



UPDATE

AFCFC Members Autumn 2019 Newsletter

LET'S WRITE THE NEXT CHAPTER TOGETHER!

Message from the Chairman

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The summer is slowly coming to an end and for some of us faster. I hope you all had a good summer and judging by the photos you posted on social media it seems that most of the Sisters and Brothers had a great one, posing on the beaches of the Greek islands and having great feasts in their local Tavernas.

However for the rest of us that stayed behind business was as usual organizing golf tournaments, meetings etc. It seems that an Ahepan's and Daughter's work is never done.

Regarding the Scholarships, it saddens me to announce that we did not have any applicants. We the Executive and members of the Scholarship Committee made a great effort to promote and publicize the scholarships that are available. Unfortunately, everyone has to now share the blame for this outcome of a lack of participants. The chapters, the District Governors and the Board of Directors. We as the Executive relied too much on the people mentioned above believing that the Chapters and their Governors would take more active participation in promoting the scholarships, after all it is their scholarships that the Foundation is giving out on their behalf.

Another setback we had was that Headquarters pulled out from the Journey to Greece program notifying us at the last minute. They then advised us to get in contact with Webster University in Athens to make our own arrangements. Therefore, with the late notification we were not able to offer the Journey to Greece Scholarship.

Issues with the promotion of the scholarships will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Brother Chris Adams on Monday, July 22, 2019.

Brother Chris served many years as the secretary of the Hellenic Community of Calgary and is a 60-year member of the Order of Ahepa, having served in all Executive positions with the last 31 years as District Secretary. Everyone enjoyed working with him and he will be greatly missed.

Help us help you! Organize an event to benefit the AHEPA Family Charitable Foundation of Canada. We are all part of the same AHEPA family!

On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors of the AFCFC, I would like to send our condolences to the Adams family along with our gratitude for choosing the Ahepa Family Charitable Foundation to ask people to send donations to in lieu of flowers.

May he rest in peace and his memory be eternal.

Fraternally,
Fotios (Frank) Antoniou
Chairman AFCFC.

Using the AFCFC to your Chapter's Advantage

As we mentioned before the AFCFC is here to help your chapter. It belongs to you the AHEPA Family so therefore we encourage you to use it. Please note that AFCFC offers on your chapter's behalf a number of Scholarships. Thus giving your chapter the opportunity to be more relevant in your Community by offering Scholarships to deserving students of Hellenic descent in your city. It also allows you to hold fundraising events and issue tax receipts using the Foundation's charitable number however, before using it, we have to point out some rules that must be followed.

- A. The chapter wishing to hold a charitable event and issue tax receipts must sign an agreement partnering with the Foundation.
- B. The donations collected must be sent to the AFCFC foundation along with the names, addresses and amount of each donor. These donations must be in the form of a cheque made payable to AFCFC from each individual donor to whom the tax receipt will be issued for. The payment cannot be made out by a husband wishing to have a tax receipt made out in his wife's name unless her name is also on the donation cheque.
- C. Only the net proceeds (e.g: entrance tickets) are tax deductible.
- D. The Foundation is obliged to prepare the final cheque of the total donation amount collected in the name of the licensed institution that you chapter is fundraising for.
- E. The Foundation is also obliged to send the individual tax receipts to the chapter's event organizers for distribution to the donors.
- F. For their administrative expenses, the Foundation is entitled to receive a payment of 5% of the total amount of donations they received until a maximum of \$700 is reached for each specific campaign.
- G. Please note that no tax receipts will be issued for any donation amount under \$25.

NICK LOGOTHETIS JOURNEY TO GREECE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

(Go to AhepaCanada.org to view [Information Sheet – Testimonials](#))

DR. DIMITRIADES MEMORIAL MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP \$2,000 AWARDED

The Dr. Dimitriadis Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a student of Hellenic Heritage or AHEPA family enrolled in a school of medicine at a Canadian university. The total value of the award is \$2,000.

KATSEPONTES FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP IN LAW OR MEDICINE \$1500 AWARDED

One Katsepontes Family Law or Medicine Scholarship is awarded to a Canadian resident enrolled in an accredited law or medical school at a Canadian university and are either members of the AHEPA Family (including spouses, children or grandchildren) or of Hellenic heritage (through a parent, grandparent or a spouse). The AFCFC established this scholarship in 2011 through the generosity of the Katsepontes family.

NA ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES INC – ENGINEERING STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP \$2000 AWARDED

One NA Engineering Students Scholarship is awarded to a Canadian resident enrolled in an accredited Engineering program at a Canadian university and are members of the AHEPA Family (including spouses, children or grandchildren) The AFCFC established this scholarship in 2015 through the generosity of Nick Aroutzidis and NA Engineering Associate

NINA AND DEAN ANTONAKES PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP – \$1000.00

One Nina and Dean Antonakes scholarship is awarded to a Canadian resident enrolled in an accredited Performing arts program at a Canadian university and is of Hellenic heritage (through a parent, grandparent or a spouse).

Scholarship Committee

Chair:

Christina Andrews – Edmonton

Members:

Spiro Bonis – Regina

Jim Fabrikis – Toronto

Angela Mouriopoulos – Hamilton

Dimitra Vassilas – Vancouver

Ex-Officio:

Frank Antoniou - Chair AFCFC

Financial Committee

Chair:

Ken Matziorinis – Montreal

Members:

Nick Aroutzidis – London

John Evdokias – Montreal

Ex-Officio:

Frank Antoniou - Chair AFCFC

Christopher Constantine Adams



July 16, 1933

July 22, 2019

OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Chris Adams on Monday, July 22, 2019.

Chris will be lovingly remembered by Yota, his wife of 60 years; his son, Deno (Luisa); and his daughters Marina (Fraser), Mary, and Christine (Shaun). He is also survived by his grandchildren, Brendan, Cynthia, Christopher, Dawson and Victoria; as well as his sisters, Mary and Angie (Don). Chris was predeceased by his parents, Constantine and Mary, and his stepmother, Marina.

Born in Brandon, Manitoba, Chris grew up in the family restaurant business, and made a career in the food and beverage industry. He served numerous years as the secretary of the Hellenic Community and was a 60-year member of the Order of Ahepa, having served in all executive positions with the last 31 years as District Secretary. Most of all, he will be remembered for his love of laughter.

If friends so desire, and in lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be made directly to Ahepa Family Charitable Foundation of Canada (<http://ahepacanada.org/foundation/>).

Charity Begins at Home

Brothers and Sisters,

As you know, no business or institution can survive and thrive without revenues. Brothers and Sisters we are such an institution. We have no operating revenues. While we do have money invested, Brothers donated these amounts with their specific wishes for the interest generated by that money to be used for Scholarships. Thus while we are proud to tell you that our Investments are doing well enough to cover the Scholarships, we are still operating revenues poor. The revenue that comes in is from the Montreal AHEPA Family's Valentine's Ball and in the some occasions from a few other Chapters. Not enough. Thank God for the generosity of some Brothers from the Board that cover most of the expenses from their own pockets.

This matter was discussed at the last Board meeting and the solution was to have a small fundraiser amongst us.... Meaning our members/shareholders. So it was decided that starting January 2020, we will ask every active Chapter of the AHEPA Family (Ahepa, Daughters of Penelope, Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena) to contribute annually \$300 to the AFCFC Foundation's treasury to assist with the operating expenses and payment of any donations we are asked to give as a foundation throughout the year.

We find \$300 is a small amount to contribute in the Foundation's well-being. Please do not tell us that your treasury cannot afford it and does not have the money in the bank. You can hold a small event to raise that money or approach one of your members asking them to donate to Foundation and they will be issued a tax receipt (over \$25).

Please note you that your Chapter will be receiving an invoice for \$300 starting the first week of January 2020.

Thanking you in advance,

Fraternally

Frank Antoniou

Chairman AFCFC

2019 Board of Directors of the AFCFC

Fotios (Frank) Antoniou	Chairman
George Vassilas	Vice-Chairman /AHEPA District #26 Governor
Nick Aroutzidis	Treasurer
James Hutchison	Secretary
Christos Argiriou	AHEPA Canadian President
Margaret Dritsas	DOP Grand Governor Zone 5
Anastasios Moussas	AHEPA District #23 Governor
Xanthe Vafopoulou	DOP District #23 Governor
Mary Bellissimo	MOA District #23 Governor
Peter Andreoglou	AHEPA District #24 Governor
Christina Andrews	DOP District #24 Governor /DOP Past Canadian President
Jim Fabrikis	Member-at-Large
Christos Katopodis	Member-at-Large
Bill Bakalis	Past AHEPA Canadian President
Nicholas Katsepontes	Legal counsel (non-voting)
Angie Devetzis	Internal Auditor (non-voting)
Panayiotis Papadopoulos	Internal Auditor (non-voting)

We would like to Congratulate Brother Anastasios Moussas on his recent nomination and election as the new AHEPA Beaver District 23 Governor.

Kindly welcome him in his new role as:
Member of the AFCFC Board of Directors.



A Proposal to the AFCFC and AHEPA Canada for new Horizons

-by Nicholas Katsepontes

Brothers and Sisters

I have spoken to the Ahepa Canada Christos Argiriou and the Chairman of the AFCFC both about this idea.

Ahepa historically has always lead and taken on important causes that are relevant not only to Hellenism but the betterment of all mankind. We are defined by two words in our organization's name: **Education** and **Progressive**.

Education in terms of promoting learning, scholarly endeavors and the use of knowledge and its acquisition to advance the interests of mankind and Hellenism. In that regard education has as an integral component the promotion and encouragement of new knowledge and ideas.

Progressive in terms of being a leader being ahead of the norm and in terms of advancing our and society's interests by moving, promoting and acting with effort and resources on issues - be they political, social or other to improve the state of mankind, respond to problems and challenges in the world - given our roots in philanthropy, the promotion of democracy and social and economic justice. That is who we are and should be.

It was this emphasis upon education and progress that motivated the creation of our organization to combat discrimination and battle the KKK in the US and represent the interests of new Greek immigrants to the US who the subject of abuse and discrimination Ahepa evolved to be at the forefront of the promotion of civic rights, and causes both relative to Hellenism and the world in general both domestically, internally and as relating to Hellenic interests. We see this in our efforts to address disease, care for the elderly and the promotion of justice for Cyprus and other causes. Look at what our Montreal Chapter has done with events such as its Annual Valentine's day Ball where hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years have been donated to worthy causes mostly in the medical and health fields.

Ahepa's involvement is in response to the times and ills of the world as they happen and in this regard to keep to the goal of being **progressive**, we must consider what are the pressing needs and causes that are relevant today and imposing a huge burden and challenges on future generations. Ahepa is the ultimate poster child for the saying "wise men plant trees knowing they shall not live to enjoy their shade." In that regard we invest in and pay it forward to make things better for future generation.

We must also look at how we maintain our relevance and current appeal to what is important in the new generation from whom we also draw our membership. Like many organizations we are struggling to find new members and we are being identified as an organization for the old generation. We know this is not accurate but I would suggest we need to refresh our goals and objectives from time to time in the context of the pressing needs of the world. That is how we execute on our mandate defined by the actions required for **Education and to be Progressive**.

Ahepa and its members have always stepped up and taken on challenges. We now face a global challenge that threatens the future of our children and grandchildren.

One of the most pressing issues of the day is climate change and environmental issues. This is a cause we should embrace.

All polls indicate most voters and a larger number of young voters including millennials consider climate change an important issue to the extent that life on the planet can and will be impacted if action is not taken by governments in

this area. This is a new cause that would make us extremely relevant in today's world. The science which is real and supported by international organizations such as the UN, most progressive governments and leading thinkers in all fields is that of climate change. You need only turn on the news and look at the changes in our weather over the past few years around the world to realize something is going on.

This if we want to pay it forward we need to be worried about what the state of the planet will be that will be inherited by our children. The prospects right now do not look good.

The Greek affinity with the sea is historical. Promoting clean oceans and doing something about ocean plastic is important. I believe Greek shipowners (many of whom I have done and do legal work for I believe would support Ahepa).

We also should note that our own Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is a leader in promotion of environmental issues and has written several books and articles and held and promoted conferences on environmental issues and their importance to mankind and a theological perspectives. See <https://www.patriarchate.org/the-green-patriarch> for a list of the publication and endeavors of the Patriarch in this area.

I have worked in the environmental area for the past 25 years volunteering time as well as advising Canadian Foreign Ministers. My bio is attached in case you are not familiar with it. I want to do work in this area and have volunteered in recent years for award winning environmental causes such the OceanCleanUp - plastics initiative (see bio).

I believe the benefits of this initiative will be as follows:

1. Attract new younger members who have been proven to view this as an important issue;
2. Make us more relevant as to one of the most important causes facing the entire world;
3. Give us a good neutral cause to pursue politicians;
4. Allow us to distinguish ourselves from other Hellenic Groups;
5. Take the lead on this issue within the Hellenic Community;

I want both the Foundation and Ahepa Canada to consider and jointly appointment name as a: **“Climate Change and Environment Advisor/Envoy”** with the following mandate:

1. Advise Ahepa Canada and Foundation Executive on how we can engage on this issue
2. Prepare briefing material;
3. Arrange meeting with government officials and do a general lobbying campaign on this issue;
4. At some point organize a conference perhaps with the Patriarch on a climate change or environmental issue to be sponsored by Ahepa;
5. To undertake to education the Ahepa Canada membership, Daughters and Sons on this issue.
6. To form an Ahepa Family Climate Change Committee to help advance the cause.

I think not only could we and I lead on this in Canada but also internationally. I would be prepared to take on that role.

Fraternally,
Nicholas P. Katsepontes
Email: nicholas@kmlawfirm.ca
Direct: 438-989-6445