

2016 - 2017 SUPREME
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Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America “ICAROS”

51 Meadow Lane, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577

Headquarters of the Supreme Lodge

September 21, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for electing me as your Supreme President. I am honored by the faith you have placed in me and promise that, along with my fellow Lodge officers, I will take into account each of your interests and voices on the many challenges and issues we will face during the upcoming year. We want you to know that we are committed to honoring the past, continuing our mission and at the same time prepare for the future.

I would also like to thank my home Chapter Pandiki for hosting a very successful convention. The weather was great and the energy and hospitality first rate. However, this could not be accomplished without the hard work of the organizing committees, our members, supporters and friends. Your willingness to donate so much time and money is a testament that the Brotherhood has the foresight and camaraderie necessary for success. Your continued support will enable our children the opportunity to experience our Icarian culture and identity.

Convention Highlights

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

Scholarships: The Foundation Scholarship Committee awarded 46 scholarships in the United States and 33 for Greece. While 79 scholarships are a commendable number, there is always room for growth. I highly encourage every high school senior, college undergraduate and graduate student that meet the scholarship criteria to apply for a scholarship next year.

Foundation: The convention body voted to approve amending the Trust that governs the Foundation. It will give more discretion and greater flexibility to the Foundation members. It will also begin the process to sever our ties with PNC Bank.

Icaria: Mrs. Irene Mavrogeorgis, an Attorney and Representative for the Mayor of Icaria, addressed the body and shared some of the issues and challenges facing the Island. A discussion was also had to participate in a Convention on the Island.

AHEPA: AHEPA Supreme President Andrew Zachariades honored us by addressing the delegates. The President also informed the group on AHEPA's efforts to help build the St. Nicholas Shrine at the site of 9/11.

2018 Convention: The Convention delegates approved the Lefkas Chapter's bid to host the 2018 Convention in Washington, D.C. It has been a while since our last Convention in Washington, D.C., but it has been worth the wait. Plenty has changed, and we can't wait to attend!

New Lodge

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new Supreme Lodge. First, though, I would like to extend a big thank you to outgoing Supreme President E. Terry Platis for her service to the Brotherhood. For the past two years, Sister Terry has demonstrated her passion for the Brotherhood and Icaria in many ways not seen before. You will be missed, but rest assured that we will continue to expand upon your good work. I want to welcome: Damianos T. Skaros, Supreme Vice President; Cathy Pandeladis, Supreme Secretary; Katerina Mavrophilipos Supreme Treasurer; Maria Vardaros, Legal Counsel; Chrissa Lefes, Governor District 1; George Karnavas, Governor District 2; Steve Stratakos, Governor District 3; Evangelos J. Fragos, Governor District 4; Athena Charnas Pugliese, Governor District 5; Nick Skaros, Governor District 6 and Erica Aivaliotis, Youth Governor District 7. Congratulations to all!

Supreme Lodge Meeting

The Supreme Lodge will meet three times before the next Supreme Convention. Our first meeting is scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C. on November 19th. The Lodge will conduct its review of the convention facilities during this meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend this and all future meetings. If there is any other Chapter that would like to host us throughout the year, please reach out to me.

Youth Conference

If your chapter is interested in hosting the 2017 Pan-Icarian Youth Conference, please let the Youth Governor know! It would be ideal for a chapter to host the Youth Conference in conjunction with a chapter event. Hopefully, a decision will be made by our fall Supreme Lodge Meeting. Please email Erica Aivaliotis at ericanna17@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Membership

Our membership numbers continue to be stagnate. This trend has continued for some time now. I believe we can grow our membership back to our centennial numbers by utilizing new tools and methods. For starters, there needs to be constant engagement on the local chapter level to keep up the interest and participation of their members. Let us not forget that everything starts on the

local level. We also know many local chapters have better email lists of the members than the Supreme Lodge. In order to make sure that all your members receive Brotherhood news, important messages and membership reminders, we ask that each chapter provide their latest email lists to us as soon as possible. Lastly, by utilizing and expanding social media tools we are hoping to reach out to the membership and especially our Youth who are the key to our survival and continuity. Please like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PanIcarian and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/PanIcarian.

In closing, please note that the Supreme Lodge officers will do our best to lead the Brotherhood to new heights. However, the Brotherhood is only as strong as its members. Please let us know what ideas or issues you have. We really want to hear from you regardless of how large or small your concerns may be. Please email me anytime at Icaros@aol.com.

Thank you for your time, and once again thank you for your confidence and support!

Fraternally yours,

George Paralemos
Supreme President