



Washington Chapter 31

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

2010 – 2011 Meeting Schedule

Please Mark Your Calendars!

- September 14 @ St. George
- September 28 @ St. George
- October 12 @ St. Sophia
- October 26 @ St. George
- November 9 @ St. George
- November 23 @ St. George
- December 14 @ St. Sophia
- January 11 @ St. George
- January 25 @ St. George
- February 8 @ St. George
- February 22 @ St. Sophia
- March 8 @ St. George
- March 22 @ St. George
- April 12 @ St. George
- April 26 @ St. Sophia
- May 10 @ St. George
- May 24 @ St. George
- June 14 @ St. George
- June 28 @ St. Sophia

Don't get too panicky! Many of these "meeting" dates are actually going to be Chapter social events...you know, dinners out, perhaps a "Kafenio Night" and something more than just "a meeting"!

My dear Brothers,

Well, here we are at the start of a new "AHEPA year"! I sincerely hope that the summer was both relaxing and enjoyable to all of you. As your new Chapter President, I am looking forward to a truly rewarding year with you. I first wish to thank our outgoing President, Brother Vassilis Skardis for his unwavering dedication to our Brotherhood, for serving as my AHEPA mentor, and for the heartfelt friendship that we formed and nurtured over the years. Brother Skardis has truly left a legacy in our Chapter and has set the tone for my Presidency this year. Thank you, my friend!

I look forward to a year where we can grow both organizationally and in our endeavors for our community, our church, and our heritage. As the "newbies" of Chapter 31 leadership, Brother Mark Kotsatos (Vice President) and I have much to learn, yet much to offer...and we will learn from your guidance and counsel. So please be ready to be active in our Chapter.

The year will begin with our first meeting of the year on **Tuesday, September 14 at St. George**. Don't forget to mark this important day on your calendar! Meetings will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Best wishes to you all!

Manny Simantiras

President, Washington Chapter 31

email esimantiras@comcast.net

Our First Meeting of the Year...

AGENDA

(the meeting will be done in the traditional AHEPA meeting ritual fashion)

- Welcome & opening prayer (*Chaplain*)
- Roll call of officers (*Capt. Of the Guard*)
- Reading of minutes (from our last meeting before 'summer break') (*Secretary*)
- Treasurer's Report (*Treasurer*)
- Communications (*Secretary*)
- Committee Reports
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
 - The year ahead: *projects*
 - "AHEPAHouse" (*Br. Skardis*)
 - A brainstorming session of ideas for events, activities, etc. that our Chapter should undertake this year. (*Br. Simantiras*)
- Good of the Order (*President/Vice President*)
- Closing Prayer & Adjournment (*Chaplain*)



WASHINGTON – [AHEPA] has launched a web page dedicated to the effort to cut nine years of bureaucratic red tape and to help augment the community's voice in support of the cause to rebuild St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at Ground Zero.

The web page, www.ahepa.org/CutTheRedTape, allows visitors to sign an online petition to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that calls on the port authority to remove any bureaucratic roadblocks in the reconstruction of the church which was destroyed on September 11, 2001. In addition, the web page allows the visitor to download a "Cut the Red Tape" tool kit that assists with community mobilization.

"We encourage everyone to add their voice to urge the port authority to remove its bureaucratic roadblocks and to support of rebuilding St. Nicholas by resuming negotiations with the appropriate representatives of the church," Karacostas said. "Let's send a strong message that the community stands for principle and for what is right, and it will not tolerate failure to honor one's commitment."

Karacostas expressed the organization's disappointment in a letter sent August 18, 2010 to Mr. Christopher Ward, executive director, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. He added AHEPA will not accept additional bureaucratic stall tactics in the effort to rebuild the church, which has served the community at large since 1922.

"The Greek American community is displeased and angered that Port Authority officials have declared that a deal to rebuild St. Nicholas is dead," Karacostas said. "We view the church to be of national significance given the circumstances of its fate; a fate that has all but been forgotten by officials. We urge the Port Authority to honor its commitment to the congregation of St. Nicholas and resume negotiations to rebuild the church at its rightful place at Ground Zero."



Chapter Dues:

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

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