

DISTRICT 20 SECRETARY'S LIAISON REPORT

I attended the Ventura California's Annual Barbecue on October 1, 2005. This was very successful in its organization and turnout. I want to commend Lyle Hochberger and the host chapter for the great food, and ambience provided at the barbecue.

On November 5, 2005 I attended the Santa Barbara's Chapter Glendi held at St. Barbara's Church. This was again a model event that should be duplicated by the other chapters in our district. There was plenty of local Ahepa support as well as regional support and community support. The food, music and overall socializing were excellent. President Jim Brown and his chapter should be given high praise for their hard work and effort in this annual event.

On April 16, 2006 I along with my wife Kathy and my two young sons (Teddy and Nicky) attended the Chapter #373 AHEPA Palm Sunday Luncheon at St Anthony's in Pasadena, CA. This event was done exceptionally well thanks to the AHEPA brothers in Rose Bowl Chapter #373.

In my observation over the past 4 years of our District and its respective chapters, it is in my humble opinion that we have failed to change this organization into a dynamic one that will attract the younger Greek Americans and thus the peril of being in deep trouble and facing extinction looms on the horizon. There are more members leaving (death, or to old to participate) our district than new younger members coming in at this time. We have relatively few if any Sons or Maids of Athena Chapters that are active. Even though my home Chapter in Pasadena is very proactive and progressive it still boggles the mind that we have 80 plus members and only 15-20 show up to any one meeting.

The other problems I see besides recruitment of younger members is the failure at the national level of realizing that AHEPA's mission statement is obsolete. We must modernize for the 21st century!!! As I have stated over and over again, the message at our yearly District conventions and the midyear winter conferences should be more upbeat and less futile bickering over trivial matters which have absolutely no appeal to the potential younger members. They need a reason to join! The mission statement also needs to be changed to reflect the times of the 21st century. PDG Dean Tripodes should be applauded in his continuous and tireless effort to promote business networking in the hopes of a real Greek-American Business and Chamber of Conference materializing. This is the future my brothers. If we don't act now, our district as well as or other western U.S. districts will wither away on the vine of fraternity and brotherhood and just plainly cease to exist. Each District convention I have attended over the past 4 years appears to draw fewer and fewer crowds. This is extremely alarming and worrisome.

Therefore I strongly recommend that we need to overhaul our thinking before it truly is to late to save Ahepa out here in the western U.S. The future of our Ahepa organization depends on these key factors and reforms. If not, I suggest the forming of a new Hellenic American Organization that will promote Business networking, our rich Hellenic culture and its preservation with the upcoming generations. I refuse to let my children and their children think that being Greek is only belonging to a college fraternity or sorority.

I will always do what ever I can to assist the cause of preserving The Ideals, Principles, and The Culture that our forefathers (ancient and modern) have entrusted us with over the many previous generations.

Fraternally yours,

John T. Triantafyllos, M.D.
Secretary, District 20