



AHEPA

Yankee District News

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

Issue Number LXIII Vol. 2

Summer 2012



A Special Thank You!



On June 5th the Nathan Hale Chapter 58 and Daughters of Penelope Chapter 198 held the awards night. A special recognition went out to Mo Moshovos and Loukia Kazakos for all their hard work over the years serving as District Governors, details on pages 6 & 7.



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2012-2013

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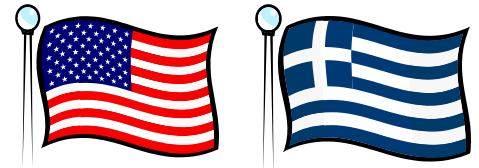
Message from the
Order of AHEPA
District # 7 Governor



This is my first message to you after my recent election as your district governor. You have my pledge to do my utmost to carry out the ideals of the Order of Ahepa.

We've been fortunate to have effective leadership under PDG Mo Moshovos, Supreme Governor Nick Nikas, and of course Supreme President John Grossomanides. Because of their leadership our district is #1 in terms of member retention, # 2 in growth increase percentage and # 2 in the quality of our publication, the Yankee District News. Our Hellenic History Trophy Contest is one of the Crown Jewels of Ahepa, and under Supreme Governor Nikas, it will be replicated elsewhere. These are all positives and I will work to retain the successes.

Each Governor has areas he wishes to emphasize and those of you who have heard me elaborate on them know that I want to encourage each chapter to move into the Community and begin giving back. Many of our chapters are doing tremendous things in the general community donating and volunteering for local agencies. This is an effective way to spread the name and goals of Ahepa. As a former teacher, education is a top priority. Our scholarship program is a great one, and I will work to expand and improve it.



The relationship between the Daughters of Penelope and the Ahepans is a vital one if we are to have success in our endeavors. I will work closely with the Daughters of Penelope lodge to ensure that our Ahepan family remains cohesive and successful.

In closing, I look forward to visiting each chapter this year. I will be contacting chapter Presidents to set up visitation times. When your chapter has its elections, be sure to send your new officer list to Nationals and me. Be sure they include names addresses, phone numbers, and emails.

Lets work together to have a great year!

Fraternally,

Jack

Jack Isaac
 District Governor

AHEPA District #7 Yankee News

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Please visit us on our website:

www.ahepad7.org

Email news to: yankeenews@ahepad7.org

Next Yankee News

Deadline is: September 1, 2011

WHY PEOPLE SHOULD JOIN AHEPA/DOP

Together we can achieve more.

AHEPA/DOP would be stronger if it had 100,000 members.

AHEPA/DOP support and protect the interests of the Greek community.

AHEPA/DOP have a great Scholarship Program and educates thousands of Young Adults.

We all should give back to our communities, Civic Responsibility.

Hellenism is an important cause.

Message from the Daughters of Penelope District Governor:



Sisters, I'm sending this message with great enthusiasm and a bit of apprehension.

Enthusiastic because I look forward to serving you as your newly elected District

Governor; I have a wonderful Lodge to work with for the upcoming year; visiting each and every chapter during the upcoming year and getting to know more of you; reaching out to our Past District Governors for support and guidance; and planning some exciting events with our fellow AHEPANS.

Apprehensive because I have such big shoes to fill and I don't mean in size! Those wonderful Sisters who came before me were so energetic and dynamic; I hope that I can be half as inspiring as they were.

There are so many people that I have to thank. First I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who supported me at the District Convention which was held in Newport, RI this year. Second, I would like to thank the **Newport AHEPA and Daughters chapters** who did a phenomenal job! We had a wonderful Friday night out at the Newport Playhouse, great deliberations on Saturday and of course a great meal on Saturday night. We were also very pleased to have our very own, **Dr. John Grossomanides, Supreme President of AHEPA**, with us; thanks Brother John for taking time out from your busy schedule to be with us, we loved having you! Third, I would like to thank my dear Sisters from our wonderful **Waterbury, Deucalion Chapter 199**; I truly would not be here without your wholehearted encouragement and support during all of my years as a member of the chapter; you will always be my anchor and home base!

Finally, I need to thank all of those PDGs who have been very supportive, nurturing and finally instrumental in my becoming the District Governor of District #7. Sister **Loukia Kazakos** who

has served for at least 3 terms of 2 years each and is now our District Advisor, thanks for your guidance over the last few years; Sister **Donna Rados**, our new District Treasurer, who has also served as District Governor multiple terms, thanks for encouraging me to move ahead; Sister **Dr. Joanne Hologgitas, PGP**, I'm most grateful to you for conducting my installation ceremony, it meant a great deal to me, you are an inspiration to all of us; Sister **Ellen Anagnostos**, who is always willing to jump in and lend a helping hand whenever the District Lodge calls, thanks for your comforting reassurances; Sister **Helene Moran**, another dedicated Sister who keeps the Lodge at heart, thanks for your enthusiastic support; and Sister **Artemis Nemphos**, thanks for reminding me that we must continue to instill those traditional values into all that we do. I know that there have been many more PDGs with whom I have interacted, but those above have had the greatest influence on me as a Daughter. I consider myself very lucky because I know that I can reach out to each of you over the next year and you will each be there for me.

I am here to serve you, so please feel free to call or email me with your thoughts, ideas or concerns. I can be reached at home after 6 PM at 203-756-7651; cell phone at 203-217-2213 or email at ppecka@newhaven.edu

Yours in ΘΠ ,

Penny

Penny Pecka

Attention:

If you would like to contribute anything to the Yankee Newsletter please feel free to email it to Krystyna Kazakos: kazakos88@gmail.com or you can reach her by telephone 860-462-8099.

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District # 7 Convention Newport, Rhode Island



1. PDG - Emmanuel Moshovos presents a Special Achievement Award to John G. & Celia Grossomanides for their outstanding support in the publication & distribution of the YDN for over 5 yrs.
2. PDG—Emmanuel Moshovos presents Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides with a Special Award for his support to District 7 in the past two years in all the Ahepa missions, Conventions & Conferences.
3. New Dist.7 Gov. Jack Isaac receives congratulations from the former PDG Emmanuel Moshovos.
4. PDG - Emmanuel Moshovos presents the Ahepan of the Year Award to Brother John Melonopoulos, President of Chapter 58, Hartford, CT.
5. PDG - Emmanuel Moshovos presents the Chapter of the Year Award to Chapter 62, Bridgeport, CT. Brother John Bochanis, President of Chptr.62 accepts the Award for the Chapter.
6. Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides with the new District 7 Governors, Penny Pecka, Daughters of Penelope and Jack Isaac, Ahepa.
7. PDG - Emmanuel Moshovos presents the Hellene of the Year Award to Brother George Anagnostos of Chapter 245, Newport, RI.
8. Daughters of Penelope members swearing oath.
9. PDG - Emmanuel Moshovos presents Brother Theologos Demetriades with a Special Recognition and Appreciation for his efforts for hosting & chairing of the District 7 Convention in Norwalk, CT.
10. Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides with the now Past District Governor's Loukia Kazakos and Mo Moshovos.

Potpourri



Emmanuel Moshovos congratulates the new 2012-2013 President of Chapter 58, Hartford, CT, George Nakos and Secretary Jordan Smith.



On April 18, 2012 Ahepa Dist. Governor Emmanuel Moshovos was honored by his East Hartford Rotary Club. Gov. Emmanuel Moshovos was presented the Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship Award by the Rotary District 7890 Governor Susan Klock. This Award is Rotary's Service Above Self Award and awarded to Gov. Mo for his 43 years in Rotary and his many contributions to his Club, Community, its programs and projects.



Dates to Remember



Greek Night was held at Rock Cats Stadium, New Britain, CT - July 3, 2012
Pictures to follow in next newsletter!

National Convention – July 22-27, 2012
Monte Carlo Hotel Las Vegas, NE

Hellenic History Tournament Competition Day
Saturday, October 27, 2012



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Cocolis
Stamford, CT



Daughters of Penelope
District #7

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Constantine, Nia, and
Mary Agortsas
Fairfield, CT

Jack Isaac
District #7 Governor

Waterbury Chapter #48

JOIN US

If you are interested in supporting the Yankee District News as a Sponsor, there are three giving levels: Gold \$200, Silver \$100, and Bronze \$50. This will provide you, your business, or chapter recognition in 4 issues of the Yankee News!

AHEPA & Daughters of Penelope District #7 Scholarship Dinner

Sunday at 4:00pm
August 19, 2012

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
937 Chase Parkway
Waterbury, CT

\$25 Prepaid \$30 at the Door
For Reservations:
Penny Pecka: 203-756-7651
Donna Rados: 860-635-5602

Tà véa

George Nicholas Faraclas, 92, of Branford, passed away peacefully at CT Hospice on May 17, surrounded by his family. He leaves his loving wife of 65 years, Helen Basel Faraclas, with whom he shared a beautiful lifetime that included travel, volunteering, and dedication to their church and family. George was extremely proud of his Greek heritage and spent nearly 65 years serving the community of Saint Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church. He initiated many community programs, served on the Parish Council, and was a member, Past-President and District Treasurer of the AHEPA. He was honored as Ahepan of the Year and received special recognition as an honorary member of the Philoptochos Society. His favorite accomplishments were the results of his efforts as co-founder and past-chair of the Church's Odyssey Greek Festival.

Hartford Hosts Awards Night



ing purveyor in his industry and in New England, for his philanthropy to the Greater Hartford Community.

The Hartford AHEPA Family, Nathan Hale Chapter 58 and Thoas Chapter 198 hosted 80 members of the local chapter, Supreme Governor Nick Nickas; Joanna Haligiotis PDG, Penny Pecka, Gov. DOP District 7; Jack Issac, Gov. Dist 7 and members from the District 7 chapters which included Waterbury, Newport, Danielson, Norwich, New Britain, Meriden, Bridgeport and Stamford.

At the start of the evening, Toastmaster Jerry Pangakis introduced Rev. Dr. George Zugravu for the invocation which was followed by a buffet prepared by Brother Tony Kazakos.

Following dinner, the awards were presented by DOP President Adele Antoniou for service: 25

58 Apartments; Michael Bonatsakis (above on left) George Karageorge, Christopher Merisotis (above on right), Geoffrey Perry (below) and Jordan Smith.



This year the chapter awarded the AHEPA of the Year to Jordan Smith for his outstanding service to the chapter and its programs and for being its secretary for 5 years. Another thank you for his design of the Awards Night Brochure (pictured above).

Nathan Hale Chapter 58 was a proud sponsor of 3 teams to the Hellenic History Tournament 2011 held in Orange, CT. Supreme Governor Nick Nikas, founder/developer of HHT and "Mo Moshovos, PDG, presented the first place team award plaques to: Alexandra Walsh (pictured below), Elias Kapetanopoulos (pictured below)

DOP Appreciation Awards were presented by President Adele Antoniou to: Elaine Melonopoulos, Secretary; Helene Moran, VP/Treasurer; and Marie Klementon (pictured above)



Years: Marie Klementon, Helene Moran For the AHEPA, President John Melonopoulos for service: 25 years, Jerry Copsinis; 40 years George Bonatsakis (above on right), Jerry Pangakis (above on left); 45 years-Steve Costas.



AHEPA Presidents Service Awards were presented to: Melody Belanger, (pictured on left) Property Manager AHEPA



For the second year, a newly created award was the AHEPA Business Man of the Year presented to Brother Steve Costas (pictured above is his daughter Diane Brokron) in recognition for being a lead-



Hartford Hosts Awards Night

and Jordan Augustinos (pictured below).



Alexander Loukellis (pictured above) was recognized for being awarded the first from the Nathan Hale Chapter for being accepted to the AHEPA Academy in Washington which is a college mentoring program. Nationwide, a chapter can sponsor a high school student who would be selected to attend. The winner is sponsored by the chapter at a cost of \$1,000.00.

A special thank you goes to all that came and to those who helped make the evening a success.

The operational committee included: Adele Antoniou, Jim Atheneos, Jerry Copsinis Marie Klementon, Krystyna Kazakos, Paul Matsikas, Elaine Melonopoulos, John Melonopoulos, Helene Moran, Jerry Pangakis, Geoff Perry, Jordan Smith, Sara Smith, Tina Smith.



Other participants to the HHT were awarded certificates of appreciation and AHEPA Bronze Scholastic Medals: Maria Zugravu (pictured above), Christopher Augustinos (pictured below) and Kristina Tougas (pictured below).

A special presentation from the District Lodge was made by District 7 Governor, Penny Pecka to Loukia Kazakos for her two years service. President Adele Antoniou made a presentation to Loukia Kazakos, PDG also on behalf of the members of Thoas Chapter 198 (pictured on front cover).

Pictured above is President John Melonopoulos with George Karageorge.



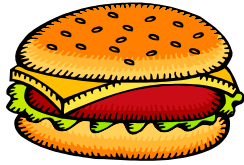
District Governor Jack Issac present a PDG plaque to Emmanuel "Mo" Moshovos for his 2 years of service to the District. Following, Geoff Perry presented on behalf of Nathan Hale Chapter 58 a bronze statue of the "Thinker" to Mo Moshovos as thank you from the chapter to a person who is always thinking to promote things (also pictured on front cover).



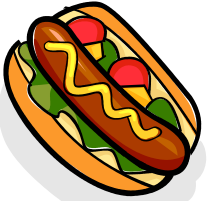
Pictured above is President Adele Antoniou, New District Governor Penny Pecka, and Bessie Kacoyanakis who received her 60 year Daughters of Penelope member pin.



News from Elpis Chapter # 117 New Britain, CT



On May 16, 2012, District Governor Jack Isaac and District Secretary Andy Aros volunteered for CCARC at their 60th anniversary dinner and awards night. They tended bar for the organization which services disabled citizens. This was a continuation of a long standing relationship going back many years. Brother Harry Sitilides who has worked with the organization since AHEPA started its involvement, now serves as a member of its Board of Directors. The Elpis Chapter has also volunteered each year for CCARC's fashion show. The chapter is proud of this relationship they have and hopes to continue and expand it.



Over 75 people attended Elpis Chapter # 117 Order of AHEPA annual end of the year picnic that took place at Churchill Park in Newington on Sunday June 10, 2012. Seen in these pictures are the members and their families enjoying themselves and eating hot dogs, hamburgers, grilled chicken, and that most coveted food barbecued spare ribs.



New from Chapter 99 - Stamford, CT

On Friday, April 27, the Stamford AHEPA held its annual fundraiser dinner dance for the benefit of our Scholarship Fund. In past years, most of the funds went to our two Greek Schools, with the remainder going to

sponsor our AHEPAcademy scholarships and our Hellenic History Tournament teams. This year, we also raised money in support of the national AHEPA humanitarian relief effort for the people of Greece by selling ads to a special commemorative album.



Master of Ceremonies was Nikiforos Mathews. During the dinner, we honored 6 members of our chapter: Our five life



members (50+ years of service): James J Colicis, Themis Hios, Peter Nanos, Peter Paspalis, and Vasilios Zaharis; and our current chapter Vice President, John Louizos, who was selected by Greek America Founda-

tion as one of the 2012 Forty Under 40 Greek Americans. We also honored our two retired priests: Fr. Constantine Mathews, a life member of the Middletown, OH chapter 209, past priest of Annunciation Church and a long time resident of Stamford; and Fr. George Poulos, a 1950's member of the Norwich, CT chapter 110.

We chose May 20, 2012, the day His Eminence Archbishop De-

metrios proclaimed as AHEPA Sunday across the nation, to announce the contributions made possible by the success of our fund-

raiser. We donated a total of \$12,000: \$3,000 to each of the two Greek schools of Stamford (Annunciation and Archangels) and \$6,000 to the national AHEPA humanitarian relief effort for the people of Greece. This is the kind of activity that has made our chapter stand out as a defender of Hellenic education and philanthropy. We are grateful to all those who contributed and we sincerely hope that they will continue their support in the years to come.



Daughters of Penelope Chapter 41 - Bridgeport, CT

The Sisters of Chapter 41 had a wonderful year! Since our last report, we had our very successful and much anticipated Mother's Day Flower, Bake and Gift Sale. Thanks to the many Sisters who pitched in to make it a very unique and fun event for our entire community. In June, we had our "End of Year Luncheon", where we honored Sisters for their many years of Service to our Chapter. We were so happy to have our new District Governor, Penny Pecka, with us, as well as our new District Secretary, Myrsini Papoutsis. We handed out beautiful certificates for 10, 15 and 20 years of active membership, and pins to our Sisters who have been serving the Daughters for 25 through 60 years. We gave out two pins to 60 year members, PDG Tina Morici, and Theodora Valmas, who holds the special honor of being a member of the Daughters for 64 years! We were so moved by the happiness expressed by all our members, particularly Mrs Valmas, who felt especially honored to receive recognition by the Chapter, and to have her pin given to her by our DG. This was a special event, and in all we awarded 9 pins and 19 certificates! In June we also gave out Scholarships to students from our Holy Trinity family and in August we plan to help our Brothers in the AHEPA at their wonderful "Taverna Night" event. Always a fun time! Happy Summer to the entire District and we plan to be back in full swing in September!



Right Picture—L to R: Kathy Yian-noulis, Maria Pertesis, Kathy Angelos, Katina Zachariades, Marina Silvestros, Joan Bakes

Chapter 41 Awards- L to R: Helen Yeotsas, Penny Pecka, Theodora Valmas, Anna Loukrezis, Maria Tatalias



Serious Fun and Games: AHEPA's Third Annual Hellenic History Tournament

November 27, 2011 By Greek News

New York.- By Vicki James Yiannias

A flawless combination: encouraging Greek American youth to know the history of their ancestors while providing a great, stimulating day for bonding with other kids. The Annual Hellenic History Tournament, born of Nicholas Nikas' strong desire to preserve a bit of Hellenic consciousness in our youth for as long in the future as possible, even as they lose the ability to speak Greek, is an idea with big potential.

Statements from enthusiastic participants (and members of the winning team of the tournament) are a case in point. High school senior, Jordan Augustinos: "I enjoyed gaining new knowledge about our long Greek history and culture in preparation for the competition, as well as competing alongside my teammates". High school sophomore, Kapetanopoulos: "It was great learning about my heritage and I enjoyed working with my friends from church". High school sophomore, Alexandra Walsh: "The tournament was a great chance for me and my friends to learn about our history and culture in a team setting." Alexandra gives a lot of credit for her success in the tournament to her study of Ancient Greek, a class taught by Mr. Mark Pearsall at Glastonbury High School.

Nikas, who is Supreme Governor of New England and Chairman of the tournament, is busy publicizing the tournament to AHEPA chapters in Massachusetts and beyond. He

hopes that as more AHEPA districts decide to hold their own tournaments around the country, there will come a time to hold a national competition to determine the overall winners.

Nikas, a member of Archangels Greek Orthodox Church of Stamford, CT., and resident of Old Greenwich, CT., created the Hellenic History Tournament three years ago when he was District Governor. The first tournament was held in Norwich Free Academy in 2009.

The 3rd Annual Hellenic History Tournament was held on Saturday, October 29, 2011, at the facilities of St Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange, CT. The tournament was sponsored by the chapters of Yankee District #7 (Connecticut and Rhode Island) of the Order of AHEPA and hosted by the New Haven chapter and the St. Barbara community under the leadership of AHEPAN Tom Tambis. The Supreme President of the Order, Dr. John Grossomanides, was in attendance and took an active part in the proceedings, as did District Governor Emmanuel Moshovos."

Some of the tournament's captivating team names—historical or imaginatively whimsical (and amusing)—show that in all cases, the kids got into the spirit and put thought into them: They are: the Cataphracts (from kataphraktos, "clothed in full

armor"), Lacedaemonian Hoplites, Athena's Owls, Olympians, History Hunters, Demi-Gods, Greek Kouklas, Byzantine Beasts, and Herodotus.

Noting that the competition is a single elimination tournament, also known as "sudden death", Mr. Nikas explained to the GN how the tournament works.

Teams comprised of three high school students each compete with each other, on how well they know the millennia-long history of the Hellenes by answering multiple-choice questions. After every match, the losing team drops out, while the winning team goes on to compete in the next round with another winning team. Members of the team that wins the final match receive a trophy (The Hellenic History Trophy) and \$1,000 each. The second place winners each get \$500.

Who qualifies: Any student who is in grades 8-12 during the 2010-2011 academic year, is sponsored by selected AHEPA chapters in NJ, NY, CT, RI, or MA, and who either knows or wants to learn something about the 3,500 year history of the Hellenes (Greek speakers).

The tournament questions are-

All contestants with Supreme President John Grossomanides and PDG Mo Moshovos



based on Hellenika: Heritage and History, a beautiful book written by Peter Limber and provided to the participants by Dr. George Melikokis, Principal of St. Demetrios Day School in Jamaica, Queens, to study over the summer. Complete with colorful maps and illustrations of the Mediterranean region, Hellenika covers the entire sweep of Greek history, showing migrations of various peoples over time.

Chairman Nikas talked about this year's tournament, beginning with how the date was chosen. "October 29 had been chosen back in March as the best time to hold this year's tournament. It was going to be a glorious New England fall day, with mild temperatures and the sun shining on fiery orange and red maple leaves." The day before, the picture looked bleaker, with snow in the forecast for Saturday night, but because the event was scheduled to end in the late afternoon, Nikas and Governor Moshovos decided to proceed with the plan.

By 11:30 am on Saturday, the spacious hall of St. Barbara was full of participating students, parents and volunteers who run the tournament, says Nikas, and after a brief lunch, AHEPA Supreme President John Grossomanides handed each

student a certificate of participation and posed with all of them for a group photograph along with Governor Moshovos.

"I explained the rules of engagement, and by 12:30 pm the first of four rounds of competition had started. Unfortunately, so had the heavy snowstorm. Even though the students seemed focused on the competition, there was an undercurrent of anxiety caused by the desire to finish as quickly as possible and start on the long way home through the slush," Nikas recalls. "The matches were run by computers, but the computers were controlled by human moderators who were equally concerned about the drive home."

For the first time in the three-year history of the tournament, procedural missteps caused a couple of disputes, which were settled quickly by Chairman Nikas. AHEPA volunteer Greg Stamos, an attorney who witnessed the disputes, quickly came up with a protocol for handling appeals, for use in future tournaments.

Nikas explains that sixteen teams of three high school students each (48 students) had originally signed up to compete for the \$4,500 in prizes. The AHEPA chapters spon-

soring teams this year were Waterbury, Hartford, Bridgeport, Danbury, New Haven, Stamford, Norwich and New Britain (all from Connecticut), Newport, RI, and guest chapters from Boston, MA, and New Rochelle, NY. By tournament day, three teams had dropped out and some teams competed with fewer than the original three students. Still, 13 matches in four rounds were needed to determine the winners.

First prize (\$1000 each) was won by the Cataphracts from Hartford, Jordan Augustinos, Elias Kapetanopoulos and Alexandra Walsh (all active members of the St. George Hartford GOYA). Second prize (\$500 each) went to Daniel Hawkins, Nicholas Manos and Ryan Vecchitto, a team sponsored by the New Britain Daughters of Penelope.

Despite the adverse weather, there were numerous expressions of appreciation from the attendees, says Nikas, noting three that stand out in his memory: "It is a memory I will cherish for a very long time"; "We had a great time! Please have it again"; and "A superlative event! One our District should be, and is, very proud of".

REMEMBER WHEN...



On left : District 7 Governor Emmanuel Moshovos presents \$1,001 to Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides for the Ahepa Greek Relief Fund. On Right : George J. Scarveles, Past Supreme Governor, Lucian Pawlak, former Mayor of New Britain , George A. Rados, District seven Director of Hellenic Affairs, and Dimitrios Giannaros, former member House of Representative for the State of Connecticut. All Brother Ahepans.

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W E L C O M E

to the **AHEPA Family**
Supreme Convention
LAS VEGAS
NEVADA

July 22-27, 2012

The Monte Carlo Casino Hotel and Resort
