Igli Cyreku, James Harlamon and his dad George Harlamon II, Mario Paniccia

(2nd row standing): Brother Jim Koulouris, Brother Dean Koulouris, Brother & Head Coach James Harlamon, Kevin Hartery, Kosmas Tsetsos, Erv Kambo, Andi Kambo, Brother & Asst. Coach Gus Koulouris



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 Past Supreme President
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 &
Anna-Helene Grossomanides
 Past Grand President
 Daughters of Penelope

WE ARE LOOKING FOR OLD ISSUES OF THE YANKEE NEWS

If you locate any, please share with: **YANKEE NEWS – 937 Chase Parkway, Waterbury, CT 06708.** The paper was originally called the **YANKEE DISTRICT NEWS** and the first editor was Phaethon J. Matthews (Chapter 58). Other persons involved were: Asst. Editor Peter Nichols, Gordon Bilides (98), James Constras (62), Michael Exharhou (48), Andrew Lazouras (121) & Charles Peterson (58). We found an issue dated May 1946 that included articles for: New Britain (117), Springfield (MA), Newport (245), Stamford (99), Meriden (126), Norwich (110), Hartford (58), Providence (106) & New London (250). Some programs that appeared then are very similar to what is in this issue of the YANKEE NEWS. The name change from YDN to YN happened with the passing of the By-laws of Yankee District 7. PLEASE HELP US LOOK FOR PAST ISSUES! It would be great to have some of these old copies. Thank you!

An AHEPAN mentor told me, "You get out of AHEPA what you put into it". I believe you get more. Opportunity awaits you. Get active in your chapters today!



Gregory C. Simones, PDG

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Angie and Ted Augustinos



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Chapter 117, New Britain News

Submitted by Andy Aros

The end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025 have been three months of activities and events for New Britain APEHANS. December 8 chapter participated in a memorial service honoring our late Brother Nicholas Kounaris. After the Divine Liturgy chapter hosted the fellowship hour. The late Brother Kounaris' bequeathment to the chapter eventually became the Nicholas Kounaris Charitable Trust and over the years awarded scholarships whose total worth has equaled more than \$750,000.00. An almost equal amount of money has been donated to St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

The following Saturday, the Chapter sponsored its annual Christmas Party. Once again, the very successful event was chaired Panagiotis Palkanikos. The chairman stated the party would not have taken place without of his hardworking committee members: Andreas Aros, Jim Babetas, Mike Bolovis, John Georgopoulos, Jack Isaac, Stamatis Kounaris, Perry Moustakakis, Chris Nasiakos, Ted Panagopoulos, Collette Polezonis, Steve Polezonis, and John Stergakis. The committee decorated the hall, cooked, serve food, tended the bar, and provided cleanup.



Kounaris Scholarship Recipients

At the conclusion of the dinner, Chapter President and Scholarship Chairman, Thomas Morikis awarded the Kounaris Scholarships to our community 's college students: Carlos Beltran, Alexander

Demosthenous, Ethan Demosthenous, Christina Kapros, Angela Koki, Theodore Koutsofaves, Aristotelis Lazaridis, Georgia Lazaridis, Alexander Manos, Elias Manos, Nikolaos Morikis, Colette Polezonis, Alexandra Ritsatos, Dimitra Ritsatos, Mika Stamos, Sophia Stamos, and Jordon Stergakis.

A separate scholarship, in honor of the late Demetrius Kounaris was awarded. This scholarship is earned by a student who has maintained good grades and has a record of volunteerism at St. George. This scholarship was presented by his son, Brother Stamatis Kounaris to Angela Koki.

President Morikis next awarded New Britain Chapter 117 Chapter Awards for 2024: AHEPAN of the Year - Michael Stamos, Hellene of the Year - Aristotle Nasiakos and Entrepreneur of the Year - Ted Tolis. Past Chapter President of the currently inactive Meriden Chapter, Michael T Michael was presented with the Chapter's Life Time Achievement Award.



Panagiotis Palkanikos, Thomas Morikis, AHEPAN of the year Michael Stamos, Hellene of the Year Aristotle Hasiakos

New Britain AHEPA financially supports, Sunday School, Greek School, and other Youth Group activities in our community. Sunday December 17, immediately following the students Christmas Pageant, Santa Clause (Corresponding Secretary Stamatis Kounaris) with assistance of several reindeer pushed a sleigh full of toys and gifts for the students. A special thank you Brother James Babetas who chaired the committee purchasing the gifts. Extra toys were also purchased and delivered for the New Britain Police Department's Annual Toy Drive.

On February 2, the Sunday School and Greek School students honored their Godparents and Grandparents, by receiving Holy Communion together. AHEPA sponsored the Godparents and Grandparents Day Breakfast, which was chaired by President Thomas Morikis along with his committee: Chris Nasiakos, Panagiotis Palkanikos, Stamatis Kounaris, Emilio Theodoratos, and Ted Tolis. Daughters of Penelope President Irene Sklavouris, Sister Karen Nemphos, and the members of the Sunday School teaching staff were of great help making the program a success.

Saturday, February 22, approximately 15 youngsters participated in the Connecticut GOYA Ski Outing at Ski Sundown. Chairman of the outing was Stamatis Kounaris. Children aged 8 to 18 and their skiing chaperones received Lift Tickets, Rental Ski Equipment, and free Ski Lessons courtesy of our AHEPA chapter.



Greek Independence Day Parade in NYC on March 30th



1500 BC
Mycenaean
Mask



1150 BC
Ruins of Dorian
Invasion



750 BC
Homer



450 BC
Pericles



45 BC
Cleopatra

2025-26 D7 Hellenic History Tournament (Northeast)

Competition Sponsored by Yankee District #7 of AHEPA (CT & RI)
(The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association)

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

- A \$1,000 prize for each member of the winning team (x 3 = \$3,000)
- A 500 prize for each member of the second team (x 3 = \$1,500)
- A trophy and bragging rights!

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Any student who is in grades 8-12 in the 2025-26 academic year and who has not won two previous Northeast tournaments or two International tournaments.
- Who is sponsored by an AHEPA chapter or other Hellenic organization; and
- Who wants to learn about the 3,500-year history of the Hellenes (Greek speakers)

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

- Form or join a three-student team and secure proper sponsorship
- Register by June 30, 2025 (mail registration form (\$25 for book and/or \$10 no book))
- Receive a book on Hellenic history that also provides bibliography for further reading
- Prepare by reading it and other books during the summer
- Take part in a one-day quiz-show-type hybrid single-elimination tournament
- Win matches by answering more multiple-choice questions than the competing team
- Be a member of the teams that advance to the final match

WHEN IS IT?

- Saturday, November 22, 2025 at 11:00 am to about 4:30 pm

WHERE IS IT?

- St Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, 480 Racebrook Rd, Orange, CT 06477

Additional Information, please contact:

- Gregory Simones, 803-463-0495, pdgahepad7@gmail.com, or www.ahepad7.org



250 AD
Diophantus



610 AD
Heraclius



950 AD
Constantine VII
Porphyrogenetus



Andronicus II
Palaeologus



Domenikos
Theotokopoulos
(El Greco)



Makarios

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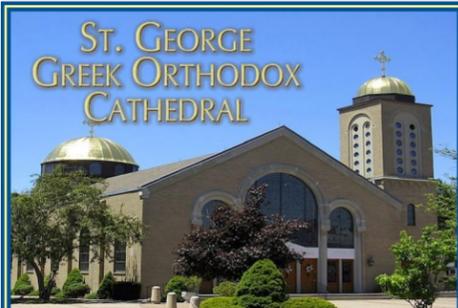
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Calendar of District 7 Upcoming Events

May 2-3: New England Regional Convention (Districts 7-8-9) at Holiday Inn - Norwich, CT
May 8-11: Waterbury Greek Festival, Holy Trinity Church - Waterbury, CT
May 16-18: Dionysos Greek Festival, St. George Church - New Britain, CT
May 18: AHEPA Sunday
May 21-22: National Congressional Banquet & Capitol Hill Day - Washington, DC
May 29-June 1: Hartford Greek Festival, St. George Cathedral – Hartford, CT
May 31: AHEPA-DOP Delegate Registration Deadline - 2025 Supreme Convention
June 6-8: Danielson Greek Festival, Holy Trinity Church - Danielson, CT
June 22: District Scholarship Awards at Holy Trinity Church - Waterbury, CT
June 30: Northeast Region Hellenic History Tournament Registration Deadline
July 21-26: 103rd Supreme Convention (Orlando, Florida)
August 5: Yankee News (September Issue) Story Deadline
August 29-September 1: Odyssey Greek Festival, St. Barbara Church - Orange, CT
Nov. 8: Yankee News (December Issue) Story Deadline
Nov 22: Northeast Region Hellenic History Tournament - Orange, CT

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

Daughters
of Penelope
Thoas 198
"WARRIORS"
Hartford, CT

