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Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America "ICAROS"

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Headquarters of the Supreme Lodge

December 7, 2012

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

The Supreme Lodge had its first meeting of the new term in Toronto, Canada on November 10th, 2012. Chapter "Nisos Ikaria" President Pantelis Genezos and his fellow officers and committee members hosted a great meeting. With over 50 chapter members, all the Supreme Lodge officers and 4 of our District governors in attendance, the Toronto meeting was one of our largest Supreme Lodge meetings in some time. Thank you again "Nisos Ikaria" for your hospitality and enthusiasm! I also wish to thank Sissi Makris and Vicky Pori who arranged accommodations and transportation for the Lodge. Also in attendance were Buffalo/Panagia Chapter President Nickos Skaros and a majority of the Buffalo chapter members and PSP Nick Tsalis (whom I thank for his translation duties as most of the meeting was conducted in Greek!)

A summary of some the items discussed and or reported at the meeting are as follows:

*Foundation Chairman Gus Yiakas, in a written report prepared for the meeting, acknowledged receipt of a check in the amount of \$18,914.00 from Chapter Therma /Wilmington NC. These monies represented the share (50%) of the 2012 convention proceeds donated to the Foundation.

*Foundation Chair Yiakas also reported that the 2012 scholarship checks had been issued to the recipients. A list of the recipients can be found in the fall issue of the IKAPIA Magazine.

*The Foundation has to date received approximately \$16,000.00 in donations for the Icarian Storm Relief effort and a check in the amount of \$5,000.00 was sent to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Sandy Relief.

*The Supreme Lodge acquired liability coverage for its officers.

*Membership and ideas to increase overall and chapter membership were discussed in great detail. Action will be taken on several of these ideas including: the ability to pay chapter dues on line via the Pan Icarian website; the establishment of a "dues booth" at each convention; adding more value to membership i.e. discounted admission to Icarian events; financial incentives for chapters to increase membership.

*District Governor Angelo Horiates reported on the preparations being made by Chapter Atheras/ Philadelphia for the upcoming 2013 Supreme convention in Boston.

*Members of both the Toronto and Buffalo chapters pledged to submit a joint bid for a convention in 2015.

All in all it was a productive meeting which also featured poetry readings by Toronto members Vasilis Fradelos and Nicko Pori and, of course, Icarian violi and dancing!

Scholarships Revisited

With the recent announcement and publication of this year's scholarship recipients, I and Scholarship chair Georgia Pandeladis received several inquiries from parents and grandparents asking why his or her child/ grandchild did not receive a scholarship. Let me try to dispel some assumptions and reconfirm some requirements.

Applying for a scholarship does not equal guaranteed receipt of a scholarship

Dependent on donations to the Foundation, the performance of the financial markets and the number of applicants, only a certain number of scholarships can be awarded in a given year. In some years applicants exceed scholarships available. (This year we received 75 applications) Where this is the case, the Scholarship Chair forwards the applications to her independent committee. (None of whom is Ikarian or has any relationship with the Brotherhood.) These volunteers are academicians who review the applications for several factors including completeness of the application, (was it filled out entirely, were certified transcripts attached?) Did the parents of the applicant fulfill membership requirements? (Had they paid their dues for the requisite 4 years prior to application?) And, of course, scholastic achievement including not only GPA, but also type of class work (physics vs. basket weaving) and volunteer activities. Please remember we are blessed with a large percentage of high achieving students. Almost all our applicants have at least a 3.5 GPA and many have a 4.0 or higher. You can, therefore, appreciate the difficulty in selecting students.

Please note that at least 10 of this year's applicants were rejected because the applications were incomplete. Remember to complete all the application and to provide certified transcripts. Remember that the student or the parent/guardian must be a paid member for at least 4 years prior to the application. Grandparents who are members do not count unless they are the legal guardian of the applicant. Finally, please remember that you cannot apply for both a needs and merit application simultaneously.

Xmas Fundraising

The Foundation will soon be sending out its annual Christmas drive letter requesting contributions. I ask that you give what you can as there are several worthwhile causes that require your support. Remember that you can "earmark" your contribution for your cause of choice, be it scholarships, medical relief, the Icarian Philharmonic, Icarian Storm Relief or Hurricane Sandy assistance. These contributions are, of course, tax deductible.

I close by wishing all a Safe and Joyous Holiday Season!

Until next time,

George N. Koklanaris
Supreme President
Pan Icarian Brotherhood