



You Heard it through...

THE GRAPEVINE

February, 2016

Vol 88, No. 6

February Meeting, Thursday, Feb 4, 7 PM


Looking to the Future of AHEPA



November 22, 2014: At the 2014 Fall District Conference, a group of young men and young women are initiated into the Sons of Pericles and the maids of Athena respectively. These are the junior branches of the AHEPA Family and are critical to the future growth of AHEPA. The initiation of the Sons was conducted by SOP Supreme Treasurer Bill Poulos III, now SOP Supreme Secretary (far right second row.) The occasion was also the reestablishment of the Stockton SOP chapter. Among the initiates is JD Salazar of Fresno, (front row center.) This month, we will initiate one or more new Sons from Fresno on Feb. 21. All brothers who can should attend to show our support. To restart the Fresno chapter will require a minimum of eight new initiates. Are they out there?

The AHEPA Mission Statement:

To promote the ancient Hellenic ideals of education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, integrity, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.

<p><u>Chapter Officers for 2015-2016</u></p> <p>President Michael Gomez Vice President Michael Stavropoulos Secretary Robert Sexton PSG Treasurer Jim Boukidis</p>	<p><u>Board of Governors</u></p> <p>Chairman Michael Makredes George Gianopulos Ted Nassar Steve Alfieris Alex Aretakis</p>
<p>Have You Paid Your Dues?</p> <p>It is a new year and dues are always payable from the first day of January. So far, ten brothers are paid for 2016. We currently list 41 brothers in good standing, including our six life members. It is never too soon to pay your dues. Bring your check to the next meeting or send it me.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">$10/34 = 29.4\%$</p>	<p>February Birthdays </p> <p>Michael Makredes Pete Rokas</p>

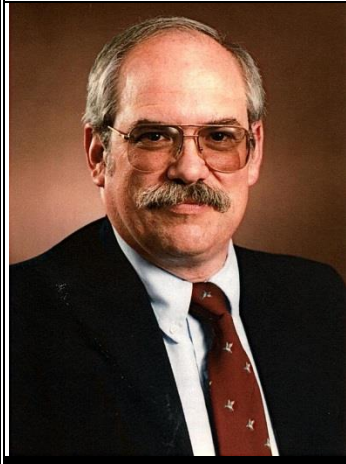
Events Around the District

Chapter 246 Modesto: **Surf-n-Turf Crab Feed**, February 20, Annunciation Church Hall, Modesto. (Table reservations are due Feb. 14. Call or E-mail Stamus Cocolos for reservations. 209-545-1787, scocolos@yahoo.com)

Chapter 150 San Francisco: **Past Presidents Luncheon**, Sunday February 28 at the Basque Cultural Center in South SF.

Reagan Library Tour: Chapter 151 Fresno is conducting a tour to the library in Simi Valley to view an exhibit of treasures from the Vatican.

Western Regional District Convention: June 23-25, DoubleTree, Anaheim. (Check online for registration and reservations. Registration can be paid with PayPal.)



The Empty Chair ~ Daniel K. Fischle #126295

Brother Daniel was born May 24, 1944 in North Tonowanda, New York. He was initiated into the Fresno Chapter April 15, 1994 and was a 28 year member. He served as Deputy Superintendent of the Kerman Unified School District, was a long time board member of the EECU and was an active member of Peace Lutheran Church. He was a strong supporter of AHEPA and AHEPA programs.

Brother Daniel passed away January 9, 2016 from the effects of Alzheimer's disease. He was 71.

Chapter Activities

There are many reasons you should be attending the monthly chapter meetings. There are several projects and activities under discussion and your input will be appreciated.

- **District Convention:** The current plan is to have local district conventions alternate with regional conventions. The WRDC in Reno last year was wildly successful and the next such convention is scheduled for Anaheim in June. Yes, you should plan to attend. Reno was memorable and Anaheim is anticipated to be no less exceptional. With delegates from the four western districts, 17, 20, 21 and 22, it will be another great event.

But that leaves the question of where to hold our own district conventions in odd-numbered years. The next convention will be in 2017 and there is great interest and it has been a subject under discussion to host it in Fresno. This will be the 85th district 21 convention, and it should be noted that Fresno hosted the first in the district many moons ago. What are your thoughts brothers? Do you have some input? What better reason to be at our next meeting. It will be an important decision.

- **Tours:** We have been exploring as activities, various possibilities for tours, one day trips either locally or out of town. One such proposal has culminated in the planned tour to the Reagan Library in Simi Valley to view a special exhibit of treasures from the Vatican. The trip will take place on May 7. Also under consideration is a tour of the Fresno Chaffee Zoo. No decision has been made as yet. Do you have other suggestions? There are many museums and other places of interest. Bring your suggestions.
- **Fund Raising events:** More than anything else, we need constructive ideas for fund raising. We hosted the OXI Day with the DOP. We have discussed a Cioppino dinner as is done by the San Jose chapter. What do you suggest? We need to know.

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 an 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!

Meet Life Member Chris Rockas

Brother Chris Rockas came into the Order of AHEPA on October 2, 1957. Brother Chris is one of the six Fresno brothers currently on our roster who have achieved the half-century mark and are thus life members.

Properly speaking, brother Chris can be counted as a 69-year member of the AHEPA family, having joined the Sons of Pericles in 1947. He was president of the Fresno Sons chapter in 1948 and District Governor in 1951. Moving on to AHEPA, he was president of chapter 151 in 1959, when the Fresno chapter achieved first place in that year's membership drive. Not one to rest on his laurels, brother Chris moved onto the District Lodge and became District Governor for the 1965-66 term. He has since served for many years on the chapter Board of Governors and has been Supreme Governor and Supreme Council at various times.



Brother Chris about 1970.

Chris Rockas is a Fresno native, born here on July 6, 1930. He graduated from Fresno High and went on to the University of California at Berkeley, receiving an AB degree in 1952. He was then commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army and was designated a military interpreter due to his fluency in Greek. At the same time, he attended the California School of Law, Berkeley Campus, graduating in 1955 and was admitted into law practice in December of that year. By January of 1959 he had opened his own law office in Fresno. He has been active in the Fresno Bar Association in many capacities. He was also an active member of the Fresno Kiwanis, law school instructor and lecturer for the University of California Continuation of the Bar lecture series.

He has been married to Dr. Helen Rockas since 1961 and has two children, Patty, who resides in New Jersey, and Andy, a practicing attorney in Sacramento. They are long-time active members of St. George.

Brother Chris has been our publicity chairman for many years, only recently handing over those duties. More recently, he has chaired the Hellenic Project, successfully producing with brother George Gianopulos, the current chairman, the first in a planned series of DVDs on the Hellenic principles that are the foundation of western civilization.