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# Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America "ICAROS"

22236 Harlan, Grosse Ile, MI 48138

Headquarters of the Supreme Lodge

January 7, 2013

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

I begin by wishing all of you a healthy and happy New Year! I have high hopes for our Brotherhood for 2013; our first convention in the cradle of American independence, Boston! A renewed interest in the Brotherhood by our youth, an uptick in our membership and hopefully, some first time bids from chapters seeking to host a convention in the near future.

I would ask our chapters to also go into this New Year with a sense of purpose and enthusiasm. Now that we have put the holidays behind us, let's get together, hold elections, break bread, fundraise for your favorite cause, swap Icarian property dispute stories (Ha Ha!) and do all those other things that make us so uniquely Icarian! And remember to share these great times with new friends (or old ones)... and turn them into new members!

## Icaria Hospital News

In more recent news the Brotherhood responded to a request from Icaria's municipal body to help keep the Hospital in Agios Kyricos operating at its current level. The Greek government has expressed a desire to close or downgrade the hospital's capabilities in order to save money during the ongoing economic crisis. The closing of the hospital would mean having to send patients to either Samos or the mainland for emergency treatment; an option which is not always possible given Icaria's fickle weather and limited transportation. The Supreme Lodge, Foundation and our two Canadian chapters have all sent letters to the various ministries protesting the possible closure. A copy of the Supreme Lodge's letter can be found posted on our website.

## Magazine News

To our brothers and sisters in Canada, please be aware that we know of the problem regarding magazine delivery, or to be more precise, non-delivery. Our magazine editor is working on this problem and will have a solution soon. Speaking of editors... our search for a new magazine editor is still ongoing. While we have had some inquires (and we will be talking with those candidates soon) the door is still open! Please contact either myself or Niki Plutis-Salame for additional information.

## Donations please!

I close by asking all our members to please respond to the annual Foundation Holiday drive. You should by now have received your pledge letters. Remember that you can specify which of

the various causes you would like to donate to, i.e. scholarships, Icarian Storm Relief, the old age home, the Icarian Philharmonic, Hurricane Sandy Relief or the general fund. If you back date your check a couple of days you can use the deduction for your 2012 taxes. (Theo Sam won't mind!)

### **Helios Chapter Ad Book**

After you've written your check to the Foundation keep that check book open and buy an ad from the good brothers and sisters in Clearwater. The Helios chapter will be holding its annual dinner dance this February (the 16<sup>th</sup>). The club is putting together an add book to help pay for the renovations of its newly constructed leski. Please consider buying an ad (also tax deductible) to help in this worthwhile cause. The new club house is a beautiful structure and in my mind, the flagship of all the Icarian Leskis. And since we'll all wind up in Clearwater sooner or later, let's give a helping hand. Ad contracts are available at [marydee@tampabay.it.com](mailto:marydee@tampabay.it.com).

Now that I've spent all your money, I'll say goodbye... and remember , as previously stated herein, if you have any ideas or suggestions that you would like to share with the Lodge, our door is always open.

Until next time,

George N. Koklanaris

Supreme President, Pan Icarian Brotherhood of America