

HELLENIC CULTURAL INSTITUTE CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST

President's Message at the 2nd Annual Membership and Board of Directors Meeting

November 8, 2005

As we enter into the 3rd year of active life of our organization, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for allowing me to serve you as your President. It is indeed my pleasure and honor to serve during our initial, second, and now the 3rd year. I consider myself a very lucky person to work with such a wonderful group of officers, advisors, and membership at large. Thanks to your devotion to the principles of the Hellenic Cultural Institute California Central Coast, we were able to have a very successful life since August 2003.

We are now a Non-Profit organization registered with the office of Internal Revenue Service.

This year, on May 14th, we celebrated our 2nd Annual Awards Dinner and we honored two outstanding citizens for their contributions to our community, Tasos Petroutsas of Watsonville and George Elliott of Salinas. Thanks to your generous contributions we were also able to award scholarships to five High School graduates of Monterey and Santa Cruz areas with \$500 each.

Later, in May 26 2005, we sponsored the Grand Opening of Zorba the Greek musical play at the Forest Theater in Carmel, providing food and drinks, and making arrangements for the participation in the musical of a dancing group of the Greek Officers stationed here at the Naval Postgraduate School.

A week later, in June 6, we invited all our members to a cocktail party at the Women's Club in Carmel, honoring the Greek Army, Navy, and Air Force Officers and their families stationed here at the Naval Postgraduate School. We really had a great time with Greek live music and Greek folk dancing.

On October 1, our 1st Vice-President Nick Papadakis hosted at his home the Aditi Foundation Group together with the HCI membership in a singing and dancing cocktail party.

Later this month, on November 12, we have scheduled our Olympic Games Anniversary Celebration in Santa Cruz. I hope you will be able to make it.

In the area of education, thanks to the assistance of the office of the Greek Consul General of San Francisco we have, again for this year Miss Sidiropoulou, a Greek Teacher from Greece, assigned to teach Greek Language, History, Mythology and Culture in Santa Cruz and Monterey.

As we conclude our 3rd year, let me thank you for your work and support. I would like to thank all Members for their talent and hard work, Scholarship, Public Relations, Greek School, etc. and above all our outstanding Secretary Carla Pickerill. As the 1st President of HCH/CCC I am proud of you all and thank you.

Sincerely,

Aris Zavitsanos