



Washington Chapter 31

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

Dear Brothers of Chapter 31,

There's a real nip in the air these days. It's the kind that reminds us that fall has apparently arrived and the "Washington Winter" that we've come to know so oh so well is on its way! There were times during this past summer when we weren't sure if fall would ever come or if Mother Nature had simply decided to leave us Washingtonians stewing in the broiling sun. But it's fall now and if you look out your window, you'll see the beauty that Mother Nature brings us. Gentlemen, we have so much to be thankful for...and this month is one when we take time to give thanks for our many blessings.

As AHEPA brothers, God's blessings to us this year are really too numerous to list in this short letter, yet one thing that we can say is how grateful we are for brothers like you, for your families and our friends, and for the true brotherhood that we share. Some of you we don't see nearly often enough and some of you we get to see regularly, but we love each of you very much and thank our God that you are a part of our lives.

This month will be momentous for Chapter 31. For quite some time, we've talked about "a place to call our own"—a place where the perpetuation of our Hellenic roots, customs, and culture is first and foremost. An organization and its accompanying edifice—*The Hellenic Center*—is taking shape. Located at 6506 Bells Mill Road in Bethesda, The Hellenic Center will be the place where our culture and our Hellenic pride can flourish. I ask each and every one of you to join us at our next meeting on **Tuesday, November 9 at St. George**. We've invited Brother Peter Spyropoulos, president of the newly created *Hellenic Center* to join us so to answer any questions you may have about this wonderful endeavor. Brother Spyropoulos will also guide us in better understanding how Chapter 31 can be a part of this new organization.

(...continued on p. 2)

2010 – 2011 Meeting Schedule Please Mark Your Calendars!

- ✓ (G) November 9 @ St. George
- (S) November 23 (restaurant TBD)
- ✓ (G) December 14 @ St. Sophia
- (S) January 11 (restaurant TBD)
- ✓ (G) January 25 @ St. George
- (S) February 8 (restaurant TBD)
- ✓ (G) February 22 @ St. Sophia
- (S) March 8 (restaurant TBD)
- ✓ (G) March 22 @ St. George
- (S) April 12 (restaurant TBD)
- ✓ (G) April 26 @ St. Sophia
- (S) May 10 (restaurant TBD)
- ✓ (G) May 24 @ St. George
- (S) June 14 (restaurant TBD)
- ✓ (G) June 28 @ St. Sophia

NOTE: dates marked with "G" are general Chapter business meetings (beginning at 7:00). Those marked with "S" are Chapter social events...typically held at a restaurant. They too will begin at 7:00

Dear Brothers....(continued from p. 1)

Brothers, we've been talking for a long, long time about "a place for us to meet...a place for us to socialize...a place for us" and we now may have an opportunity where our dreams may just come true. Brother Spyropoulos will show us how we can help. Please make every effort to join us on November 9. The time is right...the time is now.

Manny Simantiras

President, Washington Chapter 31
email esimantiras@comcast.net

AHEPA, The Combined Federal Campaign and the United Way Campaign



The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. Similarly, the mission of the United Way of the National Capital Area (UWNCA) disperses millions in funds to almost 900 nonprofit partners – certified by United Way NCA – that provide health and human service programs to Washington area residents. The campaign also includes nine Community Impact Funds, which work to solve complex social issues by directing funds to the most critical areas of need. Its mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community to advance the common good.

The AHEPA Scholarship Awards program is once again participating in the CFC of the National Capital Area (CFCNCA) and the United Way of the National Capital Area (UWNCA). When you participate in these Campaigns, you may direct your contributions to the AHEPA Metropolitan Scholarship Awards program by designating to CFCNCA # 76004, or UWNCA # 9608.

In May 2010, The AHEPA Metropolitan Scholarship Program Awarded 34 high school graduates with \$34,00.00. Let's work together to surpass last year's award total. If you are a Federal employee or know someone who is, please encourage him/her to make their pledge to one or both of these wonderful campaigns!

Open House Invitation

You are invited to visit the Hellenic Center on **Sunday November 14th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.** The Greek-American Community of the Greater Washington DC Area has finally a building it can call its own! It is located on 6506 Bells Mill Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817 (off Democracy Blvd., close to Montgomery Shopping Mall).

The Hellenic Center is a non-profit organization established in 1974 by seven Hellenic organizations (AHEPA Chapter 383; The Cretan Association Of Greater Washington D.C.; Epirotic Society Of Washington D.C.; The Hellenic Society Prometheas; Laconian Society Of Washington D.C.; Roumeliotes Of Metro Washington D.C.; The Vourvoura Society) with the objective to own a building to house the offices of its member organizations and to provide the facilities for cultural, social, educational and philanthropic activities.

The long-sought dream materialized in September 2010 with the purchase of the building in Bethesda, MD. This purchase (\$1,350,000 including closing costs) was paid in full without the need to obtain loans ("cash purchase").

The 3-story building has adequate room for the needs of the Hellenic Center and its members, but requires some internal renovation to make it more functional and create offices, a library, a Board room and a multipurpose room for social/cultural events. The latter will be a good venue for arts and crafts exhibits, lectures, symposia, dance classes, etc. The renovation is expected to cost approximately \$105,000, an amount which would need to be covered through fund-raising from its members and donors.

Our hope is to make this facility accessible to the whole Greek Community of the Greater Washington DC area to enjoy, to learn in it and to strengthen the bonds with our culture.

So, please join us on **Sunday November 14th from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.**



Chapter Dues:

Don't forget...annual chapter dues remain at \$85. Send your check at your earliest convenience payable to "AHEPA Chapter #31" and mail to:

Demosthenes N. Kolaras
6853 Saint Albans Rd
McLean, VA 22101