



Archons OF THE Ecumenical Patriarchate®

Protecting the Future of Faith®

2024 Archon Annual Meeting Report

New York City • October 19, 2024



2024 Archon Annual Meeting Report

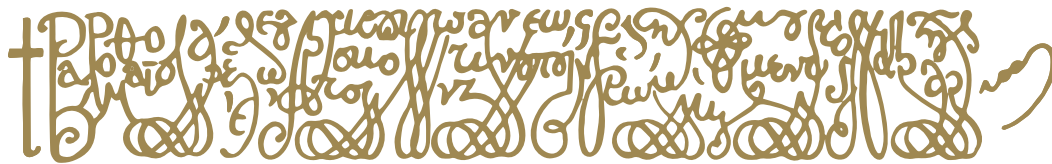
New York City • October 19, 2024

Table of Contents

Letters from our Spiritual Leadership.....	1
Letter from His All-Holiness	2
Letter from The Exarch	3
Apolytikion of Andrew the First Called	4
Report of the National Commander.....	5
Report of the National Commander.....	6
History of National Commanders	15
Agenda.....	17
Annual Meeting Agenda	18
Profound Gratitude To One And All.....	30
Sprout Program Flyer.....	32
Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting	33
Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting	34
National Council Committee Reports.....	51
Audited Financial Statements	52
Committee to Recommend New Archons.....	70
Exarch's Appeal Sponsors	74
Nominating Committee	79
Bylaws Committee	80
Grants Committee.....	84

Religious Freedom Initiatives Summary.....	85
Religious Freedom: OSCE Initiative.....	87
OSCE Oral Presentation by Franklin (Rocky) Sisson.....	88
OSCE Oral Presentation by Hon. Steven G. Counelis.....	91
Religious Freedom: Washington D.C. Activities.....	94
Religious Freedom: State Legislative Initiative	97
Religious Freedom: Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues	98
Spirituality Committee	100
Regional Commander Liaison Committee	101
Regional Commander Reports.....	107
Direct Archdiocesan District	108
Direct Archdiocesan District	109
Metropolis of Boston	110
Metropolis of Denver	111
Metropolis of Atlanta.....	112
Metropolisof Atlanta.....	113
Metropolis of Atlanta.....	114
Metropolis of Atlanta	115
Metropolis of Atlanta	116
Metropolisof Pittsburgh.....	117
Metropolis of San Francisco	118
Metropolis of San Francisco	119
Metropolis of New Jersey	120
Metropolis of New Jersey	121
Metropolis of Chicago	122
Engagement Committee Reports	123
Academia Symposium Committee.....	124
Communications Committee	125
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation	126
Editorial Publications Committee	127
Federal and State Governmental Affairs Committee.....	128
International Archons Committee.....	129
Metropolis and Parish Education Committee	130
Patriarchal Green Initiatives Committee	131
Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues Committee.....	132
Women In Orthodoxy Committee	133
Youth Participation Activities Committee	134
Departed Archons	135
Past Recipients of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award.....	136

Letters from our Spiritual Leadership



BARTHOLOMEW

By the Mercy of God,
Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch

To the Honorable Members of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, our beloved in the Lord: Grace be unto you and peace from God.

As you gather for the Annual Archon Weekend, we address you with profound gratitude for your invaluable service to the Holy Great Church of Christ throughout the past year. Your tireless dedication, deep commitment, and love for the Church have persisted in supporting its sacred mission and ministries in the United States and across the globe.

Your labors, offered with humility and love, have been a source of encouragement. We are particularly grateful for your steadfast efforts in organizing and promoting the inaugural summit of global Archons, held at the historic Old Parliament House in Athens, Greece, on May 29th, 2024. This significant gathering, coinciding with the 4th Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom, is a testament to your resolve to uphold human dignity and rights beyond borders. Your discussions and resolutions have identified the Church's challenges today and inspired hope for our shared future.

We also sincerely appreciate your determination to develop the Pilgrimage of Discovery, enabling numerous university-aged adults to visit our Venerable See and other religious and cultural sites here in the Queen of Cities. This journey has strengthened the bonds between the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its spiritual children, offering young hearts and minds the opportunity to experience the living tradition of Orthodoxy and be enriched by our rich heritage. Such initiatives bring us much joy and reaffirm our confidence in tomorrow's leaders.

Moreover, we acknowledge the dynamic leadership of His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, whose guidance has meaningfully contributed to your collective efforts. Under his wise and capable pastoral direction, you have undertaken many initiatives to strengthen the ties between the Mother Church of Constantinople and the faithful of its premier eparchy in America. We celebrate how you, as Archons, continue to advocate noble causes, raise awareness of persecuted Christians, support our monastic and educational institutions, and preserve the rich inheritance of our faith and people.

We encourage you to persevere with your works with renewed vigor, mindful of the noble calling entrusted to you as Archons. May you strive to be courageous defenders of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, wise stewards of its resources, and tireless advocates for justice, peace, and liberty.

In closing, we invoke upon you our Patriarchal blessing, assuring you of our enduring appreciation for your generosity and respect. We pray that our Grace-bestowing God, glorified in His saints, will grant you every good thing from above, strengthen your endeavors, and guide you in all things.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, September 15th, 2024

Your fervent supplicant before the Lord,

† BARTHOLOMEW

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP
Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

September 14, 2024

Universal Exaltation of the Holy Cross

To the Esteemed Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle,
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America

Esteemed Archons, Beloved Brethren in Christ,

When the Order of Saint Andrew took the initiative to work in concert with Archons from around the globe and fulfill a long-sought synaxis of all Archons in Athens in May of 2024, they demonstrated the kind of leadership that is most beneficial to our Ecumenical Patriarchate – that of common action. Understanding the purely spiritual mission of the See of Saint Andrew the First-Called Disciple, the Archons came together in a spirit of collaboration and created unprecedented avenues of cooperation and support for the Mother Church.

This Annual Report chronicles the energies and the synergies that are enlivening the work of the Order, and making possible groundbreaking strides in international partnerships and participation in the vital work of the Archons of the Ecumenical Throne. At this unique moment in the modern history of the Mother Church, we are witnessing a truly global outreach of the Archons, one that will no doubt yield incalculable benefits for the future of all Orthodox Christians worldwide.

The activities of the Order are wide and far-ranging – from securing a first-ever Endowment Fund for the Patriarchate, to their relentless pursuit for Her full and complete religious liberty and unimpeded spiritual ministries. The Archons continue to serve the Mother Church with noble distinction and exceptional fidelity, and the stories that are told in this 2024 Annual Report will doubtless encourage and embolden every reader.

The Spiritual Father of us all, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, has given his blessing to these Archons to pursue a wide array of initiatives on behalf of the First Throne of Orthodoxy. I bestow my blessings and congratulations on the Order of Saint Andrew, and express my abiding gratitude to them for their activities and the spirit in which they conduct them. May our Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercessions of His Holy Mother and those of the First-Called Disciple Saint Andrew, grant health, prosperity, and long life to all the Archons and their families, as they continue to strive for the benefit and the increase of the Most Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Amen.

With blessings and gratitude in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



Apolytikion of Andrew the First Called

Greek

Ως των α-πο - στό-λων πρω - τό-κλη - τος και του Κο-ρυ-
 Os ton a-po - sto-lon pro - to - kli - tos ke tou Ko-ri-
 - φαί-ου αυ - τά - δελ - φος, τω Δε - σπό-τη των
 - fe - ou af - ta - dhel - fos, to Dhe - spo - ti ton
 ό-λων, Av - δρέ-α, ι - κέ - τευ - ε ει - ρή - νην
 o - lon, An - dhre-a, i - ke - tev - e i - ri - nin
 τη οι-κου - μέ-νη δω - ρή - σα - σθαι και ταις ψυ-
 ti i - kou - me-ni dho - ri - sa - sthe ke tes psy-
 - χαίς η - μών το μέ - γα έ - λε - ος.
 - ches i - mon to me - gha e - le - os.

English

As the first-called of the A - post - les, and bro-ther of their
 Lead-er, O An - drew; en-treat the Mas-ter of all that peace
 be grant-ed un - to the world and great mer-cy to our souls.

Report of the National Commander



Report of the National Commander

Submitted by
Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D.
Archon Megas Aktouarios
National Commander

September 28, 2024

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew,
His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America,
Members of the Holy Eparchial Synod,
His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA,
His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA,
Father Alex Karloutsos, Spiritual Advisor and Reverend Clergy and beloved Presbyteres and

Brother Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America and Friends,

Allow me to present a synopsis of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP) activities for the year 2024, which has been a watershed year for the AEP both in the United States and worldwide.

The 4th Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom

With the blessings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and in consultation with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, **The 4th Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom** was held from Sunday, May 26 through Wednesday, May 29, 2024 in Athens, Greece. The conference was organized and hosted by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, Canada, Europe and Australia, and was followed by the historic **First Global Summit of Archons: Protecting the Future of Faith**.



His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel Geron of Chalcedon, Patriarchal Representative, addresses the participants of the First Summit of Global Archons inside the Old Parliament in Athens, Greece.

The conference featured some of the world's foremost defenders of human rights and religious freedom, including His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (via video); His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece; His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel, Geron of Chalcedon; His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America; former U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo; Dr. Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; His Excellency Gintaras Grušas, Roman Catholic

Archbishop of Vilnius and President of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE); John Chrysoulakis, Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic; Evangelos Venizelos, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Greece; Athens Mayor Haris Doukas; and many others.



Archon James C. Rockas, Moderator with Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo, during Session III inside the Zappeion.

The 1st Summit of Global Archons

The 1st Summit of Global Archons convened on Wednesday morning, May 29 in the Old Parliament House at the National Historical Museum. Archons from the United States, Canada, Greece, other areas of Europe, and Australia met in this first-ever gathering of Archons from around the world, in order to discuss ways to coordinate their efforts to defend the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and protect the future of faith worldwide. At this historic meeting, a formal motion was made by AEP National Vice Commander Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis and unanimously seconded by all those in attendance to request Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Holy and Sacred Synod to approve a global organization of Archons to work united and synergistically to serve the needs of the Holy Mother Church.



"I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit;
apart from me you can do nothing." – John 15:5



Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, Chair, speaks on the importance of the Foundation during a presentation inside the Old Parliament Building in Athens, Greece, during the 1st Summit of Global Archons.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ARCHON SUNDAY

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and the Holy Eparchial Synod approved the recommendation of the AEP National Council to establish a yearly "Archon Sunday" on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Andrew, November 30. This long-contemplated Archon Initiative was spearheaded and finally pushed over the finish line by Boston Metropolis Regional Commanders Archons Jim D. Speros and Costa Sideridis.



The Holy Eparchial Synod

Establishment of Archon Ecumenical Patriarchate Global Catechism Education Initiative

Underwritten by Archon Michael G. Psaros (\$100,000 donation)

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and the Holy Eparchial Synod approved the recommendation of the AEP National Council to establish The Archon Ecumenical Patriarchate Global Catechism Education Initiative, coordinated by Archon Nicholas J. Tranto, who chairs the Archon Youth Activities Engagement Committee, known as the Sprouts Youth Committee, assisted by Archons Nick Terezis and Ted Argeroplos. The Sunday School curriculum teaches the students the historical, canonical and ecclesiastical importance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with an age and grade-specific curriculum. **The curriculum was developed by two professional educators who worked hundreds of hours pro bono: Dr. Helen Nixon and Katina Limberakis Tsatalis, M. Ed. who between them have over 50 years of teaching experience.** The Curriculum will be launched this year on the Feast of St. Andrew, The First Called Apostle.



Dr. Helen Nixon and
Katina Limberakis Tsatalis, M. Ed.

The AEP expresses deep gratitude to Archon Michael G. Psaros for underwriting **The Archon Ecumenical Patriarchate Global Catechism Education Initiative** with a \$100,000 donation.

Importance of ARCHON LEADERSHIP comprised of Executive Officers, National Council, Regional Commanders and Chairs & Vice Chairs of Engagement Committees in execution of Sacred Mission of the AEP to protect the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Future of Faith

The Archon Leadership once again offered a series of vital presentations around the nation on the importance, history and present-day plight of our Holy Mother Church of Constantinople.

On Sunday, September 8, 2024, the Archons in the Metropolis of Chicago held a religious freedom presentation on the five key issues impacting the Ecumenical Patriarchate at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in East Moline, Illinois. Keynote speaker Archon Dr. Thomas Williams led the presentation. Archon Regional Commander John G. Manos, who worked with Dr. Williams for this Religious Freedom presentation, introduced Dr. Williams and spoke during the event as well.



Archon Regional Commander John G. Manos, who worked with Dr. Williams for this Religious Freedom presentation, introduced Dr. Williams and spoke during the event as well.

In July 2024, Archon Regional Commanders Hon. Steven G. Counelis (Southern California) and Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas (Denver), members of the Youth Participation Activities Engagement Committee, once again engaged young adults at the National YAL (Young Adult League) Conference in San Diego, California. With over 300 young adults in attendance, the Archons introduced three young adult Pilgrims of Discovery.

On Thursday, May 16, 2024, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chicago, and the Hellenic Society of Constantinople hosted their 43rd Annual Commemoration of the Fall of Constantinople at Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Des Plaines, Illinois. Archon Dr. John Fotopoulos gave a presentation entitled "The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople: Past, Present and Future Responsibilities," and highlighted the Pilgrimage of Discovery.

On Sunday, March 31, 2024, Archon Chris Chrisafides presented "Archons of the Patriarchate – Protecting the Future of Faith", after church services at Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Manchester, New Hampshire, as part of their Library Speaker Series.

On Sunday, March 31, 2024, Archons also hosted a presentation at Saint Thomas Greek Orthodox Church, Cherry Hill, New Jersey on the topic: "The Suffering and Religious Persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate." The speaker was Archon Anastasios (Tassos) Efstratiades, who is also president of the Saint Thomas Parish Council. Regional Commander Dr. Cary J. Limberakis was in attendance and offered remarks on the work of the Archons.

On March 31, 2024, Archons in the Metropolis of Chicago held a Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD) presentation at Holy Taxiarchai & St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church in Niles, Illinois. POD Ambassador Dr. Demetrios Maroutsos of Holy Taxiarchai & St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church in Niles, joined Archon Regional Commander John G. Manos and Archon Hon. Jeffery Chrones and spoke about his experiences during the Pilgrimage of Discovery.

On Sunday, March 24, 2024, Archons in the Metropolis of Chicago held a POD presentation in St. Catherine's Chapel at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago. POD Ambassador Christen Massouras of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago joined Archon Regional Commander John G. Manos, Archon Hon. Jeffery Chrones, Archon James Lakerdas, Esq., Archon Theodore Sepsis, and Archon Dr. Peter Pantou.

On Sunday, February 25, 2024, Regional Commanders Jim Speros and Costa Sideridis presented an extensive overview of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to over 250 people at the St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church in Braintree, Massachusetts.

On Sunday, January 28, 2024, Archon George Psefteas delivered a religious freedom presentation on the work of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley, California.



Archons Introduce 2024 Pilgrims of Discovery to National YAL Conference in San Diego



Father Avgoustinos Psomas, Dr. Elias A. Iliadis, Archon and Mrs. Demetrios Halakos, Regional Commander Dr. Cary J. Limberakis at Saint Thomas Greek Orthodox Church, Cherry Hill, NJ



POD Leadership Event Held at St. Catherine's Chapel, Chicago, IL

On Saturday, January 20, 2024, Regional Commander Dr. Gregory Papadeas and Andrew J. Eliopoulos delivered a presentation on the work of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, including the Pilgrimage of Discovery program, at the YAL Snow Conference in Winter Park, Colorado.



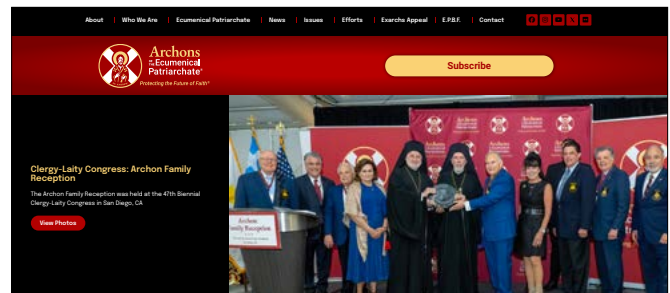
YAL Snow Conference in Winter Park, Colorado.

The Archon Strategic Branding Initiative

The **Archon Strategic Branding Initiative** continued with a thorough redesign of the Archons website in order to improve its usefulness and readability. New features include a section on Protecting the Future of Faith and daily Faith Alerts, a refinement of our former ChristianPersecution.com website, to provide information on why protecting the future of faith is so very much needed. Archon **John G. Gumas** and his acclaimed marketing company have done the Archons an indispensable service and for such Archon John received the 2024 Archon Sophia Award for Excellence.



Archon John G. Gumas helped to improve the redesigned archons.org website, pictured directly above.



2024 Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD)

The Archons chose sixteen exceptional young adults to participate in the 2024 Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD). Sponsored and funded by the AEP, the POD is a life-changing journey to Constantinople, giving participants a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to the Sacred Center of the Orthodox Faith and deepen their understanding of the vital importance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, as they prepare to lead the Orthodox Church in the future.



POD Participants in Constantinople, August 4-11, 2024

Live-streaming Equipment for the Ecumenical Patriarchate

The Archons will underwrite state-of-art live-streaming from the Ecumenical Patriarchate and at local churches where his All-Holiness officiates.

This project has been in the works for the last two years, and is led by superlative efforts of **Archon Theodore H. Vagelos**, Vice Chair of the Communications Committee, and in consultation with Nicholas-George A. Papachristou, Director of the Patriarchal Press and Communication Office. Archon Vagelos has broad experience in this field, having successfully overseen more than 200 streaming projects around the world.



In January 2023, members of an Archon delegation met with Nicholas-George Papachristou, to discuss how the Archons can assist in improving digital communication and live-streaming religious services from the Ecumenical Patriarchate, led by Archon Theodore H. Vagelos, right.



The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation continues to grow, and successfully expanded worldwide at the 1st Global Summit of Archons. As of this writing, there are 232 FOUNDERS (\$100,000 pledge payable over 10 years), with \$25.1 million pledged from all contributors. Full transparency and accountability are the foundational pillars of the EPBF; these principles guide the Investment (Archon John S. Koudounis, Chair) and Audit (Archon Carl R. Hollister, Chair) Committees.

The EPBF Investment Committee has continued to do a masterful job in navigating a challenging investment environment. The Koudounis Team, working closely with Michael G. Psaros and the Investment Committee (Archon Robert A. Buhler Vice Chair, Christopher Allwin, Archon Michael N. Bapis, Archon Frank D. Catricken, John A. Catsimatidis, Jr., Archon William H. Spell and Archon John A. Catsimatidis), and the J. P. Morgan Investment Bank, which holds the financial assets of the Foundation, has been able to make some nice returns. Kudos once again to Archon Koudounis and his team!

The EPBF Audit Committee (Archon Carl R. Hollister, Chair) works with the audit, tax and consulting firm of Forvis Mazars LLP , a top ten North American Audit firm, to ensure complete transparency.

The New Members Committee (Archons Joseph J. and Anna Kokolakis, Esq., Markos K. and Sevasti Lagos, Michael P. and Meropi Neamonitakis and George and Lee Ann Anderson, Chairs) is organizing the upcoming “An Evening with Maria Callas,” a performance in support of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation by the world-renowned opera company Teatro Grattacielo. This gala production will be presented on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at the University Club of New York, during Archon Weekend.

Five New Regional Commanders Appointed

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, three new Regional Commanders were appointed in three Metropolises. In consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, Archon Gerry Ranglas was appointed a Regional Commander for the Southern California region, Metropolis of San Francisco. In consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Archon Gregory B. Saad was named a Regional Commander for the State of Alabama, Metropolis of Atlanta. In consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago, Archon Pericles C. (Perry) Siatis, Esq. was appointed a Regional Commander for the Metropolis of Chicago. In consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey, Archon Michael D. Camarinos, Esq. was appointed a Regional Commander for the Metropolis of New Jersey and with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America Michael P. Neamonitakis was appointed a Regional Commander for Manhattan and Long Island in the Direct Archdiocesan District.

These five men are excellent choices to be Regional Commanders, joining their brother Archons who already serve as Regional Commanders in their respective Metropolises. Each is certain to distinguish this position with the devotion he has shown in other areas of service to our Holy Mother Church.

It should be noted I have had the **opportunity to add eight outstanding Archons to the Regional Commander ranks in the past two years (five this year and three in 2023)**, thereby infusing renewed energy, enthusiasm and continued deep commitment to the Holy Mother Church from Archons who will carry the Archon Torch forward.



Regional Commanders Ranglas, Saad, Neamonitakis and Camarinos

Yulia Navalnaya, Widow of Martyred Russian Human Rights Advocate Alexei Navalny, to Receive the 2024 Athenagoras Human Rights Award

With the blessings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the approval of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the 2024 Athenagoras Human Rights Award will be presented to Yulia Navalnaya, the widow of martyred Russian hero Alexei Navalny and now herself the leader of the Russian opposition. The Award will be presented on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at the AEP's annual Athenagoras Human Rights Award black-tie banquet.



AEP National Treasurer Peter J. Skeadas to Receive 2024 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship AXIOS



Warmest congratulations are offered to AEP National Treasurer Peter J. Skeadas, who will be the recipient of the 2024 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. The Award will be presented on Friday, October 18, 2024, at the Bouras Award Dinner during Archon Weekend. Archon Skeadas was elected National Treasurer of the AEP in January 2018. He also serves as Chair of the Order's Spirituality Committee and the annual Archon Lenten Retreat. Prior to his being elected Treasurer, he served on the Archon National Council and as Regional Commander for the Archdiocesan District. Together with Aphrodite, he has participated on several Archon Pilgrimages to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople and to Jerusalem, among others.

Three key sites in Constantinople were renovated with the generous funding of Archons from the U.S.

The Presentation of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church of Stavrodromi was originally constructed for monastic and clerical use in 1560 before being destroyed in a 1978 fire. Now it has been restored thanks to a \$1,500,000 donation from Greek American Archon George Marcus, a FOUNDER of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation and recipient of the 2023 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship.

Also recently restored was the Patriarchal Maraslion School, located next to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Phanar district of Constantinople, thanks to contributions from Archon Marcus and Archon-Elect Peter Palivos.

On the island of Halki near Constantinople is the third recently restored site: the Skete of Metamorphosis Chapel. Archon Dr. Stephen Yallourakis (holds both MD & DDS degrees as head and neck surgeon) and his wife Dr. Anna Yallourakis donated \$200,000 for the restoration of this chapel, having funded both its original restoration and, after its 2007 vandalization, this second restoration. Dr. Yallourakis received the 2013 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship.



Archons George Marcus and
Dr. Stephen Yallourakis

34th Anniversary of the Enthronement of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, The 269th direct successor of Saint Andrew the First Called Apostle

2024 marked the 34th Anniversary of the Enthronement of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the 269th direct successor of Saint Andrew the First Called Apostle, and one of the most consequential leaders the Church has ever had. His holy tenure as the longest serving Archbishop of Constantinople in history is as extraordinary as it is impactful. We are grateful to be able to serve under the omophorion of the wise ministry of this holy, visionary and intrepid Ecumenical Patriarch. **Εἰς πολλά ἔτη, Δέσποτα!**



5th Anniversary of the Enthronement of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros as Archbishop of America

2024 also marked the fifth anniversary of the enthronement of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros as Archbishop of America and Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, who has done so much to lead his flock in the Church in America. Addressing impactfully and positively the completion of St. Nicholas National Shrine, the Clergy Pension concerns, Hellenic College/Holy Cross, conducting a successful Clergy-Laity Congress in San Diego are just several items among so many others in his short five-year ministry here in America. **Εἰς πολλά ἔτη. Δέσποτα!**

58th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (Order of St. Andrew; March 10, 1966) with Profound Gratitude to One and All



58 Years

2024 is also the 58th year of the Establishment of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (Order of St. Andrew the Apostle). We remain devoted to Defending the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople and securing its religious freedom. It is our immense privilege and blessing to work with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, and we are especially thankful as always to our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alex Karloutsos. I remain indebted to our superlative National Vice Commander Honorable B. Theodore Bozonelis, whom I consult on a daily basis. The Archon officers are a tremendous blessing: National Vice Commander Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, National Treasurer Peter J. Skeadas, National Secretary Gus M. Pablecas, Legal Counselor Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq., Sergeant at Arms Alex Pritsos. To Religious Freedom Chair John A. Catsimatidis, Historian Prof. George Demacopoulos, Assistant Treasurer Andreas Comodromos, CPA and the entire National Council I offer my deep appreciation. We also salute our National Treasurer, Archon Peter Skeadas, and Assistant Treasurer Andreas Comodromos, for their careful oversight of the Archons' financial books, as accountability and transparency are indispensable.

Our hard-working Sergeant-at-Arms Alex Pritsos deserves special recognition for once again carrying off the detailed logistics of Archon Weekend with aplomb! Thank you, Brother Archon Alex!

We are grateful for the contributions of the Regional Commanders, Archons Theodore P. Vlahos, M.D.; Harry T. Cavalaris; Greg Saad, G. Thomas Yearout, Esq.; John C. Scurtis; James A. Frangis; James Speros; Constantine Sideridis; John G. Manos; Gus M. Pablecas; Perry C. Siatis, Esq.; Gregory G. Papadeas, D.O.; Christopher J. Pappas; Lazaros A. Kircos; Inspector John V. Kassimatis; Nikiforos Mathews, Esq.; Cary J. Limberakis, D.M.D.; Andrew E. Manatos; George A. Tsougarakis, Esq.; Michael D. Camarinos, Esq.; Nicholas Terezis; Nicholas J. Tranto; Isidoros Garifalakis; Theodore Konopisos; Paul Sogotis; Gerry Ranglas; The Hon. Steven G. Counelis; as well as to our superb Graphic Designer Archon John J. Mindala II, our tireless Administrative Assistant Leah Kats, and Tsesme Consulting, which manages our social media initiatives and the Faith Alerts section of our website.

As part of anniversary celebrations, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP) will underwrite state-of-art live-streaming from the Ecumenical Patriarchate and at local churches where his All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew officiates.

This project has been in the works for the last two years, and is the brainchild of Archon Ted Vagelos. Archon Vagelos has broad experience in this field, having successfully overseen more than 200 streaming projects around the world.

Archon Michael G. Psaros, who has come to be known as the Cheerful Giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-7), empowers the AEP in countless ways: \$100,000 contribution to the 4th Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom; \$100,000 to underwrite the Archon Patriarchate Catechism Initiative; \$100,000 Underwriter for the 2024 Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet and substantial donations for the Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD) initiative, among many other AEP programming. **The AEP offers profound gratitude to Archon Mike and Robin Psaros for their extraordinary beneficence.**



Archon Michael G. Psaros

We offer special thanksgiving to **Presbytera Xanthi, our collective Archon Μητέρα**, who offers her elegant and organized touch to all our events, ensuring efficiency and success!

We offer thanks to Archon Nick Furriss for his video and run-of-show contributions during Archon Weekend. The assiduous efforts of Archon Congressman Gus Bilirakis, as he carries the torch of religious freedom in the hallowed halls of Congress, are deeply appreciated!

We offer thanksgiving as always to the ongoing legacy of Archon Stewardship to Nicholas J. Bouras of blessed memory. The Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation is one of the premier philanthropic organizations providing much-needed aid to Greek Orthodox agencies, churches and human service organizations. We express heartfelt thanks to Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, NJB Foundation Trustee.

Above all, we express profound gratitude to our beloved wives and families.

Above all, we express profound gratitude to our beloved wives and families. Being an Archon not only is a commitment of service to the Holy Mother Church by the invested Archon, but also is a commitment by the entire Archon Family; an Archon Family Diakonia to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and securing the *future of faith*. Maria and I feel exceedingly blessed to be part of the Archon Family and its mission of Diakonia.

In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Megas Aktouarios
National Commander



Helen Bozonelis, Marina Martinos, and Dr. Maria A. Limberakis



History of National Commanders



Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
(1998–Present)
Archon Megas Aktouarios



† Chris Philip, DDS
(1989–1997)
Archon Megas Aktouarios



† Anthony G. B. Borden, MD
(1976–1989)
Archon Megas Aktouarios



† Pierre A. Demets
(1966–1975)
Archon Skevophylax

Agenda



Archons
OF THE **Ecumenical**
Patriarchate®

Protecting the Future of Faith®

**Annual Meeting Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
A Joint Assembly of
Archons, Archons-elect and Spouses**

New York Hilton Midtown, Trianon Ballroom, 3rd Floor

October 19, 2024

AGENDA

1. **Invocation & Opening Remarks** – His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, *Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate*
2. **Welcome** – Archon Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, *National Commander*
3. **Patriarchal Exhortation** – Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis
4. **Archiepiscopal Exhortation** – Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, Jr., *National Vice Commander*
5. **Introduction of National Council & Regional Commanders** – Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis:
 - a. **Welcome FIVE new Regional Commanders!**
 - i. Archon Gerry Ranglas – Metropolis of San Francisco
 - ii. Archon Gregory B. Saad – Metropolis of Atlanta
 - iii. Archon Pericles C. (Perry) Siatis, Esq. – Metropolis of Chicago
 - iv. Archon Michael P. Neamonitakis – Direct Archdiocesan District
 - v. Archon Michael D. Camarinos, Esq. – Metropolis of New Jersey

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Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD) Booth also in Petite Trianon – visit to learn more directly from our participating youth.

Look for Pop-Up Shop for AEP gear at hallway registration tables.

- b. **The importance of bringing into the Archon Leadership younger, energetic, talented Archons** to strengthen the AEP and its sacred mission to serve the needs of the Holy and Great Mother Church of Constantinople and I welcome any suggestions (email me directly: alimberakis@archons.org).
 - c. **Please note that eight new Regional Commanders have been appointed in the past two years infusing fresh energy and ongoing commitment to the Sacred AEP Mission to serve the needs of the Holy Mother Church**
- 6. **Approval of October 21, 2023, Annual Meeting Minutes** – *Archon Kosmas (Gus) M. Pablecas, National Secretary*
 - 7. **Approval Treasurer's Report** – *Archon Peter J. Skeadas, National Treasurer and National Assistant Treasurer Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA:*
 - a. **Audit Committee Report** – *Archon Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq.;*
 - i. **Presentation and Approval of Audited Financial Report for 2022 and 2023; Frank Fico, CPA of BDO USA;**
 - 8. **Presentation of Archon Class of 2023** – *Archon Constantine G. Caras, Esq.:*

ARCHON CLASS OF 2024

Paul L. Bitsos
Omaha, Nebraska
Metropolis of Denver

Gregory M. Cokinos
Houston, Texas
Metropolis of Denver

Thomas A. Copulos, D.D.S
Boca Raton, Florida
Metropolis of Atlanta

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Christopher P. Daifotis
Westfield, New Jersey
Metropolis of New Jersey

Anthony W. Djinis
Potomac, Maryland
Metropolis of New Jersey

William P. Galatis
Saugus, Massachusetts
Metropolis of Boston

Peter Garazounis, P.E.
Searingtown, New York
Archdiocesan District

Peter F. Giorgi, Esq.
Reading, Pennsylvania
Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Jani Gjoni
Addison, Illinois
Vicariate for the Palestinian/Jordanian
Christian Orthodox Communities of America

Nicholas D. Kambitsis
Highland Park, New Jersey
Metropolis of New Jersey

Vassilios Kassimatis
Garden City, New York
Archdiocesan District

John Constantinos Vasilios Katsanos
Astoria, New York
Archdiocesan District

Lazarus M. Kirifides, D.O.
Wilmington, Delaware
Metropolis of New Jersey

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Markos Kounalakis, Ph.D.
San Francisco, California
Metropolis of San Francisco

Hon. Anthony C. Kyriakopoulos
Chicago, Illinois
Metropolis of Chicago

Dean T. Maragos
Winnetka, Illinois
Metropolis of Chicago

William B. Martin
Little Rock, Arkansas
Metropolis of Detroit

George B. Naftis
Colleyville, Texas
Metropolis of Denver

Alexander A. Nikas, Esq
Malvern, Pennsylvania
Metropolis of New Jersey

Peter A. Palivos, Esq.
Henderson, Nevada
Metropolis of San Francisco

Demetri Papacostas
Bedford, New York
Archdiocesan District

Harry N. Pateroulakis
Bayside, New York
Archdiocesan District

Nicholas N. Patricios, Ph.D.
Pinecrest, Florida
Metropolis of Atlanta

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General Andrew Poppas
Fort Liberty, North Carolina
Archdiocesan District

George L. Staphos
Old Tappan, New Jersey
Metropolis of New Jersey

George Tsetsekos, Ph.D.
Devon, Pennsylvania
Metropolis of New Jersey

John Vasilantonakis
Brooklyn, NY
Archdiocesan District

Andreas Zigouras
Saddlebrook, New Jersey
Metropolis of New Jersey

9. **Exarch's Appeal, Update** – *Archon* John Zavitsanos, Esq.

a. **Refresh of Exarch's Appeal Day Sponsorship Program initiated in 2014:**

- i. \$4,000 One Day Sponsorship, endorsed by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and approved by National Council beginning 2024;
- ii. An increase of 3.67%/year from original \$3,000/day;
- iii. Exarch's Appeal Pledge Cards at each seat; kindly complete and will be collected during meeting.

10. **Athenagoras Human Rights Award** – *Archon* Michael G. Psaros, Chair and Co-Chair *Archon* Alexander Pritsos:

- a. **2024 Recipient: Yulia Navalnaya, Widow of Martyred Russian Human Rights Advocate Alexei Navalny, To Receive The 2024 Athenagoras Human Rights Award**

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- i. Her painful personal experience of losing her husband because he stood up to a tyrant is a vivid illustration of the human cost of authoritarian rule and the denial of basic freedoms. Yet at tremendous cost and amid considerable personal risk, Ms. Navalnaya has persevered, becoming the conscience of the international community;
- b. A portion of this year's sponsorship and ticket funds net of expenses will be restricted for the sole use of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation;
- c. **Banquet Underwriters (\$100,000) to whom we express deep gratitude**
 - i. Anna K. and Nicholas J. Bouras Foundation (each year since 1998!)
 - ii. *Archon* Michael G. and Robin Psaros (each year since 2016!).

11. **2023 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship –**

Congratulations to Archon Peter J. Skeadas, a most worthy recipient! AXIOS:

- a. **The AEP is indebted to Archon Peter for transforming our Treasury to ensure transparency, accountability and true Archon Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure are mandated in all AEP financial transactions;**
- b. **Archon Peter's lifetime of commitment** shows most fully what it means to give selflessly of one's time, talent and treasure for the support and defense of our Holy Mother Church.

12. **Archon Agape Luncheon and Presentation of Archon Sophia Award for Excellence to Archon John G. Gumas for his extraordinary contribution to the new Archon branding.**

13. **Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation for the Sacred See of St. Andrew** – *Archon* Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Chair:

- a. Established by the Order of St. Andrew **to ensure the economic security of the Ecumenical Patriarchate *in perpetuity* and named in honor of the longest serving Ecumenical Patriarch in history**
- b. **Established as an independent, separate entity** with its own Board of Trustees which was formally incorporated as a charitable entity in the State of New York on January 17, 2019, with our subsequent application to the IRS as a 501c3 application approved on August 26, 2020.

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- i. **AEP officers and other leadership Archons met at Archon John A. Catsimatidis' Board Room monthly for prior two years working online by line development of Bylaws and other documentation with pro bono legal services provided by Archon Thomas E. Constance, Esq.**
- ii. **EPBF approved by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew September 7, 2019, with transfer of funds from AEP to EPBF**
- c. **501(c)3 status from IRS;**
- d. **The Fund received over \$1 million at the 2018 Athenagoras Human Rights Award Presentation to Fr. Alexander Karloutsos and Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos;**
- e. **FOUNDERS – Pledges of at least \$100,000 payable over 10 years**
 - i. 232 (compared to 205 last year at this time) faithful, with 68 fulfilled
 - ii. Pledged amount: \$25.1 million (compare to \$22.115 million last year at this time;
- f. **BUILDERS**
 - i. Donations at levels below \$100,000.

14. National Council Committee Reports from Chairs:

a. Nominating Committee – Archon Kosmas (Gus) M. Pablecas

This Committee presents the following current National Council Members who have expressed their willingness to continue to serve as National Council Members:

- i. Thomas S. Cappas, Esq.;
- ii. Andreas D. Comodromos, CPA;
- iii. Carl Hollister;
- iv. Nicholas G. Loutsion, VMD;
- v. Franklin (Rocky) Sisson;
- vi. William H. Spell;
- vii. George A. Tsougarakis, Esq.;
- viii. John Zavitsanos, Esq.

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- b. **Bylaws Committee** – *Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis* and *Archon Kosmas (Gus) M. Pablecas*
Proposed changes (requires two thirds vote of those present at Annual Meeting):

The proposed amendments to the Bylaws are attached herewith and are available Online and in this Annual Archon Meeting Report (page ~74 at time of Agenda creation):

<https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=53cefdfff960bed00b3336e12&id=c551df1ac3>

- c. **Communications Committee** – *Archon Franklin (Rocky) Sisson*
- i. **State-of-the-art Streaming hardware and software for Ecumenical Patriarchate for St. George Patriarchal Cathedral**, including mobile capability to stream Patriarchal religious services anywhere in the world
 1. **Archon Ted Vagelos**
 2. Memorandum of Understanding
- d. **Religious Freedom Initiatives** – *Archon John A. Catsimatidis*
- i. **International Religious Freedom Conference Co-Sponsored by Order of St. Andrew and Archons Pammakaristos of Europe, President Archon Thanassis Martinos and Archons of Canada, Order of St. Paul, President Chrisostomos Perentes** (Summary on page 89 of this Archon Annual Meeting Report) – *Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis*, National Secretary assisted by *Archon George C. Rockas, Esq.*, and *Archon Constantine Sideridis*:
 1. **See Save the Date link:**
<https://www.archons.org/-/save-the-date-4th-conference;>
 2. Where: Athens, Greece;
 3. When: May 26 ~ 30, **2024**;
 4. **Extraordinary Venues with endorsement of the highest; religious and government leaders in the Hellenic Republic;**
 5. **First Global Summit of Archons from Europe, Canada, Australia, and the United States;**
 6. **Two advance visits (January 2023 and September 2023);**
 7. **Special acknowledgement to Father Alex and Presvytera Xanthi;**
 8. **Letter of Gratitude (see page ~29)** <https://mailchi.mp/archons/ajl-2024conference-gratitude>

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- ii. **OSCE Human Rights Meetings, Warsaw, Poland** – *Archon* Rocky Sisson and *Archon* Hon. Steven G. Counelis.
- iii. **Washington Initiative** - *Archon* Andrew E. Manatos.
- e. **Archon Spirituality Committee** – *Archon* Peter J. Skeadas, Chair and *Archon* Michael G. Psaros, Co-Chair:
 - 1. The John Halecky Jr. 21st Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat
 - a. **When:** April 4-6, 2025;
 - b. **Where:** Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, Southampton, NY;
 - c. **Who:** Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis, Proistamenos of St. John Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa, FL;
Author of *Prayer Team* daily missives:
<https://prayerteam365.com>
 Highly recommend subscribing to Prayer Team and receive daily inspirational catechism. Theme: TBA;
 - ii. **Additional 2025 Archon Lenten Retreat at West Coast – Details TBA; proposed date: March 28-20, 2025;** *Archon* Judge Steven G. Counelis
- f. **Archon Engagement Committees:**
 - i. **11 Engagement Committees with Chairs and Vice Chairs completed 3-hour meeting Thursday, October 17, 2024;**
 - ii. **Over 450 Archons actively engaged with programing throughout the country;**
 - 1. **Youth Activities Engagement Committee**
 - a. **2024 Pilgrimage of Discovery- Archon Perry C. Siatis**
 - i. Transitioned to National Initiative after successful 2023 Chicago Pilot Program
 - ii. 2024:16 participants from each Metropolis
 - iii. Brief Presentation from Pilgrims

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2. Approval of Archbishop Elpidophoros and Holy Eparchial Synod:

a. ARCHON SUNDAY

b. THE ARCHON ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE CATECHISM EDUCATION GLOBAL INITIATIVE – see attached flyer page 31 on this Archon Annual Meeting Report – Archon Nick Tranto

- i. K-High School age and grade specific curriculum to educate catechism school students throughout the GOA regarding the historical, canonical, and ecclesiastical significance of the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople
- ii. Professional educators donated 100s hours, pro bono, to develop curriculum which was personally approved and edited by Archbishop Elpidophoros of America
- iii. Kudos to Helen Nixon, EdD and Katina Limberakis Tsatalis, MEd
- iv. Digital platform that can be translated into multiple languages

g. Regional Commanders Liaison Committee – Archon Nicholas G. Loutsion, VMD, Chair and Archon John G. Manos, Vice Chair

i. Regional Commanders held 3-hour joint meeting with National Council yesterday to review their initiatives past and going forward

15. Old/New Business

16. Trisagion for departed Archons – His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

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DEPARTED ARCHONS
January 2023 ~ September 2023

Mr. Achilles G. Adamantiades, *Archon Prosthesis Ton Graammatos*,
MD, Offikion Date: 3/9/03

Mr. Andrew C. Andron, *Archon Depotatos*,
NY, Offikion Date: 2/24/91

Dr. Valos N. Athanasiou, *Archon Maistor*,
TX, Offikion Date: 10/22/06

Mr. Anastasios S. Betzelos, *Archon Hartoularios*,
IL, Offikion Date: 10/19/89

Mr. Peter J. Christopoulos, *Archon Primikirios*,
NJ, Offikion Date: 3/26/97

Mr. John G. Dallas, *Archon Ostiarios*,
MA, Offikion Date: 10/26/08

Mr. James Economou, *Archon Horachis*,
OK, Offikion Date: 3/15/92

Mr. Andrew Evangelatos, *Archon Nomophylax*,
CA, Offikion Date: 3/20/94

Mr. Phillip T. Frangos, Esq., *Archon Referendarios*,
MI, Offikion Date: 10/20/13

Mr. Elias L. Gounardes, *Archon Kastrinsios*,
NY, Offikion Date: 11/17/97

Mr. George H. Grigo, *Archon Maestor*,
PA, Offikion Date: 3/29/02

Hon. Tom C. Korologos, *Archon Ekdikos*,
D.C. Offikion Date: 3/3/85

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Mr. Frank L. Kuchuris, *Archon Depotatos*,
IL, Offikion Date: 2/24/1991

Mr. Louis J. Laros, *Archon Proto Notarios*,
IL, Offikion Date: 10/28/2018

Mr. Louis G. Malevitis, *Archon Hartophylax*,
IL, Offikion Date: 3/3/1996

Mr. Peter Mesologitis, *Archon Depotatos*,
NY, Offikion Date: 10/16/2016

Mr. Gregory Nodaros, *Archon Orphanotrophos*,
NY, Offikion Date: 3/5/2000

Mr. Harry J. Pappas, *Archon Referendarios*,
NV, Offikion Date: 3/12/1995

Mr. Harry G. Plomarity, *Archon Ekdikos*,
TX, Offikion Date: 3/3/1985

Mr. Gus Stavropoulos, *Archon Depotatos*,
MI, Offikion Date: 3/4/1990

Mr. Basilios C. Theodosakis, *Archon Depoutatos*,
NY, Offikion Date: 3/19/1978

Mr. Peter E. Tiboris, *Archon Hiermnemon*,
FL, Offikion Date: 10/9/2022

Mr. George Tita, *Archon Hartoularios*,
PA, Offikion Date: 2/28/1999

Dr. Elmer B. Vogelpohl Jr., *Archon Aktouarios*,
CA, Offikion Date: 3/3/1985

17. **Benediction** – His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

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Profound Gratitude To One And All



Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Fr. Alex, Presbytera Xanthi, Brother Archons and Archondisses of the National Council, Regional Commanders and Chairs & Vice Chairs of the Archon Engagement Committees,

From the onset, I express my personal and collective profound gratitude to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his constant encouragement and guidance as we planned and executed the Conference and the first-ever Summit of Global Archons that just concluded. These were truly magnificent and historic events in the history of the Church at large.

We offer deep gratitude to the personal representative of His All-Holiness at the International Religious Freedom Conference, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and at the First Global Summit of Archons, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel Geron of Chalcedon.

We express our deep gratitude to our Spiritual Advisor Fr. Alex Karloutsos and Presbytera Xanthi who spent countless days on the ground in Athens reviewing every detail from the minute to the most major, thereby ensuring the extraordinary success of the Conference and Global Summit.... Each unique event, from one to the next were executed seamlessly and at the very highest level...simply Αρχοντικό!

To the ten venerable Metropolitans of Europe under the Ecumenical Throne we extend deep thanks for taking the time out of your busy hierarchical responsibilities in your local Metropolises throughout the countries of Europe to demonstrate your unwavering commitment to the Holy and Great Church of Christ. BRAVO! Your participation was inspirational.

To the Archon Planning Committee, including the Officers, Communications Committee, Speakers Committee, the incomparable creative genius of Archon John Mindala, the hard-working and dedicated Archon Administrator Leah Kats, as well as the paid-consultants in Athens including GS Travel led by the AMAZING Maria Laladaki and On Point Communications and PR led by the SUPERLATIVE Angela Karageorgou we extend our deepest appreciation, who worked most effectively with Archon Alex Pritsos in advance and logistics. For two years we had weekly and sometimes biweekly zoom meetings to ensure the success of our numerous events at the most magnificent, historical and meaningful venues in the world.

The presence of our esteemed Religious Committee Chair Archon John A. Catsimatidis and Archondissa Margo who flew in on their personal plane to introduce the 70th United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was so important to the success of the Conference. Archon John's outstanding introduction of Secretary Pompeo and the subsequent remarks of the Secretary, moderated by Archon James G. Rockas, were unforgettable!

The presence of our Canadian Brother Archons led by Archon Chrisostomos Perentes and coordinated by our own Archon Regional Commander Costas Sideridis added an important dimension to the Conference and Summit. Thank you so much!

We extend deep gratitude to our many sponsors, both known and unknown, led by Archon Thanassis and Archondissa Marina Martinos, The Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation with Trustee Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis and Archon Michael G. and Archondissa Robin Psaros! Your extraordinary beneficence was so very much appreciated.

Special recognition and gratitude is conveyed to our indispensable National Vice Commander Archon Judge Ted accompanied by his heroic wife Arhontoula (Helen) who fractured her hip just several weeks earlier. Without my incredible Brother Archon Judge Ted, the Conference, Global Summit and the pre and post exigencies thereof, could not have been addressed and executed.

Now that we have had a few days to catch our breath, allow me to announce that our weekly Archon Leadership zoom meetings will recommence, as we plan Archon Weekend including the presentation of the 2024 Athenagoras Human Rights Award to Yulia Navalnaya, widow of martyred Russian Human Rights Advocate Alexei Navalny and the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship to National Treasurer Archon Peter J. Skeadas. The Special EPBF FOUNDERS Event scheduled for Thursday evening for FOUNDERS in-good-standing will be a unique and most enjoyable experience. In addition, we will soon begin vetting the Archon Candidates for the Class of 2024...it will be a very busy summer indeed!

With profound gratitude to one and all,

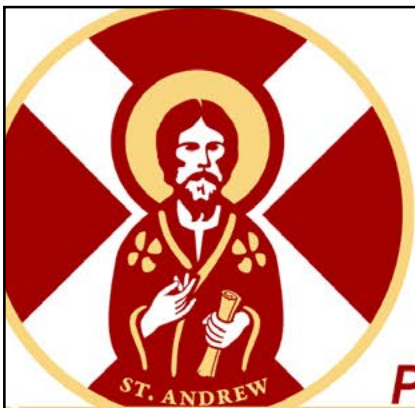
I remain,

In the service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony J. Limberakis, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the initials "MD" written at the end.

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Megas Aktouarios
National Commander


**All Archons Are Encouraged To Duplicate This Flyer
And Spread Throughout Their Churches**



Archons OF THE Ecumenical Patriarchate®

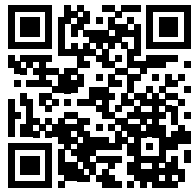
Protecting the Future of Faith®

**The Archon Ecumenical Patriarchate
Educational Global Initiative
Sunday School Sprout Program
Learning about
His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew**



IN CELEBRATION OF ARCHON SUNDAY

archons.org/sprouts



Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting



Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting

Submitted by
Gus M. Pablecas, National Secretary

ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE ANNUAL MEETING ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

New York Hilton Midtown Hotel
New York City, New York
October 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM

With a quorum being established, the National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis (Commander) called the Annual General Assembly meeting to order at 10:25 A.M. E.D.T. with the Invocation and remarks given by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. The Commander then led the Assembly in traditional chanting the Hymn to Saint Andrew, followed in English by Archon James D. Speros.

WELCOME

The Commander welcomed His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, Archons, Archons-elect and attendees of the Annual Meeting.

PATRIARCHAL EXHORTATION

The Commander presented the Patriarchal Exhortation on behalf of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

ARCHIEPISCOPAL EXHORTATION

The National Vice Commander Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis presented the Archiepiscopal Exhortation on behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America.

RECOGNIZING DR, ANTHONY J. LIMBERAKIS, 25 YEARS AS ARCHON NATIONAL COMMANDER

On behalf of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Vice Commander Bozonelis recognized Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis for his exemplary and unwavering 25 years of leadership and dictated service to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, changing the dynamics of the Order to what it is today. The Vice Commander further recognized Dr, Maria Limberakis for her exemplary and unwavering support to the Order. They were awarded a commemoration reflecting the following:

Presented to
NATIONAL COMMANDER DR. ANTHONY J. LIMBERAKIS
Archon Megas Aktouarios
and
DR. MARIA A. LIMBERAKIS
in recognition of their 25 Years of Leadership, Dedication and Service to the Ecumenical
Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Annual Archon Weekend
New York City
October 21, 2023

INTRODUCTION OF REGIONAL COMMANDERS

The Commander introduced newly appointed Regional Commanders, Archon James D. Speros, Metropolis of Boston, Archon Constantine Sideridis, Metropolis of Boston and Archon Jimmy Frangis, Metropolis of Atlanta.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2022 ANNUAL MEETING,

National Secretary Gus M. Pablecas (Secretary) made available for review the minutes from the October 8, 2022, Annual Assembly. The Commander asked for a motion to accept the minutes as presented.

MOTION: Archon Hollister moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Archon Caras. The Commander asked for any additions, correction or omissions, there being none, a vote was taken at which time the General Assembly unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT / AUDIT REPORT

National Treasurer Peter J. Skeadas (Treasurer) reviewed in detail the financial report and advised that the financial status of the Order was excellent and that the Order met all its 2022 and 2023 financial obligations to date. Treasurer Skeadas' report further included, but was not limited to, the Order's \$150,000 donation in 2023 to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of which \$50,000 was directed to Earthquake Relief and \$50,000 to the EPBF. In addition to those sums, the Order in 2023 has expended approximately \$130,000 for the planning of the 4th Archon International Conference to be held next year in Athens, Greece, a portion of which expenses were underwritten by the Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation. As a result of the sponsors for both the Archon weekend and for the Exarch's Appeal, the Order will meet its \$2 million commitments as outlined in the 2023 budget. A copy of the Treasurers full report as read to the Assembly is attached to and made part of these minutes as ADDENDUM A.

Archon Peter Kakoyiannis, Chair of the Audit Committee introduced Jeremy Meisel representing the Independent Audit Firm of BDO USA, LLP who explained the results of their Audit Report and review of the year ending December 31, 2022. Mr. Meisel pointed out that as stated in the Financial Statements that the financial statements present fairly in all material respects, the financial position of the Order as of year ending December 31, 2022, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Archon John G. Manos moved to accept the Treasurer and BDO audit reports as presented, seconded by Archon Cary J. Limberakis. The Commander asked for any questions, corrections, concerns, or comments, there being none, a vote was taken at which time the General Assembly unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION OF THE ARCHON CLASS OF 2022

Archon Constantine G. Caras, presented the Archon Class of 2023.

The Commander along with Archon Michael Psaros shared the importance of the Archons-elect in giving of their time, talent and treasurer, along with being fully engaged as protectors of the faith.

(Attached and made part of the minutes are the names of the 2023 Archons-elect)

INSURANCE REVIEW

Archon Peter Kakoyiannis gave a detailed overview as to the status of the Order's coverage.

EXARCH'S APPEAL

Archon John Zavitsanos, Chair of the Exarch's Appeal Committee, welcomed the Archons-elect and discussed time, talent, and treasure in detail. He enlightened the Assembly of the challenges facing the Patriarchate and the required funding needed for the Order to continue its duty to defend and protect the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archon Zavitsanos outlined the Sponsor A Day Program and that the Archon operating annual budget has been increased from approximately \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. Accordingly, the Sponsor A Day amount has been increased from \$3,000 to \$4,000. Archon Zavitsanos went on to stress the importance of the program and that the class of 2023, and all Archons should strive for 100% participation in becoming a Sponsor.

ATHENAGORAS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Archon Michale G. Psaros thanked all involved in the Athenagoras Human Rights Award evening presentation in honoring The Prince's Trust, founded by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, now His Majesty King Charles III. He continued to thank all who helped raise the approximate \$640,000 for the evening's event. The Commander expressed his deep gratitude to the Underwriters of the Banquet, Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation and Archon Michael G. Psaros.

2023 NICHOLAS J. BOURAS AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY ARCHON LEADERSHIP

The Commander commented on the memorable evening and congratulated honoree Archon George M. Marcus for his extraordinary display of time, talent, and treasure.

SOPHIA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

The Commander advised of the presentation of Archon Sophia Award for Excellence that will take place immediately following the meeting during the Agape Luncheon, where Cappella Romana, featuring Dr. Alexander Lingas, Archon Mousikodidaskalos, music director and founder of the world-renowned music will be presented with the Award.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW FOUNDATION

The Commander provided a detailed report including, but not limited to, that currently the EPBF has 205 FOUNDERS with pledged amount of \$22,115,000. The Commander described the different levels of giving opportunities.

NATIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominating Committee

National Secretary Gus M. Pablecas (Secretary), Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of members as approved by the National Council who have expressed their willingness to serve as Directors on the National Council for the three-year term 2024-2026 to be confirmed by the General Assembly:

Constantine C. Caras, Esq.
George Demacopoulos, Ph.D.
John G. Gumas
Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq.
John G. Manos
Gus (Kosmas) M. Pablecas
Alexander Pritsos
Michael G. Psaros

MOTION: Archon George Tsougarakis moves to confirm the slate, with a second from Archon Carl Hollister. The National Commander asked for any other nominations, there being none, a vote was taken at which time the General Assembly unanimously approved.

Bylaws Committee

The Vice Commander Judge Bozonelis provided a detailed review and reading of the proposed amendments to the Bylaws, a copy of which are in the Archons binder as provided.

The language as amended in the following incorporates the name Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, eliminates the citizen and resident of the United States member qualification, and includes all Orthodox Churches under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

PREAMBLE

We, the Archons and members (hereinafter “Members”) of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc. (hereinafter the “Order”), united in a common bond of love and loyalty to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States, and other Orthodox Churches under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, do hereby establish and adopt the following Bylaws of the Order.

The Order and its Members adopt the business name of Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. References to the Order throughout these Bylaws shall also mean Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. (Amended October 21, 2023)

ARTICLE II DEFINITION

Members of the Order known as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate shall be only those individuals who have been bestowed with the offikion of Archon and are distinguished with the following:

- (a) Possess an official document, signed and sealed by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople proclaiming them Archons with specific titles and provided further that they continue to remain in good standing.
- (b) By their actions, have become defenders of the Orthodox Faith; exemplary Orthodox Christian Stewards offering their time, talents and treasures to the Mother Church of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America or other Orthodox Dioceses under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; well respected by their fellow citizens and known for their high degree of dignity, morality and upright character; and proclaim, support, participate and practice in the educational and philanthropic activities, as well as the liturgical and sacramental life of their local Orthodox Parishes. (Amended October 21, 2023)

MISSION

The mission of the members of the Order, in their capacity as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, shall be to actively support and defend the Mother Church of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America or other Orthodox Dioceses under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; provide for and contribute towards the general welfare of the poor, handicapped and disadvantaged; and proclaim, observe and practice devotion, fidelity, obedience and love to the Orthodox Christian Church, its teachings, dogmas, traditions and sacraments through spiritual, educational and philanthropic activities. (Amended October 21, 2023)

Vice Commander Bozonelis reminded the General Assembly that the approved Archon Bylaws are available online.

MOTION: Archon George Tsougarakis moved to approve the proposed Bylaw Amendments as presented, seconded by Archon John G. Manos. Vice Commander Bozonelis asked for any discussion or questions as to the Amendments, there being none, a “show of hands” vote was taken at which time the motion was unanimously approved.

Communications Committee

Archon Rocky Sisson reported on the ongoing development of the Gumas branding initiative for the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archon John G. Gumas also presented to the Assembly, along with Mr. Craig Alexander, President, Gumas Advertising, who provided PowerPoint recap of the branding process to date.

Religious Freedom Initiative

Archon John A. Catsimatidis commended on the Archon Mission, the continued attacks on Christianity and encouraged the Archons-elect to get involved as part of the “Army of the Patriarchate”. Archon Catsimatidis encouraged all to attend the 4th Archon International Conference in 2024.

Washington Initiative

Archon Andrew E. Manatos presented the Committee’s Report and described in detail the various aspects and the importance on how the leaders in Washington can help defend the Patriarchate, coupled with the efforts of the Archons. Archon Manatos praised the importance of Fr. Alex’s contributions to the Washington effort.

OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe)

Archon Hon. Steven G. Counelis summarized the Committee's Report that reflected the activities of Archons at the OSCE Conference held in Warsaw Poland from October 2-7, 2023. The Archons (Sisson and Counelis) made oral presentations to the assembled nations, civil society organizations, plenary session of the Conference and human rights advocates, submitted detailed reports for the record of the proceedings, advocated one on one with other attendees and worked in concert with the United States delegation.

Archon Youth Committee

Archon Nicholas J. Tranto, Chair the Committee, along and Archon Judge Counelis, on behalf of the Committee, explained the Pilgrimage of Discovery 2023 pilot program and invited to the dais three of the five Pilgrimage of Discovery participants Denna Kolas, Christen Massouras and Dr. Dimitri Maroutsos, who traveled to Ecumenical Patriarchate to meet with His All-Holiness and share their experience. Denna Kolas summarized and shared her positive reflection of the trip. Archon Tranto acknowledged the work of the Committee members.

Due to the time limit restrictions on the room, the General Assembly the meeting was immediately moved and continued into the adjacent Mercury Ballroom at which time the other two POD participants shared their personal experience as well. In addition, Ms. Hellen Chrones along with Archon Judge Jeff Chrones offered their remarks.

OLD / NEW BUSINESS - TRISAGION

The National Commander asked for any old or new business, there being none His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, along with Father Alex Karloutsos led the **Trisagion Service** for the departed Archons Falling Asleep in the Lord, followed by the Benediction. May their memories be eternal.

(Attached and made part of the minutes are the names of the departed Archons)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Vice Commander Judge Bozonelis, with a second by Archon John G. Manos. On unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 12:46 P.M. E.D.T.

Respectfully submitted,

Gus M. Pablecas,
National Secretary

(NOTE: All Committee Report as submitted in accordance with the Agenda are made part of and included in the “2023 Annual Meeting Report” binder and maintained at the National office.)

Minutes 10.21.23 Annual Assembly FINAL pdf a

ARCHON CLASS OF 2023

Michael Amiridis, Ph. D, Prostatitis Treatment Center,
Columbia, SC,
President, University of South Carolina

Louis George Apostol, Esq., Nomophylax,
Glenview, IL,
Attorney

Gerasimos Athanasatos, Hymnodos,
New York, NY,
Clothing Manufacturer

John Michael Athas, MD, Orphanotrophos,
New York, NY,
Physician, Diagnostic Radiology

Robert Peter Badavas, Chartoularios,
Boston, MA,
Senior Corporate Executive

Michael Dimitri Bousis, Depotatos,
Niles, IL,
Food Retail Industry, Owner, Greek Soccer Team, Owner

Michael Damian Camarinos, Esq., Dikaiophylax,
Tenafly, NJ,
Attorney

Christos Frank Chrisafides, Depotatos,
Manchester, NH,
Senior Corporate Executive

ARCHON CLASS OF 2023 *Continued*

Thomas John Cox,
Eftaxias,
Jeffersonville, PA,
Employee Benefits Advisor

Spiro Ioannis Dongaris, Maistor,
Tenafly, NJ,
Environmental Engineer

Apostolos Fisfis, Laosynaktis,
Elkins Park, PA,
Food Service Industry

Craig Lawrence Godshall, Esq., Nomodotis,
Elkins Park, PA,
Attorney

Gregory James Halvatzis, Skevophylax,
Houston, TX,
Petroleum Engineer

Spiro Kailas, Aktouarios,
Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA,
Real Estate Corporate Executive

Nicholas Spyridon Kass, Referendarios,
Bethesda, MD,
U.S. Diplomat, Retired, International Corporate Affairs

James Ketis, Notarios,
Naples, FL,
Industrial Contracting

ARCHON CLASS OF 2023 *Continued*

Dimitris Kyriazis, MD, Ostiarios,
Mobile, AL,
Cardiothoracic Surgeon

John Konstantine Lazares, Protonotarios,
Cincinnati, OH,
Public School Superintendent

Nikolaos Letsios, Notarios, Whitestone, NY,
Senior Manager,
Automotive Sales

George Panagiotis Liakeas, MD, Aktouarios,
New York, NY,
Physician

Nabeel Jameel Issa Madanat, MD, Ostiarios,
Daily City, CA,
Pediatrician

Vasilios George Marutsos, Depotatos,
Redondo Beach, CA,
Business Insurance Consultant

Antonis Mistras, Orphanotrophos,
Wilmington, DE,
Investments Manager

Michael P. Neamonitakis, Maistor,
Brooklyn, NY,
Real Estate Investor

ARCHON CLASS OF 2023 *Continued*

Chris G. Pallis, Laosynaktis,
Seattle, WA,
Real Estate Developer

Peter John Panton, MD, Chartoularios,
Chicago, IL,
Surgeon

George Nicholas Papas, Ekdikos,
Tenafly, NJ,
Food Service Industry, U. S. Marines, Retired

George N. Pappas, Nomodotis,
Cherry Hill, NJ,
Certified Public Accountant

Nicholas James Pappas, Esq., Nomophylax,
Westfield, NJ,
Attorney

Jimmy Theo Patronis, Jr., Dikaiophylax,
Panama City, FL,
Florida Chief Financial Officer

Anthony John Payiavlas, Referendarios,
Warren, OH,
Food Service Industry, Owner

Phillip J. Philliou, Esq., Eftaxias,
Tenafly, NJ,
Attorney, Executive, Technology Industry

ARCHON CLASS OF 2023 *Continued*

George Pete Psefteas, Skevophylax,
Castro Valley, CA,
Senior Executive, Chevron Corp.

Harry Gregory Ruska, Notarios,
Columbus, OH,
Chemical Engineer

Samuel William Spanos, Hieromnemon,
Aliquippa, PA,
Wealth Advisor

Theodore Speros, Hypomnematographos,
Arlington, MA,
Real Estate Developer

Andrew Nick Theodore, Depotatos,
Columbia, SC,
Executive, Insurance Industry

John Vasiliou, Ostiarios,
Upper Darby, PA,
Private Label Meats, Owner

Kevin M. Wilcox, Chartophylax,
Little Rock, AR,
Financial Services

End of Archon-elects listing

DEPARTED ARCHON
December 21, 2022 to October 2, 2023

Mr. Henry Angelo, Jr., *Archon Depoutatos*, FL, Offikion Date: 02/18/01
Mr. Robert D. Cosgrove, *Archon Laosynaktis*, FL, Offikion Date: 02/17/01
Dr. Michael P. Gabriel, *Archon Aktouarios*, NY, Offikion Date: 06/19/05
Mr. Nicholas Galifianakis, *Archon Depoutatos*, NC, Offikion Date: 10/10/15
Mr. George Gazis, *Archon Ostiarios*, TX, Offikion date: 10/01/11
Mr. George Gritsonis, *Archon Ekdikos*, IL, Offikion Date: 10/16/11
Mr. George M. Kalambokis, *Archon Depoutatos*, MA, Offikion Date: 03/04/90
Mr. Andrew G. Kampiziones, *Archon Depoutatos*, SC, Offikion Date: 03/26/83
Mr. Constantine P. Kanakis, *Archon Notarios*, AL, Offikion Date: 03/23/86
Mr. John Kost, *Archon Depoutatos*, PA, Offikion Date: 02/17/01
Mr. Peter E. Kostorizos, *Archon Exarchos*, MA, Offikion Date: 03/08/87
Mr. Michael Kundrat, *Archon Hartoularios*, NY, Offikion Date: 02/08/99
Mr. Arthur Labros, *Archon Nomophylax*, WI, Offikion Date: 10/31/10
Mr. Emmanuel Leventelis, *Archon Depoutatos*, PA, Offikion Date: 03/07/82
Mr. Emanuel N. Logothetis, *Archon Depoutatos*, FL, Offikion Date: 02/28/88
Mr. George G. Makris, *Archon Orphanotrofes*, NJ, Offikion Date: 10/23/05
Mr. Anastasios E. Manessis, *Archon Megas Depoutatos*, NY, Offikion Date: 10/21/12
Mr. Stephen A. Manta, *Archon Laosynaktis*, IL, Offikion Date: 03/05/00
Mr. Victor A. Panagos, *Archon Architekton*, MD, Offikion Date: 03/09/03
Mr. James Pantelidis, *Archon Notarios*, NY, Offikion Date: 10/21/12
Mr. John Pappajohn, *Archon Laosynaktis*, IA, Offikion Date: 02/18/01
Mr. Louis D. Pappan, *Archon Depoutatos*, PA, Offikion Date: 02/18/01
Mr. John Perros, *Archon Depoutatos*, VA, Offikion Date: 03/03/96
Mr. Emil Skocypec, *Archon Notarios*, AZ, Offikion Date: 10/31/10
Mr. Haralambos Tzanetatos, *Archon Exarchos*, Panama, Offikion Date: 06/09/05

End of Departed Archon listing

ADDENDUM A

REPORT, AS READ BY NATIONAL TREASURER **ARCHON PETER J. SKEADAS**

Your Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Father Alex Karloutsos, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, Brother Archons, Archons-elect, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

In this season of thanksgiving filled with all God's gifts, in grace and in hope of peace throughout the world, we are grateful to once again convene and unite in person.

I am honored to serve the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle as National Treasurer with the blessings and under the auspices of the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America.

Today I am pleased to report to you that the financial health of the Order of St. Andrew is excellent. The Order of St. Andrew's 2023 yearend is approaching and with a strong cash balance in its operating account, currently in excess of \$600,000 and from which major expenditures will be paid to the NY Hilton Hotel for this memorable Archon weekend. It is noteworthy that in 2023, as well as in past years, the Order of St. Andrew met all its financial obligations.

I am also pleased to report that during the year 2022, the Order donated \$200,000 for the benefit of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its affiliates, \$50,000 for the Ukraine Relief Fund, \$75,000 for the Ecumenical Patriarchate Bartholomew Foundation, and \$100,000, at this time last year in honor of the 2022 Athenagoras Human Rights Award Recipient, His Beatitude Theodore II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, to the Church of Alexandria. These amounts last year totaled \$425,000 for contributions in support of the mission of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle.

Similarly, during the first 9 months of 2023 the Order donated \$150,000 to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, of which \$50,000 was directed for Earthquake Relief and \$50,000 to the EPBF. In addition to those sums, the Order has expended in the current year 2023 approximately \$130,000 for the planning of the 4th Archon International Conference to be held next year in Athens, Greece, a portion of which expenses were underwritten by the Nicholas J. and Anna K. Bouras Foundation.

Appropriately, I express my gratitude to the faithful sponsors for their continued support and offering their treasure for both the Archon weekend and for the Exarch's Appeal. Their generous financial support truly improves the cash position of the Order

significantly and allows the Order to meet its \$2 million commitments as outlined in the 2023 budget. This has been a continuing and cumulative effort of a strong team led by our exceptional Archon National Commander, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, our most dear Father Alex Karloutsos serving the Order as its Spiritual Advisor with National Vice Commander Judge Bozonelis, National Secretary Gus Pablecas, Sergeant at Arms Alex Pritsos and Archon John Zavitsanos who oversees the Exarch's Appeal program.

From the onset of my tenure as National Treasurer of the Order of St. Andrew, protocols and controls have been established and to which they have been strictly adhered. The offices of the Order, including that of the National Treasurer, are located at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in Manhattan. It is there that all books and records of the Order of St. Andrew are kept.

All bills for expenses are received and paid through the Order's office by the capable Archon Office Administrator and Manager Ms. Leah Kats who also serves as the internal accountant for the Order and to whom I offer my extreme gratitude for her diligence performing her responsibilities in full compliance of the provisions of accounting standards. After examination, the National Treasurer must approve each invoice for payment. This process requires signatures by two of the four officers of the Order and most often is performed by the Order's National Vice Commander and National Treasurer. All donations are recorded and all expenses are paid in full transparency and utilizing best practices set forth. The National Treasurer and National Assistant Treasurer Archon Andreas Comodromos report regularly the financial activities of the Order to the National Council for their review and approval.

National Assistant Treasurer Archon Andreas Comodromos, a CPA by profession, maintains an oversight and is extremely thorough in his duties. With his support, the Order's books and records are maintained meticulously. National Assistant Treasurer Archon Andreas Comodromos also plays a critical role in formulating the Order's annual budget and is in constant communication with the National Treasurer, our Office Administrator/Manager and the Order's accountants, Crane, Rosenberg, Pacio who offer their professional assistance to the Order in keeping the financial reporting accurate, precise and timely. Our accounting team works closely with our independent auditors, namely, the firm BDO, who performed the annual audit for the Order of St. Andrew, and which report will be immediately presented.

In closing, I recognize the major contributions of Audit Committee Chair Archon Peter Kakoyiannis and the members of the Audit Committee and welcome Archon Peter at the podium for the presentation of the 2022 audited financial statements.

National Council Committee Reports

**Order of St. Andrew
the Apostle, Inc. (d/b/a Archons of
the Ecumenical Patriarchate)**

**Audited Financial Statements
Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022**

The report accompanying these financial statements was issued by BDO USA, P.C., a Virginia professional corporation, and the U.S. member of BDO International Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee.

**Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)**

Audited Financial Statements
Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

**Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)**

Contents

Independent Auditor's Report	3-4
Financial Statements	
Statements of Financial Position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022	5
Statements of Activities for the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022	6-7
Statements of Functional Expenses for the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022	8-9
Statements of Cash Flows for the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022	10
Notes to Financial Statements	11-17

Independent Auditor's Report

The National Council
Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)
New York, New York

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc. (d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate) (the AEP), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the AEP as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the AEP and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the AEP's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.



Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the AEP's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the AEP's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

BDO USA, P.C.

September 19, 2024

**Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)**

Statements of Financial Position

<i>December 31,</i>	2023	2022
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 2)	\$ 324,401	\$ 507,434
Pledges receivable (Note 2)	90,909	52,286
Other assets	44,176	24,891
Fixed assets, net (Notes 2 and 3)	8,466	11,912
Total Assets	\$ 467,952	\$ 596,523
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Due to the Archdiocese (Note 5)	\$ 6,000	\$ 31,357
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	149,147	158,067
Total Liabilities	155,147	189,424
Commitments and Contingencies (Notes 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9)		
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions (Note 2)	200,203	309,260
With donor restrictions (Notes 2 and 6)	112,602	97,839
Total Net Assets	312,805	407,099
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 467,952	\$ 596,523

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)**

Statement of Activities

Year ended December 31, 2023

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Support and Revenues			
Special event revenues:			
Annual Archon weekend, net of costs of direct benefits to donors of \$366,980	\$ 265,665	\$ 52,500	\$ 318,165
Annual appeal contributions	1,312,829	54,500	1,367,329
Contributions - Pilgrimage of Discovery	-	25,800	25,800
Contributions - Regional Archons	9,330	-	9,330
Contribution - other	3,753	79,500	83,253
Sale of religious material	4,632	-	4,632
Interest income	8,574	-	8,574
Net assets released from restriction	197,537	(197,537)	-
Total Special Event Revenues	1,802,320	14,763	1,817,083
Donated services - Religious Freedom Programs, public relations (Note 4)	427,000	-	427,000
Total Support and Revenues	2,229,320	14,763	2,244,083
Expenses			
Program expenses	1,648,544	-	1,648,544
Management and general expenses	480,965	-	480,965
Fundraising expenses	208,868	-	208,868
Total Expenses	2,338,377	-	2,338,377
Change in Net Assets	(109,057)	14,763	(94,294)
Net Assets, beginning of year	309,260	97,839	407,099
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 200,203	\$ 112,602	\$ 312,805

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)

Statement of Activities

Year ended December 31, 2022

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Support and Revenues			
Special event revenues:			
Annual Archon weekend, net of costs of direct benefits to donors of \$365,007	\$ 336,996	\$ 50,000	\$ 386,996
Annual appeal contributions	1,240,265	-	1,240,265
Contributions - Chicago Archons	-	15,050	15,050
Contributions - Regional Archons	11,250	-	11,250
Contributions - other	68,150	-	68,150
Sale of religious material	5,700	-	5,700
Interest income	2,593	-	2,593
Net assets released from restrictions	89,361	(89,361)	-
	1,754,315	(24,311)	1,730,004
Donated services - Religious Freedom Programs, public relations (Note 4)	418,600	-	418,600
Total Support and Revenues	2,172,915	(24,311)	2,148,604
Expenses			
Program expenses	1,579,897	-	1,579,897
Management and general expenses	501,389	-	501,389
Fundraising expenses	231,301	-	231,301
Total Expenses	2,312,587	-	2,312,587
Change in Net Assets	(139,672)	(24,311)	(163,983)
Net Assets, beginning of year	448,932	122,150	571,082
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 309,260	\$ 97,839	\$ 407,099

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)**

Statement of Functional Expenses

Year ended December 31, 2023

	Program	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
Annual Archon weekend:				
Archon Conference - meal and service	\$ 33,685	\$ 67,369	\$ 11,228	\$ 112,282
Archon Conference - publications	16,131	32,261	5,377	53,769
Archon Conference - audio/visual	16,509	33,017	5,503	55,029
Archon Conference - other	2,041	4,082	680	6,803
Human Rights Banquet - audio/visual	-	-	54,457	54,457
Human Rights Banquet - invitations	-	-	4,370	4,370
Human Rights Banquet - other	-	-	42,209	42,209
Nicholas J. Bouras Award Banquet - other (Dinner Dance)	-	-	34,946	34,946
Donations:				
Ecumenical Patriarchate	100,000	-	-	100,000
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Inc.	81,340	-	-	81,340
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America	60,000	-	-	60,000
Other	8,500	-	-	8,500
Religious Freedom Program - conferences, meetings, and travel	254,218	-	-	254,218
Religious Freedom Program - consulting	65,738	-	-	65,738
Religious Freedom Program - donated consulting services	427,000	-	-	427,000
Religious Freedom Program - institutional advancement	120,000	-	-	120,000
Religious Freedom Program - other	20,333	-	-	20,333
Clergy Laity, Lenten Retreat, and other meetings	16,283	4,071	-	20,354
Communications	191,109	17,610	1,000	209,719
Regional Archons activities	24,731	11,412	5,000	41,143
Purchases of religious materials and other program services	79,228	2,275	-	81,503
Patriarch support and Archbishop ministries	465	-	-	465
Compensation, bonuses, and related benefits	101,878	102,376	21,672	225,926
Office expense and supplies	25,856	73,678	18,928	118,462
Audit and accounting expense	-	116,059	-	116,059
Local travel expense	2,350	2,350	2,350	7,050
Depreciation expense	1,149	1,149	1,148	3,446
Insurance and other expenses	-	13,256	-	13,256
	\$ 1,648,544	\$ 480,965	\$ 208,868	\$ 2,338,377

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)**

Statement of Functional Expenses

Year ended December 31, 2022

	Program	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
Annual Archon weekend:				
Archon Conference - meal and service	\$ 18,740	\$ 37,480	\$ 6,247	\$ 62,467
Archon Conference - publications	12,633	25,266	4,211	42,110
Archon Conference - audio/visual	8,022	16,043	2,674	26,739
Archon Conference - other	2,081	4,161	694	6,936
Human Rights Banquet - audio/visual	-	-	56,431	56,431
Human Rights Banquet - invitations	-	-	12,735	12,735
Human Rights Banquet - other	-	-	35,838	35,838
Nicholas J. Bouras Award Banquet - other (Dinner Dance)	-	-	27,887	27,887
Donations:				
Ecumenical Patriarchate	100,000	-	-	100,000
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Inc.	75,000	-	-	75,000
Other	255,000	-	-	255,000
Religious Freedom Program - conferences, meetings, and travel	119,107	-	-	119,107
Religious Freedom Program - consulting	55,000	-	-	55,000
Religious Freedom Program - donated consulting services	418,600	-	-	418,600
Religious Freedom Program - institutional advancement	120,000	-	-	120,000
Religious Freedom Program - other	22,674	-	-	22,674
Clergy Laity, Lenten Retreat, and other meetings	68,388	13,347	-	81,735
Communications	131,265	20,648	5,000	156,913
Regional Archons activities	12,626	6,417	1,000	20,043
Purchases of religious materials and other program services	25,046	-	-	25,046
Patriarch support and Archbishop ministries	4,620	-	-	4,620
Compensation, bonuses, and related benefits	98,337	152,018	50,786	301,141
Office expense and supplies	28,544	86,935	23,586	139,065
Audit and accounting expense	-	117,769	-	117,769
Local travel expense	2,632	2,632	2,631	7,895
Depreciation expense	1,582	1,582	1,581	4,745
Insurance and other expenses	-	17,091	-	17,091
	\$ 1,579,897	\$ 501,389	\$ 231,301	\$ 2,312,587

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)**

Statements of Cash Flows

<i>Year ended December 31,</i>	2023	2022
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Change in net assets	\$ (94,294)	\$ (163,983)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation expense	3,446	4,745
Decrease (increase) in:		
Pledges receivable	(38,623)	74,462
Other assets	(19,285)	76,915
Increase (decrease) in:		
Due to the Archdiocese	(25,357)	15,833
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(8,920)	(639,668)
Net Cash Used in Operating Activities	(183,033)	(631,696)
Net Decrease in Cash, Cash Equivalents, Restricted Cash, and Restricted Cash Equivalents	(183,033)	(631,696)
Cash and Cash Equivalents, beginning of year	507,434	1,139,130
Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of year	\$ 324,401	\$ 507,434

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc. (d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Nature of Organization

The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc. (d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate) (the AEP) was incorporated under the laws of the state of New York in 1980. It is a non-profit, religious organization affiliated with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (the Archdiocese). The activities of the AEP underscore steadfast support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Orthodox Christian Church in the United States, including the Affiliated Institutions of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and of the Greek Orthodox Church of America. The AEP is dedicated to the inculcation and education of all faithful persons into the historical role of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its leadership, through education, philanthropy and spirituality. The AEP also supports other non-profit organizations dedicated to religious and humanitarian activities. The AEP's support comes primarily through donor contributions from its members and the public.

The AEP is a devoted group of passionate leaders, relentlessly focused on protecting religious freedom for everyone and ensuring the future of the Ecumenical Patriarchate - the historical spiritual center of the world's 300+ million Orthodox Christians. Archons are individuals who have been recognized for their outstanding service to the Orthodox Church in the United States and honored with a Patriarchal title bestowed upon them by the Ecumenical Patriarch. The AEP is exempt from filing and paying federal and state income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis. In the statements of financial position, assets are presented in order of liquidity or conversion to cash, and liabilities are reflected in order of their maturity resulting in the use of cash.

Financial Statement Presentation

The classification of a not-for-profit organization's net assets and its support, revenue, and expenses is based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. It requires that the amounts for each of the two classes of net assets—with or without donor restrictions—be displayed in a statement of financial position and that the amounts of change in each of those classes of net assets be displayed in a statement of activities.

These classes are defined as follows:

Without Donor Restrictions - Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions, and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the AEP, are considered fully available, at the discretion of the National Council or the Executive Committee, for the AEP to utilize in any of its programs or supporting services.

With Donor Restrictions - This class consists of net assets that are subject to donor-imposed restrictions, whose use is restricted by time and/or purpose. The AEP reports gifts of cash and other assets as revenue with donor restrictions if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires—that is, when a purpose restriction is fulfilled, or a time restriction ends—such net assets are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported on the statements of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)

Notes to Financial Statements

Some net assets with donor restrictions include a stipulation that the assets provided be maintained permanently (perpetual in nature), while permitting the AEP to expend the income generated by the assets in accordance with the provisions of additional donor-imposed stipulations or a National-Council-approved spending policy. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the AEP did not have any assets with donor restrictions held in perpetuity.

Functional Expenses

The financial statements report certain categories of expenses that are attributed to more than one function. Therefore, expenses require allocation on a reasonable basis that is consistently applied. The expenses that are allocated include compensation and related benefits, newsletter, publications, and print media, which are allocated on the basis of estimates of time and effort. Other allocated expenses include depreciation and office expenses, which are allocated on the basis of estimates of square footage and asset usage.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statements of cash flows, the AEP considers all cash and highly liquid investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less at time of purchase to be cash equivalents.

Contributions and Pledges Receivable

Contributions and pledges receivable are recorded as revenue at the time they are made or pledged unconditionally and supported by a written commitment. Recurring credit card donations are recorded as revenue when they are received. Contributions are classified as with or without donor restrictions, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor-imposed restrictions. Contributions with donor-imposed restrictions that are fulfilled in the same period they are received are recorded as support without donor restrictions. Contributions are nonexchange transactions in which no commensurate value is exchanged. Therefore, contributions fall under the purview of Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 958, *Not-for-Profit Entities*.

Pledges receivable outstanding at December 31, 2023 and 2022 were \$90,909 and \$52,286, respectively, and were due in less than one year.

Revenue Recognition

In accordance with ASC Topic 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (ASC 606), the AEP recognizes revenue when control of the promised goods and services is transferred to outside parties in an amount that reflects the consideration that the AEP expects to be entitled to in exchange for goods and those services. ASC 606 also requires new and expanded disclosures regarding revenue recognition to ensure an understanding as to the nature, amount, timing, and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from contracts with customers. The AEP has identified event revenues, which consist of ticket fees for the Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet and the Nicholas J. Bouras Award Dinner Dance, as categories subject to the adoption of ASC 606.

Special event revenues are recognized as revenue when control of the promised goods or services is transferred to outside parties in an amount that reflects the consideration the AEP expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services. Special event revenues contain a ticket

Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)

Notes to Financial Statements

component of the AEP's special events. Revenue is recognized when events take place. Special event revenues include banquet ticket sales and are reported net of the direct benefit to donors (i.e. exchange transactions).

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award Banquet is held annually to present an award to a person or organization that has consistently exemplified action, purpose and dedication, and concern for the basic rights and religious freedom of all people. The Nicholas J. Bouras Award Dinner Dance is held annually to present an award to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary and incomparable stewardship to the AEP, enabling Archons to vigorously pursue securing religious freedom for the Mother Church of Constantinople. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the AEP reported special events revenue of \$685,145 and direct expenses of \$366,980 of which \$299,800 are recorded as an exchange transaction. For the year ended December 31, 2022, the AEP reported special events revenue of \$752,003 and direct expenses of \$365,007, of which \$232,600 is recorded as an exchange transaction. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, there was \$37,012 and \$39,109, respectively, in accrued expenses pertaining to special event revenue.

Fixed Assets, Net

Fixed assets, net, are recorded at cost, less accumulated depreciation. The AEP capitalizes fixed assets that have a cost of \$2,500 or more and useful lives greater than one year. Depreciation is provided over the estimated useful life for each class of depreciable asset and is computed using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives of various asset classes are as follows:

Asset Category	Useful Lives (Years)
Computers and equipment	3-5
Furniture	7

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets

The AEP reviews long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in business circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be fully recoverable. An impairment loss would be recognized when the estimated future cash flows from the use of the asset are less than the carrying amount of that asset. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there have been no such losses.

Contributions of Non-Financial Assets

The AEP recognizes in-kind contribution revenue and a corresponding expense in an amount approximating the estimated fair value at the time of the donation. Contributions of non-financial assets are recognized if the services received (a) create or enhance non-financial assets or (b) require specialized skills, are provided by individuals possessing those skills, and would typically need to be purchased if not donated (see Note 4).

Income Taxes

The AEP was incorporated in the state of New York and is exempt from federal and state income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. In addition, the AEP has been determined by the Internal Revenue Service not to be a "private foundation" within the meaning of Section 509(a) of the Code.

Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)

Notes to Financial Statements

There were no unrelated business incomes from an unrelated trade or business for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

The AEP has adopted the provisions of ASC 740, *Income Taxes*. Under ASC 740, an organization must recognize financial statement effects of a tax position taken for tax return purposes when it is more likely than not that the position will not be sustained upon examination by a taxing authority. The AEP does not believe it has taken any material uncertain tax positions and, accordingly, it has not recorded any liability for unrecognized tax benefits. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, there were no interest or penalties recorded or included in the statements of activities. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the AEP was not subject to any examination by a taxing authority.

Under current regulations, the AEP is not required to file a tax return.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Recently Adopted Accounting Pronouncements

Financial Instruments - Credit Losses

In June 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2016-13, *Financial Instruments - Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments*, as amended. The new credit losses standard changes the impairment model for most financial assets and certain other instruments. For trade and other receivables, contract assets recognized as a result of applying FASB ASC 606, loans, and certain other instruments, entities will be required to use a new, forward-looking “expected-loss” model that generally will result in earlier recognition of credit losses than under today’s incurred-loss model. ASU 2016-13 is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2022. Effective January 1, 2023, the AEP adopted ASU 2016-13. Management has evaluated the requirements of ASU 2016-13 and has determined that the impact of adopting ASU 2016-13 is not material to the financial statements.

3. Fixed Assets, Net

Fixed assets, net, consist of the following:

<i>December 31,</i>	2023		2022	
Computers and equipment	\$	62,276	\$	62,276
Furniture		25,469		25,469
		87,745		87,745
Less: accumulated depreciation		(79,279)		(75,833)
	\$	8,466	\$	11,912

Depreciation expense for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$3,446 and \$4,745, respectively.

Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)

Notes to Financial Statements

4. Contributions of Non-Financial Assets

The AEP receives a substantial amount of services donated by its members in carrying out the mission and obligations of the AEP. In 2023 and 2022, public relations services were provided by a member of the AEP to further its efforts in the Patriarchal Religious Freedom project, including, but not limited to, assisting the AEP and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Inc. in performing support services. The value of these services is estimated to be \$427,000 and \$418,600 for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. These amounts were recorded in donated services - Religious Freedom Programs, public relations in the statements of activities and Religious Freedom Program - donated consulting services in the statements of functional expenses at their estimated fair value at the date of receipt. These contributions of non-financial assets did not have donor-imposed restrictions. No other amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for contributions of non-financial assets since they do not meet the criteria for recognition.

5. Transactions Involving the Archdiocese, Affiliates and Related Parties

The AEP owed the Archdiocese \$6,000 and \$31,357 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The Archdiocese pays certain expenses and other costs on behalf of the AEP and is periodically reimbursed throughout the year. The AEP has no employees or payroll of its own. The AEP uses the labor available from the Archdiocese to complete its mission, and reimburses the Archdiocese for these expenses, which are included below. These transactions are valued at arm's length. Furthermore, the AEP provides financial support (donations) to other organizations affiliated with the Archdiocese. These donations are also included below.

<i>December 31,</i>	2023	2022
Donations	\$ 60,000	\$ 255,000
Compensation and related benefits	210,427	291,712
Rent	48,000	48,000
Clergy Laity Congress	-	63,983
Office supplies, printing, and postage	5,285	8,539
Data processing	3,000	-
Annual-Archon-weekend-related expense	-	19,728
Religious Freedom Program - other	-	1,778
Total	\$ 326,712	\$ 688,740

The AEP provides financial support (donations) to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. No amounts are due to or from the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

<i>December 31,</i>	2023	2022
Donations	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Religious Freedom Program - other	5,000	10,500
Total	\$ 105,000	\$ 110,500

**Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)**

Notes to Financial Statements

The AEP provides financial support (donations) to the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Inc. No amounts are due to or from the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Inc.

<i>December 31,</i>		2023		2022
Donations	\$	81,340	\$	75,000
Total	\$	81,340	\$	75,000

6. Net Assets with Donor Restrictions

Net assets with donor restrictions are available for the following programs or purposes:

<i>December 31,</i>		2023		2022
Restricted by purpose:				
Ecumenical Patriarchate Bartholomew Foundation Inc.	\$	52,500	\$	50,000
Metropolis of Chicago Archons-Pilgrimage of Discovery		1,102		47,839
2024 International Conference Registrations		4,500		-
Restricted by time:				
Annual Appeals Received for 2024		54,500		-
Total Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$	112,602	\$	97,839

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring the following expenses satisfying the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors:

<i>Year ended December 31,</i>		2023		2022
Ecumenical Patriarchate Bartholomew Foundation Inc.	\$	50,000	\$	75,000
Metropolis of Chicago Archons-Pilgrimage of Discovery		72,537		14,361
Religious Freedom Travel		75,000		-
Total Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$	197,537	\$	89,361

7. Risk Concentration

Financial instruments that potentially subject the AEP to concentration of credit risk consist principally of cash deposits. Accounts at each institution are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$250,000. At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the AEP had approximately \$68,000 and \$256,000, respectively, in excess of the FDIC insured limit. The financial institutions have strong credit ratings, and management believes that credit risk related to these accounts is minimal.

The AEP's annual Archon weekend includes major fundraising events. The revenues realized from these events were 26% and 30% of total revenue for 2023 and 2022, respectively. The AEP received large individual donor contributions in support of these events totaling \$200,000 in 2023 and 2022, which represents 29% and 27%, respectively, of special event income, and 8% of the total revenue for 2023 and 2022.

Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Inc.
(d/b/a Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate)

Notes to Financial Statements

In addition, the AEP received several large individual contributions in support of its mission totaling approximately \$223,000 and \$232,000 in 2023 and 2022, respectively, which represents 9% of the total revenue for 2023 and 2022.

8. Liquidity and Availability of Financial Assets

The AEP's financial assets available within one year of the statement of financial position date for general expenditures are as follows:

<i>December 31,</i>		2023		2022
Total Assets	\$	467,952	\$	596,523
Less: amounts unavailable for general expenditures due to:				
Restricted by donor with time or purpose restrictions		(112,602)		(97,839)
Other assets		(44,176)		(24,891)
Fixed assets, net		(8,466)		(11,912)
Total Financial Assets Available to Management for General Expenditure Within One Year	\$	302,708	\$	461,881

As part of the AEP's liquidity management, it structures its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities, and other obligations come due. During 2023 and 2022, portions of banquet-related revenues were restricted by donors for the sole use of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation Inc. As such, those amounts are not available for general expenditures and are deducted above (see Note 6).

9. Subsequent Events

The AEP's management has performed subsequent events procedures through September 19, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. The AEP is not aware of any subsequent events that would require recognition or disclosure in the accompanying financial statements.



Committee to Recommend New Archons

Submitted by
Constantine G. Caras

As early as 1,000 years ago, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople honored those who demonstrated exceptional zeal and devotion for the common good and extraordinary beneficial service to the Church with the Offikion of Archon. In turn, a new Archon renewed his commitment to his fellow man and the mission of the Great Church. This tradition continues to this day. The role of the Committee to Recommend New Archons (the Committee) is to assist His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros in recommending candidates to His All-Holiness, worthy of investiture as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Investiture as an Archon is necessary for admission to the Order.

The members of the Committee are Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, Theodore Bozonelis, Peter Skeadas, Gus Pablicas, Alexander Pritsos, John Zavitsanos, and Constantine G. Caras.

The protocol for the selection of new Archons is as follows. Once a year the National Commander invites members of the Order to identify worthy candidates desiring to serve the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Credentials Forms are available on line. The candidates are requested to mail their completed Credentials Forms to the Archon National Office. In addition to biographical information, the candidates are asked to describe their service to the Church and answer questions, evidencing their desire to become Archons. Each candidate must be nominated and endorsed by Archons, and the approval of the Regional Commander and the nominee's parish priest are also required. The Committee weighs heavily the answers to these questions and the supporting statements submitted by the Archons nominating and endorsing the candidates. The Metropolitans of the Eparchial Synod also are invited to recommend candidates, who are then asked to submit Credentials Forms. After

carefully weighing the credentials of each candidate, subject to the guidance of the Archbishop who participates in all Committee deliberations, the credentials of those selected are sent to the Ecumenical Patriarch for his consideration and approval.

When nominating candidates, Archons are asked to consider the following:

- * Does the candidate have a record of service to his local parish, metropolis, the national church and the Ecumenical Patriarchate?

- * Is the candidate willing and able to give of his Time, Talent, and Treasure, to the best of his ability, in advocating the cause of religious liberty for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and serve the needs of the Holy Mother Church?

- * Is he willing and able to speak to local, state, and/or federal officials in support of religious freedom for the Ecumenical Patriarchate?

- * Is the candidate willing and able to visit or participate in pilgrimages to the Ecumenical Patriarchate?

- * How can the candidate advance the cause of the Ecumenical Patriarchate?

The Committee also performs the following specific tasks: (a) communicates with Archons throughout the country to ensure that all the documentation has been submitted on a timely basis, (b) reviews the Credentials Forms and supporting documentation in the most objective manner possible to ensure that all questions have been answered and that the necessary endorsements are in order, and (c) reports its recommendations to the National Council.

This year, 28 worthy Orthodox faithful from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America were thus selected. Their names and all relevant information were then submitted to the Ecumenical Patriarch through the Exarch, who now, on behalf of His All Holiness, confers upon them the Offikion of Archon of the Great Church of Christ in Constantinople.

The 28 new Archons are as follow;

Paul L. Bitsos
Omaha, Nebraska
Executive, Industrial Sales

Gregory M. Cokinos, Esq.
Houston, Texas
Attorney

Thomas A. Copulos, D.D.S.
Boca Raton, Florida
Periodontist

Christopher P. Daifotis
Westfield, New Jersey
Asset Manager, Financial Advisor

Anthony W. Djinis, Esq.
Potomac, Maryland
Attorney

William P. Galatis
Saugus, Massachusetts
Principal, Food Services

Peter Gerazounis, P.E.
Searington, New York
Principal, Engineering Industry

Peter F. Giorgi, Esq.
Reading, Pennsylvania
Attorney, Principal
International Agriculture,
Food Processing and Packaging

Jani Gjoni
Addison, Illinois
Principal, Building Services

Nicholas D. Kambitsis
Highland Park, New Jersey
Gas and Convenience Stores Owner,
Real Estate Investor

Vassilios Kassimatis
Garden City, New York
International Ship Sales and
Brokerage

Hon. John C. V. Katsanos, Esq.
Astoria, New York
Justice, New York State Judiciary

Lazarus M. Kirifides, D.O.
Wilmington, Delaware
Physician

Markos Kounalakis, Ph.D.
San Fransisco, California
University Professor
Foreign Affairs Scholar

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Nominating Committee

Submitted by
Gus M. Pablecas

Bylaws - Order of St. Andrew the Apostle - Article IX

1. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for considering and proposing to the National Council at a meeting prior to the Annual Meeting of the Order, Archons constituting one-third (a) of the National Council membership to fill the vacancies created in the National Council each year. The candidates for election may or may not be incumbent National Council members. In the absence of extraordinary service and contributions by an incumbent member, the Nominating Committee should strive to recommend Archons who will bring renewed energy and new ideas to the National Council. The proposals of the Nominating Committee should be given full faith and credit by the National Council which, however, shall have the ultimate responsibility to vote and pass upon final slate of such candidates for election to the National Council. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall submit the slate of candidates, approved by the National Council, to the Annual Meeting of the Order for ratification.

**THIS COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE
FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE
ORDER, WHO HAVE EXPRESSED
THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE AS
DIRECTORS FOR THE:**

THREE YEAR TERM 2025– 2027

Thomas S. Cappas, Esq.
Andreas D. Comodromos
Carl R. Hollister
Nicholas Loutsion, VMD
Frank (Rocky) Sisson
William Spell
George A. Tsougarakis, Esq.
John Zavitsanos, Esq.

**REMAINING DIRECTORS
AND TERMS ARE:**

TWO YEAR TERM, 2025 – 2026

Constantine C. Caras, Esq.
George Demacopoulos, Ph.D.
John G. Gumas
Peter Kakoyiannis, Esq.
John G. Manos
Gus M. Pablecas
Alexander Pritsos
Michael G. Psaros

AND ONE YEAR TERM, 2025

Hon, B. Theodore Bozonelis
John Catsimatidis
Stephen Georgeson, Esq.
John S. Koudounis
Theodore J. Theophilos, Esq.
George Safiol
Peter J. Skeadas
Stephen Yallourakis, MD, DDS



Bylaws Committee

Submitted by
Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis

Please take notice that the below amendments to the bylaws will be proposed for approval at the October 19, 2024 Annual Meeting of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle.

The current bylaws are set forth at length for review at: archons.org/bylaws

The following language as amended in:

Article VI adds the Sergeant at Arms and the Legal Counselor as officers and members of the Executive Committee, and the Functionaries as the Assistant Treasurer, Deputy Legal Counselor, and Historian.

Article VII re-lists the numerical order of the Officers and Functionaries and provides that the Sergeant at Arms and Legal Counselor must be members of the National Council, the Assistant Treasurer, Deputy Legal Counselor and Historian must be Archons but not necessarily members of the National Council.

Article IX 3 (a) provides that an Archon candidate must be a citizen and resident of a country within the worldwide jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople except as allowed in the discretion of the Committee.

Article IX 3 (e) allows an exception at the discretion of the Exarch to the requirement that an Archon candidate has never been convicted of any crime.

Article VI: Election and Term of Officers and Functionaries

The officers of the Order shall be the National Commander, the National Vice Commander, the National Treasurer, the National Secretary, the Sergeant at Arms, and the Legal Counselor, and the Functionaries shall be the Assistant Treasurer, Deputy Legal Counselor and Historian.

The National Commander shall be appointed by the Exarch. The remaining officers shall be elected by the National Council at its next regular meeting following the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Order and shall serve for a period of one (1) year or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. At the same meeting, the National Council shall elect an Assistant Treasurer, Deputy Legal Counselor and Historian who shall serve for a period of one (1) year or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. Amended (October 27th, 2007, October 31, 2009 and October 19, 2024)

Article VII: Duties and Responsibilities of Officers and Functionaries, Regional Commanders and Executive Committee

Officers

1. National Commander

The National Commander shall be the chief executive officer of the Order; he shall preside at all meetings of the Members of the Order and of the National Council; he shall have the responsibility for the general management of the affairs of the Order and shall see that all resolutions and decisions of the National Council and of the meetings of the Members are carried out; he shall propose and make such recommendations to the National Council and to the meetings of the Members as, in his opinion, shall serve to promote and carry out the principles, purposes and objectives of the Order and of these Bylaws; he shall follow and supervise the work of all Committees; he shall appoint Regional Commanders; he shall appoint the Chairmen of all Committees, as well as their members thereof, subject, however, to prior consultation with the appointed Chairmen; and he shall serve as an ex officio member of all Committees, except the Audit and Nominating Committees.

2. National Vice Commander

During the absence or temporary disability of the National Commander, the National Vice Commander shall exercise the powers and functions of the National Commander. In addition, he shall perform such further duties and assume such further responsibilities, as the National Commander or the National Council may, from time to time, entrust upon him.

3. National Treasurer

The National Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all the funds and securities of the Order and shall receive and deposit said funds in the name of the Order, in such bank or trust company as the National Council may approve. All checks, drafts, notes, wire transfers and orders for the payment of money shall be prepared by the National Treasurer and signed by two (2) officers of the National Council. Except for expenditures relating to the implementation of projects, events and affairs previously approved by the National Council, all other expenditures exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or such other amount as the National Council may, from time to time approve, shall require the approval of the National Council. Upon written application made to the office of the Order, the National Treasurer shall exhibit the books and accounts of the Order to any Member of the Order during regular business hours. At the end of each fiscal year, the National Treasurer shall submit to an audit the accounts of the Order to be carried out by the Audit Committee, as hereinafter provided. The Audit Committee's report shall be presented in writing to the National Council and to the Members of the Order at the Annual Meeting, along with the annual balance sheet and the Treasurer's statement of the financial condition of the Order. Amended (Oct. 19th, 2019)

4. National Secretary

The National Secretary shall:

1. Attend all meetings of the National Council and of the Members of the Order and shall record all proceedings and keep all minutes thereof;
2. Have custody of the seal of the Order and shall affix and attest the same to documents when duly authorized by the National Council;
3. Attend to the service of all notices for meetings of the Members of the Order and of the National Council and shall have charge of such books and records as the National Council may direct;
4. Attend to such correspondence as may be assigned to him and perform all the duties incidental to this office; and
5. Keep a membership roll containing the names, alphabetically arranged, of all persons who are Members of the Order, showing their places of residence, their titles and the time when they became Members. The office of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in New York shall serve as the address of the Order and the depository of all of its records.

5. Sergeant at Arms

The Sergeant at Arms shall be responsible for the observance and maintenance of proper order and for the preservation of decorum as may be requested by the presiding officer at any meeting of the Members and of the National Council. The Sergeant at Arms shall also assist the presiding officer and/or the secretary in verifying Archon attendance and in voting procedures at any meeting of the Members or of the National Council. Finally, he shall provide logistical support and be responsible for the organization and implementation of events, pilgrimages and public projects sponsored by the Order. The Sergeant at Arms must be an Archon, and a member of the National Council. Amended (October 27th, 2007) (October 19, 2024)

6. Legal Counselor

The Legal Counselor shall be the legal officer of the Order and shall advise the Members of the Order, as well as the officers and members of the National Council, on all matters of law involving the Order. In addition, he shall serve as the parliamentarian at all meetings of the National Council and of the Members of the Order. The Legal Counselor must be an Archon and an attorney licensed to practice in one or more of the States of the United States who remains in good standing at all times. The Legal Counselor must also be a member of the National Council. He shall discharge the duties of his office pro bono. Amended (October 19, 2024)

Functionaries

7. Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in his duties and perform the same in his absence. He will be responsible for the preparation of accrual basis financial statements and schedules with appropriate footnote disclosures. The Assistant Treasurer must be an Archon but not necessarily a member of the National Council. Amended (October 31, 2009, October 19, 2024)

8. Deputy Legal Counselor

The Deputy Legal Counselor shall assist the Legal Counselor in his duties and perform the same in his absence. The Deputy Legal Counselor must be an attorney licensed to practice in one or more States in the United States who remains in good standing at all times. He must be an Archon, but not necessarily a member of the National Council. He shall discharge his duties pro bono. Amended (October 19, 2024)

9. Historian

The Historian shall advise the National Council and the Members of the Order on the advisability of publishing materials or sponsoring events consistent with the historical integrity of the Order and, when requested, shall undertake the responsibility of implementing those recommendations. The Historian shall be a scholar who specializes in Orthodox Church and Byzantine history. The Historian must be an Archon, but not necessarily a member of the National Council.

Regional Commanders

10. Regional Commanders

The National Commander, following the election of the National Council officers, shall appoint Regional Commanders to serve for a period of one (1) year. Each Regional Commander shall receive from the Secretary a record of the names and addresses of all Archons residing in his region and shall serve as the representative of the National Council in such region. He shall maintain frequent communications with his Archons for the purpose of promoting, observing and carrying out the purposes, objectives and principles of the Order. Towards those objectives, and after consultation with the National Commander, he shall convene reunions or assemblages of the Archons in his region, in the course of which they may also perform such duties and exercise such initiatives as are assigned to them by the National Council. In addition, he shall maintain regular communications with and report to the National Commander with regard to his activities in the region, and attend National Council meetings pursuant to the procedure set forth in Article V 9.

Furthermore, on the name day of the Order's patron saint, Saint Andrew the Apostle, as well as on the Sunday of Orthodoxy and on the name day of his local parish, he shall organize church observances and receptions by Archons of his region and shall work towards full participation by all Archons residing therein.

It is hereby recognized and acknowledged that an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is a lay official of the Church. As such, he is expected to conduct himself with a profound appreciation of his office and practice his Orthodox faith with exemplary devotion to the educational, philanthropic, sacramental and liturgical aspects of the Church. By the same token, he is entitled to be recognized by his local parish and be given a place of honor in the Church. On special feast days, such as the Nativity of the Lord, Holy Friday, Pascha, the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, the feast days of Saint Andrew the Apostle and of his local parish, as well as on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, he must wear his emblems of office and participate with his fellow parishioners in all church services. It is the responsibility of the Regional Commanders, in consultation with the Parish Priests and Councils, to see that the above functions and obligations are duly observed. Amended (October 8, 2022)

Executive Committee

11. Executive Committee

The officers of the National Council shall constitute the Executive Committee. Between meetings of the National Council, the Executive Committee shall have general charge and supervision of the affairs of the Order. During such periods, the National Commander may, at his discretion and as needs might require, convene the Executive Committee for the purpose of considering, approving and carrying out, for the benefit and best interests of the Order, such actions as the exigencies of the moment might dictate. The National Commander shall report all activities and interim decisions of the Executive Committee at the next meeting of the National Council. Amended (Oct. 27th, 2018) Amended to numerical listings 1-11 (October 19, 2024)

Article IX: Committees

3. Committee to Recommend New Archons

Following the Annual Meeting of the Order, a Committee shall be appointed to screen, investigate, consider, review and, after consulting with the local Metropolitan and having the approval of the Exarch, recommend to the National Council, candidates for investiture as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. An application for consideration by the Committee must be endorsed by two Archons of the Order and the Committee must be further fully satisfied that each candidate possesses the following qualifications:

- (a) Be a citizen and permanent resident of a country within the worldwide jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople except as allowed in the discretion of the Committee.
- (b) A practicing and devout Orthodox Christian and a member in good standing of his local Church.
- (c) He has demonstrated love, devotion and support to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and its institutions.
- (d) By his deeds and record, has demonstrated support, devotion and sustained service to his local parish.
- (e) Has never been convicted of any crime except as allowed at the discretion of the Exarch, and enjoys the unqualified respect and high regard of his fellow parishioners.
- (f) Has demonstrated leadership qualities and achieved success in his chosen field of endeavor.
- (g) At all times has comported himself with a high degree of dignity and in a manner consistent with the mission of the Order and the purposes and objectives contained in these Bylaws.
- (h) Following his investiture, he shall become a vibrant and enthusiastic Member of the Order, who will respond in a positive way to the appeals of his Regional Commander and of the National Council.
- (i) Generally, his investiture would be a credit to the Order and a positive influence in the accomplishment of the Order's purposes and objectives.

In recommending new Archons, the Committee must be sparing and exercise great care and discretion. It is recommended that a quota of no more than thirty-five (35) new Archons be observed for investiture each year. Amended (October 8, 2022) Amended (October 19, 2024)



Grants Committee

Submitted by
Gus M. Pablecas, Chair

Six (6) requests for financial assistance were received by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America since October 2023. Of the six (6) requests, four (4) were unable to be considered due to falling outside the mission of the AEP, and two (2) Grants were provided. Below is an outline of the requests:

1. Erini Tornesaki, vocalist from Crete, Greece, professor at Berklee College of Music, his artistic focus is promoting and preserving the heritage of the Greek Christians of Asia Minor. Was chosen to perform at "WOMEX" and was requesting financial support for this program in helping fund travel costs. *(Request determined to fall outside the mission of the AEP. **No action taken**)*.
2. Gerasimus Katsan, Queens College, Flushing, NY, Associate Professor, Modern Greek, Chair, Dept. of European Languages and Literatures Director, Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. Request for assistance with Annual scholarship program for students at the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies at Queens College and to provide scholarship support helping prepare for their graduation program. In addition, suggested that the AEP consider giving additional donation to assist in the general needs for their Center. *(Request determined to fall outside the mission of the AEP. **No action taken**)*
3. A. Aria Tzika, PhD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School in association with Massachusetts General Hospital. Request funding to conduct research for uses with modern methods of molecular and functional magnetic imaging, along with examining a new drug for effective treatments. Offered the AEP naming of laboratory for \$486,000 grant. *(Request determined to fall outside the mission of the AEP. **No action taken**)*
4. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros received and forwarded to the AEP a request for funding from Dr. Emmanouil Eleftheroglou, postdoctoral researcher at The Law School of Athens and supreme court lawyer. The request was for funding a related doctoral research project "*Noble Institutions of the Greek Minority of Constantinople*" and request for 13,000 euro. The funding would be used to effectuate a research topic that concerns the Ecumenical Patriarchate and minority Hellenism of Constantinople. *(Request determined to fall outside the mission of the AEP. **No action taken**)*
5. HCHC Student Grant request, \$2,500 for Athanasia Grigoriadou. **(APPROVED)**
6. HCHC Student Grant request, \$2,500 for Spyridon Chasapis. **(APPROVED)**



Religious Freedom Initiatives Summary

1. With the blessings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and in consultation with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the 4th Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom was held from Sunday, May 26 through Wednesday, May 29, 2024 in Athens, Greece. The conference was organized and hosted by the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, Canada, Europe and Australia, and was followed by the historic First Global Summit of Archons: Protecting the Future of Faith.

The conference featured some of the world's foremost defenders of human rights and religious freedom, including His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (via video); His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece; His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel, Geron of Chalcedon; His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America; former U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo; Dr. Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; His Excellency Gintaras Grušas, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vilnius and President of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE); John Chrysoulakis, Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic; Evangelos Venizelos, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Greece; Athens Mayor Haris Doukas; and many others. See videos [here](#).

The proceedings began on Sunday in Athens' inspiring and beautiful Metropolitan Cathedral, the Church of the Annunciation, which is the Cathedral of His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos. Following Orthros, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros celebrated an Archieratical Divine Liturgy. After the Divine Liturgy, in keeping with the theme of the conference, a 50-year anniversary Memorial Service commemorating the victims of the tragic invasion of Cyprus and all other martyrs who have lost their lives because of religious persecution.

A Welcome Reception was held that evening at the Foreign Ministry of the Hellenic Republic. Deputy Foreign Minister Giorgos Kotsiras welcomed the conference participants and emphasized that religious freedom does not exist without respect for human rights and the equality of all people before the law. Archon Athanasios Martinos, President of the Pammakaristos Brotherhood of Archons in Europe and Conference Co-Chair, emphasized the cardinal importance of working for the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and of all those who are deprived of this freedom worldwide.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros drew a parallel between the Philike Hetairia, a group of Greek patriots who organized throughout the Diaspora to aid the fight for Greek independence in 1821, and the Archons of today. The Archons are fighting today, he said, but with the weapons of peace, and with diplomatic skill are leading the way to secure the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

At the Official Opening of the Conference, Dr. Limberakis stated that the Archons selected Athens for this conference "because we wanted to physically, culturally and spiritually immerse ourselves in the birthplace of democracy and human rights." Archon Martinos stated that the topic of religious freedom was timely because of critical and dangerous geopolitical developments in Ukraine, Gaza, and among the Houthis of Yemen.

His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos of Athens and All Greece praised the Archons' collective efforts to safeguard the Ecumenical Throne of Constantinople. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros spoke of the wisdom of His Beatitude Archbishop Ieronymos and His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. Then, in a profound and insightful address via video from Constantinople, His All-Holiness noted that the Conference was dedicated to protecting human rights and the rule of law, and promoting universal respect for human dignity. Without a sense of the transcendent, he said, regard for the human person cannot be established.

The keynote speaker for the First Session of Conference was His Excellency Gintaras Grušas, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vilnius and President of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences (CCEE). He stated that religious freedom stems from the inherent dignity of every human being. He noted that the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church (Crete, 2016) called for full recognition of religious freedom, which is a component of the dignity of the human person.

On Monday evening, the Conference attendees gathered at the Acropolis Museum, where they received a private tour of the historic and innovative museum, getting a unique glimpse into the circumstances of the birth of the civilization that bequeathed to the world the principles of human rights and religious freedom. At the Welcome Dinner that followed the tour, Archon Hon. B. Theodore Bozonelis, National Vice Commander of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, noted that the national motto of Greece, Ελευθερία ή Θάνατος ("Freedom or death") and the cross of Orthodoxy brings us to the very essence of what the Conference was about. There is no freedom, Judge Bozonelis emphasized, without religious freedom.

The keynote speaker for the Second Session of the Conference was Dr. Despina Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Dr. Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis pointed out that His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew had referred to the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights during his remarks during the Official Opening of the Conference on Monday, and stated that the European Convention on Human Rights of 1950 likewise affirmed the freedom of religion. Dr. Prodromou asked Dr. Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis about the Council of Europe's stance toward religion and about other issues as well, and Dr. Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis also took questions from the audience.

At the end of this session, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America revealed that authorities in Pristina had recently prevented His Holiness Patriarch Porfirije of Serbia and seven accompanying bishops from entering Kosovo and Metohija. His Holiness had planned to attend a meeting of the Holy Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church at the Patriarchate of Peć. The Archons immediately adopted a unanimous resolution, based on recommendations from Dr. Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis, expressing grave concern over the ban of the Patriarch, and calling upon Kosovar authorities to allow the Patriarch to enter and carry out all of his responsibilities as canonical head of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

Michael R. Pompeo, the 70th Secretary of State of the United States from 2018 to 2021, was the keynote speaker at the Third Session of the 4th Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom. Secretary Pompeo praised His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's granting of autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, saying that this gave Ukrainians the ability to exercise their true faith. Pompeo also criticized the Russian government for shamefully using the Church to justify war. Archon James Rockas, who was instrumental in bringing Secretary Pompeo to the Conference and who moderated the Session, then asked the secretary a series of questions regarding his respect for the holy Orthodox Faith and other matters.

2. The 1st Summit of Global Archons convened on Wednesday morning, May 29 in the Old Parliament House at the National Historical Museum in Athens. Archons from the United States, Canada, Greece, other areas of Europe, and Australia met in this first-ever gathering of Archons from around the world in order to discuss ways to coordinate their efforts to defend the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and protect the future of faith worldwide.

Archon Martinos said that the world and the Church were blessed with the leadership of the Ecumenical Patriarch; he spoke of the establishment of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation in order to ensure that the Mother Church can fulfill its sacred global mission in perpetuity.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, speaking on video from Constantinople, gave his blessing to the proceedings and observed that for many centuries, the Archons have supported and defended the Church.

3. With the blessings of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the approval of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the 2024 Athenagoras Human Rights Award will be presented to Yulia Navalnaya, the widow of martyred Russian hero Alexei Navalny and now herself the leader of the Russian opposition. The Award will be presented on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at the AEP's annual Athenagoras Human Rights Award black-tie banquet.

4. Three key sites in Constantinople were renovated with the generous funding of Archons from the U.S.

The Presentation of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church of Stavrodromi was originally constructed for monastic and clerical use in 1560 before being destroyed in a 1978 fire. Now it has been restored thanks to a \$1,500,000 donation from Greek American Archon George Marcus, a FOUNDER of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation and recipient of the 2023 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship.

Also recently restored was the Patriarchal Maraslion School, located next to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Phanar district of Constantinople, thanks to contributions from Archon Marcus and Archon-Elect Peter Palivos.

On the island of Halki near Constantinople is the third recently restored site: the Skete of Metamorphosis Chapel. Archon Dr. Steve Yallourakis and his wife Dr. Anna Yallourakis have shown an enduring dedication to the restoration of this chapel, having funded both its original restoration and, after its 2007 vandalization, this, this second restoration.



Religious Freedom: OSCE Initiative

Submitted by
Franklin (Rocky) Sisson

Since 2005, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP) has sent a delegation to the annual Warsaw Human Dimension Conference of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is organized with the support of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

The OSCE's annual Warsaw Human Dimension Conference is Europe's largest annual human rights and democracy conference. It is a platform for the 57 OSCE participating nation states, international organizations and other relevant individuals and groups to take stock of the implementation of the OSCE's human dimension commitments.

Since 2006, when Archon Dr. Spiro Makris represented the Order at the OSCE conference, the Archons have sent a delegation to the OSCE meetings in order to present vital information to the international community on the Turkish Republic's continuing violations of the human rights and religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the nation's Christian community. Other Archons who have defended the Ecumenical Patriarchate at OSCE conferences are Archons Dr. Nicholas G. Loutsion, Theofanis V. Economidis, Constantine G. Caras, Esq. and Dr. Stamatios Kartalopoulos. In 2024, as in 2022 and 2023, Archons Rocky Sisson and Hon. Steven G. Counelis represented the AEP. All have made impactful presentations fighting for religious freedom for our Holy Mother Church in the OSCE arena.

It is necessary and beneficial for the AEP to be represented at this conference because it involves much more than simply the Archon delegation delivering brief speeches. The OSCE conference offers the AEP delegation an opportunity to meet with the members of the delegations from the United States State Department and delegations from other countries, and to use these meetings to advocate for the support and defense of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

These meetings allow for the establishment of relationships that can be extraordinarily beneficial in times of crisis or opportunity. Should a crisis arise, because of these meetings the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is already known to the State Department. State officials, as well as dignitaries of other countries, are likewise familiar with the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and know that we will always be advocating for the rights and dignity of His All-Holiness and the Orthodox Christian community of Turkey. The OSCE conference provides a unique opportunity for one-on-one communication with individuals in positions of influence and authority who can be of immense help to the Ecumenical Patriarchate in a time of need.

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, has requested that the Archons who represent the AEP at the OSCE conference visit Auschwitz, the site of an infamous Nazi death camp during World War II, while they are in Poland. In 2023, Archon Hon. Counelis did so, and in 2024, Archon Sisson visited the site. Both noted that it was an overwhelmingly powerful and emotional experience.

The OSCE conference, a meeting on human rights and religious freedom, takes place in the shadow of Auschwitz, a lasting monument of what can be the horrific result of the same intolerance that the AEP has decried year after year at the conference itself. A century ago, the Turkish government was responsible for the genocides of the Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian people of Asia Minor, and to this day has never admitted its responsibility for those horrific events. Those genocides remain a vivid reminder of what can result when respect for human rights and religious freedom are discarded, and illustrate once again the importance of the AEP's presence and prophetic voice at the OSCE conference.



Oral Presentation
The Turkish and Russian Threats to the Ecumenical Patriarch

*The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe 2024 Human
Dimension Implementation Meeting Warsaw, Poland*
Plenary Session 7 Fundamental Freedoms

October 7, 2024

Presented on behalf of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarch

By

Franklin (Rocky) Sisson

Archon Prepositos

The eradication of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and the Greek Orthodox community of Turkey would not only be an egregious violation of human rights, but it would also be a tremendous opportunity for Russia to expand its imperialism and global adventurism.

Turkey is providing Russia with a golden opportunity. The Turkish government's longstanding hostility to ethnic and religious minorities is well documented, going back to the Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian genocides of a century ago. Today, that government is pursuing policies that will lead, in the not-too-distant-future, to the complete eradication of the historic Greek Orthodox Christian community, the indigenous people of Turkey.

Amid all this, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate are fighting to defend and protect the religious freedoms of our Holy and Great Mother Church.

One of the chief destructive policies of the Turkish government is the fact that the Ecumenical Patriarchate has no legal identity or bona fide

legal personality in Turkey. This means that in terms of Turkish law, it does not exist. An entity that does not exist cannot own property – not even its churches or the sacred icons, including world-historical works of art, and holy relics that are housed in them.

Turkish authorities forced the closure of the Theological School of Halki, the primary source of new clergy for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in 1971. At the same time, it demands that the Ecumenical Patriarchate be a citizen of Turkey. Yet no new clergy can be trained in Turkey, and many who are sent abroad for training never return. The Turkish government's goal is clear: it is trying to asphyxiate the Ecumenical Patriarchate and completely annihilate the Hellenic community in Asia Minor, which has been present there for millennia.

If the Turkish government forces the end of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's two-thousand-year-long presence in Constantinople, the chief beneficiaries will not be the Turks, but the Russians. Vladimir Putin is waging an unjust and unprovoked war against Ukraine, slaughtering wholesale his fellow Orthodox Christians, with the wholehearted approval of his accomplice, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow.

The Moscow Patriarchate has severed communion with the Ecumenical Patriarchate over His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's wise decision to grant autocephaly — independence — to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in 2019.

If the Ecumenical Patriarchate is forced to leave Turkey, Russia is poised to take advantage. Putin and Kirill might establish a new, Russian Ecumenical Patriarchate, or simply claim for the Patriarchate of Moscow the canonical rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This would be part of Moscow's efforts to secure control over the entire Orthodox Christian world, which would have far-reaching implications in both the geopolitical and religious spheres.

Accordingly, governments that are concerned about Russian expansionism and imperialism should make it a priority to work on multiple fronts to secure the presence and rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople.

We ask the members of the OCSE to:

Advocate for legal identity for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Advocate for the reopening of Halki.

Advocate to stop Russia's ambitions in Turkey.



ORAL PRESENTATION

Discrimination against the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
2024 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw, Poland

Plenary Session 9 Tolerance and Non-Discrimination

October 8, 2024

Presented on behalf of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
by

Hon. Steven G. Counelis, Archon Nomophylax
Judge of the Superior Court, State of California, USA

I am Judge Steven Counelis, on behalf of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople continues to suffer religious discrimination from the Turkish government.

The Turkish Government perpetuates religious and cultural discrimination against the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and its

Greek Orthodox flock of only 2,000, as well as the multitude of other Christian minorities indigenous to Asia Minor for millennia.

On September 13, 2024, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew celebrated the 180th anniversary of the inauguration of the Theological School of Halki in 1844.

Yet the Theological School has remained shuttered for the last 53 years, since the Turkish Government forcibly closed it in 1971. This closure is a profoundly disturbing example of religious and ethnic discrimination. Halki was the last Orthodox Christian seminary in the country. Its closure means that there is no mechanism for the Orthodox Christian Church to train future clergy and leaders.

Second, we are dismayed with Turkish President Erdogan's **conversion** of the historic and renowned Church of the Holy Savior in Chora, an emblematic monument of Byzantine iconography that is listed among the masterpieces of UNESCO's World Heritage List, to a mosque. This is yet another contemptuous act against religious freedom perpetrated by the Government of Turkey.

The Church of the Holy Savior in Chora was built in the fourteenth century on the site of churches that date back to the fourth century. It contains mosaic icons and frescoes that are some of the foremost examples anywhere in the world of Byzantine iconography.

Now that artwork, part of the creative heritage of the entire world, risks being lost forever.

Contrary to assurances, the icons and frescoes of Hagia Sophia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and vitally important site for the world's 2.4 Billion Christians, have become significantly less available for viewing since Erdogan converted the historic and magnificent cathedral of Hagia Sophia to a mosque. The icons of the Chora church have likewise been covered over since the building was once again turned into a mosque.

If international human rights organizations, and bodies like this one, do not act now, this sacred art, part of the artistic patrimony of the entire world, might never be seen again.

We urgently call upon international organizations and governments of the world that are committed to religious freedom to compel the Turkish government to reverse this decision as well as the conversion of Hagia Sophia to a mosque, and to reestablish both with a status that respects their entire history, including a thousand years as centers of Christian prayer and worship.

We ask the members of the OCSE to:

Advocate for the reopening of Halki Theological School

And

Advocate for the return of Hagia Sophia and the Chora Church to UNESCO World Heritage Museums.



Religious Freedom: Washington D.C. Activities

Submitted by
Andrew E. Manatos
Mike A. Manatos

On behalf of the Order, Archons Andy and Mike Manatos once again devoted numerous hours to advancing understanding and recognition of our issues with top leaders in Washington, DC. Manatos & Manatos worked in tandem with the White House, the State Department, the US Senate, the US House of Representatives, and the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, among others. Our numerous efforts are aimed at maintaining Archon, Orthodox, and Hellenic access to America's top leaders, like our arranging for our Archbishop and us to be one out of only two nationalities to have a White House meeting with every President every year for 38 years.

Highlights of this work include:

Manatos & Manatos engaged and activated numerous people of consequence to secure an invitation for His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros to say a prayer at the 2024 Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, WI. and the 2024 Democratic National Convention in Chicago IL This maintained the 44-year tradition of securing a prayer for the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of America at each of the Conventions. In addition, Manatos & Manatos arranged a reception at both conventions in honor of the Archbishop and with the participation of many archons and others.

Secured the 38th annual meeting with the President of the United States and the Archbishop at the White House, including Archon participation. This is an annual opportunity to raise the issue of Orthodoxy and religious freedom with America's leader.

Coordinated the Archons' participation in the International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit in Washington, DC (January 30-31) Worked with decades-old friends, the two co-chairs– Ambassador Sam Brownback and Katrina Lantos Swett – and their staffs to assure exposure for the Archons at the conference and to secure appropriate language inserted into legislation to ensure inclusion of issues crucial to the Ecumenical Patriarchate; Arranged for National Commander Limberakis to participate in a breakout panel to discuss religious freedom and the Ecumenical Patriarchate;

Used the opportunity of this Summit to arrange for multiple video interviews with key individuals and others to provide their insights on religious freedom for use in the Archons' rebranding effort led by Archon John Gumas.

Explored the idea of the establishment of a US State Department Special Envoy for the Religious Freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and whether it could possibly cause additional difficulties for His All-Holiness. We therefore posited with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Joshua Huck, a first step in that direction – establishing the requirement for all US Ambassadors to Turkey to personally visit the Ecumenical Patriarchate at least once a year. It was thought that such a requirement would elevate the stature of His All-Holiness within our Embassy in Turkey, and the Department of State. It would, as well, enable our Embassy in Turkey to better stay abreast of and be sensitive to religious freedom problems with which our Ecumenical Patriarchate must deal.

Authored and secured publication in Greece's number one newspaper Kathimerini of Op- Ed titled: "An increasing force for the future of the Greek Orthodox faith: The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate"

To maintain and further develop the rare access, begun decades ago, to the most senior US policymakers for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Orthodox Christianity and the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Manatos & Manatos stays engaged with meetings with numerous policymakers and thought leaders including:

- Vice President Kamala Harris;

In the US House of Representatives: Leadership

- House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)
- Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)
- Assistant Majority Whip / Hellenic Caucus Vice-Chair, Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R-NY)
- Assistant Democratic Whip Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) – and likely next US Senator from DE
- Senior Democratic Whip Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA)

On the Foreign Affairs Committee

- Ranking Member, Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
- Second-Ranking Democrat, Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)
- Chair, Europe Subcommittee, Rep. Thomas Kean (R-NJ)
- Europe Subcommittee / Hellenic Caucus Vice-Chair, Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV)
- Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL)

On the Appropriations Committee

- State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee, Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY)
- State Foreign Operations Subcommittee, Rep. Jerry Carl (R-AL)

On the Armed Services Committee

- Rep. Pat Ryan (D-NY)
- Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ)
- Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)

Other Key Policymakers

- Co-Chair, Hellenic Caucus / Co-Chair, Hellenic Israeli Alliance, Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)
- Co-Chair, Hellenic Caucus, Congressman Chris Pappas (D-NH)
- Energy and Commerce Committee, Rep. John Sarbanes (D-MD)
- Ranking Member, House Energy Committee, Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
- Chair, National Intelligence Subcommittee, Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
- Co-Chair, Human Rights Commission, Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)
- Ranking Member, Counterterrorism Subcommittee, Rep. Seth Magaziner (D-RI)
- Homeland Security Committee, Rep. Rob Menendez, Jr. (D-NJ)
- Intelligence Committee Member, Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT)

In the US Senate: Leadership

- Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY)

Foreign Relations Committee

- Chairman, Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD)
- Ranking Member, Senator James Risch (R-ID)

Europe Subcommittee Members

- Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) – also Chairman, East Asia, Pacific & International Cybersecurity Policy Subc.
- Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) – also Chairman, Near East, South & Central Asia Subc.

Appropriations Committee

- Senator Chris Coons (D-DE) Chair, Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, AND THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
- Senator Dick Blumenthal (D-CT)

Participated in the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Fourth International Conference on Religious Freedom in Athens, Greece May 26-29, 2024, the theme of which was "Protecting Religious Freedom, Democracy & Human Rights."

As a follow-up, shared with numerous policymakers the successes of the conference. Manatos & Manatos worked with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' office and Archon leadership to organize a reception in New York for the Prime Minister with attendance by leaders of the Greek-American community.

As part of our efforts to help elect Members of Congress supportive of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, we contributed to, helped raise money for, engaged with their Greek- American constituents and leaders in the national community, and educated the following candidates for the US House of Representatives: Greek-American Mike Haridopoulos of Florida; Greek-American Maggie Tamposi Goodlander of New Hampshire; and Liz Dahan of Florida. In addition, we held significant events for senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) and likely new Senator from DE, Lisa Blunt-Rochester (D-DE) On the occasion of the release of the State Department's annual report on International Religious Freedom, Manatos & Manatos prepared an analysis of the report on actions in 2023 by Turkey. Other activities that Manatos & Manatos undertook include arranging for Archon Rocky Sisson to meet with appropriate State Dept officials in preparation for his participation in the Warsaw Human Dimension Meetings of the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe; and meeting with Former Under Secretary of State and US Ambassador to Turkey Marc Grossman whose past consultation was instrumental to Archon Diplomatic Engagement for the Ecumenical Patriarch.



Religious Freedom: State Legislative Initiative

Submitted by
Stephen A. Georgeson, Esq.

As we have worked securing Religious Freedom Resolutions in 46 states over the past 15 years, we have occasionally dealt with an issue that caused some concern in several state legislative bodies. That issue was the initial assessment by some legislators that our Resolution dealt with foreign affairs, which was not a proper subject for the state's legislative consideration.

However, we have been successful in each of these states in overcoming this initial reluctance by demonstrating that, in fact, our Religious Freedom resolutions were very much local issues that ultimately impacted every Orthodox congregation in America.

We are forced to seek this relief in every state as a result of Constantinople serving as the seat, or home, of the worldwide Orthodox Christian Faith for over 2,000 years. With the seizure of the city in 1453 by the Ottoman Turks, the situation changed drastically for the Ecumenical Patriarchate based there. The Ecumenical Patriarch, our head of the Church, served then, and continues to serve today in a role comparable to that served by the Pope for Catholics worldwide. The Patriarch is the leader of over 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide.

However, the critical difference is that the Pope operates in the independent Vatican State, making all decisions for the Catholic faithful independent of the involvement or review by any civil authorities. The Pope is selected from the College of Cardinals without any input or review from anyone.

The Ecumenical Patriarch, however, lives and operates in a completely different environment. The Turkish civil authorities, on the contrary, exercise close supervision over all of the Patriarch's activities. Orthodox hierarchs eligible for consideration as Patriarchal successors must be approved by the Turkish government! This was true for current Patriarch Bartholomew and will be true for his successor.

Imagine the worldwide outrage if the Italian state took control of the Vatican and required all Papal successors to be reviewed and approved by its civil authorities.

So, what does it mean that the Turkish government has the ultimate right of approval in the selection of the Orthodox Patriarch? Should it really be the concern of the United States government and state legislative bodies throughout the nation to express concern?

The Patriarch is the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians worldwide. The Greek Orthodox Archbishop of the United States is selected by the Patriarch. The Bishops in the United States, in turn, are selected by the Archbishop, with direct input from the Patriarch. In turn, the Greek Orthodox priests, in every Greek Orthodox Church in America, including those in New Hampshire, serve in these positions only under the authority of the Bishops. So, the reality is that the initial decision by Turkish civil authorities in the selection of the Patriarch reaches all the way down into every Greek Orthodox Church in America.

So the Resolution that is being presented to New Hampshire legislators is very much a local issue, worthy of the legislature's action.

In 1821, at the beginning of the Greek War of Independence, Ecumenical Patriarch Gregory V was accused of leadership of the Greeks' efforts. On Easter Sunday, he was dragged out of his offices and hanged in the main gate of the Church complex, his body remaining there for three days, after which it was dragged through the streets and then dumped into the Bosphorus Strait. That metal gate remains welded shut till the present day.

Although certainly today the Ecumenical Patriarch does not face threats of this severity, he does occasionally receive death threats and travels in Turkey with security. He is not allowed by the Turkish authorities to wear his vestments in public, and dresses like an ordinary businessman when he leaves the Church complex.

We sincerely believe that the Ecumenical Patriarch is worthy of the expressions of support contained in our resolution.



Religious Freedom: Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues

Submitted by
Joseph J. Kokolakis, Esq.

Over the past year, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has continued to face significant challenges in Turkey. These challenges are part of a long-standing pattern of persecution against the Patriarchate that manifest through legal restrictions, property seizures, denial of religious freedom, and cultural erasure. The Turkish government's actions undermine the Patriarchate's ability to function freely and exercise its religious authority, thereby threatening its future existence.

The singular purpose of our Subcommittee remains the defense of, and advocacy for, our beloved Ecumenical Patriarchate. In order to complete our mission, PPC members identified several critical issues and established subcommittees to research and propose initiatives. We are finding it difficult to make any measurable progress in those subcommittees, however, without jeopardizing the safety and interests of His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. As such, we have refined our focus and committed to closely coordinating our efforts with legal counsel for the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The Problem: Lack of Legal Identity:

One of the most pressing issues facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate is Turkey's refusal to grant it legal status. Despite being the spiritual center for over 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, the Turkish government does not recognize the Patriarchate as a legal entity. This lack of recognition severely hampers the Patriarchate's ability to function effectively. Without legal personality, the Patriarchate cannot own property, run institutions, or manage its affairs independently.

This denial of status is not merely symbolic; it has tangible consequences for the Patriarchate's operations. For instance, because the Patriarchate cannot own property under its name, many of its assets are held under the names of individual church officials or Turkish Foundations. This arrangement leaves the Patriarchate vulnerable to legal challenges and property disputes. These disputes have long been the cornerstone of the Turkish government's persecution of the Patriarchate. Historically, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other religious minority groups in Turkey owned substantial amounts of land and property. However, much of this property was seized by the state over the past century. In 1936, the Patriarchate and its associated institutions owned around 8,000 properties. By 1998, that number had dwindled to just 2,000, and today, the Patriarchate owns fewer than 500 properties, most of which are non-income-generating assets like churches and cemeteries.

While the Turkish government introduced legal reforms in the early 2000s aimed at addressing these property issues, the process has been slow and often ineffective. In 2011, a decree allowed minority Foundations to apply for the return of confiscated properties. However, out of over 1,200 properties claimed by the Greek Orthodox community, only a small fraction was returned, and many of those were not financially viable. The bureaucratic process for reclaiming property is often convoluted, with the General Directorate of Foundations—the Turkish agency responsible for overseeing religious foundations—arbitrarily rejecting applications or delaying decisions.

Additionally, restrictions on the election of Foundation board members, who are responsible for overseeing church properties, have weakened the Patriarchate's financial and administrative autonomy. Turkish laws limit the eligibility of Orthodox Christians to serve on Foundation boards, and clergy members are prohibited from holding these positions. This has created a governance crisis, particularly as the Orthodox Christian population in Turkey continues to dwindle. Without functioning Foundations to manage income-generating assets, the Patriarchate struggles to maintain its remaining properties, pay its clergy, or fund its religious and charitable activities.

The Solution: Educate and Inspire Change:

The continued persecution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate has not gone unnoticed by the international community. The U.S. State Department and the European Union have both criticized Turkey for its treatment of religious minorities, including the Patriarchate. In its annual report on religious freedom, the U.S. State Department highlighted the Turkish government's restrictions on the Patriarchate's ability to function and called for the reopening of the Halki

Seminary. The European Court of Human Rights has also been involved in several cases regarding property disputes, ruling in favor of the Patriarchate on multiple occasions.

Despite these international pressures, the Turkish government has been slow to implement meaningful reforms. While there have been some symbolic gestures, such as the return of a few properties or the granting of Turkish citizenship to a handful of Orthodox clergy, these steps have not addressed the root issues facing the Patriarchate. The lack of legal personality and the weaponization of the Foundation system of property ownership continue to undermine the Patriarchate's autonomy and future viability.

Legal Identity Subcommittee Chair, Archon George Kounoupis, has been working with Archon Paris Asanakis, Legal Counsel for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to develop a path towards establishing a Legal Personality for the Patriarchate. Subcommittee Chair Kounoupis developed a detailed plan with Archon Paris to draft an easy to read "White Paper" on the issue of Legal Identity and how it impacts the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Turkey. The paper will begin by clearly defining the challenges that the Ecumenical Patriarchate faces as an entity in Turkey without any legal personality or identity. It will then propose a pathway towards recognition that can be supported by US and European leaders without being perceived as a threat by the Turkish government.

Chair Kounoupis estimates that this effort may take close to one year to complete. It will require: 1) Index and analysis of all Turkish cases on Legal Identity; 2) Index and analysis of all European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) cases involving the Turkish government; 3) Engage a Turkish attorney to interpret Turkish law; 4) Engage experts in EU, US and Turkish doctrine, as well as the Treaty of Lausanne, to assist in developing the argument.

Archon Kounoupis is willing to commit his significant resources in the international legal community to further this effort and work in unison with legal counsel for the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Athens. Ultimately, our goal is to convince all parties that establishing the Legal Identity of the Ecumenical Patriarchate does not threaten the integrity of the Turkish State and is in the best interests of all policy makers throughout the world.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate's struggle for survival in Turkey is emblematic of the broader challenges faced by religious minorities in the country. The Turkish government's refusal to grant the Patriarchate legal recognition, its seizure of properties, and its restrictions on religious education have created an environment of repression and marginalization. Despite international condemnation and legal victories, the situation remains dire, with little indication that the Turkish government will fully address the Patriarchate's concerns. As the spiritual heart of global

Orthodox Christianity, the fate of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is a matter of significant concern not only for Orthodox Christians but for all who value religious freedom and cultural heritage.

Our mission was succinctly put by Committee Member, Archon George Razis at our last meeting, "We must state the problem in a way that anyone can understand and propose a solution that everyone can get behind". Our goal this coming year is to do just that.



Spirituality Committee

Submitted by
Peter J. Skeadas, Chair

Following the Akathist Hymn during the Great and Holy Lent, the John Halecky, Jr. 20th Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat provided a period of tranquility and spiritual illumination. The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle presented for the third time the renamed Lenten Retreat in honor of Archon Vice Commander John Halecky, Jr. of blessed memory. It is an appropriate honor as it was Archon John Halecky who initiated the concept of the Lenten Retreat some twenty years ago.

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and under the distinguished leadership of Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, the Spirituality Committee Chair and Co-Chair welcomed the Archons and their families.

The Order met in fellowship and was hosted at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church of the Hamptons and warmly welcomed by the Kimisis community led by the Order's Spiritual Advisor, the treasured and caring Rev. Fr. Alexander Karloutsos and Rev. Fr. Constantine Lazarakis who served as Retreat Pastors.

The Order was blessed that Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh and Presbyteria Dr. Roxanne Louh served as Retreat Masters. The program, with the theme Renewing Your Marriage, was in three sessions: Your Personality & Your Marriage on Friday, April 19, 2024, God's Blueprint for Lasting Love and God's Blueprint for Fighting Right on Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Additionally, the retreat offered a distinguished guest speaker, the renowned author and journalist, Ms. Lauren Green, Chief Religion Correspondent for Fox News Channel who shared her insights on faith and presented her book, Light for Today.

The National Archon Lenten Retreat is a period when participants reconnect with our Lord and Saviour pausing to renew, to fast, to pray and to make offerings. It is when the Archon family experiences in unity its best spiritual life authentically and with purpose. This is a fitting time in our journey through stillness, inner peace and hope, to strive towards oneness with God and with the promise of renewal, arriving at Pascha in the brilliance of the Resurrection. Spiritual practices are inspiring, through prayer and reflection, through contemplation and meditation, through being and experiencing. Our persons require fortification and our souls require divine boosting that the Archon Retreat offers each year.

It was an immense joy to gather in person, while simultaneously reaching fellow Archons and their families by offering the Saturday retreat sessions via live stream throughout the country. For those present or for those streaming, the Retreat was transformational as well as informational.

The Archons and Archon families are blessed to unite and to have participated together in the John Halecky, Jr. 20th Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat, committed to serving the needs of our great Church as religious freedom and human rights are sought for our Ecumenical Patriarchate. It is our hope and fervent desire to continue this journey, upon which the Archon family has embarked, via awareness, mindfulness and gratitude.



Regional Commander Liaison Committee

Submitted by
Dr. Nicholas G. Loutsion, Chair
John G. Manos, Co-Chair

INTRODUCTION:

The ARCL Committee was originally given the mandate to better coordinate communication between all three levels of our Archon organization (National Council / Archon Regional Commanders/ local Archon membership). This mandate, up to this point, has been accomplished through the Regional Commanders attendance to the monthly National Council meetings either in person or by teleconference. This has provided the Regional Commanders the opportunity to receive guidance from the National Council, as well as, serve to disseminate information from the national level directly to the local Archon membership through their Regional Commanders. It also serves to bring the questions and concerns of the local Archons directly to the National Council. The ultimate goal being that every Archon in America will be involved, well informed, and excited about their responsibility to share the message of the Order and ultimately of the Mother Church.

It was decided in late 2020 to resurrect the ARCL Quarterly Meetings. These meetings originally began in 2006 and ended in 2014 around the same time that the Regional Commanders were invited to join the National Council meetings to receive national updates directly. The idea behind resurrecting these meeting was to give the regional commanders a forum to discuss issues pertinent to their own specific work. This has given the ARCL Committee membership the ability to share ideas, develop strategies, and decide how best to put these ideas to work in the field.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS / TOPICS for DISCUSSION:

January 8, 2022 Quarterly Meeting

- A. Welcome Archon R.C. Jerry Ranglas
 - 1. Regional Commander of Southern California

- B. Congratulations Archon R.C. Andy Manatos
 - 1. 40th Anniversary Manatos & Manatos

- C. Pilgrimage of Discovery
 - 1. Helena & Archon Jeff Chrones Chairpersons
 - 2. POD Video
 - 3. Discussion

- D. Regional Commander Reports
 - 1. St Andrew Feast Day

- E. Host an EPBF Fundraiser

- F. Old Business / New Business
 - Notification of Archbishop's Visit to the Local Parish

April 8, 2024 Quarterly Meeting

G. Regional Commander Reports

2. St Andrew Feast Day
 - Share Ideas from 2023 Presentations
3. Archon RCs Jim Speros and Costa Sideridis
 - Archon Table Covers

H. New Archon Nominations/ Credentials

1. Deadline for Nominations March 31, 2024
2. Deadline for Recommendation Letters April 7, 2024
3. Credential Form Link:
[Archon Candidate Credentials Form - Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate](#)

I. National Archon Lenten Retreat April 19-20, 2024

1. Kimisis Tis Theotokou / Church of the Hamptons

J. 4th Archon International Religious Freedom Conference

1. Athens May 26-30, 2024

K. Holy Week/Pascha May 5-10, 2024

1. Protocol for Archons

L. Archdiocese Clergy Laity Conference

1. Location: San Diego, CA
2. Dates: June 30 to July 4, 2024

M. Fall of Constantinople Tuesday May 29, 1453

1. Archon Presentation Opportunity

N. Host an EPBF Fundraiser

1. Archon Weekend EPBF Fundraiser Thursday Evening
Location: University Club Manhattan

O. New Business / Old Business

1. Change ARCL call date to Saturday Morning

July 13, 2024 Quarterly Meeting

P. Commander Limberakis Remarks

1. Welcome new Alabama Regional Commander Greg Saad
2. 4th Archon International Religious Freedom Conference
 - Post Conference Report – Commander Limberakis

Q. Archon Regional Commander Reports

1. Fall Of Constantinople – Archon John Manos
2. Mt. Athos Project – Archon John Scurtis

R. Youth Engagement Committee Reports to ARCL

1. Pilgrimage of Discovery
 - Young adult attendees – Archon Nick Tranto
2. GOYA / YAL
 - New Video for use by RCs - Archon George Moutis
 - <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/2mnjninc6f8nn65n979fz/Archon-Patriarchade-GOYA-Presentation-1.pptx?rlkey=ntn8sg14ch424bvwyjc684lij&dl=0>

S. Archon Weekend October 17~20, 2024

1. AHRA Recipient: Yulia Navalnaya
2. Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship:
Archon Peter J. Skeadas, National Treasurer
3. Schedule of Events
 - Thursday, October 17, 2024:
 - EPBF Board of Trustees breakfast meeting
 - Luncheon Meeting Engagement Chairs/Vice
Chairs and National Council
 - EPBF FOUNDERS – In-Good-Standing Special Event
 - Friday, October 18, 2024:
 - Archon Boot Camp
 - Luncheon Meeting Regional Commanders and National Council
 - NJB Award

Saturday, October 19, 2024:

- New Archon Orientation Breakfast Presentation
- Annual AEP Meeting
- Archon Sophia Award Presentation Announcement
- AHRA Banquet

Sunday: October 20, 2024

- Investiture of Archon Class of 2024

T. 47th Clergy Laity Congress, San Diego CA

1. Archon Family Reception July 3, 2024 - Regional Commanders Hon. Steven G. Counelis, Gerry Ranglas, Isidoros Garifalakis and Theodore Konopisos

U. Old Business

1. EPBF Fundraiser

V. New Business

1. Archon Candidates 2024

Welcomed 2 New Regional Commanders into the ARCL Committee in 2024

- A. Archon Gerry Ranglas Regional Commander of Southern California
- B. Archon Gregory Saad Regional Commander of Alabama

Conclusion

We are grateful to have had this opportunity to work with the Regional Commanders. We look forward to developing solutions to the issues of concern so that each Regional Commander can function in a more efficient and productive manner while executing the work of the Order.

Regional Commander Reports



Direct Archdiocesan District

**Submitted by
Regional Commander
Nikiforos Mathews**

The District was represented at the Order's John Halecky, Jr. Nineteenth Annual Lenten Retreat, which was held in April at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Christian Church in Southampton, NY. The topic of the Retreat, which was led by Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh, and Dr. Roxanne Louh was Renewing Your Marriage.

Presentation to the Holy Cross seminarians describing the purpose of the Order and its efforts in support of religious freedom.

Active participation in several Engagement Committees and on various ad hoc legal and other matters, including the negotiation of contractual arrangements necessary for the 4th International Archon International Conference held in Athens, Greece in May.

Participation in the Order's events planned for the weekend of October 17-20 at the New York Hilton Hotel, including the presentation of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to this year's recipient, Yulia Navalnaya, and the presentation of the Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship to Archon Peter J. Skeadas.



Direct Archdiocesan District

**Submitted by
Regional Commander
Andrew E. Manatos**

Activities of Regional Commander Andy Manatos included:

- organizing periodic fellowship dinners with DC area Archons to discuss our efforts to promote the religious freedom and full functioning of the Ecumenical Patriarchate;
- including Washington, DC area Archons on invitations to special events including prayer services led by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, community receptions, meetings and conferences with policymakers, and other functions organized with Manatos & Manatos;
- coordinating the presentation of the Archon cross to the families of Archons in the DC, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware area who passed away this year.



Metropolis of Boston

Submitted by
Regional Commanders
James Speros
Costa Sideridis



Regional Commanders Sideridis and Speros give an educational presentation on the Archons and the issues facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church in Braintree, MA. Over 200 parishioners were in attendance and were provided with literature and other materials to further their understanding.

1. Dr. James Skedros, Professor of Byzantine Studies at Hellenic College Holy Cross, discussed the history of women as Orthodox deaconesses on Ancient Faith Radio, a topic supported by Dr. Cary Limberakis' Engagement Committee.
2. Angela Karageorgou, Archon James Rockas, and Regional Commander Speros developed a successful public relations strategy for the International Religious Freedom Conference in Athens, attracting over 60 journalists and generating 400 articles across major media channels. This raised awareness of the Archons and their mission in Greece.
3. Regional Commander Costa Sideridis and Archon George Rockas chaired sessions at the 4th Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom, featuring speakers including Archbishop Gintaras Grusas and Dr. Chatzivassiliou-Tsovilis.
4. Archon Chris Chrisafides worked with Sen. Denise Ricciardi on a potential Religious Freedom Resolution for New Hampshire, with plans to introduce it after the fall elections. He also presented a comprehensive overview of the Archons at St. George Cathedral in NH, while Sideridis and Speros gave a similar presentation to over 200 attendees at Saint Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Braintree, MA.
5. Sideridis liaised with Canadian Archons at the Athens conference and hosted a luncheon strengthening cooperation and coordination.
6. Speros and the Communications Committee, moved the Archons' website to WordPress enhancing design, navigation and rapid deployment of content.



Metropolis
of Denver

Submitted by
Regional Commander
Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas

October 19 – 22, 2023 New York City, N.Y.: Archons from throughout the Denver Metropolis attend Archon weekend.

November 11, 2023 Houston, Texas: Many Archons from the Houston area attended and throughout the Denver Metropolis attended the National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fundraiser.

Sunday November 26, 2023 Denver, Colorado: Archons of the Order of St. Andrew hosted "coffee hour" at the Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral in recognition of St. Andrew Feastday.

Saturday January 20, 2024 Winter Park, Colorado: Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas and Mr. Andrew Eliopulos gave a presentation on The Order of St. Andrew Archons and presented the opportunity for our youth to attend the Pilgrimage of Discovery program at the winter Y.A.L Snow Conference.

Sunday March 24, 2024 at the Assumption Cathedral of the Theotokos, Denver, Colorado: On the Sunday of Orthodoxy, many Archons gathered and led the procession of the icons around the church to celebrate the triumph of Orthodoxy and the restoration of icons in the Holy Greek Orthodox church!

Sunday May 5, 2024 at the Assumption Cathedral of the Theotokos: At the midnight service, many Archons gathered on the solea to receive the light from Metropolitan Constantine in solidarity supporting the Ecumenical Patriarch and Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Friday June 21, 2024, Denver, Colorado: Denver Metropolis Archons gathered for a dessert reception at the Papadeas home in celebration of Metropolitan Constantine's Enthronement.



**Metropolis
of Atlanta**

**Submitted by
Regional Commander
Harry T. Cavalaris**



Eliana Davis of St. Nektarios Church Charlotte, NC was one of the 16 exceptional young adults that the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP) have chosen to participate in the Pilgrimage of Discovery.

1. Mt. Athos Archbishop Elpidophoros of America Lead Pilgrimage in January 2024 Archon Harry Cavalaris Regional Commander Region 13 attended
2. Holy Trinity Cathedral Charlotte NC September 24, 2023 Centennial Hierarchal Divine Liturgy September 24, 2023
3. Ecumenical Visit To Panama
4. Archon Visitation to Congressman Timmons of South Carolina
5. The Order Of Saint Andrew The Apostle, Archons Of The Ecumenical Patriarchate Annual Meeting The Order Of Saint Andrew
6. Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle November 30, 2023 Ecumenical Patriarchate, Constantinople, Archon Harry Cavalaris Ekdikos
7. Memorial Sunday Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle Archons of Ecumenical Patriarchate December 3rd Holy Trinity Cathedral Charlotte 14th Liturgy. Attendees: Dr. George Andrinopoulos, Chairman Holy Trinity Cathedral Foundation, Archon Harry Cavalaris, Regional Commander, George Couchell, Archon Nominee, Archon Gus Kazakos, George Zogzas Holy Trinity Foundation
8. The 4th Archon International Conference Athens, Greece on Religious Freedom Region 13:
9. 47th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Congress held June 30 – July 4, 2024 in San Diego, California.



Protecting the Patriarchate gathering. Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Mobile, Alabama.

- District 8 held a youth group gathering at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Mobile, Alabama. Archon candidate, now Archon Brother, Dr. Dimitris Kyriazis, then Parish Council President, along with Archon Greg Saad presented materials and fielded questions regarding our beloved Mother Church. Dr. Kyriazis shared with the attendees in considerable detail the state of matters with our Patriarchate. The gathering included a round table discussion and fellowship among the attendees.
- Greg Saad and Tommy Yearout held multiple on-line meetings in preparation for our future course of action for District 8.
- On August 14, District 8 held an Archon Zoom meeting. Discussion included:
- Establishing quarterly meetings of all District 8 Archons.
- Programs for supporting parishes in District 8.
- POD program.
- Need to connect with our congressional leadership to encourage supporting legislation which advances protection of Patriarchate.
- District 8 Archons include:
 - Archon Mark S. Boardman, Esq.
 - Archon Nicholas T. Catranis
 - Archon Ike Gulas
 - Archon Dr. George T. Koulianos
 - Archon Dr. Dimitris K. Kyriazis
 - Archon John D. Georges
 - Archon Dr. Nick M. Moustoukas
- District 8 is proud to welcome as one of our devoted brothers, Archon Brother Dr. Dimitris Kyriazis. Dr. Kyriazis and his wife, Dr. Stephanie Grosz, are Founders of our Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.
- GreekFest Charity Gala and the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church are Founders of E.P.B.F.



**Metropolis
of Atlanta**

**Submitted by
Regional Commander
Theodore P. Vlahos MD**



Tampa Bay Archons and wives at Greek Foreign Ministry Reception May 25, 2024. Pictured Archon families, Tsavousis, Kokolakis, Vlahos, Velivasakis and Lagos.

The Archons of North Florida remained active throughout the year in support of the mission of the Order.

We began in the fall of 2023 on the feast day of St. Andrew by sponsoring a presentation by Archon Professor Tom Papademetriou on "The Ecumenical Patriarchate Under the Ottomans". We also coordinated with the priests in our area to devote the Sunday after the feast day to the mission of the Archons and to our Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Tampa Bay area Archons were joined by many others throughout the country for the Annual Epiphany Celebration and Cross Dive in Tarpon Springs. We took that occasion to meet with the Archbishops of America and of Great Britain, as well as many hierarchs and clergy. Archons represented the E. P. at the Sunday of Orthodoxy, the Greek Independence Day Parade, and in the Holy Friday processions with the Epitaphios at all our area churches.

Many of the Archons of our region accompanied His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros on the pilgrimage to Mount Athos, and a majority of our Archons and wives attended the Symposium on Religious Freedom, Human Rights, and Democracy in Athens at the end of May.

Archon Damianakis of Tampa Bay has remained very active and committed in various initiatives in support of the E.P including ecologically oriented website Oikou.org, as well as speaking at St. Photios Shrine on "Ecological Asceticism". Furthermore, he has launched the LiberateAthos.com initiative to free Esphigmenou from its illegal occupation.



Metropolis of Atlanta

Submitted by
Regional Commander
John C. Scurtis



Saint Sophia Cathedral (Miami) L to R: Archons Alexander Haralambides, and Theodore Kays, Father Spiro Bobotas, Archimandrite Anastasios (Vicar General Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa, Holy Orthodox Metropolis of Cameroon), Archons John C Scurtis (Regional Commander of South Florida), Anestis Aranopoulos (Honorary General Counsel in Cameroon to Greece).

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (AEP) chose sixteen exceptional young adults to participate in the 2024 Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD). Among them were Eliana Davis and Angelique Soulakos from the Metropolis of Atlanta.

On Sunday, March 24, 2024, Archons from various parishes in the South Florida area, including Saint Sophia Cathedral in Miami, Saint Katherine in Naples, and Saint Mark in Boca Raton participated in a procession of icons within their own parish communities, during Sunday of Orthodoxy services. At Saint Sophia Cathedral, participants included Archons Alexander Haralambides, Theodore Kays, Father Spiro Bobotas, Archimandrite Anastasios (Vicar General Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa, Holy Orthodox Metropolis of Cameroon), Archons John C Scurtis (Regional Commander of South Florida), Anestis Aranopoulos (Honorary General Counsel in Cameroon to Greece).

At Saint Katherine, participants included Archons Dr. Thomas Williams, Jim Logothitis. Romey Terezi, Steve Ramphos, Fotis Frangakis, Harry Dimopoulos, Art Katsaros. At Saint Mark, the Archons were accompanied by Sunday School children.

On Saturday, November 11, 2023 at Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta, Archon Harry T. Cavalaris was the recipient of the 2023 Metropolitan's Choice Award of the Metropolis of Atlanta. His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta stated that this honor was "in grateful recognition of his faithful service to our Holy Orthodox Church and our Holy Metropolis of Atlanta."



**Metropolis
of Atlanta**

**Submitted by
Regional Commander
James A. Frangis**

In partnership with the Metropolis and Parish Education Committee, the Georgia Archons developed an educational update/presentation to be presented at Parishes in the state of Georgia. The first update was delivered in December, 2023 at the Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta.

The Archons of Georgia were honored to host a dinner for the Hierarchs, including His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, attending the Assembly of Bishops meeting in Atlanta on September 28-October 1. The dinner was held on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at the Atlanta Fish Market. Over 50 people attended the dinner including 28 Hierarchs, local clergy, Archons and spouses.



Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Submitted by
Regional Commanders
Nick Tranto
Nick Terezis



Pilgrimage of Discovery presentation at the Metropolis Clergy Laity gathering on September 21, 2024.

Class of 2024 Archon Candidates

- RC's carefully vetted 4 candidates for the Class of 2024 including personal contacts, a 90 min Zoom and follow up with the national selection committee. Our candidates included 2 from 2023 and 2 new candidates, one who was nominated by Archbishop Elpidophoros and endorsed by HE Metropolitan Savas. One candidate was selected, Peter Giorgi of Holy Trinity Reading, Pa.

EPBF- Region 16 are Founders-Archons of Pittsburgh

- As of Dec 31, 2023, Pittsburgh has met 30% of its \$100,000 EPBF goal with the anticipation of donating another \$10,000 in 2024
- Currently both RC Nick and Nick are 1 day EXARCH sponsors

Pittsburgh Archons Host Archbishop Elpidophoros Oct 5, 2024

- A formal dinner for HE AB Elpidophoros and Hierarchical staff was hosted by the Archons which included 40 archons, spouses and guests as HE presided over the consecration of the Dormition of the Theotokos Church in Oakmont, Pa.

Archon Engagement Committee Activity

- Nick and Nick Co-Chair the YPA committee
- Nick and Nick co-chair the YPA subcommittee on Archon Sprouts
- Nick and Nick are core members of the Pilgrimage of Discovery Committee sending 3 Pilgrims from Pittsburgh to Constantinople this year.

ARCL

- RC Nick Tranto serves as ARCL recording secretary for ARCL Archons Dr. Nick Loutsion (Pittsburgh) and RC John Manos (Chicago)



Metropolis of San Francisco

Submitted by
Regional Commanders
Hon. Steven G. Counelis
Theodore Konopisos
Gerry Ranglas



47th Clergy-Laity Congress: Archon Family Reception - On Wednesday, July 3, 2024, the Archon Family Reception was held at the 47th Clergy-Laity Congress in San Diego, CA. Special presentations were made to the Patriarchal Representatives, His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Great Britain and His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and all Scandinavia, along with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. RC Hon. Counelis was tasked with organizing this biennial reception.

This Report Lists Events and Activities of the Archons in the Southern California Region, from October 2023 to October 2024.

October 2023: Our Region was blessed to receive two new Archons Spiro Kailas & Vasilios Marutsos.

November 2023: Archon Gerry Ranglas was appointed Regional Commander for Southern California, and joined Archons Konopisos and Hon. Counelis.

December 2023: Southern California Archons Made Presentations in Los Angeles and San Diego.

January 2024: The Southern California region mourned the falling asleep of Archon Andrew Evangelatos.

February 2024: Archons were honored by Hellenic Society of Constantinople in Los Angeles.

February 2024: Archons hosted dinner during FDF for HE Archbishop Elpidophoros and raised \$12,000 for Pilgrimage of Discovery to underwrite two young adult pilgrims.

July 2024: Archons Introduced 2024 Pilgrims of Discovery to National YAL Conference in San Diego.

July 2024: 47th Clergy-Laity Congress: Archon Family Reception. Special presentations were made to the Patriarchal Representatives, His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Great Britain and His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and all Scandinavia, along with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. RC Hon. Counelis was tasked with organizing this biennial reception.

August 2024: RC Ranglas suffered a heart attack, and is home now.

September 2024: West Coast Lenten Retreat Approved for March 28-30, 2025 at St. Anthony Church, Pasadena, CA.



Metropolis of San Francisco

Submitted by
Regional Commander
Isidoros Garifalakis



(L-R) Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, Archon Isidoros Garifalakis, Christine Psefteas and Archon George Psefteas, at the Metropolis of San Francisco Gala at which Metropolitan Gerasimos was honored for his distinguished and visionary service.

The Metropolis of San Francisco hosted the 47th Biennial Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress in July 2024, co-chaired by Archon Gerry and Jeannie Ranglas and Archon Isidoros and Maria Garifalakis.

We welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America to the Metropolis of San Francisco for the Folk Dance and Choral Festival in February 2024. Archon Gerry and Jeannie Ranglas hosted a dinner, and through the generosity of our Archons, we presented a donation to Archbishop Elpidophoros to fund two scholarships for the Pilgrimage of Discovery.

Archbishop Elpidophoros visited Saint Nicholas Ranch in March 2024 for our Clergy-Laity Assembly. The Archons were included in our Ministry Pavilion, showcasing our efforts and promoting the Pilgrimage of Discovery.

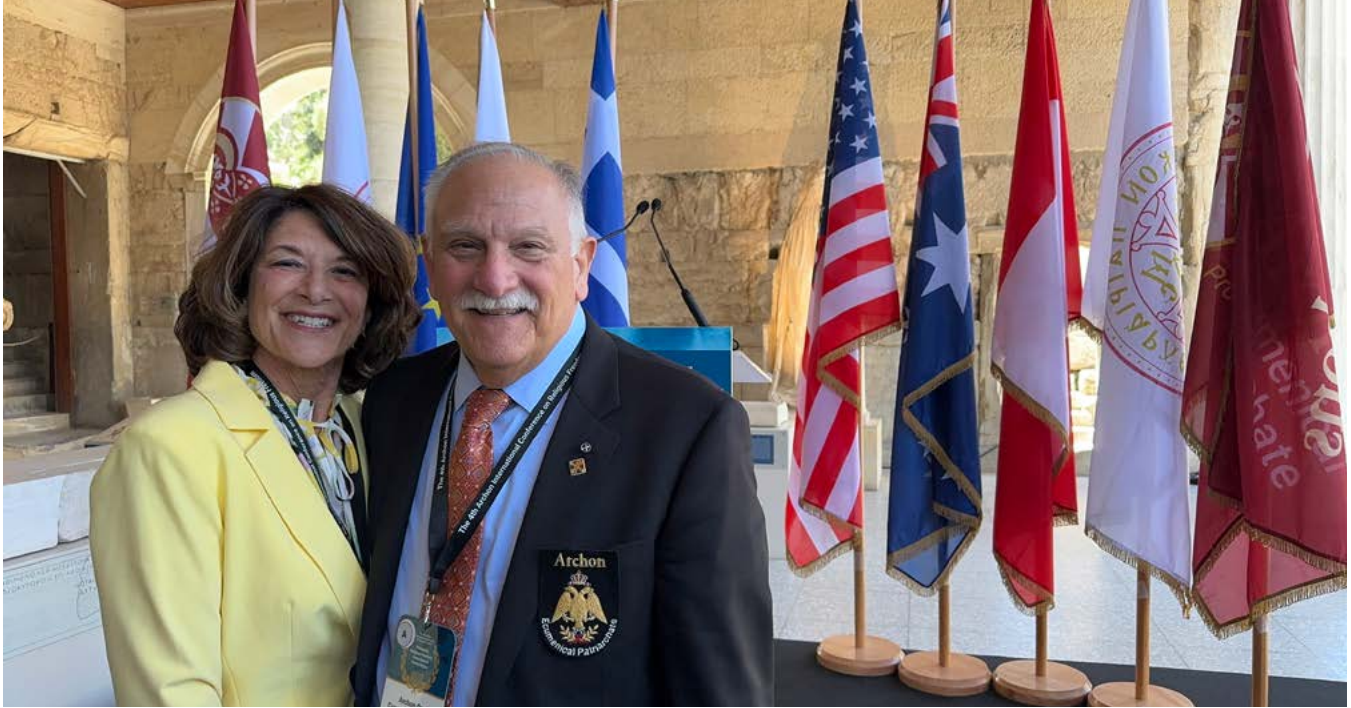
On Saturday, October 28, 2023, the Metropolis of San Francisco held our Gala to celebrate our ministries, honor the 100 years of our Metropolis, and also recognize the inspired leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. Archbishop Elpidophoros also participated in this event which was led by Archon George and Christine Psefteas.

Archon George Marcus was recently honored by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his exceptional philanthropy to two major restoration efforts in Constantinople – the Church of the Panagia of Pera (also known as the Church of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary at Stavrodromi) and the Maraslios School.



Metropolis of New Jersey

Submitted by
Regional Commander
Cary J. Limberakis, DMD



Dr. Cary and Mrs. Alexis Limberakis at the Archon Global Summit in Athens

Since the previous Archon annual meeting, the Regional Commander has represented the Order at many functions that include the IOCC banquet in Philadelphia, attending the St. Phoebe Center for the Deaconess Symposium at HC/HC, attending and notifying area Archons to attend Hierarchical Vespers and Divine Liturgy at St. Demetrios in Upper Darby, St. George in Media, St. Thomas in Cherry Hill, St. Sophia, Saints Faith, Hope and Agape in Jeffersonville, as well as Hierarchical Akathist services at St. Demetrios, Metropolis of New Jersey Metropolitan Council meeting, attending the Archons Global Summit in Athens, attending the Archdiocese Clergy-Laity Congress in San Diego and serving as moderator for the Women in Orthodoxy: Past, Present and Future panel workshop, participating Archon National Council and Regional Commander virtual meetings, and, as Chair of the Archon Women in Orthodoxy Engagement Committee, arranging and coordinating discussions and a zoom meeting pertaining to the salient topics of Women in Orthodoxy in today's Orthodox Church in America.

The Regional Commander presented the Archon Cross to the family of Archon *Maestor* George Grigos who fell asleep in the Lord in September. Eternal be his memory.



**Metropolis
of New Jersey**

**Submitted by
Regional Commander
George A. Tsougarakis**



Members of the 2024 pilgrimage with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros to Mount Athos, which included several Archons from the Metropolis of New Jersey, are shown here at the Holy Monastery of Xenophontos.

The nearly 70 brother archons of the Northern New Jersey District had another successful year in service to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Highlights included our annual Vespers for the Feast Day of Saint Andrew at the Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Randolph, NJ, active participation in all Archon Events, including the National Lenten Retreat, and taking leadership roles in the numerous engagement committees organized to support our Mother Church. In January, a number of our brothers joined His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros for a pilgrimage to Mount Athos and Constantinople. In August, our regional commander visited with His All Holiness to convey the good wishes of all the archons in the region. And in October, our region hosted a retreat led Father Nicholas Louh of Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church of Jacksonville FLA. The theme of the retreat was “Going All In—Our Faith, Our Families, Our Purpose”, and it was an enriching event for archons, their wives and the many young adult children who attended. We look forward to an equally rewarding 2025 under the continued spiritual guidance and pastoral care of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos.



Metropolis of Chicago

Submitted by
Regional Commanders
Gus M. Pablecas
John G. Manos
Pericles C. (Perry) Siatis



His Grace Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion, Chancellor of the Metropolis of Chicago, Rev. Father Chrysanthos Kerkeres, Archons in the Metropolis of Chicago with spouses, and Pilgrimage of Discovery participants at the meet and greet held at the National Hellenic Museum.

The Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Metropolis of Chicago partook in a series of events during the year to commemorate and promote the issues impacting Orthodox Christians today.

They held two religious freedom presentations: One during the Clergy Laity Assembly in Rolling Meadows, Ill.; the other at Assumption Church in East Moline, Ill.

Five Pilgrimage of Discovery presentations were held at St. Mary's Cathedral in Minneapolis, St. George Church in Chicago, St. Catherine's Chapel in Chicago, and St. Haralambos Church in Niles, Ill.

Regional Commander Manos led a tour of the Archon exhibit at the National Hellenic Museum for Hellenic American Academy students.

The Archons hosted an informational table at the YAL Conference.

Metropolis of Chicago Archon meet and greets were held during the Clergy Laity Assembly, at the National Hellenic Museum, and prior to the Greek Independence Day Parade.

Six Archons participated in the Metropolis' Vasilopita cutting ceremony.

Nine Archons attended the International Religious Freedom Conference.

Annual Archon events include:

- St. Andrew's Vespers services at St. Andrew's Church
- Greek Independence Day Parade participation
- 9th annual MOC Archon Business Meeting
- 43rd annual Commemoration of the Fall of Constantinople event.

Additionally, three Archons from the Metropolis of Chicago were invested in 2023, and Archon Perry Siatis was named third Regional Commander in the Metropolis of Chicago.

Engagement Committee Reports



Academia Symposium Committee

Submitted by
Dr. George P. Zimmar, Chair
Dr. Stamatios Kartalopoulos, Vice Chair

We are in the second year of the Academia Symposia Committee, (ASC) having streamed 4 webinars in that period, it be a good time to revisit the mission statement to take measure of what needs to be done to achieve the aims of the committee Mission Statement. This committee is charged with the responsibility of organizing and managing academia symposia focusing both on the external challenges facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate and on the five major religious freedom issues critical to the Patriarch and to Orthodox Christians.

We are pleased to report that all of all of our webinars were suggested, sponsored, and attended by members of the Academia Symposia Committee. Accordingly, their participation is the backbone of the symposium program. We encouraged members to sponsor future symposia. The content of the symposia flow from the suggestions and sponsors of the Academia Symposia Committee. Well look forward to hearing from our committee members.



Communications Committee

Submitted by
Franklin (Rocky) Sisson, Jr., Chair
Theodore H. Vagelos, Vice Chair



As a best practice and consistent with what virtually all companies and organizations do, the National Council, Executive Committee and the Communications Team working with GUMAS decided to focus on a singular name for our organization - Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. With this shift, we have also introduced an updated logo.

- All of our website migration and design has been completed. This has increased the speed of search on the website. All information and data have been transferred to our new site.
- Successfully promoted all activities related to the Athens conference. All presentations from Athens are available for view on the website. If you follow the Archons on Facebook, you received continuous update on all actives and summaries of all meetings and events. John Mindala captured every event in Athens with great photos and all are available on the website.
- We are bringing the work from the Gumas team in-house effective September 1. We thank John Gumas and his team for all the great work they have done to bring us to this point.
- All intellectual property of the AEP including our name, logo and tag line have been successfully trademarked and protected. We received this notification from the US Trademark office in July.
- The website Christian Persecution has been folded into Archons.org and reidentified as Faith Alerts. These alerts keep you updated on religious discrimination against Christians and all faiths around the world.
- The Archon App continues to be fine-tuned. Downloading this App gives you instant access to all information regarding the AEP and EP.
- The establishment to Archons.org/resources is a page dedicated to downloading assets such as logos and PowerPoint presentations to be used in you local endeavors.
- Your Communication Committee also drives the AEP pr



Ecumenical
Patriarch
Bartholomew
Foundation

Submitted by
Anthony J. Limberakis, M.D., Chair
George E. Safiol, Vice Chair



The New Members Committee is organizing the upcoming “An Evening with Maria Callas,” a performance in support of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.

The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation successfully expanded worldwide at the 1st Global Summit of Archons. As of this writing, there are **232 FOUNDERS** (\$100,000 pledge payable over 10 years) in good standing, with **\$25.1 million** pledged from all contributors, including **68 Fulfilled FOUNDERS**.

The EPBF Investment Committee has continued to do a masterful job in navigating a challenging investment environment. The Koudounis Team, working closely with Michael G. Psaros and the Investment Committee (Archon Robert A. Buhler Vice Chair, Christopher Allwin, Archon Michael N. Bapis, Archon Frank D. Catricketes, John A. Catsimatidis, Jr., Archon William H. Spell and Archon John A. Catsimatidis), and the J. P. Morgan Investment Bank, which holds the financial assets of the Foundation, has been able to make some nice returns. Kudos once again to Archon Koudounis and his team!

The EPBF Audit Committee (Archon Carl R. Hollister, Chair) works with the audit, tax and consulting firm of FORVIS LLP, a top ten North American Audit firm, to ensure complete transparency.

A New Members Committee is organizing the upcoming “An Evening with Maria Callas,” a performance in support of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation by the world-renowned opera company Teatro Grattacielo. This gala production will be presented on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at the University Club of New York, during Archon Weekend. Sponsors of this landmark cultural event include the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; Archon George and Lee Ann Anderson; Archon Joseph and Anna Kokolakis; Archon Markos and Sevasti Lagos; and Archon Michael and Meropi Neamonitakis.



Editorial Publications Committee

Submitted by

George P. Vittas, Chair

George G. Demos, Esq., Vice Chair

George Horiates, Vice Chair

Editorial Publications members continue to monitor print, network and cable news, and online alert systems to identify reports and opinions which require responses concerning religious freedom, religious persecution, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Year to date discussions with Communications Chair Archon Rocky Sisson, Archons Jim Speros and Ted Vagelos, and others, have led to concluding an approach to publishing a national archon newsletter. The new publication will be called the "ARCHON BULLETIN". Its mission will be... "to disseminate historical and current events information to extend the reach of the archons.org website in educating, informing and reporting on Archon activities regarding religious freedom, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew"... The Bulletin will be electronically published monthly to each Metropolis for distribution to its parishes. Its brief format will facilitate inclusion in parish bulletins with each article linked to the archons.org website for in depth reading. The Editorial Board for the new Archon Bulletin will consist of Archon representatives from the Metropolis and Parish Education, Academia Symposia, and Editorial Publications committees with a focus on wide geographic representation among the Archon Regions.... The Archon Bulletin expands upon the Pittsburgh Region local newsletter initiative of Archon George Spanos.



Federal and State Governmental Affairs Committee

Submitted by
Mike A. Manatos, Chair
Stephen A. Georgeson, Esq., Vice Chair

Extensive efforts were undertaken to plan for the first annual Archon Washington, DC Conference. Such a conference will:

- give Archons from around the country the opportunity to bring their US Senators and Member of the House to this gathering, introduce them to our members and have them learn more about our organization and efforts to protect the future of faith;
- strengthen the relationships between these influential Archons with their representatives in the US Congress; and
- better educate US policymakers on the threats to the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Contacted the general managers of 5 of the top hotels in Washington, DC to negotiate sleeping rooms and event space.

The target dates for this conference were April 9-11, 2024. However, it was decided that this first conference will be held in February of 2025 and, hopefully, during this month in the years to follow.

Newly appointed Archon Chris Chrisafides is working to pass an Ecumenical Patriarchate-initiated religious freedom resolution in New Hampshire, one of the few states in the country that has not yet passed such a resolution.

In addition, we are continuing our efforts to enable our 68 Committee Members (and other Archons) to meet with their two US Senators and Member of the US House of Representatives to brief them and their staff on the lack of religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarch.

Manatos & Manatos identified for each Archon Committee member their two US Senators and one Member of Congress. We also provided the email address for the best staffer in each office for them to contact to request a meeting with the Senator or Member in the state or district. We additionally provided each Archon with a draft email for them to send which can increase the likelihood of them securing such a meeting.

Committee Co-Chairs Manatos and Georgeson then engage with each Archon before their meetings to share with them some “tricks of the trade” to maximize the impact of their meeting. We then captured the outcome of each of these meetings.

Most recently we are working with Archon Regional Commander for the Boston Metropolis Costas Sideridis to intensify such efforts in the Boston area.



International Archons Committee

Submitted by

George C. Rockas, Esq., Chair

Constantine Sideridis, Chair

Harry Dimopoulos, PhD, Vice Chair

Nicholas Larigakis, Vice Chair

Committee Scope

The committee's goals include the continued effort with the Executive committee in fostering closer relations with Archons throughout the world. It assisted in the successful execution and completion of the 4th Archon International Conference on Religious Freedom in Athens Greece, May 26-29th, 2024.

The Religious Freedom Conference

The International Archons Committee ("Committee") was engaged in organizing the Fourth International Archons Religious Freedom Conference and the First International Meeting of Archons. The combined meeting took place in Athens on May 26 – May 29, 2024.

International Meeting of Archons

This meeting was distinct from the Religious Freedom Conference. The first goal of the meeting was to cultivate co-operation between Archons from across the globe and build a coalition to address the concerns of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. A formal motion was made on the floor to consider establishing a worldwide global order of Archons hand in hand to work synergistically to promote the needs of the Mother Church and to further extend the reach of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.

Future Aspirations

The Committee will work with the Executive and National Council members to identify future collaborations and symposiums with our global fellow Archons brothers. Ideas and strategic intents will be garnered as we look ahead towards the 5th Archon International Conference.



Metropolis and Parish Education Committee

Submitted by
Frank Boardman, Chair
John Thibault, Vice Chair



Archon Gary Grysiak, Carpatho-Russian, presenting at Camp Nazareth (three presentations) July 15, 22, and 29, 2024

The Metropolis and Parish Education Committee continues to meet monthly.

We continue to give presentations to our communities and at Metropolis Clergy/Laity conferences.

Our current initiatives include:

- Continuing to educate our parishes
- Provide a database to the Archon of presentations and notes
- Present at Metropolis Clergy-Laitly gatherings
- Present at parishes near our home parish
- Present at family nights in our local communities
- Include in our presentation information on the Pilgrimage of Discovery
- Work with the Youth Education committee with presentations as requested
- Present at Holy Friday youth retreats at our local parishes.
- We have reached over 100 parishes across the USA.



Patriarchal Green Initiatives Committee

Submitted by
John Harbilas, Chair
George J. Spanos, Vice Chair



Archons John Harbilas, George Spanos and Nick Theofanis donate a water bottle fountain filling station in honor of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, The Green Patriarch.

We continue to work through the Communications, Metropolis and Parish Education, and Youth and Young Adult Engagement Committees to bring awareness of His All Holiness as the “Green Patriarch”.

We are raising awareness of September 1 as the Day of Protection of the Natural Environment by encouraging each parish to share the Patriarch’s Encyclical with their parishes. Additionally, we are promoting the activity from Halki Summit VI and sharing the new book titled Sustaining the Future of Our Planet Together: The Prophetic Ministry of Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

We drafted a proposal for a nationwide contest aimed at encouraging Greek Orthodox Parishes across the country to implement sustainable practices and initiatives within their congregations consistent with the vision of the previously developed “Greening the Parish Initiative”. The contest seeks to raise awareness of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as “The Green Patriarch” and promote environmental stewardship and community engagement within our parish communities.



Patriarchal Properties and Legal Issues Committee

Submitted by
Joseph J. Kokolakis, Esq., Chair
Theodore M. Kakoyiannis, JD, Vice Chair

The most pressing issue facing the Ecumenical Patriarchate is lack of legal status. Without legal personality, the Patriarchate cannot own property, run institutions, or manage its affairs. Our committee has been working with Archon Paris Asanakis to develop a path to Legal Personality for the Patriarchate. We plan to draft a “White Paper” on the issue of Legal Identity. The paper will define the challenges that an entity faces without legal personality and propose a pathway towards recognition that can be supported by US and European leaders without being perceived as a threat by the Turkish government. This effort may take close to one year to complete and will require: 1) Index and analysis of Turkish cases on Legal Identity; 2) Index and analysis of European Convention of Human Rights cases involving Turkey; 3) Engage a Turkish attorney to interpret Turkish law; 4) Engage experts in EU, US and Turkish doctrine to assist in developing the argument. Committee members will commit resources in the international legal community to further this effort and work in unison with legal counsel for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Ultimately, our goal is to convince all parties that establishing the Legal Identity of the Ecumenical Patriarchate does not threaten the integrity of the Turkish State and is in the best interests of all policy makers throughout the world. We must clearly state the problem and propose a solution that everyone can support.



Women In Orthodoxy Committee

Submitted by

Cary J. Limberakis, DMD, Chair

Professor Elizabeth H. Prodrromou, PhD, Vice Chair



Archon Cary J. Limberakis moderated the Clergy-Laity Congress workshop panel discussion on Women in Orthodoxy: Past, Present & Future. Speakers were (L-R): Helen Theodoropoulos, PhD, Kyra Limberakis, MTS, Sara Tsugranis and Rev. Archdeacon John Chrysavgis, PhD.

Following a survey to the Committee members and based on the response, the following 4 topics discussion points were discussed in a zoom meeting on 9/8/2024: 1) Women Archons, 2) Women's Roles in the Church, 3) Causes and Demographics of Women Leaving the Church, and 4) Survey Design. About 35 members attended the zoom meeting. Restoration of women Archons, by far, was the chief talking point. It was noted that the Archon bylaws are gender neutral. An historical revisit of female Archons, as well as information regarding its discontinuation were requested. A webinar on the history of Archons is being considered.

The need to expand women's roles in the Church is great: female acolytes, tonsured chanters and readers, trained chaplains, pastoral assistants and female deacons, as well as inclusion in the decision-making bodies of the Church. Determining the methodology to attain these outcomes requires dialogue with our hierarchs.

Delving into the causes and demographics of young women leaving the Church reveals that "there is a progressive mentality, higher achieving roles secularly but not so much in the Church."

A discussion for an environmental survey, targeting Church-related, cross-generational, clerical, lay, and diverse demographic organizations, concluded that a professional expert survey designer would absolutely be necessary to obtain objective responses, but that perhaps this should be conducted by the GOA.



Youth Participation Activities Committee

Submitted by
Nicholas J. Tranto, Chair
The Hon. Steven G. Counelis, Vice Chair
George K. Moutis, Vice Chair
Pericles C. Siatis, Esq., Vice Chair



2024 Pilgrimage of Discovery to Constantinople

ARCHON SPROUT PROGRAM

- Received Eparchial Synod approval on Sept 13, 2024 to launch a fully dedicated EP Sunday School lesson plan for the Feast Day of St Andrew in November 2024 in commemoration of St Andrews Feast Day. For more details go to archons.org

PILGRIMAGE OF DISCOVERY JOURNEY TO CONSTANTINOPLE (POD)

- As part of the POD developmental team, \$78,000 was raised from Archons and \$5,000 from Ladies Philoptochos of Pittsburgh in addition to the \$56,000 budgeted by the AEP to fully fund the 2024 POD program.
- The POD sent 16 YA's in August 2024 to Constantinople at an average cost of \$6500 per person which included RT air, lodging, meals, tour guides, buses, boats, videographers, social media costs and subject matter experts.
- The goal is to send 16 YA for the Class of 2025 which will require a aggressive fundraiser effort from archons and the GOA community. The goal is to raise \$125,000 to fully fund the program.

YAL/OCF (Ages 19-35- Young Adult)

- The YAL/OCF subcommittee is focused on ages 18-35 and is led by Hon. Steven Counelis of San Francisco, Archon Regional Commanders Hon. Steven G. Counelis (Southern California), and Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas (Denver)
- Archon Regional Commanders Hon. Steven G. Counelis (Southern California) and Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas (Denver), members of the Youth Participation Activities Engagement Committee, once again, engaged at the National YAL (Young Adult) Conference in conjunction with the Clergy-Laitly Congress, in San Diego, California. With over 300 young adults in attendance, the Archons introduced three young adult Pilgrims of Discovery – Eva Marie Kailas [Metropolis of San Francisco], Sophia Looney [Metropolis of San Francisco], and Elyse Zappia [Archdiocesan District] who attended the Conference.



Departed Archons

Eternal be their memory!

List from Oct 6, 2023 – Oct 10, 2024

Anastasios S. Betzelos

Hartoularios
Glenview, IL
Departed on Oct 6, 2023

Basilios Theodosakis

Depoutatos
Brooklyn, NY
Departed on Oct 29, 2023

John G. Dallas

Ostiarios
Norwell, MA
Departed on Oct 31, 2023

Harry G. Plomarity

Ekdikos
Corpus Christi, TX
Departed on Nov 9, 2023

Frank L. Kuchuris

Depoutatos
Lincolnwood, IL
Departed on Dec 8, 2023

Andrew Evangelatos

Nomophylax
Encino, CA
Departed on Jan 30, 2024

Peter Christopoulos

Primikirios
Edison, NJ
Departed on Feb 13, 2024

Achilles Adamantiades

Prostatis ton Grammaton
Chevy Chase, MD
Departed on Mar 7, 2024

James Economou

Horarchis
Tulsa, OK
Departed on Mar 15, 2024

Louis J. Laros

Proto Notarios
Champaign, IL
Departed on Apr 20, 2024

Harry J. Pappas

Referendarios
Reno, NV
Departed on Apr 24, 2024

Andrew C. Andron

Depoutatos
Garden City, NY
Departed on May 26, 2024

Gregory Nodaros

Orphanotrofos
Ridgewood, NY
Departed on May 31, 2024

George Tita

Hartoularios
Koppel, PA
Departed on May 9, 2024

Gus Stavropoulos

Depoutatos
Westland, MI
Departed on June 16, 2024

Peter A. Mesologites

Depoutatos
Kings Point, NY
Departed on June 27, 2024

Elias "Lee" Gounardes

Kastrinsios
Staten Island, NY
Departed on July 24, 2024

Hon. Tom C. Korologos

Ekdikos
Washington, D.C.
Departed on July 26, 2024

Phillip T. Frangos

Referendarios
East Lansing, MI
Departed on July 27, 2024

Dr. Vaio N. Athanasiou

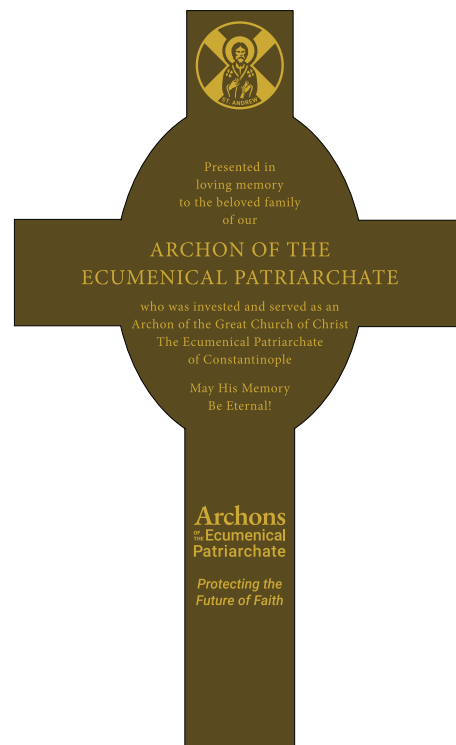
Maestor
Bee Caves, TX
Departed on Aug 25, 2024

George H. Grigos

Maestor
Huntingdon Valley, PA
Departed on Aug 27, 2024

Peter E. Tiboris

Hieromnimon
Wellington, FL
Departed on Sep 17, 2024





Past Recipients of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 2023 • The Prince's Trust | 1996 • Order of AHEPA |
| 2022 • His Beatitude Theodore II, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa | 1995 • Hon. Edward Derwinski |
| 2021 • Scientists who saved humanity from the Covid pandemic | 1994 • Hon. Paul S. Sarbanes |
| 2019 • His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphaniy of Kyiv and All Ukraine | 1993 • George Douris |
| 2018 • Father Alexander and Presbytera Xanthi Karloutsos | 1992 • Ladies Philoptochos |
| 2017 • Emilia Kamvisi and Efstratios Valamios | 1991 • Andrew A. Athens |
| 2016 • Governor Andrew M. Cuomo | 1990 • Hon. John Brademas |
| 2015 • Vice President Joe Biden | 1989 • Anthony G. Borden, MD |
| 2014 • Jay Alan Sekulow, PhD, JD | 1988 • Mother Theresa |
| 2013 • 60 Minutes | 1987 • President Jimmy Carter |
| 2012 • Stavros Niarchos Foundation | 1986 • Archbishop Iakovos |
| 2011 • Admiral James G. Stavridis | |
| 2009 • Anthony J. Limberakis, MD | |
| 2008 • Rabbi Arthur Schneier | |
| 2007 • Archbishop Demetrios of America | |
| 2006 • Nicholas J. Bouras | |
| 2005 • Mikhail Gorbachev | |
| 2004 • Alex G. Spanos | |
| 2003 • IOCC & OCMC | |
| 2002 • President George H. W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush | |
| 2001 • Archbishop Anastasios of Albania | |
| 2000 • Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu | |
| 1999 • Elie Wiesel | |
| 1998 • Nana Mouskouri | |
| 1997 • Reverend Clergy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese | |



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