

President's Message



My Dear Fellow Evrytians,

I hope everyone is well and has had a healthy and safe summer. Many were able to take some well-deserved vacations after a year of restrictions. As we continue to struggle with coronavirus, please remember to keep taking necessary precautions to stay healthy.

By the time you receive this issue, we will have had our first Board of Trustees meeting for 2021-2022. We begin the year eager to further the charitable work of the Velouchi and to do what is best for the membership. During the meeting, we will be drawing the raffle tickets for our annual scholarship fundraiser with the lucky winners to be announced soon thereafter. Also, discussions have continued with the AgonaZois organization in Karpenisi concerning the Hospitality House in Athens to serve cancer patients. Certain concerns with the apartment have been addressed and we are ready to move forward.

As you know by now, the Velouchi has initiated a national fundraising campaign to benefit the victims of the wildfires in Greece. We have set a goal to raise \$50,000 to be used for these unfortunate people, many of whom have lost not only their homes and possessions, but their livelihood as well. A good number of members have already responded to the appeal sent out by the national office. Several have been very generous in their donations which will go far in helping us achieve our goal. It is not too late to contribute either personally or professionally through your business. We will continue to

receive donations as they come in and plan to distribute funds around the beginning of November. The Velouchi has always stood by the less fortunate, and we will continue to do so now. Please give whatever amount you can so that we, as the Velouchi, can show our support for these destitute people.

The month of October allows us to celebrate significant events in our history, both American and Greek. On the 11th, we celebrate Christopher Columbus and his discovery of the “new world,” which would become our great America. On the 28th, we celebrate Greece’s national holiday of defiance and courage, embodied in one word - the great “OXI.” As Columbus sailed into a vast, dangerous, uncharted sea, so too did Prime Minister Metaxas with his singular response stand up to the evil, formidable tyrants of Mussolini and Hitler, pitting a small, weak, impoverished Greece against the strong, ominous Axis Powers. The proud Greeks, fighting for their freedom, pushed back the invading Italians with such courage and bravery that the world stood back in awe and newfound respect for the Greek nation, inspiring Winston Churchill to say: “No longer will we say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks!”

The ensuing years though brought much bloodshed and turmoil to the Greek people. But, the Greeks of the Diaspora never forgot their beloved homeland. As a result of the hardship and poverty faced by their friends and families during WWII, the Greeks in America felt compelled to do something to help their countrymen. One group of these Greek-Americans was our Evrytian forefathers; and in 1944, they banded together to form the Evrytian Association of America “Velouchi”, founded with the sole purpose of helping the people of Evrytania recover from the destruction of WWII. For 77 years, the Velouchi has provided medical, educational, and social support to Evrytania, as well as having provided funds for construction projects, most significantly being the Gerokomeio and new wing of the hospital in Karpenisi. Through the contributions of its committed members, our Velouchi has grown to be one of the strongest Greek ethnic organizations of its kind in America. Although many years have passed since WWII, our dear Evrytania is still in need of our help, and our ever-worthy Evrytian Association will continue to stand by her, providing assistance wherever and whenever needed.

Coincidentally, on the date of October 28, 1886, America dedicated her symbol of freedom from oppression, the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. The events of these two dates, exactly 54 years apart, signify the common ideal that our two countries share.

We are proud Americans, proud Greeks, and proud Evrytians. And the Evrytian Association is the common bond that ties us together. God Bless America! God Bless Ellada! And God Bless our beautiful Velouchi!

*With Patriotic Love and Respect,
James N. Chulkas, National President*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 RAFFLE WINNERS

FIRST PRIZE \$10000 – ATLANTA CHAPTER 17 “O Aetos”, Atlants, GA

SECOND PRIZE \$3000 – DIMITRA BAKOGIANNIS, Bennettsville, SC

THIRD PRIZE \$1000 – GEORGIA ATHENS, Charlotte, NC

FOURTH PRIZE \$1000 – FANIS TSIAMTSIDOURIS, Saddle River, NJ

Thanks to everyone who bought our Velouchi National raffle tickets

VELOUCHI'S 2021-2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD

*Mr. James Chulkas, President * Mr. Jim Canavos, 1st Vice President
Mr. Alfred Barefoot, 2nd Vice President * Mr. Nick Kleto, Treasurer, 1st Treasurer
Mr. Tommy Pappas, 2nd Treasurer * Ms. Katie Chulkas, 1st Secretary
Mr. Paul Kanos, 2nd Secretary*

We congratulate and thank them all for their time and dedication! We are grateful for their services and recognize that their contribution to the success of our historic Association does not come without sacrifices.