

THE AGORA

National Hellenic Society | Heritage Greece | Preserving & Celebrating Heritage

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Current Projects:

To volunteer for existing project or suggest a project click [here](#).

Events:

- National Hellenic Society Heritage Weekend and Classic in LA (October)

NHS Corner

Cliffs of Freedom is a film about the Greek War for Independence produced by the Metropoulos family. Please check your local theater or reach out to your local NHS Chapter for information.



Updates

A Word from your National Co-Chairs

Announcements and Housekeeping:

- As was announced at the 2018 Annual Meeting, and subsequently communicated to the HGAN General Body, Austin Cooke tendered his resignation as National Co-Chair. He is staying involved focusing on strategic special projects. Paul Markakis was voted in as Austin's successor. Paul Markakis was endorsed by Noël Giglio (HGAN National Co-Chair), Art Dimopoulos (NHS Executive Director) and Drake Behrakis (Chair of NHS). The HGAN attendees at the annual meeting voted in Paul and he accepted the nomination.

- As a reminder, the HGAN Portal now has our Guidance and Procedure Document, Quick Reference Guide, and other helpful tools! Please check out the portal for resources.

- **National Event:** October 2019 Heritage Weekend & Classic, Los Angeles- Celebrating Ten Year Anniversary! HGAN Annual meeting coinciding with this event.

- Please attend our monthly working session call, see the portal for the minutes of the meeting and dial-in information.

- **Help Wanted:** **The Agora-** wonderful opportunity to connect with other alumni and NHS members while working on transferable skills applicable in all careers.

- **Help Wanted:** **Google Grant-** learn one of the leading platforms for advertising and manage \$10k/month. Great experience for your resume!

Noël Giglio & Paul Markakis
National Co-Chairs



NHS Spotlight: William Marianes

An Interview with William Marianes



Bill Marianes has been married to his wife, Audrey, for 38+ years, and they have two amazing

daughters, Alexis who received her PhD from The Johns Hopkins University with post-doctoral studies at the Medical University of South Carolina and is currently a researcher in Trinidad and Tobago, and Eliana, a graduate of Emory University, who is a professional actress.

He currently serves on: the Board of the National Hellenic Society; the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops Secretariat; Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Archdiocese Council and Legal Committee; Metropolis Council of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta (and as its General Counsel); and as Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarch. In addition, He has served on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, St. Martin's Episcopal School and Annunciation Cathedral; and as the Supreme Counselor of the AHEPA.

Bill received a Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University, a Masters of Business Administration from Emory University's Gozuetta Graduate School of

Business and a Juris Doctorate from Emory University School of Law, all with honors.

Where is your family from?

My dad grew up in both Athens, Greece and Ασπρόκαμπος (Asprokampos), Greece outside of Corinth. My mom's family is from a mountain village outside of Μιντιλόγλι (Mintilogli) South of Patras. (I love that only Greek people, when they ask you where are you from, mean your ancestral homeland.)

How did you first get involved with the NHS?

I was first introduced to NHS through the great work of our two amazing NHS Executive Directors, my close friends, Tim Maniatis, of blessed memory, and our current extraordinary leader, Art Dimopoulos. After we had all worked together for decades to promote Hellenism through other organizations, they identified NHS as the most talented team to effectively achieve that mission.

As a leader in the NHS, what program are you most passionate about and why?

Any program that connects and empowers Hellenes is a great attraction to me; however, if I had to pick a favorite, it would have to be Heritage Greece. Not only does it attract the best and brightest, but it is an incredibly effective vehicle to make an intergenerational investment in maintaining and promoting the Hellenic Ideals that have shaped so many civilizations for centuries. Now our great challenge/opportunity is to invest in the network of HG Alums to form a great, integrated and powerful force.

Could you tell us about Stewardship Calling and the challenges you face in this role?

In the Orthodox Divine Liturgy, we pray for: “a good account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.” (II Corinthians 5:10) So, let’s see how we are we doing at creating that “good account” by reviewing 4 empirical facts:

(1) 47% of adults raised in the Orthodox church have left it; (2) millennial youth are leaving the church at a rate 2.8 times faster than their parents; (3) of all the cradle Orthodox we have retained, plus all the converts we have recruited, only 26% regularly attend church on Sunday; and (4) those who attend the Sunday Divine Liturgy report that their minds wander between 70%-80% of the time.

Through my Stewardship Calling ministry, I have traveled over 308,000 miles presenting to over 500 Orthodox parishes and completing strategic plans that cover over 25% of U.S. Orthodox Christians. As a result of my accumulated research, I have been blessed to develop comprehensive programs teaching churches about Engaged Discipleship, True Stewardship, Consensus Vision & Strategic Planning and Servant Leadership and other topics. I also have two live internet radio shows on Ancient Faith Radio.

C. S. Lewis once said: “Religion, if true, is of utmost importance, and if false, is of no importance. The one thing religion cannot be is moderately important.” In however many

hours I have left on this earth, I am committed to developing and delivering transformational FREE solutions to help our churches “make disciples” and reverse those devastating trends through my Stewardship Calling ministry
www.stewardshipcalling.com.



How did you come to be an M&A lawyer at a top firm?

By the grace of God! That is the only explanation of how a kid from Greek immigrants who grew up in the ghettos on the Southside of Chicago could be blessed to complete an excellent

JD/MBA program and be recruited by one of the then biggest law firms in Atlanta. My first law firm, Troutman Sanders, was led by former Georgia Governor Carl Sanders and had a blue-chip client base (Ted Turner (TBS, TNT, Braves, Hawks), Southern Company, Verizon, AT&T, Chick-fil-A and many more). This allowed me to use my MBA to help pursue unique opportunities for clients and work my way into firm management. I started our Technology and Intellectual Property practice in the early days of the technological boom and was blessed to grow it into the 2nd largest practice group.

After 24 wonderful years, I was recruited to help grow the Atlanta office of McGuire Woods as managing partner, where I was blessed to be able to leverage our firm’s 1,100 lawyers in 22 offices globally to be able to work on many billions of dollars of M&A and outsourcing deals. Along the way,

I was honored to help start CNN Headlines News, two State Lotteries (Georgia and North Carolina), a \$3 Billion JV between Delta Airlines and AT&T, establish Verizon wireless in Atlanta, and work on some amazing business deals that created great wealth for wonderful clients.

You are very dedicated in your professional life to your clients, in your personal life to your family, and in your community life to your heritage and faith. What is it that drives your level of dedication and commitment? And how do you achieve balance in "doing it all"?

I am the wrong person to ask about balance. I only know one speed, "all out on everything." I always say: "You have all of eternity to rest. So, while you're alive, get busy."

Great advice from James Michener that has always guided me: "The master in the art of living makes little distinction between his work and his play, his labor and his leisure, his mind and his body, his information and his recreation, his love and his religion. He hardly knows which is which. He simply pursues his vision of excellence at whatever he does, leaving others to decide whether he is working or playing. To him, he is always doing both."

A central premise of our Orthodox faith also drives me. Because we believe that we will stand before our Lord to account for our life, with all of eternity hanging in the balance, I ask how would you answer Christ if His question to you is: "What did you do for My

church and My people given all of the gifts over which I allowed you to be a steward?"

What advice would you give to young professionals starting out in their professional career?

It is critical to discover and live your "WHY" – the reason to your life, and the reason for your life. And see also the Michener quote above. My philosophy has always been to work as hard as I could to achieve the highest level of excellence and results possible with complete integrity, dedication to my team and compassion for others. It's largely about "diving for loose balls." Legendary Notre Dame football coach, Lou Holtz, succinctly offered three life

keys I have embraced (and are actually taped to my computer monitor): "1. Do right; 2. Do everything to the best of your ability; 3. Show people you care."



What's New?

An Interview with Paul Markakis, our NEW HGAN National Co-Chair



Paul Markakis is the National Co-Chair of the Heritage Greece Alumni Network. Paul is an Operations Research Mathematician at The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. He is a

graduate of Johns Hopkins University with an MSE and BS in Applied Mathematics.

What HG year did you participate in and what have you kept with you from that experience? Where in Greece is your family from?

I attended Heritage Greece in 2012 – which was the third year of the program. Being able to participate the summer after my freshman year of college provided me with an opportunity early on in my collegiate career to connect with my Hellenic heritage, and to continue to stay involved in various aspects of National Hellenic Society and Heritage Greece Alumni programming. My dad was born and raised in Chania on the island of Crete. I've made a commitment to return there as often as we're able to continue to foster that connection.

Why did you stay so active within the alumni community?

It's incredible to be part of a group of like-minded young professional Hellenes from across the country and share our love for our Greek heritage. Being from a large Greek family, attending events and spending time together reminds me of being home with my own family.

In your new role as National Co-Chair, what is your vision for the group?

As the Heritage Alumni Network matures, it is essential that the leadership structure of the organization evolve to ensure our prominence as a young professional alumni organization. We currently have over four hundred alumni, and with the growth of both the Heritage Greece and Heritage America programs that number will continue to increase in the coming years. Ensuring that we have a structure in place to continue fostering the bond of our alumni network, with the resources and support in perpetuity from the larger National Hellenic Society leadership, is my primary focus over the coming year.

Your full-time job is at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. What is the role of the Laboratory? What do you do there?

The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL) is a not-for-profit Department of Defense (DoD) University-Affiliated Research Center (UARC). Founded in World War II to tackle the problem of developing a proximity fuse for the U.S. Navy, our role as a UARC enables us to work on some of the hardest problems for the U.S. Government. Some of the most well-known developments by JHU/APL are Transit (the forerunner to modern-day GPS), New Horizons (the first

spacecraft to explore Pluto and Beyond), and the Modular Prosthetic Limb (the premier brain-controlled prosthetic limb). I am currently a project manager in the Mission Analysis Group, adapting my academic background as an applied mathematician to lead teams addressing a variety of challenging technical problems for the National Security community.

You are very involved with the GORUCK community. What is GORUCK? When participating in a rucking event, you face many mental and physical challenges; what do you find most rewarding that keeps you signing up for events time after time?

The GORUCK community was founded by a former US Army Green Beret, and the GORUCK Challenge was a way of bringing the team-building aspect of the Special Operations community to the masses. To “ruck” is, in its essence, walking with weight on your back, most often in a military-style rucksack. GORUCK Events are not a race, but rather an opportunity for a group of largely complete strangers to come together and form as a single team to overcome adversity over the course of a challenging event. The signature event, now called the GORUCK Tough, is on average a 10- to 12-hour overnight challenge with a minimum 30lb. rucksack on every participant’s back.

Without a doubt, the members of the GORUCK community are what keep me coming back for more, although as a close second, it is incredible being able to honor the history of our country through themed events. This past September, I completed a GORUCK Tough event in Arlington memorializing those whose lives were lost on September 11th; rucking as a group from Arlington National Cemetery to the Pentagon at sunrise with an American flag leading the

way is one of the most profound experiences of my life.

What is the book (or books) you’ve given most as a gift?

Chasing Excellence: A Story About Building the World's Fittest Athletes by Ben Bergeron; *Lead Yourself First: Inspiring Leadership Through Solitude* by Michael S. Erwin and Raymond Kethledge; and *The Human Stain* by Philip Roth.

If you could have a gigantic billboard anywhere with anything on it—metaphorically speaking, getting a message out to millions or billions—what would it say and why?

“Do the right things for the right reasons.”



Please let us know what is new with you so we can share it with the group. Contact us [here!](#)

Op Ed: Partnering with NHSA in New York



On October 12th- 14th, the National Hellenic Student Association (NHSA) hosted its Fall 2018 conference in New York City.

The NHSA of North America serves as an umbrella for Hellenic student organizations of universities throughout the United States and Canada. NHSA is the largest Hellenic student and young professional organization in North America, with over 50 member-chapters, which promotes Hellenism, education, mentorship, and overall unity of the Hellenic community. The NHSA provides guidance, career advice, and mentorship, in tandem with local Hellenic organizations.

The NHSA has several initiatives and programs, the largest of which are semi-annual conventions taking place in the fall and spring. Conventions take place in different cities and universities in the US and Canada, each offering a unique experience.

These conventions are educational, professional, and social in nature, providing

participants with a well-rounded experience. Attendees have the opportunity to learn about various topics, network with professionals in their fields, and socialize with each other.

The 2018 forum included panels on current events, politics and medicine. The moderator of the current events panel was NHS member John Metaxas, news anchor and reporter for WCBS. His son, Yanni Metaxas, was the MC for the day's panels.

At the event, Heritage Greece New York Co-Chairs Dimitri Roumeliotis and John Banas spoke with students from across the country about the Heritage Greece program. This was a great opportunity to get the word out about the program and engage with students, who could be potential applicants. Dimitri and John spoke about their experience and what the program has meant to them, highlighting the lasting relationships and mentorship opportunities.



Op Ed: Benaki Museum Boston NHS Chapter Event



On March 26, the NHS Boston Chapter hosted leaders of the Benaki Museum at the Harvard Museum of

Natural History. During a captivating presentation, attendees learned about the history of the Benaki Museum, the collections it houses, the challenges the museum has faced, and how they overcame those challenges.

Antonis Benaki, a member of one of the leading families of the Greek diaspora, founded the Benaki Museum. In 1930, he donated the Benaki Museum to the Greek Nation, and it was inaugurated in April 1931. As a stipulation, the Benaki Museum must be governed by a private Board of Trustees, rather than the government, which must be in part composed of descendants of Antonis Benaki.

Consistent with the vision of Antonis Benaki, one of the continuing missions of the museum is to play an active role in fostering social cohesion, safeguarding world heritage, and inspiring intercultural dialogue, and maintaining a dynamic connection with ongoing cultural processes in Greece and beyond. An emphasis is put on reaching out to the youth to engage them in learning about history and culture. In striving towards this mission, the museum now houses an extensive collection of Greek and world art available for public view in a network of ten buildings around Athens and beyond.

During the presentation, the CEO of the Benaki Museum, Haris Siampanis, shared

with the attendees a compelling story of how the museum transformed into an industry leader, turning crisis into visionary success. The Benaki Museum had received a letter from a prospective donor asking for the Museum to send five documents for review by the prospective donor to inform the prospective donor's decision to donate. These five documents were: (i) five year strategic plan; (ii) list of top ten donors in Greece; (iii) letter of 501(c)(3) status; (iv) appraisal/valuation of collection (v) audited financial statement. At the time, the Museum was not able to provide such documentation. The Benaki Museum decided to take on the challenge and radically change the management and standard operations of the museum, transforming it into a world class operation. Four years later, the Benaki Museum is now a leader, complying with international standards, beyond what is required in Greece, and seeking international partnerships. Recently, the Benaki Museum has entered into a collaboration with Melbourne's Hellenic Museum.

Following the presentation, attendees joined the members of the Benaki leadership at a reception. This event was very well attended by members of the NHS, Hellenic American Women's Council, Consul General, and members of the local Greek community. The event was very informative and inspirational demonstrating that with tenacity, hard work, and commitment to one's mission, it is possible to achieve or surpass one's goals.



Op Ed: World Youth Forum



Dimitri Roumeliotis is a Heritage Greece Co-Chair in New York. He participated in the Heritage Greece Program in

2012 and currently works for Deutsche Bank as a Transportation and Shipping Equity Research Associate. He attended Georgetown University and graduated with a degree in Finance and International Business and a minor in Modern Greek.

Dimitri recently participated in the World Youth Forum in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt under the auspices of the President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. The forum hosted 5,000 participants from 150 countries across the world and discussed issues facing youth globally. The forum offered the opportunity to share ideas and solutions with young experts and leaders who are determined to make the world a better place. There was a competitive application process with over 128,000 applications and the selection was based on personal, professional, and educational experience related to the forum's topics.



Dimitri was one of a few participants selected to attend a question and answer session with President Sisi.

In the session, President Sisi

highlighted the seven pillars of the Egyptian identity which emphasized the unity and harmony of Egyptian society throughout history despite divergences and differences. Included within these pillars are the Greco-Roman, Coptic and Mediterranean pillars.

Egypt and Greece share roots dating back to ancient times, including Alexander the Great's founding of the northern port city of Alexandria, which is the second largest city in Egypt and maintains Greek influence to this day. Egypt and Greece share diplomatic relations including bilateral trade, tourism and defense and supported by recent meetings by the each respective President in both Egypt and the US.

Dimitri found the experience enriching and would be delighted to help others participate. Please feel free to reach out to Dimitri if you have any questions.

