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## Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America "ICAROS"

22236 Harlan, Grosse Ile, MI 48138

Headquarters of the Supreme Lodge

December 25, 2013

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of the Supreme Lodge, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year! I would also like to personally thank all our chapter officers throughout the States and Canada for their continued hard work into the New Year. We are nothing without our individual chapters and all they do for the Brotherhood and the Supreme Lodge.

Speaking of Supreme Lodge... the last several weeks were busy ones! On December 7th the Lodge AND THE ENTIRE Foundation met in Baltimore for our first meeting of the new term. Chapter President George Moratis and his fellow officers and chapter members welcomed the Lodge and Foundation in true Ikarian fashion... chauffeuring all of us from the airport to the hotel, to the chapter house, to the famous Icaros Restaurant, where we were treated to a meal worthy of Homeric story telling, introducing us to the local watering holes, and getting us all back to the hotel in the wee hours! Lest you think the day was dedicated only to the corporal appetites, we (the Lodge and Foundation) did meet twice as a group for some very spirited discussions involving all things Foundation and Lodge. I thank Foundation Chairman Gus Yiakas for helping ensure that the entire Foundation met with the Lodge. This is the first time in some while that both bodies met, and had the opportunity to attend each others meetings. Topics included the status of the Souromanis lawsuit, suggestions for improved fund raising, the status of both the old aged home and the hospital and how to provide more financial support for both institutions, scholarship awards and convention updates for both the Clearwater Convention in 2014 and the Pittsburgh Convention in 2015. The high light of the meetings however was the presentation of a check by PSP and Boston Convention Chairman Nik Pasamihalis to the Foundation in the amount of \$25,000.00 ! This check represents a 50% portion of the proceeds raised at the Boston Convention. Well done Chapter Atheras and thank you for your very generous contribution. I would also like to thank Baltimore Chapter Secretary Demetra Tsantes and Past Foundation Chairman Socrates Koutsoutis for all their philoxenia during the weekend, and Mr. Theodosios Kohilas who arranged for the red carpet treatment at the Icaros Restaurant.

In late November, accompanied by the lovely First Lady Toulia Koklanaris, District Governor Aspasia Elias, and her daughter, Chapter Pramne President Sarah Elias - we visited the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Pittsburgh to tour the hotel which will host the 2015 Convention. We were met at the hotel by Chapter President Joanne Melachrinou, Convention Chair Sophia Facaros, former Governors Cathy Pandelides, Michele Katsaglaros, and Georgia Baralamos. The hotel, which last hosted us during the centennial celebration in 2006 (then a Hilton), has been remodeled from top to bottom and will provide a wonderful venue for us in 2015. Most exciting is the ballroom which has a dance floor that can accommodate a 1,000 Icarian dancers with ease. Finally, downtown Pittsburgh has also undergone significant renovations and should provide plenty of entertainment options within walking distance of the hotel. (Full disclosure... the hotel put yours truly and the first lady in the presidential suite for the night and the Pittsburgh ladies treated us all to a wonderful dinner at Christo Melachrinou's restaurant... none of this display of exceptional hospitality however influenced my thought process... really! However, meeting in the presidential suite with 7 beautiful Icarian sirens did give me pause... I had the bellhop tie me to a chair during the meeting just to be safe...) Chapter President Joanne, who is also the Brotherhood's archivist, announced the theme for the 2015 convention - a tribute to the Icarian mothers of the early to mid 1900's. A great theme for sure!

Xponia Polla!

Until next time...

George N. Koklanaris

Supreme President