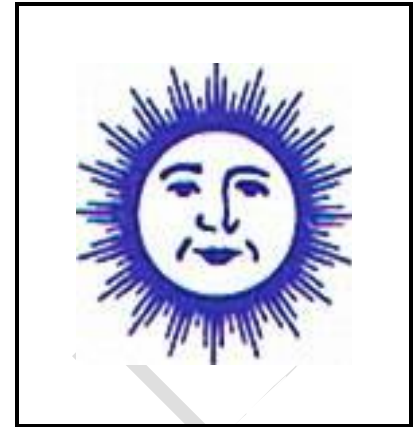


**MEETING MINUTES OF
THE PAN-RHODIAN SOCIETY OF AMERICA “APOLLON” INC.
94th ANNUAL CONVENTION /WINDSOR/DETROIT, CANADA
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023**



The 94th Convention meeting of the Pan-Rhodian Society of America “Apollon” Inc. began at 10:15 am on Saturday, October 21 hosted by the Colossos Chapter at the Hellenic Cultural Centre of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Photios Filippakis, President of the Colossos Chapter of the Pan-Rhodian Society, welcomed guests. 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. Christina Kapolis	Supreme Lodge	Secretary
3. William Angelis	Supreme Lodge	Treasurer
4. Chrysostomos Michalakis	Supreme Lodge	Delegate
5. Photios Filippakis	Colossos, President	Delegate
6. Maria Michos	Colossos, Vice President	Delegate
7. Ilias Sarikas	Colossos, Secretary	Delegate
8. Christine Margaritis	Colossos, Assistant Secretary	Delegate
9. Stylianos Shepard	Colossos (Indiana)	Delegate

Election of Convention Officers

To oversee the proceedings of the convention, the following were elected: Ilias Tomazos, Chairman; Chrysostomos Michalakis, Vice-Chairman; Christine Margaritis, Secretary.

Election of Auditing Committee

The three-member committee elected to audit the books of the Supreme Lodge was: Savas Koutsonicolas, Stelianos Tsopanakis and Vasilis Halkitis.

Supreme Lodge Officers’ Reports

President Ilias Tomazos:

Apollon has made significant strides to help Rhodes for over 100 years. 1920-24 the Rhodians from the United States sent Gold liras to Rhodian agricultural communities as well as money secretly to various villages to pay for dowries for young women as was the practice back then. It is important to remember the history of past Rhodians and must not allow the Rhodian chain to break because of such things like the Pandemic which put a stop to everything. We as Rhodians need to stick together. The Pan-Rhodian Society of Windsor/Detroit “Colossos” is one of the strongest Rhodian Chapters. We are trying to develop a Historical Record of our Culture and Traditions. Keep the 7th of March ensomatisi. We commend Mrs. Angeliki Halkitis of Windsor for teaching the Greek language to the children of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church. Also, Christine Margaritis for teaching Greek dancing for over 30 years to all Greek children in Windsor. Panagiotis Nychis from Asklipio taught the priests in Boston. Mrs. Evangelia Cantakis taught Greek for many, many years traveling by bus to nearby towns in Pennsylvania. We must thank all those we don’t know by name who have contributed to teaching the Greek language. Thank you to everyone here today.

Vice President Chrysostomos Michalakis:

Chrysostomos thanked all the out-of-town guests and the Windsor/Detroit Pan-Rhodian Chapter, and asked them to stay positive and move on.

Colossos Chapter Windsor/Detroit

President Photios Filippakis relayed the year's challenges for the Pan-Rhodian Society of Windsor/Detroit. This year's annual dance had 250 guests. One musician was brought from Rhodes, which caused some unforeseen costs associated with this event. The hurdles we face here is we need more participation from our members. At one time we had a youth group which went to Cedar Point every year which was organized and chaperoned by Stergo and Mary Anastasas. We also had an annual picnic for our members with several volunteers. We would like to start these programs up again as well as other programs.

Treasurer, William Angelis:

The following was his report:

Checking Account:	\$13,475.80
Rhodian Professionals:	3,549.80
Kolympia Camp	17,290.00
CD	6,141.97
RODOS URI	1,387.52
Dorieas	2,614.63
Wildfire Relief Fund	4,873.31

Six Hundred Euros were sent to Rhodes for the Tree Planting Project.

Scholarships

The Scholarship Fund is separate from the Pan-Rhodian Society's accounts. Since the Chase Bank account was not earning interest, the Scholarship Committee voted to transfer the \$47,251.50 to Wells Fargo. The Scholarship Fund now has \$163,983.

Three scholarship applicants were presented to the delegates. Athanasios Gioupas from New York Chapter No. 3, Maria Anastasiades from Warren Chapter No 9 and Konstantina Giansidi from the Rhodes Chapter.

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. Each chapter is to hold a fundraiser to support the Scholarship Fund.

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. Each year the pre-conventions are held in a different village in Rhodes. Rhodians attend from the surrounding villages. This year the pre-convention will be held in Apollakia, Sunday, July 28, 2024.

Old Business

Dorieas Bronze Statue

President Ilias gave a brief history of the ancient Rhodian athlete who sided with Sparta during the Peloponnesian War. At the 2018 Pan-Rhodian convention, the delegates voted to donate a statue of Dorieas to the City of Rhodes. With the onset of the Covid Pandemic, the project was put on hold. An amount of \$10,400 has been raised towards the cost of approximately 25,000 euros. Five sculptors in Greece were contacted and each submitted a model of their proposed version of the statue. 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. It is important that we honour the heroes of Rhodes, from ancient Rhodes as well as those Rhodians who raised money to help Rhodes during the occupation. We have learned of the many volunteers who helped in the past and must recognize those villages from which they came. We need to go to the Mayor of the City of Rhodes to learn how we can honour these Rhodians who gave so much for the progress of Rhodes, otherwise their deeds will be forgotten.

July 2023 Fires

The Pan-Rhodian Society “Apollon” of the United States/Canada is already known for assisting. More than 20,000 tourists and locals were forced to flee homes and seaside hotels. This year, of significant importance is how the fires were helped by the local people of Rhodes, especially the youth. They did what had to be done by using their motorbikes to go where cars could not. Those who set the fires wanted to ruin the tourist economy of Rhodes, but the young local Rhodians saved the island with their quick actions. The Apolloniatises from Apollona were first to offer assistance during this year’s fires. These women are truly heroines. This was a great example of the love they have for their island. A representative from Great Britain’s government came to thank the Rhodian people for offering hospitality to the British tourists, which in turn brought more tourists the following months.

Professional Rhodian Organization

This organization was initiated by Pavlos Pavlidis of Cleveland, Ohio. The new president is Christos Michalakis. The organization requires the names and emails from all professionals in order to bring the younger adults closer through networking. This organization has their own account and raised funds to purchase chairs for the Red Cross of the hospital in Rhodes. The Rodiaki newspaper praised the group for their actions, which impressed the local Rhodians. These young adults need to get together at the pre-convention so that they can establish their goals. Father Nektarios from Tharri is responsible for the Tharri TV station every Sunday, which would help the Professional Rhodian Organization spread their wings.

Rhodian University Students Association Apollon

The future lies within our youth. 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.

New Business

Conference for the Environment

Professor Andrezej Rutkowski from the University of California to give a presentation in Apollona on March 12, 2024 in regards to the environment and to help in data research. Bring in experts from Rhodes. Motion to support this conference passed.

Research Forestry Department

A request for the Pan-Rhodian Society to purchase a tranquilizer rifle to anesthetize the animals for medical care. The proposed budget is \$3000.00 for a rifle and ammunition. Motion was made and passed to formalize a committee of three: Photios Filippakis, Dr. Loukia Agapis and Dr. Nick Loutsion.

Jewish Community of Rhodes

Entzedakis, a Greek Historian, wrote that the Jewish organization is the oldest in Rhodes and there should be a memorial service to honour them. It was recommended that a recognition of the 80 Year Anniversary of the Jewish people in Rhodes be held.

Good of the Society

Request was made to receive videos and other educational information for our organization at no cost. Secretary Christina Kapolis stated that due to the Covid in 2020 and 2021, we have not held conventions. This is actually our 94th year and to include this in the minutes to verify the presidentship tenure. President Ilias Tomazos commended the newly organized Toronto Chapter and the new president, Tharrenos Kasekas. The chapter has organized a dance group with over 50 participating. Bravo! Recommendation: Hold Zoom meetings.

Convention Host 2024

Supreme President, Ilias Tomazos suggested the convention be held in Hartford, Connecticut. Motion made and passed.

Election of Supreme Lodge Officers

President: Ilias Tomazos

Vice President: Chrysostomos Michalakis

Secretary: Christina Kapolis

Treasurer: William Angelis

Vice Presidents from the Canadian Chapters: Windsor and Toronto to choose

The above were nominated and seconded. Motion passed. The oath was administered.

The meeting concluded with the Benediction.

Ilias Tomazos, Chairman

**Respectfully submitted,
Christine Margaritis, Secretary**