



### THE NEW BOARD OF KARYATES ASSOCIATION ELECTION RESULTS

On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the General Assembly of the Karyates Association was held at the Conference Hall of Matalaio Institute in Athens.

President of the Assembly was elected by acclamation **Mr. Nicholas Koutsogiorgas** and then the President of the outgoing Board **Mr. Michael Repoulis** presented "The Board's Proceedings Report" of the period 2011-2014, followed by the presentation of "Income and Expense Report" from the Treasurer **Mr. Konstantinos Dimitroulas** and the "Audit Committee Report" by the chairman **Mr. Paraskevas Ntouvliis**.

Upon completion of the above, the General Assembly approved the Board of Directors Release from any liability, followed by the selection of the Election Committee and conduct elections to choose a new Board and a new Auditing Committee.

According to the announcement of the Election Committee, consisting of **Ms. Evangelia Kardara**, **Ms. Dimitra Repouli-Kakari** and **Mr. Emmanuel Diamantatos**, the following member were elected in order of merit:

#### For the Board REGULAR MEMBERS

- Konstantopoulos Haralampos
- Diantzikis Panagiotis
- Prekeze Anita
- Trakas Nikolaos
- Repoulis Michael
- Mermiga Dimitra
- Kopsiafti Evangelia
- Dimitroulas Konstantinos
- Latsi Lefkothea

#### ALTERNATE MEMBERS

- Traka Eleni
- Kardaras Vasileios

#### For the selection committee REGULAR MEMBERS

- Diantziki Maria
- Binis Michael
- Christopoulos Paraskevas

#### ALTERNATE MEMBERS

- Papastavrou Dimitra
- Dalakouras Panagiotis

### CONSTITUTION OF NEW BOARD

On 12.29.2014 the members of the new Board of the Karyates Association met and with their vote fixed the new Board of Members:

- President: Michael Repoulis
- A Vice President: Annita Prekeze
- B Vice President: Dimitra Merminga
- Secretary: Charalampos Konstantopoulos
- Treasurer: Konstantinos Dimitroulas
- Member: Lefkothea Latsi
- Member: Evangelia Kopsiafti

### MESSAGE OF THE REELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE KARYATES ASSOCIATION Mr. MICHAEL REPOULIS



Dear compatriots!

Winter is coming to an end, the spring arrives in nature and we hope that it will come in our hearts too.

The spontaneous turnout of compatriots and faithful friends of Karyes in our Association's annual events, the artoklasia-reception of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in Karyes and the cutting of the New Year's Pita of February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Athens, sent the message on the unity and solidarity and that interest and hope for a better future for our fatherland remain intact.

The success of these events relies on the effort of all the members of the Karyates Association's Board. This success fills us with a moral reward, increases the sense of responsibility and helps us in continuing with greater intensity our effort to achieve the objectives the Association.

The main target of the Association's new Board, resulting from the elections of December 14, 2014, is the repair of the museum building. The Board's effort to collect the necessary funds for the continuation of the restoration work seems to have response to our clubs abroad and already the first offer of the amount of AUS \$ 10.000 came from the Association Arahoviton "Karyes" Sydney.

Hoping that all Karyates/Arahovites, here in Greece and abroad, even with their savings, will support the efforts of the Association, I wish personally and on behalf of the new Board, the Spring and the early Easter this year to bring us smile and the feeling that the best days for Karyates and for our country is not far away.

Happy Easter to all!

### CONTENTS

- PAGES 2-3: KARYATES ASSOCIATION'S NEW PITA EVENT
- PAGE 4: KARYATIKA EVENTS
- PAGE 5: SOCIAL NEWS AND NEWSFLASH
- PAGE 6: LOCAL NEWS

THE PARTICIPATION OF COMPATRIOTS AND FRIENDS OF KARYES  
IN THE KARYATES ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL NEW YEARS' PITA EVENT  
On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2015

EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS!

Thunderous presence of the youth, which for the first time in many years embraced the Karyates Association



Sometimes the words are unable to express the feeling!

When a hall with a 300 people capacity is being filled, we get the strength to continue! The Board members and the friends, who voluntarily worked, presented an event that we believed pleased everyone who responded to our call.

The "ARXONTIKO TIS FOTINIS" has been decorated and waited for compatriots and friends who honored us with their presence for fun and surprises!



THE RECEPTION

During the event, a giant screen presented the beauties of Karyes and an "informational basket" was given to all. It included the new touristic map of Karyes and other touristic guides offered by the City of Sparta.



Two beautiful girls from Karyes dressed as Caryatids welcomed all our guests by offering a glass of tsipouro and sweets.

Moreover, all compatriots, who renewed their subscription, received as gift a badge with the symbol of Karyes: the Monument of Caryatids. Note that the Board of the Karyates Association, understanding the economic situation of Greece, decided to halve the annual subscription of 10€ nominal amount of 5€.



IMPORTANT OFFER THE EDUCATIONAL GROUP "XINIS"

On the initiative of the Board's member Ms Evangelia Kopsiafti-Gkioni the "Educational Group Xini" decided to offer two (2) scholarships to fellow residents of Karyes, working in the tourism sector. The offer announced by the representative of the Group, Professor of the Department of Tourism Mr. Dimitrios Tsaraklimanis, who after greeted everyone, made a reference to the female ideal of Caryatids as benchmark for the ancient world.

THE SPEECHES

The Associations' Chairman Mr. Michael Repoulis welcomed everyone and commented on the state of the building's construction for the creation of the Karyes Folklore Center, making reference to the donations which started coming from Brotherhoods and Associations worldwide (we will refer on this with more details in the next bulletin). He also announced the start of the maintenance work of the statues at the Caryatids Monument and the Mousses statues in cooperation with Technological Institute of Athens.



In his turn, the Board's Secretary Mr. Ch. Konstantopoulos welcomed the guests and briefly referred to the important activities of the Karyates Association (edition of the news bulletin, site maintenance and issuing tourist map).

Finally, the Board's member Ms. Evangelia Kopsiafti-Gkioni speech referred to the historical significance of the Caryatids in Greek History and Culture.

The Board members of Karyates Association wish to all compatriots



A HAPPY EASTER



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Karyates Association announces its willingness to grant its field, located near the Church Saint Barbara, for the use of agriculture or livestock purposes. Those interested are asked to contact the Chairman of the Board Mr. Repoulis (tel. n. 0030-6944784563).

THE PARTICIPATION OF COMPATRIOTS AND FRIENDS OF KARYES  
IN THE KARYATES ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL NEW YEARS' PITA EVENT  
On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2015

EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS!

Thunderous presence of the youth, which for the first time in many years embraced the Karyates Association



THE LOTTERY

As each year, our lottery was full of gifts offered by compatriots and members of the Board.

The gifts were offered by **Nicholaos Koutsogiorgas**, **Stavros Mermigas**, **Georgios Roupas** and the offers for free accommodation and meals were given by compatriots working in Karyes, particularly by the guesthouses "TA PETRINA", "TO AGNANTIO", "TA ARACHOVITIKA KALYVIA" and by the restaurants "ARDAMIS" and "ARETI KOUTSOGIORGA". There were also offers by the hostels "ARDAMIS" at the castle town of Monemvasia and by the guesthouse "MARIA' S STUDIO» in Finikounta Messinia.

However, this year a surprise awaited everyone that participated in the lottery, since they all received a small token gift as a souvenir of their presence, but also as a "thank you" for their contribution.



Commemorative gifts, treats and sweets courtesy of (in alphabetical order): **Annita Gkleka-Prekeze**, **Nicholaos Koutsogiorgas**, **Evangelia Kopsiafti-Gkioni**, **Leukothea Latsi**, **Michael Binis**, **Demetra Repouli-Kakari** and the **Board of the Karyates Association**.



The New Year's cake and the Board's cake were offered by **Mr. Evangelos Vasiliou** (Company "APOLLONION").

The Board members wholeheartedly thank our sponsors who once again actively demonstrated their love for our village and we hope to have their support in the future.

Till next year!

PRESENCES AND GREETINGS

From Karyes came exclusively for the event, the Karyes councilor in the Municipality of Sparta, **Ms Eleni Menti**, representing also the Mayor of Sparta.

Also greetings were sent by the Head of the Peloponnese Prefecture **Mr. Petros Tatoulis**, the Monemvasia and Sparta Metropolitane **Efstathios**, Deputy Head of Lakonia **Adamantia Tzanetea** and the chairman of the Karyes Local Community **Mr. Georgios Devekos**.

Our event also was honored by the presence of the Board's Chairman of the ASSOCIATION OF ATTICA LACEDAEMONIANS **Mr. Castanis** and the Chairman of the PALLAKONIKI FEDERATION **Ms. Moustafellou**.

THE EVENT

The event was the reason for compatriots to meet again and have small talk. At the same time, the event included a traditional dance group which dances entertained the guests of the event.



The Board members want to please their compatriots who responded to our call and helped in the financial support of the Association by paying their annual subscription and buying lottery tickets.



REQUEST

Those who wish to receive this news bulletin via e-mail please inform us, by sending your name and e-mail address at E-mail: [info@karyes.gr](mailto:info@karyes.gr)

DUE TO THE EXTENT OF WINTER EVENTS  
THE TRIBUTE TO THE MAINTENANCE OF KARYES  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
WILL CONTINUE IN THE NEXT BULLETIN

11.30.2014 - ST. ANDREW FEST AT KARYES



WITH GREAT PARTICIPATION THE CELEBRATION IN KARYES

As every year, many of our compatriots responded to the call of the Association for reunion in Karyes on Sunday, November 30th on the occasion of the feast of our patron saint.

The Church of St. Andreas was filled with people, as the feast this year was on Sunday, and apart from the permanent residents, hundreds of compatriots from Athens, Sparta and Tripoli attended the Divine Liturgy, which was officiated by the Metropolitan of Sparta and Monemvasia, Efstathios.



After the liturgy, the Karyates Association's annual event took place in the conference hall of the municipal offices. The Hall was decorated with Christmas ornaments on the initiative of the Head of the Local Community, **Mr. Georgios Devekos**.

The members of the Association offered coffee and pastries, while there were speeches from Karyes' local associations informing compatriots about the recent updates.



The Karyates Association Board's Chairman **Mr. Michael Repoulis** welcomed the Spartans Mayor **Mr. Evangelos Valiotis**, Lakonia's Parliamentary Members **Ms Fevronia Patrianakou** and **Mr Athanasios Davakis** and the Council of the Peloponnese Prefecture **Mr. Panagiotis Karras**, who honored the event with their presence.

At the same time, the new touristic map of Karyes was presented by the Association's Secretary **Mr. Harris Konstantopoulos**. The map, which edition was co-funded by the **Karyates Association**, **the Cultural Club of Karyes** and the **Sports Club "O Karyatis"**, was distributed to attendees and it is expected to contribute significantly to the touristic development of Karyes.

The official guests of this beautiful event were astonished by the strong presence of Karyes' people. The event was followed by a tour at the touristic sights of the village, such as the Caryatids Monument, the Menelaus ancient plane trees and the Community Clock Grove, and by lunch hosted by the Karyates Association in the honor of the guests.

GREAT SUCCESS FOR KARYES!

KARYES PARTICIPATED WITH ITS OWN STAND IN THE INTERNATIONAL TOURISM EXHIBITION "GREEK TOURISM EXPO '14"

Karyes managed to overcome the borders of Greece in tourism by participating in the international exhibition "GREEK TOURISM EXPO '14" held from the 5th until 7th of December, 2014 in the Metropolitan Expo showroom, at Eleftherios Venizelos airport.

The exhibition was addressed to entrepreneurs and professionals worldwide to discover the beautiful Greece, the wonderful country of culture, sun and sea, to experience the wide embrace of Greek hospitality, to taste the products and flavors of Greek cuisine and participate in the development of Greek Tourism.

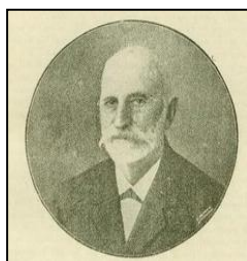
There were presented all forms of classical and alternative tourism into a feast for the Greek tourism with the slogan: «Come to meet the Greeks !!!». Concurrently with the exhibition, the International Conference "The Greek Tourism in the new era" took place.

Professionals (producers and traders) and Associations rallied so our beautiful KARYES could participate with its own stand. Many of our compatriots responded to the call of our Association and visited the stand together with their friends in order to get to know our beautiful village and enjoy the local products.



It was a our first attempt of Karyes' professionals to come into contact with the tourism industry at national and international level and we believe that this experience will help them to discover their potential and find their weaknesses.

Congratulations to all!



**"ATHANASIOS MATALAS: FROM THE LACONIAN ARACHOVA TO EASTERN RUMELIA (1836-1922)"**



On Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, at the hall of the Matalas Institute, the General State Archives of Laconia and the "Institute of Athanasios Matalas the Lacedaemonian" organized the event "Athanasios Matalas: From Lakonian Arachova to Eastern Rumelia (1836-1922)". Speaker of the event was Mrs. Pepi Gavala, Historian-Archivist and Head of the State Archives of Laconia. The event was accompanied by an exhibition of archival material edited by Michael Sovolos, Archivist, and Maria Stellaki, Teacher.

Athanasios Matalas was a man with a bright mind and rich feelings, in a lifetime of important services offered in both Greek State and his homeland, Karyes, becoming one of its great benefactors. This great event, in which the life and work of our great patriot was presented, was attended by many of compatriots and his descendants. A delegation of the Karyates Association attended the ceremony, consisting of the Chairman Mr. Michael Repoulis, the Vice-President Mrs. Gkleka-Prekezes and Secretary Mr. Haralampos Konstantopoulos.

## SOCIAL NEWS

### THEODORE POULOKEFALOS DIED IN MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA (85 YEARS OLD, FROM KARYES LACONIA)

Theodore Pouloukefalos was born in the small mountainous village of Arachova/Karyes in Laconia. He was the second of the seven children of Andreas and Sophia Pouloukefalos. He was married to Rina Zafirakis on October 1, 1956. God blessed them with three daughters, Sofia, Aglaia, born in Greece and Sandra born in Australia, after they had immigrated.

They came to Australia, like so many other immigrants of that period, with the famous ship "Patris" in 1964. The first years in Australia, they lived in the area of Richmond and in 1974 they settled in Box Hill, where they remained until the present day. Their girls grew up, got married and give him eight wonderful grandchildren:

- Three boys: Thanasis, Andreas, and Alexandros
- Five girls: Madalena, Katerina, Renee, Nicoletta and Amelia.

With a heavy heart, we farewell this wonderful man who has left us so suddenly. He will be missed by his compatriots at the Greek community and by the many residents of Box Hill, whom he knew and greeted to his daily walks.

Eternal memory!

#### Monologue of his daughter Aglaia

The loss of a parent looks like being for the first time in a major earthquake. Things were previously steadfast and immovable, but suddenly the earthquake upsets everything under your feet.

What is stable ceases to be stable anymore. In a moment - after that phone call everything gets a different hue. In this new reality, everything now look different, because for the first time in your life, your father is no longer here.

You are suddenly in a new world with involuntary and unconscious sighs, whispers and prayers. My eyelids are so heavy with grief during the day and light, and as gently as a feather at night, when I look at the ceiling and wonder if life shall ever be the same again. Of course not- how it could.

An endless stream of visions, all bringing the same unchanged phrases. For someone who is not familiar with Greek customs, as I do, so many things are inexplicable. Thank you aunts!

All Greeks bring the same small crackers, and everyone just saying the same words. They drink brandy in small glasses and endless cups of Greek coffee.

Our father was so healthy. He never took any medication until the age of 85. He walked about five kilometers per day. We expected to have him around us for over his 100 years.

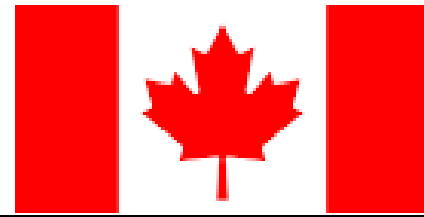
But in the morning Tuesday, November 18th, my mom found him in our house's back porch. It seems that he was hit by some kind of brain hemorrhage and took him away from us. He left behind three daughters, three sons in law and eight grandchildren. He was always carrying pictures of his grandchildren in the pocket of his shirt and he loved to show them to the people he met. He also leaves behind many friends who do not even believe that he left so suddenly.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

On May 10, 2014, at the age of 72, Condilo Christakis-Bakogiorgos nee Panousis, died at the age of 72 years, as we have been informed by her daughter Anastasia Bakogiorgos. The deceased loved the wonderful Arachova and her compatriots, where she had spent her childhood summers.

Heartfelt condolences!

## LOCAL NEWS



### THE NEW WEB SITE OF ADELPHOTIS ARACHOVITON IN TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

The Adelphotis Arachoviton of our compatriots announced their website [www.karyai.com](http://www.karyai.com). This is a new website which includes news from the activities and events of the Adelphotis, historical data and many photos. We think that is a good way to approach the new generation of compatriots and strengthen their links with the birthplace of their parents and grandparents.

The Karyates Association welcomes this effort and hope that other Brotherhoods around the world will soon follow.



ΣΥΝΔΕΣΜΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΠΑΝΤΑΧΟΥ ΚΑΡΥΑΤΩΝ

### SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION IN KARYES

The Board of the Karyates Association approved the funding to the Karyes elementary school amounting to 50€, at the request of the School Director George Diamandouros, to replace the building's lamps and the amount of 250€ to conduct an educational trip for the students.

It also approved the payment of 200€ for the medical surgery of a compatriot and the amount of 200€ respectively for another compatriot's hospitalization, both local residents in Karyes.

### CHRISTMAS IN KARYES

On December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve, at 11.00am, the members of the "Laconia Conservatory" sang traditional Christmas carols, while the evening on December 26<sup>th</sup>, a live music evening took place at "Arachovitika Kalyvia" hotel.

These two events gave a Christmas festive atmosphere to all residents and visitors of our beautiful village.



### PARNONAS

#### Few words for Karyes' mountain

The Peloponnese is famous for its high mountains, which apart from their aesthetic value are shelters for many rare species of plants and animals. Its mountain Parnonas extends along the southeastern Peloponnese.

**Parnon** is an ancient name meaning **Bright Mountain**. The etymology of the name associated with **parna-** root (parna) that is pre-Hellenic. It comes from the same root with the names of Parnitha and Parnassus that are other mountains of Greece. The first reports of the mountain are find in the texts of Stravon and Pausanias. The mountain is also known as **Malevos** or **Kronion Oros**, meaning the **sacred mountain of Saturn**. The earliest traces of human presence in the area date from the Neolithic Era.

The mountain's ranges are more than ten (10) and exceed a height of 1,500m with its tallest **Great Tourla** having an altitude of **1,934m**. The floristic richness is enormous. So far **113** rare plants have been recorded, 12 of them are locally endemic, 86 are endemic to the region, while 11 are rare in Greece, with the most significant Drypodi or Dendrokedro juniper (*Juniperus drupacea*) - Parnonas is the only area in Europe where it appears - and Asian species Thaliktro the eastern (*Thalictrum* sp.).

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN KARYES**

Karyes filled with people on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015, due to the parliamentary elections. Residents and compatriots from Athens, who came to the village to vote, filled the cafes and taverns of the main square.



The new representatives of Laconia in the Greek Parliament are **Davakis Athanasios** (9,559 votes) from N.D., **Stavros Arachovitis** (5,860 votes) from SY.RIZ.A. and **Leonidas Grigorakos** (5,218 votes) from PA.SO.K.

The results of the votes cast at Karyes municipality, according to the posts of the Minister of Interior, are as follows:

- Registered: 1,430 - Voted: 412
- Valid: 400 - Invalid: 12 - White: 0

SYRIZA (Left Party)	37,00	148
NEW DEMOCRACY (Conservatives)	23,25	93
K.K.E. – COMMUNIST PARTY	19,50	78
People Link - Golden Dawn	5,00	20
PA.SO.K. (Socialist Party)	3,75	15
TO POTAMI	3,50	14
MOVEMENT OF DEMOCRATS SOCIALISTS (KI.DI.SO.)	2,75	11
Independent Greeks – P. Kammenos	2,00	8
POPULAR ORTHODOX ALARM (LA.O.S.)	1,00	4
KKE (m-l) - M-L. KKE (Marxist Party)	0,75	3
TELEIA – Apostolos Gletsos	0,75	3
ANT.AR.SY.A. –M.A.R.S. (Left Party)	0,50	2
GREEN –DEMOCRATIC LEFT	0,25	1



**EXCURSION OF THE GREEK MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION AT KARYES ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 7.**

Another effort to promote Karyes' tourism took place on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2014. The Greek Mountaineering Association–Sparta's branch organized a mountain hiking excursion, starting at Kollines village and ending at Karyes, led by George Pouloukefalos.

As we have often pointed out, the development of mountainous tourism needs such activities. These efforts should be welcomed and embraced by everyone in Karyes.

Congratulations!



**THE NEWS OF THE SPORTS CLUB “Ο ΚΑΡΥΑΤΗΣ”**

By Theodoros Mentis

The Sport Club “Ο ΚΑΡΥΑΤΗΣ” is one of the few clubs in Laconia with continuous presence in the soccer Championship for three decades (1983-2013). Its participation in the league was suspended temporarily for the first time last season, 2013-14, due to the lack of local players and absence of fans.

Moreover, for the first time the funding from the Skiouris Foundation was decreased. But despite the difficulties, the team returned to the Second division championship this year (2014-15) using the sports field of Sellasia, as long as the Karyes sports field is still under reconstruction.

The results so far are:

- 1st match Saturday 10.18.2014 Karyatis- Daphni 0-3
- 2nd match Saturday 10.25.2014 Pankladiatikos - Karyatis 2-0
- 3rd match day off
- 4th match Sunday 11.09.2014 P.A.O. Kokkinorachi - Karyatis 1-0
- 5th match Sunday 11.16.2014 Karyatis - Taygetos Palaiopanagia 0-2
- 6th match Sunday 11.23.2014 Karyatis – Anagennisi Spartis 2-2
- 7th match Sunday 11.30.2014 Hyacinthos Vafeiou - Karyatis 3-0
- 8th match Sunday 12.07.2014 Karyatis - Doxa Anogion 0-1
- 9th match Saturday 12.13.2014 Selassiakos - Karyatis 3-0
- 10th match Saturday 12.20.2014 Karyatis - Chrysafa 2-3
- 11th match Saturday 01.03.2015 Loganikos - Karyatis 5-0
- 12th match Sunday 01.11.2015 Daphni - Karyatis 2-0
- 13th match Saturday 01.17.2015 Karyatis - Pankladiatikos 1-3



**SNOWFALL IN KARYES**

**Spectacular photos of the white veil that enveloped Karyes**

Since New Year's Eve, Karyes was dressed in white. The snow covered almost everything and at some points its height surpassed half a meter. The photos that were posted online by local residents of Karyes are impressive.

Note that snowfall occurred also on the following days, accompanied by very low temperatures and resulting Karyes to be dressed in white until the end of the winter.

**NEWS BULLETIN OF THE KARYATES ASSOCIATION**

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

For information

E-mail: [info@karyes.gr](mailto:info@karyes.gr)