



G N O S I S



ALABAMA * GEORGIA * MISSISSIPPI * SOUTH CAROLINA * TENNESSEE

Vol. 20 No. 2

THE VOICE OF DISTRICT NO. 1

JUNE, 2007

78th Annual District 1 Convention Hosted by William Helis Chapter No. 310 - Mobile, Alabama

The 78th Annual District 1 Convention will be hosted by William Helis Chapter 310 in Mobile, Alabama May 31 - June 3. The theme this year is Mardi Gras! Registration begins on Thursday evening, May 31. The weekend wraps up on Sunday, June 3 with the Divine Liturgy at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church.

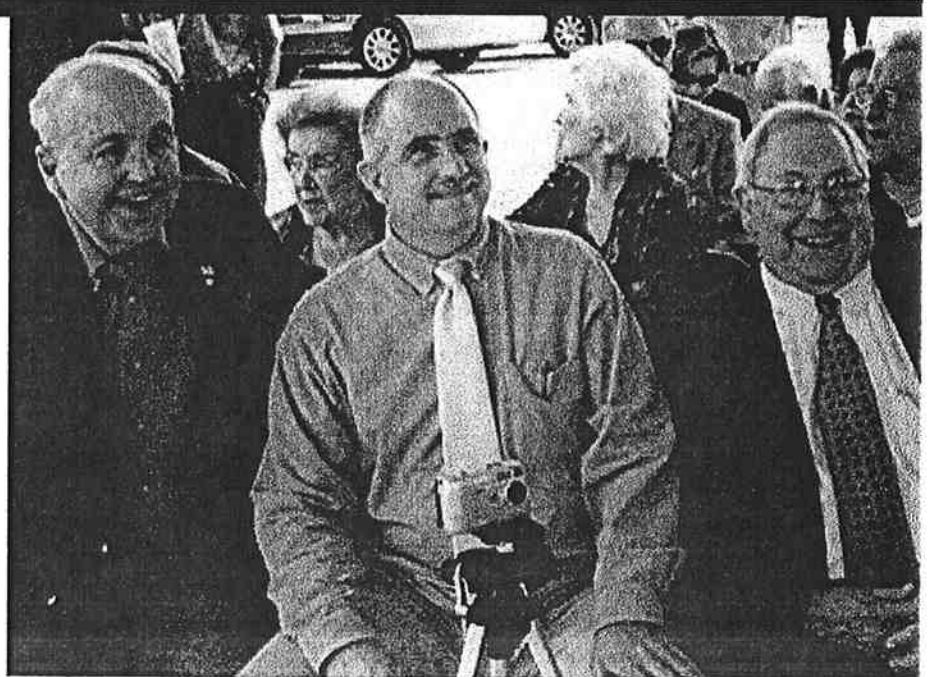
The convention will be held at the Riverview Plaza Hotel in downtown Mobile. Please call 1-866-749-6069 to make reservations if you have not already done so. Don't forget to refer to the AHEPA District Convention to get the group rate of \$104 per night, plus tax. This rate is only guaranteed through May 15.

In addition to the AHEPA/DOP business sessions set for Friday and Saturday, our brothers of the William Helis Chapter have planned several special events to make your weekend exciting and rewarding (see article on page 2).

Please feel free to contact Bernie Quinn (President, AHEPA 310) at 251-605-7434 or by e-mail at biquinn6@comcast.net.

AHEPA / DOP District 1 Housing Project

The brothers and sisters of AHEPA / DOP District 1 in association with the AHEPA National Housing Corporation broke ground for the latest housing project in Hoover, Alabama on Thursday, March 29, 2007. The construction site is located at 3308 Oakhill Drive in Hoover. Brother Chris Kapetanakos welcomed the guests and introduced Brother Nick Stratas, President, AHEPA National Housing Corp. as Master of Ceremonies. Father Paul Costopoulos offered the blessing. Speakers at this event included Ahepa District 1 Governor Alec Alexander, DOP District 1 Governor Irene Fotos, DOP Grand Vice President Karen Stamatiades and the Mayor of Hoover Tony Petelos. Among others, Past District Governors Stratton Frank, Jimmy Mitchell and Demetri Pagonis were in attendance for this event. Refreshments were served at the Lakehouse nearby following the ceremony.



PDG's Stratton Frank, Demetri Pagonis and Jimmy Mitchell at the groundbreaking ceremony in Hoover, AL.

District Convention Special Events:

Ticketed Events:

Friday, June 1, 6 - 10 p.m. *Evening at the Exploreum*

Private showing of the world-class exhibit "A Day in Pompeii," viewing of the film *Greece: Secrets of the Past* in IMAX Dome Theater, five exhibit/attractions including the Hands on Hall, Warf of Wonder, Minds on Hall and the Digital Journey Virtual Theater. Evening includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Cost is \$25 per person

Saturday, June 2, 6:30 p.m. - 12 a.m. *A Touch of Mardi Gras*

The annual convention banquet, dubbed *A TOUCH OF MARDI GRAS*, promises to be loads of fun with cocktails, a seated dinner, awards ceremony and dancing to the music of The Cool Rayz. Cost is \$35 per person

If you wish to order tickets to either of these events, you may do so now. Your check reflecting the desired number of tickets to each event should be made out to AHEPA 310 Convention and can be mailed directly to:
Bernie Quinn, 6416 Gaslight Lane North, Mobile, AL 36695

Your tickets will be in your convention packet and given to you upon your arrival and registration.

Freebies!

Friday, June 1, 2:00 p.m. *Mobile Carnival Museum*

Come explore the Mobile Carnival Museum featuring royal crowns, scepters and jeweled robes as long as regal hallways! Join the mystical Order of Joy in its secret den, climb aboard a rocking float and throw beads to the cheering crowd as we celebrate Mobile, birthplace of Carnival - American Style!

Saturday, June 2, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. *A Day at the Beach*

Bring swimsuits, towels and sunscreen and have the young'uns hop aboard the AHEPA Express for a chaperoned day at the Gulf. Beverages and lunch provided. Chartered bus departs directly from the hotel. Grown-ups are welcome to come along and relax, work on a tan, or take part in the beach volleyball competition!

** It would be especially helpful to our brothers in Mobile to know how many out of town youth & adults are planning to join us for some fun in the sun. If you are interested in taking part in this outing or if you have any special needs, please contact trip coordinator Dale Greenstein on his cell phone at 251-454-2479 or e-mail Dale at rumriki@aol.com.

Those of you who may be interested in a golf or casino outings should call Jimmy Pafudakis at 251-786-4736 for further information. For information on museums, outdoor hands-on art exhibits, airboat rides and more, click on mobile.org.

85th Annual Supreme Convention

July 9-15, 2007

Adams Mark Hotel
1550 Court Place
Denver, CO 80202

(303) 893-3333 / 800-444 ADAM (2326)

Special AHEPA rate \$159 per night, good until June 26th

For more information, click on ahepa.org

Supreme Convention

Delegate/ Alternate Reporting Forms

Recently, Delegate/ Alternate reporting forms were mailed to all chapter secretaries. Please note that all chapters must report delegates and alternates for the convention by June 1st. Chapter secretaries are asked to be sure the forms are filled out correctly with the information requested. The form indicates what your chapter voting strength is based on your December 31, 2006 membership total. The forms can be e-mailed, faxed or sent registered return receipt.

Please note the deadline is
JUNE 1, 2007 at midnight!

District 1 Mid-Winter Conference

Spartanburg Chapter 268, Spartanburg, South Carolina, hosted the Mid-Winter Conference February 9th-10th at the Marriott. The conference was well represented with chapters from District 1. Many matters of interest were discussed in the AHEPA spirit, including scholarship recipients for the 2007-2008 school year (please see the article on page 7 for details).

On Saturday night the delegates enjoyed a Greek Night at the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium. Over 400 guests from the convention and the community enjoyed a seated dinner with entertainment provided by the Trivelas Band. The food and entertainment were excellent, as there was dancing and participation from a number of young people from the area. Congratulations to Greek Night Chairman John Polydorou (chapter president) and Co-Chairman Glenn Miller (chapter secretary).

Mid Winter Basketball Tournaments

This year's tournaments lived up to expectations with many competitive games in both the Men's and "D2" divisions. The Men's division was won by Atlanta Ahepa Chapter #1, who captured their second straight 1st place finish by defeating Greenville in the championship game.

We look forward to more great competition at the invitational tournament (open to all Districts) hosted by District 1 in Atlanta, GA as part of the Labor Day Weekend festivities.



Members of the Atlanta Chapter #1 basketball team celebrate a first place win in the mid-winter tournament



Members of the Greenville D2 Championship Basketball Team with Coach Jimmy Georgiades after their victory in Spartanburg.

Greenville Captures District 1 Junior Division Championship

Becoming the Junior Division (D2) Champs at the tournament in Spartanburg was a hard fought battle for Greenville. The young men of Greenville had to overcome Atlanta and then Spartanburg, who had previously knocked out Marietta. Suffering a loss in the final minutes of a semi-final game, Greenville was to face Atlanta the next day for the Championship. What a game that turned out to be! Greenville got behind early, but fought back to within six points by half-time. As play continued into the fourth quarter, Greenville inched up until the sound of the buzzer left the game in a tie. A repeat of the fourth quarter led the game into double overtime with Greenville pulling out for the win! Each member of Greenville team played a unique and critical role in this exciting and well earned victory. Team members are Chris Georgiades, Mike Madeckas, Alex Taylor, Stephen Georgiades, Chris Poulas, Jimmy Pistoris and James Garilas. Coach: Jimmy Georgiades.

District One Chapter News

Chapter #242, Greenville, S.C.

Congratulations to Chris Kapetanakos! At the Ahepa District 1 Convention in Memphis this past June, Chris was awarded the distinguished Periclean Award. The Periclean Award is the highest award a district can bestow on any member.

The award reads: 2006 Periclean Award presented to Chris Kapetanakos with grateful appreciation for and in recognition of the many years of distinguished service to the Order of Ahepa, the Ahepa Family and its members at the Chapter and District levels; his dedication to and advancement of the valued principles of Hellenic ideals; and his service and commitment to his faith and church and the Greenville Greek Community.



District Governor Alec Alexander presenting the Periclean Award to Chris Kapetanakos

In other news, the AHEPA / HUD 202 housing project for the elderly is in the process of being built. Recently, the second and third stories have been added to the building. The completion date is scheduled for late September of 2007. The Board of Directors of the AHEPA 242, Inc. are: Chris Kapetanakos - President; Tikie Christophillis - Vice President / Secretary; Charlie Howard - Treasurer; Demetri Pappas and Nick Theodore.

Mother Lodge Chapter #1, Atlanta, GA

In the last few months, the Mother Lodge Chapter #1 in Atlanta has . . . Worked with the Empty Stocking Fund to help collect money for this important Christmas charity . . . Cooked Christmas dinner for the residents of AHEPA One . . . Planned and cooked two nights of dinner for 700 youths participating in the Diocese Winter Youth Rally, raising more than \$6,500 for the chapter charity fund . . . Supported the Lykion ton Ellidon (Atlanta's dance troupe) by committing \$700 to offset costs for their annual trip to the national dance competition . . . Supported the Annunciation Cathedral in fundraising through a charity raffle . . . Taken first place in the men's basketball tournament at the Mid-Winter Conference. Whew! We look forward to seeing all of our brothers at the District Convention in June.

Please send us your chapter information including election results, fundraisers, community involvement . . . anything you'd like to share with the Brothers and Sisters of District One.

Information can be e-mailed to Demetri and Penelope at district1gnosis@bellsouth.net. Please use Word or Adobe format. If you would like, you can mail articles to:

Demetri and Penelope Pagonis
5014 Marc Drive
Nashville, TN 37211

Any pictures you would like published can be e-mailed or sent via regular mail to the above address. Pictures that are mailed to our home CANNOT BE RETURNED.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please submit your information by January 1st.

Parthenon Chapter #343, Nashville, TN

Chapter 343 has had another busy year. The brothers co-sponsored Greek Night with the Daughters of Penelope at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. The Ahepans and Daughters have also provided Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and parties for our senior friends at the HUD Apartments in La Vergne, TN. Recently, PDG's Jimmy Mitchell and Demetri Pagonis traveled to Hoover, AL for the latest HUD Apartment groundbreaking.

Meanwhile, our chapter president John Miller has introduced a new twist to the standard Ahepa meeting. Every other month both the Ahepa and Daughters gather at someone's house. For the first 30 minutes or so, business is conducted in separate meetings and then everyone gathers together for hors d'oeuvres or dinner. It's a terrific way to get more people to a meeting! Our thanks to Bill and Donna Bacon and to John and Kathleen Miller for hosting our first two dinner meetings.

On a final note, Chapter 343 wishes to congratulate one of our own members on his well-earned retirement. Brother Chris Botsaris (Chris Clark) has been a driving force in the news media in the Middle Tennessee area for over four decades. Besides being the lead anchorman for WTVF-TV, the local CBS affiliate, for 41 years, Chris has also served as Vice President of the television station and as News Director. Among other achievements, Chris' efforts have opened Tennessee courtrooms to television cameras. During his career, he has seen the advent of live television, live reporting, and most recently hi-definition news broadcast. He has become such a familiar face for all of Middle Tennessee and Southern Kentucky on the 6 and 10 o'clock news - he will be sorely missed for his fair and honest reporting style. Don't be too sad for Brother Chris, however. He says he will always contribute his time and efforts to AHEPA, the Church and the community.

Besides travelling, Chris plans to spend as much time as possible with his grandsons "going to movies, going to the park, playing video games - basically spoiling them rotten!"

Congratulations to our brother Chris Botsaris - Axios!



Chris Botsaris (aka Chris Clark) will be retiring after 41 years behind the anchor desk.

William Helis Chapter #310, Mobile, Alabama

William Helis Chapter #310 recently donated \$100,000 to the University of South Alabama's Endowment in Hellenic Studies. When fully funded, the Hellenic Studies Endowment will provide partial support for a full-time faculty position in philosophy and classical Greek, as well as fund undergraduate studies in Greece. The gifts raised will also be used to enhance the academic resources required for the study of philosophy and classical Greek, including guest lectureships and the purchase of library materials.

Brother Nick Stratas, a member of the University of South Alabama Arts and Sciences Dean's Leadership Council, said in an interview that the gift and endowment would make a difference to USA students. "We need to ensure that future generations of students, Greek-American among them, come away from their undergraduate experience fully aware of the crucial role Greece played in the development of western civilization. A successful endowment drive will mean that the voices of classical Greece will be heard in perpetuity at the University of South Alabama."

"AHEPA and the Mobile Bay area Greek community are great University partners and important resources to successfully complete the Hellenic Studies Endowment effort," said Dr. Joseph F. Busta Jr., vice president of development and alumni relations. "This effort demonstrates how community groups and the University can [work together to] create programs of excellence for the benefit of all citizens." (source: *Midweek Memo*, University of South Alabama, Wednesday, March 7, 2007, pp. 1-2.)



AHEPA officers from Mobile, Chapter #310 present a check for \$100,000 to Dr. David Johnson, center, Dean of the USA College of Arts and Sciences. From left are Ulises Chavez, Secretary; Louis Ladas, Treasurer; Dr. Johnson; Bernard Quinn, President; and John Sheffield, Vice President.

Daughters of Penelope Briseis Chapter #232, Charleston, S.C.

Greetings from Briseis Chapter 232, Charleston. As usual, our chapter is very busy with new projects and an ever-increasing membership. This DOP season began with a new board ready with fresh ideas and an energetic spirit. This spirit proved quite contagious, enabling our chapter to focus on new approaches to serving our philanthropic obligations.

Since the Penelope House is continually in need of support, we began our first meeting by donating money to help purchase school supplies and clothing for children living in the shelter. This spring, we will host a "Penelope House Shower" to collect supplies to send to Mobile.

Our chapter continues to work with the local shelter for battered women, My Sister's House. We were awarded the Evelyn Tsiadis Grant to establish a "Penelope's Library" in the shelter. Currently, our chapter is working with My Sister's House to install and maintain the new library. Thank you to Evelyn Tsiadis for so generously establishing this grant. It will provide support and therapy for the many victims of domestic violence who come through the shelter.

October brought forth some excitement as we initiated a Maids of Athena Chapter in Charleston on the 28th. We continue to work with the Maids to ensure their chapter's success. Congratulations to the new MOA board and members! For Christmas, our chapter took on two projects, one international and one local. For our international project, each member assembled a shoebox filled with gifts to support Operation Christmas Child, a project sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. For our local project, the Briseis Chapter adopted a local family in desperate need. We provided this family with food, as well as Christmas toys, clothes and hygienic items. We will continue to provide support for this family in the coming year.

As 2007 began, we were dedicated to providing support to our mandatory and voluntary projects. One way to achieve this goal was to host our annual Mardi Gras Dance and Silent Auction on February 3rd. This year's event surpassed the past several years. Everything was successful - the food, the decorations, live music, dancing, silent auction items, as well as the overall energy level of the guests and DOP members. All our guests were quite generous with their pocketbooks this year. With the proceeds from this year's event, we will be able to fund all our local and national charities with ease.

The hard work and dedication of our members are what makes the Briseis Chapter so very successful. It is a pleasure being a member of Daughters of Penelope. We look forward to seeing our brothers and sisters at the District and National Conventions.

AHEPA Cooley's Anemia Foundation

As you are aware, Cooley's Anemia is a genetic blood disorder that is found mostly in people of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern or Asian descent. Currently, gene therapy is on the cusp of a major breakthrough in developing a cure for Cooley's Anemia. The CURE Campaign is striving to make gene therapy a major concern for the federal government. At the same time, we are working to fund a major grant that will have as its goal a human clinical trial to prove that gene therapy is a viable option for curing thalassemia (and by extension, other single-gene disorders). This will require significant funding and coordination efforts, but we are committed to making this happen - safely and effectively, but in the shortest amount of time possible.

We at AHEPA are committed to finding a cure as Cooley's Anemia *major* is fatal. Many Districts and Chapters are taking Cooley's Anemia as their major project this coming year. Following are some of the activities planned to help raise funds:

June 14-16: District #2 is hosting the District Convention at the Belleview Biltmore Hotel. That Saturday the Daughters of Penelope are hosting a celebrity luncheon to benefit various AHEPA Family programs with a focus on Cooley's Anemia.

Chapter #445, with support from District #4 and Executive Secretary William Mackrides, will be hosting a *Walk for Cooley's* this spring.

July, 2008 - Thalassemia Symposium: During the National Convention in Greece in 2008, we are in the process of putting together a symposium on Thalassemia in Thessalonika by some of the world's foremost authorities on this subject.

Through the efforts of Chapter President George Grossomanides, the **Norwich, CT Chapter of AHEPA** is planning several fundraisers for Cooley's Anemia including dinners plus open discussions on Thalassemia with the various communities in their area.

These are just a few of the activities that are happening to raise funds for the cure for Cooley's Anemia. You can also participate with your District or Chapter - Walk for Cooley's, golf tournaments, providing testing in your community - these are just a few of the things you can do to make the thalassemia trait a thing of the past. We need your help to raise funds and are calling on each District and Chapter to make a donation to this national project.

Ahepa Family District No. 1 Education Foundation Scholarship Awards

The Ahepa Family District No. 1 Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce the scholarship recipients for the 2007-2008 school year. Of the 53 applications received, the foundation has awarded \$30,000 to the following 35 scholars. Congratulations to these deserving students.

Susanna K. Varlan	Knoxville, TN	Daughters of Penelope District 1 Scholarship
Maldory S. Single	Montgomery, AL	Daughters of Penelope District 1 Scholarship
Mark Wahl	Duluth, GA	George Boukedes Scholarship
Mary J. Collins	Charleston, SC	Daughters of Penelope District 1 Scholarship
Lia M. Marianes	Tucker, GA	Johnny Economy Memorial Scholarship & Terry Kapetanakos Scholarship
Christina M. Tognoni	Duluth, GA	Irene Masterson Scholarship
Panayotis C. Markou	Atlanta, GA	John & Angeliki Durbetaki Scholarship
Georgia Pavlostathis	Norcross, GA	John & Angeliki Durbetaki Scholarship
Nicholas V. Kliossis	Mt. Pleasant, SC	John & Angeliki Durbetaki Scholarship
George A. Evagoras	Loganville, GA	John & Angeliki Durbetaki Scholarship
Calliope L.P. Corley	Montgomery, AL	John & Angeliki Durbetaki Scholarship
Georgia Varlan	Knoxville, TN	John & Angeliki Durbetaki Scholarship
Andrei Oprisan	Mt. Pleasant, SC	George Boukedes Scholarship
Alexandra R. Spyropoulos	Charleston, SC	Eugene & Martha Margele Scholarship
Ashley B. O'Neal	Hueytown, AL	Eugene & Martha Margele Scholarship
Valeria N. Garilas	Greenville, SC	Panayota Chrisomides(YiaYia)Memorial Scholarship
Triantafillia K. Skourtis	Fayetteville, GA	AHEPA District 1 Scholarship
Andrew C. Grivas	Decatur, GA	AHEPA District 1 Scholarship
Sarah A. Grivas	Decatur, GA	AHEPA District 1 Scholarship
Emily G. Cordon	Auburn, AL	AHEPA Past District Governors Scholarship & John Fokakis Scholarship
Marianthe Kolokithas	Travelers' Rest, SC	A.J. Theodore Scholarship
Alexandra K. Sowers	Lilburn, GA	A.J. Theodore Scholarship
Stephanie Zavlanos	Newnan, GA	A.J. Theodore Scholarship
Donna F. Ayyad	Spartanburg, SC	Dr. Harilaos Ladas Scholarship
Anastasia M. Hartzes	Daphne, AL	AHEPA Past District Governors Scholarship
Katina C. Tsagaris	Chamblee, GA	Daughters of Penelope District 1 Scholarship
Alexis E. Marianes	Tucker, GA	Johnny Economy Education Scholarship for the Visual Arts and John Constantine Scholarship
Alexis Economy	Stone Mountain, GA	John Constantine Scholarship
Christopher Grivas	Decatur, GA	AHEPA District 1 Scholarship
Lindsay E. Barton	Gainesville, GA	AHEPA District 1 Scholarship
Stephanie E. Farmakis	Sharpsburg, GA	AHEPA District 1 Scholarship
Monica M. Masoud	Cordova, TN	AHEPA District 1 Scholarship
Tala F. Ayyad	Spartanburg, SC	AEF AHEPA National Scholarship
Ashley M. Rogers	Marietta, GA	AHEPA Past District Governors Scholarship
Rosalia A. Kolokithas	Travelers' Rest, SC	Angelo A. Anastopoulo(Triple A) Scholarship & Panayota Chrisomides (Yia Yia) Memorial Scholarship