

What is The Order of AHEPA - American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association?

If you have ever wondered what AHEPA is and what we do...perhaps this can answer some of your questions.

AHEPA was founded on July 26, 1922 in Atlanta, Georgia in response to the evils of bigotry and racism that emerged in early 20th century American society. It also helped Greek immigrants assimilate into society and become one of the most successful ethnic groups in our country today.

Today, AHEPA brings the ideals of ancient Greece, which includes philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence to the community. This is its mission.

Although a majority of the membership is composed of Americans of Greek heritage, application for membership is open to anyone who believes in the mission of AHEPA.

On a national level, AHEPA has sold over \$1 million in war bonds during WWII, raised over \$1 million for the restoration of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, pledged \$1 million for the construction of the St. Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero in NYC, among many, many other things in its almost 100 year history

San Antonio AHEPA Chapter 311, (District 16), was founded on February 16, 1938.

We are a fraternal lodge and membership is by invitation.

We meet on the second Monday of the month, (September-May), at 7pm. Annual dues are \$50, almost all of which funds district and national endeavors.

Chapter 311 has been an integral part of the San Antonio and St. Sophia community and has established itself as a leader in the AHEPA family within our District.

Current Executive Board is as follows:

- George Hathaway – President
- Dean Danos – Vice President
- John Fotopoulos – Treasurer
- Greg Asvestas – Secretary

We have been actively involved in the Annual Greek FUNstival and support it monetarily, and in terms of planning, organizing, and manpower. Along with the FUNstival, we conduct “Sponsor a Soldier” from the Fisher House and the Warrior and Family Support Center. Since 2006 – 676 soldiers have been invited to our FUNstival and we have raised \$16,910 to support the event.

We began to host the multi-award winning “Greek Booth” at the Texas Folklife Festival in 2003, with 15 straight years of blue ribbons for our gyro. We share the proceeds with our beloved St. Sophia. Thus far, we have donated in excess of \$70,000 to our church.

We established the Dan Anthony Memorial Scholarship in 2002 that awards a \$1,000 scholarship to deserving high school graduates from our St. Sophia community. To date, we have awarded in excess of \$35,000 in scholarships.

In 2018 we brought recognition to our community by having the City of San Antonio provide us with a proclamation making March 25, 2018 “Greek Independence Day in San Antonio”. Today, that proclamation hangs in the foyer of Mangos Hall.

We actively search for ways to contribute to and benefit our community with substantial projects.

We host/sponsor the following luncheons:

- Jonathan Dolan Memorial Fund/Oratorical Festival
- Greek Independence Day
- Dan Anthony Memorial Scholarship Fund

Some of our previous accomplishments are as follows:

- We wrap and provide Christmas gifts in support of the “Adopt-a-Vet” Program
- Conduct clothing drives in support of Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)
- Conduct a Box Fan Drive in support of San Antonio’s “Project Cool”
- Hosted a July 4th “Greek Style” celebration with a gyro sale
- Cleaned, painted, and reorganized the church kitchen
- Cleaned and reorganized the storage rooms in Mangos Hall and Founder’s Hall
- Donated \$1,000 to St. Sophia to offset a short fall in their Operating Fund
- Donated \$500 to help build the St. Nicholas National Shrine in NYC
- Donated \$2,000 to the church for their land purchase campaign
- Donated \$1,000 for the purchase of an Orthodox Cross at Mission Park South.
- Donated \$1,500 to the relief effort for the people of Greece
- Created a permanent display of the founding fathers of our parish in Founder’s Hall
- Replaced the handicap entrance to Mangos Hall
- Partnered with YAL to host a Veteran’s Day luncheon
- Conducted blood drives for the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center for over 10 years

The leadership and membership of AHEPA Chapter 311 remain faithful, devoted, and committed to:

- St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
- The mission of the Order of AHEPA
- The Greek American Community
- The San Antonio Community

Interested in joining? See any member of the Executive Board for an application.

Fraternally,

George R. Hathaway

President – AHEPA Ch. 311