

LOGO

PAN ARCADIAN FEDERATION OF AMERICA

The Electronic Portal of Arcadians in U.S.A.

ΠΑΝΑΡΚΑΔΙΚΗ ΟΜΟΣΠΟΝΔΙΑ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ
Διαδικτυακή Πύλη των Αρκάδων των Η.Π.Α.

The Message of the President...



Dear fellow Arcadians,

It is with joy that I take this opportunity to write to you on the occasion of the publication of the latest issue of the Pan Arcadian News, the official newsletter of the Pan Arcadian Federation of America.

The last two years proved to be a difficult period for everyone, including the Hellenic American Community and the Pan Arcadian Federation of America, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its dire consequences. Even though it was a challenging period, we on the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees of the Pan Arcadian Federation of America have made the most of this opportunity, both through our activities here in the United States, as well as by once again displaying our solidarity to the people of Arcadia and the Peloponnese in the form of material assistance to the Pan Arcadian Hospital in Tripolis. We have sent state-of-the-art medical equipment to help in the battle against the coronavirus and we have also covered many of the hospital's other needs. I would like to remind all of you that the Pan Arcadian Hospital of Tripolis was built 71 years ago through the efforts of the Pan Arcadian family following a hugely successful fundraiser initiated by the P.F.A. and the Greek War Relief Fund.

Since the opening of the Pan Arcadian Hospital in May of 1951, the P.F.A. has spearheaded many fundraisers to support its expansion and modernization to better serve the needs of the people of Arcadia and the entire Peloponnese.

We have worked together with the new administration in the Region of the Peloponnese, Governor Panagiotis Nikas, and the Regional Council members, to approve the plans adopted by the previous

administration led by Mr. Petros Tatoulis, to secure funding from the European Union to upgrade the Hospital to a regional one covering the health needs of the entire Peloponnese. The cost of this study has exceeded the amount of 200,000 euros.

Although most of our activities were canceled or postponed following the COVID outbreak in 2020, the Pan Arcadian Federation of America honored the bicentennial of the Greek Revolution of 1821 with two remarkable events, a virtual celebration held in New York in conjunction with other Greek American Organizations on March 27, 2021 and a major celebration held in Chicago on December 12, 2021 in conjunction with the ENOSIS Federation. Both events were successful and once again demonstrated the vitality and continuous efforts of our organization to perpetuate Hellenic Heritage and instill the Spirit of 1821 in the younger generation of Arcadian Americans.

As this newsletter will be the last one before our 75th National Convention, which will be held in Palatine, IL from June 9th to June 12th, 2022, I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of my colleagues on the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees of the Pan Arcadian Federation of America, as well as the Governors and Past Presidents for their cooperation in our joint efforts to achieve our goals and better serve our organization amidst these challenging times.

I would like to congratulate all my predecessors who will be honored at the Convention with the Alexandros Papanastasiou Award for their important contribution to our Organization. Congratulations are also extended to our beloved brother Ted Stamison, Governor of the Midwest District, who will receive the Vassilios Helis Award for his efforts spanning several decades and contribution to the P.F.A., and especially for his pivotal role in the renovation and modernization of the Arcadian House. Last but not least, we congratulate Dimitrios and Eleni Bousis, who will be awarded the Theodoros Kolokotronis Award for their invaluable contribution to Hellenism and significant philanthropic work in the United States and our Greek motherland.

I wish you all a successful Convention, along with health and happiness throughout the period of Great Lent and a Happy and Blessed Easter.

With fraternal patriotic greetings,

Andreas P. Papantoniou

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PFA On-line Event Honors Bicentennial

By Revekka Papadopoulou

NEW YORK—The PFA organized a commemorative online event focusing on the Peloponnese's leading role in the Greek Revolution of 1821 and the contribution of American Philhellenes to Greece's Struggle for Independence on Saturday March 27, 2021 to honor the 200th anniversary of the Greek National Rebirth.

This event, which captured the interest of a large audience from all across the United States, Greece, and other parts of the world, was co-sponsored by the Greek Education Department of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, EMBCA, the Hellenic Cultural Center of the Southwest, and the Hellenic Congress of America.

Speaking from Chicago, PFA President Andreas Papantoniou spoke about the importance of the anniversary in his opening greeting and emphasized that the battle cry "Freedom or Death" was not one of desperation, but a way of life and a decision that reflected a conscious decision of the people.

In a pre-recorded message, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America noted that this occasion will continue to serve as a reference point for our decisions whenever necessary, and spoke about the Church's "united sacrificial participation" in the struggle for freedom.

Speaking from Athens, Deputy Foreign Minister responsible for issues of Hellenism Abroad Dr. Konstantinos Vlasis, who hails from Arcadia, pointed out that 1821 represents a seminal milestone in the indivisible continuation of the Greek Nation.



The President of the "Geros tou Moria" Society Evangelia Lampropoulou-Sarafoylou highlighted the contribution made by the Greeks of the Diaspora to the preparation and support of the Revolution, while the 3rd Vice-President of the PFA Evange-



lia Sourounis spoke about how the younger generations of Greek-Americans view this national holiday.

Dr. Manos Papadakis of the University of Houston spoke about the secret society Philiki Etaireia, which helped organize the revolution, while Dr. Anastasia Giannakidou of Katerini, Greece gave a presentation on Greek folk songs.

Another Arcadian, Demetrios Logothetis, co-chair of the National Committee for the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution, and Hellenic Congress of America President Nicholas Apostolopoulos of Charlotte, NC both offered greetings.

During her 15-minute speech, Maria Efthimiou, Professor of History at the University of Athens, noted that "the Peloponnese was the flagship of the Revolution," while emphasizing the important role it played during both the preparations ahead of the Revolution, as well as after its commencement. According to her, the region "was politically and ideologically prepared by the Philiki Etaireia, possessed the ability to collaborate, was home to Mani, which was already prepared for war, and received support from veteran klephts."

She also pointed out that the Peloponnese played a key role in not only the military events, but also the political developments associated with the Revolution, considering that all three National Assemblies

convened during the Revolution were held there (in Epidavros, Astros in Kynouria, and Troizena), while all the cities that served as capitals during the Revolution were also located in the Peloponnese (Corinth, Argos, Nafplion, and Kranidi and Tripoli during the civil war).



of the Greek Revolution of 1821



Prof. Alexander Kitroeff of Haverford University spoke about the American Philhellene movement prior to, during, and immediately following the Greek Revolution, as well as the legacy that it left behind, which, according to him, shaped American history and contributed to the abolition of slavery in the southern states of the Confederacy.

This event was moderated by past PFA President and journalist Demetris Filios from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America's Hellenic Cultural Center in Astoria, while the Archdiocese's Greek Edu-

cation Director Dr. Anastasios Koularmanis was also on hand, alongside Mr. Filios. Dr. Koularmanis reiterated the need to support local parish communities and Greek Schools so that they may continue to impart the Greek language, religion and faith, on behalf of which the heroes of 1821 struggled, to younger generations of Greek-Americans.

Joining the aforementioned speakers at the Hellenic Cultural Center was another Arcadian, Ilias (Lou) Katsos, who offered a wider look back at the Revolution of 1821, in which his ancestors fought. He also-

made special mention of the contribution of Philhellenes. The President of the Archdiocese's High Council for Greek Education Athena Krommyda recited an anthology of texts dedicated to Theodoros Kolokotronis, whose portrait adorned the HCC hall, together with that of Laskarina Bouboulina.

The event was enriched by commemorative music videos, including the song "Epanastasi 1821 – Zito I Eleftheria", which was composed especially for the Bicentennial by Zoe Tiganouria featuring lyrics by Tasos Theodoropoulos, and performed by yet another Arcadian, Babis Tsertos.

THEODOROS KOLOKOTRONIS' SPEECH AT PNYX *(an excerpt)*

My children!

In this place, where I stand today, there once stood in the days of old, wise men who addressed the people; men with whom I am not worthy to be compared nor ascend to the heights to which they climbed. My children, I wished to see you here surrounded by the great glory of our forefathers, and I have come to tell you of all the things I personally observed during the revolution, as well as prior to and after it, and from these things to draw conclusions with you for the sake of your future happiness; although only God knows what the future holds. Your teachers and the learned men among us speak to you daily of the olden Greeks, the knowledge they possessed and the glory and honor they enjoyed among the other nations of their era, as well as their heroes, generals, and politicians. My words do not suffice. All I shall say is that they were wise, and that the other nations borrowed their wisdom and took it from this land.

Theodoros Kolokotronis gathers at lake Lemi the victors against Dramalis in 1822. Fresco, 150 cm x 127 cm. by Theofilos Hatzimihail (1870-1934); Theophlios Museum - Kondos Mansion, Anakasia, Volos, Greece. The painting was inspired by a similar painting by Peter von Hess (1839).



PFA, Hellenic American Orgs Honor the Bicentennial

CHICAGO – The celebration for the bicentennial of the Greek War of Independence of 1821, which was held on Sunday December 12th, was a great success. The event was co-sponsored by the Panarcadian Federation of America and the Federation of Hellenic American Organizations of Illinois (Enosis), in conjunction with the Hellenic Heartbeat TV/Radio station.

The first part of the event was held at the St. Nectarios Church, where the participants attended the Divine Liturgy, followed by a memorial service for the repose of the Greeks and Philhellenes who died heroically in the struggle for Independence, along with an *artoklasia* (blessing of the loaves) for the health of the Consul General of



The service of *artoklasia* (blessing of the loaves) at St. Nectarios Church, followed by a memorial service for the repose of the Greeks and Philhellenes who died heroically in the struggle for Independence.



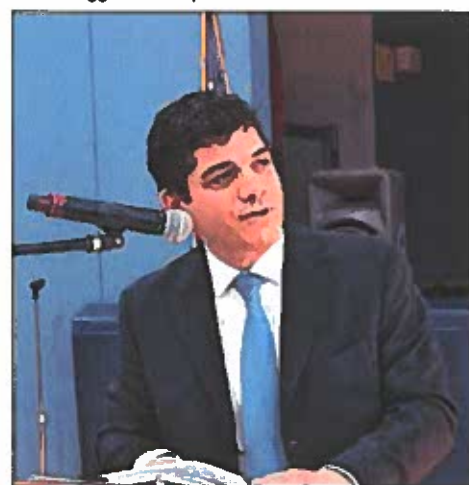
Pictured (L to R) Andreas Papantoniou, Evangelia Sourounis, Kostas Chaniotakis, Honoree George Mavropoulos and Consul General Manos Koumbarakis.

Greece in Chicago and Consulate staff, the officers and members of the PFA and Enosis along with their families, as well as Hellenes everywhere.

The second part of the event continued in the St. Nectarios community hall, with the rendition of the Greek and American national anthems, and the kontakion from the Akathist Hymn (O Champion General), performed by the talented Arcadian musician Mrs. Athanasia Reveliotis-Souflakis.

Afterward, the following speakers delivered presentations on the topics listed below:

1. The Path to Freedom, Region of the Peloponnese
2. Events from the Revolution of 1821, Konstantinos Holevas, Historian
3. 1820: Preparation for the Revolution, Dr. Demetrios Metallinos
4. Thoughts on 1821, Dr. George Sianis
5. Arcadia and The Old Man of the Morea, Pride Dance Troupe
6. Traditional Songs, Ted Stamison, Governor of the Midwest District



The Consul General of Greece in Chicago Manos Koumbarakis



A dance performance by Pride Dance Troupe

Consul General Manos Koumbarakis, PFA President Andreas Papantoniou, Enosis President Kostas Chaniotakis, and Regional Governor of the Peloponnese Panagiotis Nikas also addressed the audience.

During the event, Mr. George Mavropou-

in Chicago



PFA President Andreas Papantoniou

los was honored for his on going invaluable contribution to the Greek-American Community and the preservation of the history of Asia Minor and Pontus. The event ended with a luncheon that was served courtesy of the PFA and Enosis.

Over 300 guests were in attendance – the maximum number allowed by local Covid-19 restrictions – however, interest was



Evangelia G. Sourounis

so great that under ordinary conditions attendance would have reached 500-600 persons.

Warm congratulations are extended to the event organizers and all the contributors of this seminal event for Hellenism, as well as thanks to its supporters and the St. Nectarios parish community for its hospitality and significant contribution.

PFA Vice-President Evangelia G. Sourounis served as Mistress of Ceremonies, contributing to the success of the event through her commentary and introduction of the speakers, and we extend her our congratulations and thanks.

ΤΟ ΝΟΗΜΑ ΤΩΝ ΔΙΑΚΟΣΑΧΡΟΝΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΘΝΕΓΕΡΣΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ 1821

ΣΥΜΠΛΗΡΩΝΟΝΤΑΙ φέτος 200 χρόνια από την έναρξη της Επανάστασης του 1821, την ανεπανάληπτη εκείνη έγερση του Ελληνικού Έθνους, με το συγκλονιστικό σύνθημα «Ελευθερία ή Θάνατος».

του Γεωργίου Θ. Πραχαλιά, Υπεύθυνου του Επιχειρησιακού Σχεδίου «Τρίπολη 2021»

Σ' αυτό το σύνθημα πρωταγωνίστησε η Αρκαδία και οι Αρκάδες. Γιατί απλούστατα η Επανάσταση στην Αρκαδία δεν ξεκίνησε το 1821. Ξεκίνησε από το 1461 και την πτώση της Καρύταινας, της τελευταίας βυζαντινής πόλης που έπεσε στα χέρια των Τούρκων, οχτώ ολόκληρα χρόνια μετά την Άλωση της Κωνσταντινούπολης το 1453. Οι Αρκάδες δεν αναγνωρίσαμε ποτέ τους Τούρκους και ήταν αμέτρητα τα επαναστατικά κινήματα στην περιοχή. Ο ίδιος ο Κολοκοτρώνης περιγράφει το ανυπότακτο της οικογένειάς του σε ολόκληρη τη διάρκεια της Τουρκοκρατίας λέγοντας «ώστε από όταν εφάνησαν εις τα μέρη μας Τούρκοι, ποτέ δεν τους ανεγνώρισαν, αλλ' ήσαν εις αιώνιον πόλεμον».

Με αυτό το ανυπότακτο πνεύμα έδωσε η Αρκαδία τον υπέρτατο αγώνα για την ελευθερία το 1821. Μια ελευθερία που δε μας χαρίστηκε από κανέναν, αλλά κατακτήθηκε με ανυπολόγιστες θυσίες και απaráμιλλο σθένος. Ο Κολοκοτρώνης το περιέγραψε ξεκάθαρα στον Ιμπραήμ «Πέτρα απάνω στην πέτρα να μη μείνει, εμείς δεν προσκυνούμε»!

Αυτόν το μεγαλειώδη αγώνα των προγόνων μας του 1821 έχουμε καθήκον να αναδείξουμε και να τιμήσουμε σε αυτή τη σημαντική επέτειο των διακοσάχρονων. Για να την αναδείξουμε όμως σωστά, εκτός από τις ελετειακές εκδηλώσεις που θα γίνουν, πρέπει να κατανοήσουμε το σύνθημα του 1821 «Ελευθερία ή Θάνατος».

Στην ελληνική γλώσσα, σε αντίθεση με όλες τις άλλες γλώσσες στον κόσμο, η λέξη «Ελευθερία» δεν έχει μόνο την έννοια της δυνατότητας του ανθρώπου να δρα κατά βούληση, αλλά ετυμολογείται από το αρχαίο ρήμα «ελευσομαι» που σημαίνει «θα έρθω». Υπ' αυτήν την έννοια η «Ελευθερία» είναι αυτή που διαρκώς έρχεται και ποτέ ουσιαστικά δεν καταφτάνει. Δηλαδή είναι κάτι που απαιτεί διαρκή προσπάθεια, αγώνα, θυσίες για να το κατακτήσεις αλλά και για να το διατηρήσεις. Γιατί για τους Έλληνες, η ελευθερία δεν είναι κάτι το στατικό, αλλά κάτι το οποίο διαρκώς κινείται προς τα εμπρός και απαιτεί προσπάθεια για να το επιτύχουμε.

Έτσι πορευτήκαμε ως Έθνος 200 χρόνια τώρα, έτσι μεγαλώσαμε και πλατύνσαμε τη χώρα μας. Και το κάναμε από τη σωστή πλευρά της ιστορίας, γιατί ως Έθνος σταθήκαμε πάντοτε με την πλευρά του δικαίου. Αυτό εννοούσε ο Παλαμάς όταν είπε «Η μεγαλοσύνη των Εθνών δεν μετριέται με το στρέμμα. Με της καρδιάς το πύρωμα



Γεώργιος Θ. Πραχαλιάς

μετριέται και με το αίμα». Τη μεγαλοσύνη του Ελληνικού Έθνους την περιέγραψε ο Κολοκοτρώνης που είπε «Οι Έλληνες βαφτιζόμαστε μια φορά με το λάδι και άλλη μια φορά με το αίμα αν χρειαστεί για την ελευθερία της Πατρίδας»!

Το Ελληνικό Έθνος δεν διεκδικεί ούτε τον τίτλο του ισχυρότερου, ούτε του πλουσιότερου. Γιατί απλούστατα, ολόκληρη η οικουμένη μας αναγνωρίζει ως τον ευγενικότερο όλων. Είμαστε το Έθνος που γέννησε τον πιο φωτεινό πολιτισμό που γνώρισε ποτέ η ανθρωπότητα. Έναν πολιτισμό που είχε πάντοτε τον άνθρωπο στο επίκεντρό του, τις αξίες του αλλά και τα ανώτερα ιδανικά. Έναν πολιτισμό που διαπνέεται από ατόφια ελευθερία. Γιατί οι αξίες του ανθρωποκεντρικού Ελληνισμού απαιτούν διαρκή προσπάθεια, αγώνα και θυσίες για να τις κατακτήσεις αλλά και για να τις διατηρήσεις. Πάντα έτσι ήταν και πάντα έτσι θα 'ναι. Μας το υπενθυμίζουν οι σφαγές που έκανε ο Ιμπραήμ στην Αρκαδία και στο Μοριά κατά τη διάρκεια της Επανάστασης.

Ας ξαναδώσουμε λοιπόν στην ανθρωπότητα το μήνυμά του 1821, την ελευθερία του ανθρώπου, αυτή που διαρκώς έρχεται. Και για να το κάνουμε αυτό, θα πρέπει να αναβαθμίσουμε την επωνυμία της χώρας μας (rebranding) αλλά και να την επανοποθετήσουμε (repositioning) στο σύγχρονο κόσμο.

Η Ελληνική Διασπορά είναι παραπάνω από πολύτιμη σε αυτή τη νέα μεγάλη εθνική προσπάθεια. Η Αρκαδική ομογένεια στις ΗΠΑ πρέπει να είναι πρωταγωνίστρια σε αυτή την μεγάλη πρόκληση για το μέλλον. Στην εποχή της παγκοσμιοποίησης, ως απαντήσουμε ως Έθνος με την οικουμενικότητα του Ελληνισμού.

Γιατί αν ξέρεις ποιός είσαι και από πού έρχεσαι, τότε ξέρεις που μπορείς να πας και ποιός μπορείς να γίνεις. Με πίστη, με δύναμη, με αγάπη, με πάθος και με ελπίδα.

Χρόνια Πολλά,
Χρόνια Δοξασμένα,
Χρόνια Υπερήφανα,
Χρόνια Ελληνικά,
Χρόνια Ελεύθερα!

1821-2021 ΔΙΑΚΟΣΙΑ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΗ

Στο ηρωικό Βαλτέτσι, στον τόπο όπου οι Έλληνες πέτυχαν την πρώτη μεγάλη νίκη τους και μια από τις σημαντικότερες για την πορεία και εξέλιξη της Ελληνικής Επανάστασης έχει ανεγερθεί ανδριάντας του Γέρου του Μοριά. Γιατί αυτός

Σύλλογος Βαλτετσιωτών – Η.Π.Α.

των Πέτρου Σαραντάκη, Συγγραφέα,
& Γιώργου Κ. Σουρούνη, Προέδρου Συλλόγου

ήταν ο πρωταγωνιστής στη μάχη που διεξήχθη στα βουνά του Βαλτετσιού, στις 12&13 Μαΐου του 1821, απέναντι στο πολυάριθμο τακτικό στράτευμα του Κεχαγιάμπεη. Για εκείνες τις ημέρες η λαϊκή μούσα ερωτά, προτείνει αλλά και ιστορεί:

“Τι έχεις, καημένη κόρακα, που σκούζεις και φωνάζεις;

Μήπως διψάς για αίματα, για τούρκικα κεφάλια;

Πέρασε από τα Τρίκορφα και σύρε στο Βαλτέτσι,

όπου είν’ ο τόπος δυνατός και δυνατά ταμπούρια...

Ο ορειχάλκινος ανδριάντας ανεγέρθηκε το 1996 και αποτελεί προσφορά των Βαλτετσιωτών της Αμερικής και της Ελλάδας. Έχει τοποθετηθεί ανατολικά και σε κοντινή απόσταση από την εκκλησία της Κοίμησης της Θεοτόκου, η οποία ανοικοδομήθηκε με την προσωπική επιστοασία του Θεόδωρου Κολοκοτρώνη, μετά την Απελευθέρωση. Γιατί, ο ίδιος, απέδιδε την νίκη εκείνων των ημερών στην βοήθεια της Παναγίας, της ασπροντυμένης γυναίκας που τους καθόδηγούσε στη μάχη.

Τον ανδριάντα φιλοτέχνησε ο Ηπειρώτης γλύπτης Κώστας Καζάκος, ο οποίος παρουσιάζει τον πρωτεργάτη της ελευθερίας να φορά φουστάνελα, περίτεχνα διακοσμημένο γιλέκο και σελάχι (στη δεξιά πλευρά του είναι κρεμασμένη η θήκη με τα φυσίγγια, η παλάσκα), μπότες και στο κεφάλι του να

Γλυπτά και Ζωγραφικά έργα που φέρουν την μορφή του Αρχιστράτηγου του Αγώνα **ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΥ ΚΟΛΟΚΟΤΡΩΝΗ**



Κατάθεση στεφάνου του Συλλόγου Βαλτετσιωτών Αμερικής κατά την εκδήλωση που πραγματοποιήθηκε στις 16 Μαΐου, 2021 στο Βαλτέτσι για την επέτειο της Νικηφόρου Μάχης στις 12 & 13 Μαΐου, 1821.

φέρει την περικεφαλαία του με τον σταυρό εμπρός. Με το δεξί του χέρι είναι έτοιμος να βγάλει από το σελάχι την πιστόλα του, ενώ με το αριστερό κρατάει το σπαθί από τη λαβή του.

Στο μαρμάρινο βάθρο του ανδριάντα έχει φιλοτεχνηθεί από τον γλύπτη μπρούτζινη παράσταση με τίτλο «η εν Βαλτεσιώ μάχη». Σε αυτή ο Γέρος του Μοριά προχωράει νικητής στα βουνά του Βαλτετσιού, καβάλα στο άλογό του και με υψωμένο το σπαθί του. Τριγύρω του είναι οι υπόλοιποι αγωνιστές που κρατούν υψωμένο το λάβαρο της ελευθερίας και τρέπουν σε φυγή τους εχθρούς.

Σε παρακείμενη αναθηματική στήλη έχουν αναγραφεί τα λόγια του Θεόδωρου Κολοκοτρώνη για την ημέρα της νικηφό-



Ιερός Ναός Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου στο Βαλτέτσι, Ανδριάντας Θεόδωρου Κολοκοτρώνη.

ρας Μάχης του Βαλτετσιού, «Πρέπει να ηστυεύσωμεν όλοι δια δοξολογία εκείνης της ημέρας και να δοξάζεται αιώνας αιώνων έως ού στέκει το έθνος, διατι ήτον η Ελευθερία της Πατρίδος.

News and Activities for the PFA Administration

VISIT TO GREECE

A delegation of PFA Board members comprised of President Andreas Papantoniou, Board of Trustees Chairman George K. Sourounis, Treasurer John Vemis, and Director of the Midwest District Ted Stamison visited Arcadia, Greece last August.

During their stay in Arcadia, the PFA delegation held a series of meetings and collaborated with former Alternate Health Minister Vasilis Kontozamanis, former Deputy Foreign Minister responsible for matters of Hellenism Abroad Kostas Vlasis, Regional Governor of the Peloponnese Panagiotis Nikas, Lieutenant Regional Governor of Arcadia Christos Lambropoulos, Mayor of Tripolis Konstantinos Tzoumis, Hospital Director Anastasios Tzanis, University of the Peloponnese Rector Athanasios Katsis, PFA legal advisor Nikos Delfakis, and the PFA's spokesperson in Greece Demosthenes Sotiropoulos.

These meetings focused on various issues of interest to the PFA, with a special focus on the Pan Arcadian Hospital. Additionally, the delegation had the opportunity to be briefed on issues regarding development and other various projects taking place in Arcadia and the region of the Peloponnese in general.

The Mayor of Tripolis briefed the delegation on a series of projects being implemented in Tripolis, as well as the municipality in general, including the construction of the outdoor shopping center in Tripolis. The delegation also had an opportunity to implement all the necessary actions to resolve a series of issues relating to the Hospital, some of which date back years, including:

- Renewal of the contract between the PFA and the Hospital
- Delineation of the boundaries of the land parcel located behind the housing complex that was granted to the PFA with the National Land Registry
- Clearing out the areas occupied by the 6th Decentralized Administration
- Construction/financing by the PFA of the restaurant/snack bar located in the Pan Arcadian Hospital of Tripolis
- Development and concurrent upgrading of the Pan Arcadian Hospital to university hospital status

During the delegation's stay in the homeland, PFA President Andreas Papantoniou and Board of Trustees Chairman George Sourounis hosted a reception in honor of the Deputy Governor of Arcadia Christos Lambropoulos, the Mayor of Tripolis Konstantinos Tzoumis, the Dean of the University of Peloponnese Dr. Athanasios Katsis and other officials.



The delegation of PFA Board members visits the Mayor of Tripolis Konstantinos Tzoumis (center and from the Left) Board of Trustees Chairman George K. Sourounis, PFA's spokesperson in Greece Demosthenes Sotiropoulos, Treasurer John Vemis and President Andreas Papantoniou.

OTHER NEWS

The PFA Administration unanimously approved the following resolutions at a joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees held on August 28, 2021:

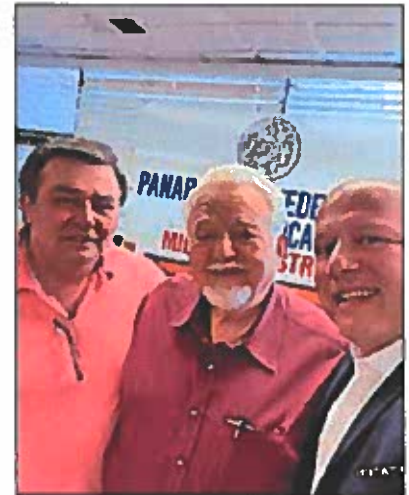
1. The postponement of the National Convention scheduled for October 15-17 in Chicago. The postponement was deemed necessary due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic to safeguard the best interests of everyone's health. The postponed 75th National Convention will be held in June 2022, as per the Administration's decision.
2. To stand in solidarity with the fire-stricken people of Arcadia, who were impacted by the recent wildfires. To facilitate this, the Administration sent a letter to the Mayor of Gortynia Eustathios Koulis and the Mayor of Megalopolis Athanasios Christos Giannopoulos informing them of the PFA's intent to assist and requesting a report on the state of the fire-stricken victims so as to prioritize those requiring the greatest aid.
3. The construction of a cantina (restaurant/café) at the Pan Arcadian Hospital of Tripolis by the PFA.

«...ΜΕΘΥΣΤΕ ΜΕ Τ' ΑΘΑΝΑΤΟ ΚΡΑΣΙ ΤΟΥ ΕΙΚΟΣΙΕΝΑ»

Ναι, ας μεθύσουμε με το κρασί του ΕΙΚΟΣΙΕΝΑ,
γιατί είναι αθάνατο, μοναδικό, το ΕΝΑ!
Για όσους αγαπούν τη λευτεριά και δεν σκύβουν τον αυχένα.
Των Ελλήνων η λευτεριά δεν διχάζεται σ' εσένα
και σ' εμένα για να καταλήξει στον κανένα.
Δίκαια κι' αξιοκρατικά μοιράζεται στον καθένα.
Η λευτεριά κερδίζεται με αίμα αλλά και με την πένα.
Το απέδειξαν τόσοι ήρωες και μάρτυρες στου ΕΙΚΟΣΙΕΝΑ
την ιερή κι' ανεπανάληπτη αρένα!
Κι' οι Έλληνες είναι εκείνων των Ηρώων περήφανη Γέννα!
Ας γίνει φάρος, ταχή, φλάμπουρο, παιάνας, το ΕΙΚΟΣΙΕΝΑ,
και στη σελτή εικόνα Παναγιάς ολόχρυση, αιώνια καδένα!

Π.Ι. Καραφωτιάς- Ελληνγενής

who are these
people names for
caption



29th District Convention

The District held its convention at the Arcadian House on Saturday, May 29, 2021. Ten chapters participated, represented by 29 chapter delegates, 11 officials from the board of directors and board of trustees, and two former governors, for a total of 42 delegates.

The convention was brought to order by the District Governor Ted Stamison, after a quorum had been met. The presidium for this session of the convention was composed of the following individuals: Dr. Panagiotis Evangelou, Chairperson – Past PFA President; George K. Sourounis, Vice-Chairperson – Board of Trustees Chairperson, Past PFA President Joanne Anagnost, Secretary

Afterward, Governor Stamison welcomed and greeted the delegates, wishing them an auspicious start to the convention.

George K. Sourounis spoke on behalf of PFA President Andreas Papantoniou, who was not in attendance due to work-related reasons.

According to the agenda, the outgoing administration presented its reports, including the Governor, who focused primarily on the extension and renovation of the building known as the Arcadian House.

Additionally, the various committees presented their reports and resolutions were adopted, including the 2021-2023 budget, amendments to the by-laws, and decisions regarding the Arcadian House:

Finally, the convention unanimously decided upon the following:

- A. The next PFA National Convention will be held in Chicago
- B. A letter will be sent to the PFA Administration proposing that an award be given to the outgoing Governor Ted Stamison at the 75th Convention for his longstanding and significant contribution to the PFA in the Midwest District, and especially for his key role in extending and modernizing the Arcadian House.

The convention ended with the election of the new administrative officers for the 2021-2023 term. The newly elected District officers will be sworn-in and assume their duties immediately following the 75th Convention, which will be held in June 2022.

Board of Directors

- Governor, Konstantinos Lambrakis
- Secretary, Demetrios Christodouloupoulos
- 1st Lieutenant Governor, Vicky Callas
- 2nd Lieutenant Governor, Demetrios Rentoulis
- Treasurer, Evangelos Mitrousias
- 2nd Secretary, Natasha Argyris
- Legal Adviser, Marianna Callas

The Youth Coordinator will be appointed by the new administration

Board of Trustees

- Chairperson, John Cheilaris
- Member/Past Governor, Dr. John Sarantopoulos
- Vice-Chairperson, Andreas Karambetsos
- Members: Ted Stamison (outgoing Governor), Kiki PilafasYiannos and Evangelos Paraskevopoulos

Auditing Committee

Spiros Kalantzis, Athena Lykourantzou, Tryfon Megremis

ARCADIAN HOUSE

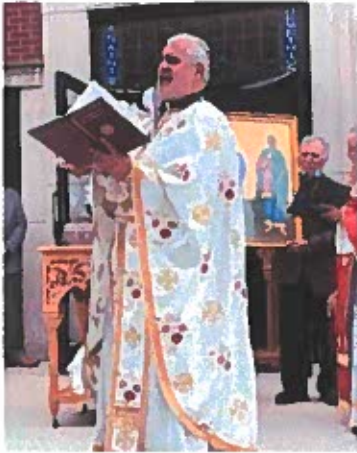


The extension and renovation of the Arcadian House is nearly complete, however, there are a few small interior modifications that must be finished. The total cost of the building renovation amounted to \$530,000.00. There remains a small debt of \$125,000.00, which must somehow be defrayed by the District.

With the completion of the project at hand, the District administration and financial committee once again appeal to the Arcadians of the Midwest District who have not yet had the opportunity to contribute to the renovation of the building to do so now, so that the funds for the remaining \$125,000 balance can be raised. We also feel the great need to thank all those who have already contributed to the completion of the extension and modernization of the building, as well as all those who will do so in the future. Check can be made payable to P.F.A./M.W.DISTRICT.

It should be noted that the PFA headquarters are located in the Arcadian House, while a special hall equipped with the appropriate amenities is available to Greek-American organizations to serve their various needs.

PATRON SAINTS OF TRIPOLIS



Presiding Priest
Fr. Andreas
Georganas
is seen here,
with Tassos
Giannikopoulos
standing in the rear
holding the icon of the
patron saints.

MIDWEST DISTRICT NEWS



The District administration commemorated the feast of the patron saints of Tripolis Sts. Demetrios and Paul at the St. Demetrios Church in Chicago on May 23, 2021. It should be noted that relics of these saints are kept at the St. Demetrios Church. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, a blessing of the loaves was held on behalf of the health of the members of the District and PFA in general. After the Divine Liturgy, the District administration offered a reception with sweets, refreshments, and coffee.

Κυλικείο-Εστιατόριο από την Π.Ο.Α. στο Παναρκαδικό Νοσοκομείο Τρίπολης

Όπως οι περισσότεροι θα γνωρίζετε το ζήτημα αυτό απασχολεί την Ομοσπονδία για περισσότερο από 20 χρόνια. Το γεγονός ότι μέχρι σήμερα δεν έχει υλοποιηθεί οφείλεται σε διάφορα εμπόδια και κυρίως τις συχνές αλλαγές των Διοικητών του Νοσοκομείου, καθώς επίσης και των υπουργών Υγείας από την εκάστοτε Κυβέρνηση.

Σήμερα το θέμα του κυλικείου βρίσκεται σε διαφορετική και νέα βάση, υπάρχει θετικό κλίμα από όλες τις εμπλεκόμενες πλευρές και βρίσκεται σε τροχιά υλοποίησης. Όλο αυτό το διάστημα και με συντονισμένες ενέργειες της Διοίκησης, έχουμε ξεπεράσει τα διάφορα μικροπροβλήματα και το πιο σημαντικό, έχουμε επιτύχει την συναίνεση της Διοίκησης του Νοσοκομείου, που είναι απαραίτητη, καθώς και της ηγεσίας του Υπουργείου Υγείας. Παράλληλα, έχει υπογραφη ιδιωτικό συμφωνητικό μεταξύ Διοίκησης Π.Ο.Α. και Νοσοκομείου στις 12/1/2022.

Στο χέρι όλων μας είναι και ιδιαίτερα του επερχόμενου συνεδρίου που πρέπει να εγκρίνει αυτό το έργο, να αξιοποιήσουμε αυτή την ευκαιρία, να μην την αφήσουμε να πάει χαμένη, και επιτέλους ένα όνειρο ετών να γίνει πραγματικότητα. Με την κατασκευή και λειτουργία του κυλικείου και το μίσθωμα που θα εισπράττει η Π.Ο.Α., θα αποκτήσει μια νέα δυναμική. Μια δυναμική που θα της επιτρέψει να καλύπτει:

1. Ιατρικό μηχανικό εξοπλισμό, ματισμό και άλλες ανάγκες του Νοσοκομείου.

2. Να καλύπτει επίσης άμεσες ανάγκες όπως και υποτροφίες του τμήματος νοσηλευτικής του πανεπιστημίου Πελοποννήσου στην Τρίπολη.

ΔΑΠΑΝΗ ΚΟΣΤΟΣ ΚΑΤΑΣΚΕΥΗΣ: Το συνολικό κόστος θα ανέλθει στις \$300,000

ΕΜΒΑΔΟΝ ΚΥΛΙΚΕΙΟΥ: Το συνολικό εμβαδόν της αίθουσας θα είναι 115 τ.μ. - 1230 sq.ft. περιλαμβάνει χώρο εστίασης, κουζίνα, βιτρίνα έκθεσης αγαθών, χώρο προετοιμασίας και βεβαίως τουαλέτες. Βεράντα 65 τ.μ. - 700 sq.ft. επίσης για εστίαση και αποθήκη 38 τ.μ.-410 sq.ft.

ΧΡΗΜΑΤΟΔΟΤΗΣΗ - ΕΠΕΝΔΥΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΕΡΓΟΥ: Η χρηματοδότηση του έργου καθώς και η εκμετάλλευση του κυλικείου θα γίνει με ευθύνη της Π.Ο. Αμερικής.



Creation of a Canteen-Restaurant by the P.F.A. at the Pan Arcadian Hospital in Tripolis

As most of you are aware, this issue has been preoccupying the Federation for over 20 years. The fact that it has not materialized until today is due to various obstacles, and primarily the frequent changes in Hospital Administrators, as well as Health Ministers by successive governments.

Today, the circumstances regarding the issue of the canteen are different and novel; there is an air of positivity coming from all interested parties, and it is on the pathway to materialization. Throughout this time, thanks to coordinated efforts from the Administration, we have overcome various minor problems, and most importantly, we have secured the necessary approval of the Hospital's Board, as well as the leadership of the Health Ministry. At the same time, a private agreement has been signed between the P.F.A. Administration and the Hospital on 12/1/2022.

It is up to all of us, especially the upcoming convention which must approve this project to capitalize upon this opportunity, not to

let it go to waste, and finally see a longtime dream become a reality. Through the operation of the canteen and the rent that the P.F.A. will collect, we will have the opportunity to cover the necessary needs of the Pan Arcadian Hospital also the requirements of the nursing school at the University of Peloponnesus in Tripolis and scholarships.

CONSTRUCTION EXPENSES: The total cost will amount to \$300,000.00

CANTEEN AREA: The total area of the room will be 115 m² - 1,130 sq. feet, and will include a dining area, kitchen, product display, prep area, and lavatories. There will be a veranda with an area of 65 m² - 700 sq. feet that will also be used for dining, along with a storage area with an area of 38 m² - 410 sq. feet.

FINANCIAL - PROJECT INVESTMENT
The financing of the project as well as the operation of the canteen will be done under the responsibility of P.F.A.

Obituaries

Nicholas "Nick" G. Petmezas, 69, of Long Grove, IL passed away unexpectedly on March 27, 2022. He was born on August 17, 1952 in Kandyla, Greece to George and Efsthia (nee Eliopoulos) Petmezas.



Nick grew up in a small village in Greece, and had many cherished memories of time spent on his family's property tending the olive groves, working by his father's side, and getting into his fair share of mischief. He came to the Chicago area at age 14 and began his long, dedicated career in the restaurant industry. In that time, he worked at several restaurants, including his proud years spent as a co-owner of Flag Gardens and Truffles Grove with his brothers.

Nick had many hobbies; he loved traveling. He was also an accomplished Martial Arts practitioner, earning a blackbelt and winning a national Karate championship in 1976. He was also a car enthusiast. He was so proud of the different cars he owned over the years, and enjoyed sharing that passion with his two sons. The biggest passion in Nick's life was spending time with his devoted family and many cherished friends.

He was deeply committed to the Hellenic community, holding board positions of organizations including Kekrops and the Pan Arcadian Federation of America. He dedicated his energy to promoting the interests of the Greek community, both in the Chicago area and back in his hometown.

May his memory be eternal!

Ιάκωβος Τσοῦνης

Έφυγε από τη ζωή σε ηλικία 97 ετών ο ευεργέτης των Ενόπλων Δυνάμεων, εφοπλιστής Ιάκωβος Τσοῦνης.



Την απώλεια του ευεργέτη των Ενόπλων Δυνάμεων, του εφοπλιστή Ιάκωβου Τσοῦνη, ανακοίνωσε ο υπουργός Εθνικής Άμυνας Νίκος Παναγιωτόπουλος.

George D. Danigeles

(September 23 1933 - February 4 2021) age 87, of Elmhurst, Illinois. George was a member of Chapter #76 Mantinea of the PFA, he also served as



a MWD Governor and a Board of Trustees Chairman and of PFA. He served the St. Demetrios Church of Elmhurst as a President. George was an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

George J. Bourlokas

was born on Tuesday, March 03, 1936 at Valtetsi Arcadias and passed away on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. George J. Bourlokas was a resident of Fountain Hills, Arizona at the time of passing. He served as president of the Midwest District chapter Valtetsi for several years and also as a Governor of the MWD in 1983.



"May Their Memory Be Eternal"

Pan Arcadian Federation of America

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andreas P. Papantoniou, *President*
George Anastasopoulos, *1st Vice President*
Angeliki Voumas, *2nd Vice President*
Evangelia G. Sourounis, *3rd Vice President*
John Bournazos, *Secretary*
John Vemis, *Treasurer*
George Reveliotis, Esq, *Legal Advisor*
Tina Voumas, *Young Adult Director*

DISTRICT GOVERNORS

George Xerakias, *Eastern District*
Ted Stamison, *Midwest District*
Joanne Saltas, *Western District*

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Kostas Kapogiannis, *Past President, Trustee*
Evangelos Potakis, *Past President, Trustee*
Demetrios A. Filios, *Past President, Trustee*
Nikos Mitsinikos, *Trustee*
Tassos Giannikopoulos, *Trustee*
Spiros Kalantzis, *Trustee*
Athanasia Syrengelas, *Trustee*
Eugenia Giouzellis, *Trustee*

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AUDITING

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Athina Lykourantzou
Nick Leles

HOSPITAL

Dr. John C. Sarantopoulos
Dr. George Sianis
Dimitra Kapogianis
Antonis Kalyvas
Dr. Spyros Mezitis
Dr. George Tsioulis
Dr. George Kallins

EASTERN DISTRICT

CHAPTERS

Geros tou Morea #1
Eparhia Kynourias #2
Athena # 44
Tripoli of MA #105

OFFICERS

John Vemis, *Governor*
Apostolos Lagos, *Lt Governor*

Revekka Papadopoulos, *General Secretary*
Nicholas Kontoleon, *Treasurer*
Eleni Katsimalis, *Youth Advisor*

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Angela Tiglias
George Xerakias
Peter Lambropoulos

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Gloria Katsimalis
Vasilios Eglezos
Nikos Georgiou

MIDWEST DISTRICT

CHAPTERS

Nea Arcadia #3
Leonidion #4
Valltetsi #5
Loukas #6
~~Levidi #8~~
Tripolis #9
Kolliniates #10
Tsipianites #11
Megalopolis #16
Kekrops # 17
Gortynia #19
Agriakona #31
Tegea, IL #33
Dara Association #36
Kynouria #58
Mantineia #76
~~Arcadians of N.W. IN #100~~

OFFICERS

Dr. John Sarantopoulos, *Governor*
Katerina Liapis, *Lt Governor*
Kiki Giannos- Pilafas, *Secretary*
George Locallo, *Treasurer*
George V. Kalantzis, Esq, *Legal Advisor*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ted Stamison, *Chairman*
Christos Kostakis, *Vice Chairman*
Constantine Tzamouranis, *Past Governor*
Anastasios Giannikopoulos, *Past Governor*
Nick Roumeliotis, *Trustee*
Kostas Labrakis, *Trustee*

Panagiotis Kandalepas, *Trustee*
Athena Lykourantzou, *Trustee*

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Andy Costas, *Chairman*
Angelo Christofilis
Georgia Gritsonis

WESTERN DISTRICT

CHAPTERS

UAS of SF #35
Skopi #85
Theodoros Kolokotronis UT #90
Tegea, CA #101
Nea Mantineia #102
Theodoros Kolokotronis CA #103
Arcadians of Denver #106
Alea #115

OFFICERS

George Booras, *Governor*
Nick Leles, *Lt Governor*
Kathy Papadimitropoulos, *Secretary*
Joanne Saltas, *Treasurer*
Karen Anastasopoulos, *Scholarship Chair*
Joanne Saltas, *Website Administrator*

INDEPENDENT DISTRICT

Arcadians of Texas #110

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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email: info@panarcadian.org

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Σταυρού- Τρίπολη Αρκαδίας 221 00

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Western District

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