



Washington Chapter 31

News about the members, the happenings, and works of Chapter 31

Dear Brothers,

As the 4th year of my Presidency of the AHEPA Washington Chapter 31 comes to a close, please accept my gratitude for your support through each of these years. You were there every time the call for help was made and the response was always plentiful, either in the form of contributions or in the form of volunteering your Time and Effort which in many instances is the most difficult commitment of all. We did many things and we pursued many causes. We helped villages to rebuild after the fires destroyed their livelihood in Greece and we did the same for the people of Haiti after the devastation left behind by the earthquake. We organized functions, we honored the fallen in the Arlington Cemetery and we celebrated the spirit of our members, with one of them reaching the 75 years service milestone: Arthur Lalos, the ever lovable Secretary (or should I say Historian?) of the Chapter. We had movie nights and organized lectures and while we never found the right time or the right day for all of you to participate, you always made it to our gatherings to share each others company. We adapted decisions and we altered the course of the Chapter to line it up with the demands of the 21st century. We operated on budget, we revamped the Newsletter and we synchronized our membership with today's computer age and efficiency.

We increased our involvement with the scholarships program and the promotion of our Hellenic heritage thru the younger generation. We increased our monetary support as well as the number of scholarships by adding our commitment to both Greek Language schools of St Sophia and St George Church.

And now the time has come to move on and entrust the chapter reigns to the capable hands of my Vice President who accompanied me on my journey thought all these years. Bro. Manny Simantiras shall be the one to take us further and higher and he has my full trust and confidence in doing so. I wish him a quick and joyous confirmation during the next Chapter's elections of June 8, 2010. Please come join us and be part of a new beginning. In gratitude as I sign-off...

Vassilis X. Skardis, PE

Washington Chapter 31 - President
Email Vassilis@bskardis.com

June 2010 Gatherings

Come to our Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, June 8, 2010, (7:00pm) at



121 Congressional Ln. Rockville, MD 20852, Phone: (301) 770-5999

Agenda:

- Membership
- Report on Chapter investments
- Raffle / results
- Elections

The next meeting will be on
September 14, 2010 at
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church,
7701 Bradley Boulevard, Bethesda,
Maryland



The Arlington Cemetery Event....

On Saturday May 29th, 2010 of the Memorial Day weekend, our members along with members and friends from the local AHEPA and Daughters Chapters gathered again at Saint Sophia Cathedral, for the annual wreath laying expedition to Arlington National Cemetery. It was most encouraging to

Participants in Alphabetical order:

Peter Albanes	Costa Labovites
Harry Aposporos	Arthur Lalos
N. Argyropoulos	Nicholas Lambros
Balkae	Kathy Matrakas
Dino Bayz	Ted Matrakas
John C Chaconas	Steve Mavronis
Linda Chaconas	Basil Mossaides
Pete Chambers	Nick Pappas
George Demetriades	Bill Petros
Dean Economou	Steve Raptakes
John Farmakides	Elena Saviolakis
George Farmakides	Andreas Saviolakis
B. John Farmakides	Vassilis K. Skardis
Vassilis Fotopoulos	Vera Skardis
Steve Georgilakis	Barbara Skardis
Demetrios Govotsos	Kostas Skardis
George Haramis	Nick Stamas
Anthony G Haramis	Bernie Thornberg
Nick Karacostas (S.P.)	Angelos Toutsis
Steve Katradis	Pete Travis
Evan Katradis	George Tsoukleris
Irene Katradis	Mona Tsoukleris
John Katradis	Nicholas Vamvakias

greet all the young and “not so young” brothers and sisters who assembled for this patriotic event. The Supreme President N. Karacostas was there participating in the wreath laying process during the morning as well as in a special wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier later in the evening on behalf of the AHEPA organization.

A new wreath was selected for this year’s event tailored to enhance the look of the offering as well as streamline the process. Following a short presentation by the Chapter 31 President, Vassilis Skardis, the members formed 10 teams, “posed” for

pictures and proceeded to the Cemetery. We honored each of 510 Americans of Hellenic descent, who died in our country’s wars, with a Memorial wreath and a short prayer for their eternal rest. The event was concluded with a cook-out at the Roof Terrace of the AHEPA Headquarters Building where all of the wreath layers enjoyed delicious food and drinks sponsored by our HQs Executive Director Basil Mossaidis and his staff.



Our Wreath Layers are commended for their participation in the AHEPA Arlington Cemetery Memorial Day event. Congratulations to all..!



The Chapter 31 President, Vassilis Skardis during a silent prayer.

Scholarships Event...

We were once again present at this year’s 41st Annual Awards Dinner at the Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Hotel and we were moved by the

quality and number of students honored and their accomplishments at this young age. Over \$33,000 in scholarships were awarded.

This year's sponsored student by Chapter 31 was **Christopher R. Chirigos**. Our congratulations and wishes will accompany him to his College.

Greek Language School Awards...

As in years past, the chapter 31 was at the Greek school ceremonies of St George and St Sophia to



award a certificate of excellence to a student selected based on multiple criteria by the Director of the Greek Language School and its teachers.

Each student received an AHEPA Chapter 31 certificate in recognition of their respective achievements accompanied by individual boxed sets of the "Iliad", the "Odyssey" and the "Aeneid" as translated by Robert Fagles and Bernard Knox. An identical boxed set was donated to the library of each school in a symbolic effort to further enrich their library book collection. A monetary assistance of \$250 accompanied the above awards for each student.

This year's honored students were:

Adrianna Ayiotis (Greek School of St George), and **Helen Palatianos** (Greek school of St Sophia). Congratulations to both and their parents..!

A few Raffle tickets are still available....

For those of you who are waiting to get the winning ticket at the last minute, this is the time to send your tickets for our Annual Chapter Charity Fund Drive. The AHEPA Washington Chapter #31 is grateful for your past support of our Annual fund raising

Chapter Dues:

It is never early enough to remind you of your dues. Annual chapter Dues remain at \$85. Send a check at your earliest convenience payable to AHEPA Chapter #31 and mail to:

Demosthenes N. Kolaras

6853 Saint Albans Rd

McLean, VA 22101

Email: dkolaras@alionscience.com

efforts and we hope that this support will continue. Please show your continuing support once again by buying one or more of the raffle tickets (only 300 will be sold) mailed to you. Make your Donation check payable to AHEPA Washington Chapter #31 and return it before the **June 8** deadline (or bring it with you at the drawing). You can mail to the same address as your chapter dues (see above).

The draw for the winning tickets will take place during our next meeting which as it is customary for the last few years will be at the Mykonos Grill Restaurant. If you are planning to participate please give your name to Demo Kolaras (see info above) to make sure that proper reservations are made for your participation. Food shall be served form the menu and shall be individual billing. Thank you.

Costas Labovites – Chairman



At St Sophia: Preparations and distribution of wreaths.

