

AHEPA DISTRICT 16  
LODGE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 19, 2005  
TRINITY CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY CENTER  
NEW ORLEANS, LA

Members in Attendance: John Georgiandis, Dr. Nick Patzakis, Dr. Steve Kirkikis, John Sempeles, Nick Dixie, Ernie Papvasiliou, Sandy Bouzon, Nick Lambros, Kosta Pavlou.

Meeting called to order by District Governor John Georgiandis at 1:18 PM. A moment of silence was held for those past district governors who had passed away.

Secretary Report: Previous lodge meeting minutes read. Minutes approved as read. No correspondence.

Treasurers Report:

General Fund (through Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>) attached.

Ernie Papvasiliou asks if the funds in the Oppenheimer account are locked in; if not can, we get better interest? Dr. Kirkikis mentions other options, including CD's however those would require locking in the money and would be a problem if we need cash flow.

Brother Nick Dixie asks about what travel stipends currently are for lodge members. Dr. Kirkikis says it is \$1000 for the governor and \$300 for the rest of the officers.

Brother Ernie is concerned about Houston's dues income. Wants to know how much they are not paying. Dr. Kirkikis mentions that some chapters sometimes wait to send in dues until right before the District Convention. Ernie will mention it to his Houston chapter.

Scholarship Fund report attached. Financial report attached.

Governor Georgiandis commends Dr. Kirkikis for his efforts.

Brother Papvasiliou asks about the raffle; issue tabled.

Dr. Patziakis mentions Houston chapter scholarship fund put out 16 \$1000 scholarships last year, 21 \$1000 scholarships this year (total of \$65,000 in account)

Governor Georgiandis wonders if all these scholarships are garnering us any new members. Are recipients joining? There's not much response. He mentions that, in Massachusetts, they're dropping scholarships all together and instead funding kids traveling to Ionian village. He's not sure we're filling a need with our scholarship fund. Maybe the money could be better used elsewhere, however he's not sure we'd get the same donations.

District Governor Georgiandis introduces Ernie Papvasiliou to give Ad-hoc Scholarship committee report. Report is attached.

Brother Ernie states the district convention asked him to improve scholarship, but he is finding this hard to do with the good work already done. He does pass on the comments he's received. Brother Ernie found some sources for other scholarship money in the US. He reported 14. Brother Ernie did get a few negative comments: a sister in DOP felt the Ad-hoc committee was trying to circumvent Dr. Kirkikis's authority.

The district governor did ask about 2-year vocational schools. Dr. Kirkikis has no problem with vocational schools (wouldn't be a problem if there were less applicants, but currently too many applicants and not enough money). Dr. Kirkikis recommends starting another fund for technical/vocational; just not take out of current fund. They would have to set up new criteria obviously, since not like Toulane or UT. Sandy Bouzon asks if set amount given each year. Dr. Kirkikis comments that there are 8 \$1000 scholarships, 2 \$1000 endowments, plus a \$1000 national scholarship and the option to use supplemental \$3000 if the convention gives approval.

District Governor puts it to a vote if we keep Ad-hoc committee active. Dr. Kirkikis says that if they can raise necessary funds, that is fine. Brother Ernie more than happy to follow those guidelines. Sandy Bouzon now placed on committee. Governor Georgiandis asks Ernie to write up his recommendations for 2 year vocational/technical schools. Ernie says he will report at the next Lodge meeting in April.

Skepsou:

The deadline for Skepsou is March 20<sup>th</sup>. Send all installments to Governor Batmanis. There was a problem last year with the member addresses—no mailing labels were available. The Skepsou had to be given as a group. They will now be sent to individuals (Tina Batmanis has up to date listing), however it will cost more. Governor Georgiandis says that Tina and the current daughter in charge will volunteer next year.

District raffle:

Dr. Nick Patzakis talked to Anthony Kouzounis; the cost will be \$47, however there was a mix up—they had missing tickets. He will keep track of the ones remaining. The raffle will take place at the dinner dance on Saturday night at the summer convention. Dr. Nick gave tickets out at the meeting.

Reports from chapters:

Nick Dixie asks about Dallas/Fort Worth hosting a district or national convention—maybe at the Gaylord Hotel. Nick also mentions the Dallas brought in 3 new members.

Houston had two past district governors pass away. Dr. Patzakis stated there had been some HUD project arguments in Houston. According to federal law, the property will not be given back to the chapter after 40 years, contrary to how it was advertised. It won't go to church either, according to federal law.

#### 2005 District Convention:

The District 1 / District 16 combined convention fell through. The new convention will be in San Antonio on June 30 at the Hyatt Regional. Hotel cost is \$109. Thursday will have an event at the Riverwalk, Friday night will have a party with a Mariachi band, Saturday afternoon there will be a ceremony honoring Ulga Bush, and Saturday night will be the dinner dance. Costa Pavlou (organizer of the district 1 convention in Pensacola) was present at the lodge meeting. He apologized for the cancellation. Said debating inside District 1 killed the possibility of people showing up. Some argued it was too far away. Brother Pavlou hopes in the future we can get together at a closer location.

#### Report from Supreme Governor:

Supreme Governor Nick Dixie updated the lodge on national issues. There is a new national project for starting charter schools. The deadline for the Journey to Greece applications will have be April 15<sup>th</sup>. A study abroad in Greece program is being sponsored by Laverne College. The National Educational Fund currently has \$3 million in funds to give scholarships. The fund recently awarded \$234,000 in scholarships this year. Applications are available on-line at the national website. The national membership is currently at 18,883 (up 1500). Brother Nick thanked Nick Lambros for his work on the district website.

#### District Governor report:

Governor Georgiandis mentions that the district membership dues are overdue for 2004. We need to work on that.

The governor has applications for chapters to submit suggestions for the National Ahepan of the Year.

May 16<sup>th</sup> will be Ahepa Day. The archbishop has set aside the 3rd Sunday in May to celebrate.

A national projects chair has been set up to decide what national projects AHEPA will participate in.

The governor remarks that the national membership drive was pretty successful.

#### Good of the Order:

It was noted that two district governors had passed away and nothing was communicated about them. Nick Dixie asks if we can put something in the Skepsou.

Governor Georgiandis mentions that we currently only have 500 members in the district. We need to have 700 to meet the National request for increase in membership.

Nick Dixie asks the lodge to push increasing the District travel stipends at the next convention.

Dr. Nick Patzakis motions to adjourn the meeting. John Sempeles seconds. Motion passes.