

PIB Supreme President's Message, March 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Supreme Lodge had a successful meeting with the Aivaliotis Chapter 17 in Columbus, Ohio, during the March 5th weekend. Our hosts, Jackie and Marino Moraitis graciously welcomed us with dinner and tickets to a comedy show on Friday night. Aivaliotis Chapter President, Aristotle Hutras, followed with a tour of the remarkable Ohio Statehouse for our group on Saturday. We were impressed with the many informative displays on Statehouse's development and the homage paid to the Greek origins of Democracy. Aris pointed out the bust of Cleisthenes, the noted Athenian statesman, who now watches over the State's representatives during their legislative sessions.

After the tour, the Lodge reconvened at the Moraitis residence to greet the gathered members of the Aivaliotis Chapter. Though our meeting was long, it proved to be productive. The Lodge thanked the Icarian cookbook team including project leader Jackie Moraitis and Tim Leakas for all their extraordinary efforts. We also thank the all the members of our organization whose recipe contributions made it possible. I know you will be very pleased with the first edition of Live Long, Eat Icarian, the new Blue Zones inspired cookbook of the Brotherhood. Everyone sampled some of the great recipes during dinner and dessert. You may order the cookbook through forms that are available in the latest Ikaria Magazine edition or online at the PIB website.

Our second meeting topic dealt with the important issue of the disaster in Ikaria. Just a few short months ago, I noted that the Pan-Icarian Brotherhood and Foundation would monitor efforts to assist Ikarrians dealing with the aftermath of October's devastating rainstorm. This month, the Supreme Lodge received an appeal from the Society Icaria Kavos Papas (Syllogo Kavos Papa) which outlined specific goals to help the most affect villages. The Syllogo has established a relief account to begin accepting aid. Our Foundation has been notified of the request for support and will evaluate how best to help our brethren in Ikaria. Your thoughts and generosity are welcome.

As March closes and spring begins, the Lodge hopes all Chapters will have had fair weather and good turnouts in support of their area's Greek Independence Day Parades. Participating in these celebrations strengthens our cultural heritage and community. I encourage all of you to continue to stay involved in your Chapter events. I have sent letters to your Chapter Presidents asking that they remind you to renew your membership in the Pan-Icarian Brotherhood. The dues collected are vital to helping each Chapter stay united by maintaining clubhouses and providing the means for social events and local philanthropic endeavors.

This coming weekend I will be meeting with Young Adults from across the country who will be in Philadelphia for the 2011 Youth Convention. The sponsoring Chapter, Atheras 12, will have a Friday night reception to welcome their guests and on Saturday, we will travel to Atlantic City for the 20th Annual Hermes Expo at Tropicana Casino.

Wish us luck!

Regards,
Nikolaos J. Pasamihalis
Supreme President



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