



# EL CAMINO REAL

The Official Publication of the AHEPA Family of District 20



## A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW CONSUL GENERAL OF GREECE IN LOS ANGELES

It gives me great pleasure to extend to all of you and your families my warmest greetings upon assumption of my duties as Consul General of Greece in Los Angeles.



I take this opportunity to commend all members of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association for your work in promoting the interests of Hellenism, as well as for your role in shaping a better future for the Greek-American Community and supporting the spirit of our age-long cultural heritage. Especially in this time of change and challenge, the Hellenic spirit of freedom proves more relevant than ever.

I look forward to working with you, as well as with the entire Greek-American community of our area, in preserving our shared values.

Best wishes to you and your families for a Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

With my warmest regards,

Dimitrios Zevelakis  
Consul General of Greece



With the Olympics coming to District 20, some of you are looking for ways to support the Greek presence. For one way, see page 3.



## Long Beach Welcomes District 20 AHEPA Family

Long Beach Chapter Presidents Tasos Papas (Long Beach #342) and Catherine Vackrinos PDG (Minos #159) and their chapters are busy preparing to host the Mid-Year District Conference on Saturday, February 9, 2002. The event will take place at the SeaPort Marina Hotel, located at 6400 East Pacific Coast Highway in Long Beach.

A reception for early arrivals will take place Friday evening, and business sessions for both Orders will be held on Saturday. The host chapters will celebrate their 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday evening with a dinner-dance in the Cultural Center of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church.

### 2002 El Camino Real District Mid-Year Conference Schedule

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH

5:30-7 p.m. – No-Host Cocktail Party in the SeaPort Marina Hotel Lounge  
7-9 p.m. – AHEPA PDG Meeting & AHEPA District Lodge Meeting

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

8-9 a.m. – Registration (No Greek Time)  
9-11:45 a.m. – Morning Business Sessions  
Noon-1:15 p.m. – Luncheon in Seaport Marina Dining Room (\$30 with early reservations, \$40 otherwise)  
1:30-4:00 p.m. – Afternoon Business Sessions  
6:30-7:30 p.m. – AHEPA Chapter #342 and Daughters of Penelope #159 Fifty-Fifth Anniversary Dinner Dance at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church (\$35 with early reservations, \$45 otherwise)

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

10 a.m. – Divine Liturgy at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church

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OPEN

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February 22, 2002

## MESSAGE FROM THE AHEPA DISTRICT GOVERNOR

America, what a great country to live in!

As we try and bring normalcy into our lives after the attacks in Washington and New York, my thoughts are with all of you. My prayers go out to our military members that are in harm's way and their families. Three years ago, I retired from the Air Force Reserves after 21 years of service. Not to worry, they won't take me back because my uniform does not fit! So I fly my flag and wear a flag pin to show my support for America – United we stand. If you have a family member in the military, please let me know so that AHEPA may thank them for their efforts in this time of war.

President Bush recently stated that young adults are reconsidering career choices. He is pleased that so many are choosing community service careers - police departments, fire departments, emergency services and teaching. Volunteer work no longer is looked down upon. Again, as adults, we must lead by example. AHEPA gives its members opportunities to express their love of Hellenism and its perpetuation. AHEPA, through our National and District Projects, offers something for everyone. The entire list of projects can be found on the web at [www.ahepa.org](http://www.ahepa.org). Get involved – you will discover the inner satisfaction only achieved by doing for others.

As a lodge, we have been busy attending events around the district. In September we were in Camarillo for the AHEPA Family BBQ, Nick Angelos (Lt. Governor), drummer for the band *Ellas*, played for our enjoyment. October took us to Phoenix to visit St. Anthony's Monastery and the Holy Trinity Festival. Our next event took us to Laguna Beach to the Aegean Cafe's benefit for St. Innocent Orthodox Orphanage of Mexico – truly a special evening and a most worthy cause. Thanks

(continued on page 11)



## MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

The terrible tragedy which struck our nation on September 11 has affected all of us. The American people have pulled together, reaching out to one another in love and support, and the *Spirit of America* which has risen, bright and indomitable, continues to prevail! The AHEPA Family extends its deepest sympathy to those who lost family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them. Heartfelt thanks are given to the thousands of selfless volunteers and workers engaged in round-the-clock rescue and clean-up efforts. Their example continues to inspire us.

In response to Supreme President Andrew Banis' announcement of an AHEPA Family international fundraising drive to raise \$100,000 or more by November 1, Grand President Joanne Booras wrote, "The Daughters of Penelope has a tradition of supporting our communities in time of need. Let's get behind this goal so we can help those who have suffered so much in this great tragedy."

I am pleased to report that in response to their pleas, Alkandre #43 (Los Angeles) and Delos #103 (Santa Barbara) have each generously contributed \$500, bringing the District 20 AHEPA Family closer to its \$10,000 goal. All District 20 Chapters are challenged to follow their lead.

I am delighted to announce that Amphitrite #151 of San Bernardino, CA, under the very able leadership of Sister Demetra Galanes, PDG, is reinstating its Chapter to an active status. Congratulations and best wishes are extended to twelve reinstating Sisters, and the three new members they will welcome into our Sisterhood!

I attended the Governors' Conference in Chicago where I had an opportunity to meet and converse with the officers of the Grand Lodge and Sister District Gov-

(continued on page 11)



# Greek Bobsled Team Pushes for its Place in Olympic History

*Team out of Funds - Sleds into Salt Lake on Credit Cards and Olympic Dreams*

"These guys are incredible!" said Patrick Brown, the coach of the Greek team and former coach of the Jamaican 1988 Olympic Bobsled Team.

Brown, whose 1988 odyssey with the Jamaicans was featured in the Disney movie "Cool Runnings" (his role was played by the late John Candy), said, "I know of no better example of Olympic spirit than the Greek Bobsled Team."

The Greek Team, nearly bankrupt and sustaining themselves on their Visa credit cards and the hospitality of a few, have created a 501C3 not-for-profit fund and are hoping for contributions.

They have not received support from the Greek Olympic Committee, their car engine blew up and they are out of money. "Despite all that, I've heard nothing but enthusiasm from them," Brown said.

"It's about more than the athletes, it's something greater than an athletic event. It's a bringing together of the global community. Representing Greece in the Olympic Winter Games is part of my heritage. While I've worked at a desk in the corporate world and probably will again, this is what I will tell my children about," said John Livaditis, Greek team brakeman.

The Greek Bobsled Team was organized in 1993. It has competed in Lillehammer in 1994 in the 2-man event, as well as in Nagano in 1998 in both the 2 and 4-man events. The Greek Team finished 30th of 39 entries, and was first among the new nations. Because of funding difficulties, the 2002 team will compete in only the 2-man event.

With less than 60 days to the games, the Greek team knows their primary focus is on qualifying, but they are still making time to share the Olympic dream. If you visit their website, [Olympicdream.net](http://Olympicdream.net), you will notice that they encour-



*Pictured (left to right): John Livaditis (brakeman) and John-Andrew Kambanis (pilot).*

age you to send a photo with your donation. All photos will be sent to an artist who will create a collage of photos that will be displayed on their Olympic sled.

Please address all donations to: Greek Bobsleigh Team Foundation, P.O. Box 597285, Chicago, IL 60659.

## **UPDATE!!!**

**GREECE FINISHED 5TH, 2/100THS OF A SECOND OUT OF 4TH PLACE, TO QUALIFY FOR THE 2002 WINTER OLYMPICS. "WHAT A GREAT 29TH BIRTHDAY PRESENT TODAY! WE ARE GOING TO THE OLYMPICS!" SAID JOHN-ANDREW KAMBANIS, BOBSLEIGH PILOT.**

**THESE FINE YOUNG MEN NEED OUR HELP MORE THAN EVER. SUPPORT THEM AT [WWW.OLYMPICDREAM.NET](http://WWW.OLYMPICDREAM.NET)**

## **The El Camino Real District #20 Charitable Foundation**

The events of September 11th were life altering for many of us. Unimaginable in conception, horrific in execution, they are likely to affect us as a society for a long time to come. Life has changed, but life goes on. Our prayers go out to all of those touched by this tragedy.

I would like to introduce the Board members of El Camino Real District #20 Charitable Foundation for 2000-2001:

Dino Basdakis – President

Lyle Hochberger – Vice-President

Mary Latinopoulos – Secretary

Carol Stathopoulos – Treasurer

Lt. Governors:

Georgia Gastouniotis - Liaison

Nick Angelos - Liaison

Leon Balaban – Board Member

Andrew Hatoupis – Board Member

On behalf of the board members of the Foundation, I would like to thank the delegates of District 20 in Chandler, AZ for sharing their trust in us.

I would like to take a moment and give a brief overview of the charitable foundation. The purpose of the El Camino Real Charitable Foundation is to provide temporary financial assistance to the members of the 20th District who have demonstrated need and requested assistance. The Charitable Foundation was established on June 27, 1992 at the 61st District Convention. As a non-profit 501C3 foundation, all donations receive tax-deductible status. The goal of the Charitable Foundation is to raise \$100,000 as the principle while expending the interest for all charitable and philanthropic activities

specified in our bylaws. We currently have raised approximately \$52,000 and are looking to raise an additional \$48,000 over the next three years.

Should you know of any brother or sister requesting temporary financial assistance, a "Request for Assistance Form" can be downloaded from the District 20 web site (under Charitable Foundation). Likewise, a form can be requested and mailed out from any board member listed above. This form needs to be signed by two board members or by two chapter officers. All information is confidential. During the last three years, over \$4,000 has been dispensed to individuals, as well as to district and national projects.

*Dino Basdakis, President*

# AHEPA Plans Return to Rose Parade in 2003

With New Year's Day and the Rose Parade fast approaching, we have some good news and some sad news. Let's take the sad news first. On Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, after consulting with the float builder, Phoenix Decorating, and the Float Entries Chairman of the Tournament of Roses, it was decided that we would sit out the 2002 parade. With the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, we feel it was a wise move.

The good news is that we have been encouraged by several Tournament officials to come back in 2003. That year is very critical because we are looking forward to the 2004 Parade to usher in the Athens Olympic Games. And, by not having an entry in 2002, it provides us the opportunity to catch up with our financial obligation with the float builder.

Our float design for 2002, which was intended to kick off the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in America and the Order of AHEPA, will remain the same and be used for our 2003 entry.

With all these things in mind, we appeal to each of you to continue your support for the AHEPA Family Float Project. Below is a concept drawing of the float and a donor form.

Because of OUR float, more people around the world have come to recognize the emblem of our Order. Please be generous so that we may continue to put our best foot forward by promoting our Hellenic Heritage.

One more point needs to be made. During the three years we participated in the Rose Parade, had it not been for the Lutheran volunteer decorators

known as "Petal Pushers," we would have had a difficult time decorating our float. Therefore, we encourage you to come forward and help decorate the other floats at Phoenix Decorating. In this way, we can maintain a "positive" presence, and at the same time show our appreciation for their assistance when we needed it.

The dry decorating schedule is as follows: Saturday and Sunday, December 1-2, and each Saturday thereafter, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The floral decorating will be December 26-31 (2 shifts daily 8 a.m.-3 p.m.; and 3-9 p.m. on the 26th; and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and 4-11 p.m. from December 27-31.) Make plans to join us by calling Nick Perdaris at 818-504-2502 or toll-free 1-866-88-GREEK; or by e-mail to [roses@ahepafloat.org](mailto:roses@ahepafloat.org).



**Yes, I want to help support our float!**

Please include me among those who want to tell the world about Hellenism through the AHEPA's float in the Tournament of Roses Parade.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

AHEPA Family Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter #: \_\_\_\_\_ Dist. # \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize AHEPA to charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my:  VISA  MasterCard

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed find my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

Mail this form and make checks payable to:

**AHEPA Hellenic Heritage Foundation  
Post Office Box 50581  
Pasadena, California 91115-0581  
Toll Free: 1-866-88-GREEK (47335)**

*This ad is paid for by the AHEPA Hellenic Heritage Foundation, a non-profit, California Corporation, IRS #501(C)(3)  
[www.ahepafloat.org](http://www.ahepafloat.org) / E-Mail: [roses@ahepafloat.org](mailto:roses@ahepafloat.org)*



## Ahepans Present Check to Saint Sophia Greek School

*Ahepans and Daughters of Penelope of District 20 jointly presented a check for \$2,000 to the Saint Sophia Cathedral Greek School in Los Angeles.*

*Pictured (left to right) are Harry G. Siafaris, PSG, President of the Hesperia Alkandre Home Foundation, Inc.; the Very Reverend John S. Bakas of Saint Sophia Cathedral; Dimitrios S. Zevelakis, Consul General of Greece; Helen Dumas, Greek School Director; and James G. Selimos, PDG, President of Hollywood Chapter #318.*

## The Tucson AHEPA Family Working Together

*By Chrys Lynn Kotzambasis-Murphy*

The Ahepa Chapter #275, Daughters of Penelope Phoebeus #146, Sons of Pericles Saguaro Chapter and Maids of Athena Eratos Chapter have had a great start in the fiscal year. They kicked it off with Tucson Meet Yourself (TMY) in October. For over 27 years, the AHEPA Family has been participating in this wonderful event. TMY is a cultural event that takes place at El Presidio Park in downtown Tucson. The Cultural Exchange Committee of Tucson organizes over fifty different ethnic groups to sell their food and teach the community about their culture. It is learning experience for everyone involved.

This year, the Ahepans built a beautiful facade to cover the booth. Chapter President George Makris, Vice President Elias Kotzambasis, Nick Makris and Milton Papageorge pulled together and used their talents to create the facade. Painted in off-white and Mediterranean blue with columns and both the Greek and American Flags out front, you could see the booth from any point in the park. The facade was built so it could be used every year. The Daughters, Maids and Sons attended the informational meetings while the Ahepans were

busy building. The meetings are to insure food safety and this year, to insure crowd safety.

After the September 11 tragedy, the Cultural Exchange Committee wanted everyone to be safe. There were no incidents all weekend. The Ahepans sold gyro and spanakopita and the Daughters sold baklava, ouzo cake and frappé. Brother George Makris did a cooking demonstration. He explained what the food contained and how it is put together. It was a great weekend and enjoyed by all.

In December, the AHEPA Family is planning their Annual Community Christmas Party. They invite the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Community to join them for Christmas cheer. The Ahepans will do the cooking and the Daughters will decorate and provide dessert. The Sons and Maids help by setting up and serving the dinner. Santa will be joining the festivities to hand out gifts to the children.

The Tucson AHEPA Family is progressing to insure a brighter future for all Hellenes and those who are part of our AHEPA Family. With the holidays around the corner, the Tucson Chapters would like to wish the entire El Camino Real District a season filled with joy and happiness.

## DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE DISTRICT RAFFLE

District Lt. Governor Georgia Gastouniotis reports that raffle tickets were mailed the end of October, and reminds us "this is a primary source of income for the Daughters' District Treasury," so please make every effort to support us!

The raffle, which will be held Saturday, February 9, 2002, at the Mid-Year District Conference in Long Beach, CA, boasts an impressive array of prizes:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: 3-Day, 2-Night stay at the Marquis Resort & Suites in Palm Springs, CA

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: 18K Gold Byzantine Cross (donated by Hellenic Designs)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$150 wine and food Gift Basket (donated by C & K Imports)

4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Registration to the 2002 District Convention in San Diego, CA

5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Two Decorative/Collector Framed Plates by Sandra Kuck

Return sold ticket stubs and monies (checks made payable to D.O.P. District 20) and/or order additional ticket books (10 tickets per \$10 book) from:

Georgia Gastouniotis  
District Lt. Governor  
1037 Sandpiper Lane  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110-2078  
(805) 683-4919

Your support is appreciated!



HESPERIA CHAPTER #152  
Chris G. Daly, President  
Basil J. Fovos, Vice President  
Peter C. Latsis, Secretary  
George V. Gialketsis, Treasurer



ALKANDRE CHAPTER #43  
Mary Kezios, President  
Mary Gallanis, Vice President  
Tina Athans, Secretary  
Kiki Pappas, Treasurer

HESPERIA CHAPTER #152 and ALKANDRE CHAPTER #43  
join in inviting our Brothers and Sisters in District 20 to visit us  
in the City of Angels.

Join us at the Sunday Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall  
following the Divine Liturgy at the Saint Sophia Greek  
Orthodox Cathedral in Los Angeles. We are ALL part of the  
great AHEPA Family.

# Ahepa Family Conference Chicago October 26-28, 2001

*By Supreme Vice President Dr. James F. Dimitriou*

The entire Ahepa Family met in Chicago for a series of leadership, planning and development meetings over the weekend of October 26th. Included in the extensive group of meetings were: the Ahepa Board of Directors under the Chairmanship of Steve Betzelos; the Supreme Lodge and District Governors Conference, both convened under Supreme President Andy Banis; the Daughters of Penelope Grand Lodge and District Governors chaired by Grand President Joanne Booras. In addition, the Maids of Athena Grand Lodge under Grand President Katherine Papadimitriou and Sons of Pericles Supreme Lodge under Supreme President Nick Livaditis held their respective Lodge meetings over the weekend.

The very busy weekend included reports from many other projects and committees, including: the Ahepa Membership Program by Supreme Vice President, Dr. James F. Dimitriou; the Congressional Biennial Banquet Committee, chaired by Supreme Governor Basil Mossiades; the Ahepa Relief Fund, also chaired by Brother Mossiades; the Athens Olympics, chaired by Tom Rakus, PSG; Ahepa Scholarships, by Educational Foundation Chairman, Dr. Pandeli Durbetaki; KYKLOS Circle of Glory Project for the Venezelos Airport by Nick Karakas; the Ahepa Archive Project, chaired by Peter Dres; Ahepa International by Steve Manta, PSP; and the Cyprus and Hellenic Affairs under the Chairmanship of Vassos Chrysanthou.

Basil Mossiades stressed to the District Governors the need to step up the campaign for the Ahepa Relief Fund. The Fund's goal of \$100,000 was extended for the Governors to reach their chapters. Designation of the recipients would be made at a later date by the chairman. Brother Mossiades also stressed the importance of the Governors to attend the Biennial Congressional Banquet in Washington, D.C. over the weekend of March 25th. This year's theme, appropriately, will be honoring America's heroes. Later press releases will announce the recipients of Ahepa's Awards, that will include President Bush and New York City Mayor Guilliani.

The District Governors held their conference with participation from nearly all Ahepa Districts. In attendance was District #20 Governor Chris Mellas, as well as representatives of all but one Ahepa District. Supreme President Banis assigned Supreme Liaisons for each of the District Governors. District #20 Liaison is assigned to Supreme Vice President Jim Dimitriou. The District Governors received updates from Executive Director Demo Kolaras on all procedures for Headquarters. Kolaras emphasized the need for all Chapters to update Headquarters on their Chapter Presidents and Secretaries. He noted that 165 chapters still have not reported their new officers. Both Kolaras and Supreme Vice President Dimitriou stressed the need for all Governors and Chapter Secretaries and Presidents to be sure to report their membership to Headquarters before the end of the year. Chapters have been late in reporting and Postal Service delays may add

*(continued on page 10)*

## VENTURA AHEPA FAMILY ANNUAL BBQ

The Ventura AHEPA Family hosted its Annual Fall BBQ on September 15th at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. The event was attended by about 90 people who were served tri-tip and barbecue chicken with all the trimmings. The event was a fundraiser for the scholarships presented by the Ventura Chapters of the Daughters of Penelope and AHEPA. Approximately \$1,500 was raised for scholarships. Both of the District Governors and Lt. Governors of the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope were in attendance.



*Pictured (left to right): Daughters of Penelope District Lt. Governor Georgia Gastouniotis, DOP District Governor Helen McGillivray, DOP Chapter President Marlena Uchimura PDG, AHEPA Chapter President Miko Padelidis, AHEPA District Governor Chris Mellas and AHEPA District Lt. Governor Nick Angelos.*



*Pictured (left to right): Costa Defterios, Bill Varnava and Chris Pulos.*



*Pictured (left to right): Steve Schmitz, Alexis Schmitz, Matthew Schmitz, Nicole Schmitz and Leana Markos.*

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## The 35th Biennial AHEPA Congressional Banquet

AHEPA will be honoring U.S. President George W. Bush with the AHEPA Socratic Award at the 35th Biennial AHEPA Congressional Banquet on Monday, March 25, 2002, at the Washington Hilton & Towers, Washington, D.C. The theme for the gala affair will be "Honoring America."

Also to be honored is the U.S. Senior Senator from Delaware, Joseph Biden, who has been selected to receive the AHEPA Periclean Award. The Periclean Award is one of the highest honors the Greek-American community can bestow upon an individual and it serves to recognize preeminent public service and dedication to the ideals of democracy. Pericles was the greatest statesman of ancient Greece and he brought Athenian democracy to its zenith.

Previous awardees of the Periclean Award include: Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet; U.S. Senators Paul S. Sarbanes, John Glenn and Olympia J. Snowe; U.S. Representative Michael Bilirakis; and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole.

Others selected to be honored are U.S. Ambassador to Spain George Argyros, and New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

For more information, visit [www.ahempa.org](http://www.ahempa.org).

## District 20 Represented at Project Mexico Event



*Project Mexico is an outreach program to build homes for Mexico's poor. The outreach includes work at St. Innocent Orphanage and Mission Church. St. Innocent Orphanage provides a home for young teenage boys who otherwise would be forced to live on the streets, the only such facility in all of Tijuana. Pictured (left to right): District Secretary Dean Tripodes, District Lt. Governor Nick Angelos, District Treasurer Zachary Prineas and District Governor Chris Mellas.*

## Ahepans Visit St. Anthony's Monastery in Florence, Arizona

*by Dean S. Tripodes*

St. Anthony's Monastery is a recent addition to the Arizona landscape, having been formed in July 1995 when five fathers came to the Sonora Desert in Arizona from the Holy Monastery of Philotheou, Mount Athos. Within three years, the brotherhood at St. Anthony's Monastery increased to its present number of 35 fathers.

On Saturday, October 13, 2001, the Ahepa District Lodge visited St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Monastery in Florence, Arizona. For several lodge members, this was the second visit; their first visit coming during this June's District Convention in Chandler, Arizona. Father Markellos greeted the group with sweet candies and water, and advised all the visitors about the dress code. After viewing the bookstore's beautiful icons and Orthodox items, we left for a self-guided tour of the many different churches and chapels on the grounds.

The churches and chapels in the monastery include:

Saint Nectarios, the original Greek Orthodox Church on the grounds.

Saint George, the new church with a Romanian theme and a beautiful wooden ceiling.

Saint Demetrios Chapel with a Russian theme.

Saint Seraphim of Sarov, an open air chapel.

Saint Panteleimon the Great Martyr, a chapel in the elder's house.

St. John Chrysostom, a chapel upstairs in the bell tower by St. George's Church.

After our tour, we were invited for evening vespers and the dinner meal. One of the monks read prayers from a raised

*(continued on page 10)*



*St. Anthony's Monastery*



*Pictured (left to right): District Treasurer Zachary Prineas, District Secretary Dean Tripodes and District Governor Chris Mellas.*

# Ahepa Family Conference in Chicago...

(continued from page 7)

to our concerns. The Governors also heard from Public Relations Director Andrew Kaffes on the Ahepa web site ([www.ahepa.org](http://www.ahepa.org)), press releases, *The Ahepan* and new procedures.

Of great importance to the District Governors was the Board of Directors' decision to purchase and implement new membership software for Headquarters. The new software finally will address many of our previous problems, inaccuracies and delays in Chapter/District membership reporting. The new program will give special access to Governors and Chapter Secretaries to update and correct membership swiftly.

The Board of Directors also deliberated on the important issue of the location of the 2002 Supreme Convention. After much discussion, it was decided to postpone the convention in Athens until the Summer of 2003. Members of the Board were very concerned in the aftermath of September 11th and the consequences for travel this next summer. Common feeling is that the AHEPA must go to Athens in the near future, but at a time when we can truly make it an AHEPA Family event with broad participation and support. It was reported that the Fountainbleu Hotel in Miami would consider changing its date to this coming year to accommodate the Order of AHEPA. The District Governors voted 17-to-1 in favor of moving next year's convention to New York to show support in the wake of our national tragedy. Board Chairman Betzelos advised the Governors of the consequences of contractual obligations of such changes. Without the cooperation of the Fountainbleu, changing to New York would be very costly in cancellation and punitive fees to the Order of AHEPA. The Board later directed member Ike Gulas to renegotiate with the Fountainbleu in order to have the convention moved to New York this coming year. Brother Gulas was successful in his negotiations and the Board is now in the process of negotiating a contract with a hotel in New York. Although, at this time, the final decision has not been made, this may be either the Grand Hyatt or the Hilton.

Concluding a very busy weekend of work, Supreme President Banis reported on his busy travel and visitation schedule. The Supreme President reported on his visit to the Australia AHEPA and his upcoming visit with Archbishop Demetrios. In addition, Supreme President Banis gave the Supreme Lodge details that he knew so far on his upcoming trip in December to the SAE Conference in Salonika, Greece. He will be attending as the official spokesperson of AHEPA

and will have a delegation of eight Ahepans in attendance at the World Conference of Greeks Living Abroad. Included in the conference will be Chairman Steve Betzelos; Steve Manta, PSP; Johnny Economy, PSP, and others to be appointed by the Supreme President. The Supreme Lodge was clear in its position that the AHEPA was attending as official observers and would not be voting members in the proceedings. Only the Supreme President would be speaking officially for the Order of AHEPA. The President also told the Supreme Lodge that he would be making his official visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople as well as the official visit to Athens to visit with Greek Government and Athens Olympics officials. The visit would be coordinated by Tim Maniatis and Andrew Kaffes would be designated for press releases of all proceedings.

## St. Anthony's Monastery...

(continued from page 9)

pulpit while everyone ate in silence. There were five long rows of pine tables. One row was reserved for monks, two for male guests and the other two for female guests. After about a half-hour, the ranking monk tapped his cup three times and the meal was finished. He then led a procession of monks to the doorway where they began reciting prayers. The visitors then exited the doorway while the monks prayed and offered their blessings.

Saint Anthony's Monastery welcomes all visitors. They have guest quarters for pilgrims who would like to stay at the monastery, and ask that all who are interested call beforehand to make arrangements. The best hours to visit the monastery are between 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. For more information on the monastery, please visit their web site [www.stanthonysmonastery.org](http://www.stanthonysmonastery.org) or call them at (520) 868-3188.

## FEEDBACK FROM OCTOBER ISSUE

A letter was received from Peter C. Latsis of Hesperia Chapter #152 wishing to add to the scholarship article in our previous issue that, "Through the efforts of Brother Solon Soteris of Hesperia Chapter #152, a contribution of \$2,000 was given to the Scholarship Fund by the Ahmanson Foundation." His letter went on to suggest that "contributions to the 'Piggy Bank' should also include the names and numbers of the chapters, and not merely be listed as 'Piggy Bank.'"

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Enjoying the Pasadena AHEPA Family's Halloween Glendi on October 27th are: (left photo, left to right) District Treasurer Zachary Prineas, Nune Nitsiotis, Chris Markos, Vincent Lappas, Steve Pastis and Tony Horaites PDG. (Right photo, left to right) Angie Tragus, Tony Alexakis, Bill Tragus, Mia Adams, Nune Nitsiotis, District Secretary Dean Tripodes and District Treasurer Zachary Prineas.

## MESSAGE FROM THE AHEPA DISTRICT GOVERNOR...

(continued from page 2)

to all of our hosts.

The AHEPA Family international fundraising drive to raise \$100,000 nationally is progressing. We are approximately halfway to our goal, with District 20 recording \$4,500 toward our goal of \$10,000. If you have not donated, please do so by calling AHEPA headquarters today (202-232-6300). Your assistance is needed. A portion of the monies collected will go to the estimated 46 Greek-American victims in New York.

The 2002 District 20 AHEPA Family Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Long Beach on February 9, 2002. At that time, the AHEPA Housing Corporation will be in Southern California looking at proposed AHEPA Senior Housing sites. Please contact Lt. Governor Nick Angelos if you know of any other property that should be reviewed. We also will

have an informational meeting open to the community for anyone who would like to learn more about AHEPA Senior Housing.

Congratulations to Supreme Vice President Dr. Jim Dimitriou on his announcement that he is running for Supreme President, and to PDG Lyle Hochberger who is running for Supreme Governor. We wish them well.

*The El Camino Real* needs additional advertising. Please help us and support our advertisers. For the latest events of the District, check out [www.ahepa20.org](http://www.ahepa20.org).

My family and I wish you the best during the upcoming holiday season. Count your blessings daily, and don't forget to remember those less fortunate than you.

Chris Mellas, AHEPA District Governor  
El Camino Real District 20

## MESSAGE FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE DISTRICT GOVERNOR...

(continued from page 2)

ernors. Of 26 Districts in our Sisterhood, District 20 is the eighth largest in terms of members. For your information, the following are 2001 District 20 statistics, as of October 19:

Initiated: 13

Reinstated: 9

Members paid through 2001: 357

Life Members: 40

Members (paid through 2001) including Life Members: 397

Please make note of these important dates in the new year:

Mid-Year District Conference/Workshop – Saturday, February 9 – Long Beach

Salute to Women – Sunday, March 24 – Washington, DC

Biennial Congressional Banquet – Monday, March 25 – Washington, DC

Grand President Joanne Booras Testimonial Dinner – Sunday, April 17 – Ascension Cathedral, Oakland, CA

Sisterhood Conference, hosted by District 21 – Saturday, May 18 – Sacramento, CA

My appreciation and many thanks are extended to Brother Steve Pastis, Editor, whose expertise and dedication make these issues of *The El Camino Real* a reality.

Celebrating the holidays this year will, undoubtedly, be unlike any other. Hopefully, they will be days filled with reflection, remembrance and thanksgiving, for despite the disaster and the destruction, we have much to be thankful for. Joining me in extending our very best to you and your loved ones during this holiday season are Sisters Georgia, Carol, Mollie, Lois, Chrys and Zoi.

With warm regards in Theta Pi, I am

Helen Condon McGillivray  
District Governor  
El Camino Real District 20  
Daughters of Penelope

# District 20 Participates in Tournament of Roses Coronation

District 20's Ahepa family was well represented at the coronation of the 84th Rose Queen and the presentation of the Royal Court. Held at Pasadena's famous Wrigley Mansion, now home to the Tournament of Roses, the coronation began with master of ceremonies Kelly Mack from KNBC Channel 4 News. Ahepa Hellenic Heritage Foundation President and Founder Nick Perdaris led a delegation of nearly 20 AHEPA Family members who attended the coronation.

During the coronation, the Pasadena Tournament of Roses named 17-year-old Caroline Hsu as the 84th Rose Queen. This announcement concluded a month-long process that began with more than 900 Pasadena-area young women who initially participated in the Tournament of Roses Royal Court try-outs. Queen Caroline was selected from the recently appointed seven-member Royal Court and will reign over the 2002 New Year's Day festivities, culminating with the Rose Parade, themed "Good Times," and the National Championship Rose Bowl Game.

The 113th Rose Parade will take place on Tuesday, January 1, 2002 at 8



*Representing the District 20 AHEPA Family are (left to right): District Secretary Dean Tripodes; Tony Alexakis, Rose Bowl Chapter #373 Vice President and member of the Tournament of Roses; Ted Lambros, Past Chairman of the Ahepa Hellenic Heritage Foundation; District Treasurer Zachary Prineas; AHEPA Hellenic Heritage Foundation President and Founder Nick Perdaris; and District Lt. Governor Nick Angelos.*

a.m. and feature majestic floral floats, high-stepping equestrian units and spirited marching bands from throughout the nation. On Thursday, January 3, at 5 p.m., the 88th Rose Bowl Game will host the National Championship between the top two ranked teams in the nation, showcasing the best of collegiate

football.

For additional information on Tournament of Roses activities, visit the official Tournament of Roses web site [www.tournamentofroses.org](http://www.tournamentofroses.org) or call the 24-hour information hotline, (626) 449-ROSE.

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