

Report of the Cyprus and Hellenic Affairs Committee
87th Annual AHEPA Supreme Convention
San Francisco, California
July 3, 2009

The following report was approved by the General Session of the 87th Annual Supreme Convention on July 3, 2009:

- 1) The Order of AHEPA will continue to work to strengthen the AHEPA Grass Roots Network, which uniquely distinguishes the AHEPA from all other Greek American organizations, and which if adequately developed, can serve at its most powerful tool for the promotion of Greek American interests and ideals.
- 2) The AHEPA will continue its efforts to grow the Hellenic Caucus in the House of Representatives, which now stands at 138.
- 3) The AHEPA will continue to pursue and seek support for Visa Waiver Program legislation H.Res. 2261, which designates Greece as a Visa Waiver nation. (Presently has 15 co-sponsors)
- 4) The AHEPA will support H.Res. 236, which urges Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul. (Presently 30 co-sponsors)
- 5) The AHEPA will support H.Res. 486/S.Res. 169, which urge the FYROM to stop hostile activities or propaganda directed against Greece and to work with the United Nations and Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals of finding a mutually-acceptable official name for the FYROM. (Presently 20 co-sponsors House/3 co-sponsors Senate)
- 6) The AHEPA will support H.Con.Res.122, which calls for the return of the Parthenon Marbles to Greece (Presently 1 co-sponsor)
- 7) The AHEPA will support legislation calling for the removal of Turkish occupation troops from Cyprus.
- 8) The AHEPA will support the full restoration of funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the Voice of America's Greek Desk Service.
- 9) The AHEPA will seek to strengthen relations with other appropriate Greek American organizations in order to more effectively fulfill its mission, as it relates to Greece, Cyprus, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to issues involving the FYROM, the Greek minority in Albania, and the Aegean Sea.
- 10) The AHEPA will seek to explore ways in which it can create awareness of the Pontian Genocide and furthermore supports the Pontian Greek American community's efforts to secure full recognition and proper commemoration of the Greek Pontian Genocide.
- 11) The AHEPA expresses concern about the infiltration of Turkish and FYROM revisionist propaganda that has made its way into our public school systems, specifically in textbooks, and will explore the matter going forward.
- 12) The AHEPA will explore the introduction of a Federal proclamation designating the month of March as "Hellenic History Month."
- 13) The AHEPA will provide annual financial funding in the amount of \$20,000 for the Cyprus and Hellenic Affairs Committee, in order to strengthen its communications capabilities, in order to permit holding educational symposiums, and in order to permit printing of educational materials.

Furthermore, the Committee recommended AHEPA examine the following:

- An information form for our grass roots contacts;
- The formation of an AHEPA PAC;
- An initiative involving Congressional visitations to Greece and a review of Congressional ethics guidelines as they relate to organizing such visits.

Continued...

Also, the Committee will request time to make a presentation at the District Governors' Conference on September 11-12 regarding our effort to revitalize our grass roots network and grow the Hellenic Caucus.

The Ambassador of Cyprus to the United States Andreas Kakouris spoke to the assembled convention body this morning; he then briefed the Committee soon thereafter.

Moreover, the Committee retains \$220 collected through donations at the 2007 Denver Supreme Convention for the purposes of facilitating communications.

This report was compiled with the assistance of Andrew Kaffes.

Respectfully submitted,

Standing Committee Members

Spiro Macris, *Chairman*
Demetri Kirkiles – Region 1
Col. Nick Vamvakias – Region 2
Carl Hollister – Region 5
E. John Rumpakis – Region 8 North
Alex Rigopoulos – Region 8 South

Convention Committee & Guests

Alex Alexandris
Alex Anderson
Olga Black
John Christou
Alex Christy
Dr. James F. Dimitriou, PSP
Athanasios Dimopoulos
John Economou, PSP
Sam Galanis
Anna Galaxidas
Gus J. James, PSP
Timothy Joannides
Nick Kaffes
Tasos Kalantzis
George Kalyvas
Socrates Kolitsos
Gilbert Kyprianou
Kip Kyprianou
James Langendorf

Standing Committee Members Absent

Savas Tsivikos – Region 3
George Rados – Region 4
Pendy Eliou – Region 6
Sakis Onisiphorou – Region 7

Convention Committee & Guests

Franklin Manios, PSP
Stephen Manos, PSP Australasia
Tasia Manos, PSP Australasia
Marina Moustakas
Bill Nicklow
Nicholas Nikas
George Papageorgiou
Nick Perdaris
Ritsa Petrangelo
Modesto Polydor
Nick Pries
Cleo Rumpakis
Nick Smyrnis, PSP
John Soudas
Pete Tecos
Elias Tsekerides
Tasha Vanos, PSP Australasia
Dr. Speros Vryonis, Jr.