



American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association

AHEPACanada.org



ROYAL CANADIAN DISTRICT #24
MANITOBA SASKACHEWAN ALBERTA

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AHEPA DISTRICT #24 ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2007-08

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as AHEPA District #24 Governor since elected at the Winnipeg 2006 District Convention. It has been a pleasure to help launch the AHEPA Family Charitable Foundation of Canada Journey to Greece Scholarship and serve as Chair of this Scholarship Committee since 2006. It has also been gratifying to continue serving as Chair of the Winnipeg AHEPA Chapter's Scholarship Committee. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the District #24 Lodge Officers for both AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope for their contributions, as well as the Chapter Executive Officers in District #24. Furthermore, I would like to highlight constructive interactions with our Canadian Presidents for AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope and other Directors of the AHEPA Family Charitable Foundation of Canada.

It was delightful to arrange several visits to our AHEPA Chapters in Regina, Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg and participate in the 2007 Banff and 2008 Saskatoon District Conventions. The Brothers and Sisters I met were all great hosts and offered outstanding hospitality, true to our Hellenic tradition of «φιλοξενεία» ("filoxenia"). Our Chapters are the strength of our Districts, as well as to our AHEPA Family Charitable Foundation of Canada. The Chapter activity highlights outlined below provide inspiration and plenty to be proud. Support for our Orthodox Churches, Cultural Centres, Greek Schools, Greek Camps, dance groups, cultural festivals and sports clubs keep Hellenism in our District dynamic (over \$170,000 donated throughout District #24 in 2007-08). Fund raising for charitable causes that benefit all Canadians in our communities keep us contributing citizens (more than \$120,000 donated throughout District #24 in 2007-08). Scholarship programs for University students and Hellenic studies encourage higher education, excellence and perpetuate Hellenic ideals (over \$13,000 offered for scholarships throughout District #24 in 2008). Participation in National activities, such as fund raising for Fire Relief in Greece, expresses our philanthropy (direct donations or participation in collaborative fund raising efforts resulted in over \$130,000 throughout District #24).

A new project which has national and international implications and is in accordance with AHEPA's primary goals is the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. The Winnipeg AHEPA Chapter at its April 1, 2008 meeting decided to support this unique facility, scheduled to be built within a year. The Chapter formed a special committee to focus AHEPA's efforts and advance opportunities for including Hellenic

human rights issues in the museum. A presentation on this project was made at the District #24 Convention in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on May 31st, 2008, which included a Board of Directors Meeting of the AHEPA Family Charitable Foundation of Canada. Both District #24 and the Canadian Foundation are supportive of this Winnipeg AHEPA Chapter initiative. It is hoped that a presentation on this Museum will be made at the AHEPA Supreme Convention in Athens. More information for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights is available through a 13 minute professional video and the website: www.humanrightsmuseum.ca/

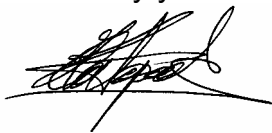
The mission of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights is to advance understanding and support for human rights in Canada and throughout the world. This is in keeping with the primary goals of AHEPA. Canada's first federal museum devoted to the topic of Human Rights is envisioned to be a national and international destination -- a centre of learning and history where Canadians and people from other countries can engage in dialogue and commit to taking action to combat the forces of hate and oppression. Located in Winnipeg, at the cross roads of Canada, this first federal institution outside Ottawa, is envisioned to be the largest human rights centre in the world, with a special focus on equipping and educating young people to become human rights leaders and advocates.

I would like to congratulate all Chapters and their members in Royal Canadian District #24 for their activities and achievements. Each Chapter is making a difference in their respective cities. This difference is felt not only among the Hellenic Communities, Orthodox Churches and Greek Schools, but among our other fellow Canadians as well. Collectively our Chapters contribute so much to District #24, AHEPA in Canada and AHEPA Headquarters. It is worth noting that Chapter achievements are the labour of love of a few members. This bears witness to the strength and dedication of these few. I salute them and on behalf of AHEPA express my deepest appreciation and thanks. This situation also demonstrates that our brotherhood with its long history is resilient and could have even higher aspirations with additional and more active members.

We continue our efforts to keep our AHEPA Family at the Chapter, District, National and International level relevant, dynamic and worthy of our glorious Hellenic Heritage. Each AHEPA Chapter is a link in a global Hellenic chain, a chain that unites us, perpetuates our Heritage and connects us to the deep roots of eternal and ecumenical Hellenism. We continue our efforts to keep our AHEPA Chapters as dynamic links in this global Hellenic chain.

Συνεχίζουμε τις προσπάθειες μας να κρατήσουμε κάθε Τμήμα της ΑΧΕΠΑ αντάξιο της ένδοξης κληρονομιάς μας καί ένα δυναμικό κρίκο στην παγκόσμια αλυσίδα πού ενώνει τον αιώνιο, οικουμενικό ελληνισμό.

Fraternally yours



Christos Katopodis, P.Eng.
AHEPA Governor, District #24

AHEPA DISTRICT #24 CHAPTER ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2007-08

Winnipeg AHEPA Chapter, Polikos Aster CJ08

- Continue to support the Greek Community: The Winnipeg AHEPA (\$75,000) and Daughters of Penelope (\$25,000) Chapters officially presented a cheque for \$100,000 at the ground breaking ceremony in September 2007 for the Manitoba Hellenic Cultural Centre which in June 2008 is nearly completed.
- Chapter CJ8 continues to assist with efforts in the Greek parish and local community. \$2,000 was donated to the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church; an additional \$500 supported St. Demetrios Golf Tournament, \$350 for the Greek Camp, and the cost of a gym facility for a Pan-Orthodox youth basketball tournament. Also, in an effort to promote the teaching of the Greek language our Chapter donated \$1,500 toward the local Greek School.
- Organized with the Daughters of Penelope Chapter the annual AHEPA Day, «Μνημόσυνο» (“Mnemosyno”) and brunch (June 2007); remembering members of the AHEPA Family that have passed on.
- Initiated 9 new members.
- Organized with the Daughters of Penelope Chapter, the “Greek Islands Pavilion”, part of Folklorama Festival of Nations (August 2007), promoting intercultural understanding. Winnipeg’s Folklorama is the largest and longest running multicultural event of its kind in the World. Through the dedication and ardent efforts of over 200 volunteers, including the Maids of Athena, the “Greek Islands Pavilion” has been a success since 1991. The Pavilion promoted Hellenic culture, celebrated diversity and mutual understanding among Canadians, brought young and old together in a display of heritage pride, and elevated the level of multi-cultural awareness.
- Hosted a summer picnic at Assiniboine Park in conjunction with the Daughters and Maids (Sept. 2007). AHEPA Family members, friends and youth attended the summer-filled event with proceeds raised for the Greek School.
- In the wake for tragic fires in Greece, the Chapter donated \$1,000 for the relief efforts through the AHEPA Family Charitable Foundation of Canada (Sept. 2007).
- Organized the annual “OXI Day”—October 28th Banquet, honouring the heroes of 1940 and promoting the significance of Hellenic culture.
- Presented annual scholarships to students at the “OXI Day” Banquet. Between 1990 and 2007, 52 scholarships worth \$53,000 were awarded to our University students. In recent years the AHEPA scholarship program in Manitoba consisted of 4 scholarships worth \$1000 each. Through the efforts of the Scholarship Committee and benefactors in our community the Scholarship Program is offering \$9500 for 6 scholarships in 2008. Four of these scholarships offered by the AHEPA Chapter are worth \$1500 each. A fifth scholarship, offered for the first time by the Daughters of

Penelope Chapter is worth \$1000. The sixth scholarship, for anyone taking Hellenic Studies, is worth \$2500, and is offered for the first time by the AHEPA Chapter.

- Organized a Grey Cup fundraising raffle with all \$990 in proceeds donated to the Siloam Mission and Children's Wish Foundation (November 2007).
- At a forum for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Chapter has publicly pledged to support the project through upcoming charitable events. The Museum, a world class Canadian facility, will promote international human rights through technological interactive learning and history. Chapter members urge the District, AHEPA in Canada and the Supreme Lodge to join us in support of this most worthy institution (April 2008).
- Hosting with the Daughters of Penelope Chapter, the first ever outdoor Greek Festival in Manitoba, in late June 2008, with an emphasis on youth involvement.

Edmonton AHEPA Chapter, Aurora Borealis CJ10

- Continue to support the Greek Community: A donation of \$3,000 was made to the Philoptochos Society and a donation of \$2,000 was made to the Daughters of Penelope Chapter.
- The Chapter is donating a third \$24,000 instalment to the University of Alberta for the AHEPA Prize Scholarship Fund. By the end of June 2008 the endowment fund will be \$72,000.
- Continued charitable activities for the year and made donations totalling \$4500 to a variety of philanthropic organizations including Hope, the Salvation Army Mission, Sanatas Anonymous, Christmas Bureau of Edmonton, Mustard Seed Street Ministry and Edmonton Women's Shelter.
- Directly contributed to Greek Fire Relief fund raising efforts \$5,000. More importantly the Chapter collaborated with Hellenic Communities and a German Society in Edmonton who together raised more than \$50,000 which were matched by the Alberta Government. As a result over \$100,000 were spent on planting olive trees in Greece in the Spring of 2008.

Calgary AHEPA Chapter, Omirou Othisia CJ11

- Continue to support the Greek Community: The Chapter raised \$50,000 for the Greek School of Calgary and surrounding area. Each June the chapter recognizes the efforts of the top students in each grade of Calgary's Greek School with AHEPA certificates and medals of achievement. The Chapter supplied \$5,000 worth of furnishings to the recently formed Hellenic Senior's Society of Calgary and further donations were made to the Greek Radio Program and the Philoptochos Society. AHEPA members continue to assist with the

Community's Greek Festival held annually over three days in June.

- The Chapter has presented the top students in Calgary's AHEPA Family and the Greek Community with two annual scholarships totalling \$1800.
- The Chapter continues to furnish the Hellenic library it established for the education of the citizens of Calgary. The library contains possibly the largest and most varied collection of Hellenic publications in Canada.
- AHEPA Family Memorial Day is held in November, providing an opportunity to pay tribute to dear departed brothers and sisters.
- The Annual AHEPA Family Christmas Party is held at the Hellenic Cultural Centre (December). Along with caroling and plenty of refreshments, gifts are presented to all children in attendance.
- An annual AHEPA Family Bowling Tournament is held (February). The event is held not only for the Ahepans and Daughters but also as a vehicle to assist the local Maids in recruiting new members and possibly bring interested young men in hopes of re-establishing a Sons Chapter.
- In an effort to put on an event that is inexpensive and family oriented, the Chapter put on a Spaghetti Night and Dance on March 1, 2008. Tickets were \$10/person, which resulted in a good response from the Greeks in Calgary. The Chapter was able to raise \$3100. Participants appear to favor events like this over some of the more formal banquets organized in previous years.
- The FYROM issue raised strong emotions from the Chapter membership. The Chapter put on a campaign last summer to contact and make members feelings were known to all the Members of Parliament from Alberta. Since Alberta's MP's are all on the government side of the House members thought they could persuade some to vote against Private Members Bill C-443. Apparently the Chapter's member's pleas fell on deaf ears. Members were extremely disappointed with the Canadian Government's decision to pass this Bill.
- Supported philanthropic organizations such as the University of Calgary's Art History 2008 Excursion to Greece, Mustard Seed Street Ministry and the Red Cross.
- Awaiting approval from the Alberta Gaming Commission to donate \$25,000 to the AHEPA Charitable Foundation of Canada for Greek Fire Relief.

Regina AHEPA Chapter, CJ13

- Continue to support our Greek Community: Chapter members along with the South Saskatchewan Greek Golf Charity, held the 10th Annual Regina Greek Open golf tournament (June 2007). The tournament raised almost \$9,000 which

helped the Greek Community. AHEPA was the beneficiary of \$2,500 which in turn, donated \$1,500 to the "AHEPA Plant an Olive Tree in Greece Campaign" which assists the victims of the 2007 fires in Greece.

- The Chapter held the annual Grey Cup party at the AHEPA Centre (November 2007). This event was extra special this year because our beloved Roughriders captured the GREY CUP!!!!
- The Chapter participated in "The Adopt a Family for Christmas Campaign" (December 2007). The membership purchased groceries, necessities and gifts for one of Regina's less fortunate families.
- The 14th annual "Evening in Greece" was held on February 23rd, 2008. This event is jointly hosted by Regina's AHEPA Family as well as St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Community of Regina. This year, it was another sell-out and over \$115,000 was raised for Regina's Charities. These funds were distributed as follows: \$ 65,000 to Hospitals of Regina Foundation; \$ 35,000 to Regina Palliative Care; \$ 10,000 to Therapeutic Horse riders Association.
- The Chapter teamed up with the Regina Greek Soccer Team and held a Casino Night Poker Tournament at Casino Regina; this event raised \$1,700 to sponsor Team Greece's entry into the World Cup of Soccer tournament held at the end of April 2008.
- The Regina AHEPA Centre continues to be well received from our membership and the Greek Community. Other than our monthly meetings, the centre is always being utilized, by the many dance groups, members of the band Arcadia or just some friends getting together.
- The Chapter is hosting the AHEPA Summer Festival («Πανηγύρι» or Panegyri) in August. This outdoor event brings families together for a day of food, drink, games and fun. The festival is a great way to enjoy a beautiful Saskatchewan summer afternoon.