

# Laconian Society of Washington, DC Newsletter - Winter 2016



## Message from the President

Χρόνια Πολλά αγαπητή Λάκωνες,

Σάς Ευχόμεθα ο καινούργιος χρόνος 2016, να προχωρή προοδευτικά με υγεία, ευτυχία και χαρές.

Since my last report, many exciting events have occurred to specifically promote our Laconian Society and our Hellenic Heritage.

This past summer a delegation of eight members of our society- Demitra Marafatsos, Georgia Glekas Crassas, Dimitrios Xios, Peter and Litsa Glekas, Katherine Matrakas, Christos G Marafatsos and I, attended the 67th Pan Laconian Federation of USA and Canada Convention in Sparti. Our Vice President who is also Regional Vice President of the Federation, Georgia Crassas has a detailed report on the convention. I will like to point out that the Laconian Society of Washington DC was well represented and, without a doubt, the most vibrant society there.

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated "OXI" day with an open house at Hellenic Center, together with other member organizations.

In November, we hosted our 80th Annual Dance. WOW! An accomplishment all Laconians in the Washington area should be proud of. Christina's report describes it very elegantly. Not only was the venue first class, the meze delicious and plentiful, complementary coffee and tea and more sweets than we could handle. Over 250 beautiful people danced to the fine music of Apollonia. If all this was not enough-we were even profitable. A big thank you to our wonderful ladies for bringing all the sweets. A big thank you to all who donated for our raffle. A very special heartfelt thank you to Father Manuel Burdusi of St Theodore who together with Presbyteria accepted our invitation and honored us with their presence, prayers and kind words. Congratulations "Και Ανότερα" to the eight scholarship recipients. Grandparents and parents, do not deny your kids their heritage, bring them to our Laconian dance and take them to all Hellenic events.

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## Weddings and Engagements

*Καλα στεφανα!*



Kostas Dionisopoulos, son of Vasili Dionisopoulos, and Marina Aiken, daughter of Theodora Kavadias, were married on September 5, 2015 at St .Sophia church in Washington, DC. Congratulations!



## Recent Events

### Laconian Society 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Dance Friday November 27, 2015 Rockville , MD

Thank you to all who attended our Annual “day after Thanksgiving” Dance! Now in its 80<sup>th</sup> year, the dance has become an anticipated yearly event within the Greek community. This year’s dance had music by Appolonia and a large appetizer buffet. Over 250 people attended.

It is an amazing accomplishment for our Society to reach 80 years and one we should all be very proud of. The world has changed tremendously in that amount of time. It is truly remarkable, that throughout all these years, our Society continues to grow and thrive, remaining true to our original ideals.

We remain dedicated to the cultivation and preservation of the rich cultural heritage of Laconia . For over 80 years the Laconian Society has been a cornerstone of the Greek-American community, fostering philanthropy, scholarships and cultural events.

We would not have been here today if it were not for the dedication and love of those that came before us-parents, grandparents, old friends and neighbours. It is important to remember all the founding Laconian members that dedicated their time, energy, money and ideas to create the vibrant society we have now. We honor all of them when we continue the traditions and events they established.





**Births**

Να σας ζήσει!



Thomas and Maria Crassas are the happy parents of a daughter born August 17, 2015. Grandparents Georgia and Jim Crassas are thrilled!



Petros and Nikki Marafatsos are the happy parents of a baby girl born November 22, 2015. Grandparents George and Demitra Marafatsos and Great-Grandparents Petros and Evgenia Marafastsos are very proud!



**Births**

Να σας ζήσει!



Irene and Jimmy Retzos are the happy parents of a baby boy born November 18, 2015. Grandfather Vasili Dionisopoulos and Uncle Kosta Dionisopoulos are beyond joyful!

**Remembered Laconians**

Αιώνια η μνήμη τους



- Pete Chaconas
- Jimmy Foudas,
- Constantinos Spyropoulos
- George Vroustouris

**67<sup>th</sup> Annual Pan Laconian Convention**  
**Sparta, Greece**  
**July 28- Aug 2 2015**

Thank you to all who joined us for the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Pan Laconian Convention in Sparta. The weekend was informative, entertaining and fun. The events kicked off with a welcome on Wednesday night at the Menelaion Hotel. We enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones as we dined around the hotel's pool.

On Thursday morning, we all gathered at the Headquarters of Laconia to start the official meetings. We were met by a choir that chanted the Greek National Anthem, Ti Ypermaho Stratigo, and other significant Greek musical pieces, as the world's largest Greek flag from Zakynthos was unfurled ceremoniously in front of the Headquarters. Upon entry into Headquarters, the choir continued to sing and Metropolitan Efstathios welcomed us, blessed us and wished us a successful meeting. We met with the political dignitaries from Laconia. Additionally, we had an opportunity to see the exhibit "Poets of Laconians Nikiforos Vrettakos and Yiannis Ritsos" where there were many artifacts of daily life from bygone days.

Later Thursday afternoon, we discussed , among other things, the awarding of scholarships. In the evening, the Order of the Nights and Ladies of Sparta had a membership meeting in beautiful Parori, Sparta.

On Friday, we continued our meeting discussing the Leonidion Award. That evening, we went to the Grand Banquet in Plateia Magoulas where we awarded scholarships to promising students. Afterwards, we enjoyed a delicious dinner and danced the night away.

On Saturday, we talked about next year's convention which will convene from June 15<sup>th</sup> till June 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Paideia Center in Storrs, Connecticut. We will also visit the Pan-Laconian Museum of Greek Art opening soon. This museum houses a large collection of art donated by Mr. Liounis. The meeting concluded with the election of officers. In the evening, we attended a concert of classic pieces by Stelios Kazantzidis in Plateia Spartis.

On Sunday, the delegates were invited to attend the Divine Liturgy with an Artoclasia at the Mitropolis tis Evaggelistrias in Sparta. We all were invigorated and inspired by going back to our roots and reconnecting with the many branches of our Laconian family tree. May we continue to grow and look forward to reconnecting in Connecticut.

Georgia Glekas Crassas  
 Mid Atlantic States Vice President  
 Pan-Laconian Federation



### 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Pan Laconian Convention –Some Photos



**Dues Reminder**

Do not forget to pay your yearly dues! Membership is \$20 per person per year. Please send all membership payments and inquiries to Georgia Crassas

**Message from the Secretary**

Dear Laconians,

We hope you have enjoyed our newsletter. It is our humble attempt at passing community news to everyone. If you have any updates or news you would like to include, please contact our Secretary, Christina Chaconas. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact someone on our Board. We wish everyone a wonderful spring. We hope to see everyone at our upcoming meetings.

Very Best Wishes,

Christina Chaconas  
Secretary

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301-204-3836

Please let me know if you would like to be added to our email list. (instead of or in addition to postal mail)

Our website is:  
[www.laconiansocietyofwashingtondc.com](http://www.laconiansocietyofwashingtondc.com)

**Message from the President**

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Artoclasia, we celebrated at St Sophia to commemorate St Nikon O Metanoite, Patron Saint of Sparta and all Laconia. Father Steven's historical account of Saint Nikon and praise of our Laconian Society made us proud. Lunch followed at Panagiotis and Despina Pagonis, Mykonos Restaurant.

Presently, we are getting ready to celebrate March 25th, our beautiful dual Holiday of The Annunciation and Greek Independence Day. The preparations are underway at the Hellenic Center for an Open House. The parade route in Baltimore is also being prepared and we are organizing our numerous flags of different sizes and banners. The parade will take place in Baltimore on Sunday, April 3, 2016, at 2:00 PM. The Washington Lacones have always had a strong and beautiful showing, marching in the parade. Young Laconians, let us glorify and support our rich and positive heritage while we have it, come march with us.

On a sad note, we regret to announce the passing of one of our long and active members, Brother Constantinos "Dinos" Spyropoulos. Brother Dino had held most Laconian Society board positions in the 70's, 80's and 90's with distinction. May God rest his Soul.

It is really a great honor and an extreme pleasure to serve our Society. Our Society is Alive, our Society is Active and our Society is Positive.

With Warm Laconian Wishes,  
George P Marafatsos  
President, Laconian Society of Washington, DC



Our officers: Georgia Crassas, George Marafatsos, Christina Chaconas