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Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America "ICAROS"

22236 Harlan, Grosse Ile, MI 48138

Headquarters of the Supreme Lodge

November 10, 2013

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

I open by extending to you all best wishes for a healthy and happy Thanksgiving Holiday!

Thanksgiving has always had special significance in my family. My father, my Uncle Mike and my late grandmother Maria left for America from Piraeus on a converted troop carrier on Thanksgiving Day in 1946. Both my father and my uncle, who like many in Icaria during the war, suffered from malnutrition, were treated to their first "turko" dinner with all the trimmings on board ship. Uncle Mike, who recites this story to his children and grandchildren every Thanksgiving Holiday, finishes the story with his usual relish "and I knew that day, my little stomach filled with turkey, potatoes and apples, that America was going to be a great place!". Indeed Uncle! This Thanksgiving too will be of special significance for our family... my cousin George (Uncles Mike's son and a Lt. Col in the United State Army) returns, god willing, from deployment in the Middle East, two days before the Holiday to his family, including his baby daughter Athena, who was born the day before George deployed. Welcome Home George and again a Happy Holiday to all.

In Ikarian news, I recently had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Nikos Randas who is the president of the Ikarian Volunteer Firefighters. Mr. Randas relayed the story of a fire that the firefighters recently battled near the village of Perdiki. The fire originated in a very inaccessible hillside where fire trucks could not gain entry. The firefighters ended up utilizing a privately owned smaller 4x4 vehicle to be able to reach the area. He further informed me that this was not the first time that the larger vehicles could not reach a fire. Mr. Randas has asked the Brotherhood to help in the purchase of a used 4x4 vehicle. He has found several used vehicles available in the price range of 4,000-5,000 euros. I would suggest that we help in this effort. The firefighters, who are almost all part time volunteers, risk their own well being in preventing and/or combating the seasonal fires which occur during the summer and early fall. Their work takes them all over the island. I believe that the amount requested is very manageable and in fact so manageable that I think we should try to help in the acquisition of two vehicles... one for each side of the island. I would ask

our chapters who have their own “foundations” to seriously consider this request. While most of you should now know that I am not bashful about asking for your money, I think our recent track record of funding small, manageable projects (think philharmonic orchestra), which have immediate and accountable impact, speaks well of these type of projects. I would ask chapters that are interested in this project to contact me as soon as possible. If I receive positive feedback, we can act upon this request at our upcoming Supreme Lodge meeting in Baltimore.

Speaking of Baltimore, the Supreme Lodge will meet there on Saturday, December 7th, 2013. The members of Chapter Lefkas have graciously extended their hospitality to the Lodge (and Foundation) and we anticipate a good turnout. A report from the Boston convention... and a presentation of a check to the Foundation will be one of the highlights of the meeting. Again, all members are welcome to attend the meeting. I and other members of the Lodge will also be visiting Pittsburgh on the 23rd of this month to tour the Hotel for the 2015 convention.

I close by again asking chapters and or individuals send us your e-mails so that we can build our readership for these monthly messages and so that we can communicate with each other in a more efficient manner.

Until next time...

George N. Koklanaris

Supreme President