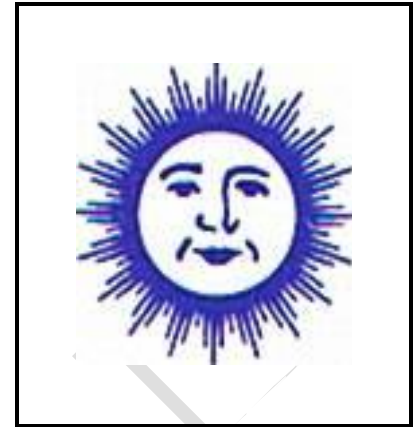


**MEETING MINUTES OF
THE PAN-RHODIAN SOCIETY OF AMERICA “APOLLON” INC.
95th ANNUAL CONVENTION /STORRS, CONNECTICUT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2024**



The 95th Convention meeting of the Pan-Rhodian Society of America “Apollon” Inc. began at 10:38 am on Sunday, October 13 hosted by the Hartford Chapter No 1. at the Center for Hellenic Studies Paideia in Storrs, Connecticut.

Supreme President, Mr. Ilias Tomazos, welcomed all the delegates and students in attendance. A memorial prayer for all deceased members and a moment of silence was held before the proceedings began. The church service was held on Saturday with the memorial koliva prepared by Chrysanthi Psaras.

The Roll Call of Delegates produced a quorum as follows:

| NAME | CHAPTER/AUXILIARY | DELEGATE |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Ilias Tomazos | Supreme Lodge | President |
| 2. Chrysostomos Michalakis | Supreme Lodge | Vice President (Zoom) |
| 3. William Angelis | Supreme Lodge | Treasurer |
| 4. Christina Kapolis | Supreme Lodge | Secretary |
| 5. Kitsa Aivazis | Chapter 9, President | Delegate |
| 6. Alex Mantalis | Chapter 9 | Delegate (Zoom) |
| 7. Tharrenos Kasekas | Toronto, Canada Chapter, President | Delegate (Zoom) |
| 8. Steve Pelardis | Past Supreme President | Delegate (Zoom) |
| 9. Manolis Lergos | Hartford Chapter 1, President | Delegate |
| 10. Chrysanthi Psaras | Hartford Chapter 1, Secretary | Delegate |
| 11. Constantinos Fas | Hartford Chapter 1 | Delegate |
| 12. Connie Fas | Hartford Chapter 1 | Delegate |
| 13. John Giarenakis | Hartford Chapter 1 | Delegate |
| 14. Sophia Menoutis | Rhodian University Student Association | Delegate |
| 15. Christina Tomcak | Rhodian University Student Association | Delegate |
| 16. Maria Aspris | Rhodian University Student Association | Delegate |
| 17. Eleftherios Tsikis | Rhodian University Student Association | Alternate |
| 18. Maria Tomazos | Soroniates | Delegate |

Election of Convention Officers

To oversee the proceedings of the convention, the following were elected: Kitsa Aivasis, Chairman; Sophia Menoutis, Vice-Chairman; Christina Kapolis, Secretary.

Election of Auditing Committee

The three-member committee elected to audit the treasurer’s books of the Supreme Lodge was: Chrysanthi Psaras, Connie Fas, and Constantinos Fas.

Rhodian University Student Association Reports

Sophia Menoutis, President:

Truly delighted to welcome friends, family, distinguished guests and fellow Rhodians to the 95th Annual Supreme Convention of the Pan-Rhodian Society “Apollon.” It is heartwarming to see so many familiar faces and to gather together in the spirit of camaraderie, heritage and community.

A special thank you goes out to our incredible hosts. Your hard work and dedication have made this event possible, and we appreciate the countless hours you have devoted to ensuring that every detail is perfect. Thank you also to Professor Ilias Tomazos, it’s because of your efforts that we can enjoy this wonderful gathering and that we are here on these beautiful grounds.

Sophia Menoutis, President Rhodian University Student Association – continued

Today marks an important moment for us to come together, not just to reflect on our achievements, but also to celebrate our rich heritage. The roots of “Apollon” began right here in Hartford in 1916, and since then, we have provided invaluable services to Rhodians abroad and to our friends and family in Rhodes, Greece. This legacy of service continues to inspire us today.

I’d like to take a moment to highlight the meaningful volunteer work that has been accomplished, particularly the tree planting initiative in Rhodes. This project reflects our commitment to environmental stewardship and community well-being, and it embodies the spirit of giving back that defines our society.

Additionally, I want to draw your attention to two significant projects currently under construction: the Statue of Dorieas, the founder of the city of Rhodes in 408 BC, which is expected to be unveiled to the public in the near future, and the Mechanism of Antikythera, which will be presented in front of Rhodes City Hall on Sunday, January 12, 2025. These projects are a testament to our dedication to preserving and celebrating our cultural heritage.

I also want to personally encourage all Rhodian students to consider visiting Greece with the Paideia program. The generous scholarships, experiences and new relationships that have been made possible through Paideia and Apollon are irreplaceable and I can attest to that personally having attended the incredible trip! One of our most important strategic efforts is to create housing in Rhodes for both Rhodian and non-Rhodian students. This initiative will not only benefit our community, but will also foster connections among students and allow for much greater opportunity for Rhodian students. We invite every Rhodian student from the U.S., Canada, Australia and Europe to participate in our Monday evening Rhodian University Student Association meetings at 7 PM, virtually we can meet together, build relationships and strengthen the connections of our Rhodian heritage as the next generation rises to responsibility and to action.

This convention serves as a platform for collaboration, innovation and fellowship. I encourage each of you to engage actively in the discussions and activities that will take place. Your voices matter, and together we can strengthen our association and ensure its vitality for generations to come. As a student myself, I want to thank those who paved the path for us and hope to make you all proud as we work to accomplish our goals.

Thank you once again for being here today. Your presence enriches our gathering and reminds us of the strength and unity of our Rhodian community. Together, let’s make this convention a memorable and impactful experience for all. Thank you!

President Ilias Tomazoss:

Thanked all who participated in the Pre-Convention in Apolakkia, Rhodes July 28, 2024. Concerning the Statue of Dorieas waiting for a response from the Mayor to accept our proposal. The foundation is being paid for by donors. We did send the deposit. Mr. Missios wants to help. Requesting help from the chapters. Thanks everyone for their support. Holding a memorial service for the Jewish community The Kolymbia project is on hold...we are looking elsewhere. The tree planting helped solidify Apollon’s commitment to projects in Rhodes.

Vice-President, Chrysostomos Michalakos

To assist in the tree planting project, Brother Michalakos donated \$2500. What Loukia is doing is wonderful by helping the stray animals. This helps the Rhodian Society immensely.

Treasurer, William Angelis:

The following was his report:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Checking Account: | \$14,221.51 |
| Business Checking | 12,745.00 |
| CD | 6,357.52 |
| RODOS URI | 1,436.22 |
| Wildfire Relief Fund | 5,701.31 |

Treasurer’s report is attached.

After the audit, motion was made to accept the Treasurer’s report. Motion passed.

Scholarships

The Scholarship Fund is separate from the Pan-Rhodian Society's accounts. The Scholarship Fund now has \$171,381.12 with \$7,868 interest. Unfortunately, we did not receive a scholarship applicant this year. **As a reminder, each chapter is to hold a fundraiser to support the Scholarship Fund.**

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

Eleftherios Tsikis, Rhodian University Student Association:

Today, we gather to celebrate and honor one of the most influential figures in the history of astronomy, Ipparchos the Rhodian—better known to the world as Hipparchus. Although many associate ancient Greece with the philosophers and warriors who shaped its cultural and political landscape, Hipparchus carved his legacy into the stars, forever changing how humanity understands the cosmos. Born in the 2nd Century BCE on the island of Rhodes, Hipparchus' contributions to astronomy were nothing short of remarkable. At a time when much of the world still believed in static, unchanging universe. Hipparchus was among the first to observe the stars with a scientific eye, realizing that the celestial bodies above us were in constant motion. His work laid the foundations for future astronomers, including Claudius Ptolemy and even, centuries later, Johannes Kepler. One of Hipparchus' most notable achievements was the creation of the first known star catalog. Using his meticulous observations, he mapped the positions of over 850 stars. This was not small feat, as it required extraordinary precision and years of dedicated study. Hipparchus' catalog became an essential tool for astronomers throughout antiquity and beyond, a roadmap of the heavens that allowed humanity to better understand the intricate dance of the stars. However, his contributions did not end there. He is often credited with discovering the precession of the equinoxes, one of the most remarkable insights. By comparing his own observations to those of earlier astronomers, he realized that the positions of the stars were shifting slowly over time, a movement that would later be recognized as the Earth's axial precession. This discovery fundamentally changed the way we view Earth's relationship to the stars and remains a cornerstone of modern astronomy. It is no exaggeration to say that Hipparchus' influence can still be felt today. His work on the motion of celestial bodies, his star catalog, and his mathematical innovations laid the groundwork for later astronomers, from Ptolemy to Copernicus. His methodical approach to observation, his willingness to challenge accepted wisdom and his quest for knowledge have made him one of the most respected figures in the history of science. Let us honor Ipparchos the Rhodian not only as an astronomer, but as a pioneer who expanded the boundaries of human knowledge, enabling us to reach the stars.

Maria Aspris, Rhodian University Student Association:

Today, I'd like to talk about the Antikythera Mechanism, an intriguing piece of ancient technology that has fascinated researchers for over a century. Discovered in 1901 from a shipwreck off the coast of Antikythera, Greece. This small, bronze device is thought to be the world's earliest known analog computer, dating back to around 150-100 BCE. The Antikythera Mechanism was used to predict astronomical events. It could track the positions of the sun, the moon, and the five known planets at the time – Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. It also predicted lunar and solar eclipses, and even helped keep track of cycles like the Metonic cycle, a 19-year period which the phases of the moon repeat on the same calendar days. What makes this device so impressive is its complexity. Inside, it contains dozens of interlocking gears, working together much like the inner workings of a clock. These gears were finely crafted and allowed the user to make calculations by simply turning a handle. The front of the mechanism displayed various dials, showing things like the positions of the stars, while the back of the device had more information, including a prediction system for eclipses. Though the exact origins of the mechanism and the full extent of its use are still uncertain. It's clear that the ancient Greeks had a deep understanding of astronomy and mechanical engineering. The Antikythera Mechanism shows just how advanced ancient knowledge could be even in areas like mathematics and science, which we often associate with more recent history. The Antikythera Mechanism is a remarkable example of ancient engineering and scientific understanding. It reminds us that even thousands of years ago, people were developing sophisticated tools to explore and make sense of the world around them. It's a valuable piece of history that continues to inspire curiosity and research today.

Chapter Reports

Manolis Lergos, Hartford Chapter No. 1

For a while the chapter was frozen. Covid affected our chapter. We need new people, new generation. Interest is not there. We had 120 members. With Brother Fax held artoclasia and coffee on the 7th of March. People participated

Chapter Reports- continued

By zoom – Steve Pelardis – Chapter 25

This chapter is no longer functioning. Nitsa Manolas is a bright spot.

Kitsa Aivazis, Chapter 9 Warren, Ohio

Chapter has donated and hosted as follows: St. Demetrios vasilopita, AHEPA golf outing, St Demetrios Festival and golf outing, High School graduates, Metropolitan Apostolos' publication, Coffee hour for Panagia on August 15 with artoclasia, September 7 held a Panigyri in honor of Panagia Tsambika. Also updated our chapter's bylaws to comply with the Supreme Constitution. Held six dinner meetings.

Windsor, Ontario Canada, Chrysostomos Michalakis

Members are third generation Rhodians. Held a golf outing.

Toronto, Canada

The officers of the Toronto chapter are mostly in their thirties...which is heartwarming. Have a dance group of around 80 members!

Old Business**University of Rhode Island Building**

Over the twelve years, Paideia has paid more than \$900,000 for this project. The court decision backed Rhode Island. Not in our favor. Appealing to the Supreme Court.

Rhodian Professional Association

Baltimore is trying to help organize.

Rhodian University Students Association

Develop a Mission Statement.

Good of the Society

Have plaques made to honor those educators in the United States who made a difference by teaching.

Convention Host 2025

Supreme Secretary, Christina Kapolis suggested the convention be held in Warren, Ohio along with the Chapter's Panigyri. 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 meeting concluded with the Benediction.

Kitsa Aivazis, Chairman

**Respectfully submitted,
Christina Kapolis, Secretary**