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Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America “ICAROS”

2745 N. Troy, Chicago, IL 60647

Headquarters of the Supreme Lodge

September 30, 2015

My fellow Brothers and Sisters,

I thank you for the continued trust that you placed in me by re-electing me to be your Supreme President for the upcoming year, and I will do my best to serve you. And I want to reiterate the commitment that I made to you last year – I am committed to honoring the Brotherhood’s rich history by continuing the Brotherhood’s fraternal and philanthropic mission of uniting and helping Ikarians.

Pittsburgh Convention News

First, a big thank you to the Icaros Chapter for hosting the 2015 Supreme Convention! The members of the Icaros Chapter put in a tremendous amount of hard work over the past 2+ years to organize this Convention, and the results spoke for themselves- the Convention was well-attended, well-organized, full of unique and memorable events, spirited and productive business meetings and of course, big glendia that lasted into the wee hours of the night. Without a doubt, by any measure, the Convention was a stunning success.

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, 78 scholarships at the Convention (39 undergraduate and 11 graduate scholarships in the United States and Canada and 25 undergraduate and 3 graduate scholarships in Greece).

CT Scanner for the Hospital in Ikarria: The Brotherhood has committed to assisting with the procurement of a very much needed CT scanner for the hospital in Ikarria.

2017 Convention: We are off to Columbus, Ohio for the 2017 Convention, which will be hosted jointly by the Akron and Columbus chapters! The last Convention in Columbus was in 1971, so for many of us, this now hip-city will be a new destination.

New Officers: We welcome back several familiar faces to the Supreme Lodge: George Paralemos, our Vice President, Damianos Skaros, our Secretary, Cathy Pandeladis, our Treasurer/Database Manager, James Lakerdas, in his new role as our Counselor, Katerina Mavrophilipos, our District 1 Governor, Nick Skaros, our District 6 Governor, and George Karnavas, our Youth Governor. We also welcome several new additions to the Supreme Lodge: Jaclyn Sarah Elias-Senich, our new District 2 Governor, Steve Stratakos, our new District 3 Governor, Evangelos Fragos, our new District 4 Governor, and Athena Charnas Pugliese, our new District 5 Governor. Congratulations to all!

PAS IKAROS

Also coming out of this year's Convention, the Brotherhood will be acting as a sponsor for the Panikarios Athletic Association IKAROS (PAS IKAROS) for its 2015-2016 athletic season. PAS IKAROS is the oldest and largest athletic club on the island of Ikaria. For more than 60 years, PAS IKAROS has provided much needed athletic opportunities to the youth in Ikaria and an alternative to dangerous outlets such as drugs. PAS IKAROS currently fields soccer, basketball, volleyball, track & field and tae kwon do teams, with over 250 active participants. In addition, PAS IKAROS has development academies for young children for basketball, volleyball, track & field and tae kwon do in which over 150 children under the age of 12 participate every year.

Team coaches are all volunteers, but the cost of participating in and traveling to athletic events is approximately 25,000 to 30,000 euros annually. The Greek government and the municipality of Ikaria have stopped funding PAS IKAROS due to the current economic crisis in Greece, and the club is now struggling to find ways to cover expenses through funding from athletes, parents and friends (which, due to the economic situation in Greece, has become increasingly difficult).

The Brotherhood believes that it is important that PAS IKAROS be able to continue its mission of providing athletic opportunities for youth living in Ikaria, and while the Brotherhood has committed to send \$3,000 of its existing funds to PAS IKAROS, we hope we can raise much more money than that for this worthy cause! So the Supreme Lodge is beginning a fundraising drive, beginning immediately until December 31, to help raise more money for PAS IKAROS. Please help by sending in an individual donation. We also urge each local chapter of the Brotherhood to make a chapter donation and/or host a fundraiser for this worthy cause.

Please send your donations to: Cathy Pandeladis, 42 Timberline Court, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. Checks should be made out to "Pan-Icarian Brotherhood." Please reference "PAS IKAROS" on the memo line.

New Position – Director of Member Communications

As some of you may have heard at the Convention, we are now seeking an individual to fill a new role for the Brotherhood – Director of Member Communications. The responsibilities of the Director of Member Communications will be to:

- work closely with the Supreme President and other Lodge officers to develop an overall member communication strategy;
- craft engaging member communications on an on-going basis;
- oversee the continued development and administration of our website, which initially will include working with the Brotherhood's existing website administrator; and
- manage the Brotherhood's social media communications.

The ideal candidate will have some communications/social media experience at work and/or be an avid user of social media in his/her free time. The Director of Member Communications will need to stay in frequent contact with the Supreme Lodge in order to develop content, strategy, etc.

Since this new role will require special expertise, the Director of Member Communications will not be a Supreme Lodge officer but will have a more specialized and long-term role, akin to that of our *Ikaria* magazine editor. Initially this will be a one-year, trial-basis position, although our expectation is that the selected individual will remain in the role for more than one year. Initially no stipend will be provided, but the Supreme Lodge will consider providing one in the future depending on the demonstrated amount of work involved. This role has the possibility of being a great resume builder, and of course, this person will have a direct, tangible impact on the Brotherhood on a daily basis.

If you are a member of the Brotherhood and are interested in becoming our new Director of Member Communications, please email the following to me at terryplatis@hotmail.com: (i) a written statement explaining why you are interested in the position and any relevant experience you have, (ii) a copy of your resume and (iii) any social media content (e.g., point us to a Twitter feed, Facebook page, Instagram account, etc.) that you manage and that would like us to look at to evaluate your abilities. The Supreme Lodge will be considering interested candidates at the winter Supreme Lodge meeting (tentatively scheduled for February/March).

Next Supreme Lodge Meeting

Our fall Supreme Lodge meeting will be hosted by the Foutrides chapter in Chicago on Saturday, October 3. If you are in the Chicago or Northwest Indiana area, we hope to see you there!

Social Media

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!

Until next time....

Fraternally yours,

E. Terry Platis

Supreme President