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Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America “ICAROS”

2745 N. Troy, Chicago, IL 60647

Headquarters of the Supreme Lodge

September 24, 2014

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

I am incredibly excited about this upcoming year! I thank you for the trust you placed in me by electing me to be your Supreme President at the 2014 Convention in Clearwater, Florida, and I will do my best to serve you.

I am a member of the Brotherhood for many of same reasons that you are- a deep-rooted love of Ikaria and my fellow Ikarians, and the pride that comes from belonging to an organization that is rich in history and has a storied tradition of helping others. I want you to know that I am committed to honoring our past by continuing our fraternal and philanthropic mission of uniting and helping Ikarians.

Convention News

First, a big thank you to the Helios Chapter for hosting the 2014 Supreme Convention! The Brotherhood appreciates all of the hard work that went into hosting the Convention. The Convention was well attended, including by our Ikarian youth, and it was great to see everyone connect with their extended Ikarian “family” while soaking up those final rays of sun before winter arrives (for those of us that live in the polar vortex) and dancing the Ikariotiko into the wee hours of the night.

For those of you that were not able to attend the Convention business meetings, there are several items of Convention business to highlight:

Scholarships: The Scholarship Committee awarded, and the Foundation funded, 60 scholarships at the Convention (28 undergraduate and 5 graduate scholarships in the United States and Canada and 23 undergraduate and 4 graduate scholarships in Greece). Also noteworthy is that the Convention delegates voted to increase the amount of each scholarship in the United States, Canada and Greece by \$500, i.e., increasing undergraduate scholarships in the U.S. and Canada to \$2,000 and graduate scholarships in the U.S. and Canada to \$2,500. This increase will be effective this year.

This year, every qualified applicant in the United States and Canada received a scholarship. While thirty-three is a commendable number of qualified applicants, we can do even better. I highly encourage every high school senior and college and graduate student that meets the scholarship criteria to apply for a scholarship next year.

2016 Convention: Big Apple, here we come! The Convention delegates approved the Pandiki chapter's bid to host the 2016 Convention in New York City. In 2016 it will be 15 years since our last Convention in New York, but I'm sure the wait will have been well worth it!

Other Projects: The Convention Delegates tasked the Supreme Lodge with compiling a set of "best practices" for chapters to follow with the goal of improving membership. Chapter Lefkas in Baltimore, which recently saw a dramatic increase in its membership, will be providing the Supreme Lodge with insights on this endeavor, but the Supreme Lodge welcomes ideas/suggestions from every chapter and every member as to how to increase our membership. Please let us know what ideas you have!

The Convention Delegates also approved the formation of an ad-hoc committee to study ways in which we can encourage Convention bids from chapters. Please let me know if you have any interest in serving on this committee.

New Officers

We welcome back several familiar faces to the Supreme Lodge- Demosthenis Yiakas, our Counselor, Aspasia Elias, our District 2 Governor, Gus Tsambis, our District 4 Governor, Alexandra Katsas, our District 5 Governor, and Nick Skaros, our District 6 Governor. We also welcome back several familiar faces to the Supreme Lodge in new roles- George Paralemos, our new Vice President, Damianos Skaros, our new Secretary, Cathy Pandeladis, our new Treasurer/Database Manager, Katerina Mavrophilipos, our new District 1 Governor, and James Lakerdas, our new District 4 Governor. We also welcome George Karnavas from the Pharos chapter to the Supreme Lodge as our new Youth Governor. Congratulations to all!

And a most sincere thanks to outgoing Supreme President George Koklanaris for his service to the Brotherhood. I have had the pleasure of serving under five past Supreme Presidents and I learned a great deal from each of them. But the one that has inspired me the most is PSP George Koklanaris. For the past two years, Brother George has demonstrated his passion for that "little pebble in the Aegean" (as he likes to call it) that is Ikaria by spearheading numerous fundraising efforts and working hard to turn them into reality, while somehow always managing to keep things light-hearted and fun. His are very big shoes to fill.

Youth Conference

If your chapter is interested in hosting the 2015 Pan-Icarian Brotherhood Youth Conference, please let us know! It is our preference for a chapter to host the Youth Conference in

conjunction with a chapter event. We will be considering chapters that express interest (and hopefully finalizing the host chapter) at our fall Supreme Lodge meeting. If your chapter is interested in hosting the next Youth Conference, please email George Karnavas, our Youth Governor, at gkarnavas88@gmail.com, as soon as possible.

Your Ideas (and Contact Info)

We want to hear from you! While I and the other Supreme Lodge officers will do our best to lead the Brotherhood into its next stages of growth and development, our Brotherhood is only as strong as its members. So please, let me know what ideas you have, whether it be ideas for improving our Conventions or ways we can increase our membership. You can always reach me by phone at 917-941-4233 or by email at terryplatis@hotmail.com. I look forward to hearing from each of you.

Also, it has come to my attention that many of the local chapters have better email lists of their members than the Supreme Lodge does. In order to make sure that as many of your members as possible receive Brotherhood news, we ask that each chapter President/Secretary send to our webmaster, Dean Tripodes (at dean@baywalk.net), their latest email list.

Social Media

While I plan to continue my predecessors' tradition of a monthly Presidential newsletter, I would like us to stay in contact more frequently. So if you haven't already done so, please like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PanIcarian and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/PanIcarian.

Fraternally yours,

E. Terry Platis

Supreme President