

# Ahepa Traveler

CHAPTERS THROUGHOUT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN NEVADA

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December/Winter 2008

## Western Regional Leadership Conference

by *Kostas Gus Hazifotis*

The Western Regional Leadership Conference, held in Reno, Nevada on October 3 & 4, 2008, was a huge success. The theme of "Recognizing Excellence" and a lot of advance planning assure success. An interesting program was developed, well executed and included outstanding speakers. AHEPA Family members from Districts 16, 20, 21 and 22 were in attendance. Barbara Stavis Wolf, Grand President and John Grossomanides, Supreme Secretary started the program with an open discussion get together on Friday night, followed by a reception full of more discussions, good fellowship and great refreshments.

The Saturday morning meeting introductions were made by PSP Andy Banis and PGP Connie Banis. Presentations on the vision and progress of our organizations and information on membership and Headquarters were given. Invigorating speakers kept the Conference gaining momentum. Barbara Stavis Wolf, with her energy and passion for the Daughters, inspired the audience. John Grossomanides, and Kiki Amanatides, Grand Treasurer, MOA informed everyone on new programs. Anthony Kouzounis, Supreme Treasurer, let everyone know the details of the VISA Credit Card Program. Xenia Stefanidou, Consul General of Greece, thrilled the audience with her

presentation on Leadership On the Line; Elaine Kontominas Alquist, California State Senator, Keynote Speaker at the Awards Luncheon brought back many memories as she spoke of her upbringing in a Greek American Home and Civic Responsibility; and Catherine Bliss, MGM Sales gave many helpful hints in her presentation on Planning an Event or Convention.



Military Service Award Recipients from the left: Chris Zazas, Jim Nicholson, Angelo Lygizos and Frances Williams. Not Pictured: Alexander Limberes.

The Awards Luncheon was the highlight of the day. Honored were two AHEPA Family members dedicated to Hellenism: **Chris Rockas** of Fresno, for his work on the National Hellenic Project and **Marina Moustakas** of San Jose, for her work with the Hellenic Heritage Museum. Military Service Awards were presented to: **Frances Christacakos Williams** of Portland, OR for services in the WACS and OSS in WWII; **Angelo Lygizos**, San Jose, CA, for his service in Donovan's Raiders and the Greek Battalion and his efforts behind enemy lines for the Greek Resistance; **Chris Zazas**, San Diego, CA, for his service in the European Theater and on D-Day; **Jim**

**G. Nicholson**, Reno, NV, for his service as an Infantry Officer during WWII and service in the Civil Air Patrol; and **Alexander Limberes**, Reno, NV, for his service in the U.S. Army assignment overseas and Viet Nam (Commander Special Forces) and achieving the Rank of Colonel.

Lee Milas, member AHEPA Board of Trustees presented each Military Award

Recipient with a special medal of honor from the State of New Jersey.

After the Luncheon everyone enjoyed a few more special topics in the Conference, such as The Importance

of Hellenism Today, AHEPA Housing, and the 2009 Supreme Convention. General Consul General, Xenia, won the door prize of 2 night stay at the Circus Circus and Hrisanthe Patts won the prize for dinner for two at a nearby restaurant. The day concluded with a lively reception full of conversations on the days' topics, delicious refreshments, and new friendships. A few people were even able to make it out to the Casino and garner some winnings for the trip home. A great time was had by all. It was a week-end to learn, meet our AHEPA Family leadership and enjoy the Sisterhood and Brotherhood that makes our organizations so wonderful and successful. ❖

"AHEPA TRAVELER is published quarterly, four times a year March, June, September and December by Order of AHEPA, 3327 Lake Albano Circle, San Jose, CA 95135."

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Article III – This Order shall be non-partisan in politics and non sectarian in religion. All partisan political and all sectarian religious discussions are prohibited in any official deliberations thereof.

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2008-2009**

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2008-2009**

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**ARTICLES FOR WINTER ISSUE  
Due – FEBRUARY 15, 2009**

**MAILING SCHEDULED  
MARCH 1, 2009**

**Have Ritual Manual . . .  
Will Travel**



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## AHEPA District Governor's Message



**Sylvia Golfes**  
District Governor

### Holiday Greetings to All!

Once again we find ourselves preparing to celebrate the "holiday season" with friends and family, however, this year this might not be the case for everyone, so let us all try to help in any way possible by giving to your favorite charity organization, i.e. food, clothing, money, toys for the children, and also remember to say a prayer and light a candle for those less fortunate when you go to church.

On a very sad note for the Daughters of Penelope one of our Founding Members, Sister Sophie Cannellos, passed away on October 27, 2008. A special moment of silence was given for Sister Sophie at the Founder's Day Luncheon. *May her spirit be eternal.*

Congratulations goes to the Oakland AHEPA Family for hosting a wonderful and well attended Fall Conference on October 18, 2008 – over 60 sisters were in attendance. A special thank-you goes to Chapter President Sister Sophia Johnston, Sister Drea Freaan and all of the Sisters of Echo #4 for a superb job.

As stated in a booklet prepared by Grand Vice President Elaine Sampanis and given to the District Governors at the District Governors Conference, the theme for the Growth and Expansion program this year is *OUR VISION WILL BRING A BRIGHTER FUTURE* "We learn from our Glorious Past... We live in our Enriched Present... We Look and Leap into our Bright Future". Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfeld, our founder, had an idea or vision. Her dream was the Daughters of Penelope. The actual organization went far beyond her vision or dream and continues to grow with the help of ideas or visions from members. The Daughters of Penelope is comprised of thousands of individuals all with different and unique ideas, and when these ideas are brought together or "brainstormed" sisterhoods are developed."

Just a reminder: 1) Reinstatement fee is waived for the month of November only. 2) The Annual Per Capita was raised January 1, 2008 to \$27.00 for each Sister.

Eos Chapter #1, the Mother Lodge of the Daughters of Penelope, hosted a fabulous luncheon/fashion show at the Westin San Francisco Airport Hotel celebrating the 79th Anniversary of the founding of our order. Among the many attendees was one of the Founding Mothers of the Daughters of Penelope Sister Effie Choppelas, who celebrated her 100th birthday earlier this year, Grand President Barbara Stavis Wolf, Grand Governor Zone III Helen Santire, Grand Governor Zone IV our District Liaison Jan Spanos, and Grand Advisor to the Maids of Athena Joanne Saltas as well as three Past Grand Presidents and many Past District Governors.

At the Fall Conference, the 2009 District Charitable Raffle tickets were distributed by Co-Chairman District Lt. Governor Margo Drosos and the 2008 Charitable Chapter Rebate Checks were distributed by District Treasurer Foula Vasilogiorgis. Let's try to make 2009 the year that we sell all of our tickets. Remember – the Early Bird Drawing will be held at the Spring Conference.

Scholarship Chairman, Joanne Booras, PGP, PDG, gave 2009 Scholarship Applications to those Chapter Presidents in attendance

## AHEPA District Governor's Message

### Holiday Greetings to All!

By the time you receive this issue of the Traveler your District Lodge will be half way finished with our visitations. Our first visit was with the Reno Chapters, an informal one due to the Western Regional Conference. The Chapters did a fantastic job with the social hours Friday and Saturday evenings.



**Stephen Miller**  
District Governor

I would like to thank Brother Gus Hazifotis for arranging a very informative Conference held at Circus Circus. A very effective aspect of this Conference was that all of the sessions were held with the Ahepan and DOP together. Many informative ideas were presented for all. If you have not attended a regional Conference I urge you to make every effort to attend, not only of the social aspect but to gather further insight into the workings of our National Headquarters.

Your District Lodge has been received with grace and Fraternal love at all visitations. All of the Chapters visited are in very good hands. As always membership is a very important topic. Many suggestions have been brought forward to solve the problem but the one that seems to work best is the personal one. With your belief in our Fraternal Organization a prospective member will see your own enthusiasm.

With the holiday fast approaching, the month of December, there will be no visitations.

A special get well note to District Auditor, PDG, PSG Brother Bill Rotas for a speedy recovery from his latest illness.

Litsa and I personally wish you and your families a joyous and happy holidays. Let us not forget the real reason for Christmas, the birth of Jesus. Also to pray and hope for a better and more peaceful world in which we live in. ❖

Fraternally, Steve Miller, DG

at the Conference, and will mail out the others. This Application will be on the web-site in the near future.

Memorials and Tributes to the District Scholarship Funds can and should be made thru out the year. Your Chapter President has the envelopes or simply send your remembrance directly to Chairman Chrisanthy Panagopoulos, District Marshal, 1406 Woodcreek Way, Stockton, CA 95209.

The Modesto AHEPA Family will host the Spring Conference in March 14, 2009 at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, 313 Tokay Street followed by the Early Bird Drawing as mentioned above. More details will be forthcoming.

In closing I would like to commend the chapters that we have visited so far for their graciousness and wonderful hospitality shown to the District Lodge: we look forward the five remaining visitations.

*The Members of the District Lodge join me in wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ❖*

## Phaedra #64 Modesto

by Helen Woods/Mary Gavrilis

Greetings from Modesto. Thus far we have had a busy 2008 - engagements, weddings, European trips, special events and sadly a passing of one of our sister, Sister Angie Hayes. May her memory be eternal.

Congratulations to our incoming officers for 2008-09. By popular demand, the old officers will remain as the new officers. Helen Woods, President; Mary Gavrilis, Vice President, Katharine Chituras, Recording Secretary; Tina Gianopoulos, Corresponding Secretary and Eleni Venierakis, Treasurer.

Our year began with a most successful raffle which was chaired by the Daughters at the AHEPA's Annual Crabfeed. A past president's luncheon was held in June at Mimi's Restaurant to recognize Past President Sister Mary Gavrilis for her dedication and service to our Chapter. Mary is knowledgeable and a great assist to our new president, Helen Woods. We were honored to have our District Governor, Sylvia Golfes and Lt. Governor, Margo Drosos in attendance. In June Sisters Helen Woods, Mary Gavrilis, Katharine Chituras, Mary Cocolos and Joann Korakas attended a most successful District 21 Convention in Fresno. A fun time was had once again sharing and greeting old acquaintances. Looking forward to the next convention in 2009.

Sister Mary Cocolos (and her husband Stamus) was our delegate to the AHEPA National Convention in Athens, Greece. Sister Mary remained in Greece for an additional visit with relatives in Crete and Sparta. They had a glorious time. Speaking of glorious visits, Sisters Irene Angelo, Mary Cocolos, Mary Gavrilis and Gloria Vincent made a pilgrimage to Greece with other members of the Annunciation Church with Father Jon as their spiritual tour guide. Also traveling to Greece for family

visits were Sisters Galatia Aretakis with husband John, who attended their son's wedding in Crete, Maria Berris with husband Gus, Joanne Korakas with husband Nick, Sophie Pallios with husband George, Agatha Galas with husband Chris, and Denna Tsatsaronis and her daughter Markella. What a summer!



District Convention, Fresno 2008



District Convention, Ladies in Black



District Convention



District Convention

In August we held our Annual AHEPA Family Wine Tasting/Bar-B-Q at the home of AHEPAN Jeff Brown (wife Dena). Also attending was District 21 Governor Steve Miller and his wife Litsa along with Bill Anton. Our congratulations to Modesto's new AHEPA

president Alex Bazos who was installed at this event. President Helen Woods and Corresponding Secretary Tina Gianopoulos attended the District 21 Fall Conference in Oakland. As membership is a major concern, President Woods is initiating one of many "Meet and Greet" Saturday chapter meetings. These meetings should bring together DOP members who seldom attend our fall/winter nightly meetings. Again, Phaedra #64 outdid all chapters on selling the most Charitable Scholarship raffle tickets. Should be a challenge to all chapters to sell ALL their tickets. Can you beat us?? Try!!!

On October 21 we were pleased to welcome our District 21 Officers for their annual visitation to our chapter. We had a delightful chicken dinner and a most productive meeting. On Sunday, November 30th the AHEPA Family will host their annual Scholarship Breakfast to the Annunciation Community. A highlight of the event will be awarding three \$1,000 scholarships to the following Seminarians representing our community. They are: George Tsongranis, John Kocolas and Dean Brown. These funds are made available through the AHEPA Family Seminarian Fund which is one of our major projects.

Our annual Christmas party will be celebrated at the home of Eleni Venierakis with her husband Manoli. There will be a money tree with donations going towards local charities.

Of course our year would not be complete without the joyous weddings of our members children -Peggy Moraitis (son), Galatia Aretakis (son), Charlotte Pronoitis (daughter) and Helen Katotakis (daughter).

In closing the Daughters of Phaedra 64 wishes the AHEPA Family of District 21 a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with prosperity, good health and God's favor to all.

PS: Looking forward to renewing our acquaintances at the District 21 Spring Conference in Modesto on May 14, 2009. ❖

## Oakland AHEPA Family

by Ceil Koplos

### Oakland AHEPA Family Hosts Fall Conference

Golden Gate District 21 held their Fall Conference Saturday, October 25th at the Ascension Cathedral Community Center in Oakland. The conference was hosted by the Oakland AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope chapters. A joint business session was held, followed by a luncheon, and then by afternoon individual AHEPA and Daughter sessions. The luncheon committee was chaired by Emilene Fearn and daughter Alexandria.



Seated from the left Louis Metaxas, Toula Sostchen, Harry Metaxas, and Kay Cuclis. Standing Ceil Koplos, Sophia Johnston, Ben Gipson and Mary Ann Gipson.



Luncheon chairpersons Alexandria and Emilene Fearn served the luncheon buffet.



George Geouzellis, William Anton and Steve Brogolis worked the kitchen.

This last September the 20th, Saturday evening, the present District Governor, Steve Miller, hosted a 65th birthday part for his wife Litsa. The party was held at Bill and Natellie Cliffs lovely home in Pleasanton, her son and daughter in-law. Over 100 guests enjoyed a catered dinner, by John and Terry Calligeros, well into the evening.



Many brothers and sisters from District #21 were present including PSP Andy Banis and his wife PGP Connie Aretos Banis. A special tribute was a bagpipe solo by Lynne, Steve's brother, a professional. A grand time was had by all, and to see so many old friends was a special treat for the honored guest. ❖

*"Mighty fine,"  
may our  
AHEPA Family  
describe 2009*

*-Argie Steve Gionis*

### **AHEPA Family Christmas Dinner Dance**

Saturday, December 20th 2008  
San Mateo Elks Club  
233 West 20th Avenue, San Mateo  
6:30 Cocktails 7:30 Dinner  
Dancing to the music of Vital Sounds  
\$50 Adults \$15 Children under 12  
For ticket information:  
Theo Hegis 650 324-0835  
P.O. Box 7466, Menlo Park, CA 94026  
of  
Alexander Mallas 650 345-4742

*Proceeds to benefit Holy Cross Church Family to Family*

## San Mateo Chapter #392

by Chris Kyriacou

The AHEPA family of San Mateo has made a good start this year. We have a good time and are planning our new projects. We usually have



a biannual Food Drive for our local Food Bank, but this year we will have an ongoing drive to help the many families who are needy. We have had a pizza night meeting and last month a Wonderful Halloween costume party where our members were very creative. This month we are holding our annual Thanksgiving visitation with our District Lodge. On December 20th, we are holding a dinner dance at the San Mateo Elks Club to celebrate the Christmas season. Everyone is invited and flyers have gone out to all DOP presidents. Quite a few of our Daughters enjoyed the Founder's Day luncheon and we look forward to going on some outings this year to places of interest. Our most wonderful news is that we have a new junior order, the Maids of Athena Evadne #181. It is wonderful to see their enthusiasm and energy. I hope other chapters try to organize Maids and Sons so we can again have AHEPA families in the full sense of the word. ❖

## Daughters of Penelope National and District Honorary Awards

Every year at the National Convention, the Daughters of Penelope bestow the Penelope of the Year award to a worthy sister who has distinguished herself on the chapter, district and national level. This is the only recognition given annually within the organization to an individual who has excelled in these categories.

In District 21 we are proud to have as members, three sisters who have achieved this honor. The late Ann Mountanos, Mary Chicots of Eos Chapter, San Francisco, and Ceil Koplos of Echo Chapter, Oakland.

To compensate for the many dedicated sisters of District 21 who have served their chapters in an exemplary way the Past District Governors League of District 21 has established the Daughter of the Year award. This award is judged on

activities of the Hellenic Community. It is given for services rendered during the current year only, calendar year, July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

This award is not to be confused with the Penelope of the Year award. The Chapter Presidents should familiarize themselves with both awards and be sure that your candidate meets the criteria by which she will be judged. The two awards are entirely different, however, your nominee cannot apply for both awards in the same year.

If you have any further questions, I will be happy to discuss them with you. My name and number are on the application forms.

Thank you, Connie Aretos-Banis, PGP, PDG, Chairman, Daughter of the Year Award. ❖

## Sparta Chapter #18 Stockton

by P.J. Rishard

The District Lodge visit to Stockton's Sparta Chapter #18 proved to be a joyous and momentous evening. The joint AHEPA/Daughters of Penelope event was well attended by both groups. After a delicious meal was served, we adjourned to our separate meetings. Happily, Sparta was able to initiate two new members. We are a small chapter and this was even more meaningful as our District Governor, Sylvia Golfes, was able to do the honors. Mss. Toy Prescott and Jodie Chiarchianis are new members, who received their District 21 pins that evening.... a gift from the chapter. Sadly, our beloved Treasurer Biljana Ivanova attended her last meeting. She plans to join her daughter in Long Beach. Jaye Stevens, daughter of Sparta President and District Lodge Secretary P.J. Rishard was voted and installed as Treasurer. District Governor Golfes presided over this rite also. Sparta Chapter was honored to have shared these wonderful moments with our honored visitors. As stated before, Sparta may be small, but we are mighty and strong and happy. ❖



Chapter 246

**Order of AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope  
GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT # 21  
Spring Conference  
Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation  
Very Rev. Emmanuel Papageorge Cultural Center  
313 Tokay Ave ~ Modesto, California 95350  
Call Alex Bazos (209) 524-2414

Hosted by the Modesto AHEPA Family



Phaedra 64

Welcome Continental Breakfast.....	9:00 am
Combined AHEPA / Daughters meeting.....	10:00 am
Luncheon / Plaki.....	12:00 pm
Individual AHEPA / Daughters meetings.....	1:30 pm
Adjournment.....	3:30 pm
(Early Bird drawing to follow)	
Vesper Service.....	5:00 pm

### REGISTRATION FORM

Please make your reservations by March 8<sup>th</sup> 2009

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AHEPA CHAPTER # \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DAUGHTERS CHAPTER # \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Number in party \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 each Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

alekosB@gmail.com

Please enclose check payable to: "AHEPA Modesto Family"

Mail to: Alex Bazos Laser Plus ~ 1508 Coffee Rd Ste #C1 ~ Modesto, CA 95355

### AHEPA Scholarship Applications

The District 21 AHEPA Scholarship Committee sent applications for the 2009 awards to all chapter presidents in early December. A minimum of \$10,000 will be awarded to qualifying high school graduation students. Please request applications early as they will be due no later than April 1, 2009 and must be sent by certified mail to Scholarship Chairman Louis N. Janakos, 945 South Fremont Street, San Mateo, CA 94402. Should you have any questions, Mr. Janakos can be reached at 650 342-5888. No applications sent by regular mail or post marked after April 1, 2009 will be accepted. Please show your support for this program by sending your donations to the above address.



Daughters of Penelope Golden Gate District 21

DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Proudly announces the

**2009 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

**FOR UNDERGRADUATES ONLY**

**Daughter of Penelope District 21 Golden Gate - \$2,000**

**Daughters of Penelope District 21 Golden Gate - \$2,000**

**DOP Past District Governor's League - \$2,000**

**FOR GRADUATES ONLY**

**Ekaterini Tsakopoulos Memorial - \$2,000**

**Angela Mouroufas Memorial - \$2,000**

**Kalliopi Alexopoulos Memorial (Medical Field Only) - \$1,000**

**RE-ENTRY / CONTINUING EDUCATION ONLY**

(This is a Special Circumstances Award)

**Daughters of Penelope District 21 Golden Gate - \$1,000**

\*\*\*\*\*

**For more information contact**

*Joanne Booras*

*DOP District Scholarship Chairman*

*925-736-1343*

*Email: joanne16@sbcglobal.net*

- Additional awards as offered by individuals and chapters will vary from year to year.

**Awards Available to Daughters of Penelope District Convention June 18-20 in San Jose**

*by Connie Aretos Banis*

In addition to the District Scholarship Awards, the following awards are presented yearly.

**National Daughters of Penelope Scholarship Awards**

The National Chairman, Lucia N. Kazakos, mails the applications for these National Awards directly to the Chapter Presidents. Any questions concerning these applications should be directed to her at 880 247-4257.

**Penelope of the Year National Award**

Begins of the chapter level. Chapter recipient is entered in the district level. The District Penelope of the Year application is entered on the national level by the District Governor immediately after her selection at the District Convention. The National Penelope of the Year is announced at the the National Convention in San Francisco, California. The Chairman of this committee mails applications for this award directly to the chapter.

**Past District Governors Daughter of the Year Award**

This award is given for service rendered for the current calendar only, July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009. The nominee will be judged on her activity as a Daughter, only on the chapter level. The Past District Governors League of District 21 sponsors this annual award. The applications for this award will be distributed at the Spring Conference. ❖

**SCHEDULE OF DISTRICT LODGE VISITATIONS & EVENTS 2009**

<b>January</b>				
3	11:30am	Saturday	Walnut Creek	DOP Only
10	7:00pm	Wednesday	Contra Costa	St. Demetrius Church, AHEPA
24	10:00am	Saturday	Sacramento/Marysville	Annunciation Church
31	10:00am	Saturday	Vallejo	St. Constantine & Helen
<b>February</b>				
10	6:30pm	Tuesday	Oakland	Ascension Cathedral
<b>March</b>				
14	10:00am	Saturday	Spring Conference	Modesto
<b>June/July</b>				
18-20		District Convention	San Jose	Santa Clara Marriott Hotel
29/July 5		Supreme Convention	San Francisco	

**DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE**  
**2008-2009 DISTRICT LODGE**  
 Sylvia Golfes, Governor  
 Margo Drosos, Lt. Governor Foula Vasilogiorgis, Treasurer  
 Paulette Richard, Secretary Chrysanthy Panagopoulos, Marshal  
 Manthea Kartinos, Advisor Louise Metaxas, Advisor to M. O. A.


Marianna Photiou, Pres. Vaso Moulas, Vice Pres.  
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 Meets 2nd Wed. • Holy Trinity Church • 999 Brotherhood Way  
 San Francisco 94132  
 Yvonne Stamatakis, Treasurer Eva Skouofis, Secretary

Jim Dariotes, President Nick Johnson, Vice President  
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**GOLDEN GATE PACIFIC CHAPTER No. 150**  
 Meets 2nd Wed. • Holy Trinity Church • 999 Brotherhood Way  
 San Francisco 94132  
 Paul G. Eliopoulos, Secretary/Treasurer

Steve Miller, Governor Nick Pries, Lt. Governor  
**GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT No. 21**  
**DISTRICT LODGE**  
 Robert Sexton, Treasurer Demos Papadopoulos, Secretary  
 Vlasis Fousekis, Advisor

Alex Bazos, President Bob Rosso, Vice President  
 Compliments of  
**MODESTO CHAPTER No. 246**  
 Meets 3rd Tuesday every month  
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