



AHEPA

Yankee District News

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

Volume XLIX

Number 1

Spring 2009



Message from the Order of AHEPA District Governor

Dear Brothers,

It has been an exciting half year! The coming of Spring should give us renewed desire and greater opportunities to grow and improve our organization. For a while now, we have highlighted the handful of things each chapter needs to focus on:

- Increase membership by holding a recruitment event before June and by constantly asking people to JOIN AHEPA !!!
- Send \$50 for the New York City Parade float and commit to at least 5 marchers (bus passengers) to Manolis Sfinarolakis, our Yankee District #7 Independence Day Parade Coordinator
- Commit to support the HELLENIC HISTORY TROPHY by (1) energizing your community's high school students, and (2) sponsoring the students who sign up
- Convince your Congressman to join the Hellenic Caucus

Our district's membership grew in 2008, both through initiations and also by reinstating many brothers who had been "misplaced" in previous years.

To continue to grow membership in 2009, we need to focus on initiating new members. The easiest and fastest way to do this is to hold a recruitment event. All chapters should strive to reach a minimum of 10% "market penetration" of their community's

families.

Manolis Sfinarolakis, our 2009 New York City Parade coordinator has called the chapters to action with an email message that is re-printed elsewhere in this issue. Please respond to his request in a positive and timely manner. The proposed parade bus trip promises to be a highlight of the year.

The rules for the Hellenic History Trophy will be published shortly. Please participate! Our youth's education in the history of the Hellenes is too important to ignore!

While Rhode Island's two Congressmen are members of the Hellenic Caucus, none of Connecticut's five is. I challenge each Connecticut chapter to work with the other chapters in its congressional district to arrange for a meeting with its US Representative and convince him/her to join the Hellenic Caucus. Please invite me to join your delegations.

Chapter visitations continue to be a very important part of my responsibilities as your Governor. So far, I have had the pleasure and the privilege of visiting the following chapters: Norwich, Stamford, Hartford, Danbury, Waterbury, Bridgeport, New London and New Britain. That leaves Norwalk, New Haven, Meriden, Danielson, Providence and Newport. I would really like to visit every chapter before the Tri-District Convention next June, so please invite me, if you haven't already!

Please make every effort to attend our Spring Conference on April 25 in Bridgeport.

Fraternally,
Nicholas Nikas

Message from the Daughters of Penelope Grand Governor Zone I

Dear Sisters of Yankee District #7,

I would first like to extend my greetings to all of you and hope that your year is going well. Secondly, I have listed below some pertinent information, forms, and dates to assist you. Lastly, the forms were sent to all Chapter Presidents in January if you have not received them please call headquarters (202) 234-9741 or visit DOP website at <http://www.ahepa.org/dop>.

Membership- Applications and brochures are available online and from DOP Headquarters. The Growth & Expansion Bulletin is available online or contact Grand Vice President Elaine Sampanis at JUBILOBBY@aol.com

Forms- for 2009 Obligations, Supreme Convention Committees and Awards have been sent out to all chapters and these are also available on the website. Committee reports are to be sent first to the District for review at the District Convention.

Chapter obligations for 2009 should be sent in as soon as possible to DOP Headquarters.

National Projects- we selected four mandatory charity projects for the 2009 obligations year. They are:

- Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc.
- Penelope House Family Violence Center
- Penelopean Foundation Day Care Center

- University of Miami, Sylvester Cancer Research Center (Papanicolaou)

Please feel free to contact me at anytime should you have questions or need my assistance.

With Respect in Theta Pi,
Anna-Helene Panagakos

District #7 Liaison
(917)836-7684
ahpscormio@aol.com



AHEPA District #7 District Lodge Officers 2008–2009

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

Gregory G. Benios

10 Valley View Dr.
Farmington, CT 06032
860-680-2363

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

New England Regional AHEPA Convention X

By George Anagnostos

This year's, District Convention will be held with Districts #8 and #9 in Mansfield, MA. Located conveniently off of Interstate -95 and I-495.

In March, every chapter president and secretary, every Past District Governor, all the District Lodge members and those who have attended the previous New England Regional Conventions (NERC) will be sent the forms and full information individually.

Therefore, the District Lodge should provide updated names and address for the members; all chapter presidents' and secretaries' names and addresses (ID'd by chapter). As well as, updated Past District Governor lists and provide any names and addresses of those other members who might be interested in attending the NERC. These persons will be personally provided forms and information on the NERC sometime in March, not all at the same time.

This information should be sent to G. Anagnostos, 158 Ethel Drive, Portsmouth, RI as soon as possible. The Lodge is asked to coordinate who will provide which of the above data.

The election of delegates should be conducted in the March or April meeting and provided to the District Secretary promptly with full data. The Secretary should compile the report and provide a best estimate of how many delegates are expected to attend and denote whether for the full weekend or just for the Yankee District #7 meeting day, Saturday.

This year's business has several very important issues to be voted on: increasing the District Scholarship from a two year allocation to a three year, if criteria are met.

Also, a proposal to increase the AHEPA DISTRICT DUES from \$7.75 per person to \$15 per person from each chapter.

Finally, we will have election of District Foundation Board Members.

Upcoming Events

Waterbury

Sons of Pericles

2nd Annual Hall of Fame Banquet

Sunday, April 5, 2009 12PM

Holy Trinity Greek Church
Waterbury, CT

Greek Independence Day Parade

Sunday, April 26, 2009 1PM

5th Avenue
New York City, NY

AHEPA Bridgeport

Chapter #62

84th Chapter Anniversary

Saturday, May 16, 2009

8:30 PM

Holy Trinity Greek Church
Bridgeport, CT

7th Annual Greek Night

With the New York Mets

Friday, May 29, 2009 7PM

Citibank Park
Flushing, NY

District #6 Convention

May 30, 2009

Laguardia Holiday Inn
Flushing, NY

AHEPA New England

Regional Conference X

June 5,6,7, 2009

Holiday Inn Hotel
Mansfield, MA

AHEPA

Supreme Convention 2009

July 1-5, 2009

Hyatt Regency Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA



New York City Greek Independence Day Parade 2009

Dear Brother Ahepan,

The Greek Independence Day Parade in New York will be held on April 26, 2009. This year, the Supreme Lodge is planning to march with us again, but we all hope to significantly increase the number of AHEPA marchers from 60 last year to over 100. This would renew the respect for AHEPA among the other members of the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York and would increase the chances that we would be among the first groups to march in the parade in the years to come. We are working closely with our brothers from District 6 (New York) and District 5 (New Jersey and Delaware) to coordinate a great turnout. As we did last year, we will contribute \$500 towards the operating cost of the float to get our District's name on it, as well as the name of a deceased Brother we want to honor.

To make the trip as easy and as fun as possible for the maximum number of Ahepans in our District, we plan the following:

- **Coach Bus Rental:** Assuming we get enough commitments from the chapters, we will hire a bus to drive along interstate I-95 from New London (Niantic) to Manhattan and make stops along the way to pick up Ahepans from other chapters. At this point, we plan to have stops in New Haven (Orange) and Stamford, but other stops might be arranged if desired. Assuming we can get a minimum of 5 people per chapter, the RT cost per person is expected to be \$40 from New London, \$30 from New Haven, and \$20 from Stamford.

Lunch after Parade: On the way back, we will have a late lunch / early dinner at the club house of the Stamford Hellenic

Association, where we can get well prepared Greek food at very reasonable prices (\$20).

Important items to note:

Time: The parade starts at 1 p.m. on Sunday April 26th, 2009

Place: Fifth Avenue at 61st Street, New York, NY (more specifics as we get closer to April 26)

Dress Code: Blue suit, white shirt, tie, and Ahepa jewels if applicable

What each chapter needs to do:

As soon as possible: As your chapter's fair share of the cost of the float, please send a check for \$50 made out to AHEPA District #7 to District #7 Treas. John G. Grossomanides 8 Mohegan Trail Westerly RI 02891.

By February 28: Please communicate your commitment for at least 5 bus passengers to Manolis Sfinarolakis, phone: 203-232-2462, or email: manolis.sfinarolakis@gmail.com.

By March 20: If we get the required number of committed passengers, we will need to pay for the bus in full 30 days before the parade. Please send your chapter's passenger names and a check for their total bus fare (see bus cost per person above) made out to AHEPA District #7 to Manolis Sfinarolakis, 70 Arrowhead Way, Woodbury, CT 06798.

By March 31: Please communicate your nomination (with supporting reasons) for the deceased Brother whose name should appear on the float to Manolis Sfinarolakis, phone: 203-232-2462, or email: manolis.sfinarolakis@gmail.com. If we receive more than one nomination, the District Lodge will pick the name based on the supporting reasons provided by the chapters. you Hope to see you all in New York on April 26!

Fraternally,

Manolis Sfinarolakis

Greek Independence Day Parade Coordinator AHEPA Yankee District #7

In Memoriam

Brother Past District Governor **George H. Mehos** of Weston, CT passed away on January 5, 2009. He served in the military, US Army during World War II 25th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. He was awarded a Bronze Star for Valor and five Battle Stars: Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland, Northern France, and Central Europe.

George owned and operated the Roodner Feed Company for over 40 years until his retirement. He was a member of the Norwalk chapter where he served as Chapter President and then served on the District working his way up to District Governor of District #7.

Brother Past District Governor **C. Charles Chekas**, 86 of Middlebury, CT passed away on December 22, 2008. A life member of the Waterbury Chapter #48, he served as Chapter President before working his way up to District Governor of District #7, where he served from 1964-1965.

He was also active in the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Waterbury CT serving as Parish Council President. He served on the Board of Trustees of the State of Connecticut Community and Technical Colleges. He retired as a professor emeritus from the Waterbury State Technical College where he worked for more than 25 years.

Brother **Ilias Nousiopoulos** of the Rose of New England Chapter #110 Norwich, CT passed away on November 18, 2008.

May their Memory be Eternal



AHEPA Chapter #99 Stamford, CT

In November 2008, our chapter sponsored a free showing of the DVD "The Journey: The Greek American Dream" as part of our efforts to bring cultural, musical and educational events aimed at promoting our Hellenic heritage.

"The Journey" is a rich story wonderfully told and revealed by film director Maria Iliou in a documentary that made its debut at the Athens Benaki Museum and has been shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the American Film Institute in Washington, DC and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Based on material gathered from archives throughout the U.S., the documentary is the result of three years of work by Ms. Iliou and her colleagues. It documents the history of Greek immigrants in the U.S. from the start of the 19th Century until 1980 and was selected by the American Film Institute as one of the best European films of 2007 as well as receiving the Special Jury Award for "Best Documentary" at the International Film Festival in Houston in April 2008.

Over 90 attendees from the greater Stamford area and throughout the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut metropolitan area attended this event. The response to the screening was extremely enthusiastic and thru our fund-raising raffle, we were able to raise a significant amount for our scholarship fund. More than thirty copies of the DVD were purchased by attendees also resulting in a donation to Proteus, the charitable organization which produced the DVD, of over \$900.



The pivotal role of Greece on the side of the Allies in World War II is little known in this country. Even some Americans of Hellenic origin are not familiar with it. To help remedy this situation, and in preparation for the 68th anniversary of the heroic involvement of Greece in World War II on October 28, 1944, the Stamford AHEPA and the Church of the Archangels presented "The Story of OXI", a multimedia presentation by Dr. Angelo Athanasopoulos, on Friday, October 3.

Dr. Athanasopoulos is an energetic and engaging speaker who uses computer technology to make his presentations come alive. He has been our most popular lecturer in the last 8 years. This was his 8th Modern Greek history presentation to our community. People find his lectures both informative and entertaining.

Dr. Athanasopoulos reviewed the rise of Ioannis Metaxas to power and the challenge presented to him by Mussolini. He showed actual video clips and photos illustrating the war against the Italians in Albania. He highlighted the important role of women, mostly mothers of soldiers, who kept the troops supplied by carrying food and ammunition on their backs through the snow in the mountains. Using maps and animated slides, he explained the subsequent engagement against the Germans in the "Battle of the Forts", ending with the eventual collapse of the war front.

An enthusiastic audience of about 60 people from Stamford and neighboring communities, including Brother Kip Kyprianou, PDG, from Danbury, continued asking questions on this very important aspect of Modern Greek and world history well past 10:30 pm.

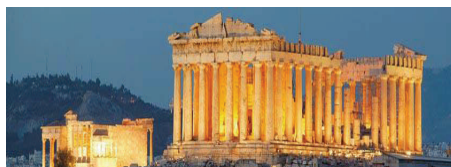
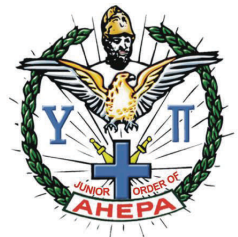


Photo (L-R): Chapter 99 President Dr. Arthur Kiratsous; Dr. Angelo Athanasopoulos

Sons of Pericles Waterbury, CT

The Waterbury Sons of Pericles are proud to announce the recipient of their 2nd Annual Hall of Fame Award: Mr. Elias Pappoutsis. Elias has been a devoted member of the Holy Trinity Waterbury community for many years, and has dedicated himself tirelessly as the Church's beloved Psalti. We thank Elias for his care and devotion, and ask that you join us in honoring him.

A banquet will be held on Sunday, April 5th immediately following church. Prices are as follows:
Fish Dinner: \$15 Pre-Sale, \$20 at the Door
Pasta: \$8 Pre-sale, \$10 at the Door



AHEPA Chapter #62 Bridgeport, CT

The Order of AHEPA Chapter #62, Yankee District #7 is proud to announce the celebration of their 84th anniversary as an AHEPA Chapter in Bridgeport, CT.

The Chapter, in conjunction with its 84th Anniversary, announces its Spring Dance to be held on Saturday, May 16, 2009 in the Aegean Room of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (4070 Park Ave. Bridgeport, CT) from 8:30PM to 1:00AM. The dance will be caberet-style with the Chapter providing all the set ups and a Venetian hour. You are welcomed to bring your own food and wine/liquor.

Greek and American music will be featured by DJ Nixtas, along with a floor show by world champion ballroom dancing couple Christian Lange and Julia Mincheva.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by contacting Brother Gus Vlastaris at 203-929-3573 or Brother George Christopoulos at 203-929-3937 by April 1, 2009. Please note, no tickets will be sold at the door.

Proceeds of this event to benefit the Chapter Scholarship Fund.

On September 17, 2008 Bridgeport, CT Chapter #62 hosted a dinner for the Daughters of Penelope at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church as a get-together for the start of their new year. The guest speaker of the evening was the Supreme Secretary Dr. John Grossomanides and District Treasurer John G. Grossomanides. At the October 15, 2008 meeting, the chapter invited District Governor Nick Nikas to assist in the initiation of three new members, Michael Bouloubasis, Nicholas Daniolos, and Demetri Raptopoulos. Chapter President John Frange-



Bridgeport Chapter #62, new initiates (Left to right) Michael Bouloubasis, Nicholas Daniolos, John Frangenes-Chapter President, Demetri Raptopoulos

nes announced that two members would be initiated at December meeting which will bring our chapter total membership to over 81 members, an increase of 20% over the last ten years. In November 2008, the Chapter sponsored their annual Roast Chicken Dinner with all proceeds going to their scholarship fund. In December 2008, the AHEPANS and the Daughters of Penelope will hold their joint annual Christmas Party at the Stone Barn in Monroe, CT.

AHEPA Chapter #110 Rose of New England Norwich, CT

By George Grossomanides

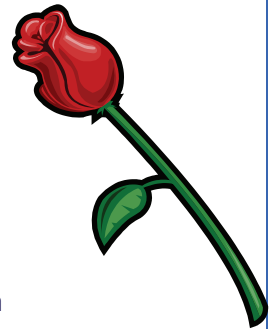
The Chapter has been busy recruiting and initiating new brothers for the past 12 months, we are fortunate to initiate eight new members in 2008. We have now reached 86 members on the rolls. Most recently we initiated 2 energetic 20 year old young men Costas Zarboutis who is a senior majoring in Chemistry at University of Connecticut and resides in Columbia, CT and Costas Konstandinis is a EMT from

Norwich.

Prior to this we initiated two brother's both in their early 20's Jason and Joshua Bakoulis from Norwich. The Bakoulis's represent 3 generations of Ahepans in their family. Also, the Daniska's are representing four generations of AHEPANS.

In the Spring of 2009 we are planning a fund-raising dinner to benefit Cooley's Anemia. Our chapter is also planning a Truck Raffle in the summer which in the past has been highly successful for our chapter. Our three Senior Housing Buildings are fully occupied and we are in the process of raising money for an enclosure for the patio behind Building Two.

Also, the Chapter held a Christmas Party on December 30, 2009 which was open to AHEPANS and spouses. A good time was had by all.





Brother Greg Stamos of New Haven speaks to the District about the AHEPA National Basketball Program and its trip to Greece.



District Governor Nicholas Nikas address AHEPAs and Daughters of Penelope at the Fall Conference hosted by Chapter #98 New Haven.



District Lodge: District Lt. Governor Mo Moshovos, District Secretary Jack Isaac, and District Treasurer John G. Grossomanides



PDGs Ellen and George Anagnostos of Newport at the Fall District Conference in New Haven.



Supreme Secretary John Grossomanides and PSG Spiro Vasilakis at the ΣΕΑ meeting in Chicago, IL.



The Daughters of Penelope were well represented at the Fall Conference.



Daughters of Penelope at the District #7 Fall Conference



(L-R) PSG Gus Hazifotis, Supreme Treasurer Anthony Kouzounis, Supreme Secretary John Grossomanides, and Past Supreme President Andrew Banis at the AHEPA Western Leadership Conference in Reno, NV held in October.



John G. Grossomanides at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Syntagma Square in Athens, Greece.



Brother Jerry Copsinis President of the Hartford Chapter #58 at the District #7 Fall Conference

THE
AHEPA FAMILY
87th
SUPREME
CONVENTION
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA • JUNE 29th – JULY 5th 2009
 WWW.AHEPA.ORG




Scenes from Epiphany in Tarpon Springs, FL on January 6, 2009: Can you find John G.?



L-R: Virginia Vallas, Heidi Petros, Anna-Helene Panagakos and Liz Louziotis at the Norwich AHEPA Chapter Christmas



The Bakoulis Family and new initiate Costa Konstandinis of Norwich Chapter #110



L-R: Supreme Secretary John Grossomanides, new initiate Costas Zarboutis, Norwich #110 Vice President Peter Patsouris, Costas Konstandinis, and Past District Governor Anthony Petros at the December Chapter meeting and Initiation.



Norwich #110 (L-R): Peter Argiros, Sot Daniska, Joe Hominski, Tony Vallas, Peter Patsouris, Steve Patsouris, Anthony Neigel, Larry Wyland, and PDG Tony Petros



L-R: Ginny and Peter Argiros and Celia Grossomanides

2008 Membership Statistics

The Supreme Headquarters has recently released the membership numbers for the year ending. The "Top 10" District #7 AHEPA Chapters in terms of membership on December 31, 2008 are:

1. Chpt 110 Norwich—86
2. Chpt 62 Bridgeport— 80
3. Chpt 48 Waterbury— 66
4. Chpt 106 Providence— 66
5. Chpt 99 Stamford— 54
6. Chpt 117 New Britain— 52
7. Chpt 245 Newport— 51
8. Chpt 418 Danielson— 46
9. Chpt 98 New Haven— 41
10. Chpt 58 Hartford— 40

Statistics for 2007 , top Chapters membership counts:

1. Chpt 110, Norwich, CT—84
2. Chpt 62, Bridgeport, CT—74
3. Chpt 106, Providence, RI—71
4. Chpt 99, Stamford, CT—55
5. Chpt 117, New Britain, CT—53
6. Chpt 245, Newport, RI—51
7. Chpt 58, Hartford, CT—47
8. Chpt 48, Waterbury, CT—46
9. Chpt 418, Danielson, CT—40
10. Chpt 90, Danbury, CT—36

Chapters with the most new initiates in District #7 for 2008

1. Chpt 110 Norwich— 8
2. Chpt 62 Bridgeport— 7
3. Chpt 48 Waterbury— 6
4. Chpt 245 Newport— 4
5. Chpt 117 New Britain— 3

Also, we recognize Chapter #48 Waterbury for 22 Reinstatements the highest in District #7.

AHEPA national membership totals 16,000 and has 540 chapters in the United States, Canada, Greece, and Cyprus.



Did you know

The official website of Yankee District #7 is www.ahepad7.org

You can find a variety of forms, dates of events, copies of previous newsletters at this website.

AHEPA NATIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION AWARDS

By Anthony Petros

The AHEPA National Housing Corporation (ANHC) was awarded 2 more grants on January 16, 2009, from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, bringing our total projects to 88 with 4,695 apartments.

The Mobile, Alabama AHEPA Chapter 310 received a 39 unit project - their 12th one. While the New London Chapter 250 received a 52 unit project - their 5th.



Congratulations to all those whose hard work made it possible. Five other chapters had applications, but were not successful, this year.

News, news, news

As always if you have any news please email it to us. Please send pictures electronically via email. Any chapter news is welcome, engagements, marriages, new babies, promotions, retirement, or just taking a vacation let us know, via email: yankeenews@ahepad7.org

Reminder

To each chapter secretary, please mail a copy of your chapter officers list to the District Secretary. 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 District Secretary. A copy of the of your Chapter officer list should be sent to the Supreme Headquarters, too.

NATIONAL NEWS

Subscribe to the AHEPA National Weekly Newsletter email called "This Week for Greeks" go to www.ahepa.org

Tá vέα

Χρονια Πολλα!&Happy Birthday to Brother **Alex Viantes**, who celebrated his 92nd Birthday on November 1st!

Χρονια Πολλα!&Happy Birthday to **Sotero Daniska** who celebrated his 81st Birthday on February 22, 2009

Brother **Mike Zotos**, Danbury #90, past Superintendent and retiree from State of Connecticut Department of Education is now living in St. Augustine, FL

Get Well Soon to **Peter Argiros, Viola Trantalis, Peter Pappas, and Steve Grossomanides, Sr.!**

Traveling to Florida, many Brothers and Sisters are snow birding in the Sunshine State:

Tony and Heidi Petros, Bob and Kaye Booth, Helene Moran, Bill and Elaine Trantalis

Editors Note:

Think San Francisco, We need to have a strong showing at the Supreme Convention in July. Our goal is to have 2 delegates from each chapter. Let's show the country the strength of District #7. HELP!! Us get to 20 delegates to represent our District. Start planning for July, so we can elect the first Supreme Vice President from our District in 40 years.

AHEPA Chapter #90 Danbury, CT

Chapter 90's film festival continues in 2009 with the showing of "Girl in Black" on Friday, January 30, 2009, the program began at 7PM. The drama from director Michael Cacoyannis brought international attention to the Greek film industry and received the 1956 Golden Globe Award for best foreign film. Free admission, complimentary pasta & salad buffet were provided to all that attended.

Theodoros Kolokotronis

(Θεόδωρος Κολοκοτρώνης, 3 April 1770 - 15 February 1843) was a Greek general in the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire.

The *Kolokotronoi* clan was a powerful and respected clan in Arcadia in the 18th century. Their legend of pride and insubordination is commemorated in a well-known folk

song that survives from that time: *Ahorse they go to church, Ahorse they kiss the icons, Ahorse they receive communion, From the priest's hand.*

Kolokotronis was born at Ramavouni in Messenia, and grew up in Libovitsi in Arcadia. His father, Constantine Kolokotronis, took part in an armed rebellion which was supported by Catherine the Great of Russia, then was killed in an engagement along with two of his brothers George and Harry. Theodoros joined the ranks of a Peloponnesian guerrilla band, and by age fifteen was the leader "kapetanos", of his own group. He had a brief stint at sea as a corsair, then in 1805 he took service on a series of ships in the Russian fleet in the Russo-Turkish War. After 1810 served in a corps of Greek infantry in English service on Zakynthos, and was awarded the brevet rank of brigadier for his service against the French. Zakynthos is in the Ionian Islands, which were then a British protectorate after being bandied about between Venice, France and Russia during the Napoleonic Wars. Kolokotronis's service in the regular Russian and British forces, land and sea, would provide valuable insights to be used later in his career.

Kolokotronis returned to the mainland just prior to the outbreak of the war (officially, 25 March 1821) and formed a confederation of irregular Moreot klepht bands. These he tried to train and organize into something resembling a modern army. In May, he was named *archistrategos* or Marshall Commander-in-Chief. He was already 50 years old by this time, a fact which contributed to his sobriquet *O Geros tou Morea* or "The Elder of Moreas," whereby Morea was another name describing the Peloponnese. Kolokotronis first action was the defense of Valtetsi, the village near Tripoli where his army was mustering. He next commanded Greek troops in the siege of the coastal town of Nafplio. He took the port, and the Turkish garrison in the town's twin citadels was running low on supplies, but the disorganized Greek

provisional government at Argos, just to the north, could not complete negotiations for its surrender before a large Ottoman force began marching southward to crush the rebels. Panicked, government officials abandoned Argos and began evacuations by sea at Nafplio. Only an under-strength battalion under Demetrios Ypsilantis remained to hold Kastro Larissa, the fortress of Argos.

Kolokotronis gathered the klephts together to march to the relief of Ypsilantis. This was quite a feat in itself, considering the near-collapse of the government and the notoriously quarrelsome nature of the klephtic bands. Even the troublesome Souliots lent a hand. The Ottoman army from the north commanded by Mahmud Dramali Pasha, after taking Corinth, had marched to the plain of Argos. The castle of Kastro Larissa was an excellent position, commanding the whole plain. To leave such a stronghold straddling Turkish supply lines was far too dangerous. Dramali would have to reduce the fortress before moving on. Scaling the cliffs, breaching the castle's stout walls, and overcoming its resolute defenders would be no easy task.

Yet, there was one weakness Dramali was unaware of: this citadel, unlike the famous Acropolis in Athens, had no spring and consequently fresh water had to be supplied from cisterns. Unfortunately for the Greeks, it was July and no rains were falling to fill the cisterns. Ypsilantis bluffed the Turks as long as he could, but towards the end of the month had to sneak his men out in the middle of the night. Dramali's men plundered the castle the next day, and he was now free to march them toward the coast to resupply. (The Greeks had pursued a scorched earth policy, and the large Ottoman force was eating through its food supplies rather quickly). Ypsilantis' defense had bought Kolokotronis and the klephts valuable time.

To his dismay, Dramali found himself cut off from his supply fleet, which had intended to land at Nafplio but was successfully blocked by the Greek fleet under Admiral Andreas Miaoulis. Dramali reluctantly decided upon a retreat toward Corinth through the Dervenaki Pass, through which he had just come unmolested. This was exactly what Kolokotronis had been hoping for. In August 1822 his quicker-moving guerrilla forces trapped the Turks in the pass and annihilated them. A devastated Sultan Mahmud II in Constantinople was forced to turn to Muhammad Ali, ruler of the nominally Ottoman pashaluk of Egypt for help.

The Greeks resumed the siege against the fortresses at Nafplio, which fell in December. Kolokotronis is said to have ridden his horse up the steep slopes of Kastro Palamidi to celebrate his victory there; a statue in the town square commemorates the event. He is attired in something resembling the costume of a hussar topped with a plumed Corinthian helmet, which he was fond of wearing, and which foreign Philhellenes were even fonder of seeing him in. (While he seems to have enjoyed dressing like a Western European

cavalryman *cum* Ancient Greek hoplite, he is also frequently depicted wearing the more traditional fustanella and other Greek accoutrements).

Later in the same year Kolokotronis's political enemies in the Greek provisional government, led by Petrobey Mavromichalis had him imprisoned in the Palamidi with Dimitris Plapoutas in the same jail, but he was released when an Egyptian army under the command of Ibrahim Pasha invaded the Morea. Ibrahim was fresh from fighting the Wahhabi rebels in Arabia, and so was used to fighting guerrillas. His troops were armed with the most modern equipment and trained by European experts. The sultan had promised his father the island of Crete as an appanage for young Ibrahim if he could crush the rebels. With his eye on the prize, he burned his way through the Peloponnese, gaining much territory but little sympathy from Western European public opinion, which in the long run proved disastrous for the Turks.

After the war Kolokotronis became a supporter of Count Ioannis Kapodistrias and a proponent of alliance with Russia. When the count was assassinated 8 October 1831, Kolokotronis created his own administration in support of Prince Otto of Bavaria as a king of Greece. However, later he opposed the Bavarian-dominated regency during his rule. He was charged with treason and on 7 June 1834 sentenced to death; but he was pardoned in 1835. Theodoros Kolokotronis died in 1843 in Athens.

In the twilight of his life, Kolokotronis had learned to write in order to complete his memoirs, which have been a perennial favorite in Greece and have been several times translated into English and other languages. Kolokotronis' famed helmet, along with the rest of his arms and armor, may today be seen in the National History Museum of Greece in Athens. In addition to the Nafplio statue mentioned earlier, there is another to be seen in Athens, in the forecourt of the Old Parliament building on Stadiou Street, near Syntagma Square

Reference:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodoros_Kolokotronis

AHEPA District #7 Yankee News

Editor-in Chief: John Grossomanides
Assistant Editor: Alex Vlantes

Contributing Editor: Kip Kyprianou, Nick Nikas

Photographer: George Grossomanides

Email news to: yankeenews@ahepad7.org

**Next Yankee News
Deadline is: May 1, 2009**



Yankee News Sponsors

Gold Sponsors (\$200)

Ernest Pool, PDG
Norwich, CT

Kip Kyprianou, PDG
CompuAid, LLC
Danbury, CT

Angelos and Despina
Maintanis
Cranston, RI

Olympic Pizza
West Main St. Norwich, CT

Theodore N Phillips II
Attorney-at-Law
12 Case St. Norwich, CT

Manolis Sfinarolakis
Keller Williams Realty
Woodbury, CT

Grossomanides Family
Westerly, RI

Anna-Helene Panagakos
Grand Governor Zone I
Brooklyn, NY

Silver Sponsors (\$100)

Peter W. Argiros, Architect
Colchester, CT

Amazin Furniture and Mat-
tress Factory Outlet
599 Norwich Ave. Taftville CT

Pizzarama of Plainfield
Gus's Pub
5 Babcock Ave. Plainfield, CT

Eva and Steve Sfinarolakis
Constantine's Restaurant
Woodbury, CT



Bronze Sponsors (\$50)

Nicholas Nikas,
District Governor

Nick Metaxas
Kelly King Realty, New Fairfield, CT

Louis J. Metaxas
L&M Real Estate, Pawtucket, RI

Join us

If you are interested in supporting the Yankee District News as a Sponsor, Please Contact Ernie Pool at 1-860-984-9683.

There are three giving levels, our theme mirrors that of the Olympics: Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels for \$100, \$50, or \$25. This will provide you, your business, or chapter recognition in 2 issues of the Yankee News.



Daughters of Penelope **DISTRICT LODGE** **2008-2009** **OFFICERS** **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Governor

Donna Rados, PDG

7 Cheryl Court
Cromwell, CT 06416
860-635-5602

E-mail:

donnajean9008@sbcglobal.net

Lt. Governor

Mary Petrus

315 Cherry Hill Road
Middlefield, CT 06455
860-346-8858

Secretary

Helene Moran, PDG

919 Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06117
860-236-5351

Cell: 860-978-5136

E-mail: hdmoran@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

Lucia N. Kazakos, PDG

554 Nott Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109
860-257-4257

Cell: 860-558-4517

E-mail:

luciakazakos@sbcglobal.net

Marshall

Margo Sklavouris

137 Lyons Street
New Britain, CT 06052
860-827-1560

Email: MSklavouris@sbcglobal.net

Maids Advisor

Penny Pecka

83 Midwood Ave
Waterbury, CT 06708
203-756-7651

E-mail: ppecka@NewHaven.edu

Advisor

Joanne Hologgitas, PhD, PGP

448 Broadway
Newport, RI., 02840

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

NON PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 63
Westerly, RI
02891

Honoring 2009 Life members in District #7

Save the Date:

AHEPA District #7
Spring Conference
Saturday,
April 25, 2009
10AM-2PM
Bridgeport, CT
Holy Trinity Church

Χριστός
Ανέστη

Waterbury #48- Leo N. Lintgeris, Rev. Stephen P. Natsis and George Zikos.

Hartford #58- Leo Pappas, George Paul, and Dick Poulos.

Bridgeport #62- Christie Demetros, Victor Laliots, Gus Leventakos, James Mellas, and Alexander Vlantés.

Danbury #90- Michael Zotos and Nicholas Zotos.

New Haven #98- Edward Basel, Louis W. Basel, James G. Coclin, George Faracles, Nicholas Papadopoulos, and

Stephen J. Rellas.

Stamford #99- James J. Cocolis, Arthur J. Constantine, Peter Demakos, Peter Paspalis, James Poulos, Dr. Lambros E. Siderides, and Vasilios Zaharis

Providence #106- Greg Demetrakas, Harold Demopulos, Louis Dostou, Nicholas W. Janikies, Angelos Maintanis, Emmanuel Mihailides, Ernest G. Pappas, Eustace T. Pliakas.

Norwich #110- Peter S. Demos and John G. Grossomanides

New Britain #117- Matthew P. Curtis and Alexander H Kounaris
Meriden #126- John Pappas and Stathis Pappas.

Newport #245- Canelo J. Bartis, Constantine Hologgitas, Peter K. Lazar, Chris T. Stefanopoulos

New London #250- Peter G. Pantelis
Norwalk #387- Chris N. Papadopoulos and Harry Vasilacopoulos.

**Congratulations
to our Life Members!!!**