

AHEPA 55th NATIONAL CONVENTION BRISBANE 2009

The 55th National Convention was held at The Greek Club in Brisbane QLD from the 10th to the 16th October 2009. The Delegates attended the Church service at St George Greek Orthodox Church West End Brisbane.

Opening

The official Opening Ceremony of the National Convention was held at the Greek Club West End Brisbane in the presence of the Hon George Hantzigeorge MP. The Delegates also attended a Welcome to Brisbane function at the Town Hall by invitation from the Lord Mayor of Brisbane Councillor Newman.

The Convention business commenced on Monday 12th October 2009 with the AGIASMO performed by Father Dimitri who blessed and addressed the Convention.

Sister Tasia Manos was elected as Chairperson with Sister Helen Spataro as Secretary, Bro Elias Doufas and Bro Steve Liassi as assistant secretaries and Bro Steve Manos as Counselor.

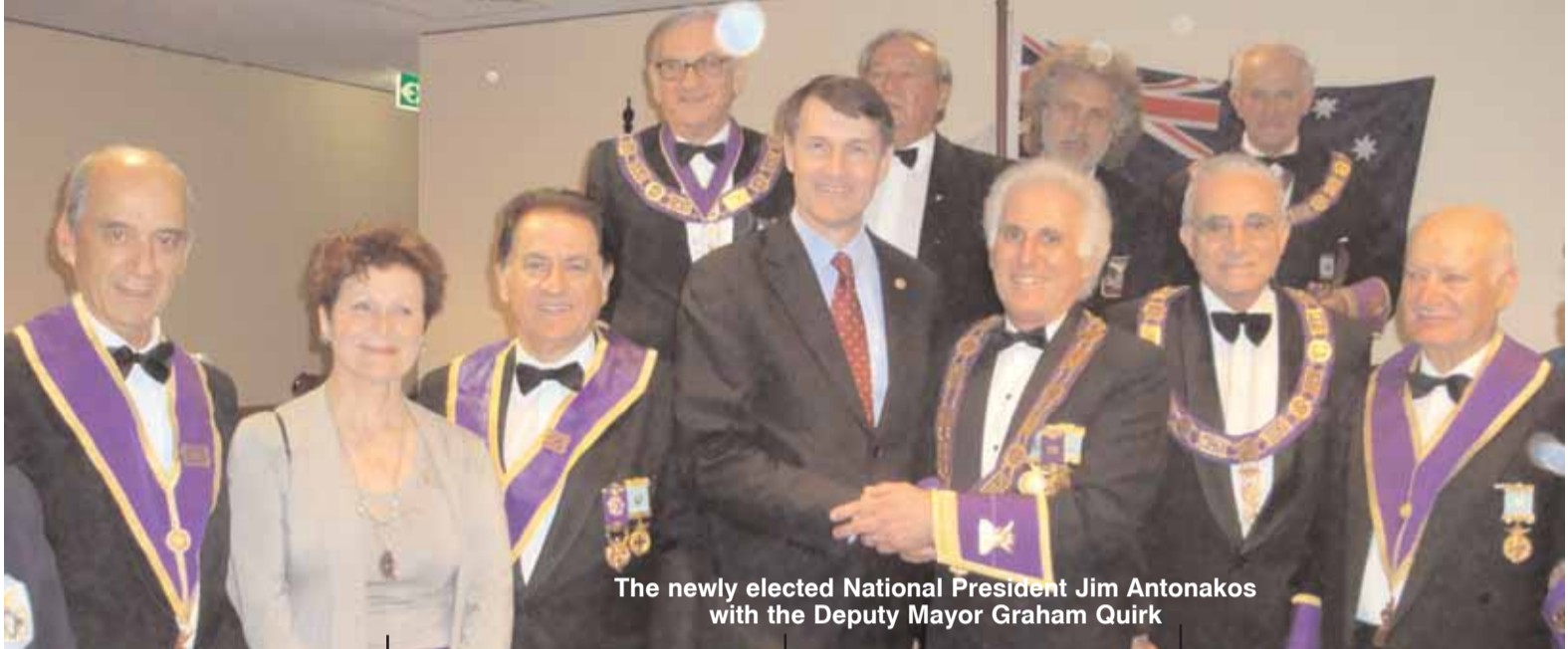
The National President, Sister Tasia Manos presented her President's report outlining the interesting and proactive work carried out during her 2 years of office, such as the National Convention in Athens 2008, Open Forum in NSW, VIC, Qld and ACT, the publication of the Commemorative Book, Fundraising for the Greek and Victorian Bushfires, and the many personal visits to many Units Australia wide. Sister Tasia congratulated and thanked her National Lodge team and Brothers and Sisters who assisted her.

The National Lodge Treasurers Report was presented noting that the Financials were audited by Mr. Tony Pandeli CPA free of charge.

Correspondence was received with well wishes from Ahepa Hellas and USA and letters from Chapters Ippokratis, Anatole and Heracles requesting an extension to study the corrections to the Constitution.

Elections

National Lodge Elections were held with Bro Jim Antonakos elected National Pres-



The newly elected National President Jim Antonakos with the Deputy Mayor Graham Quirk

ident, Bro Theo Sarpountzis as Vice President and other members of the National Lodge as per the list.

The National Convention Committee Reports were presented by Ahepa International, Cultural and Education, Kostis Palamas, Growth and Expansion, Marketing and Hellenic Issues such as The Parthenon Marbles, Macedonian, Cyprus and Pontian and Asia Minor Disasters. Resolutions were carried on all Hellenic Issues.

The State and District Lodge Reports were presented noting that there was no report from South Australia.

National Hellenic Issues

Resolutions were carried in regards to the Macedonian, Pontian, Cyprus and Parthenon Marbles Issues.

Motions

The following Motions were approved and carried by the National Convention:

1. The Corrections to the Constitution were discussed, voted and carried by a two-thirds majority.

2. Hellenic Issues to take more prominent role at the Conventions.

3. Future National Projects to be taken on by each State as their own.

4. The National Lodge to run a petition for the Greek Parliament to assist Greeks abroad to find their roots, recognise their heritage and be given Greek Citizenship.

5. The National Ahepan of

the Year to automatically become the State Ahepan of the Year.

6. All Greek & Cyprus Parliament visitors to Australia to be invited guests of Ahepa.

7. Recommendation that a professional secretariat be engaged at future Conventions.

Installation of the National President and Investiture of the National Lodge Members.

The Installation of the National President and the Investiture of the National Lodge Officers took place on Thursday 15th October 2009, in the presence of distinguished guests, Councillor Graham Quirk Deputy mayor representing the Mayor and Mr Harry Bertson, President of the Southside Parish Brisbane.

Bro Jim Antonakos was sworn in as National President and his officers on the National Lodge were invested collectively. Bro Antonakos was congratulated and accepted

pledges and well wishes from all the Chapters, State, District and National Lodge members present.

The National President received the toast from Bro Emanuel J Comino who congratulated him on attaining the highest office in the Order. The retiring National President, Sis Tasia Manos received acknowledgement from all units in the Order and a toast made by Bro Elias Doufas who highlighted the many achievements made by Sis Tasia and thanked her for her enormous and proactive effort in her two years of office. Sis Tasia Manos proposed a toast to the visitors and Sis Christine Lynch responded on behalf of the visitors. Bro Nick Xynias proposed the loyal toast to the meeting.

The distinguished guests, Councillor Graham Quirk and Mr Harry Bertson, also offered their congratulations and appreciation of the work carried by all brothers and sisters. Councillor Quirk singled out

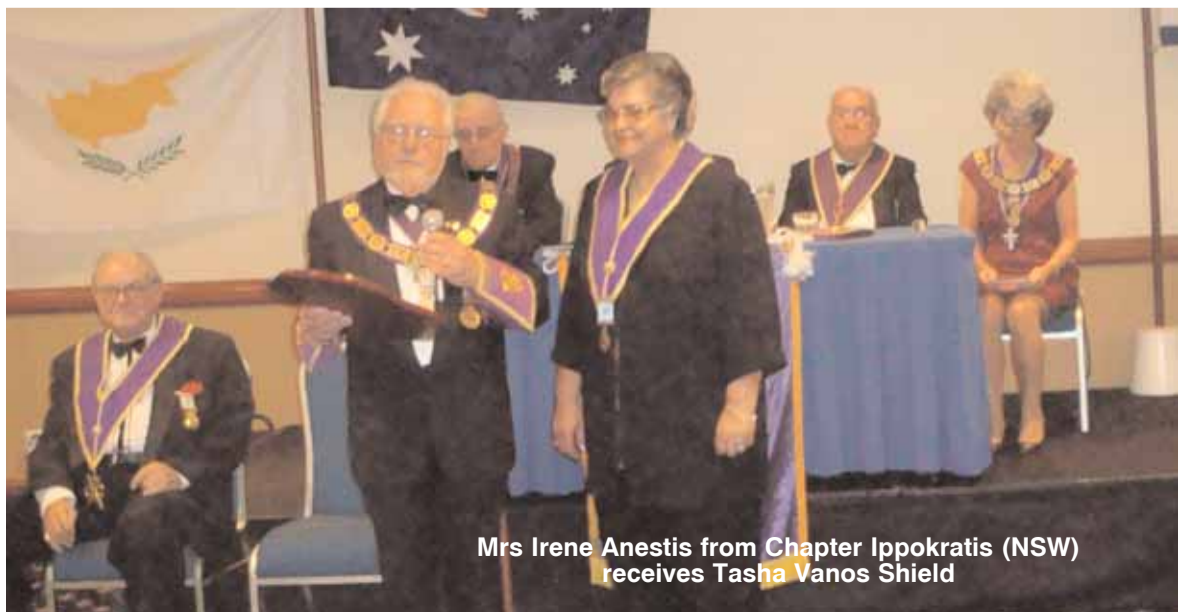
Bro Nick Xynias as a special mention.

Following the installation presentations were made of the Costas and Olive Colligas Shield to Chapter Solon No. 15 to Bro John Poullos representing the Chapter, for the highest percentage of increase in new members and the Bro Tasha Vanos Shield was presented to Chapter Ippokratis No 21 for their enormous effort in initiating the highest number of new members.

Sis Tasia Manos announced the Ahepan of the Year as Sis Ourania Taifernopoulos and presented the shield to Sis Katie Panos representing Chapter Nafsika, in her absence.

Sis Tasia Manos presented two Sixty Year service badges to Bro George Londy and Bro Tony Miller and a Fifty Year badge was also presented to Bro Tony Lathouras by Bro Tasha Vanos.

The State President of Qld, Bro Andy Baroutsis presented gifts to the distinguished guests and thanked them for their atten-



Mrs Irene Anestis from Chapter Ippokratis (NSW) receives Tasha Vanos Shield