

dance. He also presented a gift to Sis Tasia Manos and Bro Jim Antonakos.

The installation was followed by a cocktail party on the terrace where the delegates and guests enjoyed refreshments.

Marketing and Growth and Expansion

The Chairperson Sister Tasia Manos invited Sister Anthea Matis of ACT to speak on behalf of the younger members of AHEPA. Sister Anthea gave a "Youth Perspective" of the current and future issues in AHEPA.

Sis Anthea stated that we must realize that the youth of today have different motivations, fast lives, different skill sets, more stress but are time poor. The key to attracting youth is simplicity. Keep it simple for people to come along and have a relaxed environment around them. They are not as driven by formality and ceremony but can see the importance of this to the older generation. They have different ways of operating and are not drawn by internal politics.

We therefore must allow the younger members to do it their way without much interference and the way forward is to try and set up connections with a few Key Players in each State who may keep in contact through the internet and maybe meet every six months to keep the connections going and grow. Sister Anthea Matis was congratulated by Sister Tasia Manos and received a standing ovation.

Brother Jim Antonakos introduced the Growth and Expansion Report and The Marketing Plan was presented by Bro Elias Doufas who commented that Sister Anthea's speech was long overdue and that members should pay special attention to it and move forward. We need to have a succession plan for generational change. The future of AHEPA is within our families.

The Marketing Plan has been included in the Convention Reports and has also been translated in Greek. It should be taken back to the Chapters and Lodges and its Recommendations considered seriously so that we rejuvenate and survive the Order.

Many Delegates offered their suggestions in moving forward, such as:

Holding a survey to younger members, having social members, youth lectures, an annual graduation ceremony for Greek youth, scholarships and journey to Greece, fundraiser specific to youth and looking at improving ourselves.

Sis Tasia Manos asked Sis Helen Spataro to comment on her perception of the needs in the Order. Sis Helen Spataro mentioned that she is saddened by the bickering and arguing and was concerned about how outsiders would view us particularly the youth that we are trying to encourage. The youth need to formulate their own Constitution over time by themselves and they should be allowed to grow their units at their own pace. She understands the need for a ritual but younger people do not relate to this. We need to let them start in Ahepa,

have fun and slowly grow on their own initiative.

Acknowledgements

Members from various Chapters and Lodges thanked and congratulated everyone for a successful Convention and most emphasised the enormous effort of Sis Tasia Manos as the Chairperson.

The Chairperson, Sis Tasia Manos congratulated Bro Jim Antonakos and his National Lodge Executive. Bro Jim Antonakos needs all our support help and co-operation. The only way to a successful outcome is a united front. Let us all work together to achieve harmony and peace.

Sis Tasia Manos thanked the hosts, Bro Nick Xynias the Chairman of the Convention Committee, the State President, Bro Andy Baroutsis and all the Brothers and Sisters of Queensland for their hospitality.

The 56th National Convention 2010 is to be held in Victoria.



NATIONAL LODGE FOR 2009-2010

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Bro. Jim Antonakos (NSW)

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Bro. Theo Sapountzis (VIC)

NATIONAL LODGE MEMBERS:

- NSW
 - Bro Lambi Papaefraim
 - Bro Con Vlachos
 - Bro George Lianos
- NSW - DISTRICT LODGE - DOP
 - Sis Penny Cretan
 - Sis Christine Lynch
 - Sis Katina Stavrianos
- QLD
 - Bro Sam Koutsoukos
 - Bro Steve Liassi
- VIC
 - Bro Elias Doufas
 - Bro Theo Sapountzis
- VIC - DISTRICT LODGE - DOP
 - Sis Nike Pavlou
- ACT
 - Bro Tony Katheklakis
 - Sis Sophia Notaras
- SA
 - 2 votes dormant
- WA
 - Bro Angelo Metaxas
 - Bro John Tzamarias

AHEPAN of the YEAR

Sis Ourania Taifernopoulos (VIC)

Costas and Olive Colligas Shield - Chapter Solon No. 15 (VIC) for the highest percentage of increase in new members.

Bro Tasha Vanos Shield - Chapter Ippokratis No 21 (NSW) for initiating the highest number of new members.

Sixty Year service badges - to Bro George Londy and Bro Tony Miller both of QLD

Fifty Year badge - to Bro Tony Lathouras of QLD

The 56th AHEPA NATIONAL CONVENTION 2010 will be held in MELBOURNE.



Greeks to bid farewell and Canadians to say hello to 2010 Olympic torch

ATHENS - The night before it left to make history in Canada, the flame for the 2010 Winter Olympics burned over the city of Athens.

The torch was carried to the top of the Acropolis, one of the most recognizable ancient sites in Greece. There, it was tipped into a cauldron that burst into flames while the lights of the city twinkled below and Greek Olympian Vasileios Polymeros stood proudly by.

"Every time the Olympic Games take place, everything takes place here," he said, having just run the torch up the steps of marble and stone. "I am very honoured that I am Greek."

The Acropolis is one of the final stops on an eight-day journey that's seen the torch travel through mountains, over bridges and through Greek coastal towns.

The sense of awe still attached to the flame in the birthplace of the Games doesn't flicker even though the relay takes place every two years.

"Every time it has the same passion and same emotion for the people," said Spyros Capralos, the president of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, which always organizes the Greek portion of the relay.

Both the lighting ceremony in Ancient Olympia on Oct. 22 and the hand over to Canadian officials late Thursday night are replete with Greek symbolism and tradition.

But beyond the torch bearer uniforms, there's been little sense of where the flame is about to go.

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson had to fight his way into Wednesday night's ceremony and the handful of Canadian reporters present were also turned away at the gates at first, told the event was for Greeks only.

"It feels so amazing to be here and be bringing this back home, I wish there were more people (who) could experience this first hand," said Robertson.

"I feel very humbled to be here now."

On Thursday night, Vancouver will become the flame's keeper after it's run for the final time on Greek soil by a Greek-Canadian figure skater.

Canadian Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean and the president of the Greek Republic are expected to also be in attendance, as well local and provincial Canadian politicians.

The Canadian Forces Airbus carrying many of them en route from Vancouver to Athens was forced to make an unscheduled landing in Scotland after a fuel quantity indicator light went off.

National Defence spokeswoman Lt.-Cmd. Diane Grover said it turned out there never was a fuel leak and the indicator system was at fault.

The problem was fixed and the plane went on its way. The resulting delay was not expected to impact Thursday's ceremony to hand over the Olympic flame.

The absence of Canadian content in the ceremony is because the relay in Greece is about celebrating the pride of the birthplace of the Olympics, Capralos said.

"Traditionally we have always had a relay in Greece and we think that with the local relay we manage again to revive the spirit of the Olympic Games to our local population," he said.

"I'm sure our Canadian friends will have the chance on many occasions, including the opening and closing ceremonies, to present the culture and history of Canada," he added.

More than 100 days of chances, actually.

Once the relay leaves Greece late Thursday night, it begins an odyssey worthy of Greek mythology.

"Let the Games begin."