

AHEPA Power District #4 Lodge Hosts 87th Annual PA State Convention

The 87th Annual Pennsylvania Keystone State District Convention was held on June 7-9 at the Holiday Inn in Grantville, PA. This site was chosen to accommodate all the AHEPANS AND DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE from the Power District #4 who were traveling from all over the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is a central location nearby the Hershey attractions including Hershey Park, the Hershey Chocolate World, the Hollywood Casino, Penn National Racetrack, and the many delightful dining facilities permeating the area. All 20 located in Pennsylvania were invited and the convention was filled with excitement and fruitful meetings and discussions. The 87th Annual Power District #4 Convention Committee was chaired by District Governor Charles Mackenzie and Co-Chaired by District Marshal Dr. Michael Billys and District Warden Christ Megoulas. There were numerous committees which are described as follows: General Chairman Charles Mackenzie, District Governor, Convention Co-Chairs—DM Dr Michael Billys & DW Christ Megoulas, Golf Outing Chairs—DW Christ Megoulas, DM Dr. Michael Billys & DAD Harry Mackrides, Hotel Arrangements—site visits, room reservations, banquet and meeting rooms, menus - PST Tony Drakos, DM Dr Michael Billys and DW Christ Megoulas; Music Chairman—DM Dr Michael Billys; Program Ad Book Chairman—DS John Katras; Dignitary Letters Chairs—Hon. Ryan Mackenzie; Treasurer—DT William Gandjos; Publicity, Communications and District Web Site—DM Dr Michael Billys; Convention packets, bags, ID cards, etc.—LG Chris Shaffer & DG Tamie Shaffer. Nominated and approved were Anthony Drakos, Convention Chairman and Dr. Michael Billys, Convention Vice Chairman. Photios Skolikas was appointed as Convention Secretary.



The Host Team pictured above are composed of (L-R) AHEPAN Co-Chairmen Megoulas, Dr. Billys, Steve Wilsbach, and Harry Macrides.

The Convention began with early registrations on Friday afternoon June 7th, 2019. Participating as Golfers in the 'GOLF OUTING' held that Friday afternoon at the Deer Valley GC were 18 golfers from various AHEPA Chapters, who all contributed to the 'Cooley's Anemia Program' established by the AHEPA Power District #4 to assist AHEPA Chapter #64 in their program to screen participants and educate the community. The total donation was a generous \$1,010.00, a great achievement for this event. The Cooley's Anemia Program is established with the intention to generate sequential programs

throughout the District #4 in the coming years, and eventually throughout the entire AHEPA family. Much appreciation goes out to ALL these golfers who donated their time and money for this worthy cause. Thank you to ALL these participants for both your charity and philanthropy. Much fun and fellowship permeated the atmosphere, as both the beautiful weather and wonderful golf course provided enjoyment for the golfers. Friday evening's delegates and guests enjoyed the many venues in the Grantville/Hershey area described above.

The convention then promptly convened early on Saturday morning June 8th, 2019 with a continental breakfast before the AHEPA and DOP meetings were scheduled to take place. A full lunch was served for both fraternal bodies joined together before a full afternoon of meetings. A monetary presentation to District Governor Mackenzie from Chapter #64 for the '2nd Service Dog' from District #4 was given during the luncheon. This contributed to the \$15,000.00 needed to fulfill the cost for the second dog whose name is yet to be given. These dogs go to the 'Service Dogs for Wounded Warriors' program adopted by the AHEPA for philanthropic endeavors. It has been an ongoing program, now in it's second year of fruition.



Presenting the final installment for the 'Service Dog' is from AHEPA Chapter #64 of Harrisburg: (L-R) Haralambos Arahovas, District Marshal Dr. Michael Billys, District Governor Charles Mackenzie, Steve Nicholas, District Warden Christ Megoulas, Dimitri Zozos, and Dr. Zissis Chroneos.

The 87th District #4 Convention was a great honor to bestow *and will never be forgotten*, as much was accomplished at this wonderfully prepared affair. *Brother David Vincent Bobb* of our own *Chapter #64* presented his movie '*RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES*' early on Saturday morning June 8th. This movie already has gained 17 nominations and has reaped 6 awards including those for best Producer/Director at the many nationwide film festivals he's been invited to attend. The movie was well received by the delegation with resounding success, as Brother Bobb was invited to present his movie to the *Supreme Convention taking place this July 1-6 in Chicago* by *Brother Supreme Secretary George Horiates*, who was in attendance and extremely moved by this faith-based presentation featuring a recovering addict who was intent on reuniting with his autistic son to create a family with him. *The Supreme Governor George Papaspyrou*, also attending, added his positive remarks about the movie and complimented *Brother Horiates* in suggesting to present the movie at the Supreme Convention taking place in Chicago.



Pictured above is Dr. Zissis Chroneos.

Also making a presentation on Saturday afternoon of the same day was our very own professor, *Brother Dr. Zissis Chroneos*, who by the discretion of the District #4 delegation, spoke on the progress of our *Chapter #64's Cooley's Anemia Committee*, who are preparing to initiate a screening process involving the community of the Holy Trinity Cathedral. This committee is composed of *Father Michael Varvarelis, Cathedral Dean; Brother Christ Megoulas, Blood Bank Coordinator and AHEPA District Warden; Brother Dr. Zissis Chroneos, Professor of Pediatrics, Microbiology, and Immunology at the Penn State/Hershey Medical Center; and Brother Dr. Michael Billys, Committee Chair and AHEPA District Marshal of the Power District #4 of Pennsylvania.*

Nominated and Approved Unanimously for a Second Term with the District #4 Lodge were:

District Governor Charles Mackenzie
Distirct Lt. Governor - Christopher Shaffer
District Secretary - John Katras
District Treasurer - Bill Gandjos
District Marshal - Dr. Michael Billys
District Warden - Christ Megoulas
District Athletic Director - Harry Macrides
Scholarship Chairman – Cleon Kordistos
Power Line Editor – Dr. Michael Billys
Webmaster – Wynn Storton



The banquet was hosted by our own District Lodge #4 Officers as PSG Cleon Kordistos was Master of Ceremonies. At the head table was AHEPA Supreme Secretary George Horiates who was representing the Supreme Lodge, Supreme Governor George Papaspyrou, and District Governor Charles Mackenzie. Representing the Daughters of Penelope were the Grand Secretary Kathy Bizoukas of the Supreme Lodge and District Governor Tamie Shaffer. Father Michael Varvarelis, Dean of the Holy Trinity Cathedral, gave the invocation and benediction. Chapter #64 of Harrisburg was awarded with the Chapter with the most Membership and Retention commendation, whose membership increased 40% from 60 members to 94 members over the past 2 years.



The Daughters of Penelope initiation was also a tremendous success for the 2019-2020 Officers who are District Governor - Tamie Shaffer; LT. Governor - Nancy Val Kambouroglos; Treasurer - Mary Beldecos, PDG; Secretary - Diana Barlamas; District Marshal - Ashley Katras; and, District Advisor – Diana Lee Gregorakis.

Both initiations for the Power District #4 AHEPA and DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE LODGES took place during the Saturday, June 8th deliberations and preceded the 87th Annual District Convention Banquet, where an evening of fine dining, wonderful speeches, and fellowship was enjoyed by all in attendance. This affair was enjoyed by all delegates and guests who were enamored by the wonderful music and dancing that took place. The Beaver Valley Chapter #400 achieved the 'Chapter of the Year' award and the immediate PDG Alex Barlamas was awarded 'Ahepan of the Year' for his leadership throughout the Beaver Valley #400 this year's many accomplishments.

On Sunday, June 9th following the Divine Liturgy, representatives from the convention were recognized by Father Michael Varvarelis at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Camp Hill, PA. The 87th District Convention was adjourned and began preparation for the 88th District Convention to take place in Baltimore, Maryland next year to be combined with District #3.