



# Order of AHEPA Yankee District News

Publication of District #7 (Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Western Massachusetts)

Volume L

Number 2

Summer 2010



## Message from the Order of AHEPA District Governor

Dear Brothers,

The past year has been a particularly exciting one for our district. The list of our accomplishments is impressive. To start with, one of our own, Dr. John Grossomanides, was elected Supreme Vice President of the Order of AHEPA at the San Francisco Supreme Convention. At the same Convention, our Yankee News was recognized as the best district publication in the country. In the fall of 2009, we held the first ever Hellenic History Tournament (HHT), which attracted sixty high school students from across the district, as well as the participation of Supreme President Nicholas Karacostas and the attention of The Hellenic Voice, The National Herald, and The AHEPAN Magazine. We ended calendar year 2009 with a bang: our district membership reached 765, a level not attained in the past 12 years for which we have data. We were the best district on retention of existing members and the third fastest growing district year-to-year. And in terms of growth consistency, we were the only district in the country to grow more than 20% since 2007.

In January, the chapters expressed their enthusiasm for the HHT by voting unanimously to hold a second tournament in 2010. Jim Himes, the US Rep. representing most of Fairfield County (D-CT-4), joined the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, the first one of Connecticut's five Congresspersons to do so in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. In April, we again participated in the NYC Greek Independence Day parade, where we marched behind the District 7 banner in tandem with Districts 5 and 6. The

Bridgeport brothers voted to support a Sons of Pericles chapter in their community. This is the second SoP chapter in our district, and it came about after a student from Bridgeport heard Manolis Sfinarolakis explain the SoP organization to the participants of the 2009 HHT. Also in April, as a result of a combined effort of Connecticut's Hellenic community, the Connecticut State legislature sent a letter to the Turkish Ambassador in Washington, D.C. regarding the religious freedom issues faced by our Ecumenical Patriarchate. As we went to press, we received word that another US Representative from Connecticut, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-3), representing most of New Haven County, had agreed to join the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues. And this brings us to May and our District Convention, hosted by our newly reawakened Norwalk chapter under the leadership of President Theologos Demetriades.

Thanks to all of you and congratulations for a job well done! I would especially like to thank our New London, Norwich and Norwalk chapters for hosting our two conferences and the convention; all chapter presidents for their special efforts to increase membership; Manolis Sfinarolakis for his role in the creation of the new SOP chapter in Bridgeport; all chapters that contributed \$50 towards the cost of the NYC parade float; all chapter presidents for their support of the Hellenic History Trophy project; Nikiforos Mathews and Demetrios Gennaros for their role in getting the Connecticut legislators letter sent to the Turkish ambassador; Kip Kyprianou and John Grossomanides Jr. for their active involvement and much needed advice; and last but not least, the district lodge for their tireless dedication to the smooth functioning of the district. Thank you all for making me proud to be your Governor for a second year.

Fraternally,  
Nicholas Nikas  
Governor,  
AHEPA Yankee District 7

## Message from the Daughters of Penelope District Governor

We have come to the end of another year of meetings, initiations (not enough though), social gatherings and fundraisers; all in all a successful year. I congratulate you all and encourage you to do all that you can to continue the works of our beloved order. I also encourage you to continue the work of promoting the ideals of the Daughters of Penelope.

As I have ended my term, and many terms, of the position of Governor, I thank you all for your help and support. During my many years of serving as Governor, I have gained many new insights as to what constitutes a Daughter, how it relates to our ideals and my position over the years.

What I found is that the Daughters of District 7 have been patient with me and the struggles we all face within our chapters to keep our membership growing. I found that the Daughters of District 7 have shown loyalty to me even when they did not agree with decisions made. Their loyalty to the Order and their families is quite outstanding. I know these ideals of our order, as evident as I have traveled throughout the District, will sustain us and keep us growing.

But we do have a lot of work to do! Before the beginning of the New Year, take stock of your chapter and what you can do. Do you need new officers? Take an office. Did your membership grow last year? Become a recruiter. Do you reach out to your surrounding community? Become a promoter. Have you been a "helping hand"? Volunteer or chair a committee. Have you done your best to get our younger and older



**AHEPA District #7  
District Lodge Officers  
2009—2010**

**District Governor**  
**Nicholas Nikas**  
58 Benjamin Street  
Old Greenwich, CT 06870  
203-554-5570  
niketes@yahoo.com

**District Lt. Governor**  
**Emmanuel Moshovos**  
65 Primrose Drive  
East Hartford, CT 06118  
860 568 4383  
momosh@comcast.net

**District Secretary**  
**Jack Isaac**  
15 Sylvan Road  
New Britain, CT 06053  
860 224-2183

**District Treasurer**  
**John G. Grossomanides Sr.  
PDG**  
8 Mohegan Trail  
Westerly, RI 02891  
401-596-7453

**District Marshal**  
**James J. Cocolis**  
192 North Street  
Stamford, CT 06802  
203-323-9608  
jimkeulacoclis@hotmail.com

**District Warden**  
**Demetrius Tasoulas**  
24 Lloyd Rd.  
Waterford, CT 06385  
860-444-2562

**District Advisor**  
**Kip G. Kyprianou, PDG**  
KKyprianou@CompuAid.us

**Hellenic Affairs Chair**  
**George A. Rados, PDG**  
7 Cheryl Court  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
860-635-5602  
makedonia@sbcglobal.net

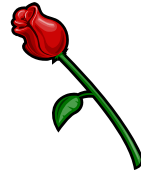
members to events and meetings? Start a babysitting service and ride service. There is a place for everyone.

My very best wishes for growth and expansion of all chapters and a successful future of Yankee District #7 Daughters of Penelope.

Yours in Theta Pi,  
Donna Rados, PDG

**AHEPA Chapter #110  
Rose of New England  
Norwich, CT**

The Rose of New England Chapter #110 hosted Supreme Governor Alex Geourntas and District Lt. Governor Emmanuel Moshovos on March 23, 2010 at their chapter meeting; both spoke of need to increase membership, National and District Programs. We thank both for visiting us. On May 16, 2010 the Chapter Celebrated AHEPA DAY with the entire Norwich Community sponsoring Artoklasia for living AHEPANS, Koliva for deceased AHEPANS, and then hosting a luncheon after Church for everyone. We are proud to have 101 members in the chapter, with three more candidates on the way. Congratulations to Brother Peter and Ginny Argiros on the birth of their Grandson!

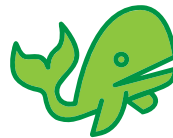


**AHEPA Chapter #250  
Winthrop  
New London, CT**

By Greg Simones

The Chapter has a number of Brothers on the Parish Council: Fr. Dean Panagos, Dean Antipas (Norwich Chpt), Greg Simones, and Demetrius Tasoulas. The Chapter donated a Gift of \$500 to Haiti relief Fundraising. We have a number of upcoming events: a money raffle, Gyro booth at Celebrate East Lyme Festival in July (All food to be donated by a brother AHEPAN).

Our Housing Program continues to grow, we anticipate a groundbreaking on our Phase V Housing Building in Niantic in the near future. Lastly, we celebrated AHEPA Day at St. Sophia on May 16, 2010.



**Upcoming Events**

**AHEPA Supreme Convention  
July 13—17, 2010**  
Delta-CentreVille Hotel  
Montreal, Canada

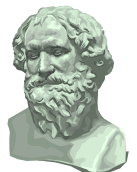
**Greek NIGHT at the ROCK-CATS  
August 3, 2010**  
New Britain Stadium  
New Britain, CT

**District #7 Scholarship Dinner  
August 21, 2010**  
Holy Trinity Greek Church  
Waterbury, CT

**AHEPA Chapter #418  
Danielson, CT**

The chapter was proud to send two representatives to the District #7 Spring Conference: Jim Balis and Mike Leotsakos. We look forward to assisting our church with their Greek Food Festival in June.

**AHEPA Chapter #126  
Archimedes  
Meriden, CT**



The chapter elected Brother John Stargu as chapter President. Happy June Birthday to Stathis Pappas and July Birthday to Robert A. Nemphos.

**AHEPA Chapter #245  
Maud Howe Elliott  
Newport, RI**

By Steve Jennings

Newport Chapter of the Order of AHEPA would like to invite you to join us for an evening of baseball at McCoy Stadium to watch the PAWSOX take on the Scranton Wilkes-Barre YANKEES on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:05pm. We have purchased great box seats; come join the AHEPA for a night of fun. Contact George Koulouvardis to reserve tickets, ASAP.



Also, Anna Kyriakides wife of Brother Harry Kyriakides, ran and finished the Boston Marathon in April, Congratulations to her!!



## Daughters of Penelope, Hermes Chapter #41 (Bridgeport)

By Helen Yeotsas, Chapter President

There has been a lot to talk about, in regards to our Bridgeport Daughters of Penelope chapter! Here is a recap of some of the highlights of this past year!

We had our Annual Turkey dinner in October, and proceeds helped with our national and district commitments and with our scholarship program.

We completed a Holiday food basket project in December, which was incredibly successful. We filled baskets and enjoyed some wonderful fellowship time together. Daughters members and non-Daughters alike pitched in and helped us make this project an overwhelming success.

In addition, we conducted our First Annual "Let's Keep Them Warm" Drive. We collected over 1000 items to donate to needy children and families in the Greater Bridgeport area. We had drop boxes at our church, but also at two other business locations in the area. We donated to soup kitchens, women's shelters, local elementary schools and hospitals. At our church's annual Charity Lunch, the Daughters and AHEPA together distributed gifts of candy and cold weather accessories to all who attended! Our Philoptochos chapter and of course our brother AHEPANS were very supportive of this project, and we thank them! This drive was incredibly rewarding for us as we were able to help so many people stay warm over the winter months.

Of course, in November, we celebrated Founder's Day, with a presentation in church, and the Daughters were very well represented that day. We also had our Turkey raffle in November and also our Lamb and Ham raffle for Easter, which are the major fundraisers for our Scholarship program. This year's raffles were the most successful to date!

In May, we had a Flower/Bake/Gift sale for Mother's day weekend. We expanded the Flower sale to two days and sold more items



than before. We had handmade gifts and baked goods that the ladies prepared to sell. The proceeds will benefit our many philanthropic causes, including our Daughters of Penelope commitments, and the projects we support within our Bridgeport community.

Finally, we are happy to report that since last summer we've initiated 10 new members! Our chapter is growing and we hope to continue to add new members with fresh ideas. Together we can accomplish so much! {see pictures on Page 6}

## AHEPA Chapter #62 Bridgeport, CT

The Chapter celebrated AHEPA Sunday on May 16, 2010 with all the Chapter members sitting as a group in the Church and with a Memorial Service to honor departed AHEPANS. The Chapter is working to reactivate our Sons of Pericles Chapter, we currently have eight young men who are candidates for initiation.

Our membership continues to grow. We have two new initiates: Scott Vereb and Nicholas Vlamis, we also have one transfer member Nicholas Tsocanos. The Chapter Scholarship Committee of Van Hatzis, Lee Tsouris, and George Caravakis will be presenting two AHEPA Chapter #62 Scholarships to children of the community on Sunday, June 20, 2010 at a ceremony at Holy Trinity Church. For our June meeting, we are planning a Dinner Meeting at a five star Bridgeport Restaurant, Ralph and Rich's on June 16, 2010. Additionally, we are planning a Taverna Night on August 27, 2010 at the beach in Bridgeport, all are invited. Further, we are planning a Fishing Outing in late July, we will charter a 72 foot fishing boat and hope to come home with lots of porgies.

Lastly, we were happy to be able to assist our Parish with their Grecian Food Festival on May 21-23, 2010, many of our members assisted in the cooking, planning, and manning the booths at the event.

## AHEPA Chapter #117 Elpis New Britain, CT

By George Rados

The Brothers under the leadership of our President Jack Isaac gave out Scholarships in the amount of \$26,000 to thirteen students.

## Daughters of Penelope DISTRICT LODGE 2009-2010 OFFICERS CONTACT INFORMATION

### Governor

**Donna Rados, PDG**  
7 Cheryl Court  
Cromwell, CT 06416  
860-635-5602  
E-mail: [donna-jean9008@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donna-jean9008@sbcglobal.net)

### Lt. Governor

**Helene Moran, PDG**  
919 Main Street  
West Hartford, CT 06117  
860-236-5351  
Cell: 860-978-5136  
E-mail: [hdmoran@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hdmoran@sbcglobal.net)

### Secretary

**Ellen Anagnostos, PDG**  
158 Ethel Drive  
Portsmouth, RI 02871  
401-683-4275  
E-mail: [ellen.anagnostos@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.anagnostos@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

**Lucia N. Kazakos, PDG**  
554 Nott Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
860-257-4257  
Cell: 860-558-4517  
E-mail: [luciakazakos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:luciakazakos@sbcglobal.net)

### Marshall

**Anastasia Persico**  
P.O.Box 1045  
Middlebury, CT 06762  
203-758-1472  
E-Mail: [apersichtgoc@aol.com](mailto:apersichtgoc@aol.com)

### Maids Advisor

**Penny Pecka**  
83 Midwood Ave  
Waterbury, CT 06708  
203-756-7651  
E-mail: [ppecka@NewHaven.edu](mailto:ppecka@NewHaven.edu)

### Advisor

**Joanne Hologgitas, PhD, PGP**  
448 Broadway  
Newport, RI., 02840  
401- 846-3889





## BRIDGEPORT AHEPA GOES CYCLING

The first Sunday in May, New York City has dedicated to the Bike New York Organization, a bike ride that travels through all five boroughs and has become known as the NYC 5 Boro Ride. It commences at Battery Park in Manhattan and travels to the Bronx, back into Manhattan, across the Queensboro Bridge into Queens, through Queens and Brooklyn, finishing with a ride across the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge into Staten Island for a total distance of forty-two miles. This year there were more than thirty thousand riders.



We are proud to say we had a strong showing in this ride. In total, there were ten members from Chpt 62 representing our chapter and Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Bridgeport, CT and four from the parish. AHEPA was represented by two chapter officers, *John Bochanis and James Yeotsas* and *Dennis Lesko, John Stevens, Nicholas Fatibene, Andrew Poniros, Manny Machado, Phil Georges, Nicholas Vlamis and Robert Emery*. Also, from our parish: *Liz Wingo, Marina Anastasiou, Patricia Poniros and John Buehler*. We battled hot temperatures reaching 92°, humidity, and a strong headwind while cycling through Queens & Brooklyn. Several of us later met for dinner at Uncle Nick's Restaurant on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave between 50<sup>th</sup> & 51<sup>st</sup> St.

Two years ago one of our parishioners, Michael Albano, began a Cycling Club at Holy Trinity. All the riders above, are also members of the Holy Trinity Cycling Club. Our group started out with two riders in the first year and now we have a total of 36 riders that ride on a regular basis together on Saturday mornings. The group was put together to promote our Greek Orthodox heritage and spiritual well being, to help develop camaraderie within our parish of like minded Orthodox Christians, and of course a good cardiovascular workout. Anyone from any of the local parishes are free to join us on our early Saturday morning rides, our Club is open to all. Anyone interested in riding with us can contact Mike Albano at [quirkymix@me.com](mailto:quirkymix@me.com) or Dennis Lesko at [leskod@charlespratt.com](mailto:leskod@charlespratt.com).

## Tá véa

**Adam Rand**, grandson of Past District Governors **Esther and Terry Mitchell** is a junior at Stony Brook University where he is on the Lacrosse team. He is the team faceoff lead and helped his team to the American East Conference Championship.

Congratulations to **John G. and Celia Grossomanides** who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 8th. A great and wonderful accomplishment!  
*Χρονια Πολλα!!*

Congratulations to **Kristina Grossomanides**, daughter of **George S. Grossomanides**, granddaughter of **Claire Grossomanides-PDG** and the late Steve Grossomanides who just graduated from Framingham State College with her Bachelor Degree in Business.

*Και σε ανωτερα!*

Happy JUNE Birthdays to Brothers **John Melonopoulos, Mo Moshovos, Fr. George Z., Deno Macricostas, Nick Metaxas, Dimitri Vasquez, Dennis Daniska, George Rados, George Anagnostos, and John Papadopoulos**. *Να τα εκατοστισεις!*

Get Well Soon to **Peter Argiros!**

## In Memoriam

Past District Governor **Theodora "Teddy" Zrakas** of Niantic, CT passed away on February 12, 2010. A member of the New London Daughter of Penelope Chapter she was predeceased by her husband Charles.

**Rita Alexopoulos** of Norwich, CT, a long time member of the Daughters of Penelope Norwich Chapter passed away at the age of 94, she was the wife of the late Peter C. Alexopoulos.

Brother **Chris Metakos**, 71, of Westerly, RI passed away on February 28, 2010. He was a member of the Winthrop #250 New London AHEPA Chapter and a member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Cranston. He was the owner operator of Famous Pizza in Westerly for many years.



Brother **George Panichas Sr.**, 87, of Lincoln, RI passed away on Saturday, February 28, 2010. He was a Rhode Island State Representative from 1971-1984 and the First Greek-American elected to state office in Rhode Island. He was a member of the Pawtucket AHEPA Chapter.

**May their Memory be Eternal**

## AHEPA Spring Conference Summary

The Spring Conference was held in Norwich, CT at the Ahepa Housing Facility on Saturday, April 17. The following Chapters attended: New London, Norwich, DANIELSON, NORWALK, Stamford, Bridgeport, New-Hartford, New Britain, Danbury, and New Haven. It was great seeing Brother *Alex Vlantis!*

A tremendous presentation on "Religious Freedom and the Ecumenical Patriarch" was given by Brother **Nik Mathews**. The presentation stressed the need for all Greeks to reach out to their legislators and lobby for this important Greek and International effort. This presentation is something every community, chapter, and Church should see.

## AHEPA Chapter #90 Danbury, CT

The Danbury AHEPA Chapter will award five \$1,000 Macricostas scholarships this year.

AHEPA Sponsored Youth Sunday Brunch – took place on Sunday, May 16th following church services. GOY-Ans helped to serve and clean up, while the AHEPANS cooked. This event was open to the Community. The Chapter honored the Coaches, Advisors and athletes at the brunch.

## AHEPA Chapter #106 Sophocles Providence, RI

Our Chapter of Ahepa will once again this year sponsor any youth from our parish to participate in the Hellenic History Trophy Competition sponsored by the Yankee District, by covering the registration expenses, fees and travel.

The Chapter hosted the District Governor on our Tuesday March 23 dinner meeting at the Mihailides Centers Demetrakas Hall. The Sophocles chapter continues to search for land that would be appropriate for an Ahepa Housing facility. Last month's meeting included a decision to support the education efforts of our parishioner Emile Sarkis at Hellenic College. We will sponsor an end-of-the-year Family Day picnic for our Sunday Church School on June 6, 2010.



## Greek Independence Day Parade NYC April 18, 2010



L-R: District Governor Nicholas Nikas (099), Manolis Sfinarolakis (048), Constantine Kaloidis (048), Dimitrios Vasquez (099) and Arthur Kiratsous (099)



L-R: Dist. 6 Dist Lt Gov. Jimmy Kokotas, Dist. 5 Treasurer Bill Harrison, District 5 DG Phil Vogis, Dist. 5 Athl Advisor Nick Marialis, Dist. 5 Dist Lt. Gov George Horiates, Evzone 405 VP Jim Zafiros, and Supreme Governor Ted Manolios surround John G.



Posing next to the AHEPA float: are Doc Loter's daughter Carol Loter Hoegemann and granddaughter Lauren Hoegemann.



At the Pierre Hotel in NYC, prior to the Parade; L-R Congressman Zak Space (OH), SVP John Grossomanides, Supreme Treasurer Col. Nick Vamvakias, Paul Kotrosios, State Senator Louis Raptakis, and Supreme Secretary Anthony Kouzounis



Supreme and Grand Officers visit the White House and visit the President for Greek Independence Day during March Celebration



Fun Night for All, Minor League Greek Heritage Night  
Save the Date August 3, 2010 New Britain



## District Highlights



Bridgeport DOP makes Food Baskets: Stella Capiris, Helen Spyrou, Carlie Centrella, Kathy Yiannoulis, Helen Yeotsas, Mary Patsiarikas, Theodora Fatibene, Christine Vlastaris, and Stacie Crespo



Bridgeport DOP Installation: Helen Klamka, Helen Spyrou, Mary Tatalias, Christine Hatzis, Vicky Karavitis, Stella Capiris, Tina Morici, Sally Perna

### AHEPA Chapter #48 Waterbury, CT

By Alex Boutsoulis

On Sunday April 11<sup>th</sup> the Waterbury Chapters of the Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena held their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hall of Fame Banquet to honor Mary Voulgaris. Mary was recognized for her continuous dedication to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox community of Waterbury. Mary is a 62-year member of the Daughters of Penelope (DOP) and a former Yankee District DOP Governor, and has been involved in the Waterbury Ladies Philoptochos Society for over 55 years. To her honor, Mary was the first female President of the Holy Trinity Waterbury Parish Council. Dina Rocco, Waterbury Maids of Athena, Chapter President acted as the Master of Ceremonies.

The following dignitaries spoke at the event: Donna Rados, Yankee District DOP Governor, John Ververis, Waterbury Sons of Pericles Chapter President, Anastasia Perisco, Waterbury DOP President, Janet Gagas, Waterbury Ladies Philoptochos Society President, AHEPANs Father Stephen Natsis and the Honorable Judge Socrates Mihalakos. **Congratulations Mary**, for a well deserved honor! Also, Congratulations to the Waterbury Sons and Maids chapters in organizing a terrific affair.

On Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup> we held our Annual GOYA Visit to a New Eng-

land University town - Paul Velezis, GOYA advisor (also Waterbury AHEPAN Chapter President) & Waterbury AHEPANs, Alex Velezis, John Gagas and Alex Boutsoulis with 22 GOYANS visited Boston, MA. The group visited the JFK Library & Museum, Quincy Market, and Northeastern University. Our Northeastern tour guide was graduating Senior George Barchini, a Waterbury Sons of Pericles Chapter member (George thanks for giving up your time for a very interesting tour of the Northeastern campus - Best of luck in Law School). Our group ended the night with an Italian dinner in the Boston's North End, a great time was had by all.

Finally, on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> the AHEPA Chapter sponsored an AHEPAN scholarship fundraising dinner, at the last fundraising dinner in January, we hosted over 175 people. The food was absolutely terrific and there were rave reviews from all who came.

### AHEPA Chapter #99 Stamford, CT

With the arrival of spring, our chapter jumped into high gear. On April 23, we offered a screening of the Greek movie "El Greco" at the Archangels Church. About 50 people attended, helping the chapter raise about \$300. Audience response was positive. "El Greco" is a Greek biographical film about the life of the Greek painter of the Spanish Renaissance, Domenicos Theotokopoulos, known worldwide as El Greco. Based



on the fictionalized biographical novel, "El Greco: o Zografos tou Theou" (El Greco: the Painter of God).

On May 8, we held our annual fundraiser for the benefit of the Stamford AHEPA Scholarship Fund. It was a concert at the Annunciation church featuring Aphrodite Daniel, Panos Chrysovergis and the Syn... phonia Band. This was the first time in recent memory that our chapter held a major event at the Annunciation church, and it demonstrated our commitment to support the Greek schools and to attract new members from both Stamford churches. We raised about \$3,400 from community sponsorships. President of the New Rochelle chapter, and Chairman of the Hellenic Cultural Commission, Joe Keane, came to enjoy the music with his wife Demetra. We donated \$1,000 each to our two church Greek schools on AHEPA Sunday to highlight AHEPA's support for Hellenism, education and philanthropy. We are keeping the rest in reserve in anticipation of sponsoring several student teams from Stamford participating in the 2010 Hellenic History Tournament.





*Yankee News  
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9683.

**AHEPA Chapter #98  
New Haven, CT**

The Order of AHEPA Chapter #98, celebrated AHEPA Day in New Haven at the Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church Community Center with a Breakfast Buffet on SUNDAY, May 16<sup>th</sup> after Divine Liturgy. We were honored to have Supreme President Nick Karacostas and Executive Director Basil Mossaides, join us. The proceeds generated were to benefit the AHEPA Scholarship Fund. About 150 people enjoyed Pancakes, French Toast, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, Coffee and Juices, which will help to educate the youth of our community.



**Reminder**

To each chapter secretary, please mail a copy of your chapter officers list to the District Secretary and NATIONAL. This list should include the office, name, address, phone number and if possible email address for each of the top four offices (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Hellenic Affairs Chair) in your chapter. This is to help improve communication between District and each chapter. It is very important you get all the correspondence from the District Governor and/or District Secretary.

**Did you know**

The official website of Yankee District #7 is [www.ahepad7.org](http://www.ahepad7.org)  
You can find a variety of forms, dates of events, copies of previous newsletters at this website. The national website is [www.ahepa.org](http://www.ahepa.org)

**NATIONAL NEWS**

Subscribe to the AHEPA National Weekly Newsletter email called "This Week for Greeks" go to [www.ahepa.org](http://www.ahepa.org)

**Editors Note:**

**News, news, news**

As always if you have any news please email it to us.

Please send any pictures electronically via email. Any chapter news is always welcome, engagements, marriages, new babies, promotions, moved, retirement, or just taking a vacation let us know, forward it via email to: [yankeenews@ahepad7.org](mailto:yankeenews@ahepad7.org)

**Time to retire, I have truly enjoyed** my time as Editor of the District #7 Yankee News but after four years, I feel it is time for me to turn the reigns over to someone new. If anyone is interested in taking over the layout, design, and production component of the magazine, please contact me. I am happy to assist with labeling and mailing but unfortunately due to my Supreme Vice President responsibilities I feel I must transition the journal to someone who will have more time. Thank you to all the Chapters and members for their support. **I hope everyone enjoyed my version of our Publications.**

Order of AHEPA  
Yankee District News  
c/o John Grossomanides  
8 Mohegan Trail  
Westerly, RI 02891

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**AHEPA District #7  
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**Editor-in Chief**

John Grossomanides

Assistant Editor Alex Vlantes

Contributing Editor Kip  
Kyprianou, Nick Nikas

Photographers: Gregory  
Simones and George Gros-  
somanides

Please visit us on our web-  
site:  
[www.ahepad7.org](http://www.ahepad7.org)

Email news to:  
[yankeenews@ahepad7.org](mailto:yankeenews@ahepad7.org)

**Next Yankee News  
Deadline is:  
August 1,  
2010**



Scenes from the International Festival at  
Central Connecticut State University

**District #7 Fall Conference  
New Britain, CT  
Saturday,  
October 30, 2010**