



Communiqué from AHEPA CANADA President

December, 2014

Dear Brothers,

With this communiqué I once again would like to share with you some highlights of my activities as your President since my Fall Communiqué along with highlights of some of the marvellous work and achievements that Ahepans are doing across this great country of ours.

On October 26, 2014 I represented you at the October 28th Celebration of OXI that took place at the Hellenic Community Centre in Montreal, QC that was hosted by the President of the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal Br. Nick Pagonis. Among those in attendance were the Consul General of Greece in Montreal the Hon. Nicolas Sigalas and Senator Br. Leo Housakos, Francois Pilon, MP, provincial MNA Gerry Sklavounos and Municipal Councillors Aglaia Revelakis (Laval), Sister Mary Deros (Montreal) and Vassilios Karidogiannis (Laval).



At the OXI Day celebratory lunch at the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal (HCGM), Oct. 26, 2014. From L-R: Francois Pilon, MP, Aglaia Revelakis, Municipal Councillor of Laval, Father Panayiotis Salatelis, Nicolaos Sigalas, Consul General of Greece, Br. Nick Pagonis, President of the HCGM, Sister Mary Deros, Municipal Councillor, Montreal, Russell Copeman, Mayor of C-D-N-N.D.G. Borough, Br. Senator Leo Housakos, Canadian Senate, Gerry Sklavounos, MNA, Vasilios Karidogiannis, Municipal Councillor, Laval and Ken Matziorinis, AHEPA Canada President.

On October 31-November 1, 2014, I participated in the AHEPA Family District 23 Mid-Year Leadership Conference in Cambridge, ON. Organized by the Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge (KWC) Chapter and District Governors Bill Bakalis and Annie Valkanas, the event was graced with the attendance of three Supreme Lodge Officers, Br. John Galanis, Supreme Vice-President of AHEPA, Sis. Anna-Helene Grossomanides, Grand President of the DOP and Br. Andreas Christou, Supreme Vice-President of the SOP. Among those in attendance were Sis. Christina Andrews, Canadian President of the DOP, Br. Nick Aroutzidis PCP, Br. Frank Antoniou PCP and Br. Tony Mavromaras PCP as well as all District 23 Chapter Presidents. The invited speaker was Dr. Simon Taggar, Leadership and Organizational Behaviour Professor at the MBA Program of Sir Wilfrid Laurier University gave the audience an insightful, spirited and inspiring lecture on leadership.

Br. Nick Aroutzidis, the Chairman of the Canadian St-Nicholas National Shrine Committee used the opportunity to raise over \$5,000 towards the new church. A superb dinner and glendi night followed the day's deliberations.



District 23 Mid-Year Leadership Conference held on Oct 31st – Nov 1st 2014 in Cambridge, ON. From L-R: Br. Andreas Christou Supreme Vice President SOP, Sis. Christina Andrews, Canadian President of the DOP, Sis. Anna-Helene Grossomanides, Grand President of the DOP, Br. John Galanis, Supreme Vice-President of AHEPA, your Canadian President, Dr. Simon Taggar, MBA Professor at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University, Br. Bill Bakalis, AHEPA District 23 Governor and Sis. Annie Valkanas, District 23 Governor (DOP).

On November 19, 2014 the Ottawa Chapter in cooperation with Br. George Gritzotis, founder and CEO of Dominion Lending Centres organized a well attended seminar at which I was the invited speaker. I presented my *'Canadian and Global Economic Outlook: 2015-2016'* forecast on our economy. You can view and download this useful presentation from: <http://www.canbekeconomics.com/ecocommentaries.htm> . It was a wonderful opportunity for me to share my knowledge and insights from my professional practice with brothers and prospective brothers in our nation's capital.



Ottawa Chapter President Nikos Hatzitheodosiou and Bro George Gritziotis in Ottawa, November 19, 2014. A joint AHEPA Ottawa and Dominion Lending Centres Educational Event where AHEPA Canada President presented his Canadian and Global Economic Outlook Forecast for 2015-16.

On November 20, 2014, the Montreal Chapter organized an 'Oysters & Beer' Membership recruitment event in Laval, QC. The goal was to inform the public on the great works of AHEPA and to recruit new members to the Order. The event resulted in over 10 new members joining our ranks. At this event that was chaired by Br. Frank Antoniou, Br. Nicholas Katsepontes was presented with an Ahepa Ring, as a token of our appreciation for his legal contributions to AHEPA over many years. Also present at the event were Br. Xenophon Scoufaras PCP.



'Oysters & Beer' Membership Drive event held by Montreal Chapter on November 20, 2014 to recruit new members to the Order of AHEPA. Seen above are Br. Frank Antoniou, PCP, Nicholas Katsepontes, Legal Advisor to AHEPA Canada, Ken Matziorinis and Br. Jimmy Dionissopoulos, Montreal Chapter President.



AHEPA Canada President addressing the audience at the 'Oysters & Beer' event following the showing of the AHEPA Promotional video.

On November 30, 2014 I attended the Montreal AHEPA Family Christmas Party. The Chapter took advantage to present two scholarships two students from Greece who are doing graduate studies at Montreal's Concordia University. The Chairperson of the AHEPA Education Committee is Dr. Nicolas Abatzoglou, who is Chairman of the Department of Chemical & Biotechnological Engineering at Sherbrooke University as well as Adjunct Professor at the University of Saskatchewan. The Chapter's Education committee includes myself, Dr. Ioannis Bougas and Dr. George Mahmoudides. This year the Chapter awarded \$3,000 worth of scholarships.





Presentation of scholarships to two worthy recipients at the AHEPA Montreal Christmas Party, November 30, 2014. From L-R: Br. Dr. Nicolas Abatzoglou (Sherbrooke University), Chair of the Education Committee, Br. Dr. Ken Matziorinis (McGill University), Br. Jimmy Dionissopoulos, Chapter President with scholarship recipients Efstratios Rounis and Spyridon Loumakis, graduate students at Concordia University.

News to be Proud of and Achievements from our Chapters Across Canada

Toronto Chapter Raises \$25,000 for SOS Children's Villages Greece

TORONTO, ON – On Thursday, November 13, 2014, the American Hellenic Education Progressive Association (AHEPA) hosted the fundraiser Gala **Reaching for the Stars: Anything is Possible**, an event aimed to raise funds for the SOS Children's Villages Greece at the Grand Luxe Event Boutique. The funds raised went towards the SOS Children's Villages Greece in order to support the SOS Children's Village in Vari, Attica. The raised funds went directly to the intended beneficiaries and will support the children's cost of living, food expenses, educational-professional training, medical expenses, psychological and psychosocial support, and harmonization with the social environment.



Above (L to R): from right to left: Br. Anastasios Moussas, Constantinos Christofides, Br. Angelo Tsarouchas, Voula Mclaughlin, Br. Constantine Politis, George Protopapas, Alexandros Ioannidis, Boyd McBride and Br. Antony Polyzotis)



(Above: Constantine Politis)

The Event Co-Chair Mrs. Voula Mclaughlin and Br. Anastasios Moussas welcomed on stage the AHEPA Toronto President, Br. Constantine Politis for the opening remarks and presented all the honorary guests: the National Director of SOS Children's Villages Greece, Mr. George Protopapas; the President and CEO SOS Children's Villages Canada, Mr. Boyd McBride; the Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus in Toronto, Hon. Constantinos Christofides; the Consul General of Greece in Toronto, Hon. Alexandros Ioannidis, the AHEPA District Governor, Br. Bill Bakalis and the AHEPA Toronto Charity Chairman, Br. Antony Polyzotis.

The evening began with cocktails, followed by a delicious dinner with a menu focusing on Greek flavours especially prepared for the event by renowned Chef, Peter Minaki while the entertainment included a comedy show by the hilarious Greek-Canadian comedian Br. Angelos Tsarouchas. The night was an emotional journey for all the attendees who had also the chance to win some amazing prizes, donated to the event from wonderful people who believed in the cause.

(Right: Br. Angelo Tsarouchas)



This charity event would not have been possible if it was not for Voula Mclaughlin who initiated this effort and brought all parties together for a very worthy cause. Also this event would not have succeeded it, without the support of all our sponsors



and especially that of Title Sponsor *Integrated Consulting Services (ICS)* which believed and supported the cause from the beginning. AHEPA Toronto would also like to thank all the generous donors, hard working volunteers and attendees of this wonderful evening. The management and staff of the Grand Luxe Event Boutique truly gave their best and both the venue and service was exquisite. The music of the band Sonic Drive provided great entertainment and everyone in attendance truly enjoyed themselves.

(Left: Anastasios Moussas and Voula Mclaughlin and George Protopapas)

Winnipeg Chapter Celebrates 25 Years of Commitment in Scholarship Giving **Since 1989 has awarded 92 scholarships totalling \$120,500 !!!**

Every year at the end of October the AHEPA Polikos Aster Chapter CJ8 celebrates the OXI Day with a large banquet. This year they honoured a milestone, 25 years of continuous commitment to aiding students through AHEPA's scholarship program. Since 1989 the Winnipeg AHEPA Family has awarded 92 scholarships totalling \$120,500. To the left Chapter President Br. Christos Argyriou and to the right Br. Christos Katopodis, PDG and Chair of the Scholarship Committee for the past 25 years.



AHEPA scholarship recipients (1990-2014) who were present at the Banquet (1 Nov. 2014), with Christos Argyriou (L), President AHEPA Chapter, Nicki Douklias (middle), President, Daughters of Penelope Chapter, and Christos Katopodis (R), Chair AHEPA Scholarship Committee since 1989.



The 2014 AHEPA scholarship recipients (L to R): Vasilis Schindle, Irene Davies, Christina Papadimitropoulos, Alex Houvardas and Ruth Dickinson with Nicki Douklias, Christos Argiriou and Christos Katopodis



Brothers Christos Argyriou and Christos Katopodis, examples that inspire us.

BC DISTRICT 26 Awards \$10,000 in Scholarships on December 14, 2014

On Sunday December 14, 2014, in Vancouver, BC, the AHEPA Family in District #26 held their 26th annual Scholarship Christmas Dinner and gave away a total of \$10,000.00 in scholarships this year to 10 fantastically deserving students. Those students were:

David Katsionis; Sophia Argiroudis; Christina Tsakalos; Eilsha Argyropoulos; Athina Pilarinos; Stevia Hatzikiriakos; Stefania Kassaris; Natacha Schinas; Alexandra Schinas; Anthya Sidiropoulos



“The scholarship applicants this year overwhelmed us with their academic achievements and their community service. We are seeing a more involved generation of students and we are very proud” said Bernadette Falias, who served on the selection committee and as co-chair. The event was very well attended and put together by a passionate committee that included Br. Paul Michael, Br. John Preovolos, Br. Dino Kourtessis, Br. Niko Mesotopidis, Sis. Dimitra Vassilas, Br. Kosta Nikolaou and District 26 Governor and Past Canadian President Br. George Vassilas.

The evenings also included a tribute to long-time AHEPA Member Br. Larry Campanas. “Larry has served as District Governor multiple times and is the measuring stick for us to follow” said past District Governor Paul Michael. “I love AHEPA, I always wanted AHEPA to prosper, and as much as I can, I will continue to assist AHEPA” said Larry Campanas

Also honoured was retired Fr. Dimitris Partsafas. The AHEPA Family named a scholarship after him and he was invited to present the inaugural award to the recipient. “I have always been a friend of AHEPA; I have always supported AHEPA; and I will continue to support AHEPA. Thank you for this honour” said Father Partsafas who was holding back tears.

“It is hard for me to think of another District in the entire AHEPA domain who gives out this much money in scholarships on an annual basis. I have served as Canadian President of AHEPA and visited many Districts in Canada and the US, and I am truly impressed; not only by the talent of the recipients, not only by the amount of scholarships given; but also by the passion of the donors and the committee to host a memorable event” said current AHEPA District #26 Governor George Vassilas.

This was the 26th year that District #26 has been awarding deserving students with scholarships that contribute in a small way to their post-secondary education but also provides the AHEPA family with an opportunity to publicly recognize their accomplishments.

Past District 23 Governor Br. Jim Fabrikis Contributes to Youth Athletics in Basketball



AHEPA U19 Boys

Back: Yianni Demestihias, Paul Conostas, Matthew DelBove, Yuri Jaatinen, Yianni Bakas,
Coach Lou DelBove

Front: Angelo Pappas, Costa Fabrikis, Adam Kanelakis

The AHEPA U19 Boys basketball team came in second place out of twelve teams in their division in the Annual Holiday Hoops Basketball Tournament in Sterling Heights Michigan hosted by St. John Greek Orthodox Church. The boys won their first three games on Friday and Saturday, but due to a very tough opponent from Detroit and some injuries could not win the final game on Sunday. Congratulations to the champions Assumption from St. Claire Shores. Along with the great athletic competition all of the children learned more about their orthodox faith on Friday night and danced the Saturday night away with over 400 other teenaged Greek children from New York State, Ohio and Michigan. A great event was organized by our hosts and a great time was had by the over fifty players and parents of the three AHEPA Toronto teams that travelled to the tournament. Our U16 boys came in a respectable fourth place and our U16 girls worked very hard are improving and will be better prepared for the next tournament.