

**REPORT OF DISTRICT SECRETARY
PETER T. TRIANTAFYLLOS
2004-2005**

As you all were advised at last year's mid-year conference in Anaheim, we reported that the 1st site submittal for the San Bernardino AHEPA Senior Housing Project (2003), which was located directly across from the church, was rejected by HUD because it sat over a fault line.

I'm proud to announce that the AHEPA family in Arrowhead Chapter #302 (San Bernardino) has received HUD 202 approval for our 1st Senior Housing Project in District 20. This site is 3-plus acres located in San Bernardino, California, approximately fifteen (15) minutes from St. Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church. The new senior housing complex will consist of ninety (90) units.

This journey began in 1996 with George Dafnis, Tony Theodorou, George Theios, Nick Angelos (Co-Chair Senior Housing) and Demetrius Damaskos. With everyone's hard work and support, this project became a reality at the end of 2004. This group of individuals worked countless hours in dealing with necessary individuals, including HUD, City of San Bernardino officials, consultants, engineers and various local agencies to assist in putting together all the necessary information and application completion for new submittal in June, 2004.

As we continue on this journey, the hard work now begins. The Chapter has a \$2,900 per month commitment to continue control of the property until HUD releases the funds for closure. The expected closure is scheduled around the 2nd quarter of this year (2005). As brothers and sisters of the District, we must support this Chapter in upcoming fundraising events so they can continue to meet their commitment.

Events I attended as your District Secretary this year are:

- **July, 2004** – Dinner/Chapter #342 Long Beach meeting honoring our newly elected District 20 Governor Zachary Prineas. Also, elections were held that evening for chapter officers. All current officers were re-elected for the year 2004-2005.
- **August, 2004** – Meeting with Dimitrios Zevelakis, Consul General of Greece. As co-chairman of Senior Housing, I gave a mini report on Senior Housing to the Consul General of Greece.
- **September 11, 2004** – Past President's Dinner in San Diego, California (Chapter #223) honoring Constantine D. Buzunis and John Rougas.
- **November 20, 2004** – AHEPA Glendi Scholarship Fundraiser, Chapter #243, Santa Barbara.
- **December 3, 2004** – Annual Rose Bowl Chapter #373 Pasadena Christmas Party at Beckham Bar and Grill.
- **January 5, 2005** – Joint visitation at St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Redondo Beach, California. (Chapters #426-South Bay, #233-Neptune San Pedro, #342-Long Beach) After dinner, I gave a mini report on Senior Housing.

- **February 16, 2005** – Joint visitation at Village Café in Woodland Hills, California. (Chapters #442-Burbank-Glendale, #412-San Fernando) After dinner, I gave a mini report on Senior Housing. Also, there was discussion of merging the two (2) chapters into one (1) and a possible bid for the 2006 District Convention in June, 2006.
- **April 17, 2005** – Visitation to Arrowhead Chapter # 302 took place after Church Services and light Lenten luncheon in the Church Hall. After the Lenten lunch, the chapter meeting began with the introduction of the District Lodge Officers present by Chapter President George Dafnis. Senior Housing Chairperson Dr. Tony Theodorou gave an updated report on the progress of the project. During his report, he presented to the chapter members and the District Lodge preliminary floor plans of the ninety (90) unit housing complex. Afterwards, the group traveled to visit the site. The chapter is hopeful that they can procure all the necessary approval by the end of the summer and start construction at the end of 2005. The Senior Housing Chairperson was going to send a formal invitation to our new Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco to be present at the ground breaking ceremonies.
- **May 7, 2005** – Visitation to Beehive Chapter # 146 took place in the Boardroom at St. Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church in Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting/discussion were centered on the AHEPA Senior Housing Project. Jim Mellos, Vice-President of the Chapter, was appointed by the Chapter President as Senior Housing Committee Chairperson for the Chapter. The proposed land is located in Midvale, Utah. The acreage is approximately three (3) to five (5) acres. A proposed land development plan was presented to us by Jim Mellos and Joanne Saltas with the fact sheet by the developer, who also represents the City of Midvale as its Redevelopment Agency Representative. There were some concerns about the process and the non-responsiveness by the AHEPA Housing Corporation's representative, Demetrius Damaskos. Also, one of our concerns was the high impact fees shown on the fact sheet provided by the developer and the City's Redevelopment Agency representative (who are the same person). Demetrius Damaskos stated that during his next visit to Salt Lake City, Utah, he is willing to sit down at the table and discuss/negotiate down the high impact fees stated on the fact sheet. The chairperson was in the process of setting up this meeting with Demetrius Damaskos and the developer/Redevelopment Agency representative. After our meeting/discussions, the group visited the proposed site.

It was a pleasure having in our delegation the Supreme Treasurer, Pete Kotzambasis, who was there to give advice and to support us during our discussions with the Senior Housing Committee of the Chapter.
- **May 28, 2005** – Attended a Farewell Dinner Party honoring the outgoing Consul General of Greece, The Honorable Dimitrios Zevelakis, at Dr. & Mrs. Kallins' Residence in Downey, California.
- **June 4, 2005** – Attended Testimonial Dinner for the Sons of Pericles Supreme President in Tucson, Arizona. The AHEPA District Lodge Officers present and DOP District Governor Georgia Souris were not acknowledged by the Master of

Ceremonies at the event; however, a letter written by AHEPA Supreme President Frank Manios was read to the attendees. The DOP District Governor went up to the podium, took the microphone and at least acknowledged the presence of Lt. Governor George Makris. Where was the so-called protocol?

Liaison Report

Since the Mid-Year Conference in San Pedro, on more than one occasion I have sent e-mails and made telephone calls to the respective chapters that I am responsible for, expressing the fact I am their liaison representative to the District. I have received three (3) responses. The first response was from Nick Perdaris (Burbank-Glendale Chapter #442) asking for my assistance in rejuvenating their chapter by inviting me to one of their scheduled monthly meetings. The second response was from the Arrowhead Chapter # 302 advising me that the Senior Housing project was approved by HUD 202. They will communicate to me if they are planning any events or happenings for the rest of the year. The final response came from the Brothers in San Fernando Chapter #412.

At the January 5, 2005 visitation, during my presentation, I expressed to the three chapters that were represented (Neptune, South Bay, Long Beach) that I was their liaison representative to District. I asked the officers of these chapters if I could be of assistance to them during the rest of the year.

During our last visitation, in the good of the order portion of the meeting, members from the three (3) chapters expressed concerns about membership. The problem is recruiting new members, retaining them, and getting them to attend their scheduled monthly meetings. The questions asked by potential new members are as follows: What is AHEPA going to do for me and what are benefits of joining AHEPA? Members pay their dues to the chapter and never show up to the chapter's scheduled monthly meetings. You only see them at scheduled events.

Example: In July, 2004 there was a dinner/chapter meeting in Long Beach honoring our current District Governor. The dinner/chapter meeting was poorly attended. I know many more members are on the roster. I believe this is happening throughout the District, where you have a handful of members showing up to a scheduled monthly meeting. This is a major problem for the District's survival. There are no easy solutions to these problems facing our District.

At the February 16, 2005 visitation, I was introduced as the liaison to both the San Fernando and Burbank chapters. The idea of merging the two (2) chapters into one (1) was discussed. A decision was made to hold a special meeting in May to discuss the merger idea further and to place a motion on the table to approve a merger of both chapters into one (1) chapter. However, that special May meeting took place in the coffee shop of the Canoga Bowl located in Winnetka, California, and was poorly attended by the Burbank Chapter except for its President; all members were present from the San Fernando Chapter. The motion to merger was presented, seconded, discussed and passed unanimously by the members of the San Fernando Chapter. At that point in time, the Burbank Chapter's President mentioned to the membership of the San Fernando Chapter that he needed to have a separate meeting with his chapter membership, which was scheduled for May 26th, 2005 at Frank's Restaurant in Burbank, California, to discuss the motion to merge.

At the regularly scheduled meeting on May 25th, 2005 of the San Fernando Chapter, the membership presented another motion to rescind the previously approved motion to merge both chapters. This motion was presented, discussed and passed unanimously!

The Burbank Chapter meeting took place on May 26th, 2005 at 7:30 pm. It was poorly attended. Not including myself, there were only three (3) members present. No discussion occurred on the proposed merger which had been approved and then rescinded by the San Fernando Chapter. At that point after this meeting, I believed that the 2006 District Convention was in jeopardy.

At the time I was preparing this report, there were no more merger talks scheduled between the two (2) chapters. I'm hopeful that these talks between the two Chapters will resurrect themselves later in the year and that a merger will take place.

Where are our Sons and Maids chapters in District 20? The only active chapters are located in Arizona. What about Southern California?

Finally, I would like to take this time to thank all my Brother AHEPANS for letting me serve you as your District 20 Secretary this year. It was my pleasure doing so.

As you all know, we are volunteers in this organization. Every officer has a professional life, therefore each chapter should respond in kind to their liaison representative when possible. For us to be volunteers, we care about our AHEPA FAMILY.

Fraternally yours,

Peter T. Triantafyllos
District 20 Secretary