



You Heard it through...

THE GRAPEVINE

September, 2015

Vol 88, No. 1

September Meeting, Wed., Sept. 9, 7 PM

Fresno Chapter Completes the 2014-15 Year



Pictured above are the brothers in attendance. In front Supreme Governor **Robert Sexton**, Vice President **Michael Stavropoulos**, President **Michael Gomez**, Treasurer **Jim Boukides**, board member **George Gianopulos**. Behind are brothers **Rick Kazanjian**, **Gus Argeres**, **Chris Rockas**, **Talbert Simonian**, **Dr. Peter Scamagas**, board member **Dr. Ted Nassar**, **Vasilios Booras**.

June 3, 2015- Fresno AHEPA chapter 151 held the final meeting of the term, following a delicious dinner hosted by the Daughters of Penelope Leto Chapter 71.

The newly elected officers were sworn in and took up their duties in anticipation of the coming year. The main order of business was to initiate a new brother, Talbert Simonian.

FRESNO AHEPA 151

The Empty Chair

It is with regret that we report the passing of brother **Dave Brandon**. Brother Dave was a 33-year member of AHEPA, having been initiated April 7, 1983. Dave is best remembered as the owner of Pastel Motors in Fresno. Brother Dave passed away August 11. The funeral was held August 17. Brother Dave was 86.

Sunshine Committee

Currently, we have no new reports of our brothers health. Brother Jim Nicolaou is happy playing pokers with his buddies at his convalescent home. Brother Ted Nassar has recovered nicely. A new Sunshine Chairman is needed. If you can take this assignment, please volunteer.



Our Brothers' Doings....

The attractive young group pictured to the right is the cast of the latest adventure for brother **Constantine Pappas**. You will recall that brother Constantine departed the Fresno scene this spring after graduating from Fresno State, to seek fame and fortune in New York City. After a brief stint as a bartender (?) at the Burger Guru in NYC, Constantine landed a part in a cruise ship musical revue titled *The Long and Winding Road*. Now touring Europe on the Viking Star, he does find time off for playing tourist while performing regularly. We wish him many more successes! (Oh yes, he is second from the right.)

Chapter Officers for 2015-2016

President Michael Gomez
 Vice President Michael Stavropoulos
 Secretary Robert Sexton PSG
 Treasurer Jim Boukidis

Board of Governors

Chairman Michael Makredes
 George Gianopulos
 Ted Nassar
 Steve Alfieris
 Alex Aretakis

Have You paid Your Dues?

The latest roster from HQ lists a total of 55 members in our chapter. Of those, 10 are listed as delinquent, and 13 have not paid for 2015. Dues are only \$70 and are payable at the beginning of the calendar year. Half our membership are behind in their dues. Please, brothers, make your dues payment as soon as possible. Your support is appreciated!



August Birthdays

Steve Alfieris John Crowe
 Yanni Stavropoulos Jim Tousounis

September Birthdays

Kopi Sotiropulos

AHEPA Day 2015



The brothers pictured above all participated in the event. Pictured in front are District Lt. Governor **Bill Anton**, District Governor **Tom Chiarchianis**, President **Michael Gomez**, Supreme Governor **Bob Sexton**, and **Jim Nicolaou**. In the back row are **Rick Kazanjian**, **Gus Kavalas**, **Dr. Peter Scamagas**, **Bill Booras PDG**, **Fr. Jim Pappas**, and **Tony Kocolas**. At the right rear are **Chris Rockas PSC**, **Jim Boukidis** and **George Gianopulos**.

May 31, 2015- Fresno Chapter 151 observed AHEPA Sunday with an *artoklasia* blessing at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, followed by a presentation to the community in the St. George Social Hall. A video on the history of AHEPA was shown, with additional reports on chapter, district and national projects. While turnout was light due to the holiday weekend, the event was well received. The event was also delayed from the National AHEPA Sunday date due to a scheduling conflict. As part of the festivities, brother Bill Booras was announced as our Chapter AHEPAN of the Year, an honor well deserved.

About This Issue

With the beginning of the 2015-16 term, our chapter bulletin takes on a new name and a new appearance. Since we are distributing the bulletin mostly by e-mail, it is easier to add more content, especially pictures. Brother Bill Booras edited our bulletin for many years and we cannot thank him enough for his efforts.

Now, we plan to include more about the chapter and the order. You can help by providing pictures and stories. Send them to rdsexton57@gmail.com. And remember, if you don't show up, your picture won't get in the bulletin. Need ideas? Did you attend an AHEPA event? Did you happen to meet a brother while on vacation? Did you help with a fund raiser or other activity? If you did, take pictures and make notes. All our brothers will be interested in your doings and you will help promote participation. Send them in, brothers. Everything is welcome.

Some Housekeeping Matters...

The Grapevine is now distributed by e-mail, except to those few members who do not have e-mail access. Just as with your home address, we need your correct e-mail address. Changes do occur from time to time. People move. Sometimes they are using their business address and change jobs. Believe me, brothers, I have had to change my address a number of times over the years.

In the event of a change of e-mail address, be sure to let the chapter know. If you change e-mail address, you should make it a practice to let everyone know by sending a change notice. (Of course, there may be someone you don't want to include, but don't leave us out.) This is something that we cannot know if you don't tell us. And that goes for any of your contact information. AHEPA HQ makes a Change of Address form available on the national website at www.ahepa.org. It is available as a doc file or a fillable pdf. You can send it to me because as chapter secretary, I am responsible for the chapter records. I will send it on to HQ to save you the trouble of sending multiple reports.

You may also be aware that a district database is being constructed as well. I am responsible for that effort so any changes sent to me will certainly be added to the district database. That database, by the way, will include more information than is maintained by HQ and will ultimately serve to make the district even more effective. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Keep us informed, brothers!

Get Connected!

Whether you are a web junkie or not, the internet holds a number of ways to stay current with AHEPA.

Websites: Look for www.ahepa.org for national information. Many of the forms and other information are present or downloadable from the national site. A wealth of links to AHEPA related sites are also found here.

Our district website is www.ahepa21.org. As with the national site, district information along with event pages and the district calendar are maintained here.

Facebook: This is a great way to keep tabs on happenings in AHEPA (as well as everything else of interest to you) and there is a district Facebook page which you can "like". When you do, you will be automatically informed about district happenings, complete with pictures.

E-mail: Our national organization produces a e-bulletin which you can have sent to your e-mail address. Click on the AHEPA e-news link on the national website and enter your e-mail address. It is that simple and you really should do it, if you want to know what your national AHEPA is up to.

Feedback Wanted

What has been left out of this bulletin? What can we leave out? Do you want e-mail from HQ or elsewhere forwarded? Let us know so we can make this bulletin even more effective. Input is always welcome. Send your comments to rdsexton57@gmail.com.

- If you need a ride to chapter meetings, or you can give a brother a ride, let us know. Arrangements can be made to accommodate everyone.
- We are always looking for new members. Are you? Be proactive and be ready to bring in new members. You never know who will say yes...or when!

Flash! More news from Constantine!

As might be expected, no sooner had I put this issue to bed and sent it for all the world to see, but I get a message from brother Constantine Pappas describing his experiences as a cruise line performer.

He writes: "I'm currently performing in five shows aboard the ship. All shows are unique to Viking Ocean Cruises. 'La Peregrina' is a spy musical where the action of James Bond meets the humor of Get Smart. 'Songscape' is the more operatic of the productions. It begs to question what is the separation between reality and fantasy? The next three songs are tributes to the music of ABBA, Rat Pack, and Beatles. Each production is performed at least once on any given cruise.

"The rehearsal process was a wild one! We rehearsed in Orlando for two weeks and then flew to Tallinn, Estonia to continue rehearsing on the sea. During that period, we not only rehearsed and fine-tuned the productions, but had the opportunity to visit various countries; Denmark, France, Germany, Portugal, and Spain. We even got to see the Rock of Gibraltar! Nothing beats rehearsing a show and practicing how to maneuver when the ship is sailing. Developing sea legs is one thing, but having to develop them while performing is another. My official start date is September 3 in Venice and will proceed to sail along the Mediterranean hitting France, Italy, Croatia, Greece, and Turkey."

Brother Constantine is aboard the Viking Star, a brand new ship christened in May of this year. Take a look at the videos at www.vikingcruises.com.

Initiation this month

One more reason to come to the September meeting. We will be initiating Dr. Carl Waddle, recently retired from teaching at Fresno City College. That brings our new member count to three for the year. More about Dr. Carl in the next issue.

And in the Next Issue...

- A report on the Greek Festival "Rebuild St. Nicholas" campaign so ably chaired by brother Jim Boukidis.
- New member bios for Dr. Ted Nassar, Talbert Simonian and Dr. Carl Waddle.
- ...and more!

Next Meeting

The October meeting will be the annual District Lodge visitation.



The visitation will take place on Saturday, October 17, at 10 AM. This is a great opportunity to meet the District Lodge and voice your opinions and concerns. The district supports a number of causes and now you can learn more.