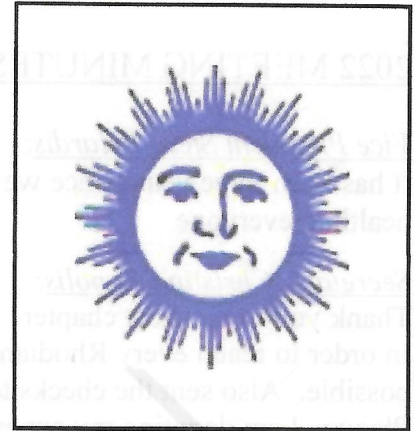


**MEETING MINUTES OF
THE PAN-RHODIAN SOCIETY OF AMERICA “APOLLON” INC.
94th ANNUAL CONVENTION /STORRS, CONNECTICUT
OCTOBER 15 and 16, 2022**



The 94th Convention meeting of the Pan-Rhodian Society of America “Apollon” Inc. took place on Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16, 2022 hosted by the Hartford Chapter No. 1 at the UConn Center for Hellenic Studies Paideia in Storrs, Connecticut.

Saturday, October 15, 2022

Supreme President Ilias Tomazos welcomed all delegates and visitors and began at 11:00 am with a prayer. A memorial prayer for all deceased members and a moment of silence was held before the proceedings began.

The Roll Call of Delegates produced a quorum as follows:

NAME	CHAPTER/AUXILIARY	DELEGATE
1. Ilias Tomazos	Supreme Lodge	President
2. Steve Pelardis	Supreme Lodge	Vice President
3. Christina Kapolis	Supreme Lodge	Secretary
4. William Angelis (via zoom)	Supreme Lodge	Treasurer
5. Emmanuel Lergos	Hartford Chapter No. 1	Delegate
6. Chrisanthy Psaras	Hartford Chapter No. 1	Delegate
7. Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos	Hartford Chapter No. 1	Delegate
8. Costas Fas	Hartford Chapter No. 1	Delegate
9. Nikos Kartalis	New York Chapter No. 3	Delegate
10. Kalliopi Ziangos	New York Chapter No. 3	Delegate
11. Eleni Sakellis	New York Chapter No. 3	Delegate
12. Maria Tomazos	Soroniates	Delegate
13. John Fotiou	Baltimore	Delegate
14. Nicholas Loutsion (via zoom)	Past Supreme President	Delegate
15. Christos Kotiadis	Past Supreme President	Delegate

The Aliquippa Men’s Chapter No. 5 and the Aliquippa Ladies Auxiliary No. 1 were not represented.

Election of Convention Officers

To oversee the proceedings of the convention, the following were elected: Nikos Kartalis, Chairman; Emmanuel Lergos, Vice-Chairman; Eleni Sakellis, Secretary.

Election of Auditing Committee

The three-member committee elected to audit the books of the Supreme Lodge was: John Fotiou, Christina Kapolis and Emmanuel Lergos.

Supreme Lodge Officers’ Reports

President Ilias Tomazos:

Apollon has made significant developments noting that the main themes: the Kolympia Camp for young children and the Statue of Dorieas, which will be discussed later. Much was accomplished in Rhodes with the cooperation of the local community. Efforts were made to keep everyone informed by email. With the onset of COVID our plans to visit each chapter, Canada and Australia were derailed. Many Canadians have joined us and are all good colleagues. The Pre-convention in Rhodes was held in Gennadi, noting that ‘the shadow of the COVID is still over us.’ With the passing of Stelios Kamais and many members of the community and supporters, efforts were made to move forward. Plans are coming along with the Kolympia Camp Project. The President of the Australian Chapter sends his best wishes for a successful convention. The Sydney Australian chapter has \$3 million in assets, buildings, etc.

Vice President Steve Pelardis:

It has been three years since we saw everyone in person and shared his best wishes for the convention and good health to everyone

Secretary, Christina Kapolis:

Thank you to our host chapter. I have sent out correspondence and emails at the request of President Tomazos. In order to reach every Rhodian, please send us your list of members and non-members with as many emails as possible. Also sent the checks to the scholarship recipients. Presented Philip Anastasiadis, Rhodian of the Year Plaque. I am donating my expenses.

Treasurer, William Angelis: Via Zoom

Expressed the challenges facing us during COVID. The following was his report:

Checking Account:	\$13,521.59
Rhodian Professionals:	3,681.80
Kolympia Camp	18,490.00
CD	6,140.74
RODOS URI	1,387.24
Dorieas	2,614.11

Six Hundred Dollars was sent to Rhodes for the Tree Planting Project.

MOTION to accept the Officers' Reports was entertained, seconded and passed unanimously.

Pre-Convention in Rhodes

President Tomazos gave an overview of the pre-convention in Rhodes. Visits were made to the cemeteries in Koskinou, Apolakia, and Larma. Each visit we were accompanied with the Priest from each village. The meeting in Gennadi was attended by many clergymen and were moved that a memorial service as held. We were all very grateful that Stelios Kamais had planned everything before his passing. Stavros Akouris assisted and great thanks to the President of the Gennadinon Society. The events were covered by the local TV news channel. People attended from the surrounding villages. With so many Rhodians leaving and immigrating to other countries it has affected the area. Encouraged them to bring their youth from the diaspora to visit the villages. At the dinner in Vrises, a young student from Rhodes, who came out the top in the Panhellenic exams, was given \$100.

Scholarships

Two scholarship applicants were presented to the delegates. Stelios Halioris of New York Chapter No. 3 and Christina Marie Czambel of Aliquippa Ladies Auxiliary No. 1.

MOTION: Award \$1000 to the college students. Motion passed unanimously.

Each Chapter is responsible for notifying their members that scholarship applications are available online and are due 2 months before the convention.

At this time two visitors were welcomed: Mr. John Kouveas and his mother Presvytera Ioanna.

Website

Website: panrhodian.org. Healthy discussion to bring "Apollon" to the forefront. Brother Koveas has experience with websites and is willing to help update the current site. Social media also needs some work as well as the Society's logo. Brothers Koveas and Kartalis are willing to volunteer their services to help in the updating. Communicate directly with our webmaster, Mr. Capranica at tony.capranica@gmail.com

H.A.N.C.

The Hellenic American National Council. Supreme Vice President Steve Pelardis attended their meeting in Washington DC and paid the Society's dues. Vasilios Mataranzas pledged \$2000 towards the tree planting.

Chapters' Reports

Hartford, Chapter No. 1

Due to COVID things are frozen. People are being careful, so they have not had events as they had in the past. Hopefully, they will be able to do an event. Donation of \$10,000 to the Kolymia Camp was made. Manolis Lergos, Chapter President, pledged \$12,000 to the Kolymia Project. To bring youth in, they had Greek Nights, 40 attended the first one, then only 10 at the next one.

New York Chapter No. 3

In January, Kalliopi Ziagos, Vice President of our chapter, participated in the tree planting, and indeed planted the first tree of the effort in Rhodes. In May, the Spring Mixer was held, 60 people attending including President Tomazos, Federation of Dodecanese Societies, President Maria Marangos and representatives of other Dodecanese societies and many non-Rhodians. Books were available for purchase at the event as well. Plans for the Rhodian Spotlight project, an interview-article showcasing a Rhodian and his/her accomplishments, etc. The chapter has yet to change the previous Treasurer's name on the bank account, but there is \$5,000 in the account. \$1000 from the Vasilopita and \$1000 from the Spring Mixer.

Aliquippa, Men's Chapter No. 5 and Ladies Auxiliary No. 1

Not Represented. Held a picnic in July.

Warren, Chapter No. 9

Have not had an official meeting, have held Facetime, and calls.

- * Vasilopita donation
- * Gave \$100 scholarship to a Rhodian high school student
- * Sponsored a booth and worked our church Festival
- * Sponsored two golf outings

Canonsburg-Pittsburgh, Chapter No. 24

- * Vasilopita participant
- * Hold a meeting every three months with a fantastic dinner – women bring dessert (everyone welcome)
- * March 25 celebration
- * Trying to get the youth involved
- * Ayios Fanourios celebrated and funded

New Jersey, Chapter No. 25

*Not doing well. Not operating, have decided to close the chapter. Women are doing better and continue meeting for coffee. \$2000-\$3000 donated to the women's chapter, Ay. Isidoros. Facing challenges and misunderstandings. Maybe the women can take over the chapter. Chairman Kartalis suggested they should update, connect with the homeland, reach out to the Consulate, host book presentations, not just dinner-dances.

Point of Order: Secretary Christina pointed out the chapter cannot dissolve itself. Article 9c of our Constitution prohibits a chapter from dissolution.

Τμήμα Ρόδου

Dynamic and our largest chapter. Lazaros Kasekas, President; Georgios Stefanou; Stefanos Hrisalos; Theodora Konstantinopoulou; Georgios Boniatis.

Chicago Chapter

Tried to contact them, but COVID prevented an in-person meeting. President Tomazos plans to visit this chapter.

Baltimore

Organized in 1974, now struggling. Had big event on March 7, with His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia present. Some of the societies are dedicated to specific villages in Rhodes and are staying separate from the Pan-Rhodian. The Bishop asked them: 'Isn't the village part of Rhodes?'. It should be noted that all Rhodian should be under one umbrella.

President Tomazos shared a message from the New Democracy Member of Parliament Dodecanesean, Manos Konsolas.

Chairman Kartalis read the messages from President Lazaros Kasekas, Rodos Chapter, and from Dodecanese Federation President Maria Marangos with best wishes for the convention, noting that the Dodecanese Federation wants to donate a house in the Kolympia Camp.

Old Business

University of Rhode Island – RODOS Building

Professor Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos and President Ilias Tomazos shared an update on the situation. Following the court's decision in our favor, it went to arbitration. The decision from the arbitrator is December 18. About 35% of the construction is completed. After the positive decision, work must begin immediately. President Tomazos thanked Mr. John Koveas for his wonderful support.

Dorieas Bronze Statue

A sculptor from Rhodes was engaged, but it did not work out. Five sculptors in Greece were contacted and each submitted a model of their proposed version of the statue. COVID delayed the meetings. President Tomazos met with the Deputy Mayor of Rhodes. The designs will be sent to their office to await their decision, since the statue will be installed there. It was agreed to limit the number of designs to be two or three choices. Then the Council in Rhodes would make the decision. A letter would be sent to the relevant officials in Rhodes to make the decision, since the effort has been ongoing for two years and we would like to see a result. More than half of the funds have been collected. During the course of the construction of the Spartan Museum, President Tomazos met with a sculptor from Sparta, who would make the base of the statue just for the cost of the material.

Kolympia Apollon Camp for young kids

The Camp of Kolympia is for all the children of Rhodes, those living abroad and those living there. While there is support in Rhodes for the project, the villages are emptying out, the new administration has been as warm in their reception. A meeting in July regarding the camp, led to a proposal that put time restrictions on the construction and that the Municipality would take back the structures and land if the camp was not completed on time. It was agreed that a lawyer should prepare a revision of the proposal for the camp, and a partnership agreement, since the camp is for the children of Rhodes wherever they happen to live all over the world.

Rhodian University Students Association Apollon

At UConn, the president of the Students Association is trying to attract students from other universities across the country, gathering contact info so they can keep in touch.

Auditing Committee Report

The Auditing Committee submitted the report and found the Society's financial records to be in order. MOTION to adopt the audit committee's report was seconded and passed unanimously. Report is attached.

New Business

Gennadiou President set up internships to visit villages for a longer time period. This is good for their resume and as an experience, similar to the program already bringing students from the Czech Republic to Rhodes. Rhodian youth from the United States should also have a similar program.

Good of the Society

Pan-Rhodian Society of America needs dedicated email for President and Secretary, so the signature will be official. Plans for going to Toronto, Canada to wake up "sleeping" chapters. Nikos Kartalis said more engagement is needed with current Greek issues, such as the statement released concerning the conversion of Agia Sophia into a mosque.

Good of the Society - continued

Steve Pelardis to reach out to chapters via zoom, quarterly or twice a year. Reach out to Florida, Tarpon Springs and Prometheus Pan Hellenic Cultural Center.

President Tomazos added the family from Trianta in California.

Convention Host 2023

Supreme President, Ilias Tomazos suggested the convention be held in Pennsylvania so that more would be involved.

Election of Supreme Lodge Officers

President: Ilias Tomazos **Vice President:** Nikos Kartalis
Secretary: Christina Kapolis **Treasurer:** William Angelis

The above were nominated and seconded. Motion passed. The oath was administered by Brother Costas Fas. The meeting concluded with the Benediction.

President Tomazos stated that we will do the best we can and thanked everyone for attending and electing the Board.

Secretary Christina Kapolis the motion to adjourn, second by Emmanuel Lergos. Meeting adjourned in prayer.

A very nice dinner was held at Lake View Restaurant where the Society Honored 2022 Rhodian of the Year Emmanuel Psaras, Gennadion Society Omonoia President.

Sunday, October 16

Attended the Divine Liturgy, Artoklasia and a blessing of the fanouropita at the Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Chapel at the UConn's Center for Hellenic Studies Paideia. President Tomazos thanked everyone for their presence and support. He noted that it was about the same time of year that the chapel opened in 1995. Erected in an authentic Byzantine style, the chapel includes icons and mosaics by artists from Greece. Dr. Irini Grapsia, Acting Coordinator of Education for the Consulate General of Greece in New York was introduced. She noted the Center's tremendous progress since her previous visit a few years ago and how the love of the homeland and the faith here are not only words, but also deeds. She added that in her role at the Coordinating Office of Education, she would continue to support the Center's efforts. President Tomazos then introduced the two archaeologists from Greece who were visiting the Spartan Museum for a consultation ahead of an exhibit on the archaeology of Sparta.

A delicious luncheon prepared by Maria Tomazos was then served.

A tour of the spectacular Spartan Museum and the open air all marble Greek Theater Alexander the Greek concluded the weekend events.

Nikos Kartalis, Chairman

Emmanuel Lergos, Vice Chairman

**Respectfully submitted,
Eleni Sakellis and Kalliopi Ziagos, Secretary**

