

## D7 Governor's letter



November 15, 2023

Dear Brothers, Ahepa District 7, Fraternal Greetings.

Under normal circumstances the anticipated celebrations of Thanksgiving in November and Christmastime in December elevate our spirits; they lend us a sense of well-being in expectation of holiday joy and leisure, family reunions, and nature's fall and winter colors. This year, unfortunately, with two hot wars wreaking havoc, destruction, and death in two regions of the world, a cold war of significant proportions going on in the Pacific, the manifestly life-altering outcomes of climate change, as well as almost daily acts of social violence and polarization in our country, our spirits are dampened. Yet, amid all this uncertainty, the Ahepa brotherhood could serve as a harbor of peace and friendship and inspire confidence in its capacity for doing good in the community. May it be so. May we, Ahepa brothers, make it so by pursuing in unity the vision of Ahepa.

A vision which must remain under scrutiny because it is a dynamic concept and apt to change with the passing of time. We have always saluted the Ahepa vision in its original form of 1922 and all it accomplished on behalf of immigrants over many decades. In 2023, however, it would be advisable to undertake the task of redefining with clarity the multi-layered goals of our brotherhood, from those to be accomplished at the grass roots level of Chapters and Districts to those shouldered by the upper echelon of the Supreme leadership.

The affirmative duty of all Ahepans is to take part purposefully in this task, and to plan the way our organization should express itself in years to come, by word and deed, to achieve a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment.

Let us begin to shape our future by asking the D7 Chapters to try to get to know each other more closely. We have two media to achieve this goal, the Yankee News (YN) and the D7 website, [ahepadistrict7.org](http://ahepadistrict7.org). D7 Chapters are invited to continue sharing their calendar of events, activities, and opinions via the pages of the Yankee News and the e-

pages of the D7 website. Send your news, with photos, if possible, to the editor of the YN, Jack Isaac, and the publisher, Terry Plumley. For contact information, visit the D7 web site and click on Yankee News. For posting Chapter information and events, including updates, on the D7 website, send materials to me. From a stronger mutual acquaintance among Chapters, cooperative intra-District projects might emerge.

On other matters, a brief reference to the D7 fall Conference, on October 21, 2023, is in order. A longer article on the Conference is posted below and was published in the winter issue of YN, as well. Here, it suffices to extend Thanks to the hosts of the Conference, Ahepa Chapter 58 and DOP Chapter 198, from the Hartford Ahepa family, and to acknowledge with gratitude the participation of representatives from the Supreme Lodge, Supreme VP Alex Kaitson and the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Alex Geourntas.

In November we were honored again by the Ahepa Supreme Lodge, having been given the opportunity to welcome the Supreme President Savas Tsivicos and Executive Director Basil Mossaidis during a three-day visit, November 12-14, to D7. Brothers Savas and Basil had meetings with Ahepans at Newport, New London, Norwich, and New Haven.

On November 18, the 14<sup>th</sup> annual run of the D7 Hellenic History Tournament took place at the Saint Barbara church education facilities, in Orange, CT, with participation of ten 3-member teams from CT, MA, and NH. First place winner was the Team Watertown, from Chapter 406, Watertown, MA, and second place honors were earned by the Aristotelians, from the New Haven Chapter 98.

Finally, I am reminding all Chapters of their membership financial obligations to the National, which must be completed by December 31, 2023. I had also communicated earlier to Chapter leaders the National's request that we increase the D7 membership by one hundred new Ahepans. With a robust membership, Ahepa's voice will be better heard and will be a more powerful clarion call from a truly worldwide organization.

Best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving. Joy and peace for all on Christmas day.

E. Vagos Hadjimichael

Governor, District 7