



PAN ARCADIAN FEDERATION OF AMERICA
THEODOROS KOLOKOTRONIS CHAPTER #103
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

— HISTORY —

Theodoros Kolokotronis Chapter #103, chartered in 1986, was spearheaded under the direction of Mr. Pete Kouretas. After visiting the Theodoros Kolokotronis family village, Libovissi, Mr. Kouretas was inspired to name our chapter "Theodoros Kolokotronis." Mr. Kouretas, who was the owner of Zorba's Restaurant in San Jose, California, served as our first chapter president. It was convenient to hold our chapter meetings at Zorba's and the chapter has followed this precedent by holding our meetings at a local Greek restaurant. The charter members included Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kouretas, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Kouretas, Mr. and Mrs. John Kouretas, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Hontalas, Mr. and Mrs. Gust Aretos, Mr. Chris Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Draenos, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rizos, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pantelis, Mrs. Stella Anthony, Mr. and Mrs. Christos Spelios, Mr. George Kolotouros, Mr. Philip Vlamis, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Tsolis, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Pragastis and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Christie. We are an engaging, committed group of Arcadians.

Our chapter held the Western District Convention in the charter year of 1983. The convention was held at the historic St. Claire Hotel in downtown San Jose. An important piece of legislation was approved at this convention by the delegates. A motion was made by the San Jose delegation mandating that the net proceeds from the convention go to the Western District treasury. At that time the district treasury was essentially under water. Our chapter has since held the Western District Convention in 2005 and 2010. Chapter Presidents in order of succession have been Mr. Pete Kouretas, Mr. Gus Hontalas, Mr. Bill Christie and Mr. Elias Psycharis.

Noteworthy members of our chapter include our President Elias Psycharis, who, for several years in a row, is Chairman of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Cultural and Food Festival. A two and one half day event of enormous responsibility. Past President Bill Christie has served as Parish Council President, Board of Directors of the PAF, Western District Treasurer, Chapter President of AHEPA and Chapter President of Pancretan Association and editor and publisher of the AHEPA Traveler newsletter of District 21. Mrs. Connie Aretos-Banis has served as Western District Governor, Grand President of the Daughters of Penelope, St. Nicholas Philoptochos President and is currently on the Board of Directors of the PAF. Mr. Andrew Banis is an AHEPA Past Supreme President; Dr. Tikey Zes is choir director at St. Nicholas Church, an Archon of the Church, and has been recognized nationally for his composition in Byzantine music. Our Treasurer and Young Adult Representative Ms. Elizabeth Psycharis, Ms. Cathy Giouzelis and Ms. Eugenia Giouzelis of the Oakland Chapter, organized the 2007 PAF National Young Adult Conference held in San Francisco. Mr. Dean Jay Flesoras is the father of Rev. Fr. Chris Flesoras who is the Protospesbyter of the Greek Orthodox Church in Roseville, California.

We have hosted fund-raising events for our Hellenic Youth Folk Dancers, and celebration dinners marking March 25th Greek Independence Day. Highly successful OXI Day dinners. We participate, each year, in the 25th of March Independence Day parade in San Francisco sharing a float with the San Francisco and Oakland chapters.

We actively participate with a monetary donation and volunteer our time to the annual Fr. John Berris Memorial Scholarship Fund for which the net profit goes entirely for scholarships for seminarians. Annually we donate to the Western District Panarcadian Scholarship Fund.

We support the St. Anna Philoptochos Christmas Hope Project which assists the San Jose Family Shelter. Our St. Nicholas Church is in the process of an expansion program to which we were able to donate \$5,000. And many other charitable programs.

We are members of the American Hellenic Institute based in Washington, D.C. We support the Modern Greek Studies Foundation of San Francisco State University.

We are currently sixty three members, are tremendously proud of our Arcadian Heritage, we strive ardently to perpetuate the ideals and integrity of Arcadia. Peace and happiness we wish for all Arcadians, and to all mankind.

Zito i Arcadia!!!