

MINUTES
CAPTIAL DISTRICT 3
77TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE
ORDER OF AHEPA
MAY 2, 3 & 4, 2008

Thursday – May 1, 2008 Deep Sea Fishing

Friday – May 2, 2008

The Delegates of the Capital District 3 of the Order of AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope attending the 77th Annual District Convention at the Doubletree Hotel in Annapolis, MD were welcomed by George Papaspyrou, President of Annapolis AHEPA Chapter 286 (Convention City host Chapter) at 11:41am. Brother Papaspyrou introduced Fr. Kosmas Karavellas of the Annapolis Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church; who led us in prayer.

Brother Papaspyrou announced minor location changes in the Agenda from the printed copy that appeared in the Ad Book; then welcomed the Daughters of Penelope District Governor Daphne Hallas, who welcomed everyone and extended her best wishes for good Convention.

Brother Papaspyrou then recognized and welcomed District Governor Pete Chambers to the podium, who thanked everyone in attendance and the Annapolis Chapter for hosting this year's Convention. After the Governor's remarks, the DOP Grand Lodge Secretary, Elaine Sampranis was recognized; who welcomed everyone and gave her thanks to all.

Brother Papaspyrou closed the opening ceremonies and directed everyone to their respective meeting venues.

The AHEPA District 3 Convention was reconvened and Supreme Governor Nick Vamvakias was asked to say a few words to the Delegation. Supreme Governor Vamvakias thanked everyone for their involvement in the organization and gave special recognition to Past District Governor Nick Gretakis and Past Executive Director Arthur Lalos. Brother Vamvakias also recognized District Lt. Governor Larry Odzak, Brother Harry Cavalaris and Brother Nick Trintis. He also expressed the regrets from Supreme President Gus James; who could not be in attendance, and gave President James' warmest regards and wishes for an exceptional Convention.

Spokespersons Stella Yakovethis and Marianna from the Coolies Anemia Foundation missed the opening ceremonies due to traffic and were now recognized to address the Delegation to say a few words on the good works and accomplishments of the Coolies Anemia Foundation. After their presentation, District Governor Pete Chambers took the

podium and opened the floor for nominations for the Convention Chair. Brother Nick Matthews nominated Brother Nick Gretakis and a second was heard. With no other nominations, Brother Chambers moved that the nominations be closed and the floor voted unanimously to accept Past District Governor, Brother Nick Gretakis as Convention Chair.

Brother Gretakis took the gavel and gave his thanks for the trust given to him by the delegation. He then introduced the Dias and asked the Delegation to announce themselves. He officially opened the 77th Annual District 3 Convention with our Country's Pledge of Allegiance.

With a Convention Chair, the following positions were filled:

Convention Parliamentarian	Gus Stavrides
Convention Secretary	Dean Vurnakes

Brother Gretakis instructed the Delegation to sign-up for various committees; of which are posted on a bulletin board in the lobby, and each of those committees will select a Chairman. He instructed that once the committees have met, they should prepare their report and return them to the Convention Secretary.

Brother Gretakis announced a quorum was present and the first order of business was to approve the Minutes of the last District Convention. Discussion was heard from Constantine Stavrides in regards to following the By-Laws in sending the Minutes to each Chapter. Governor Chambers noted that the Minutes were posted on the District Website for all Chapters to view or download. With no other discussion, the Minutes were approved as presented.

Chairman Gretakis called for the Treasurer's Report, but District Treasurer Steve Mavronis was absent and the Chair postponed the report until a later time.

No other formal business to attend; Chairman Gretakis instructed the Delegation to sign-up for their committees, and present their reports at tomorrow's Session. District Secretary Dean Vurnakes noted that each committee has a packet which contains a copy of the District By-laws, a form to record their Chairman and committee members and paper to take notes for reporting their session. Brother Vurnakes asked that upon reading their reports to the Convention, that each packet be returned to him for publication in next year's Minutes and Reports booklet.

Brother Gretakis noted that only one person per chapter is permitted to serve on the Awards Committee.

Before dismissing the committees to convene, Chairman Gretakis asked if the current District Lodge Officers would like to present an oral report or recommendations to compliment their written one, at this time. District Secretary Vurnakes recommended that future District Lodge Officers should volunteer for two consecutive terms because the

first term served tends to be a “learning” year. Brother Vurnakes also gave much praise to Luke Hajiantoni for all his hard work in the District Lodge Website and encouraged more use of this invaluable tool.

The Chair recognized Luke Hajiantoni and James Constantinides for their hard work and dedication to the District Website and Trio-Gram.

The Convention Chair declared this Session to be in recess so the committees could convene and report at tomorrow’s Session.

Saturday – May 3, 2008

Convention Chairman Nick Gretakis reconvened the Convention Meeting at 9:23am.

The following committees were called to upon to present their reports:

1. **Officers Report** – Chairman Nick Vamvakias (438). Members included PSG Nick Matthews and PSG Nick Trintis. The reports were read, thoroughly analyzed and evaluated. All the reports provided necessary information and found to contain adequate information for each lodge officer. Constructive suggestions included:
 - A. Improvements needed in accounting for road trip expenses and other expenses.
 - B. Recommends that Officers Reports be submitted prior to the Convention to District Governor and Secretary to ensure they are satisfactory. Based on those reports, the District Lodge can finalize their reports in preparation for the District Convention.

Questions were entertained and PDG Brother George Anas (241) asked if the committee reviewed the travel expenses and did they authorize these expenses? Chairman Vamvakias noted that those areas would be covered in the Audit Committee Reports chaired by Brother Nick Matthews (241).

The Committee Report was accepted by the Delegation and a copy of this Committee report is attached in the Committee Report section.

2. **Resolutions & Legislation** – Chairman Demetrius Govotsos (383). Members included Stephen Bourexis (30), Luke Hajiantoni (30), George Stakias (364), James Constantinides (30), John Fotiou (364), Constantine Stavrides (30) and Harry Cavalaris (3).

Brother Stephen Bourexis was called upon by the Committee Chairman to read the minutes of their meeting. Brother Bourexis reported the following proposals:

A. Discussion was held regarding integrating the Sons of Pericles membership to the AHEPA. Although Brother Harry Cavalaris indicated that this idea has been discussed for the last 20 or so years and that the best way for this to happen, would be to set up a committee on the National Level to look into this transition. The committee held much discussion and each committee member expressed their thoughts and views. The final outcome was a unanimous approval of referring a proposed amendment to the National Constitution Committee regarding this matter.

B. A proposal was suggested regarding the By-Laws Article 9 Section H in which the Convention Minutes should be changed from the current status to providing the Minutes to each Chapter President and Secretary via the US Postal Service or thru electronic mail. In addition, these Minutes should be delivered by September 1st following the District Convention.

Discussion was heard from the floor by DG Pete Chambers who stated that in theory, this sounds good, but in reality and through experience, it is very difficult to get the current officer information from each chapter in a timely fashion because of late chapter elections and summer vacations. He noted that it was not realistic to ask that of an individual when in fact the AHEPA does not have a network in place to conform to the current requirements

C. A proposal was suggested for the election of District Officers. Currently there is a nominating committee that presents information to the Delegation; who in general, doesn't have an input to the nominating committee's choices. It is felt that more notice be given to the Delegation about the nominating committee's presentation of a slate and this proposed slate should come through the ranks of the current District Lodge. It is also suggested that at the beginning of the District Convention, the District Governor should announce the members of the nominating committee so the Delegations knows who they are and this committee should make known the proposed slate of candidates as early as Friday of the District Convention.

D. A proposal was suggested for the creation of an Information Technology position on the Chapter level and more information would be forthcoming from the Trio-Gram/IT committee report.

E. A recommendation was heard that each Chapter to have a fund raising project to raise money for Coolie's Anemia and other like worthwhile projects.

District Governor Pete Chambers noted that the charge of the Resolutions and Legislative Committee is to make proposals for presentation to the National Convention, not to make recommendations for the local Chapter. That being said, discussion was held regarding the Sons of Pericles and its integration in the Order of AHEPA. After lengthy debate, District Governor Chambers noted that the National By-Laws supersedes the District By-Laws in relation to the Sons of Pericles and that if any change were to occur, then it must be made at the National level and he challenged the Resolution and Legislative Committee to come back with a Resolution that could be presented to the National Convention for this purpose.

PSG Harry Cavalaris suggested a Mid-Year Conference; that involved representation from the Sons of Pericles, Maids of Athena, District 3 AHEPANS and Daughters of Penelope, be held to gather input and “iron out” issues for presentation to the District Convention and then to the National Convention.

DG Pete Chambers appreciated Brother Cavalaris’ input, but felt that another committee would not benefit because in reality this has been done before without success and still there are *very* few active chapters of Sons of Pericles. He noted that we should push forward to allow these 18 year olds full membership in the AHEPA and amend the age requirements of the Sons of Pericles from its current status to 14 to 18 year olds.

Convention Chair Nick Gretakis asked the Delegation for a motion that the District Governor present this proposal to the National Convention Legislative Committee. It was moved by Brother Demetri Melis (438), amended, seconded, points of order heard, more discussion held and passed.

In another concern regarding Resolution and Legislative issues, DG Pete Chambers noted that the current District By-Laws allow Delegate registration until noon on Saturday. He felt that Delegates arriving later than Friday at 1:00 should not be allowed to participate in the Convention because he feels that these late-comers will not have the knowledge and background to make proper decisions. Brother Chambers made a motion to change the By-Laws to reflect this. Much discussion was heard against the motion and Brother Chamber withdrew his motion.

Constantine Stavrides made a motion to make it mandatory for every chapter President and at least one delegate to be present at the opening ceremonies of the District Convention. The motion received no second and was not discussed nor voted upon.

The Chair recognized Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Brother Tom Owens (155) who noted that the National By-Laws “ties the hands” of the Board of Trustees to raise money for the National Lodge and recently had missed the opportunity to purchase land near the National HQ in Washington, DC; but could not because they do not have the power to do so. Brother Owens asked the Delegation to empower District 3’s District Governor to promote legislation to the National Legislative Committee, that would allow the Board of Trustees (in conjunction with the Supreme Lodge) to purchase real estate, provided

wording by the legal department is protective. A motion to this effect was made, seconded, discussed. Two delegates opposed and the motion was passed.

Brother Owens also noted that several years ago, the Board of Trustees was dysfunctional because changes were made that stripped the Board from most of its protective powers. Brother Owens asked the Delegation to empower District 3's District Governor to promote legislation to the National Legislative Committee, that would allow the Board of Trustees to co-sign contracts that could indebt the Order of AHEPA in the amount of \$10,000 or more. A motion was made, seconded, discussed, and passed unanimously.

The Convention Chairman entertained a motion to accept the Resolution & Legislative Committee's report as amended. It was seconded and passed. A copy of this report can be found in the committee report section.

3. District Awards - Chairman PDG Brother George Anas (241). Members included Nick Gretakis (122), George Mavronis (364), Pete N. Nickolas (30), Pete Stathis (31), George Kolidakis (155), Ted Sakkos (383) and Vasilis Fotopoulos (438).

Committee Chairman PDG George Anas was called upon by the Convention Chair to give the committee's report. Brother Anas, recognized the committee members and reported that committee received and reviewed applications for 1) AHEPAN of the Year 2) President of the Year and 3) Chapter of the Year.

He noted that all applications were reviewed and thoroughly discussed and after much scrutiny the committee's voting yielded the following results:

AHEPAN of the Year: Brother Nicholas P. Krial (30)

PRESIDENT of the Year: Co-Presidents: Brother Wayne Skinner (290)
Brother Constantine Stavrides (30)

CHAPTER of the Year: Peter N. Derzis Chapter #438

Chairman Anas thanked the members of his committee for their involvement and commitment.

The Committee Report was accepted by the Delegation. A copy of the report is attached in the committee report section.

After the report was accepted, a comment was made by an unidentified Brother who felt that the selection process should be altered to give more time for the committee to review the applications. The Chairman instructed the Brother to make his concerns known to the Legislative Committee who could change the By-Laws if deemed necessary.

4. Trio-Gram/ I T Committee – Chairman James Constantinides (30). Members included Luke Hajiantoni and Nick Krial. Brother Constantinides reported that the Committee considered two major items: 1) The creation of a Chapter IT Officer and 2) Improvements to the Trio-Gram.

In the creation of a Chapter IT Officer, the Committee Chairman noted that through the suggestion of the District Governor, they considered submitting a resolution to create an actual office on the Chapter level, to be named “Information Officer or IT Officer”.

The purpose of this office would be to enhance the communication capabilities of the District. He also stated that this person would be a channel for the flow of information from the chapter to the District Lodge and felt that this would involve, by whatever means are at their disposal in providing such information.

Brother Constantinides also noted that this person would be required to communicate with the District at a time interval as suggested by the Lodge IT Officer. The committee felt; that at the Chapter’s discretion, this could either be an elected or appointed position.

The committee noted that the District Lodge could provide space on the District Web site for each Chapter to post information about their Chapter.

In improvements to the Trio-Gram, the Committee Chairman also reported that the Committee (after looking at a publication from District 5) was inspired to consider looking into the possibility of raising the quality of our Tri-Gram to the level of a more professional publication and felt this can be accomplished by increasing the number of people who work on the Tri-Gram, thus giving the publication the means to expand advertising and content quality.

Brother Constantinides made a plea to the Delegation for volunteers to become a part of the Trio-Gram staff.

The Committee Report was accepted by the Delegation. A copy of this report is attached in the committee report section.

5. Auxillary Committee – Chairman George Stakias (364). Members included Demetrius Govotsos (383), John Fotiou (364), Harry Cavalaris (3), Constantine Stavrides (30) and Stephen Bourexis (30).

No one from the committee was on-hand to read the committee report; however, a six-page report had been submitted to the Convention Secretary. The Convention Chair noted that the report is available to be read by anyone and asked the Delegation if there was any opposition to not reading the document and to accept the report as turned-in. With no objection, the committee report was accepted as turned-in. A copy of this report is attached in the committee report section.

6. Athletics Committee – Chairman Nick Daniels (155). No other Delegates signed-up for this committee.

Brother Daniels reported that current District Athletic Director (Tom Grias -155) felt there could be a possible Golf Tournament in August, sponsored by the Williamsburg, VA Chapter # 427.

Chairman Daniels also noted that he would recommend to the District Athletic Director to contact next year's Host Convention Chairman for organizing Athletic events at the Convention.

The Committee Report was accepted by the Delegation. A copy of this report is attached in the committee report section.

7. Convention City Committee – Chairman Alex Papadopoulos (155). Members included Constantine Stavrides(30).

Chairman Papadopoulos reported that the current President of the James C. Magin Chapter 383 has announced that they would be hosting the 2009 78th Annual District Convention and noted that the days would be May 14, 15, 16, & 17 with registration on the 15th of May. It was also brought to the attention of the committee that the 2010 District Convention would be hosted by Chapter 9 in Fayetteville, NC. Other possible Convention Cities for 2011 and 2012 could be Chapter 155 in Hopewell, VA, Chapter 241 in Newport News, VA and Chapter 257 in Greensboro, NC.

The Convention Chair called and received a 2nd to accept the Committee's report. Discussion was heard from Brother Dean Economou (438) who had a concern regarding the 2009 Convention Host Chapter. He wanted to know if the Delegates from Chapter 383 had the support from the Chapter to obligate them to host the next Convention.

Brother Peter Tassis, President of Chapter 383 stated that his Chapter is in full support and that 75% of the planning has already been done in preparation for the 2009 Convention. Brother Tassis' only concern was not having knowledge of the \$1,000 fee to the District Lodge for sponsoring the Convention. The Convention Chair clarified that the By-Laws state the Convention City be prepared to pay a \$1,000 fee to Capital District 3 upon their being accepted as Convention City.

Other discussion was giving caution-to-the-wind regarding a Chapter advertising that it will be the next year's Convention Host City; without following protocol set forth in the By-Laws, while other discussion was heard praising a Chapter's excitement in advertising it's sponsorship of the following year's Convention, especially since past Conventions closed without having a site for the following year's Convention.

Another concern was voiced regarding menu planning and that future Convention City Hosts to be cognizant of special diabetic needs for the older Delegation.

The Chair expressed his joy over having so much discussion in the report of the Convention City Committee and asked for acceptance of the Convention Committee Report. The Committee Report was accepted by the Delegation. A copy of this report is attached in the committee report section.

8. Scholarship Certification and Evaluation Committee – Chairman Larry Odzak (277). Members included Steve Georgilakis and Tom Gekas.

The Committee reported that they met to check all applications for a District Scholarship and their classification as “need” or “scholastic”. The Committee checked the rankings of all applicants – all according to points given in line with criteria for High School Seniors, First Year College Students or College Undergraduates.

The Committee concluded that this year there were 36 qualified and ranked applicants and passed these findings to the Chairman of the District Scholarship Foundation, which will determine the total amount of funds to be disbursed.

The Committee Report was accepted by the Delegation. A copy of this report is attached in the committee report section.

9. Scholarship Foundation Committee – Chairman Steve Georgilakis and Member John Samos.

Chairman Georgilakis reported that our starting balance on June 3, 2007 was \$101,292 and we currently have \$104,424 in our District Scholarship Foundation Account at Fidelity Brokerage. He noted that with 70% of our money in the market and 30% in cash, our account yielded a 3.42% increase in 11 months considering a very volatile market these past 18 months.

He stated that in spite of our return, we are awarding a record disbursement of \$19,500 in scholarships. This award will be derived from the following:

Dividends, interest & capital gains	\$2,394
District Scholarship Fees	<u>\$1,454</u>
	\$3,848

A total of \$15,652 came from contributions by the following:

James and Harry Cavalaris
George Charuvis
Dr. Spiro Macris
Nick Trintis
Washington Area Chapter # 31
Woodrow Wilson Chapter # 241

Capital Management & Development of Bethesda, MD
Two Anonymous Donors
Generous Contributions from the Current Lodge

Brother Georgilakis noted that with all these contributions, this leaves a shortfall of \$510.

Convention Chair Nick Gretakis asked for and received a 2nd for the report and discussion was entertained.

Brother Nick Matthews (241) revealed that the not-yet-reported Audit Committee showed a surplus balance in the District Treasury and moved that the \$510 be paid from the District Treasury upon the Delegation's approval of that report.

The motion was seconded and discussion was held.

DG Pete Chambers noted that although he agreed with Brother Matthews' motion, but felt that it was out-of-order because the Audit Committee had not officially given their report and it had not been accepted by the Delegation.

PDG Pete Nikolas noted that there is nothing in the By-Laws that say we have to fund all scholarships and questioned as to whether we should consider giving ten \$1,000 scholarships to those who qualify, instead of giving \$500 scholarships to all those who apply, since that has been the case over the last few years.

Committee Chairman Georgilakis responded that that controversy has always been an issue and noted that it is the ultimate goal of the Foundation to increase the amounts of the scholarships, but until the funds grow, he and others feel that the \$500 scholarships will keep students in the pipeline.

Chairman Committee Georgilakis also addressed the remarks of Brother Matthews and noted that the anonymous donors together gave \$7000 towards the balance of the disburseable funds; but earmarked the extra money they gave, to go towards applicants with need. This allowed the Foundation to award applicants (based on need) to receive an extra \$500 – as stipulated by the donors. He also gave praise to this District for having a few Chapters who give additional funds to the Scholarship Foundation and challenged all Chapters to do so.

Brother Harry Cavalaris who spoke on Brother Nikolas' concern, also noted that there are so many changes in the costs of education and it is better to give something to everyone than a larger sum to few and felt that the District's Per Capita fees be increased to subsidize the Scholarship program.

Other discussion was held by the Delegation, where it was noted that the selection process is fair and based on a tried and proven set of criteria whether it is need or academics.

With no other discussion to be heard, the Delegation accepted the Committee's report.

The Convention Audio tapes will show the Convention Chair nor the Delegation ever called for the vote on the motion made by Brother Nick Matthews.

Since no written report was submitted to the Convention Secretary, no copy of this committee report is attached other than the Secretary's notes of the Convention.

Recipients of this year's scholarships include: Alexis Masterson, Matthew Vaveris, Elisabeth Tassis, Aristides Michos, James Economides, Dina Hilaris, Mary Economides, Neil Vranis, Thomas Cavalaris, Helen Rerras, Maria Mayorga, Zoe Cavalaris, Kristen Bromaghim, Elizabeth Touloupas, John Touloupas, Emmanuel Mavromatakis, Elaine Mourounas, Vasilios Dimopoulos, Demetra Kallinikos, Athena Theoharis, Kathleen Kypriandes, Whitney Hendricks, Eleni Fotiadis, Lydia Pappas, Jaime Hyrras, Demitra Sourlis, Alyssa Stefanidis, Dimetrius Hajimihalis, Alexander Marsh, George Sourlis, Nichole Rallis, Michael Dennon, Constantine Stefanidis, Zaharoula Katsikis, Argerios Stavrides and Christina Zehia.

10. Emergency & Response Committee – Chairman Steve Mavronis (364). Members included DG Pete Chambers.

Chairman Mavronis reported that the Emergency & Response Plan is the brainchild of DG Pete Chambers and noted that the Members of the AHEPA Capital District 3 recognize the urgency of leadership, guidance, the ability to assemble manpower, funding and communications within its AHEPA Network linked to 1.4 million Hellenes and friends of Hellenes worldwide.

Brother Mavronis noted that currently the AHEPA District 3 does not have a structured plan to respond to an emergency request from the National Headquarters. He stated that the purpose of this proposed Emergency & Response plan is to be able to respond to any emergency request from the National Headquarters or from the local authorities. The level of response is limited to money, relief items and manpower. To accomplish the appropriate response, it is felt that each Chapter should be prepared in advance to move into action.

Brother Steve reported that funding for this Emergency & Response Plan come from each Chapter establishing an emergency relief fund that is separate and distinct from any existing specialized fund. This fund should have a minimum balance of \$1,000 at all times with an ultimate goal of at least \$5,000.

Chairman Mavronis stated this purpose can be accomplished by having an infrastructure where each Chapter should establish an emergency response officer that would be the primary contact to activate this response. This Emergency Response Officer (ERO) can be any member in good standing in the Chapter and should be a volunteer or appointed by the Chapter President. He noted that duties of this ERO would be to establish, implement and test their specific emergency communications system and recommended that this system be tested by using it to notify members of illness or death to keep the system vital. The ERO would also be responsible for administering Emergency and

Response funds and making these funds available upon the request of the AHEPA Supreme President.

Brother Mavronis stated that the Committee proposes that Capital District 3 adopt this Disaster Response Plan immediately.

DG Pete Chambers spoke on the specific steps of implementation and their rationale.

The Convention Chair asked and received a 2nd on the report and heard discussions that support such a program, but questioned the reality of it working perfectly as outlined. It was felt that General Chapter Meetings would still need to be held to authorize disbursement of funds, rather than an ERO doing so without prior authorization. Other comments were heard from Chapters who do send Emergency Relief Funds to the National Organization, but do not have separate emergency fund accounts.

With no other discussion, the Delegation accepted the Committee's report. A copy of this report is attached in the committee report section.

11. Cyprus & Hellenic Affairs Committee – Chairman Steve Bourexis. Members included Demetrius Govotsos (383), Luke Hajiantoni (30), George Stakias (364), James Constantinides (30), John Fotiou (364), Constantine Stavrides (30) and Harry Cavalaris (3).

Chairman Bourexis reported that the same members on the Resolutions and Legislation Committee also served on this Committee. He noted they had a quick meeting and unanimously agreed to support: 1) The Reunification of Cypress and 2) The Recognition of Macedonia.

The Convention Chair called and received a 2nd to the report. With no discussion, the Committee report was accepted. A copy of this report is attached in the committee report section.

12. Audit & Budget Committee – Chairman PSG Nick Matthews (241). Members included PSG Nicholas Trintis (364), PSG Col. Nick Vamvakias (438), PDG Nick Gretakis (122) and PDG Nick Krial (30).

Chairman Nick Matthews reported on the Committee's five Action Items, which include:

A - Allowable Officer's Expenses

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Allowed</u>
DG Pete Chambers	\$3,410.00	\$4,976.52	\$3,410.00
DLG Larry Odzak	\$825.00	\$668.32	\$668.32
DS Dean Vurnakes	\$605.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
DT Steve Mavronis	\$600.00	\$2,408.00	\$600.00
DM Aristotelis Chronis	\$330.00	\$678.14	\$330.00

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Allowed</u>
DW Demetrius Govotsos	\$330.00	\$614.00	\$330.00
DAD Tom Grias	\$330.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Brother Matthews noted that in the past, District Lodge Officers have not taken the allowed reimbursements and asked that these funds be donated back to the Lodge. Brother Matthews stated the proper way to make these donations is for the Officer to take the reimbursement check from the District Secretary and then write a personal check back to the Lodge.

B – Check Book Reconciliation

Chairman Matthews reported that the committee reconciled the check book with the spreadsheet balance of \$38,540.84 (May 2, 2008) which was the same balance on the Treasurer’s report of District Treasurer, Steve Mavronis.

C – Receipts & Disbursement Reconciliation

Brother Matthews reported the committee reconciled the receipts and disbursements against the spreadsheet and copies of all checks. The committee found all attached reports to be accurate and reflected the following balances:

Actual 2007-2008 (Convention Year)

Income:	\$21,958.26
Expenses:	<u>\$20,689.32</u>
Net Profit:	\$1,268.94

D – 2007-2008 Reconciliation

Chairman Matthews reported the following balances:

Wachovia Statement Balance (7/31/07)	\$26,093.58
Net Profit (from Checkbook)	<u>\$1,268.94</u>
Spreadsheet & Budget Balance	\$27,362.52
Spreadsheet Bank Balance	\$27,676.78
Difference (Surplus)	\$314.26

E – 2008-2009 Project Budget

Brother Matthews reviewed the Actual versus Projected Income & Expenses of the budget and the committee proposed the following Surplus Budget for approval by the Delegation:

Income:	\$25,890.14
Expenses	<u>\$19,840.40</u>
Net Profit	\$6,049.74

Questions were heard from the Delegation and Explained by the District Treasurer regarding a low proposed budget for the District Convention Printing of Books, 2007 allocated monies for the 2nd Trio-Gram printing and reimbursement of National Dues Collected for Headquarters.

PSG Nick Trintis noted that only 5 of 27 Chapters send money to support the Trio-Gram. He noted that although it is a voluntary \$25 per chapter, it is a poor showing. His motion to require all Chapters to submit this financial support was over-ruled and recommended to the Legislation Committee.

Brother Dean Economou (PDS) noted there is lack of communication in the system when it comes to reimbursing District Lodge Officers with their expenses and hoped this dialogue would bring it front-of-mind for future District Treasurers.

The Convention Chair asked and received a 2nd to the Committee's report which includes the 2008-2009 Budget. No other discussion was heard and the Report was accepted by the Delegation. A copy of this report is attached in the committee report section.

With no other Committees to Report, the Chair recessed the Convention at 12:30 pm and noted that it will re-convene after lunch.

Convention Chair Nick Gretakis reconvened the Convention at 2:30pm and noted that all committee had made their reports. DG Pete Chambers questioned whether the Treasurers should give his report, but Brother Gretakis noted that this report was included in the Audit & Budget Committee reports.

GOOD of the ORDER - The Convention Chair noted that all Delegates should see Nominating Committee Chair, PSG Nick Trintis for any nominees with regards to next years District Lodge Officers.

Brother Demetrius Govotsos moved to recommend a change in the By-Laws to be taken up by the Legislation Committee. This motion was to make a \$25 mandatory Trio-Gram fee to each Chapter and this assessment should be invoiced to each Chapter by the District Treasurer.

After a 2nd, Discussion was held about what to do if Chapters did not pay this assessment. It was felt that we should be more aggressive in asking for Trio-Gram money rather than trying to assess.

With no other discussion to be heard, the Chair called for a vote. With 13 voting in favor and 9 against, the motion was carried.

In other remarks on the Good-of-the-Order, a clarification was asked of the Cyprus & Hellenic Affairs Committee regarding the Macedonia name. Much discussion was heard and Chairman of the Cyprus & Hellenic Affairs, Steve Bourexis, noted that he misstated the written report and wanted to clarify that the Committee supports the Greek

Government and the AHEPA Supreme's Lodge position on these issues. A motion was made, 2nd , Discussed and carried regarding Capital District Lodge 3 supporting the Supreme Lodge stand on Macedonia.

Brother Arthur Lalos announced that a joint ceremony between Washington Area Chapter 31 and Peter Derzis Chapter 438 will commence on May 24th for the laying of wreaths on the tombs of Greek-American soldiers who have been laid to rest in the Arlington National Cemetery. He invited all Chapters to attend.

The Chair recognized and welcomed the Power District 4 Governor, John Mesogitis

Brother John Fotiou (364) expressed his concern that our membership numbers are shrinking and we need to make some changes to get younger members involved. The Chair thanked him for his comments.

The Chair recognized the Chairman of the AHEPA Board of Trustees, Brother Tom Owens (155) who spoke on the financial health of the National AHEPA. He noted that this past year had been a strong year financially and there was a successful legislative session at the National Convention in Denver, where the Board of Trustees were able to gain some of its lost duties and responsibilities. He also noted that the AHEPA Family Affinity Credit Card program was begun. This program pays the chapters for each credit card application they submit and the National AHEPA gets a small portion of the monthly charges. Brother Tom concluded by thanking the Delegation for their support and looked forward to seeing everyone at the National Convention in Athens, Greece.

The Chair then recognized our District Webmaster, Brother Luke Hajiantonis and congratulated him doing such a great job and noted that our Website is approaching 10,000 hits.

The Chair recognized PDG Dr. Pete Nikolas who suggested that each Chapter appoint a committee to record all the Senior Members on audio or video format to document their histories and involvement in the AHEPA. The Chair even suggested that these videos could be later viewed on the District Website.

The Convention Chair recognized Nominating Committee Chairman, PSG Nick Trintis who announced that we need a Treasurer and Athletic Director. Brother Gretakis called for a ten minute break so the Nominating Committee could finalize the slate.

After the recess, the Convention Chair called on the Nominating Committee who proposed the following slate for the 2008-2009 year:

DG	Pete Chambers (438)	DM	Demetrious Govotsos (383)
LG	Steve Mavronis (364)	DW	Tom Grias (155)
DS	Dean Vurnakes (155)	DAD	Open
DT	John Bantsolas (9)		

The Chair asked for any nominations for the District Athletic Director. Brother George Kolidakis (155) nominated Brother Alex Papadopoulos (155) for the position and it was quickly seconded. Brother Nick Trintis noted that Brother Papadopoulos was asked to join the slate, but according to the By-Laws; he had not held an elected office in his home chapter, and could not serve.

Several Brothers spoke on behalf of Brother Papadopoulos being an asset to the District Lodge. DG Pete Chambers noted that there have been many times when the By-Laws had been overlooked when it came to filling positions on the District Lodge and cited several examples. Other Brothers expressed their thoughts and ideas on allowing Brother Papadopoulos to serve and voice their support of his nomination. The consensus of the majority, was to find a solution to by-pass our existing rules which would allow this young man to serve on the District Lodge.

After more discussion, the Convention Chair called for the vote regarding the recommendation of the Nominating Convention which included nominees for all positions except the District Athletic Director. A second was given and with no opposition, a motion was carried to accept the slate without an Athletic Director.

The Convention Chair then called for a motion that would allow Brother Papadopoulos the authority to serve as District Athletic Director. Brother Vasilis Fotopoulos moved to amend the By-Laws and accept Brother Papadopoulos as Athletic Director. DG Pete Chambers noted that there is a standing Legislative Committee and he would empower them to write the corrective language to make the position of District Athletic Director and only the District Athletic Director's position, *not* be held to the "elective rule".

Opposition was heard to amending the By-Laws stating that these rules already provide a way for the District Governor to appoint someone to the position and that changing the Eligibility for Office is not necessary.

The Convention Chair called for the vote on the amended motion made by Brother Fotopoulos which called for accepting Brother Papadopoulos as District Athletic Director and amend to the By-Laws that would exempt only the District Athletic Director's eligibility for office, from having not previously served in an elective capacity in his Chapter for one year. After a second, the Chair also noted that a 2/3 majority vote of the Delegation was needed to make this By-Law Amendment. A vote was called and the motion was carried by a 2/3 majority vote of 11 against and 28 in favor.

After the vote, Nominating Committee Chair Nick Trintis made a suggestion for the outgoing District Lodge Officers to be mentors to the new Lodge Officers to make their transition to power and easy move.

The Convention Chair then recognized the District Governor Pete Chambers who spoke to the Delegation. DG Chambers thanked the host Chapter for the 77th Convention and was happy to announce that the Silver Spring Chapter 383 and Fayetteville Chapter 9 will host the next two Conventions.

Brother Chambers also thanked the members of the Lodge for their hard work and support. He also spoke of the “WE” Initiative and this program was introduced at three District Workshops in Baltimore, MD, Greensboro, NC and Hopewell, VA. He noted that the “WE” initiative is to promote the success of each Chapter through the success of all Chapters by sharing their experience and knowledge.

Brother Governor also spoke on Emergency & Response, District 3 Website, Membership, National projects and Auxiliary organizations and noted that he traveled to all the states in our District. A copy of the Governor’s Report is attached in the committee report section.

DG Chambers gave special recognition to out-going members of the District Lodge DLG Larry Odzak especially on his contributions of re-vitalizing the North Carolina Chapters to the District and DM Ari Chronis on his hard work to the AHEPA Academy and noted he would be staying-on as head of the standing Legislative Committee.

The Chair then recognized the visiting Governor of Power District 4, Brother John Mesogitis; who spoke on AHEPA values and projects.

After a few closing comments from Brothers Dean Economou, Pete Chambers, Larry Odzak, Tom Owens and Arthur Lalos

With no other business to attend, Convention Chair; Nick Gretakis adjourned the 77th Capital District 3 Convention at 5:05 p.m.