



## PRESS RELEASE

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### AHEPA FAMILY DISTRICT No.23 CONCLUDES 77<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION IN NATION'S CAPITAL

OTTAWA – The AHEPA Family of District No.23 concluded its 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Ottawa, ON. Among the dignitaries present in the Opening Ceremony, were His Eminence, Metropolitan Archbishop Sotirios of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Canada, H.E. the Hon. Eleftherios Anghelopoulos, Ambassador of Greece to Canada, H.W. James Watson, Mayor of Ottawa, Dean Karakasis, President of the Hellenic Community of Ottawa and Fr Alex Michalopoulos, Protopresbyter of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church of Ottawa.

Also present were George Vassilas, AHEPA Canada President, Nicky Stamoulis Grand President of the Daughters of Penelope (DOP), Christina Andrews Canadian President of DOP, Jim Fabrikis, Governor of the AHEPA District 23 Lodge and Aspa Kostopoulos, Governor of the District 23 DOP Lodge. The Co-chairs of the well organized convention were the Ottawa Chapter presidents George Antoniou and Margaret Dritsas while Alice Sophianopoulos, PCP presided over the opening ceremonies and welcomed the delegates and guests present.

Among the day and a half long deliberations were decisions to enhance AHEPA's advocacy role on issues regarding Greece, Cyprus and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the selection of six District scholarships and the elections of the new officers of the lodges for the 2012-13 period. Jim Fabrikis, from Toronto was re-elected for a second term as District Governor while Alexandra Vasilakopoulos from Montreal was elected as the District Governor of the DOP. The Lord Byron AHEPA CJ1 Toronto Chapter was chosen for the Chapter of the Year Award as did the Hamilton Chapter of the DOP. Bob Sashenidis was chosen for the District Chapter President of the Year Award while Ken Matziorinis was the recipient of the District 23 Ahepan of the Year Award.



Seen here are Aspa Kostopoulos, Jim Fabrikis, Christina Andrews, George Vassilas and DOP Grand President Nicky Stamoulis

Following the proceedings the AHEPA Family and guests gathered at the Reception Centre of the Ottawa Hellenic Community for a night of food, music and dancing under the musical direction of Vasilakis. The convention ended on Sunday morning following church service at the Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church.

The business portion of the meeting was chaired by Lazarus Kalipolidis, PCP and Frank Antoniou, PCP. Also participating were Tony Mavromaras, PCP, Olga Psilopoulou, PCP, Betty Drakontaidis, Annie Valkanas, and Penny Damianakos. District 23 is made up of numerous chapters of AHEPA, the DOP, the SOP and the MOA located in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes.



Seen here is the newly installed District Lodge. Seen from L-R George Karabelas, Ioannis Bougas, Dean Antonakes, Jim Fabrikis, Ken Matziorinis, Panos Sechopoulos, Jimmy Dionissopoulos (absent from picture, Constantine Katsoulis)

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For more information, please contact:

Ken Matziorinis, 514-884-6962

[www.ahepamontreal.org](http://www.ahepamontreal.org)

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AHEPA is a world-wide grassroots organization of the Greek Diaspora founded 90 years ago whose mission goals are Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility and Individual Excellence. The first Canadian Chapter of AHEPA was founded in 1928 in Toronto.