



Yankee News



The Publication of AHEPA District #7
Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Western Massachusetts
In Continuous Publication Since 1949
September 2024



Savas Tsivicos Unanimously Reelected AHEPA Supreme President

Congratulations to AHEPA

Supreme Vice President: E. Chris Kaitson
Canadian President: Emmanuel Conostas
Supreme Secretary: Dr. Zenon Christodoulou
Supreme Treasurer: Themistocles Frangos
Supreme Counselor: Demetrios Kirkiles
Supreme Athletic Director: Chris Atsaves
Sons of Pericles Advisor: Theodore Vittas
Region 4 Supreme Governor: Alex Boutsioulis

and Congratulations to Daughters of Penelope

Grand President Margaret Dritsas
Grand Vice President Antoinette M. Zachariades
Grand Secretary Gretchen Holtsinger
Grand Treasurer Patty Didik
Grand Governor Zone II Effie Kirkiles

and to

Sons of Pericles Supreme President Alec Economakis
& Maids of Athena Grand President Stephanie Owens



Back to the Greek-Turkish drama in the Aegean. Left alone, the contest between these two enemies, Greece and Turkey, boils over every so often. The latest episode took place during July 23 to 25, 2024. An Italian research vessel was mapping the underwater area between the Greek islands Kassos and Karpathos in Southeastern Aegean Sea. The idea is to place a cable between Cyprus and Crete in order to move green electricity from one island to another. While the ship was investigating the underwater landscape, 5 Turkish warships arrived. They ordered the Italian boat to cease work. They claimed sovereignty over the sea around Kassos and Karpathos. We don't know what exactly happened to avoid war. Two Greek warships arrived and faced the 5 warships of Turkey. Greek reporters speculate that the foreign affairs ministers of Greece and Turkey spoke on the phone and defused the crisis. Turkey even issued its own navigational warning, in which it took credit for avoiding conflict over the "violation" of its territorial waters, even thanking Greek and Italian authorities for recognizing its jurisdiction in the Aegean Sea. The Turkish Navtex said: "We would like to thank the Greek and Italian authorities for their respect for our maritime jurisdiction and their cooperation."

Of course, Greek and Italian authorities did no such thing. The Turkish warships were violating international law by being in waters in the exclusive economic zone of Greece. Moreover, their presence near the Greek islands was illegal, provocative, and insulting. They could have started war between Turkey and Greece. The Greek Ministry of Defense minced no words. On July 26, 2024, its spokesperson said: "No respect [to Turkish maritime jurisdiction] was shown or will be shown in the future by the Greek Armed Forces to Turkey's illegal actions within the zone legally delimited between Greece and Egypt."

The Greek Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, plans to meet Erdogan in September in New York.

Evangelos Vallianatos, Ph.D., studied history and biology at the University of Illinois; earned his Ph.D. in Greek and European history at the University of Wisconsin; did postdoctoral studies in the history of science at Harvard, worked on Capitol Hill and the US EPA.





A MESSAGE FROM THE AHEPA D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Brother AHEPANS of Yankee District 7,

Greetings and best wishes. I hope you are having an enjoyable summer. I would like to introduce myself. I was elected as the Governor of District 7 at the 2024 District Convention in Waterbury, CT in June. I am of course grateful to my immediate predecessor PDG E. Vagos Hadjimichael, as well as all past D7 Governors who have worked diligently over the years to bring our district to the present stage of vitality and preparedness for the future. Vagos was a great mentor who prepared me to take on this very important role. I am hoping to be able to build on his accomplishments.

I have been involved with AHEPA for 47 years. As member of Chapter 250 in New London, CT I went through all the officer’s chairs and have been involved in many projects including scholarships. I always felt that I was not a leader but a follower of leaders. Now that I have taken a leading role, I will do my best to perform my duties as governor.

My main ambition for the year is to continue the work of PDG Vagos Hadjimichael to successfully bring the 14 Chapters of D7 in closer interaction with each other, and so establish a community, or an alliance, among them in the joint pursuit of common goals and a shared vision for the future. Vagos successfully brought 2 chapters, Stamford and Norwalk, back into the fold during his tenure. I will continue to pursue that endeavor by attempting to also bring Bridgeport, Danbury and Danielson back into the fold. Another goal is to visit all the D7 chapters and establish a camaraderie with the brothers. It was my great pleasure to start by attending the Hartford awards ceremony, a successful annual event. President’s Recognition Awards were provided to Anthony Kazakos, Michael Karabetsos, and Cary Grant. I urge all the chapters to contact me whenever you have a special event. I would love to attend.

Turning to future events in the months ahead, I look forward to the 2024 D7 Fall conference and Hellenic History Tournament (HHT). Location and dates for the fall conference are still pending. You will be notified when they are determined. The HHT will again be held in the facilities of the Saint Barbara Church in Orange, CT, on Nov. 16, 2024. Gregory Simones, PDG and current D7 Lt. Governor, assumed the HHT leadership position back in 2023. Greg will provide details, including the deadlines for action steps by Chapters and students before Nov. 16. Information on the 2024 HHT can be found in the D7 web page <https://ahepadistrict7.org/>. I am looking forward to meeting many among the 700+ members of the fourteen Chapters of District Seven. I will close my greetings to all brothers by suggesting that they visit our website often, as a matter of course, so as to remain current about developments and coming events in the district. I am hoping that this website will become an effective medium for open and positive communications in our district.

Fraternally,
John Fakis



A MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE D7 GOVERNOR

Dear Sisters,

Over the past two years it has been an honor to have served on the Daughters of Penelope Grand Lodge. I have missed you all, and as Dorothy said in the Wizard of Oz, “There’s no place like home”. It is wonderful to be back and serving as you District Governor again.

I am excited to be working with some wonderful Sisters on our Lodge, Marcella Calagias, Lt Governor (Sister Marcella is a Past District Governor from NJ!), Maria Tougas will be our District Secretary, Katina Arnold is District Treasurer and Christina Smith as District Marshall. I would like to thank Lisa Marotta, PDG for her commitment in serving the Sisters of District 7. I know she did an outstanding job. I would also like to thank the sisters who served on the lodge, Sister Marcella Calagias, PDG who served as Lt. Governor, Sister Penny Pecka, PDG, as treasurer, Sister Christina Smith who served as district Secretary and Sister Katina Arnold who was the District Marshal.

I am looking forward to visiting each of your chapters in the upcoming months as well as any events you have planned. We are working with the AHEPA Lodge and District Governor John Fakis to arrange a fall conference and a Convention next Spring. The information on these events will be emailed to you once the dates have been determined. The AHEPA Family Convention 2025 will be held in Walt Disney World July 21-26. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to me! I am once again honored and looking forward to seeing you soon,

Love in Theta Pi,
District 7 DOP Governor



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EDITOR'S NOTES

by Jack Isaac

The Order of AHEPA recently lost one of its most capable warriors for Hellenism when **Past Supreme President Phil Frangos** passed away. Brother Phil devoted his entire adult life to the betterment of our beloved Fraternal Order lavishly giving of his time, talents and treasure.

I'll always remember and cherish the many kindnesses Brother Phil showed me as I began to be involved on the Supreme Lodge. He would always take time from whatever he was doing to inquire about my family and make sure all was well with District 7. He showed great interest in our Yankee News publication and was always very complimentary of our work.

Phil traveled through life with a quiet dignity and was a consummate gentleman. Nevertheless, one should never equate kindness with weakness, for Phil knew how to get the job done and was a great motivator of people.

Phil's passing is a monumental loss both for his family and for AHEPA. It is fitting that he lived long enough to see a historical AHEPA conference take place in Cyprus and, while there, saw his son Themistocles move up in the leadership of the Order of AHEPA to ensure that the Frangos name will be part of our Ahepan lives for many years to come.

My most sincere condolences go out to the entire Frangos family. I know God will give them the strength to get through this difficult time. They should always be comforted by the fact that Phil lived a full and successful life surrounded by family and friends and will forever have an important place in the history of the Order of AHEPA.



Ahepans Mourn the Passing of Phillip T. Frangos, Former Supreme President

From AHEPA News, July 27, 2024

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of **Brother Phillip T. Frangos**, a revered leader, who served the AHEPA as Supreme President and as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Bro. Phillip, Life Member of Chapter 142, Lansing, Michigan, passed away July 27, one day after the conclusion of the 102nd Supreme Convention in Larnaca, Cyprus. Phillip was a cornerstone of the AHEPA community, leaving behind a legacy of unwavering dedication and achievements.

One of Phillip's most distinguished accomplishments was his pivotal role in securing the headquarters building for AHEPA in Washington, D.C. This acquisition provided a central hub for the organization, but also symbolized a lasting commitment to advocating for Greek American issues and supporting the broader Hellenic community. He participated in presenting AHEPA's \$612,000 donation toward the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island to chairman Lee Iacocca. Phillip was instrumental in revitalizing membership, leading initiatives that expanded AHEPA's reach across the US, Canada, and Europe. His legacy includes his fundraising for the rebuilding of the St Nicholas National Shrine, which further shows his dedication to preserving and promoting Hellenic heritage and faith.

Phillip led Ahepans by participating at events in Selma to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March for voting rights. He logged over 60,000 miles to engage with chapters worldwide. He was dedicated to the Journey to Greece program, providing students with immersive experiences in Greek culture and history. He was an avid participant at AHEPA's Capitol Hill Days. And at this Supreme Convention in Cyprus, Phillip enjoyed the proud moment of witnessing his son, Themistocles Frangos, being sworn in as Supreme Treasurer, continuing the legacy of service to AHEPA.

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



Angelos Giannakopoulos, 67, of Newington, CT passed peacefully at home surrounded by family on April 9, 2024 after a prolonged illness. He was a loving husband to Margaret “Peggy” (Chippari) for 39 years. Angelos was deeply adored by his sons Theo and Thomas and their wives Shannon and Katie, and he loved playing the fun-loving Papou to his grandson Vangelis. Angelos emigrated from Tsotili, Greece with his parents and sister in 1968 at the age of 11. He attended Hartford HS and started his IT career at Travelers where he met Peggy. He had fond memories of his time at Telepartner, and he formed close relationships with his coworkers at Milliman, from where he retired after 22 years. Angelos was an active member of St. George Cathedral in Hartford, CT. He was a member of YAL and St. George Greek Dance Troupe, served on the Parish Council and Stewardship committee, was a GOYA advisor and a dedicated Festival worker. In addition to his wife and children, he is survived by his father Theophilaktos Giannakopoulos and sister Mary Stavropoulos. He was predeceased by his mother Georgia. Special thanks to family and friends for the joy and laughter they brought to his life as well as their support during the difficult days of his illness.

George P. Vourtsis, 77, of New London, entered eternal life July 24, 2024, in the comfort of his home surrounded by his loving family. He was born Sept. 22, 1946, in Strousi, Greece, to Panayiotis and Victoria (Diamandopoulos) Vourtsis. George came to the U.S. in 1973, settling in New London. He was a sergeant in the Greek Army as a tank instructor. He owned and operated restaurants in Norwich, and New London and later worked as a chef at Flanders Fish Market and Foxwoods Casino. He also delivered papers for The New London Day for 38 years. George was a member of St. Sophia Church and AHEPA 250 of New London, and he loved Olympiacos Soccer Club, America, and Greece. He loved life and all that came with it. George left a trail of happiness wherever he went. George's entire world revolved around family. He is survived by his devoted wife of 50 years, Eleni Vourtsis (Vasiliou). He is survived by two children Victoria Phillips of Oakdale, and Panagiotis "Taki" of Ledyard; his grandchildren, Alexander and Athena Gowlis-Aultman, and great-grandchildren, Lexi Gowlis and James Aultman; a sister, Loula Apostolakou; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son-in-law, Jason Gowlis and his sister Angliki Vourtsis.



George Zikos, who recently celebrated his 108th birthday passed away peacefully at Complete Care of Middlebury on Monday, July 15, 2024. He was the widower of Calliope (Zaraboukas) Zikos. George was born in Korifi, Greece on June 22, 1916 son of the late Christos and Calino (Samarinidis) Zikos. He immigrated to NJ in 1955 where he became a tailor from skills he learned in Greece and opened George's Tailor Shop which he ran successfully until his retirement in 1989 when he settled to Middlebury. He was an avid walker which contributed to his longevity. He was a faithful member of Holy Trinity Church in Waterbury, CT, and a member of Chapter 48. George leaves his children; Efterpy Velezis of Middlebury with whom he made his home, Christos Zikos of CA, and Garifalia Rallis of Greece; four grandsons, Arthur of Watertown, George of Middlebury, Vasilios and George of Greece; and two great granddaughters, Lianna and Christina of Greece.



George C. Kotsaftis of Waterbury Chapter 48 passed away July 23, 2024. Born in Lapata, Greece on February 8, 1940, George was the son of the late Constantine and Katerina Kotsaftis. Growing up in a close-knit family as one of five children, George's early years were filled with the traditions and culture of his homeland. In search of a bright future, George made the decision to immigrate to the USA, arriving in Waterbury in 1955. In the late 60's, George opened J's Pizza in Danbury and Newtown Pizza Palace. Then in 1989, he established the iconic Old Towne Restaurant in Trumbull. Through his hard work and warm personality, George became a beloved businessman in the community. George was an active member of the Holy Trinity Church of Waterbury, where he was a devoted parishioner, past president of the parish council and a proud member of AHEPA Chapter 48, since 1963.





George was predeceased by his wife, Barbara. He leaves his loving children, Dean George of Middlebury and Catherine Rountos of New Milford; his grandchildren, George and Barbara of Middlebury and Bobbie and Evan Rountos of New Milford. He is also survived by his longtime companion Georgia Vithoulkas; siblings, Akrivi Kotsaftis of Waterbury, Marylou Poulos of NY, Chris Kotsaftis of Wolcott, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. George was also predeceased by his brother Andrew and Soula Kotsaftis.





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-Demetrius E. Tasoulas-





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Ta Nea

☆ On June 9, 2024, **Presvytera Joan Simones** (mother of PDG Greg Simones) was honored with the Metropolis of Boston Ministry Award for outstanding lifetime service to the parish of St. Sophia Church in New London, CT.

☆ Brother and Yankee News Secretary **Andrew Aros** was honored in the Greek Archdiocese Servant Leadership Awards, as was Sister **Artemis Karamanos'** son Andreas. The two honorees from St.

George Church in NB were joined at the recognition dinner by DOP #138's Mary Aros, PDG Karen Isaac, PDG Donna Rados, Treas. Artemis Karamanos, and Eve Dimopoulos; AHEPA #138's V.



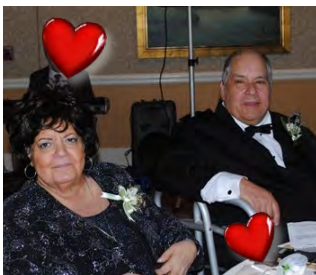
Rev. Arch. Spyridon Chatzis, PSG Jack Isaac, PDG George A. Rados, and Steve Polezonis. Bro. Aros has always been active in AHEPA, but he has been invaluable also to the Parish Council, Sunday School, and community of Saint George. We're so proud!

☆ Our most sincere condolences go out to Brother **John P. Kendros** on the loss of his dear wife of 64 years, Despina. "Debbie" passed away on July 7 unexpectedly after her morning walk. Our prayers also go out to her brothers, **Terry and George Mitchell**.



Despina was a faithful member of St. Sophia Church where she participated in various clubs and fundraisers. She loved life and everyone she met, especially her family and friends.

☆ Our new **D7 Governor John Fakis and PDG Jeanne Fakis** are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month. John and Jeanne met (ready for this!!) at the AHEPA Supreme Convention in Atlanta, GA in 1972. Even though they both lived in NJ, they had never met. They were married on September 8, 1974, at St. George Church in Clifton, NJ. Following the wedding they moved to East Lyme where John started work at Electric Boat as an engineer and continued to work there until his retirement. Jeanne was a lab technician and then became secretary and office manager at St. Sophia Church in New London for 32 years. They both retired in 2015. Their son, Nicholas and wife Delia live in Kansas with twin daughters, Roxanne Rae (Roxy) and Virginia Jean (Ginny). John and Jeanne became members of St. Sophia Church. Both joined the choir (John has served as Choir Director for the past 11 years). Jeanne



joined the Philoptochos and DOP, Dione #143 in 1975 and was elected D7 Governor in 1986. John became a member of Winthrop Chapter in 1977 and was elected D7 Governor at this year's D7 Convention.

Salute to a Veteran

~ Tony Vallombroso ~

Tony Vallombroso, who has been the Old Lyme Veterans Representative since 2013, received his Municipal Veterans Representative training certificate from Commissioner Ronald P. Welch of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

On June 14, the DVA conducted an annual training program for Veterans Representatives of each CT

municipality. The requirement for all cities and towns to designate a Veterans' Service Contact was established in 2013 by the Governor. Since then, Tony has represented this position and has been helping Veterans ever since. The annual training event was held at the main DVA campus at Rocky Hill, CT.

"I am proud to have served as the Vet Rep for Old Lyme and especially now receiving my certificate from Commissioner Welch who I served with in the Connecticut Army National Guard."

Public Act No 13-34 established that every CT municipality be required by state law to have a Veterans Representative who is trained annually to help community veterans understand their VA benefits and handle related issues. Tony was also very fortunate to work with the local VFW Post 1471 to assist our Veterans.

Tony joined AHEPA in November of 2011 and served as Chapter President of Winthrop Chapter 250 from 2017 thru 2019 and VP under Terry Mitchell and George Mitchell prior to that. He received several honors throughout his 38 year distinguished Military career with the CT Army National Guard, retiring as a full Colonel in 2003. Tony was also privileged to be commissioned as a Brigadier General in the CT State Militia upon retirement. Tony continues his volunteer service with the Connecticut Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), Old Lyme Fire Department, Old Lyme EMS, Society of Saint Andrew the Apostle, and - of course - AHEPA.



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An AHEPAN mentor told me, "You get out of AHEPA what you put into it".
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Gregory C. Simones, PDG

Dr. John Grossomanides

Past Supreme President
AHEPA

&
Anna-Helene Grossomanides

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The 2024 District 7 Convention Submitted by John Fakis



The Convention was held in Waterbury, CT on June 15 2024. The convention was hosted by Waterbury Chapter 48 and Daughters Of Penelope Deucalian Chapter 199. 27 AHEPA delegates and 25 Daughters delegates attended the Convention. Honored guests included SP Savas Tsivikos, ST Demetrios Kirkiles, R4 SG Alex Boutsoulis, Grand VP Margaret Dritsas, and National Chairman for the AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors, George Karatzia.

Following a delicious breakfast prepared by Paul Velezis and the Waterbury AHEPA and DOP chapters, the convention was opened. Nick Nikas was chosen as chairman. He did a fantastic job conducting business. Everything went smoothly and quickly. AHEPA and DOP then broke to conduct their businesses. Following morning sessions, a delicious lunch was provided by the host chapters. During the luncheon George Karatzia, National Chairman for the AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors spoke about the program and stated how important the service dogs are to veterans struggling with emotional difficulties. He was presented with a check for \$6,000. D7 SG Alex Boutsoulis then gave a presentation on the history of the Waterbury Chapter which is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

During the afternoon session SP Savas Tsivikos spoke to the delegates. He provided the status of AHEPA and talked about the upcoming Supreme Convention in Cyprus. ST Demetrios Kirkiles then spoke about a new format being implemented by the Supreme Lodge for members paying their yearly dues online. The program is being tested and will go into action if everything goes well. SP Tsivikos also presented three (3) AHEPA Heroes Awards to D7 chapter presidents for their dedicated service to AHEPA. The presidents honored were Paul Velezis from Waterbury, CT, George Grossomanides from Norwich, CT and Adam Rand from New London, CT. We are fortunate to have such outstanding chapter leadership recognized at the highest level of the Order of AHEPA.

Awards were presented to AHEPAN of the Year Anthony Vallombroso of New London Chapter 250, Hellene of the Year Titos Ritsatos of New Britain Chapter 117, Entrepreneur of the Year Dimitrios Dimopoulos of New Britain Chapter 117, and Chapter of the Year Waterbury Chapter 48.

AHEPA elections resulted in the following slate of officers for 2024-25: AHEPA: Governor John Fakis, Lt. Gov. Greg Simones, PDG, Secretary Glenn Arnold, Treasurer John Melonopoulos, PDG.

Following the convention, Waterbury put on a great banquet with delicious food prepared by Paul Velezis, Greek music by Peter Halepas and the Grecian Nights Orchestra, and great camaraderie.



SP Tsivikos with Paul Velezis then with George Grossomanides; Adam Rand with DG John Fakis.

Building Bridges for Tomorrow: A Recap of the District 7 Convention and the Path Forward by Elisa Marotta, PDG / D7 Advisor



The recent D7 Convention saw an impressive turnout of Daughters of Penelope delegates. We were honored to have GVP Margaret Dritsas (now GP) join us. The highlight was her keynote address to our AHEPA Family on “Building Bridges for Tomorrow.” She emphasized the importance of fostering strong relationships, strategic succession planning, and mentorship for the continuity and growth of our chapters.

In preparing for the convention, I noticed that the Nominating Committee faced challenges in finding willing and prepared candidates to fill the three open District Lodge positions. This underscored the significance of GVP Margaret’s DOP Academy, designed to instill confidence in members to take on leadership roles at all levels (chapter, district, and beyond). The Academy offers modules on the organization’s mission, conducting business, AHEPA family collaboration, and membership engagement. The more members know, the more comfortable and confident they will feel accepting a position. To ensure balanced and inclusive representation within D7, it is crucial that our Lodge officer positions are filled by members from various chapters rather than having a majority from a single chapter. Diverse representation depends on:

Balanced Decision-Making: Having officers from different chapters ensures a diversity of perspectives, leading to more balanced and fair decision-making that benefits the entire district.

Enhanced Communication: A representative from each chapter can effectively communicate the unique needs and concerns of their members, fostering a stronger sense of community and mutual support.



Increased Engagement: When all chapters have a presence on the Lodge, it encourages

greater participation and involvement in district activities, which is essential for the growth and vitality of the organization. I hope you enjoyed your summer. Don’t forget to register for the next DOP Academy session by emailing daughtersofpenelopeacademy@gmail.com. Let’s start the 2024-25 year ready to learn and grow! Thank you for your dedication and support.

AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors Submitted by Greg Simones

At the D7 Convention this June, PDG Vagos Hadjimichael and PDG Greg Simones, Service Dogs Fundraising Chairman, presented a check for \$6,000 to AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors Chairman and Founder, George Karatzia, PSG. The first \$3,000 was crowdfunded with smaller donations and the other \$3,000 came from the generosity of the Waterbury chapter which was given naming rights for this service dog, who will be known as **Judge AHEPA**.



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Yankee District 7 Scholarship Awards Dinner Submitted by Greg Simones
St. Barbara Church, Orange, CT, June 2, 2024

On June 2, 2024, at St. Barbara Church in Orange, CT, 23 college students received \$23,000 in scholarships at a dinner hosted by the New Haven Chapter of AHEPA and the D7 Daughters of Penelope. Education co-chairs, Manny Cosmas and Sofia Ricciardi-Swaby, oversaw the scholarship selection process and scholarships were presented to 13 students and 4 relatives of the students present at the event.

Gov. Elisa Marotta and Gov. Vagos Hadjimichael addressed the gathering. SG Alex Boutsoulis spoke as the featured speaker. The program was chaired by Manny Cosmas, D7 Education Chairman and emceed by DG Vagos Hadjimichael. The Yankee District #7 Foundation manages the investments that generate the money for these scholarships. The officers are **President** Dr. John Grossomanides, PSP; **VP** Maria Tougas; **Secretary** PGG Marianne Boutsoulis; **Treasurer** R4 SG Alex Boutsoulis. Congratulations to this group of scholars for their many accomplishments. We wish you success! Students were awarded the following named scholarships:

Mary & Angelo Pappas:
Anastasia Coclin, Providence, RI #106 Giovana DelBuono, Waterbury #48
Ethan Demosthenous, New Britain #117 Barbara Kotsaftis, Waterbury #48
Lukas Koutsoukos, Stamford #99 Alexander Manos, New Britain #117
Elizabeth Nonamaker, Waterbury #48 George Rafti, Hartford DOP #198
Sofia Stamos, New Britain #117 Konstantinos Spanolios, New Haven #98
Jordan Stergakis, New Britain #117

Dino Macricostas:
Alexandra Arnold, Hartford DOP #198 Carlos Beltran, New Britain #117
George DelBuono, Waterbury #48 Mika Stamos, New Britain #117
Alexander Demosthenous, New Britain #117

Peter E. Mitchell Memorial: Christopher Lambros, Providence, RI #106
Daughters of Penelope District Lodge: Mary Sakoulas, Waterbury DOP #199
Constantine Simones Memorial: Luke Rafti, Hartford DOP #198
Emanuel Cosmas Family: Giovanni Panagiotakis, New Haven SOP #15
Rados Family: Alexandra Ritsatos, New Britain #117
Dr. John & Anna Helene Grossomanides: Constantine Coclin, Providence, #106
John Louziotis: Yianni Constantinou, Waterbury AHEPA #48



50 Years of Cyprus Invasion and Occupation by Turkey

Submitted by Yiannis Apostolakis, Pawtucket Chapter 121 President

This July marks 50 years since the invasion and occupation of the Republic of Cyprus in July 1974, by Turkey, a NATO-member country. This was, and remains to this very day, an intolerable act; one that is a gross violation of the rule of law, human rights, and democratic ideals. We pause to remember the innocent civilians who lost their lives and the individuals who went missing. The illegal invasion and occupation caused the displacement of 170,000 Greek Cypriot refugees who to this day are unable to return to their homes which is also a violation of human rights as determined by the European Commission on Human Rights. Moreover, Turkey's restrictions upon religious freedom and destruction of Cyprus' cultural and religious heritage in Turkish-occupied Cyprus have been well-documented by the U.S. Helsinki Commission, the Law Library of Congress, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, and several media publications.

Today, over 45,000 Turkish troops and thousands of fanatic Islamic nationalistic Turkish residents implanted on the island of Cyprus from mainland Turkey occupy the Northern part of Cyprus with plans to colonize the island. Even worse, these days Turkey is establishing naval and drone bases in Cyprus so that it controls the Eastern Mediterranean presenting a real threat to all peaceful Mediterranean nations who respect democracy, religious freedom, and independence. Recently Turkey's genocide of the Armenian people was recognized in the USA. Back in 2021, the USA added Turkey in the list of nations recruiting underage young people to be sent as mercenaries in the middle east and Africa. Turkey is taking down everything of Greek and Orthodox Christian origin in the northern occupied Cyprus while the West is watching a so called "ally" in NATO which has turned into a fanatic Islamic militant regime. To this day, no great nation of this world has decisively denounced the Turkish invasion in Cyprus. Many unanswered questions remain about the Cypriot prisoners of war who "disappeared" and no trial for the atrocities committed by the Turkish forces against prisoners of war as well as against civilians (men, women and children of all ages) has taken place! No price was paid by Turkey for the crimes it committed!

Let us pray for and never forget the brave Greek and Cypriot defenders who made the ultimate sacrifice. The families who were brutally murdered by the Turkish invaders. The prisoners of war who never came home. Those who were forced out of their own homes and the people of Cyprus who lost their independence. Let them know that we have not forgotten them and let us make the people around us, including politicians, know that we cannot tolerate these kinds of crimes against humanity, faith, democracy, human rights, and our western values.



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to all of our
Brothers!
from
JOHN & STEVEN
GAGAS

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



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New London Housing Foundation Gives Out \$23,800

Submitted by John Fakis

Our continued support of the **AHEPA New London Foundation** is another successful program made possible through the AHEPA Senior Living Board. \$23,800 in grants was presented in 2024 to 17 charitable organizations in the southeastern Connecticut community. The grants also included scholarships to young deserving seniors of 13 local high schools. Grants were provided to Yankee News, AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors and Paideia Society. An awards ceremony was held on May 22 to honor the award recipients. We had 14 organizations in attendance for the event and received feedback on what their organizations do. Winthrop #250 has provided over \$314,000 in AHEPA housing foundation grants to local charitable organizations and high schools since 1998.



Winthrop Chapter 250 News

Submitted by John Fakis

A scholarship in the amount of \$1,250 was awarded to Sophie Elizabeth Myung, granddaughter of Bro. Stefano Seferlis and his wife Linda. Sophie graduated from Malden Catholic High School in Medford, MA where she was a member of the National Honors Society. She will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology where she will study mechanical engineering with a focus on bioengineering. Sophie is destined for success. She has a superb academic record coupled with her dedication to the many extracurricular activities and service work she has been involved. Congratulations to Sophie and good luck in her future endeavors. The scholarship committee consisted of John Fakis, Demetrius Tasoulas, Greg Simones, and Peter Galetsa. Winthrop Chapter 250 has been providing scholarships to deserving high school graduates for over 34 years and has given out approximately \$132,000 during that time.

YANKEE NEWS RECEIVES GRANTS

Submitted by John Melonopoulos, PDG, CFO

We are pleased to announce grants given to the Yankee News from 2 of the 4 housing foundations in D7. These proceeds are from Fiscal Year 2023:

AHEPA Norwich Foundation, Inc.	\$1,000
AHEPA Hartford Foundation, Inc	\$1,000

We thank the boards of both foundations for their generous donations. These grants are important to the financial operations, helping the staff continue producing this award winning Newspaper for our District. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND SEND A BIG THANK YOU.



George Grossomanides of AHEPA 110 Norwich Foundation, with Supreme Treasurer Demetri Kirriles from Florida, presenting \$1,000 award to Yankee News Sec. Andy Aros.

New Haven Chapter 98 News

Submitted by George Scarveles



SC Themistocles Frangos, Gabriel Lawrence, George Vlandis, Alexa Pacholyk, Montreal HHT Chair James Hutchinson, NE HHT Chair Greg Simones.

Chapter #98 Brings Home Winners from the National HHT!

Team Aristotelians, sponsored by New Haven #98 were the 2nd place winners at the **AHEPA National Hellenic History Tournament** held in Nashville, TN on July 13, 2024. The final match was one of the most competitive matches held since the beginning of the HHT fourteen years ago. Two questions out of fifty Hellenic questions made the difference between the 1st place winners and the 2nd place winners. Phenomenal job team and coach Manny Cosmas!

Chapter 98 sponsored its **5th Annual Essay Competition**, open to students from Saint Barbara’s Parish and Community. Winners in each category received a certificate of achievement and monetary prizes. The chairperson of the Essay Committee from its inception is Brother Vagos Hadjimichael, with committee members, Tony Delos and Elias Lolis. **College Essay:** Globally acknowledge “Just War” principal - Enunciated by St Thomas of Aquinas. 1st Place, Andreas Lolis; 2nd Place, Tennyson Delos. **High School Essay:** The college admission process, starting with visits to college campuses. 1st place Andreas Kambas; 2nd Place Nicholas Lolis. This year Chapter #98 pledged \$10,000 to the **St Barbara Next Generation Initiative**. We have given \$5,000 towards the principle of the Church’s mortgage which they hope to pay off in the next few years. Membership dues, donations, and fundraising projects have made this possible.



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

- John Fakis – Governor
- Gregory Simones, PDG – Lt. Governor
- Glenn Arnold – Secretary
- John Melonopoulos, PDG – Treasurer
- Gregory Stamos, PSC Athletic Director
- Alex Boutsoulis – R4 Supreme Governor

Celebrating our 94th Year



AHEPA
Southeastern Connecticut
Winthrop Chapter 250

AHEPA Hartford Foundation, Inc.: Peter Kokinis Wethersfield HS Sports Scholarship Submitted by George Bellas

On May 22, 2024, two Wethersfield High School Scholar-Athletes, Sean O’Leary and Sadie Ruiz, were awarded the Peter Kokinis Sports Scholarship by the AHEPA Hartford Foundation, Inc. in honor of brother Peter Kokinis. Peter coached baseball and football at Bulkeley HS in Hartford for 26 years. During his tenure the baseball team won 15 consecutive city championships and two divisional titles. Peter also served as the Athletic Director of the town of Wethersfield and was inducted into the Connecticut HS and Bulkeley HS Hall of Fame.

Sean O’Leary will be attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. Sean was a member of the National Honor Society and earned High Honors throughout his career at Wethersfield High. He was captain of the school hockey team and a CT Hockey All Star in his junior and senior years.

Sadie Ruiz will be attending Fairfield University in Fairfield, CT. Sadie graduated in the top ten percent of her class and earned High Honors throughout her career at Wethersfield High. She was the captain of the school field hockey team and earned All-State honors in field hockey as well as Academic All-State honors.



Peter Kokinis, Sadie Ruiz, George Bellas

New Britain Chapter 117 News Submitted by Andy Aros

May and June were very busy months for the AHEPA chapter of New Britain. It began with St. George Church’s Festival. Under the direction of Past Chapter President and current Parish Council President Pericles Moustakakis the brothers were busy serving, doing whatever was needed from assisting setting up the equipment, tables and chairs, cooking the food and cleaning the tables to ensure the festival would be successful. This was in addition to the brothers’ annual assignment of serving as the festival’s bartenders.

NB AHEPA pays all expenses incurred by the St. George Sunday School and the tuition for students who attend Greek School. At the conclusion of the school year the chapter awards a Medal of Merit and cash prize to the outstanding students. The students are selected by their teachers for their outstanding academic achievements. VP Stephen Polezonis presented the awards.



To mark the end of the school year we sponsored a trip for the students to Quassy Amusement Park. The year end outing would not have been possible without a generous donation from Aristotle Nasiakos.



On June 9th we sponsored an annual Community Picnic at Churchill Park in Newington. The food included spare ribs, chicken, hot dogs,



hamburgers, souvlakis, spanakopita and desserts. A large group of brothers led by Perry Moustakakis, Nick Bouras, Titos Ritsatos, and Panagiotis Palkanikos did the cooking.



<-Andy Aros; Titos Ritsatos & Chris Nasiakos->



Photo credit the AHEPAN magazine

Washington DC, 40th Biennial AHEPA Congressional Banquet, May 22, 2024

Submitted by Greg Simones

R4 SG Alex Boutsoulis, PDG Greg Simones, PSC Greg Stamos, PSG George Scarveles, and D7 Warden Alexander Philippides, represented D7 at this biennial event. The primary reason for the event was to honor 4 members of Congress (Senators Richard Blumenthal and Marco Rubio; Congress Members Chris Pappas and Nicole Malliotakis) with Pericles Awards and one, John Sarbanes, with the Socrates Award.

The Yankee District Delegation had the opportunity to meet with Senator Blumenthal briefly and the Harry Agganis Athletics Award was given to George Karlaftis of the Kansas City Chiefs. Speakers included the leadership of all branches of the AHEPA Family; Ambassadors from Greece and Cyprus, Mike Emmanuel of FOX News, and Archbishop Elpidophoros. A video presentation entitled “Cyprus – 50 years of illegal occupation” was offered.

Capitol Hill Day is an annual event involved meetings with members of the U.S. Congress and Senate to advance issues of importance to the AHEPA Family, arranged and organized by Andrew Kaffes, political liaison for the AHEPA. The day’s events involved welcome presentations from Congressmen Gus Bilirakis of FL, Nicole Malliotakis, NY, Chris Pappas, NH, Dina Titus, NV, as well as AHEPA Leadership. The Yankee District delegation met with both CT senators (or their staff representatives), and Congress members from CT.



Waterbury Chapter 48 News Submitted by Alex Boutsoulis

- ☆ The Waterbury Chapter No. 48 **Annual Golf Tournament** will be held Sun. Sept. 8 at Hawks Landing Country Club – 201 Pattonwood Dr, Southington. Golfer cost: \$150 includes a golf shirt and gift bag, green fees, cart, and lunch. Registration will be at 9 am with a shotgun start at 10 am. The awards luncheon will follow play.
- ☆ The Waterbury Chapter 48 **Scholarship Fundraising Dinner** will be held on Mon. Sept. 23 at 7 pm in the Holy Trinity Banquet Hall - 937 Chase Pkwy, Waterbury. \$40/person includes appetizers, ziti, chicken, baked stuffed shrimp, dessert, beer and wine. Reservations are required.

Contact Carrie at (203) 754-5189 for more information on either event.

~*~

With Compliments of
Jack Isaac
Past Supreme Governor,
Region 4
&
Karen Isaac
Daughters of Penelope
Past Governor, District 7

~*~

*Compliments from
the Brothers of*
SOPHOCLES
CHAPTER No. 106
Providence, Rhode Island



**Rose of New England #110,
Norwich, CT News**

Submitted by George Ververis, Jr.

On Sunday, May 19, 2024, a group of 17 current members (pictured above) of AHEPA Rose of New England Chapter #110 gathered on AHEPA Sunday to memorialize and honor living and deceased Chapter members by celebrating both a Koliva and an Artoklasia service after the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Church in Norwich.



The Chapter sponsored a breakfast buffet after the service which included quiche, fresh fruit salad, a special AHEPA chocolate sheet cake with a cherry filling, coffee and tea.

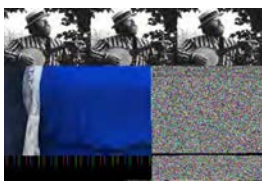
The Norwich Chapter was founded on August 1, 1926 and still thrives today serving its community in the southeastern corner of Connecticut. Democles Angelopoulos leads the AHEPA Chapter as President this year and the Reverend Demetrios Panteloukas currently officiates at the Holy Trinity Church.

On Saturday June 15, 2024, Bro. George S. Grossomanides received the AHEPA Hero Award while he served as a delegate at the 2024 D7 Convention in Waterbury. This honor was presented to him by SP Savas Tsivicos. Congratulations George!

The Golden Nuggets Glee Club, which is affiliated with the Norwich, CT Rose City Senior Center, performed for the residents of the AHEPA Chapter #110 Senior Housing Apartments, Building #2 in Norwich, CT on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at the Chapter #110 Pappas Center. The event was well attended and was both a concert and a sing-along. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the event. They not only got to sing golden oldies but also their favorite songs along with the well-known singing group.



Lastly, the Norwich AHEPA Chapter 110 held their annual picnic for the residents of their AHEPA Senior Housing on Saturday, August 24th, with Tom Callihan, a former State Troubadour for Connecticut.



Pawtucket Chapter 121 News Submitted by Yiannis Apostolakis

On Sunday, May 19th, the Pawtucket Chapter, celebrated National AHEPA Day with a free community brunch. All of the brothers in our chapter worked hard to secure donations for our breakfast and to prepare a unique event for our community guests. We were happy with the attendance and the overwhelming support for our chapter. We took the opportunity to talk about AHEPA and to motivate our community members to join us and to work together to support the work of AHEPA. We also asked our parish priest Fr. Zymaris to read the encyclical from Archbishop Elpidophoros in church for the AHEPA National Day celebration.

In addition, we commemorated the Pontian Genocide in our community by informing all our attendees about what happened during the Pontian genocide, which occurred in parallel to the Armenian and Assyrian genocides by Turkey in the 1900s. We emphasized the importance of AHEPA in building and sustaining community knowledge, engagement and motivation with regards to important issues of the Hellenic community here in the United States and across the world. We prepared and distributed special handouts regarding the Pontian genocide to all of the attendees.



COMPLIMENTS FROM



**EMI, MARIANNE, ALEX, & CASSIE
BOUTSIOULIS**



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

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Lt. Governor - Marcella Calagias

Secretary - Maria Tougas

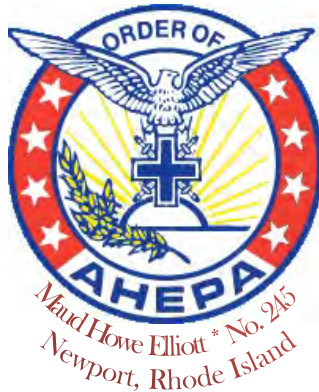
Treasurer - Katina Arnold

Marshal - Christina Smith

District Advisor - Elisa Marotta, PDG

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Chapter No. 245**

Newport, RI

*founded
November 24, 1929*



Maria Tougas, Anna Rafti, DG Elisa Marotta, GVP Margaret Dritsas

Hartford DOP Chapter 198 News

Submitted by Elaine Melonopoulos

We are happily growing, growing, growing - thanks to our leadership and programs planned for our membership, interest in the Daughters of Penelope is flourishing. We had great representation at the District Convention at Holy Trinity in Waterbury on June 15, where our chapter was recognized for “Most Initiates” for the second year in a row. Also, 3 members of our chapter were elected as members of the D7 Lodge.

We celebrated the close of a successful year at Crystal Ridge Winery, where we congratulated and raised our glasses to outgoing president, Maria Tougas and her officers and as a welcome to our new 2024-’25 board, headed by Anna Rafti.



GVP & Elisa Marotta swearing in D7 Treas. Katina Arnold, Sec. Maria Tougas, & Marshal Tina Smith



Crystal Ridge Winery

It was a busy June for our Hartford AHEPA family, as we also gathered at our Nathan Hale Senior Center AHEPA room for our biennial Awards Night Dinner honoring many members for their years of service - even awarding DOP 50 and 60 year pins along with AHEPAN of the year, Merit Awards, and Hellene of the Year. Special presentations were also made to various local charities by the Hartford AHEPA Foundation, Inc. Over 100 guests enjoyed an evening of good cheer, friendship, philanthropy, a delicious dinner and a special emblem cake for dessert.

We joined with St. George Cathedral in honoring our graduates and awarding a number of AHEPA and Daughters Chapter scholarships. It was with great pride that we shared the many accomplishments of our recipients while presenting awards to a very amazing and talented group of young people. Our chapters take great pleasure in helping in a small way to fulfill their goals of success and bright futures.



Eleni Pitsouli, Hellene of the Year

*With appreciation
for the mission
of AHEPA*

~
**Angie and Ted
Augustinos**



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

Officers

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

Bridgeport DOP Chapter 41 News

by Kathy Yiannoulis and Helen Yeotsas

Our chapter has had a wonderful year. Here is a snapshot of what we’ve accomplished (so far)!

In **January and February** we organized a Sock Drive and together with that managed to also receive generous donations of toiletries. We created “Kindness Bags” with these items and delivered them under the John Street Bridge, where the needy gather in Bridgeport each week. We created and passed out a whopping 240 Kindness Bags! We also delivered knit items to downtown Bridgeport for the homeless. Items were left on park benches and tables, with tags that encouraged people to take them. We also delivered over 120 knit hats and gloves, donated by several members of our chapter and community, to Cesar Batalla School. The students there sent us the cutest hand written thank you notes!

In **March and April** District Lodge officers, including our D7 Governor, paid our Chapter a visit. We were recognized for “The Most Reinstatements” in the District this past year. And we had another drive for toiletries! This drive was specifically for items which were most requested from our trips Under the Bridge (Shampoo, toothpaste/ toothbrushes, bar soap).

In **May and June** we delivered another 130 Kindness Bags from our last drive Under the Bridge in Bridgeport. We had a Mother’s Day Planter Raffle Fundraiser which was a great success! We also created 14 Easter baskets for members of the community filled with pantry items, a knit cross, koulourakia, and Easter candy. We awarded \$1,600 in Scholarships to 3 students and 5 sisters participated in the D7 Convention in Waterbury. At our end of year luncheon at the Cactus Rose in Wilton, CT we awarded Service Pins to 29 Sisters for their dedicated years of service.

In **July** we delivered yet another 130 toiletry bags to the needy Under the Bridge in Bridgeport. We also beautified a couple of areas of Holy Trinity in Bridgeport by purchasing flowers and planting gardens with both perennials and annuals. We hosted a Coffee Hour and are planning a September Coffee Hour and a mum fundraiser too!

Our Knitting club made items throughout the year. Everything we make is given out to the needy in our area. We also provide a beautiful knit baby blanket to all 40-day babies.



This year we have given out 20 blankets for the 40 day blessings so far. Hundreds of items have been made this year alone and THOUSANDS of items have been donated since we started the club!

COMPLIMENTS OF



**NATHAN HALE CHAPTER NO. 58
HARTFORD, CT**

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AHEPA 250-V Apartments

269 Roxbury Road, Niantic, CT 06357



District 7 AHEPA Family Officers & Advisors

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Daughters of Penelope Officers

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Sons of Pericles Advisors

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2024-25 Calendar of District 7 Upcoming Events


2024	2025
Aug 30 - Sept 2 Odyssey Festival, St Barbara, Orange	Jan 7 YN February Issue Submission Deadline
Sept 8 Waterbury #48 Golf Tournament	Mar 24 YN May Issue Submission Deadline
Sept 15 New Britain Hellenic Open	Mar 25 Greek Independence Day
Sept 20 #98 & St Barbara Charity Golf Outing, Orange	May TBD Tri-District R4 Convention, location TBD
Sept 23 Waterbury #48 Scholarship Fundraising Dinner	May 18 AHEPA Sunday
Oct TBD Fall Conference, location TBD	June TBD District Scholarship Awards, location TBD
Oct 19 St George Church, NB Gyro Day	July 21-26 103rd Supreme Convention, Orlando Florida
Oct 23 AHEPA Magazine Winter Issue Deadline	Nov 16 15th Northeast HHT, New Haven
Oct 28 OXI Day	
Nov 8 YN December Issue Submission Deadline	

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

Daughters
of Penelope
Thoas 198
"WARRIORS"
Hartford, CT

