



AHEPA Delta District 16 District Lodge Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2007
At the AHEPA 29 Housing Complex
Houston, Texas

Called to Order: At approximately 12:45 p.m.

Members in Attendance: DG John Sempeles, DLG Costa Sgagias, DT Steve Kirkikis, DS Nick Kaffes, DW Chris Ramas. Also present were many other distinguished AHEPAns, including Supreme Treasurer Anthony Kouzounis, Supreme Governor John Georgiandis, past Supreme Treasurer Jimmy Petheriotes, and District Advisor Pete Kaldis. The attendance roster is attached, showing twenty-one attendees in total.

The **minutes** of the previous District Lodge meeting, June 16, 2007, in Shreveport, La., were read by DS Nick Kaffes. DT Dr. Steve Kirkikis moved to approve them as read, DLG Costa Sgagias seconded, approved unanimously.

Communications: DG John Sempeles referred to communications from AHEPA Executive Director Basil Mossaidis about the Relief Fund following the fires in Greece in August and September 2007. Boxes with donated items and merchandise worth \$300,000 are to be flown to Greece shortly. The DG also followed up on various items from AHEPA's National Convention in July 2007, regarding the training and rotation of Chapter officers to avoid stagnation. He also passed out a pamphlet titled "AHEPA Vision Allowance" (attached).

Treasurer's Report: DT Dr. Steve Kirkikis presented the Treasurer's report (attached). Dr. Kirkikis moved to approve the report as read, DLG Costa Sgagias seconded, approved unanimously. The District Lodge has approved a \$500 donation from District funds for Greek fire relief.

Scholarship Fund Report: DT and District Scholarship Fund Chairman Dr. Steve Kirkikis presented the report (attached). Dr. Kirkikis moved to approve it as read, DLG Costa Sgagias seconded, approved unanimously.

Old Business: Past DG Pete Kaldis reported that, with new checks coming in, the District membership and Chapters have contributed more than \$12,000 to Greek fire relief and even more contributions are expected.

“Skepsou” Fundraising: Past DG Pete Kaldis led the discussion on this topic. New commitments for “Skepsou” were made by the DOP District Lodge, \$400, and the DOP Houston Chapter, another \$400. The DOP Chapters do not charge their members the \$4 per capita contribution that the AHEPA Chapters do.

District Conventions: DG John Sempeles reported on preparations for the 2008 District Convention in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. It will take place from Thursday, June 19, to Sunday, June 22, at the Crowne Plaza. Rooms are available for \$106 plus taxes. Friday night is Greek night, with the Banquet to follow on Saturday.

Past DG Pete Kaldis mentioned that delegates to the 2008 National Convention in Athens (weekend of Fourth of July) are to be confirmed by May 1, 2008.

Regarding the 2009 District Convention, it seems that New Orleans is not a likely option. Little Rock is another option. The District Lodge may host the Convention, as another option. Another cruise could be considered, as well as holding the Convention jointly with some other neighboring District or Districts, such as District 15 (Kansas, Oklahoma)

New Business: DG John Sempeles stated that the national goal is a 20% increase in membership by the end of the year. For District 16 this means an additional 106 members. Last year membership declined by 20% because of deaths, etc. Past DG John Georgiandis said that non-Greeks may have to be approached.

Discussions:

1. **Chapter Workshops:** There was a general discussion about holding Chapter workshops in January 2008. A ritual book is in preparation. Brother Ernie Papavasiliou stated that Chapter Presidents should serve as Chapter Secretaries first.
2. **District Scholarships:** There was a discussion about increasing the monetary awards of scholarships, with an accompanying reduction in the number of scholarships awarded. The general consensus was to leave the scholarship structure as it is.
3. **Webmaster:** There was general consensus that Brother Nick Lambron continue as District Webmaster.
4. **Permanent “Skepsou” editor position:** Past DG Pete Kaldis, DOP DG Barbara Maligas, and DW Chris Ramas will continue as editors until Spring 2008. A possible stipend for a permanent “Skepsou” editor will be brought up at the 2008 District Convention.

5. **District Projects:** DG John Sempeles brought up the idea of supporting the MS Bike-a-thon. Past DG Pete Kaldis brought up the use of collection cans and continuing support for the national Cooley's Anemia project.
6. **Sons of Pericles:** DG John Sempeles has been looking for contact persons at different locations for Sons Chapters. At Houston's Chapter 29 the Sons had faced a lot of competition from Church programs like GOYA. A more promising possibility is Austin and the UT campus there.
7. **Support "Journey to Greece" participants:** Past DG Pete Kaldis mentioned that the University of Indiana offers a six-week course in Greece. The cost is about \$2,000, but in the past there were not enough contributions in favor of this kind of support.
8. **District Ritual Book:** Past DG Pete Kaldis has developed a District Ritual Book and Brother John Papas volunteered to develop a Chapter Ritual Book, including a funeral ceremony. DT Dr. Steve Kirkikis moved to suggest to the District Convention to implement District Ritual Books. DLG Costa Sgagias seconded, unanimously approved.
9. **Supporting Chapter Events:** The District Lodge will be visiting various local events. Past DG Pete Kaldis recommended buying a District banner for these visits. DG John Sempeles is planning to visit various local Chapters.

For the Good of the Order: Supreme Treasurer Anthony Kouzounis brought up the **AHEPA credit card** program with Bank of America. When members use the card, AHEPA gets a percentage of the proceeds. He also mentioned that the upcoming **AHEPA Congressional Banquet** is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 2008.

Meeting Adjourned: DLG Costa Sgagias moved to adjourn the District Lodge meeting and DG John Sempeles seconded. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at about 3:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH DOP DISTRICT LODGE

At about 3:15 p.m. the AHEPA District 16 Lodge was joined by members of the DOP District 16 Lodge, including DG Barbara Maligas, DLG Sandy Salas, and DT Kay Sgagias. Also present was Grand Governor Helen Santire.

A discussion was held about **Chapter Officer Workshops** which led to the decision to hold such a workshop in Houston on Saturday, **January 19, 2008**.

Past DG Kaldis asked if the DOP DL has received any money from the **last District Convention in Shreveport**; the AHEPA DL is supposed to receive 6% and the DOP DL

is supposed to receive another 6%. So far only \$300 to each have been forwarded, representing 3% to each, instead of the expected 6% to each.

DLG Costa Sgagias mentioned the \$2000 shortfall for “**Skepsou**” and during the ensuing discussion it was mentioned that the Hecabe DOP Chapter of San Antonio will contribute \$100. The DOP DL will also ask the general membership for set contributions at the next District Convention.

Regarding the **2009 District Convention**, the favored possibilities included Little Rock, Clear Lake, and another cruise.

Finally, past DG Pete Kaldis communicated to the joint meeting that District 16’s contributions to **Greek Fire Relief** had exceeded \$12,000 so far.

Next District Lodge Meeting: It was decided to hold the next District Lodge meeting in Dallas on Saturday, January 12, 2008. The joint meeting was then adjourned at about 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Kaffes, DT