



You Heard it through...

THE GRAPEVINE

March, 2016

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March Meeting, Thursday, Mar 3, 7 PM


See page 4! 6:30PM

The Sons of Pericles on the Rebound!



Sons of Pericles chapter 207. (l-r) Michael Salazar, Bassel Khoury, Jared Simonian, JD Salazar, Stockton AHEPA President Garret Buck, President Vasili Karapanos, Secretary Dean Koutsoulis, Anthony Tounou, Alex Mazare, Vice President Matthew Mourad, District Advisor Tom Chiarchianis PDG, Sons Advisor Paolo Moriani and Robert Sexton PSG.

Fresno, February 21- For the first time in nearly thirty years, the Sons of Pericles held a group initiation in Fresno, adding five new members to the roster. While they joined the Stockton chapter, four of the initiates are from Fresno. They are Michael Salazar, Bassel Khoury, Jared Simonian and Alex Mazare. The fifth from Stockton is Anthony Tounou. Fresno now has five members. Three more are needed to reactivate Fresno chapter 137, which went inactive around 1983. Stockton chapter 207 is currently the only active chapter in District 21.

<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>The latest roster from HQ lists a total of 45 members in our chapter. I show 13 paid for 2016 so far. Dues are only \$70 and are payable at the beginning of the calendar year. Please, brothers, make your dues payment as soon as possible. Your support is appreciated!</p>	<p>March Birthdays</p> <p>Gus Argeres Alexander Borgeas Angelo Stalis</p> 



Just Passing Through...

Fresh from his Mediterranean cruise as a performer for Viking Cruises, our brother Constantine Pappas made a brief visit to Fresno recently. (Too short says Fr, Jim and all the family.) Here he is with brother Bill Barbis on January 31. Constantine continues his Viking career this year with a series of cruises in the Baltic Sea. He has yet to send a picture of him performing while wearing his AHEPA pin.



Pictures from an initiation
Brother swears in brother

During the Sons of Pericles initiation, the oath was administered by one brother to another. JD Salazar (*right*) swears in the new candidates, including his brother Michael Salazar, and Jared Simonian, as Dean Koutsoulis and Stockton AHEPA President Garrett Buck look on.

What Did it Mean to be a Son? Ask Kopi!

Being a member of the Sons of Pericles in Fresno made me appreciate my faith, culture and community a lot more. I was a member from junior high school through my first two years of college. We participated and helped out at the Greek Food Festival and other church functions. We took field trips to the snow. One of the most fun field trips was down to Oildale near Bakersfield. We went shark tooth hunting. Yes, shark tooth hunting. The San Joaquin Valley, many years ago, was underwater. That was an experience. We not only found shark teeth about 3 feet underground, but also a tarantula the size of my hand. What wonderful memories.



The 1967 Fresno Sons of Pericles basketball team. In front (l-r) Kopi Sotiropulos, Sam Kallos Tom Kallos, Tim Gavrilis. Second Row (l-r) Coach George Savaros, Chris Potzernitz, Mike Gavrilis Don Chambas, George Spanos. Not pictured: Phil Panos, Pete Sotiropulos

Sports were also a large part of our group. We played baseball in a city league and basketball in a church league. We learned how to run meetings under Robert's Rules of Order. That was an education in itself.

But the most important by product of being a member of the Sons was the lifelong friendships that were made. We've seen each other grow up, get married, have families. We have been there for the good times and sad to say for the difficult times. We've been there for each other.

Being a member of the Sons was a positive influence growing up and helped mold me into who I became as an adult. We couldn't have done it without the guidance of our AHEPA counselors like Chris Natsues and Art Gonos. Thank you, Chris and Art and all the other counselors.



-Kopi Sotiropulos

Tonight's Meeting

- **Our meeting** will start at 6:30 PM with a guest speaker, Jill McCarthy, from Hinds Hospice. Be on time so you can get the full benefit from this presentation.

Chapter Activities

- **Movie Night:** This is not strictly a chapter activity but a group has been going to movies occasionally on no particular schedule. Okay, it is a DOP thing and we men are allowed to tag along. But there is dinner after, and good company. Join us if you can. The next planned movie is *Risen* on Wednesday, March 9. The time is not set but will likely be about 4 PM. More on this at the meeting.
- **Reagan Library tour:** The bus is filling up fast. The tour will take place **May 9th**, a Saturday, and the primary purpose is to view the *Vatican Splendors* exhibit with a range of exciting and rarely seen items from the vast archives of the Vatican. Be sure to get your reservation in to brother George Gianopulos by calling him at 559-432-4630, or e-mail to gsqrd@pacbell.net. You can also reserve by calling the St. George office at 559-233-0379. The cost is \$68 per person which includes the entrance fee. Don't miss it!
- **Scholarships:** Through a generous donation, Chapter 151 is able to offer scholarships to eligible students. These are awarded along with scholarships from the St. George parish. Time is short to apply for these. If you have, or know of any students in need of that boost for college, please let us know. Time is short, as it is for the **District 21 Scholarships**. The deadline for the district is April 1 so act now.

Around the District

- Congratulations to **Stockton Sons of Pericles Chapter 207** for continuing growth. By keeping membership open to the whole district, they are planting the seed for more new or reactivated Sons chapters in District 21. This has been a long time coming, and thanks are extended to Stockton AHEPA Chapter 213 for supporting this effort, and particularly to brothers Tom Chiarchianis PDG and Garrett Buck for leading the effort. Their untiring support made our Fresno initiation possible!
- Sacramento Chapter 153 will host the annual **Greek Independence Day flag raising** at the state capitol in Sacramento. The event will take place March 26th, as March 25 falls on the western observance of Good Friday. You can contact brother Andreas Yerocostas, the chapter secretary, by email to andreasyerocostas@yahoo.com for details if you wish to attend.
- **District convention:** The **Western Regional District Convention** in Anaheim is fast approaching. Don't forget the dates are June 23-25 so plan accordingly. District 20 is putting together a great event. The 2014 WRDC in Reno was a great event and drew a lot of national attention. Anaheim is on course to be another exceptional weekend. You should plan to attend as a delegate. Every chapter is entitled to six delegates so there is no reason for chapter 151 to be missing in action.
- **Supreme Convention:** This year's Supreme Convention is slated for Las Vegas July 24-30 at the Mirage Hotel and Resort. This time the convention is in our own back yard so we should have a good representation. Chapters are allotted delegates based on chapter size (unlike the district convention) but we should still have a good representation.

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.

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? 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!