

American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association



# AHEPA Voice

The John G. Thevos District 5

Fall Issue 2016

## The Pride of District 5



**LtoR CHRIS DIAMANTOUKOS:** Supreme Governor; **NICK APOSTOLOU:** Supreme President- Sons of Pericles; **ANDY ZACHARIADES:** Supreme President- Order of AHEPA; **GEORGE HORIATES:** Supreme Counselor



**GOERGE PETRAKAKIS**  
District Governor  
Order of AHEPA



**ISA VELEZ**  
District Governor  
Daughters of Penelope

**District 5- New Jersey and Delaware**



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## Message from the Editor

# Lee J. Millas

At this point in time, there are so many things to editorialize on that we may not be able to do justice to any of them. Here's hoping that mentioning them without extensive fanfare will at least accomplish some sense of appreciation and respect for the efforts of our Brother Ahepans.

Without question, the most significant achievement to report is, for the first time in many, many years, someone from our District #5, was elected Supreme President of the Order of Ahepa. Andrew Zachariades, now joins the revered John G. Thevos, William G. Chirgotis and Xenophone K. Microusticos as the only other brothers from our honored district to achieve the highest elected office in Ahepa.

Microusticos as the only other Supreme Presidents to achieve the highest office in Ahepa. But, our good fortune doesn't end there. Nick Apostolou was elected Supreme President of the Sons of Pericles, and for the first time, the leaders of both the Sons and Ahepa are from our district. They are joined by George Horiates who was re-elected as Supreme Counselor and Chris Diamantoukos who was elected Supreme Governor. A great team that we fully expect to do a great job and continue to showcase the quality of our leadership.

Among the other events at this 94th Supreme Convention in Las Vegas that brought credit and honor to our fair district was our publication, The Ahepa Voice, that won first place as the finest in the Ahepa domain. Also, under the direction of George Karatzia, a heart warming and emotional presentation was made to the assembly regarding service dogs for veterans and this was accepted by the convention as a National Project which you will be hearing much more about shortly. We must also mention that Phil Vogis, PSG R3, was elected Convention Chairman and his performance was exceptional.

Last but not least, Atlantic City, New Jersey, will be the site of the 96th Supreme Convention in 2018. Another first time ever for us.

District 5, (New Jersey & Delaware) has a lot going for it and we all must make sure that the offices we have accepted, and the responsibilities we have taken on, will be accomplished in a manner that will bring both pride and honor to our members and we are counting on it!!!!

Lee J. Millas, Editor

I am so grateful to have represented AHEPA with Col. Nick Vanvakias in laying a wreath at Arlington Cemetery for a Memorial Day service.

Those men and women who lay in Arlington Cemetery didn't ask to leave their homes to fight in distant battlefields but they answered the call of duty. Many didn't even volunteer. They didn't go to war because they loved fighting. They were ordinary people responding in extraordinary dangerous times.

They rose to the nation's call because they wanted to protect a nation which has given them and their family so much.

~George Karatzia PDG



## AHEPA Voice



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### District Lodge

#### AHEPA

Governor.....George Petrakakis  
Lt. Governor.....Zenon Christodoulou  
Secretary.....Jimmy Rozanitis  
Treasurer.....Steven Marmarou  
Marshall.....George Pappas  
Warden..... Bob Fourniades  
Athletic Advisor.....Asteris Fanikos  
Sons Advisor.....Ted Vittas, PDG

#### DOP

Governor.....Iza Velez  
Lt. Governor.....Dina Fanikos  
Secretary.....Joan Zeller  
Treasurer.....TBD  
Marshall.....Pattie Chysostome  
Advisor .....Karen Knicos

### Publication Board

PSG Philip Vogis, Business Mgr.  
BOT Lee Millas, Editor  
PDG Ted Vittas  
BOT Vassos Chrysanthou  
PDG Chris Diamantoukos  
PSG John Mehos  
PDG George Righos  
PDG Costas Sedereas

District & National Websites

#### AHEPA National

[www.ahepa.org](http://www.ahepa.org)

#### Daughters of Penelope National

[www.daughtersofpenelope.org/](http://www.daughtersofpenelope.org/)

#### AHEPA District 5

[www.ahepadistrict5.org](http://www.ahepadistrict5.org)

#### Sons of Pericles

[www.sonsofpericles.com](http://www.sonsofpericles.com)

#### Maids of Athena

[www.maidsofathena.org](http://www.maidsofathena.org)



## *Message from Our District Governor*

# **George Petrakakis**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for your confidence and support in electing me District Governor at our very successful May 28th AHEPA Family District #5 Convention hosted by the Trenton AHEPA Family. It is indeed an honor and privilege to serve as your District Governor. I welcome and embrace this challenging leadership role and shall strive to raise the bar of AHEPA excellence and achievements in our district.

I look forward to working with the members of the 2016-2017 AHEPA District 5 Lodge: Lt. Governor Zenon Christodoulou, Secretary Dimitri Rozanitis, Treasurer Steven Marmarou, Marshall George N. Pappas, Warden Robert Fourniadis, Athletic Director Asteris Fanikos, and SOP Advisor Ted Vittas.

The AHEPA District Lodge shall strive to strengthen the pleasant and productive working relationship with the Daughters of Penelope District Lodge under the leadership of District Governor Isa Velez.

The highlight of the 2016 AHEPA District 5 Convention was the adoption of K9s for Warriors as our 'AHEPA District 5 Project' without any termination date, in partnership with the Lt. Dennis W. Zilinski II Memorial Fund (<https://vimeo.com/167496249>).

This project raises the bar for AHEPA and puts us at the forefront combatting this atrocious disease by saving lives. As District Governor I ask you to please give number 1 priority to this District #5 project.

This very inspiring idea began at the grassroots level with the Holmdel AHEPA Garden State Chapter #517, who took the initiative and purchased a service dog named 'AHEPA,' that will go to a veteran suffering from PTSD. I commend George Karatzia, Senior Vice-Commander for Disabled America Veterans, and Vietnam War Combat Disabled Veteran - for his leadership and inspiration as a driving force in the chapter and district.

AHEPA District 5 initiatives include the newly created Strategic Planning Committee. This committee will formulate a plan, a 'road map,' to communicate the goals of our fraternal organization, the actions needed to achieve those goals and all of the other critical elements developed during the planning exercise.

Additional committee innovations include Veteran, Ways and Means, Entertainment; as well as new projects such as Youth and Career Mentoring, and the AHEPA Achievement Board. Dormant AHEPA District 5 committees have been reactivated, such as the AHEPA Job Board, the St. Basil Academy Scholarship, and the Bylaws Committee. Furthermore, our AHEPA District 5 website will receive a 'make over.'

This year the District Lodge is subscribing to a more progressive, forward thinking, out-of-the-box action.

In doing so, I've begun to recruit and involve AHEPANS outside the District Lodge. The District Lodge alone cannot accomplish our goals. We have a tremendous wealth of AHEPANS with knowledge, wisdom, and experience that have come forward to assist. We need YOU!

Ask yourself "what have I done for AHEPA" each of the past few years. What committees, projects, events, etc., have I chaired? Each of us has a variety of skill sets. What skill sets have you offered your chapter? Are you content with the 'status quo,' or have you challenged the situation and / or yourself? What have we all done to reactivate our Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena Chapters; for many years District #5 is the leading district of AHEPA, hence the slogan, "as goes 5, so goes the nation."

There's always more each of us can do. How committed are you? We all can find time. Successful professionals excel at multi-tasking and time management. The AHEPA Chapter Manual tells us to treat AHEPA as a 'business.' AHEPANS are exceedingly successful CEO's, senior executives, etc., because of their determination, goal-oriented mindset, and the strong desire to be highly successful, not settling for second best. Let's apply those same crucial, business leadership and management elements to what you can do for AHEPA here in District 5.

As a final point, today's AHEPA is an extended family bound by a fierce pride in our Hellenic heritage, a passion that has driven AHEPA to lead the way in Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Leadership, and Family and Individual Excellence.

AHEPA members come together to make a difference.



Message from Our Supreme President  
**Andrew C. Zachariades**

Brothers,

I am truly honored to become Supreme President of our organization. It has been 40 years, since 1976, since the last Supreme President, Brother Xen Microutsikos came from District #5. As we gathered at the national convention in Las Vegas the past July 2016, we should very proud of the great accomplishments of our Chapters and Districts. There is much to be proud of: charitable events, which donate countless resources to feed the less fortunate and provide necessities to disaster victims; providing scholarships for our next generation of leaders; and last but not least, fund raising for Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at Ground Zero. Our contributions to these and so many other charitable causes remain unmatched by any standard.

We continue to strengthen and enhance AHEPA's local leadership at the grassroots level. The fruits of this labor are showing positive results and our national membership is improving. For this, we should all be proud. However, we cannot become complacent. We must stay dedicated to our mission and understand that our progress is facing strong headwinds, which makes our job that much harder and that much more significant. Changing demographics are often blamed for diluting the Hellenic spirit and longer work weeks may explain a loss of passion. I disagree. These changing times are when AHEPA is needed most and precisely when members will gain the greatest benefits from the Order. We must continue the century's long tradition of keeping our cultural spirit alive and voices heard. Not only does our generational responsibility require it of us as Hellenes; but our beloved United States can never be let to forget the ancient values and wise principle that make this country great. We have an important part to play in the unity of our communities and prosperity of our nation. Let us each re-double our personal efforts to grow our membership, expand our influence and improve our society.

I want to thank all the brothers who have worked hard and with unselfishness devotion.

Fraternally,  
 Andrew C. Zachariades  
 Supreme President

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## *Message from the Board of Trustees*

# **Vassos Chrysanthou**

Another Supreme Convention under our belt. But this 94<sup>th</sup> at the Mirage in Vegas broke some daily records. Mercury rose to 110-118 degrees every day it was like a dry sauna outside. But the mood inside was just perfect! There was widespread optimism about the future of this great organization and the emphasis was on how to grow and strengthen our relevance and spread this optimism to the chapters.

Congratulations and best wishes go to SP Andy Zachariades, first time in 40 years since the last SP hailed from our District, and all the newly elected brothers and sisters. Kudos to Phil Vogis who chaired the convention and made sure "the trains were running on time". Bro. George Karatzia also did a great job with the K9 for Warriors which is now a National Project.

The Board of Trustees met on Monday July 25<sup>th</sup> with all members in attendance. Our Portfolios are performing well above the indices and our financial strength and stability are evident year to year. The Supreme Convention revenues, though, continue to run in the red. Increased Sponsorships to over \$70,000 is how HQ's covered the deficit and it's the only reason the registration fees stays so low ( less than half what I paid at the Clergy/Laity Congress). Our new membership software is now being tested online and it should bring us up-to-date with the technology.

Congratulations and best wishes to DG George Petrakakis and his lodge and best wishes for the upcoming year. Looking forward to the District Governor's Conference and Leadership weekend in Washington, DC on September 17<sup>th</sup> as well as the District Workshop in Piscataway on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Vassos Chrysanthou, PDGAhepa Board of Trustees.



## *Message from the Business Manager*

# **Philip Vogis**

Brother Ahepans,

I am very pleased to report to the District 5 NJ/DE membership, that on the 94<sup>th</sup> Supreme Convention in Las Vegas NV. The AHEPA Voice received the FIRST PLACE AWARD, for the best publication magazine in the AHEPA Domain. Please continue to send your chapter's reports and events thru out the year and share this information with all the members.

I want to thank the Editor Lee Millas, the Publication Board, and all the advertisers for making our magazine the best magazine in AHEPA Domain. I would like to ask of each member to solicit an ad from your local merchants to help us offset the printing/ mailing expenses. Wishing everyone a great AHEPA Year

Fraternally:

Brother Philip Vogis PSG R3  
Business Manager

"Fotini's first steps in the White House - the granddaughter of Brother Nikos Plakoudas, Chapter 517, Holmdel".



**American Hellenic  
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## *Message from Our DOP District Governor*

# **Isa Velez**

Dear AHEPA Family of the 5th District,

I am honored to have been elected as the 2016-2017 5th District Governor. I look forward to a year of promoting the ideals of our great Daughters of Penelope with the newly elected lodge officers; Dina Fanikos, D. Lt. Gov., Joann Szela, D. Sec., Pattie Chrysostom, D.M/PGD Karen Knicos, D. Adv./PGD.

Invite~ Guide~ Mentor

I am looking forward to seeing many new faces as the District lodge travels NJ and DE. I hope that all the Sisters will continue to promote our ideals by Inviting new members ~ Guide them~ and Mentor them to continue the legacy of the Daughters of Penelope together as the AHEPA Family.

I am also taking this opportunity to Invite all Sisters to the District Workshop on October 1st, 2016 This workshop is for all our members as the District Lodge will Guide you for a successful year as we Mentor our Sisters. The workshop will also include a report from the National Convention and the District Governors Workshop.

Our web site has been renewed for ten more years. I cannot express enough how useful you will find our website. All of our chapters are now capable of having access to a computer, therefore it is not necessary to print all the forms each chapter will need to complete throughout the year.. It is important that you use the website as all District Forms will be posted there for you to download. Please send any flyers of your chapter events so we can post them on the web site as well.

Yours in Theta Pi,  
Isa Velez, DOP 5th District Governor



## *Message from the Supreme President of Sons of Pericles*

# **Nikolas Apostolou**

Brothers and Sisters of the AHEPA Family,

I am honored to be addressing you as Supreme President of the Sons of Pericles. I am also honored to be a member of District 5. I wanted to again congratulate Supreme President Zachariades, Grand President Spanos, Grand President Charnas, and their respective lodges, on their elections. We look forward to continued collaboration between all the orders of the AHEPA Family towards growth and expansion.

After a productive Supreme Convention, the newly elected Supreme Lodge, which hails from across the country, also consists of Supreme Vice President, Bill Poulos, Canton, Ohio; Supreme Secretary, Gregory Vourloumis, Atlanta, GA; Supreme Treasurer, Chris Tavantzis, East Elmhurst, NY.; Supreme Governor Panagiotis Tsevdos, Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Supreme Athletic Director Paul Pavlakos, Tallahassee, FL. After a successful 2015-16 year that saw the reactivation of 5 new chapters, the Sons of Pericles have an exciting year ahead. We look to exceed last year's record and reactivate even more chapters, as we are in the middle of our 90th anniversary year. I am confident that with this experienced group of leaders, we will reach new heights. Working to expand the junior auxiliaries to every district in the AHEPA domain ensures the future of the AHEPA Family. Additionally, the Sons of Pericles are committed to raising money for St. Jude Children's Hospital.

As a member of the Patritha #317 and Ramapo #453 chapters of the Sons of Pericles and AHEPA respectively, I am a proud member of District 5. It will be an honor to serve next to Supreme President Zachariades another Brother from District 5. I believe that having both Supreme Presidents hailing from our great district is a very big advantage. My goal is to revitalize the Sons of Pericles in District 5, and I will need the help from every Brother and Sister that is available. I look forward to working and visiting with all of District 5 this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of my lodge members, should you ever need anything. On behalf of the entire Sons of Pericles Supreme Lodge, we extend our best wishes for a successful year!

Fraternally,  
Nikolas A. Apostolou  
Supreme President  
Sons of Pericles

# District # 5 AHEPA

The District 5 AHEPA Family Convention was held the last weekend of May 2016 at the Hilton Garden Inn. The 85th Annual Convention was hosted by Trenton Chapter 72 and what a glorious weekend it was. The festivities started on the evening of Friday the 27th. with a Welcome Dinner at the Mastoris Diner. Among those present were Supreme President John Galanis, DOP Supreme President Connie Pilallis, Past Supreme President Phil Frangos, Supreme Vice President Andrew Zachariades, DOP Grand Governor Aspa Kostopoulos to name a few. At the end of the dinner Chapter 72 President Dino Demetriou welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending, and wished everyone a fruitful convention.

Saturday morning began with a continental breakfast and was immediately followed by business meetings. The Convention was commenced by District Governor Asteris Fanikos and chaired by former District Governor Stanley Gerondelis. After the morning break, Brothers from the Holmdel Chapter introduced a very moving presentation for the charitable organization K9s for Warriors that provides dogs for veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress. The District has made a commitment to assist in the efforts of this worthy cause knowing the sobering statistic that twenty-two veterans commit suicide every day and it has been proven that the companionship of these specially trained canines is effective in preventing these tragedies.

At the lunch break, Ahepans joined the Daughters of Penelope for their luncheon and the presentation of District scholarships. During the well-attended luncheon many District scholarships were awarded to some of the brightest of our community's youth by both the DOP and AHEPA.

Business meetings continued into the afternoon. Workshops were conducted, resolutions were made, discussions were had and elections of new District Lodge were conducted. The results were as follows:

- ◆ District Governor – George Petrakakis
- ◆ Lieutenant Governor – Dr. Zenon Christodoulou
- ◆ Secretary – Jimmy Rozanitis
- ◆ Treasurer – Steve Marmarou
- ◆ Marshal – George Pappas
- ◆ Warden – Robert Fourniadis
- ◆ Athletics Director – Asteris Fanikos

Following the installation and oaths of the new District Lodge, we proceeded to the Banquet. At the evening banquet, we had an enjoyable time. Master of ceremonies Peter Kakoyiannis entertained the attendees with his quick-witted remarks.

Speakers included Trenton President Dino Demetriou, Supreme President Galanis, Past Supreme President Phil Frangos, DOP Supreme President Connie Pilallis, Past Supreme President Phil Frangos, SOP Supreme President Andreas Christou, DOP Grand Governor Aspa Kostopoulos, outgoing District Governor Karen Knicos and outgoing District Governor Asteris Fanikos. District Awards were given to the following:

- ◆ Dino Demetriou, Chapter 72 for President of the Year;
- ◆ Antony Chigounis, Chapter 69 for AHEPAN of the Year
- ◆ Thomas Savvides, Chapter 375 as Secretary of the Year; and
- ◆ Wilmington Chapter 95 was worthily named Chapter of the Year for their great works, including their success of their flagship Odyssey Charter School.

The brothers of Wilmington Chapter 95 also received a Governor's Award commemorating the 10th Year Anniversary of the Odyssey Charter School and were commended for their inspiration and hard work for the AHEPA and the community.

Brothers and Sisters broke bread and fraternized until the close of what can only be hailed as a successful convention, thanks to the efforts of Lee Millas, Chairman of the Convention Committee.

Awards were presented by PDG Chairman of the Board Lee Millas to all the District 5 Chapter Presidents





# Family Convention

## District 5 Convention hosted by Trenton AHEPA Family

Although everyone thought that Memorial Day Weekend would be a poor weekend to hold the District Convention, it never-the-less took place that weekend beginning on Friday evening at the beautiful Holiday inn Garden Hotel in Hamilton, New Jersey. Hosted by Ahepa Chapter No. 72 and Daughters of Penelope Altes Chapter No. 167, the opening ceremony began at 7 PM and following same, all traveled a short distance "down the road" to the Mastoris Diner where a beautiful dinner was served to all, hosted by the Trenton Ahepans. In attendance was the Supreme President of Ahepa John Galanis and Grand President of the Daughters of Penelope, Connie Pilallis .



On Saturday morning both Ahepa & Daughters met in their respective assembly rooms until lunch, which was hosted by the Trenton Daughters of Penelope. At this sold out luncheon, the District Ahepa presented its' scholarships and the Daughters gave out their awards. General convention meetings resumed after lunch and lasted until elections were held for the new District Lodges.

A great job was done by convention chairman, Stanly Gerondelos.

The Banquet began promptly at 6 PM where close to 200 members of the Ahepa family and friends listened to remarks for the Supreme President of Ahepa, the Grand President of the Daughters as well as the Supreme President of the Sons of Pericles, Andreas Christou.

District Governor Asteris Fanikos then made his final remarks and presented his awards. His year now at an end, he is to be congratulated for a job well.


Now it is up to the newly elected Governors, George Petrakakis and Isa Velez, to continue the good work and great leadership that makes District No.5, the best!



Governor Asteris Fanikos presents Outstanding Award to Wilmington Chapter #95. Accepting the award is PDG John Tarabicos and John Koninis. Toastmaster Peter Kokoyiannis looks on.



Receiving the plaque for Ahepan of the Year is Anthony Chigounis of the Camden Chapter 69. Making the presentation along with District Governor Fanikos is the Supreme President of Ahepa, John Galanis.

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# 94th Annual Supreme

The AHEPA Family was alive and well at the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Supreme Convention and kept true to the spirit of “Viva Las Vegas”! There are many ways to measure the success of an AHEPA Convention and many Brothers and Sisters walked away with a good feeling, a sure sign of success.

The Convention was opened by the Chairman, our very own Philip Vogis, Past District Governor of District 5 and Past Supreme Governor of Region 3, on Monday evening July 25<sup>th</sup>. He successfully guided the deliberations of the Convention meeting through to the final installation of officers for the entire AHEPA Family on Friday July 29<sup>th</sup>.

It was not all business during the Convention. Greek Night was held on Tuesday evening after the day’s deliberations ended for entire AHEPA Family that left everyone in attendance with good feelings and a spirit of unity. The Convention schedule was packed solid and a little time had to be taken away to be devoted to a political caucus attended by many of the national AHEPA leaders. The caucus represented a sign of unity within AHEPA, another source of good feelings, and resulted in consensus candidates or slate for Supreme Lodge Officers. The one exception was the Supreme Governor of one Region where a run-off election was held.

Wednesday saw the Athletic luncheon where so many young male and female athletes were honored along with four inductees into the AHEPA Hellenic Hall of Fame. One special highlight was the recognition of Mike Moustakas a member of the Kansas City Royals 2015 World Champion team, that was awarded the Harry Agganis Hellenic Athlete Award. He was rehabilitating at the time and could not attend but he reminded us of how important this award was to him in his acceptance message that was delivered. Not many major league baseball players of Greek descent can lay claim to a World Series championship ring and some initial research points to only one other with that distinction. Wednesday night saw many delegates at shows and the gaming tables, taking in those special attractions that only Las Vegas can offer. There was also an AHEPA version of a Texas Hold-Em tournament in the Mirage Casino. It was another night to feel good about being at the Supreme Convention.

The Supreme Banquet had a special visitor. Mickey Mouse came from Walt Disneyworld, the site of the 2017 Supreme Convention. Mickey showed up in his foustanella and removed any doubts of his Greek heritage.

The awards presented at the Banquet included three highlight awards. The first was to Basile Katsikis, comedian, entertainer, and voice talent; who received the 2016 AHEPA Academy of Achievement Award in the Arts. He has often made us feel good with his comedy but that night he inspired us with his words that spoke of the Hellenic unity that is essential to the continued success and accomplishments of the AHEPA Family. The second was for Past Supreme President James S. Scofield who received the AHEPA Lifetime Achievement Award, whose achievements would fill a book. The third was for Past Supreme Governor Sandy Papadopoulos who received the prestigious 2016 Ahepan of the Year Award.

Turning back to the business of the AHEPA Convention, there were many standing committee reports presented and AHEPA Headquarters filled us in about the capabilities of the new membership system that is being deployed. Two especially relevant and related



discussions left lasting impressions on everyone in attendance. The first was the report by the AHEPA Veterans Committee that continues to move forward to register AHEPA Veterans and present them with The AHEPA Medal for Military Service approved by the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress. The second was firsthand presentations by leading advocates of, and a local Las Vegas veteran that has benefitted from, the K9s for Warriors program that was adopted as a National Project.

The Convention was not without its parliamentary procedures and discussions, the most prominent involving voting on the concept of an optional perpetual membership that will be taken up by the AHEPA Board of Directors. The concept is similar to the “lifetime membership” that many organizations offer with a single large dues payment replacing all future annual dues. This is not to

be confused with achieving lifetime member status in AHEPA. The legislation was passed and more information and discussions are expected.

The AHEPA Voice magazine received from the National Publication Committee the First Prize Award as the best publication in the AHEPA Domain. Receiving the award is Brother Lee Millas and Brother Phil Vogis of District 5 NJ/DE from the Chairman Dean Vonetes and Supreme President John Galanis



# Convention, Las Vegas

The elected Supreme Lodge of AHEPA for 2016-2017:

- ◆ Supreme President: Andrew C. Zachariades – Brick, NY
- ◆ Supreme Vice President: George E. Loucas – Cleveland, OH
- ◆ Canadian President: Bill Bakalis – Kitchener, ON
- ◆ Supreme Secretary: Carl Hollister – Cleveland, OH
- ◆ Supreme Treasurer: Jimmy Kokotas – Brooklyn, NY
- ◆ Supreme Counselor: George Horiates – Cherry Hill, NJ
- ◆ Supreme Governor Region 1: Gus Paras – Tampa, FL
- ◆ Supreme Governor Region 2: Anthony J. Drakos – Aliquippa, PA
- ◆ Supreme Governor Region 3: Chris Diamantoukos – Haddon Township, NJ
- ◆ Supreme Governor Region 4: Jack Issack – New Britain, CT
- ◆ Supreme Governor Region 5: George Kalantzis – Canton, OH
- ◆ Supreme Governor Region 6: Donald Vanover – Lake City, MN
- ◆ Supreme Governor Region 7: Tim Joannides – Cheyenne, WY
- ◆ Supreme Governor Region 8: George Booras – Danville, CA
- ◆ Supreme Governor Region 10: Nick Papadopoulos – Athens Greece
- ◆ Sons of Pericles National Advisor – Sandy Papadopoulos



All the organizations that comprise the AHEPA Family held elections at the Supreme Convention. Jan Spanos, Sacramento, Calif., was elected Daughters of Penelope Grand President; Nikolas Apostolou, Wyckoff, N.J., was elected Sons of Pericles Supreme President; and Tria Charnas, North Royalton, Ohio, was elected Maids of Athena Grand President.

In this issue you will find the one of the first Supreme President messages from District 5's own Andrew Zachariades, a Brother which we are all very proud of. We wish him all the success during his leadership of our Order that we know he will perform with dignity and honor. You will also notice two other members of the Supreme Lodge from District 5 as well as the Supreme President of Sons of Pericles, who hails from District 5, and we wish them all success as well.

On Wednesday July 27, 2016 The National Projects Convention Committee voted unanimously to adopt the AHEPA Service Dogs for Warriors Program. With 22 Veterans a day committing suicide, AHEPA has made a strong endorsement of this program to do all it can to help our veterans battling PTSD.

We were honored at our convention to have with us a 2 tour in a Iraq, combat medic who came home with the invisible wound of war, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. He came home to a place were he felt he no longer belonged. Fighting depression,

anxiety, suicidal thoughts, and taking 20 different meds a day left him being hopeless.

His life turned around 2 years ago with the help of the LT. Dennis W. ZilinskyII Memorial Fund who sponsored his

service dog Captain. Recently he wrote a letter to his dog thanking him for helping him get his life back. If you google Dear Captain, you can see his 3 minute video. Their mission is to honor the life and memory of U.S. Army Lt. Dennis W Zelinski, II. who gave his life for our great country 11 years ago in Iraq. They provide support to improve the morale and welfare of members of the United States Armed Forces and their families.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT; Dennis and Marion Zelinsky, Lee Milas, George Karatzia, Sgt. Randy Dexter, Iraqi Veteran, his with his 2 daughters, Shari Duval, President of K9s for warriors.

*(More about the K9s Warriors Program continued on page 25)*

## Wilmington #95 Celebrates its 90th ANNIVERSARY

On February 14, 2016, we celebrated ninety years from the inception of the AHEPA Chapter Wilmington #95, and today it is very appropriate to recall the dedication of its first members to the ideals of Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic responsibility and Individual and Family excellence.

We, as the descendants of the founders of this worthy organization, must never forget the names of those heroic men and women and the sacrifices they made to raise their families, educate their children and struggle to reach and maintain Individual and Family excellence as they agonized to attain the American Dream.

Most of all, we *must* never forget their love and strong belief in Orthodoxy, and their church, the Holy Trinity, which they built with prayers, tears, and hard work. May their memory be everlasting.

The first Greek immigrants arrived in Wilmington Delaware in the year 1896, and soon after, they formed the Homer Club, an organization that helped the new Americans maintain their ancestral traditions, their language, and their Orthodox Christian faith.

The second floor of a business entity, located at 9th and Market Streets in downtown Wilmington, became the place where they met to share joyful events and mourn dear family members. Occasionally, a Priest would visit the Greek community from NY City, or from a nearby community to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and offer Holy Communion to the faithful.

Although most of the Greeks had been received well by the residents of Wilmington, we must not forget that the city was just north of the Mason-Dixon line, and attitudes towards newcomers in this area were reflecting feelings of segregation and suspicion for strangers.

On February 14, 1926, a delegation arrived from Atlanta, Georgia and asked the Wilmington Greeks to join the Order of AHEPA, a newly formed organization, whose mission was to unify Greeks and protect them against discrimination, while teaching them to become good American citizens.

That day, February 14, 1926, was the birthday of Wilmington's AHEPA Chapter #95, almost thirteen years before the Greek Community of Wilmington was formally organized (7/20/1939). Then, as it was the process nationally, the primary function of the early AHEPA was to Americanize the newly immigrated Greeks as well as organize Greek communities for the purpose of erecting houses of worship.

One of the first known Greeks to settle in Wilmington in the year 1896 was John Govatos. Appropriately, he was a central figure in the early years, and he became a three consecutive term AHEPA's first president in Wilmington. He quickly asserted himself as a successful entrepreneur in Wilmington and became known as "Barba Yiannis" to Wilmington Greeks. If a Greek needed assistance, he only had to contact Barba Yiannis. John Govatos went on to become Supreme Treasurer of National AHEPA.

In 1932, the Wilmington Greek Community was incorporated, and another well known Ahepan, Gregory Kramedas, was elected as the Greek Community's first Parish President. Ninety percent of the members of a committee which was formed to build a church, were Ahepans. In July 1948, during an AHEPA District Convention, the cornerstone of Holy Trinity was laid, and the AHEPA Chapter contributed \$5,000 to the church building fund. An additional \$500 was donated to paint the church interior. The Chapter also provided funds to defray iconography costs. As an expression of appreciation, the Parish Council dedicated the Chapter's present meeting room to AHEPA with the inscription "To be known as the AHEPA Room".

The icons of the 4 Evangelists on the columns that support the church dome, and two of the Prophets on the dome, painted by Leo Laskaris, were a gift of the Wilmington Chapter. ( the Four Evangelists replaced in 2004 due to deterioration from exposure to ultra-violet light, along with other iconography).

The iconostas and the Bishop's throne were the gift of two AHEPA brothers, James and Dr. George Boines. Every were you will look in the church you will find items and icons dedicated to the church by members of AHEPA. Since the establishment of the Greek Orthodox community in Wilmington, almost all of its Parish Council Presidents came from the ranks of AHEPA.

In addition to the goal of building Holy Trinity, the Wilmington Chapter sold more World War II War Bonds than any of the 500 chapters in the nation. Also raised over \$538,000 for the AHEPA Hospital in Thessaloniki, Greece. Sets of Greek Classics were donated to all the high schools in Wilmington, the University of Delaware Library, and the Wilmington Institute Free Library.

Over the years, the AHEPA Family in Wilmington has been a supporter of church building activities. In the early 1970s, the Sons



and Maids helped with interior maintenance and holiday decoration of the church. They also donated the original basketball backboards in the Hellenic Community Center. The Daughters and AHEPA were contributors to the Hellenic Center, with proceeds from our 1973 District Convention earmarked for that effort. In recent years, donated toward the church's air conditioning, church repairs, and spearheaded the drive to build the handicap ramp. Members of AHEPA and the Daughters have also played key roles in our church's annual festival.

In the year 2004, we made an investment in Hellenic Education, and we founded the Odyssey Charter School as an expression of appreciation to the Wilmington community-at-large, for accepting our pioneers, helping them achieve the American Dream, and for the preservation of our Greek Language. Today 1145 students, in grades K to 8 attend this excellent school.

Our Chapter is active in Justice for Cyprus and Cooley's anemia. Donations have been made to Special Olympics and natural disaster relief, like earthquakes, the relief of man-made terror, and we support the orphans at St. Basil's Academy.

The Wilmington Chapter #95 has maintained its strength through the bond of Brotherhood we enjoy, and we strive to practice the precepts we pledged upon entrance into the Order. They are Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility and Family Excellence.

While the goals of AHEPA have changed as times dictate, Brotherhood is the constant that has kept our purpose in perspective.

Today as we celebrate the 90th Anniversary in the history of the Wilmington Chapter #95, we look upon a new and younger generation leadership to guide our Chapter and continue our traditions.

The Wilmington Chapter membership, faithful to its tradition, continues to support our Church. For the past 14 years, representing our Holy Trinity Church, on every 30th of each month, members of AHEPA prepare and serve a meal to some 300 needy persons of our Wilmington community.

The Wilmington Chapter #95 has been raising funds to support the 5th District Cancer Research Foundation since its inception in 1995. To this date, the 5th District AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation, with the support of all the 18 AHEPA Chapters of New Jersey and Delaware, has provided grants in excess of \$1 million to researchers who work to find the cure for cancer.

Since 2007, the year after the opening of the Odyssey Charter School, the Chapter has been holding a 5K AHEPA Run for the benefit of the school, an annually major gift that provides equipment and necessary student supplies for the school's students.

The Chapter continues to support the efforts of the Ministry of Caring by offering gift baskets that include Greek food, for this philanthropic organization's Silent Auction activities.

Additionally, the Chapter continues to support the work of various Philanthropic, Educational, and Greek Cultural organizations.

This in a very brief summary of the many activities of the Wilmington Chapter #95 and it does not include the pride, tears, pain, joy and happiness our brother Ahepans feel while discharging their duty for Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Individual & Family Excellence.

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday AHEPA. May the blessings of the Omnipotent God and Resurrected Lord, Jesus Christ be always with you, and the AHEPA members and their families, as they seek to serve Him and humanity.

I like to invite all of you who are not members of AHEPA, to please fill out an application to join us in this superb organization. It will be one of the best decisions you have ever made in your life, to join this fraternal organization, the actions of which serve well our Church, our Hellenism, Education and Philanthropy.

Thank you,  
*Michael Kirifides*, President  
AHEPA Chapter #95



The chapter surprised Brother Dean Lomis with a delicious and beautiful birthday cake to celebrate his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

**My candidacy for kidney transplant has been approved by Hackensack UMC Organ Transplantation and I have been added to the waitlist for a deceased donor kidney transplant effective 8/4/16.**

Typically, a kidney transplant candidate will be on the waiting list 4-5 years before receiving a kidney from deceased donor. The shortage of donors is so severe that every day 18 people die waiting for organs that could have saved their lives. However, a living donor will significantly decrease the time one has to wait for a transplant.

A living donor provides a life-sustaining gift. Kidneys donated from living donors offer better outcomes and a life-saving alternative to the long, uncertain wait. And thanks to improved medications, a genetic link between the donor and recipient is no longer required to ensure a successful transplant.

(Continued on page 20)

# MONROE CHAPTER #75 90 YEAR HISTORY

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) is a fraternal organization founded on July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia. AHEPA was founded in response to the evils of bigotry spearheaded by the Ku Klux Klan and to assist Greek immigrants assimilate into American society. AHEPA joined with other civil organizations to combat discrimination.

- From 1922-1928 over 200 chapters organized in the US
- Currently over 540 in the US, 16 in Canada, 31 in Greece, 5 in Cyprus and 10 other Countries

## Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility and Family

- Sons of Pericles (1926),
- Daughter of Penelope (1929)
- Maids of Athena (1930)

### HISTORICAL FACTS

- Monroe Chapter was formalized on June 25, 1925
- 4 Chapters existed in NJ prior to Monroe, they included: 4 (Newark, Eureka Chapter #52 was first, Paterson-Paramus, Camden-Cherry Hill, Trenton)
- First and subsequent meetings held at the original church located on River Rd, 25 members were initiated into the chapter.
- During its peak, the Monroe Chapter had over 115 members
- Past Officers on National and District Level include Supreme Governor: Nick Stroumtsos. District Governors include Milton Marikakis (1953), Nick Stroumtsos (1960), John Mavrakis (1994) and most recently Stanley Gerondelis (2014)
- Monroe Chapter has also hosted 3 District Conventions, the most recent being last summer (June 2015) at the Atrium, Somerset, NJ.
- Within our chapter we have a few politicians, including Jimmy Polos (Middlesex County Freeholder/Mayor), Michael Pappas (US Congressman) and Connie Stroumtsos (Judge).



### Key Accomplishments/Projects

- Degree Team (Initiations of AHEPANS), established in the 1960s and performed over 100 initiations.
- Annual Events for the chapter include Graduate's Dinner (over 7 scholarships awarded today), Greek School Awards, March 25th Celebration (Flag Raising/Luncheon) and most recently Cigar Nights. Prior: Annual Dinner/Dance Picnics

### Local Projects:

Annual basis: and the funding and construction of the AHEPA Senior Citizen Housing (Highland Park, NJ). Building Expansion for St. George Church and specifically the Community Center (AHEPA Hall), Participation in the Annual Church Festival

### National Projects:

Cooley's Anemia, Cancer Fund, St. Nicholas Shrine

### Foreign Aid:

Greece: Refugee Crisis, Earthquake-Kalamata, Invasion of Cyprus in 70's.

### Political Action:

Justice and aid for Greece's Elgin Marbles, Justice for Cyprus and the New Greek Immigration law.

### In-Closing

Our Chapter continues to grow and we are always looking for new members to support the mission and vision of our founding fathers

As we move forward we need to continue to spread Hellenism, as this is our roots for our community. It comes with challenges, but we should continue to communicate to everyone how a small country like Greece continues to impact society as we know it today.

Congratulations to AHEPA Past District #5 Governor Brother Stanley Gerondelis for his dedicated service and accomplishments as AHEPA District 5 Governor and many years of numerous contributions while serving in each of the District Lodge positions. His passion and love for AHEPA and the extended family has undoubtedly been witnessed by all through his lifelong membership and offerings to AHEPA. His loving example is one we all should emulate.

Brother Stanley's speech was awe-inspiring as his words of wisdom will forever remain with us. He truly is a very humble individual with such a rewarding and amazing AHEPA career, and we know his commitment to the Order will continue. I am very proud and honored to have served under Brother Stanley's leadership as District Governor. Congratulations again and all the best to Brother Stanley and his family for much continued success! AXIOS!!

Congratulations are also in order to the Monroe AHEPA Chapter #75 for assembling such a wonderful, memorable Testimonial Dinner in honor of Brother Stanley. I know the chapter is immensely proud of Brother Stanley. Brother John Lyssikatos and the committee did an amazing job with the 2015 convention and the testimonial; very much enjoyed by all.

The Testimonial Dinner was a tremendous success. It was well attended, especially by Piscataway AHEPA Family members; current and past Supreme Lodge and District Lodge members; and all details were covered.

Monroe AHEPA Chapter #75 President Brother John Millas did an outstanding job as Master of Ceremonies.

Many thanks to Trenton AHEPA Chapter #72 President Brother Dino Demetriou who videotaped the entire presentation to share with everyone, and remain part of the chapter's rich history. The video and event photos will complement the Monroe AHEPA Chapter's 90th Anniversary this year.

Job well done by all...



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# Eagle Rock Chapter 375 Update

Sunday April 17th, The AHEPA Eagle Rock Chapter 375 held their annual Fasolada in Sumas Hall. We served approximately 100 people. Some people purchased Fasolada and took it home.

We want to thank Nikos Dourdoulakis for spending the time cooking the Fasolada for AHEPA. It is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank Angelo Kontogiannis and the Hanover Manor once again, who continues to support the AHEPA Chapter, for providing the salad.

Lastly, a big thank you goes to the Ss. Nicholas, Constantine and Helen of Roseland NJ Community for again supporting the efforts of the Eagle Rock Chapter.



# Tenafly Update

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) is working hard to promote the Five Points of our Mission: Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility and Family and Individual Excellence.

On February 7th, we had our Annual Super Bowl Fundraiser. We had food, friends and a wonderfully exciting and large viewing of the Game. It was a fun filled night and fundraiser all in one.

We our planning on celebrating our 85th Anniversary this fall, with an evening out with the spouses, in the end of October or beginning of November. So, look forward to that..

# Ramapo Chapter Update



AHEPA Ramapo Chapter offering a Modern Greek Language for Adults Beginners Class (Greek I) and an Intermediate more advanced class (Greek II).

Ramapo chapter 453 Wyckoff NJ has again completed the class of 2016 with a year end dinner



Brother-Congressman Scott Garrett joined the members of the Ramapo Chapter #453, Wyckoff, NJ, for dinner on the chapter's year-end meeting and brotherhood,





# Scholarship



1. Nikifiros Daniskas of Montclair NJ won first prize. Sponsored by Eagle Rock Ahepa Chapter 375. He has been accepted by Boston College, Rutgers and Georgetown. He plans to study International Economics and Finance and Trade.
2. Alexandra Burke of West Windsor NJ. Sponsored by Ahepa Trenton Chapter 72. Has been accepted by Rutgers, Villanova, George Washington, NYU and the College of William and Mary. She wants to become a lawyer. She is fluent in Chinese.
3. Konstantine Lyssicatos of Belle Mead NJ sponsored by Ahepa Monroe Chapter 72 and is a member of the Sons of Pericles Kanaris Chapter #177. He has been accepted by Rutgers, U of Delaware and James Madison U. He is seeking to pursue a program to provide a combination Engineering/MBA degree.

4. Demos Backos of Upper Saddle River NJ sponsored by Ahepa Alexander Hamilton Chapter 54. He plans on studying engineering at Rutgers or Rochester Institute
5. Evangelia Palidis of Lyndhurst NJ also sponsored by Ahepa Alexander Hamilton Chapter 54. She plans on studying Biology at The College of New Jersey. And hopes to pursue a career in Orthodontics.
6. Marielle Marlys of Wall Township NJ sponsored by Ahepa Ocean County Chapter 467. She received our Tom Pappas community Leadership Award. She will be attending NYU and aspires to become a Broadcast Journalist and report on significant international issues.
7. George Costidis lives in Middletown NJ and is sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope Aulis Chapter 195. He wants to further his education both academically and socially so as to be able to give back to his family and community.

## AHEPA District Lodge Launches Help-A-Son Campaign

Think back to when you started out on your career. Perhaps you just graduated from high school or college. You needed to start out to find a new job. You wrote a resume to highlight your skills and experience. You needed to differentiate yourself from the other candidates. You also needed to find out where the opportunities are. Finally, you needed to get a referral from someone who knows you and can provide a recommendation. The Sons of Pericles are there to get you started.

The Sons of Pericles is the training ground for you to get your *"life skills"*. Its members learn how to organize, create and Agenda and run a meeting. You have the opportunity to practice your public speaking. All these skills will help you land your first job. Finally, you get the opportunity to network with other Sons of Pericles and thousands of Ahepans. Ahepans are there to get you started. Through the work of brother Evans John, AHEPA developed a mentoring database, to match you and your career goals with Ahepans and Daughters of Penelope who are in the field where you are trying to enter. Learn by someone who has been there and done that. The brother or sister has pledged to help you by answering your questions, provide you with leads that can help you get the right experience.

It all starts with you and your willingness to help a fellow brother or sister. As an Ahepan or Daughter, we ask that you fill out a profile that highlights your experience and accomplishments. Brother Evans will match you up with a Junior Brother or Sister. However, it all starts with you! Contact Brother Evans or one of your District Lodge and ask to fill out the Mentorship profile. You can also send an email to the AHEPA District Lodge at [ahepad5@yahoo.com](mailto:ahepad5@yahoo.com).

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# Perth Amboy AHEPA Raritan Chapter #288

## Greek Independence Day Greek Flag Raising Ceremony Commemorating 195 years of Independence

### **MAYORAL PROCLAMATION** **Greek Independence Day**

*WHEREAS, the celebration of Greek Independence Day on March 25th draws inspiration from one of the holiest days for Greek Orthodox Christians, the Annunciation of the Theotokos; and*

*WHEREAS, the War of Independence began in 1821, as Greeks rose up against 400 years of occupation and oppression by the Ottoman Turks; and*

*WHEREAS, faithful Hellenes living in their occupied homeland reacted to the Turkish oppression and resisted the attempts to deprive the Greeks of their heritage, their freedom and their religion; and*

*WHEREAS, the War of Independence waged for eight years until 1829 when the Sultan Mahmud II accepted Greek Independence with the Treaty of Adrianople; and*

*WHEREAS, the history of Greek-Americans is the story of extraordinary individuals whose achievements have set examples for the citizens of all races; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Perth Amboy recognizes the accomplishments of Greek Americans and for those who continue to contribute to the American promise; and*

*WHEREAS, the Greek legacy in art, literature, history, science and political philosophy, including the formulation of the principles on which our democracy is based, has greatly influenced the development of nations all over the world; and*

*WHEREAS, Greeks throughout the world are now celebrating 195 years of independence and freedom; and*

*WHEREAS, the Order of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), is the oldest and largest Greek-American fraternal organization in the world with its mission to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence through community service and volunteerism; and*

*WHEREAS, AHEPANS and Perth Amboy's Greek-American residents continue to enhance our social, cultural and economic fabric; and*

*WHEREAS, we welcome their continued participation in our government as they carry on the spirit of Greek independence; and*

*WHEREAS, it is hereby recognized that the Order of AHEPA Perth Amboy Raritan Chapter No. 288, chartered in the City of Perth Amboy on January 10, 1932, joins the City of Perth Amboy to commemorate the 195th Anniversary of the Republic of Greece; and*

*NOW, Therefore, I, Wilda Diaz, Mayor of the City of Perth Amboy, do hereby proclaim this day, March 25th, 2016, as Greek Independence Day, a day of Honor in the City of Perth Amboy and I would like to extend my gratitude to our AHEPANS and Greek-American residents for their many contributions to our community.*

*GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the City of Perth Amboy, this twenty-fifth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen.*

*Honorable Wilda Diaz Mayor  
City of Perth Amboy*



AHEPA District Governor with Vietnam War Veteran John "Rocky" DeNardo, Corporal U.S. Marine Corps on May 30, 2016 at the Annual City of Perth Amboy Memorial Day Celebration.

### **Perth Amboy AHEPA Raritan Chapter #288 Officers**

President - Nicholas P. Vosinas      Vice-President - Dimitrios Koudis  
Treasurer - George A. Vosinas

Piscataway and Perth Amboy AHEPA Chapters visit Brother George Bratsano for his 90th Birthday Celebration and to award him with 65 Year AHEPA Service Pin Award on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the NJ Veterans Home in Edison.



AHEPA PDG Brother Stanley Gerondelis proudly awards Brother George Bratsano his 65 Year Service Pin



Brother James, AHEPA District Lt. Governor Brother George N. Petrakakis, Brother George, Brother Stanley, Al Zero (seated).....and Brother George Bratsano proudly displays his birthday card along with the AHEPA Flag

Brother George Bratsano's 65 Year AHEPA Service Pin. Congratulations!



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Agape's Chapter #336 'Knitting/Crocheting' crowd meets every other Tuesday at St Nicholas in Wyckoff, working hard to complete beautiful hats for babies who are premature and are in the NICU, as well as baby blankets for warmth and comfort to little ones in the Children's Ward and lapghans for wheelchair bound seniors living in the Geriatric Ward. Since our inception in 2014, we have donated 217 hats for preemies, 8 baby blankets and 15 lapghans to the St Joseph Foundation in Paterson, NJ. In the past 7 months we have created 8 lapghans, 16 baby blankets and 89 preemie hats. These will be donated, together with more completed hats and blankets, in December to St Joseph's Foundation. Even Fr Bill drops in to visit with us!

# Garden State Chapter #517

April 7, 2016 Garden State Chapter #517, Holmdel, NJ presented the Monmouth Titans-Special Olympics Basketball Team new team jackets.



On hand for the event was Lt. Governor George Petrakakis, Father Lekkas, John Kalafatides –Treasurer and Demetri Orfanitopoulos - President. AHEPA also made arrangements for the team to use the Kimisis Tis Theotokou gym at no charge for the team to call their home base and practice weekly. The team went to Wildwood, NJ to win four out of four playoff games and win the gold for their division in the NJ State Special Olympics Championship. After that weekend we held a rally for the team, attending was the Holmdel Fire Department.

*(Continued from page 13)*

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding

**Q:** Who can become a living organ donor?

**A:** Anyone can decide to be a donor. A person's physical condition, not his or her age, determines the potential for organ donation, which is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

**Q:** How are donated organs allocated?

**A:** They are allocated on the following criteria: match with donor, medical urgency and time on a waiting list. A patient's age, gender, race, ethnicity or wealth do not affect who receives available organs.

**Q:** What expenses are incurred by a living donor?

**A:** Generally, the recipient's Medicare or private health insurance will pay for the donor's evaluation (to determine if a good candidate for a living donation), donation surgery and post-operative care.

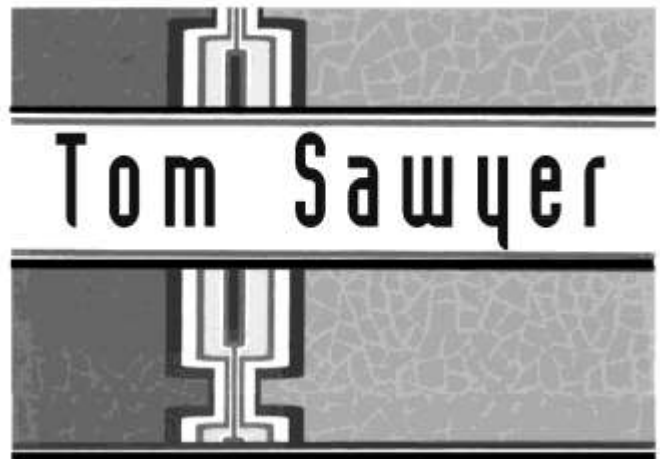
**If anyone is interested in becoming a living donor, on my behalf, please contact the Hackensack University Medical Center Living Donor Coordinator at 551-996-2608 for more information.**

Thank You,

Lou Larres

Chapter Secretary

AHEPA #467 Toms River, NJ



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Project of  
AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope

*The 5th District*

*AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation, Inc.*

*cordially invites you to attend our*

*27th Annual Fall Gala*

*Saturday, November 5, 2016*

*at the Pines Manor in Edison, New Jersey*

*Cocktail hour begins 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner*

*Please join us as we honor the Foundation's*

*2016 grant recipients and celebrate*

*with an evening of dinner and dancing*

*Music by Alpha*

*Reservation form enclosed*

*Donation \$90  
\$100 at the door*

*Cash bar*

# Join Us As We March to a Million in Cancer Research Grant Giving

Over the past 28 years the Fifth District AHEPA Cancer Research Foundation Inc. has worked diligently towards this historic goal with the generous support of donors like you. Please make your reservations early to be a part of the evening's special celebration and if you cannot attend the Gala, kindly consider donating to the Benefactor Program.

**Don't miss out on sharing what your chapter is doing... the next AHEPA Voice deadline is Dec. 15!!**

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# AHEPA Liberty Chapter Holds Elections & Sons of Pericles Take to the Hardwood

The Liberty Chapter #532 of Clifton, the AHEPA Chapter for our community, held elections for only the third time in their short history. At an April meeting held at Miranda's Café and Restaurant in Wayne, the chapter elected the following officers for 2016 – 2017:

- ◆ Spiro Panagakis – President
- ◆ John Pilavas – Vice President
- ◆ Gus Haritos – Secretary
- ◆ Ted Vittas – Treasurer


The new officers will begin their term in July. Spiro became the third President of the Chapter's history. Mr. Panagakis is a well-known parishioner of St George. He and his family have been involved in all aspects of the parish. Spiro is an Airline Maintenance Supervisor with United Airlines. Spiro is also a reservist in the Air National Guard and spends many of his weekends in service to our country. Spiro will make his first priority growing the membership of the chapter, one of the smaller ones in our district.



Spiro and PDGTed Vittas attended the AHEPA District Convention, which was held on Memorial Day weekend in Hamilton, NJ. In addition to the elections of the District officers, and in keeping with the Memorial Day holiday, all in attendance learned about AHEPA's latest efforts to aid combat war veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, through the training of service dogs to aid in the veterans with PTSD conditions. In addition, an update was given on the progress of building the Saint Nicholas Shrine, the National Project of the entire AHEPA Family.

Finally, the Clifton Sons of Pericles, the Junior Auxiliary of AHEPA, participated in the Sons of Pericles District 5 Jersey Basketball Tournament which was held on Saturday, May 21st. The tournament was held at Saint Nicholas Church in Wyckoff. Although the team was competitive at times, a few injuries prevented our team from moving onto the final round. The home team of Wyckoff was the eventual tournament winner. Pictured below are several new initiates into the Junior Order in a ceremony officiated by the Supreme President and Vice President of the Sons of Pericles.

Submitted by Ted Vittas




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# Patritha Chapter #317 of Wyckoff



Members of the Patritha Chapters #317 of Wyckoff, NJ held a meeting with an initiation ceremony and elections on June 16th. Initiated into the chapter was Paul Agrapidis.

Elected officers were for 2016-2017:  
Arthur Kominos- President, Christos Agrapidis-VP, Ryan Griffin-Secretary, Jake Paizis-Treasurer.  
Supreme VP Nick Apostolou (center) was in attendance.



## Patritha #317 Wins 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Jersey Tournament

The Sons of Pericles held their 11th Annual Jersey Basketball Tournament on Saturday May 21, 2016.

Seven games were held at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church gymnasium in Wyckoff, NJ.

Four teams participated from throughout New Jersey.

The home team Patritha #317 of Wyckoff took First Place, defeating a talented Sons of Pericles Alumni team in the finals.

The Garden State Chapter team of Holmdel just missed out, falling short in their final game by one point to the Alumni. The Liberty Chapter of Clifton, NJ also participated in the tournament.

In between games, four new young men were initiated into the Junior Order by Supreme President Andreas Christou and Supreme Vice President Nick Apostolou.

Visit this link to see the slide show on Flickr.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ahepad5/sets/72157666381310873>



Nick Apostolou elected Supreme President of the Sons of Pericles.

Nick is the 6<sup>th</sup> Son of Pericles from District 5 to be elected as Supreme President.



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**K9SFORWARRIORS**

AHEPA Chapter 517 is purchasing a Medical Service Dog to help aid a Wounded Warrior returning home from war who is suffering from both visual and invisible wounds.

The US Department of Veteran Affairs estimates that approximately 25% of the Veterans who are returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan have been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorders, traumatic brain disorder, or bodily injuries due to combat. There is an alarming rate that an estimated 22 Veterans commit suicide in America each day and unfortunately, the numbers are going in the wrong direction. Medications are proven to be a temporary fix and in some cases, making matters worse.

Studies have shown that Medical Service Dogs help Wounded Warriors to mitigate their disability and overcome challenges that inhibit them from functioning independently with their family and community. The road to recovery is a long hard road. The Service Dogs are proven to open doors both literally and figuratively for the Wounded Warriors by performing tasks and behaviors that help them reconnect with their families, their communities and with each other.

In my Chapter's effort to learn more about Service Dogs, we invited Mr. and Mrs. Zilinski that have created a memorial fund in their son's name who was killed in Iraq ten years ago. Their son Lieutenant Dennis W. Zilinski II was a West Point graduate and he served his country proudly. The lieutenant Dennis W. Zilinski II Memorial Foundation provides care and support for those serving our country and their families. They have donated funds to train and place seventeen Service Dogs to date, costing approximately \$15,000 per dog. This sounds like a large amount of money but, it is in fact a bargain. Dogs that are specially bred to be Service Dogs range anywhere from \$30,000-\$50,000 depending on which skills they will be taught

The Zilinskis found K9s For Warriors, located in Ponte Vedra Florida. Shari Duval is a is the Founder of this organization. Shari Duval discovered that there are dogs with high IQs that are in dog pounds and are facing euthanasia. In just six months, these dogs remarkably were able to learn the lite saving skills necessary to aid the Veterans. By saving these dogs from euthanasia, they are able to bring down the cost to half the price.

Our Chapter will soon be Sponsoring a Service Dog through The Dennis W. Zilinski II Foundation, and it makes us proud to be able to save two lives. It is our hope that other Chapters can get on board with this noble humanitarian effort. Perhaps at our District and national Conventions, we can all agree to collectively sponsor additional Service Dogs.

With AHEPA getting involved as it did in 1945 by buying more war bonds then any other organization in the United States. Perhaps this is our time to once again hear the call of duty and due our part to stop this growing epidemic.

Brothers, taking care of our Veterans is a sacred obligation that we must all honor.

Respectfully,

*George Karatzia*  
George Karatzia  
Past District Governor



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# Brothers & Sisters



**Constantinos "Dino" J. Mariolis**, 79 of Perth Amboy, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at his residence with his family by his side. Dino was born in Patras, Greece, and came to Keyport in 1955 and then to Perth Amboy in 1958. He was the Owner/Operator of Texas Lunch Restaurant, Perth Amboy for over 35 years. He retired in 2001. Dino was a parishioner of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, a member of the Seniors Club and AHEPA.

He is preceded in death by his loving parents John and Eleni (nee Mantzavinou) Mariolis. Dino is survived by his devoted wife of 58 years Evelyn (nee Siggelakis); beloved father of Dr. Elaine Mariolis and her husband Richard Rodriguez; dear brother of Evangelia and her husband Costa Metropoulou and George and his wife Polyxeni Mariolis; adored grandfather of Desiree Santos and Zenovia Rodriguez .



**SPERO COUTROS**, 89, WWII Army veteran, leader in Perth Amboy business community and church trustee, of Perth Amboy, N.J., passed away on Friday, February 12, 2016, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick, N.J.

Spero was a lifelong resident of Perth Amboy. He was an alumnus of Perth Amboy High School, Class of 1944, and served his country during World War II in the United States Army. He was the owner/operator of Coutros Brothers, Inc., Perth Amboy for many years. He was a parishioner, a member of the Seniors Club and AHEPA, and a past member and past Treasurer of the Board of Trustees at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. He was a past member of the Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce and member of the Vryseon Society.

Spero is preceded in death by his devoted wife, Helen (nee Grivas) who passed away in 2008; loving son of Peter and Stella (nee Kostakos), and dear brother of Calliope "Cally" Coutros, who passed away 2014. He is survived by his beloved children, Stella Coutros; Peggy and her husband, William Kantor, and Peter Coutros; dear brother of Mary and her husband, George Karagias; adored grandfather of Nicholas, Gregory Hoffmann, Jennifer, Victoria, Kristin Kantor, Peter, Landon, and Tyler Coutros, and cherished uncle of many nieces and nephews.



**Liberty Zografos**, On May 24, 2016, our beloved parishioner and devoted co-worker of Saint Thomas Family, Liberty Zografos passed away. It is with heavy heart and deep sadness we inform you of the passing of our Sister Liberty Zografos, a devoted member of our St. Thomas community. Sister Liberty was our Chapter's Godchild.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Liberty's memory to the Hellenic Heritage Dance Group where she served as president for over 20 years.



**C. MICHAEL VOVAKES**, proud Penn Stater, Rotarian, and a member of the AHEPA, passed away on Monday, March 7, 2016. Born in Harrisburg, PA, to Michael and Mary Vovakes, Mike resided in Livingston for many years. He was a CPA with an MBA from Rutgers, and owned Fiducial Tax and Business Services in Upper Montclair.

He was a true gentleman who always saw the best in everyone. Mike is survived by his beloved wife, Marie, and cousins, nieces, nephews, and many friends. He will truly be missed by his cats Lucky and Olivia.

**GEORGE T. KOLIAS**, died Tuesday, June 21, 2016, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. He was 78. Born in Perth Amboy he lived in New Brunswick before moving to North Brunswick in 1967. He graduated from Perth Amboy High School and worked as a salesman at Sears and Roebuck in New Brunswick and later for five years at Brunswick Toyota in North Brunswick before his retirement in 1997. He served in the National Guard in the 1960s.

Mr. Kolias was a member of St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Piscataway and AHEPA, Chapter #75 in New Brunswick. He was predeceased by his daughter Nina Kolias in 1993; his parents Fred and Mabel (Brown) Kolias; and his brother Allen Kolias. Surviving are his wife Georgia Apostolakis Kolias; two sons - Fred Kolias and his wife Diane of Washington Township and Chris Kolias of Lawrenceville; his brother John Kolias and his wife Carolyn of North Brunswick; and nephews Christopher and Allen.

# Our Departed Brothers & Sisters



**CHRISTOS M. GENES** Christos M. Genes passed away on June 24, 2016, at the age of 60. Born in Jersey City, Christos was a lifelong resident until moving to Bayonne fifteen years ago. He earned both Bachelors and Masters Degrees at Jersey City State College. He was employed for five years as a Probation Officer for Hudson County before joining the Sheriff's Department, where he remained for twenty five years, retiring as Lieutenant in 2001. Christos was a member of the PBA #334, FOP # 127, and the H.C. Retired Police Officers Association. He was also Past President of A.H.E.P.A. #108 (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association), member of Sons of Pericles, Greek Orthodox Youth of America, Board of Evangelismos Church, Bayonne Rent Control Board and Hudson County and Bayonne Democratic Organizations. Christos is the son of the late Anna (nee Triantafillakis) and Michael Genes. He is survived by his brother, George M. Genes (ret. H.C. Sheriff's Dept.) as well as Aunts, Uncles and cousins.



**SPIROS (PHILLIP) LIVANIS** PDG, 90, of Bordentown City, NJ, passed away on Sunday August 7, 2016 at Capital Health System after a brief illness. Born in and a lifelong resident of Bordentown, son of the late Gerisimos and Mary Arvanitis Livanis and the husband of Pearl.

Mr. Livanis founded Lavan's Coffee Company, the blender of fine coffees that serviced the many restaurants and diners in the central jersey area. He owned this company until retiring in 2006. Phil was a member of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church, originally located on Mercer Street in Trenton. He dedicated his life to the project of building a new church and worked tirelessly on fundraising to see the project come to fruition. He held the title of Archon in the Order of St. Andrew of the Patriarchate. He was a Navy Veteran of World War II.

Brother Phil was an active member of the Trenton Ahepa Chapter No. 72 and served as President as well as all the chairs on the District Lodge, and finally, elevated to the Office of District Governor of District No. 5.

He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law Christina and Constantine Bardos of Columbus, NJ. A nephew James, a niece Victoria Ann Bardos, and many friends and community members in Trenton, Bordentown and New York. May his memory be eternal.



**DR. PAUL B. WINKLER**, November 3, 1936 – July 12, 2016 It is with heavy heart and deep sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Paul B. Winkler, retired Executive Director of the Commission on Holocaust Education.

Paul was involved in Holocaust/genocide education and prejudice reduction education since 1974. His educational activities of over 50 years included teacher, principal, superintendent, New Jersey Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Education at the New Jersey Department of Education, and Director of a Teacher Training Center.

Dr. Winkler coordinated Holocaust/genocide education in the State of New Jersey. The efforts have seen a council, and eventually a Commission on Holocaust Education established in New Jersey and the Holocaust/genocide mandate, which was signed into law in 1994. Dr. Winkler, while coordinating all Holocaust/genocide activities, also trained teachers and made direct presentations to students. Under his leadership, many

collaborative efforts occurred including the Hellenic and Armenian Commissions.

*(Continued on page 30)*

**GABRIEL ATHENSON**, 88 passed away on Saturday Jan 30th. Gabriel is survived by his loving wife Helen of 65 years, and 3 sons: Peter and Ellen (Manos) Athenson, Basil and Susan (Rafferty) Athenson and Sarante and Julie (Ternyik) Athenson. A loving and devoted grandfather to 8 grandchildren, David, Catherine, Augustine, Alexander, Gabriel, Eleni, Nicholas and Andrew. He was predeceased by his younger brother Sarante.

Born on Dec 8, 1927 in New York City, to Peter and Nina (Thomas) Athenson, he spent his early childhood in New York until 1936 when the family relocated to Greece where they remained during World War II. Gabriel returned to the United States in 1946 and spent 16 months in Korea serving his Country as a sergeant first class in the first army infantry during the Korean War.

Gabriel received an accounting degree from LaSalle Extension University and was employed in the fur industry, later he went on to own Acropolis Wines & Liquors in New York City, followed by employment with Star Industries. Helen and Gabriel lived in Yonkers, NY and for the last 18 years resided in North Edison, NJ.

An athlete and a lifelong lover of soccer, Gabriel founded the Greek-American soccer club DOXA and served as its first President. Gabriel was also an active member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Thomas Jefferson Chapter 280 of AHEPA, Hellenic Post 440 of the American Legion, Trinity Circle and the ROMEOs.

A kind, gentle, wonderful man, Gabriel will be greatly missed by friends and family.

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(Continued from page 27)

Many curriculum guides were developed under his leadership regarding genocide. One of his final contributions to the field was entitled "Greece – Prior to, During and After the Holocaust" that was produced in conjunction with the New Jersey Hellenic American Heritage Commission and the AHEPA. It took several years of academic research to produce and was distributed to every high school in the State as part of NJ's core curriculum. Additionally, it was presented to the Order of AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope at the District Convention in Jersey City; as well as presented at the national level.


We were proud to provide the curriculum of lesson plans for all high schools in New Jersey, a Department of Education mandate that continues to the present today. The experiences that Greece endured during the long and torturous Nazi occupation are truly unique and worthy of study. In addition to the brutal conditions imposed upon civilians by the invading forces which led to unprecedented death and devastation, the occupation of Greece witnessed some of the most heroic resistance and inspiring sacrifice. Although these stories and history are well known in many Greek circles, it has very rarely been consolidated for public discourse. The pages that fill this curriculum guide are the first of its kind in the United States and help to prepare the students with a more clear understanding of the horrors of war and the virtues of righteousness. Through first-hand accounts, students have the opportunity to re-live the personal and communal struggles that defined one of history's worst examples of bias, prejudice, hatred and evil.

It was through Dr. Winkler's assistance and support that we were able to provide this curriculum to the youth and students of the State of New Jersey and throughout the nation.

May we all remember Paul fondly and strive to live up to the example he set and the potential he saw in others.

May his memory be eternal.

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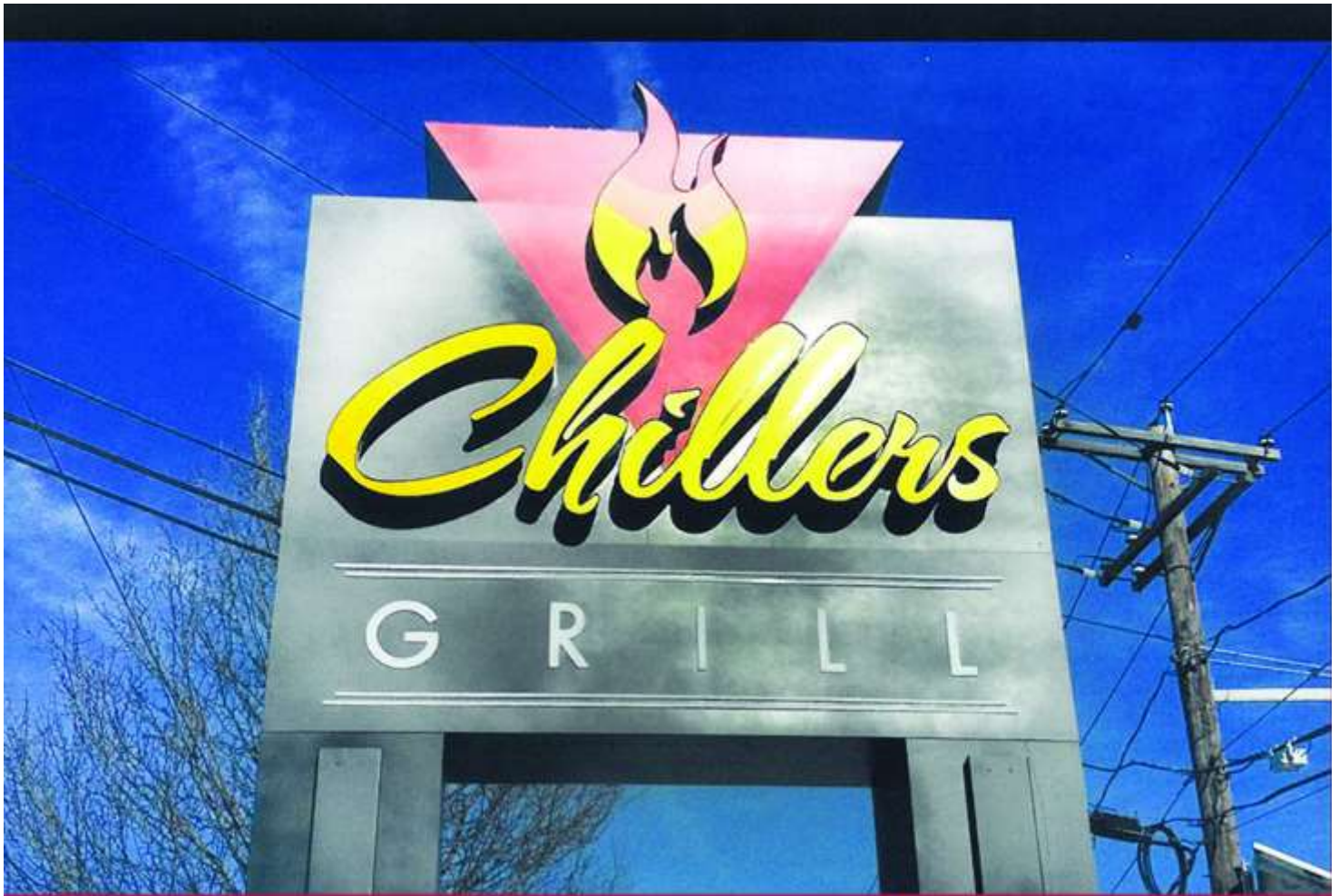
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